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Passing of Leader James L. Walls, Jr.

By PRESS OFFICER
JCPES

On May 12, James L. Walls, Jr. passed away in his home. He was the President of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO), and the Mayor of District Heights, Maryland.

Walls was the youngest person in the city's history to ever be elected as Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioner. He was serving his third mayoral term at the time of his death.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and family of Mayor Walls, as well as the residents of District Heights and the



PHOTO COURTESY JCPES
James L. Walls, Jr.

members of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials," said Joint Center President Spencer Overton.

In Football Recruiting Sweepstakes, Maryland Has Fallen Short

By TROY JEFFERSON
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The state of Maryland has been a hotbed for college football recruiting as top programs like Alabama and Ohio State have feasted on local prospects. However, the team that has been left out to dry has been the University of Maryland.

Capital News Service data analysis over the last five years showed that Maryland as a state only retains on average 20 per-

cent of its four- and five-star prospects. Alabama, home to premiere programs like the University of Alabama and Auburn University, on the other hand, keeps 76 percent of homegrown talent.

Mississippi (83 percent) and Michigan (74 percent) also rank near the top in retaining local prospects, despite splitting their respective states between two Division 1 Football Subdivision schools.

See FOOTBALL Page A5



Vinyl records, with music spanning several decades, fill the walls and shelves of The Record Exchange in Silver Spring in the spring of 2016.

Vinyl Sales Rise Nationally as Maryland Record Store Owners Adapt to Digital Age of Music Streaming

By CONNOR GLOWACKI
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—At The Record Exchange in Silver Spring, vinyl albums fill the shelves and walls, spanning a wide range of genres and decades of music.

Vinyl album sales have slowly increased nationally during the past decade and Record Exchange Owner Sam Lock said that vinyl offers a different listening option in today's digital climate.

"I think there's a kickback against technology," Lock said,

"People like to have things to hold and to look at."

Sales in the music industry have been led by digital downloads from iTunes and streaming services, such as Spotify and Apple Music, where a customer pays a monthly fee to listen to as much music as they want.

However, vinyl sales have resurged in the past decade. Vinyl album sales in the U.S. have grown by 260 percent since 2009 and just last year, vinyl sales totaled nearly 12 million.

See MUSIC Page A3

New Affiliate Program Helps State's Smaller Towns and Communities Utilize Main Street Maryland Strategies

By PRESS OFFICER
MDHCD

NEW CARROLLTON, MD—Designation as a Main Street Maryland community guarantees visitors an authentic taste of Maryland charm—historic architecture, boutique shops, theater, art galleries and one-of-a-kind dining. Twenty-eight carefully selected Maryland communities have qualified for the Main Street Maryland program and many more are clamoring to join.

Now there is an interim step.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is launching the Main Street Affiliate program to help smaller towns and communities develop downtown revitalization strategies of their own. The program means resource and technical support. For those who want it, affiliate status could be the first step to becoming a full-fledged Main



PHOTO COURTESY MDHCD
The Town of Snow Hill is one of the first communities in the state to apply for the new Main Street Affiliate program.

Street Maryland community.

The affiliate program is designed to assist communities with economic development strategies that are at a variety of readiness levels, including:

- Communities that are in the early stages of preparing to submit an application for Main Street Maryland designation.
- Communities that may not be eligible for Main Street

Maryland designation, but are interested in addressing local housing and community devel-

See MAIN STREET Page A5

ESFCU Receives an Excellence Award for Outstanding HR/Training and Development Achievements

By PRESS OFFICER
ESFCU

GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union was the recipient of an Excellence Award, which is a national award for outstanding human resources, training and development achievements in the credit union industry. The Award was presented by the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) HR & Organizational Development Council at their 22nd annual conference held in Orlando, Florida earlier this month. Educational Systems FCU won the Management Practices Excellence Award for its Internal Branding Living Our Commitment to Serving the Education Community entry.

"For us, it's an honor to support education. It's who we are and what we do," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. "We believe that to achieve our vision to be the premier financial services



PHOTO COURTESY ESFCU
Pictured left to right: Laura Eacho, EVP/Chief of Staff, and Dawn Weglein, VP, Human Resources, of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union accept the Excellence Award from the CUNA HR & Organizational Development Council for the Credit Union's work on internal branding in its management practices.

provider for the education community, we must live our brand and demonstrate it in our business and management

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INSIDE

New Data Finds Nearly Half of Students Ready for Kindergarten

The KRA sets a new baseline for tracking student progress in future years, aligned to the higher standards; the results are not directly comparable to the MMSR, which found in 2013 that 83 percent of kindergartners entering school in 2013 were "fully ready" for the curriculum

Community, Page A3

Mother's Day Call to Action

Born wired for interaction. Consistent, positive communications between young children and the adults in their lives are crucial. Every time we interact with a child—to read, giggle, sing and babble with them—we're not only building a brain, we are building the foundation for our collective future.

Commentary, Page A4

EDC President Jim Coleman Wants to Connect Also to Prince George's Dirty Laundry

The production facility cleans over 125,000 pounds of laundry daily serving over 1,600 customers. The environmentally friendly facility currently has 225 employees and is recruiting 25 more, bringing a total of 250 jobs.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Barber Shop: The Next Cut

The plot is a rambling, loose-knit thing, but the meat of it is that gun violence has gotten worse lately, and Calvin's teenage son Jalen (Michael Rainey Jr.) and Rashad's boy Kenny (Diallo Thompson) are starting to have contact with gang members in their everyday lives.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I'm finally ready to make the switch from my old gas guzzler to an electric or plug-in hybrid car. What are the best bang-for-my-buck deals on these newfangled vehicles?

—Mickey LaMonte,
Boston, MA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Marchers, floats, music groups wanted for July 4th Parade

The Town of Morningside is gearing up for their 36th annual Independence Day Parade on Monday July 4. They invite you to participate.

If you have a float, marching group, band, vintage car/truck/fire engine, clown, pom-poms, whatever, consider entering them/it in the Parade lineup. They march from the Morningside Firehouse to VFW Post 9619.

They start lining up at 10:30 a.m. and step off at 11:30 sharp.

To request an entry form or for other information, call the Town Hall office at 301-736-2300. All applications must be in by June 24.

If I'm in town, I'll be under the big tree at the Suitland Road Baptist Church. Wave to me!

Morningside Spring Clean-up & Yard Sale

The Town of Morningside is holding its Spring Clean-up 2016 on June 4 and 5. As the Morningside Sun newsletter states, "Let's get it done inside and out; from that overflowing closet and basement to the shed, garage and yard." There'll be Roll-Off dumpsters, free bags of mulch (while supplies last), a charity drop-off and refreshments.

A Community Yard Sale, in conjunction with the Clean-up, will be on Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The charge for table or space is \$5 for Morningsiders and \$10 for non-residents. Call 301-736-7400 for more information.

Changing landscape

The Joint Base Andrews Exchange is undergoing big changes, from expanding by 56,000 sq. ft. and consolidating functions from the home and garden store. Arby's and Boston Market will be added, joining Taco Bell, Charley's and Starbucks, which are already there.

Pho Viet, a Vietnamese restaurant will open soon in Andrews Manor Shopping Center. Next door to Pho Viet is a ShopSmart Outlet, downsized from when it was next door (on the other side). That space will soon open as La Colonia International Market. Lots of changes going on in Andrews Manor Shopping Center.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

TERP DISCOVERY

The summer of 2016 is a great opportunity for seventh and eighth grade students to participate in the exciting two-week summer program, Terp Discovery from July 17–July 29, 2016. Students will be able to attend courses taught by UMD faculty, acquire new skills and knowledge, engage with new ideas. Students will be able to enjoy an early exploration of campus life at University of Maryland. Visit www.discovery.umd.edu for more information.

TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

Ride in style with Keller Bus Company June 18, 2016 to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Bus will depart from Oxon Hill Park & Ride, Oxon Hill, Maryland at 9:00 AM. There will be a rest stop at Delaware House (time to be determined). Drop off time is 1:00 PM in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Pick up time is 7:00 PM Atlantic City Atlantic City, New Jersey. Return to Oxon Hill Park & Ride Oxon Hill, Maryland at 11:00 PM.

Lost dog

Signs posted around Morningside announce that a small black & tan miniature pincher is missing. If you have information, call 202-203-0714. There's a reward.

Is Once-a-Week working?

