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NCAA President Calls For Student-Athlete Stipends

By CHRISTOPHER NEELY
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK — The idea that NCAA student-athletes are employees that deserve to be paid to play is “silly,” NCAA president Mark Emmert said Wednesday at an event at the University of Maryland.

“There is no one that I’ve talked to in intercollegiate athletics that thinks the idea of converting student-athletes into employees is a good idea,” Emmert said. “It would completely change the relationship.”

But, Emmert said, scholarships do not cover the full cost of attending college and student-athletes should be given a stipend to cover miscellaneous expenses.

“Right now we provide Division I athletes with tuition. They get a full scholarship, room and board, books and supplies. For a student-athlete who’s putting in the demands of being an athlete and a student, the opportunities for work jobs are hard and limited. There’s something missing in that,” he said.

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AMANDA SALVUCCI

Anti-fracking demonstrators march at Baltimore City Hall on Feb. 20.

Marylanders Brace for Natural Gas Export Facility

By LYLE KENDRICK
Capital News Service

COVE POINT — The natural gas pipes on Dominion’s Cove Point property begin on a pier in the Chesapeake Bay.

They then descend underground and run for more than a mile behind the walls of a dimly lit tunnel for foot-brake bicycles that workers use to travel from the dock to shore. Above ground, the pipes pass acres of trees and finally connect to seven massive storage tanks before the gas ultimately travels to American consumers.

This winter, they have been empty of the imported gas that filled them for years. But now, Dominion and Maryland are bracing for the Chesapeake Bay dock, which was once a starting point for imported gas’ journey on American soil, to be the take-off spot for exports.

When that happens, Cove Point will become the first operational gas exporting facility on the East Coast. Dominion plans to begin construction by the end of the year.

The plan to export gas has raised questions across the state about whether the plant will be

a boon for the economy or cause significant damage to the environment.

Some Marylanders see the export plant, like Dominion does, as a job-creating opportunity for the state that is more environmentally-friendly than coal production.

“It gives us a chance to export something,” said Delegate James Proctor, D-Calvert and Prince George’s.

But others see the conversion as an environmental hazard that

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Baltimore Startup Aims to Revolutionize Rehabilitation Industry

By PATRICK FARRELL
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE — Four years after Microsoft introduced the innovative Xbox Kinect motion sensor, the Baltimore-based software startup Rehabtics is aiming to use that same technology to revolutionize the physical rehabilitation industry.

Utilizing the same motion-sensing camera that allows users to interact with their Xbox video game system using hand gestures and body motion, a team of biomedical engineers and game designers is currently developing software that facilitates interactive physical rehabilitation from the comfort of a patient’s home.

The software’s game-like interface — based on the Unity game engine — tracks users’ speed and range of movement to generate a variety of statistics that physicians can utilize for therapy.

Customization settings allow users to create a character, pick an environment — ranging from a kitchen to a sports field — and then complete exercises and play games tailored to each individual’s rehabilitation program.

The brainchild of Xiaoxu Kang, the idea for Rehabtics was born during Kang’s tour of a biomedical prosthetics robotics plant while obtaining her master’s degree in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY PATRICK FARRELL

Rehabtics founder Xiaoxu Kang says her goal is not to create new physical therapy, but rather to use this technology to bring existing techniques into each patient’s home.

At the time, the lab was developing technology which recorded brain signals to control prosthetic arms for amputees.

“It was cool, but invasive ... it took a long time to get to the market,” Kang said, noting that oftentimes biomedical engineering projects are both lengthy and costly endeavors.

“We wanted something that could go to market quickly — a low cost device that everyone could use,” she said.

From there, the idea for Rehabtics was born.

“I had seen motion technology in action in the Xbox video game systems — games including sports and dancing where the system could track movements,” she said. “That

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Maryland Lawmakers Crack Open Official State Sandwich Legislation

By SARAH TINCHER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — From the official state bird, the Baltimore Oriole, to the official state dessert, the Smith Island Cake, Maryland has just about every state symbol covered. But that’s not enough for some lawmakers who — for the second year in a row — are trying to add one more “official” to the pile: a state sandwich.

A proposal to make the soft-shell crab sandwich the state’s official sandwich passed in the Senate but went stale in the House during the 2013 session. However, advocates have put it back on the menu — it’s being debated again this year in both chambers.

A soft-shell crab is simply a crab which has molted its shell, thus making it soft. The first full moon in May traditionally marks the beginning of the season for the delicacy, which is fried whole and stuck between two pieces of bread — complete with the legs sticking out the sides.

At Miss Shirley’s Cafe in Annapolis, the crabs are dipped

in buttermilk and a cornmeal concoction before making their way to the fryer.

While some Marylanders argue that the crabcake sandwich should have been chosen over the soft crab, bill sponsor Sen. Richard Colburn, R-Dorchester, thinks the unique soft-shell crab sandwich still has a leg — or eight — to stand on.

“You never ever be certain whether the crab in [the crabcake] sandwich is from Maryland,” Colburn said. “The soft crab is unique, it’s coming from the Chesapeake Bay. Soft crab sandwich is a unique delicacy and it’s the only crab you can eat with legs sticking out of the bread.”

Some people, however, say the state has better sandwiches to go alongside the official state drink: milk.

Shannon Westlund, owner of Ocean City’s Mug and Mallet restaurant, said her vote would have doubtlessly been for a crabcake sandwich over the soft-shell crab — although she acknowledged that taking a crack at eating a whole soft crab is a little more difficult for out-of-state beach



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY SARAH TINCHER

One version of the sandwich, the “Soft-Shell Crab Po’Boy,” at Miss Shirley’s Cafe in Annapolis.

visitors than it is for Free State natives born with Old Bay in their veins.

“Tourists aren’t going to eat a soft-shell sandwich because it’s a little intimidating,” Westlund said. “But everyone will try a crabcake sandwich ... I don’t understand why that wasn’t the top priority.”

The sandwich debate is still heating up, but almost every Marylander can agree that as far as an official Maryland sandwich is concerned, some form of the blue crab — which is already the state’s official crustacean — is a must.

Dick Franyo, owner of Annapolis’ Boatyard Bar and Grill, said as long as there’s blue crab in it, he’s fine either way.

“We sell more crabcakes because crabcakes are probably more widely palatable [and] more user-friendly. ... But for the aficionado who wants the real deal, they’ll want the soft crab,” Franyo said.

Jan McIlwain, Miss Shirley’s spokeswoman, said most people are excited for the soft-shell crab

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Ruppersberger Proposes Changes to NSA Data Collection

By ILANA SHULEVITZ
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — Maryland Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Cockeysville, joined House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich., Tuesday to unveil a bipartisan bill that would end the government’s mass collection of metadata and instead allow the government to order communication companies to search their files for more specific information.

The FISA Transparency and Modernization Act is the committee’s latest attempt to quell Americans’ worries about the systematic dragnet collection of millions of Americans’ phone and other electronic data by federal agencies.

“The metadata was legal... but there was a perception issue,” said Ruppersberger, the ranking Democrat on the Intelligence Committee. “What we’re trying to do here is alleviate that concern that there could be abuse in the future.”

The bill is making its debut the same week that the Obama administration is expected to release its own proposal for data collection reform.

The administration’s proposal will call for an end to collecting information in bulk, too, according to the New York Times. One key difference between the two is that the House committee’s bill would not require that the government get a warrant before issuing a directive to the phone companies.

Under Ruppersberger’s proposal, the data request would be reviewed afterward by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which could reject it and force the government to discard the records.

“Basically, what we’re doing is listening to the American people, but our committee has a responsibility to protect the American people from terrorist attacks,” Ruppersberger said.

Ruppersberger’s proposal would also implement procedures to ensure that only data concerning terrorist and foreign intelligence targets is sought. One such process would require the government to pass a “RAS”, or reasonable and articulable suspicion, test to determine if a phone number is associated with terrorism.

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INSIDE

Task Force Recommends Maryland's First Veterans Court

“They’ve still not treated the underlying illness which isn’t drug abuse, it’s the psychological injury,” Burch said recently, standing outside the Prince George’s County Courthouse in Bowie. “The courts here, they don’t have time to delve into that.”

Community, Page A3

Milkuski Congratulates Girl Scouts on 102nd Anniversary

“First of all, the Girl Scout promise: ‘To serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and live by the Girl Scout law.’ But here’s the Girl Scout law. I actually carry this in my wallet, and I’ll tell you why. Because if you follow the Girl Scout law, you’re in pretty good shape.”

Commentary, Page A4

Milkuski Embarks on Three-Stop Southern Maryland Jobs Tour

Senator Mikuski discussed her support of an expanded presence of the University of Maryland System in St. Mary’s County as well as her work to bring broadband infrastructure to Southern Maryland through the ONE Maryland Broadband Network.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: “Joe”

Friendship, violence and redemption erupts in the contemporary South in this adaptation of Larry Brown’s novel, celebrated at for its grit and its deeply moving core. JOE stars Nicolas Cage as the hard-living, hot-tempered, ex-con Joe Ransom, who is just trying to dodge his instincts for trouble - until he meets a hard-luck kid.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some cool apps that work with a mobile phone that can help me get in better touch with the environment?

— Mitchell Brown,
Troy, MI

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Three candidates vie for two Morningside Town Council seats

Morningsiders head to the polls Monday May 5 to vote for two Council Members. The three in the running are Benn Cann, Sharon Fowler and incumbent Sheila Scott. Following are excerpts from bios they submitted for The Morningside Sun.

Benn Cann, a Morningside resident for seven years, is a native of Winston-Salem, N.C., and graduate of Fayetteville State University. He is Director of University Advertising at George Washington University and a volunteer Chairman of the Board of the Global Language Network. He volunteers at the Oak Hill Youth Detention Center and the Ronald McDonald House. He plans to use his leadership and business skills to improve after-school youth activities and senior services, and to build participation in Town meetings and concerns.

