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Intellectually Disabled Students Gain New Friends Through Sports

By ETHAN BARTON
Capital News Service

EDEN — Students with and without intellectual disabilities compete alongside each other across the state, thanks to programs like Interscholastic Unified Sports, run by Special Olympics Maryland.

The program allows students with intellectual disabilities to participate in sports, promotes non-traditional friendships and helps deconstruct stereotypes.

"Interscholastic Unified Sports provides an opportunity for ... an inclusive environment



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ETHAN BARTON

Lincoln Busek, a Special Olympics athlete at Wicomico High School, happily expresses his love for Interscholastic Unified Sports.

where individuals with disabilities participate on a team with students who don't have disabili-

ties," Jim Schmutz, president and CEO of Special Olympics Maryland said.

A 2008 law required that Maryland public schools provide equal athletic opportunities for students with disabilities. There were byproducts of the law, aside from equal rights and a greater opportunity for healthy lifestyles.

"It's given the opportunity to kids who potentially wouldn't interact during the day and has given them an activity they can do together," said Stosh Schtier-

See **DISABLED**, Page A5



PHOTO COURTESY: MARYLAND COMPTROLLERS OFFICE.

Dr. Kevin Maxwell, CEO, Prince George's County Public Schools and Comptroller Peter Franchot, stand alongside the county's three Maryland Masters Award recipients: Jada Pigford, Natayl Martinez-Ayala and Egypt Nash.

Three Prince George's County Students Honored with Maryland Masters Awards

Art Unveiling Ceremony Recognizes Elementary, Middle, and High School Students -

By KIM FRUM
Maryland Office of the Comptroller

Annapolis, Md. — Comptroller Peter Franchot presented his Maryland Masters Awards to three Prince George's County students at a ceremony on Monday at the Prince George's County Board of Education Building in Upper Marlboro. The students honored included Egypt Nash, Jada Pigford and Natayl Martinez-Ayala.

Egypt Nash, a third grader at Overlook Elementary School, drew a cityscape of houses under the midnight stars; Jada Pigford, an eighth grade student at Benjamin D. Foulis Creative & Performing Arts Academy, used oil pastels to create

a drawing of a cheetah's eye; and Natayl Martinez-Ayala, a twelfth grader at High Point High School, drew an expressive self-portrait.

The Maryland Master Award recognizes young, talented artists who have displayed extraordinary artistic skills, reflecting the vision of Maryland's future. The Comptroller initiated the awards program to celebrate the achievements and talents of students from throughout the state enrolled in public schools from Kindergarten to 12th grade. The students' art will be on exhibit for two months at the Comptroller's Office in An-

See **AWARDS**, Page A5

Maryland Senate Passes Marijuana Decriminalization Bill

By SARAH TINCHER
Capital News Service

After a 22-minute debate, the Maryland Senate passed a bill to decriminalize recreational use and possession of small amounts of marijuana in the state with a bipartisan vote of 36 to 8.

If passed by the House and signed into law, the legislation would reclassify the possession or use of less than 10 grams of marijuana as a civil offense punishable by a \$100 fine. It is currently a criminal offense punishable to no more than 90 days in jail and a fine of up to \$500. Convicted ju-

veniles and, in accordance with an amendment proposed by Sen. Christopher Shank, R-Washington, adults convicted for a third or subsequent time could also be mandated in court to attend drug treatment or education programs.

Bill co-sponsor Sen. Robert Zirkin, D-Baltimore County, told lawmakers Friday that the 18 states that have already decriminalized small amounts of marijuana have seen "no discernable effect."

"When [the other states] moved from a criminal to a civil statute, there has been no increase in drugged driving, no increase in marijuana use-

age, no increase in the so-called 'gateway effect,'" Zirkin said. Opponents have previously argued that marijuana can be a 'gateway' to more dangerous drugs.

Shank, who sponsored another amendment that would direct revenue from citations to the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to combat drug abuse, also testified in favor of the bill. He did, however, acknowledge that he is opposed to the drug's legalization.

See **SENATE**, Page A7

Bill Would Ban E-Cigarette Use in Public Places

By MELANIE BALAKIT
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — David Purdy started smoking when he was 15 years old. He tried nicotine patches to kick his cigarette habit. Later, he tried Nicorette gum. But nothing worked.

Then a neighbor, who was also a heavy smoker, introduced him to an e-cigarette, a battery-operated device that mimics smoking a traditional cigarette. Unlike a tobacco cigarette, it emits vapor, not smoke.

E-cigarettes contain a liquid solution that usually contains a mix of nicotine, flavoring, and propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin. The device heats up the solution to emit vapor that users inhale.

Within three months, Purdy said his neighbor was able to quit smoking with the help of e-cigarettes. Purdy, then 47, decided to give it a try.

"Within a month I started feeling the health benefits of it," Purdy said. "I started tasting food again much better, started breathing much better ... I could feel my body responding to not smoking anymore."

Purdy eventually quit smoking, and began researching the possibility of opening his own e-cigarette store.

"I saw the industry taking off and knowing the health benefits, found out it was a viable opportunity," Purdy said, referring to using e-cigarettes as a tool to quit smoking.

"I threw everything I had at it," said Purdy, referring to establishing his e-cigarette store, 2 Vapes, located in the Cape St. Claire shopping center in Annapolis. The storefront is about the size of a large living room, with three main display cases. Star Wars figurines and other small toys decorate the counter tops.

"Here I am, and I'm doing quite well," said Purdy, now 50.

Other Maryland e-cigarette store owners have similar stories to Purdy.

Ronald Ward, owner of The Vapers' Edge in Parkville, started his e-cigarette store shortly after kicking his 30-year smoking habit. So did Joshua Grapes and Jessica Seminerio, who own The Vapor Room in Frostburg.

The rise of e-cigarette stores, both online and physical shops, as well as the growing number



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Most e-cigarette users add flavoring to their e-cigarette liquid. E-cigarette liquid, commonly known as juice, usually have a mix of nicotine, flavoring, propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin. Users can also choose to use e-cigarette liquid without nicotine.

of e-cigarette users, is increasing in Maryland and beyond.

As the popularity of e-cigarettes continues to rise, so does the concern over the health implications of e-cigarettes. There's decades of research that concludes that tobacco smoke from traditional cigarettes is harmful.

For e-cigarettes, it's just too early to tell.

The FDA does not currently regulate e-cigarettes, so it's up

to states and local governments to establish regulations.

Chicago, Boston, New York, Washington D.C., and most recently Los Angeles, ban the use of e-cigarettes in restaurants, bars, nightclubs and other public spaces. In Los Angeles, the use of e-cigarettes in 'vapor lounges' is permitted.

See **E-CIGARETTE**, Page A7

Wanted: A Few More Women Pilots

By AMANDA SALVICCI
Capital News Service

FREDERICK—More than 100 years since the first woman earned her pilot's license, there is still a significant gap between the number of women and men involved in aviation.

A group at the Frederick Municipal Airport wants to help change the fact that less than 6 percent of pilots are women.

"It's not too difficult. It's not just a man's world. It's available and women make some of the best pilots out there. We're hoping to let everybody know that," said Lin Caywood, a private pilot at Frederick Municipal Airport and member of Women Fly-It-Forward.

Caywood is one of the volunteers who participate in the Fly-It-Forward Challenge, one of the many events for Women of Aviation Worldwide Week held recently to educate women about flying.

Pilots who volunteer for the Fly-It-Forward Challenge fly girls and women on their first small aircraft flight.

The Women of Aviation Worldwide Week was started in 2010 to

celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first certified woman pilot, Raymonde de Laroche of France. Laroche earned her license on March 8, 1910.

"This is our ability to bring awareness and celebrate the accomplishments of women of aviation, and to let people understand and explore some of the careers that are available to them in aviation," Caywood said.

In addition to the low number of pilot's licenses held by women, less than 3 percent of aircraft mechanics are women and women make up only 9 percent of aeronautical engineers.

The program is designed to let girls and women know that these types of opportunities exist for them, and to break stereotypes of aviation being a man's world.

"Traditionally, from the stereotype, you grow up playing with dolls, not playing with engines," Caywood said.

But even someone not exposed to mechanics at an early age can pick up flying.

"You don't have to grow up a gear-head or being the tomboy to learn how to fly or enjoy it," Caywood said.

INSIDE

Lt. Governor Brown Kicks Off Community-Based Environmental Clean Up in Baltimore

At the event, Brown gave brief remarks to local high school students, volunteers and staff and went on a practice field survey with several students to learn about the work they are doing.

Community, Page A3

Cesar Chavez Day Calls Us to Unite to End Poverty and Honor the Dignity of Work

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

— Cesar Chavez

Commentary, Page A4

Early E-Book Gamble Pays Off For Maryland Libraries

Maryland's political structure made it easy to facilitate the consortium's creation. In Maryland, each county's libraries pool their collections, allowing for easy statewide book-sharing. Other states have more independent libraries, making a statewide e-book collection less feasible.

Business, Page A5

MovieReview: "Bad Words?"

Guy Trilby a 40-year old who finds a loophole in the rules of the National Quill Spelling Bee and decides to cause trouble by hijacking the competition. Contest officials, outraged parents, and overly ambitious 8th graders are no match for Guy, as he ruthlessly crushes their dreams of victory and fame.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the environmental impact of those "K-Cups" everyone seems to be using nowadays to make coffee at both home and office?

-- Chris B,
Stamford, Ct

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

All-volunteer Morningside VFD one of busiest in U.S.

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is the 12th busiest Heavy Rescue Company in the nation. In 2013 they responded to more than 6,000 calls for service and have already had more than 1,000 runs in 2014.

