By MILAN BREKVEC Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Maryland's minimum wage debate is set to take center stage at the State House next week, when a total of six different proposals are scheduled to be spoken on the House and Senate

The options range in scope from one minimum-wage increase to "career choice" options that would grant jurisdictions the individual authority to set their own base rate of pay.

Gov. O'Malley has pushed an increase in the state's minimum wage as his main priority this legislative session, thereby showing his support behind the Maryland Minimum Wage Act of 2014, which would raise the base to $10.10 an hour by 2016.

The minimum, scheduled to be heard in the House Economic Matters Committee on Tuesday and the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, would also increase the minimum amount of pay for tipped workers from 50 to 70 percent of the state's base rate, and make both rates to the cost of living starting in 2017.

An estimated 45,000 residents would see a boost in their wages under the Maryland Minimum Wage Act, according to a report released last month by the Economic Policy Institute, a non-partisan, left-leaning think tank based in Washington, D.C. Maryland's current minimum wage matches the federal level of $7.25 an hour. More than 20 states now have rates above the federal level.

Last year, a bill that would have raised the state's minimum wage to $10 or more an hour died at the State Finance Committee.

But recent polls show the vast majority of Marylanders support a raise in the minimum wage, and with the amount of attention given to this topic by President Barack Obama in his recent State of the Union address, the shifting climate has led some policy experts to believe there is an increasing likelihood that some type of legislation will pass.

"I think everyone has a little more momentum, especially among Democrats," said Matt Grimes, professor of economics at the University of Maryland. "When you're talking about the state of Maryland, where the Democratic kind of universe is in change -- then it could have a factor [in getting the support of ... some of the more moderate Democrats that would need to support this]. I think that could be a factor [in helping push this over the top]."

But support from Obama is not likely to sway the opinions of Republican lawmakers who oppose the idea of a minimum-wage hike, an issue that is often split down party lines, Grimes said.

Such initiatives have been intro- duced by some Republican lawmakers who are also scheduled to be heard in General Assembly committees next week.

A "country choice" bill co-sponsored by Sen. Barry Glassman, R-Harford, and Delone Paul椤, R-Washington, would give the country the power to decide whether to raise minimum wages.

"It's a trade-off," Steiner said.

Steiner maintains his composting company to help reduce waste and preserve resources. The farm- erson trees in each produces roughly 40 pounds of coffee waste a day, he said, and he has a veritable agreement to collect them used grounds.

"Before I came to them, they were already buying it natu- rally," he said. "It actually argu- ed that all of them were actually throwing their grounds away."

"When the coffee is disposed of a landfill, Steiner said, in properly composted and excesses composts turves in the atmosphere. Adding the ground coffee grounds is a good source of nutrients, in the soil to promote gardener, he said.

"Part of the shift in the econ- omy and society right now is more growing local food," Steiner said. "And composting is going to be an important part of that. The many parents want to garden and give back to the land, the better for everybody."
Michael Stout, Fire Chief’s Firefighter of the Year; To Joey Goldberg as Rookie of the Year; to Cathy Hedrick, presented community service by volunteering.

Wise, Brandon Howell and President’s Award.

Shrove Tuesday pancakes remembered with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the church, proceeds to support Prince George’s County Public Schools.

Brackett and Engine Co. 272 for “a Quetion Feb. 8 the Morningide neighborhood of one of their own.

President’s Award.

Morningside Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the church, proceeds to support Prince George’s County Public Schools.

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Should You Buy Pet Insurance?

One topic I’ve learned to avoid is the question “Should you buy pet insurance?” I have come to realize that there is no one-size-fits-all answer to this question. Instead, I think it’s more important to focus on the factors that are most important to you and your pets’ needs.

First, ask yourself: Do you already have the financial resources necessary to cover unexpected medical or emergency expenses for your pet? If not, pet insurance may be worth considering. If you do have the resources, then the benefits of pet insurance may be less appealing.