Sharon Fowler, a Morningside resident for 27 years, previously served a term on the Council, during which she learned a lot about the workings of municipal government. She is active with the Morningside Recreation Council and has served on the Town's Election Board. Mayor Jerry Glaubitz often had her fill in for the Town clerk, giving her an understanding of day-to-day Town operations. She sees things in the Town that could use improvement, such as the Town charter, streets and lighting.

Sheila V. Scott, a current member of the Town Council, has lived in Morningside for more than 24 years and worked for the federal government for 33 years. She'll continue to be a strong advocate of public safety and will work with the Morningside Police and the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department to ensure the Town's homes and streets remain safe. Through attendance at valuable meetings, she'll keep the residents aware of jobs, educational opportunities and available healthcare.

The election will be at the Morningside Town Hall, 6901 Ames Street. Polls will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Those desiring to vote absentee must submit a request for an absentee ballot to the Administrative Office by 5 p.m. on April 21.

Neighbors

The Morningside Recreation Council is gearing up for the annual Morningside 4th of July Parade. If you or someone you know—business, organization, civic group, association, family or individual—would like to be in the parade, contact Mrs. Mullins at 301-412-0135 for a registration form or more information.

Keon Branham, of Skyline, graduated in December from Freestate Challenge Academy in Aberdeen, Md., and is applying to the Job Corps.

Condolences to Phil and Shirley Eppard, of Auth Village, on the death of Phil's brother, Dr. Leonard Eppard, on March 26.

Condolences to Ruby Holloway, of Skyline, on the death of her sister Dorothy Mae Shelton, March 29.

I am sad to report that Karen Cottrell, who grew up in Skyline and graduated from Central in 1978, has died. A memorial service was held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on April 5. I'll pay tribute to her in next week's column.

Changing landscape

I've lived on Skyline Drive since 1958, and have never seen a deer in my yard. The other day I looked out an upstairs window and, to my surprise, spotted a doe roaming my backyard. I watched as she leapt two fences and disappeared into the woods.

The American Humanist Association filed a lawsuit on Feb. 25 alleging the Memorial Peace Cross, a monument honoring veterans who died in World War I, violates First Amendment rights. The landmark has become synonymous with the historic town of Bladensburg. The Snyder-

Farmer Post of the American Legion of Hyattsville erected the 40-foot cross of cement and marble to recall the 49 Prince George's men who died in World War I. The American Legion dedicated it on July 13, 1925.

This landscape, I pray, will never change!

May they rest in peace

Carolyn C. "Beanie" Chaney, 66, of Riva and formerly Hillcrest Heights, a 1965 graduate of La Reine High School, died March 27. She graduated from Allegheny College and had an MBA from Marymount University. She co-founded CapitalEdge as a liaison between her clients and Congress and the Executive Branch. In recent years she helped in steering flood control projects through Congress and the Army Corps of Engineers. Survivors include her husband of 40 years, Stanley Lee Chaney, son David and two brothers.

Irvin Hamburger, 86, an Air Force civilian engineer who helped design, coordinate and construct the Air Force One hangar at Joint Base Andrews, died Feb. 9 in Media, Pa.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Darlie Fay Norton and Donald Brown Jr., April 13; Ruth Nanney, Jean Osterkamp, Donald Brown Sr., Sarah Shipman, Autumn Williams and Fr. Jeffrey Samaha, April 14; Bill Ward, Eva Hay and Les Bornmar, April 15; Tara Destiny Buckner, Edna Ducote and Wanda Brooke, April 16; Eloise Carnes, Ruby Cunningham and Veronica Frostbutter, April 17.

Happy 58th anniversary to Dwight and Ruby Holloway on April 14; to John and Emily Tierney, their 64th on April 15; to Edward and Jane (Martin) Talbert, their 65th on April 16; and to Larry and Jody (Bowman) Nyers who'll celebrate 34 years. They were married at the Prince George's Courthouse on April 18, 1980.

bury United Methodist Church. The church is located at 4004 Accokeek Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613. The time is 4:00 PM. Donation is \$10.00. This program is sponsored by: Peter A. Gross Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund Inc. For tickets contact Michele Chase at 240-882-3369. The groups on the program are Jr. and the Voices of Harmony, New Hope Fellowship Male Chorus, Tolson Family, Mother's Dream and Redeeming Soul.

WESTPHALIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Westphalia United Methodist Church free community Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 19, 2014 from 1:00-3:00 pm at Little Washington Park. The park is located at 2505 Sansbury Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774 (across from Arrowhead Elementary School). Games start at 1:00 PM and hunt starts at 1:30 PM. There will be free food, arts and crafts, games and prizes and moon bounce. For more information contact Keena Chew, Agape Outreach Ministry at agapeinaction@westphaliaum.org.

Neighborhood Events

U.S. Rep. Donna Edwards Urges Passage of \$10.10 Minimum Wage Bill and Increase for Tipped Workers In Maryland



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

ANNAPOLIS — U.S. Rep. Donna Edwards urged passage of a \$10.10 minimum wage bill in Maryland with an increase for tipped workers at a press conference today in Annapolis. Surrounded by female state legislators, Rep. Edwards spoke about the effect that low wages have on women and families. A bill to raise the state's minimum wage to \$10.10 has passed the Maryland House of Delegates and is pending before the Senate. A measure to raise wages for tipped workers from 50 to 70 percent of the minimum wage was amended in the House version to freeze tipped wages at \$3.63, the current rate. This amendment means that as the minimum wage rises, tipped worker's pay would remain at the current level, giving them a pay cut.

"Maryland's tipped workers, 60 percent of whom are women, deserve a raise to make ends meet and provide for their families. I will continue to champion this issue in the halls of Congress to end the over 20-year freeze on tipped wages at the national level," said Edwards. "But it is critical that Maryland join the fight and serve as a model of how raising the tipped minimum wage will help families and grow our economy. It's time to stop asking taxpayers to subsidize the profit margins of employers who persist in paying poverty wages. These men and women, who struggle every day and contribute tremendously to our economy, have been left behind for too long."

Advocates for tipped workers also spoke at the event as well as Kevin Wheeler, a tipped worker who is a bartender at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. He spoke about the difficulty of providing for himself and his family on uncertain, low wages.

Several female legislators, including Del. Elizabeth Bobo, Del. Anne Healy, Del. Anne Kaiser, Del. Susan Lee, Del. Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Del. Cheryl Glenn, Del. Veronica Turner, Del. Barbara Frush, Del. Carolyn Howard attended as well as Del. Aisha Braveboy, who introduced Rep. Edwards.

"I urge my colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee to act quickly to pass a fair and meaningful minimum wage of \$10.10 out of their committee," said Sen. Verna Jones-Rodwell of Baltimore City. "I know that many of my colleagues in the Senate are anxious to consider this bill and need to have adequate time to make fair and considered policy."

The nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute has found that more than 455,000 Marylanders would benefit from the in-

crease, putting \$456 million more in their pockets in the next two years. At the same time, businesses would benefit from nearly half a billion dollars in new consumer spending and would create more than 1,600 new full-time jobs as they expand to meet increased demand.

County Council Adopts Legislation Establishing Science and Technology Business District

CR-7-2014 Spurs Economic Development; Encourages Technology, Life Science and Bioscience Industries in Prince George's County

The Prince George's County Council unanimously adopted CR-7-2014 on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, legislation establishing a Prince George's County Science and Technology Business District.

Council Member Eric Olson (D) – District 3, sponsor of the legislation, says Prince George's County must capitalize on the unique strengths of the science and technology corridors in the northwestern areas of the County.

"Prince George's County has a great deal to offer in the area of science and technology, and we want to take a proactive approach in promoting the types of opportunities that spur economic development and bring these types of industries to the area. This legislation can help us keep science and tech businesses in the county that are being incubated at the University of Maryland, and help us attract additional science and technology jobs."

Given its strong federal research and academic presence, Prince George's County is uniquely situated to attract and promote the technology, life science and bio science industries. Home to the University of Maryland at College Park; M Square Research Park; Beltsville Agricultural Research Center; NASA-Goddard; U.S. Army Research Laboratory; and the planned Howard University Research Park, Prince George's County is well positioned to bring significant benefits, as well as public and private sector job opportunities to the area.

Under CR-7-2014, the Science and Technology Business District will be composed of the Greater Beltsville, College Park, Riverdale, Riverdale Park, Berwyn Heights and Greenbelt areas. Additionally, the legislation will make room for an expedited review and approval process for qualified science and technology projects within the District, and provide tax incentives for qualified businesses in the technology, science and biotech industries.

Prince George's County Partners with the State Highway Administration for a Countywide Litter Blitz

LARGO, MD — The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will partner with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) on Friday, March 21, 2014 for the Kick Off of the Countywide Litter Blitz. The Litter Blitz will focus on removing litter and illegal signs from the primary and state

roadways starting in the Chillum area on Friday, March 21 and will continue with the cleanup of County roadways through March 28.

"DPW&T looks forward to working with SHA in this concentrated effort to remove litter from our roadways," said DPW&T Director Darrell Mobley. "This first Litter Blitz is just the beginning of what will be a concerted, sustained effort to ensure that roads throughout Prince George's County are clean, attractive and litter-free."

Motorists are advised to stay alert and be aware of trucks and crews working on the roadways. Remember to stay safe and slow down as you approach a work zone.

To report litter on the roadways or illegal signs, please call CountyClick at 311 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday – Friday or submit your information online at www.countyclick311.com.

Award-Winning Bowie State Professor Named Visiting Fellow at Harvard

(Bowie, Md.) — A Bowie State University professor will develop a massive open online course (MOOC) to teach people how to effectively report the news using mobile devices, as one of five 2014 Visiting Fellows from Harvard University's prestigious Nieman Foundation for Journalism.

