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Pregnancy Complicates Working Women's Life

Maryland is One of at Least Eight States to Pass Pregnant Worker Protections

By ALLISON GOLDSTEIN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — Rebecca Salsbury, 31, has less than one month to go before she becomes a mother. She plans to readjust her work-life balance when the time comes, but so far her pregnancy has meant little professional change at the private law firm in Baltimore where she's an associate.

"Lucky," is the word she used to describe her circumstances on the cusp of a paid three-month maternity leave, which she hopes will be followed by a nanny-share program she'll arrange with a neighbor. The parents plan to share the cost of a single, child caretaker during the workday.

"I feel very fortunate that I can make that decision, that I can choose from dif-

ferent child-care options," said Salsbury, a board member at the Women's Law Center of Maryland.

Salsbury's luxury of choice aligns with the experience of some pregnant women navigating the workplace in Maryland, but the experience for others, like Shayvon Omosanya, 24, could hardly be described as luxury, or even choice.

In an effort to correct that imbalance, Omosanya testified in a March hearing that led to Maryland's passage of a pregnant worker protections act. The bill ensures that pregnant women cannot be forced out of their jobs or denied reasonable accommodations in the workplace.

Maryland — where, according to

See **WOMEN**, Page A6



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY KAYLA FARIAR
Shayvon Omosanya lost her job -- and subsequently her home -- after she told her employer of her pregnancy. Now she and son, Nathaniel, 3 weeks, and an older child are living in a transitional homeless shelter in Annapolis.

Md. Looks to Buses to Loosen I-270 Traffic

By NICOLE MACON
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — When Margie Weaver accepted a job in North Bethesda, she didn't think much about driving 42 miles from her home in Unionville to her workplace — until a trip she thought would take her about 45 minutes took up to two and a half hours in traffic on Interstate 270.

"When you add that (commute) on to an eight-, nine-hour day, you're 14 hours away from home," Weaver said.

Because she needed her car for work, Weaver had no choice but to drive each day. She tried to change her schedule to avoid peak travel times, but eventually quit her job after about a year to work closer to home. Now Weaver helps link Frederick drivers with others who share similar commutes and helps residents plan routes that reduce the amount of time behind the wheel.

Interstate 270 is typical of the 65 percent of Maryland interstate highways that are congested, according to a study compiled by the Maryland chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Major improvements to ease traffic congestion on the highway are years from comple-

See **I-270**, Page A5

Medical Marijuana Dispensary to Open in DC

By ETHAN ROSENBERG
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — The Popeyes on 8th Street Southeast sells the typical fare of fried chicken and biscuits, but the space upstairs from the fast food restaurant will soon sell something a little more unusual and a lot more green.

A mere two miles from the U.S. Department of Justice, Metropolitan Wellness Center, one of three medical marijuana dispensaries preparing to open in the district within the next few months, will sell dried cannabis, edibles and paraphernalia to qualifying individuals.

Proponents say medical marijuana can help patients manage pain and deal with other symp-

See **MARIJUANA**, Page A7

Maryland Politicians Land Softly at Law Firms

By JEREMY BARR
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — Faced with the choice of running for a third term as Prince George's County state's attorney or returning to a law firm job and the cushy salary that comes with it, Glenn Ivey knew what he had to do.

"The college tuition mountain is certainly something we want to make sure we can handle, and retirement is getting closer and closer," said Ivey, 52, who has two adult children, two children in high school and a middle-school-age child with his wife, Prince George's County Delegate Jolene Ivey.

Ivey is enjoying a "six-figure increase in compensation," compared to his state's attorney pay, in his new position at Leftwich & Ludaway, a boutique, predominantly African-American firm, he said. The state's attorney makes about \$150,000.

Ivey's path is a typical one for a lawyer-politician. Corporate law firms provide a safe, well-compensated landing pad for

See **LAWYERS**, Page A7



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JEREMY BARR
Former Prince George's County State's Attorney Glenn Ivey



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ANAMIKA ROY
Michelle Gibson, a fashion designer and Howard University senior started their own clothing line called "Simply L3ve,"

Metro DC Shed Image, Put Young Designers on Fashion Runway

By ANAMIKA ROY
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — The nation's capital has long been known as a place full of stuffy gray suits and neatly pressed ties, but these days, designers are loosening the top button.

"There has been a stigma with D.C. fashion," said Michelle Gibson, a fashion designer and Howard University senior. "It's gray, tacky and uninspiring."

That stiff image is being erased by a confluence of forces that are putting D.C. on the fashion map: Up-and-coming, home-grown designers, showcase venues in DC Fashion Week and the DC Fashion Incubator, plus a young, hungry, well-heeled consumer market.

Gibson is a prime example. She's one of a handful of stu-

dents at Howard to have started their own clothing line as a college student. Hers is called "Simply L3ve," and she showcased her collection at DC Fashion Week's Emerging Designers Showcase in February.

Gibson traces her fashion aspirations back to when she had to wear a uniform for school. Her peers all had to wear the same, bland uniform, but she noticed how each made subtle adjustments to make those costumes their own.

"I was a quiet observer," she said.

This was the inspiration for Simply L3ve -- a customizable clothing line that allows her customers the creative freedom to create their personal style.

See **FASHION**, Page A3

INSIDE

Teacher of the Year

Albert Lewis, language arts teacher at Walker Mill Middle School, has been named the 2013 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made Thursday at the school system's annual Teacher of the Year Celebration at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt.
Community, Page A3

No Second Class Families

African Americans have spent much of our history fighting for equal treatment. Just two generations ago, our parents and our grandparents were banned from eating at certain restaurants, attending certain schools, and working in certain professions. So it is not difficult to empathize with the struggle of immigrants in our country.
Opinion, Page A4

Statewide Open Data Portal

Governor O'Malley officially launched data.maryland.gov - Maryland's first statewide open data portal that will provide researchers, entrepreneurs, public servants and citizens with a wide variety of data to support transparency and innovation in government. Data will all be made available and housed in a central place.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review "The Iceman"

The leading role in "The Iceman" — based on the true story of prolific contract killer Richard Kuklinski — is a natural fit for Shannon. But the film proves a lost opportunity, a good showcase for Shannon, and a chance to see David Schwimmer as a New Jersey wannabe with a mustache and pony tail, but not much else.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk Dear EarthTalk:

The recent explosion at a West, Texas fertilizer plant that killed many people really alarmed me. Places like this must exist near many communities around the country. How do I know if my own community might be at risk of a similar disaster?
— Mary Cyr,
Sarasota, FL
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Come to the Skyline Plant Sale & Flea Market, May 18

Drop by the Morningside firehouse on Saturday May 18, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Skyline's first Spring Plant Sale, offering quality perennials, unique annuals and hanging baskets. All proceeds support the Skyline Citizens Neighborhood Beautification Projects. For information: skylinebeautification@gmail.com.

Also on May 18, the Skyline Flea Market will be at the Morningside Fire Department, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Refreshments available. To reserve a table (\$13) or for information, call Kenia, 301-967-1320, or Suzanne, 240-838-6412.

Chaplains celebrate Golden Anniversary

Emanuel Chaplin and Juanita Lark were wed 50 years ago on April 27 and this April they were guests of honor at a Golden Wedding Anniversary banquet hosted for them by their children and grandchildren at the Nautilus Restaurant in Crofton.

I called on them at their Lucente Avenue home and learned they first met in the 5th grade of Drayton Street School in Newberry, S.C. They graduated from Drayton (which had 12 grades back then) and went their separate ways—he to trade school to become an electrician and she to Allen University in Columbia, S.C., to become a teacher.

Juanita began to teach and Emanuel went in the Army, served in Germany, and then moved to Washington. But one day when he was back home in Newberry he spotted Juanita in another car and called out to her for a date. They were married at Elisha AME Church on April 27, 1963. They moved to Washington, and eventually to Skyline in 1973.

Emanuel worked for several companies, finally retiring from Bradby Electric in 1999. Juanita taught 2nd grade and special ed at Payne Elementary in Southeast Washington and, in retirement, subbed at Princeton. They are very active members of Community United Methodist Church in Northeast Washington and are members of the Skyline Citizens Association.

Best of all, they are proud parents of Chip, John, and Sandy, and grandparents of Quenna, Breeze, Justin, Dominique, John Jr. and Sydney.

Neighbors Peyton Wade, daughter of Amy and Bradley Wade and granddaughter of Ruth and John Anthony, was born April 15, on the 85th birthday of her great-grandmother, Eva Frances Wade. They all live in Morningside.

Eva Marie Anthony, another great-granddaughter of Eva Wade, has received an Award of Achievement of People in the Disability Community from the Maryland Association of Community Service Awards.

Virginia Stine, my former neighbor on Skyline Drive and now of Wingate, Md., on the Eastern Shore, turns 92 on May 11. She continues to make beautiful quilts.

I am delighted to have my son Brian visit me from Fort Walton Beach, Florida. On May 6 he entertained the children at the nearby Daughters of St. Anne day-care. He talked to them about his work as a Boeing engineer and played his guitar for them.

May they rest in peace

Jim Cray, 93, longtime resident of Skyline, died March 28. He had lived for many years on Elmendorf Drive until just recently when he and his wife Florence moved to Owings Mills. I'll run a tribute to him in next week's column.

Jane Elizabeth Wells, 89, who lived on West Avenue in Suitland until she moved to Annapolis 21 years ago, died April 28. She was born in Forestville to Arcenious and Louise Beane and graduated in 1940 from Marlboro High, attended Strayer Business College, and worked as bank teller, bookkeeper, and as a secretary at the Census Bureau. She was a member of the Knights of Columbus Queen's Auxiliary. Survivors include her husband of 68 years, Edwin V. Wells, Jr. She was the mother of Ronald Wells, Mary K. Vass and Patricia Barrett, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of 13.

