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More Thought Needed on Schools' Concussion Plan

By LIZ LANE
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK -- Although the Anne Arundel County Board of Education this year adopted a policy to educate parents, athletes and coaches about concussions, the school system's athletics coordinator said more needs to be done to ensure the safety of players on and off the field.

Coordinator of Athletics Greg LeGrand said how quickly a concussed athlete can return to play and school and what academic accommodations the student initially receives are two challenges the schools are still facing.

The problem starts, LeGrand said, with the state's requirement that athletes be cleared by a

medical professional before returning to school. The signature doesn't truly guarantee the athlete is ready to be back, he said.

If a doctor isn't familiar with an athlete's specific circumstances and history, the student could be sent back to school too soon, LeGrand said. And athletes should have a "very specific" note to return to school and play, stipulating what activities they're ready for, he said.

"This is one of the biggest battles we've had to face," LeGrand said.

Dr. Tyler Cymet, Maryland State Medical Society president-elect, said the medical field is working hard to better under-

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MEGAN BROCKETT.

President Obama Awards the Medal of Honor to Sgt. Kyle J. White

D.C. Drivers Fuel Ridesharing Competition With Creativity

By DREW RAUSO
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK -The giant stuffed pink moustache affixed to the front of Elizabeth Croydon's silver Mazda Tribute isn't just for decoration. It means she's a driver for Lyft, one of the half-dozen ridesharing companies competing for passengers in Washington, D.C.

"I needed a job that I could work in between the hours of my standup comic career and freelancing gigs, and with Lyft, my car is my office," said Croy-

don, who keeps water bottles, tissues and snacks for passengers in her car -- and a pack of tarot cards she's used to give readings at the end of the trip.

Croydon, who works as a standup comic and writer and began driving for Lyft in June, is one of a growing number of drivers for the smartphone-app driven companies that serve as alternatives to taxis.

Washington has become a battleground for ridesharing

See DRIVERS Page A7

President Obama Awards the Medal of Honor to Sgt. Kyle J. White

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the White House

This afternoon, President Obama awarded Sgt. Kyle J. White, a former active-duty Army Sergeant, the Medal of Honor during a ceremony at the White House. Sgt. White received the medal for his courageous actions

during combat operations in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.

On the afternoon of November 9, 2007, Sgt. White and the 13 members of his team left a meeting in an Afghan village and headed back up a steep hill, into an area that was known as "ambush alley."

"That's when a single shot rang out," President Obama

said. "Then another. And then the entire canyon erupted, with bullets coming from what seemed like every direction."

Sgt. White emptied a full magazine as his platoon returned fire against the ambush. But while reloading, an explosion from an enemy grenade knocked him unconscious. When he came to, his face was

pressed against a rock -- and soon after, enemy fire hit another rock close to his head, sending shrapnel and rock shards across Sgt. White's face.

Yet in the middle of this danger, Sgt. White's heroism and selflessness were made evident,

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Maryland Working Women Still Lag Behind Men

By TAZEEN ASIYA AHMAD
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Across the nation, women earn less than their male counterparts, make up a majority of minimum wage workers and carry the greatest burden when it comes to balancing family life with work.

In Maryland, women have it a little better -- earning 85 cents on every dollar white men earn, 8 cents above the national average. Overall, women are doing better economically than their counterparts in any other state, according to a report by the Center for American Progress.

But a closer look at the data shows that not all women in Maryland, particularly women of color, are doing as well.

African-American women are paid 70 cents for every dollar paid to white men, and Hispanic women rank close to the bottom nationwide making only 46 cents on the white male dollar.

Only three other states have a wage gap higher than Maryland when it comes to Hispanic women -- California, Texas and New Jersey.

"White men and Latinas are each concentrated in occupations at opposite ends of the wage distribution -- white men at the top and Latinas at the bottom," said Valerie Wilson, the director of the Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington.

Wilson refers to it as occupational segregation.

Maryland Latinas are 30 percent more likely to be employed in low wage occupations -- housekeepers, fast food workers, etc., than Latinas nationally.

Wilson said this can be explained by the fact that in Maryland a higher percentage of the Latino population is foreign-born (52 percent) than the national average (36 percent). Additionally, a large number of the foreign-born Latinos are newer immigrants, entering the United States after 2000.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY TAZEEN ASIYA AHMAD
Diana Davis, manager at Denny's in Perryville, still can't afford health insurance even under Obamacare.

Of all employed white men in Maryland, 47.5 percent are in higher paying jobs in management, business, science and arts. Nationally, that figure is 37 percent.

Wilson credits this to the higher percentage of white men in Maryland (43 percent) with a bachelor's degree, compared to the national average (33 percent).

Advocates for working women hope the recent passage of the minimum wage bill by the Maryland General Assembly, calling for incremental increases to the state's minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2018, will help decrease this wage gap and

See WOMEN Page A3

Dr. Maya Angelou An American Treasure

April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY LAWRENCE JACKSON

President Barack Obama awards the 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom to Dr. Maya Angelou in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House February 15, 2011.

INSIDE

Hoyer Delivers University of Maryland's School of Public Policy Commencement Address

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5), a University of Maryland alumnus, was honored to be selected to delivered the Commencement address for the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy Commencement ceremony.

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From Hardship to Hope

Foster care is intended to be a temporary solution during one of the darkest times of a child's life, but the average length of stay is nearly two years, and every year more than 23,000 youths "age out" of foster care at age 18 or older without being connected to a forever family.

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Mills, Environmentalists Debate Energy Subsidies For Black Liquor

Luke Mill in Western Maryland is the only in-state facility that burns black liquor for energy, but it isn't the only one that receives funding through Maryland's portfolio standard, said James McGarry, chief policy analyst for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Godzilla"

The day has come! After 60 years, for the first time, we've finally got a Hollywood version of Godzilla. It's amazing nobody ever tried it before, but better late than never, right? Finally! The first American Godzilla movie. You heard me. THE FIRST.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Do you agree with the recent claim in the Wall Street Journal that organic agriculture isn't actually sustainable?

— Chuck Romaniello,
Pittsburgh, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Beltway signs honor slain State Trooper

Maryland State Trooper First Class Wesley Brown, shot and killed while working off-duty, is now being remembered with two highway memorial signs on the Capital Beltway near Pennsylvania Avenue. An unveiling ceremony was held May 28.

Trooper Brown, 24, who was assigned to the Forestville Barrack, was working as a part-time security guard at Applebee's in Forestville on June 11, 2010, when he removed from the restaurant a customer who had become disruptive. The man returned with a friend's gun and fatally shot the trooper.

Cyril Cornelius Williams was sentenced May 10 in Prince George's County Circuit Court to life in prison without parole plus 25 years.

The sign honors Brown not only for his work as a State Trooper but also has a role model for young men. In 2007 he founded an organization, Young Men Enlightening Younger Men.

Neighbors

Former Morningsider Rose Hoffman has framed a 1940 menu from a restaurant we all loved, Oakland Inn on Marlboro Pike. Back in '40 five dollars would have paid for a steak dinner.

Harry Fleming, my neighbor on Skyline Drive, turned 95 last week and a lot of family showed up to celebrate with him. At 95, he's still driving a cab.

Harry's daughter, Eva, is heading to Boston for the graduation of her granddaughter Camylle Fleming at Boston Law School. Camylle graduated locally from Sidwell Friends School and then from Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

Janice Diggers, clerk/treasurer for the Town of Morningside, has been honored by the Morningside Chief of Police and his officers who took her to lunch and presented her with a plaque in appreciation of her "dedication and serv-

ice" to the department and to the town.

Lori Williams, of Morningside, is taking over as editor of the Morningside Sun, the town newsletter.

Jackie Whipple, of Camp Springs, just graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in archeology and anthropology.

St. Philip's School Principal Linda Cullinan was honored with a reception in the Social Hall on June 1. She is retiring after 17 years at the school and forty years as an educator.

Lindsey Green, Jr. and Dave Desmarais were elected to the St. Philip's Parish Pastoral Council in May.

In last week's column I mentioned that a bank in Suitland has been demolished but I couldn't remember the name. I had four email responses, three of which said it was Peoples Bank. Sound right?

Precious is missing

A sign posted on the corner pole announces a Jack Russell Terrier is missing. She is wearing a purple dog collar and her name is Precious. Call Kendra, 301-257-4958, or Dennis, 301-379-1719.

Changing landscape

The wrecked cars left behind after the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department's Tactical Extrication Class still adorn the firehouse parking lot. But I understand steps have been taken to get them removed and the parking lot all cleaned up.

I trust it will be in time for the Skyline Yard Sale at the firehouse on Saturday, June 7. By the way, tables are \$15. Fish & chips, hotdogs and sodas will be for sale (no outside food vendors permitted). Call 240-838-6412 or 301-967-1320.

I notice that the speed cameras on Suitland Road have been removed. But don't start speeding. Morningside will be hiring another supplier and new cameras will soon be installed.

State and local officials gathered May 16 to break ground on a \$37 million construction proj-

ect to improve access at the Branch Avenue Metro Station.

Tour Suitland Bog

Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the Suitland Bog! Discover the uniqueness of this rare hillside magnolia bog, right here in my neighborhood. It's in the 6000 block of Suitland Road adjacent to Suitland Parkway, and there's parking in front of the entrance gate.

The bog is noted for its rare, threatened and carnivorous plants. Tours are conducted on a boardwalk, to avoid damaging this unusual plant life.