Starting this week, Allissa Richardson, lecturer of journalism, will spend two weeks as a scholar-in-residence, building the online class as a free tool to teach veteran journalists, citizens, and journalism students how to effectively report news using only tablets, mp3 players or smartphones. She started working on the course in fall 2013 and will continue her work at Harvard, as well as giving talks on mobile journalism and exchanges ideas with other Visiting Fellows.

"Mobile journalism is an increasingly vital skill for the public to have. In times of crisis, the ordinary citizen journalist who is armed with a smartphone is often the only eyewitness we have," said Richardson said. "When more people know about how to gather and interpret news that happens around them, the media ecosystem becomes a richer, more diverse place."

Professor Richardson has been widely recognized for her innovations in mobile journalism. She was named a 2013 Apple Distinguished Educator for her creative teaching style, enabling Bowie State to receive Apple equipment and software for the mobile journalism lab she established in the Department of Communications. She was also named the 2012 National Association of Black Journalism Educator of the Year.

The Nieman Foundation of Journalism works with the Fellows on a project designed to enhance journalism in unique ways. The visiting fellowships are specifically designed for individuals interested in working on special research projects designed to advance journalism. The foundation educates leaders in journalism and raises the standards of the profession by convening scholars and experts in all fields.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Basketball Spring Camp is offered from April 14-April 18 from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM for ages 6-12. The fee is \$135.00 per camper (Before and After Care are also available). Boys and girls will learn fundamentals including shooting and rebounding, conditioning, passing and dribbling. Also included will be game time, crafts and more recreation fun. "The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities". Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

Baden Community Center is located just 5 minutes south of Brandywine Elementary School at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-888-1500 and TTY 301-203-6030.

ST. PHILIP'S DAY

You are cordially invited to attend St. Philip's Day, Sunday, May 4, 2014. Their worship

service is 9:30 AM with activities presented during the service by their Family Church Members. Please come and enjoy their St. Philip's Day. Chicken Boxes will be sold for \$5.00 following the worship service. Their church is located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426.

SOUTH & SOUND THEATRES

The Young Adults Ministry at Clinton United Methodist Church is sponsoring a trip Saturday, August 16, 2014 (6:30 PM Show) to see MOSES. Cost: (show, meal, gratuity, transportation, refreshment on bus). Adult: \$135 (over 18 yrs.); Youth: \$100 (13-18yrs.); Child: \$95 (3-12 yrs.). Payment schedule is 1/3 due on April 30, May 30, and June 30, 2014. Time will be allotted for shopping. Contact Bonnie Hayes at 301 752-3653 or Barron Neal 301 516-7633.

ANNUAL GOSPEL PROGRAM

Come out and enjoy an evening of Gospel Music on Sunday April 27, 2014 at As-

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Spend Your Tax Refund Wisely

Last year the IRS doled out over 110 million income tax refunds averaging \$2,803. Another way to look at it is that collectively, Americans overpaid their taxes by nearly \$310 billion in 2012.

Part of that is understandable: If you don't have enough tax withheld throughout the year through payroll deductions or quarterly estimated tax payments, you'll be hit with an underpayment penalty come April 15. But the flip side is that by over-withholding, you're essentially giving the government an interest-free loan throughout the year.

If you ordinarily receive large tax refunds, consider withholding less and instead putting the money to work for you, by either saving or investing a comparable amount throughout the year, or using it to pay down debt. Your goal should be to receive little or no refund.

Ask your employer for a new W-4 form and recalculate your withholding allowance using the IRS' Withholding Calculator (at www.irs.gov). This is also a good idea whenever your pay or family situation changes significantly (e.g., pay increase, marriage, divorce, new child, etc.) IRS Publication 919 can guide you through the decision-making process.

Meanwhile, if you do get a hefty refund this year, before blowing it all on something you really don't need, consider these options:

Pay down debt. Beefing up credit card and loan payments can significantly lower your long-term interest payments. Suppose you currently pay \$120 a month toward a \$3,000 credit card balance at 18 percent interest. At that pace it'll take 32 months and \$788 in interest to pay it off, assuming no new purchases. By doubling your payment to \$240 you'll shave off 18 months and \$441 in interest.

Note: If you carry balances on multiple cards, always make at least the minimum payments to avoid penalties.

The same strategy will work when paying down loans (mortgage, auto, personal, etc.) Ask the lender to apply your extra payment to the loan principal amount, which will shorten the payoff time and reduce the amount of overall interest paid. Just make sure to ask whether there's a prepayment penalty before trying this strategy.

Boost your emergency fund. As protection against a job loss, medical emergency or other financial crisis, try to set aside enough cash to cover six to nine months of living expenses. Seed the account with part of your refund and then set up monthly automatic deductions from your paycheck or checking account going forward.

Increase retirement savings. If your debt and emergency savings are under control, add to your IRA or 401(k) accounts, especially if your employer matches contributions; remember, a 50 percent match corresponds to a 50 percent rate of return — something you're not likely to find anywhere else.

Finance education. Enroll in college courses or vocational training to gain additional skills in case you lose your job or want to change careers. And ask whether your employer will help pay for job-related education.

You can also set money aside for your children's or grandchildren's education by contributing to a 529 Qualified State Tuition Plan. As an incentive, the government allows your contributions to grow tax-free until they're withdrawn.

And finally, to check on the status of your refund, go to the IRS's Where's My Refund site. You can usually get information about your refund 24 hours after the IRS acknowledges receipt of your e-filed return or about four weeks after filing a paper return.



Task Force Recommends Maryland's First Veterans Court

By BRANDON GOLDNER
Capital News Service

BOWIE — After tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, Nicholas Stefanovic left the Marine Corps in 2006, but like many of his brothers, he immediately began to experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

So he found what he thought was a solution: prescription painkillers.

"Drugs are a very effective cure for mental health disorders," Stefanovic, 31, said. "They eventually become the main problem."

For three years, Stefanovic's drug addiction was his main problem, which led to other issues.

It took everything from me," Stefanovic said. "It left me broke, homeless so in order to get money, I was cashing checks that weren't mine."

In April 2009, the New York man was arrested for illegally cashing checks. But instead of having a court date in a regular criminal court, he was placed in a veterans court in Rochester, N.Y.

Veterans courts are similar to drug courts, and have gained popularity. Soon, they may begin operating in Maryland.

There are at least 130 veterans courts established in 35 states. Another 100 courts are in the planning stages.

A Maryland state task force has recommended that a veterans court be established at the circuit

court level in Prince George's County. The county is home to the largest veteran population in the state.

Sen. Douglas J.J. Peters, D-Prince George's, is a Desert Storm veteran who chaired the task force. He said a veterans court would allow fellow soldiers to interact and heal each other.

"Soldiers respond to soldiers," Peters said. "If I'm sitting across the table from you, and I can say, 'Look, I was in combat. I went through that. You can make it. You can do it.'"

Peters said the Maryland veterans court proposal is in the planning stages, and if approved by the Maryland Court of Appeals, could open by the end of the year.

Many experts said veterans courts save money; something Maryland could use as the state's top budget analyst is projecting a \$500 million budget deficit.

Matthew Stiner, a veteran who established a veterans court in Tulsa, Okla., said veterans courts save money because it emphasizes rehabilitation instead of jail time.

"Instead of spending money on incarceration, which costs about \$32,000 a year [for one veteran], it costs maybe \$5,000 ... to run one of these programs for someone to go through," Stiner said.

The effort to spread veterans courts to more jurisdictions now includes the help of a famous actress.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICHOLAS STEFANOVIC
After tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, Nicholas Stefanovic left the Marine Corps in 2006, but after an arrest, he successfully completed a veterans court program.

Melissa Fitzgerald, known for playing "Carol Fitzpatrick" on "The West Wing" was just recently named senior director of Justice for Vets, an organization that advocates for veterans courts.

"This is such a pivotal moment in our nation's history," Fitzgerald said on why she joined the cause. "We get to decide how we get to treat our veterans."

She said veterans courts support our ideals as Americans.

"We are supporting our troops," Fitzgerald said. "We are honoring their service, and we are showing our gratitude as a grateful nation by offering them a road back home."

But Larry Burch, a Navy veteran and attorney who represents many fellow veterans in criminal cases in Maryland and Washington, D.C., said court systems like Maryland's

take the wrong approach when it comes to veterans.

"They've still not treated the underlying illness which isn't drug abuse, it's the psychological injury," Burch said recently, standing outside the Prince George's County Courthouse in Bowie. "The courts here, they don't have time to delve into that."

In communities with veterans courts, the payoff is sometimes clearly evident.

Veterans court activists say the majority of individuals who go through the program do not return to the criminal system, but instead become model citizens like Stefanovic.

He's now working in the very same court he graduated from.

"It was what saved me," Stefanovic said. "It gave me purpose in the end to try to get that opportunity to as many veterans as I could."

NSA from A1

The proposal has already drawn criticism from some members of Congress and privacy organizations.

Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., co-author of a competing bill and an outspoken critic of the National Security Agency, said in a statement Monday that the FISA Transparency and Modernization Act "limits, but does not end, bulk collection."

Sensenbrenner's bill, the USA Freedom Act, has 163 co-

sponsors in both chambers and prohibits the NSA from collecting Americans' identifying information through tracked communications with foreigners. Also under the USA Freedom Act, data would need to be relevant to an ongoing investigation in order to be accessed.

Michelle Richardson, legislative counsel with the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement Tuesday that the House Intelligence Committee's bill is "on the wrong track" and that its sponsors are using "re-

form momentum as a pretext for expanding government power."

"The bill's modest improvements to the phone records program are not worth demolishing the important judicial role in overseeing these programs," she said.

Richardson applauded the Obama administration's plan to end the bulk collection of phone records as a crucial first step, but said the most attractive proposal to the ACLU is the far-reaching USA Freedom Act.

