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VOLUME III
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Weekly Refresher

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

- Maya Angelou

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Guilty Verdict in Laurel Dec 2016 Murder



After a four-day trial last week, a Howard County jury found Derrick Charles Johnson guilty of the murder of Kaiyon Stanfield, a former student of Oakland Mills High School. (Prison building pictured is a stock photo)

Derrick Charles Johnson was found guilty last week of the murder of Kaiyon Stanfield, a former student at Oakland Mills High School.

Johnson, a 20-year-old Hyattsville man was convicted in the December 2016 double shooting that ended Stanfield's life.

Derrick Charles Johnson, of the 3900 block of Warner Avenue, was found guilty of first-degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony after a four-day trial in Howard County. A not guilty verdict was found in the shooting of the second victim and the multiple armed robbery charges.

Prosecutors introduced nearly 200 pieces of evidence including DNA, a palmprint left by Johnson on an interior rear window of the vehicle, along with cell phone images and texts linking him and his co-defendant, Davon Philip Jones to the shootings. Jones, found guilty on all charges last November, will be sentenced March 15.

According to information provided by the Howard County Circuit Court, during clos-

ing arguments Johnson's defense attorney contended that his client accompanied Davon Jones but didn't participate in the events that unfolded.

He told the jury that it was Jones who possessed a large bag of marijuana and cash, and not his client. Assistant State's Attorney Danielle Duclaux argued to the jury, "You cannot ignore the sum total of all of the evidence: Derrick Johnson was there; Derrick Johnson has a firearm and Derrick Johnson is guilty."

Johnson will be sentenced on April 26, 2018. He is being held without bond.

Details of the incident according to information provided by the court:

On December 18, 2016, Stanfield and his cousin Khalil Stanfield drove a rental car to a Laurel townhome community parking lot to sell a quarter-pound of marijuana to their buyers who were seated in the rear seat. After the four smoked marijuana samples and bargained over the sale price, the first shot

(GUILTY Continued on page 11)

Publisher's Notes

Caught Between the Two Metropolitan Areas



Howard County is the idyllic oasis in central Maryland sandwiched between Baltimore and Prince George's County. Straddling two metropolitan areas, yet avoiding the major crises of both areas, this county is truly an ideal place to live.

One man had a vision for different people groups with varying backgrounds to live in a somewhat communal fashion in relative peace and harmony.

To some extent, James Rouse's dream has become reality to many, while others are still outside the tent. With the racial and economic mixing bowl that exists here, some good things, but some bad are part of our reality.

We certainly do not need to compute how to accept the blessings of this county, but those things that seem to be more challenging, we, collectively remain clueless as to how to make this truly the superb region that many of us dreamt of before moving here; or in the case of others, the dream has shifted having grown up in the area.

While we still have one of the lower crime rates within the two metro areas, there are definitely plenty of scary stories, weekly.

Car thefts, muggings, burglary, bank robberies and much more occur on a regular basis. We also have a rising awareness of violent, gun-related crimes.

The bright side is that the crime is not everywhere in the county. There are places in which to be particularly aware. And, of course, wisely choosing the company you keep, can keep you safer than those who pick their friends willy-nilly.

The eastern part of the county is much more at risk than the western half, but with homes going up in all quarters, I am not quite sure how long the positive trend will continue out west, unless you live in whatever farmland that remains.

In the coming weeks, I would like to engage readers about problems and solutions to our downward trajectory.

If you want to sound-off publicly in a letter to the editor, send your remarks to news@guilfordgazette.com. On the other hand, if you want to chat privately, send your thoughts directly to me, ricardo@guilfordgazette.com. If you are a little old-fashioned, we do accept snail mail. See our address on page one.

Ricardo L. Whitaker

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Politics

Could 'Slots for Tots' Plan Hurt the Taxpayers Later?

