

eNEWSPAPER UPDATE

GOP presses repeal effort

Hearing on health bill is today with vote expected this week

BY NOAM N. LEVEY
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans are poised to take an unprecedented leap into the dark as they prepare to vote on legislation that would affect health protections for tens of millions of Americans yet has been subject to virtually no analysis or public scrutiny.

The proposal goes far beyond previous bills to repeal the 2010 health care law, often called Obamacare, and would fundamentally restructure the nation's half-century-old health care safety net.

With a vote expected as soon as Wednesday, according to the White House, and backers still talking about potentially major changes, the legislation will get its first and only congressional hearing today. The independent Congressional Budget Office, which lawmakers rely on to assess major legislation, has said it won't have time to analyze the bill's effect on health coverage and insurance premiums.

"This is like legislating blind," said University of North Carolina political scientist Jonathan Oberlander, who has written on the history of health care legislation. "It is really hard to find an example of something where Congress was this reckless."

See **GOP**, page 8



MATT DUNHAM/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some Ravens players kneel during the playing of the U.S. national anthem before their game against the Jaguars in London on Sunday. Jaguars players also knelt. Later in the day, players in other NFL games took a knee during the anthem.

Kneeling by Ravens draws praise, anger from fans

Baltimore's London game was first place that players reacted to Trump's tweets

BY LUKE BROADWATER
AND JEFF ZREBIEC
The Baltimore Sun

After Ravens players took a knee during the national anthem Sunday — the first in a series of protests across the NFL — many Baltimore fans said they were supporting

the demonstration as a way to speak out against racial inequality in America.

But others reacted angrily, describing the protests as anti-patriotic and promising to boycott the NFL and destroy their Ravens gear.

"The embarrassment that is the NFL continues and people wonder why I am on strike," Harford County Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler posted on Facebook. "Ravens join the non sense of taking knee while on the soil of the Country we gained our

Inside

Ravens lose, 44-7, to Jaguars
COVERAGE IN SPORTS

independence from. Will be doing a housecleaning of any Ravens merchandise later today and getting it all ready for the burn."

The team's morning game in London against the Jacksonville Jaguars was the first NFL game after President Donald Trump profanely lambasted some players at a rally over the weekend and encouraged team owners to fire those who protest during the anthem.

See **ANTHEM**, page 9

Yumi Hogan launches art therapy program at children's hospital

An artist, Md.'s first lady funded the program through her foundation

BY ANDREA K. MCDANIELS
The Baltimore Sun

Josh Birch often puts on a strong front as he undergoes cancer treatments for non-Hodgkins lymphoma. But the 13-year-old's steel facade cracked when an artist in residence at the University of Maryland Children's Center recently asked him to draw the first thing that popped into his head.



Yumi Hogan

Josh sketched out a beach — and then he started crying.

His family typically spends the summer splashing in the waves of Ocean City, which Josh calls his "happy place." But this year they couldn't go to the beach because of his illness.

As Josh wept, artist-in-residence Marty Weishaar gently prodded the teenager to talk more about what he was feeling.



BARBARA HADDOCK TAYLOR/BALTIMORE SUN

Marty Weishaar, artist in residence who is providing art therapy to young patients at the University of Maryland Children's Hospital, works with 13-year-old patient Josh Birch.

Sometimes, it can be difficult living with cancer, Josh told Weishaar.

"It just made me feel better," Josh said of drawing the picture. "I was talking to him and getting all my feelings out."

Weishaar was hired this summer as the University of Maryland hospital's first artist in residence with funding from the Yumi C.A.R.E.S. Foundation, a nonprofit

See **HOGAN**, page 9

Uncertainty begets anger, frustration for victims' kin

Many families still awaiting justice in Baltimore killings

BY KEVIN RECTOR
The Baltimore Sun

From the back door of his North Baltimore rowhouse, Michael Makel Sr. can see the apartment complex where his 19-year-old son was killed, and he wonders whether anyone will ever be held accountable.