Concerns about the government's collection of phone, e-mail, and Internet data came to light 10 months ago when former NSA contractor Edward Snowden began leaking classified documents about the programs the agency was conducting.

Although many hail Snowden as a hero for his whistleblowing actions, Ruppertsberger does not. "Snowden took an oath and he turned his back on (his country)," Ruppertsberger said.

Snowden is currently under temporary asylum in Russia.

Startup from A1

was it!" I thought."

The team of designers, consisting of both current students and alumni from the Maryland Institute College of Arts, allow Kang to bring her initial vision and medical knowledge to a reality, and she calls herself "very lucky to have such a large team with complementary skill sets."

As of now, the software's pricing is yet to be set. The Kinect sensor itself currently retails for as low as \$99.

Kang and her team of developers hope that by creating interactive game software that incorporates physical therapy exercises in an engaging manner, they will encourage patients to continue their physical therapy

treatment from the comfort of home — after they have left hospitals and clinics.

"We're not trying to create new physical therapy," said Kang. "We're trying to extend the clinical practice to every patient's home — and make it available 24/7."

While the therapy techniques may not be new, this novel method of remote administration could very well open doors for the industry, as it possesses potential to revolutionize not only at home therapy, but in-patient care as well.

In that regard, the vision of Rehabtics has evolved beyond Kang's initial expectations.

"We imagined it would only be a system for home," Kang said, "but hospitals and



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY PATRICK FARRELLI
A game designer works on building an 'avatar' which users can customize to their liking. Users can also select from a variety of environments, ranging from a kitchen to a sports complex.

clinical managers have thought of more scenarios to use our system."

Kang believes that this clinical use will allow patients to be-

come comfortable with the software-based rehabilitation with a doctor's presence, and then take that same technology home to continue treatment.

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Crabs from A1

sandwich to reappear on the menu during the season.

"People look forward to it coming back on the menu during spring and summer," McIlwain said. "We have less people who are scared of

it and more looking forward to it."

The bill has already been heard in Senate and House committees. No further action has been taken, but Colburn is still hopeful that the bill will pass and be served up to the governor for his signature.

BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Welcomes Alaska Airlines

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD -- Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport welcomed the announcement that Alaska Airlines will start nonstop service between BWI Marshall and Seattle on September 2, 2014. Alaska Airlines is a new carrier for BWI Marshall.

"The addition of Alaska Airlines further demonstrates

the strength of BWI Marshall Airport and the State of Maryland," said Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. "The new nonstop service will enhance BWI Marshall as a key economic generator for Maryland and the entire National Capital region."

Alaska Airlines will fly one daily round trip between BWI Marshall and the airline's hub at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The new service will

be offered by the airline on its Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

"We are thrilled that Alaska Airlines is joining our team at BWI Marshall," said Paul J. Wiedefeld, Chief Executive Officer of BWI Marshall Airport. "Alaska Airlines is widely recognized as a friendly, innovative, customer-focused airline. Their approach is a good match for the convenience and customer service that we offer at BWI Marshall."

BWI Marshall has the long-standing reputation as the efficient, "Easy Come, Easy Go" airport for the region. The addition of Alaska Airlines offers new flight options to the Pacific Northwest and beyond for business and leisure travelers. Alaska Airlines serves markets across the Lower 48, Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, and Canada. Alaska Airlines and its partner regional airlines now serve more than 100 cities

COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Congratulates Girl Scouts on 102nd Anniversary

Senator is co-leader of Honorary Troop 1, a Girl Scout Troop of the women of the Senate

"Hats off to Girl Scouts everywhere, a big thanks to the leaders who do it, and let's eat those cookies!" Senator says

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Dean of the Senate women and a Girl Scout herself, spoke on the Senate floor to congratulate the Girl Scouts of America on their 102nd anniversary.

"I am honored to recognize the 102nd anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. As a Girl Scout, I know firsthand the important role they play in teaching leadership and community service to generations of girls," Senator Mikulski said. "I will continue to take the lessons I learned from the Girl Scouts — helping people at all times and being honest, fair, friendly and helpful — with me to the United States Senate every day in every way."

Senator Mikulski has worked on behalf of the Girl Scouts, supporting programs such as Girl Scouts Beyond Bars which allows girls to visit mothers who are incarcerated and participate in mother-daughter troop meetings. She is co-leader of Honorary Troop 1, a Girl Scout Troop of the women of the Senate.

Senator Mikulski's remarks on the Senate floor, as delivered, follow:

"If you noticed I'm dressed in green today, and I also have on a Girl Scout pin. Don't I look like a little Girl Scout standing here? I feel like a Girl Scout because I was a Girl Scout, and once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout!

"Today we are celebrating the 102nd anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. What started out as a group of 18 girls in Georgia, organized by Juliette Low, has grown into an organization of 3.2 million girls and women. As a Girl Scout, I know firsthand what it was like learning about leadership and service. I loved working on my badges! I loved the comradery of working with other girls on the various challenges we had."

"I was a child during World War II. The Girl Scout program, which was run out of our parish, was really important. It provided important activities for girls after school. And there were comparable Cub Scouts

and Boy Scouts, just like we had the Daisies and the Girl Scouts. And these were important activities, because in my community, women were working as 'Rosie the Riveters.' So these afterschool programs were critical, so we could actually be in a safe environment, we learned wonderful things, and we learned about our responsibilities."

"I can't think enough about Ms. Helen Nimick, who was my Girl Scout leader. I wanted to grow up and be like Ms. Nimick, who just seemed to know how to do 43 things with oatmeal box. But you know, what I loved the most was our pledges."

"First of all, the Girl Scout promise: 'To serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and live by the Girl Scout law.' But here's the Girl Scout law. I actually carry this in my wallet, and I'll tell you why. Because if you follow the Girl Scout law, you're in pretty good shape. And by the way, I think over 90 percent of the women in the Senate were either a Daisy or a Girl Scout."

"The Girl Scout law says this: 'I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and what I do, and to respect myself and others, to respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout, and a sister to every Boy Scout.' And I think that this is great."

"To Girl Scouts everywhere, whether they're Daisies or the senior leadership, we say congratulations on the 102nd anniversary. But I want to do a particular shout out for the leaders. People who give, on their own time and own their own dime, to help young women learn about their country, the world they live in, working collegially and in comradeship, and comradery with others."

"I believe the values I learned as a Girl Scout were the lessons of a lifetime. And quite frankly, if I can live up to the Girl Scout law today, I think I'll be a pretty good Senator. So hats off to Girl Scouts everywhere, a big thanks to the leaders who do it, and let's eat those cookies—even if you're on a different kind of program than they're often called for!"

National Wildlife Visitors Center



Open to the Public

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITORS CENTER

The National Wildlife Visitor Center, located at 10901 Tanager Loop, Laurel Maryland, is the largest science and environmental education center in the Department of the Interior. Designed to accommodate one million visitors per year, this unique facility seeks to impart to young and old alike an increased knowledge of and appreciation for the earth's vital resources. Interactive exhibits focus on global environmental issues, migratory bird studies, habitats, endangered species, creature life cycles and the research tools and techniques used by scientists. Visitor Center Building is open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hiking trails are open from sunrise to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 304-497-5580.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Ella Baker: My Civil Rights Generation's "Fund"

"Until the killing of Black men, Black mothers' sons, becomes as important to the rest of the country as the killing of a White mother's son—we who believe in freedom cannot rest until this happens."

~ Ella Baker

During this last week of Women's History Month I wanted you to learn about Ella Baker, a transforming but too little known woman and overpowering justice warrior for my generation of civil rights activists. The quote above is from Ella Baker 50 years ago, and like so much about this visionary civil rights leader it is still just as relevant today. She was talking about the murders of civil rights movement workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, who disappeared together in Mississippi in June 1964, and reacting to the fact that searchers sent to comb local rivers and swamps to find the bodies of Chaney, who was Black, and Goodman and Schwerner, who were White, also found the bodies of other missing Black men for whom authorities had not bothered to search. Ella Baker was an outspoken warrior against injustice and inequality her entire life, and always, always unwilling to rest. Her words continue to be a rallying cry for all of us who believe our nation still does not see and value Black and White children's lives the same way.

Sweet Honey in the Rock's Bernice Johnson Reagon featured these words in the stirring "Ella's Song." She was one of hundreds of young people Ella Baker mentored during the civil rights movement. I was one of them who first met Mrs. Baker during my senior year at Spelman College in Atlanta. She was a staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and was often a powerful behind-the-scenes advisor to close colleagues like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ella Baker believed in servant leadership and shared leadership rather than charismatic leadership and encouraged young people like me to find and lift our own voices and join them with others. She was instrumental in founding the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and fought to make sure we retained our own independent organization as students

rather than simply becoming the youth arm of the Dr. King-led SCLC. Julian Bond, Diane Nash, Bob Moses, and many other fellow student activists and young activists were all influenced by her example, counsel and convening and share a special debt of reverence and gratitude. Ella Baker was tough and disciplined and demanded the best of the young and older adults around her. She understood that movement building was about more than protests and meetings and speeches—it was hard, daily, persistent, and sacrificial behind-the-scenes work. She was an institution builder and stressed the importance of strong institutions that could last over time rather than reliance on a single strong leader.

Ella Baker was born in 1903 in Norfolk, Virginia. She had a strict mother, a warm and caring father, and a large extended family of grandparents, uncles, and aunts who shared what they had with the poor. She was a fighter and as a child beat up White children who called her names. Since there was no schooling for Black children beyond elementary years in her area, she went off to boarding school at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and was valedictorian of her high school and college graduating classes.

She moved to Harlem, got caught up in its excitement, and went everywhere to hear lectures and speeches and read in libraries to learn everything she could. After working as a domestic and as a waitress, she got a job with the Negro National News published by George Schuyler who later recommended her for a job at the NAACP. She rapidly rose through NAACP ranks. "Wherever she went," her biographer and friend Joanne Grant wrote in Ella Baker: Freedom Bound, "she created a whirlwind, leaving a scatter of papers, notes, leaflets, church programs, and phone numbers in her wake ... She never let up her struggle to increase the role of the rank and file."