Recently I ran a happy birthday message for Gretchen Ennis, only to learn from Loretta Hooe that she died three years ago. Gretchen was her mother and Harvey Ennis was her dad. They lived in the same Doppler Street home in Capitol Heights for 65 years and Harvey was mayor of Capitol Heights in the early '50s. He died about 13 years ago. Gretchen was candy dipper for Fannie May candies in downtown Washington for 30 years. In later years she moved next door to Loretta in the Spanish Village Apartments in District Heights. She was almost 97 when she died in February 2010.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Gladys Locks, Shirley Eppard and Elijah Thomas, May 10; Carolyn Flaherty Fogle, May 11; Kyle Dameron, May 12; Henrietta Bookhart, Ted Harris and Micheal White, May 13; my granddaughter Naomi Gallegos and Helen Fadness, May 15; Fr. Charles McCann, Kenneth Darcey, Tim Cordero and Kitty Marshall, May 16.

Happy anniversary to Donna and Wayne Anderson on May 14.

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

Brandywine-Aquasco

HIP AND KNEE PAIN SEMINAR

Come and hear Dr. Byrne's presentation followed by a question and answer session. Dr. Byrne is an orthopedic surgeon at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital's Center for Joint Replacement. The free seminar is sponsored by MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital and will be held at The Colony South Hotel. The hotel is located at 7401 Surratts Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. The date of the Seminar is Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 6:30 PM. If you plan to attend you must reserve a seat in advance by calling 1-866-724-2099.

SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Calah Smith is scholar of the week at Surrattsville High School in Clinton, Maryland. Her grade point average is 3:51. Calah academics include AP Language, AP Psychology, AP Biology Honors, U.S. History, Geometry, Chemistry, Government and Advanced Chorus.

Calah extra-curricular activities include SGA, Band (Auxiliary Co-Captain), Honors Chorus, ROTC (Class Leader, Public Affairs Officer, Training Instructor), Varsity Softball and Challenge Day Volunteer.

Calah will attend Delaware State University in the fall. She

plans to major in forensics and chemistry. She aspires to be a Forensic Scientist or Geneticist. Calah is a songstress and enjoys writing short stories. She also volunteers as a counselor at local Boys and Girls Clubs.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

1,2,3 Go Summer Fun at Day Camp at Camp Aquasco, Maryland for girls entering K through 6th grade who are members of the Girl Scouts. The Camp will be from June 17-21, 2013 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. The fee is \$40 per girl (non-refundable). This fee includes snack, t-shirt and bus transportation. There will be games, songs, crafts and adventures. There is financial assistance available upon request. For more information contact: Association 21 Membership Specialist 301-638-5353 extension 4021 or visit Assn21@gscnc.org. Registration deadline is June 4, 2013.

HAT AND HEELS BRUNCH

New Hope Fellowship (NHF) presents Hat and Heels Brunch in honor of Women's Month 2013 on June 8, 2013 from 2:00 PM-5:00 PM. Cost of ticket is \$30.00. Church telephone number is 301-888-2171. This event will be at the Family Life Center 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Senior Pastor Rev. Daryl L. Williams.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS CHURCH

Join us for our Women's Day Celebration on Sunday May 19, 2013 AM at Nottingham Myers Church, Senior Pastor Daryl L. Williams. Our church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Telephone 301-888-2171 or visit our website at www.nottinghammyers.org.

Neighborhood Events

Governor O'Malley Signs Bill Repealing Death Penalty in Maryland

Upper Marlboro, MD – Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III released the following statement after Governor's O'Malley signed legislation repealing the Death Penalty in Maryland yesterday. Upon the Governor's signature, Maryland became the 18th state to abolish the death penalty:

"Yesterday, Governor O'Malley repealed the death penalty in Maryland. I applaud the Governor's and General Assembly's leadership on this issue and celebrate this legislative achievement.

Tonight, I will arrive home to a citizen who has fought for years to repeal the death penalty. That citizen, is my wife, Christa Beverly Baker, a lawyer and advocate for social justice. Due to her illness, she was unable to continue her advocacy on this issue and it has been my honor to continue this fight with the same level of passion, concern, and vigor that she brought to this important and sensitive issue for many years. She made this her life-long mission to end what she believed was an unfortunate stain on criminal justice in our country.

She felt that our history of continuing to use a system of state-sanctioned killings or capital punishment was wrong. My wife did not fight against the death penalty because she felt sympathy for the individuals who committed horrible acts of violence against innocent children, families or people. Rather she believes that when you espouse an "eye for an eye" philosophy, it makes you unable to see the hypocrisy projected by a system of state sanctioned killings. By allowing state sanctioned killings, we shared common ground with the murderers from which we wish to protect ourselves.

The State of Maryland took a major step toward fixing this broken system and made this long awaited dream of ending the death penalty a reality. I am truly proud of my State, its leaders, the NAACP and the thousands of activists, such as my wife, for achieving this historic accomplishment."

Prince George's County Opens First Publicly Supported Youth Shelter

Watershed event for homeless youth and youth advocates as Promise Place opens its doors

LANDOVER, MD - On Thursday, May 2, 2013, Prince George's County Executive, Rushern L. Baker, III, Gloria L. Brown, Director of Prince George's County Department of Social Services and Deborah Shore Executive Director of Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc., took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony to help celebrate the opening of the County's first publicly supported shelter, Promise Place. The newly renovated space has been converted to a shelter with 20 beds for runaway and homeless youth from age 12 -24 years of age.

"This initiative represents

several years of dedication and hard work from so many committed individuals," said County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "I have to commend those who worked tirelessly to ensure that this "safe haven" for youth has become a reality. It is important that we provide all the necessary resources to support those youth that are vulnerable in our County—for that, I thank you."

The County has teamed with a proven provider of youth services, Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc. to obtain federal funding that will support provide management and operation of the 24 hour, 7 days a week facility. Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc., a youth shelter provider since 1977 (and long-term federal grantee for this service modality in the District), has well-established outreach, admission and service protocols. They will provide case management and screen each youth for emergency needs such as food, medical attention, and other crisis intervention services.

Over 100 homeless youth advocates, community leaders, educators and service providers gathered to hear testimonials from a former homeless youth and Jermaine Crawford, actor (formerly on HBO's The Wire) and homeless youth advocate.

Brianna Moore, an 11 year old resident of Prince George's County, learned of the opening of the youth shelter and wanted to do something to assist. She asked her mother, Shavonne Moore, if she could help her to coordinate a fund raiser. With the monies raised, Brianna donated over 30 bags filled with toiletry items for the youth.

Promise Place will thrive because of contributions from families like the Moores as well as strategic public-private partnerships with organizations like Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc. and Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.

"Youth will not only have a place to stay, but a state-of-the-art facility that will also provide vital support services to help them develop the skills necessary to overcome the difficulties they face and redirect their current paths," said Director Gloria L. Brown. "This project is a by-product of the County's 10-year plan to prevent and end homelessness. Our mission is to provide supports and services to Prince George's County's most vulnerable residents and help them on a path to self-sufficiency."

For more information on Housing Instability Among Young People in Prince George's County report and the Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in Prince George's County go to www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/dss and look at Studies on Homelessness.

Statement of Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III National Teacher Appreciation Day and Week
Upper Marlboro, MD – Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker,

III released the following statement in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Day and Week. "In Prince George's County, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers this profession has to offer. Each day, whether in Laurel, Capitol Heights, Brandywine or Bladensburg, our teachers are doing amazing work. Often lost in the discussion about improving education in Prince George's County is an appreciation for the tireless, innovative work already being done in our schools every day. I am committed to building upon the successes of our school system and providing the resources needed to retain our best and brightest teachers.

On a personal note, I want to thank each and every teacher that helped usher my three children through the Prince George's County Public School System. My wife and I owe a debt of gratitude for the outstanding preparation each child received.

So on this day, and every day, I salute our educators for their dedication, passion, and determination in improving our children's lives and the future of Prince George's County."

Baltimore City District Court Celebrates Drug Treatment Court Graduation

(BALTIMORE – May, 2013) On Wednesday, May 15, 25 graduates will celebrate the successful completion of a rigorous drug court program with family members and friends during the Baltimore City District Court Drug Treatment Court's Spring 2013 graduation. Judge Jamey H. Hueston and Judge Catherine Curran O'Malley will preside. Gov. Martin O'Malley will be the guest speaker. Media are invited to attend.

Drug court is a judicially led program with intensive treatment, community supervision, drug testing. "All graduates entered the program seriously addicted to drugs. All are now drug free, and most are employed and reunited with their families," said Judge Hueston. The Baltimore City District Court drug court started in 1994 as the first in Maryland and sixth in the nation. There are now more than 2,700 drug courts in the United States.

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Prepare Your Kids for Summer Job Expenses

High school and college students hoping to find temporary jobs may be in for a tough time this summer — once again — as they compete with older, more experienced workers in a still-struggling economy. But if your kid is fortunate enough to find work, there are a few things he or she — and you — should know about the economic and tax ramifications of temporary employment.



Payroll deductions. If this is their first job, warn your kids about common payroll deductions that can take a big bite out of take-home pay. Common culprits include state and federal income taxes, Social Security and Medicare (FICA), health and unemployment insurance, uniforms and union dues.

When starting a new job your child will be asked to fill out IRS Form W-4, the Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate. Employers use this form to determine how much income tax should be withheld from your paycheck. The form's instructions help determine how many personal allowances can be claimed.

