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### This Week

- Hammond Student Civic Leader
- Maryland Montessori Academy Opens
- Hammond Sports Coverage
- Guilford Elementary Gets Support from Walden University

### Weekly Refresher

"Remember, you have been called to reflect the glory of the Lord, not to generate it. Meditate on the difference; it may be surprisingly enlightening and refreshing."

- Dan Baty

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# Guilford Gazette

## Hammond Student Wins Big at Life



Photo by Ricardo Whitaker

Anasia Wharton posing with the coveted Glover B. Current Award given her for outstanding volunteer work.

by **Ricardo L. Whitaker**  
Guilford Gazette Publisher

Anasia Wharton is a senior at Hammond High School, but she is not just any senior. She is smart, dedicated to her ideals, and she leads an active and exciting life.

As a member of the NAACP Youth Council of Howard County, Ms. Wharton is engaged and focused on the critical issues of our day. While she would probably not deny that she cares about her community, she also would not deny that she knows how to live life to its fullest.

Ms. Wharton was recently highlighted in the GuilfordGazette.com Spotlight because she tirelessly pours herself into volunteerism even while engaged in a full and rigorous academic load. She is also a recruiter of people to support the good causes she values.

In an interview conducted at the Ridgely's Run Recreation Center in Jessup, Ms. Wharton talked about her life, her training, and her passions.

Ms. Wharton gives of herself as a volunteer to help young children learn to read

in one of the county's after school reading programs. She is involved in the NAACP Youth Council and has served there most recently as the president of the organization. She climbed up the ranks by serving as secretary and health committee chair. The Youth Council is a service organization that also teaches leadership skills to youth.

Ms. Wharton volunteered last year to work with the St. John Baptist Church in Long Reach to bring attention and awareness to the circumstances surrounding the death of Trayvon Martin, the young man who was killed last year in Florida by a neighborhood watch volunteer. She said of the case, "We realized that Trayvon could have been one of us. We really took it to heart."

Ms. Wharton participated in the church-sponsored vigil where she and other community activists and volunteers held a vigil.

Ms. Wharton was covered by the Baltimore and Howard County press for her efforts. She was also recognized by the Howard County Council along with the entire NAACP Youth Council.

Among her other community-based work, Ms. Wharton worked as a receptionist for the Salvation Army and provided a variety of other

(Continued on Page 11)

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## *The Publisher's Notes*

Well, it is the new year for the Guilford Gazette. For our first year readers from 2012, yes it is true, we drifted into the background for a little while. Rest assured that our hiatus was not without purpose.

We have come back stronger than ever and much better poised to bring you the best that our community has to offer. During our absence, we put together a sports journalism crew to cover Hammond High School action. The Guilford Gazette is there for the highs and the lows. In every issue the Golden Bears are our heroes. We want our readers to celebrate their hard work with us.

We are adding a writer to cover the Annapolis scene from January through March when the General Assembly is in session. The difference between our political news and everyone else's is that we are dedicated to the politicians that you put in office. We are following State Senator James Robey, and State Delegates Guy Guzzone, Shane Pendergrass, and Frank Turner. You told us that you wanted more information on your representatives, so we found a way to do it.

Because we cannot stick around without funds, we brought in a sales representative to beat the streets to share with merchants the absolute value of this great little paper. But we found that advertising dollars are simply not enough. We are bringing our readers a quality service that is not available anywhere else.

While there continues to be a free Guilford Gazette that is available to the masses, we are also offering several paid subscription options, which ensures delivery to the reader every week without fail. The local schools listed on the left margin of page 2 of the print version will receive a portion of all revenue that comes in from subscriptions and advertising sales.

When our readers subscribe they help maintain invaluable programs in the schools. Further, as a measure of our appreciation we are establishing a rewards program where Guilford Gazette subscribers get special discounts from select merchants in the area. When [GuilfordGazette.com](http://GuilfordGazette.com) is locked down, subscribers will get full access to all features. We plan to sponsor special events from time to time. Our subscribers get the first crack at tickets. Often we will offer discounts or free admittance.

