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Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater Adds to Sea Level Rise

By BRIAN COMPERE
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK — Scientists say sea level rise is occurring at a faster pace in the Chesapeake Bay region than the global average, and the dramatic formation of the bay itself is a significant reason why.

About 35 million years ago, a meteorite collided with the Earth near the current location of the mouth of the bay, where it transitions into the Atlantic Ocean. The impact left a crater more than 55 miles wide, setting events into motion that eventually led to the

formation of the bay about 3,000 years ago.

When the meteorite hit, it created a giant hole into which loose materials flowed. This replaced harder rock layers from before the impact with much softer, less compacted dirt, said Curt Smith, regional planner for Virginia's Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.

Since then, this softer material has slowly compacted together, shifting downward. Because of this, the land near the crater is slowly sinking.

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Dominion's Gas Export Plan Divides Maryland Town

By JUSTINE MCDANIEL
Capital News Service

LUSBY - To some in the town of Lusby, Dominion Resources is a good neighbor that provides jobs, revenue and community support.

To others, Dominion is a Goliath whose plan to export natural gas from its Cove Point facility on the Chesapeake Bay could bring environmental and safety hazards.

Dominion's proposal to begin exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) from its import facility has put the company and the tiny town at the forefront of a national debate about natural gas, a booming com-

modity that some say could alter the global energy landscape.

The issue has created a sharp divide in Calvert County and across the state. The debate has been gathering steam since early last year, and as the wait for an oversight assessment from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) drags on, the controversy is only intensifying amid a swirl of misinformation and frustration.

"I'm terrified," said Mary Ward, who lives down the street from Cove Point. "It's going to change a lot of things around here."

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Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown (seated at far left), Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Gov. Martin O'Malley, House Speaker Michael E. Busch and Attorney General Doug Gansler (standing at far right), pose with lawmakers as the governor signs Maryland prekindergarten expansion into law.

Governor O'Malley Signs More Than 100 Bills, Including Pre-K Expansion

By LYLE KENDRIVCK
Capital News Service

Laurel— Picture this: a major blizzard has knocked out communications throughout the state. Network security professionals are scrambling to bring relief to afflicted Marylanders, but a team of ne-

furious hackers have united to thwart their efforts.

Fortunately, it's just a game, but the real-world implications are huge.

On Friday and Saturday, the CyberWatch Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition turned Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory into a cyber battleground. This year's

theme is "Operation Cyber Blizzard." Eight teams from colleges in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania scramble to keep networks secure and ensure aid is administered to distressed — albeit fictional — citizens.

While the disaster may be fake, the students' enemy is much more real. The college

teams' opposing hackers, or "Red Team," is populated by computer security professionals using both hi-tech and low-tech methods.

As the red team launched sophisticated cyberattacks, one hacker walked unnoticed with

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White House Cyber Czar Speaks at Naval Academy

By PATRICK FARRELL
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - In a speech at the U. S. Naval Academy, Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator Michael Daniel said understanding "the human factor" of cyberwarfare is essential to making progress in the field of cyberdefense.

Hosted by the Academy's Center for Cyber Security Studies in partnership with technology consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, Daniel discussed the threats the nation faces in cyberspace from the perspective of the White House, and why cybersecurity is becoming more difficult.

"We are working to protect... the global, transparent Internet," said Daniel.

According to the Daniels, threats to the United States government in cyberspace fall into four categories: attacks on critical infrastructure, theft of intellectual property, traditional espionage, and threats to the open, global nature of the Internet.

"Bad guys don't have to be coders sitting in their mother's

basement anymore," Daniels said, noting that the tools available to those with malicious intent are becoming increasingly more sophisticated.

The speaker said that when you take a step back, it seems that cybersecurity should be a relatively easy task.

Oftentimes hackers are utilizing methods the government knows to exist in order to attack vulnerabilities the government is also aware of, Daniels said. He added that currently, "we clearly don't understand the economics of cybersecurity."

Daniel believes that economic and psychological factors, though underlooked, play a large part in shaping the landscape of cybersecurity attack.

"Until we really understand the human factor ... we will never solve these problems," he said.

Daniel went on to discuss what he called a "multi-stakeholder approach" to developing a framework for improving the country's cybersecurity.

Normally the government interacts with the private sector in one of two ways: to regulate, or to contract, Daniel said.



Michael Daniel, the White House cybersecurity czar, speaks to a room of midshipmen at the Naval Academy, where cyber security courses have recently been added to the core curriculum.

In the case of the White House's new cybersecurity initiative, which Daniel called a "uniquely American way" of handling things, the government is calling on the industry, academia and private companies to come together to aid one another.

Daniel said it is his hope that through this collaboration, those working in cybersecurity will be to produce a "cyberspace weathermap" - giving predic-

tive value to data in order to aid in cyberdefense.

In response to the increasingly sophisticated nature of cyberwarfare and the importance of cybersecurity, the Naval Academy offers a Cyber Operations major beginning with the Class of 2016.

Beginning with the Class of 2015, all midshipmen are required to take two cyber courses as a part of their core curriculum.

Maryland Companies Have Billions in Assets Overseas

By FOLA AKINNIBI
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - The president's budget, released in early March, called for the creation of a national fund to finance repair of the nation's crumbling roads, bridges and other infrastructure — an idea also proposed by a freshman Maryland congressman.

Rep. John Delaney, D-Potomac, wants to fund infrastructure repair by bringing home billions of dollars in foreign earnings from U.S.-based corporations. The congressman said he has been long concerned about decaying infrastructure.

Delaney's Partnership to Build America Act would create a new way to pay for these repairs. Corporations would provide the money by buying bonds in The American Infrastructure Fund.

In exchange, they would be allowed to bring back money locked up overseas without paying the full 35 percent corporate tax rate.

Delaney's bill could come as a relief to corporations with large foreign operations that have deferred paying U.S. corporate taxes on their overseas earnings indefinitely. For example, 10 Maryland-based multinational corporations, including Columbia-based MICROS Systems Inc. and Baltimore-based Under Armour Inc., are holding a combined \$3.5 billion overseas, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

While it would mean a major tax savings, none of the 10 publicly held Maryland companies contacted would comment on the proposed legislation. One expert said there's little incentive to bring the funds back with so much business opportunity overseas. Instead, it makes sense for U.S. companies to let the overseas funds stay put and postpone a U.S. tax bill.

"It's better to defer," said Michael Faulkender, a finance pro-

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INSIDE

Governor O'Malley Highlights Progress Towards Achieving Goal of Boosting STEM Graduates in Maryland

Maryland continues to be a leader in STEM education, having been the first state in the nation to set specific STEM education standards that tell teachers not just what STEM is, but how to teach the subjects.
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Mikulski Focuses on FBI's Plan to Keep American Families and Communities Safe

Mikulski fought to support the mission of the FBI protecting Americans from crime, organized crime, cyber attacks and terrorism. That legislation provided \$8.2 billion for the FBI, allowing the agency to conduct 1,300 more investigations.
Commentary, Page A4

Economic Recovery Leads to Drop in Adult College Enrollment

"In general, it's a very common cycle that when unemployment increases so does enrollment," said Cathy Sandeen, vice president for education attainment and innovation at the American Council on Education.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Sabotage"

We meet the team in the middle of a mission that ends with them stealing some \$10 million from a drug cartel, because they're the kind of badasses who steal money from drug cartels. Fortunately for them, the DEA can't prove they stole it, so nobody gets in trouble. Unfortunately for them, they can't spend it, either, because now it's missing again.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What's going on with Earth Day this year and how can I get involved?

—Christine B., Boston, MA

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Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

More Sunday library hours will benefit readers and researchers

A new County spending plan will expand the number of library branches open on Sundays. At this time, only three of the county's 19 branches are open Sunday—Oxon Hill, Hyattsville and Bowie. By September the number open Sundays may increase to seven, including Hillcrest Heights, Spauldings, Fairmount Heights and New Carrollton, from 1 to 5 p.m.

As one library official said, Sunday hours are good because people often have more leisure time then. And students with book or research needs can make that dash to the library before school on Monday.

How much do you use the public library? As for me, twice a week I read to the children at the Daughters of St. Anne daycare, so I constantly need new and favorite read-alouds. I also borrow books for St. Philip's Book Club. (For May we're reading "Killing Jesus: A History," by Bill O'Reilly.) I go online to request books and to see if I have any overdue.

There are 462,055 people who own a Prince George's Library card. Some of them will be using the library even more when there are more Sunday hours.

Living Stations, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services

Suitland Road Baptist Church and Dr. Kelvin McCune, pastor, invite you to their Good Friday Service April 18, 7 to 8 p.m. and Easter Sunday Service at 11 a.m. The church is at 6412 Suitland Road. For information, call 301-735-4075.