Note: If you claim your children as dependents and they earn less than \$5,950 during 2012, they probably won't owe any income tax for the year. If so, they can request that employers not withhold income taxes by claiming an "exemption from withholding" on Line 7 of the W-4. However, if you notice on their year-end W-2 form that the employer did indeed withhold federal and state income taxes, your child must file a tax return in order to get a refund.

Self-employed status. Many teens start their working careers by being self-employed, doing part-time jobs like babysitting, yard work or housekeeping. It's important to know that this income is also subject to income tax.

If their self-employment net earnings exceed \$400 in 2012, your kids also must pay self-employment tax, even if they owe no income tax. This tax is similar to the Social Security and Medicare taxes that get withheld from regular wages. Self-employment tax is assessed at 13.3 percent of net self-employment income reported.

The IRS provides a handy guide called "Taxable Income for Students" guide that explains what types of income are and are not taxable (www.irs.gov). For example, tips, bank account interest and certain scholarship-paid expenses (such as room and board) must be reported as taxable income.

IRA contributions. Retirement is probably the last thing on your teenager's mind, but you should know that they are allowed to open and contribute earned income up to \$5,000 to an IRA each year. If you or the grandparents want to make a down payment on your kid's future, consider funding an IRA. For teens it usually makes sense to open a Roth IRA as opposed to a traditional IRA. Here's why:

With a Roth, you pay tax on the contributions that year — and kids are usually in the lowest tax bracket. Then, contributions and investment earnings grow tax-free forever. With a traditional IRA, you make pretax contributions but pay income tax on withdrawals at retirement — usually at a much higher tax rate.

If someone opened a Roth IRA at age 16 and contributed only \$1,000 a year, the account could be worth over \$300,000 by age 60. Sit down with your kid and play around with the Roth IRA Calculator at www.dinkytown.net — it's a great way to teach the importance of compound earnings.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered legal, tax or financial advice. It's always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

Walker Mill MS Teacher Named Prince George's County Teacher of the Year

By Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, MD -- Albert Lewis, language arts teacher at Walker Mill Middle School, has been named the 2013 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made Thursday at the school system's annual Teacher of the Year Celebration at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt.

Lewis began his career with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) as a substitute teacher in 2006. He earned his teaching certification through the school system's Resident Teacher Program, and has been teaching language arts at Walker Mill since 2007.

"All 39 nominees for Prince George's County Teacher of the Year have inspired their school communities with their outstanding skills, dedicated service and support of students, parents and colleagues," said Dr. Alvin L. Crawley, Interim Superintendent of Schools. "These educators set the bar for excellence, and play a key role in ensuring the future success of our students."

"Mr. Lewis brings a wealth of intellect, experience, and expertise to the job," said Nicole Clifton, Ed.D., principal of Walker Mill. "His dedication and passion for the craft and his community is evident in his instruction and other areas, as well."

Three other finalists were also named for the award during the May 2 celebration: Jennifer Boyles-Kellner, Forest Heights Elementary School; Erica Rogers Bair, Valley View Elementary School; and Patrice Porter Lawrence, Frederick Douglass High School.

"I was honored to take part in recognizing all of our outstanding nominees for this year's award," said Board Chair Verjeana M. Jacobs, Esq. "They are all Teachers of the Year in the eyes of their students, and all have the traits that make up a great educator: mastery of their content area, a passion for teaching and a deep caring for their students."

Lewis takes on additional roles and responsibilities at his school, including serving as Team Leader, Administrative Support person and member of the Instructional Council. He coordinated the Breakfast Club tutoring program in 2011, was Assistant Basketball Coach from 2007-2010, has been the Debate Coach since 2008 and has served as a motivational speaker at school assemblies since 2007.

Outside of his school community, he has worked as a reading tutor, where he developed and implemented curriculum for a summer science and technology camp, provided extending learning opportunities for students, designed tutoring programs and conducted professional development for peers.

Lewis earned a bachelor's degree in telecommunications with a concentration in journalism from Morgan State University in 2007. But after serving as a substitute teacher in Prince George's County from 2006-2007, he shifted his focus to education and started working towards earning his teaching certification in English.

Lewis will join representatives from all 24 Maryland counties in competing for the title of 2013-2014 Maryland Teacher of the Year, through a process coordinated by the

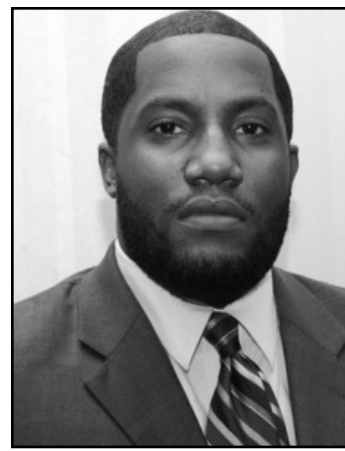


PHOTO COURTESY PGCPS
Albert Lewis, language arts teacher at Walker Mill Middle School, has been named the 2013 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year.

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The winner will be announced during a gala event in the fall, and will go on to represent Maryland in the national competition.

Three high school students were also honored Thursday for their winning entries in the Teacher of the Year essay contest. Dion Garner, senior at Largo High School, shared his "Most Inspirational" essay during the event. Adriana Murray from Largo High School was the first place winner for Grade 12, and Martin Garris Jr. from DuVal High School won first place for Grade 11.

Besides the winner and finalists, the following educators were also nominated for Prince George's County Teacher of the Year:

- Joy Anderson, Surrattsville HS
- Nina Cheri Jacks, Brandywine ES
- Angela Address, Imagine Foundations at Morningside
- Charlene Jones-Newman, Surrattsville HS

Susan Bailey, High Bridge ES

Ruthasia Lanier-Williams, Croom HS

Rosa Bell, Barnaby Manor ES

Irene B. De Leon, John Hanson Montessori

Dr. Otassa Jean Boston, Perrywood ES

Genes Marquez, Judith P. Hoyer Montessori

Angelica Brooks, Oxon Hill MS

William McIntyre, Accokeek Academy

Elizabeth C. Butler, Martin Luther King, Jr. MS

Stephen Charles Newbold Jr., Thurgood Marshall MS

Taiese Carson, Glenn Dale ES

Nakia Newman, Hillcrest Heights ES

Susan Crossed, Judith P. Hoyer Montessori

Glynnis Ogbogou, Adelphi ES

Yvette Coley, Imagine Foundations at Morningside

Eric Russo, Drew-Freeman MS

Kelly S. Crayton, M.Ed., Barack Obama ES

Karen Schafer, Adelphi ES

Ma. Cielo Deocares, Imagine Foundations at Morningside

Denise L. Smith, Thomas G. Pullen Arts Academy

Shawna Faro, Glenn Dale ES

Bobbie Shockley, Largo HS

Joelle Formato, Drew-Freeman MS

Venita Simon, C. Elizabeth Rieg Regional School

Melany Garcia, Patuxent ES

Sharon L. Weaver, Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. HS

Anne Hall McKuhen, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones ES

Melanie Wheeler, Francis T. Evans ES

Paul Hatton, Thomas G. Pullen Arts Academy

Gretchen T. Williams, Perrywood ES

Tobi M. Haufe, Deerfield Run ES

Fashion from A1

To Gibson, personal style is about being able to take a template and add colors and prints of the wearer's choosing.

"I want my customers to wear something no one else has," said Gibson.

That's exactly the DC fashion vibe, said Janice Wallace, editor-in-chief of Façon Magazine, who has lived in the Washington area her whole life. She founded Façon Magazine in November 2011 to showcase local designers.

"It's about people who do their own thing and don't need to look like anybody else," Wallace said.

This characteristic of fashion in the Washington metropolitan area provides greater opportunities for young designers, she said.

To Wallace, D.C. has always been stylish, but now more people are paying attention.

"Before, if it didn't appear in The (Washington) Post, it didn't happen at all," she said.

Blogs like Refinery29 D.C., which targets an audience ranging from college students to young professionals, are supplementing more traditional

fashion media, Wallace said. The site features articles on fashion, style, beauty and events taking place around D.C.

"You would think this kind of information is always available but it's not," said Holly Thomas, editor in chief of Refinery29 D.C. "Bloggers have created a more comfortable environment for people interested in fashion."

Nurturing this nascent fashion industry is the area's own showcase: DC Fashion Week, the fifth-largest fashion week in the United States. Historically, it has brought in designers from all over the world, but lately it's been courting designers from around the nation's capital. The weeklong event helps designers get exposure in front of big-name buyers, who might then agree to carry their line.

The DC Fashion Incubator and Style Studies DC also are helping to build the area's fashion scene by working with emerging designers to assist them with their brands and network with potential buyers.

Macy's has partnered with the DC Fashion Incubator to give up-and-coming designers the opportunity to sell their line

at the company's Metro Center store. Talks for this partnership began in October 2012 and are expected to be put into action in the next year. Macy's has created partnerships for similar programs in Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

Wallace works with the DC Fashion Incubator and says she is "optimistic" about the future of the organization's partnership with the Metro Center Macy's.

Style Studies DC was founded in February by 22-year-old Kiah Leigh Rhode, from Bowie, to bring together influential members of the fashion industry and young people interested in fashion. The program is still under construction and held its first series of seminars earlier this month. These seminars were led by players in the local fashion scene, like Wallace, and attended by young people interested in becoming designers, editorialists and public relations representatives in the fashion industry.

Rhode calls herself a "professional DIYer & creative" and has an eponymous jewelry line.

Rhode says the influx of young people in the D.C. area

has helped Washington's relationship with fashion.

"We have more fashion initiative," said Rhode.

