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Legislature to Consider Slavery Law Rescission

Corwin Amendment, Would Permanently Prevent Congress from Overriding Law

By TAMIEKA BRISCOE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Some Maryland lawmakers say they are seeking to correct a past wrong, and want to repeal a pro-slavery law that remains in effect after more than 150 years.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ended slavery in the United States, but the initial proposed 13th Amendment - called the Corwin Amendment - would have done just the opposite.

The Corwin Amendment, named after politician Thomas Corwin of Ohio, would have permanently prevented Congress from overriding state slavery laws.

The Corwin Amendment was approved by Congress in 1861, and was ratified by Maryland the following year. However, the outbreak and outcome of the Civil War prevented it from ever becoming the law of the land.

Maryland and Ohio were the only two states to ratify the

See LAW Page A3



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MEGAN BROCKETT.

Sen. Jamie Raskin, D-Montgomery, speaks at a press conference Thursday in support of the Marijuana Control Act of 2014, a bill that would regulate and tax marijuana like alcohol.

Lawmakers Introduce Measure to Legalize, Tax Marijuana in Maryland

By MEGAN BROCKETT
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Some Democratic lawmakers want to make it legal for Maryland residents to possess, use and grow marijuana, which would be regulated and taxed like alcohol, they announced Thursday.

Sen. Jamie Raskin, D-Montgomery, and Del. Curt Anderson, D-Baltimore, said their proposed Marijuana Control Act of 2014 would take power out of the hands of drug dealers and channel revenue into public causes like school construction projects and drug and alcohol treatment programs.

"The vast majority of Marylanders have come to the real-

ization that the current war on drugs is failing with respect to marijuana," Raskin said.

The senator criticized the current laws banning the drug, saying that it drives up the cost of marijuana and enriches drug dealers and international organized crime in a way that could be avoided through government regulation.

Their proposal would make it legal for Marylanders 21 years of age and older to possess as much as an ounce of marijuana, and would permit home-growing of up to six marijuana plants. Smoking the drug in public would remain illegal.

See MARIJUANA Page A7

Plans to Expand Pre-K Unveiled

Lt. Governor, Senate President, Speaker, and Members of the Legislature Announce

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January, 2014) - Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown was joined by Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, House Speaker Michael Busch, members of the Maryland General Assembly and several early childhood education advocates for a press conference announcing the Administration's budget and legislative proposal to expand high quality Pre-Kindergarten to more Maryland children and families.

The Administration's proposal would build on the State's existing system of Pre-K by expanding the number of Pre-K slots available to include Maryland children whose families make between 185 percent and 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, which was \$70,650 for a family of four in 2013. Under the proposal, the State would provide \$4.3 million

See PRE-K Page A7

Proposed Budget Calls For College Tuition Hike

By ETHAN BARTON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Students at Maryland state colleges and universities could face a 3 percent tuition increase, as a result of the budget proposal Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Wednesday.

"We put the money in up front, and then that allows them not to have to pass as much of the cost onto in-state students when they set their tuition and their budget for the year," O'Malley said. "And every year, it's a bit of a negotiation."

Initially, the University System of Maryland wanted a 5 percent tuition increase, but through funding from the state, the governor's office was able to push it down to a 3 percent cap, said O'Malley's press secretary, Nina Smith.

The University System of Maryland is without complaint. "The System is very pleased with the governor's budget," said Chancellor Brit Kirwan. "We know that resources are extremely tight in Annapolis."

Based on the 2013-2014 school year, tuition at Salisbury University may go up by

nearly \$200.

"It's not going to be fun to pay for, but I don't really have a choice in it, I guess," said Alia Otwell, 20, a sophomore at Salisbury.

Instead, that \$200 could pay for more than 250 packs of ramen noodles, the stereotypical staple diet of college students.

Otwell, an Easton native, said she is paying for college through student loans, grants and scholarships. A tuition increase most likely will not make changes to her lifestyle, she said.

"I get a lot of money back as a refund check already, because I get more money than I need for tuition," Otwell said.

However, Otwell, a double major in early childhood and elementary education, works about 20 hours a week at a local coffee shop to earn spending money, which has affected her studies.

"Grades have gone down," Otwell said. "Probably a letter grade in each class."

During his presentation, O'Malley showed a graph indicating that Maryland state school tuitions had only risen by just greater than 3 percent



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ETHAN BARTON.

Gov. Martin O'Malley proposes a 3 percent hike in college tuition, as part of his budget package.

since O'Malley became governor in 2007, making it the lowest in the nation, according to a report by College Board.

Not included, however, is that tuition rose by 8 percent over the past five years from annual increases, according to the same report.

"Our state has done more than any other state to hold down the cost of college education," O'Malley said.

The university has risen in equality and is more affordable because of the Governor and the General Assembly, Kirwan said.

Both O'Malley and Kirwan compared the percent increase of tuition to other state schools across the country.

For example, Arizona, adjusting for inflation, has increased its tuition by 80 percent over the last eight years - the highest of all states, O'Malley said.

Three Largest Counties Unite For School Construction Funding

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, and Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz along with General Assembly Members of "Big Three" Counties demonstrate need for more money for school construction from the Maryland General Assembly

Annapolis, MD - The County Executives from Prince George's, Montgomery and Baltimore Counties stood together in unity to announce that they will work together to develop legislation requesting additional funding for school modernization and construction. Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, and Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz indicated that this funding is essential to meet the

growing need for more classrooms and better facilities in their counties. The executives also indicated that improving the teaching and learning environment in their jurisdictions would be a good first step to ensure that Maryland remains the number one state in education. The three executives were joined by members of their legislative delegations, school boards, county councils, and superintendents for this important announcement.

Each leader emphasized that these three districts would be an excellent place to start as the state looks at modernization and construction of Maryland's schools and facilities. According to the executives, these three counties make up 44% of the state's student population and 46% of the students that participate in the state's Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMS) program. In addition, the com-

See SCHOOLS Page A3

INSIDE

Awards for Firefighter/Medics

A pair of Prince George's County Firefighter/Medics were recently were bestowed with awards and distinctions by the Tri-County area Veterans of Foreign War (VFW). Local VFW's nominated John A. Bowman and Kacie E. Hayter for their actions during a childbirth in Prince George's County.

Community, Page A3

Barring Human Rights Abusers

U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and John McCain both members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, have introduced the Global Human Rights Accountability Act, legislation that would ensure human rights abusers are denied entry into the United States and barred from using our financial institutions.

Commentary, Page A4

Investing in Jobs in Maryland

U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that Congress has passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, which makes critical investments supporting jobs across Maryland and the nation.

Business, Page A5

MovieReview: "August: Osage County"

The Westons of Osage County, Okla., where it is currently August, are the kind of family that movies have always thrived on: people you'd never, ever want to have any connection to in real life, but whose vicious squabbles are entertaining to watch from a safe distance. "August: Osage County" is the sort of drama that actors love.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Will I really be able to save money and energy in the long run by shelling out hundreds of dollars now for a so-called "smart" thermostat?

-- Bill Cone, Aptos, CA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

VFW 9619 Auxiliary sponsoring Patriotic Art Contest

Students in grades 9 through 12 are invited to submit entries to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 9619, in Morningside. Home-schooled students of that grade range are also invited to participate.

Judges' decisions will be based on originality of concept, presentation and patriotism.

Entries must be submitted by March 15, 2014. To know where to deliver the entry or to receive a brochure with more information, contact Auxiliary President Phyllis Cooks at 301-735-5022. Winners will receive monetary awards.

Neighbors

I enjoyed a visit from Mark Talbott, formerly of Maple Road in Morningside, who arrived on foot, through the ice and snow. I hadn't seen him in years. He looks great and works for the Tantallon Golf Club. He reports that he has four daughters, including twins, Parris and Charlean, who graduated from Friendly High School last year and are now at Prince George's Community College.

June Talbott, Mark's mom, now 92, is in pretty good health and lives at The Little Sisters of the Poor Home in NE Washington.

Father Thomas LaHood is the new pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Upper Marlboro. Some years ago he was associate pastor at St. Philip's Parish and most recently was pastor of St. John Neumann in Gaithersburg.

Father William Foley will be transferring from pastor at St. Mary's, Upper Marlboro, to pastor of St. Patrick's in Rockville.

I have learned of the deaths of two friends, June Hall, formerly of Skyline, and Bill Shaughnessy, formerly of Tem-

ple Hills, and will pay tribute to them in future columns. I will also write about Jack Hay, father of Ruth Anthony. He died last year and was not listed among those Morningsiders who died in 2013.

Suitland Road Baptist Bible Studies

Dr. Kelvin McCune, pastor of Suitland Road Baptist Church, 6412 Suitland Road, invites you to join him for Bible Study, 10:30 to 11:30 Friday mornings. He is currently discussing the Book of Genesis. For more information, call 301-735-4075.

In search of Prince Georgians 90 or better

Do you know of any Prince George's County residents 90 years old or better (as of Jan. 1, 2014)? If so, M-NCPPC is asking for your help! County men and women, 90 or more, will be honored at a one-of-a-kind celebration. Special recognition will be given to centenarians, 100 years old and better. To submit names, send an email to public.affairs@pgparks.com and use the subject line "Residents 90 & Better."