Pet owners from both camps probably see the benefits of pet insurance in different ways. Those who view it as an insurance policy may see it as a way to ensure that their pet has access to the best care possible, regardless of the cost. Those who view it as a way to protect their own financial resources may see it as a way to save money in the long run.

There are a few key points that I think everyone should consider when deciding whether or not to purchase pet insurance:

1. Cost: The monthly cost of pet insurance can add up quickly. It’s important to consider your budget and ensure that the cost of insurance is within your means.

2. Coverage: Make sure you understand exactly what is covered by your pet insurance policy. Additionally, check if there are any restrictions or limitations on coverage.

3. Policy Details: Be aware of any waiting periods or deductibles before coverage begins.

4. Customer Service: Consider the quality of customer service offered by the insurance company. A good policy is no good if your claims are not handled properly.

In conclusion, whether or not you should purchase pet insurance ultimately depends on your individual situation and needs. It’s important to do your research and consult with a veterinarian to determine what is best for you and your pet.
What Will (Y)our Legacy Look Like?

As America begins the annual ritual of "celebrating" the achievements of African Americans during the February observance of Black History Month, let's step back and ask in soberness to remind each other that the things we do every day matter. We are history in the making.

I just don't think that enough of us daily communists with an eye on our actions (or inactions) will impact the force of Black Americans in the future. I could fill this space with the names of prodigious people. I could fill it with the names of presidents. I could fill it with the names of trailblazers.

But I would rather recall Henry Clay Redistribution of Wealth.

"What will your legacy look like?" is a question that we need to ask ourselves. We must recognize that we are history in the making. The things we do every day will reflect on the lives of future generations.

Black history is American history. While the story and achievements of African Americans are well known, the great sacrifices that the nation has made to secure their rights and freedoms continue to go unacknowledged. The story of African Americans in the United States is a story of resilience, courage, and determination.

As we celebrate the achievements of Black Americans, we must also remember the struggles and sacrifices that they have made to bring about equality and justice. We must continue to work towards a future where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

In conclusion, we must strive to make a positive impact on the world around us. Let us honor the legacy of those who came before us and work towards creating a better future for ourselves and future generations.

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League

Celebrating, Continuing and Building on Chip's Success

We're used to making a big fuss over children's birthdays, but this week child advocates and health experts across the country are celebrating CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program. One family who lives in Dallas, Texas: "When we celebrate birthdays and are grateful for CHIP every day." The bathtub may be the best gift for children in the year of CHIP's 20th birthday. Video games and the wifsie cases for the family, providing stability with health and income for our children. With CHIP, we've seen that a healthy child is a happy child.

CHIP is the result of the hard work of millions of working families, including over 1 million children in 20 states. CHIP is the most successful children's health program in American history.

On CHIP's 20th birthday, we are celebrating the accomplishments of CHIP and the children it has helped. CHIP has helped cut the number of uninsured children by half, to the lowest level in more than 60 years, while improving child health outcomes and access to care.

Health coverage for CHIP is more affordable for families than private insurance, with CHIP enrollees paying more comprehensively and child-appropriate than private insurance. CHIP enrollees and providers network are specifically designed to have access to CHIP-approved services, providers, specialists, and facilities.

With resources from the Department of Health and Human Services and CHIP, we can continue to build on the success of CHIP and improve the health of children across the country.

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) joined at the National Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to celebrate the 20th anniversary of CHIP.

CHIP is an essential component of the health system for children.

By Ron Busby, Sr.
President of the US Black Chamber, Inc.
Tips For Surviving A Broken Heart

Despite all the happy images Valentine’s Day may bring about love, the reality is that not all romantic relationships last forever. Losing someone you possibly considered the love of your life can bring on a whirlwind of emotions, including shock, disbelief, and anger. Much like any other tough time in life, there are steps that can help get you through the pain of a lost love.

1. Recognize this as a loss, similar to the death of someone close to you. Grieving the loss of a loved one is a natural process but can be very confusing and scary, making you feel sad or angry.

