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VOLUME III
ISSUE 6

MARCH 8, 2018

Guilford Gazette

Serving: Savage, Kings Contrivance, North Laurel, Jessup, and Guilford

Inside:

- Heinous Crimes
- Cyberbullying Bill
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- The Faithful Still Struggling
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- Robbery Gone Bad

Weekly Refresher

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H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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Laurel Man Handed 13 Years for Robbery



Addulai Braima, 20, recently sentenced by Judge William V. Tucker, will spend five to 13 years behind bars for the violent drug-related robbery that occurred on Trotter Road in Clarksville.

(Picture: Stock photo of the inside of a prison)

A 20-year-old Laurel man was sentenced to 13 years in prison, five of which are without parole, for the April 2017, drug-related armed robbery at a Clarksville home.

Abdulai Karim Sesay Braima, of the 91000 block of Canterbury Riding, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree assault, two counts of armed robbery and two counts of use of a firearm in commission of a crime of violence last December and was sentenced in Howard County Circuit Court last week.

Police responded to a home, located in the 5900 block of Trotter Road, shortly after midnight last April 11 where the occupants reported that two men had robbed them after being invited into the residence to conduct a drug transaction.

According to police records and testimony, once the two men entered the homeowner's bedroom, Braima produced a semi-automatic handgun, announced a robbery and held the gun to the homeowner's head. The two then

proceeded to rob the victims of their cell phones, along with luxury clothing accessories and a Rolex watch—all of which totaled over \$13,000.

Braima's accomplice, Irvin Jacob Smith, 23, of the 9600 block of Overton Drive, Laurel, was known and identified by one of the victims.

Once Smith was arrested he admitted to having a part in planning the robbery. On February 26, he was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty, last year, to one count of first-degree assault and two counts of armed robbery.

Before announcing the sentence, Judge William V. Tucker noted Braima's life experiences and accomplishments, his juvenile record, along with his record of detention center infractions since his arrest. Upon his eventual release, Braima must serve three years of supervised probation and make restitution to the victims.

Publisher's Notes

Young Men and Heinous Crimes: We Can Do Better



Since the time that I began watching the Howard County Police Crime Bulletin more than seven years ago, I have seen, on a continual basis, that overwhelmingly, the assailants, the suspects, and the convicted are primarily young and mostly male.

Maryland is a state that values the rights and privileges of youth, but something is seriously wrong.

All indications are that many of the young men arrested, have juvenile records. There is no way to immediately prove this assumption, but nevertheless, by talking to police officers in the county, off the record, they tell me that the juveniles they apprehend, they arrest again as adults. There is no doubt in my mind that our collective society has no effective plan for preventing kids from becoming criminals.

There are those of us who march and those of us who complain, and we have some great groups in Howard County, Baltimore, and all throughout the state that do wonderful work to patch up the walking wounded.

But where is the master plan? And if there were a master plan, would we implement it or would we simply agree that the plan looks good?

Looking at Howard County, specifically, just in the past 30 days, several young men, not long out of high school (assuming they graduated) were convicted and sentenced for the commission of violent crimes — even involving the dreaded illegal weapon.

This is not one of those articles where the purpose is to indict the police for their behaviors — I will leave that to others.

This is about starting the much needed conversation about reaching FAMILIES. But let us not make this about race or poverty or anything that inappropriately categorizes. This is about the state of families in Howard County. Young men, probably still living with relatives, are holding store clerks at gunpoint, shooting other young men over drugs, breaking into homes to steal valuables, stealing cars, breaking into cars, and so much more.

We gladly squabble over tax dollars and public school budgets, but meanwhile with all of the good here in Howard County, young men turn to heinous crimes and these lost souls attend our precious schools.

We can do better. I would love to hear your thoughts.

Ricardo L. Whitaker

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Politics

Tough Cyberbullying Bill Heads to Full Senate Floor

by **Zach Shapiro**
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland — Maryland lawmakers in 2013 passed “Grace’s Law,” a bipartisan bill that made it a misdemeanor to repeatedly and maliciously bully someone through use of a computer or cell-phone. Five years later, some of the same legislators are back to update the law to reflect the new media landscape.

