



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Courses, workshops

Register now for October courses and workshops. From 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 4 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, Woodcock Johnson — IV Training will be held for new special education teachers. Wilson/Just Reading Words Intervention will be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 10 at Annex II for all staff including teachers, IAs and Title 1 tutors, who will be teaching the intervention from second to 12th graders. All interventionists, including teachers and instructional assistants for kindergartners and first graders, can take a Foundations Early Reading Intervention Level K course at 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 11 at Annex 1. From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at Starkey, Foundations Early Reading Intervention Level 1 and 2 is open for interested staff who will be using Foundations including teachers, IAs and Title 1 tutors.

Childcare openings

The North Point High School Education Careers Program has openings in both its First Flight and childcare programs. The First Flight program begins for the school year on Tuesday, Oct. 10 and is for 3 to 5 year olds. There are nine openings in the morning program and the cost is \$425. The morning program operates weekly from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m., on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The program ends in April. The childcare program has two openings for children ages 3 to 5. Cost is \$165 per week and hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The childcare program operates during the school year, beginning in August and ending in June. For more information, contact Lisa Willett, childcare director, at 301-753-1759 or lwillett@ccboe.com.



Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week

Charles County Public Schools celebrates Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week Sept. 25 to 29. Beef raised in the tri-county area was processed for hamburgers and hot dogs and produce from farms in the state was served. Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School third graders Zahir Gaillard, left, and Camden Taylor enjoy lunch Tuesday.

Hollyfield honored with Carnegie Medal for heroism

It was a Thursday evening on July 9, 2015, and the Accokeek Swim Team was holding a Spirit Night at the Moyaone Community Pool. More than 70 people were gathered when Ana Spruill, an adult education instructional assistant with Charles County Public Schools, heard the sound of popping and cracking coming from a centuries old pin oak tree with branches canopying over the Moyaone Commons. She called out to warn everyone, who ran to safety as the massive branch was moments away from crashing down.

Ashley Gruwell, then 6, was sitting at the top of a slide and not moving.

"She was frozen, people were yelling at her. I think she was just frozen," said John Hollyfield, a manufacturing teacher at North Point High School, who was among those at the Spirit Night. Hollyfield, the father of two daughters, took off running for Gruwell before the branch — later estimated to weigh between 6 to 10 tons — came down. "I

said 'We gotta go,' grabbed her arm and we dashed off," he said. "It was a gut reaction. I didn't think, just ran."

The branch fell — all 80 feet of it — onto the picnic and playground area where everyone had been gathered moments before. It splintered picnic tables, and crashed through the playground.

For his actions, Hollyfield is one of 18 people who are being awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. The organization has recognized civilian heroism in the U.S. and Canada since 1904. The Carnegie Medal is given to people who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree to save or attempt to save the lives of others.

The medals are given quarterly, Jewels Phraner, outreach coordinator with the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, said. The Commission awards about 100 medals a year from

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are fifth-grade teachers at William A. Diggs Elementary School. From left are Natalie Wagner, Woody Delauder and Susan Harris.

Training deadline extended

The online mandated training has been extended to Oct. 15 for all staff. Among the required courses are diversity awareness, financial responsibilities, human trafficking awareness, suicide prevention and awareness, sexual harassment and other courses. Log on to the Safe Schools website at <http://ccboe.md.safeschools.com>. Your username is your employee ID number.

Chess tourney Oct. 21

Registration for the Charles County Public Schools annual fall chess tournament, set for 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 at Thomas Stone High School, is now open for students.

The tournament features a four round Swiss Style format. Students compete in five divisions of play, depending on their grade level of enrollment: kindergarten through second grade, grades 3-4, grades 5-6, grades 7-8 and grades 9-12.

The tournament is for students in grades kindergarten through 12. Interested participants must register online at <https://ccpsregistration.wufoo.com/forms/ccps-2017-fall-chess-tournament/> by Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Walk-in registrations will not be accepted. For more information, contact Ann Taylor at ataylor@ccboe.com or 301-934-7378.

Science center has fall hours

Fall hours have started at the James E. Richmond Science Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays with the fulldome show starting at 6:45 p.m. Exploration stations open from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

The first and third Saturdays, the doors open at 9 a.m. with fulldome shows at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. and noon.

Exploration stations are open at 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Go to www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter for more information.



Left, John Hollyfield, a North Point High School manufacturing teacher, was recently awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving a 6-year-old from a falling tree branch that weighed an estimated 6-10 tons. Top right, Hollyfield's great-grandfather James M. Hermansen was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1924. Bottom right, the branch of a pin oak crashed down during a community picnic in Accokeek.