Ella Baker pushed for organizational structure and rules in the NAACP just as she did later at SCLC and SNCC. Ella Baker was the one who sat down with Bayard Rustin and Stanley Levinson to discuss how to create a continuing movement out of the Montgomery bus boycott, which led to SCLC's formation. As the first staff member hired for SCLC, it was Ella Baker who tried to put the new organization in operating order so that Dr. King was not

See WATCH, Page A8

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Common Core State Standards, Part 3: Study Reveals Overwhelming Confidence in CCSS

"Common Core promises to hold our schools and our kids — all of our kids, not just the lucky ones — to higher standards, standards that will provide them with a deeper, more durable understanding of science and math, analytical and reasoning skills in the humanities, creative problem solving across the curriculum. Skills they need to succeed as students and to compete in the global economy."

— Ursula Burns, Chairman & CEO, Xerox

Recently, I have spoken out in support of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the National Urban League's belief that the standards are a critical element of our nation's effort to better prepare all students for success in college and career. I chose to do this after seeing the deceptive groundswell of fear-mongering and misrepresentations by many CCSS critics that must be challenged so we can focus all of our attention on effective, high-quality and equitable implementation of the standards.

Today, I want to share not just my voice or that of the Urban League Movement, but the voices of parents — those who have the greatest role in ensuring their children are set up for success, yet from whom we have perhaps heard the least as the CCSS debate has distractingly been thrown onto political and special interest battlefields. So, this column, the third in a three-part series to set the record straight on Common Core, includes the results of a recent National Urban League study conducted of parents in four major U.S. cities — Cleveland, Los Angeles, Nashville and Pittsburgh.

The findings indicate that an overwhelming majority of parents surveyed support the goals of CCSS and believe the standards will succeed.

For them and countless more, success has been clear for generations — the opportunity for children to thrive and surpass their parents' success. An impressive 81% of all parents surveyed agree that Common Core will better prepare their children for college and the workforce, and 66% anticipate that CCSS will make American students more competitive with students from other countries.

The survey findings indicate that among the most supportive groups of CCSS are African American and Latino parents who, among others underserved by the status quo, are desperately searching for ways to increase opportunity and equity, thereby shrinking the widening achievement, opportunity, skills and employment gaps faced by their children. More than 90% of African American parents surveyed believe that CCSS will better prepare their children for college and career, while 75% believe it will make them more competitive globally. Latino parents agree on those same questions at the rates of 87% and 71%, respectively.

Eighty-nine percent of respondents also express strong confidence in Common Core to accomplish its goal of preparing students to succeed in college. It is promising to see these indications that truth and fact are winning out over falsehoods in the debate over CCSS and that parents still believe in the power of a high-quality education to move their families and the nation forward. Ninety percent of respondents to our survey agree that education is still essential for social mobility in America, and they are right. We know

See COMMON CORE, Page A6

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

How To Share Bad News With Your Children

Most parents want to protect their children not only from physical danger, but also from the emotional pain that life can bring. While we accept that small hurts will happen -- a disagreement with a sibling or friend, the loss of a toy - we usually believe we're helping our young children by sheltering them from the bigger problems that can occur such as a serious illness, financial issues or marital problems.

Unfortunately, being overly protective can do harm. Kids are usually more aware of bad news than we suspect, but often get the details wrong and may even feel responsible for what has happened.

Most children know when a family is having problems, even if nobody has said anything directly to them. But, kids frequently get the news in bits and pieces that add up to an incomplete, confusing and often frightening picture.

The solution is to share information with your children. No child needs all the gory details of a job loss or a troubled marriage, but should have enough age-appropriate information to feel included and part of something important to the family.

Start by reassuring your children that what is happening is not their fault. Kids are used to being blamed for messing up, and they often assume that when trouble happens, whether it's economic woes or marital strife, it's usually because of something they did.

Reassure your children that you, their parents, are on top of things and are working to fix the problem. Let the kids know it's okay to ask about what's going on, especially if they see you upset, worried, angry or crying. Children feel reassured when they know they can ask questions, get information and feel included.

Of course, how much information you share depends on your children's ages. A young child doesn't understand economic issues associated with a job loss, but will know that you're upset, worried, and acting differently. Older children may need more details, both to keep them from blaming themselves for the problem and to help them prepare for changes that may be coming.

Communicating with your children about family problems or possible changes, should always be one of your first priorities. A child left in the dark is a frightened child.

If you need help, look for books at your library or bookstore on family communications, or talk to your child's school counselor about possible approaches.

Business Spotlight

New Website Makes Futures Markets Simple

(NAPSI)—Recent headlines have described a series of dramatic movements in the financial markets. While many of those movements impact stock prices, as well as what we pay for groceries, gas or loan rates, not everyone really understands how it all works.

Now there is a new online resource available to help explain what those markets mean to everyday life. With easy-to-understand content that everyone from high school students to financial professors will find useful, Futures Fundamentals (www.futuresfundamentals.com) makes understanding markets simple.

The site takes investing concepts like futures, hedging and speculating and shows how they play an essential role in the world around us.

For example, if you purchased your home with the intent of selling it when the market value exceeded the original price, you likely didn't think you were speculating. Yet that's exactly what you were doing. You probably think of having car insurance as common sense, but you're hedging against risk, just like thousands of companies need to do every day.

Futures Fundamentals provides a unique educational experience by linking topics in the news to simple explanations, a glossary of terms, and quizzes to sharpen your knowledge. CME Group—one of the world's leading derivatives exchanges—created Futures Fundamentals with the goal of making financial education an engaging experience for anyone, regardless of how well versed they are in the world of finance.

"One of the things we've seen over the past few years is a real hunger for information about how people and businesses manage risk, and how that risk impacts people's everyday lives," said Anita Liskey, CME Group Managing Director, Corporate Marketing & Communications. "Our goal for this site is to be a go-to resource on futures and derivatives, whether you're a novice on Main Street or an expert on Wall Street."

Visit Futures Fundamentals today to start learning how the marketplace impacts the world around you.

Mikulski Embarks on Three-Stop Southern Maryland Jobs Tour

Senator meets with leaders of Maryland's public and private defense assets keeping our nation safer and Maryland's economy stronger

By PRESS OFFICER
Sen. Barbara Mikulski's Office

ST. MARY'S COUNTY - U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) continued her Maryland Jobs Tour embarking on three-stops in St. Mary's County meeting with leaders of Maryland's public and private defense assets and community leaders to discuss her fight to support jobs in Southern Maryland.

"A stronger America begins at home. That's why I'm here in Southern Maryland to talk jobs, jobs, jobs and my unwavering commitment to the men and women working to keep our nation safe," Senator Mikulski said. "I will continue to fight for Maryland's public and private defense assets, keeping our nation safer and Maryland's economy stronger."

At BAE Systems, Inc. in St. Mary's County, Senator Mikulski was joined by BAE Systems, Inc. President and CEO Jerry DeMuro, Support Solutions Sector President Erin Moseley and Land and Electronic Systems Vice President and General Manager Mark Keeler in touring the facility in Lexington Park to see first-hand the development of electronic, security and intelligence systems ensuring those protecting our nation have the tools they need to keep us safe.

BAE Systems, Inc. supports more than 750 jobs in Southern Maryland, keeping our nation safer and Maryland's economy stronger. In St. Mary's County, the company provides support and service solutions for current and future defense, intelligence, and civilian systems; designs, develops and manufactures a wide range of electronic systems and subsystems for both military and commercial applications; produces specialized security and protection products for law enforcement and first responders; and designs, develops, produces, and provides service support of armored combat vehicles, artillery systems, and munitions.

Earlier in the day, Senator Mikulski met with leaders of the Naval Air Station Patuxent (Pax) River in St. Mary's County. With more than 20,000 military and civilian employees in Southern Maryland, Pax River is home to the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) headquarters along with more than 50 tenant activities.

Senator Mikulski discussed her leadership as Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in passing the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, legislation that supports our military men and women. That legislation cancels Sequester for two years, providing certainty and sta-



PHOTO COURTESY SEN. BARBARA MIKULSKI'S OFFICE
On Wednesday, March 19, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) toured BAE Systems, Inc. in St. Mary's County as part of her Southern Maryland Jobs Tour to see first-hand the development of electronic, security and intelligence systems keeping our nation safer and Maryland's economy stronger.

bility for military leaders and defense contractors. That legislation also restores regular order for the next two years ensuring there will be no government shutdowns or rolling furloughs for service members or support staff.

NAVAIR and NAWCAD, the two largest tenants, provide the full spectrum of acquisition management, research and development capabilities, air and ground test and evaluation, aircraft logistics, and maintenance management. Their mission supports land-based and maritime aircraft and engineering, test, evaluation, integration, and life cycle support for ship/shore electronics.

After her meeting at Pax River, Senator Mikulski continued her Southern Maryland Jobs Tour, Senator Mikulski also met with members of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance and the Patuxent Partnership to reaffirm her commitment to supporting jobs and economic development throughout Southern Maryland.

Senator Mikulski discussed her support of an expanded presence of the University of Maryland System in St. Mary's County as well as her work to bring broadband infrastructure to Southern Maryland through the ONE Maryland Broadband Network.

Fracking from A1

exposes all of Maryland to the potential risks of gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and fear it could lead to use of the controversial gas-extraction method within the state.

For Dominion executives, the switch is logical due to increased global demand for American gas and, with \$3.8 billion worth of changes, will be an efficient way to use the existing facility.

"It's the same thing," said Mike Frederick, vice president of Dominion's LNG operations. "It's just in reverse."

On the Dominion property, the main change will be the addition of a liquefaction plant that will cool the American-drilled natural gas and turn it into a liquid at 260 degrees below zero. The process reduces the gas volume and makes transporting it more efficient.