“Grace’s Law 2.0,” which is designed specifically for social media cyberbullying, passed in the Senate unanimously Thursday despite pushback from First Amendment advocates last week.

Lead sponsor Sen. Bobby Zirkin, D-Baltimore County, remained firm that this is to protect against “egregious” messages, intended to personally harm, posted online. He’s determined to adjust laws to the speed of dissemination of such material.

“Facebook doesn’t stop when you leave the school grounds,” Zirkin told lawmakers. “Neither does Twitter or any of these other things. These are growing problems, not isolated to Maryland, and we have to get better at this.”

“Unfortunately, once somebody does this – (simulates pushing a button) – it’s all she wrote,” he said. “You’re about to do that harm the second you push that button to your thousand friends.”

In today’s media world, Zirkin said, a warning means it’s already too late. Which is the basis of his

other proposal in the two-bill package.

Senate bill 725, which is expected to hit the full Senate floor this week, gives authority to school principals to report cyber abuse to law enforcement directly, instead of having to first go through a board of education. Based on legislation in Texas nicknamed “David’s Law,” created after 16-year old David Molak of San Antonio committed suicide in January 2016, it also makes it easier for victims to get court relief.

Under current rules, Zirkin said, civil injunctive relief requires a plaintiff to show “immediate, substantial and irreparable harm,” a process he believes is slow and outdated. “A single, huge act by that bully ... you can’t take it back,” Zirkin said.

The more encompassing proposal of the two, Grace’s Law 2.0, cleared the Senate on Thursday.

That legislation, Senate bill 726, would increase the penalty for threatening or defamatory statements about a minor, or the parent of a minor, from a one-year maximum sentence and \$500 fine to three years and \$10,000. In addition, it adds a clause that would increase the jail term to 10 years if the violator intends to “induce a minor to commit suicide,” as written in the text.

The bill also broadens the scope of social media cyberbullying. Updates include prohibiting the creation of fake social media profiles and material meant to “intimidate, torment or harass a minor”; prohibiting logging into a minor’s social media account

and distributing pictures; and establishing that telling a minor to “go kill yourself” online isn’t protected speech.

Lastly, Grace’s Law 2.0 incorporates David’s Law for school-related cyberbullying. For that reason, Zirkin said, the bills must go together. Reporting such incidents at school, he said, only helps if the revisions are adopted.

The effort doesn’t come without resistance. The ACLU, which stood in opposition to the 2013 law, is concerned about over-criminalization and too drastic of penalties.

“However well-intentioned – and I believe (Grace’s Law) is well intentioned – I believe this bill is hopelessly overbroad,” said David Rochah, a senior staff attorney at the ACLU, during the Feb. 20 hearing.

“One does not have to be unconcerned about bullying or blind to the incredible cruelty that people can inflict on each other, to also be concerned about giving the government the ability to punish, as a crime, huge swaths of protected speech.”

Christine McComas, whose late daughter, Grace McComas, was the inspiration for Grace’s Law, joined a couple other mothers and an aunt of suicide victims to testify in favor of the bills. Grace killed herself on Easter Sunday in 2012, the victim of repeated cyber abuse. Christine said these laws would target “dehumanizing cyberbullying” faster.

(BULLYING Continued on page 15)

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Business

New Health-Food Chain Opens First Maryland Store



New health food store is coming to Ellicott City next week. Sprouts Farmers Market is will be in the location of the former Mars grocery store. (File photo, courtesy Sprouts Farmers market)

WHAT: Sprouts Farmers Market is opening in Ellicott City! The new store will be the first Sprouts in Maryland, marking the grocer's expansion to the mid-Atlantic to help meet the growing local demand for fresh, natural and organic foods at great prices.

WHERE: 9150 Baltimore National Pike

WHEN: Wednesday, March 14 at 7 a.m.

WHY: Sprouts will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the 30,000-square-foot store. The public is invited to join the festivities and shop among thousands of healthy items offered throughout the complete grocery store.

