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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN

Gov.-elect Larry Hogan speaks to the new and returning delegates in the Maryland State House during the opening day of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

Maryland's General Assembly Opens with 69 New Faces, More Power for GOP

By ANJALI SHASTRY, DEIDRE MCPHILLIPS AND BRIAN MARRON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS -- More than a third of the legislators at Wednesday's opening of Maryland's General Assembly were newly elected, the most sworn in at one time in recent memory, House Speaker

Michael Busch, D-Anne Arundel, said during the inaugural legislative session.

This incoming group of 58 new delegates -- 27 Republicans and 31 Democrats -- and 11 new senators -- including seven Republicans and four Democrats -- will be dealing with a variety of issues over the 90-day legislative session. The state's budget, which is

expected to be presented next week by Republican Gov.-elect Larry Hogan, looms over all of them.

Republicans also hold more sway overall than in recent memory, with 14 in the new Senate and 50 in the House of Delegates joining Hogan, who is to be sworn in next week.

Maryland's projected budget shortfall crept past \$1 billion

late last year. Outgoing Gov. Martin O'Malley's plan to recoup \$400 million of it was approved last week.

Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., D-Prince George's, said Wednesday after the brief opening session that Marylanders should not expect

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Warrant Backlog Under 40,000 – Lowest Since 2007

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

Upper Marlboro, MD... The Sheriff's Office Warrant/Fugitive Division reported that the warrant backlog that was over 53,000 four years ago is below 40,000 - a level not seen since 2007.

The news from the Sheriff's Warrant/Fugitive Division comes on the heels of the Crime Reduction Press Conference held yesterday at the Community of Hope AME Church in Temple Hills, MD, where Sheriff Melvin C. High joined Governor O'Malley and

various county leaders including Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, County Police Department Chief Mark A. Magaw, County State's Attorney Angela Also-brooks, Council Chairman Mel Franklin, Council Member Karen Toles and members of the community to report 2014 Crime Reduction in Prince George's County.

Referring to remarks he made at the press conference, Sheriff High said, "Four years ago, we set priorities to be successful in our work and to

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Smoke Alarms Save Lives at Six Dwelling Fires

By PRESS OFFICER
MD State Fire Marshall

STATEWIDE -- Officials with the Prince George's County Fire / EMS Department recently responded to four dwelling fires on Saturday, one dwelling fire on Sunday and one dwelling fire today where working smoke alarms alerted occupants of a hazardous situation inside their homes and the occupants quickly escaped the effects of fire without smoke inhalation or burn injuries.

In each incident, occupants were alerted of the potentially

dangerous situations when their smoke alarms activated and afforded them the time needed to escape deadly smoke and toxic gases created by uncontrolled fire inside their homes.

"These incidents are extremely important to share with our fellow citizens throughout the State of Maryland," stated State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci. "Fire can occur at any time, and the importance and value of having working smoke alarms located on every floor, outside

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City Council Selects H. L. Dufour Woolfley, Jr. to Fill Council Vacancy

By PRESS OFFICER
City of Bowie

January 12, the Bowie City Council selected H. L. Dufour Woolfley, Jr. to replace Todd Turner as an At-Large member of the Council. Mr. Woolfley will take the oath of office at the Council's next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 and will serve until November 3, 2015 when the next City election will take place.

Candidates for the seat were interviewed by Councilmembers in closed sessions on Saturday, January 10th and Monday, January 12th. Each of the applicants was allotted 15 minutes to answer a series of questions posed by Councilmembers. There were initially 36 individuals vying for the vacant seat, but 6 dropped out prior to the interviews and one withdrew at the time of the interview, leaving a field of 29 candidates for Councilmembers to choose from.

Because of the large number of applicants and the fact that the interviews were

spread over two days, Council decided to close the interviews to the press and public to allow all candidates an equal opportunity to hear and answer the questions, without the benefit of hearing the responses of those who came before them. The authority to close a meeting for personnel matters and appointments is permitted under the Maryland Open Meetings Act. The interviews will be available as videos on demand from the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings and will be broadcast on the government channel (Verizon 10/Comcast 71) on January 14, 15, and 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Before announcing the selection, Mayor G. Frederick Robinson thanked all of the candidates for their interest in serving and said he appreciated and admired each of them for being involved in this important process.

Mr. Woolfley lives in the Long Ridge neighborhood of Bowie.

Protesters Pack House Judiciary Committee to Rally Against Police Brutality

By NATE RABNER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS -- About 100 protesters raised signs, banners and their voices near the State House on Thursday, January 15 to call for police accountability.

The Day of Action Against Police Violence, whose schedule also included a rally in Baltimore, was organized by the American Friends Service Committee, the Baltimore Algebra Project and Pleasant Hope Baptist Church. The event coincided with the first week of the legislative session and the 86th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth.

"They thought we'd sit down and shut up! They thought after a few marches, after a few rallies, they thought that we'd just calm down again," said the Rev. Heber Brown III, an organizer of the protest and pastor at Pleasant Hope Baptist Church in Baltimore.

"We're tired of the scandal in our community, where black and brown people are being



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY NATE RABNER

A man who identified himself as Shaka Zulu (wearing green neon vest) stands with protesters near the State House in Annapolis to demand justice for victims of police violence, Jan. 15, 2015.

brutalized and terrorized by those who are abusing the powers afforded them."

Tawanda Jones and a man who identified himself as Shaka

Zulu carried signs memorializing Jones' brother Tyrone West, a Baltimore man who died in police custody in 2013. Jones and other protesters compared

West to Michael Brown, who was fatally shot by Ferguson,

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INSIDE

Child Fatalities Decrease 10% from Previous Year, Down 43% Since 2007

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) today released a report showing that unexpected deaths of children in Maryland decreased from 302 in 2007 to 171 in 2013, a decline of 43%.

Community, Page A3

Celebrating Dr. King Through Serving

This is one of the key lessons we should teach our children about Dr. King. Many of them have just studied Dr. King in school in the days leading up to his birthday, and many have learned to see him as a history book hero—a larger-than-life, mythical figure.

Commentary, Page A4

Vice President Biden Announces \$25 Million in Funding for Cybersecurity Education at HBCUs

The new grant will support the creation of a new cybersecurity consortium consisting of 13 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), two national labs, and a k-12 school district.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Selma"

As advanced as we like to say we are, living in the future and all, it's astonishing to watch Selma in 2015 and realize the events it depicts happened only 50 years ago. In America! Mostly in the parts of America that have always embarrassed the other parts, but still.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is being done to get toxic flame retardants out of children's furniture and other products?

—Mary Sweetland,
Seminole, FL

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

VFW 9619 Auxiliary invites you to a Ticky-Tacky Tea Party

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW 9619, Morningside, is hosting its Annual Ticky-Tacky Tea Party fundraiser, to benefit Cancer Aid & Research, on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2 to 4 p.m.

Come. But don't forget your bring your own tea cup (though they'll gladly sell you one for a small fee). The afternoon will be filled with raffles, food, fun, information, great fellowship, and a Hat Fashion Show. Wear your funniest or prettiest hat to participate in the show.

Come and get important information about how you can prevent cancer or find the best way to fight it. Hear from some who have faced cancer head-on and won or hear about some who fought the good fight but were taken by this awful disease.

Come and bring your friends, children and grandchildren. Men are invited, too. Bring the whole neighborhood. It's all to benefit Cancer Aid & Research.

Jill Power, founding member of Skyline Citizens, dies at 78

Jill Marie Perry Power, of Edgewater and Heritage Harbour, and formerly of Skyline, died Jan. 9. She was 78 and was retired from the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

Years ago the Powers lived on Skyline Terrace, in a house way down at the end of the road, which is still unpaved. Jill and her late husband Jack were founding members of the Skyline Citizens Association. Jack was SCA's third president, 1972-73, and Jill was a committee member. Also back then, they were active members of the Mayhew Recreation Council (renamed Morningside Recreation Council) and founding members of St. Philip's Parish.

Jill was preceded in death by her husband John "Jack" Power III and son John IV. Survivors include her children, Mary, Tollie, Carole, Charles, Ellen, Patrick and Paul; four sisters; 11 grandchildren and three great-grands.

Jack Power remembered when

In a letter to the Skyline community on Sept. 18, 1972, Skyline President Jack Power wrote:

"How many remember when Suitland Road (formerly Mayhew Road) was gravel from the crossroads to what is now Perimeter Road in Andrews AFB? How many remember the first general store, Hartman's in Suitland? Or the second, which was Willson's located where Cox Oil now stands? Or the third, which was Walls Store located where the Lamp Post Inn now stands?"