The Living Stations of the Cross will be portrayed by the teens of St. Philip's Parish at 7 p.m. Good Friday. Holy Saturday Vigil Mass will be at 7 p.m. and Easter Sunday Masses, 9 and 11:30 a.m. St. Philip's is at 5416 Henderson Way in Camp Springs.

Neighbors

Jada Pigford, an 8th grader at Benjamin D. Foulouis Creative & Performing Arts Academy, in Morningside, is one of three Prince George's students

who've been presented the Maryland Masters Award. She won for her oil pastel drawing of a cheetah's eye.

My son Mike McHale and his wife Sandy, of El Paso, Texas, have a new granddaughter, Sophia Marie, born April 2 to Becky and Mike Murguia.

Ramona Britt was among the guests at Anna Buck's 100th birthday party on March 9 at the Moose Lodge in Upper Marboro.

Todd Olszowy is the new CEO of Andrews Federal Credit Union.

Condolences to Ruby Holloway, of Skyline, on the death of her sister Dorothy Mae "Lady" Shelton, 93, of Baltimore. In February she was awarded the Wayland Baptist Church Living Legacy Recognition and Medallion.

Slow down on Suitland Parkway!

Lane closures and reduced speed are in effect on Suitland Parkway through May 23. Pepco contractor W. A. Chester is working on improving underground utilities. Most work will be carried out from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. weekdays, and longer on weekends. D.C. and Maryland police will be helping with traffic enforcement.

Morningside memories

The April 15, 1954 issue of the Morningside-Skyline Bulletin & Advertiser reports the Women's Civic Group is gearing up for the Country Fair coming up on May 22 at the Skyline Shopping Center, featuring a Bicycle Decorating Contest (prizes: \$2, \$3 and \$5), Homecraft Baked Goods, Pony Rides, Ring Toss, Country Store, Attic Treasures, Dart Game and Parcel Post Sale. Come One! Come All!

May they rest in peace

Carlton Eugene Thorne III, 71, formerly of Skyline and a volunteer with the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, died March 30. A native Washingtonian, he graduated from Anacostia High in 1961, and went to work for the Federal Government. His wife Sharon Sinner Thorne predeceased him. Survivors include his children, Timothy Thorne and Patricia

Thorne, and two grandchildren. Services were at the National Lutheran Home, Rockville.

Elaine Gaile Argino, 72, a 1959 graduate of Suitland High, died April 2. A native Washingtonian, she retired as director of NARUC (National Association of Regulatory Commissioners). Survivors include two children and two grandchildren.

William Bernard Schultz, 61, of Accokeek, died March 11. He was the son of the late Louise F. Cosca and the late Bernard Schultz. He was a skilled craftsman, devoted animal advocate and lover of collectables, skiing and motorcycles. Survivors include four siblings. Services were at St. John's Episcopal, Broad Creek.

Edward M. Felegy, 76, Prince George's County Superintendent of Schools 1991-1995 and formerly of Temple Hills, died at his home in Alexandria on March 30.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Jean Wilhelm and Cameron Trexler, April 19; Mary Lou Wise and Devaughn Branham, April 20; Jill (Gilmartin) Booth and Tiffany Jackson, April 21; Taylor Foster, April 22; Jim Reilly, David Titus and Barbara Sparks, April 23; and Edna Lucas, April 24.

Happy anniversary to Jim and Pat Conlon on their 40th anniversary, April 20; John and Ruth Anthony, Jr., their 36th on April 22; Lewis and Trisha (Pitts) Woods, their Silver Anniversary on April 22; and Janet and Brian Spivey, April 23.

*A
Blessed Easter*



to all my Readers!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

GRANDSON ENLISTS IN THE U.S. ARMY

Jeremy Mitchell, the grandson of Mrs. Ruth Turner, and the son of Patricia Turner Mitchell, was sworn into the U.S. Army last week. For the next nine weeks, Jeremy will complete his Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His advanced training will take place at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Prior to joining the Army, Jeremy was enrolled in the Master's Program in Organization and Leadership at the University of San Francisco.

SEAFOOD DINNER

New Hope Fellowship Christ Church Fish Fry will be on April 18, 2014 Good Friday 12:00 PM until. The address is 22919 Christ Church Road Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Bone Fish Dinner \$10.00, Fillet Fish Dinner \$10.00, Crab Cake Dinner \$14.00, Combination Dinner \$16.00, Fish Sandwich \$6.00 and Crab Cake Sandwich \$7.00. All diners come with Green Vegetable, Potato Salad, Sweet Potatoes, Bread and Cake. Call (301) 888-1316 on April 18 to place your order. The Seafood Dinner is sponsored by Christ

Church Men, Pastor Daryl Williams. Chairpersons: Billy Stewart and Ronal Banks.

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 20613-842

ANNUAL GOSPEL PROGRAM

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

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Happy Anniversary to Lloyd and Shirley Brown, Trevor and Denise Bourne, Norman and Jean Noel, Clarence and Dorothy Reid, Eddie and Ruth Wilson, Leon and Louise Gordon, George and Karen Taylor, Cosmus and Stephanie Samuel who are celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries during the month of April.

Happy Birthday to Kenya Joseph, Glenna Graves, Clifford Massey, Cosmus Samuel, Samuel Bell, Eric Knight, Barron Neal, Leon Gordon, Lindsey Joiner, Roy Sedgwick, Claudette Oghogho, Nadia Long, Veronica "Ronnie" Thomas, Charmaine Grant, Myles Panda-Massay, Sarita Georges, William Stroman, III, Gerald Brown, Alexander Stammer, Nathaniel Holmes and Jameel Hinton who are celebrating their Birthdays during the month of April.

Neighborhood Events

Prince George's County Public Schools to Host teacher Recruitment Fair

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will host a job fair to recruit outstanding educators to teach within the school system. PGCPS is focused on hiring talented and certified teachers to join our team of education professionals on the move!

Primarily the district is in search of educators with certification in areas such as: Elementary, English, ESOL, Family & Consumer Science, Mathematics, Montessori (trained and certified), Music (instrument & vocal), Science, Spanish, and Special Education.

Interested candidates must hold or be eligible for a teaching credential appropriate to area of assignment issued by the Maryland State Department of Education. Offered benefits include health insurance, dental, vision and retirement plan(s).

The job fair will be held on Saturday, April 26, at Northwestern High School located at 7000 Adelphi Road in Hyattsville, Maryland. Interested educators must pre-register to attend. For additional questions, please call 301-780-2191.

The Board of Education of Prince George's County does not discriminate in admissions, treatment, or employment on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

PGFD Expands PINK Breast Cancer Awareness Program With a Pink Paramedic Unit

The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department cares enough to go pink year round. An engine was wrapped in PINK and has been seen by thousands as the PGFD Pink Pumper visits various events in support of Breast Cancer Awareness over the past 2 years. During the month of October, Prince George's County Firefighter/Medics swap their standard work shirts for pink ones to help raise awareness and to raise funds for various charities working to find a cure.

The Department is looking forward to expanding our awareness program by adding a new PGFD Pink Paramedic unit. The transport unit is painted pink and is adorned with graphics supporting awareness and finding a cure. The Fire/EMS Departments very own Jeff Callaway designed the graphics.

Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor stated, "It is an honor to lead the Department's effort to keep Breast Cancer Awareness a 365 day-a-year project. The Fire/EMS Department is proud to display pink and use some of our apparatus as vehicles to help deliver the message to help find a cure."

The PINK medium-duty unit will be on display at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana before being delivered to Prince George's County. We anticipate the in-service date of this \$240,000 unit to be in early May. The pink unit is scheduled to go in-service as a paramedic unit at the College Park Fire/EMS Station 812.



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Hoyer Joins Team Maryland for "We're All In: Bringing the FBI to Prince George's County"

COLLEGE PARK, MD — Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) joined Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, Governor Martin O'Malley, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Ben Cardin, Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards, Maryland State Senator Doug Peters, Maryland State Delegate Jolene Ivey, and Prince George's County Council Chairman Mel Franklin to promote Prince George's County as the right choice for relocating the new, consolidated Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters. The new FBI headquarters will be home to 11,000 jobs and is estimated to be a \$2 billion economic development project.

Officials highlighted that Prince George's County, Maryland is the best site for the relocation of the FBI due to the County's close proximity to Washington, efficient transportation options, competitive land and lease pricing, considerable federal assets, and world-class academic institutions.

The FBI has identified cyber security as a top priority and its agents would benefit from the unprecedented growth of the cyber security field in Maryland. Maryland is home to numerous cyber security, defense, intelligence, and law enforcement facilities, including Fort Meade, home to U.S. Cyber Command and National Security Agency; Joint Base Andrews; National Institute of Standards and Technology; National Cyber Security Center of Excellence; Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center; Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers; and Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab.