MVFD #27 has been all-volunteer since January. And to add to the more than 50 current volunteers, there's Nolan. He is a pup that belongs to their new member, Grace Roloson. Nolan enjoys his time at 27 and has become the firehouse mascot.

The Department was established 70 years ago, in 1944, after the tragic loss of two lives in a house fire on Pine Grove Drive. The first fire truck was a 1929 Model A Ford purchased from the Oxon Hill VFD for \$250. The firehouse was built in 1945.

Jean Glaubitz honored by Morningside, County fire departments

The Morningside firehouse is draped in black bunting in memory of Jean Glaubitz, Life Member and President of the Auxiliary, who died March 19 at the age of 88.

She was born in Lincoln, Nebr., daughter of William John and Anna Fredrica Quapp. In last week's column I told you how 16-year-old Jean Quapp met a sailor, Gerald Glaubitz, at the five-and-dime where she worked in the days shortly before Pearl Harbor. And how they married in Dec. 1942.

After the war, in 1947, Jean and Jerry moved to 507 Maple Road in Morningside, the house—now standing empty—where Jean lived until she moved to assisted-living homes, the final one, The Heritage in Solomon.

During the years when Jerry was mayor, head of firefighters' organizations and president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors, Jean was there at his side, helping in any way she could, the best possible wife and companion. She was also president of the Morningside VFD Auxiliary, the Morningside Senior Citi-

zens, and an officer in many other organizations.

Jean's husband of 62 years, Jerry Glaubitz, died in 2005. She was the mother of Carol Lee, Larry Glaubitz and the late Gerald Glaubitz; grandmother of James Lee, Dawn LaBar, Robert Lee III and Michael Glaubitz. She also leaves great-grandchildren and many friends. Viewing was at Lee Funeral Home in Owings, with a service by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association.

Memorials may be made in Jean's name to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, P O Drawer 498, Emmetsburg, MD 21727.

Neighbors

Tamya Matthews, 7th-grader at Mount Calvary School in Forestville, won the County Spelling Bee on March 14 with the word "prosciutto." She'll represent Prince George's in Scripps National Spelling Bee May 25-31 at National Harbor.

Winnie Lanehart, of Skyline, is proud of grandson Chester Lanehart IV, whose band at Margaret Brent Middle School in St. Mary's County won the Battle of the Bands on March 18. Chester, an 8th grader, plays percussion.

Robert Dwight Jenkins, retired Navy Chief Petty Officer and part-time Commissary bagger was honored for his 30 years of working at the commissary and his 98th birthday on March 13. He continues to bag Tuesday through Friday, 9 to 11 a.m.

Condolences to Kathy Giroux Levanduski, formerly of Morningside, on the death of her father-in-law, Louis Levanduski of Waldorf, Feb. 28.

Condolences to my daughter Elaine and her husband Luke, on the death of Luke's mother, Florence Seidman, 93, of Bogart, Ga.

Changing landscape

Mayor Vincent Gray has proposed spending \$300 million for a new medical center on the campus of St. Elizabeths

Hospital. It would replace the United Medical Center, which started life as Greater Southeast Community Hospital.

Capt. Billy's, in Pope's Creek, opened for the season on March 14. Can't wait to drive down there for a true Southern Maryland experience.

The used-book room at Surratts Library is now open whenever the library is. You pay for your purchase by using the lockbox.

Wear your best tartan

Celebrate National Tartan Day at Darnall's Chance in Upper Marlboro on April 5 with traditional Scottish tea fare. Enter a drawing to win Scottish-themed door prizes by wearing your clan's best tartan! You're not Scottish? Wear plaid to be eligible. Reservations and payment (\$22) are due in advance. Call 301-952-8010.

May they rest in peace

Oscar F. Dobson, 89, of Clinton, owner of Dobson Heating & Air Conditioning, died Feb. 28. During World War II, he saw action in Europe, earning many medals. He was a member of the Elks in Camp Springs and the American Legion in Clinton. He rode a motorcycle, owned a boat and a horse, drove a Buick, excelled at bowling, horseshoes, and 500 rummy. His wife of 62 years, Evelyn, died in 2005. Survivors include son John, daughter Linda Forsht, five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

William Kenneth "Ken" Bowie, 83, charter member and deacon of the District Heights Presbyterian Church, died March 4.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Motoko Howard, April 4; Earlene Erhardt Righter, Jimmy Shipman and Kaitlin Woods, April 5; Jonathan Charters, April 6; Debbie Callison, April 8; and Donna Wood, April 11.

Happy anniversary to Chuck and Laura Smith Jenkins on April 10, and to Tex and Rickie Beardmore, their Golden Anniversary on April 11.

info@worldviewchristiancenter.com for more information.

COMMUNITY DANCE

Attention all dancers and non-dancers. St. Philip's Church will be having Fun Night with Line and Hand Dancing on Friday, April 4, 2014 and April 18, 2014 from 7:00 PM -9:00 PM. The location is St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish Fellowship Hall 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426. Come out and participate in the latest dances and have some fun. Admission is \$2.00.

PATUXENT RIVER 4-H CENTER

Patuxent River Educational Center is open to groups by reservation. The address is 18405 Queen Anne Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Telephone number is 301-218-3079; TTY 301-699-2544. Facility rentals, group camping, overnight cabins, 4-H activities, environmental education programs and farming programs are offered at the center.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Continues "2014 HBCU STEM Tour" with Visit to Bowie State University

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) continued her "2014 HBCU STEM Tour" yesterday with a visit to Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland. During Congresswoman Edwards' visit, she met with President Dr. Mickey L. Burnim, students, and faculty. She also toured the Education Innovation Initiative, the Virtual Reality Program, and the Mobile Apps Research program in the Computer Science Building along with the Protein Crystallography and Bioinformatics Program, the Genomics and Biotechnology Program, and the Medicinal Chemistry Program in the George Crawford Science Building.

As a senior member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Congresswoman Edwards is visiting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to tour their facilities and gain additional insight on how best to engage women and minorities in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

Congresswoman Edwards:

"We must promote the engagement of women and minorities in STEM fields so that they may compete and succeed in our 21st Century, global economy. I was encouraged by the strong work of President Burnim and Bowie State University, especially the university's engagement of young people and their cutting edge anti-malarial and small molecules research. With the introduction this week of the America Competes Act of 2014, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to advance legislation that invests in STEM education, promotes preparing our young people for careers in the sciences, and strengthens America's prosperity through technological innovation."

Bowie State University President, Dr. Mickey L. Burnim:

"I was pleased to welcome Congresswoman Edwards to Bowie State University and to share our new signature program, the Education Innovation Initiative (E12), aimed at increasing hands-on experiences for our students to tackle real-world problems with corporate and government partners in the STEM disciplines and also opening a pipeline, beginning in kindergarten, to get more young minorities excited about careers in the sciences. Bowie State is committed to producing many more highly qualified graduates needed to help maintain America's national security and technological competitiveness in a changing world. I applaud Congresswoman Edwards for her continuing efforts to advance legislation to enhance STEM education."

Vice Chair Dorothy F. Bailey Inducted Into the Maryland's Women Hall of Fame

Upper Marlboro, MD-Dorothy F. Bailey, Vice Chairman of the Prince George's County Planning Board for The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), will be inducted in the Maryland



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Women's Hall of Fame today, March 20, 2014. Ms. Bailey along with five other prominent women of Maryland will be honored and inducted during a reception and ceremony held in Annapolis, Maryland at the Government House.

The Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators for Maryland established the Women's Hall of Fame in 1985. It is designed to honor those women in Maryland who have made contributions to the state's growth in the areas of economics, politics, cultural and social life, and are visible models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders. A plaque listing the names of the inductees will be on display at the State Law Library in Annapolis, MD.

Vice Chairman Bailey has served Prince George's County government admirably for more than three decades. She has worked for the Executive Branch of Prince George's County Government, serving as a senior-level official at many agencies, including tenures as Executive Director of the Consumer Protection Commission, Commission for Families and as Community Partnerships Director at the Department of Family Services. She was also elected and served as Council Member for the Seventh District on the Prince George's County Council where she led the Council for five years, serving as Vice Chair for three terms and Chair for two terms.

Ms. Bailey's continued service to the residents of Prince George's County after leaving elected office is also distinguished – having served as a parent liaison for the Prince George's County Public Schools; founder of several groups, including the Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Program, Harlem Remembrance Foundation, Prince George's County Fatherhood Conference, Royal Bafokeng Sister City Friendship Committee, Prince George's County Executive Youth Advisory Council, and Prince George's County Truth, a branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). She is a graduate of Leadership of Greater Washington (Class of 1998), an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., previously served as a national board member of the National Council of Negro Women, and author of "In A Different Light: Reflections and Beauty of Wise Women of Color."

County Executive Baker Hosts 29th Annual Prince George's County Women's History Month Luncheon
Upper Marlboro, MD – The 29th Annual Prince

George's County Women's History Month Luncheon themed "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment" was held on Thursday, March 20, 2014, at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland. NBC4 reporter and anchor, Erica Gonzalez, will serve as mistress of ceremonies. Author and motivational speaker Jewel Diamond Taylor delivered the keynote address.

As is past tradition, during the luncheon, the coveted Gladys Noon Spellman Award for Outstanding Public Service will be presented to a Prince George's County Government woman who is a resident of the County, possesses strong leadership abilities, has a track record of success and contributes to the community through outside interests and activities. In addition, the 2014 Gladys Noon Spellman Scholarship recipients was also recognized.