COMMENTARY
by **Barry Rascovar**

Feb. 21, 2018 -- Here's an example why the public doesn't trust politicians: Right now, Gov. Larry Hogan and Democratic legislators in Annapolis are rushing to pull the wool over voters' eyes in a scam that would leave taxpayers with billions of dollars worth of IOUs.

Cynics should beware of Hogan's manipulative plan to divert all slot machine taxes into new K-12 public education programs. They also should take great offense at the Democrats' parallel plan to do the same thing.

It's an election-year ruse that would hurt taxpayers or other state programs in the years ahead.

Lockbox Lunacy MD Gov. Larry Hogan and U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos meet with children at a Bethesda elementary school.

And it is a prelude to another scam lurking in the background that could add three times as much additional education spending without a way to pay for it.

Everyone favors more money for K-12 education, right?

That's why Hogan and Democratic legislators, in an election year, are now cheerleaders for the "slots for tots" movement in which every tax dollar the state receives from slots revenue would go into a so-called "lockbox" for new education initiatives.

Today, slots dollars support Maryland's basic education aid formula. And there's the rub. Hogan and leg-

islative Democrats want to take that pot of money away and put it in another account just for new education programs.

Sounds great, except for one missing ingredient: How is the state going to replace the roughly \$500 million in basic education support from slots that they want to strip out of the existing K-12 account?

Good question, but no politician in Annapolis is willing to provide a good answer.

Future Black Hole in Budget

So the next governor and the next legislature could be left with a huge revenue deficit -- \$500 million -- in Maryland's basic education account.

And if the legislature next year supports the expansive recommendations for new education spending coming from the Kirwan Commission, that revenue black hole could grow to \$2 billion.

Hogan, of course, would love to be in a position where his slots lockbox plan "forces" him to slash existing programs by billions of dollars. He's been whining about being unable to do just that since entering the governor's office.

But he's dead set against any new taxes, even for education.

Meanwhile, Democratic lawmakers badly want to pump another \$2 billion into K-12 programs, especially in underperforming, poor school districts, as proposed by the Kirwan Commission.

That slot machine money sure looks enticing!

It's a mirage.

Where Slots Dollars Go

Slots money already pays a big chunk of Maryland's basic education aid package. How can you take that education aid away without finding replacement dollars?

You can't. Yet each side is trying to persuade voters the impossible is possible.

Hogan and the Democrats are falling into the same trap as did an earlier governor and legislature. When the Thornton Commission education package was approved in 2002, lawmakers and Gov. Parris Glendening failed to create a funding source. Leaders at the time bragged that robust state revenue growth would support this extra \$1.1 billion in new K-12 state spending.

Wrong!

Paying for the Thornton reforms out of current revenue was only possible by stripping money from other programs, like land-use preservation and the transportation trust fund.

When the Great Recession hit in 2008, Maryland's fiscal situation plunged into crisis, thanks in large measure to the extra revenue burden placed on state government by the Thornton reforms.

That's when a reluctant Gov. Martin O'Malley became a convert to casinos in Maryland, dedicating the state's slots tax to basic education, i.e., the Thornton formula.

Without that step by O'Malley and Democratic legislators, the state

(TAXPAYERS Cont'd on page 15)

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Murder-for-Hire is Only a Misdemeanor in Maryland



A bill is winding through Annapolis to make Murder-for-Hire a felony rather than a misdemeanor with a three year statute of limitations.

by **Zach Shapiro**
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland — Murder-for-hire is a misdemeanor in Maryland, and prosecutors have just three years to bring charges. State lawmakers from both parties want to change that.

A bill, co-sponsored by Delegates Geraldine Valentino-Smith, D-Prince George's, and Susan McComas, R-Harford, would remove the statute of limitations for prosecuting solicitation to commit first-degree murder. It would also make solicitation, regardless of whether it resulted in death, a felony instead of a misdemeanor.