Seven of the 10 wealthiest counties in America are in the Washington metropolitan area, according to the American Community Survey conducted in 2011. The 2010 census found that a third of the population in Washington is between the ages of 20 and 30, a 23 percent increase from the last census.

Retailers are noticing the trend. Established designers, including Kate Spade, Burberry and Michael Kors, have all brought their stores to the area in recent years.

While this is good news for the young shopper, this development, ironically, is making it increasingly difficult for small boutiques and vintage shops to stay in business.

"Every massive chain store is headed our way and smaller stores can't handle that," said Thomas.

But young designers like Gibson continue to be optimistic about opportunities available to them: "I used to think about moving to New York but now I'm considering staying in D.C."

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SERVICE FIRST... FUN ALWAYS!

COMMENTARY

By Benjamin Todd Jealous

President/CEO of the NAACP



No Second Class Families

African Americans have spent much of our history fighting for equal treatment. Just two generations ago, our parents and our grandparents were banned from eating at certain restaurants, attending certain schools, and working in certain professions.

So it is not difficult to empathize with the struggle of immigrants in our country. Like our ancestors who migrated from the former slave states of the Deep South, millions of undocumented immigrants move to the United States each year to find work and a decent education for their children. But when they arrive, they are confronted with blatant discrimination and racial profiling - with hardly any legal recourse and little public outrage.

As people of color, we have a responsibility to stand up for social justice whenever it is violated. That is why the NAACP has joined other civil rights and human rights organizations, including the Rights Working Group and the Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights, to support comprehensive immigration reform.

Across the country, an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants live in a permanent second-class status. Many immigrants come to the U.S. to find a better life, but find themselves living in the shadows, in constant fear of arrest and deportation. This segregation has a cost.

Undocumented workers are exploited on a regular basis. Many business owners pay low wages and provide dangerous working conditions for their undocumented workers, with little fear of retaliation. They know that their employees have too much at stake to risk contacting the proper authorities.

Undocumented immigrants are also targeted by police. Racial profiling has been legalized in states like Alabama and Arizona under the guise of immigration enforcement. Our national immigration laws, in conjunction with these state laws,

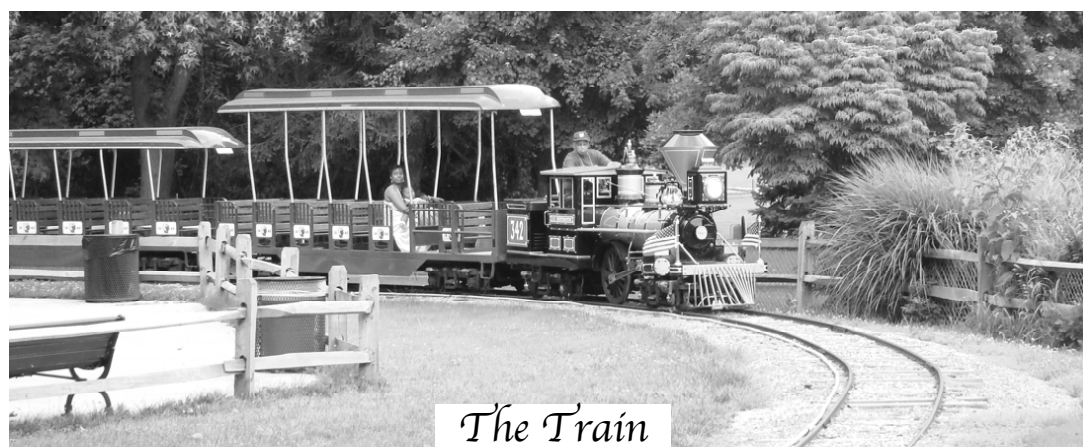
encourage local police to stop people of color, whether they are undocumented or not.

Right now Congress is debating a comprehensive immigration bill that will offer a roadmap to citizenship and also deal directly with workplace discrimination and racial profiling. One proposed provision allows undocumented immigrants to have the full protection of American labor laws. Another one explicitly prohibits racial profiling by Homeland Security agents - which would make it the first federal law to do so.

The bill in its draft form is not perfect. The racial profiling provision needs adjustments that are being debated at the time of this writing. The draft bill also contains provisions that would eliminate the diversity visa program - which helps many African and Caribbean immigrants come to America - and dramatically expand the guest worker program. The NAACP and our allies will continue to make our voice heard as Congress debates the bill.

In August 1963 a sea of diverse activists stormed the National Mall to demand social justice and an end to segregation. In April 2013 a similarly diverse wave of legal immigrants, undocumented immigrants, and activists of all backgrounds gathered at the United States Capitol to call an end to second-class citizenship. The March on Washington pressured Congress to pass the Civil Rights Acts. This year, we need to show Congress again that American of all stripes care about progressive reform.

As Dr. King said, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. African Americans have spent much of our history fighting for fair treatment and equal opportunity. We must also offer support to our immigrant brothers and sisters. If we want to escape the sins of our past, we must ensure there are no second class families today.



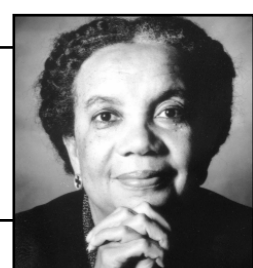
The Train

The Train at Watkins Park

ANTIQUÉ CHESAPEAKE CAROUSEL & MINIATURE TRAIN? Watkins Regional Park? 301 Watkins Park Drive? Upper Marlboro, MD ?301-218-6761? The park features an authentic, hand-carved, hand-painted, 80-year-old carousel. Featured on the Carousel are 45 animals with a rare combination of kangaroo, jackass, goat and seahorse. Do not miss the train as it passes through the lovely, wooded surroundings. The carousel and train are open Memorial Day-Labor Day, Tues-Sun, 10-7 p.m. (\$)

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



"Right and Wrong Answers on School Safety"

Here's a multiple-choice quiz: Which of the following should be part of a model school safety plan?

a) Proven evidence-based models for school violence reduction that focus on preventing misbehavior and violence by promoting a healthy, positive school climate.

b) Threat assessment, emphasis on positive behavioral interventions, social and emotional learning, nonviolent conflict resolution, and community engagement including parents, students, educators, and faith and civic leaders.

c) Trained mental health professionals (social workers and psychologists) and school counselors to identify problems early and support students and educators.

d) Keeping school doors locked after the start of the school day, creating a space where children are safe to learn and teachers are safe to teach.

e) Putting armed guards and more guns in every school in America.

f) Arming teachers and principals.

g) Putting law enforcement in charge of school safety and school discipline.

If you answered e), f), and g) give yourself a failing grade. Despite the loud voice of the National Rifle Association (NRA), scholars, experts on school safety, and teachers overwhelmingly disagree with turning schools into armed camps rather than places of nonviolent positive learning. School safety is a non-negotiable priority. The current national debate about how best to achieve school safety is a natural result of the horror we feel when violence happens at a school like the unbearable Newtown, Connecticut massacre of 20 small children and their teachers. We must do all we can to end school and community violence but we need to make the right choices and make sure the solutions are effective and do not create other dangerous consequences for children.

On March 28, the Advancement Project issued a report *A Real Fix: A Gun-Free Way to School Safety* that highlights what many people already know to be true: more guns are not the way to achieve less violence in schools. In fact, adding guns and increasing police presence in schools can

do more harm than good to countless children—usually children of color or with special needs who are suspended, expelled, criminalized and arrested for nonviolent offenses—pushing them onto a path to school failure, dropout, and the prison pipeline.

There is no evidence that armed guards or police officers in schools make children safer. An armed guard at Columbine High School in 1999 and a full campus police force at Virginia Tech in 2007 were unable to stop the massacres that occurred at both schools. A 2010 review of existing research found no evidence that the use of police to handle school disorders reduces the occurrence of problem behavior in schools but there is evidence that over-policing leads to a new set of problems.

The Advancement Project and others highlight the city of Denver as a model for how to create a balanced approach to school discipline with student and parental input and avoid the too common overreaction by some in the wake of school tragedies. Denver public schools, like many Colorado schools, initially responded to the tragedy of Columbine by more vigorously enforcing zero tolerance policies and adding more police, security guards, and metal detectors. Between 2000 and 2004, Denver experi-

enced a seventy-one percent increase in school referrals to law enforcement. The majority were for nonviolent behaviors like the use of obscenities, disruptive appearance, and destruction of non-school property, not the violent and dangerous behavior zero school discipline policies were designed to deter. Serious misconduct like carrying a dangerous weapon to school accounted for only seven percent of the referrals.

In 2008, parents and youths working with then-Superintendent (now U.S. Senator) Michael Bennet, led by the group *Padres y Jóvenes Unidos* (Parents and Youth United), worked together to successfully secure reforms that dramatically revised the discipline code, abandoning the post-Columbine zero tolerance discipline practices in Denver Public Schools. Denver's police now have a limited role in the schools and the district is making progress in reducing school-based arrests and the racial disparities in those arrests. As the Advancement Project said in the earlier report *Why Police in Schools Aren't? The Answer*: "We should learn from the policy choices made by the Colorado legislators and school officials—not repeat

See WATCH, Page A8

To Be Equal

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Class of 2013:

Summon the Courage, Choose to Serve

"Raise your eyes now, and look from the place where you are...for all the land that you see I will give to you."

Genesis 13: 14-15

University commencement season is a time of high hopes and great celebration. I was again reminded of that this past Saturday when I delivered the commencement address at Huston-Tillotson (HT) University in Austin, Texas. This coming weekend, I will also speak during graduation ceremonies at Tuskegee University and Alcorn State.