The Gladys Noon Spellman Award was established in 1986 as a lasting tribute to Congresswoman Spellman and her accomplishments during her long and outstanding career in public service. Throughout her career, Gladys Noon Spellman successfully spearheaded many efforts to effect social and political reform in all facets of life for her native Prince George's County, for the State of Maryland and for the nation.

In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

Cardin Applauds Senate Confirmation of Marylander Sarah Bloom Raskin as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), a member of the Senate Finance Committee applauded the confirmation of Sarah Bloom Raskin of Maryland to become the next Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

"I am proud to have a fellow Marylander among the financial leaders that are guiding our economy towards future growth and stability. Sarah Bloom Raskin's impressive résumé and reverence for public service make her particularly well-suited to be at the upper ranks of America's fiscal leadership. Once sworn into office, she will be the highest ranking woman in the history of the Treasury Department.

Sarah understands the value of public service and has a strong track record of success during turbulent economic times. In 2007, Sarah was appointed Commissioner of Financial Regulation for the State of Maryland. In that role, she significantly improved consumer protections and supported banks through the many challenges of the financial crisis. For the past several years, Sarah has served on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Her deep financial and regulatory knowledge and sound judgment made her an essential asset during her tenure there. "

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

IT'S CASINO TIME AGAIN

It's Casino time again so come join us on our after Mother's Day Casino Trip. We will be going to Harrington Raceway and Midway Casino in Harrington Delaware on Sunday, May 18, 2014. Bus will leave Park-N-Ride, Clinton MD at 10:30 AM and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 AM and returns at approximately 7:00 PM.

Fun package includes a \$10.00 rebate plus a full buffet meal. Donation is \$40.00. There are absolutely no refunds. Benefit: St. Philip's Church-Bull Roast. For tickets contact Doretha Savoy (301) 372-6173, Ernest Douglas (301) 888-1937 and Shirley Cleaves (302) 690-4260.

WEE EDUCARE

WEE EDUCARE is a state of Maryland Licensed Childcare Center located in Upper Marlboro. They currently offer Aftercare Services for school aged children (Ages 5-12). Phone: (301) 267-2035 or email: info@wee-educare.com. You can also visit the website: www.wee-educare.com.

SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES

The Young Adults Ministry at Clinton United Methodist Church is sponsoring a trip Saturday, August 16, 2014 (6:30PM Show) to see MOSES. Cost: (show, meal & gratuity, transportation, refreshment on bus). Adult: \$135 (over 18 yrs.); Youth: \$100 (13-18 yrs.); Child: \$95 (3-12 yrs.). Payment schedule is 1/3 due on April 30, May 30, & June 30, 2014. Time will be allotted for shopping. Please contact Bonnie Hayes (301) 752-3653 or Barron Neal (301) 516-7633.

WORLD VIEW

Come experience the fun at World View Super Summer Camp 2014. There will be music, cheerleading, field trips every day, drama, art, dance, cosmetology, sports camp and ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT. The locations are Clinton and Brandywine. Join us for Open house April 3rd and May 8th at the Brandywine and Clinton location. Visit our web at www.worldviewchristiancenter.com or email us at

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Resist the Urge to Tap Retirement Plans Early

I have yet to meet anyone who thinks they're saving too much money for retirement. On the contrary, most people admit they're probably setting aside too little. Retirement accounts must compete with daily expenses, saving up for a home, college and unexpected emergencies for every precious dollar.



If taking money out of your IRA, 401(k) or other tax-sheltered plan is your best or only option, you should be aware of the possible impacts on your taxes and long-term savings objectives before raiding your nest egg:

401(k) loans. Many 401(k) plans allow participants to borrow from their account to buy a home, pay for education, medical expenses or other special circumstances. Generally, you may be allowed to borrow up to half your vested balance up to a maximum of \$50,000 — or a reduced amount if you have other outstanding plan loans.

Loans usually must be repaid within five years, although you may have longer if you're using the loan to purchase your primary residence.

Potential drawbacks to 401(k) loans include:

- ❑ If you leave your job, even involuntarily, you must pay off the loan immediately (usually within 30 to 90 days) or you'll owe income tax on the remainder — as well as a 10 percent early distribution penalty if you're under age 59 ½.
- ❑ Loans cannot be rolled over into a new account.
- ❑ Some plans don't allow new contributions until outstanding loans are repaid.
- ❑ Many people, faced with a monthly loan payment, reduce their 401(k) contributions, thereby significantly reducing their potential long-term account balance and earnings.
- ❑ Your account value will be lower while repaying your loan, which means you'll miss out on market upswings.

401(k) and IRA withdrawals. Many 401(k) plans allow hardship withdrawals to pay for certain medical or higher education expenses, funerals, buying or repairing your home or to prevent eviction or foreclosure. You'll owe income tax on the withdrawal — plus an additional 10 percent penalty if you're younger than 59 ½, in most cases.

Traditional IRAs allow withdrawals at any time for any reason. However, you'll pay income tax on the withdrawal — plus the 10 percent penalty as well, with certain exceptions. With Roth IRAs, you can withdraw contributions at any time, since they've already been taxed. However, to withdraw earnings without penalty you must be at least 59 ½ and the funds must have been in the account for at least five years.

To learn more about how the IRS treats 401(k) and IRA loans and withdrawals, visit www.irs.gov.

Further financial implications. With 401(k) and traditional IRA withdrawals, the money is added to your taxable income, which could bump you into a higher tax bracket or even jeopardize certain tax credits, deductions and exemptions that are tied to your adjusted gross income. All told, you could end up paying half or more of your withdrawal in taxes, penalties and lost or reduced tax benefits.

Losing compound earnings. Finally, if you borrow or withdraw your retirement savings, you'll sacrifice the power of compounding, where interest earned on your savings is reinvested and in turn generates more earnings. You'll forfeit any gains those funds would have earned for you, which over a couple of decades could add up to tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost income.

Bottom line: Carefully consider the potential downsides before tapping your retirement savings for anything other than retirement itself. If that's your only recourse, consult a financial professional about the tax implications.

Lt. Governor Brown Kicks Off Community-Based Environmental Clean Up in Baltimore

Through Small Watershed Action Plan, Brooklyn/Curtis Bay Residents Being Trained To Identify and Assess Environmental Hazards In Their Communities

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

BALTIMORE, MD - Lt. Governor Anthony Brown kicked off the Small Watershed Action Plan effort in the Brooklyn and Curtis Bay neighborhoods of Baltimore. At the event, Brown gave brief remarks to local high school students, volunteers and staff and went on a practice field survey with several students to learn about the work they are doing.

A joint effort between state agencies, community groups, local schools, non-profits, local faith-based groups, and environmental experts, the Plan is the beginning of an effort within the Brooklyn and Curtis Bay to recruit citizens to help identify, assess, and clean up areas of illegal dumping and trash buildup that is infiltrating watersheds leading to the recently opened Masonville Cove nature area and into the Patapsco River.

"Masonville Cove and the Small Watershed Action Plan are a model for what we can accomplish by working together in a community-based effort to build a better, more sustainable future for Maryland," said Lt. Governor Brown. "All of our communities play a role in protecting our environment, and as we look to the future, we must strengthen our commitment to environmental justice for our most vulnerable populations in cities and towns throughout Maryland."

The National Aquarium, with grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Trust, worked with state agencies and

others to create the Small Watershed Action Plan, which addresses the impact that illegal dumping in urban communities has on the Masonville Cove watershed.

It includes partnerships with local watershed associations, citizen awareness campaigns, and volunteers in addition to experts from the Maryland Port Administration, National Aquarium, Living Classrooms Foundation, Baltimore City Department of Planning, Baltimore City Department of Sustainability, Mofatt & Nichol and Center for Watershed Protection.

"We are proud to join Lt. Governor Brown and all of the Small Watershed Action Plan partners in working toward a cleaner, healthier Baltimore Harbor and Chesapeake Bay," said John Racanelli, National Aquarium CEO. "As the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, Masonville Cove is an inspiration for the community and a great resource for conservation education."

As part of today's training, experts from the National Aquarium and Center for Watershed Protection taught community members and students from Benjamin Franklin High School how to conduct a thorough neighborhood assessment. They were trained on how to identify and document hot spots related to trash, illegal dumping, illegal discharges, and water flow. After the training, residents went out into the community in small groups, each led by an Action Plan expert.

"The Masonville Cove Environmental Center is beautiful place in Brooklyn & Curtis Bay working to reconnect our com-

munity with nature, while educating us to help preserve that nature for our present and future," said Pastor Billy Humphreys. "The SWAP is simple and strategic to the revitalization of our community because it will help us practically clean our streets, our watershed, and our water. Brooklyn & Curtis Bay are grateful to have the Masonville Cove, the SWAP Team, and now the Lt. Governor Anthony Brown on our side in making this a better place to live and raise a family."

Masonville Cove is a \$153 million environmental restoration project that is transforming one of Baltimore Harbor's most contaminated sites into an area that will benefit wildlife, local residents and the port industry.

It includes an 11-acre parcel of land which was replanted with native trees, shrubs, and wetland plants and includes walking trails, fishing from a designated pier, and areas for bird watching. A non-motorized boat ramp is also available for kayaks and canoes. This project is the first of a three-phase project that will see about 41 additional acres of land restored and made available to the public over the next few years. It is free and open to the public.