The next tour will be Saturday, June 7. Other scheduled tours will be July 5 and August 2, all between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Tours are free and appropriate for ages 2 and up. For information, call the Park Ranger Office, 301-627-7755 or just show up

May he rest in peace

Maj. Gen. Warren L. Freeman, who served from 2003 to 2012 as Commandant of the Forestville Military Academy, the first public military academy in Maryland, died at home on May 17. He was retired from the District of Columbia National Guard, served on the board of directors for the Boy Scouts of America and the Black United Fund, the Tuskegee Airmen Association and Buffalo Soldiers Association, among many other organizations. Survivors include his 92-year-old mother Sarah, his wife Barbara, two sons, and two grandsons.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Fay Norton-Cummings and Malik Reed, June 6; Trisha Reamy, June 7; Ryan Fowler and John Nichols, June 8; Robin Murphy, Vera Pope and Rev. Frank Ways, June 9; Laura Smith Jenkins, June 10; Fannie Dimes, Meghan Trexler Decker, and Jennifer Jenkins McClelland, June 11; Keenan Clark and Shirley Proffit, June 12.

Happy 43rd anniversary to Kathy and Bob Elborne on June 12.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

CAMP CORNERSTONE

Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church will offer a Performing Arts Camp June 16-August 8th. The Camp is open to children ages 4-12 for 8 one week sessions that cost \$150/week. Camp Site is the Excellence Christian School 9010 Frank Tippet Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. To obtain more details contact Rev. Lisa Maynor at 301-868-8363 or lisa.maynor@cornerpeace.org.

GOLFING FOR EDUCATION

Prince George's County Public Schools (Excellence in Education Foundation for PCCPS) will host 4th Annual Golfing for Education Tournament Thursday, June 19, 2014 from 7:00 AM-5:00 PM (Tee Time 8:30 AM). The Golf Tournament will be held at The Country Club at Woodmore 12320 Pleasant Prospect, Mitchellville. Contact the Office of Communications for more information at 301-952-6001 or communications@pgcps.org.

YARD SALE

Clinton United Methodist Church United Methodist Women Yard Sale will be held

on Saturday, June 14, 2014 8:00 AM-2:00 PM. Tables are \$15.00 each; if you bring your own table, rent a space for \$15.00. Refreshments will be available for sale. No outside food vendors permitted. To rent a table or space and additional information, please contact Carol Hughes (240) 472-5527, nahcar@aol.com; Mia Kerrick (240) 681-3834; KerricksCUMC@outlook.com or the Church Office at (301) 868-1281 (9:00 AM-1:00 PM).

CAMPAQUASCO

Camp Splash for girls in Grades K-5 will be held June 16-20, 2014 at Camp Aquasco from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. Cost to attend the camp is \$50 (financial assistance available) includes T-Shirt, transportation and snack daily). Camp fees are non-refundable. Campers should bring a healthy lunch and water bottle to camp each day. Girls will be able to enjoy games, STEM, S'Mores and water balloon activities. Girls entering 4th and 5th grade look forward to a Girl Scout overnight experience.

Free transportation is provided. Camp Splash is a community outreach camp designed as

an introductory program for girls who are not currently Girl Scouts. To register for Camp Splash you can visit www.gscnc.org/camp_splash.html. Registration deadline is June 6, 2014. Contact Melony Wheeler at mwheeler@gscnc.org or call 301-861-5864 for questions or more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Son Treasure Island Vacation Bible School will be June 16-20, 2014 from 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon at Clinton United Methodist Church. The church address is 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. Church office telephone number is (301) 868-1281.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Senior and Junior Usher Ministry of Asbury United Methodist Church in Brandywine, Maryland are celebrating their 65th Usher Anniversary on Sunday, June 8, 2014 at 3:00 PM. The guest speaker will be Rev. Kermit Clifton Charles Moore, Pastor of Alexandria United Methodist Church located in Charles County.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement on USA Freedom Act

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement regarding her vote against H.R. 3361, the USA Freedom Act. The legislation passed the House 303-121.

"After much deliberation, I opposed the USA Freedom Act because I continue to believe it doesn't strike the necessary balance between protecting our national security and protecting our 4th Amendment rights. Without question, national security issues are critically important, and I applaud all those who work at the Department of Defense, the National Security Agency, and others for their dedication to duty and professionalism. We must provide them with the means to gather the information necessary to keep America safe. However, we cannot allow the pursuit of that goal to infringe on the civil liberties that we, as Americans, hold sacred and fought so hard to defend.

"Supporters claim this bill ends 'bulk collection' of Americans' data, but the government can still, without probable cause, order all records for 'area code 301,' for 'zip code 20772,' or even all of the emails for accounts that start with the letter 'S,' each without a warrant. In order to achieve the right balance, I believe Congress must: tighten the definition of 'specific selection term;' reform Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; require (not simply authorize) the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court to appoint lawyers to argue on behalf of Americans' privacy rights, instead of the court just hearing from one side before ruling; and allow the controversial Section 215 of the Patriot Act to expire in June 2015, instead of extending it for more than two additional years. I hope that as the Senate considers its version of NSA reform later this year that we will incorporate some of these much needed changes to restore the Constitutional protections entitled to all Americans."

Maryland State Bar Association Event raises \$12,000 For Charity

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The Maryland State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section (YLS) presented the Melody Cronin Fund of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society with a check for the sum of \$12,000 during a special ceremony held May 12 at Carroll's Creek Café in Annapolis, Maryland.

The Fund was established through the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society by the family of the late Melody Cronin, a young attorney and YLS member who lost her battle with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) in 2012, leaving behind her husband and 2-year-old son, for the purpose of financing research toward finding a cure for AML. YLS raised the money through MSBA's 23rd Annual Charity Event, held March 14 at the Admiral Fell Inn in Baltimore.

Over 130 guests attended YLS's generously sponsored Charity Event, which raised the \$12,000 donation through ticket sales and Silent Auction proceeds.



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

YLS Chair, Gregory Kirby explains, "Choosing Melody's Fund, benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Maryland, as this year's charity was a no-brainer for me. As many people know, we lost Melody Cronin this past year to leukemia. She was very special to all of us, and an extremely active and integral part of the YLS. We were blessed with an opportunity to honor her this year, and through the tremendous efforts and support of many, the YLS was able to raise \$12,000, which appears to be the largest such donation provided from our charity event in its history!"

Melody's husband, and President of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Maryland Chapter remarks, "We were thrilled to have Melody's Fund be the beneficiary of this year's YLS charity event. The YLS team did a fantastic job planning and raised not only a large amount of research dollars but also blood cancer awareness throughout the legal community. Melody gave a large portion of her free time to focus on charity events as an active member of the YLS. This event was not only an honor to Melody's pro bono focus, but a major step forward for all of those who are diagnosed with Melody's type of Leukemia (AML-FLT3)."

iPads Available at Prince George's County Library

HYATTSVILLE, Md.— Prince George's County Memorial Library System began lending iPad tablet computers at the South Bowie Branch. Adult library card holders can borrow iPads for two hours within the building using the branch's automated Media-Surfer kiosks.

"We're one of the only libraries in Maryland lending iPads. They're another addition to our digital media offerings, including everything from our mobile app to online media streaming, available free to anyone with a library card," said Kathleen Teaze, director of the library system.

Library iPads come pre-loaded with apps, including Angry Birds, Facebook, Flic, Google Earth, IMDb, Job Search, Kindle, Netflix, Newsstand, Owl iLibrary, Pandora, Pinterest, Twitter, WebMD, YouTube and Zillow. Customers may download additional apps while borrowing iPads, but the apps and other personal information will be deleted upon return.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System provides materials and information for study and personal enrichment, offering strategies for lifelong learning through access to varied media and professional guid-

ance. The library system consists of branches in 19 communities including Accokeek, Baden, Beltsville, Bladensburg, Bowie, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville, Largo-Kettering, Laurel, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, Oxon Hill, South Bowie, Spauldings, Surratt-Clinton and Upper Marlboro. (www.pgmls.info)

Hoyer Visits Phoenix International Holdings, Inc., Discusses Make It In America Plan

LARGO, MD — In recognition of National Small Business Week, Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-5) visited Phoenix International Holdings, a local business in Largo, MD, yesterday. During his visit, he discussed his Make It In America jobs plan he is leading in Congress.

"I'm pleased I had an opportunity to visit Phoenix International to see firsthand the outstanding work they perform in Maryland and around the world," stated Congressman Hoyer. "I have a jobs plan called 'Make It In America' that I'm leading in Congress to strengthen manufacturing, boost American innovation, and create well-paying jobs so I'm very excited about the unique capabilities that Phoenix International is providing around the globe and the good-paying jobs they create here at home. I will continue to pursue this agenda in Congress so that companies like Phoenix International can grow, expand, and make it in America and right here in Maryland."

"Phoenix International Holdings, Inc (Phoenix) was pleased to have Congressman Steny Hoyer visit our Largo MD facility," stated General Manager of Phoenix International, Jim Gibson. "We believe the underwater systems we develop at our facility in support of our work for the U.S. Navy and commercial customers are excellent examples what it means to 'Make It In America' and we are proud to be included in the list of companies that support this initiative."

Phoenix International designs and builds manned and unmanned systems that assist with deep ocean search and recovery missions, waterborne ship repairs, underwater inspections and surveys, submarine rescue, marine construction support, and engineering support of underwater operations. Phoenix International has played an important role in many search and recovery efforts for commercial airlines, such as Air France Flight 447, and is part of a multi-national team searching for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

The Make It In America plan has four core components: adopt and pursue a national manufacturing strategy; promote U.S. exports; encourage businesses to bring jobs and innovation back home; and train and secure a twenty-first century workforce.