Dominion executives said a main heat exchange system, a turbine, compressors and cryogenic equipment will be among the project's highest costs but declined to give specific amounts.

While the construction process has not begun, Dominion has reached trade deals with Japan-based business group Sumitomo and India-based company GAIL. Dominion plans for the export facility to be operational by 2017.

The crisis in Ukraine has led the Department of State and the Obama administration to develop a strategy to more quickly deploy the United States' natural gas to undermine Russia's influence over Ukraine and Europe in future years.

The United States was a major natural gas importer until a few years ago. The gas supply in basins like Marcellus and new methods for extracting it, such as fracking, now enables the U.S. to wield political and economic influence as an exporter.

Russia supplies the majority of Ukraine's natural gas, but recently announced it would no longer do so at a reduced price.

Though Dominion officials like Frederick said they see themselves as middlemen between gas basins in the region, such as the Marcellus Shale basin that runs under Pennsylvania and Western Maryland, and foreign importers, many across the state said they foresee consequences for the whole state if exports are permitted.

The export proposal is pending review from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the power plant on the facility is being reviewed by Maryland's Public Service Commission.

From the Eastern Shore to the Western Mountains

Paul Roberts, who owns Deep Creek Cellars, a winery in Garrett County, said his business has been doing well for the past few years.

But he has been hesitant to hire more employees or expand his facility because he's not sure whether there will be a renewed interest in leasing land in Maryland that the Marcellus Shale basin runs under for potential future drilling causing land prices to go up, he said.

"I have to decide if it's worth staying in Maryland any longer. I'm just at that point," said Roberts, who is also the cofounder



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AMANDA SALVUCCI
The Cove Point offshore pier is currently set up to receive liquefied natural gas (LNG).

of Citizen Shale, a Western Maryland group against fracking.

Fracking in Maryland is currently not allowed under Gov. Martin O'Malley's order that prevents the Maryland Department of the Environment from approving drilling permits until the end of an ongoing scientific study examining the gas extraction process.

However, the study ordered by O'Malley is planned to be finalized later this year and Mike Tidwell, director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, said he fears a gas export facility in Cove Point will lead the state government to allow fracking in Maryland.

"I believe that if the Cove Point export facility is built for fracked gas, it is inconceivable that fracking won't come to Maryland," he said.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network and other organizations, such as the Sierra Club, have held statewide protests, including one in Baltimore in February against the facility and the 130-megawatt power plant Dominion said is needed for exporting.

Like Roberts, some in the Western Maryland real estate mar-

ket are also eyeing whether Cove Point generates interest in land among energy companies, said Paul Durham, who works for Heritage Resources LLC, a consulting company in Western Maryland that works with natural resources, land planning and development.

"If we experience the same effects that have been seen in other states, we'll see a tougher environment to sell some properties that have been impacted by gas development," Durham said.

He said shale gas development has a stigma of being associated with groundwater contamination and based on what's gone on in states like Pennsylvania, property values can take a hit if drilling occurs nearby.

But some in Western Maryland look positively at the possibility of gas production in their region.

Delegate Wendell Beitzel, R-Garrett, said he remembers growing up on his father's farm and flares going off on nearby land when workers struck natural gas.

See FRACKING Page A7

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Joe”

Joe

Grade: C+

Rated R, violence, disturbing material, language and some strong sexual content.

1 hr., 57 min

We give Nicolas Cage a lot of ribbing (and rightly so) for his over-the-top performances in nutty movies, but Joe is a reminder that he can balance those lunatic sensibilities with real acting when he feels like it. Set deep in rural Texas and based on a 1991 Larry Brown novel, the film is also a reminder of director David Gordon Green's knack for atmosphere, and of 17-year-old Tye Sheridan's status as one of the most promising young actors in the movies today.

Sheridan, who played the lead opposite Matthew McConaughey in *Mud*, isn't far removed from that situation in Joe, another Southern coming-of-age drama about boys with unorthodox father figures. Here he plays Gary, a respectful ma'am-and-sir adolescent who drifts around Texas with his drunken, abusive, deadbeat father, Wade (Gary Poulter), and his worn-down mother and sister. At the moment, they're squatting in a shack near some podunk town, any money they get going straight into Wade's liquor-hole.

Gary crosses paths with Joe Ransom (Cage), a rough character who's no stranger to booze and violence himself but who's currently gainfully employed by the logging industry and trying to stay on the straight and narrow. Seeing that the kid is a hard worker with potential to become a responsible adult, Joe gives Gary a job on his crew. He tries to do the same for Wade, but the old souse's laziness gets in the way.



A mix of friendship, violence and redemption erupts in the contemporary South in this adaptation of Larry Brown's novel, celebrated at once for its grit and its deeply moving core. Directed by David Gordon Green, JOE stars Academy Award (R) winner Nicolas Cage as the hard-living, hot-tempered, ex-con Joe Ransom, who is just trying to dodge his instincts for trouble - until he meets a hard-luck kid, played by Tye Sheridan, who awakens in him a fierce and tender-hearted protector.

ness gets in the way. Joe starts to keep an eye on Gary, who's more capable of fending for himself than a 15-year-old should have to be but is still, after all, only a kid.

Meanwhile, Joe's own troubles keep resurfacing, and we get the impression his wild days aren't exactly behind him. He's shot in the arm by a local redneck named Willie (Ronnie Gene Blevins) barely 25 minutes into the film, and the shooting doesn't even become a big plot point. Joe is the sort of man who just gets shot by angry townsfolk sometimes, that's all. He says it's "restraint" that's keeping him alive and out of prison, but that's clearly not going to last much longer.

Adapted from Brown's novel by Gary Hawkins (who once made a documentary about the Mississippi-born novelist), the film suffers from occasional aimlessness. It has the feel of a movie that's going to be story-driven, but it isn't — we keep waiting for the hints of plot to develop into one.

Atmosphere is more important to David Gordon Green, who cut his teeth on evocative, sun-baked tone poems like *George Washington* and *All the Real Girls* before moving to stoner farces (*Your Highness*) and last year's *Prince Avalanche*, a serio-comic blend of both styles. Joe finds the director in still new territory, adding strong violence and moderate suspense to the mix. He's best

at giving us a sense of place, and this place — with its indecipherable accents, grimy shacks, toothless whores, mangy dogs, and kitchen-table deer skinnings — rings true.

If Joe is exercising restraint, so is Cage, who resists what must have been a powerful temptation to play Joe as an insane redneck. He's compelling here in a way he hasn't been in a while: as a real character (albeit a colorful one), not as a sideshow. Cage is well-matched with young Sheridan, whose adolescent gawkiness mirrors the character's situation of being trapped between childhood and adulthood. Joe is a little off the mark, but the tone and the performances are spot-on.

Stipends from A1

The long-running debate over whether student-athletes should be paid or receive more financial benefits has grown stronger in recent months. In January, a majority of players on Northwestern University's football team announced their intention to create a labor union for college athletes.

At the core of the debate is whether these players should be considered student-athletes or employee-athletes. The Northwestern players believe the latter, citing the long hours they dedicate to being an athlete, including weeks during training

camp that require 50 to 60 hours of their time.

The group wants players to be compensated for commercial sponsorships, jersey sales and the use of their likeness in video games, in addition to financial coverage for sports-related medical expenses. They also want colleges to pay student-athletes a stipend to cover the full cost of attending college.

Emmert acknowledged that scholarships for student-athletes that cover tuition and room and board do not fully cover the true cost of attending college. He said student-athletes should be given payments of between \$2,000 and \$5,000 as part of their scholar-

ships to cover miscellaneous expenses like traveling home, purchasing clothes or buying pizza on the weekend.

"It's been called a \$2,000 stipend, but it's really just the full cost of attendance. It is not in any way paying players to play games. But it is covering the legitimate real cost of being a student-athlete. We want to do that, and we have the flexibility to make that decision," he said.

Emmert has been unsuccessfully advocating for a stipend for student-athletes for a few years. The NCAA board approved legislation to allow schools to pay such a stipend, but it was overriden by 160 member schools

in December 2011, the Associated Press reported.

Emmert, the former president of the University of Washington, said he was not comfortable with classifying student-athletes as university employees and paying them to play.

"As a university president, if I was going to hire you to play football for me, why on God's earth would I want you to be a student?," he asked. "I'm paying you to win football games for me; the last thing I want you to do is be bothered with class time. If you're a football player, you're a football player. Why would I pay you to do both? It makes utterly no sense."

Common Core from A1

that a college degree can be a ticket out of poverty and to a better life. As such, we must equip all children with the standards, tools and resources they need throughout their time in school to be ready for college and careers.

The National Urban League survey was conducted in February and March of this year to enable us to gain a better understanding of parental attitudes and perspectives on CCSS and to understand how parents were being impacted by the critics' distortions. What we found is that a majority of parents understand what leading educators and business leaders from Ursula Burns to Earl Graves all know — that Common Core State Standards, implemented equitably and properly, offer the best chance in a generation to raise current standards and future prospects for all of America's public school students to be prepared for the workforce and opportunities of today and tomorrow.

While the survey affirmed grassroots parental support for CCSS, it also made it clear that more must be done to increase public awareness. Only half of respondents say they are aware of CCSS and slightly more than half of those, 56%, say they understand its objectives. Further, while 70% understand that teachers will be able to customize lesson plans for their students under CCSS and that the standards do not tell teachers how to teach, a

troubling 69% believe the false propaganda that the Common Core is controlled by the federal government. Let me be clear — the federal government is not, nor has it ever been, involved in the development of the Common Core. The Common Core State Standards were developed at the local and state levels by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association with critical and meaningful input from teachers, parents, school administrators and education experts from local districts across America. Thus far, 44 states and the District of Columbia have voluntarily adopted the standards.