Changing landscape

National Harbor plans a 175-foot Ferris wheel due to open in May. The 17-story Capital Wheel will be at the end of a new pier and will overlook the Potomac River with a view of the Capitol. Each gondola will seat eight and have a sound system, heating and air conditioning. Cost of a ticket? \$15 per person

Morningside memories

H. W. Shugarts was mayor of Morningside 60 years ago, in 1954. Council members had their assignments: Wm Jay Lowery was in charge of Utilities; Donald P. Holmes, Roads; Leonard F. Gardner, Property, and Matthew P. Rosch, Safety.

The Morningside-Skyline Bulletin & Advertiser, of 1954, asks: "Have you listened to

Morningside's Radio Station WPGC, 1580 on your AM dial?"

May they rest in peace

Mattie Jane Wright, 94, of Temple Hills, cake decorator and seamstress, died Jan. 10. She was born in Arkansas. The large turnout at her St. Philip's funeral on Jan. 17 spoke well of Jane's involvement in so many organizations—Morningside Seniors, Widow's Club, Funsters, St. Philip's Sodality, Knights of Columbus, NARFE and more. Several mentioned what a great tour-planner she was. She was preceded in death by her husband John in 1987, son Dennis and his wife JoAnn, and daughter Janie Wright. Survivors include granddaughter Michelle Knight and three great-grandchildren. She is buried at Resurrection Cemetery.

Henry Joseph Franclemont Jr., 91, formerly of Clinton, who retired from the Defense Communications Agency as an engineer, died Dec. 18 in Silver Spring. He moved there last year from Vero Beach, Fla. A native of Buffalo, he graduated from the University at Buffalo and served in the Army during WWII. He had been a member of the Holy Name Society at St. John's in Clinton. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Evelyn; daughters Dineen Whipple of Camp Springs and Lesley Anne Franc of College Park; two siblings and six grandchildren. A memorial service was held for him at St. Philip's.

Milestones

Happy belated birthday to Ray Wockley on Jan. 27; and to Donna Young and Robin Sawyer, Feb. 1; SCA President Stanley Holmes, Feb. 2; Ashley Lee, Feb. 3; Adam Cook, Feb. 5; and Diane McCrone, Feb. 6.

Happy 64th wedding anniversary to William and Betty Fitzpatrick on February 4.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

SUPER BOWL SPAGHETTI DINNER

The St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish will be hosting a 'Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner' on Sunday, February 2, 2014, following worship service. Dinner cost will be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children (12 years and under). Dinners will include spaghetti, salad, French bread and cake. Pre-orders and payments appreciated. POC's regarding this matter are Shirley Ann Cleaves and Doretha Ann Savoy. Benefit St. Philip's Church located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland. Telephone number is 301-579-9002.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Body Recall is scheduled to resume on Monday, January 27, 9:00 AM. We will meet every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, unless the Church Office is closed or school is on a delayed opening schedule. We are located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Church Office number is 301-868-1281. E-mail: cumcmd@verizon.net.

AQUASCO FARM

Aquasco Farm is located in rural Prince George's County. The address is 16665 Aquasco Farm Road Aquasco, Maryland 20608. The property is managed for bow hunting in conjunction with land owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Special areas are set aside for beagle training. The contact telephone number is 301-62-6074; TTY 301-669-2544. Hours of operation are sunrise to sunset daily.

JOHN ISABELLE ACRES FARM, INC

John Isabelle Acres Farm, Inc. in Brandywine, Maryland has hay for sale. Contact Frank Deville, Manager for reasonably priced quality hay for horses, cows and goats at 301-466-8360.

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

A Charmed Fashion Show will be on January 25, 2014 from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM. The Fashion Show will give benefits such as poise, self-esteem, etiquette and manners. Cost is free (ages

4-14). The Center is located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Contact number is 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030.

CAA WOMAN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

Join us Thursday March 13, 2014 and Sunday March 16, 2014 for the woman's Basketball Championship 2014 at 2:00 PM. The venue is Show Place Arena located at 14900 Pennsylvania upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. You can purchase your tickets on line at Ticketmaster.

CAMP SPRINGS SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

This Senior Activity Center offers different activities Mondays-Fridays from 9:00 AM-4:30PM. The Center is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. For additional information call 301-449-0490; TTY 301-446-3402. The Food and Friendship Program offers a nutritionally balanced lunch daily at this center. To make your reservations, please call the Area Agency on Aging Office at 301-265-8450.

Neighborhood Events

Statement from County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III

Upper Marlboro, MD – , Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released a statement following the announcement from the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department of a Line of Duty Death (LODD). James "Doc" Delbert Brooks, a 20-year volunteer member of the Department, passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, after suffering a medical emergency while on duty the previous week. Doc Brooks, age 62, was a resident of Camp Springs, Maryland.

"The residents of Prince George's County mourn the loss of Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Marine Fire Rescue Volunteer James "Doc" Brooks and send our thoughts and prayers to his family, friends, and fellow fire fighters.

We rely on first responders like Doc Brooks. As a volunteer, he selflessly sacrificed his time, energy, and passion to protect the people of this great County. He served because he cared about his fellow man. Doc Brooks is among the many public workers who put their lives on the line every day. We may not know their names, but they are our guardian angels - always vigilant, and always there when we need them. When we lose one of our guardian angels in the line of duty, it reminds us that we need to thank these heroes for all that they do and be supportive of their families during difficult times."

Edwards Condemns Latest Republican Attempt to Undermine Affordable Care Act

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) condemned House Republicans today for their latest attempt to undermine the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The bill, HR 3362, "The Exchange Information Disclosure Act," would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to disclose weekly enormous amounts of data in an effort to divert key resources needed to implement the law. This unfunded bill passed the House, and marks the 48th time Republicans have voted to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act.

"House Republicans' dogmatic obsession with the Affordable Care Act over growing our economy is bordering on negligence," said Congresswoman Edwards. "This is a purely partisan, unnecessary, messaging bill that places onerous requirements on HHS over something it already does: disclose information. The Department discloses extensive enrollment information monthly, and just the past week included demographic breakdowns of enrollees. There is no need for legislation to require something that is already taking place.

"House Republicans have now held 48 votes to repeal or undermine this law, they have shut down our government over this law, and they have demonized those in both parties who want to see the law work for the American people. Enough is enough – every day Americans see more evidence that the ACA is working, and it is time for Republicans to accept reality, and move forward with Democrats to address the real challenges facing our country."

Council Chairman Mel Franklin Joins D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and D.C. City Council Members for District of Columbia Minimum Wage Bill Signing

D.C. Leaders Congratulated on Completing the Establishment of a Regional Minimum Wage on Dr. King's Birthday

Prince George's County Council Chairman Mel Franklin (D) - District 9, attended the signing of legislation raising the minimum wage in the District of Columbia and offered the following statement:

"I would like to congratulate our friends in the District of Columbia for completing our historic partnership to establish a regional minimum wage for working families in the Metropolitan Washington Region. It is even more fitting that Mayor Vincent Gray, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, and his colleagues on the D.C. City Council completed this incredible accomplishment on the birthday of our country's greatest civil rights leader, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The completion of this regional expansion of economic opportunity for workers at the lowest end of the pay scale is a victory for social justice for working families throughout our region."

Chairman Franklin added, "I also want to take the opportunity to again commend my colleague, Council Member Andrea C. Harrison for her advocacy as lead sponsor of the Prince George's County minimum wage bill, and her work with lawmakers in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County to establish a regional minimum wage."

The minimum wage increase in Prince George's County takes effect in October 2014, and will reach \$11.50 an hour by the year 2017.

Cardin Disappointed Senate Republicans Continue to Block Extension of Emergency Unemployment Benefits

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, today criticized Senate Republicans for their continuing opposition to extending Emergency Unemployment Insurance benefits during this time of high unemployment. The modest benefits provided by unemployment insurance kept 2.5 million Americans, including 600,000 children, out of poverty last year.

"Extending Emergency Unemployment Insurance benefits is the right thing to do. We never should have let it expire at the end of 2013, and I am outraged that the Senate missed yet another opportunity to bring economic stability to millions of Americans," Senator Cardin said. "Unemployment rates are getting lower and we're all working to make sure they get as low as we can, but if you're unemployed and you're looking for work, it's still pretty tough out there. Americans who are looking for work con-



Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker

continue to face a historically tight job market. We cannot just leave them and their families to fall into poverty because some in Congress prefer gridlock to accomplishing something that helps individuals in need and boosts our overall economy. We need to make sure those benefits are continued.

"Before last month, Congress had never allowed special extended unemployment benefits to expire when the long-term unemployment rate was as high as it is today. Our failure to act is leaving millions of job-seekers in limbo."

An estimated 22,900 Marylanders lost benefits when the program expired last month. Over the course of 2014, a total of 82,600 Marylanders will lose their benefits if the program isn't extended. Nearly 40 percent of beneficiaries live in households with children.

Mikulski Statement on Filibuster of Emergency Unemployment Insurance Fix

Senator cosponsored legislation to extend UI for 1.3 million Americans including 23,000 Marylanders whose benefits expired January 1

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) issued the following statement after the filibuster of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act, bipartisan legislation that would provide a critical safety net of Unemployment Insurance (UI) for 1.3 million Americans, including 23,000 Marylanders whose benefits expired on January 1.

