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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

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BEL AIR'S VICTORY ON MAT
Bobcat Zach Keller works to pin Tyler Hiob
SPORTS A11

OPERATION ICICLE A CHILLER
Harford Boy Scouts head to Broad Creek for campout
pp&t AA1



As the statewide smoking ban goes into effect today (Friday), some local bar patrons feel it's the government taking away citizens' rights.

BRIAN KRISTA | AEGIS STAFF

Smoking inside is out

BY LINDSEY ROBBINS
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Smokers across Harford County headed out to bars Thursday to get in one last puff before the statewide ban on indoor smoking in public places goes into effect today (Friday).

But there are plenty of folks out there who have been eagerly anticipating the change.

The lament of the smokers,

however, could be heard loud and clear this week.

"I'm going to smoke three packs today just to enjoy the last day," Kevin Jasper, manager of The Tower in Bel Air, said Thursday.

Jasper said he sees the ban as the government taking more rights away from its citizens.

As long as bars offer nonsmoking in another section, people have a

choice, he said.

The Maryland General Assembly disagreed, passing a bill last session which prohibits smoking in most indoor areas open to the public. Penalties for violation include a \$100 fine for any first-time violations, followed by a \$250 fine for each subsequent violation.

Please see SMOKING, A4

Treatment depends on cop's side?

No charges filed in highway fatalities

BY KRISTEN MELAMED
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In the span of a month, two people have been killed in hit-and-run accidents — both with Harford County ties — involving police officers and charges haven't been filed in either case.

In the most recent incident, a Baltimore man was killed after his vehicle was rear-ended on I-95 Monday morning; his Explorer flipped over a guardrail and landed on the shoulder of the lanes for southbound traffic just north of the Maryland House in Aberdeen.

An off-duty Anne Arundel County Police officer, identified by official records at the JFK Barrack as Dane Patrick Hall, 28, of the 1000 block of Frenchtown Road in Perryville, was detained Monday morning in connection with the hit-and-run, according to police at the barrack.

Police agencies involved have been reluctant to even confirm on the record the identity of the driver of the hit and run vehicle.

In the other case, on New Year's Eve, a police officer was killed in Baltimore, and the name of the suspect was

Please see HIT-AND-RUNS, A10

Rifle and machete found at school

BY KRISTEN MELAMED
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A 17-year-old North Harford High School student was charged with possessing a deadly weapon on school property Wednesday after police found a black powder rifle, machete and pocket knife in his car.

The student is a hunter and had left the weapons in his car without thinking about it, according to Don

Morrison, spokesperson for Harford County Public Schools.

The incident happened before 8 a.m. Wednesday at the school in the 200 block of Pylesville Road in Pylesville.

Sgt. Christina Presberry, public information officer for the Harford County Sheriff's Office, said deputies received information the weapons were in the student's car.

Please see WEAPONS, A10

Elected school board on agenda PAGE A9

Candidates for judge make cases

Angela Eaves faces challenges from H. Edward Andrews III, Steven J. Scheinin, Charles F. Wagner

BY RACHEL SEAWELL
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It's been just two months since Judge Angela Michelle Eaves was appointed by Gov. Martin O'Malley to the Harford County Circuit Court, an appointment she hopes to secure for the next 15 years come the Feb. 12th primary election.

Eaves has been campaigning on a limited basis, meeting with community groups, and her campaign committee

held a well attended fund-raiser Jan. 25. But, she still has to spend her days on the bench, being a judge, a job she says is challenging and one she relishes.

Eaves, a District Court judge for seven years before her latest appointment, broke two barriers when she joined the Circuit Court at the beginning of the year: she is Harford County's first woman and first African American to serve on

that bench.

That hasn't kept three challengers - H. Edward Andrews III, Steven J. Scheinin and Charles F. Wagner - from trying to win that Circuit Court judgeship.

Under Maryland law, a judge appointed to the circuit bench must stand for election to a full term. The sitting judge can be challenged by any lawyer in good standing with the Maryland Bar Association who lives

in Harford County.

Candidates for judge run in both the Republican and Democratic primaries. If one candidate wins both, their name will appear unopposed on the general election ballot. If different candidates win the two primaries, they run against each other in the Nov. 4 general election.

It's been 54 years since a sitting Circuit Court judge in Harford County was defeated in an election, the only

time it's happened.

The annual salary for a Circuit Court judge is \$134,352. It increases to \$140,352 in July.

Interest appears to be building in the election, which has provided a perfect storm of sorts for challengers.