The first 200 shoppers in line will receive 20 percent off their initial total purchase.

Samples of Baltimore-based Michele's Granola will be served to all shoppers in line, in addition to delicious muffins and coffee from Sprouts.

Upon checkout, every 15th shopper will receive a coupon book featuring Sprouts savings.

Every customer will receive one free reusable bag with purchase.

Saturday, March 17 - The first 200 customers to make a purchase will receive a coupon booklet for five free deli items.

Sunday, March 18 - Upon checkout, every 15th customer will receive a coupon for \$5 off a purchase of

more than \$15 to use on their next visit.

To celebrate the first Sprouts in the state, the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation will donate \$2,500 to TasteWise Kids, a non-profit organization that empowers Baltimore-area students to think about food from its source to the plate through hands-on, educational programs.

Shoppers will enjoy locally made products throughout the store from Maryland-based companies, including Wild Kombucha, Ever Bar, Hale's Homemade Salsa, Lord Byron's Honey and B'More Organic.

As part of Sprouts' commitment to "zero waste," the new Ellicott City Sprouts will donate unsold and edi-

(SPROUTS Continued on page 15)

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Celebrex™	\$743.17 <small>Typical US Brand Price for 100mg x 100</small>	VS	Celecoxib* \$87.00 <small>Generic price for 100mg x 100</small>	Januvia™	\$1151.87 <small>Typical US Brand Price for 100mg x 84</small>	VS	Sitagliptin Phosphate* \$136.00 <small>Generic Price for 100mg x 84</small>



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School News

Hammond High School



Hammond Boosters Gala/Casino Night - March 16, 2018 7-11pm

GOT TICKETS??? The tickets to the 2018 Hammond Boosters Gala & Casino Night are going fast and you do not want to miss out. We have a great evening planned on Friday March 16th at the Great Room in Savage Mill. Get your tickets today at <http://www.hammondboosters.org>.

Once you get your tickets, sign up to help out for an hour at the event. You can help set up, clean up, run the Sweets & Treats Wheel (it's great fun), sell some casino chips, be a live auction spotter and more.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School

Last week our Eagles Soared with PRIDE, we are so proud of all of the students who participated in LEMS Lounge Recital Night Thursday and those who volunteered their time and participated for the Blacks in Wax hallway display for Black History Month. Ms. Todd will close out Black History Month tomorrow with the school-wide trivia contest.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY Dr. Martirano's community forum on school safety and mental health was held this last week. He shared a message and reaffirmed the urgency for our school security measures to be followed with fidelity.

Patuxent Valley Middle School

Thank you from National Junior Honor Society.

A special thank you to parents and staff that donated items and time to make our National Junior Honor Society a special event! We could not have done this without you!

Music Department - Music Competition, Friday May 11, 2018 (7am - 9 pm); Location: Kings Dominion, VA Ensembles competing: 7th and 8th grade band, choir, and orchestra members.

6th grade band members are invited to join us on our trip pending availability of seating.

7th and 8th graders are asked to bring in permission slips and money in as soon as possible, and 6th graders will be asked to bring in money in the coming weeks. All permission slips and information sheets are available in Canvas.

Thomas Viaduct Middle School



DONATIONS NEEDED: Items for themed baskets to auction off. Donate an item or a whole basket of items. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Our Annual Quarter Auction fundraiser event is May 5, 2018. This is the most significant fundraising event for our school. Many of projects, events and activities depend on this event's success. We are reaching out to our families and staff to help make this event successful.

Check out the basket themes to get an idea of items to contribute. Please donate by March 31. Items can be dropped off in the school office or comment below to make arrangement with someone from the committee.

Recently, administration had the pleasure of visiting 6th, 7th and 8th grade classrooms to recognize our students who made the MHMS Honor Roll for second quarter. We had hundreds of students make the Honor Roll, and we are so proud of their accomplishments. We had a total of 105 students earn Silver Honor Roll recognition (all A's, B's and one C), 271 students earned Gold Honor Roll recognition (all A's and B's), and 119 students earned Principal's Honor Roll recognition (all A's).