"Solicitation – which would involve the urging, advising or otherwise inciting a person to commit murder – is a heinous crime, a serious crime in our society," Valentino-Smith said. "The time that has lapsed

since it occurred should not be relevant."

A 2017 law extended the window to prosecute from one year to three. Lt. Sean Gagen, deputy director of the Montgomery County Police Department-Major Crimes Division, said the recent change was a step in the right direction but didn't go far enough.

"Murder investigations can be extremely complex and require a great deal of time and resources," Gagen told lawmakers. "Some investigations take years to finally develop."

Gagen, who was joined by other officers to testify on behalf of the House bill (HB0778), said increased gang violence in Maryland calls for more time to prosecute. In many cases, he said, gang leaders will try to distance themselves from the act by directing another member to commit the murder.

But with more sophisticated crime labs that are able to analyze forensic evidence, a thorough investigation could help reveal an accomplice, police said.

"The result of such a long investigative process would be worth it if we have the time to make the case and seek the appropriate penalties for the crime," Gagen said.

The bill doesn't stop at repealing the statute of limitations, though.

Once a conviction could be made, the charge would be strengthened from a misdemeanor to a felony. William Katcef, an assistant state's attorney from Anne Arundel, pointed out the irony of such a minimal punishment for a serious crime.

"Theft over \$1,500 is a felony," Katcef told lawmakers. "Bad check over \$1,500 is a felony. Interference with a horse race is a felony. But solicitation to commit murder is a

(MISDEMEANOR Cont'd on page 15)

Crime

HCPD: Arrest Made in the Mission Place Robbery

MON, FEB 26, 2018

Robbery

Laurel, 20723: 9900 block of Washington Boulevard, Feb. 24 3:22 p.m. A female victim reported two male suspects entered her hotel room, displayed a handgun, and stole her identification card and cell phone before fleeing. No one was injured. The investigation is ongoing. **SUSPECTS:** two black males, one with a thin build wearing black jeans and a black jacket, the

other approximately 6'1", 250 pounds wearing black clothing

Theft from vehicle Columbia, 21046: 9000 block of Snowden River Parkway, Feb. 24 1:38 p.m., purse

Columbia, 21045: 6700 block of Oak Hall Lane, Feb. 24 2:40 p.m., purse

Vehicle theft

Laurel, 20723: 9600 block of Barrel House Road, Feb. 19-25

2003 Chevy Tahoe, tags MD/47256M2

FRI, FEB 23, 2018

Theft from vehicle Jessup, 20794: 8600 block of Washington Boulevard, Feb. 22 2:49 p.m., E-ZPass

Vehicle theft

Laurel, 20723: 9300 block of Davis Avenue, Feb. 22 6:49 a.m. 2008 Hino box truck, tags MD/1BK5840

THU, FEB 22, 2018

Robbery arrest update Police have made an arrest in the Feb. 1 robbery of **Mission Place Pharmacy** in Jessup. **Bernard Green**, 33, of no fixed address, is charged with robbery, theft, and assault. A pharmacy employee reported that at approximately 1:10 p.m., the suspect entered the store in the 8100 block of Washington Boulevard, assaulted the employee, and stole prescription medication before fleeing. No one was injured.

(CRIME Continued on page 11)

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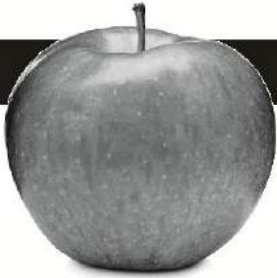


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Religion

Does it Feel Like You Have Hit Bottom in Your Life?



by **Dan S. Baty**

“Help, GOD—the bottom has fallen out of my life! Master, hear my cry for help!” (Psalm 130:1, The Message Version).

If you feel like the bottom has fallen out, still there is hope, which means, of course, for all conditions less than “bottom” there is also hope.

All of us have a reading on the “problem-ometer,” some days its higher and other days lower, but whatever your relative tough spot may be, the rawness of your place contains rich nutrients to enrich and fortify your life and especially your relationship with the Lord.