Prince Georges County offers a highly educated workforce as well as the resources of the University of Maryland College Park, Bowie State University, University of Maryland University College and Prince George's Community College. The County also has a robust transportation infrastructure with access to Interstate 95, the Capital Beltway/495, U.S. Route 50, Joint Base Andrews, Reagan National Airport, BWI Airport, Metro, County Transit Bus lines, MARC Commuter Rail System, Amtrak, and the proposed Purple Line that will connect New Carrollton to Silver Spring.

Prince George's County is home to a quarter of the region's federal workforce, but the County only accounts for 4% of federal leased office space in the National Capital Region. Virginia, on the other hand, has 36% of the leased

space. Additionally, half of leased space in Prince George's is warehouse space while warehouse space in other counties accounts for 15% or less. Siting the FBI in Prince George's County would improve equitable distribution of federal office leasing space.

"I was pleased to join members of the Maryland Congressional delegation, Governor O'Malley, County Executive Baker, and others today to declare that the state of Maryland is fully behind Prince George's County as the next home of the FBI headquarters," stated Congressman Hoyer. "With close proximity to Washington, efficient transit connections, world-class institutions of research and higher education, and great neighborhoods, Prince George's County is the right choice for the FBI's new, consolidated headquarters. The FBI would also benefit from premier cyber security and defense facilities located in and near the County. While we face strong competition, an honest assessment of cost, convenience, security, and transportation options shows Prince George's County is the best choice for the FBI, for the American taxpayers, and for the region. I will continue to work with my colleagues at the federal, state, and local level to make the strongest case possible for bringing the FBI to Prince George's County and ensuring this is a fair process."

"Competition for the new FBI headquarters amongst our neighbors and friends will be fierce," said Prince George's County Executive Baker. "However, it is clear that the best deal for the U.S. taxpayers, the best choice for smart regional growth, and the best decision to mitigate regional traffic congestion is for the GSA to locate the new FBI Headquarters in Prince George's County. I am proud that Prince George's County has the support of the entire State leadership for this effort and that we are all in and determined to succeed. I am confident that this County will soon be known as Home to the FBI."

"With proximity to multiple transit options, federal assets like CyberCommand and research institutions like the University of Maryland, Greenbelt offer a phenomenal strategic advantage for the FBI consolidated headquarters," said Governor O'Malley. "Our commitment to strengthening and growing the middle class has never been stronger. We'll continue working with our partners in Prince George's County and in Congress to bring this federal asset to Maryland — there's no better place in the United States."

"Prince George's County is creating new opportunities every day and, with growing neighborhoods and a strong workforce, this is the right place for the new FBI headquarters," said Lt. Governor Brown. "By working together with our partners at the federal, state and county level, we've made major investments in our schools, our transportation infrastructure and our communities - now we must work to deliver this important economic development project to Prince George's."

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Demystifying Credit Scores

One of the few positive outcomes of the 2008 financial crisis was that it helped shine a light on the importance of understanding and staying on top of your credit profile. Along with that heightened visibility, however, has come a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding – particularly around the all-important credit score.



"The consequences of not maintaining a sound credit score can be very costly," says Anthony Sprauve, senior consumer credit specialist at FICO. "A low score can bar you from getting a new loan, doom you to higher interest rates and even cost you a new job or apartment."

Five factors are used to determine your credit score: payment history (usually around 35 percent of your score), amount owed (30 percent), length of credit history (15 percent), newly opened credit accounts (10 percent), and types of credit used (10 percent).

Fortunately, if your credit score has taken a hit, you can initiate several actions that will begin improving it almost immediately. Just be aware that it can take many years to recover from events like bankruptcy or foreclosure.

First, find out where you currently stand by reviewing your credit reports from each major credit bureau (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). Look for negative actions your creditors might have reported as well as errors and fraudulent activity, which you can challenge through the bureau's dispute resolution process. You can order one free report per year from each bureau through the government-authorized site, www.AnnualCreditReport.com; otherwise you'll pay a small fee.

You might also want to order your credit score. Lenders use credit scores to supplement their own selection criteria to determine whether you are a worthy credit risk. Several types are available, including FICO® Score, VantageScore (a competing model jointly created by Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) and proprietary credit scores from each of the three bureaus, among others. Scores typically cost from \$15 to \$20 each.

Note: You may see offers for free credit scores, but they're usually tied to expensive ongoing credit-monitoring services you may or may not want. Read the contract carefully.

Here are a few tips for improving your credit history:

- Always pay bills on time and catch up on missed payments.
- Set up automatic payments for recurring bills and automatic minimum credit card payments if you often miss deadlines.
- Sign up for text or email alerts telling you when your balance drops or payments are due.
- Never exceed credit card limits.
- Monitor your credit utilization ratio (the percentage of available credit you're using). Try to keep your cumulative utilization ratio – and the ratios on individual cards or lines of credit – below 30 percent.
- Transferring balances to a new card for a lower rate will slightly ding your credit score – although it won't take long to recover. But be careful the transfer doesn't increase your utilization ratio on the new card.
- Make sure that card credit limits reported to the credit bureaus are accurate.
- Don't automatically close older, unused accounts; 15 percent of your score is based on credit history.
- Each time you open a new account it slightly impacts your score, so avoid doing so in the months before a major purchase.
- Pay off medical bills, as well as parking, traffic and even library fines. Once old, unpaid bills go into collection, they'll appear on your credit report.

"Bottom line, don't lose hope," says Sprauve. "The negative impact of past credit problems will gradually fade as recent good payment behavior begins to show up on your credit reports."

Governor O'Malley Highlights Progress Towards Achieving Goal of Boosting Stem Graduates in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD -- Governor Martin O'Malley announced that Maryland college students are graduating from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) degree programs at record rates. From 2006 to 2013, the number of STEM graduates from Maryland colleges and universities increased by 37.1% from 9,544 in 2006 to 13,082 in 2013.

In September 2008, Governor O'Malley created the Governor's STEM Task Force to make recommendations aimed at establishing Maryland as a global leader in the development of its future workforce and its STEM-based research and economic development infrastructure. One of the recommendations of the Task Force was to increase the number of STEM college graduates in Maryland by 40 percent by the year 2015. Governor O'Malley accepted these recommendations and included them in his sixteen strategic policy goals. Especially in light of today's announcement, Maryland is on track to meet that goal.

Maryland continues to be a leader in STEM education, having been the first state in the nation to set specific STEM education standards that tell teachers not just what STEM is, but how to teach the subjects. A STEM education is critical to ensuring that students can compete for and obtain jobs in Maryland where there is a growing demand for skilled workers to fill federal research laboratories and cybersecurity jobs.

"Ensuring that our students are prepared to compete in the economy of tomorrow is an important part of strengthening STEM education in Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "STEM programs offer our students the opportunity to broaden their skills, learn about new, cutting edge technology, and compete for jobs in fields such as technology, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing. Together, we will continue to provide our students with access to a high-quality education to ensure economic opportunity and strengthen and grow our middle class."

Governor O'Malley was joined at today's event by Jennifer Frank, the Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Higher Ed-

ucation Commission. Frank discussed the importance of a STEM education in building a 21st century economy.

"Continuing to increase the number of STEM degrees awarded to students is a key goal for Maryland postsecondary education," said Frank. "Our colleges and universities are committed to attracting, retaining, and graduating students in these critical disciplines, as well as preparing high-quality teachers who will educate the STEM collegians of the future. We appreciate and commend the efforts of our two-year and four-year institutions throughout the state."

President Freeman Hrabowski of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County stated that we need to broaden the appeal of STEM to individuals with diverse backgrounds.

"We need to be doing more to change perceptions about who belongs in STEM fields," Hrabowski said. "At UMBC, for instance, our Center for Women in Information Technology (CWIT) is playing an important role helping women recognize their potential to become technology professionals and entrepreneurs. Preparing

students from all backgrounds for technology-related careers -- including many careers in which the arts, humanities, and social sciences play a vital role -- will help our state and the nation remain competitive."

University of Maryland University College's President, Javier Miyares, added, "Maryland is the epicenter of the STEM-related cybersecurity industry and UMUC is now producing thousands of graduates who are filling key roles in this field that is vital to our economy and national security," stated Miyares. "In fact, we are building a spirit of community around STEM-success through our championship cybersecurity competition teams. We cheer for our UMUC Cyber Padawans the way students at other universities cheer for their basketball teams."

Increasing the number of STEM graduates is a key piece of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's education agenda, which includes holding tuition at Maryland's four-year institutions to a 3.3% increase (the lowest in the nation) and having the number one public schools for a record five years in a row.