Once-a-Week trash and recycling collection seems to have already made the streets look better--fewer cans along the roadside. According to the County, this system will "reduce air pollution and heavy truck traffic in neighborhoods, provide less wear & tear on our roads." Also, we have joined our adjoining counties, as well as Washington and Baltimore, in once-a-week collection. I hope before long to see an official report on its success.

Here in Skyline, we have yard-matter collection on Mondays, and trash and recycling on Tuesdays. The rest of the week I don't even have to think about it.

Starting in the fall, heavy-duty, wheeled trash toters will be delivered. And they will be free.

Lawyer for the Washington Archdiocese dies at 97

Paul F. Interdonato, 97, who had a private law practice in Oxon Hill but was also the attorney for the Archdiocese of Washington, died April 16. He was an attorney for the Little Sisters of the Poor and even for Mother Teresa when she opened her convent in Washington. His service to the Church led to his being honored as a papal Knight of St. Gregory and a Knight of Malta.

He was born and grew up in Washington.

His wife, Amelia Theresa Interdonato née Mirabile, predeceased him. He is survived by four children, Theresa A. O'Connell (Edmond B.), Andrew G. Interdonato (Beverly A.), Anthony P. Interdonato (Kathleen G.), and Rita M. Interdonato, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church, North Capitol and Eye Streets. "He's left us with much good example and many happy memories," writes his daughter Teri O'Connell, "but a sadness in our hearts because we miss him so much already."

May they rest in peace

My dear friend, Virginia Clark, 98, formerly of Camp Springs, died May 8. She was a 3rd generation Washingtonian, attended St. Gabriel's and was May Queen in the 8th grade. She was a 1935 graduate of Notre Dame Girls Academy, where she also completed a business secretarial course. She met her future husband, Ralph J. Clark, at the Navy Department and they wed at St. Gabriel's Church in 1941. They settled in Camp Springs where Virginia was a founding member of St. Philip's Church, an original member of the Parish Council and the first prefect of the Sodality. She was preceded in death by Ralph, her husband of 55 years. She was the mother of Christine (Bill) Keenan, Joe (Barbara) Clark and Valerie (Lon) Kramer; grandmother of eight; great-grandma of nine and great-great grandmother of one. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Church of the Nativity, Burke, Va.

Mildred (Domash) Dahl, 96, longtime resident of Hillcrest Heights and member of Holy Family Church, died March 30 at an assisted-living center in Rockville. A native of Springfield, Mass., she moved to the Washington area in 1949 and worked as a ticket agent with Eastern Airlines and as a cosmetics clerk at Woodward & Lothrop. She also volunteered with the Girl Scouts. Her daughter Nancy Lucy announced her death.

Joseph L. "Larry" Spitzer, of Crofton, a 1963 graduate of Surrattsville High School and 1972 graduate of the U. of Maryland, died April 13. He had retired from teaching in 1997.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Morningside Mayor Benn Cann, May 18; Gary Lewis, Sr. and Steven Busky, May 27; Teddy Burke and Kevin Nichols, May 30; Ruth Garner, Aiyana Poe, my granddaughter Sarah McHale and John Tierney, May 31; Kathleen Stahl, June 1; Paul Elborne and Jacob Cook, June 2.

Happy day to Tyonda Simms-Taylor and Michael Taylor on their 21st anniversary, June 1.

Gospel Concert June 5, 2016 3:00 PM at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church. The address is 5560 Pleasant Groove Road, Marbury, Maryland 20658. Rev. Benjamin Watkins, Interim Pastor.

The concert will feature the Gospel Inspirations of Brandywine, Maryland and Liturgical Dance Ministry "Mature by Grace" Grace United Methodist Church, Fort Washington, Maryland, Rev. Robert E. Slade, Pastor.

WALK & STAY HEALTHY

Union Bethel AME Church North location Women's Ministry walks indoors every 2nd & 4th Saturday at 8:00 AM in the Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex. The address is 7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, Maryland. Please bring Driver's ID for day pass (\$5.00 day pass, PG residents, \$6 other counties free for age 60+). Let's continue to walk and stay healthy together. Everyone is welcome and bring a guest.

Neighborhoods

National Harbor Launches Convention & Visitors Association

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—Peterson Companies announced today the creation of the National Harbor convention and visitors' association in partnership with MGM National Harbor, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center and Tanger Outlets. The organization will be called Visit National Harbor.

In addition, Peterson and its CVA partners announced the appointment of Bruce Gudenberg as executive director of Visit National Harbor. Gudenberg also serves as vice president of marketing for National Harbor.

"With so many amenities and so much to offer, it only made sense that National Harbor would form its own convention and visitors association," said Gudenberg. "National Harbor certainly fits all of the qualifications of a major tourism destination and the growing volume of annual visitors, backs this up." In addition to more than 2500 residences, the 350-acre destination contains more than 150 unique retail shops; 30 restaurants; seven hotels with more than 3,000 rooms and 470,000 square feet of meeting and event space including Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center; National Harbor Marina; Tanger Outlets; destination resort MGM National Harbor, opening in the fourth quarter of 2016; the National Harbor Carousel and the iconic Capital Wheel where visitors can take in the view from more than 180 feet in the air.

All of this is situated on the banks of the historic Potomac River where National Harbor also hosts all types of special events, concerts and programs throughout the year. Located in Maryland, the community works closely with the Prince George's Conference & Visitors Bureau as well as Maryland Tourism, and due to close proximity to Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia, they also work with Destination D.C. and Visit Alexandria and other tourism organizations throughout the region. "With our unique location, we have the good fortune of having many great convention and visitors' bureaus nearby to work with to help grow visitation to the Capital Area region," Gudenberg added.

Bill Boasberg, general manager of MGM National Harbor said, "National Harbor is a superb location that will provide our guests with extensive amenities that complement what will be offered at our resort, as well as convenient access to explore the best of the greater DMV region."

Patrick Chaffin, senior vice president of asset management for Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc., which owns the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, added, "Collectively, the CVA will work together to provide an unmatched visitor experience. Our world-class Gaylord National convention center resort coupled with a multitude of dining and shopping options, and now the added benefit of the MGM casino, make National Harbor unlike any destination on the east coast."

The National Harbor CVA works with meeting and event planners, travel groups and individuals throughout the year

in creating a variety of itineraries and packages. "We're here to ensure that everyone who visits National Harbor has the best possible experience," said Gudenberg. The CVA is supported by the retail, restaurants and hotels at National Harbor with primary support from the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, MGM National Harbor and Tanger Outlets, Capital Wheel, and Peterson Companies

U-Store Laurel Offers Moving Options with U-Haul Partnership

LAUREL, MD—U-Haul Company of Maryland, Inc. is pleased to announce that U-Store Laurel has signed on as a U-Haul neighborhood dealer to serve the Laurel community. U-Store Laurel at 13303 Baltimore Ave. will offer U-Haul trucks and support rental items.

Hours of operation for U-Haul rentals are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (240) 547-4443 or visiting <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Laurel-MD-20707/029131/> today.

U-Store Laurel partners Bernard Fenterswald and Richard Sellers are proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Prince George's County.

U-Haul and U-Store Laurel are striving to benefit the environment through sustainability initiatives. Truck sharing is a core U-Haul sustainability business practice that allows individuals to access a fleet of trucks that is larger than what they could access on an individual basis.

Every U-Haul truck placed in a community helps keep 19 personally owned large-capacity vehicles, pickups, SUVs and vans off the road. Fewer vehicles means less traffic congestion, less pollution, less fuel burned and cleaner air.

Council Chair Davis Welcomes Courtyard Marriott® Largo Capital Beltway to Prince George's County

Businesses and Visitors Encouraged to Experience, Explore and Expand in Prince George's County

Prince George's County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D) - District 6, joined with Economic Development Corporation President/CEO, Jim Coleman and Chamber of Commerce President, David C. Harrington on Wednesday, April 21, to welcome Courtyard by Marriott® Largo Capital Beltway to Prince George's County.

Council Chair Davis celebrates the new hotel opening and its impact on the County's economic development initiatives

"The District 6 community is elated to welcome the Courtyard Marriott® Largo Capital Beltway to Prince George's County, and we look forward to an ongoing corporate partnership that will bring more jobs to our community. Coupled with the nearby Residence Inn Largo, which opened last year, these hotels further develop Downtown Largo, in addition to expand-

ing Marriott's presence in Prince George's County and providing a host of lodging options for visitors."