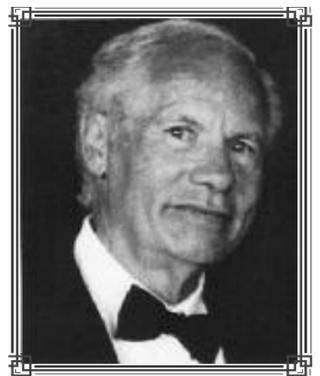
It is also home to an environmental education center which has welcomed thousands of grade school students for hands-on environmental learning. The Living Classrooms Foundation, National Aquarium Baltimore, and Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Coalition, known as BayBrook, develop and run the education programs for the center. The center itself is a "near-zero, net-energy"

building, with green features such as a ground-source air conditioning system that uses half the energy of a conventional building; solar energy; rain barrels that collect roof rain runoff to water greenery and flowers; a reflective roof that decreases the amount of heat transferred into the building; and an energy recovery ventilator where exhaust air is used to heat or cool fresh air using a heat exchanger, making ventilation more efficient.

The restoration project sits on the site of the former home of Kurt Iron and Metal and the Maryland Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. Both companies conducted maritime salvage and ship-breaking operations contributing to the environmental degradation of the waterfront and surrounding area. In 2007, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) began a massive cleanup effort of this site. More than 61,000 tons of trash and debris were removed, including 306,074 gallons of petroleum-tainted water; 17,398 tons of timber; and 6,588 tons of concrete rubble; and 27 abandoned vessels that needed to be remediated or removed from the water at the site.

The Maryland: Smart, Green & Growing initiative is a multi-agency, Statewide initiative to help Maryland achieve a more sustainable future by linking community revitalization, transportation improvements, economic development, smart growth and environmental restoration efforts. The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center brings together many of the goals of this key initiative into one project.

A Celebration of Life



Kenneth M. Brown
October 18, 1935 — March 4, 2014

Kenneth (Kenny) Maurice Brown was born in Washington, DC on October 18, 1935, the youngest child of Edna Brown (deceased). He had two older sisters, Edna (Cissie) and Barbara.

Kenny attended DC public schools, graduating from Armstrong High School in 1954. Shortly after, he joined the United States Army and was stationed in Fort Gordon, GA. His tour of duty was served mainly in Kitzinger, Germany, and he was honorably discharged in 1958.

Throughout his tour, Kenny stayed in touch with his friend and high school classmate Margaret Williams; they married in August 1958 and last year celebrated 55 years of wonderful marriage.

After his discharge, Kenny went to work for the U.S. Postal Service from 1958 to 1965. Always energetic and musically talented, he began working with young people in the Kenilworth Parkside Community in Northeast DC and created the Kenilworth Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. The Corps performed in many competitions and at many local events, including the historic March on Washington. Kenneth was always available to hear from the young Corps members about their later

journeys through schools and jobs.

His passion for free enterprise and his desire to succeed drove him to an extraordinary career as an entrepreneur. Always a self-starter and curious to learn new skills, he was an accomplished businessman who sold cars, owned a body-repair shop, and car detailing business, becoming the contractor of choice to the US General Services Administration. His home remodeling business included exterior work, plumbing, electrical installations, and creative floor and wall tile work.

Kenny worked long hours but always made time for fun, family, and friends. No one could tell a joke better than he could and he was the consummate story-teller. He brought joy and laughter to all who knew and loved him.

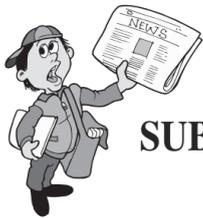
He enjoyed life, pursuing his passion for traveling, reading, working puzzles, playing cards, and sports with the same zeal he pursued his business ventures. He even ushered a number of years at the old RFK stadium, so he wouldn't miss any home games of his beloved Redskins, a team passion he shared with his brother-in-law Jody, husband to his beloved oldest sister Cissie (deceased).

Kenny and Margaret enjoyed travels to Alaska, Las Vegas, and cruises

to the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Jamaica, and other ports in the Caribbean. Cruising with his entire family recently was one of his more memorable trips.

Kenny leaves to cherish his memory, a devoted wife, Margaret, and their loving children Angela Margaret (Van) Durant, and Kenneth Everette (Cristina) Brown; Grandchildren Marquisha, Nikesha, and Kenneth Xavier; and great-grandchildren Jonathan and Madison. He is survived by in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many, many friends.

A long time friend of The Prince George's Post, Kenny's humor and good nature has brought us a great deal of laughter and comfort over the years. He was loved by the entire staff, and will be greatly missed. Thank you Kenny for all of the laughs and good times.



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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Cosponsors Bill to Stand Up For American Women and Strengthen Opportunity For Economic Security

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) announced that she has cosponsored the Fair Employment Protection Act, legislation to give American workers the opportunity to succeed free of workplace harassment. The bicameral legislation, introduced by Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) along with Representatives George Miller (D-Calif.) and Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), corrects the error of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2013 decision in Vance v. Ball State University, which significantly weakened the ability of workplace harassment victims to seek legal recourse.

"With more women in the workplace today than ever before, it is important that we right this wrong in the law books," Senator Mikulski said. "The Vance decision was devastating for those of us who believe in strong employee protections. I'm proud to stand with my colleagues on this bill and will continue to fight so that harassment has no place in the workplace."

This legislation restores workplace protections weakened by the Vance decision to ensure that Americans harassed on the job by their supervisors are treated fairly and receive the justice they deserve.

"If you work hard and play by the rules you should have the opportunity to get ahead," said Senator Baldwin. "Unfortunately, workplace harassment remains an unacceptable reality that threatens the economic security of far too many people, particularly women, working to build a better future for themselves and their families. Harassment has no place in the workplace and should never impede economic success. I'm proud to introduce the Fair Employment Protection Act to restore important workplace protections, move this issue forward, and help provide American workers the level playing field they deserve."

Workplace harassment on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, disability, age and genetic

information is currently prohibited under federal employment nondiscrimination law. Under the law, employers have a heightened legal obligation to protect against supervisor harassment and as a result, employees enjoy real protections and employers are provided with compelling incentives to prevent and resolve supervisor harassment.

However, on June 24, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a 5-4 decision in Vance v. Ball State University weakening these critical protections against supervisor harassment. The Court held that the heightened obligations on employers to prevent and remedy supervisor harassment apply only when the supervisor has the power to hire, fire, or take other tangible employment actions against the victim employee but not when harassment occurs at the hands of a lower-level supervisor. The decision weakens remedies for victims harassed by these lower-level supervisors, where workplace harassment frequently occurs.

The Fair Employment Protection Act corrects the error in the Vance decision and clarifies who counts as a "supervisor" for the purpose of holding employers responsible for unlawful harassment. The legislation would include not just those supervisors who can hire and fire, but also those who are in charge of an employee's daily work activities, thus able to reassign an employee whom they are harassing.

On other notable occasions, Congress has needed to step in to correct unduly restrictive Court interpretations of federal workplace protections. For example, Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1991 in response to a number of U.S. Supreme Court decisions that limited the rights of employees. Most recently, in 2009, Congress passed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to address a Court decision restricting remedies for individuals bringing pay discrimination lawsuits.



National Capital Radio and Television Museum
 Open to the Public
RADIO AND TELEVISION MUSEUM
 Located in a 1906 storekeeper's house, the National Capital Radio and Television Museum explores broadcast history from the earliest days of wireless telegraph to the development of television. A fascinating collection of broadcast memorabilia includes Depression-era cathedral radios, early televisions, "French Fry" transistors, crystal sets...and even the sound effects equipment from Washington's legendary Walker and Scott radio program. Open Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free; donations are welcomed. Group tours for 10 or more persons are available. Please call 301-390-1020 to arrange a tour.

Child Watch
 by Marion Wright Edelman



The Invisible Backbone Leaders of Transforming Social Change

Women's History Month is a reminder that in every major American social reform movement, women have always played a critical role. Women at the forefront, acting as the catalyst for progress when it needs to happen, make the front pages and the history books. But women have also always been the invisible backbone, unseen but strong, of transforming social movements and of all anchor institutions in society—our families, congregations, schools, and communities—employing behind the scenes quiet essential leadership and organizational, communication, and fundraising skills to get things done.

Many people know Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. first rose to national prominence as a civil rights leader by serving as a spokesperson in Montgomery, Alabama during the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-1956. Not enough of us recognize that there would not have been a bus boycott that needed a leader without a vigilant community catalyst working behind the scenes looking for the right spark to challenge hated bus segregation. The December 1955 arrest of Mrs. Rosa Parks, who refused to move from her seat at the front of the "colored" section of her bus when the White section got too full, was not the first such arrest in Montgomery but it made history because she was the right public face that could mobilize the entire Black community. And behind that bus boycott was an unknown community leader named Jo Ann Robinson who had been pushing for change in Montgomery buses and had been putting the community infrastructure in place long before Rosa Parks was arrested. Robinson was vigilant and ready to spring into action when the right opportunity arose.

Jo Ann Robinson, an English professor at Alabama State College, was president of the Women's Political Council (WPC), a group of Black women civic leaders in Montgomery. She had been thrown off a city bus in 1949 for sitting too close to the front although the bus was nearly empty. This infuriating experience was all too common among Montgomery's Black residents—and the WPC had already chosen to make changing the bus system one of their priorities. Their 1954 letter to Montgomery Mayor W.A.

Gayle raised the possibility of a city-wide bus boycott: "More and more of our people are already arranging with neighbors and friends to ride to keep from being insulted and humiliated by bus drivers... We, the Council, believe that when this matter has been put before you and the Commissioners, that agreeable terms can be met in a quiet and unostensible manner to the satisfaction of all concerned." But when the women's requests for "agreeable terms" went unanswered, their plans for a boycott went forward. They just needed the right moment and face—and when that moment came Jo Ann Robinson knew what to do.