He goes on to recall the old Democratic Club House, the wooden bridge at the creek, mailboxes along Suitland Road for home delivery, the first G.I. Market, the goat farm in Upper Morningside, Mayhew's Farm where he used to play, and he concludes with these words: "Well, I do 'remember when!' and I must say this area has come a long way and is still growing."

Neighbors

Melody Lynn, 29, only child of Mike and Ginger Lynn and niece of two Morningsiders, Sharon Fowler and Susan Frostbutter, died Jan. 13, of cystic fibrosis. She had had several organ transplants and was also injured in an auto accident. The Lynns now live in Florida but Melody's father Mike Lynn once was a Morningside resident. I saw photos of Melody—she was beautiful girl. So sad.

Kira Kazantsev, 2015 Miss America, visited Joint Base Andrews, along with the USO, on Jan. 8, so she could have her photo taken with service members and autograph the pictures for them, as a way to give thanks for their service.

Morningside election coming up, but Ealey's not running

The Morningside election to fill two Council seats will be held on Monday, May 4. Those interested in running must submit a petition no later than 5 p.m. on March 2. He or she must be at least 21, have lived in the Town at least a year, be a registered to vote in the town, and "shall not have been convicted of a felony or

a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude." Each petition must be signed by at least ten registered voters.

James O. "Jim" Ealey, who has served on the Morningside Town Council for 18 years—many of them as vice-mayor—has announced that he has decided not to run as a candidate for reelection this year. "For many of you," he writes in the Morningside Sun newsletter, "I have shared a unique camaraderie which I hope will continue in the years to come."

Coming up

"Within these Walls: African American Surgeons and Nurses during the Civil War," one of the hidden histories from 150 years ago, will be presented by Historian Jill Newmark at the Surratt House in Clinton, Saturday, Feb. 7, at 4 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call 301-868-1121.

A Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held Feb. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m., in St. Philip's Social Hall, 5416 Henderson Way, Camp Springs. Tickets: Adults, \$6; children 5 to 12, \$3; family, \$20; 4 & under, free. Information or reservations: Theresa Roberson, 301-868-2652, or Karin Yeatman, 301-899-7784.

Morningside memories

70 years ago, on Jan. 23, 1945, a group of citizens met with the purpose of organizing a Ladies Auxiliary to the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department. There were 18 charter members; but by 1963 there were 30. The purpose was to furnish equipment for the department and to have an active canteen committee on call, day or night (mostly at night), to furnish food and drink to hungry, tired firemen.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Martha Kline, David Call and Joanne (Clark) Bunch, Jan. 30; Donna Young and Robin Sawyer, Feb. 1; Skyline Citizens President Stanley Holmes, Feb. 2; Ashley Lee, Feb. 3; and Adam Cook, Feb. 5.

Happy 65th (!) anniversary to William & Betty Fitzpatrick on Feb. 4.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Floor Statement Opposing the DeSantis/Roby Amendment

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) spoke on the floor of the House in opposition to the DeSantis/Roby amendment to H.R. 240, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act of 2015. Among several other anti-immigrant amendments added by the Republican majority to this important legislation, the DeSantis/Roby amendment would overturn current DHS policy requiring further investigation to determine if a person convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence offense was actually the victim. The amendment and the underlying DHS funding bill passed the House.

Below are her remarks as prepared for delivery:

"Thank you Madam Chair, and I thank the Gentledady from California for yielding the time. I rise today in opposition to the DeSantis/Roby Amendment.

"As the founder and former executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, I join the network of every state domestic violence coalition and the National Task Force Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence in opposing this amendment.

The issue is really very simple. Often, too often, in cases of domestic violence law enforcement show up at a home, cannot figure out what happened, arrest both parties, and down the line both plead to misdemeanor domestic violence offenses. For the victim, it may be because she just wants to get it out of the way, or she's being threatened with further violence by her abuser or with her immigration status held over her head. Whatever the reason, it turns out that in too many of these circumstances, no one — not law enforcement, or prosecutors, or judges or even her attorney if she is fortunate to have one — no one tells her that by pleading to the misdemeanor, her immigrations status is threatened and she faces deportation. This is not about fault — it just means we still have lot of work to do when it comes to domestic violence. It's why we reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act in the last Congress.

"Here's the harm. This amendment would prevent immigration authorities from looking beneath the surface in circumstances of domestic violence offenses to make absolutely certain that we are not victimizing the victim twice by subjecting her to deportation. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this dangerous amendment that could result in additional violence and in undoing what successive Congresses and Presidents, Republicans and Democrats have done for 20 years — afford fairness and protection for vulnerable immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence. Let's let our immigration authorities take a second look when it comes to domestic violence.

"I urge my colleagues to do no harm — vote no on the DeSantis/Roby Amendment."



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Nexus Health & Fort Washington Medical Center Boards of Trustees Appoints New Chair

OXON HILL, Md. — The Nexus Health Board of Trustees today announced that Fort Washington, Maryland resident Yvonne S. Magee, Ph.D., will serve as its new chair. Nexus Health is the parent company of Fort Washington Medical Center.

Dr. Magee, an independent consultant specializing in strategic planning, grant writing, community economic development and research, working with non-profit, faith-based and other organizations, has served on the Nexus Health Board of Trustees since 2007. She teaches in the College of Business, Department of Management, Marketing and Public Administration at Bowie State University and has many years of successful community economic development experience in several local governments. Magee succeeds outgoing chair Kimberly Robertson Pannell, a partner and principal at Raffa, PC, a large Maryland/D.C.-based accounting firm.

"Dr. Magee brings considerable expertise and involvement from her work with local governmental entities, collegiate institutions and the community," said Pannell, whose two-year term ended December 31. "Her commitment to building stronger communities and broad experience across important industries adds valuable perspectives as she leads the work of the board," Pannell added.

In addition to her role as chair of the Nexus Health Board of Trustees, Dr. Magee also serves as immediate-past president of the Maryland Chapter of the National Forum for Black Administrators; and a member of the Board of Directors, Consortium for International Management, Policy, Administration and Development, and Community Builders of Maryland, Ltd. She is active in several faith- and community-based initiatives.

"I am honored and excited to become the new board chair at Nexus Health and Fort Washington Medical Center," said Dr. Magee. "I look forward to working with a dedicated group of board members, healthcare professionals, and the community, with a common goal to provide the best in services to meet the healthcare needs in Fort Washington and surrounding communities. We are grateful for all of their insight, leadership and support, and we invite others to join us in this endeavor," she added.

Magee leads a distinguished group of officers and board members, which includes: Kimberly Robertson Pannell, immediate past chair; Reginald A. Jones, chair-elect; Manervia W. Riddick, executive secretary; and Henry W. Mosley,

treasurer. Additional board members include, Samir Azer, M.D.; Vimla Bhooshan M.D.; Charles E. Day, Sr.; Virgil C. McDonald; John A. Petty; and Deepak Sachdeva, M.D.

Hospital Partnership Offers Free Kidney Smart Classes

Lanham, MD — Doctors Community Hospital and DaVita Healthcare Partners Inc. have partnered to offer free Kidney Smart classes. Led by expert educators, these classes help people who have chronic kidney disease improve and take control of their health. The class topics will include kidney disease education, medications, diet, nutrition and treatment options.

Where:

Doctors Community Hospital 8118 Good Luck Road Main Building, 1st Floor, CCCR Classroom Lanham, Maryland 20706

When:

Wednesday, February 18 at 6 p.m.
Saturday, February 21 at 10 a.m.
Wednesday, March 18 at 6 p.m.
Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 15 at 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 11 at 10 a.m.
Saturday, May 16 at 10 a.m.
Wednesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

To register or for more information, call 888-MYKIDNEY or visit KidneySmart.org/class.

D SUN Solar Co-op Begins in Bowie

Bowie, MD - Homeowners in Bowie are forming a solar co-op. Through a process based on community engagement, they will use their collective buying power to get a discounted price for solar panels. Based on the same principal as buying in bulk, the Bowie Solar Co-op will be comprised of homeowners in the area that would like to purchase solar systems together in order to realize 20 to 30 percent in savings. The group will select a single contractor to install systems, but each participant owns their own system.