Courtyard by Marriott® Largo Capital Beltway, at 1320 Caraway Court in Largo, is conveniently located in Prince George's County, less than 10 miles from Washington, D.C. and 15 miles from National Harbor. Travelers and visitors will be close to a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment options, including FedEx Field, Tanger Outlets, the University of Maryland, Andrews Air Force Base, Prince George's Show Place Arena - Equestrian Center, and the Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Complex.

The 107-room hotel features contemporary room design, lobby space, an indoor swimming pool, fitness center and guest laundry, and 975 square feet of meeting space to accommodate functions of up to 95 people. Situated on I-95/I-495, the new Courtyard by Marriott® Largo Capital Beltway location is just a short walk from the Largo Town Center Metro Station, providing easy access to the Nation's Capital.

Fourteen Schools Win the Team BCPS Clean Green 15 Litter Challenge—Program Records 25% More Clean-ups and 67% More Volunteers Than Last Year

TOWSON, MD—An awards ceremony this morning at Reisterstown Elementary School, students and staff were excited to learn that their litter clean-up efforts netted them one of two grand prizes, and a \$3,000 environmental grant in the Team BCPS Clean Green 15 Litter Challenge. County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and Education Foundation of Baltimore County Executive Director Debbie Phelps announced that fourteen Baltimore County public schools were winners in this program that resulted in more than 5,600 volunteers picking up some 3,100 bags of litter in more than 400 litter clean-ups around the County.

County Executive Kamenetz encouraged the audience of students and faculty to picture the amount of debris collected in these 15-minute litter clean-ups. "Just for a second, try to imagine 3,100 bags of litter," he said. "I'll bet it would fill up this whole gymnasium! Think about how great it is that it got bagged up rather than ending up in our stream, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay."

Clean Green 15 Results:

Tons of Litter Collected, Thousands of Grant Dollars Distributed to Schools!

The 2016 program resulted in 406 clean-ups conducted by 5,602 volunteers. This is up from 324 clean-ups conducted by 3,356 volunteers who picked up 3,456 bags of trash last year (2015). This is a 25% increase in clean-ups and a 67% increase in volunteer participation from last year!

In addition to litter, Clean Green 15 volunteers collected many tons of bulk trash items from parks, streambanks, schoolyards and other locations all around Baltimore County. Clean-ups included schoolchildren organized by teachers during the school day as well as community-based activity.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Should You Join the Gig Economy?

Today, our standard workday isn't so standard anymore and we're talking more about "gigs"—alternative work arrangements that often depend on the latest technology and a desire to set one's own schedule and pay. However, the question is whether everyone plans for the reality of the work or the impact self-employment in any form can have on his or her long-term finances.



Gig workers—a broad spectrum that includes temporary help agency workers, on-call employees, contract company workers, independent contractors and freelancers—were measured as a startling and growing economic force in a March study by Harvard and Princeton researchers (https://krueger.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/akrueger/files/katz_krueger_cws_-_march_29_20165.pdf). According to their measurements, this diverse group of earners that made up 10.1 percent of the workforce in February 2005 has grown to nearly 16 percent as of late 2015.

Anyone thinking about going into business in place of or in addition to their day job should consider a planning period with the help of a qualified financial or tax expert. Major issues to cover include:

Consider qualified tax and financial advice. Switching to gig work—even if you find lucrative contract work in your field—can be an enormous shock to your finances. Cash flow can be irregular, disrupting budgets and long-term savings. It's a good idea to get some qualified financial and tax advice so you understand the changes you might face and to keep major financial goals like retirement and college savings on track.

Setting up a business structure: While most gig economy participants settle on a sole proprietorship or some form of limited liability company (LLC) business structure, (<https://www.sba.gov/startup-business/choose-your-business-structure>) the choice needs to be carefully considered based on your particular business activity, overall tax situation and other financial factors unique to you. This is probably one of the most important reasons to seek out qualified tax, legal or financial expertise—the level of personal or property risk inherent in your choice might call for a structure that offers additional protection against lawsuits or insurance claims.

Think carefully about your benefits ... Unless you fit a particular group exempt (<https://www.healthcare.gov/health-coverage-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee/>) from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or are insured by a spouse or partner, you'll have to invest in healthcare insurance for yourself or consider the cost of being uninsured. This is a particularly important expense to plan in advance based on your health needs and the type of affordable coverage that's available. Get referrals on qualified health insurance agents to get a full range of choices. And most of all, make a plan to keep saving and investing your money for long-term goals. Walking away from a weekly check can make that process tougher—talk about it and plan for it.

Track your spending and planning carefully. If you don't budget or track your expenses now, it's time to start. Being in business entitles you to certain deductions for home office expenses, equipment and other costs related to your work. So whether you use a specific software program or a computer spreadsheet or paper and pen to track your expenses, do so regularly to avoid missing items that could eventually save you money. If you're working with a tax professional or financial planner, coordinate this recordkeeping with the work they're doing for you. Also keep a constant discussion going about saving for the future, including retirement.

Make sure you're really right for this. With proper planning, the gig economy can be both enjoyable and challenging. You'll not only learn whether you can support yourself, but also whether you'll enjoy doing it long-term. Many of us dream of being our own boss, but reality can be very different, particularly when managing uneven earnings and cash flow common to many new companies. It's not just about business; it's about whether your lifestyle and personality traits (<https://hbr.org/2010/02/should-you-be-an-entrepreneur/>) make you right for operating a business in this economy—or any economy.

Bottom line: Plenty of people find themselves dealing either by choice or necessity with the brave new world of "gig" work. It's important to approach it as a financial and lifestyle decision on par with starting a business.

New Data Finds Nearly Half of Students Ready for Kindergarten

More Rigorous Standards Also Reveal Achievement Gaps

By PRESS OFFICER MSDE

BALTIMORE, MD—Maryland's new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) finds that nearly half of Maryland's incoming students in the fall of 2015 were fully ready for learning. The data, released today in a report presented to the Maryland State Board of Education, confirm last year's results, when the entering kindergarteners were assessed using the new assessment for the first time.

The report, *Readiness Matters!* found that 45 percent of incoming students were fully prepared to begin kindergarten. Another 37 percent were "approaching" readiness, while 18 percent were "emerging." The results also uncovered gaps in readiness between certain student groups. The report also includes insights into readiness and children's experience with various forms of pre-K experience. The results nearly mirror the outcomes from last year when 47 percent were fully ready.

The results also spotlight gaps in readiness. More than half of White and Asian-American children are entering kindergarten ready to learn—56 and 52 percent, respectively. But only 41 percent of African-American students are fully prepared for kindergarten and just 27 percent of Hispanic students are kindergarten-ready. The data revealed

that students from low-income households, those for whom English is a second language, and students with disabilities have special challenges.

The KRA measures the skills and behaviors that children should have learned prior to entering kindergarten. It combines age-appropriate, standardized performance tasks that measure students' specific skills, along with focused observations of children's work and social interactions, to best understand what each entering kindergartner knows and is able to do in four key areas: social foundations; physical well-being and motor development; language and literacy; and mathematics.

This assessment replaced the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) assessment, in use from 2001 to 2013. The new assessment is needed to put young students on a path toward meeting Maryland's more rigorous Pre-K through 12th grade College and Career Ready Standards. The KRA sets a new baseline for tracking student progress in future years, aligned to the higher standards; the results are not directly comparable to the MMSR, which found in 2013 that 83 percent of kindergartners entering school in 2013 were "fully ready" for the curriculum.

The KRA reveals gaps in kindergarten readiness, including gaps among low-, middle- and upper-income households. Just

33 percent of children who are eligible for free or reduced meals—the federal proxy for low-income—enter kindergarten fully prepared, while 55 percent of children from middle- and upper income families are ready for kindergarten.

The data also provide information on kindergarten readiness based on pre-K experience, including:

- Nonpublic nursery schools and childcare centers both top 50 percent in readiness.
- Nearly 44 percent of public pre-K programs demonstrated readiness.
- 37 percent of children from family child care demonstrated readiness.
- 33 percent of children from Head Start demonstrated readiness.
- 29 percent of children who stay at home or are in informal care were found to be fully ready.

Teachers can use student KRA data to adjust instruction and improve learning. Early childhood programs and school leaders can use the information to address achievement gaps and respond to the learning needs of certain groups of students. The data also can be used to inform professional development, curricular changes, and future investments in learning. At the same time, families can use the data to help support student learning at home.