She and other women did not wait for male leaders to decide on a response before acting. She later wrote about the night after Mrs. Parks was arrested: "Some of the [Women's Political Council] officers previously had discussed plans for distributing thousands of notices announcing a bus boycott. Now the time had come for me to write just such a notice." She called her colleague John Cannon, chair of Alabama State College's business department, and two trusted students, who immediately agreed to meet her at the college where Cannon had access to the copying machines. They worked together until four in the morning making copies of the leaflet Jo

Ann Robinson had prepared: "Another Negro woman has been arrested and thrown in jail because she refused to get up out of her seat on the bus for a white person to sit down... This has to be stopped. Negroes have rights, too, for if Negroes did not ride the buses, they could not operate. Three-fourths of the riders are Negroes, yet we are arrested, or have to stand over empty seats. If we do not do something to stop these arrests, they will continue. The next time it may be you, or your daughter, or mother. This woman's case will come up on Monday. We are, therefore, asking every Negro to stay off the buses Monday in protest of the arrest and trial. Don't ride the buses to work, to town, to school, or anywhere on Monday. You can afford to stay out of school for one day if you have no other way to go except by bus. You can also afford to stay out of town for one day. If you work, take a cab, or walk. But please, children and grown-ups, don't ride the bus at all on Monday."

She and her two students worked for three more hours mapping out distribution routes, and as soon as she finished teaching her 8 o'clock class that morning Jo Ann Robinson began calling

See WATCH, Page A8

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Cesar Chavez Day Calls Us to Unite to End Poverty and Honor the Dignity of Work

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

— Cesar Chavez

While it is commonly thought that the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s was by, of, and exclusively for the benefit of African Americans, the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez remind us of how much it touched the lives of our Hispanic brothers and sisters and oppressed people everywhere. A Mexican-American who was born March 31, 1927 on a farm near Yuma, Arizona, Chavez and his family moved to California in 1938 to eke out a living like thousands of other overworked and underpaid migrant farm workers in his community. But rather than tolerate the daily injustices heaped upon them, which also included forced child labor, sexual harassment of women workers and the use of pesticides harmful to both workers and consumers, Chavez devoted his life to organizing and improving the lives of migrant workers.

In 1962, he and Dolores Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers Union. Inspired by the non-violent examples of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chavez embraced the philosophy of non-violent protest and employed such tactics as marches, boycotts and hunger strikes to garner mainstream support for the rights of migrant workers. In 1968, he fasted for 25 days for better wages and working conditions in the fields of California's San Joaquin Valley. Upon ending that strike by breaking bread with Senator Robert Kennedy, Chavez addressed his supporters, saying, "We are gathered here today, not so much to observe the end of the Fast, but because we are a family bound together in a common struggle for justice. We are a Union family celebrating our unity and the non-violent nature of our movement."

Chavez's work and sacrifice inspired millions of people around the world, including Dr. King and National Urban League President Whitney M. Young, Jr. In 1969, towards the end of a five-year strike and boycott for the rights of Mexican and Filipino grape workers, Young met with Chavez and his supporters in Delano, California. Young was moved to write a To Be Equal column in which he said, "I was inspired by their spirit and their faith in the face of the odds against them." He added, "Labor, by organizing the poor and the friendless, can help end poverty by protecting low-wage workers, and it can give the lie to those who happily proclaim the selfishness and prejudice of some unions."

Cesar Chavez died on April 23, 1993. Following Whitney Young's example, subsequent National Urban League leaders, me included, have continued to work in solidarity with the goals of the United Farm Workers and numerous other Latino civil rights organizations. I spoke at the National Council of La Raza conference last summer and attended part of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) conference last month. We are all united in many of our struggles, especially the fight to end income inequality and poverty. As an iconic labor leader and anti-poverty activist, Cesar Chavez would have likely also been an enthusiastic supporter of the National Urban League's current petition to raise the minimum wage and all of our work for jobs with living wages and fair benefits.

President Obama has proclaimed Chavez's birthday, March 31, as Cesar Chavez Day "to remember a man who made justice his life calling." We believe that the best way to honor Chavez's legacy is through service and a renewed commitment to end income inequality and poverty. Congress can do its part by raising the minimum wage now.

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 email: pgpost@gmail.com
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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Who? Me? No, I'm Fine... I Don't Need Any Help

Most of us find asking for help difficult. It can make us feel weak and inadequate, which is hard to accept if we've been taught to be independent, strong and self-sufficient.

Yet, at times, life can seem overwhelming. Events or life situations may leave us feeling confused, troubled, depressed and unsure of how to make things better.

At such times most of us usually see two options. One is to tough it out, doing what we can while ignoring the rest and hoping things turn out okay. This approach, even if we finally muddle through, can cause tremendous stress and anxiety, and sometimes leads to much more serious problems.

The second option is turning to family or friends. That's not a bad choice if those we trust with our fears and problems truly are understanding and able to offer meaningful help.

But sometimes family or friends aren't available, or don't have the experience or time to provide needed assistance. That's when it's time to consider a third option — professional help.

Seeking out a professional counselor can be a difficult choice. It's not only asking for help, but doing so with a stranger, and one you have to pay. People may also fear mental health professionals, based on movie and TV stereotypes. Fictional counselors always seem to deal with "crazy" people, seldom seem to really help, and have clients who seem ashamed that they needed counseling help.

The truth, of course, is that most counseling isn't for "crazy" people, but rather for perfectly normal people facing problems that are negatively affecting their lives. It might be work concerns, family relations, school issues or a host of other everyday life situations. And it's often less expensive than imagined, especially with health insurance or through a community mental health center.

Professional counselors are trained to help people feeling overwhelmed and unsure of what to do next. They don't dictate cures to clients, but rather help patients uncover answers right for them.

Finding a counselor isn't difficult. Your local mental health association, the telephone yellow pages under "Counselors," an online search for licensed professional counselors, or going to the "Find A Counselor" link at the ACA website, www.counseling.org, can all help you find counseling assistance.

Getting needed help isn't a sign of weakness, but rather of the strength to recognize that your problems are real and that you want to do something about them.

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

Business Spotlight

To Work Better, Take A Vacation

(NAPSI)—Perhaps one of the best-kept secrets for staying happy and efficient at your job may be what you do outside office walls.

Why To Vacation

According to new research by the Society for Human Resource Management, employees who take regular vacations enjoy greater productivity, increased job satisfaction and higher organizational morale than those who don't.

Despite such studies, not all working Americans have a positive attitude about taking a vacation. In fact, 61 percent of organizations report that their employees leave behind three or more unused vacation days a year. Taking full advantage of earned time off-as well as completely "unplugging" while away—may seem an odd way to get ahead but it can be a great gift to your employer and yourself.

What You Should Know

One thing that may help you get yourself that gift is a vacation ownership. Here are three reasons:

1. Your vacation is paid for in advance. Because of the prepaid nature of a timeshare, you never have to think about finding or funding accommodations throughout the length of your trip. You can cost effectively enjoy vacation lodging every year for the rest of your life without the burden of paying increasingly more for your stay, as you would for hotel rates, which continue to rise.

2. You're guaranteed consistent time away. Owning a timeshare can instill in you the discipline of taking time away, at least once a year, from hectic work schedules to relax and recharge in high-quality accommodations. Plus, if you partner with a timeshare exchange company, you can swap out your stay at your "home" resort for one in a new destination.

3. Time away and together is healthy for the entire family. Beyond the individual benefits of coming back to the office more motivated, creative and innovative, family and friends can share in the excitement, closeness and health benefits of regular rest and reprieve. Many timeshare companies let you pass timeshare investments through generations, so your children can inherit and enjoy your timeshare for many more years.

Travelers who value variety often choose vacation exchange companies such as RCI, which has been delivering dream vacations for 40 years, because of its expansive portfolio of more than 4,000 affiliated resorts.

Early E-Book Gamble Pays Off For Maryland Libraries

By MIKE DENISON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — When the heads of Maryland public libraries opted to create a statewide e-book loaning program in the spring of 2004, they weren't sure if e-books would last. But they decided to gamble on the young technology.

As e-books have exploded in popularity, that gamble now seems prophetic.

"We had the dumb luck of getting in really early," said Scott Reinhart, the self-styled "ring-leader" of Maryland's Digital e-Library Consortium, which will be 10 years old in October.

The consortium allowed Maryland to be one of the first states to offer e-books for desktop computers, according to Carla Hayden, CEO of Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library.

An e-book, or electronic book, offers the same content as a physical printed book, but in a format that can be read on a computer, tablet, smartphone, or a dedicated e-reader — such as a Nook.

Now, Reinhart said, the consortium offers more than 45,000 e-books and 15,000 audiobooks for desktops, tablets and smartphones for all counties except Prince George's, which has its own collection. States that created similar library programs later often have fewer than 10,000, according to John Taube, director of the Allegany County Library System.

Reinhart said getting in the e-book game early meant that the cost of setting up the consortium was far lower than other states would face now. Overdrive, the e-book distributor that powers the consortium, was

"eager and hungry and wanted everything we could give them" at the time.

In the decade since, Overdrive became the lead distributor of e-books to libraries, according to the American Library Association, so "they can be a little bit more picky," according to Reinhart.

Hayden said that Maryland's political structure made it easy to facilitate the consortium's creation. In Maryland, each county's libraries pool their collections, allowing for easy statewide book-sharing. Other states have more independent libraries, making a statewide e-book collection less feasible.

The system does have its downsides for libraries. Many publishers initially hesitated to offer libraries e-versions of their books. While that tide is turning, e-books still can be "ridiculously expensive" for libraries, according to Reinhart.