"I am deeply disappointed at the continued obstruction that has left more than a million Americans who've lost their job out in the cold. Unemployment insurance is a social contract and a social compact that American workers pay into so that it is there when they need it," Senator Mikulski said. "In my own home state of Maryland right this very minute 23,000 people are affected. That's 23,000 families that have now lost a modest benefit which averages out to about \$313 per week that enables people, while they're looking for work, to be able to pay for their housing, pay for their food and pay for their heat. During this time of when we look at how to create jobs, we must make building a bridge to get a job a national priority."

Last month, Senator Mikulski cosponsored the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act, which was introduced by Senators Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.). The legislation would provide a three month extension through April 1, 2014 of federal UI for more than 1.3 million Americans.

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

How to Spot a Bad Moving Company

Moving is already traumatic and expensive enough; the last thing you want to worry about is getting ripped off by your mover. Yet each year, the Better Business Bureau receives thousands of complaints against moving companies, mostly alleging lost or damaged property, not showing up on time, overcharging — or, in extreme cases, stealing or holding customers' possessions hostage while demanding more money than originally agreed upon.



Before you spend hundreds or thousands of dollars and entrust your valuables with strangers, here are a few tips for ensuring a positive moving experience, as well as scams to avoid:

Screen potential movers. All companies that do interstate moves must be registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (www.protectyourmove.gov). You can use its search engine to screen for complaints, safety information and company contact information by company name or by the state where its primary business office is located.

Moving companies that don't cross state lines aren't governed by federal regulations, but rather, by individual state laws. Go to the State/Local Resources tab at FMCSA's site for links to each state's regulatory resources. Also make sure the company has at least a satisfactory rating from the Better Business Bureau.

Get written estimates. No reputable mover would ever give a firm estimate by phone or Internet, sight-unseen. Always insist on in-home inspections of your household goods and detailed, written estimates from at least three to five moving companies so you can get a sense of true market rates.

Movers need to know how much stuff you have, whether particularly heavy, valuable or awkward pieces need to be moved, if stairs are involved, and many other details that will affect their costs. Beware if an estimate is significantly less: This is a common ruse by unscrupulous companies to bind you to their service, then later hit you up for hidden fees — perhaps even refusing to unload your furnishings until you pay up.

By law, movers must assume liability for the value of property they transport. Ask for proof your mover has insurance and make sure you understand what's covered. Base-line coverage they should provide is called "released-value protection." It's free, but if something is lost or broken, they only have to pay you 60 cents per pound. For an additional fee you can purchase "full-value protection," where the mover must repair, replace or provide cash settlement for damaged items. Also consider third-party moving insurance.

A few additional tips:

Ask if the moving company will handle the entire move itself or hire subcontractors. Apply the same due diligence to any subcontractors.

Ask whether crewmembers are employees or temporary hires and ask to see verification of background checks, either way.

Ask to see the company's "tariff," which outlines the maximum costs and how they're calculated, as well as a list of all items for which you could face additional charges.

Be suspicious if the mover asks for a large cash deposit or full payment in advance. Also, don't make the final payment until you're sure everything was delivered undamaged.

Be wary if the company's website has no local address or license and insurance information, they refuse to put everything in writing or they use an unmarked truck rather than a company-owned vehicle.

Interstate movers are required by law to give you a copy of the FMCSA's booklet, "Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move." Even if your move is only local, be sure to read it for valuable tips.

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

Tri-County VFW Firefighter and Paramedic of the Year Recognized

By MARK BRADY
PGC/EMS Press Information

A pair of Prince George's County Firefighter/Medics were recently bestowed with awards and distinctions by the Tri-County area Veterans of Foreign War (VFW). Local VFW's nominated John A. Bowman and Kacie E. Hayter for their actions during a childbirth. The Fire/EMS Department and Prince George's Hospital Center had previously recognized the pair for Excellence in providing Emergency Medical Care for the same incident. The VFW Tri-County area consists of Southern Prince George's, Calvert and Charles County.

Fire Chief Marc Bashoor was in attendance at the regional award ceremony held on Sunday, January 5th at the Pax River VFW Post 2632. "I take great pride in seeing our Firefighters and Medics recognized by fraternal organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This was a unique incident and one rarely seen performed successfully in our line of work," said Bashoor.

The pair were recognized for their actions on Saturday, February 9, 2013, when Bowman and Hayter were crewmembers on board the Paramedic Unit from Fire/EMS Station 830, Landover Hills that was dispatched to a home on 58th Place in Chev-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRE CHIEF MARC BASHOOR
Fire Fighter/Medic John Bowman, Fire Chief Bashoor and Fire Fighter Medic Hayter at the Awards Ceremony.

erly, for a report of a female in labor. During the patient assessment, the crew observed an umbilical cord presentation without any sign of birth. The cord presented blue in color, indicating there was no blood getting to the baby from the mother. If this child was going to survive, it was imperative that something be done quickly. Paramedic Hayter placed her hand into the birth canal to alleviate pressure on the umbilical cord. The cord became pink and a pulse was felt indicating the baby was now receiving blood. Bowman contacted Prince George's Hospital Center, advising them of the severity of

the situation and alerting them to prepare a delivery room.

Immediately upon arriving at the hospital, the patient was assessed and without delay taken to Labor and Delivery. A physician determined that Hayter must accompany the patient into the Operating Room, where an emergency Cesarean Section would be performed. Her hand remained in place, keeping pressure off the umbilical cord until the baby was delivered. After a week in the hospital, the healthy baby girl, delivered at 36 weeks gestation, was discharged into the care of her parents.

After considering all nominees for the prestigious awards the Tri-County VFW named John A. Bowman as Firefighter of the Year and Kacie E. Hayter as the Paramedic of the Year for 2013. Bowman and Hayter also were recognized as the Local and District Level VFW Fire Fighter and Paramedic of the Year.

Both Bowman and Hayter will now be considered by the VFW at the State and National levels for their respective categories. They will be up against other nominees from throughout the State of Maryland and the USA.

Law A1

amendment through legislative vote. Illinois ratified the amendment by constitutional convention, which was ultimately considered invalid because ratification required state legislative approval. While Ohio rescinded the law in the 1860s, Maryland's acceptance of the amendment has yet to be overturned.

Shannon Welch, a Chevy Chase native who is now a senior at Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Conn., stumbled across the Corwin Amendment during a summer internship at the Center for Legislative Archives in Washington, D.C. She said she read about Ohio's ratification and rescission of the measure and was curious about Maryland's connection to the amendment. When she discov-

ered that her home state had not rescinded the 152-year old law, she took action.

One of the people she reached out to was her state senator, Brian Frosh, D-Montgomery County. Frosh, a Wesleyan University graduate, agreed to initiate the legislation to rescind Maryland's ratification of the measure.

"I contacted him on a whim," Welch, 21, said. "I sent an email to multiple state representatives to see why this had never been overturned, and Senator Frosh emailed me back."

Frosh, who is running for state attorney general, said, "We ought to put Maryland on the right side of history."

He does not anticipate any problems getting the bill passed. "I don't believe this will be a heavy lift," Frosh said.

Delegate Curt Anderson, D-Baltimore, Delegate Jill Carter, D-Baltimore and Delegate Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., a Southern Maryland Democrat, are sponsoring the bill in the House of Delegates.

To supporters, the measure to rescind the pro-slavery law has little to do with legality and more to do with legacy.

"The Corwin Amendment is an amendment that failed, therefore any efforts to undo it at this point, is symbolic," said Jonathan L. Entin, a professor of law and political science at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. "I believe that the legislators in Maryland are saying, 'We are embarrassed that our past legislators did this ridiculous thing, and we want to set the records straight.'"

Entin said that it is common

for legislators to correct past laws that conflict the liberties afforded by the U.S. Constitution. "Massachusetts did not ratify the Bill of Rights until 1939, it was also symbolic," Entin said.

He explained that the symbolism lies in the fact that the U.S. Constitution has a supremacy clause through which federal laws supersede state laws. For this reason, the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery, applies to every state. In another example, Entin also referenced an Alabama interracial marriage ban that was not repealed until 2000.

"It doesn't matter what the Alabama Constitution says. If Alabama had tried to enforce that provision, it could have been tried in court and the U.S. Constitution would prevail." Entin said.

Schools from A1

bined student enrollment in the three school districts is projected to increase by more than 30,000 students by 2021.

"We believe that the state needs to take a serious look at ensuring that all students have the best facilities and classrooms as we prepare them for the 21st Century," said County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "With our growing populations and aging buildings, it makes sense for the state to focus on such a significant percentage of Maryland's student population, a population that also makes up a large percentage of our most needy children and families. 32% of Prince George's County schools were built at least 50 years ago and another 49% were built 30 to 40 plus years ago. That translates to 81% of our schools that are over 30 years old. And most of them are in neighborhoods with the greatest need. In order for our children to achieve and succeed in school, we must provide them with a better quality learning environment and up to date facilities."

County Executive Ike Leggett emphasized the strain that the projected growth for his school district will have on the county, even as the County has increased local school construction funding by one-third over the last seven years.