MSDE has worked with local educators to develop the KRA, and has since engaged educators, including kindergarten teachers, to strengthen the assessment instrument and the administration process. For example, this year's version of the KRA was 20 percent shorter compared to last year, with some of the more time-intensive items removed. An enhanced reporting feature was put in place for teachers to access on-time reports of their students' skill levels.

MSDE also has worked systems to improve access to technology and Wi-Fi for teachers working with the KRA. Additional professional development was provided for teachers. Based on a teacher survey, conducted after the conclusion of the assessment, 63 percent rated the overall experience using the KRA as either good or excellent, 80 percent thought that the skills and behaviors were appropriate for kindergarten, and 90 percent thought the test materials were easy to use. They also reported on the time it took to complete the assessment, which—on average—took less time (40 minutes per student) than last year (50 minutes per student).

The KRA data can be found at the website; http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/newsroom/publications/school_readiness.htm

Music from A1

which marked the 10th straight year of vinyl sales growth, according to Nielsen, a global information company that keeps track of what consumers buy.

Lock has seen teenagers and young adults come into his store to buy vinyl throughout the last few years and said he thinks there are several reasons that this age group is buying physical music, including a warmer sound quality.

"It just seems to fill the room a lot more than digital," Lock said. "You get the low-end and high-end more on vinyl, rather than it all just compressed."

Potomac native Alex Cohen, 17, said people of all ages like to collect vinyl because of the sense of ownership and the physical process of starting a record.

"When you can hold the record in your hands, it's different than just pressing play on your iPhone because it's about lifting up the tone-arm, turning on your receiver, lowering the needle onto the record and hitting start. It's a relaxing process," Cohen said.

Lock also said that he believed a lot of his younger customers are buying vinyl again because they might have discovered and listened to their parents' records for the first time.

"There's a whole new generation now getting records from their parents, who grew up in the cool age of the '60s. People are getting (Jimi) Hendrix, The Beatles and Pink Floyd. They're just great records. They're timeless," Lock said.

But people aren't just buying vinyl records of older acts. Modern artists such as Mumford & Sons, The Black Keys, Jack White and Lana Del Rey all have albums ranked among the top 10 of vinyl album sales since 2010, according to Nielsen.

And even though rock music generated 68 percent of vinyl sales in the U.S. in 2015,



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CONNOR GLOWACKI

Record Exchange Owner Sam Lock, in the spring of 2016, credits the comeback of vinyl due to the warmer sound it brings, compared to a compressed digital music file.

Christian Arias, 19, a record shopper from Silver Spring, said it's not simply a specific music genre that people his age or older are buying.

"It's going to be whatever they like. Simple as that," Arias said.

With streaming becoming the new platform of the music industry, record stores like The Record Exchange and Roadhouse Oldies in Silver Spring have had to try and adjust with the times.

Alan Lee, the owner of Roadhouse Oldies since 1974, said that even though it's nice to see vinyl album sales going up, he doesn't expect it to be a long-term trend.

"I think it's another passing fancy. I think more and more people will be reluctant to pay for music as time goes on," Lee said. "There's always going to be a small market for vinyl and for record stores. But it's not going to be like it was

in 1964 ... You've just got to try and go with the flow."

Lee still said he was pleasantly surprised that a younger audience was gravitating toward vinyl records.

"I'm flabbergasted ... I figured by now kids would have some kind of micro-chip planted in their heads so that they would never have to buy music again," Lee said.

Lock, like Lee, has been with his company for a long time. He said shortly after starting with The Record Exchange in 1993, he had to take all of the vinyl bins and push them to the back of the store because nobody wanted them, and he considered vinyl a dead medium. Lock said that it's interesting to see the cycle come full-circle.

He put the vinyl records back near the front of his store.

"I've seen vinyl disappear, and I've seen CDs come in. Times were tough though from 2008 to 2012 because you could-

n't sell anything," Lock said, "CDs were dead and everyone was into iPods."

"Luckily in 2011, we started to see a spark in vinyl and it's been uphill ever since then. It's nice to be back on our feet finally," Lock said.

Despite the success of vinyl sales in recent years, it only accounted for 9 percent of total physical albums sales in 2015, according to Nielsen. Cohen said he thinks vinyl sales will stabilize and connect with a niche market, groups of millennials and baby boomers, even if they don't grow and take over the music world like they did decades ago.

Even with an uncertain future for vinyl and record stores, Lock said he is ready to ride this wave out and tackle the next one, whatever that may be.

"I don't think vinyl is ever going to go away, but hopefully we'll still be here. We still have a five-year lease," Lock said with a smile.

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COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen
House Democratic Minority Whip



Congressman Chris Van Hollen Statement on Appeal of Challenge to Maryland's Assault Weapons Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen released the following statement after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit heard oral arguments in an appeal to uphold Maryland's assault weapons ban:

"In response to the daily toll of gun violence and mass shootings that too often plague our nation, Maryland decided to take action to better protect our communities and children. The Firearm Safety Act of 2013 was a common sense and comprehensive approach to gun violence prevention. It prohibited the sale of assault weapons in Maryland, the weapon of choice for criminals who want to kill the most people as quickly as possible. The gun lobby is challenging the assault weapons ban in an attempt to silence the will of Marylanders, but I

am confident Attorney General Brian Frosh, a longtime and effective advocate for gun violence prevention, will be successful in defending that provision of the law.

"Another key provision of the Firearm Safety Act requires those who wish to purchase a handgun to first obtain a license, much in the way you need a license to fish or drive a car. Research has proven that permit-to-purchase licensing laws save lives, and this provision of the law has not been challenged in court. For Maryland's law to achieve its full potential to save lives, other states must follow our lead to enact permit-to-purchase laws. I have introduced federal legislation to encourage states to adopt these lifesaving programs, and I urge Congress to pass the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act without delay."

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



State of Black America 2016— "Locked Out: Education, Jobs and Justice"

"Eschewing political banalities, sloganeering and appeals to fears and suspicions, the candidates should seize the opportunity to challenge the nation to regain her sense of purpose by facing her imperfections, not apologetically, but with the firm resolve that this nation can and should do better."

—National Urban League Executive Director Vernon Jordan, the State of Black America, 1976.

As we observe the 40th anniversary of the State of Black America® the similarities of the United States of 1976 and the United States of 2016 are profoundly striking. The nation was recovering from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. According to the report, "Blacks suffered disproportionately because of their low position on the economic ladder as unemployment climbed to depression levels in many of their communities ..." These words could just as easily apply to today.

The 2016 edition of the State of Black America® "Locked Out: Education, Jobs and Justice," will be released on Tuesday, May 17, during a live broadcast from the Newseum. I encourage you to watch on NBCBLK, News One or IAmEmpowered.com.

The report National Urban League's annual analysis of Black and Latino equality in America, and, for the second year it will be available in an all-digital format available at www.stateofblackamerica.org. Visitors will find the e-book, Web Series, select data, videos, articles and other frequently updated features. This year's report again includes the Equality Index™, in its 11th year for the Black-White Index and its sixth year for the Hispanic-White Index—measuring how well Blacks and Latinos are doing in comparison to their White peers in five categories: economics, education, health, social justice and civic engagement.

The report will include a retrospective detailing America's 40-year progress in economic and social equality and opportunity. As this

year's report focuses on "Education, Jobs and Justice" it's valuable to looking back to the state of black education, jobs and justice in 1976. On education, Jordan wrote, "Not only were black children not being educated by the schools, a fact attested to by declining test scores, but they were also being thrown out of the institutions in disproportionate numbers for alleged infractions." On jobs: "Despite claims that the recession has bottomed out and the worst is behind us, unemployment is still rampant in the nation and even the most optimistic forecast projects a continuing official unemployment rate of over 7 percent. For blacks, this automatically means an official unemployment rate of 14 percent." Jordan added, "To assume that the nation can live with so many people unable to find jobs and forming a permanent cadre of the helpless and hapless, is dangerous. And on justice: "While blacks are over-represented as crime victims, they are underrepresented in the criminal justice system. The city of Chicago is an example with a population that is 32.7 percent black, it has a police force that is only 16 percent black. A survey by the Race Relations Information Center revealed that in 42 states out of a total of 41,984 state police personnel, only 616 or 1.5 percent are black."