Some publishers fear library e-books deter sales, so they often charge libraries much higher prices for e-copies. Taube said an e-book that costs consumers \$9.99 on Amazon may cost a library as much as \$90.

"It's a balancing act between providing access to a new format and being wise stewards of public money," Taube said.

But patrons' responses are making e-books worth the expense. Stephanie Petruso, virtual services manager for Anne Arundel County Public Library, said that since last year, monthly e-book rentals have increased nearly 58 percent. Taube added that e-books represent 3 to 10 percent of a library's total circulation, depending on the county.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MIKE DENISON
Stephanie Petruso, virtual services manager for Anne Arundel County Public Library, showcases a Nook e-reader the library offers.

Librarians have benefitted from the consortium as well. Petruso said that saving shelf space and no longer needing to worry about late fees were among e-readers' biggest benefits.

"Just think of what that helps librarians do in terms of their bookkeeping," said Hayden.

While there were some that tried to halt the advance of e-reading, Reinhart said the format's victory was inevitable.

"We can resist all we want, but technology's going to win. Convenience always wins," he said.

Libraries sometimes struggle to spread the word of their new e-capabilities. Petruso said that launching Anne Arundel County Public Library's e-book and e-reader loan campaign took "a lot of word-of-mouth marketing."

According to 2012 Pew Research Center study, this is not unusual. About 62 percent of those surveyed nationwide did not know whether their libraries offered e-books or e-readers.

But still, the demand for library e-capabilities is growing — not just for e-books, but the

devices themselves. Almost half of those who do not currently borrow e-books from a public library said they would be likely to borrow an e-reader preloaded with a desired book.

And the growth of e-books isn't coming at physical books' expense. Another Pew study from 2014 found that only 4 percent of readers use e-books exclusively.

"I don't think print books are going away," said Hayden. "If they hadn't been invented, they would be now ... if the power goes out, you're OK."

But the growing number of e-readers and tablets mean librarians often have to fill the role of tech support, especially for older users who get e-readers as holiday gifts but may not be tech-savvy.

"People like to come in and talk to a librarian," said Petruso.

For Taube, a library embracing e-readers fits with a key part of the library's mission.

"We need to be a safe place for people to try out new technology in our community," he said.

Disabled from A1

man, athletic director liaison for Wicomico County.

When asked about Unified Sports, Special Olympics athlete Lincoln Busek eagerly expressed his gratitude.

"I love it, it's a great opportunity for me, and I like working out," said Busek, 20, a Wicomico High School senior. The athlete spoke between events at the statewide strength and conditioning competition near Salisbury.

Busek also said that all of his friends came from Unified Sports, but added that his relationships with them extend beyond the program.

Included among those friends are "unified partners," athletes without intellectual disabilities.

"[Special Olympics athletes] have been my best friends for a few years now," said Alexandra Rowe, one such partner, 18, a senior at Annapolis High School.

Unified Sports is offered in 21 of the 24 school systems across the state for at least one season, though all have programs contingent with the law.

The sports that Special Olympics Maryland offers are tennis in the fall, bocce ball and strength and conditioning in the

winter, and bocce ball and track and field in the spring.

Unlike Unified Sports, many of the local school systems alternative programs do not allow both intellectually disabled and non-disabled students to compete together or simultaneously participate as a varsity or junior varsity athlete.

"[Athletes] compete in an environment similar to varsity sports," Schmutz said.

The public schools in Montgomery and St. Mary's Counties offer varsity sports for disabled and non-disabled athletes, independent of Special Olympics Maryland.

Programs without the integrated athletes may be losing participation by non-disabled athletes.

Jock Simon, 18, a senior at Parkside High School, for example, originally joined Unified Sports to supplement his role as a varsity football player.

"Me and a couple of friends decided to do it," Simon said. "We did it to work on our lifting."

But since joining, Simon has seen benefits beyond his athleticism.

"It's also good to hang out with the kids and be like a positive role model," Simon said.

Awards from A1

napolis. Selected by local superintendents, the students, their families and school officials were invited to join Comptroller Franchot and state and local officials for the official art exhibit unveiling ceremony and award presentation.

During his nearly 30 years in public service, Comptroller Fran-

chot consistently has advocated for better funding for arts programs and keeping art alive in Maryland schools.

The students' art will join a collection of original paintings by one of the Comptroller's favorite artists, Herman Maril. An American modernist, Maril was born in Baltimore and served as a professor at the University of Maryland for more than 30 years.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ETHAN BARTON
Jock Simon sends murmurs across the crowd with his standing long jump.

"I've made a lot of connections."

In addition to forging new friendships, the program has also helped remove stereotypes of intellectually disabled individuals.

"It's really opened my eyes to just people in general and talking to people with disabilities," Rowe said.

Schmierman said: "It's broken down walls."

The new friendships and weakened stereotypes have all led to greater community development.

"Ultimately, [Unified Sports] spreads throughout the school, making the community better and more cognizant of

who the individuals with intellectual disabilities are, so they're welcomed to the school," Schmutz said.

Rick Sneade, a Unified Sports coach at Calvert High School added: "When [disabled athletes] walk down to school now, they're an equal with the rest of the community."

Despite the involvement of administrators and volunteers, Schmutz sees one main group as the cornerstone of the program.

"The youth really are taking a leadership role and are making the world for individuals with intellectual disabilities a better place," Schmutz said.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Bad Words”

Bad Words

Grade: C

Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity and vulgarity, some sexuality and nudity?.

1 hr., 28 min

“I’m not that good at a lot of stuff, especially thinking things through,” says Guy Trilby at the beginning of *Bad Words*. “That’s why my plan was so s****y.” He’s right about that, and the same may apply to Jason Bateman, who plays the character and chose this film for his directorial debut.

Bateman’s comedy credentials are solid, his stellar work on *Arrested Development* supplemented by funny turns even in movies that weren’t worthy of him. You can see why he’d be attracted to the story of an embittered man who competes in a kids’ spelling bee; the potential for awkwardness, swearing, and general deplorability is great. But the screenplay (by first-timer Andrew Dodge) has adopted many of the attributes of similar-themed and -titled movies — *Bad Santa*, *Bad Teacher*, etc. — without developing a story around them.

Guy Trilby is a mean jerk. That’s...pretty much it. Funny? Yeah, sometimes. But there’s more to humor, even rude, transgressive humor, than just telling an Indian kid “shut your curry-hole.”

The film begins with the story already in progress. We’ve missed whatever the inciting incident was, along with any backstory to explain (or at least hint at) Guy’s motive for his frankly bizarre endeavor. Exploiting a loophole in the rules that lets him participate in the Golden Quill National Spelling Bee regardless of age as long as he never graduated from eighth grade, Guy is relentlessly crush-



Jason Bateman plays Guy Trilby a 40-year old who finds a loophole in the rules of the National Quill Spelling Bee and decides to cause trouble by hijacking the competition. Contest officials, outraged parents, and overly ambitious 8th graders are no match for Guy, as he ruthlessly crushes their dreams of victory and fame. As a reporter attempts to discover his true motivation, Guy finds himself forging an unlikely alliance with a competitor: awkward 10-year old Chaitanya, who is completely unfazed by Guy’s take-no-prisoners approach to life.

ing the competition on the local level, with the goal of winning the national contest. He refuses to tell anyone why he’s doing it, why this is so important to him — including the journalist, Jenny (Kathryn Hahn), whose news outlet is sponsoring him. (Why her organization would pay his expenses without knowing his story is beyond me. What if he’s a pedophile? Isn’t he probably a pedophile??)

At the finals, Guy meets 10-year-old challenger Chaitanya (Rohan Chand), a self-possessed kid without friends who latches onto him as a companion. Somewhat implausibly, maybe even illegally, Chaitanya’s father makes him fly alone and stay in his own hotel room to toughen him up, so the kid has plenty of free time to befriend

weird adults. Guy isn’t interested in forming attachments, but he’s gradually won over by Chaitanya’s innocence and trustfulness. Meanwhile, Guy engages in as much drinking and whoring as he can, verbally abusing every person he comes in contact with because he’s a venal, angry person.

There are some laughs in the spelling bee parents and officiators’ open contempt for Guy, and in his stubborn refusal to give up even when, for example, the bee’s sponsoring hotel puts him in a broom closet instead of a room. But as we progress from round to round, with Guy doing his best to sabotage and distract his competitors — to win at all costs — it’s hard not to be irked by the film’s cagey attitude. Guy keeps

teasing Jenny (and us) with promises that all will be revealed...which only makes it that much more disappointing when he finally does tell us his story and it’s not very interesting. Why not give us the facts up front? Why drag it out like some kind of mystery?

To put it bluntly, we need a reason to be on Guy’s side, and the movie won’t give us one. We’re expected to root for him simply because he’s the protagonist. Movie characters don’t have to be “likable,” but if they’re going to be despicable, they need to also be funny (or terrifying, or clever, or beautiful, or whatever). *Bad Words* doesn’t offer enough laughs to compensate for its mean-spirited behavior or lackluster story. Everyone involved is better than this.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Major League Soccer to Start Season With Scab Refs

The role of the referee in professional sports is not just making sure play is monitored, penalties get called and the game has a sense of flow. It is to protect the integrity of the product and the safety of the participants. The NFL demonstrated starkly when it started the first four games of the 2012 season with scab—or in the parlance of our neoliberal times “replacement”—referees, that the game was simply not the game when you had untrained eyes in charge of the action. For reasons that beggar belief, Major League Soccer has decided to follow in the tragic trajectory of the NFL and start the season with scabs on the pitch.