Since the plan was launched, ten Make It In America bills have been signed into law. Click here to view a full list of Make It In America laws, as well as additional legislation introduced by Members of Congress.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Don't Fall Prey to Medical Identity Theft

By now, most people know about the perils of identity theft, where someone steals your personal or financial account information and makes fraudulent charges or opens bogus accounts in your name.

Lately, a not-so-new twist has been getting a lot of attention — medical identity theft. That's where someone gains access to your health insurance or Medicare account information and uses it to submit phony insurance claims, obtain prescription drugs or medical devices, or get medical treatment in your name.

Besides its high cost, medical ID theft also can have deadly consequences: Suppose someone poses as you and gets an appendectomy; if you later entered the hospital with abdominal pain, your medical file would show that your appendix was already removed and you could be tragically misdiagnosed.

Here are a few tips for avoiding medical ID fraud and steps to take if it happens:

Your medical files are often full of information ID thieves crave: account numbers for Social Security, health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, contact information, email address, etc. All it takes is one stolen employee laptop or an intercepted piece of mail or email to leave you vulnerable.

Sophisticated thieves will also hack computer networks of insurance companies, pharmacies, medical equipment suppliers and others who have access to your medical records. And unfortunately, the black market for stolen information is so tempting that employees have been known to steal data.

Common signs of medical identity theft include:

- ❑ Provider bills or insurance Explanation of Benefits (EOB) forms that reference medical services you didn't receive. (Verify all dates, providers and treatments and look for duplicate billing.)
- ❑ Calls from debt collectors about unfamiliar bills.
- ❑ Medical collection notices on your credit report.

Just as you shouldn't hesitate to ask your doctor or nurse whether they washed their hands, so you should feel free to ask what security precautions their business office takes to protect your information.

Here are a few preventive measures to take:

- ❑ Never reveal personal or account information during unsolicited calls or emails.
- ❑ Be suspicious if someone offers you free medical equipment or services and then requests your Medicare number.
- ❑ Never let people borrow your Medicare or insurance card to obtain services for themselves. Not only is this illegal, but it could be disastrous if your medical histories become intermingled (think about differing allergies, blood types, etc.)
- ❑ Regularly check your credit reports for unpaid bills for unfamiliar medical services or equipment. This could indicate someone has opened a new insurance policy using your identity and is running up charges.

If you suspect or know your information has been compromised, ask for copies of your medical records from each doctor, hospital, pharmacy, lab or health plan where a thief may have used your information. Also request a copy of their "Accounting of Disclosures" form, which lists everyone who got copies of your medical records.

Next, write them all by certified mail explaining which information is inaccurate, along with copies of documents supporting your position. Ask them to correct or delete all errors and to inform everyone they may have sent records to (labs, other doctors, hospitals, etc.) Keep copies of all correspondence and logs of all phone calls or other related activities.

You can also file a police report and contact the fraud units at the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. You may want to place a fraud alert or freeze on your accounts. Visit the Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft site for more information (www.consumer.ftc.gov).



Hoyer Delivers University of Maryland's School of Public Policy Commencement Address

By PRESS SECRETARY
House of Representatives

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5), a University of Maryland alumnus, delivered the Commencement address for the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy Commencement ceremony. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

"Thank you, Dean [Donald] Kettl, for that kind introduction and for the honor of addressing the Commencement class of 2014.

"Thank you, [Commencement Speaker] Caleb [Wolf], for those inspiring words, and, Professor [Philip] Joyce, for sharing your insights with us this morning.

"Thank you to the parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends who are here and who helped our graduates reach this day. And thank you as well to the faculty, staff, and administration of the School of Public Policy for everything you have done — as mentors and advisors — to prepare the class of 2014 for whatever comes next.

"Let me also extend my congratulations to graduates Martin Fitzgerald and Sara Gallagher, who are recipients of the fellowship my late wife, Judy, and I established to promote the study of public policy. And I also want to congratulate Christina England, Lindsay Dodd, and Rachel Kane, who are this year's Gladys Noon Spellman Fellows. I had the honor of succeeding Congresswoman Spellman in the House after she fell ill and was unable to stay in office. I joined with her family in 1985 to launch the fellowship in her name to support outstanding students here at the School of Public Policy.

"The year I graduated from law school in 1966, Senator Robert F. Kennedy delivered a powerful address while visiting the University of Capetown in South Africa. He said: 'Like it or not, we live in times of danger and uncertainty... All of us will ultimately be judged, and as the years pass we will surely judge ourselves, on the effort we have contributed to building a new world society and the extent to which our ideals and goals have shaped that event. ... Our future may lie beyond our vision, but it is not completely beyond our control. It is the shaping impulse of America that neither fate nor nature nor the irresistible tides of history, but the work of

our own hands, matched to reason and principle, that will determine our destiny.'

"Senator Kennedy's words are as true today as they were then. Like it or not, graduates of 2014, we live in times of danger and uncertainty — but the future is not beyond our control.

"When Senator Kennedy spoke in 1966, the security of our world rested in the hands of two superpowers, the balance between them providing a measure of stability. In 2014, it is not one main adversary that we face but a host of non-state actors and regional powers vying for advantage in power and resources.

"In 1966, our gross federal debt was \$328 billion. Today it is over \$17 trillion.

"When I graduated, the federal minimum wage was \$1.25 an hour. While today it is \$7.25, in 1966 dollars that would have equaled just \$0.99 an hour. And there is a growing skepticism among many Americans that the opportunities that enabled you to access higher education will no longer be there for the next generation.

"In 1966, information traveled around the world in a matter of hours, as newspapers went to print and television was broadcast. Today, within a split-second, a single tweet can launch a conversation spanning the globe — just as easily as it can launch an uprising or spark sectarian violence.

"The world you are entering as newly minted graduates is a far more complex one than when I stood in your shoes. However, I can say with certainty that you are well prepared for it.

"The education you received here at the School of Public Policy is rooted in its mission to 'prepare broadly knowledgeable and innovative leaders to have an impact on the profound challenges of the twenty-first century.'

"Our challenges are indeed profound, but you have the tools to make a positive impact. As Kennedy said, it is the 'work of our own hands' — what you will do with your Maryland education — 'matched to reason and principle, that will determine [the] destiny' of our nation.

"Reason and principle in today's public discourse are in too short supply. The challenges of the twenty-first century will require those who engage in policymaking not only to be good leaders but good listeners. Not simply to care

about issues but to address them carefully and acknowledge their complexities.

"Sadly, too much of our politics of late has been characterized by simplicity: sound-bites rather than sound arguments and impulse without regard to implications.

"However, as I look out at all of you and think about the promise of your generation, I see much cause for hope that 'reason and principle' will continue to serve as your guide.

"When I wore the cap and gown in 1966, there were only three women in my law school class and few role models for women in government. Fortunately, this has changed, and I have had the privilege of serving alongside pioneering women like Barbara Mikulski, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Nancy Pelosi, who continue to inspire a new generation to public service.

"When I began law school, segregation and discrimination continued to deny equal access and equal opportunity to millions of Americans. I entered public service in large part because of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, while much work remains to make our union more perfect, the moral arc of the universe, as Dr. King predicted, has bent in justice's direction. But the quest for justice remains ongoing, and, it is for your generation to bend that arc further.

"The growing diversity among our policymakers — in both background and in beliefs — makes America stronger as we face new challenges. However, we must make certain that diversity does not manifest itself as division.

"I have confidence that you and your peers can meet our challenges. What you learned here at the School of Public Policy was not just a broad set of knowledge but an understanding of your ability to reason and determine your own set of principles — and how to channel that knowledge, that reason, and those principles into making a difference.

"You've already shown us how. Each year, School of Public Policy students participate in the 'Do Good Challenge,' where participants team up to make the greatest possible social impact through innovative philanthropy. One of this year's two winning teams created a social networking site for LGBT youth to connect with pen-pals for peer-to-peer support. The other

launched an organization to build schools in Honduras. Finalists included a team working to connect the Anacostia River bike trail to an urban farm and another linking college-age mentors with at-risk students in Prince George's County.

"Your generation, the most inter-connected in human history, has the advantage of seeing more of the world up close than any generation before it. But as our world shrinks, your responsibility to do good in it will grow. Even now, as was the case in the last century and for centuries before that, the awareness of injustice or suffering too often did not lead to action. In the twenty-first century, however, one cannot plead ignorance of injustice or suffering on the other side of the room or, indeed, the other side of the world.

"So I implore you, in each of your own lives and careers, to commit to a philanthropy of time, energy, and effort by giving your talents to the challenges you discover. And, with the world at your fingertips, you will surely find many.

"An education demands responsibility, so proceed from here with pride in having attained knowledge but also humbled, recognizing what possession of that knowledge entails. As the years pass and — to paraphrase Kennedy — 'you surely judge yourselves,' let your yardstick be the degree to which you were guided by 'reason and principle' and by how well you employed them to do good wherever possible.

"Sometimes you will be daunted by the task before you, but I will leave you with the same direction my Commencement speaker gave the University of Maryland Class of 1963. Lyndon Johnson, still Vice President six months before John F. Kennedy's assassination, stood before us and quoted from Shakespeare, who wrote: 'Our doubts are traitors, / and make us lose the good we oft might win, / by fearing to attempt.'

"Do not fear to attempt. Challenge yourselves to do good. And challenge others to do the same. In doing so, you will surely judge yourselves successful.