At the launch of the State of Black America® 2016, "Locked Out: Education, Jobs and Justice," we look forward to hearing from Vernon Jordan himself. Some of the nation's leading thought-leaders, analysts and activists are featured in our web series such as David Johns, Jonathan Capehart, Mo Ivory and Sam White. The report itself includes essays from notables such as Journalist and author Joy-Ann Reid, Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Sundial Brands Founder and CEO Richelieu Dennis.

Please join us online for the launch of State of Black America on May 17, and stay in touch on www.stateofblackamerica.org for our ongoing conversation.



NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS MUSEUM
Located at 6 US Highway 80 East, in the Historic District of Selma, Alabama at the foot of the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge, the scene of "Bloody Sunday," the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute is the cornerstone of the contemporary struggle for voting rights and human dignity. The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute is the only such Institution of its kind in the world. Photography and video exhibits, documents, personal notes and artifacts from the struggle are housed in its archives. The Museum and Institute offers the United States of America and the world the unique opportunity to learn from the lessons of the past and to secure our rights for the future. It is a place where past and present struggles and future possibilities can be viewed, studied, felt, remembered and appreciated. Museum Hours are Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Friday, Saturday, Sunday: By Appointment only

Child Watch
by Marion Wright Edelman



Mother's Day Call to Action

Co-author, Jackie Bezos

As mothers and grandmothers who have dedicated our lives to serving children, our own and others, we know firsthand how important a stable home, a positive emotional and learning environment and safe communities are for a child's healthy development. Think about it: no one would construct a building without first laying a strong foundation. Yet too many children in New York City and in our nation are born into poverty and begin their lives without the most basic supports they need.

In New York City, over 150,000 children under five are poor. Last year, nearly 20,000 of these children slept in homeless shelters—enough to fill Madison Square Garden. From the moment they're born, children in poverty face an uphill struggle to survive, thrive and learn with so many odds stacked against them. These children are born with tremendous potential and if we want to help them, we must act immediately.

There is no time in life when the brain develops more rapidly than in the first years—at an astonishing rate of 700-1,000 new neural connections every second. Each connection helps establish the architecture of the brain and is a precursor for functions including language, social skills, and problem solving that are crucial for a child's success in school and life. This incredible time of development peaks before children reach preschool.

Babies are born wired for interaction. Consistent, positive communications between young children and the adults in their lives are crucial. Every time we interact with a child—to read, giggle, sing and babble with them—we're not only building a brain, we are building the foundation for our collective future.

But preventable poverty and toxic stress can impede and derail a child's early brain development. The school-readiness gap impacting poor children is big and deep and its implications lasting. A Children's Defense Fund report, *Ending*

Child Poverty Now, points to several studies including one that found by age four high-income children had heard 30 million more words than poor children. Another found poor preschoolers had already fallen behind those from wealthier families, and were less able to recognize letters, count to twenty, or write their names. By the time they entered kindergarten, children from poor families were six months or more behind in reading and math skills.

In addition to quality interactions with parents, grandparents and other caregivers, young children need access to a full continuum of high quality early learning opportunities so that every child, regardless of circumstance of birth or lottery of geography, is ready for school and has a fair chance to reach their fullest potential. This is not only the just but the smart and cost-effective thing to do. High quality early childhood programs have been shown to return \$8.60 for every dollar invested.

Staff in quality voluntary home visiting programs, Early Head Start and Head Start Programs, Child Care and Pre-K Programs play critical roles in

stimulating healthy brain development to buffer the negative impacts of poverty and produce lifelong benefits for disadvantaged children. But far too few young children get high quality early childhood development and learning supports. Early Head Start, which provides comprehensive services for poor infants and toddlers through home visiting, center-based and family child care serves only an estimated 4 percent of eligible children.

Together, we can and must close these opportunity gaps with urgency and persistence and create a more level playing field enabling all our children to succeed.

We are excited that Robin Hood, a poverty-fighting organization, is launching a new, groundbreaking initiative to build the first Early Learning Metropolis by partnering with organizations all across New York City to ensure every parent, grandparent, caregiver, and child care provider knows the best ways, based on up-to-date research, to spur children's brain development in the first three years of life.

See WATCH, Page A10

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Tips for Helping Your Teenager Date Responsibly

Summer means increased opportunities for teen dating and parental worrying. And while we all realize that it's natural for teenagers to be attracted to one another and that dating is the socially-accepted outcome of such attraction, most parents agonize over the whole dating experience and all the things that can go wrong.

There's no magic way to make such parental worrying disappear, but there are steps you can take to make teen dating a better experience for you and your child.

- **Talk to your child about dating.** The junior high years, or even earlier, are not too soon to broach the subject, even though actual dating may be a few years off.

- **Develop basic dating rules and expectations.** Talk about the appropriate age for couple or group dates. Discuss curfews and your expectations regarding driving, behavior and appropriate destinations. As the parent, you should take the lead, but include your child in the discussion and get his or her agreement that what you're proposing makes sense for both of you.

- **Discuss sex and morality.** Honestly share your own moral views and talk about AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and the emotional issues related to sex. If you find such discussions difficult, try enlisting a counselor, physician or member of the clergy to help.

- **Prepare for emergencies.** Yes, they are going to happen. Does your child have a cell phone? Enough money to be able to take a cab home in case of an emergency? A backup person to call if you or your spouse isn't available? Talk about handling problem situations like an auto accident, a drunk or abusive date, or other potential dating disasters.

- **Make it clear you're there for your teen.** You don't want a teen in trouble too scared to call you. Your child should know that when there's a problem, you're ready to come to the rescue, wherever and whenever, with no questions asked.

- **Pay attention.** Most teens won't share dating details, but will give clues when things aren't right. Look and listen for problems, from drinking to drugs to inappropriate relationships. Don't be paranoid, but respect your intuition. Ask questions and act swiftly when you sense something is wrong.

Yes, teen dating is a challenge for any teen, and it's even harder on the parents, but build an honest, open, nonjudgmental relationship with your teen and it becomes easier.

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

Main Street from A1

opment challenges through the Main Street approach.

Participation in the affiliate program helps downtown communities transform themselves by tapping into those assets that make them special using tested principles established by the National Main Street Center.

The Town of Perryville in northeastern Maryland and the Town of Snow Hill on the Eastern Shore are among the first to apply.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Town of Perryville," said Mary Ann Skilling, director of planning and zoning for the town that is

nestled near the Susquehanna River. "Through the affiliate program, the town will be able to move forward with ideas and get assistance in creating a thriving commercial district to both retain and attract businesses."

Applications to participate in the affiliate program are accepted on a rolling basis.

For an application and to learn more about the benefits of the Main Street Affiliate program, please visit the website; http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/programs/MainStreet.aspx?utm_source=April+14%2C+2016+News+Release&utm_campaign=Blog+posts&utm_medium=email

ESFCU from A1

practices every day. We actively listen and always look for innovative ways to improve the quality of our member experience by implementing solutions that help our employees connect to the education community."

The CUNA HR & Organizational Development Council is a national network comprised of over 880 credit union human resources, training and development professionals. The Council is dedicated to providing education, leadership, networking support, professional development and ex-

peritise to its members to shape and enhance the role and diversity of operations in the credit union industry. For more information, visit cunacouncils.org.

Educational Systems FCU (esfcu.org) has proudly served the education community for 60 years. With \$850 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties in Maryland.

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Since 1932

EDC President Jim Coleman Wants to Connect Also to Prince George's Dirty Laundry

127 Year Old Linen Cleaning Company Brings 250 Jobs to Prince George's County

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LANHAM, MD—Tuesday, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President & CEO, Jim Coleman, welcomed AlSCO, Inc. to its new state of the art 84,000 square foot commercial laundry facility in Lanham, MD. The 127 year old family owned and operated linen cleaning company, which has operations nationwide, moved its Washington, D.C. operation to Prince George's County bringing with it 250 jobs.

"My mother always told me to never talk about the family's dirty laundry. But today, I'm going to break that rule," said Coleman. "I want to connect AlSCO to all of the dirty laundry in Prince George's County and the State of Mary-

land while this wonderful company is growing. I want to double the size of their workforce from 250 to 500 over the next 24 months."