We have a subscription reward program that cannot be beat.

Because we want to demonstrate our love for you so much at Valentine's Day, we are bringing some great new features: Business, Health, Politics and Sports. We found a way to keep all of our news local, so if you have an expertise, don't be shy. Share it with us and become a celebrity in your home town. Sports and Politics are continually developing here. Look for Business and Health around March 28, 2013.

And finally, we have brought on the Capital News Service to bring us that all-important state-wide news. Enjoy the changes!

*Ricardo L. Whitaker*

# New Montessori School Opens In Guilford

by **Ricardo L. Whitaker** facility designed to hold Guilford Gazette Publisher 99.

The MMA serves clients from six weeks through six years old. The facility serves as a day care and a school.

Co-owner Chinnababu Gudapati gave the Guilford Gazette a tour of the facility during their grand opening.

He talked about his passion for the Montessori teaching system and explained that he was “passionate about children teaching children,” which is a big part of the Montessori program.

The staff at the academy



Computer room at the Maryland Montessori Academy

are veteran Montessori educational training. For young students, there is a premium placed on hands-on learning and (Continued on Page 11)

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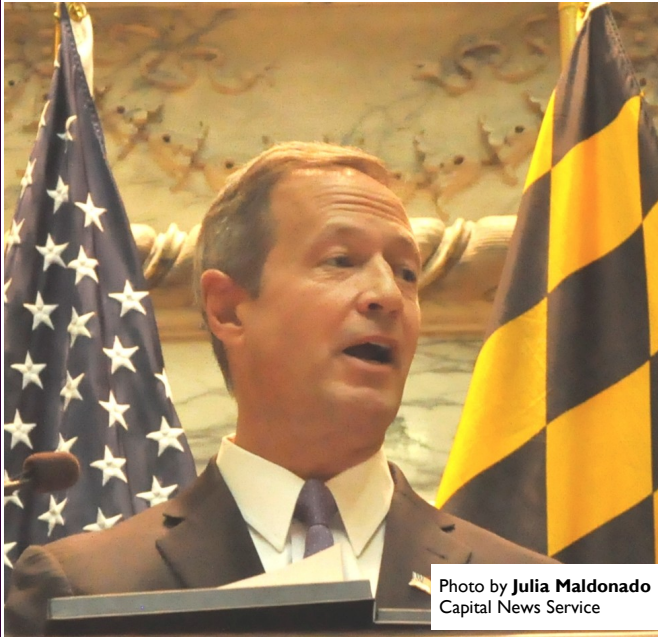
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# Political Points

## O'Malley Pushes Ambitious Agenda in State of the State



Gov. Martin O'Malley gives his annual State of the State address before Maryland legislators, citizens and media Wednesday, growing middle class."

By **Lucas High**  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - In his seventh State of the State address on Wednesday, Gov. Martin O'Malley urged lawmakers to continue pushing forward on gun control, job creation and death penalty repeal, issues that some say O'Malley is using to position himself for a run at national office.

O'Malley dedicated roughly equal time in his approximately 30-minute address to congratulating lawmakers for past results on education and job creation, and urging

them to support his policy choices moving forward.

The theme of O'Malley's second-to-last State of the State was "better choices, better results."

"When the national recession hit, wiping out jobs and revenues all across our country, other states tried to cut their way to prosperity," O'Malley said. "But in Maryland, we made better choices."

Those "better choices" include instituting new performance metrics designed to make government more efficient, constraining spending and

investing in education and innovation, O'Malley said.

O'Malley, who recently proposed some of the strictest gun control laws in the country, renewed his call for a ban on assault rifles and tighter background check requirements for firearm purchasers.

While violent crime in Maryland is down 25 percent since 2006, "we lose far too many American lives to gun violence," O'Malley said.

"I thought it was the best State of the State speech he's given," said Todd Eberly, assistant professor of political science and public policy at St. Mary's College of Maryland, calling the address "well-crafted and well-delivered."