"Congratulations, and Godspeed!"

Women from A1

improve the overall situation for women in the state.

"Raising the minimum wage in Maryland is an excellent step for women, which will increase their economic security, reduce poverty levels and help close the gender wage gap," said Katherine Gallagher Robbins, a senior policy analyst at the National Women's Law Center in Washington.

Rep. Andy Harris, R-Cockeysville, the state's only Republican member of Congress, doesn't agree.

"Maryland, by doing this, is now in a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states," Harris said.

He also points to the Congressional Budget Office report that showed that raising the federal minimum wage would result in the loss of half a million jobs.

"Since minimum wage jobs disproportionately affect the young and minorities, we are going to increase the unemployment rate among these groups, who are already at historically high levels," Harris said.

But for Sara Hernandez, a single Hispanic mom living in

Elkridge who works for \$8 an hour at a fast food restaurant, the raise doesn't come soon enough.

"I am happy, but I wish it was raised to \$10.10 sooner. It is supposed to go up to \$8 an hour on January 1st, but I already make that," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said at her present salary it is hard to make ends meet.

"I spend on the most basic things — car insurance, rent, babysitter, food — but we have to cram in and live with many families because I can't afford to pay rent by myself," Hernandez said.

Hernandez lives well below the poverty line, and she is not alone. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that about 330,000 women in Maryland live in poverty.

Single-parent households headed by a female had a poverty rate of 29.1 percent in the state compared to 7.9 percent for all Maryland families, according to a new report coauthored by Progressive Maryland Education Fund and the Maryland Center on Economic Policy.

The report also shows that income varies greatly along racial lines, and that both African-Americans and Hispanics are more than twice as likely to be

living in poverty than non-Hispanic whites.

Additionally, the report finds the poverty rate in the state varies greatly by county. Howard County has the lowest poverty rate at 6.3 percent, while Somerset County has the highest at 29.6 percent.

Educational attainment and family living arrangements are also significant factors that affect economic status, according to the report.

The state's high cost of living also comes into play.

"It is worth noting that the median annual earnings for Hispanic women in Maryland rank 12th highest in the nation and the median earnings for white, non-Hispanic men in Maryland are 4th — so both are relatively well-paid compared to their counterparts in other states," said Gallagher Robbins, of the National Women's Law Center.

She said it is important to remember that even if a woman makes more in an expensive state like Maryland, her earnings might cover a smaller share of her expenses than if she made less in a state with a lower cost of living.

And in Maryland, the differences in the cost of living can vary dramatically from county to county.

In Montgomery County, a family of three — one adult, one preschooler and a school-age child — needs \$78,000 just to make ends meet. A comparable family living in Garrett County needs \$30,000, according to the 2012 Self-Sufficiency Standard, prepared for the Maryland Community Action Partnership.

The report calculates the cost of living for Maryland families based on the price of basic necessities such as housing, food, transportation and child care. It finds that while these costs increased statewide by 54 percent since 2001, median earnings did not keep up, increasing only 25 percent.

In another effort to make the workplace more equal for women workers, Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski has introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would make it easier for women to sue for sex discrimination in wages and prevent employers from retaliating against

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Wants Students to be Able to Refinance Loans for Lower Rates, Easing Debt Load

Students Deserve A Fair Shot at Success Without the Burden of Excessive Student Loan Debt Holding Them Back

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, visited Bowie State University last week to talk with BSU President Mickey L. Burnim about the growing crisis in college affordability and ways the federal government could work with higher education institutions to ease the burden for students. Senator Cardin is a cosponsor of the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act (S. 2292), which would allow those who currently hold student loan debt to refinance it at the lower interest rates currently offered only to new borrowers. The General Accountability Office estimates that the federal government will make \$66 billion dollars on student loans issued from 2007-2012

"We cannot afford to make higher education prohibitively expensive for most Americans if we want America to continue to be a world leader in commerce, security, or any area. There is something inherently wrong about the government making billions off of student loans when the future of our nation is at stake," said Senator Cardin. "This legislation is a rational step towards providing a fair shot to all our students so they can see an end to the mountains of debt they are being forced to accept in exchange for a higher education. Congress saw fit to freeze the interest rates at 3.84 for recent graduates; all Americans deserve the same opportunity."

"Providing greater access to affordable higher education is critical for the future of our state and our nation," said Bowie State University President Burnim. "I applaud Senator Cardin and other Congressional leaders for their commitment to advancing this agenda."

Many Americans spend years paying student loan interest rates of nearly 7 percent or higher for undergraduate their education. At the same time, others taking out new undergraduate loans pay a rate of 3.86 percent under the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act passed by Congress last summer. The Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act would allow Americans to pay back their outstanding loans at the same rates that Congress embraced just last summer as appropriate for new borrowers. The legislation is fully paid for by enacting the Buffett Rule, which would limit special tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans that allow millionaires and billionaires to pay lower effective tax rates than the middle.

The weighted average tuition for 2014-2015 at Maryland four-year public colleges is expected to be \$9,082 per academic year, according to the College Savings Plans of Maryland. For two-year community colleges, the weighted average tuition is expected to be \$4,197 per academic year.

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



NBA Commissioner Slam Dunks His First Crisis

"Effective immediately, I am banning Mr. Sterling for life from any association with the Clippers organization or the NBA...I will urge the Board of Governors to exercise its authority to force a sale of the team and will do everything in my power to ensure that that happens."

— NBA Commissioner Adam Silver

Last week, Adam Silver, who has only been Commissioner of the National Basketball Association (NBA) for three months, made a bold leadership statement when he took swift and tough action in response to hateful and racist comments made by Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling. We applaud Silver's lifetime ban of Sterling and his unambiguous insistence on respecting the racial diversity among players and fans for which the league is known. First a quick recap.

On April 25, TMZ, the celebrity news website, aired the audio tape of a conversation between Sterling and his girlfriend. During their conversation, Sterling said in part: "It bothers me a lot that you want to broadcast that you're associating with Black people. Do you have to? ... You can sleep with them. You can bring them in, you can do whatever you want. The little I ask you is not to promote it ... and not to bring them to my games."

This sparked an instant firestorm of outrage among the general public, the NBA, the Clippers organization and team sponsors. The National Urban League called on Commissioner Silver to take an "uncompromising stand against any form of prejudice in the NBA," where more than 75% of the players are African American. We also called for Sterling's lifetime ban.

After a quick and thorough investigation, Commissioner Silver took decisive action. In a widely anticipated April 29 press conference, he announced that he was imposing a lifetime ban on Sterling, fining him the maximum \$2.5 million and setting in motion the process to force Sterling to sell his team. In announcing his decision, Silver

said, "I am personally distraught that the views expressed by Mr. Sterling came from within an institution that has historically taken such a leadership role in matters of race relations and caused current and former players, coaches, fans and partners of the NBA to question their very association with the league."

The National Urban League joined a coalition of civil rights organizations in immediately applauding Silver's actions. At a time when racial divisions are being obscured or denied in such areas as voting rights, income inequality, affirmative action and criminal justice, Silver displayed the kind of leadership on tough, uncomfortable issues that is defining and legacy-building. This was his first crisis as Commissioner, and he handled it exceptionally well. He did not run from the issue of race and racism as many might have advised him to do. Instead, he confronted the issue with compassion and common sense and opened a much-needed dialogue about a path forward for the NBA.

We are encouraged by Commissioner Silver's demonstration of courage, especially at this early juncture in his tenure. We look forward to working with him to deepen diversity and inclusion in the league, especially in the ownership ranks.

This controversy was also especially disruptive to Clippers head coach Doc Rivers and his players, who were in the midst of a first-round playoff series with the Golden State Warriors. But Rivers, too, displayed extraordinary judgment and dignity as he found the right balance between allowing his players to express their outrage while keeping them focused on winning.

Now, with the Los Angeles Clippers' victory in their seven game play-off series with the Golden State Warriors, it's on to the second round. With the Sterling controversy behind them, the players can focus all of their attention on the NBA championship — and as fans of the game, we can be even more proud of the league in which they play.

Captain Salem Avery House



Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: PUBDOG

CAPTAIN SALEM AVERY HOUSE

The Capt. Salem Avery House is a historic home and museum at 1418 East West Shady Side Road, Shady Side, Maryland. It is a two-story frame building, located on a 0.75-acre rectangular lot, overlooking the West River and Chesapeake Bay. The two-story house consists of the original residence, constructed about 1860, which was later expanded the 19th century and in the 1920s, by the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. There is also a modern boathouse built in 1993, featuring the locally built EDNA FLORENCE, a 1937 Chesapeake Bay deadrise workboat. Open Most Sundays, 1 - 4 pm from April through November, except major holiday weekends. Outdoor exhibits are open daily from dawn to dusk. For more information call 410-867-4486.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



From Hardship to Hope

"Foster care is not fun for anyone," says 24-year-old law student Amy Peters, who entered Nebraska's foster care system at age 12 and remained until she "aged out" at 19. Fortunately for Amy, she excelled in high school and was accepted at the University of Nebraska, and because she was attending college was eligible for housing, health care, and financial assistance until age 21 through Nebraska's Former Ward Program. Amy knows very well she was one of the lucky ones.

Foster care is intended to be a temporary solution during one of the darkest times of a child's life, but the average length of stay is nearly two years, and every year more than 23,000 youths "age out" of foster care at age 18 or older without being connected to a forever family. These vulnerable young people are at huge risk of dropping out of high school and ending up unemployed, homeless, or in the criminal justice system. Now Amy is one of the thousands of foster care alumni who are sharing their stories in hopes of sparking changes in the child welfare system.