Hollyfield

continued from page 1

the 1,000 nominations it receives annually. Nominees are civilians who knowingly and voluntarily risk his or her own life to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the life of another person, Phraner said. The act of heroism must occur in the U.S., Canada or in the waters of the two countries, and be brought to the attention of the Commission within two years of the act taking place.

Since the program was established by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie more than 110 years ago, 89,000 people have been nominated with 9,971 medals awarded, Hollyfield said.

Among those is his great-grandfather James M. Hermansen of Widtsoe, Utah. Hermansen died in 1924 while saving a young boy from a runaway wagon and team of horses. Hermansen's widow and children were aided financially by the fund, Hollyfield said. The boy, 12-year-old Derald Lay, lived.

It isn't the first time in the Commission's history that family members have received the medal for separate acts, but it doesn't happen often. "It's not unheard of, but it's rare," Phraner said.

During the past 113 years, the fund has given \$39.4 million in one-time grants, scholarships, death benefits and continu-

ing assistance, according to information provided by the Commission.

Each Carnegie Medal takes two months to produce, Phraner said. On the reverse of each, is a brief description of the act that lead to the medal being awarded. If the person receiving the medal wishes, representatives of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission will present the award to the recipient. Hollyfield would like to receive his medal in the boardroom of the Charles County Board of Education, he said.

The pin oak on the grounds of Moyaone Commons was taken down; its base measuring 56 inches. Hollyfield, a woodworker in his spare time, has remnants of the tree in his yard, waiting for his next project.

While he will receive a grant from the fund, it was something else that might add up to more to Hollyfield. Gruwell and her family stopped by his house the day after the incident. They chatted for a while with Hollyfield and his wife, Lynn, before leaving. Later, he noticed a note left behind. "Dear Mr. Hollyfield," it read, a child's writing among stamped images of leaves. "Thank you for saving my life. Love, Ashley."

"That just hit me right in the heart," Hollyfield said.

In Memoriam Cecil Marshall

Cecil Marshall, a former member of the Charles County Board of Education, passed away on Monday, Sept. 18, 2017. Marshall served as a Board member for one, four-year term from 2002 to 2006.

Throughout his career on the Board and as a former Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employee, Marshall was well known as an advocate for children, teachers, school system staff and the Charles County community.

Following the end of his term on the Board, Marshall served as an instructional assistant at Maurice J. McDonough High School for three years, where he helped school administration and staff with any task needed to support students.

Prior to his 2002 election, Marshall served as a long-term substitute at several Charles County public middle and high schools.

He had a strong rapport with young adults and often went out of his way to ensure students had access to programs that would help them achieve success after they graduated.

In 1997, Marshall took a position at La Plata High School as the Job Placement Coordinator.

He also served as the Job Placement Coordinator at Henry E. Lackey High School in 1999.

In this role, Marshall worked with at-risk high school stu-



Cecil Marshall

dents who were in danger of not graduating. Marshall was involved in the Maryland's Tomorrow program, which targets students most at-risk of not completing high school.

Marshall helped to provide students with transition and guidance services, and activities that were both classroom and community-based.

In 2010, Marshall was appointed to the Charles County School Naming Advisory Committee.

This committee was tasked with providing the Board with names for the next new high school planned for construction off Piney Church Road. Marshall, along with other committee members, helped to present the Board with the name of St. Charles High School.

In comments he presented at a 2011 public meeting, Marshall said his time on the Board was gratifying.

"Being a Board member is a labor of love and most Board members serve in order to make Charles County a better place to live by providing a top-notch educational system for our children. The pay is low – well, almost nonexistent — but the rewards are many. My four years on the Board of Education are among some of the most memorable and gratifying in my long career," he said.

His wife, Margaret, is a retired CCPS teacher and current member of the Board.

In Memoriam David Fulcher

David John Fulcher, a building service worker at John Hanson Middle School, passed away July 9, 2017.

He was a resident of Waldorf and worked at Hanson for 26 years.

He started his career with Charles County Public Schools as a temporary building service worker at Hanson in 1989.

He was hired permanently at the school in 1990. Fulcher was described as one of Hanson's most punctual employee who worked well on his own and with a team. Fulcher attended Hanson and graduated from Thomas Stone High School in 1987. Hanson Principal Susan McCormick taught Fulcher when he was a student at Hanson.

Years later, they would work together.

"He was a good guy, very friendly," she said. "He did everything teachers asked him to do and always called everybody, 'My friend.'"