While Eberly believes that O'Malley will finish the legislative session with "some pretty significant accomplishments," he doesn't expect Maryland lawmakers to agree to gun control bills as strict as those recently passed in New York. O'Malley's proposals are similar to the bills passed in New York.

Following the speech, Republicans took the opportunity to point out the half-dozen foreign diplomats in attendance,

citing this as evidence of O'Malley's desire to attract a national audience.

Rather than focusing on the specific needs of Marylanders, the policies O'Malley spelled out in his speech had more to do with Democrats' national agenda of taxes and gun control, said Sen. E.J. Pipkin, R-Upper Shore.

"He's coming for your money...he's coming for your guns," Pipkin said.

O'Malley wants to use the current legislative session to take on another controversial issue: repealing the death penalty.

"The death penalty is expensive and it does not work," O'Malley said, adding that "it cannot be administered without racial bias."

Maryland, which currently has five inmates on death row, has not executed a prisoner since 2005. In 2009, state lawmakers passed a bill restricting the use of the death penalty to cases where DNA evidence, a confession, or video evidence of the crime is available.

If O'Malley can push his proposals through the General Assembly, Maryland will become the 18th state to completely (Continued on Page 12)

# SPORTS

## Hammond Men's Basketball Team Refuses to Give Up



Photo by **Andrea Stein**

Naji Jackson drives to the basket as Teddy Howard (#33) and Nate Washington (#4) get offensive rebounding position.

by **Boris McLaughlin**  
Guilford Gazette  
Staff Writer

Seven Hammond Golden Bear Seniors were honored before their last home game of the season.

However, Senior Night could not end the Hammond Golden Bears season-long losing streak; it was extended to 19 games. They lost 67-45 to the Long Reach Lightning.

Karl Friedheim, Golden Bear ninth-year head coach, empathizes with this senior class.

"It's a good group of guys, I really enjoyed

them. This is a special group, a special group that went through a rough season. So I understand some of things they are going through. We're all going through it together. We got to keep playing together and playing hard, move on, and learn from it."

With a scheduled tip-off of 5:30 p.m., the game did not start until 6 pm and the delay apparently had a negative effect on Hammond. They dug themselves into a 13-3 hole by the end of the first quarter.

Sparked by Senior captain Mike Anderson's two 3-pointers, Hammond

started the second quarter on an 8-3 run to cut the Lightning lead to 16-11.

Anderson said, "As the captain and floor general, I was out the first quarter because of my knee, and we needed that leadership on the floor and it wasn't there."

Long Reach used a barrage of back cuts to break down the Golden Bear 2-3 zone and capitalized on 10 Hammond turnovers to outscore the Golden Bears 17-2 in the final 3:24 of the second quarter to stretch

their lead to 20 at the half.

Coach Friedheim said his team didn't come out in the first half with intensity and focus. "I know we're better than what we showed today, for sure. We have to come and play hard every possession."

"We talk about mental and physical toughness. Playing hard, playing smart, playing together we talk about all those things. We know what to do. We didn't execute," Friedheim continued.

Senior forward/center  
(Continued on page 12)



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## Losses Are Building Character for Golden Bear Cagers



Photos by Andrea Stein

DaRay Ross



Mike Anderson



Greg Coleman

by **Boris McLaughlin**  
Guilford Gazette  
Staff Writer

*American author Arthur Golden ("Memoirs of a Geisha") was famously quoted, "Adversity is like a strong wind. It tears away from us all but the things that cannot be torn, so that we see ourselves as we really are."*

Three years removed from capturing the Howard County Championship, the Hammond High School men's basketball team are in the final stretch of what they hope will not be a win-less season after dropping a 53-28 contest at home to cross-town rival Atholton, recently. I interviewed senior captains Mike Anderson and DaRay Ross, and junior forward Greg Coleman to get their perspectives on persevering through a win-less season and learning life lessons from this experience.

**Guilford Gazette:** What has this season taught you about life?

**Mike Anderson:** When

you get around a group of people that love the sport of basketball there's a bond. Even though we're losing every game right now, no one quit and that's saying there's a bond. We're in this together, and no matter how good or bad it winds up we started together and we're going to finish together. I'm the captain.