Perhaps best known as the university where Jackie Robinson served as athletic director and basketball coach before he set out to break the color barrier in baseball, Huston-Tillotson is the oldest Historically Black College and University (HBCU) west of the Mississippi. For 137 years, it has opened doors of educational opportunity that might have otherwise been closed to many African American students. The enthusiasm and optimism I saw in the faces of this year's HT graduates - and that I expect to see at Tuskegee and Alcorn - reaffirmed my belief that the future is indeed in good hands.

My message to the graduates was simply to make sure that in addition to emerging from college academically prepared, they should also embrace their obligation to pave the way for the next generation and leave this world better than they found it. I am all too aware that this is easier said than done. So, I also shared three key observations, or better yet life lessons, to help them navigate this next phase of their journey. I call them the three C's - courage, choice and compassion.

The class of 2013 is graduating at a pivotal moment in American history. Fifty years ago, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. Martin Luther King shared his passionate dream that America live up to its promise of liberty and justice for all. That same year four little Black girls were killed by a terrorist bomb planted by the Ku Klux Klan at Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, and civil rights hero Medgar

Evers was assassinated in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. Now 50 years later, we have witnessed the second inauguration of the nation's first Black president. As I told the HT graduates, we've come a long way baby, but we still have a long way to go.

While many of the legal impediments to equal opportunity have been eliminated over the past half-century, new challenges including voter suppression, criminal justice abuses, economic inequality and opposition to common sense gun safety legislation, have risen to take their place. All of these problems will require this generation of graduates to muster the kind of courage shown by people like Jackie Robinson, Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, and National Urban League Heman Sweatt, who fought the battle to integrate the University of Texas in 1950. They each found the courage and made the choice to devote themselves to a cause greater than themselves. They each demonstrated the kind of compassion required to act beyond individual interests and clear obstacle-laden paths so that those who followed could have better opportunities. The baton is now passing to a new generation, and I have no doubt they will rise to the challenge.

The National Urban League has always engaged young people in our empowerment movement. For more than 40 years, our Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP) has been cultivating new leaders and inspiring achievement by enabling African American students to interface and network with African American business professionals to prepare for careers in corporate America. In addition, the National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP) engages young professionals ages 21-40 in voluntarism and philanthropy to empower their communities and change lives.

Many of today's HBCU graduates have been touched by those and similar efforts. We expect that they will use the blueprint of courage, choice and compassion summoned and shown by so many before them. We expect that they will pass it on and choose to serve.

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BUSINESS

Business Spotlight

Renaissance Square Artists' Housing - Open House & Gallery Opening - May 18, 2013

Renaissance Square Artists' Housing is participating in the Communications Action Network (CAN) affordable communities Parade of Homes, a free public event to showcase the variety and quality of affordable communities throughout the Washington metro region.

This green housing development consists of 44 units of affordable housing designed for artists who volunteer their time for subsidized rent. The property includes a shared studio space, computer room and music practice room. Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hours: Rental Office, Mon - Fri, 2pm - 5pm
Handicap Accessible: Handicapped-accessible units



Governor O'Malley Unveils data.maryland.gov

Announces Official Launch of Maryland's First Statewide Open Data Portal

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May, 2013) - Governor Martin O'Malley officially launched data.maryland.gov - Maryland's first statewide open data portal that will provide researchers, entrepreneurs, public servants and citizens with a wide variety of data to support transparency and innovation in government. Data such as vendor payments, vehicle accidents, licensed veterinary clinics, GIS mapping data, and per capita electricity consumption will all be made available and housed in a central place for the public.

The Governor made this announcement at a panel discussion hosted in conjunction with the Future of Information Alliance (FIA) - a transdisciplinary partnership between the University of Maryland, College Park and 10 founding partners. The panel featured "futurists" and over 120 students, entrepreneurs and public servants who spoke about the importance of big data to better serve and inform the public.

"Big Data is forever changing the way we manage, market, and move information, and in Maryland, it is also changing the way we govern with better choices and better results," said Governor O'Malley. "Together, we set public goals, relentlessly measure government performance on a weekly basis, broadly share information, and put it on the internet for all to see. We publicly identify our problems and crowd source the solutions with open access to data. That's why

today we're launching data.maryland.gov - a movement away from ideological, hierarchical, bureaucratic governing and toward information-age governing that is fundamentally entrepreneurial, collaborative, relentlessly interactive and performance driven."

Governor O'Malley and the State of Maryland joined the Future of Information Alliance in February 2012. The panel discussion today is one of many hosted by the Alliance throughout the year.

"Big Data can affect all of us in some way- both in terms of opportunities and challenges," said Senior Vice President and Provost at University of Maryland Mary Ann Rankin. "The University of Maryland's partnership with the Governor's office through the Future of Information Alliance continues to be an important mechanism seeding conversations and spurring collaborations that may lead to strategic research and critical insights beneficial to the State and nation."

As FIA "Future-ist in Residence," and Google's Director of User Happiness, Dan Russell points out, "Big data isn't just a good thing to have - it's critical to the way Google and all modern internet companies work. Large amounts of data deeply change the way we can provide services."

"Big data isn't just about having vast quantities of numbers in a table-it's really a different way of looking at, analyzing, and ultimately understanding what those data are trying to say to you. A big data scientist is really a 'data whisperer' and has a deep empa-



PHOTO BY JAY BAKER
Governor Martin O'Malley officially launched data.maryland.gov - Maryland's first statewide open data portal that will provide researchers, entrepreneurs, public servants and citizens with a wide variety of data to support transparency and innovation in government.

thy for the tones and semitones in the melody of the numbers. What are they saying to us? How can we best listen? That's what we do - pick out the parts that make sense and tell others what we've heard."

With the launch of data.maryland.gov, the O'Malley-Brown Administration continues its commitment to transparency, openness and accountability. Through StateStat, modeled after then-Mayor O'Malley's award-winning CitiStat program, Governor O'Malley is making Maryland's government work again for the people of our State. StateStat's tenets are:

- Accurate & timely intelligence, shared by all
- Rapid deployment of resources
- Effective tactics and strategies
- Relentless follow-up and assessment
- Bios of "Futurists" (panelists)

who attended:

Bryan Sivak, chief technology officer at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he is also Entrepreneur in Residence and is seeking to foster a culture of innovation.

Viktor Mayer-Schönberger, professor of Internet Governance and Regulation, Oxford Internet Institute. He is the co-author of Big Data: Revolution that will Transform How We Live, Work, & Think.

Dan Russell, Google's "director of user happiness," who is this year's FIA "Future-ist in Residence" and will provide an overview of the new world of big data and moderate the discussion.

Jennifer Golbeck, director of UMD's HumanComputer Interaction Lab and author of Analyzing the Social Web, who will respond to the presenters with the observations and questions.

I-270 from A1

tion or have been put on hold. Decreased revenue projections and the state's use of transportation funds for other purposes have delayed the more expensive options and forced planners to devise cheaper alternatives.

"We've fallen way behind on our infrastructure plans," said Richard Parsons, board member of the Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance.

The Maryland chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the state's roads and transitways a C- rating in its 2011 report on the state's infrastructure that came out in March. A key factor in the rating was inadequate funding for planned projects.

"It is critical that funding for capital improvement projects be increased," the study concluded. "Failure to do so will continue to result in costly roadway repairs and reconstruction and increase time delays for Maryland residents."

Maryland is doing better than the country on average, which received Ds for roads and transit in the same ASCE report.

The Maryland State Highway Administration and the Maryland Transit Administration have been working since the mid-1990s on developing a combination of road and transit improvements to Interstate 270

to improve traffic flow. When the first public hearings were held in 1997, average daily traffic on the interstate south of Interstate 70 was 83,750 vehicles. In 2012, average daily traffic in the same area was 103,960 vehicles, a nearly 25 percent increase.

The Maryland Transit Administration and the Maryland State Highway Administration conducted a multi-modal study on the 30-mile highway that presented five different options to add lanes. Expanding the highway was put on hold in 2011 in favor of transit options after the study estimated the cost at up to \$5 billion.

The Corridor Cities Transitway, a rapid-bus system, began as a branch of the multi-modal study and became an independent project when highway lane expansion was abandoned. The first phase of the project will stretch from the Shady Grove Metro Station to the MARC Metropolitan Grove Station with nine stations in between.

The rapid bus transit system could ease traffic congestion on the lower portion of I-270 since buses will have designated lanes and would only interact with traffic at intersections.

"Regardless of how congested the roads become, the transitway will be able to maintain its travel speeds," said Rick J. Kiegel, project manager for the

Corridor Cities Transitway.

Relief for travelers, however, is years away. The first phase of the project, which would link the MARC Metropolitan Grove Station with the Shady Grove Metro Station, is expected to be completed by 2020. The completed transitway will stretch to the COMSAT Laboratories in Germantown, but there is no set timeline for this second phase. The plan is to wait for that area to increase in density, Kiegel said.

But even a completed transitway will make little dent in the problem, Kiegel said. "The reality is that I-270 carries such a large volume of traffic that one transit system is not going to have a significant impact."

The Maryland State Highway Administration has focused on improving segments of Interstate 270. A project to construct a new interchange at the Watkins Mill Road Extended would provide access from I-270 to the MARC Metropolitan Grove Road Station. Partial engineering is still underway, with the right-of-way construction to begin later this fiscal year.

With the passage of the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act in Maryland, Parsons is more optimistic that some of the state's stalled transportation projects will resume.

"I'm feeling optimistic for the first time in a long time," Parsons said.

The bill passed by the General Assembly in March would increase the gas tax by up to 5 percent by 2016. The legislation would bring an estimated \$4.4 billion to the Maryland Department of Transportation. The gas tax has not been increased since 1992.