The National Urban League and the Urban League Movement will continue to demand that accurate, timely and useful information is communicated around the Common Core State Standards and their equitable implementation. We and other civil rights partners and education reformers will present that information as far and wide as we are able and will also do everything within our power to position all of our children for success — no matter the neighborhood where they live, how much money their parents make or unsupported assumptions that they cannot meet the standards. It is not possible to ensure equity and excellence if we do not have the same high expectations for all students and invest in them equitably. We owe it to our nation — and all of our children — to ensure the success of Common Core State Standards and other critical education reforms and investments.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Disrespect in Dodgers Blue: Why Number 11 Should Be Worn Only by Manny Mota



There is a 23-year-old Los Angeles Dodgers rookie of great promise named Erisbel Arruebarrena, walking around spring training wearing number 11, and this bothers the holy hell out of me. There is only one number 11 for the Dodgers, and that is Manny Mota. The 76-year-old Dodger legend, who is not a Dodgers coach for the first time in more than three decades, is also present at spring training still wearing his own number 11. He has responded to Arruebarrena being given his number with nothing but class. Maybe I am just less classy. Maybe I am biased because I had the privilege to meet Mr. Mota and found him to be as principled and proud as I dreamed the Dominican trailblazer to be. Maybe I just do not like the casual disrespect for a man who has given so much to both this organization and the city of Los Angeles. Maybe I should explain.

More than any other sport, by a country mile, numbers in the world of baseball have a near-sacred quality. I am not only talking about statistics, although there is certainly no sport that fetishizes their numerals quite like baseball. Few know or care about the exact number of yards the NFL's all-time leading rusher, Emmett Smith, ran for in his career, yet books have been written about Babe Ruth's 714 home runs, Henry Aaron's journey to 755 and then, with appalled overtones, Barry Bonds's muscled-up quest for 762.

There is certainly a case to be made that the reason why everyone from the sports media to the US Congress is so much more fanatical about performance-enhancing drugs in baseball than any other sport, is the belief that PEDs lead to inflated statistics which harm the integrity of these treasured, talismanic statistics.

The other numbers, which hold a hallowed weight in baseball, is the number on the uniform. The two most famous hoops players of their generation, Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, both switched up their uniform numbers in the middle of their careers. In football, players sell their numbers to teammates. Baseball is different. It is why Jackie Robinson's number 42 is retired in every ballpark. It is why there has been a push to retire the great Roberto Clemente's number 21 for every team as well. It is why part of the thrill of Derek Jeter's career has been seeing him grow into his number 2, someday to be retired amongst Yankee immortals number 3 Babe Ruth and number 4 Lou Gehrig.

That is why I find it to be so personally disturbing to see Erisbel Arruebarrena wearing that number 11. Mota, as I mentioned, was a coach for the Dodgers for thirty-four consecutive seasons, the longest in team history and the second longest in the history of the sport. He retired as the all-time leading pinch hitter in the Major Leagues. His pinch-hitting also led him to become a pop-culture legend when, in the movie *Airplane*, Robert Hays thought the words, "Pinch-hitting for Pedro Borbon... Manny Mota... Mota... Mota." (Borbon and Mota never actually played together, which kind of makes it even funnier.)

The bigger issue however, is the casual disrespect to what Manny Mota represents. This is not only disrespect to someone who has given his professional life to the Dodgers organization—in a sport that is supposed to revere its history—but also disrespect to one of the first significant players to come to the Major League Baseball from the Dominican Republic. Today, it is difficult to imagine Major League Baseball without the talent infusion from the DR. Every team now has a baseball academy on the island. One-quarter of all minor league players were born there. At the start of the 2013 season, eighty-nine Dominican-born players were on major league rosters, the highest of any country outside the United States. All of this talent comes, remarkably, from a country with a population less than that of New York City.

I have written before, and surely will write again, about the problems that exist in MLB's exploitative relationship with the young dreamers in the DR, living in poverty and striving for that Major League contract. But Manny Mota is someone who has used his stature to try and combat poverty in the DR, through his organization, the Manny Mota International Foundation. He is more than just an all-time Dodger. He is a humane bridge to a country that Major League Baseball has too often treated with contempt. It is difficult to not see the bestowing of Mota's number 11 to Arruebarrena as symbolic of the blasé disrespect with which MLB treats the DR as a whole. But once, again, this is just me talking. When Erisbel Arruebarrena was introduced to the media, Mota came by, all class, and said, "You know what? That's my number. Wear it with pride." Only one person should wear that number, and he never had to be told to wear it with pride. The pride was always there. Dodgers, do the right thing and make sure that the number 11 lives only with Manny Mota-Mota-Mota.

Calendar of Events

April 10 — April 16, 2014

LIVE at Montpelier!- Sherry Winston, Contemporary Jazz Flute

Date and Time: Friday, April 11, 2014 8 pm
 Description: Join us for LIVE at Montpelier with classical and innovative jazz flutist, Sherry Winston! With her unique instrumentation, she has performed with music icon, Stevie Wonder and for former Presidents Clinton and Bush. A multi-time Grammy nominee, educator and performer, Winston crafts her contemporary jazz stylings with delicate balance. It's this balance that has led to her critical acclaim.

Cost: Tickets: \$25/person;
 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800 or 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Small Fry Club

Date & Time: Friday, April 11, 2014 10-11 am
 Description: The little ones will enjoy stories, crafts, games and hikes on this edition of the Small Fry Club! The theme for this class is exploring trees.

Cost: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$4
 Ages: 3-4
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Spring Bonnet Tea

Date & Time: Saturday, April 12, 1:30 pm
 Description: Don your favorite bonnet, sombrero, topper or hat and join in on the springtime festivities. Prizes awarded in several categories. Enjoy a prix fixe menu of fine finger sandwiches, scrumptious cakes and pastries, buttery scones, and your choice of two quality loose leaf teas, all served in china and tiered stands. Space is limited. Price includes self-guided tour and gratuity.

Cost: \$29/person, \$25/Members of Friends of Montpelier
 Reservations and advance payment required by April 9.
 Ages: 12 & up
 Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

Brunch with Bunny

Date & Time: Saturday, April 12, 2014 11 am-1 pm
 Description: Come to College Park Community Center and enjoy brunch with the Easter Bunny! Bunny has plenty of fun things in store from face painting, entertainment, prizes and more!

Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: College Park Community Center and Youth Soccer Complex
 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park 20740
 Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-445-4512

Easter Egg Decorating

Date and Time: Saturday, April 12, 2014 1-4 pm
 Description: Impress your friends and even the Easter Bunny himself with the beautifully decorated eggs! At this family-friendly workshop, you'll have everything to create superb decorate eggs—we even promise glitter. Children will receive their first two eggs for free. Additional eggs will be available to purchase 2 for \$1.

Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange at Gateway Arts Center
 3901 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood 20722
 Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802

Concert & Casino Night

Date and Time: Saturday, April 12, 2014 7:30 pm
 Description: Viva Las Vegas, Fort Washington! Come to Harmony Hall to enjoy fun night with table games reminiscent of a real casino. And, of course it wouldn't be "Las Vegas," without the music of Elvis! Prizes will be given for winners, but no real money! Light refreshments served.

Cost: Tickets: \$30/General Admission;
 \$25/students & seniors
 Ages: Ages 21 & up
 Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
 10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
 Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Global Beat: Washington Korean Dance Company

Date and Time: Sunday, April 12, 2014 4 pm
 Description: In this edition of the Global Beat, experience the exquisite grace of Korean culture! This nationally recognized company will bring an hour of dance and percussion to the stage.

Cost: Tickets: \$10/person
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Creature Feature: All About Reptiles Event

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 2-3 pm
 Description: Join us for this creature feature with reptiles. Your children will meet some of the nature center's live reptiles from snakes to lizards as they take center stage! Don't forget, advance reservations are required.

Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident: \$3
 Ages: 2 & up
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Nature Craft

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 2-3 pm
 Description: Enjoy a story, meet a live animal and make a craft to take home! Reservations are required.

Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident: \$3
 Ages: 2-10
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Cool Mobile Phone apps that can help me get in better touch with the environment?

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some cool apps that work with a mobile phone that can help me get in better touch with the environment?

— Mitchell Brown, Troy, MI

Not surprisingly, there are thousands of "green" apps out there that make it easier for people to find and share information to help us all become better stewards of the natural environment.

The American Lung Association's State of the Air app shows live color-coded air quality maps for any U.S. location and includes both ozone and particulate pollution counts. The app also provides air quality alerts, short-term forecasts and opportunities to learn more about air quality risks and to contact lawmakers to push for more stringent pollution regulations. Another way to find out who's emitting what nearby is via aMobileFuture's Pollution, a free app that compiles information from various pollution databases around the world and then shows users which big polluters are emitting what near them. Coverage includes 1,380 cities, mostly in Europe and the U.S.

Ethical shoppers will appreciate the GoodGuide, a free app that shows how any of 120,000 food, personal care and household products stack up in terms of sustainability, fair wages and

even health risks. Users just snap a picture of an item's bar code to get the low-down on whether or not it's a "good" buy. And the free JouleBug app turns living greener into a game, taking specific sustainability-oriented steps such as reducing energy use, recycling more or buying local and translating these small acts into positive "units of impact." Embedded videos demonstrate ways once can green up daily life.

Adair Systems' 99 cents GasHog app makes it easy to track a car's fuel efficiency. Enter the odometer reading and amount of fuel added each time you refill the tank and the app calculates the fuel economy of the previous tank and compares it to historical averages. The app also offers tips for improving fuel economy. And Avego's free CarmaCarpooling app matches nearby drivers with riders to share the commute and the expense. At the end of the trip, the rider can send a payment through the system to the driver to cover a share of gas and wear-and-tear.

PaperKarma is a free app to help reduce junk mail. Users input their address information once and then snap a picture through the app of any unwanted junk mail. Behind the scenes, PaperKarma's automated system notifies the publisher to take the user's name and address off their list.