The team voted me captain. So I make sure I come to practice every day doing the things to get better as a player and make sure everybody pushes past their limit.

**DaRay Ross:** You may have some challenges. Things may not go the way you want them to go, but you have to keep your head up – keep on moving.

**Greg Coleman:** It's not all about winning. It's about learning and making it through the tough times.

**GG:** What have you done to stay motivated through a season like this?

**Anderson:** Come to practice and try my best to get better. They voted me

captain, so I make sure everyone comes in the gym and gets better—working on things they need to work on. I'm vocal and make sure everyone pushes past their limit to become a better player.

**Ross:** I try not to think about mistakes. I try to learn from my mistakes. I try to keep improving.

**Coleman:** Honestly, I look at the Lakers. They are my favorite team and how they are doing badly. And if they can still push through we can too. I have my friends around me to support me.

**GG:** What influence has Coach Friedheim had on you as a player and a person?

**Anderson:** He harps on every perspective. I mean everything. Say like I'm not on time for practice, even one minute late, he'll get on me about that. He'll get on me about not doing my job. He basically told me at practice one time that he's preparing us to be men and to teach us how the real world is.

**Ross:** He motivates us to keep our heads up and play tough. Even when we are losing to play tough and it starts on the defensive end. You may not get your way in life, but you have to keep going. Life is not fair but you have to keep going on.

**Coleman:** Leadership and discipline. He has shown me that I have to be a man. I can't just sit in a boy's world any more. "We got better game after game."

It seemed like we'd progress each game, and we'd start all over. The season has been like even though we have been losing each game so far we know we can do better," said Anderson of this season for the Golden Bears.

Coleman plans to help return Hammond to their 2012 level when they captured the Howard County Championship in men's basketball. "It's a learning process. I'm happy about being on the team, but it's a learning process for next year. We have a lot of juniors on the team. We're getting ready for next year so we can compete against other juniors and seniors in the county next year."

Both Anderson and Ross plan to go to college in the fall to play basketball. Anderson plans to major in engineering and Ross plans to major in computer science.

## Walden University Supports Guilford Elementary 7th Annual Global Day of Service a Huge Success for Schools

by **Ricardo L. Whitaker** its 2,000 member volunteer  
Guilford Gazette Publisher community.

They came before the At Guilford Elementary School the university crew and their families came out in force, planting crepe myrtle trees, applying stain to portable classrooms, and applying mulch front and back gardens. They painted fire lanes, parking lines, and the playground blacktop.

This time they came to Guilford, working with school personnel at Guilford Elementary to beautify the property.

It's not that the school is falling apart by any means. Dr. Genee Varlack, principal, regularly reaches out to the at-large community to keep her school in top shape.

Last May the school dedicated its Outdoor Learning Center that came about as result of a cooperative effort between the school and a collaborative group comprised of The Shelter Group, Harkins Builders, and Floura Teeter Landscape Architects.

Once again, the school found a partner to help in other areas. Joanne Ashton, a Walden University employee came to the school with her crew to perform landscaping and painting as part of its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Day of Service. The university with its international volunteer organization completed 150 service projects world-wide with

At Guilford Elementary School the university crew and their families came out in force, planting crepe myrtle trees, applying stain to portable classrooms, and applying mulch front and back gardens. They painted fire lanes, parking lines, and the playground blacktop.

They brought in breakfast and beverages for all volunteers. Ms. Ashton explained that Walden supplied the labor and the school provided the funds for the improvements.

Earlier last year Walden University performed community service at Jeffers Hill Elementary School.

Of course, the university is interested in education. Their community efforts are in line with their business mission. The university is an accredited organization specializing in distance learning. They offer college diplomas for course completion.

The information listed on the university's website indicates that the institution was founded in 1970 by two teachers who wanted to find a way for working adults to pursue their doctoral degrees. Walden now offers bachelor, masters, doctoral degrees, and certificates. They are a full-service organization that



Adults and children came out to volunteer for the 7th Annual Global Day of Service. Pictured are three participants associated with Walden University.

reaches out to our local Ronald McDonald Houses; community.