100 Bills from A1

a backpack into the "pit" where the school teams congregate during the competition. He seemed innocuous, but Charlie Frick, a Johns Hopkins cyber researcher and event volunteer, said that backpack was full of antennae gathering information about the defenders' networks.

The scheme worked: No student noticed the intrusion.

The collegiate "White Teams", all clustered around tables in a separate room from the red team, felt the pressure.

"It's intense... you really have to multitask," said Eileen Hindman, a senior at Radford University in Virginia.

The Red Team got deep into student networks quickly, further flustering the students.

"It's a little hectic ... I thought it would be smoother," said Felix Guerrero, a junior at Towson University.

Some students' efforts to maintain security bordered on paranoia. Keegan Moore, a sophomore from Laurel's Capi-

tol College interrogated an innocent volunteer to ensure he wasn't a Red Team spy, only relenting when Frick verified his identity.

But members of the Red Team welcome the chance to switch sides after playing defense for most of their professional careers.

"I'm having a blast," said Sean Pierce, a red team member and technical intelligence analyst for Virginia-based iSight Partners. "It's fun and easy to attack. There's no pressure."

The complexity of the scenario leaves each college with a plethora of tasks to juggle. Networks have to be maintained and secured, but much like the real world, critical functions can't just be shut down to deal with threats.

On top of that, there are phony elected and corporate officials to please. For example, Costis Toregas, a cybersecurity professor at The George Washington University, plays the role of a county executive who will grill team captains, demanding

better performance in areas that teams may have neglected.

"Sometimes cybersecurity is contained within the technology silo," Toregas explained. The simulation of added demands from government and business creates a more realistic environment and forces teams to learn "business acumen" that computer science classes may gloss over, he added.

The winning White Team will compete in a national tournament in San Antonio next month, but cybersecurity firms are eyeing potential hires from day one. During the competition weekend, a career fair gives students a chance to talk to employers one-on-one.

"We have a really unique perspective on the growing need for cyber talent," said Jennifer Havermann, engineering manager for Raytheon, a security corporation and sponsor of the event. She added that competitions like this give students the opportunity to practice valuable skills that classrooms can't teach.

Dustin Shirley, a member of Anne Arundel Community College's team, agreed.

"This is the best learning tool for students," Shirley said. The competition offers a chance to apply skills, whereas "in the classroom, you get Power-Pointed to death."

And despite the stress of the challenge, the atmosphere in the pit and the Red Team's base is casual. The Red Team is blasting loud electronic music. Cans of energy drinks and snack food wrappers are scattered across White Team tables. Unallocated Space, a Severn-based technology education center, brought a modified Ms. Pac-Man machine that lets non-competitors play a number of classic arcade games.

For the student teams, camaraderie and communication are critical. Teams like Anne Arundel's have spent months refining their techniques, and members said that team chemistry has formed naturally.

"We can sense stress ... we help each other out," Shirley said, grinning.

Crater from A1

Land around the bay has been slowly sinking for millions of years, but nobody has determined exactly how much of this is due to the crater, said Ward Sanford, a United States Geological Survey hydrologist. Smith said the crater is definitely one reason this area is experiencing the fastest rates of relative sea level rise on the East Coast.

Relative sea level rise, which takes both rising sea levels and sinking land into account, averaged 3.9 millimeters per year, according to USGS data collected from four stations in the southern Chesapeake Bay until 2006. The global average sea level rise is 1.8 millimeters per year, according to a USGS report released in December.

Another effect that can contribute to sea level rise is the withdrawal of underground water

supplies. If the amount of groundwater decreases, the weight of rock layers above the groundwater compacts softer layers downward, Sanford said. This can amount to centimeters of change over decades.

About 80 percent of sinking land nationwide is caused by groundwater withdrawals, according to USGS data.

Smith said the crater also appears to have influenced path of the James River and other rivers near where they meet the outer rim of the crater.

The crater was discovered relatively recently. But many others came across hints of its presence long before geologists Scott Bruce, David Powars and their colleagues helped piece together the hints to reveal the crater. Bruce and Powars wrote an article for Virginia Explorer in 2000 about the history of these acci-

dental interactions with the crater.

In 1864, Union soldiers at Fort Monroe near the mouth of the James River drilled a 907-foot well that drew salty water from inside the crater. More wells were drilled and more studies of groundwater supplies and other subsurface characteristics were done over the next decades. But Powars — working for USGS at the time — Bruce — then a groundwater geologist with the Virginia State Water Control Board — and their colleagues didn't get close to the discovery until 1986.

"On a hot August night, Don Queen (USGS driller) and Jay Owens (SWCB assistant driller) extruded a section of core that resembled none other taken in Virginia," Powars and Bruce wrote in the Virginia Explorer article. "The next day, in better daylight, Powars, Bruce, and

Steve Schindler puzzled over the atypical composition of the core. At one point, David Powars jokingly commented, "Wouldn't it be cool if this was from a meteor impact?" Everyone roared with laughter."

Later, Powars got seismic data of the bay region from Texaco in 1993 that showed evidence of the crater, supporting the theory of a meteor impact.

Although hints of the crater had been discovered since as early as 1864, it wasn't until the Texaco data was analyzed that the crater's existence was definitively confirmed.

"Any time you come up with something new and they all think 'how could you possibly know?' they laugh at you," Powars said. "When I got the eureka point, once I had figured that out, I knew I could defend it against anybody."

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Focuses on FBI's Plan to Keep American Families and Communities Safe

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee, today focused on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) plan to keep American families and communities safe as the agency recovers from the cuts of sequester at a CJS Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the agency's fiscal year 2015 budget with FBI Director James B. Comey.

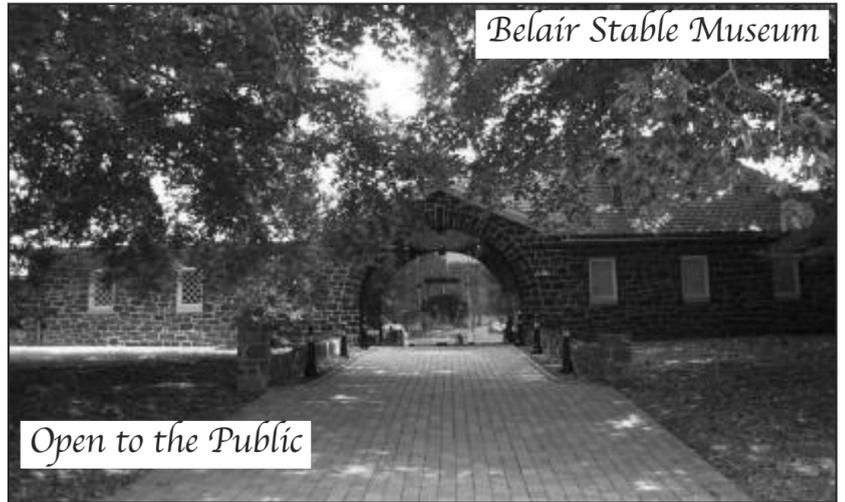
"We need a strong, robust, 21st Century FBI that can meet 21st Century threats. FBI is on the job 24/7, 365 days a year. We must show our appreciation for the work they do by making sure they have the right resources and the right tools they need to do their job and keep America safe. By sustaining the momentum from canceling sequester in 2014, we will ensure FBI is on the front line protecting our nation's families, businesses and cyber infrastructure," Senator Mikulski said. "FBI needs a fully consolidated central headquarters that will allow it to fulfill its modern mission, with facilities that are safe, secure and suited to its needs. We don't need a micro consolidation. We need a consolidation that considers the cost of operations, security needs, convenience of location for staff, transportation options and infrastructure that will serve the functionality and security requirements of the FBI for the next 50 years."

Senator Mikulski discussed the need to continue the momentum from canceling sequester for two years to ensure a robust 21st Century FBI to take on 21st Century threats. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014

law, Senator Mikulski fought to support the mission of the FBI protecting Americans from crime, organized crime, cyber attacks and terrorism. That legislation provided \$8.2 billion for the FBI, an increase of \$762 million over sequester levels, allowing the agency to conduct 1,300 more terrorism, cyber intrusion and violent crime investigations. The bill also included \$390 million for FBI cybersecurity, an increase of \$75 million over sequester to fund the Next Generation Cybersecurity Initiative. This will further the FBI's investigatory, intelligence gathering and technological capabilities to detect, disrupt and dismantle organized cyber criminals.