AlSCO Inc., a linen and uniform rental services company, celebrated its official grand opening Tuesday with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, lunch and tours of its new facility in Lanham, MD. The production facility cleans over 125,000 pounds of laundry daily serving over 1,600 customers. The environmentally friendly facility currently has 225 employees and is recruiting 25 more, bringing a total of 250 jobs to Prince George's County.

AlSCO General Manager Ludovico Oriente hosted the event at which guests had an opportunity to meet Co-CEOs, Bob Steiner and Kevin Steiner, whose great-grandfather founded the company in 1889.



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
EDC President & CEO, Jim Coleman (standing) with AlSCO executives and government leaders at AlSCO's Grand Opening.

Attendees also heard from Prince George's dignitaries including Secretary Mike Gill from the Maryland Department of Commerce and Delegate Alonzo Washington, from Maryland Legislative District 22.

To learn more about how to connect with the 25 job openings with AlSCO and other great Prince George's County job opportunities, please contact Jeffrey Swilley, at jswilley@co.pg.md.us or (301) 618-8400.

Football from A1

The University of Maryland is the only Division 1 FBS school in the state but struggles to keep its own blue-chip prospects.

"When schools like Ohio State and Florida State, with the success they have had on the field and with as much effort as they put on recruiting in the DMV, it's tough for Maryland to beat those schools out for kids," said Steve Wiltfong, the National Recruiting Director at 247sports, a CBS Sports subsidiary recruiting site.

The Terrapins were 22-33 under Randy Edsall, who was fired in October after four and a half seasons.

Ohio State and Florida State have both won national championships over the past few seasons and have produced a combined five first-round draft picks in the last two years. In the same time frame, Maryland had a total of three players drafted.

As Maryland has struggled to win on the field, it isn't sending players to the NFL either, which makes selling the program to high schoolers difficult.

Dwayne Haskins Jr., a quarterback for the Bullis School in Potomac, is ranked third among high school quarterbacks in Maryland, according to ESPN. And his story is just one example of Maryland's inability to recruit its own.

Haskins originally committed to Maryland last May and started a movement to get other local talent to join him in College Park. However, after head coach Edsall was fired, Haskins spurned the Terps and committed to Ohio State.

"If they were winning 12 games a year, it would certainly be easier to keep guys home," Wiltfong said.

New head coach D.J. Durkin will have his hands full trying to bring in talent to a team that won one game in the Big Ten and three overall last season.

"There were some tough decisions made and those are things we had to work through. It's part of the process and everyone is better off because of it," Durkin said during the signing day press conference on Feb. 3. "There were some that went other ways and I think that's great. The guys here know what they are getting into and they want to be a part of this thing."

Durkin knows the first order of business is trying to keep Maryland talent in Maryland.

"We are going to build this program with guys in their own backyard," Durkin said.

Football powerhouse DeMatha Catholic High School, located in Hyattsville, is a short drive away from Maryland's campus and has a rich tradition of producing can't-miss prospects.

DeMatha four-star wide receiver Tino Ellis, along with three of his teammates, decided to stay at home and play for the Terrapins next year.

"What a thrill to get all those DeMatha guys to be a part of this class," Durkin said. "Elijah Brooks and his program there, it doesn't get better than that. I can tell you one thing, we are going back to DeMatha next year, too."

Durkin feels the new crop of talent as a whole provides a solid foundation for the future.

"The recruiting staff and coaching staff really put together a class that is just tremendous," Durkin said. "The guys we brought in are about great things, about what we're building here, and they are definitely going to help us achieve great things."

All in all, Maryland's 2016 class is comprised of 19 recruits, eight of which are from Maryland.

"They got some guys that can be difference-makers at the skill positions, which they needed," Wiltfong said. "(Maryland) certainly does win some ... It's not like they've seen every great player from the DMV leave."

Maryland also added a few other Washington Catholic Athletic Conference prospects for its 2017 class: St. John's College High School quarterback (Washington, D.C.) Kasim Hill and Our Lady of Good Counsel High

School (Olney) linebacker Ayinde Eley.

Hill, who rejected Big Ten powerhouses Michigan and Michigan State, is ranked as the 13th-best pro-style quarterback in the country. Eley is ranked as the 10th-best player in the state and turned down offers from Ohio State and Penn State.

Cam Spence, a class of 2017 four-star defensive tackle from the Gilman School in Baltimore, is spearheading the DMV-to-UMD movement.

Spence passed up offers from Alabama, Clemson, Ohio State, Ole Miss and a host of other college football titans.

"(UMD) always felt like home to me," Spence said in a phone interview.

Spence is the nephew of Larry Stewart, a former All-American Terrapins lineman, who played in the late 1970s.

The new recruiting class is building a family atmosphere in College Park in hopes of attracting more local recruits.

"We have a group of guys who believe in Coach Durkin and his staff," Spence said. "We're trying to make something big... We're close with each other, we talk to each other on a daily basis, we're buying into it. It's going to be special."

Capital News Service data reporter Ryan Connors contributed to this story.

Legislation That Ends Subminimum Wages for Workers With Disabilities Passes

By JOSH MAGNESS
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

ANNAPOLIS, MD—During Mat Rice's time as a student at the Maryland School for the Blind, the disability advocate said he would work at a place openly referred to as "the workshop."

Rice, who has spastic cerebral palsy and is legally blind, said he would crush cans and shred paper when in the workshop. Each day, he said, he received a piece rate wage based on the amount of cans and paper he would get through, earning about 10 cents a piece and "definitely" falling below federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

At first, Rice thought the practice was confined solely to the school. But once Rice started working with disability rights groups, he said, he soon

learned it was legal for many institutions to pay their workers with disabilities a subminimum wage.

But the Minimum Wage and Community Integration Act—a pair of bills that passed both the Maryland House and Senate with wide, bipartisan majorities—aims to end that practice.

As of January 2016, 36 in-state organizations were authorized to pay just over 3,600 workers with disabilities less than the minimum wage, according to a legislative analysis.

The legislation does away with 14(c) certificates, which enable certain employers and work activities centers to pay their employees with disabilities based on productivity instead of at a fixed rate. The two bills also require a worker with disabilities who is paid a subminimum wage and a supervisor to outline a plan to get a job

with non-disabled coworkers.

Ending the confinement of workers with disabilities to their own workplaces is one reason why the legislation is so important, Rice said.

But the most pressing issue is ensuring that employers can no longer pay their workers with disabilities a subminimum wage, which constitutes a civil rights violation, said Rice, a public policy specialist for People on the Go, an advocacy group for Marylanders with physical and mental disabilities.

"We have a practice here that singles out people with disabilities," Rice said, "and says that because you are judged to be less than productive, then we can pay you less than any other group of people within the state."

The legislation tapers off the ability for employers to receive permission to pay less

than the minimum wage to workers with disabilities, but allows companies that received a 14(c) certificate before the Oct. 1, 2016, deadline to continue paying subminimum wages under certain circumstances for four years.

By Oct. 1, 2017, the Developmental Disabilities Administration and the Department of Disabilities must submit a plan to the governor and the General Assembly outlining the transition away from subminimum wages, which becomes final on Oct. 1, 2020.

Starting Oct. 1, 2016, the Maryland Commissioner of Labor and Industry may not authorize additional work centers to pay their workers a subminimum wage.

But if a work center held a

See WAGES Page A6

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Barbershop: The Next Cut

Barbershop: The Next Cut
Grade: B-
Rated PG-13, a lot of profanity and some strong sexual dialogue
1 hr., 52 min

Spike Lee's most recent movie, *Chi-Raq*, was a satirical comedy about efforts to curb gang violence in Chicago's black neighborhoods. Not many people saw it (though it's great—it made my top 10 list last year); like a lot of Spike Lee films, its anger makes it a tough sell. But by sheer coincidence, here comes *Barbershop: The Next Cut*—a mildly funny but wholly sincere comedy from Lee's cousin, Malcolm D. Lee, that covers a lot of the same ground, but in a congenial, non-confrontational, we-don't-have-the-answers-but-let's-talk-about-it kind of way. Less effective, maybe, but certainly more palatable.

It's a sequel to the *Barbershop* films from 2002 and 2004, though you don't need to be familiar with them to enjoy the new one. (I was positive there hadn't already been a sequel ... until I stumbled across my review of it.) Calvin (Ice Cube) still runs his neighborhood barbershop, with old-timer Eddie (Cedric the Entertainer) cutting hair alongside him. Calvin has also added some new barbers—his old friend Rashad (Common), wry commentator Jerrod (Lamorne Morris), token non-African-American Raja (Utkarsh Ambudkar), and jack-of-all-trades hustler One-Stop (J.B. Smoove)—and expanded the business to include services for women's hair, handled by responsible Angie (Regina Hall), slutty Draya (Nicki Minaj), and intelligent Bree (Margot Bingham).