Another popular app is Light Bulb Finder, a free app designed to help ease the transition from older incandescent



CREDIT: GOODGUIDE

Thousands of "green" apps now that make it easy for people to find and share information to help us all become better stewards of the natural environment. Pictured: A GoodGuide app evaluates a household product.

bulbs to more energy efficient replacements. Users enter in their zip code—the app automatically inputs average regional electricity rates accordingly—and then choose which type of fixture, size/shape and wattage bulb(s) they are looking to replace. The app then suggests options that use less en-

ergy and shows how much money the user can expect to save with the newer bulb(s).

It's nice to know that the little screens we've become increasingly dependent upon—and which otherwise tend to distract us from nature and the outdoors—can also be used for the betterment of the environment.

CONTACTS: State of the Air App, www.lung.org/healthy-air/outdoor/state-of-the-air/app.html; JouleBug, www.joulebug.com; GasHog, www.adairsystems.com/gashog; CarmaCarpooling, www.carmacarpool.com; Light Bulb Finder, www.lightbulbfinder.net; GoodGuide, www.goodguide.com.

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Curb Water Waste: These Tips Can Help You Save Water and Money

(NAPSI)—Did you know that homes with automatically timed irrigation systems use about 50 percent more water outdoors than those without them? Your system could be wasting as much as 30,000 gallons of water each year if it is programmed incorrectly, a sprinkler head is pointed in the wrong direction, or you have a leak. Regular sprinkler maintenance could save as much as \$120 annually on your water bills!

Now is the perfect time for a little "sprinkler spruce-up" to ensure it is operating efficiently.

Maybe your system has been inactive or damaged during the harsh winter. Before you take your sprinkler system out of hibernation, use a little "water sense" and take four simple steps to get it ready for efficient operation—inspect, connect, direct and select:

- Inspect your irrigation system for clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads and replace where necessary.
- Connect sprinkler heads tightly to pipes or hoses to prevent water pooling in your landscape and leaks that could drown

your favorite plants.

- Direct spray away from your driveway and sidewalk to water only your lawn or plants.
- Select a watering schedule that meets your yard's minimum needs or, better yet, replace your clock timer with a WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller, which uses local weather data to control your system to water only when needed.

If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro—look for an irrigation professional certified through a WaterSense labeled certification program to help main-

tain your system. And even if you don't have an automatic irrigation system, you can make your yard more water smart. On your next trip to the nursery, look for plants that are local to your region or labeled "drought tolerant."

You can learn more about maintaining a water-smart yard, search for a certified irrigation professional, or view a list of WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers by visiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.

Fracking from A5

"We'd go out there and admire the activity," he said.

Beitzel said there were never any problems with contamination on the farms growing up, which was before hydraulic fracturing was a widespread method of gas extraction.

Beitzel added that fracking enables drilling multiple wells from one location meaning there would be even less of a disturbance to nearby land if the practice were allowed in Maryland today.

While he doesn't think fracking is dangerous, he thinks those who oppose American fracking should recognize that the extraction process has to be done somewhere, Beitzel said.

"It's like, 'That's okay. It's not in your backyard,'" he said.

While Western Maryland has the most natural gas under it, other counties in the state, some with smaller basins under them, are considering how the Cove Point export facility could affect them.

The county council for Montgomery County adopted a resolution in early February urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to complete an environmental impact statement for the facility.

The commission is working on an environmental assessment but an environmental impact statement would look at a wider range of issues.

George Leventhal, vice president of the county council, wrote the resolution and said he is concerned about the impact of emissions brought on by the liquefaction plant and other elements of the facility on the state's land and water.

"The Chesapeake Bay belongs to all of us," he said.

He said he is also concerned because the facility could lead to increased pressure for Maryland to frack, including in the small Culpeper basin which runs partly under the northern part of Montgomery County.

The Economics of Natural Gas

In addition to environmental concerns surrounding the plant, some question what will happen to domestic gas prices if gas is exported from Maryland.

Diana Dascalu-Joffe, senior general counsel for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, said that because demand for natural gas is rising in the United States and many coal-fired power plants are being shut down, residents could expect higher prices if Maryland began exporting natural gas.

But John Felmy, a chief economist with the American Petroleum Institute, said the supply of American gas is high enough to handle the demand without affecting consumer prices in Maryland.

"All the development of natural gas we've had, there's still a lot that can come forth," he said.

According to a report by the consulting group National Economic Research Associates for the Department of Energy, exports do not drive up domestic prices to the level foreign countries are willing to pay for American imports.

The report notes that the cost of transportation, liquefaction and turning the LNG from liquid to gas form at the import site ensure that domestic prices will not be similar to foreign costs.

The report also points to a capital investment in liquefaction facilities and an improved U.S. trade balance as foreign companies put more money into the American economy.

However, the report also notes that if the country is producing gas in increased, steady amounts, it will increase the marginal cost of supply which will lead to higher prices in the United States.

This will cause higher prices for consumers who use natural gas and industries that factor natural gas heavily into their budgets.

The peak of the export facility's construction will be next year or in 2016 and the project will create up to 3,000 jobs, said Brent Booker, secretary-treasurer of North America's Building Trades Unions.

"This means 3,000 people will pull their car up into the parking lot and get bussed down to the project," he said.

The project will use both Calvert County residents and workers from across Maryland, according to Dominion.

He said Maryland's unemployment rate for construction workers is about 10 percent and the unions will use apprenticeship and skill development programs to give employees of the construction process long-term jobs.

In addition to the direct construction jobs, the project will also create indirect jobs, Booker said.

"Obviously you've got lots of suppliers, lots of vendors, lots of manufacturing of the equipment and the processes that will come there," he said.

Tidwell, of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, said that while there are some jobs that will be created by the export facility, most are not permanent.

He said he believes Dominion would create more jobs if the company instead invested in wind and solar energy projects in Maryland and Virginia.

But in addition to natural gas exports, Dominion is already moving forward with some mid-Atlantic wind energy investments.

Dominion filed a request in February with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to bid for about 80,000 acres of land off Maryland's coast to develop wind turbines.

In September, Dominion paid \$1.6 million to lease 112,800 acres of land off the Virginia coast for offshore wind energy.

Karl Neddenien, media relations manager at Dominion, said Dominion expects the first turbine for the Virginia project to be installed in 10 years if it is approved by state regulators.

But Tidwell said Dominion has not shown nearly the same immediacy to wind and solar energy as it has natural gas.

"There is no caution apparently when it comes to fracking," he said. "They don't even want to do an environmental impact statement."

As of Feb. 11, the Department of Energy received a total of 37 applications to export domestically produced LNG to countries both with and without free trade agreements.

The only East Coast terminals proposed were in Cove Point and Elba Island in Georgia.

Despite concerns across the state, Dominion's Frederick said canceling planned gas exports from Cove Point would not end the sale of East Coast gas to foreign countries.

"The reality is that gas will go somewhere," he said.

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Watch from A4

just a leader who reacted to and jumped from one event to the next. She worked to give SCLC the capacity to plan and implement action. And Ella Baker was the one who convinced Dr. King to bring me and about 200 other Black college students who had been arrested for engaging in sit-in protests to open up lunch counters around the South to a meeting at her alma mater, Shaw University. My first plane ride ever was from Atlanta to Raleigh for that meeting. SNCC was the meeting's result.

Ella Baker was fully aware of but unintimidated by the men she worked with who devalued the advice of women and sometimes resented her forcefulness, prodding, and "mothering." She made no special effort to be ingratiating. She labored at SCLC as she had at the NAACP to raise money, conduct voter registration drives, speak to citizens groups (sometimes ten times a day), and travel to community after community to help people help themselves. She warned against SCLC becoming "a cult of personality" for Dr. King rather than a means of empowering others, and she eventually left SCLC after deciding that movement building was more important than the specific organization and personalities involved—another of her lessons that is so relevant today.

At a gathering celebrating Ella Baker's seventy-fifth birthday, Bob Moses called her the "Fundu," the person in the community who masters a craft with the help of the community and teaches it to other people. Fundu became the title of a film on her extraordinary life and work. Ella Baker died in 1986 on her 83rd birthday. I remember her counsel as I think about sustaining and strengthening the Children's Defense Fund's mission today and future tomorrow for the long haul struggle to create and maintain a level playing field for every child. I learned from her the crucial importance of training a successor generation of young servant-leaders which has been a strong priority of CDF's since its inception. Policies are no better than the people who are implementing them and their commitment to just treatment of children and the poor. I am so proud that over 13,000 college students have gone through training at CDF's Ella Baker Child Policy Institute at the former Alex Haley Farm, that more than 113,000 children have gone through the CDF Freedom Schools® program with a sense of commitment to something beyond themselves, and that many CDF alumni are doing wonderful public service across the country. This is one way CDF honors her legacy along with other great unsung women justice warriors like Fannie Lou Hamer, Unita Blackwell, and Septima Clark who too few ever hear of but we all owe a great debt of gratitude.

We also all honor Ella Baker by keeping her belief in freedom and equality alive until it becomes reality for every mother's child. In a nation where Black children are more than three times as likely to be poor as White children; where Black babies are more than twice as likely as White babies to die before their first birthdays and Black children are twice as likely to die before their 18th birthdays as White children; where more than 80 percent of fourth and eighth grade Black public school students cannot read or compute at grade level and Black children are more than twice as likely to drop out as White children; where gun violence is the leading cause of death among Black children ages 1-19 and Black children and teens are nearly five times more likely to die from gun violence than White children and teens; and where Black mothers' sons can be seen and treated as lethal threats for wearing hoodies in the rain or refusing to turn their car radios down, we who believe in freedom still cannot rest.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose *Leave No Child Behind* mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org. Mrs. Edelman's *Child Watch Column* also appears each week on *The Huffington Post*.

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