Members also have the support of the co-op throughout the process instead of having to go it alone. This co-op is being organized by the City of Bowie, Community Power Network (CPN), and CPN's project MD SUN. Anyone located in Bowie or a neighboring community in Maryland is welcome to join. Information sessions will be held at Bowie City Hall in Room 243 at 7 p.m. on January 14th and at 10 a.m. on March 14th. Those interested in the Bowie Solar Co-op can find more information or sign up for the program at the following URL: <http://mdsun.org/bowie-solar-coop/>.

Doctors Community Hospital Offers Free

Lanham, MD — Please note the time change for the below free health lecture.

Free Bariatric Surgery and Weight Loss Lecture

Presenter: Dr. Hitesh Amin, medical director, Bariatric and Weight Loss Center

Fridays, February 6, March 6, April 10 and May 8; 9:00 a.m.

Doctors Community Hospital 8116 Good Luck Rd. Professional Office Bldg., Suite 210 Lanham, MD 20706

Registration is required by calling 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

25TH ANNUAL MINERAL JEWELRY & FOSSIL SHOW

Vendors, exhibits, demonstrations and kid activities Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 10AM-5PM at The Show Place Arena (in the main arena). The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Telephone number is 301-297-4575.

Exhibits and Vendors include original jewelry designs, fossils, minerals and geodes, beads and findings, rough, polished and faceted stones, tools and supplies. Demonstrations: rock cutting and polishing, flint-knapping and gold panning... Kid Activities: include fossil digging, making fossils, and achievement opportunities for scouts.

Fee for adults is \$5, Senior citizens and students \$4. Free for children under 12 and scouts in uniform.

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO (USF) CHAPTER OF PHI DELTA KAPPA

The James and Ruth Turner Scholarship Fund created to recognize the extraordinary contribu-

tion that Dr. Patricia Mitchell has made to the ongoing success of her students and the organization and Leadership (O&L) Doctoral Program at the USF. As a tribute to Dr. Mitchell, the scholarship has been named in honor of her parents James and Ruth Turner. The award will be made once a year.

The Scholarship is funded through contributions made by graduates of the O&L Doctoral Program. The USF Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) manages the scholarship fund in conjunction with the scholarship selection committee

BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Brandywine North Keys Civic association in coordination with several individual donors provided Brandywine Elementary School with six coats and hats, a pair of shoes and several other pieces of clothing for children attending the school.

Ten gift cards to purchase food were donated to assist families identified through the program whose children attend the school. The association donated \$450 to support the program.

PRINCE GEORGES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare will be on stage April 30 at 8:00 PM, May 1 at 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM, May 2, 8:00 PM and May 4, 2015 at 10:00 AM. The tragic love story reimagined in an energetic dynamic stage production for all ages. Tickets visit www.pgcc.edu/go/theatre. Location at Hallam Theatre Queen Anne Fine Arts, 301 Large Road, Largo, Maryland.

SEE THE FRUITS, INC.

Harriet Tubman: The Chosen One, a dynamic one-woman show that brings the courageous Harriet Tubman to life.

Be mesmerized as you follow Ms. Tubman on the Underground Railroad. Rosa Parks: Such a Time is a marvelous woman performance celebrating the quiet spirit of Rosa Parks. She was the eye of the storm in the Civil Rights Movement

Gwendolyn Briley-Strand (SAG-AFTRA) at www.seethefruits.com for additional information or call 301-292-1616.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Considering Life Without Owning a Car

Most baby boomers couldn't envision their early adult years without a car. However, times are changing and younger commuters are leading the way.

According to an October study (<http://usp.org/reports/usp/millennials-motion>) by U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) and the Frontier Group, millennials — those born between 1983 and 2000 — are driving significantly less than older Americans. Many post-college drivers swimming in college debt are opting for urban living (<http://time.com/72281/american-housing/>) where walking, biking and mass transit tend to be easier options. Increasingly, those with a temporary need for four-wheel transportation can do so by smartphone.

Today, there are many options to conventional car ownership, but it's important to match solutions and their specific costs to your needs. Here's a road map for exploring what's right for you.

Start with the cost of driving. If you already drive and budget carefully, you will have an idea of what driving costs you can incur each year in financing, fuel, fees, maintenance and insurance. For averages related to a range of vehicles, look to the American Automobile Association's (AAA) latest "Your Driving Costs" statistics. Keep in mind that smart car ownership doesn't always mean "new." Online references like Edmunds.com and Kelley Blue Book can help you spot used vehicles that hold their value and keep operating costs reasonable.

Would leasing be cheaper? The buy-versus-lease question has evolved over the years and many people have strong opinions about which option is better. The answer depends on your personal situation and how you plan to use the vehicle, so consider the pros and cons (<http://www.practical-moneyskills.com/buyorlease>). Many people like leasing because they can often lease a more expensive car than they could afford to buy with no down payment. But failing to observe lease restrictions can cost plenty. Remember that all leases can be negotiated and it's important to review the terms and fine print very closely.

Consider ride- or car-sharing. A decade ago, if you asked someone about ride-sharing or car-sharing, most would assume you were talking about carpooling. Two newer commercial options are accessible by smartphone: Ride-sharing matches car owners with passengers who need a ride at a moment's notice, much like a taxi or private car service. Car-sharing is a new spin on the old daily and weekly car rental model. Car-sharers join a service that allows them to reserve and rent a vehicle in their neighborhood for a few hours or extended periods, such as over a weekend. However, keep in mind that some ride-sharing services may adjust fees at peak times and car-sharing companies charge steep penalties if you return rentals late or in less-than-desired condition.

Look to your employer. Commuter tax benefits allow you and your employer to save. If you plan to drive to work regularly, check out parking subsidies. If you combine driving and mass transit, check both parking and public bus or rail subsidies. Talk to your human resources department about these options and refer to Internal Revenue Service Publication 15-B for more information.

Telecommute. Many employers looking to reduce commercial rents and onsite employee costs are increasingly relying on telecommuting options for their workers. Telecommuting isn't for everyone, but evaluate your employer's program, talk to fellow workers about all the pluses and minuses and see if it's a good fit for you in terms of time use and vehicle cost. A mix of telecommuting days and mass transit or ride- or car-sharing options may make car ownership less crucial.

Bottom line: Getting rid of a car is a big decision, particularly if you're used to the convenience of having wheels at all times. But between newer forms of mass transit and new technology-driven, transport-on-demand services, now might be the easiest time to consider making it happen.



Child Fatalities Decrease 10% from Previous Year, Down 43% Since 2007

By PRESS OFFICER
DHMH

Baltimore, MD — The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) today released a report showing that unexpected deaths of children in Maryland decreased from 302 in 2007 to 171 in 2013, a decline of 43%. Had the numbers of unexpected deaths remained at the 2007 level, more than 600 additional children would have died during this period.

"We've worked aggressively to save the lives of our youngest and most vulnerable," said Governor O'Malley. "Through the work of our many partners to reduce infant mortality and reduce youth violence, we have provided a future to more than 600 children who otherwise may not have been here with us today. But we can not rest; there is still more work to be done. Only by making better choices can we achieve better results and save lives."

Unexpected resident child deaths are determined each month by the Office of the

Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The manner of these deaths is determined to be natural, homicide, suicide, accidental (including motor vehicle accidents), or undetermined. These cases are reviewed by multidisciplinary local teams overseen by a multi-agency state team to make recommendations that may prevent future deaths. Consistent with the trend in unexpected deaths, data from Vital Statistics also show an overall reduction in deaths among children in Maryland from 988 in 2007 to 696 in 2013, a decline of 29.5%.

"Fewer child deaths means fewer grieving parents, fewer families torn apart, and greater hope for the future," said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and a pediatrician. "Many people, inside and outside the healthcare system, played an important role in achieving these results."

Administration efforts that have driven the decline:

- Child Safety Seat Laws: Revised in 2008 and again in

2012, efforts are made to continually improve the safety of children riding in cars.

- Hospital Breastfeeding Policy Recommendations: Introduced in 2012, the administration continues to work with 32 birthing hospitals across the state to ensure education and support for women who choose to breastfeed. These efforts continue to drive up the rates of breastfeeding in Maryland.

- Safe Sleep Initiative: Outreach with Baltimore City and other local jurisdictions have increased awareness of the ABCs of safe sleep: Babies sleep best Alone, on their Back and in a Crib.