Amy works for Project Everlast, a statewide, youth-led organization committed to providing resources, connections, support, and hope to young people exiting foster care. Through Project Everlast Amy and her peers successfully urged state lawmakers to replace the Former Ward Program with the Bridge to Independence Program, which will extend more services to other Nebraska youths up to age 21 transitioning from foster care so they can continue receiving supports like those that helped prepare Amy for successful adulthood.

Foster care activist and college student Sixto Cancel says he was only 11 months old when he was swept into foster care after his mother's drug habit led to abuse, poverty, and neglect. He was adopted at nine years old, but was later abandoned by his adoptive mother and re-entered foster care. In high school Sixto started a remedial education program for foster children, already determined to make a difference for those following in his footsteps. Today, he is deeply grate-

ful for the financial literacy education provided by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative that he received in high school.

Sixto "aged out" of foster care at age 18 and is now finishing his junior year at Virginia Commonwealth University. During his college years his financial literacy training has informed all his decisions from what courses to take to how to manage the basics of food, apartment, and transportation. Hardships have come his way. He's not complaining when he says that unlike most of his peers he has no parental safety net to fall back on when the going gets tough. In his work with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education's "Great Expectations" program, Sixto is working on a financial literacy and match savings program to help other Virginia youths who age out of foster care get the support they need to attend and succeed at the state's 26 public community colleges. Sixto and Amy are also both members of the National Foster Care Youth & Alumni Policy Council, which presents policy recommendations and youth perspective to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Sixto will be speaking at the Children's De-

fense Fund/Educational Testing Service June symposium Advancing Success for Black Men in College in Washington, D.C.

Although Ashley Kuber was only in foster care four months, like Amy and Sixto the 22-year-old has been working to help others still in foster care in Idaho's child welfare system. Growing up in a poor, unstable home, Ashley went to work early to buy clothes and help her family pay rent. When she was 14 Ashley was placed in foster care and lived with relatives until she reunited with her father. For the past two years Ashley has served on the Idaho Foster Youth Advisory Board, where the Board is working to develop a Youth Bill of Rights, a Sibling Bill of Rights, and a peer mentoring program for children in foster care. She and others on the Board have also spoken to groups of current and prospective foster parents and advocated at the governor's office. Last year Ashley was chosen for the FosterClub All-Stars, an intensive summer internship program recognizing young foster care alumni with leadership potential who want to help others under-

See WATCH, Page A12

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Stress Eating And Your Waistline

It isn't news that America has a weight problem. Almost daily, the media are full of weight loss tips while millions of dollars are spent on special diet plans, and yet the problem isn't disappearing.

For many people the problem may be not so much what their food choices are, but rather why they eat. Research has found that stress-related eating is one of the most important reasons for overeating.

Eating when faced with stress is a natural reaction. Many foods affect our moods and feelings. Some may remind us of better, simpler times (think comfort foods), or they may actually bring chemical reactions that make us feel better (think sugar high), at least for a short time.

Unquestionably, we live in a stressful world. From news reports of tragedies, to family issues, to the daily traffic jams we may experience, stress is a common occurrence and one that many of us deal with by reaching for something to eat. Doing so takes our mind off our tension and stress and leaves us feeling better. And so we do it, often without thinking, until that bathroom scale tells us something is wrong.

So how can you avoid using food as a stress reliever?

Start by focusing not so much on what you're eating, but when and why you're eating. Experts advise keeping a diary for a few days and recording what you eat, when you eat and what you're feeling at the time. What you may find is that, without realizing it, you've been snacking, often unhealthily, not at times when you're really hungry, but simply when you're feeling stressed.

A next step is accepting that the food you're eating doesn't make your stress or problems go away, and may even be increasing your stress as you add on extra pounds.

This is the time to start analyzing the sources of stress in your life and seeing what you might do to reduce or manage that stress. Consider non-food related activities, like exercising, reading, gardening or similar relaxing activities. Often, simply being aware of what is triggering your stress-related eating is enough to help you avoid it.

It isn't easy to overcome stress-related eating, but it can be done. If you find that your eating issues are serious enough to be affecting your health, talk to your family physician or consider consulting a professional counselor who specializes in this area.

"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

Hoyer Kicks Off Google's Free Seminar to Help Maryland Businesses Get Online

LARGO, MD — Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement today after kicking off Google's Maryland Get Your Business Online seminar to provide training to Maryland businesses on how to establish a web presence and gain online visibility:

"I was pleased to welcome Maryland small business owners to today's event, where Google experts shared their knowledge of how to use free online tools to help businesses create a website, reach more customers, be more productive, and expand. The role of the internet in our economy will only continue to grow, and businesses will need to be tech savvy in order to compete. Unfortunately, only 47% of Maryland small businesses have a website. With 97% of internet users looking online for local products and services, we need to improve that number to stay economically competitive and today's event will make a difference.

"Google is transforming the way we interact with each other and our world and I thank them for holding this seminar today to share their incredible array of tools with small business owners. Small business development is central to creating jobs and boosting our economic competitiveness, and I remain committed to ensuring Maryland small businesses have the resources to continue to compete and expand."

Mills, Environmentalists Debate Energy Subsidies For Black Liquor

By BRIAN COMPERE
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK — Environmentalists will seek to free up state funds for renewable energy resources by excluding "black liquor" from the list of renewable energy sources eligible for state subsidies, after an effort to do so failed this year.

House Bill 747, which failed in committee during this year's General Assembly, would have changed the state's renewable energy portfolio standard to no longer treat the burning of black liquor — a byproduct of the papermaking process that can be burned to produce energy — as a renewable energy source eligible for state funding.

Luke Mill in Western Maryland is the only in-state facility that burns black liquor for energy, but it isn't the only one that receives funding through Maryland's portfolio standard, said James McGarry, chief policy analyst for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

Energy companies in other states on the same power grid as Maryland — PJM Interconnection provides electricity to 13 states, including Maryland and Washington, D.C. — are eligible for state subsidies. McGarry said the Johnsonburg Mill in Pennsylvania is applying and he expects it to get funding.

Rich Reis, energy committee chair for the Maryland chapter

of the Sierra Club, said he wants energy sources that involve the burning of materials to be excluded from state subsidies through the portfolio standard.

By burning black liquor, greenhouse gases are released into the air, although to a much less damaging extent than those emitted through the burning of fossil fuels such as coal. McGarry said he would rather see the portfolio standard money spent on other renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy.

"It's one of the top things that Maryland has to do to achieve its greenhouse gas goals," McGarry said. "As long as our energy law is broken, we'll try to fix it."

Delegate John Olszewski, D-Baltimore County, sponsor of the House bill, said that in 2011, 45 percent of renewable energy subsidies from the state went to black liquor facilities, including Luke Mill.

But in 2013, McGarry said, that number dropped to 26 percent as wind energy increased — from 14 percent in 2011 to 39 percent in 2013.

Mill byproducts such as black liquor will produce the same emissions regardless of whether they are burned for energy, incinerated or left to decay in a landfill or elsewhere, according to a 2011 Environmental Protection Agency report.

Facilities such as Luke Mill aim to harness the black liquor before it releases greenhouse



PHOTO COURTESY FLICKR USER ALFREDO MENDEZ7

gases without being used to generate energy, said Jessica McFaul, press secretary for the American Forest & Paper Association.

According to a National Council for Air and Stream Improvement report released in October, the use of black liquor prevents a significant amount of emissions of greenhouse gases that would occur if fossil fuels were burned instead.

Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan, released in October, found that diverting portfolio standard funds from black liquor to wind energy would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.4 million metric tons. McGarry said the jury's out on exactly how the burning of black liquor for energy production contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

It makes sense for facilities such as Luke Mill to continue using black liquor to generate energy, McGarry said, but it doesn't

make sense to reward companies that have used black liquor for decades. There's no issue with burning black liquor for energy production, so state funds would be better spent on other, newer renewable energy sources, he said.

McFaul wrote in an email that she could not comment on whether Luke Mill would have had to cut jobs if it lost the funding it receives from the portfolio standard.

The bill would have compensated Luke Mill for losing portfolio standard funds, however, because it is an in-state facility, Olszewski said.

The Sierra Club hasn't decided how it will approach the portfolio standard's classification of black liquor next year, Reis said. There should be a similar bill next session, Olszewski said, and he doesn't expect environmental groups to drop the issue. McGarry said the issue isn't going away.

Women from A3

workers who discuss their pay.

Mikulski's bill has wide support from congressional Democrats and the White House.

President Barack Obama recently signed two directives, making it easier for workers of federal contractors to get information about workplace compensation, and requiring federal contractors to provide compensation data by race and gender.

Anna Chu, a policy director for the Center for American Action Fund, welcomes the changes Obama is implementing, especially with regard to the collection of compensation data.

"This will allow much more information to be gathered by sex and race and help increase transparency in pay practices," Chu said.

Critics see this push by Obama and the Democrats as an election-year ploy for political traction at the polls.

"If the Democrats thought it was such a good thing for women, they should have passed it in 2010 when they controlled both chambers of the legislature. They couldn't pass it then and at this point it is clearly political," Harris said.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is not expected to pass due to Republican opposition, but it has drawn a lot of attention to women's wages that advocates say is essential to bringing about fairness in pay to the workplace.