The plot is a rambling, loose-knit thing, but the meat



It's been more than 10 years since our last appointment at Calvin's Barbershop. Calvin and his longtime crew, including Eddie, are still there, but the shop has undergone some major changes. Most noticeably, our once male-dominated sanctuary is now co-ed. The ladies bring their own flavor, drama and gossip to the shop challenging the fellas at every turn. Despite the good times and camaraderie within the shop, the surrounding community has taken a turn for the worse, forcing Calvin and our crew to come together to not only save the shop, but their neighborhood.

of it is that gun violence has gotten worse lately, and Calvin's teenage son Jalen (Michael Rainey Jr.) and Rashad's boy Kenny (Diallo Thompson) are starting to have contact with gang members in their everyday lives. As a symbolic gesture, Calvin makes his shop neutral ground for a 48-hour gang ceasefire, offering free haircuts to anyone who comes in, be they Blood, Crip, or unaffiliated. There are also subplots about Draya hitting on Rashad in front of Rashad's wife (Eve), a local scammer (Anthony Anderson) trying to capitalize on the ceasefire, and Calvin's internal conflict over whether to move the shop to a safer neighborhood.

Most of that is negligible. What makes the film work is the same thing that worked for the original *Barbershop*: colorful characters cracking on each other, telling stories, and discussing the problems of the black community and America in general. They talk about guns, racism, and the police, name-checking the men and boys who have sadly become symbols (Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, etc.). The women offer their perspective on the ongoing battle between "the good girls and the ho's" (some of which plays out right there in the barbershop), and about hair weaves and fake butts. Eddie earns some dark laughs joking about how much worse things used to be, claiming

to have almost been lynched on two occasions: the first time, they couldn't tie the knot; the second time, the tree wasn't tall enough.

Written by Kenya Barris (creator of TV's *Black-ish*) and Tracy Oliver, the film raises tough questions honestly, but of course it can only address them as deeply as its formula (Inoffensive Mainstream African-American Comedy) allows, yielding little insight. As well-meaning but insubstantial "issues" movies go, though, it's a pleasant one, with a large, likable cast and a palpable respect for the community it represents. Filmmakers using cinema to explore humanity's problems, even lightly, is what separates us from the animals, y'all.

Wages from A5

14(c) certificate before the Oct. 1 2016 deadline, they can continue paying their workers with disabilities below the minimum wage until October 2020 as long as they notify the employee of other job opportunities and have a plan for healthcare services that

help with daily functioning.

But the bills also allow those centers that have a certificate granted before 2016 to continue paying their workers below the "prevailing wage"—or the pay given to a majority of workers in a certain field—after the 2020 deadline, as long as they keep

the certification.

To determine an employee's specific wage, employers conduct a "time trial."

Melwood, a work activity center that employs those with disabilities in mostly custodial and landscaping jobs, stopped performing those tests this February. But before that,

Carla Walker, the time studies administrator for the center, conducted roughly 800 of the trials every year.

Walker would begin the trials by using a stopwatch to record how long it takes three non-disabled people to complete a set of tasks and calculating the combined average time. Then she would time how long it takes a worker with disabilities to complete the same task, which is based off of the job they wish to have.

The worker's wage was then set proportionally by comparing the time it took them to complete the task against the combined average of the three non-disabled workers.

Nancy Pineles, a managing attorney for the Maryland Disability Law Center, said that process is inherently unfair to those with disabilities.

"Each of us who don't have disabilities, we are not measured based on our productivity, but our productivity varies pretty widely among our peers," Pineles said. "Only people with disabilities are studied in this way, and some are paid as little as eight cents an hour. How does that work?"

In March, one month after Melwood did away with the trials, the work center sent out the first paycheck that gives all workers a rate that is at or above the minimum wage.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Ken Burns on Jackie Robinson and the Republican Party's 'Pact With the Devil'



Ken Burns believes that Jackie Robinson's mid-century life is a deeply under-appreciated lens for understanding our roiling political present. I interviewed Ken Burns about his triumphant two-part PBS documentary—co-created with Sarah Burns and David McMahon—about the player who smashed baseball's color line but also confronted so much more. "Think about what [Robinson] was dealing with," Burns said to me, "the Confederate flag, driving while black, stop and frisk, #BlackLivesMatter, burning black churches ... Jackie is not only inspirational but an agent for how we try to digest the current situation about race."

With four hours of running time, Burns is able to create a three-dimensional portrait of Robinson, beyond caricature or hagiography. He is also, in the second part, which airs Tuesday night, able to use Robinson as a lens to understand why the Republicans and Democratic parties are so sclerotic on issues of race. As Burns said, "Robinson was there in 1960 and 1964 when the two parties switched sides on the Southern white vote, and that's a huge moment in American history. He witnessed it firsthand."

Robinson, sure enough, was present at the 1960 Democratic Convention as well as 1964 Republican Convention, and what he saw left him distraught. Jackie was a lifelong Republican because the Democratic Party's Dixiecrat wing ran his family out of Georgia. In 1960, angered that Richard Nixon ignored his requests to help a jailed Martin Luther King, he considered endorsing John Kennedy and attended the Democratic National Convention. He also had friends telling him that this senator from Massachusetts was serious about civil rights. Yet Kennedy was still trying to hold that Dixiecrat coalition together and sat segregationist Governor of Arkansas Orval Faubus on stage. Robinson walked out in disgust.

In 1964, Robinson endorsed New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller and attended the Republican National Convention as a "Rockefeller Republican" delegate, only to witness the ascension of Barry Goldwater as his party made its play for Southern whites enraged at Lyndon Johnson's support for the Civil Rights Act. He saw, in Burns's words to me, the moment when "the Republican Party made a pact with the devil for which they are still paying, from Ronald Reagan beginning his campaign in Philadelphia, Mississippi, saying 'I'm for states' rights,' through Willie Horton, through, now, Donald Trump taking a couple days to—wink, wink—disavow David Duke and white supremacy in the Ku Klux Klan."

Burns described the scene that Robinson witnessed firsthand at the 1964 RNC: a place where, "out of thirteen hundred delegates, 15 were black, and of those 15, one had his credentials revoked and another had cigarettes put out on him by Goldwater supporters. There was an angry Alabama delegate who wanted to get into a fight with Jackie, and Jackie was ready to do it. Unfortunately, the delegate's wife held him back and it didn't happen." It was after this scene that Robinson later said he now had "a better understanding of how it must have felt to be a Jew in Hitler's Germany."

While Jackie Robinson was trying to find a political home, a new generation of black activists were not waiting for the two-party system to catch up with their demands. Many of these movement leaders classified Jackie as an "Uncle Tom," and Ken Burns explores this painful part of the story as well: the debates with Malcolm X and the Panthers and Jackie's own despair at the state of the nation.

Burns believes passionately—you can hear it in his voice—that this story speaks to the current moment and "sets us up to talk about our best selves" in a way that's open and honest, because "history is a table in which we can still have a civil discourse."

And we need this discussion now more than ever. As Burns said, "A leading candidate for president of the United States takes two days to disavow David Duke and the KKK, and that goes right back to the Goldwater calculus of 'let's go hunt where the ducks are.' And Republicans who are surprised are crying wolf. You cannot be surprised if you are in Dr. Frankenstein's lab that suddenly you created a monster."

I would add to that, the spectacle, three days after my interview with Burns, of Bill Clinton trying to sell the welfare reform and mass incarceration of the 1990s and

ATTENTION GOLFERS! Christmas in April needs you!!

Help Us Celebrate 28 Years in the County!

Andrews Air Force Base
September 26, 2016 all day—The Courses at AAFB

Prince George's County Christmas in April is sponsoring its 27th Annual Christmas in April • Prince George's County Susan Denison Mona Golf Tournament on September 26, 2016, at The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base. All profits from the tournament go toward funding the 2017 program, which renovates the homes of elderly and disabled residents of Prince George's County at no cost to the homeowner.

Golfers and sponsors are needed!

Please call 301-868-0937 to register for the tournament. Fees include a buffet, cart, tee and green fees, prizes, refreshments on the course, and more.