- The Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI): The program was launched in 2007 to identify and track the state's most violent offenders in order to prevent repeat offenses including homicides. A Juvenile VPI was launched in 2008 that identifies and supervises youth that are considered at high risk of perpetrating a violent crime,

Recently efforts that are expected to contribute to further reductions in unexpected child deaths:

- Cell phone use, as primary offense, was signed into law in 2013.

- Jake's Law, in effect this year, increases penalties for people who cause an accident or injury while using a handheld mobile device.

- A crib bumper ban in 2013 makes it illegal to sell these in the state.

- The launch of the Pregnancy And Tobacco Cessation Help campaign (PATCH) in 2013 addresses and is expected to reduce smoking rates among pregnant women, women of childbearing age, and members of their households.

- The State Police Impaired Driving Effort (SPIDRE) was launched in mid 2013. The four year program is aimed at reducing the number of impaired driving crashes in Maryland.

To review the full report, visit: <http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/mch/Child%20Fatality%20Review/State%20CFR%20Team%20Report%202014.pdf>

Mukulski Announces FY15 Funding Law to Support the Corporation for National and Community Service

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Barbara Mikulski

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced that the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 includes her funding request to support the Corporation for National and Community Service, our nation's only federal agency that exclusively supports service and volunteerism. The legislation was signed into law last week by President Obama.

"AmeriCorps volunteers are unflagging, unflinching and determined to make a difference. They tackle the toughest problems in our communities, responding to emergency and disaster situations like superstorms and hurricanes. They mentor our children and care

for our elderly. Their efforts are needed now more than ever," Senator Mikulski said. "I fought to create AmeriCorps, I fought to strengthen AmeriCorps, and I will continue to stand sentry for a robust federal investment in AmeriCorps and national service across America. Together, we are continuing in a tradition of working together towards a common purpose to meet compelling human need in neighborhoods and communities that need it most."

The bill includes \$1.055 billion for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This will support 80,000 AmeriCorps volunteers making a difference in communities across the country. In exchange for modest stipends, these volunteers serve in part or full-time positions helping nonprofits, schools, community-based and faith-based or-



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF SENATOR BARBARA MUKULSKI
That couch might look inviting, but it could be off-gassing toxic On Monday, November 3, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) together with CNCS CEO Wendy Spencer and AmeriCorps volunteers take the AmeriCorps pledge to national service at the grand opening of the new Baltimore AmeriCorps campus.

ganizations working to improve their communities.

At the end of service, AmeriCorps volunteers also receive the Eli Segal Ameri-

Corps Education Award to help pay for college, or pay back

See **FUNDING** Page A5

Assembly from A1

any tax increases to make up the remaining shortfall.

Miller said the legislature this session will also be dealing with higher education and K-12 school systems; the environment; potential cuts to state discretionary funding; and cuts to a 2 percent cost-of-living raise for state employees.

Sitting next to each other on the House floor Wednesday were Dr. Terri Hill and Dr. Clarence Lam, both newly elected physicians from District 12. Neither Hill, D-Baltimore and Howard, nor Lam, D-Baltimore and Howard, has held public office before, but both said they ran to extend their public service from medicine to the legislature.

They join incumbent Dr. Dan Morhaim, D-Baltimore County, and newly elected Dr. Jay Jalisi, D-Baltimore County, to bring the total number of physicians in the General Assembly to four.

"We benefit when there's a greater variety of voices at the table," said Hill. "Gov.-elect Hogan has made clear what his priorities are, and I don't think they're in conflict with



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN
U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, D-Maryland, left, speaks with Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker have a conversation before in the Maryland House of Delegates during the opening day of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

those of the General Assembly, but there's going to be a lot of back and forth and give and take."

The Democratic-majority General Assembly may face partisan challenges in working with Hogan's administration, but freshman delegate Jason Buckel, R-Allegany, said that bipartisan cooperation is likely.

Buckel, a civil litigator, said the problems the legislature faces are not partisan, but statewide. His interest lies in the budget and tax issues, as he was named to the Ways and Means committee.

"We may have differences of policies for how we would reach the objective, but I don't think our objectives are really any different," Buckel said.

State Senator Christopher B. Shank, R-Washington, said getting the budget under control was the state's single most important problem. Next week, Shank will join Hogan's cabinet as the director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

See **ASSEMBLY** Page A5

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Applauds President Obama's Initiative to Make Community College Affordable for American Families

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and member of the Senate Community College Caucus, today applauded President Obama's plan to make community college more affordable for American families.

"I applaud the President's proposal to make community college tuition-free for responsible students. I believe that if you work hard and play by the rules, you deserve a shot at the American Dream. College is part of that American Dream, but it shouldn't be a financial nightmare for families. With soaring costs and outrageous interest rates, student loan debt is at its highest rate in history. I look forward to hearing more about the President's plan to bring affordable, accessible higher education to high-achieving students."

"Community colleges are one of America's great social inventions. As a country, we wanted to bring higher education a little closer to home, to our neighborhoods and make available day or night, for a modest cost. They're a gateway to the future for first time students looking for an affordable college education, for mid-career students looking to get ahead in the workplace, and for nontraditional students, like working parents. With their open door admissions and focus on meeting local workforce demands, community colleges play a vital role in higher education, giving Americans the freedom to achieve."

"We know that a college degree improves job opportunities, it's critical for moving up the economic ladder, and increases lifetime earnings. But the benefits of higher education extend not only to young men and women but to America as a whole, because a better educated nation is a greater nation."

On Friday, President Obama unveiled his America's College Promise proposal to make two years of community college free for responsible students,

letting students earn the first half of a bachelor's degree and earn skills needed in the workforce at no cost. This proposal will require everyone to do their part: community colleges must strengthen their programs and increase the number of students who graduate, states must invest more in higher education and training, and students must take responsibility for their education, earn good grades, and stay on track to graduate. The program would be undertaken in partnership with states and is inspired by new programs in Tennessee and Chicago. If all states participate, an estimated 9 million students could benefit. A full-time community college student could save an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year. More information on the President's proposal is available from the White House here.

As the cost of higher education continues to rise at unprecedented rates and U.S. student loan debt balloons to roughly \$1 trillion — a sum larger than Americans' total collective credit card debt — Senator Mikulski is committed to finding new ways to make college a more attainable prospect for a greater number of Maryland students. Over the past year, Senator Mikulski has embarked on a Maryland College Affordability Tour, meeting with students, administrators and teachers to discuss the many challenges students and families face in paying for higher education, along with the impact on jobs and communities.

In her roles on the HELP and Appropriations Committees, Senator Mikulski has been an advocate for access to quality higher education through programs like the federal Pell Grants program, which provides need-based grants to lower-income undergraduate students to obtain access to higher education. As Chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Mikulski worked to ensure that the fiscal year (FY) 2015 government spending bill supported a maximum Pell Grant award of \$5,830. Pell Grants help nearly 8.8 million college students across the country, including more than 112,000 Maryland students access higher education and can be used to pay for tuition, fees, books and living expenses.

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Selma - A Historic Drama Reflective of Modern Reality

"Selma's now for every man, woman and child. Even Jesus got his crown in front of a crowd. They marched with the torch, we gon' run with it now. Never look back, we done gone hundreds of miles."

— John Legend & Common in the song "Glory," from the Selma soundtrack

Who among us could have predicted that a cinematic retelling of the heroic efforts of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders in 1965 to organize and lead marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in an effort to gain equal voting rights for African Americans in that city would end up teaching us as much about the present as it does the past?

Selma, with its nod to history, is a film that also manages to channel and highlight our nation's modern-day struggles to form a more perfect union.

Ava DuVernay's Oscar-nominated biopic comes across the big screen at a pivotal moment in our history. It comes on the 50th anniversary of the three Selma to Montgomery marches and the signing of the federal Voting Rights Act into law. It comes during this week's 30th anniversary celebration of Martin Luther King Day as a national holiday. It comes on the heels of demonstrations and social unrest over the lack of accountability in the deaths of Black people from Sanford, Florida to Staten Island, New York and beyond — with protestors of varied hues and backgrounds calling for an end to cen-

turies-long discrimination, racial inequality, and police misconduct.

These demands, the urgency for change, and the use of productive, non-violent civil disobedience would have been all too familiar to Dr. King, who, along with other notable and nameless heroes, sacrificed his own life in the pursuit of many of these goals.