A pilot program is underway for "bus-on-shoulder" lanes along Interstate 270. The Maryland State Highway Administration is studying how to create shoulder lanes that can withstand bus traffic. Buses would use the shoulder lanes when highway traffic slows to a particular speed. A similar project is underway in Virginia to improve shoulders for buses on Interstate 66 inside the Beltway that could be completed as soon as next year.

While Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance Chairman Doug Duncan said that "bus-on-shoulder" lanes are a good idea in the short term, the highway needs transit with a dedicated lane. "Long term I think you need to look towards separate bus lanes," Duncan said.

Weaver had what she considers the best solution: move closer to work. Although she now lives 15 miles from her workplace, Weaver has put her house up for sale, and hopes to find a home even closer to work so that she can start commuting by bike. "I'm finding that it is just so much better of a lifestyle."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"The Iceman 3"

The Iceman

Grade: C-

Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity, a lot of graphic violence, brief strong sexuality
1 hr., 43 min.

Michael Shannon is having what they call "a moment," with an acclaimed lead performance in 2011's "Take Shelter," ongoing praise for HBO's "Boardwalk Empire," and a special mention in almost every review of "Premium Rush," about which he seems to have been the most memorable thing. That's on top of the well-deserved Best Supporting Actor nomination he got for 2008's "Revolutionary Road," about which he was definitely the most memorable thing.

The leading role in "The Iceman" — based on the true story of prolific contract killer Richard Kuklinski — is a natural fit for him. Kuklinski was a devoted husband and father whose family had no inkling of his double life, and Shannon's intense face can express both cold-blooded evil and warm, unassuming averageness. But the film proves a lost opportunity, a good showcase for Shannon, and a chance to see David Schwimmer as a New Jersey wannabe wiseguy with a mustache and pony tail, but not much else.

Taking full advantage of Shannon's range, director Ariel Vroman starts the film with a close-up of Kuklinski, wildly bearded and apparently incarcerated, listening as an unseen interviewer asks if he has any

regrets. Using only his eyes, Shannon conveys that the man he's playing is more monster than human.

We cut to a diner in Jersey City in 1964, where a young, clean-shaven Richie Kuklinski is meeting a nice girl named Deborah (Winona Ryder) for coffee. Now Shannon is the picture of shy gentlemanliness, uneducated and rough around the edges but not the least bit menacing. Deborah, giggling, is smitten, and you can see why. Richie isn't putting on an act here. This is who he really is. And shortly thereafter, when he slits the throat of a man who crossed him? That's also who he really is. Shannon is equally convincing in both halves of the character.

In the spirit of "Goodfellas," which "The Iceman" seeks to emulate (see next sentence for more evidence), we skip quickly through the next decade or so. Richie gets hired as a goon for local gangster Roy Demeo (Ray Liotta — see?), who admires Richie's ability to commit the most heinous of deeds without flinching. "The Pollock," as Roy calls him, kills a lot of guys in a lot of ways at Roy's behest. Deborah, now Richie's wife and the mother of his little girls, thinks he makes his living in the field of currency exchange.

This sounds like the set-up for a violent, gripping crime saga, especially knowing that the man Richie works for is nearly as sociopathic as he is. But it isn't. Violent, yes. Gripping, no. Vroman's screenplay, which he co-adapted with



ROTTENTOMATOES

Marvel's "Iron Man 3" pits brash-but-brilliant industrialist Tony Stark/Iron Man against an enemy whose reach knows no bounds. When Stark finds his personal world destroyed at his enemy's hands, he embarks on a harrowing quest to find those responsible. This journey, at every turn, will test his mettle. With his back against the wall, Stark is left to survive by his own devices, relying on his ingenuity and instincts to protect those closest to him. As he fights his way back, Stark discovers the

Morgan Land from Anthony Bruno's book, dutifully delivers a grim series of events from Richie's life, including battles with Roy Demeo, an alliance with a fellow killer (Chris Evans), a beef with Demeo's overeager lapdog (David Schwimmer), and the perpetual effort to keep Deborah in the dark. But there's no attempt to get inside Kuklinski's head. What drives him? Does he enjoy murder? What is his thought process?

The closest the film gets to exploring any of this is a momentary flashback to growing up under the constant beatings of an angry father, and a brief conversation with his imprisoned brother (Stephen Dorff). But that barely scratches

the surface, of course. To think that THAT'S the explanation — he had a mean dad — and that there's nothing else to be said is laughable. Nor does Richie evolve over the course of the film, except insofar as he cultivates more facial hair to reflect deeper involvement in contract killing.

And so Richie, despite being the film's main character, never seems like a character at all. His crimes, while loathsome, aren't portrayed with enough malicious flair to make the film work as a sick killfest — Vroman is too serious-minded for that — but it's not rich enough to work as a biography either. It's an exploitation film trapped in the stifling body of a respectable crime drama.

Women from A1

Department of Labor data, 78 percent of women in the child-bearing age range of 20-44 are in the workforce — is one of at least eight states to pass pregnant worker protections.

Nationally, the number of pregnancy discrimination charges in the workplace has increased by 35 percent over the past decade, according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Omosanya, as a woman within that demographic, had a personal stake in the cause.

Shortly after she became pregnant with her second child, the young mother learned that she had an incompetent cervix, a medical condition that prevented her from lifting anything more than 20 pounds.

She loved her job at Spa Creek Center, a Genesis HealthCare rehabilitation and nursing home in Annapolis where she had been working for eleven months. But lifting food trays and pushing heavy carts would put her and her baby at risk, so she asked to be moved to another department or work in the café making soups and salads.

Omosanya submitted a note from her doctor about her medical circumstances and was called to the human resources department soon after. There

she was told that the home could not accommodate her requests and her employment would be terminated.

"Not only did I lose my job, I lost my home, I lost my income, I couldn't take care of my children," said Omosanya.

Today, she lives with her family in a transitional homeless shelter in Annapolis.

"I felt that they made me choose between being able to provide for me and my 5-year-old or risking the safety of my unborn child. It was just really unfair to me, and it broke my heart," she said.

Omosanya gave birth in April and plans to look for a new job as soon as she recovers. For Omosanya, it is a relief to know that once the bill takes effect on Oct. 1 she will not face the same outcome if she becomes pregnant again.

Salsbury, the expectant lawyer, is one of the 75 percent of Maryland women between the ages of 16 and 54 who are in the labor force, meaning they are working or looking for work, according to 2012 data from the Maryland Department of Labor. By comparison, 82 percent of men in that age range are in Maryland's labor force.

Nationally, the effects of these numbers can be seen in the outpouring of feminist voices on what it means to be both a professional woman and mod-

ern mother.

Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg and Anne-Marie Slaughter, former director of policy planning for the U.S. State Department, are just two of the many high-profile women to recently weigh in on the rewards and challenges for ambitious females in the workplace.

Sandberg's book, "Lean In," argues that women ought to dedicate more energy to professional success, while Slaughter's 2012 Atlantic article, "Why Women Still Can't Have it All" suggests that professional success often comes at the cost of a satisfying motherhood. Both pieces have reinvigorated the ongoing feminist debate as women gain more powerful business roles.

But for many women, climbing to the top of an executive ladder is not what defines their work-life struggles when they become pregnant.

"We are working on federal legislation for reasonable accommodations for pregnant women in the workplace, particularly for women in blue-collar jobs where they may need some reasonable alterations to their job to continue working," Sarah Crawford, director of workplace fairness at the National Partnership for Women and Families. Her organization is working to expand

those efforts nationally.

Pregnancy protection alone would not mean an end to other struggles for working mothers, Crawford said. Wage gaps and restrictions on family and medical leave offer other challenges.

A paid three-month maternity leave like the one Salsbury receives from her private law firm is rare in the U.S.

"We are really the only First World country that does not have a policy requiring paid leave for new parents," Crawford said. "There are 178 countries that guarantee paid leave for new mothers."

As in the experiences of Salsbury and Omosanya, challenges facing working women may be shaped by circumstance. Salsbury, for example, recognizes that implementation of the pregnant workers fairness bill in Maryland will have little effect on her work life as a lawyer.

Some challenges, however, may be universal for working women who are considering having a child.

"I do think, just generally, women think more about family planning aspects than men do," Salsbury said. "I know my husband didn't think about it the way I did. For a woman, it's definitely something you sort of have to plan for and think about the consequences of your decision."

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Jason Collins: The Substance of Change

91'd accidentally walked into a wind tunnel. For as long as I had written about this issue and as many times as I had said in recent years that "this will happen in a matter of months if not weeks," it still hit me like a triple-shot of espresso cut with a teaspoon of Adderall. Thanks to the courage of 34-year-old NBA veteran Jason Collins, we can no longer repeat endlessly that no active male athlete in North America has ever come out of the closet. Instead we're now able to say that



we were there when our most influential cultural citadel of homophobia—the men's locker room—was forever breached and finally received a rainbow makeover on its unforgiving grey walls. But we didn't only get the act of coming out. We also got, courtesy of Mr. Collins and Sports Illustrated writer Franz Lidz, about as beautiful a coming-out statement as has ever been put to paper.

As Collins wrote, "No one wants to live in fear. I've always been scared of saying the wrong thing. I don't sleep well. I never have. But each time I tell another person, I feel stronger and sleep a little more soundly. It takes an enormous amount of energy to guard such a big secret. I've endured years of misery and gone to enormous lengths to live a lie. I was certain that my world would fall apart if anyone knew. And yet when I acknowledged my sexuality I felt whole for the first time."