In addition to the gender wage gap and minimum wage,

another issue that disproportionately affects women, and one that has gotten significant attention this year, is access to paid sick and family leave.

In Maryland, more than 700,000 workers have no access to paid sick or family leave. The issue resonates with women, who are often the primary caregivers and therefore have to make the choice between staying home with a sick child and a paycheck.

Here again, Hispanic workers disproportionately lack earned sick days. The Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington estimates that more than half of Hispanic women (57 percent) lack paid sick days, and are 44 percent less likely than white women to have earned sick days.

The organization also found that 40 percent of black workers have no earned sick days.

"People wonder why our families are falling apart. It is because we can't act as caregivers to our own children. We also can't take care of ourselves when we are sick," said Rebecca Feibel, a mother of two boys who has worked in child care facilities and schools for more than 17 years.

Feibel said it is not unusual for parents to send sick kids to school because they cannot afford to take a day off from work.

"A common practice is to dope up the kid on Tylenol, so they don't have a fever. Of course, three hours later the fever is back, but by then we can't reach the parents," Feibel said.

Melissa Broome, a senior policy advocate at Job Opportuni-

ties Task Force/Working Matters, has been leading the effort to pass legislation in Annapolis that would require businesses and government entities to provide paid sick leave to all part-time and temporary employees.

Broome was disappointed the bill died in committee this legislative session, and said she plans to continue fighting for it.

"I think for every year the legislature doesn't take action, women are going to be put in a situation where they have to make impossible choices," Broome said.

Another challenge for Maryland women, as it is for women around the nation, is finding affordable health care. Obama and supporters of the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare, say the law gives many women health care options that previously eluded them.

Under the new law many women have become eligible for tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies which will help them afford health care coverage.

The Affordable Care Act also prevents insurance companies from discriminating against women, according to the Center for American Progress. Women cannot be denied coverage or be charged more for preexisting conditions such as pregnancy, or for being victims of domestic violence.

Critics argue, however, that the Affordable Care Act adversely affects women, because it encourages some employers to drop family coverage.

"The mandates of Obamacare have actually encouraged some employers to drop family coverage, so that the employee will be covered but not their family. This is going to result in a lot of women not being covered, even those who were covered before Obamacare went into effect," Harris said.

One specific mandate that critics point to is the stipulation that all businesses with more than 50 full-time employees pay a portion of health coverage for employees who work 30 hours a week or more.

There is concern that businesses might try to work around the mandate by cutting employee hours and keeping their business from exceeding 50 employees.

For Diana Davis, a manager at Denny's in Perryville, Obamacare has had its pros and cons.

Davis was able to get health insurance for her 14-year-old daughter, which she couldn't afford previously. But she still can't afford to have health insurance for herself.

"I would have had to pay \$375 per month. If I didn't have so many bills to pay, I probably would have signed myself up for it, as well," Davis said.

Davis said she relies on the West Cecil Health Center for her health care needs.

"They are a godsend. I have high blood pressure and it wasn't until some girls here said go here, they charge you based on your income, that I found out about them," Davis said.

DHMH Reminds Marylanders Decorative Contacts Are Illegal, Unsafe

Baltimore, MD — The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Board of Examiners in Optometry want to remind Marylanders, especially teens and young adults, about the dangers of using decorative contact lenses. These lenses are tinted to change eye color or feature designs, such as "cat eyes." Although these lenses may be popular, they can cause serious eye problems and are illegal to purchase without a prescription.

If not fit properly, contact lenses can cause scratches, ulcers and bacterial infections of the cornea. Sometimes these problems can be treated with medications, but, if serious enough, may require a corneal transplant. Even after treatment or surgery, some people will experience a permanent loss of vision.

"Decorative contact lenses can pose a real threat to vision," says Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, DHMH Secretary. "Everyone

should be on the lookout for contact lenses sold without a prescription — and avoid them."

Governor O'Malley has signed legislation that gives the Board authority to issue cease and desist orders, obtain injunctive relief and levy civil fines for the illegal sale and dispensing of contact lenses.

"This new legislation gives the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry the ability to stop the illegal sales of contact lenses," says Patricia G. Bennett, Execu-

tive Director, Board of Examiners in Optometry. "By stopping the sales at their source, we can protect Marylanders from permanent and serious eye damage."

Establishments that sell or dispense contact lenses without a valid and unexpired prescription from an authorized prescriber is in violation of federal and state laws. To report violations, contact the Board of Examiners in Optometry at 410-764-4710 or dhhm.optometry@maryland.gov.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Godzilla"

Godzilla
Grade: B
Rated PG-13, a lot of
destruction and action violence
2 hr., 3 min

The day has come! After 60 years, for the first time, we've finally got a Hollywood version of Godzilla. It's amazing nobody ever tried it before, but better late than never, right? Finally! The first American Godzilla movie.

You heard me. THE FIRST. "Godzilla," directed by Gareth Edwards from a sturdy if mechanical screenplay by Max Borenstein, reboots the venerable Japanese monster for the 21st century while staying true to its roots as a fearsome dino-beast that is both a threat to and a savior of mankind. Edwards and Borenstein treat the matter seriously, without a lot of jokiness or meta-references, and the businesslike attitude pays off in a movie that's serious about being tremendous fun. This is no expensive lark tossed off by goofballs working for paychecks. This is Godzilla, made by a director who wanted to get it right.

Starting with appetite-whetting sequences in which huge, mysterious clues are discovered and strange, unexplainable earth tremors recorded, the film follows a straightforward path through the usual tropes: a young Navy man named Ford Brody (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) happens to be where the action is; he's separated from his worried wife (Elizabeth Olsen) and son; a couple of scientists (Ken Watanabe, Sally Hawkins) tell the military how to combat the "massive unidentified terrestrial organism" when it emerges; many objects are crushed and smashed and knocked down and set on fire. People gaze upward in wonder and astonishment (the "Spielberg face") when they're not fleeing in terror. It's a familiar routine, but Edwards takes us through it gracefully. And to tide us over until the title character arrives, Edwards gives us a non-Godzilla mon-



In Summer 2014, the world's most revered monster is reborn as Warner Bros. Pictures and Legendary Pictures unleash the epic action adventure "Godzilla." From visionary new director Gareth Edwards ("Monsters") comes a powerful story of human courage and reconciliation in the face of titanic forces of nature, when the awe-inspiring Godzilla rises to restore balance as humanity stands defenseless.

ster as an appetizer, a giant flying insectoid thing that lives on radiation.

Impressively, this is only Edwards' second feature. His first, a low-budget indie called "Monsters" (2010), was also about giant creatures, but it focused on two characters trekking through a monster-infested area, and it ingeniously (and inexpensively) did not emphasize the beasts themselves.

You can see Edwards leaning that way in "Godzilla," too. Even though he has the budget to create a wall-to-wall spectacle, he's still interested in the human point of view. And so we often see the monsters the way the people are seeing them: through shattered glass, from behind a barricade, in TV news coverage, and so on. Edwards teases us the way Spielberg did in "Jaws" and "Jurassic Park" (though not quite to such great effect), waiting till the second half to fully reveal the awesome majesty of full-frontal Godzilla.

Paradoxically, though Edwards wants to focus on the hu-

mans, he cast a dull human as his lead character. That's Aaron Taylor-Johnson ("Kick-Ass"), from the current line of generically handsome but emotionally stagnant action stars (see also: Charlie Hunnam in "Pacific Rim," Kellan Lutz in "The Legend of Hercules," Paul Walker in everything). Don't be misled by the presence of Bryan Cranston, Juliette Binoche, Ken Watanabe, Sally Hawkins, Elizabeth Olsen, and David Strathairn in the cast. Their screen time ranges from "sufficient" to "egregiously short" (and the female characters have precious little to do, story-wise), and ATJ is in almost every scene, fulfilling his basic responsibilities without engaging us.

The script doesn't do him any favors, making Ford Brody less a character than a series of heroic plot points. I note that when it isn't geographically feasible for Brody to rescue his own son from anything, the movie gives him a random lost little boy to protect for a few scenes, just to make sure that box gets checked off.

he'd expose Bocks to more gunfire, Kyle retreated. The enemy rounds followed him. He ran out again, pulling Bocks a little farther. And once more he retreated to distract the enemy fire. Once more he went out -- over and over thinking to himself, "I'm not going to make it." Kyle could feel the pressure of the rounds going by him. But somehow, miraculously, they never hit him. Not once. One of his teammates said it was as if Kyle was moving "faster than a speeding bullet."

And finally, Kyle succeeded in pulling his comrade to cover. Tragically, there on that cliff, Sergeant Bocks succumbed to his wounds. But in his final moments, this American Marine surely found some solace in Kyle White -- the American soldier who, until the very end, was there by his side.

Now, that other injured soldier, Kain Shilling, was still out there. And he had sustained another injury, this time to his knee. Kyle ran out once more to Kain's side. Kyle ripped off his own

belt for a tourniquet, and soon got his hands on a working radio. The voice of Charlie One Six Romeo came into base. Crouching behind that lone tree, Kyle began calling in airstrikes to take out enemy positions.

Kyle stayed with Specialist Schilling as night fell. And Kain was too badly injured to move. Kyle was starting to feel the fog of his own concussions set in, but he knew that he was Kain's best chance to get out alive, so Kyle took charge and ordered the Afghan soldiers to form a security perimeter. He called in a MEDEVAC and made sure Kain and the other injured were safely on board. And only then did Kyle finally allow himself to be lifted out.