"In Montgomery County, our school system has grown by about 2,000 students a year over the past several years," said County Executive Ike Leggett. "Our County's unprecedented increase in enrollment is the highest in the State. Over the next 12 years, projected enrollment will grow by 25,000 students. We three County Executives have a very simple message: Our kids and families can't afford for any of us to play 'catch up.' The State has an interest in helping us to educate the next wave of teachers and scientists and researchers and entrepreneurs who will lift up our Counties and this State long after all of us are gone."

The County Executives indicated that they have committed hundreds of millions of dollars in local funding for school

renovation and construction projects over the past three years despite budget challenges and each jurisdiction has been able to maintain its Triple AAA bond rating. The leaders pledged that they are prepared to continue making significant long-term local contributions to school capital funding moving forward and they are asking the state to provide much needed assistance.

"Over the past three years, Baltimore County has proposed funding for ten new schools and six renovated schools at a cost of \$600 million, including the State's share of the cost. During that same time, the number of Baltimore County schools without air conditioning has been reduced from 52% to 22%," stated Baltimore County Executive Kamenetz. "However, even with that historic level of funding, 83% of our schools are still more than 40 years old."

Projected enrollment growth over the next seven years in Baltimore County and Montgomery County are amongst

the highest in the state. Whereas, school systems in Prince George's County and Baltimore County are amongst the top 5 jurisdictions in Maryland that maintain buildings older than the state average of 27 years old. (Prince George's County has the third oldest average age of school buildings and Baltimore County has the fifth oldest.) In addition to the long term education benefits to the counties and the state, the executives also pointed out this effort would also create jobs, economic development, and improve the quality of life for communities within their jurisdictions.

County Executives Baker, Leggett, and Kamenetz indicated that they would work collaboratively with the three delegations to develop legislation that will move their counties and the children and families of Maryland forward. Each stated that at the end of the day, the ultimate winners are the children and families of Maryland who deserve the best environment for learning possible.

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COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, McCain Introduce Global Human Rights Accountability Act

"Visiting the United States and having access to our financial system, including U.S. dollars, are privileges that should not be extended to those who violate basic human rights and the rule of law."

WASHINGTON- U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.), both members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, have introduced the Global Human Rights Accountability Act, legislation that would ensure human rights abusers from anywhere in the world are denied entry into the United States and barred from using our financial institutions. The bill, S. 1933, would expand the Russia-specific sanctions in the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act (Public Law 112-208) to apply globally, as outlined in the 2012 Senate Foreign Relations Committee- and Senate Finance Committee-passed versions of the bill.

"The United States must maintain its global leadership in the fight against corruption and human rights abuses wherever they occur," said Senator Cardin. "This bipartisan bill gives us the tools to deter future abuses throughout the world,

while also protecting our strategic financial infrastructure from those who would use it to launder or shelter ill-gotten gains. Gross violators of human rights from Zimbabwe to Ukraine, and Honduras to Papua New Guinea, are put on notice that they cannot escape the consequences of their actions even when their home country fails to act."

"Congress passed the Magnitsky Act in 2012 to place the United States firmly on the side of those struggling for human rights and the rule of law in Russia," said Senator McCain. "This bipartisan legislation extends that effort, holding accountable those who commit gross violations of human rights across the world. Standing up for the rule of law and establishing clear consequences for abuses of fundamental human rights serves our nation's interests and reflects of deepest values, and I am proud to join Senator Cardin in this effort."

Cosponsors of the Global Human Rights Accountability Act (S. 1933) include U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Carl Levin (D-MI), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Ed Markey (D-MA).

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Remembering the Life and Legacy of Amiri Baraka

Remembering the Life and Legacy of Amiri Baraka

Marc H. Morial President and CEO National Urban League

"Art is a weapon in the struggle of ideas, the class struggle." Amiri Baraka

On January 9, with the passing of the prolific poet, playwright, essayist, and critic Amiri Baraka, one of the literary giants of the 20th century was called home. As we offer condolences to his wife, children and family, we remember the 79-year-old Baraka not only for his bold, inventive and iconoclastic literary voice, but also as a courageous social justice activist. His ideas and work had a powerful impact on both the Black Arts and Civil Rights movements beginning in the 1960s.

Baraka was best known for his eclectic writings on race and class. He extended many of the themes and ideals of the 1960s Black Power movement into the realm of art, which he saw as a potent weapon of change; and like many good revolutionary artists, he sometimes went out of his way to offend the status quo. He has been variously described as a beatnik, a Black nationalist and a Marxist. But he was first and foremost a writer and social commentator of uncommon skill and insight.

His 1963 masterpiece, "Blues People," which explored the historical roots and sociological significance of the blues and jazz, has become a classic that is still taught in college classrooms today. Almost every Black and progressive writer and thinker of the 20th century shared a kinship, friendship or feud with Baraka. But, undergirding everything he wrote and stood for was his desire to lift up the downtrodden and disenfranchised, especially in his hometown of Newark, New Jersey.

As a testament to his broad influence, more than 3,000 people attended his funeral last Saturday at Newark Symphony Hall. The actor Danny Glover officiated and noted Baraka's influence on his career. Cornel West called Baraka "a literary genius." Sonia Sanchez read a poem for him written by Maya Angelou. Speaking at the wake the night before, Jesse Jackson honored Baraka as "a creative activist and change agent who never

stopped fighting or working for the formula to create social justice."

Born Everett LeRoi Jones, the writer changed his name to Amiri Baraka in 1968 to reflect his embrace of Islam and the philosophy of Malcolm X. He attended Rutgers, Howard and Columbia, served in the Air Force and began his literary career in the 1950s in the Beat poet scene of New York's Greenwich Village. His one-act play, "Dutchman," won the Obie Award as the best off-Broadway production of 1964. In 1965, he co-founded the Black Arts Movement in Harlem, infusing the Black Power movement with powerful artistic voices. His numerous awards and honors include his selection as the Poet Laureate of New Jersey in 2002 and his 1995 induction into the exclusive American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Controversy was a mainstay of Amiri Baraka's career. Ishmael Reed, another provocative poet and contemporary of Baraka recently noted, "Amiri Baraka was controversial because his was a perspective that was considered out of fashion during this post race ghost dance, the attitude that says that because we have a black president, racism is no longer an issue, when the acrimonious near psychotic reaction to [Barack Obama's] election only shows the depth of it."



Amiri Baraka always challenged us to face such uncomfortable truths – and we are better because of it.



Near the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, the Museum and Institute offers America and the world the opportunity to learn the lessons from the past. Housed in this museum are exhibits that remind everyone of the struggle to secure the rights for all Americans to vote, regardless of race, education or wealth.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



Steps Forward on School Discipline

The United States is far from providing each child with as much education as he can use. Our school system still primarily functions as a system of exclusion...[T]here is an enormous reservoir of talent among Negro and other poor youth. This society has to develop that talent. The unrealized capacities of many of our youth are an indictment of our society's lack of concern for justice and its proclivity for wasting human resources. As with so much else in this potentially great society, injustice and waste go together and endanger stability."

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?

In many American schools the holiday celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is used as an opportunity to teach children about his life and legacy. But in too many of those same schools, Black and other nonwhite and poor children's extraordinary talents are still being wasted today. Nearly three-quarters of Black and Latino fourth and eighth grade public school students cannot read or compute at grade level. Long after legal segregation has ended Black students are still most likely to be excluded from the classroom: Black students made up only 18 percent of students in public schools in 2009-2010 but were 40 percent of students who received one or more out-of-school suspensions. A Black public school student is suspended every four seconds. When Black students are so often left behind and pushed out it should not surprise us that Black students are more than twice as likely to drop out of school as White students; each school day 763 Black high school students drop out.

So I applaud the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice for their recent action to address harmful school discipline policies that push so many thousands of the most vulnerable children out of school each year and into the juvenile justice and adult prison pipeline. If the education system is to do its part in dismantling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline™ and in replacing it with a cradle to college, career and success pipeline, we must end the current practice where children in the greatest need are suspended and expelled from school mostly for nonviolent offenses including tardiness and truancy. I have never understood why you put a child out of school for not coming to school rather than determining why they are absent.

I hope the new set of resources released by the Departments of Education and Justice will help schools create positive, safe environments while relying less on exclusionary discipline tactics. These resources, officially known as "guidance," will help schools and districts meet their legal responsibility to protect students from discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin as required under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. While the guidance offered is voluntary, school districts that fail to use effective strategies to address disparities in how discipline is applied could be subject to legal action from the Department of Education or Department of Justice. As we recognize the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and so many other important hard won victories in the Civil Rights Movement this year, we must remember those victories could be lost without meaningful enforcement of the laws advocates fought so hard to win half a century ago.

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) has been speaking out against school discipline policies that continue to stack the odds against poor children and children of color for all of our 40 years. In 1975 CDF released School Suspensions: Are They Helping Children? At the time CDF found the vast majority of suspensions were for non-dangerous, nonviolent offenses. While the largest numbers of suspended students were White, suspensions disproportionately hurt more children who

were Black, poor, older, and male. The great majority of suspensions served no demonstrated valid interests of children or schools. Instead they pushed children and their problems out into the streets, causing more problems for them, their parents, and their communities. Too much of what we learned then remains true today. Several of CDF's state offices have been mobilizing students, youths, parents, advocates, educators, community leaders, and coalition partners to ensure students are not unfairly punished and pushed out of school into the prison pipeline. The new guidance is a valuable tool for them and all parents and communities.