Senator Mikulski also reiterated her commitment for a new, consolidated FBI headquarters that is safe, secure and suited to the needs of the FBI. Earlier this week, Senator Mikulski was joined by Maryland officials standing behind Prince George's County, Maryland to serve as the home to a new, consolidated FBI headquarters. In 2013, Senators Mikulski and Ben Cardin along with the entire Maryland Congressional delegation sent a letter to the heads of the FBI and GSA that strongly support the county. A copy of that letter is available here.

In November, the General Services Administration (GSA) formally opened the process for finding a location to build a new campus for an FBI headquarters specifying that it had to be 50 acres of property within two miles of a Metro station and within two-and-a-half miles of the Capital Beltway. The new FBI headquarters is estimated to be a \$2 billion economic development project and home to 11,000 jobs.



Belair Stable Museum

Open to the Public

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Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



"Mama Get Me Away From Around Here!"

Almost one year after I first wrote about Ka'nard Allen, his story—and the stories of several other children whose lives are connected to his—remain a searing example of how pervasive gun violence in our nation's cities is killing, injuring, and traumatizing our children. As Pulitzer Prize-winning New Orleans journalist Julia Cass reports for the Children's Defense Fund, on May 29, 2012, Ka'nard celebrated his 10th birthday at his grandmother's house in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans. He and his friends and family members were playing games in the front yard and on the porch. "We was having a party and then it's a shooting," Ka'nard said. Four young men carrying guns and an AK-47 ran up and unleashed a volley of bullets. Police said they were attempting to kill members of a rival group at or near the party. Ka'nard felt the sting as he was struck in the calf and on the side of his neck.

His mother, Tynia Allen, saw blood running down his neck. To get help she had to step over Ka'nard's five-year-old cousin Brianna Allen's lifeless body on the porch. The reach and power of the assault rifle was so great that a bullet fired near the party also struck and killed Shawanna Pierce, 33, in her car at a stop sign three blocks away, leaving three young boys without a mother.

That year, along with many before it, New Orleans had one of the highest per capita murder rates of any city in America—close to 95 percent of them committed with guns. The carnage at Ka'nard's party, as well as at other shootings before and since, sent out waves of fear, grief and anger that linger on in the lives of the children affected.

Shawanna Pierce's youngest son, now 3, doesn't remember his mother. But her two older boys, Kelby, now 12, and Kolby, 8, began to cry when asked about their mother. Their maternal grandmother, still deeply grieving herself, asked them to recall things they did with their mother, who worked in the coding department of a local hospital. Disney World, she prompted, the zoo, the Poncechatoula Strawberry Festival. "I

can't," Kelby said. "I'm too sad." Both boys have photos of their mother on their cell phone cases. Their grades suffered, although now, almost two years later, the boys' school work is beginning to improve.

Ka'nard became frightened. "I always think somebody wants to shoot me," he said. Less than a year after he was shot at his birthday party, he was shot again—in the cheek—when he and his mother went to a Mother's Day parade last May. Two gunmen fired into the crowd, wounding 19 people, including Ka'nard and a 10-year-old girl.

"He panicked," his mother said. "He said, 'Mama, get me away from around here!'"

That could be the cry of every child and teenager growing up in a violent neighborhood. Some never have the chance to grow up. In the last six months of 2013 in New Orleans, a 1-year-old girl was shot to death on the street in the arms of a babysitter, an 11-year-old girl was killed in bed by stray bullets entering her home, and a 7-month-old boy was shot in the head while riding in a car with his father.

Even children who are not directly hit by gun violence suffer the collateral damage of liv-

ing in an unsafe environment saturated with guns that are routinely used to settle conflicts or to exact retaliation. A striking number of low income children in New Orleans have witnessed gun violence and murders, according to a 2011-2012 screening of children between the ages of 11 and 15 who participated in a teen pregnancy prevention program. Of the 700 interviewed by the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies, 29 percent had witnessed assaults with guns; 14 percent had witnessed gun homicides. More than half cited concern about "personal safety" as a source of worry, more than twice the number who worried about "being unloved." Not surprisingly, the children reported symptoms of post-traumatic stress and depression at a much higher rate—about one-third—than typical teenagers.

The Children's Bureau of New Orleans, a non-profit agency that offers mental health counseling, runs a program called Project LAST—the Loss And Survival Team—that works with some of the city's children who have had multiple expo-

See WATCH, Page A7

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



The Ryan Budget Is a Path to Economic Disaster

"Affluent Americans would do quite well. But for tens of millions of others, the Ryan plan is a path to more adversity."

— Robert Greenstein, President of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

In the same week that we marked the 46th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and learned that 7.1 million Americans had enrolled in the Affordable Care Act, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan introduced a draconian 2015 budget plan that increases military spending through 2024 by \$483 billion—to pre-sequester levels, yet cuts non-defense spending by \$791 billion. This illogical plan proposes to repeal the Affordable Care Act, end Medicare as we know it, and slash critical safety-net programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP — formerly food stamps), Head Start and Pell Grants. It is ironic that a plan called the "Path to Prosperity" is nothing more than a path to political grandstanding and partisanship that has no place among constructive efforts focused on real prosperity for all Americans — not a select few.

At a time when Americans are looking to Washington for solutions to the problems of income inequality and the ever-increasing Great Divide, the Ryan budget goes in the opposite direction. Rather than closing the gaps, it exacerbates the problems by raising taxes an average of \$2000 for middle-class families with children, according to the Office of Management and Budget, while giving the wealthiest taxpayers a break by lowering their taxes from 39.6 percent to 25 percent. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimates that the "prosperity proposal" would result in the loss of three million jobs over the next couple of years, thereby reversing the gradual upward trend in job creation. In short, the Ryan budget, while not surprising in its familiar ideology or fanciful push towards austerity, represents the height of irresponsibility and is a blueprint for disaster for millions of hard-working Americans. It has immediately, and rightfully, drawn widespread condemnation.

Ethan Pollack, Senior Policy Analyst with the non-partisan Economic Policy Institute concluded

that much like the budget Ryan proposed last year, this one burdens seniors, the disabled, and children — while cutting taxes for the rich. "Tax cuts for people who don't need them and economic insecurity for everyone else is grossly irresponsible budget and economic policy," he added.

The non-profit Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that "Some 69 percent of the cuts in House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's new budget would come from programs that serve people of limited means. These disproportionate cuts...contrast sharply with the budget's rhetoric about helping the poor and promoting opportunity."

The Center for American Progress called Ryan's plan "the same conservative, top-down policies that have failed the nation's middle and working-class families, seniors, and the economy," while the New York Times called it "Destructive to the country's future."

Thankfully, spending for the next two years was set by the budget agreement passed in the Senate and the House and signed by President Obama in December 2013. So it is unlikely that the Ryan budget will become law in the short-term or is for anything more than show. Nonetheless, it is a dangerous "vision" for our nation. The National Urban League strongly rejects this budget because of its likely destructive impact on employment, the economy and poverty. We urge Paul Ryan and his colleagues to drop this plan and get serious about developing a responsible budget that does not depend on hurting millions of working and middle-class Americans to benefit the richest few.

I would expect that Rep. Ryan would be more conscious of the critical need to accomplish this, especially as this year's State of Black America® report and the new Black-White Metropolitan Equality Index™ finds that three of the five least equal cities in America for unemployment and two of the five least equal cities for income are in his home state of Wisconsin (Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Madison; and Milwaukee and Minneapolis, respectively). With an equality index of

See RYAN BUDGET Page A6

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Handling The Frustration Of That Teenager's Messy Room

Say the phrase "messy room" to the parents of any teenager, boy or girl, and you'll almost always get a nod of understanding and a roll of the eyes in frustration. It's one of the most common causes of teen-parent disagreements.

So, looking for a magic way to make a teen's messy room problem disappear?

Lots of luck! But there are ways to reduce "messy room" stress and frustration.

First, identify the source of your frustration. After all, your child lives in the mess, not you. As parents, our frustration comes from what the mess says about our authority over our offspring and our effectiveness as a parent. If our child ignores the mess and our requests to clean, are we bad parents?

For your teen, however, the issue isn't the mess, but privacy and autonomy. Although we want our children to develop independence, it's disappointing to see it expressed as a messy room. However, to your teen that room is his or her domain, and keeping it as desired is a way of being independent.

So, instead of feeling frustrated, accept that this is part of the developmental process. But try setting sensible family rules that make it easier to live with that messy bedroom.

Rule one is that while messy is okay, life threatening is not. Bug attractors, like old food wrappers and dirty dishes, aren't acceptable. You can close the door on untidy, but unhealthy is a real problem.

Also set simple, acceptable rules for family use areas. Cleaning up after oneself in the kitchen, or getting that backpack out of the hallway, are rules teens can understand as reasonable, even when they see a clean bedroom as unfair.