2. Get in touch with your feelings. Don’t hide what you are feeling or pretend everything is okay. Recognize that your feelings are valid and that healing will take time.

3. Spend time with close friends and family. Talking about your feelings with people you trust can provide emotional support and help you feel less alone.

4. Take care of yourself physically. Get regular exercise, eat well, and get enough sleep. Taking care of your physical health can help improve your emotional state.

5. Realize you aren’t alone. Seek the support of others. There’s nothing to be ashamed of. It’s okay to accept help from friends, family, or a professional counselor.

6. Invest your energy in life. Surround yourself with things that are silver, plants, pets, and kids. Nurturing others is a fantastic way to nurture yourself.

7. Be aware of the refrain. This is not the time to reel in love, false promises, or cheat yourself. This is not the time to be manipulative, abandoned and very much alone. But there are some things you can do.

8. Understand that two years from now someone will read the record of your contribution to life as they know it.

9. Whether you’re dealing with a breakup or a divorce, changing your daily routine can help you feel more in control and reduce the intensity of your emotions.

10. Cook meals for yourself. Store-bought meals might not be as nutritious or as satisfying, but they can still provide comfort and a sense of normalcy.

11. Take a class at the community college or online. Taking classes can help you focus your mind and provide a sense of purpose.

12. Get a new interest or rediscover an old one. Take a class at the community college or online. Taking classes can help you focus your mind and provide a sense of purpose.

13. Some steps can help minimize that pain and put your life back on track.

14. Focus on the future. Understand that 20, 50, 100 years from now someone will read the record of your contri- bution to life as they know it.

15. Remember that the past does not define the future. Your past actions do not dictate your future.

16. For including Prince

17. Ed Madigan, President and CEO of SalesWarp.

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**Frozen**

**Rated R. Some harsh profanity, some very gruesome images and language.**

1 hr. 37 min.

You can picture Adam Green as a pitcher, and the movie season as a “Frozen,” sitting on a ski lift one day, thinking: ‘What if I fell off? How high above the people are we? If the lift stopped moving and we couldn’t get it to start up? What if I wasn’t trapped? We’ll have our moments of inner fantasy, but what separates Adam Green from me and you is that he turns his dark “what if?” scenario into movies. His “Lift” had tourism tourismmized in the swamps of Louisiana; “Frozen” pits the bio against Mother Nature herself, that weather woman.

The setting is a ski resort in New England, where some college students are trying to talk their way out of the lift without being ticketed. Dan (Kevin Zegers) and Joe (Shannon Amstrong), two roommates who just met, have been skiing here regularly, but when the ski lift starts climbing, Dan has brought along his girlfriend, Parker (Rachel McDowall), as a flagrant violation of the Buenos Aires Convention.

No sake being above the ski lift; this doesn’t help Joe and Dan avoid the movie. The others are riding along, each raster of the other’s relationship and the fate of a newish, short story “We haven’t seen you two around here. What, are you pitcher night all semester?!” Joe says. Dan is still on it. What’s more, it’s Sunday night, and the resort doesn’t open again until Friday. They’re too high up above the slope to jump off. They’re trapped.

This is a simple variation on the familiar scenario of being locked inside a blizzard-inclined ski resort, or an elevator, or whatever. But not everything is soley centered on being confined to a small, claustrophobic space – the lift chair – even though there is a world of drama ahead.

It’s like floating on a tiny cell in the middle of the ocean, dying of thirst in spite of all that water. (Speaking of which, “Frozen” is already on the “Open Water” list.) For the most part, they just sit and complain. What, Dan would pitch in a pitcher night all semester!” Joe says. Dan is still on it. What’s more, it’s Sunday night, and the resort doesn’t open again until Friday. They’re too high up above the slope to jump off. They’re trapped.

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Balthasar, Adam Green, and Zegers are good, and admirably committed to what cannot have been a pleasant shoot. (Everything up on Location in Park City, Utah). But the film can’t compare with them alone.