The annual service day food, clothing, infant and maternity items and coats reaches more than just schools. According to information released by university, members of the Walden community headed up projects including providing health screening for blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar; working in food banks; cleaning and cooking in

holding drives to donate food, clothing, infant and maternity items and coats for veterans; and cleaning up roads, beached and parks. Many members of the group performed individual projects under the Walden banner including writing letters to U.S. troops and sending notes to sick (Continued on Page 11)

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## Hammond News

### Good News!

Congratulations to **Jermika Miller** on winning 3 events in the Howard County Indoor Track Championship! Jermika is only the second track athlete in school history to accomplish this feat. Jermika won the gold in the Long Jump, High Jump and Triple Jump!

### For Graduating Seniors Order Caps and Gowns Online

All seniors received their graduation cap and gown information on Monday, January 28. Caps/gowns can be purchased during all lunches tomorrow, January 31. Checks are to be made payable to Balfour. After that date, all purchases can be made online at [www.balfour.com](http://www.balfour.com). Be certain to look for Hammond High School in Columbia, Maryland as there are several Hammond High Schools in the country. Although many packages are available, the basic cap/gown purchase is \$40.02. If you choose to mail in the payment, please add an extra \$10.00 for processing. Any questions regarding packages can be

addressed by Balfour at 410-321-4433. Please look on Hammond's website for future graduation postings, as well as copies of paperwork handed out to students. [www.hammondhs.org](http://www.hammondhs.org) If there are financial challenges to ordering a cap and gown, please contact Ms. Leonard at [marcy\\_leonard@hcpss.org](mailto:marcy_leonard@hcpss.org).

**IMPORTANT: Mid-Year Transcript Request forms are available in the Counseling Center and on the Student Services Website under "Seniors"!** Check with the colleges to which you applied to see if you need a mid-year transcript. Do not request them if your colleges do not require them. Mid-year transcripts are free of charge and are now available.

### HCPSS Employees May Give Senior Children Their Diplomas

Any parents who are full time employees of Howard County School System and wish to award their student his/her diploma, must contact Graduation Coordinator April Lerner at [april\\_lerner@hcpss.org](mailto:april_lerner@hcpss.org). The deadline for requests is

Friday, April 19.

### Looking for Money for College?

Go to this link for a listing of local, winnable, Howard County scholarships, put together by the Hammond High School Student Services Team:

[https://sites.google.com/a/hcpss.me/hahs\\_guidance/local-scholarships](https://sites.google.com/a/hcpss.me/hahs_guidance/local-scholarships)

and don't forget to fill out the FAFSA before March 1 to qualify for financial aid!

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

### Registration for Advanced Placement Tests – February 2-March 15

If your student is taking an Advanced Placement course this year, the expectation is that he/she will be taking the Advanced Placement test in May. Parents of AP Students, your student should have received the AP Bulletin guide explaining the AP Exam testing registration and exam schedule. If they have not received it, please have them stop by the front office and speak with Mrs. Williams. It is also available electronically at <http://media.collegeboard.com/homeOrg/content/pdf/2012>

### 13AP Bulletin Students Parents.pdf.

You can register online anytime between February 2-March 15 from the link at the Hammond website [www.hammondhs.org](http://www.hammondhs.org) or [home.comcast.net/~billpuls/site/](http://home.comcast.net/~billpuls/site/)

Students receiving Free and Reduced Meal services will have the registration fees waived. Students who may otherwise need financial assistance are welcome to contact Ms. Leonard at [marcy\\_leonard@hcpss.org](mailto:marcy_leonard@hcpss.org)

Questions? Contact Mrs. Kim Williams at 410-313-7615 or [kimberly\\_williams@hcpss.org](mailto:kimberly_williams@hcpss.org)

### Boosters Announcements Golden Bear Gala -

**March 10** Please join the Boosters on Sunday, March 10, from 4-8pm at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, MD. In honor of our newly redesigned mascot, what was the Bull Roast is now the Golden Bear Gala! In keeping with the theme, be sure to wear your Bear Wear, or your favorite, casual maroon, gold and black ensemble. For all you do for your children, why not enjoy a fun afternoon with the adults. You deserve it!



