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MORNING RUNDOWN

Wednesday, 12th September 2018



Inside Out with Senator Delores Kelley

Senator Delores Kelley visits Center Maryland Inside Out to discuss her new role as Chair of the Senate Finance committee and her efforts to reform the juvenile services education system. Chairwoman Kelley provides a preview of some of the issues the Finance committee will consider during the 2019 legislative session from the high cost of generic drugs, rising health care costs, and ensuring that health insurance plans cover mental illness.

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POLITICS

Democratic Councilman Weinstein endorses Kittleman re-election bid

Howard County Councilman Jon Weinstein said Tuesday he will not mount a write-in campaign to retain the seat he lost in the primary election by just six votes. Also, the Democrat told C4, he is endorsing Republican County Executive Allan Kittleman for re-election. It wasn't about sour grapes, he said, rather about the issues and what was best for Weinstein's district, which includes Ellicott City. (WBAL-radio)

Gov. Larry Hogan campaign launches Jeopardy-style website mocking Ben Jealous' plans for Maryland

Republican Gov. Larry Hogan's re-election campaign this week launched a website featuring a Jeopardy-style game show that mocks Democratic challenger Ben Jealous as embracing reckless tax-and-spend policies. The site, MDCantAffordJealous.com, purports to tally the costs of Jealous' policy proposals – including plans to expand health care, provide free college tuition and revive the Red Line light rail in Baltimore – and pins the total at more than \$35 billion annually. The state's operating budget is about \$44 billion. (Balt. Sun)

Business group makes endorsements in key state Senate races

The National Federation of Independent Business announced this week that its Maryland political action committee has added 16 candidates to its list of legislative endorsements. The announcement comes on top of the 40-plus endorsements the business group offered legislative candidates shortly before the June primaries. "These candidates know what it takes to create jobs, and they

understand the challenges that small-business owners face in Maryland," said Tim Goodrich, executive director of NFIB's state government relations, in a statement. (Md. Matters)

Baltimore County executive candidates Olszewski, Redmer tout education, leadership in first one-on-one debate

The two men vying to become the next Baltimore County executive faced off Tuesday in their first general election debate, each touting himself as the best choice to improve an education system that has seen recent disputes over aging facilities and spending priorities. Democrat Johnny Olszewski Jr., a former state delegate who taught in the county school system, has emphasized plans for universal preschool and expanding access to tuition-free community college. (Balt. Sun)

In Baltimore County, Olszewski gets support from former rival Almond

Baltimore County executive candidate Johnny Olszewski Jr. is getting some help from a former rival: County Councilwoman Vicki Almond. Almond and her fellow Democratic members of the council and Democratic council candidates plan to endorse Olszewski during an event in Reisterstown on Wednesday morning. Almond finished third in the closely contested Democratic primary for county executive that Olszewski won by a mere 17 votes after a recount. (Balt. Sun)

More in POLITICS

BUSINESS



**AIRBNB IS PUTTING
BALTIMORE'S HISTORIC BED
AND BREAKFASTS AT RISK.**

Support small businesses:

Tell Baltimore City Councilmembers to

VOTE YES on 18-0189.



BGE braces for impact of Hurricane Florence with extra utility crews from out of state

Jerry Schmidt normally works from his office at BGE's main supply warehouse in Windsor Mill, but Tuesday, just days before Hurricane Florence is expected to pummel the East Coast, was not normal. The BGE manager surveyed a lot outside the warehouse where several dozen transformers and reels of cable were set to be delivered to staging areas around the region, ready for the more than 800 overhead line and tree crew members on their way from out of state. (Balt. Sun)

Housing prices continue to rise in August in the Baltimore metro area

Housing prices continued their upward trend in August in the Baltimore metro area, with a median sales price of \$280,000, up 5.7 percent from a year ago. The price was the highest for August sales in a decade, according to data provided by MarketStats by ShowingTime based on listing activity from Bright MLS, and it came close to the highest price for any month in the last decade. That top price was \$285,000 in June. (Balt. Sun)

Southwest issues travel waivers for people flying out of BWI due to Hurricane Florence