Nearly a year after the shooting, the 47-year-old father says he is tired of waiting for answers and having his hopes dashed. Even more, he says, he's tired of the "bureaucracy" — of police detectives and prosecutors pointing fingers at each other as the investigation into the killing of his namesake drags on.

"I'm angry," Makel says, "that those who are in charge and are empowered to resolve these things aren't."

He is not alone. While Baltimore police have improved their homicide clearance rate from 30 percent in 2015 to 56 percent so far this year, See **FAMILIES**, page 9



Makel Sr.

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

MARYLAND

SINCLAIR PROTEST: A few dozen demonstrators held signs and shouted through a megaphone outside the Sinclair Broadcast Group's Hunt Valley headquarters Sunday to oppose the company's proposed \$3.9 billion takeover of Tribune Media Co.'s television stations. **NEWS PG 2**

NATION

TRAVEL BAN: President Trump announced an expansion of restrictions on visitors from foreign countries. His new order adds Chad, North Korea and Venezuela, and removes Sudan. The announcement marks the latest salvo in his ongoing battles over security and immigration. **NEWS PG 4**

TODAY'S WEATHER

SUNNY, WARM AND HUMID

88 | **66**
HIGH | LOW



Partly sunny, warm Tuesday **SPORTS PG 12**

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Md. first lady launches art program

HOGAN, From page 1

started by Maryland first lady Yumi Hogan. An artist who has made art therapy her key issue, Hogan has sold her own paintings at fundraisers to benefit art therapy programs.

She started the program at the children's hospital, because her husband, Gov. Larry Hogan, was treated for non-Hodgkins lymphoma at the medical system shortly after taking office in 2015. During his stay, the Hogans were inspired by pediatric patients and their families who showed "optimism and positive energy," despite dealing with grave illnesses, Yumi Hogan said via e-mail.

Her first grandson, Cam, was born with breathing difficulties and received treatment in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit.

"Art therapy is very new in our state's medical programs, but I have seen firsthand how healing art can be so beneficial to pediatric patients," said the Korean-born first lady, whose own work is a mix of media and styles but incorporates East Asian painting techniques. "I wanted to give back to our state and especially to UMMC and to the pediatric patients we met during my husband's ongoing treatment."

Yumi C.A.R.E.S. stands for "It's You-Me" working together. C.A.R.E.S. is for Children's Art for Recovery, Empowerment and Strength.

Art therapy is a growing field that has gained newfound attention in recent months in both Maryland and across the country, thanks to Hogan and another high-powered political spouse. Karen Pence, wife of Vice President Mike Pence, also has made it her signature issue. Pence, a watercolor artist, was active in promoting art therapy before her husband took office.

Art therapy uses media such as painting

and drawing to help patients cope with illness. It can help a patient unleash pent-up anxiety and stress resulting from living with a debilitating disease, art therapists say. For people who have difficulty expressing themselves through traditional talk therapy, it offers an alternative way to work through emotions. It also can help build coping skills.

"A lot of patients don't have the ability or don't want to verbally talk about how they are feeling," Weishaar said. "By using the creative process, they have a non-verbal way of discussing it."

Weishaar sometimes asks children to draw pictures depicting weather to show their current emotional state. Some draw storm clouds, or a black sky and rain, which may mean they are feeling sad and depressed. Kids who have suicidal thoughts may draw themselves falling. Those who have stable relationships will draw people closer together than those who don't, he said.

"You can really start reading into the metaphors or symbols that they're drawing or rendering," Weishaar said.

Hogan said participating in art therapy can help kids with the sadness they may feel being stuck in a hospital rather than at school or playing with their friends.

"I have personally seen the power of healing art and the potential it has in helping pediatric patients express their emotions and cope with the challenges of their life-threatening illnesses," she said in her email. "When they are focused on painting or drawing or crafts, they are not thinking about the IVs in their arms, or being in bed all day. Instead, they are enjoying themselves with fun colors and hands-on activities."