## Business

# Zumba Enterprise Not Just a Business for Guilford Resident; It's a Cool Way of Life



Photo by Ricardo Whitaker

Leilani Dixon in the midst of teaching giving Zumba instruction to one of her local classes.

by **Ricardo L. Whitaker** learned this dance art form at a local gym and found himself performing with her star classmates at a half-time during a Washington Mystics game in Washington, DC. As time does not stand still, Ms. Dixon came to the realization that she wanted to set a goal before her next age milestone. In a recent interview she was

Leilani Dixon is at the forefront of the craze. She

quiet about that magic fessional. She wanted to number.

An assessment of her presence reveals that she has an ageless glow and attractiveness that transcends whatever that dreaded age is. Her zeal to remain fit and give to others has paid off.

Ms. Dixon's goal was a mix of personal and professional. She wanted to start a business that could bring in extra income but also serve others. At present she works for the federal government sitting in front of a monitor for eight hours a day. But her prior career path had her working as a social worker where she had

(Continued on Page 11)



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**Student from page 1**

volunteer services for that group, including organizing donations, building care packages for children, reaching out to families in need, and supporting the group's immense Thanksgiving and Christmas drives.

With the Black Student Achievement Program, frequently referred to as BSAP, Ms. Wharton volunteered at the elementary school level to read, distribute free books, and provide snack during the program.

While there seems to be no end to her volunteer spirit, she still has time for other pursuits.

Ms. Wharton is no stranger to political galas. She has been to several.

**Montessori from page 3**

student-to-student sharing.

The facility was clean, bright and well-organized. The academic areas were filled with lots of learning materials to touch and examine. The school emphasizes the tactile experience as an important way to learn. The place is complete with touch screen computers to allow total interaction between child and technology.

Play time at MMA is also trumped up as an essential element of the program. The play area, like the learning areas, is bright and set for total interaction. For the staff, learning and play

She said that she has met Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. But the list continues. She has been in the presence of Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski, Congressman Elijah Cummings, and Howard County Councilman Calvin Ball.

In regard to health care, Ms. Wharton has a hot list of issues that stirs up passion. She worked with the Annual Health Fair in Howard County to "reach out to the community to get obesity down and make other aware of HIV," she said. "I want to go into the health field and be a pediatrician. I don't like seeing kids stuffing [their mouths] with food from McDonald's." She has a no non-

are always incorporated.

They don't truly distinguish one from the other. Students at work are at play, and those at play are learning. The school also has fun materials for helping the infants learn at a young age.

Mr. Gudapati pointed to his company's website as a tool for parents to learn more about how the school operates; and to obtain some essential information about the teaching methods.

For more information about the school, visit MMA's website at [www.MMAChildcare.com](http://www.MMAChildcare.com). spent years serving others.

sense approach to health care. She said, "If you are still walking then you should do something to improve your health."

Ms. Wharton is a resident of Guilford and the eldest child of three. While she is a busy senior, she has still has responsibilities at home, such as watching her younger sisters, whom she says are her inspiration.

When she is not volunteering, going to school, studying, and completing homework, she plays volleyball, uses the home computer, improves her photography skills, manicures her nails, and learns Japanese.

Ms. Wharton leans toward the philosophical. "Yes. I believe if we open up our lives it will come

back and be a blessing for those we help. We should give back to those who have given back to us. It's our future," she said. "Since we do give back we will gain some success," she added.

Ms. Wharton is enrolled in advanced placement courses at Hammond High School. In 2012 she won the NAACP's coveted Gloster B. Current Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and dedication to the Youth Council.

Her final message of the interview was directed at the youth. She said, "Do your best and never give up. Dream big. If you believe you can do it, keep going. Don't let anyone bring you down."

**Zumba from page 9**

She missed being in a serving capacity, so she opened up *Zumba with Leilani*.