It also doesn't help to clean up for your teen. That just breeds anger and the lesson that once it's messy enough, you'll do the job for them.

But do offer help. Many teens literally don't know where to start once the mess gets too big. Suggest ways to break that big task into smaller ones. Offer storage and sorting tips.

There are lots of causes worth pushing hard for with your teen. A messy room is seldom one. Someday that room will get cleaned. A new friend or the frustration of wrinkled clothes or missing treasures might be the motivation.

Or not. Then that clean room will just have to wait until he or she moves out.

Business Spotlight

Technology Is Key For SMBs

(NAPSI)—Regardless of where you work—whether it's a Fortune 500 company or a five-person office—it's generally understood that with larger budgets comes a more robust selection of office technology. Large enterprises have long been able to purchase high-end devices with features that small-to-medium-sized businesses (SMBs) simply can't afford.

When choosing technology for your SMB, however, you can think big. Here are three major considerations:

- **Enhance your mobile capabilities**—In today's world, business moves fast—whether it's in the office or on the go. What if you need to print away from your desk? Although mobile printing is growing rapidly on a year-over-year basis, both tablet and smartphone users need help to print from their devices. According to the technology media, events and research company IDC, more than 50 percent of smartphone users and 35 percent of tablet users say they don't know how to print from their mobile devices. Now, industry leaders are answering the call of the mobile customer. That is why they launched the Mopria Alliance with the goal of promoting, simplifying and increasing wireless printing from mobile devices. Small-business owners can consider the HP Color LaserJet Pro MFP M476, the first Mopria-certified printer for SMBs, which brings enterprise-grade mobile print capabilities to let users print or access content, anytime, anywhere, from any device.

- **Invest in security solutions**—According to Good Technology, 75.5 percent of companies support BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), the practice of using personal mobile devices for work. As this trend is expected to continue, it's essential that businesses have a comprehensive security and management strategy in place. Make sure to invest in the necessary security solutions to help protect sensitive information sent from mobile devices across your network of printers; for example, secure pull printing, access controls and other authentication measures.

- **Increase productivity with workflow solutions**—Document workflow solutions are key to improving productivity. Cloud solutions such as HP Flow CM Professional—accessible directly from the HP Color LaserJet Pro MFP M476—bring enterprise-grade content management capabilities to growing businesses, furthering collaboration and productivity for SMBs without forfeiting security. The cloud presents a unique opportunity for SMBs, as 50 percent agree that cloud computing will become more important for businesses like their own. Investing in cloud-based solutions can help streamline processes, improve accessibility, increase flexibility and globalize any workforce.

Learn More: There are many options for SMBs looking for affordable enterprise-grade technology. For more information on HP's print offerings for SMBs, visit www.hp.com/go/mfp.

Economic Recovery Leads to Drop in Adult College Enrollment

By MARY FADDOUL
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — At the peak of the 2008 recession, when layoffs became all too common, many people turned to an alternative to job-hunting — enrolling at their local colleges.

But over the last two years, as the economy has begun to improve, fewer adults are returning to school and enrollment at community colleges and other institutions has declined dramatically.

Take, for instance, enrollment at Maryland's 16 community colleges.

Enrollment surged at the peak of the recession, increasing 9.3 percent from 128,093 to 140,031 between 2008 and 2009.

But between 2012 and 2013, the number of students at community colleges dropped 3.9 percent from 144,880 to 139,198.

Alex Rosaen, director of public policy and economic analysis at Anderson Economic Group, a research and consulting firm, said people weigh the costs and benefits of returning to school.

"One thing we observed is just that through the recession there was just a continuous increase in enrollment," he said.

For the unemployed and those fearing layoffs during the recession, returning to school seemed like a viable option that would provide opportunities for work, job security and advancement.

However, the recovering economy has caused a drop in the unemployment rate, more job openings and flatter adult enrollment, Rosaen added.

"As we've started the recovery, such as it is, we're not in a boom time, but things are not getting worse," he said.

In 2008, people faced more competition per job opening, of which there were few, he said.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Turnover Survey reported that U.S. work vacancies rose 30.3 percent — an increase of 925,000 — from December 2008 to January 2014.

The overall recovery since 2008 appears to explain the change in the enrollment trend.

"In general, it's a very common cycle that when unemployment increases so does enrollment," said Cathy Sandeen, vice president for education attainment and innovation at the American Council on Education.

Sandeen has also noticed a greater interest in certification programs and more people studying online, as well as students entering growing fields.

"You know, we do tend to see student enrollment in programs where there is employment growth or projected employment growth," such as security, technology and health-care, she said.

While nontraditional students consist of a wide range of ages and backgrounds, the reason for enrollment has tended to remain consistent since 2008 — the weak economy.

Melissa Antonio, a nontraditional student at the Community College of Baltimore County, enrolled as the economy began to recover.

She never thought much about continuing her education after high school and entered the workforce, holding several long-term positions, mostly involving office work.

Then in June, the 34-year-old lost her job and decided to pursue a career in nursing.

Antonio's story is still a common one in an economy with 10.5 million out of work, although the number of people going back to school has slowed.

Other Maryland higher education institutions have also felt the change in adult enrollment.

Bernard Sadosky, executive director at the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, which represents the state's community colleges, explained the adult enrollment trend as an inverse relationship.

"There seems to be an inverse effect from a decline in the economy and folks returning back to community colleges," he said, identifying certification and new skill attainment as reasons for adult enrollment.

Sadosky said that Maryland has more than 100,000 job vacancies and many nontraditional students want to pursue careers in cybersecurity, an emerging field in the metropolitan area.

The University of Maryland University College launched its



PHOTO COURTESY MELISSA ANTONIO
Melissa Antonio, a 34-year-old mother, began studying nursing at the Community College of Baltimore County in 2013 after losing her job.

cybersecurity program in 2010 and enrollment has risen from about 1,000 in 2011 to more than 5,000 currently, said Robert Ludwig, assistant vice president for media relations at UMUC.

But like other schools, UMUC faces an overall drop in enrollment.

UMUC had an increase in enrollment by 6.3 percent from 87,645 to 93,193 between 2008 and 2013. However, the main jump in registration occurred between 2009 and 2012, after which enrollment decreased 3.9 percent.

"I think we're seeing a demographic shift," Ludwig said about adult enrollment. "I think we're seeing enrollment rates soften a bit and we'll see where that's going in the next few years."

Assets from A1

fessor at the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business.

Further, the Delaney proposal is out of sync with many plans to overhaul the U.S. tax code, he said. "Every proposal on the table is for the corporate tax rate to go down, not up."

Rich Badmington, W.R. Grace & Co.'s vice president of global communications, said most of the Columbia chemical company's revenue comes from international operations. The company plans to continue investing in those operations.

"We are able to do that without bringing cash back to the U.S. because we are continuing to invest," Badmington said. "(Research and development) is a function that requires continuing investment and we have quite a lot of that outside the U.S."

President Barack Obama's latest budget plan called for the creation of a government-owned entity to finance infrastructure projects. Delaney said the president's support for something similar to his bill was "great," and said it shows how much momentum the bill has.

"We're very optimistic about it, we have strong bipartisan support," Delaney said.

The bill has 57 co-sponsors in the House and 12 in the Senate, including Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Michael Bennet, D-Colo., head of the Senate Finance Committee's Taxation and IRS Oversight subcommittee. Hearings have not been scheduled for the bill.

Under the tax code, corporations can avoid paying taxes on foreign earnings as long as the money is being permanently reinvested overseas. When the corporations decide to bring these funds back home, a process called "repatriation," the money then is subject to U.S. taxes.

Originally, the tax exemption was meant to help U.S. corporations compete overseas, said Mitchell Kane, a tax professor at New York University's School

of Law. Companies claimed paying taxes in two countries would put them at a disadvantage and the government responded with the exemption, he said.

The plan was to have the companies pay foreign taxes, which in many cases are lower than the U.S. tax rate, and then pay U.S. taxes when the money was repatriated. After this process, the company would receive a credit for any foreign taxes paid, Kane said.

Allowing such an exemption has created an incentive for companies to keep their money overseas and defer the U.S. corporate tax, said Jane Gravelle, an economist with the Congressional Research Service. But parking money offshore isn't a long-term solution for companies, she added.

"They may think they can hold their breath forever and borrow money," Gravelle said. "How long are they going to be able to do that? Shareholders eventually want dividends."

This exemption could result in \$265.7 billion in lost revenue for the federal government through 2017, according to a 2013 report by Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation.

For now, however, companies aren't likely to repatriate without a major tax discount.

W.R. Grace has more than \$1.1 billion held overseas and would have to pay \$149.7 million in taxes if it was repatriated, according to SEC filings. That money will remain overseas, except in instances where repatriation would result in minimal or no U.S. taxes, the company said in its most recent SEC filing.