The Professional Soccer Referees Association, otherwise known as the refs union, has been attempting to negotiate their first collective bargaining agreement in league history. The amount of money that separated the two parties is not vast, estimated between \$440,000 and \$1 million for the lifetime of the deal. The main financial issue was that in recent years, MLS mandated far more trainings for referees to improve the quality of officiating. The refs, however, were not compensated for the extra hours.

The greater issue, however, was political. It was the fact that the refs union refused to sign a no-strike pledge. As the MLS league negotiator Peter Walton said, “Since they will not give us a guarantee they will not go on strike immediately prior to our match we are left in a position where we must use replacement officials.”

Yes, you read that correctly. The response to the refs shockingly ungentlemanly refusal to sign a no-strike pledge, has been to lock them out. This contemptible, hypocritical move forced me to ask the question, what the hell is it about labor rights that so repulse people named Walton? No, Peter Walton, a former British referee, is not related to those Waltons but I did truly wonder if some ne’er-do-well billionaire Walmart nephew had taken to breaking unions as a sideline hobby.

As for the refs, they have decried the lockout as a “scorched-earth” tactic and vowed to press on. They point out that the lockout comes after the union had already filed unfair labor practice and labor intimidation complaints with the National Labor Relations Board.

Meanwhile, however, we have the specter this weekend of games that could be a train-wreck waiting to happen.

I spoke with Kevin McNutt, the cohost on my radio show *Edge of Sports* and a basketball referee for over thirty years. He said to me, “Scab referees are not adequately trained or qualified to service the product at the professional level. Expect referee calls and interpretations to be inconsistent not only from game to game but half to half. Through this, a state of anarchy may ensue from players and coaches that could lead to the challenging of referee’s authority, increased injury to players and sloppy overall quality of play that will make fans and followers of the sport question the integrity of the games.”

Those two words, integrity and injury, cannot be mentioned enough.

On the question of “integrity,” it must be noted that professional soccer has been engulfed in match fixing scandals at the highest levels of the sport, in the English Premier League, as well as, in recent years, fifteen other nations. So far we have not seen these scandals hit MLS, but for a league with far less of a foothold than its English brethren, integrity is everything. Scab referees, with little invested long term in MLS, will make people roll their eyes with every blown call as people wonder in the stands and on message boards whether it was incompetence or fraud.

Then there is injury. The players union has certainly taken note of the lockout, with their focus firmly on the wellness of the people that fans pay to see. MLS players’ union executive director Bob Foose said that the “decision to lock out the referees and use scab replacements presents a serious health and safety issue for our members. We will continue to monitor this situation closely, as it is our sincere hope that cooler heads will prevail, the parties will reach an agreement and PSRA [union] officials will be back on the field as soon as possible.”

A parallel outrage, however, is that the MLS will become yet another pro sports league that utilizes the lockout in negotiations with refs or players, joining the NFL (twice), the NBA and NHL since 2011. The utilization of this tactic on such a high cultural platform only adds to the societal acceptance of something that was once the third rail of labor-management relations. Lockouts should never be a part of union negotiations, but in sports and beyond, they have become just a part of the process. This has to be stood up to, no matter the industry. The MLS refs lockout is awful for the unionized refs, dangerous for the players, devastating for MLS and terrible for all working people, whether you consider yourself a soccer fan or not.

Geothermal Systems: An Alternative To Propane

(NAPSI)—The recent spike in propane prices has consumers looking for alternative ways to condition a home. As a result, a growing number of homeowners are considering geothermal heating and cooling as that alternative—and for a number of good reasons.

• Efficiency and savings

Geothermal systems, which draw on the stored energy in the earth, are much more efficient than propane and offer savings in the range of 70 to 80 percent on a yearly basis. Plus, consumers are not left vulnerable to volatility in the fossil fuel market or delivery prices.

• Increased convenience

There’s no waiting for fuel deliveries or running out of fuel at an inconvenient time. Unlike other renewable technologies like solar or wind, geothermal heat pumps provide constant benefits regardless of outdoor conditions.

• Life span of equipment

Geothermal systems tend to have a longer life span than propane-fueled heating systems. It is estimated that furnaces that run off of propane have a life span of 15 to 20 years. Geothermal heat pumps, on the other hand, have been found to have a life span of roughly 25 years, while the underground piping system that accesses the underground energy can last more than 100 years before needing to be replaced.

• Costs over time

While the price and installation costs of a geothermal system are higher than those of a propane system, the yearly energy savings experienced with a geothermal system can allow a homeowner to recoup the additional installation costs spent within five to 10 years, on average.

Plus, a 30 percent federal tax credit is available to homeowners who install a geothermal heating and cooling system.



Geothermal systems tend to have a longer life span than propane-fueled heating systems— and there is no waiting for fuel deliveries.

• More uses

Another advantage that geothermal offers over propane fuel is that a single geothermal system can provide a homeowner both heating and cooling.

Some geothermal systems even have an option that pro-

vides homes with hot water. With this combination, homeowners can enjoy even more savings. In some cases, that means up to 70 percent savings on their monthly utility bills.

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Calendar of Events

April 3 — April 9, 2014

Paint-Out Day in the Garden

Date and Time: Saturday, April 5, 2014 10 am
 Description: In partnership with the Brentwood Arts Exchange, we present our first en plein air art day. Capture the beauty of the garden with your paints, pencils or cameras! Then create artwork for our upcoming juried show.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: Ages 18 & up
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Tartan Day Tea

Date and Time: Saturday, April 5, 2014 2 pm
 Description: Celebrate National Tartan Day with Darnall's Chance House Museum by enjoying the tastes and sounds of Scotland! Don't forget to wear your favorite tartan to be entered into a themed door prize drawing.
 Capacity is limited; reservations and payment required in advance.
 Cost: Resident \$22; Non-Resident \$28
 Ages: 10 & up
 Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum
 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive,
 Upper Marlboro 20772
 Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Riversdale in Bloom

Date and Time: Saturday, April 5, 2014 10 am
 Description: Each spring, the gardens at the Riversdale House Museum come alive with color! It's Riversdale in Bloom, a festival honoring the tradition of tulip growing on the estate. This spring, join us and the Brentwood Arts Exchange as we encourage nature lovers, art enthusiasts and history buffs to create artwork in the gardens of Riversdale House! Participants in Riversdale in Bloom are invited to apply for an exhibition featuring their artworks created or depicting the gardens. This presentation will run from May 1-June 7. Come let your creativity bloom!
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange at Gateway Arts Center
 3901 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood 20722
 Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802

Creature Feature: All About Raptors Event

Date & Time: Saturday, April 5, 2014 10-11 am
 Description: Join us for this creature feature with birds. Your children will meet some of the nature center's live birds of prey, such as hawks, falcons and owls. Don't forget, advance reservations are required.
 Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident: \$3
 Ages: 2 & up
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Tulip Time

Date and Time: Sunday, April 6, 2014 12:15 pm
 Description: Shake off the winter blues and enjoy the first blooms of spring! Spend the afternoon delighting in the tulips, refreshments, children's activities and a garden tour.
 Cost: \$3 for adult; \$2 for senior; \$1 for student; Free for children 4 & under
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 8, 2014 10:15 am & 12 noon
 Description: Claudia and her brother Jamie run away from their comfortable, mundane suburban home to have an adventure in the Metropolitan Museum of Art! They encounter a statue that may or may not be by Michelangelo. Claudia then becomes determined to discover the truth about the mysterious statue and its donor, Mrs. Frankweiler. This play is based on the classic, award-winning book by E.L. Konigsburg. This presentation is supported by the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation.
 Cost: Tickets: \$6/person; \$5/groups of 15 or more
 Program is available at no cost to Title I schools in Prince George's County
 Ages: Recommended for grades 2-6
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Kids' Day Out- Karion Nagi-Mohammed: Arabic Music, Dance and Culture

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 10:30 am
 Description: Experience an uplifting and enlightening introduction to Arabic culture! Using hand drums and humor, Karion Nagi-Mohammed emphasizes the importance of learning about culture and people.
 Cost: \$5/person
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744
 Contact: 301 203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Smooth Sounds for Seniors at Montpelier-Chelsey Green and The Green Project

Date and Time: Thursday, April 10, 2014 12 pm
 Description: Visit Montpelier this spring for a fun, new series of special programs just for seniors ages 60 & better! This week join us with violinist Chelsey Green, a Peabody Conservatory alumna and former Strathmore Artist-in-Residence! She fuses classical music with popular and original songs in myriad of genres reaching from R&B to Latin, and more. Green's arrangements allow for a new appreciation of strings as they relate to daily life.
 Cost: Tickets: \$12/person
 Ages: 60 & better
 Location: Montpelier Art Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800 or 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

EARTH TALK ... What is the Environmental Impact of those "K-Cups" Everyone Seems to be Using?

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the environmental impact of those "K-Cups" everyone seems to be using nowadays to make coffee at both home and office?

— Chris B., Stamford, CT

K-Cups—those little one-serving coffee containers that allow people to brew one cup at a time in a specially designed Keurig brewing machine—are all the rage these days. Each K-Cup is made up of a plastic outer container with one cup's worth of ground coffee and a small filter inside, capped off with a foil lid. They go into Keurig brewing machines which pierce the bottom of the K-Cup with a nozzle that then forces hot water through the coffee grounds and filter, and then out into the drinker's cup. K-Cups and the Keurig brewers are convenient and require little to no clean-up while producing gourmet quality coffee for a fraction of the price that a retail coffee shop would charge.