While the guidance does not prohibit schools or districts from using any particular nondiscriminatory policy, it does call into question some policies that have historically excluded Black and Latino students disproportionately and are of questionable educational value—including "zero tolerance" discipline policies which require mandatory consequences for certain infractions, and policies that prevent students from returning to school after completion of a court sentence, which compound the often discriminatory effects of the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Perhaps the most absurd and outrageous are policies which allow or require suspension or expulsion for students who have been truant—punishing children for

See WATCH, Page A5

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

A Positive Attitude Can Help A Sick Child

Winter greatly increases the odds for a young child to become ill. Whether a case of strep, a touch of flu, or simply the common cold, damp, chilly winter weather combined with lots of school contact with other children is the recipe for a sick child.

While most of us know the medical steps to take for a cold or the flu, too often we ignore the emotional things we can do to help our child get better. If you've ever heard your young child apologize for being ill, then you'll begin to understand that kids often feel bad about feeling bad.

So, how to change that? Start by smiling. If you look too concerned and worried when you approach your ill child, he or she will also worry about why you look so worried.

Similarly, instead of asking, "How are you feeling?" when you can see that the answer will be negative, offer some positive comments. Tell your child that he or she is looking a bit better, or maybe has some more color back, or seems a little cooler.

And don't overlook the healing powers of hugs and cuddles. Plopping a sick child in front of the TV and checking in now and then is tempting, but offering physical contact that encourages positive feelings of comfort brings better results. Try putting him or her on your lap and reading a story. Do some drawing or coloring together. If there is some TV time, spend at least part of it with your child, holding hands or giving hugs while watching together.

Also try to encourage healthy thinking. Our minds have the power to affect our bodies. Talk with your son or daughter about imagining feeling better and it can help them actually feel that way.

You also need to listen to your child. Even if it's just a tummy ache, encourage him or her to talk about it and you may discover some stress of the day being described that is the actual cause of the physical pain.

None of us ever wants our child not feeling well. When illness does strike, try combining being a health care giver with being a loving, supportive person who encourages a positive attitude. It really can help your child feel healthier faster.

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

Business Spotlight

Anne Arundel Community College President to Speak at BWI Business Partnership's Breakfast

LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD (January, 2014) — Dr. Dawn Lindsay, President of Anne Arundel Community College, will be the featured speaker at the BWI Business Partnership's January Signature Breakfast. The breakfast will be held Wednesday, January 29, from 7:45 to 9:15 a.m. at the Westin Baltimore Washington Airport Hotel, 1110 Old Elkridge Landing Road in Linthicum.

Dr. Lindsay is the sixth president of Anne Arundel Community College, an award-winning, fully accredited, public two-year institution serving more than 53,000 students each year through credit and noncredit programs in more than 200 areas of study. She holds a doctorate of Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University, as well as a Masters of Educational Counseling. Prior to returning to her hometown, Dr. Lindsay served as President of Glendale Community College in California.

"Since its inception in 1961, Anne Arundel Community College has done an exceptional job of providing its students with affordable, high quality educational opportunities," said Linda Greene, Executive Director of the Partnership. "Our members look forward to hearing Dr. Lindsay's thoughts on the college's ongoing efforts to provide the educated workforce businesses in our region need."

Advance registration for the breakfast is required by Friday, January 24. Partnership members can attend at no charge or \$30, depending on membership level. Space permitting, non-members may attend for \$50. To register, members should go to www.bwipartner.org and click on the Event Registration button, or call 410-859-1000. Non-members should call 410-859-1000.

The BWI Business Partnership, Inc. is an organization of more than 180 businesses and agencies dedicated to strengthening the positive business climate and strong transportation network around BWI Marshall Airport. The Partnership's programs, including its monthly Signature Breakfast series and other forums, bring those interested in the BWI area together to share information, network and address business and transportation interests within the region.

Sen. Mikulski Announces Appropriations Act Makes Investments in Supporting Jobs in Maryland and Nation

By PRESS OFFICER
Sen. Barbara Mikulski's Office

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that Congress has passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, which makes critical investments supporting jobs across Maryland and the nation.

INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS

"A stronger America begins at home. These funds are investments in our national security and Maryland's economic security," Senator Mikulski said. "By investing in Maryland's infrastructure, we support construction jobs today laying the foundation for jobs tomorrow."

The legislation includes \$1.39 billion for Amtrak, an increase of \$47 million over Fiscal Year 2013 sequester level, which will keep our national passenger rail service moving forward.

The bill includes \$5.5 billion for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects nationwide, including \$69 million to support 15 projects in Maryland. This includes \$22 million for annual maintenance dredging of the Port of Baltimore shipping channels, a major economic engine for America and Maryland, supporting more than 50,000 jobs across the state — including 14,630 direct jobs. Among U.S. ports, Baltimore receives the top rank for handling roll on/roll off cargo, trucks, imported forest products and imported gypsum and sugar. It's also the largest automobile exporter and importer in the country.

Additional projects include: \$19 million for the C&D Canal for annual maintenance dredging of its shipping channels, which serves as a shortcut for vessels traveling between Baltimore and points north. Approximately forty percent of the Port of Baltimore's shipping traffic goes through the C&D Canal that connects the Chesapeake Bay with the Delaware River.

\$18 million for the continuation of the Poplar Island environmental restoration project, which is taking clean dredged materials from the shipping lanes leading to the Port of Baltimore and using it to stabilize the shoreline, create habitat areas, and restore the wetlands of one of the Chesapeake Bay's most valuable island ecosystems off of Talbot County.

\$2.5 million for the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration

program to continue efforts to increase the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay by building new oyster habitat in the Choptank River in a DNR designated permanent sanctuary.

•\$1.2 million for Assateague Island in Worcester County for restoration efforts that will protect the northern end of the island and its fragile habitat.

•\$1.5 million for the Wicomico River to complete dredging of the upper river where the Port of Salisbury is located, the second largest port in Maryland handling petroleum products and grain. This waterway also supports barge traffic crucial to maintaining adequate fuel supplies for the Delmarva Peninsula.

•\$150,000 for Cumberland to support the operation and maintenance of a project that protects Cumberland, Maryland and Ridgeley, West Virginia against flooding.

•\$1.9 million for the operation and maintenance of Jennings Randolph Lake in Garrett County, which provides flood control and recreation to Western Maryland and water quality and water supply for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

•\$1 million for the Anacostia Watershed Restoration to study and develop plans to implement restoration projects identified in the regional Anacostia Restoration Plan completed in 2010. Montgomery and Prince George's Counties both receive \$500,000.

MANUFACTURING JOBS

"The old saying goes, a country that doesn't make something, can't make something of itself," Senator Mikulski said. "From Hagerstown to Stevensville, from Baltimore to Easton, manufacturing is getting Maryland's economy rolling at the frontlines of American innovation, keeping thousands of workers on the job. I will continue to fight to keep 'Made in America' as the gold standard for excellence in manufacturing."

The legislation includes \$10 million for the U.S. Department of Energy's SuperTruck Program. This is a research partnership between DOE and commercial truck manufacturers developing the next generation of heavy-duty trucks. Volvo, a participating company, will receive \$3.8 million of this funding for research and development. Approximately \$1.8 million is for the engineers at Volvo's Powertrain Plant in Hagerstown to develop this new technology.

The bill also includes \$43 mil-



PHOTO BY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that Congress has passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014

lion to continue the manufacture of Multirole Enforcement Aircraft (MEA) used to protect our borders by the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Air and Marine Program, supporting 500 jobs in Hagerstown. The MEA Program is part of CBP's aviation modernization plan to replace, upgrade and standardize their 30-year-old fleet. These planes communicate with CBP officers on the ground to let them know where illegal activity is happening and help them cover a broader area with fewer resources.

RURAL MARYLAND

"Maryland's rural communities need a government on their side," Senator Mikulski said. "I'm proud to fight for Maryland communities working to attract new businesses, increase economic development and create jobs."

The legislation provides \$1.75 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, supporting loan and grant programs for rural communities nationwide to help make critical infrastructure investments including upgrades to water and sewer systems. In Maryland, this program is a resource to the communities on the Eastern Shore and in Western Maryland preventing their taxpayers from shouldering on their own the costly burden of making these critical investments to protect public health and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This funding creates jobs in these small rural communities.

The bill also includes \$80 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a federal-state partnership that promotes economic development in 13 states throughout the Appalachian region, supporting jobs

today in construction and jobs tomorrow. ARC brings vital services that strengthen communication, transportation, and technological infrastructure in Maryland's Washington, Allegany and Garrett Counties. In 2013, Maryland communities received \$1.8 million for 23 projects.

TOURISM ECONOMY

"Maryland is a state rich in history and culture with many unique treasures, from the mountains of Western Maryland to the shores of the Chesapeake," Senator Mikulski said. "Strengthening Maryland's tourism economy is a smart investment that will continue to draw in new visitors, new jobs and economic development to the state."