MICROS Systems, a Maryland-based computer hardware and software producer, has about 61 percent of its cash and cash equivalents, \$385.8 million, held internationally with no plans to repatriate, according to the company's most recent filings with the SEC.

Maryland-based apparel company Under Armour has \$95.2 million, or 27 percent, of its cash and cash equivalents

held overseas with no plans to bring it back.

Spokespersons from MICROS and Under Armour could not be reached for comment.

Other companies have begun to repatriate their foreign funds, which Kane said could help cover corporate expenses. McCormick & Company, a spice, herbs and flavoring manufacturer, repatriated \$70 million in 2012, according to the company's most recent SEC filings. Even still, most of the company's cash is held in foreign subsidiaries, the filings said.

A spokesperson for McCormick and Co. could not be reached for comment.

Some of the largest U.S. corporations make about half of their money internationally, Delaney said. The bill is just a way to get some of it back.

"It creates a way for some of that money to come back, which is good for our economy," Delaney said. "And it creates this large-scale infrastructure fund, which is good for our country."

Instead of government funding, the American Infrastructure Fund would raise cash through a \$50 billion bond offering. Companies would buy the bonds at a 1 percent fixed interest rate and a 50-year term, in exchange for a chance to repatriate a certain portion of overseas earnings tax-free for every dollar spent on bonds.

A bond to repatriation ratio would be determined by an auction and could result in companies paying an effective 12 percent tax rate, Delaney said. Money raised in the bond sale could then be leveraged and loaned to state and local governments for projects.

The auction process will benefit both the infrastructure fund and the corporations, which will be able to find a price that is right for them, Delaney said.

"We've talked to them and they're very supportive of it," he said.

The American Business Conference, Associated Equipment Distributors and Terex Corpora-

tion are among those supporting the bill.

Tech giants and pharmaceutical corporations have lobbied for a repatriation holiday since the 2004 American Jobs Creation Act allowed them to repatriate at a discounted rate. Because of the intellectually-based capital that these companies thrive on, it is sometimes easier for them to keep assets overseas.

For example, Apple has \$124.4 billion held overseas, according to the company's most recent SEC filing.

The 2004 bill reduced repatriation taxes to 5.25 percent if corporations promised to invest the money at home. The one-year holiday is widely regarded as a failure because it spurred an increase in repatriation, but not an increase in jobs or investments, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service.

"The argument was that it would be a stimulus" to the U.S. economy, Gravelle said. "Most people who studied this found out it was being used to repurchase shares."

Share repurchases are a common way to boost stock prices.

Corporations used the money to pay stockholders dividends and pay off debts, which doesn't make for a good stimulus, she continued. Instead, the holiday created a "moral hazard" and companies have parked money overseas, waiting for the next holiday, Gravelle said.

Delaney's bill has short-term benefits but doesn't address the larger problems with the tax code, Faulkender said. Corporations will want to move more and more operations overseas if they can find discounts on U.S. taxes, he added.

"If you signal that firms are going to realize a lower tax rate, even after repatriation, on their foreign operations, you're going to incentivize even more offshoring," he said.

"I don't think that's good for the U.S. economy."

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Sabotage"

Sabotage
Grade: D+
Rated R, nonstop harsh profanity and pervasive gory violence, some sexuality and random nudity
1 hr., 49 min

Sabotage is disappointing for a number of reasons, not least of which is its failure to be about sabotage, or to even feature the Beastie Boys song "Sabotage." More importantly, it's gross and off-putting, a luridly "gritty" crime drama populated by sleazy characters (including the alleged good guys) and marked by a casual disregard for human life. It's an ugly movie.

And did I mention it doesn't even use the Beastie Boys song? I mean, come on.

Ex-governor and occasional movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as John "Breacher" Wharton, cigar-chomping, neck-tattooed leader of a DEA special-ops team in Atlanta. Breacher's crew includes a motley array of interchangeable hyper-masculine dirtbags with nicknames like Monster (Sam Worthington, sporting a braided chin-beard), Grinder (Joe Manganiello), Neck (Josh Holloway), Sugar (Terrence Howard), and a few more played by less famous actors. The one female member of the group, Lizzy (Mireille Enos), is married to Monster, and it's strongly implied that she's a skanky crack whore.

We meet the team in the middle of a mission that ends with them



ROTTENTOMATOES

An elite DEA task force takes on the world's deadliest drug cartels, and when they successfully execute a high-stakes raid on a cartel safe house, they think their work is done ... until, one-by-one, the team members mysteriously start to be eliminated. As the body count rises, everyone is a suspect.

stealing some \$10 million from a drug cartel, because they're the kind of badasses who steal money from drug cartels. Fortunately for them, the DEA can't prove they stole it, so nobody gets in trouble. Unfortunately for them, they can't spend it, either, because now it's missing again. Then some of the less important members of the team start turning up dead, murdered in gruesome ways that director David Ayer (End of Watch) seems to de-

light in showing us. Breacher and the others conclude that the cartel is seeking revenge, a completely unforeseeable consequence of stealing \$10 million from them.

The murders draw the attention of a local homicide detective, Caroline (Olivia Williams, doing an embarrassing Georgia accent), and her ineffectual partner (Harold Perrineau). Breacher works with Caroline — without revealing too much

about the missing money, of course — to track down leads and save his team. Meanwhile, in his off hours, Breacher sits at home in the dark and re-watches the video of his wife being tortured and killed by the very cartel he's now at odds with. You'd think a man could only endure a video like that once, but I guess it's one of those things where you notice something new every time.

Gas from A1

Ward and others worry about the facility's proximity to homes and are dubious about Dominion's safety claims. But some residents aren't concerned.

"I don't really see a threat in it. I mean, gas has been coming in and go is going to come in and go out. So what's the change?" said John Miller, a military contractor who lives off Cove Point Road.

A National Debate...

This scene could soon become familiar across the U.S., where LNG export projects are underway in Louisiana, Texas, Oregon, Georgia and Mississippi, according to the American Petroleum Institute. Cove Point's application to export to non-free trade agreement countries is one of seven approved by the Energy Department, with 23 more under review.

If Virginia-based Dominion gets final approval, it would be the second such U.S. facility in operation by the time it began exporting in late 2017. (Sabine Pass LNG Terminal in Louisiana, slated to start operating in 2015, will be the first.)

Proponents of exporting say natural gas could lower carbon emissions worldwide while increasing U.S. energy independence. It would allow other countries to avoid buying fuel from less stable countries, be profitable

for some U.S. businesses and provide clean-burning energy, said Steven Gabriel, a University of Maryland professor in energy modeling and energy policy.

In the wake of the crisis in Ukraine, the U.S. could be well positioned to cut into Russian exports of natural gas to Western Europe.

But environmentalists say natural gas is just as bad as coal when the entire process, including drilling, compressing and shipping, is taken into account, especially given methane leaks that often occur during the process. They also argue that natural gas competes with renewable energy sources like wind power.

The Dominion project, they say, would hurt the climate and change Maryland's status as a progressive energy leader.

"Maryland, with its moratorium on hydrofracking... is on everyone's mind. And I think this decision will really show whether or not we're serious about that," said Josh Tulkin, director of the Sierra Club Maryland chapter.

Gov. Martin O'Malley issued a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," the controversial process of fracturing shale rocks to release natural gas, in 2011, pending a study of the practice. A commission's findings are due in Annapolis in August.

Environmentalists fear the export business will provide incentive for fracking.

For the time being, the gas shipped to Cove Point for export is expected to come from other states.

...with a Local Impact

In Calvert County, Dominion executives say the more-than \$3 billion project will supply the area with an estimated 75 full-time jobs, more than 3,000 construction jobs and an additional \$40 million in annual tax revenue -- a prospect that has aroused enthusiasm.

"Right now we're paying \$700 billion a year to countries that hate us to bring in their fuels, and now we're going to be making our own," said Drew Greenblatt, president of Baltimore-based Marlin Steel Wire Products at a Feb. 19 Dominion press briefing.

The Calvert County commissioners unanimously support the project.

"Them switching into an export role will not only create a lot of employment locally (but will) help the tax base," said Calvert County Commissioner Evan Slaughenhaupt. "Everyone's going to benefit from the standpoint of having less burden going forward on their own taxes."

Opponents say the county is focused on financial benefits.

"It's an easy revenue answer for them," said Dale Allison, who can see Dominion's storage tanks from his kitchen window. "Ignorance is bliss when it comes to the safety aspects."

At the heart of many residents' concerns is potential harm from pollution, vapors or explosions.