Instead of just fixating only on “escape,” (though it is fine to seek the rescue of the Lord because He is a deliverer) you can maximize the benefits of your current situation by taking the opportunity that is yours

right now to do something constructive.

Rather than fretting, brooding, impatiently drumming your fingers or being generally irritable, which are ineffective options, you can take the time to register your praise and thanksgiving on high and reorient your faith to dependence upon His living presence with you right where you are. It’s simply the best option.

This isn’t new, but it is true. What is always most important in spiritual matters is not what we know, but what we put into practice. The house built on the rock and withstood the storm was constructed by action. T

The one built on the sand and was swept away was constructed only of hearing. As hearing the alarm is not the same as getting out of bed, so thinking about praise is not the same as doing it.

And, just in case you need some praise “starter logs” for your fire,

feel free to borrow any or all of mine from yesterday:

You are the One for whom nothing is too difficult.

You are the One who called me into fellowship with You.

You are the One who fills our hearts with greater joy.

You are the One who always leads us in triumph in Christ Jesus.

You are the One who turns defeat into victory, and every evil intention into good results.

Though it feels like death and looks like devastation, the Lord did not bring you where you are to die but to more fully live. Reach out and take hold of life. Opt up, not out!

Dan S. Baty is the pastor of Valley Brook Community Church in Columbia, Maryland. You can write to him at Pastor@ValleyBrook.church or follow him on Facebook @ Dan S. Baty.)

Business

Methods to Protect Your Expensive New Smartphone



(StatePoint) The latest smartphones have some cool new features, but they come with hefty price tags, and such devices are not necessarily built-to-last. The new iPhone X, for example, recently hit the market at a \$1,000 starting price and experts say it's extremely fragile.

With its all-glass design, you may be wondering if it's worth the investment. Recent tests conducted by SquareTrade using scientific robots to drop, bend, tumble, and dunk devices, revealed the iPhone X to be one of the most breakable iPhone models ever made, shattering on its first face down drop.

"Without taking a few key precautions, consumers are likely going to spend more than the \$1,000 they've already invested in their phone over their devices' lifetime," says Jason Siciliano, vice president global creative director at SquareTrade.

To protect your investment, whether you have an iPhone X or any another mobile device, Siciliano

recommends the following.

Cover Up

Your new phone may have a sleek design you want to show off, but not using a case is a big mistake. With so many designs on the market, as well as opportunities to customize, there is no reason these days not to better protect your phone.

The breakability tests conducted by SquareTrade revealed damage that went beyond cosmetic issues, compromising the device's operability in a number of ways. Consider what your hobbies include, and find a case durable enough to withstand your lifestyle.

A screen protector is also a great idea, guarding against scratches and residue.

Get Covered

With potential repair costs on the rise, protection plans are becoming

more important than ever. For example, the iPhone X has a thinner, costlier OLED screen that's more expensive to replace, a smaller logic board, multiple cables, and a split battery that's more difficult to remove. All of which may be why Apple is charging \$279 for front screen replacement and \$549 for other repairs.

Accidents are often beyond one's control. So, don't have a false sense of security regarding drops and spills.

However, protection plans can be affordable. For example, those offered by SquareTrade cover old or new devices, for both accidents and common malfunctions such as battery failure and charging port failure.

Phones can be repaired at-home, at local repair shops or by mail. And if you have an Apple device, you can simply have your Genius Bar bill reimbursed. For more information on protection plans for today's most

(CELL PHONES Continued on page 15)

(CRIME Continued from page 7)

Through investigation, police identified Green as the suspect and arrested him.