The bill includes a provision Senator Mikulski fought for to allow Maryland's seafood industry to stagger their seasonal foreign workers here on H-2B visas to support harvests during peak seasons. This program has aided Maryland's seafood industry and tourism economy by providing seasonal labor to help pick crab meat and perform other duties on the Eastern Shore while protecting American jobs, keeping small and seasonal businesses open by guaranteeing needed labor during peak seasons. Without this provision, businesses would be required to bring in all their H-2B workers at the same time, creating costly burdens on these small businesses.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

The bill invests \$9.8 billion for military construction projects nationwide, including \$1.12 billion to develop national defense assets located in Maryland.

Watch from A4

being absent by forcing them to be absent.

The new guidance recommendations are valuable to everyone concerned about success for all of the nation's children—including students, parents, educators, and community members. Information is available at this government website for almost every school and district in the country showing how many students were suspended or expelled, whether Black or Latino students or students with disabilities were suspended at higher rates than other students, and how individual schools and districts compare. Check your own school district now. Check too your own school or district's code of conduct to see whether the discipline policy is focused on creating a positive school climate and preventing misbehavior, whether consequences are clear, appropriate, and consistent, and whether there is a commitment to fairness in the application of discipline.

Then, follow up. The new guidance reiterates the longstanding right of parents to seek federal intervention on behalf of their children's civil rights. If you are a parent and believe that your child has been discriminated against on the basis of his or her race, color, national origin, sex, or disability, file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) through the online form here. Go to school board meetings and ask questions. Meet with your neighbors to learn about the experience of students in your community's schools. Use the additional resources provided by the government's school discipline website. Participate in webinars about the guidance and learn what other organizations are doing to empower educators with alternatives to exclusionary discipline. With all of this information—what Dr. King called "collection of the facts to determine whether injustices are alive"—you can make your case in the media, organize around school board elections, reach out to local

and state elected officials, and come together with others to demand change.

For the Children's Defense Fund's first report in 1974, Children Out of School in America, we knocked on many thousands of doors in census tracts around the country. We found that if a child was not White, or was White but not middle class, did not speak English, was poor, needed special help with seeing, hearing, walking, reading, learning, adjusting, or growing up, was pregnant at age 15, was not smart enough, or was too smart, then in too many places school officials decided school was not the place for that child. In sum, out of school children share a common characteristic of difference by virtue of race, income, physical, mental, or emotional "handicap," and age. They are, for the most part, out of school not by choice but because they have been excluded. It is as if many school officials have decided that certain groups of children are beyond their responsibility and are expendable.

Not only do they exclude these children, they frequently do so arbitrarily, discriminatorily, and with impunity. It's way past time to end child exclusion from the indispensable lifeline of education. This time, like so many good laws and regulations, the true test of the value of this new guidance will be how well it is implemented. Let's all join in to make sure everyone has a stake in helping our children strive and thrive in school. Their future and our nation's future depend on it.

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

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

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“August: Osage County”

August: Osage County
Grade: B-
Rated R, abundant profanity
including some sexual dialogue
2 hrs., 1 min.

The Westons of Osage County, Okla., where it is currently August, are the kind of family that movies have always thrived on: people you'd never, ever want to have any connection to in real life, but whose vicious squabbles are entertaining to watch from a safe distance. Furthermore, “August: Osage County” (both as a Pulitzer-winning play and now as a movie) is the sort of drama that actors love: a thick, dialogue-oriented piece of fiction that gives multiple performers many opportunities to ham it up. Jam-packed with snarking, lying, brawling, crying, drinking, and smoking, it lends itself easily to big, capital-A Acting, both comic and tragic.

The movie version, directed by John Wells (“The Company Men”) and adapted by the playwright, Tracy Letts (“Killer Joe”), gathers a terrific ensemble of actors. Every member of the troupe seems delighted to be in the production: Meryl Streep as Violet, the boisterous, pill-popping, cancer-stricken, daughter-tormenting matriarch; Sam Shepard as Beverly, her heavy-drinking novelist husband; Julia Roberts, Julianne Nicholson, and Juliette Lewis as their offspring; Margo Martindale and Chris Cooper as Violet's sister and brother-in-law; Ewan McGregor and Dermot Mulroney as sons-in-law; Abigail Breslin as a teenage granddaughter; Benedict Cumberbatch as a nephew. If you put this cast on Broadway, you'd sell out a year in advance.

But on Broadway, you'd have more time to develop the characters, which means more opportunity to give the audi-

ence some real emotional connection to them. The play is 3 1/2 hours long; the movie chops out 40 percent of it to bring it down to an even two hours. The behind-the-scenes reasons for this are obvious and perhaps inescapable — moviegoers avoid 210-minute domestic dramas, even funny ones that star Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts — but the result is a film whose effects are fleeting where they should be memorable, lightweight instead of resonant.

It is a fun way to spend a couple hours, though. (Fun for us, I mean. It's miserable for them.) The occasion is the disappearance of Beverly Weston, who has occasionally run off before but never for this long. The dutiful middle daughter, Ivy (Nicholson), still lives in town, while the others have fled: headstrong Barbara (Roberts) and her husband Bill (McGregor) to Colorado; trashy Karen (Lewis) to Florida, where she's bagged a showy, Corvette-driving clown of a fiance, Steve (Mulroney). They all come home when Dad goes missing, to help Violet cope and to sort through whatever aftermath there may be. Aunt Mattie Fae and Uncle Charlie (Martindale and Cooper) are on hand, too, joined by their son, Little Charles (Cumberbatch), who's a disappointment to Mattie Fae and must constantly be defended by Charlie. We learn plenty about everyone's relationship with everyone else. There's no need to summarize it all here; suffice it to say that there is no shortage of disagreeable feelings and terrible secrets mixed in with the genuine familial affection that sometimes manifests itself. And it all goes back to Violet — Violet, that brash, opinionated, sometimes cruel wife and



A look at the lives of the strong-willed women of the Weston family, whose paths have diverged until a family crisis brings them back to the Oklahoma house they grew up in, and to the dysfunctional woman who raised them.

mother whose being stricken with mouth cancer seems like an appropriate punishment for her tart tongue. Streep fairly explodes with Acting, chewing the scenery like a hungry beaver as Violet pokes, cajoles, and manipulates her relatives. What makes it fun is that no one puts up with it for very long. This is a whole family of pot-stirrers and openers of old wounds. As Violet's faculties wane and she proves unsuited for making decisions, eldest daughter Barbara steps up as the new taskmaster. One of the major thematic threads of the

play is Barbara's concern that she will turn into her mother. The movie waters that down a bit, just as it does with nearly everything else (Barbara and Bill's tumultuous marriage, Ivy's spinsterhood, etc.). As a whole, the film gets by on its cast of fine actors doing charismatic work, and that's enough to recommend it. But it's a shame Wells couldn't capture the extremes of the play -- the hilarious highs as well as the devastating lows. What we have instead is rather glossy, like a sitcom version of a Eugene O'Neill play.

Natural Ways To Fight The Cold And Flu

(NAPSI)—The flu is nothing to sneeze at: Between the extreme body aches, chills and high temperatures, the flu threatens your well-being. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 5 to 20 percent of Americans come down with it each year, hospitalizing more than 200,000—but there are ways to keep yourself and your family out of such statistics this season.

How the Cold and Flu Are Spread

The cold and flu are spread mainly by the germs released when someone already infected coughs, sneezes or speaks. A single sneeze can send 100,000 germs into the air, allowing virus droplets to land in the mouths or noses of people up to six feet away. The cold or flu might also be contracted by touching something that has the virus on it and then touching the mouth or nose. A person may be able to pass the cold or flu to someone else before he or she begins to notice symptoms, which typically appear one to four days after the virus enters

the body. That means people can spread the virus a day before they know they have it and up to seven days after symptoms start.

Flu symptoms often include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, vomiting and diarrhea.

The Pharmacist's Prevention Advice

To avoid falling victim to the cold and flu, follow these tips from author and syndicated columnist Suzy Cohen, RPh, known as America's Pharmacist:

- **Prepare your body in advance.** Get your annual flu vaccination. Supplements such as vitamins C and D and probiotics may help boost your immune system before an infection sets in.

- **Keep clean.** Viruses can also live on surfaces for two to eight hours or longer outside the body, so frequent hand washing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness.

- **Control stress.** Stress weakens the immune system. To prevent additional immune sup-

pression, an ample amount of rest is also needed.

What To Do if the Cold or Flu Still Gets You

“Arming people with a new approach to cold and flu relief specifically designed to target points of virus entry—the throat and nose—can provide protection when those around them are not feeling well. In addition, it can help anyone who's already feeling the onset of symptoms,” says Cohen.

Many individuals get relief from a nonprescription, homeopathic spray such as FluNada, designed to inhibit replication of cold and flu viruses by coating the nasal and throat pathways. It was developed by a physician and a pharmacist looking to close the gap between vaccines for influenza prevention and anti-viral medication for treatment.

The zinc-free formula contains a blend of safe and natural homeopathic ingredients—including elderberry, mint, eucalyptus and gaultheria—which are endorsed by the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia and rec-

ognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

How To Use It

FluNada may be used by adults and children over the age of 4 at the first sign of symptoms. Simply spray it three times to the throat and once in each nostril, four times daily for up to five days.