With Glory song co-creator John Legend at his side, rapper Common recently accepted Selma's sole Golden Globe award for Best Original Song — drawing a direct line from the past to the present:

"The first day I stepped on the set of Selma, I began to feel like this was bigger than a movie. As I got to know the people of the civil rights movement, I realized I am the hopeful Black woman who was denied her right to vote. I am the caring white supporter, killed on the front lines of freedom. I am the unarmed kid, who maybe needed a hand, but instead was given a bullet. I am the two fallen police officers murdered in the line of duty. Selma has awakened my humanity... We look to the future, and we want to create a better world. Now is our time to change the world. 'Selma' is now."

For those who have seen this powerful film, is it possible to watch a young Black man be shot and killed by police officers acting with impunity then and not think of the names that crowd our front pages and protests now? Is it

See Selma, Page A7

Andrews Airforce Base



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: US AIR FORCE / BOBBY JONES

ANDREWS AIRFORCE BASE - HOME OF AIR FORCE ONE

President Obama's first trip: Col. Steven Shepro, 316th Wing commander, and 316th Wing protocol members render a salute as Air Force One departs. (US Air Force/Bobby Jones) Camp Springs, MD - Home to one of the nation's largest annual air shows. It is also home to "Air Force One." The Airlift Wing provides air transportation for the President, Vice President, cabinet members and other high-ranking US officials. For information contact the AAFB Public Affairs office at 301-981-4511.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Celebrating Dr. King Through Serving

"If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness. And this morning, the thing that I like about it: by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

These well-known words are from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermon "The Drum Major Instinct," delivered at Ebenezer Baptist Church on February 4, 1968. Dr. King was explaining that we all start out with the ingrained instinct to be "drum majors": everyone wants to be important, to be first, to lead the parade. Watch a group of children try to form a line and right away you'll see this instinct in action. But Dr. King said too many people never outgrow this instinct—and by constantly struggling to be the most powerful or famous or wealthiest or best-educated, we forget one of the Gospels' and life's largest truths: the real path to greatness is through service.

This is one of the key lessons we should teach our children about Dr. King. Many of them have just studied Dr. King in school in the days leading up to his birthday, and many have learned to see him as a history book hero—a larger-than-life, mythical figure. But it's crucial for them to understand Dr. King wasn't a superhuman with magical powers. Just as the extraordinary new movie Selma is reminding a new generation of filmgoers, our children need to be reminded that Dr. King was a real person—just like all of the other ministers, parents, teachers, neighbors, and other familiar adults in their lives today.

I first heard Dr. King speak in person at a Spelman College

chapel service during my senior year in college. Dr. King was just 31 but he had already gained a national reputation during the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott five years earlier. He became a mentor and friend. Although I do remember him as a great leader and a hero, I also remember him as someone able to admit how often he was afraid and unsure about his next step. But faith prevailed over fear, uncertainty, fatigue, and sometimes depression. It was his human vulnerability and ability to rise above it that I most remember. "If I Can Help Somebody Along the Way" was his favorite song. He was an ordinary man who made history because he was willing to stand up and serve and make a difference in extraordinary ways as did the legions of other civil rights warriors in the 1950s and 1960s. We need to teach our children every day that they can and must make a difference too. "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

Towards the end of "The Drum Major Instinct," Dr. King told the congregation he sometimes thought about his own death and funeral. He said when that day came he didn't want people to talk about his Nobel Peace Prize or his degrees or hundreds of awards: "I'd like

somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. And I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter. I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind. And that's all I want to say." Dr. King was assassinated two months to the day after giving this sermon. But a recording of "The Drum Major Instinct" was played at his funeral, and many

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

How To Be A Better Communicator

We're all aware that communicating plays an important role in the relationships we have with others. Regardless of the type of relationship, from romantic to family to job-related, the better you are at communicating, the more successful that relationship is likely to be.

So how do you become a better communicator? The first step is to become a better listener. Too often, especially in trying to talk about something emotional or argumentative, we tend to think more about what we're going to say while ignoring what the other person is trying to express. We may assume we know what the other person will say and, without taking the time to really hear and understand what their words, begin our own response. Listening is an active and difficult skill.

Beyond listening, there are other factors that make for better communication. One important item is making eye contact with the person you're talking with and listening to. You also want to be aware of nonverbal communication, such as body language and voice tone. A mocking tone, rolling eyes, hands on hips or crossed arms are all negative communications that can cause whomever you're speaking with to withdraw and become defensive.

You also want to focus on how you are expressing yourself verbally. It helps to make "I" statements rather than "you" accusations. You want to avoid words like "always" or "never" which tend to put a listener automatically on the defensive. Name calling or being overly critical or sarcastic is never productive.

Positive communication happens when you express yourself in small chunks, rather than talking fast and trying to get all your points in at once. You also want to make sure you're having a conversation, rather than just lecturing. Take turns and let whomever you're talking with have a chance to express an opinion, and listen to him or her without interrupting or finishing the thought being expressed.

Communicating well in any type of relationship takes practice and work, but it can pay off when a major discussion has to take place. Start practicing with simple issues to express yourself honestly, clearly and coolly, and to learn to listen to the other side as well. Poor communication is one of the major reasons for work frustrations, family problems and marriage issues. If communication issues are causing you relationship problems, consider consulting a professional counselor for help.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org

Backlog from A1

reach goals like this one. That priority was to apprehend violent crime offenders. In addition, we committed to staying ahead of new warrants coming in and to stopping the growth trend of the backlog," said Sheriff High.

"Under the Warrant/Fugitive Division, we've developed a multi-pronged strategy to manage our warrant process for all types of warrants, even as we stay focused on violent offenders. We've serve warrants through arrests, extradition, the enormous success of the team we put on cold cases and warrant operations we undertake throughout the year with assistance from other law en-

Funding from A3

federal student loans. The Education Award for AmeriCorps volunteers for fiscal year 2015 will be \$5,830.

Additionally, the bill soundly rejects a proposal that would have dramatically restructured CNCS' Senior Corps programs: Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and Retired & Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP). The proposal would have consolidated both Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions into the larger AmeriCorps framework, eliminating at least 12,000 AmeriCorps positions, while reducing more than 200,000

forcement partners. We have a productive interface with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), the warrant invalidation process we improved with assistance from the legislature has proven successful and we send a letter to individuals with outstanding misdemeanors because sometimes people forget. And, our warrant processing staff manages a huge volume of administrative warrant closures," said Sheriff High.

"It's energizing heading into a new year because our success is based on the commitment of our people to the work we do."

For more information, contact the Communications and Public Affairs Division at 301-780-7354.

positions within RSVP. About 5,100 seniors in Maryland would have been affected by such a proposal, reducing access to service opportunities in their communities.

In 2009, Senator Mikulski led the Senate consideration and passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, a law that enables more than 250,000 individuals to volunteer in the AmeriCorps program, a domestic version of the Peace Corps. Senator Mikulski is also a co-chair of the Senate National Service caucus, which has served as an integral institutional resource and advocacy tool for members interested in national service issues.

Vice President Biden Announces \$25 Million in Funding for Cybersecurity Education at HBCUs

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

Today, Vice President Biden, Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, and White House Science Advisor John Holdren are traveling to Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia to announce that the Department of Energy will provide a \$25 million grant over the next five years to support cybersecurity education. The new grant will support the creation of a new cybersecurity consortium consisting of 13 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), two national labs, and a k-12 school district.

The Vice President will make the announcement as part of a roundtable discussion with a classroom of cybersecurity leaders and students at Norfolk State University. The visit builds on the President's announcements on cybersecurity earlier this week, focusing on the critical need to fill the growing demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals in the U.S. job market, while also diversifying the pipeline of talent in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The event and announcement is also an opportunity to highlight the Administration's ongoing commitment to HBCUs.

Details on the Announcement

As highlighted by the President earlier in the week, the rapid growth of cybercrime is creating a growing need for cybersecurity professionals across a range of industries, from financial services, health care, and retail to the US government itself. By some estimates, the demand for cybersecurity workers is growing 12 times faster than the U.S. job market, and is creating well-paying jobs.

To meet this growing need, the Department of Energy is establishing the Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline Consortium with funding from the Minority Serving Institutions Partnerships Program housed in its National Nuclear Security Administration. The Minority Service Institutions Program focuses on building a strong pipeline of talent from minority-serving institutions to DOE labs, with a mix of research collaborations, involvement of DOE scientists in mentoring, teaching and curriculum development, and direct recruitment of students.