Commercial burglary

Jessup, 20794: 7200 block of Dorsey Run Road, Feb. 22 2:12 a.m. Police discovered a suspicious vehicle at a construction site and located a male subject who was bleeding, with fresh cuts on his hands. When the man was approached by police, he fled in the vehicle. A short pursuit ensued and the subject, later identified as Mohammed Jennai, 35, of Baltimore, traveled into Anne Arundel County, where he struck a tree and was killed. Through investigation, police believe he had broken a window to gain entry to a trailer at the construction site and stole tools. Anne Arundel County Police responded to the scene of the collision: <http://www.aacounty.org/news.../.../police-press-release-2222018>

Theft from vehicle/vehicle break-in

Laurel, 20723: 10600 block of Hesperian Drive, Feb. 21 9:10 a.m., multiple vehicles: unclear if anything was stolen

Jessup, 20794: 8900 block of Car-

roll Heights Avenue, Feb. 21 2:27 p.m., handicap placard

Columbia, 21046: 9600 block of Broken Land Parkway, Feb. 21 3:39 p.m., multiple vehicles: unclear if anything was stolen

Columbia, 21045: 7300 block of Carved Stone, Feb. 21 9:35 p.m., tags

WED, FEB 21, 2018

Residential burglary

Columbia, 21045: 8700 block of Hayshed Lane, Feb. 20 12:39 p.m. Police responded for a reported burglary and discovered four suspects in a residence without permission. All four were arrested. Nothing was reported stolen.

ARRESTED: Jaquan Ramone Lewis, 24, of Old Stage Road in Glen Burnie; Shawn Winder, 22, of Hayshed Lane in Columbia; Markus Lee Howard, 25, of Hayshed Lane in Columbia; and Alyson Blair Brownley, 20, of Montevideo Road in Jessup, charged with burglary and trespassing

TUE, FEB 20, 2018

Theft from vehicle/vehicle break-in Feb. 16

Columbia, 21046: 8900 block of Early April Way, Feb. 16 2:47 p.m.,

airbag

Feb. 17

Elkridge, 21075: 6000 block of Rock Glen Drive, Feb. 17 12:03 a.m., two vehicles: GPS

Columbia, 21046: 8300 block of Guilford Road, Feb. 18 6:06 p.m., multiple vehicles: purse, unclear if anything else was stolen

Laurel, 20723: 9500 block of North Laurel Road, Feb. 18-19 overnight, unclear if anything was stolen

Feb. 19

Jessup, 20794: 8200 block of Mission Road, Feb. 19 4:38 p.m., cash

Vehicle theft

Columbia, 21046: 7200 block of Lee Deforest Drive, Feb. 16 10:21 a.m. 2005 Buick Park Avenue, tags MD/6AY3100

Laurel, 20723: 9200 block of All Saints Road, Feb. 16 8:30 p.m. Nissan Maxima, tags MD/3CA7906

Savage, 20763: 9000 block of Washington Street, Feb. 19 10:00 a.m. 2012 Hyundai Sonata

(GUILTY Continued from page 1)

was fired, striking Kaiyon Stanfield in the head. He sustained two additional gunshot wounds in the neck and back. A homeowner's surveillance video of the parking lot, played during the trial, showed Khalil Stanfield bolting from the driver's seat. He sustained two shots in the neck and back. The video also de-

picted two suspects exiting the vehicle and running in the opposite direction. Another townhome-mounted surveillance camera, located on Daly Court, captured images of Stanfield running up to a house, and banging on the door for help.

Police were dispatched to the 9400 block of Woodsong Court in Laurel where they found Kaiyon Stanfield, 20, sitting in the front passenger seat

of a compact sedan, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Nearby, they located his cousin, Khalil Stanfield, 21, also suffering from gunshot wounds. The two men were transported to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center where Kaiyon Stanfield was subsequently pronounced dead and Khalil Stanfield was treated and released.

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Calendar



Event: Columbia Democratic Club Meeting
Thurs., Mar 14, 2018, 7:00 pm
Category: Politics and Government
Location: 6030 Tamar Drive, Columbia, Maryland
Description:
 The CDC meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Topics and discussions updated each month.