The significance of this moment cannot be overstated. Homophobia becomes eroded when straight people actually have a family member or friend come out of the closet and then have to confront their own prejudice. Now in the NBA we have Jason Collins saying, "Pro basketball is a family. And pretty much every family I know has a brother, sister or cousin who's gay. In the brotherhood of the NBA, I just happen to be the one who's out."

The piece also demonstrates that Jason Collins gets the impact he could have on the way sports both defines and polices our conceptions of masculinity. The 7-foot, 255-pound bruiser writes wryly, "I go against the gay stereotype, which is why I think a lot of players will be shocked: That guy is gay? But I've always been an aggressive player, even in high school. Am I so physical to prove that being gay doesn't make you soft? Who knows? That's something for a psychologist to unravel."

Before we sing more hymns to Jason Collins, let's also be clear about a few facts. First, this did not take place in a vacuum. A rising tide of LGBT advocacy, demonstrations and public demonstrations of power in the face of bigotry laid the groundwork. Collins understands this and writes that he was motivated not only by the movement but by those seeking to perpetuate second-class citizenship for LGBT people. "The strain of hiding my sexuality became almost unbearable in March, when the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments for and against same-sex marriage," he writes, "Less than three miles from my apartment, nine jurists argued about my happiness and my future. Here was my chance to be heard, and I couldn't say a thing."

Collins felt compelled to speak out and in the sports world he has considerable company. In the NFL, players like Brendon Ayanbadejo, Chris Kluwe and Scott Fujita have become active and public participants in the movement for full marriage equality and equal rights. We've also seen former George Washington University basketball player Kye Allums become the first trans athlete to be public and proud. In just the last two weeks, the National Hockey League adopted an entire program in conjunction with the You Can Play organization aimed at making the locker room a "safe space" for players thinking about coming out of the closet. Then Brittney Griner, arguably the greatest women's hoops player to ever put on high tops, came out so casually, and it made us all wonder if she was ever actually in.

Now we have Jason Collins and in our compressed, fevered media environment, we've already gotten a crash course in the probable highs and lows for anyone who wants to follow his path. The highs were seen in an outpouring of support from the sports world. It started immediately with former All-Star Baron Davis who tweeted, "I am so proud of my bro @jasoncollins34 for being real. #FTTheHaters". That opened the floodgates, as numerous players from my boyhood hero Bernard King to the great Kobe Bryant pledged their solidarity and support. Even the Boston Red Sox got into it, inviting Collins to throw out the first pitch at a game.

The day also saw that Baron Davis was prescient that "haters" would need to be told to "eff off." ESPN, perhaps feeling shut out of the biggest story in eons, took the day to give a platform on their crown jewel program Outside the Lines to NBA reporter Chris Broussard so he could opine that Collins was "a sinner" engaged in "an open rebellion to God." His words were ugly. The fact that he was provided a forum by ESPN to deliver them on this celebratory day was perhaps even worse. But if it was a crude effort by a flatfooted ESPN to make the story about them, then it was a success as social media was then flooded with first anger and then support for Broussard's "free speech." Beyond Broussard, fortunately, the backlash was comprised of the typical barrage of twitter trollope.

There was a great deal of hate and an even greater amount of love. But to read Jason Collins's own words about why he was coming out, you get the feeling that he could not care less what the Chris Broussards of the world may think. As he writes in my favorite passage, "Imagine you're in the oven, baking. Some of us know and accept our sexuality right away and some need more time to cook. I should know—I baked for 33 years."

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Calendar of Events

May 16 — May 22, 2013

Senior Days

Date and Time: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8 am-12
 Description: Seniors (Prince George's County residents only) are allowed FREE use of both the fitness center and pool during these times.
 Cost: FREE Ages: 60 & up
 Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
 8001 Sheriff Road
 Landover, MD 20785
 Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

Chair Aerobics: Cycling for Seniors

Date & Time: Mondays & Fridays, April 29-May 24, 9:45-10:30 am
 Description: This 8-week course meeting on Mondays & Fridays combines stationary cycling and chair aerobics. This fitness course is designed to help you tone and stretch as you get your legs moving.
 Cost: Resident \$35; Non-Resident \$42 Ages: 60 & up
 Location: Marlow Heights Community Center
 2800 St. Clair Drive, Marlow Heights 20748
 Contact: 301-423-0505; TTY 301-203-6030
 SMARTlink # 1116516

Fine Wine Fridays

Date & Time: Fridays, May 3, June 7 & July 5, 6:30-8 pm
 Description: Mingle as you enjoy the scenic location of historic Snow Hill Manor while tasting wines provided by some of the best vineyards and wineries in Maryland. Live music and an informative reception will make these summer evenings memorable.
 May 3: Basignani Wineries
 June 7: Boordy Wineries
 July 5: Linganore Winecellars
 These events are held in conjunction with the Laurel Historic Society.
 Cost: \$25/person Ages: 21 & up
 Location: Snow Hill Manor
 13301 Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-249-2004; TTY 301-446-6802

LIVE at Montpelier! Andy McKee

Date and Time: Friday, May 17, 8 pm
 Description: Andy McKee is one of the world's finest acoustic guitar soloists. Having shot to worldwide prominence with his technically astounding Drifting, he has since received over 200 million plays on YouTube alone. At one point he held the number 1, 2 and 3 position for their "Top-Rated Videos of All Time" category. However, McKee's online success is no gimmick; as a live musician he performs over 200 shows a year worldwide, has independently released five studio albums, and has been awarded the Acoustic Guitar Magazine worldwide silver medal award for fingerstyle.
 Cost: Tickets: \$30/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company

Date & Time: Friday, May 17, 10:15 am & 12 noon
 Description: In Celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
 The wonder of traditional Chinese festival dances and amazing costumes combine with modern dance to take the young audience on a cultural adventure spanning centuries.
 Tickets: \$5/person
 Ages: All ages
 Location: PubliK Playhouse
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation

Date & Time: Saturday, May 18, 4 pm
 Description: Join us as President Abraham Lincoln discusses the trials and tribulations behind writing the Emancipation Proclamation. Come see Mr. James Getty portray our most revered president, Abraham Lincoln.
 Cost: Free. Arrive early. Limited seating.
 Location: Surratt House Museum
 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton 20735
 Contact: 301-868-1121; TTY 301-699-2544

The Opening of Cosca Skate Park

Date & Time: Saturday, May 18, 11 am (rain or shine)
 Description: The Prince George's County Executive Yhe Prince George's County Council and The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission cordially invite you to attend the opening of Cosca Skate Park. Skaters, bring your skateboards! Non-skaters, stop by to see this beautiful new neighborhood facility. We encourage the participation of persons with disabilities. If you have special needs, please let us know.
 Cost: FREE Ages: All ages
 Location: Cosca Regional Park
 10000 Thrift Road, Clinton 20735
 Contact: Please R.S.V.P. by Thursday, May 16. Call 301-446-3300; TTY 301-446-3302, or go to <http://www.pgparcs.com/pgparcsrsvp.htm>

LIVE at Montpelier! Dukes of Bluegrass

Date & Time: Friday, May 31, 8 pm
 Description: Bluegrass has its roots in Celtic folk music, but has become a musical genre that covers a vastly diverse pool of musicians. The Dukes of Bluegrass are a high energy bluegrass band that's a must see for bluegrass lovers.
 Tickets: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-490-2329

EARTH TALK ... West, Texas could happen anywhere.

Dear EarthTalk:

The recent explosion at a West, Texas fertilizer plant that killed many people really alarmed me. Places like this must exist near many communities around the country. How do I know if my own community might be at risk of a similar disaster?

— Mary Cyr,
Sarasota, FL

Many people may not realize that what happened on April 17, 2013 in the town of West, Texas—a fertilizer plant with an unreported large stockpile of explosive ammonium nitrate blew up, killing 14 and rendering hundreds of others injured and homeless—could happen almost anywhere.

According to Greenpeace, one in three Americans could fall victim to a similar poison gas disaster by virtue of living near upwards of 12,000 plants that store and use highly toxic substances. “A chemical disaster at just one of these facilities could kill or injure thousands of people with acute poisoning,” the group reports. Greenpeace has identified 483 U.S. facilities where 100,000 people or more would be at risk during a disaster. And one in five of those threatens areas with populations topping one million.

“Even though chemical plant safeguards fail every week, the chemical industry has largely refused to make their plants safer and more secure,” says Greenpeace. “Congress even

amended the Clean Air Act in 1990 to try and address this problem, but the amendment has gone largely unused.” The group would like to see the Obama Administration create new regulations under the Clean Air Act that will require such facilities to prevent chemical disasters by switching to safer alternatives.

On the Greenpeace website, one can use an interactive map to determine whether they live in harms way of a potentially dangerous chemical plant. Each plant on the map is surrounded by a red circle marking its “vulnerability zone,” which ranges from less than a mile to 25 miles out, depending on the type and extent of chemicals in use as well as local topography and weather patterns. “Anyone within this zone could potentially be impacted by a toxic chemical release,” adds Greenpeace. “Impacts could range from minor injury to fatality depending on the chemical involved and the extent of exposure.”

Calls by the Department of Homeland Security and Environmental Protection Agency to require the use of safer chemical processes where feasible have fallen on deaf ears among Congressional Republicans loathe to require constituents to pay for costly environmental upgrades. But that could soon change: Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) has introduced a bill that would make negligence regarding chemical reporting a federal crime with consequent harsh



CREDIT: SHANE TORGERSON

Many people may not realize that what happened on April 17, 2013 in the town of West, Texas -- a fertilizer plant with an unreported large stockpile of explosive ammonium nitrate blew up, killing 14 and rendering hundreds of others injured and homeless -- could happen almost anywhere.

penalties. “The chemical reporting laws on the books today are toothless and do little to help us protect communities from chemical explosions,” says Lautenberg. “Facilities that break the reporting rules today essentially get away with just a warning.”