With \$25M in overall funding over five years, and with the first grants this year, the Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline Consortium will bring together 13 HBCUs, two DOE labs, and the Charleston County School District with the goal of creating a sustainable pipeline of students focused on cybersecurity issues. The consortium has a number of core attributes:

- It is designed as a system. This allows students that enter through any of the partner schools to have all consortia options available to them, to create career paths and degree options through collaboration between all the partners (labs and schools), and to open the doors to DOE sites and facilities.

- It has a range of participating higher education institutions. With Norfolk State University as a the lead, the consortium includes a K-12 school district, a two-year technical college, as well as four-year public and private universities that offer graduate degrees.

- Built to change to evolving employer needs: To be successful in the long term, this program is designed to be sufficiently flexible in its organization to reflect the unique regional priorities that Universities have in faculty research and developing STEM disciplines and skills, and DOE site targets for research and critical skill development.

- Diversifying the pipeline by working with leading minority-serving institutions: As the President stated in Executive Order 13532, "Promoting Excellence, Innovation, and Sustainability at Historically Black Colleges and Universities" in February 2010, America's HBCUs, for over 150 years, have produced many of the Nation's leaders in science, business, government, academia, and the military, and have provided gen-

erations of American men and women with hope and educational opportunity.

The full list of participating consortium members are:

Virginia
Norfolk State University

Georgia
Clark Atlanta University
Paine College

Maryland
Bowie State University

North Carolina
North Carolina
A&T State University

South Carolina
Allen University
Benedict College
Claflin University
Denmark Technical College
Morris College
South Carolina State University
Voorhees College
Charleston County School District

US Virgin Islands
University of the Virgin Islands

California
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

New Mexico
Sandia National Laboratory

Fires from A1

each sleeping area and inside each bedroom cannot be stressed enough."

Please follow these important guidelines to safety:

Smoke alarms

Test Your Alarm for Life!
Your smoke alarm has the power to save your life. Or does it? If you haven't tested your smoke alarm lately, it may not be working. And that's a risk you can't afford to take. Working smoke alarms give us early warning of a fire, providing extra time to escape safely. But they can't do their job if we haven't done ours - monthly testing to make sure they're working is of utmost importance. Test all the smoke alarms in your home, for the life of the alarm and for the lives of your loved ones.

Smoke alarms 10 years old and older should be replaced to help ensure early notification during a fire emergency.

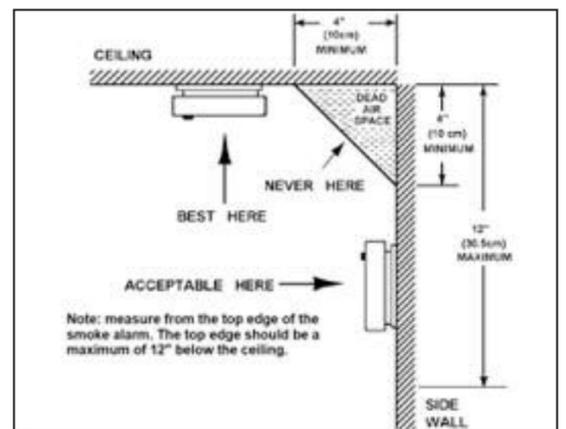
Escape planning

How much time do you have to get out of a fire?

Not as much as you think. Real fires are hot, smoky and dark. You may have only a very few minutes to safely escape from fire. If you're ever in a fire, don't spend time getting dressed or trying to gather valuables. Just get out and stay out. Then call the fire department from your cell phone or a neighbor's telephone.

"Get Out, Stay Out" - Your fire safe response!

What would you do if your home caught on fire? Would you know where to go if smoke or flames blocked your escape? There is no time to think about these questions in a real fire. It's hot, smoky, and so dark you may



GRAPHIC COURTESY MARYLAND STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Example of acceptable placement for smoke alarms.

not be able to see your own hands. Know ahead of time what to do if there's a fire. Develop an escape plan with two ways out of every room. You'll need a second way in case your primary exit is blocked by smoke or flames. And make sure every exit is accessible, including windows. Getting out is your first priority in a fire. And once out, stay out!

Assembly from A3

Other issues to be tackled include Hogan's proposal to repeal the stormwater remediation fee, a "rain tax" as it is popularly known, which taxes property owners based on impervious surfaces, and potential pollution of the Chesapeake Bay.

"The voters sent a resoundingly clear message that this level of taxation is not acceptable," Shank said. "We have a tax revolt in Maryland, and I think you're going to see a challenge in terms of making sure we live within our means."

Other issues to be tackled include police body cameras, which became prominent after the shooting of an unarmed teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, in August, and a debate about transportation funding.

With Hogan's announcement on Tuesday that Pete Rahn, who he described as "the best highway builder in the entire country," would be the new transportation secretary, he strongly



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN

Maryland Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., D-Prince George's, speaks to press after the first session on opening day of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

indicated that proposed mass transit projects, such as the "purple line" linking Montgomery and Prince George's counties, would not be moving forward.

Lam, assigned to the Environment and Transportation Committee, said he supports the debated rail projects -- including a "red line" in Baltimore -- be-

cause they encourage job growth and stability.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review
"Selma"

Selma
Grade: A-
Rated PG-13, two F-words,
some N-words, a lot of police-
on-marcher violence
2 hrs., 7 min

As advanced as we like to say we are, living in the future and all, it's astonishing to watch Selma in 2015 and realize the events it depicts happened only 50 years ago. In America! Mostly in the parts of America that have always embarrassed the other parts, but still.

Yet at the same time, this heartfelt, compelling docudrama about Martin Luther King Jr. and the 1965 civil rights marches shows how far we've come. Racism today is usually the institutional, subconscious kind, not the overtly hateful, "I ain't servin' no N-words in my restaurant" kind. We may disagree about what constitutes "discrimination," but nearly everyone concurs that it's ignorant and wrong-headed to view one race as inferior to another. That alone is an improvement over 50 years ago, when open, boldly stated racism was still socially acceptable in many areas.

Early in the film, when a middle-aged black woman named Annie Lee Cooper (Oprah Winfrey) shuffles into the courthouse in Selma, Ala., to register to vote, and is given an impossible series of questions to answer to prove her worthiness, I had two thoughts. First: it's nigh unbelievable (though sadly true) that this was a common tactic to prevent blacks from voting. And then: how glad I am that it isn't common anymore. We still have problems, yes, including some very serious ones, and institutional racism might be harder to eradicate than the other kind. But at least clerks aren't asking black people to name all of Alabama's county judges before they can register to vote. That's something, anyway.

Directed artfully and with tremendous restraint by Ava DuVernay, Selma deals with that very idea: the question of how to balance satisfaction over our victories with frustra-



SELMA is the story of a movement. The film chronicles the tumultuous three-month period in 1965, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. The epic march from Selma to Montgomery culminated in President Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. Director Ava DuVernay's SELMA tells the real story of how the revered leader and visionary Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) and his brothers and sisters in the movement prompted change that forever altered history. (C) Paramount

tion over how much progress has yet to be made. In the beginning, newly minted Nobel Peace Prize recipient King (David Oyelowo) meets with Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson (Tom Wilkinson), who has just signed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, ending segregation. MLK urges him not to rest on his laurels but to move on to the next problem: actually enforcing the law so that black folks in the South can register to vote. Johnson, depicted here as a pragmatic politician, wants to focus on his new War on Poverty, not immediately jump into another civil rights battle.

Even among those who, like King, want to act now, there is disagreement over which tack to take. None of MLK's supporters want to waver from his commitment to non-violence (Malcolm X shows up briefly to offer an alternative view), but how, exactly, do we overcome the Selma courthouse, "a citadel defended by fanatics"? Which repressive

law or custom or practice do we take down first?

The film's marches and demonstrations are stirring, punctuated with acts of unprovoked violence and awful tragedy. DuVernay, whose Middle of Nowhere won her a best director prize at Sundance 2012, resists the urge to lay it on thick with melodrama and pathos, thereby avoiding the pitfall of shameless manipulation that many films of this type fall into. She lets the story speak for itself, judiciously using devices like slow-motion and silence to guide our emotions subtly, rather than yank them.

One scene featuring a minor figure in the Civil Rights movement — the grandfather of a marcher murdered by police — puts a human face on things, drawing us into the battle on a personal level, not just an intellectual one. (A nice touch: The actor playing the grandfather is Henry G. Sanders, star of Charles Burnett's 1979 film *Killer of Sheep*, a mile-

stone in the history of African American cinema.)