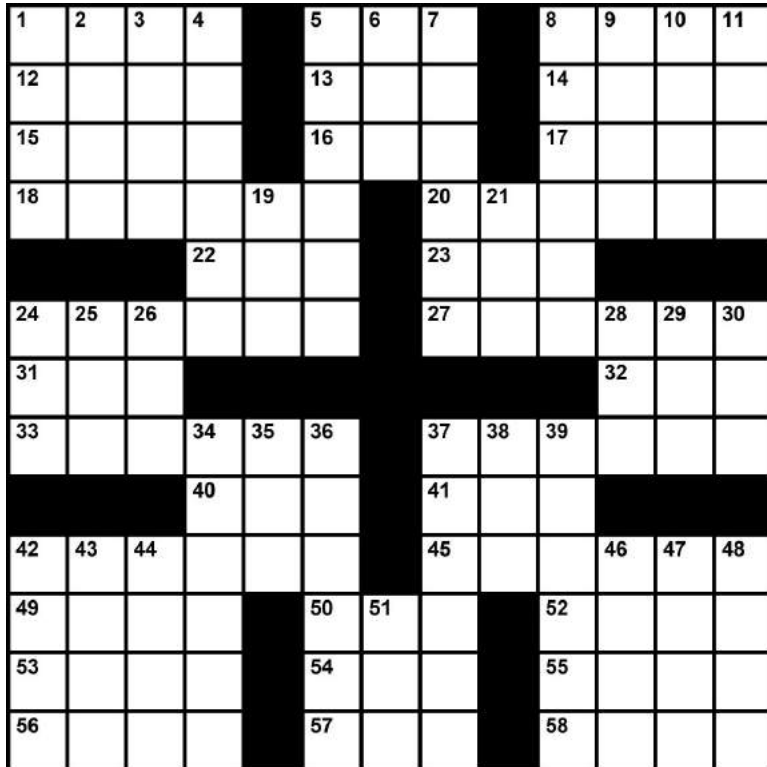


Event: Howard County Board of Education Meeting
Thurs., Mar 8, 2018, 4:00pm—10:00pm
Category: Politics and Government
Location: 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD
Description:
 During this Board of Education meeting, the vote and decision on the future location of High School #13 is expected to be on the agenda.



Event: Grand Opening, Bach to Rock-Fulton
Sat., Mar 17, 2018, 4:00pm—10:00pm
Category: Special Event
Location: 8180 Maple Lawn Blvd., Suite G, Fulton
Description:
 Music school grand opening, including tour of the school, try out "Mommy & Me" class; prizes and give-a-ways.
Email:
asakell@bachtorock.com
Phone: 240-620-3031
More Info:
www.bachtorock.com

Comics / Puzzles



Across

- 1. Strip
- 5. TBS rival
- 8. Junk pile
- 12. It may be guided
- 13. "Lucy in the ___ with diamonds" (Beatle song)
- 14. Compound
- 15. Voice level
- 16. Hasten
- 17. Mention
- 18. Fair
- 20. Winged
- 22. Mix breed dog
- 23. Thanksgiving spud
- 24. Renders unclear
- 27. Anticipate
- 31. Going on in years
- 32. Crowd disapproval sound
- 33. In shock
- 37. It might be cut by a politician
- 40. Another name intro
- 41. Street abbr.
- 42. Player on the links
- 45. Dictator, e.g.
- 49. Rephrase
- 50. Do-it-yourself ___
- 52. Still-life piece
- 53. Hubs
- 54. Roger Clemens' statistic
- 55. "___ the Nation"
- 56. Remnant
- 57. Misty May obstacle
- 58. Kindergartener