Murray Hill Middle School

The MHMS PTA will host a 5K this on March 24th. Please save the date, and more information will be shared very soon.

We at Murray Hill want all of our students to enjoy the experiences we have to offer which is why we have created a Field Trip Scholarship Fund. This fund helps families cover some of the cost for field trips. If you would like to contribute to our Field Trip Scholarship Fund, we and our students, would appreciate it. Additional funds can be included into your current payment as cash, check, or through the Online School Payment website.

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Religion

Why Do Troubles Persist for Those with Strong Faith?



by **Dan S. Baty**

So you wonder: “Why do I still have personal ‘issues’ despite my earnest and continuous prayers for the Lord to remove them? Have you considered if you were “better” than you are right now that you may be tempted to believe God loves you because of your performance? But when your “issues” break out like an ugly rash and you turn to the Lord for comfort and experience His reassuring words and loving touch, you gain a better understanding of His grace. For all the benefits of good behavior, there is also a danger:

Pride.

Issues keep us in a humble and dependent state, which despite the weakness we feel, is the place where we are strongest and safest. “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me... For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9). *Note that Paul did not say, “as a result of my weaknesses I became strong,” but right in the midst of them “when I am weak then I am strong.” Don’t despair. Instead, praise God for His handling of you right here and now. For it is perfect – even if you are not.

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.)

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Health

Ellicott City Author Says “Eat & Be Happy” in Book



ELLICOTT CITY, Md. — Author Teddey Hicks’ recovery from binge eating disorder and her subsequent training to be a certified intuitive eating counselor inspired her to write her debut inspirational guidebook, “Eat & Be Happy” ([published by Balboa Press](#)). It emphasizes making peace with food, developing self-acceptance and changing the way one thinks in order to realize one’s dreams.

“This book is a counter-influence to diet culture and female objectification,” Hicks explains. “Women are ready to do things differently and learn how to live their lives with confidence and joy rather than self-loathing.”

“Eat & Be Happy” contains a collection of essays and affirmations

about forming a peaceful relationship with food, developing self-acceptance, and gaining confidence. The book aims to support a mindset shift to allow women to stop struggling with food and their bodies and start living their best lives.

“There is a need for women to learn how to accept themselves and stop focusing on appearance,” declares Hicks. “This book is simple, straightforward, and easy to read. This book gives daily inspiration and insight in order for women to have a dramatic shift in the way they think about themselves and their lives.”

About the Author

Teddey Hicks is a personal coach who specializes in helping women end their struggle with food and

body image. She is a certified intuitive eating counselor and uses the principles of the law of attraction to help women find self-confidence, joy and peace with food. Hicks lives in Maryland with her husband and three wonderful children. More information is available at: www.teddeyhicks.com.

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Please send your inquiries or comments to:
info@GuilfordGazette.com

Calendar



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

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.



Columbia Democratic Club Meeting

Thurs., Mar 14, 2018, 7:00 pm

Category: Politics and Government

Location: 6030 Tamar Drive, Columbia, Maryland

The CDC meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Topics and discussions updated each month.



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
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



Event: Hammond Boosters Gala/ Casino Night

Fri, Mar 16, 2018, 7:00pm—11:00pm

Category: Entertainment

Location: Savage Mill, 8600 Foundry, Savage, MD

Tickets to the 2018 Hammond Boosters Gala & Casino Night are going fast and you do not want to miss out. We have a great evening planned on Friday March 16th at the Great Room in Savage Mill.

<http://www.hammondboosters.org>.