Research has found that art therapy can be helpful for patients with cancer, autism

and depression. It also has been shown to help soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder or people traumatized after living through a natural disaster or coping with abuse. Traumatic memories are stored in the non-verbal part of the brain, said Donna Betts, board president of the American Art Therapy Association.

Art therapists are specially trained in both art and mental health. Pence is often quoted as saying art therapy is not arts and crafts. Adult coloring books are also not art therapy, Betts said.

The field of art therapy has existed for only about a half-century, Betts said. Not all insurers cover the practice, which has limited its use. In Maryland, private insurers that provide mental health coverage include art therapy as a treatment they cover. Medicaid, the government insurance program for low-income people, covers some art therapy, but not in all states, Betts said.

Because the University of Maryland Children's Hospital art therapy program is funded through Hogan's foundation, it is offering services to patients and their families for free and won't require people to have insurance.

Integrating art therapy into children's hospitals is a "fairly new phenomena," said Dr. Steven J. Czinn, chair of the department of pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and director of the University of Maryland Children's Hospital.

"We aren't only healing the physical ailments, this gives us the opportunity to treat our patients' emotional and mental well-being," Czinn said. "This is really something that needs to be a part of all children's hospitals."

Weishaar treats patients in an art therapy room at the children's hospital or he will

visit patients' rooms to hold sessions. He said patients can use the program as much as they like.

Josh Birch said he comes as often as he can.

During a recent session, Weishaar drew a circle on a large piece of paper. Then he, Josh and the teenager's mother drew pictures within the circle, but they weren't allowed to speak. The idea of the session was to see what emotions were revealed in the drawing.

Josh drew a tree with many limbs coming out of it. He said the limbs represent all his thoughts. Because when you are living with cancer you have a lot of thoughts and worries, he said.

Sarah Birch drew a mountain with a rainbow coming out of the side, the sun shining in the sky and a bird flying overhead. She wasn't sure why she drew it at first. It was the first thing that popped in her head. Then she thought about the symbolism.

"I feel we have climbed a mountain, but now we are at the steepest point and things are getting better," she said. "I know he is going to do big things one day and I just want to get him healthy."

She said art therapy has helped her son open up about his true feelings, given him something to look forward to and kept his mind off his chemotherapy. He has one treatment left.

"He was always the most composed of all of us, trying to put up a tough guy persona," Sarah Birch said. "But I thought it had to be affecting him. With art therapy he let his guard down. He was able to try and deal with some of the feelings he was going through rather than be so happy for everyone else."

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Protest by Ravens draws anger, praise

ANTHEM, From page 1

"That's a total disrespect of our heritage. That's a total disrespect of everything that we stand for," Trump told supporters Friday in Alabama. "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now?'"

Most Ravens players and coaches locked arms during "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Wembley Stadium. About 10 Ravens knelt. They included wide receiver Mike Wallace, linebackers C.J. Mosley, Terrell Suggs and Za'Darius Smith, defensive tackle Carl Davis and defensive backs Tony Jefferson, Lardarius Webb and Anthony Levine Sr.

Former Raven Ray Lewis, an honorary captain for the game, also took a knee during the anthem in between Mosley and Wallace.

It was the first time any Raven player has showed any form of protest during the anthem.

On the other sideline, Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Khan, a supporter of President Trump, joined his players and coaches in locking arms.

The players stood during "God Save Our Queen," the British national anthem.

"Very emotional this morning," Ravens tight end Benjamin Watson said. "A lot of guys were upset about the things President Trump said, were upset that he would imply that we can't exercise our First Amendment rights as players. We were upset that he would imply that we should be fired for exercising those rights."