Last year she held classes at the Owen Brown Community Center and Amherst House in Kings Contrivance Village Center.

Now she does corporate classes – one she conducts for the Howard County Sheriff's Department and another for teachers. At In her Zumba fitness class you are driven to move. The experience is like a Friday night at a Latin club.

The music never stops and neither does the action.

She directs the class by demonstrating smooth, rhythmic motions, which students follow – some seamlessly and others awkwardly. But Ms. Dixon is not a style teacher and each student is supportive of the other. "It's really about getting the best out of everybody."

Ms. Dixon lives in the Carter's Cove subdivision of Guilford. She is a community person who has lived in the area for six years. She was very specific about establishing her business in the community. She said, "I wanted to reach out to people I see every day."

(Continued on Page 12)



**Long Reach from 5**

Teddy Howard elaborated on Hammond's first half effort, "in the first half we started out a little slow. We wasn't figuring out where we supposed to be on the court."

Long Reach accentuated the run when Brian Green (Long Reach) blocked Junior guard Pat Wallace's three-point attempt into the stands behind the Long Reach bench. Some Long Reach players got nose-to-nose with Wallace while taunting him.

Several Hammond players got off the bench and ran towards Wallace and Green before Friedheim

and Assistant Coach Sterling Saunders got them back on the bench. Hammond was given a technical foul, and Long Reach hit both free throws.

Friedheim made the following assessment of the sequence, "We lost our composure at times and we got to have more poise. No matter what happens we have to keep our composure."

Howard added, "At some points it was intense. Some parts we kept our composure and some points we didn't."

The Lightning started the third quarter on a 9-0 run in the first 3:43 to push their lead to 29 points. Ham-

mond outscored Long Reach 13-8 to cut the lead to 50-28 by the end of the quarter.

The Golden Bears got outscored 6-0 to start the fourth quarter, but went on a 19-11 run to end the game. "When I got in the second [half] we still wasn't trying to fight back, and the rest of the game we was trying to fight back what we lost," Anderson said.

Howard also evaluated the team's second half performance. "Later on in the game we kind of picked the pace up, started to play with some discipline, played better on offense, and we came back in the

game a little bit. We had our mistakes on the court tonight. But we came out here and we played hard and didn't let them blow us out," he said.

Senior co-captain DaRay Ross said, "We have to stay in the game more--play harder."

Anderson led all scorers with 23 points. Jeremiah Hall led Long Reach with 16 points, Alex Neal tallied 13 and Brian Green added 11 for the Lightning.

"We started off slow, but with Mike's good shooting we caught back up. He played a big role in making the score look respectable," Ross commented.

**O'Malley from page 4**

abolish the death penalty.

Climate change and alternative energy, namely wind power, are also high on O'Malley's list of priorities for 2013. He has proposed multi-billion dollar taxpayer subsidies for the construction of a new wind power farm off the coast of Ocean City.

"Climate disruption is real," O'Malley said. "It is physics, pure and simple."

O'Malley also called Maryland's traffic the worst in the country and vowed to help bring the state's transportation network into the 21st century.

He applauded Maryland's students, educators and school support staff, calling attention to the state's fifth consecutive annual ranking by Education Week as the top public school system in the country.

"This jobs budget invests to improve public

education and to build new schools," O'Malley said. "It accelerates the transition from chalk and textbooks in our classrooms, to iPads, laptops, smartboards, and 21st century digital learning tools."

As O'Malley, 50, enters the back half of his second term as governor, major speeches like the State of the State address take on added significance.

O'Malley, who chairs the Democratic Governors Association and was prominently featured at the 2012

Democratic National Convention, is widely believed to have national political aspirations.

His name has been mentioned along with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as possible 2016 candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"Today wasn't just a State of the State speech, it was an 'I want your (presidential) nomination' speech," Eberly said.

**Zumba from Page 11**

She said that she enjoys meeting people and connecting with her students around town. She said she comes across students at the grocery store and other

places.