Environmentalists' beef with the Keurig system is in the single-use, non-recyclable nature of the packaging, given the implications for our waste stream. The individual parts of a K-Cup (plastic, paper and foil) could theoretically be recycled on their own, but the

combination is too small and messy for recycling facilities to be able to sort. So our only choice is to throw the whole K-Cup pack, lock stock and barrel, into the garbage. Each pound of coffee consumed sends 50 K-Cups to the landfill. And with upwards of 17 million U.S. households and offices possessing Keurig brewers these days, billions of K-Cups are already ending up in landfills every year.

Keurig Green Mountain, the company behind the K-Cup revolution, is on the case about the bad environmental reputation it is developing over the issue. As a first step, it launched its Grounds to Grow On program in 2011 whereby office customers can purchase K-Cup recovery bins and fill them up with spent K-Cups. When the boxes are full, they are shipped to Keurig's disposal partner, which turns the used coffee grounds into compost and sends the rest out to be incinerated in a "waste-to-energy" power plant. Critics point out, though, that waste-to-energy is hardly green given the airborne pollutants released from incinerator smokestacks and the fact that, in the words of Julie Craves of the Coffee & Conservation blog, recycling is the enemy of the never-ending stream of garbage needed to feed waste-to-energy facilities.

In 2012, Keurig Green Mountain, realizing it still had a lot of work to do on sustain-



CREDIT: AARON PAXSON, COURTESY FLICKR

With upwards of 17 million U.S. households and offices possessing Keurig coffee brewers these days, billions of K-Cups are already ending up in landfills every year.

ability matters, undertook a life-cycle assessment across its product lines—and set ambitious sustainability targets to achieve by 2020. Chief among them is to make all K-Cups 100 percent recyclable. Other goals include ensuring responsible sourcing for all its primary agricultural and manufactured products, reducing life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions of its brewed beverages by 25 percent compared to the 2012 baseline, and achieving zero waste-to-landfills its manufacturing and distribution facilities.

Those who love the Keurig system but are ready to forego the environmental guilt sooner than 2020 do have some options. Julie Craves reports that used K-Cups can actually be refilled with ground coffee and reused. An easier option might

be buying a reusable K-Cup—most of them are made out of plastic with a stainless steel mesh filter. Still the best choice for the environment, however, might be getting the old traditional coffee pot out of storage and brewing up several cups at once—just like the old days.

CONTACTS: Keurig Green Mountain, www.keuriggreenmountain.com; Coffee & Conservation Blog, www.coffee-habitat.com.

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E-Cigarette from A1

In Maryland, Hartford and Anne Arundel Counties have restrictions on the use of e-cigarettes. Airlines prohibit e-cigarette usage, as well as MARC trains. It became illegal for minors to buy e-cigarettes in Maryland in 2012.

Only four states — New Jersey, Utah, Arkansas and North Dakota — have passed legislation banning the use of e-cigarettes in public places.

Now, Maryland lawmakers are weighing a measure that would prohibit the use of e-cigarettes wherever traditional cigarettes are banned.

The bill, sponsored by Delegate Aruna Miller, D-Montgomery, would place e-cigarettes under the definition of "smoking" in the Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007.

Smoking cigarettes is prohibited in virtually all indoor workplaces, according to the Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act. Currently, e-cigarettes can technically be used everywhere — in bars, offices and even school classrooms.

One of the goals of the Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act is to limit the exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. Tobacco smoke contains chemicals that are harmful to both smokers and nonsmokers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tobacco smoke contains 7,000 chemicals. About 250 of those chemicals, like carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide,

are known to be harmful, according to the CDC. Of those 250 chemicals, 69 of them can cause cancer. Secondhand smoke, smoke that is received by someone other than the smoker, is a known human carcinogen.

However, there is no conclusive evidence that the vapor produced from e-cigarettes is harmful.

A 2012 study published in science journal Inhalation Toxicology compared the effects of e-cigarette vapor and cigarette smoke on indoor air quality. The study concluded that electronic cigarettes produce very small exposures relative to tobacco cigarettes. The study also indicated that there is no apparent risk to human health from e-cigarette emissions based on the compounds analyzed.

There is no research on the long-term effects of e-cigarette use.

However, supporters of the proposed ban said they'd prefer to be on the safe side. They also believe that the glamorous portrayal of e-cigarettes in advertisements could be sending the wrong message to the youth. Many e-cigarette advertisements utilize sex appeal to sell their product, not unlike the tobacco and alcohol industries.

E-cigarette use more than doubled among U.S. middle and high school students from 2011 to 2012, according to data published by the CDC.

"E-cigarettes could be a gateway product to a lifelong addiction of nicotine," Miller said. E-cigarette users can control the

amount of nicotine, an addictive substance derived from tobacco, in the fluid of their e-cigarettes.

Some supporters of the proposed ban expressed concern that e-cigarettes and e-cigarette liquids are currently unregulated by the FDA or any other governmental organization.

"There is a lack of standards and quality control," said Susan Glover, a smoking cessation counselor, in a recent legislative hearing. Glover said that the amount of nicotine on e-cigarette fluid labels could be inaccurate, and that there could be contaminants in containers.

E-cigarette store owners argue that Miller's bill would be detrimental to their businesses because as the bill is currently written, it would ban the use of e-cigarettes even inside e-cigarette stores.

A row of small vials of e-cigarette flavoring sits atop a counter in 2 Vapes.

"Customers can come in and try different flavors," said shop owner Purdy. "What are they going to do if they can't test out a product in an e-cigarette store?"

Ward, owner of Vapers' Edge in Parkville said the bill should be amended.

"What I propose is an amendment to the bill that would allow the use of e-cigarettes in e-cigarette stores, or businesses where children aren't allowed," said Ward told lawmakers during a hearing.

Some e-cigarette users said it's reasonable to ban e-cigarette use from some public places,



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MELANIE BALAKIT

Using e-cigarettes helped David Purdy, owner of 2 Vapes in Annapolis, kick his cigarette habit. He says most of his clientele are ex-smokers.

like restaurants. They said that they try to be mindful of where they use e-cigarettes.

"It really depends on the setting," said Dorrien Bell, who uses e-cigarettes socially without any nicotine. "Like, I don't think people should blow lots of fumes [inside a restaurant.]"

Bell, 36, resides in Woodbridge, Va. and works at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. He said he didn't use tobacco products before using e-cigarettes.

Bell said he'd never blow fumes around his eight-year-old son, or even teenagers. "I regard it as an adult activity," he said.

Senate from A1

"The war on drugs ... is not working in the state of Maryland. It is not working in the United States. We are spending incredible resources with our judiciary with our law enforcement, and the rate of drug use is not going down," he said.

Sen. Bryan W. Simonaire, R-Anne Arundel, cast one of the eight votes against the legislation.

"I think it sends the wrong message to our children. There's quite a buzz in our high schools about this bill. ... And what I'm hearing is that it's just like a speeding ticket: They don't want a speeding ticket, but if they get it, they just move on," Simonaire said.

"Two years ago, I believe we had a 'Just Say No' policy to drugs, which many parents agree with. Now, under this, I

think it's more like, 'Just Say a Little' — like 10 grams — and then, at this rate in a year or so, we would just say, 'Just Do It,'" Simonaire said.

The Senate also passed a decriminalization last year by a margin of 30-16, but it died in a House committee.

Another bill, which would decriminalize the possession of a slightly larger amount of marijuana, was debated Thursday

in the House Judiciary Committee. The sponsor, Delegate Heather Mizeur, D-Montgomery, who is running for governor, proposes decriminalizing one ounce of marijuana — which is approximately 28 grams. The committee has not yet taken further action.

Proposals to legalize and tax marijuana in Maryland are also pending in House and Senate committees.

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Watch from A4

other members of the WPC and driving around the city to meet them at strategic drop-off locations with bundles of leaflets. She said: "By 2 o'clock, thousands of the mimeographed handbills had changed hands many times. Practically every black man, woman, and child in Montgomery knew the plan and was passing the word along. No one knew where the notices had come from or who had arranged for their circulation, and no one cared. Those who passed them on did so efficiently, quietly, and without comment. But deep within the heart of every black person was a joy he or she dared not reveal."

Under Jo Ann Robinson's direction, more than 50,000 leaflets were produced and distributed that day. The boycott was an enormous success, and as the day-long boycott became a year-long crusade, women remained its backbone. When a public spokesperson was needed at the very start of the boycott, behind the scenes Robinson, who was an active member of Montgomery's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, recommended her congregation's new 26-year-old pastor Martin Luther King, Jr. to lead the newly-formed Montgomery Improvement Association. The WPC continued to be instrumental in organizing the carpools that made the boycott possible. Women formed fundraising clubs to sell sweet potato pies and other baked goods and competed every week to see which club could earn the most money to support the Montgomery Improvement Association. The federal lawsuit that was filed and successfully struck down bus segregation, Browder

v. Gayle, had four Black women plaintiffs. Black women were the unrecognized faceless leaders of change aided by some prominent White women like Virginia Durr.

Jo Ann Robinson continued to work quietly behind the scenes, but was known well enough to become a target of violence like Dr. King and many others: one police officer threw a rock through her home's window and another poured acid on her car. That did not stop her. As Dr. King put it, "Apparently indefatigable, she, perhaps more than any other person, was active on every level of the protest." Meanwhile the boycott she and other women began sparked a movement that changed our nation and world. Jo Ann Robinson and other unsung heroines of the civil rights movement remain role models for the tireless indispensable behind the scenes leaders whose strength and determination we desperately need right now. Our children are waiting every day for strong Black women leaders and their allies to break up the Cradle to Prison Pipeline® crisis and get them the quality early childhood education and schools that will prepare them for the future.

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

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

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