As the helicopter pulled away, Kyle looked out the window, watching the darkness as they pulled away from that single tree on the cliff. "When you're deployed," he later said, "those people become your family. What you really care about is: I want to get this guy to the left and to the right home."

For me, Edwards' way of building anticipation sometimes borders on frustration, especially when major monster-on-monster action is about to happen and Edwards cuts away. At the risk of sounding like one of those "SHOW US THE MONSTER IMMEDIATELY AND ALWAYS!" short-attention-span types ... come on. There's teasing, and there's cruelty.

That being said, once things do kick into high gear, they kick hard. Despite their digital nature, Godzilla and the other gargantuan things feel like they have weight and mass, and the wounds they inflict on each other and their surroundings are solid. The action is always clear and logical (and cinematographer Seamus McGarvey work is beautiful), culminating in a final battle that rewards our patience. Earlier frustrations tend to be forgiven once you do finally get what you came for. And hey, now we have an American Godzilla to play with! For the first time.

But Sgt. White's story didn't end there. The President remarked on Sgt. White's reintegration into society after completing his service, explaining how he went to college with the help of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, received his degree, and now works for a bank in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Kyle, members of Chosen Company, you did your duty, and now it's time for America to do ours: after more than a decade of war, to welcome you home with the support and the benefits and opportunities that you've earned. You make us proud, and you motivate all of us to be the best we can be as Americans, as a nation; to uphold our sacred obligations to your generation and all who have faced that "measure of danger" and "the willingness to incur it."

May God bless you, and may your courage inspire and sustain us always. And may God continue to bless the United States of America.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Bigots Will Learn: You're Not Going to Scare Henry Aaron



The best sports biography of the last several years was, for my money, *The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron*, by Howard Bryant. The book makes the case that, in an age of cynicism, we need to study what exactly makes someone heroic, with Henry Aaron being Bryant's particular profile in courage. What makes *The Last Hero* particularly compelling is that Bryant doesn't quantify Aaron's heroism as being measured by his 755 homers but by his ability to keep moving forward while resisting concentrated, poisonous doses of racist invective the likes of which few have ever had to endure. Aaron's great crime, of course, was challenging the most hallowed record in sports, Babe Ruth's 714 home runs, while black. (The racists of 1974 were untroubled by the widespread belief in the baseball world of the 1920s that Babe Ruth, an orphan, was a black man "passing" as white.)

Aaron, as Bryant reveals, was always silent until he wasn't. This man born in the Deep South from a family of sharecroppers, would on occasion uncork a smackdown to the collective racists in this country, like it was an 88 mph fastball over the middle of the plate. He was, pardon the cliché but it fits, a still water that ran deep.

Aaron, now 80 years old, was in the news again this week. We just passed the fortieth anniversary of his famous home run number 715 off of Al Downing and reporters readied the puff pieces, but Aaron was not in a puffy mood. In an interview with USA Today, Aaron spoke about why he still holds onto all of the hate mail and death threats he received while chasing down Ruth's mark. He said he keeps them to remind himself "that we are not that far removed from when I was chasing the record. If you think that, you are fooling yourself. A lot of things have happened in this country, but we have so far to go. There's not a whole lot that has changed."

Then Aaron, just like in his playing career, transgressed his image as a stoic who did not encroach on the world outside the diamond and spoke his mind.

"We can talk about baseball. Talk about politics. Sure, this country has a black president, but when you look at a black president, President Obama is left with his foot stuck in the mud from all of the Republicans with the way he's treated. We have moved in the right direction, and there have been improvements, but we still have a long ways to go in the country. The bigger difference is that back then they had hoods. Now they have neckties and starched shirts."

Mr. Henry Aaron, a man on a US postage stamp, just said that the children of the old school racists he tangled with, now have a home in the Republican Party. It is basically 1991 and it is Chuck D saying, "These days you can't see who's in cahoots, cause now the KKK wears three-piece suits."

Forget for a moment the fact that I believe many of us are past the image of President Obama as someone who would be doing the right thing if only it weren't for these Republicans. From immigration deportation to the drone war, the list of complaints against this administration on social justice grounds is very real. But consider the reality that a White House occupied by an African-American family has provoked a level of bigotry from the right that, no matter what Bill Kristol says, is undeniable. Consider how seeing that family subject to reservoirs of racism would resonate with someone of Aaron's life experience. Yet above all, consider that Aaron's main point was that much of the progress on racial issues since 1974 is illusory, and after he said so has been deluged with racist letters and phone calls. The Atlanta Braves organization reports that it has received "hundreds" of threats levied against Aaron. The only difference between 2014 and 1974 is that many of these threats are coming in e-mail form.

One of these lovely notes came from a person named "David" who vowed to burn his copy of Howard Bryant's *The Last Hero*. (Given the content of *The Last Hero*, which discusses the history of racism in the United States for several chapters before even getting to Aaron, I wonder if "David" ever cracked the spine.) It seemed appropriate for me to actually reach out to Bryant and ask why it is that this 80-year-old, soft-spoken man, someone who never joined the Black Panthers or burned a flag, has been able to produce what can only be described as an Aaron Derangement Syndrome in the darkest corners of this country?

Bryant e-mailed me the following, and his observations bear repeated reading.

"When Henry was playing, there were other people who said what he felt. Jim Brown, Bill Russell, Muhammad Ali were more charismatic, better quotes than Henry on civil rights," Bryant wrote. "But the reason he keeps getting all this mail and taking this abuse is because he's unflinching. He sees the game better than the rest of us because he's lived it long enough to know that once you get past the smiles and the handshakes, very little has really changed. Henry knows that if you wait long enough and say a little of the truth, the face behind the mask will reveal itself, just as it did Tuesday night. He's not going to accommodate you. He's going to stay quiet and let the silence speak for itself until the words can say it better."

I do not personally believe that in the world of sports Henry Aaron really is "the last hero." People from Richard Sherman to Britney Griner to Kain Colter are showing that heroism—as something more than a brand—can still exist in a cynical age. But I do believe that if this new generation of athletes is going to "advance the ball" of social justice, they should learn the manifest lessons from the life of this extraordinary individual. The bigots should also know, as if the last sixty years weren't proof enough, you are simply not going to scare Henry Aaron.

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Calendar of Events

June 5 — June 11, 2014

Xtreme Teens: Swimming at the Crest

Date and Time: Friday, June 6, 2014 6:30-9 pm
Description: It's summertime, time to enjoy weather! Enjoy a fun night of swimming at the Rollingcrest Splash Pool! Bring your swimsuit and a towel; we will depart the center at 6:30 and return at 9 pm. Please register and submit a permission slip by May 30th.
Cost: Residents & Non-Residents: \$5
Ages: 10-17
Location: College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park 20740
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY: 301-445-4512

Xtreme Teens: Pizza Party

Date and Time: Friday, June 6, 2014 7-10 pm
Description: This month we are going to see who can bring in the most friends through the month of August. Remember, these friends have to not only come to the center, but they must get an Xtreme ID.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville 20782
Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-445-4512

Summer Sensations Cookout

Date & Time: Friday, June 6, 2014 11 am-2 pm
Description: Join us "rain or shine" for our annual Summer Sensations Cookout! Participants will experience a myriad of amenities from a full-course catered meal to live entertainment by DC's own--the legendary Ernie Fields and The Tribe Gospel/R&B band! If that's not enough, there will be raffles, line-dancing and bingo, too.
Register early as space is limited. You don't want to miss it!
Cost: Resident: \$10; Non-Resident: \$12
Ages: Seniors: 60 & better; Pre-Seniors: 50-59
Location: John E. Howard Senior Activity Center
4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights 20743
Contact: 301-735-2400; TTY 301-446-3402

Community Yard Sale

Date and Time: Saturday, June 7, 2014 10 am-2 pm
Description: Turn your junk into someone else's treasure. Dig in your closets or garages for items to sell and bring them to the Community Yard Sale! Join us, set up begins at 9 am.
Cost: \$15/table
Ages: Ages 18 & up
Location: Seat Pleasant Activity Center
5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant 20743
Contact: 301-773-6685; TTY 301-218-6768

Caribbean Heritage Festival

Date and Time: Saturday, June 7, 2014 12 noon-8 pm
Description: Experience "A Taste of the Caribbean!" Here, you'll enjoy live, festive performances, delicious food, craft vendors and jammin' music. We hope to see you out there.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Meet The Artists Night

Date and Time: Saturday June 7, 2014 5-8 pm
Description: Round 2 of Project America's Next Top Master Artist launches with "Meet the Artists Night!" You voted, artists have gone home and only half remain. Meet them in person, give them your best Simon Cowell inquisition or simply discuss their art with them. Then, be ready to vote again to see who makes it Round 3!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange at Gateway Art Center
3901 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood 20722
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802

Suitland Bog Tours

Date and Time: Saturdays, June 7, July 5, August 2, 2014 10 am-12 noon
Description: Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the Suitland Bog! Discover the uniqueness of this rare hillside magnolia bog in Prince George's County!
Cost: FREE
Ages: 2 & up
Location: Suitland Bog
6000 Block Suitland Rd., Suitland 20747
Contact: Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755; TTY 301-699-2544

Death Comes a Knocking: Mourning Rituals of the Civil War

Date & Time: Friday-Saturday, June 7 & June 8, 12 noon-4 pm
Description: High mortality rates during the Civil War transformed the ways Americans and communities responded to death. Thus, an elaborate set of customs governed behavior following the death of a spouse or relative. Victorian hair jewelry artist, Lucy Cadwallader, and funeral and mourning historians, Wendy Conrad Belaski and Julie Snell Etsy, will display and discuss this unique American practice. Join us for a tour of Surratt House and see these customs throughout the museum!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Surratt House Museum
9118 Brandywine Road Clinton 20735
Contact: 301-868-1121; TTY 301-699-2544

Salute to the Military Open House

Date & Time: Thursday-Friday, June 12 & June 13, 12 noon-4 pm
Description: Join us as we salute our active and retired military men and women! Free tours and samples goodies will be provided. Don't forget to bring your current military I.D. to receive a discount in the museum shop and get a special gift bag!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Surratt House Museum
9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton 20735
Contact: 301-868-1121; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Is Organic Agriculture Sustainable?