The closest we get to a mustache-twirling caricature is J. Edgar Hoover (Dylan Baker), a sniveling conniver who conspires with Johnson to tap King's and other activists' phones and to sow discord in King's marriage to Coretta (Carmen Ejogo). The facts are basically right, but the character is written and performed just a little over the top. On the other hand, Alabama governor George Wallace (Tim Roth), a plainly racist jackass and segregationist, isn't depicted with much nuance, but neither is he a cartoon. He's a believable racist jackass.

David Oyelowo seems to capture King's essence, the cadence of his speech as well as his faith in God. When King is confronted with his marital infidelities, Oyelowo conveys a multitude of feelings with no words at all. The performance reflects the film as a whole: graceful understated, not showy, yet deeply moving.

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

Why 2014 Will Be Remembered as the Year the Sports World Turned Upside Down

As the year comes to a close, the masters of sports find themselves bruised, battered and in altogether dire straits. Twenty fourteen will be remembered as a turning point, when those in charge of the multibillion-dollar athletic-industrial complex—the commissioners, the network executives, the team owners—saw their control over the levers of power slip in a decisive fashion. They are now a collection of Fantasia Mickey Mouses: sorcerers who are unable to corral and contain their own spells.

This will be remembered as the year when a bomb that had been ticking for several years exploded. The accelerant has been the power of athlete- and fan-generated social media to launch news cycles, spread video and audio at light speed and mushroom controversies that otherwise would not have existed.

As sports sociologist Dr. Harry Edwards said to me, "I'm not sure that institutionally, this nineteenth-century institution of sport is really organized to handle, in this modern age of real-time communication, the kinds of concerns that are going to come up. I just don't think that they're organized or developed to absorb and handle the situations we're going to be confronted with."

Dr. Edwards is absolutely right. Think about the sports stories of the year and how distinct just about any of the narratives are from the established athletic hierarchies of the past century. Then consider the role that social communication has played in this process. We saw Donald Sterling jettisoned after thirty years as an NBA owner for being caught on tape being a verbose racist. When the audio spread, players condemned him on social media, they organized symbolic protests and even threatened to wildcat strike during the playoffs. Fans were outraged, and a new commissioner, Adam Silver, had him removed from ownership. Keep in mind that Sterling had a thirty-year record of racist detritus in his business and personal affairs, yet, true to past practices, it was always ignored. The audio and the ground-up reaction changed the power dynamics, and a billionaire inside the country club became a casualty of public relations. The story has had owners publicly expressing fears of their own vulnerability as well as launching a million jokes about trying to get Washington football team owner Dan Snyder or Knicks albatross James Dolan saying something—anything—incriminating on tape.

Then there was the viral elevator footage of Ray Rice punching his then-fiancée Janay. The NFL has a decades-long track record of covering-up or ignoring domestic violence. Roger Goodell had blithely continued that tradition and was ready to do it again in conjunction with the Baltimore Ravens management. This was a commissioner who had suspended fifty-six players accused of domestic violence for a combined thirteen games over his tenure. But one video conjoined with a mountain of dubious truths coming from the commissioner's office somehow turned Ray Rice into a victim and turned Roger Goodell—formerly lauded as the most powerful man in sports—into a national joke.

This was also the year 109 people in the world of sports were public about their sexuality, most notably NFL prospect Michael Sam. Sports has been known in recent years as "the last closet," a place where a top-down, homophobic, authoritarian culture makes coming out risky as best. But this year, coming out was met with approval, congratulations and the kind of reception that immediately had management whining about "distractions" in a churlish or even ugly glow. That didn't guarantee Michael Sam a chance to make an NFL team (he has said he is up against continual prejudice). But the procession of players, coaches and umpires orchestrating their own coming-out narratives was historic.

Then there were the mass protests against FIFA in Brazil during the World Cup. Even if the broadcast partners with FIFA tried to bathe the games in a Disney-fied glow, DIY media sent a story of favela displacement and greed.

Lastly, the year ended with an unprecedented explosion of protest at the highest levels of US sports, as athletes joined the #BlackLivesMatter movement against unprosecuted police violence. The first athlete, a Division III basketball player named Ariyana Smith, made sure a friend filmed her powerful on-court protest so it could go viral onto YouTube. When NBA star Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls wore a protest shirt during pre-game warm-ups, Cleveland's LeBron James said it was "spectacular." Former Cavalier Jarrett Jack read his comments on Twitter and got him and his Cavs teammates shirts as well. James later described the string of events as exemplifying "the power of social media." Meanwhile owners and commissioners found themselves hamstrung about how to discipline their unruly employees, with Adam Silver mouthing something about wishing players wore "appropriate attire."

Dr. Edwards saw this coming. "I told Roger [Goodell] when he came into office in 2007," he said to me. "I said, 'Hey, your biggest problem going forward is going to be personal conduct and you're going to have to handle it in an environment that you can barely imagine.' Because as soon as something happens, I mean boom, hit Send. Not just news of the incident, but the pictures and the videos and everything else goes out, how do you manage that? So we're moving into utterly uncharted waters and again, I'm not sure that these nineteenth-century institutions can function within a twenty-first-century cultural and technological context, without utterly changing their structure, management and, in some instances, even their goals, and that means essentially different activities, you're talking about a different game."

Edwards is right. The game has changed, and the bosses are operating on outdated software. They are losing in a contest where they barely seem to grasp the rules. Meanwhile players, fans and political activists have been able to take the carefully scripted narrative of corporate sports and engineer a series of dramatic rewrites. The battle for control of this narrative—and whether it will be a discourse of rebellion or reaction—will define the sports world in the years ahead.

ASSEMBLY from A5

Hogan has already begun to reach across the legislative aisle by putting Democratic state legislators on his cabinet. These include outgoing Delegate Keiffer J. Mitchell Jr., D-Baltimore, as a senior adviser who will oversee a possible expansion of Maryland's charter schools, and Rona E. Kramer, a former state senator from Montgomery County, to head up the Department of Aging.

While legislators were mixing and mingling with crowds inside the Capitol, protesters milled about in the cold outside.

Dozens of activists filled up Lawyer's Mall calling for Maryland to change its policies on environmental issues, touting a bill by state Senator Brian Feldman, D-Montgomery, which calls for the state to double its use of clean energy from 20 percent to 40 percent.

Those in attendance held signs stating "Forward with Clean Energy" and waved handheld wind turbines.



Maryland House of Delegates Speaker Michael E. Busch invites Gov.-elect Larry Hogan to speak to the new and returning delegates in the Maryland State House during the opening day of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

But Miller said he is not optimistic about the bill's chances of passing, citing the bill as "pricey" for small business owners and

detrimental to workers at coal power plants.

"We want to continue to clean up the environment, continue to have clean air and clean up our

streams, rivers and bay," Miller said. "But at the same time, we worry of putting in place a guideline that we can't reach in a reasonable period of time."

Proudly Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

Calendar of Events

January 29 — February 4, 2015

Prince George's Zoning Rewrite—Central County Evaluations and Recommendations Report Listening Session

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Project Description: Read more about the Prince George's Zoning Rewrite here.
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, Maryland 20785
Contact: Please contact us at zoningPGC@ppd.mncppc.org

Xtreme Teens: Basketball Team Building

Date and Time: Friday January 30, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Get your game on with a co-ed 5-on-5 basketball challenge! Team up with your peers and compete with other groups to show off your skills and take home the title.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights 20740
Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

Xtreme Teens: Movies Night

Date and Time: Friday January 30, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Join us for movie night! The popcorn will be popping and teens will have an excellent selection of films to choose from.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Columbia Park Community Center
1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover 20785
Contact: 301-341-3749; TTY 301-445-4512

Xtreme Teens: Teen's Choice Night

Date and Time: Friday, January 30, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Enjoy a full night of fun, because it's your choice. That's right, whether it's a movie in the gym, games in the lobby, or arts and crafts, it's YOUR choice.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Vansville Community Center
6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-445-4512

Xtreme Teens: Music Mix Basketball

Date and Time: Friday, January 30, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Get your game on with a 5-on-5 basketball tournament! Be sure to sign your team up, and see if your team can reign supreme. Cheer on your peers while listening to some of your favorite songs.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum 20782
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-445-4512