Event: Savage Historical Society

Fri, Mar 19, 2018, 7:00pm

Category: Special Event

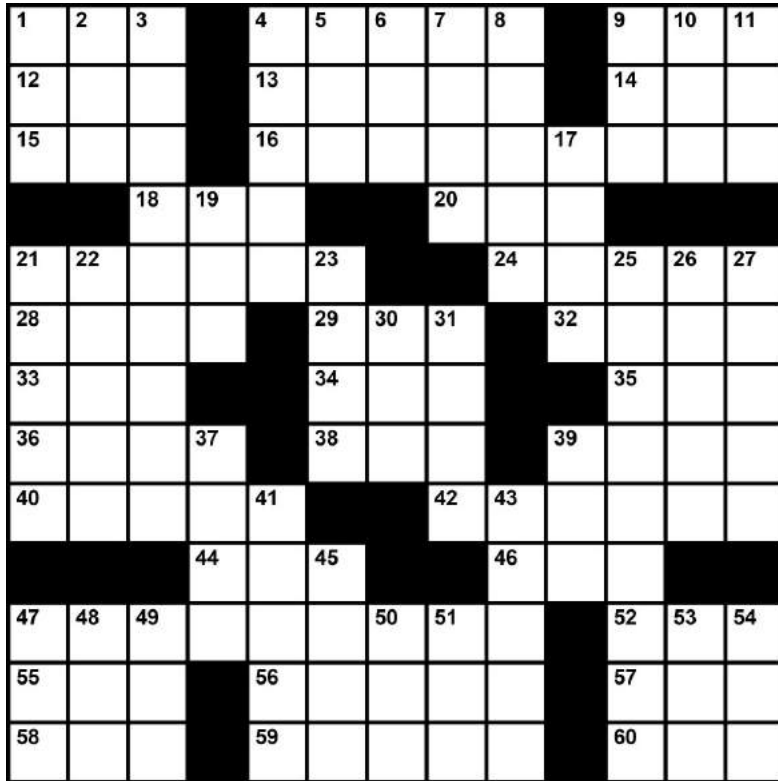
Location: Faith & Ministry Center, 9032 Baltimore St, Savage, MD.

Topic: “Courtship as found in a Savage Letter”