Dear EarthTalk:

Do you agree with the recent claim in the Wall Street Journal that organic agriculture isn't actually sustainable?

— Chuck Romaniello,
Pittsburgh, PA

Dr. Henry I. Miller's May 15, 2014 opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal has indeed made waves in the organic farming community. Miller, former director of the Office of Biotechnology at the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, argues that conventional farming—which uses synthetic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers and often genetically modified (GM) seed stock to maximize yields—is actually better for the environment, producing more food and using less water compared to organic farming.

“Organic farming might work well for certain local environments on a small scale, but its farms produce far less food per unit of land and water than conventional ones,” says Miller. “The low yields of organic agriculture—typically 20 percent to 50 percent less than conventional agriculture—impose various stresses on farmland and especially on water consumption.” Miller adds that organic methods can cause significant leaking of nitrates from composted manure—the fertilizer of choice for most organic farms—into groundwater, polluting drinking

water. He also cites research showing that large-scale composting generates significant amounts of greenhouse gases and “may also deposit pathogenic bacteria on or in food crops, which has led to more frequent occurrences of food poisoning in the U.S. and elsewhere.”

“If the scale of organic production were significantly increased, says Miller, the lower yields would increase the pressure for the conversion of more land to farming and more water for irrigation, both of which are serious environmental issues.” He adds that conventional farming's embrace of GM crops—a no-no to organic farmers—is yet another way we can boost yields and feed more people with less land.

But, the Washington, DC-based Organic Center takes issue with Miller's allegations about nitrates polluting groundwater: “Most studies that examine nutrient runoff show that organic production methods result in reduced nitrogen losses when compared to conventional crop production,” reports the group.

The Organic Center also disputes Miller's claims about the organic farming's carbon footprint, arguing that overall energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions are much less from organic farming than for conventional agriculture. The group also says that taking into account the greenhouse gas emissions that come from the production (not just the use) of synthetic fertilizer changes the equation en-



CREDIT: CINCOOL, COURTESY FLICKR

Aside from its other benefits to our health and environment, organic agriculture -- which eschews synthetic pesticides and fertilizers -- can potentially reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent compared to conventional farming.

tirely. The group cites a recent study by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization which found that organic agriculture can potentially reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent compared to conventional farming.

Also, Miller's statements about GM crops overlook the ecological problems associated with their use. “For example,” the Organic Center reports, “transgene movement from GM crops to wild, weedy relatives could increase the invasiveness of weeds.” Also, genetic modification has led to higher pesticide use in agricultural systems and an increase in herbicide-resistant weeds. Some worry this is leading to a vicious cycle whereby farmers use more and

more chemical herbicides to battle harder and harder weeds.

As the price of organic food continues to drop, more and more people will be able to afford it and the increased demand may well drive the conversion to organic agriculture more than policy or philosophy.

CONTACTS: Wall Street Journal, <http://online.wsj.com>; The Organic Center, www.organic-center.org.

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Concussion from A1

stand concussion symptoms for the very reason LeGrand mentioned. He said doctors need to stay up-to-date on concussion precautions in order to ensure the safety of athletes.

If an athlete comes back too soon, LeGrand said, there are not only consequences on the field but in the classroom.

“One of the biggest elephants in the room is prescribing appropriate academic accommodation inside the regular school day,” said LeGrand. “It's a really big important piece, but we're getting up to speed.”

Every athlete's injury is unique, so appropriate academic accommodations are difficult to predict, Cymet said. While he said medical professionals are “getting better at matching the injury to the athlete” and therefore guiding them down the appropriate physical recovery path, can the same be said for academic professionals?

The county takes its guidelines for academic accommodation from the 2013 Report of the

Traumatic Brain Injury/Sports-related Concussions Task Force, of which LeGrand is a member. The report offers a chart that matches each concussion symptom with a possible repercussion during the school day.

For example, the symptom of headaches is matched with the interference of concentration which is then matched with an appropriate academic accommodation for the student. If a student experiences headaches during the school day after suffering a concussion, the student should be allowed rest breaks, the flow chart suggests.

The chart addresses nearly half of the symptoms associated with concussions, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Are these recommendations enough to guide teachers, when each student's injuries and recoveries from them are unique?

Richard Benfer, the Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County president, said the organization does not deal with athletes' accommodations. An Anne Arundel County Public School System spokesman also declined

to comment, referring a reporter to the task force's report and the county rules.

The county's new concussion policy, which went into effect in February, requires athletes and parents to sign education and awareness forms, athletes to participate in baseline testing every season, coaches to be trained every two years in recognizing the signs of and response to a concussion, and for parents and school officials to be notified of a head injury.

Even though LeGrand believes more needs to be worked out, he said this policy may help to reduce the nearly 200 concussions sustained across the county public school system each year. Still, not all have embraced the new regulations.

“The athletes don't like the new policy; the parents have been indifferent until their child sustains a concussion and they see the importance of the new policy,” said Chip Snyder, Chesapeake High School athletic director.

Snyder said Chesapeake athletes sustained 16 concussions in the fall, contributing to the

roughly 25 concussions a year at the high school. He said most of those injuries happen in football, when players do not understand proper tackling techniques. Head injuries in soccer and lacrosse players fall close behind, he said.

The county school system is following the lead of the Maryland state school board when it became the eighteenth state to adopt a policy in 2011 for sports-related concussions in schools. The state policy called on school districts to implement rules and regulations for concussions sustained in student athletes, and that is exactly what Anne Arundel County did.

LeGrand said he is happy with the direction in which the schools, and the state, are moving. He said concussion awareness in the county has come a long way from when he first began as coordinator eight years ago.

Snyder shared similar sentiments. “I really feel the athletes are much better served, and we are really making sure if a head injury occurs, their safety is our number one priority.”

Drivers from A1

services of late, with companies like Lyft, Hailo, Sidecar and my-Taxi all working towards unseating Uber at the top of the ridesharing food chain.

In April, Lyft and its pink moustache-adorned battalion of cars announced it had raised \$250 million in venture capital funding, putting their total venture capital investment at \$332 million, according to Betabeat, slightly ahead of Uber's \$307 million in venture capital.

Lyft also launched in 24 additional cities on April 24, bringing the total number of Lyft cities to 60. Uber is currently operating in 110 cities across the globe, but only 59 in the U.S.

In a city with so many riding options, Uber continues to be the most well-known in Washington, recently collaborating with Google Maps so that users can look up directions and hail an Uber without exiting the Google app.

To combat the competition, Lyft looks to its quirky, creative

drivers to drive demand.

Sam Smith, a Washington driver, devised a way to make his car's pink moustache glow in the dark.

“I saw a driver in California added lights to his car's moustache, so I took that and ran with it, and luckily it's been a big hit,” he said.

Some drivers have added flashing lights and disco balls to their cars, something Croydon is considering.

The creativity of Lyft employees is one reason Croydon enjoys working as a driver. “I just like working for a company that I can fist bump with, not shake hands,” she said.

Brandon Lyons, a Lyft driver in Washington since August, hasn't decorated his car beyond the ubiquitous pink moustache. Instead, he offers passengers an experience unlike a traditional cab ride.

“I encourage all my passengers to sit in the front seat,” Lyons said. “Why should car rides be awkward and silent?”

The competition between the ridesharing companies doesn't stop for passengers; attracting drivers is part of the battle as well.

In an attempt to add experienced drivers to their arsenal, Uber offered Lyft drivers \$500 to complete 20 rides under the Uber name, hoping that they would permanently make the switch after their “trial run.”

Lyft's strategy was to reward the drivers they already pay, sponsor local meetups for drivers and passengers and organizing a “Lyftsgiving” in November.

There are improvements Lyft could make, just like any other startup company, Croydon said. Increasing marketing share, especially in Washington where Uber reigns supreme, is something she hopes to see soon.

While there is always a need for drivers, suburban areas have proven difficult for Lyft to break into. “After recently expanding the Washington coverage area into the surrounding suburbs [of Rockville, beyond Arlington and Greenbelt], we've seen that the

demand is lower and more people drive themselves”, said Katie Dally, a spokesperson for Lyft. Some drivers decide to spend time in the suburbs, but they miss out on more requests for rides in the city, Lyons said.

Although suburbs have yet to be truly cracked by the ridesharing industry, that could change in the future, as the D.C. Taxicab Commission is proposing a limit to the number of hours a non-taxicab-licensed driver can work.

Washington's license fees for taxicab drivers are the highest in the nation at \$555, and ridesharing services don't require a taxi license to operate. It's unclear whether the fee will dissuade drivers from working in the city. The topic will likely be discussed at a D.C. city council meeting scheduled for Monday.

Wherever the destination, Croydon says her desire to work for Lyft is based on one thing: “I enjoy helping people safely get from A to B, making friends in the process, and knowing that the party doesn't stop when people leave the bar!”

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