Southwest Airlines Co. is allowing people traveling in or out of Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport to rebook their flights for free as Hurricane Florence continues to barrel toward the East Coast. Florence, currently a Category 4 storm, could approach Category 5 strength as it nears the shore. The National Hurricane Center projects a "life-threatening storm surge" in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. (Balt. Bus. Journal)

\$22.2M affordable housing development opens in West Baltimore

A \$22.2 million affordable housing development in West Baltimore the developer says is badly needed celebrated its ceremonial opening on Tuesday. New Shiloh Village Apartments will provide a mix of affordable and market-rate apartments in a four-story, 73-unit building at 1930 Windsor Ave. across the street from New Shiloh Baptist Church. (Daily Record)

Open Works aims for an inclusive competition for small manufacturers

Not every new business in Baltimore has to be the next Uber. Instead, a small designer with a couple of part-time employees can work on a small scale to contribute to the city. Open Works's 2nd Annual EnterpRISE Venture Competition this year hopes to showcase some of those smaller and more inclusive businesses that can be just as important to the city's economy as the startups with billion dollar ideas. (Daily Record)

More in BUSINESS

EDUCATION

Maryland school system votes to offer condoms at all high schools

Maryland's largest school system decided Tuesday to offer condoms in the health rooms of more than 20 high schools, with several leaders describing the need as urgent amid a spike in sexually transmitted infections. The Montgomery County school board unanimously approved the plan a week after condoms were made available at four high schools with clinics on campus. (Wash. Post)

Head Start expands in Md. county where scandal flared two years ago

Head Start classes are expanding in Prince George's County, more than two years after the public school system lost a multimillion-dollar federal grant for the early-education program amid reports of corporal punishment and humiliation of children. Easterseals DC MD VA and the Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness announced Wednesday that they have received a combined \$33.5 million in federal grants to operate programs for 418 economically disadvantaged children a year. The grants will stretch over five years. (Wash. Post)

MCPS to consider allowing excused absences for civic activism

The Montgomery County Board of Education is considering allowing county high school students to be excused up to three times per year to participate in "civic engagement activities." To be excused, a student would have to present the school with written permission from a parent and the organization sponsoring the event that a student wants to attend. (Bethesda)

Steps to address racism in Anne Arundel schools discussed at caucus meeting

The Caucus of African American Leaders is calling on county schools to address what it says is a systemic racism problem, and Tuesday night a school official answered questions and told members about what the system has done, and

what it will do. The focus of the meeting was education and equity, and convener Carl Snowden called racism in schools an issue that spans administrations. (Capital)

Baltimore women's college sees record enrollment amid #MeToo movement

Notre Dame of Maryland University, the state's only women's college, accepted its largest ever class of incoming freshman this academic year. The 220-student freshman class size may seem small, especially when compared to other nearby schools like Loyola University Maryland and Morgan State University, which accepted freshman classes of between 1,000 to 2,000 students this year. But it marks a 47 percent increase over last year's incoming class size at the 124-year-old Baltimore institution. (Balt. Bus. Journal)

More in EDUCATION

AROUND MARYLAND

Someone call 311! Baltimore's \$2.6 million upgrade to 311 system generates complaints

The reviews for Baltimore's new 311 apps are in, and they are not good. "You took a functional app and removed the functions," one user wrote in Google's online app store. "This app sucks now." Rating? One star out of five. Lisa Allen, director of Baltimore's 311 system, apologized for the problems and said the city's IT department is aware of the issues with the apps and is working to fix them. (Balt. Sun)

Baltimore Police Dept. has failed to prioritize patrol positions, leaving a 26.6%

vacancy rate, report says

The Baltimore Police Department has failed to prioritize patrol positions, leaving a 26.6 percent vacancy rate – significantly higher compared with other areas within the department – and should consider restructuring, a new report found. Of the 1,102 police officer positions budgeted across the department's nine districts, only 809 are filled, according to the 189-page staffing study filed to the court Tuesday. The report is part of the years-long sweeping reforms required by the consent decree reached between the city and the U.S. Department of Justice last year. (Balt. Sun)