Presenter: Galen R. Menne, President SHS

Open to public

Comics / Puzzles

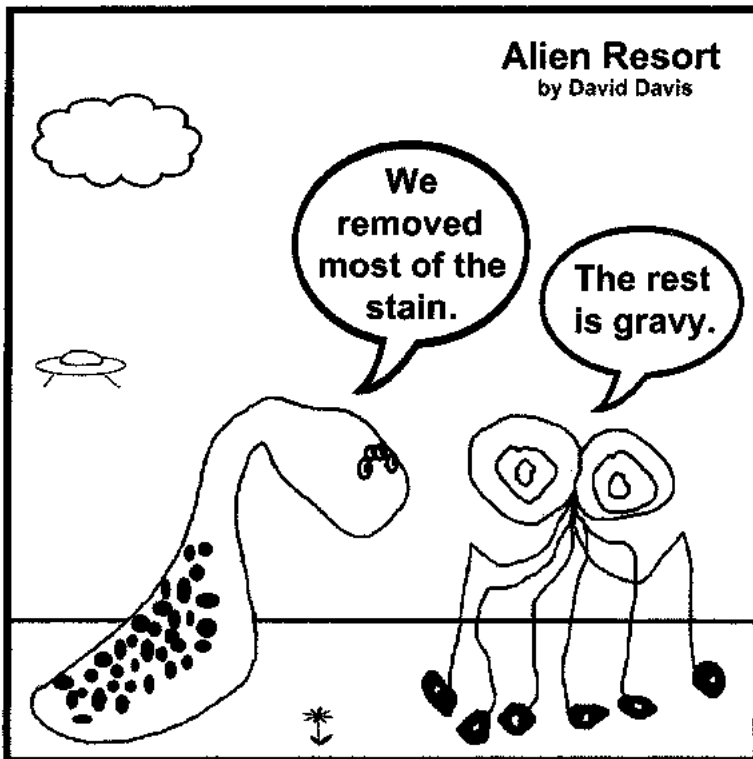


Across

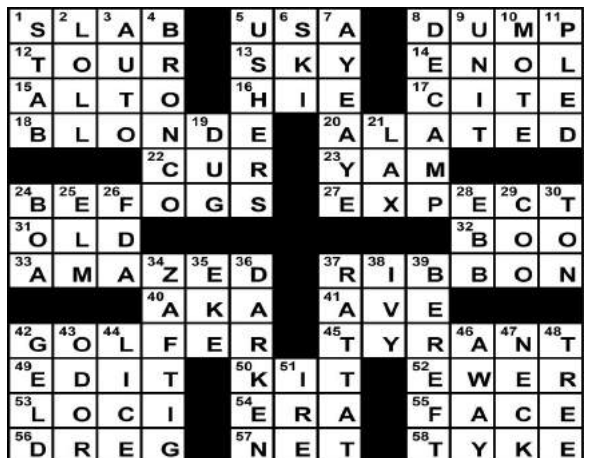
- 1. Downed a sub, say
- 4. Gown
- 9. Biblically yours
- 12. Allow
- 13. Colonel's insignia
- 14. Distress
- 15. Head wreath
- 16. Church singers
- 18. In the character of
- 20. Coin of Afghanistan
- 21. Boring
- 24. Hot casino destination in China
- 28. Sandwich cookie
- 29. Rap sheet letters
- 32. James ___ in spy novels
- 33. Set afire
- 34. NCO part
- 35. Jar top
- 36. Sgt. Snorkel's dog
- 38. First-aid, for one
- 39. Stew
- 40. Strapped
- 42. Same elements, different atom arrangements
- 44. Granola ingredient
- 46. Coffee holder
- 47. Quesadilla side (2 words)
- 52. Vex
- 55. Dupes
- 56. "___, I love you, won't you tell me your name" The Doors
- 57. Take to court
- 58. Time
- 59. Small fry

Down

- 1. It's ___ over
- 2. Driving location
- 3. Proper behavior
- 4. Joltless joe
- 5. Cheer
- 6. Id's associate
- 7. Berth place
- 8. Antidote
- 9. Deuce in poker
- 10. Today in Espanol
- 11. Right on!
- 17. Divulge a secret
- 19. Alien craft
- 21. Wise one
- 22. Old hat
- 23. Sweater tug
- 25. Newspaper writer
- 26. Japanese movie style
- 27. Milk dispenser
- 30. Like a goldfish, like a carp
- 31. Dead against
- 37. Polecat's defense
- 39. Supporting
- 41. Marina sight
- 43. Japanese wrestlers
- 45. Three spot card
- 47. Cow or sow
- 48. Rowboat need
- 49. Free market economy country
- 50. Antlered animal
- 51. Brewed drink
- 53. French avenue
- 54. He's a real doll



Solution to last week's puzzle



Crime

Red Roof Inn Robbery Gone Bad; Man Arrested

MON, MAR 5, 2018

Robbery
Elkridge, 21075:
Lowe's, 8200 block of Gateway Overlook Drive, Mar. 3 6:40 p.m.
An employee reported that he observed two male suspects stealing power tools. When the employee confronted them outside of the store, one suspect displayed a Taser before both suspects fled. No one was injured. The

investigation is ongoing.
SUSPECTS: two black males, one approximately 50 years old with gray hair, both wearing dark clothing

Residential burglary
Laurel, 20723: 9500 block of Norfolk Avenue, Mar. 2 8:26 p.m.
A resident reported observing two male suspects gain entry to her residence before fleeing. Nothing was stolen and no forced entry was ob-

served.
SUSPECTS: two white males, 18-20 years old, one 5'6", 150 pounds with a shaved head wearing a white tank top, the other 5'9", 150 pounds with blonde hair, no further description
Columbia, 21044: 10600 block of Gramercy Place, Mar. 3 9:45 p.m.
A resident reported that a male suspect attempted to gain entry to his residence by prying open the

door. The suspect fled when confronted. No entry was gained.
SUSPECT: black male in his mid-20s, 5'6", 180-190 pounds wearing a gray hat, gray hoodie and black pants
Theft from vehicle/
vehicle break-in
Ellicott City, 21043:
3000 block of Milltowne Drive, Mar. 2 10:27 a.m., sunglasses, sports equipment
Columbia, 21045: 9600
(**CRIME** Cont'd on page 15)

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(BULLYING *continued from page 4*)

“The proliferation of cyber equipment and applications continues to quickly morph and change,” McComas said. “Children need additional protections from those who would use it for harm.”