Your participation will enable Christmas in April to repair the hearts and homes of 90 needy families in 2017. Please call soon as space is limited.

See KEN BURNS Page A10

See WAGES Page A7

Calendar of Events

May 26, — June 1, 2016

Xtreme Teens: Music Mix Basketball

Date and Time: Friday, May 27, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Tonight teens will compete in a 5-on-5 basketball game while listening to their favorite music.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Fitness Night

Date and Time: Friday, May 27, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: May is National Fitness Month! The fitness room will be open to you to learn how to use the equipment.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

The Art of Yoga

Date and Time: Saturday, May 28, 2016, 11 am
Description: Enjoy an hour-long yoga class in the beautiful galleries of Montpelier Arts Center. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat. Following the class, explore the art exhibitions in the galleries and discover the gorgeous grounds of Montpelier.
Cost: Free
Ages: Ages 18 & up
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Nature Photography

Date and Time: Saturday, May 28, 2016, 9 am–12 noon
Description: Join us for a nature hike at one of our nearby natural areas in search of nature areas to photograph. You'll learn the tricks of the trade to capture great photographs. Bring water, sunscreen, and wear weather appropriate clothing. All cameras welcome.
Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-Resident: \$4
Ages: Ages 13 & up
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

Sunset Boat Tour

Date and Time: Saturday, May 28, 2016, 6–7:30 pm
Description: Board a pontoon boat for a quiet, sunset cruise on the picturesque Patuxent River. Refreshments will be served.
Cost: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$4
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Memorial Day Cookout

Date and Time: Saturday, May 28, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Enjoy a Memorial Day Cookout with your Xtreme Teens family! Eat delicious food, play games, or just kick it with your friends.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Bladensburg Community Center
4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD
Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Pajama Jam Skate Party

Date and Time: Saturday, May 28, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Get dressed in your pajamas for a fun skating night. Skate to your favorite music and enjoy a fun night with your friends. Skates will be provided; please wear socks.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: North Brentwood Community Center
4012 Webster Street, North Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-864-0756; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Chess Night

Date and Time: Saturday, May 28, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Teens will play Bring a friend and test your analytical and strategic skills with a game of chess. Do you have what it takes to be the Chess King/Queen?
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Columbia Park Community Center
1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

Public Reception: Melissa Burley

Date and Time: Friday, June 10, 2016, 7–9 pm
Description: Melissa Burley creates sculptural assemblages that elevate both man-made and recycled materials to a level that suggests that there is beauty in life after death. She hopes to open the eyes of others to consider his or her role in the preservation of our earth.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Wellness: Walk and Talk with the Doc: Suitland Community Center

Date and Time: Thursday, June 2, 2016, 7:30–8:30 am
Description: We know that walking is one of the best ways to stay healthy. It is also one of the best ways to connect with others! A local health care professional will lead a group walk, share wellness tips, and answer your questions. No registration is required. Just grab your tennis shoes and join the fun!
Cost: FREE
Ages: All Ages
Location: Suitland Community Center
5600 Regency Lane, Forestville, MD
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Electric Cars for the Masses, Finally!

Forthcoming Tesla Model 3 Especially Exciting to Fans of Electric Cars

Dear EarthTalk:

I'm finally ready to make the switch from my old gas guzzler to an electric or plug-in hybrid car. What are the best bang-for-my-buck deals on these newfangled vehicles?

—Mickey LaMonte,
Boston, MA

With each new model year, automakers continue to expand their offerings of affordable and fun electric cars and plug-in hybrids. While consumers obviously want these new cars, this year's phase-in of President Obama's higher automotive fuel efficiency standards have given automakers another reason to step up the manufacturing of less consumptive vehicles that compete in price with their gas and diesel counterparts. Also, new car buyers can cash in on up to \$7,500 in federal tax incentives (and possibly more from their own state—check out the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy to find out) to help defray the costs of getting into an EV or plug-in hybrid. What this means is that giving up gas has never been so easy—or cheap.

A case in point is Ford's redesigned C-Max Energi, a plug-in hybrid that gives drivers a range of up to 500 miles as well

as 19 miles of all-electric driving for under \$28,000 factoring in the federal tax rebate. Not to be outdone, General Motors' Chevrolet brand is coming on strong with several of its own affordable EVs and plug-in hybrids. The Spark Electric gets more than 80 miles per charge and can be had for less than \$19,000. Chevy fans looking for a beefier engine and torquier ride can opt for the Volt plug-in hybrid, which runs for 380 miles using its gas engine as a generator or 38 miles on electric battery power alone—all for less than \$27,000.

Meanwhile, German automakers continue to innovate on the electric vehicle front. BMW's all-electric I3 EV zooms from zero to 60 in seven quiet seconds and, despite its punky look, drives just like a ... Beemer. The all-electric base version of the I3 can be had for around \$35,000 and gets drivers 81 miles per charge, but owners can opt to add a small back-up gas engine (for another \$4,000) turning the car into a plug-in hybrid with a 150-mile range.

While Volkswagen may be in the dog house with environmentalists given its diesel emissions cheating scandal, the company is making some amends with the new all-electric version of its zippy sport-tuned hatchback, the e-Golf. Factoring in the federal



PHOTO COURTESY OF EARTH TALK

Tesla's sporty new all-electric Model 3 can go 215 miles per charge and will cost consumers less than \$30k after federal tax rebates when it rolls off California production lines in 2017.

EV tax credit, customers can drive off in a new e-Golf for less than \$23,000—a great deal on a cutting edge fuel efficient vehicle if there ever was one.

If even that seems like too much money, consider an even smaller electric car. Smart's FourTwo Coupe is a two-seater, around-town EV that will set you back just \$13,000 following the federal tax rebate. Another logical choice is Mitsubishi's similarly compact i-MiEV for under \$16,000.

While all these choices are well and good if you need a car ASAP, those willing to wait until next year might want to hold out for Tesla's forthcoming Model

3, a sporty all-electric sedan with a 215 mile range. The car will retail for \$35,000, meaning that consumers should be able to get it for \$27,500 after the federal tax rebate. Tesla is hoping that the solid range, sporty drive train and stylish look might just make the Model 3 the "it" EV on the market when it hits showroom floors in 2017.

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Send questions to:
earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Wages from A6

That translated into a pay raise for around 400 of the over 900 employees with disabilities that Melwood oversees, said Cari DeSantis, the work center's president and CEO.

Before Melwood ceased the time trials, DeSantis said, some workers with disabilities filed complaints to the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which enforces federal employment discrimination laws. She said those questions put Melwood in an awkward position of defending the practice as legal while understanding the workers' legitimate concerns.

"Our mission calls us to envision a world where people with differing disabilities are fully included," DeSantis said. "So how can people with differing disabilities be included if they aren't given the opportunity to have wages like the rest of us?"

But DeSantis concedes that funding the switch to higher wages was also a concern.

"We struggled to make it work because it has a financial impact, but it's the right thing to do," she said. "It will now become important for us to do fundraising and tighten our operational spending so we can keep up that vocational support."

Chimes International, an organization that provides educational and job services for workers with disabilities, was originally opposed to the legislation. But amendments, including one that mandated a supplemental work plan to aid workers with disabilities in community integration, assuaged their concerns.

"Chimes' concerns (sic) ... was that individuals with disabilities not be harmed," Marty Lampner, chief executive officer of Chimes International, wrote in an email. "Chimes concerns are being addressed (through amendments) and as an organization we will continue to work with concerned legislators" as the bill becomes implemented and moves forward.

Kenneth Simon, a custodial worker at Melwood, didn't necessarily dislike the time trials. They allowed him to increase his speed at certain

tasks, he said, but they also made him afraid of "being at the bottom" of the pay rate compared to his coworkers.

"I felt scared," Simon said. "I didn't know how well I was gonna do. I like to clean and I didn't want to do my job for nothing."

Rice said he understands the concerns of some opponents

to the legislation, who are wary that employers will be hesitant to hire workers with disabilities, potentially leaving some without jobs. But he also points to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, when some were concerned about working with black Americans, as a parallel of the current issue.

"People with disabilities are unfortunately facing a similar level of opposition when it comes to employment," Rice said. "But we should not fear change; we should embrace change."

The bill is on the desk of Gov. Larry Hogan. The bill is under review and there is not yet a timeline for signing it, a spokeswoman said Thursday.