The relatively short time between Eaves' appointment and the election, her groundbreaking status — as the first woman and the first African

Please see JUDGE, A5

Parking tempest stirs Bel Air pot

BY AMANDA BRENNER
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It started as friendly banter: Bel Air Town Commissioner Terry Hanley said he wasn't going to get his hair cut again until the battle for more customer parking downtown was resolved because he didn't want his barber to pick on him.

Since a heated discussion on the issue with Harford County Executive David R. Craig last week in Annapolis during Harford Night, Hanley said business owners are up

'We're losing customers...'

— KIM EDGE, MANAGER OF THE GREENE TURTLE

in arms after reading about the exchange in *The Aegis* last Friday.

But Hanley also said he isn't going to let the frustration with the lack of parking downtown caused by the rebuilding of Main Street escalate.

After last Friday's news report, Craig scheduled a meeting for Feb. 7, that has already been postponed, with Main Street business representatives, Hanley and Bel Air Town Administrator

Please see PARKING, A2



MATT BUTTON | AEGIS STAFF

Daytime parking has become a hairy issue in Bel Air. Town commissioner Terry Hanley, far right, joined by several Main Street business owners, stands in the county parking lot they hope to have opened to the public while the streetscape project continues.

FRIDAY

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OUTDOORS Take care out there

Shoveling heavy snow can lead to health problems if not done properly.
A14



COMING WEDNESDAY

DAY OF ASHES

Christians around Harford County are preparing for the Lenten season which follows Ash Wednesday.

THE AEGIS

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HARFORD VOTES: 'It's kind of hard to put it into words.'

From oppression to Obama

OBAMA, from A1
 music school.

Eddie McAfee said he bought a guitar and went to the music school, but was turned down because the school did not teach blacks.

"A lot of opportunity wasn't open," he said. "I am excited about Obama."

Jerry Hairston, the master barber at New U Barber & Style Shop, also expressed his excitement about what Obama will do for the country. He said other countries will see America in a new light.

"They have only seen Caucasian presidents and with Obama they see diversity," he said. "It sends a different message to the whole world. I think Obama will cause world peace."

With such an important election for the black population, Hairston said he wished King was still

alive to see this historic event.

"I wish he was alive to see this because he fought for it," he said.

Other blacks in the county were excited about Obama's victory, but many were at a lack of words to describe their emotions.

"It's kind of hard to put it into words," Bob Greene, of Havre de Grace, who grew up in Forest Hill, said. "I have never seen anything like it or could have imagined anything like it."

Greene was the first black to be a department head in the Harford County government. He worked as the head of human resources from 1968 to 1971, when he resigned to return to his private insurance practice.

Greene drew an analogy between Obama's candidacy and a blockbuster movie.

"Hollywood could not have written this script any better," he said. "A likable character who was struggling against impossible odds in pursuit of worthwhile goals. I see Barack Obama in that role and that is his life story."

With the historic election over, Greene said it is just the beginning for "dehyphenation" of America.

"I see this as the start to what I call the 'dehyphenating' of America," he said.

Greene said people will no longer refer to themselves as African-American or Italian-Americans, but instead as Americans first. He said people will refer to themselves as American of African heritage or American of Italian heritage.

"We are American of

whatever heritage," he said.

Macon Tucker Jr., of Aberdeen, and the principal of Joppatowne High School, also experienced racial discrimination growing up and didn't dream of what happened Tuesday.

"I didn't think I would ever see this in my lifetime," Tucker said. "Things have a way of changing and opportunity presented itself and here we are."

With such a momentous election this year, Tucker said he made sure to get vote early.

"I felt very proud," he said. "It was very rewarding to cast my vote this time."

Gladys Williams, who is 89 and lives in Aberdeen, said she was overjoyed and proud when she found out Obama won.

"I was just so overjoyed," she said. "I just can't really put it into words. It means so very much to all of us who have any blood of the persons who were once slaves in this country. I said to myself at Mass, America has truly and finally lived up to its creed that all men are created equal."

Williams said she would have liked her parents to have lived long enough to see this historic event.

"Particularly, my father who always taught us that God, in his own time, would correct all evil," she said. "I believed that we knew the time would come, but I never thought until Barack Obama started running that it would occur in my lifetime."

The Rev. Dr. Delores F. Richardson, of Havre de Grace, who said she is 60-plus, encountered racial discrimination growing up and expressed her thanks for Obama's victory.

"I was always very hopeful because I am one of the older people and have been through the phase

Please see **OBAMA, A5**

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