Marla Posey-Moss, vice president of advocacy with the Maryland PTA, said in an email Tuesday that her

organization supports the Senate’s effort.

“Maryland PTA is pleased that legislation has been introduced to protect youth from bullying via the consideration of expanded forms of social media and technology,” she said.

Posey-Moss called the effort “very strategic,” but added that it’s important to be precise when criminalizing certain speech.

Zirkin, for his part, has acknowledged the difficulty in navigating such a law but told Capital News Service that if Maryland addressed it five years ago – and other states have since taken it a step further – Maryland can do it again.

“The ACLU had the same argument (against the 2013 law), but it wasn’t unconstitutional,” Zirkin said. “The sky didn’t fall down.”

(SPROUTS *Continued from page 6*)

ble groceries to Maryland Food Bank through the grocer’s Food Rescue program. In 2017, Sprouts stores and distribution centers donated 23 million pounds of product, equivalent to 19 million meals. Food that is not fit for donation is provided to local cattle farms and composting facilities. Sprouts’ evolving “zero waste” initiatives help minimize food waste while reducing the impact of hunger

and the company’s environmental footprint.

About Sprouts Farmers Market Sprouts Farmers Market, Inc. specializes in fresh, natural and organic products at prices that appeal to everyday grocery shoppers. Based on the belief that healthy food should be affordable, Sprouts’ welcoming environment and knowledgeable team members continue to drive its growth.

Sprouts offers a complete shopping

experience that includes an array of fresh produce in the heart of the store, a deli with prepared entrees and side dishes, The Butcher Shop and The Fish Market at Sprouts, an expansive vitamins and supplements department and more. Headquartered in Phoenix, Ariz., Sprouts employs more than 27,000 team members and operates nearly 300 stores in 15 states from coast to coast. Visit about.sprouts.com for more information.

(CRIME *Continued from page 14*)

block of Broken Land Parkway, Mar. 2 10:04 a.m., catalytic converter

Columbia, 21046: 6700 block of Columbia Gateway Drive, Mar. 2 4:52 p.m., nothing reported stolen

Jessup, 20794: 8600 block of Washington Boulevard, Mar. 3 9:59 a.m., laptop

Elkridge, 21075: 7000 block of Ducketts Lane, Mar. 3 2:08 p.m., tag stickers

Vehicle theft

Columbia, 21045: 5800 block of Morningbird Lane, Mar. 2 11:13 a.m. | 2016 Honda XR650L 2001 Dodge Caravan

Laurel, 20723: 8600 block of Saddleback Place, Mar. 3, 6:31 a.m. | 2018 Ford Raptor

Laurel, 20723: 9700 block of Washington Boulevard, Mar. 3 3:35 p.m. |RV

Columbia, 21045: 7300 block of Mossy Brink Court, Mar. 4 4:01 p.m. | Acura TL

FRI, MAR 2, 2018

Attempted robbery

Jessup, 20794: Red Roof Inn, 8000 block of Washington Boulevard, Mar. 1 7:02 p.m.

An employee reported that a male suspect approached the front desk, implied a weapon, and demanded cash. The victim did not comply and the suspect fled. Nothing was stolen and no one was injured. Police responded, located the suspect nearby, and arrested him.

ARRESTED: Marvin Lee Apple-

white, 60, of no fixed address, charged with armed robbery, robbery, and assault

THU, MAR 1, 2018

Overdose

Police responded to two non-fatal overdoses Wednesday. In both cases, Narcan was administered and the person was transported to the hospital for treatment.

TUE, FEB 27, 2018

Theft from vehicle

Laurel, 20707: Laurel Race Track Road, Feb. 23-27, work equipment

Vehicle theft

Laurel, 20723: 9500 block of Jeanne Court, Feb. 26 7:41 p.m. 2015 Ford Fiesta, tags MD/1BX2168



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