Learn More

Visit www.FluNada.com for further information, including a list of nearby retailers who offer the product.



Suzy Cohen, “America's Pharmacist,” says there are natural ways to fight flu symptoms.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Florida State Seminoles: The Champions of Racist Mascots

It's easy to oppose the name of the Washington Redskins and call for owner Dan Snyder to change his beloved bigoted brand. After all, it's a dictionary-defined slur bestowed on the NFL franchise by their arch-segregationist, minstrel-loving founder. When you have Native American organizations, leading sportswriters, Republicans as well as Democrats in Congress and even the president say the time has come to change the name, it is not exactly difficult to get on board.

But what about the Florida State Seminoles, whose football team on Monday night won the Vizio/Dow Chemical/Blackwater/Vivid Video BCS National Championship Game? The NCAA, since 2005, has had formal restrictions against naming teams after Native American tribes, and yet there were the Seminole faithful: thousands of overwhelmingly Caucasian fans with feathers in their hair, doing the Tomahawk chop and whooping war chants on national television. Their passions were stirred into a frenzy by a white person, face smeared with war paint, dressed as the legendary chief Osceola riding out on a horse. As Stewart Mandel of Sports Illustrated gushed, “Chief Osceola plants the flaming spear in the Rose Bowl. Awesome.” (Osceola was adopted after the school quietly retired their previous Native American mascot “Sammy Seminole.”)

I have been to dozens of Redskins game and have never seen anything close to this kind of mass interactive minstrelsy. Yet there are no protests against this spectacle, no angry editorials and no politicians jumping on the issue. Why is that? Because as any Florida State fanatic will shout at you, the university has “a formal agreement with Seminole Nation” and that makes everything all right. Fans treat this much-touted agreement like they have a “racism amnesty card” in their back pocket. The approval of the Seminole Nation, they will tell you makes it all A-okay. Actually it doesn't. It doesn't first and foremost because the existence of this “agreement with the Seminole Nation” is a myth.

The agreement is with the Florida Seminole Tribal Council and not the Seminole Nation. The majority of Seminoles don't even live in Florida. They live in Oklahoma, one of the fruits of the Seminole Wars, the Indian Removal Act and The Trail of Tears. These Oklahoma Seminoles—who, remember, are the majority—oppose the name. On October 26, 2013, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma's governing body passed a resolution that read in part, “The Seminole Nation condemns the use of all American Indian sports team mascots in the public school system, by college and university level and by professional teams.”

As for the Florida Seminole Tribal Council, it is the owner of a series of luxury casino hotels throughout the state where the Seminole “brand” is prominently on display. The Tribal Council also bought the Hard Rock Cafe for \$965 million in cash in 2006, which thanks to the Seminoles’ “first-nation status” now also offers gambling in its Florida locales. Hard Rock corporate called this “the perfect marriage of two kindred spirits.” Seminole Nation Hard Rock Hotel and Casino T-shirts are available for purchase.

For the wealthy and powerful Florida Seminole tribal leaders, the cultural elevation of the football program is a part of their extremely lucrative gaming operation. Defending the school's use of the name is about defending its brand. That is why the chairman of the Florida Seminole Tribe of Florida, James Billie, said, “Anybody come here into Florida trying to tell us to change the name, they better go someplace else, because we're not changing the name.”

Some might say that this is fine with them. After all, given the incalculable wealth stolen from Native American tribes over the centuries, what is wrong with them getting some of it back? That would be fine, except for the stubborn fact that gambling wealth flows into very few hands. The majority of Native Americans languish in dire poverty, with reservation poverty listed at 50 percent in the last census.

Another argument for the Florida State Seminoles' keeping their name is that it actually educates people and keeps the history from being eradicated. This is self-serving codswallop, like saying a Muhammad Ali mouse pad teaches people about his resistance to the war in Vietnam. Branding and cultural appropriation is not history. It's anti-history. Take school mascot Chief Osceola as an example. If people in the stands and at home actually knew who Osceola was, the ritual of his riding a horse and throwing a spear before games would be an outrage, and not just because the Seminoles, who lived and fought in swampy everglades, tended not to ride horses. Chief Osceola was a great resistance fighter and leader of the Second Seminole War in Florida.

As written in the terrific book 101 Changemakers: Rebels and Radicals who Changes US History, “Osceola became an international symbol of the Seminole Nation's refusal to surrender. He was a renowned public speaker and a fierce fighter who was also an opponent of the US slave system. One of his two wives was a woman of African descent and it was not uncommon for escaped slaves to become a part of Seminole Nation. Osceola's army frustrated the entire US Government, five separate Army generals, at a cost to the US Treasury of more than 20 million dollars.... On October 21, 1837, Osceola met with US government officials to discuss a peace treaty. When he arrived, he was captured and imprisoned. Osceola's respect was so widespread that this maneuver was widely condemned and viewed as a dishonorable way to bring down the great warrior.”

Osceola was nothing less than the American Mandela, but a Nelson Mandela who did not survive Robben Island. Imagine before a South African soccer game, a white person in black face, dressed like Mandela, running out to midfield to psyche up the crowd. Not even Rick Reilly would say that this was somehow educating people about African resistance to apartheid. No one is getting educated about Osceola or the Seminole Wars. Instead their heroic resistance has been translated for football purposes to being “tough.” This

“respect” for their toughness not only reduces a rich and varied Seminole culture to a savage culture of war, it is also an unspoken way to praise our own ability to engineer their conquest.

The last argument, which is perhaps the most common, is, “Changing the name of the Redskins the Seminoles... where does the politically correct madness end? Do we stop using ‘Giants’ because it offends tall people? Or ‘Cowboys’ because it offends cowboys?” This kind of witticism is actually profoundly insulting because there was this thing called “history” that happened, and in this “history” giants were not subject to mass displacement and genocide. Once 100 percent of this country, Native Americans are now 0.9 percent, and we play sports on their graves. Their rituals and dress are our own commercialized entertainment. We turn our eyes to the field and away from the way institutionalized racism continues to define the lives of the overwhelming majority to Native Americans who do not own a stake in the Hard Rock Cafe. That gets us to the final problem with Seminole nation and all Native American mascot. It makes us more ignorant about our own collective history. I'm not sure we can afford it.

Calendar of Events

January 30 — February 5, 2013

First Tuesdays At Abraham Hall

Date & Time: Monthly, First Tuesdays
Description: Abraham Hall, constructed in 1889, is the best example of an African American benevolent society lodge in Prince George's County. Located in the community of Rossville, it is the first African American historic site in the county to be fully restored using public funds. Home of M-NCPPC's Black History Program, please call the number listed below for more information about the First Tuesday program.
Ages: All ages
Location: *Abraham Hall*
 7612 Old Muirkirk Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 240-264-3415; TTY 301-699-2544

Senior Days

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

Afternoon Aviators

Date & Time: Fridays, 2-4 pm
Description: Join us for fun, hands-on aviation-themed activities. A weekly series for children ages five and up. To schedule a group larger than 10, please call the museum to make a private group reservation.
Cost: FREE with museum admission
Ages: 5 & up
Location: *College Park Aviation Museum*
 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park 20740
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Brentwood Arts Exchange All-Screened Video Fest

Date & Time: Saturday, February 1, 2014 2-5 pm
Description: You're invited to this one-day video fest, featuring short film and video work by regional producers and artists! Presented to the public in a social and appreciative atmosphere, this event will showcase all levels, from relative unknowns to well-known talent alike. All entries received will be shown, and a panel of judges will select one work to receive the honor of: "Best in Festival" and a cash prize!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: *Gateway Arts Center*
 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood 20722
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802

Black History Month Opening Exhibit & Reception

Date & Time: Sunday, February 2, 2014 2-4 pm
Description: Visit this year's exhibition, Celebrating Civil Rights Milestones: From Emancipation to Administration in Prince George's County, 1864-1994! It will examine seminal national events, and profile state and local outcomes such as the 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the election of Prince George's County's first African American county executive. You will discover how these events and others permanently shaped the social, educational and political life for African Americans residing in Prince George's County.
 Be sure to attend the opening reception! Guests will see the unveiling of the 2014 Black History Month Poster designed by art students from Suitland High School.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: *Harmony Hall Regional Center*
 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Black History Month: Midday Matinee at the Movies

Date and Time: Mondays, February 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2014 12-2 pm
Description: Join us to screen a collection of documentaries and listen to speeches on the milestones of the Civil Rights Movement. Works by African-American thought leaders and civil rights activists, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, Thurgood Marshall and more will be covered.
Cost: Free
Ages: 17 & up
Location: *Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex*
 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785
Contact: 301-583-2582; TTY 301-583-2483

Science on the Plantation: African American Scientists in Colonial Maryland

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 2:45 & 3:45
Description: Montpelier staff will once again take our Black History Month programs on the road! Join us Tuesdays in February at area community centers to explore the contributions of African American scientists to Maryland's agricultural past. This week, we'll be at Deerfield Run Community Center for "Weathering Racism: The Benjamin Banneker Almanacs." You'll study copies of Banneker's 1792 and 1795 almanacs to learn how this remarkable man fought slavery with intelligence and grace. You'll also make your own weather instrument to take home.
Cost: Free
Ages: 10 & up
Location: *Deerfield Run Community Center*
 13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: Deerfield Run CC: 301-953-7882; TTY 301-445-4512
 Montpelier Historic Site: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... "Smart Thermostats"

Dear EarthTalk:

Will I really be able to save money and energy in the long run by shelling out hundreds of dollars now for a so-called "smart" thermostat?