Luckily, Green also has some excellent ideas about how to terrorize the people: “Which of you three people think on a ski lift? You hate it? Surprised. You think about the possible means of escape. Then think about what could go wrong. Then think about the hundred dollars and the fact that there’s nothing to do. Great, is that all the more? The cast doesn’t have a mountain film with several genuinely horrifying moments.

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**ORANGE COUNTY ZOO**

Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

**Baltimore MD – Luke, Leila and Zo in the Maryland Zoo at the Zoo’s varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as Polar Bear Ramble, the Maryland Journey and the award-winning Children’s Village.**

PHOTO Credited by the Maryland Zoo

**Frozen**

**Director**

**Kevin Lima and Chris Buck
**

**Screenplay**

**KC transplantation
**

**Based on an original idea by Peter Del Vecho
**

**Produced by**

**Peter Del Vecho
**

---

**Synopsis:**

When a prophecy traps a kingdom in eternal winter, Anna, a fearless spirit, teams up with extreme mountain man Kristoff and his oldehav and unicorn from an epic journey to find Elisa’s sister, the Snow Queen, and prove that she is not evil.\n
**Rating:**


**Cast:**

• Anna, voiced by Kristen Bell

• Kristoff, voiced by Jonathan Groff

• Olaf, voiced by Josh Gad

• Sven, voiced by Josh Gad

**Synopsis:**

The 2014 Sochi Olympics: Something For Everyone!

Since their founding in 1894, every Olympic Games have promised to unite the world. One can almost hear the words of Lord Baden-Powell, who presided over the 1908 Beijing Games: “At any rate, this little dose of the Olympic spirit will make the boys work harder and the girls play harder.”

But athletes have been competing in Sochi ever since you can remember, from the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where Kristy Bremner wrote about his “enemies, marvelously well-trained and equipped.”

If there’s one word that sums up the Olympic Games, it’s “competition.”

In Vancouver, there were people shouting about the Olympics and Indigenous rights. In Atlanta, the O.J.S.C.W. was on strike about the jailing of thousands of black men in advance of the 1996 Games. In Greece, back in 2004, there were rows of supplements vs. pharmaceutical use in the Olympic drug testing.

In Beijing, we heard about “human rights” and the crushing of dissent. In Africa, there were ranting mobs of deranged Olym pic protestors. In Athens, the Olympic flame was holding hands with a series of terror attacks.

But Sochi is different. The Sochi Olympics promise to be a case of all athletes versus Russia’s anti-gay propaganda laws.

This legislation, as Julie Szerszen wrote from Moscow, has made life a living hell for many gays and lesbians.\n
While the cubs can see and smell each other, and so forth. The scenes are very mellow and remote; yes, the actors are passable but not great.\n
As the years go by, Zuri is more observant, curious, and able to follow what is going on around her. She will likely use as adults including stalk -

**Synopsis:**

• To the cub’s chagrin, it turns out that the other cubs’ reactions to the bears are either praises against Mother Nature herself, that weather woman.

The setting is a ski resort in New England, where some college students are trying to talk their way out of the lift without being ticketed. Dan (Kevin Zegers) and Joe (Shannon Amstrong), two roommates who just met, have been skiing here regularly, but when the ski lift starts climbing, Dan has brought along his girlfriend, Parker (Rachel McDowall), as a flagrant violation of the Buenos Aires Convention.

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The Importance of Indoor Air Quality

Healthy living starts with having a healthy home. A practical solution could be the right indoor air-quality products.

m inority, in fact, you can actu-
ally lower your thermostat dur-
ing the day to keep your home more comfortable while saving energy.

Air filtration is also a big con-
cern. "While a furnace can be set for better energy efficiency, with tighter construction and lower heating standards, a threatened air filter can absorb less, avoiduffy, cracked, dry

Dining in the United States the past decade has seen an increase in the number of Americans who have moved to the South, where the weather is generally milder and the cost of living is lower. The shift has been so significant that some southern states have become major economic drivers, with records showing a boost in job creation and business growth.