Xtreme Teens: Super Bowl Video Tailgate

Date and Time: Saturday January 31, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Are you ready for some football? Teens, join us for a night of video gaming fun. as we kick off Super Bowl weekend with a Madden tournament. Build your dream team, then challenge your peers to see who will be the champions.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Columbia Park Community Center
1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover 20785
Contact: 301-341-3749; TTY 301-445-4512

Allentown Splash Park Health Fair

Date & Time: Saturday, January 31, 2015 9 am-2 pm
Description: The public will enjoy a health fair featuring health screenings, nutritional seminars, fitness classes and assessments. Come out to experience more of the event's activities.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Allentown Aquatic and Fitness Center
7210 Allentown Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-449-1295; TTY 301-446-6802

Maryland First Lego League Robotics Competition

Date & Time: Saturday, January 31, 2015 2-4 pm
Description: Join over 20 First Lego Leagues as they compete to participate in the State FLL Championship.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Southern Technical/Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-203-6030

Prince George's Baseball Academy

Date & Time: Sundays, February 15, 2015 12 noon-2:30 pm
(Junior League: 8-12 years old) 2:30-5 pm
(Senior League: 13-18 years old)
Description: The Department of Parks & Recreation, PGCBGC and Prince Georges's Baseball Alliance will host a baseball academy for youth of all skill levels. Coaches from premier area high schools, the American Legion, AAU and other organizations, will be on hand to run drills and give tips.
The goal of the academy is to improve the skill level of each player, while preparing them for the upcoming season.
Cost: Resident: \$200; Non-Resident: \$200
Ages: 8-18
Location: Total Soccer Arena
8400 Ardwick Ardmere Road, Landover 20785
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-446-6802

Xtreme Teens: Arts & Crafts with Ms. Potter

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 4, 2015 3:30-5 pm
Description: Join fellow Xtreme Teens and Mrs. Potter to create unique arts and crafts projects.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-12
Location: College Park Youth Services Center
4912 Nantucket Road, College Park 20740
Contact: 301-345-4425; TTY 301-445-4512

EARTH TALK ... Beyond Flame Retardants

Dear EarthTalk:

What is being done to get toxic flame retardants out of children's furniture and other products?

—Mary Sweetland,
Seminole, FL

Putting flame retardants in furniture seemed like a good idea back in the 1970s to help protect against the risk of fire, but our insistence on safety has come back to haunt us. The chemicals “off-gassing” from these flame retardants can be toxic, especially to the kids they are meant to protect in the first place. “Scientists have found that exposure to toxic fire retardant chemicals at critical points in development can damage the reproductive system and cause deficits in motor skills, learning, memory and behavior,” reports the non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG). Some of these chemicals have even been linked to cancer.

Manufacturers started putting flame retardants into their products in the mid-1970s after legislators in California passed a law requiring polyurethane foam in furniture to resist catching fire after exposure to an open flame for 12 seconds. Given the importance of the California market and the fact that other states soon enacted similar requirements, adding flame retardants to furniture

foam became standard practice across the country.

But a flurry of research in the early 2000s called into question both the effectiveness and safety of common flame retardants, and ever since environmentalists have been working hard to eliminate such questionable chemicals from our living rooms. In 2013, California finally updated its rule on flame retardants, replacing the old open flame test with a new smolder test that assesses the ability of the furniture covering—not the foam padding—to withstand catching fire. State regulators estimate that some 85 percent of furniture fabrics currently on the market can pass the new smolder test without the benefit of flame retardant chemicals. In addition, a wide variety of kids' products, including car seats, play mats, highchair pads and infant mattress pads, are no longer required to contain flame retardants. Additionally, California now requires labels on upholstered furniture sold there detailing whether or not flame retardants are present.

Unfortunately, consumers outside of California will have to do their own research to steer clear of flame retardants. EWG suggests checking in directly with manufacturers to see if their products contain flame retardants, or limiting your shopping to retailers that specialize in so-called “organic” (read: chemical-free) furniture such as Elka Home, Furniture, Green Sofas, Eco



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That couch might look inviting, but it could be off-gassing toxic chemicals from flame retardants within the cushions' foam. New rules just now going into effect in California should eliminate many of these chemicals from new furniture and household items in that state, but environmentalists would like to see the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission issue similar rules nationwide.

Select Furniture and Viesso, among others.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), another leading non-profit active in the effort to ban toxic flame retardants, recommends replacing not just the fabric but also the foam during reupholster projects, as most foam manufactured before 2004 is likely off-gassing toxic chemicals. Likewise, NRDC says to be careful removing old carpeting, as the degraded scrap foam in the underlying padding can also release copious amount of noxious flame retardants. Other ways to minimize flame retardant exposure include regular wet-mopping of the floors around the house and using a vacuum cleaner fitted with a HEPA filter. Consumers can also

take a stand against toxic flame retardants by signing onto NRDC's MoveOn.org petition calling on the U.S. Consumer Safety Product Commission to adopt a new nationwide standard to prevent the use of toxic chemicals in furniture foam and other everyday items.

CONTACTS: EWG,
www.ewg.org, NRDC,
www.nrdc.org; MoveOn.org,
www.moveon.org.

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Selma from A4

possible to watch a Black woman fail to meet an unreasonable standard to be permitted to vote and not worry about the Supreme Court's 2013 decision that effectively dismantled the 1965 Voting Rights Act? Yes, in so many ways, Selma is now.

It is thus unfortunate that this historic, culturally-relevant, well-made feature about an iconic moment in and figures of American history has not been fully recognized dur-

ing this awards season. While I celebrate the film's win for Best Original Song at the Golden Globes, I have also expressed my disappointment that DuVernay did not win Best Director. The film is worthy — and so is she. The subsequent failure of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to nominate DuVernay and the film's lead actors for Oscars has not only been almost universally viewed as a snub, but it has set the stage for the least diverse Oscars since 1998, with not one actor of color receiving an acting nomination.

Still, Selma has achieved much more than could ever be reflected in any statuette as everyday citizens, politicians, entrepreneurs, business and community leaders, and notable personalities have stepped in to give the film the recognition it deserves — and to give thousands of students a meaningful history lesson beyond their classrooms. Through various coalitions, free screenings of Selma are being offered to middle school and high school students across the country in select cities including Selma, Wash-

ington, D.C., New York and New Orleans, which was led, in part, by the Urban League of Greater New Orleans. I have also joined a coalition of African American business and civic leaders in New Jersey who are underwriting free admission to Selma for students.

Although Hollywood's most coveted honor will elude the director and actors, Selma — and everyone involved — have already won for one of the most impactful and inspirational movies of a generation to a nation still in search of peace, healing, and equality.

Protesters from A1

Missouri, police officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9.

The protest's leaders called for several measures to make police more accountable, including amendments to the state Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights and a stronger civilian review process for officers accused of misconduct.

Nakia Brown, also known as Fire Angelou, a self-described “spoken-word artist, freedom fighter, healer, revolutionary” who oversees the Louder Than A Bomb Baltimore youth slam poetry festival, recited a poem to the crowd gathered on Lawyers' Mall across the street from the State House. She said the protest should remind lawmakers to consider the interests of people of color.

“I really hope that it awakens people that are here,” Angelou said. “I feel like we're awake and we're going to shake up this space until it is, until they know that we're not going to be quiet.”

Protesters marched to the House of Delegates Office Building and attended the House Judiciary Committee's first meeting of the 2015 legislative session, packing the room to the doors. Afterward, protest leaders presented their



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY NATE RABNER

Nakia Brown (center), also known as Fire Angelou, a spoken-word activist with Louder Than A Bomb Baltimore, recites a poem near the State House in Annapolis during a protest against police violence, Jan. 15, 2015.

demands to Judiciary Chair Joseph Vallario, and three committee members encouraged the protesters to communicate with lawmakers in pursuit of reforms. “I can't thank you enough for being here, and I hope that you will be here throughout the session as we testify on bills,” said Delegate Jill Carter, D-Baltimore.

Speaking in the committee room, Brown encouraged the protesters to persevere.

“Get real comfortable with this room, 'cause we're going to be here all session,” he said.

In a separate rally, about 40 churchgoers from around the state assembled on Lawyers' Mall to pray for state legislators as the session began.

“This is our first year doing this,” said Paul Arcand, the pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church in Pasadena, Maryland, who organized the event. “We just come down really just to pray here, publicly, and show our support to all the delegation — y'know, the senators and the delegates — and let 'em know that we care.”

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