David Fulcher

He was a supporter of the Thomas Stone Cougars and the Hanson Patriots.

He was an avid Washington Redskins and Washington Nationals fan. "If he discovered that you were a fan of an opposing team, he would tease you when your team did not perform well," said Diane Fisher, a Hanson science teacher who taught Fulcher when he attended Thomas Stone. "David was a happy, gentle and loving soul. He showed thoughtfulness to his family and friends. David thrived on community. John Hanson staff members included David on many social outings and sporting events, His friendliness made it easy for others to include

him."

Fisher said that anyone who met Fulcher became an instant friend. "He touched the lives of many people along the way," she said.

"He was a very neat person," McCormick said. "We miss him."

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
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Fax: 301-932-6651

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Board vote changes opening date of Billingsley Elementary

The Board of Education voted on Monday to delay the opening of Billingsley Elementary School for one year due to construction delays. The Board's vote delays the opening of the school and the accompanying redistricting of elementary school students until September 2019.

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff updated the Board on the issues complicating the opening of Billingsley, which is under construction and originally scheduled to open at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

Along with the delay in opening the new elementary school, the elementary school redistricting scheduled to begin in the 2018-19 school year is postponed for one year. Students impacted by the elementary school redistricting decision will not change schools until the 2019-20 school year.

Assistant Superintendent of Supporting Services Michael Heim and Director of Planning and Construction Steve Andritz updated the Board on permitting, weather and site preparation delays that have put the construction behind schedule. The contractor has worked Saturdays and evenings to make up for lost time, Andritz said. Even with those efforts, the contractor estimates the job will not be finished until Nov. 15, 2018. The November 2018 timeline could change if there are additional weather delays.

Staff presented the Board three options. The con-

tractor estimated it could cost \$5.9 million to complete the school in time for an August 2018 opening. The extra funding would allow the contractor to run double shifts as well as construct protection for work areas requiring temperature control.

The second option, which would cost an additional \$3.8 million, would provide portable classrooms adjacent to the school. Children would attend classes in the portables and use the school cafeteria for lunches. Students would relocate to the classrooms in the new school in January 2019.

The third option, which the Board accepted, would not result in extra funding and allow the contractor to complete the building in November 2018, but not open for staff and students until August 2019. This eliminates additional costs, removes the uncertainty of additional weather delays, provides staff time to fully prepare the school for students and minimizes disruption to children, Heim said.

"At the end of the day, it's a tradeoff between a year and \$6 million. ... And, there is no guarantee with \$6 million it would open on time," said Board Chairman Michael Lukas.

Board members Virginia McGraw and Barbara Palko commented it is not in the best interest of children to relocate them to portables and then move them again midyear. The Board voted 4-2 to delay the opening of the school with members Jennifer Abell and Victoria Kelly dissenting.

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.cchoe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Food service worker — location to be determined, 10-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent and the ability to work in a wide range of temperature conditions. The ability to follow written recipes and oral instruction, along with the knowledge of principles of sanitation and kitchen safety is required. Apply by Oct. 3.

AVID Tutor — location to be determined. A high school diploma or GED is required. CCPS students in the Work Based Learning Program will be considered with a recommendation from their principal and advisor. Applicants need experience with implementing student goals, leading tutorial groups and meeting deadlines. Entry-level college writ-

ing, speaking and interpersonal communication skills with effective organizational skills is required.

Behavior Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position Applicants have to conduct functional behavior assessments and develop behavior intervention plans for the student population and work with classrooms teams to develop student-specific data collection systems. Analyzing behavior data in order to make adjustments/modifications to students' programming and providing child-specific and general training to staff, including administrators, teachers, and instructional assistants, on behavioral principles/strategies is required. Apply by Sept. 30.

Bilingual Family and Outreach Liaison — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 25 hours per week. Applicants should have an associate's degree or 48 college credit hours, but

a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is preferred. Apply by Sept. 29.

IEP Facilitator — location to be determined, 11-month position. A bachelor's degree required, a master's degree preferred. Applicants should hold or be eligible for a Maryland Standard Professional Certificate with special education endorsement. Apply by Oct. 1.

Life Skills Coordinator — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must have a master's degree and an Advanced Professional Certificate with Special Education endorsements. A minimum of five years teaching experience of students with significant disabilities is required. Apply by Sept. 30.

Extra pay positions

Head Wrestling Coach — St. Charles High School. Call 301-753-2090.

Head Wrestling Coach — Westlake High School. Call 301-645-8857.