-- Bill Cone, Aptos, CA

Spending \$200 or more to replace that older, still functioning thermostat with a new whiz-bang "smart" variety might seem like a waste of money, but it can be one of the best small investments a homeowner can make, given the potential for energy and cost savings down the line.

The coolest of the bunch of new smart thermostats, the Nest, was created by former Apple employees who had been instrumental in designing the original iPod and iPhone years earlier. This simple looking round thermostat is reminiscent of old-school thermostats that one would manually adjust by turning the temperature dial. But the auto-awake feature that turns on the bright blue digital display when someone walks nearby gives the Nest away as an ultra-modern piece of high tech gadgetry.

The Nest's software "learns" the habits in a given space by logging when inhabitants tend to be home and awake and noting when they tend to turn up or down the heat—and then sets a heating/cooling schedule accordingly. Owners can also program

the Nest, which connects to the Internet via Wi-Fi, to heat up or cool down the house at a set schedule or go into "away" mode from any web browser or smart phone.

While the Nest is likely the best known smart thermostat available—especially since Google acquired the company behind it in early 2014—several other manufacturers (including Honeywell, ecobee, Hunter, Radio Thermostat, Trane and Lux) have Wi-Fi-enabled smart thermostats available now as well.

While only some of them have the auto-sensing and "learning" capabilities of the Nest, those without that feature also cost less. And merely programming in a weekly schedule to any smart thermostat will be the main source of cost and energy savings. People who were diligent about turning their old thermostats up and down throughout the day might not see any substantial savings with a smart thermostat, but most of us aren't so diligent—especially when it comes to turning the heat down at night when we are sleeping.

Many smart thermostat owners report savings of between \$10 and \$30 per month on their heating/cooling bills—and research has shown that such an upgrade can save upwards of 10 percent of the total energy consumed by a given household. Smart thermostats range in price from \$50 to \$250, so upgrading could pay for itself within a year



CREDIT: THE NEST

Navigant Research reports that the number of smart thermostats in operation around the world will jump from 1.4 million currently installed to some 32 million by 2020. These kinds of numbers will help utilities meet or exceed energy efficiency goals regardless of other upgrades on their power plants.

or two at most, with long-term savings racking up month-by-month after that.

Many utilities now offer free or discounted smart thermostats to customers. Getting in on such a program is a great way to reduce energy costs without the up-front expense of installing a smart thermostat independently. According to the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE), incentives to install smart thermostats are available through utilities in 45 states. New York's Con Edison, California's PG&E and Texas' CPS Energy are just a few of the larger utilities offering such incentives.

Those that do upgrade certainly won't be alone. Navigant Research reports that the number of smart thermostats in operation around the world will jump from 1.4 million currently installed to

some 32 million by 2020. These kinds of numbers will help utilities meet or exceed energy efficiency goals regardless of other upgrades on the power plant side of their businesses. Likewise, the efficiency boost also can play a key role in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and our emissions of greenhouse gases.

CONTACTS: Nest, www.nest.com; DSIRE, www.dsireusa.org; Navigant, www.navigantresearch.com.

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Marijuana from A1

In November, a Goucher poll found that about 51 percent of Marylanders support legalizing marijuana, with about 40 percent in opposition. The poll had a 3.8 percent margin of error.

But such sweeping legislation is likely to hit road bumps in the General Assembly, where a more modest decriminalization bill failed to pass last session.

A similar decriminalization bill, which would shift possession of small amounts of marijuana from a criminal to a civil offense, is set to appear before lawmakers again this year.

Del. Luiz Simmons, D-Montgomery, said in a phone interview on Thursday that he will back that bill, sponsored by Sen.

Robert Zirkin, D-Baltimore County, and believes the state should act cautiously regarding legalization and wait for any lessons that come out of states like Colorado, which recently legalized marijuana.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to look at what are huge pilot programs in significant states and to learn before we leap," Simmons said.

But Raskin, Anderson and other supporters of legalization said that any decriminalization bill would fall short.

"The problem with decriminalization is that it leaves in place the basic dynamics of criminal control over the supply of marijuana," Raskin said. "Our goal is to kick the drug dealers out of the state, and

there is one way to do it, which is to regulate and tax marijuana — let the government take over the whole process."

Both lawmakers said that marijuana regulation would also give government the ability to control the message surrounding the drug and to keep it away from children. It would also allow law enforcement officials to focus their time and resources on serious violent crimes, like homicide.

Gov. Martin O'Malley recently said he opposes the legalization of marijuana, which he called a "gateway to more harmful activity."

But Anderson spoke out against that notion Thursday, citing studies that have shown marijuana not be dangerous.

"What we're trying to do is simply let folks know that marijuana is not the addictive drug that you've been led to believe ... and marijuana is not the gateway drug you've been led to believe," Anderson said.

He called marijuana "a gateway drug in a totally different respect," saying a marijuana arrest can prevent young people from getting jobs or getting into schools.

Advocates said that like a decriminalization bill, the Marijuana Control Act of 2014 would reduce the number of people whose lives are negatively affected by marijuana-related charges. But regulating and taxing the drug would also create revenue for the state.

Pre-K from A1

in FY15 to support the expansion, which is expected to provide nearly 1,600 additional children with half or full-day Pre-K and additional educational, family and health support services.

"Expanding access to high quality Pre-K is about supporting Maryland's families, closing the achievement gap and building a strong educational foundation for our children," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "Providing the opportunity for all Maryland children to participate in pre-k is an investment worth making. Today's announcement is the first step in our larger goal of establishing a voluntary universal Pre-K program to ensure that all Maryland children, no matter where they live, get the best education possible."

Said Speaker Busch, "I know firsthand the benefit of a high quality pre-K program through the experience of my own kids and through my interaction with the incredible public school programs that serve children right here in the Annapolis community. I am excited about the prospect of expanding this pathway to success for many more families."

"Recognizing the measurable social and economic benefits of quality preschool education, I have worked for many years with my colleagues in the legislature to increase access to Pre-K programs," said State Senator Nancy King. "With Lt.

Governor Brown's leadership, we are now embarking on a plan that will expand Pre-K and make a significant difference in the lives of Maryland children and their families."

As of the 2007-2008 school year, all local school systems in Maryland were required to make public Pre-K available to all economically disadvantaged or homeless four-year-olds. Currently, to qualify as economically disadvantaged, a child must be from a family whose income is at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, which is the income eligibility criterion for the federal free and reduced-price meal program. In the 2012-2013 school year, 26,402 four-year-olds were enrolled in Pre-K programs offered by Maryland public schools.

In order to encourage partnership with the private sector and local and national foundations, the bill establishes a Pre-K Expansion Fund into which businesses and philanthropic entities can contribute funds to support the expansion. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would be responsible for managing the fund, its distribution and the selection of additional programs and their location. To ensure fair distribution across the state, the legislation requires that MSDE take geographic diversity into account when distributing the funds.

The legislation, which will be released as part of the Administra-

tion's legislative package on Monday night, will emphasize the expansion of half day Pre-K to children who are up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. It would also allow local school districts and local providers to apply for funds to expand existing half-day programs to full-day, and full-day programs into "Judy Centers." Through the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program established in 2000, "Judy Centers" provide a central location for early childhood education and support services for children birth through Kindergarten and their families. These centers typically provide up to 12 hours of care each day and include significant family and health services in addition to full-day Pre-K.

"Access to early education is critically important to ensuring school readiness and greater success as students progress through life," stated U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer. "The Administration's proposal to provide additional Maryland families with access to Pre-K represents a significant investment in our children and their future. I'm pleased that it will also expand access to Judy Centers, which have made our state a recognized leader in integrating early childhood education with the delivery of health and social services. I commend Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown for their commitment to expanding early education and improving educational outcomes for all of our students."

"Pre-kindergarten is a sound investment in our children's future. We will make a significant step forward in expanding educational opportunities for our children by enacting the O'Malley-Brown Administration's legislation," said State Delegate Sandy Rosenberg.

When completed in 2009, MSDE's "Maryland's Preschool for All Business Plan" proposed gradually increasing the number of four-year-old children who are eligible for publicly-funded Pre-Kindergarten in the State over a period of five years. The first phase would expand eligibility for prekindergarten to families whose income is at or below 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Despite making more cuts to state spending than any previous administration, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown have chosen to protect targeted investments in priorities like education and job creation. The proposed FY2015 budget builds on Maryland's #1 school ranking and paves the way to global competitiveness for our children. It includes a record \$6.12 billion investment in K-12 education, which is an increase of 37 percent compared to FY2007. In addition to the \$4.3 million for additional Pre-K opportunities, the Administration will invest \$289 million for the Public School Construction Program, bringing the O'Malley-Brown Administration's average annual investment to the highest ever at \$345 million.

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