“The good news is that there are many cost-effective, safer chemical processes already in use that eliminate these risks without sacrificing jobs,” says Greenpeace, adding that more than 500 plants have voluntarily switched to safer alternatives over the last decade. The group wants President Obama to invoke executive privilege to tighten regulations on chemical plants that have not done so. Readers can sign on to the

group’s online petition calling on the White House to require companies to design and operate chemical facilities in a way that prevents the catastrophic release of poison gases.

CONTACT: Greenpeace chemical plant map, <http://usactions.greenpeace.org/chemicals/map>.

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Lawyers from A1

many outgoing Maryland politicians looking for a new gig.

Ivey has shifted between public service and private practice for most of his career. After working for the Justice Department, on Capitol Hill as counsel for the Senate Whitewater Committee and former Sen. Tom Daschle, and as chairman of the Maryland Public Service Commission for two years, Ivey joined what is now K&L Gates in 2000. He left the Washington law firm when elected state’s attorney in 2002. Ivey served for eight years, leaving office in 2010, and worked at another firm, Venable, before landing at Leftwich & Ludaway.

“This is the first time I’ve really kind of hit the point where I’m not going to go back into run-

ning for office or working full-time in a government position,” Ivey said in a conference room on Washington’s high-powered K Street corridor. “At this point, it makes more sense for me and my family to stay in the private sector.”

When former U.S. Sen. Joseph Tydings lost his bid for reelection in 1970, after serving just one term, he started practicing law again and hasn’t looked back.

“Being a lawyer, you knew that if you were defeated, you could go out and take care of your family,” said Tydings, 84, who served as a U.S. attorney in Maryland before running for Congress. “In my case, my first year in the practice of law after I left the Senate I made almost as twice as much as my Senate

Marijuana from A1

toms of diseases such as cancer. But marijuana is still illegal under federal law.

“It’s hilarious, isn’t it?” said Vanessa West, Metropolitan Wellness Center’s general manager. “It’s funny, the public has it in their heads that people are going to be up here smoking and then going downstairs to eat chicken.”

Medical marijuana was approved in the district in 1998, though Congress, which controls the city’s budget, blocked implementation until recently.

Despite pot’s illegal status federally, 19 states, most recently Maryland, have passed legislation allowing the distribution of medical marijuana. Voters in both Colorado and Washington state passed referendums in November allowing the recreational use of pot.

Maryland’s law, which Gov. Martin O’Malley signed Thursday, will allow academic medical centers, designated by a commission within the state’s Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, to distribute marijuana to patients who have received a recommendation from their physician.

The law will take effect Oct. 1, although the bill’s sponsor, Delegate Dan Morhaim, D-Baltimore County, has estimated it will take a couple of years before treatment will become available.

Marijuana has had its place on the federal government’s Schedule I listing of illegal substances without a known medical use and a high potential for abuse since 1970 as part of the Controlled Substances Act.

“The fact that the District of Columbia can pass it legally, and the District of Columbia is in the land of the federal government ... is a contradiction and it speaks to the fact that federal law needs to sort of get on board with what more states are saying,” West said.

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy referred calls for comment to the Department of Justice. Officials at the Department of Justice could not be reached for comment.

For the first time in more than four decades, a majority of Americans are for the legalization of marijuana. According to a recent poll by the Pew Research Center, 52 percent of Americans are for legalizing pot, a jump up from 32 percent in 2002 and 17 percent in 1991.

“I think it shows that this is not an issue for them anymore,” said Dan Riffle, deputy director of government relations for the advocacy group Marijuana Policy Project. “Over the last two years since this program has been implemented...we haven’t seen a single member of Congress object to it. We’ve seen several members of Congress introduce measures to tax mari-

salary.”

Tydings, who comes from a long line of lawyers, has worked on counseling and government representation issues for Dickstein Shapiro, a downtown Washington firm, since 1996.

He has more time to do pro bono work and lobby for causes he cares about, like the Chesapeake Bay, as a senior counselor, he said.

Tydings isn’t the only former Maryland politician at Dickstein Shapiro. He’s joined by former Rep. Al Wynn, who signed on in 2008 after losing his bid for a ninth term representing the Fourth District. Wynn could not be reached for comment.

Public officials are extremely valuable assets to law firms, which prize them for their understanding of government process-

es and access to decision-makers.

That’s one of the reasons why King & Spalding, an Atlanta-based firm, hired former Maryland Republican Gov. Bob Ehrlich after he lost his bid to retake the governor’s mansion in Annapolis in 2010.

“He knows a lot of people,” said Michael Cain, a political science professor at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. “He can pick up the phone and someone will answer at the other end.”

Ehrlich, in his role as senior counsel in the firm’s government advocacy and public policy practice group, spends most of his time pitching to potential clients, giving speeches and explaining how Congress works.

See **LAWYERS**, Page A8

juana. This ship has sailed.”

The dispensary upstairs from the Popeyes is mostly empty now as it waits for the Department of Health to complete the final stages of certification. Some empty jars in a display case sit idly by the window next to a couple of scales bearing Department of Health certification stickers, and that’s about it.

But upon opening, those jars will be filled with pot nuggets separated by strains, and the adjacent wall will have shelves filled with bongs, vaporizers and rolling papers.

“We’ll be like a little head shop,” said West, referring to retail outfits known to specialize in marijuana paraphernalia.

Patients will be let past the waiting room depending on how many specialists are on duty. If there is only one specialist available, patients will be let in one at a time.

Selecting a strain is not simple. Different strains have different effects depending on a patient’s medical history and current prescriptions, West said. The job of the specialist is to tailor a strain based on a patient’s medical needs.

For instance, a specialist would not recommend a pot strain that would speed up a patient’s heart rate if they are taking medication that already has that side effect. If a patient is seeking medical marijuana to relieve their insomnia, they would shy away from a strain

known to be energy inducing.

“If they’re nauseous or depressed or don’t have an appetite, if they’re vomiting constantly, these are things we want to sort of pull out of them so that we can make the best recommendation possible so that when they go home they have the best experience,” West said.

But to even get upstairs, the district’s Department of Health requires hopeful residents to jump through a number of hoops.

To start, only residents that have HIV, AIDS, cancer, glaucoma or multiple sclerosis are eligible. Other illnesses will qualify with the Department of Health on a case-by-case basis.

In order for residents to enter the program, their physician must file a recommendation with the Department of Health, citing one of the qualifying diseases as the basis for their need.

Once approved, residents must pay a \$100 registration fee to receive a photo identification card they can use to access their designated dispensary. Residents are only allowed to visit one dispensary to ensure they do not purchase more than 2 ounces, the maximum amount allowed by the Department of Health, per month.

After all that, residents can make the trip to 409 8th St. SE, climb the long staircase past the cell phone repair shop and use their ID to gain entrance to the dispensary.

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Watch from A4

them . . . Every dollar that goes into police, metal detectors, and surveillance cameras is a dollar that could have been used for teachers, guidance counselors, school psychologists, and program supports for young people."

Although most of the mass shooters at schools have been White, boys of color have paid the consequences of overreaction and punitive discipline. The trend towards over-policing is most pronounced in schools with large populations of students of color, which are more likely to rely on zero tolerance policies and have a significant police presence in them. As a result, the Advancement Project points out, "it is not uncommon for the same behavior that triggers little to no response in many predominantly White communities to result in severe consequences in communities of color." I am certainly for gun- and violence-free schools but there are significant dangers to young people attending schools that over-police and apply zero tolerance discipline policies to nonviolent offenses.

There are better ways for providing an effective model school safety plan, including the steps described in answers a), b), c), and d) in the multiple-choice quiz above. Successful models for school safety plans emphasize relationship building among students, between students and educators, and with parents and the community at large; consistent reinforcement of positive norms through rewards or lessons; and individualized approaches to student

discipline and intervention that seek to address root causes of misbehavior rather than to punish indiscriminately. Districts that consistently implement these kinds of practices don't just see a reduction in suspensions and expulsions, but also improvements in measures of positive school climate and reductions in behavioral problems. And when children are positively engaged in learning with their educators there are fewer discipline problems.

The kinds of school safety plans we should be striving for are not plans to saturate schools with more guns whose only proven beneficiaries are gun manufacturers', sellers', and advertisers' bottom lines. Our nation already has too many guns. Now is the time to insist your elected officials vote to protect children not guns. Tell them to support what close to 90 percent of Americans and 74 percent of NRA members want—universal background checks to make our country safer.

Tell them you want them to do everything they can to make our schools safer for children but that turning them into armed camps is the wrong answer.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.

Lawyers from A7

The former governor knows what he's talking about. Ehrlich served four terms in the House of Representatives before becoming governor in 2002. He also served in Maryland's House of Delegates for eight years.

"Bob Ehrlich brings to King & Spalding incomparable insight and connections at the busy intersection of business and politics," said Wick Sollers, the office's managing partner in a March 2011 press release announcing the hiring.

Ehrlich spends one day writing each week — he's penning his second book, a follow-up to "Turn This Car Around: The Roadmap to Restoring America," in addition to a weekly column for The Baltimore Sun — and is also a familiar face on cable television, where he often rails against the Obama administration.

"I think there's a real cultural battle going on with regard to American values," Ehrlich, 55, said by phone, adding that Obama has the "wrong values, wrong policies."

Asked whether his meshing of politics and legal work is problematic, Ehrlich said it's just the opposite.

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