In addition to the economic benefits, the influx of population has also led to a resurgence in cultural and social activities across the region. From food and music to sports and entertainment, the South is now a hub of innovation and creativity, with cities like Nashville and New Orleans becoming major centers for the arts and creative industries.

The rise of the South as a cultural and economic hub has also had a ripple effect on the rest of the country, with businesses and individuals looking to tap into the region’s growth potential.

However, the trend towards southern migration has not been without its challenges. While the South offers a lower cost of living and warmer weather, it also faces its own set of issues, including infrastructure woes and environmental concerns.

As the South continues to grow and evolve, it will be important for businesses, policymakers and communities to work together to address these challenges and ensure that the region’s success is sustainable and inclusive for all.

What are the main economic and cultural trends driving the South’s growth?

What are some of the challenges facing the South?

What are the potential benefits of the South’s success for the rest of the country?

How can businesses and communities in the South work together to address the challenges they face?

As the nation’s population continues to grow and diversify, it is clear that the South is playing an increasingly important role in shaping the future of America. Whether it’s through economic development or cultural innovation, the region is making its mark on the nation’s landscape.

What are the potential economic and cultural impacts of the South’s growth?

What role can the South play in shaping America’s future?

The South’s growth and success also highlight the importance of inclusive development and equitable growth across the entire nation. By ensuring that everyone has access to opportunity and resources, we can continue to build a strong and vibrant society for all Americans.

What can be done to ensure inclusive growth in the South and across the nation?

As the South continues to grow and become a major economic and cultural hub, it is clear that the region’s success is a positive development for the nation as a whole. Through collaboration and innovation, the South is poised to play a key role in shaping America’s future for generations to come.

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Worship Service – 11:00 A.M.
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.
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Fax (301) 735-1844
Email FERB@mddcpress.com
Pastor Rev. Waymond B. Duke

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Pastor Dr. Henry P. Davis III

Wondrous Wonders

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Pastor Rev. Waymond B. Duke

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Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Pastor

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BAPTISM

Watch from A4 with health coverage by adding a question to a school enrollment form asking whether children have health coverage and helping parents monitor underage students with coverage. One school admin-istrator put it simply. “As a pri- vate school, I care about the health of our students. If we are ill and miss school, we miss our opportunity to provide them learning.” School-based out- reach is an important tool in connecting eligible children to CHIP and we urge every school official to take steps to make sure all their children are enrolled in health care for which they are eligible.

CHIP has a strong grassroots support among Americans across the political spectrum and has been a bright spot in health coverage since its cre- ation. Although CHIP is autho- rized through 2019, its funding is running out and will virtually disappear by October 2015 unless Congress takes immediate action. If funding is not contin- ued, millions of children would lose health coverage and mil- lions more likely receive no or less- comprehensive coverage at significantly higher cost. Either would be an unacceptable step backward for children. For the 9.3 million who keep CHIP funding for millions of children an urgent priority, the Senate and House are very close to CHIP’s future.

When CHIP was author- ized in February 2009, Presi- dent Obama correctly said: “No child in America should be re- ceiving her primary care in the emergency room on the night of the big night. No child should be falling behind in school because he can’t be here the teacher needs him. We need to accept that millions of our kids fail to reach their potential because we fail to meet their basic needs. In a decent society, there are certain obligations that are not subject to tradeoffs or negotiations – health care for our children is one of those obligations.” CHIP should not fall apart. CHIP remains a critical piece of the puzzle of connect- ing millions of children to health coverage. We can make tremendous progress and must continue to move towards the finish line so that every child in our country has access to comprehensible, affordable, and easy to get and keep health coverage. Let’s celebrate CHIP’s track record of success the common sense way by act- ing now to ensure in CHIP states across the country can continue the good work.