Down

- 1. Impale
- 2. Droop
- 3. Hatchback
- 4. Denver player
- 5. Bridal party members
- 6. Word with mask or doo
- 7. Nautical response, ___ captain (2 words)
- 8. Pack up your tent and leave
- 9. Division
- 10. Speck of dust
- 11. Implored
- 19. Turned over ground
- 21. Calif. airport
- 24. Slithery creature
- 25. Common street name
- 26. Federal health agency
- 28. Go back
- 29. Gentle sound
- 30. Large weight
- 34. Rubenesque
- 35. Live on the edge of existence
- 36. Shade
- 37. Short taps (2 words)
- 38. Brown, e.g.
- 39. Made desolate
- 42. Neuter
- 43. ___ Eaters
- 44. Human parasite
- 46. Traveling
- 47. Throat
- 48. Yard shader
- 51. Infuriate



Last Week

(MISDEMEANOR *Cont'd from page 6*)
misdemeanor.”

The American Civil Liberties Union is opposed to the bill, or any proposal to eliminate statutes of limitations, because they “...provide judicial safeguards for the accused, and particularly those who are innocent from any wrongdoing,” according to written testimony.

Their testimony continued: “As time passes..., crucial memories may be forgotten, tangible evidence may be misplaced, key witnesses may have died, and as a result once-exculpatory evidence may be impossible to obtain.”

Maryland spends more than \$38,000 per prisoner, the ACLU wrote, and that by increasing the

maximum sentence from three years to life, costs would go up.

In a legislative hearing including testimony from law enforcement officials and state prosecutors, perhaps the most compelling case came from Gale Seaton, a mother on a 13-year mission for justice.

In 2005, her pregnant 17-year-old daughter, Stacey Seaton, was killed in a murder-for-hire scheme.

The man who hired the killer, McDonald Abraham III, was arrested and charged with murder in 2009, according to court documents, too late to prosecute solicitation to commit the 2005 killing. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and a handgun violation and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

But Valentino-Smith told Capital

News Service that the most serious evidence is often related to the solicitation.

To that end, Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Angela Alsobrooks said they would have used details learned later about Seaton’s killing to secure a life sentence on charges of conspiracy to commit murder – if it weren’t too late.

“Mr. Abraham deserved that punishment and Stacy Seaton’s family deserved that justice,” Alsobrooks told lawmakers.

Seaton said she will continue to see this through.

“I got life without the possibility of peace,” Seaton told lawmakers. “My daughter got a death sentence. McDonald Abraham got a slap on the wrist.”

(TAXPAYERS *Continued from page 4*)

would have been forced to boost taxes even more to pay the growing school-aid bill.

Revising History

Now, all of a sudden Hogan and legislators are condemning this common-sense move by O'Malley. They see something wrong with using slots revenue to prop up Maryland's basic aid formula for public schools.

They argue this money was supposed to go into new, expanded school programs.

Talk about re-writing history!

From the start, it was crystal clear O'Malley needed the slots revenue to balance his budget and pay for the growing expenses of the Thornton education-aid formula.

It was also clear from the start slots tax money would go into the basic education-aid pot. Those slots dollars kept Maryland's foundational education program afloat during the worst economic times since the Great Depression.

One way or another, slots dollars have been supporting education aid flowing to county and city schools in Maryland. It helped pay for the increasingly expensive Thornton aid program.

But it did not add new school dollars on top of the existing education formula.

Democrats and Hogan now call that a sinister trick on taxpayers.

They both say they are trying to right that wrong in the current General Assembly session.

But where's the revenue to pull that off?

Unanswered Questions

How do Hogan and lawmakers strip \$500 million from the basic education-aid formula, give that money to the Kirwan Commission's new, improved school programs and yet not replace the half-billion-dollar hole they've left behind?

Here's another question: When the full recommendations of the Kirwan Commission are implemented, at an additional cost of roughly \$1.5 billion per year, how are Hogan and legislative Democrats going to pay for all those enhancements?

So far, the Republican governor and Democratic legislative leaders have said not a word about paying for that new \$2 billion a year in additional school spending.

(CELL PHONES *Cont'D from page 10*)

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