Said Suggs: "We stand with our brothers. They have the right to protest. We knelt with them today. Nonviolent protest is as American as it gets. We knelt with them today and let them know we are a unified front. There is no dividing us. I guess we're all sons of

bitches."

Trump responded to the protests on Sunday.

"This has nothing to do with race," he said.

"This has to do with respect for our country." "We have a great country," he added. "We have great people representing our country, especially our soldiers our first responders and they should be treated with respect."

The demonstration was welcomed by many fans who gathered at the bars in Federal Hill to watch the game.

Outside Cross Street Market, Mike Smith, 36, said the protest was "achieving its goal" of raising awareness about social justice. The Northeast Baltimore man, who wore a Matt Stover jersey, said Trump had provoked the players.

"A lot of it is based on what's going on with the president and calling people" names, he said. "You're not supposed to do that. You're the boss. The boss don't talk like that. It's the language. It's the threats. It's the petulant behavior. There's a domino effect."

The protests were launched last year by then-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick. Kaepernick sat during the national anthem before a preseason game in protest, he said, of social and racial inequality after a series of black men were shot and killed by police officers. Later, he knelt during the anthem.

After last season, Kaepernick opted out of his contract to become a free agent. He remains unsigned. Some believe he has been blackballed for his social activism.

More than 100 players across the NFL sat or knelt during the anthem Sunday. The Pittsburgh Steelers remained in their locker room as the national anthem played before their game with the Chicago Bears.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin stood by



TIM IRELAND/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jaguars players lock arms and kneel down during the playing of the U.S. national anthem before a game against the Ravens at Wembley Stadium in London on Sunday.

himself on the sideline. Steelers offensive tackle Alejandro Villanueva, a former Army Ranger who served three deployments in Afghanistan, stood at the opening of a tunnel with his hand over his heart.

The Tennessee Titans and the Seattle Seahawks also decided against appearing on the field during the national anthem.

The Seahawks announced nearly 30 minutes before kickoff that they would not stand for the national anthem because they "will not stand for the injustice that has plagued people of color in this country."

The Titans followed 10 minutes later by saying they would remain in the locker room during the national anthem. They posted a statement on their website noting they want to be unified as a team, and the players decided jointly that staying inside was the best course of action.

The team also said their commitment to the military and community is "resolute" and that "the absence of our team for the national anthem shouldn't be misconstrued as unpatriotic."

In Federal Hill, Ravens fan Andrew Nicklas, 33, said he supported the Ravens players who protested.

"Why shouldn't they?" the Baltimore man asked. "It's a constitutional right. Good for them. It's something everyone should be far more concerned about than they are. This is an important cause."

Fellow Ravens fan CW Judy, 34, of Annapolis, said the players were right to stand up to the president.

"Trump is talking about NFL players like they're thugs," Judy said. "I think it's completely admirable. I'm behind them all the way."

Many on social media took the opposing view. Angry posters on the Ravens Facebook page called team owner Steve Bisciotti a "pathetic disgrace," and vowed to boycott the team.

"Revoke their passports and leave them in the U.K.," one poster wrote.

In a telephone interview, Gahler, a former Maryland state trooper, said he had a big-screen TV in his basement just to watch the Ravens. Now, he said, he'll find something else to do with his Sundays.

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Victims' families grow frustrated, angry as they await justice

FAMILIES, From page 1

the number of families who have lost loved ones continues to mount as the death toll rises. The city has experienced more than 250 homicides so far this year.

Adding to their despair, some say, is the sense that whoever brought death to their family is still out there, ready to strike again, and that police are too overwhelmed to do anything about it.

"At times, you feel like you are fighting them as well as the people who killed your loved one," Makel says.

Makel, who says his mother was killed in the same area in the 1970s, says the detective working his son's killing told him within days of the shooting that he knew who was responsible, but that police and prosecutors have been unable to agree on whether there is enough evidence to file charges.

Officials in Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn J. Mosby's office have told Makel the evidence isn't there yet, but have provided little in the way of explanation, he says.