Ms. Dixon comes across as a people person. She has a friendly disposition and quite a magnetic personality. Her students seem drawn to her. It seems like there is a little Zumba

magic in the air. Perhaps it is the driving, motion-inducing Latin beat.

The Zumba organization mandates that 70 percent of the music must be Latin. Ms. Dixon keeps to that rule and infuses some of

the remaining 30 percent with spiritual, uplifting music.

Zumba with Leilani is a new venture that started in March last year. You can find Ms. Dixon on the web ZumbaWithLeilani.com.

## First Baptist Church of Guilford Facility Open for Services



Guilford Gazette File Photo: 2012 picture of the church when it was about 90% complete. Delays plagued the project, but the members never stopped moving forward as the performed worship at a local high school.

by **Ricardo L. Whitaker** pastor of First Baptist Church of Guilford, in Guilford. Although the comes to the job with all slow pace of the building

It was a long wait for the opening of The First Baptist Church of Guilford, but finally the parishioners are enjoying the fruits of their labor. It was a long wait for the opening of The First Baptist Church of Guilford, but finally the parishioners are enjoying the fruits of their labor.

The church parking lot is filled with activity on Sunday morning. The church parking lot is filled with activity on Sunday morning.

Last year the Guilford Gazette interviewed the new pastor of the church. We are taking this time to re-run that article in its entirety. Last year the Guilford Gazette interviewed the new pastor of the church. We are taking this time to re-run that article in its entirety.

Tyrone P. Jones, IV, from the worship center

10 years old, and a daughter, 7.

Although new to the Columbia area, Pastor Jones is not new to the DC metropolitan area. He attended undergraduate school at Howard University, intent on becoming a lawyer. After volunteering to help at-risk youth in Washington, DC, Pastor Jones decided to help people in a more direct way, through ministry. He was ordained in 2001 at Isle of Patmos Baptist Church in D.C.

After ordination, says Pastor Jones, "my call took me north to Messiah Baptist Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

It's a great church, with great people." He brings the same positive sentiment to Guilford. "I can't wait to see what unfolds. I see great potential with First Baptist. We won't be a church that hides behind four walls."

When asked why he came to First Baptist, he said, "I saw some people who needed help. Evangelism and outreach attracted me. I believe the same as Dr. Wright. I will be fighting for equality; fighting for (Continued on Page 14)

news for a while, we decided to side step the real estate issues and deal with his vision.

Pastor Jones took over the ministry in Guilford after the former pastor, John Wright, died in January 2010.

Pastor Jones is still living in Bridgeport, Connecticut with his family until the end of school. He and his wife Elizabeth Jones have two children still in school, a son



Guilford Gazette File Photo: Pastor Tyrone P. Jones, IV during an interview with the Guilford Gazette in 2012

Church from Page 13 out to the community. Columbia is a diverse area. We must not only minister to African Americans, but

also to all racial and ethnic groups." Pastor Jones pointed to his history at Messiah Baptist where the congregation became racially mixed.

When asked if he thought his congregation was ready to help implement his vision, he said, "I think that the one thing is that we have to re-energize the people. We want to re-energize the base."

Pastor Jones did not miss a beat when asked about his implementation plan. He talked about planning strategies, and then executing goals one check mark at a time. He wants to get in the building, showcase his plan to the community, and make Christ the event every Sunday. "I believe in preaching and teaching the Word in excellence," he said.

"I want to create a place

where people come to experience God. We got to get out and let people know that we are here." Pastor Jones seems to make demonstrating the love of God a critical factor in his ministry. He said, "I want to touch the people and feel the community; reach the saved and unsaved and let them know we are ready for business."

As we concluded the interview Pastor Jones was given an opportunity to express anything else he wanted the readers to know. He said that he wanted to use a quote from a friend. He said, "I came from Messiah Baptist Church, but I am not the Messiah. One person can't change everything."

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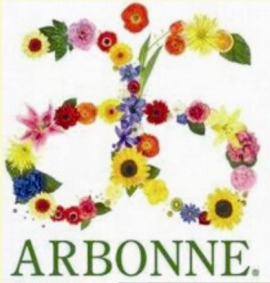
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