Annapolis City Council postpones spending decision on Annapolis Rising Festival

The Annapolis City Council voted late Monday to postpone a decision on spending nearly \$34,000 in taxpayer money to help pay for the Annapolis Rising Festival. The item will be sent to the finance committee for further study and then back to the full council on Sept. 24. The benefit concert, honoring the victims and first-responders of the June 28 mass shooting at the Capital Gazette office, cost a total of \$66,000. (Balt. Sun)

Annapolis officials tout bright future for solar panel plant, even on a cloudy day

A sprawling new field of solar panels draped atop an 80-acre, capped Annapolis landfill has started generating both clean energy and fresh income for the city, officials said at the plant's ceremonial opening Tuesday. "This is going to be a tremendous source of clean, renewable energy for years to come," Mayor Gavin Buckley told a small gathering at the site. (Capital)

Patapsco River dam set for demolition

If it ever stops raining, one of the biggest remaining barriers to fish migration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will finally come down. Bloede Dam, a long-dormant hydroelectric facility near Baltimore, is supposed to be breached with explosives any day now, the first major step toward opening up Maryland's Patapsco River to river herring, shad and eels. (Md. Reporter)

More in [AROUND MARYLAND](#)

COMMENTARY

Adam Pagnucco: What Jealous's plan to tax the 1 percent means for MoCo

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ben Jealous has said he would raise income taxes by 1 percent on the wealthiest 1 percent of Maryland taxpayers to pay for new spending. What would that mean for MoCo? Jealous, who won the Democratic nomination as a progressive, favors at least four expensive new spending programs—free tuition for community colleges, more K-12 education funding under recommendations from the state's Kirwan commission (including a 29 percent raise for teachers), universal pre-K education and single payer health care. (Bethesda)

Samuel Jordan and Glenn Smith: Central Md. can recover from loss of Red Line light rail project - by building it

Baltimore's 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Plan project viewer depicted below shows with a single purple dot the only mass transit project to be constructed in Baltimore City over the next four years. Using a combination of federal and state dollars, the Kirk Division Bus Facility is to be replaced. Red dots denote highway "preservation" projects. These are largely maintenance projects including road repaving, repair to bridges, upgraded street lighting and improved stormwater drainage. In other words, the Transportation Improvement Plan for the next four years includes not one actual transportation project. Is there any

mystery why Baltimore will not grow? (Md. Matters)

KunSun Sweeley, Roxane Prettyman, and Pat Lundberg: Reforming Baltimore liquor board critical to stemming city violence

Wednesday, the task force commissioned by the General Assembly to study the efficacy of state alcohol regulations will meet for the first time. As residents who have spent hundreds of hours navigating the alcohol beverage code attempting to rid our neighborhoods of troublesome bars, we welcome this potential for reform; in fact, we feel it's critical to stem the violence in our city. These laws have for far too long disproportionately protected business interests at the expense of the public good. (Balt. Sun)

George Donohue: The next Anne Arundel executive must invest in the future

The Kirwan report on the state of Education in Maryland will release its final report this December and will have some important observations and recommendations for both the state and Anne Arundel County. The current state of our education system leaves much to be desired. As a minimum, it will likely recommend free pre-kindergarten for 3 and 4-year-olds and a 10 percent pay hike for teachers. No matter who is elected in November, these recommendations will pose a fiscal challenge to both the state and county elected officials. (Capital)

Purchase card episode proves Anne Arundel needs a more robust auditor

County Executive Steve Schuh has long fought with the county auditor, casting the office as an unreasonable check on his authority. When Teresa Sutherland, now the Annapolis City manager, held the office, Schuh lambasted her as an unelected member of the County Council. When her successor, Jodee Dicksonson, decided to join Sutherland and take a position as city finance director, the Schuh

administration responded with petty vengeance, stripping her of her job and shoving her out the door in a single day. About the same time, Schuh worked to kill resolutions by Councilman Jerry Walker – a longtime nemesis – that would have given the auditor broader powers to investigate reports of fraud and theft within county government. (Capital)

More in COMMENTARY

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