"I would love to have some answers," he says. "I feel like we're due that much."

Mosby's office declined to comment on the case.

T.J. Smith, a police spokesman, said the Police Department has people of interest or suspects in several open homicide cases, but "must meet the threshold of probable cause in order to charge them," and hasn't gotten there yet.

"It's a tragedy and one can only imagine the hopelessness that a family feels when a potential suspect in their loved ones

murder has been identified, but probable cause hasn't been met," Smith said.

Smith's own brother was killed in the city in July. A man has been charged in that killing.

In the Makel case, Smith said, "we are continuing to work diligently ... in hopes of gathering more evidence to cross the threshold of probable cause. We consult with the state's attorney's office, and it would not be wise for us to move forward on murder charges if the State's Attorney's Office disagrees."

The Police Department this year ended a six-year agreement with the state's attorney's office that gave prosecutors the sole authority to charge homicide suspects.

Now when police believe they have evidence to bring homicide charges and prosecutors disagree, a committee of four commanders reviews the case.

Makel says he was told by police investigators that his son's case would go before that panel, but has been given contradicting statements since from police and prosecutors.

"I don't know if I've been lied to," he says. "Throughout the whole process, I just feel let down by each of these agencies. It's just a slap in the face of a parent whose 19-year-old son was murdered."

Smith said police "are not at a point where probable cause exists for an arrest" in the Makel case.

"Even with our panel," he said, "we still work with the prosecutorial body to move forward."

Smith would not say whether the panel has overruled prosecutors in any cases

since its inception.

Ghalila Pietros' brother was killed in West Baltimore last month. Not knowing what happened in his unsolved killing, she says, has left her feeling as if she is floating in empty space, with nothing to grab onto.

"You want to see justice happen, but it's not happening," she says. "And it's not just us. It seems like it's a problem throughout the city of Baltimore."

Police often say that a small number of criminals and "trigger pullers" is responsible for a disproportionate amount of violent crime in the city. Pietros believes that to be true. She says it isn't reassuring, but terrifying.

"The part that really scares me is that it seems like we are just allowing these serial killers to do what they want to do," she says.

Degoul Pietros, 36, lived in Washington. But he was in West Baltimore visiting his brother Ezana and his three nephews in Penn North when he was killed, his sister says. He wasn't perfect, she says, and had a criminal record, but had just graduated at the end of June from a culinary program in Washington, had interned at top-notch restaurants, and had just landed a new cooking gig.

He was shot in the head about 9:55 p.m. Aug. 2 in the 2500 block of Francis St., police said. His sister says he was cooking dinner for the family when he ran out to the store for more ingredients.

He was carjacked soon afterward, his sister says.

His family, immigrants from Eritrea, don't know what to make of the killing, Ghalila Pietros says.

"We definitely don't know the who," she says. "We definitely don't know the why."

She thinks police should be doing more to find and arrest the killer, she says, but understands that they have their limits. She compares Baltimore to war zones.

"Am I frustrated that police do not have the person? Absolutely. But I also think it's the environment they are in," she says. "They're overwhelmed. It's like they're in Afghanistan or Iraq."

Makel, who has lived in his West Cold Spring Lane home about seven years and sells heating and plumbing supplies in Baltimore County, says his son "sold marijuana and smoked marijuana" and had a minor criminal record. But he wasn't involved in violence and was a good person, his father says.

Michael Makel Jr. was found with multiple gunshot wounds about 3:45 a.m. Oct. 30, 2016, police said.

Makel believes whoever killed his son did so to rob him.

He wishes he could move, to take his young daughter out of the city and away from all the things that remind her of her brother's killing. But he says he owes too much money on his house to do that.

He would feel more comfortable if police made an arrest in the killing, he says. But he doesn't know whether that will ever happen, and says he has almost given up hope.

"Nobody," he says, "will give me any answers."

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