The facility will have multiple safety systems and will have been reviewed by the Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and FERC, said Mike Frederick, Dominion's vice president of LNG operations.

The effects of an unlikely disaster, he said, would not spill into the community.

"We design it so that even in a catastrophic situation, the impact ... remains on our property," Frederick said.

Dominion has conducted drills with Calvert County emergency response teams, who would activate a siren and evacuate residents in an accident, he said.

Opponents have a slew of environmental concerns as well, including noise, pollution, ship traffic, ballast water and construction traffic.

One controversial element is a 60-foot noise barrier Dominion will build along the road and adjacent park to ensure that noise from the plant stays within regulations. The company says the area is surrounded by trees, so the wall won't be visible from the outside.

See GAS Page A7

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

It's the Racism, Stupid: Meet the Press's Epic NCAA Fail

I will say this for the much-maligned David Gregory era of Meet the Press: the weekly program, with the tenacity of a twitter-troll, remains pugnaciously beltway-centric in its perspective. This was seen in Sunday's "debate" about the state of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Their timing was certainly spot-on. It is March Madness, after all, when the NCAA makes 90% of its billion-dollar budget. As the business of college football and basketball expands, and as more and more players find themselves used up and spit out with neither compensation nor education to show for their time, this is the moment to talk about the future of the so-called "student-athlete."



To discuss this issue, Gregory secured three people for the Meet the Press table, including NCAA President Mark Emmert. That's good start! Mark Emmert, is a man who makes a two million dollar annual salary defending the status quo. The people Emmert could have been in discussion with is tantalizing. Maybe we would see civil rights author Taylor Branch, whose piece on the NCAA rocked the sports world. Perhaps one of the other guests would be New York Times columnist William Rhoden whose book 40 million Dollar Slaves examined the social position of African American athletes. Or we could get USA Today's Christine Brennan who has written extensively about equity for women in college athletics.

Instead, according to David Gregory's twitter feed, the Meet the Press team wanted to bring in some former jocks. That is a great call! There are numerous ex-college players who have been actively organizing to wrest a degree of justice from the clutches of Mark Emmert. Maybe they booked former All-American Ed O'Bannon who has led a lawsuit against the NCAA's use of player's likenesses without their permission. Or perhaps they would bring on Ramogi Huma, a onetime UCLA football player who started the National College Players Association. We could hear from a former NCAA athlete who is a woman, like Kate Fagan who could speak to issues of Title IX and how paying certain athletes could affect others. Or best yet, Northwestern University quarterback Kain Colter who led his team to actually organize a union. America could hear from the young man who said, "Right now the NCAA is like a dictatorship. No one represents us in negotiations. The only way things are going to change is if players have a union."

No. Instead, Gregory brought in President Barack Obama's personal aide Reggie Love and President Obama's Education Secretary Arne Duncan. Reggie Love apparently played basketball and football at Duke, and Arne Duncan hooped it up for Harvard. Forget for a moment that I am a sports junkie and have no memory of the Reggie Love Experience in Durham. Forget that Arne Duncan's Harvard playing days in the 1980s is hardly germane to the very modern issues at play. It speaks to either the poverty of ideas at Meet the Press or their immersion in beltway establishment culture that David Gregory and friends thought, "We need some former NCAA players to take on Mark Emmert. I know! Where are Reggie Love and Arne Duncan?"

Mr. Love was unmemorable and Mark Emmert just sat back like he was getting a spa treatment. It took Arne Duncan to give us a couple of lines for ages. I cannot decide on my favorite "let them eat cake" Duncan-moment. Maybe it was when he said, "This [issue] is very personal for me. I grew up playing in the inner-city on the South Side of Chicago." Inner-city Arne then outlined his plan to punish schools and effectively hollow out their athletic budgets if they did not meet graduation requirements. (This will sound familiar to anyone familiar with Duncan's federal education policies.)

Or it could have been when Arne Duncan called for "middle ground" between Mark Emmert and those calling for athletic compensation. This middle ground for Duncan? "Making sure students are fed, making sure if there's an emergency at home and mom gets very sick or dad passes away, they have an ability to get home to attend the funeral." It's the Arne Duncan "Food N Funerals Plan" to fix the NCAA.

Yet far more glaring than the content of the discussion was what the discussion was missing. This is not surprising given the parties sitting around the table, but there was zero discussion about how institutionalized racism animates the amassed wealth of the NCAA, the top college coaches, and the power conferences. It does not take Cornel West to point out that the revenue producing sports of basketball and football are overwhelmingly populated by African-American athletes. The population of the United States that is most desperate for an escape out of poverty is the population that has gotten the rawest possible deal from an NCAA that is actively benefiting from this state of affairs. That is why Dr. Harry Edwards called the issue of compensating NCAA athletes "the civil rights movement in sports of our time." That is why Bill Maher uncorked the most viral tweet of his life when he wrote over the weekend, "March Madness is a stirring reminder of what America was founded on: making tons of money off the labor of unpaid black people."

The issue of the NCAA is a racial justice issue. If you don't frame it in that way, if you don't challenge Mark Emmert on the fact that faux-amateurism saps black wealth in the United States, if you don't point out why Taylor Branch, Dr. King's biographer, said the NCAA "has the whiff of the plantation", then you are not having a serious discussion. You are bullshitting. Meet the Press did not give us a serious discussion. Instead you had Mark Emmert, a man on the hot-seat, sitting far too comfortably for our own good.

Ryan Budget from A4

23.8 percent (on a 100-point scale), Madison ranked at the bottom for Black-white unemployment (18.5% vs. 4.4%). With an equality index of 40.3 percent, Minneapolis ranked at the bottom for Black-white median household income (\$28,784 vs. \$71,376).

The night before Dr. King's April 4, 1968 assassination, he said: "The question is not, if I stop to help this man in need, what

will happen to me? The question is, if I do not stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them?...Let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation."

We can start now by stopping the Ryan budget — and even more importantly, stopping its budget-cutting fever that threatens the economic health and recovery of our nation.

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Calendar of Events

April 17 — April 23, 2014

Senior Days

Date and Time: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8 am-12 noon
Description: Seniors (Prince George's County residents only) are allowed FREE use of both the fitness center and pool during these times.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 60 & up
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road
Landover, MD 20785
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

College Park Farmers Market

Date & Time: Year-round, Saturdays, 7 am-12 noon
Location: M-NCPPC, Wells-Linson Complex (parking lot)
5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park 20740
Contact: Phil Miller at 301-399-5485
FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted

GoGo Fitness

Date and Time: Saturdays 9-10 am
Description: This year resolve to try a new workout! This 60 minute, high-intensity dance fitness workout incorporates various dance styles--and the classic call-and-response of a live GoGo.

Cost: \$25 for a 6 week session or \$5 for a drop-in class
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Glenarden Community Center
8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden 20706

Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-218-6768 **Puppet Show**
Date & Time: Friday, April 18, 2014 2-3 pm
Description: Take your children to a seasonal puppet show where they can have a blast and meet live animals! Don't forget, advance 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

Special Events at Montpelier- Earth Day Celebration/The Man Who Planted Trees

Date and Time: Saturday, April 19, 2014 1 pm
Description: Join us for a screening of the Oscar-winning animated short, The Man Who Planted Trees by master animator Frédéric Back! The film tells the story of a young man hiking through Provence, France into the Alps. But, when he runs out of water, in a treeless, barren area, he is saved by a shepherd. As the decades pass by, he finds himself returning time after time to the landscape, as the shepherd plants new trees.

Afterwards, we'll have a fun and educational Earth Day activity for the whole family. Refreshments will be served.

Cost: Free
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

Explore Insects

Date & Time: Saturday, April 19, 2014 10-11:30 am
Description: Explore the world of insects with us! Your child will learn about their life cycles and how they can be harmful or helpful. We'll even go on a short hike to find some insects residing in their natural habitat. Reservations required.

Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident: \$3
Ages: 5-13
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Nature Hike for Seniors

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 10-11 am
Description: Seniors aged 60 & better, come join a naturalist on a nature hike! While on the hike, we'll search for wildlife and local plant life. And, remember to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Reservations are required.

Cost: Resident \$2; Non-Resident \$3
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Nina Simone Project Lecture-Demonstration

Date and Time: Thursday, April 24, 2014 10:15 am
Description: Come join us for the story of Nina Simone! Her story is one that encompasses decades of important African-American music and history. Students will learn about her life, music, and work as a Civil Rights Activist and aspects of dance performance technique.

Cost: Tickets: \$7 for adults; \$6 for groups of 15 or more
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Movie Night - A Raisin in the Sun

Date and Time: Friday, April 25, 2014 7:30 pm
Description: A Raisin in the Sun first arrived on film in 1961, offering a snapshot of an urban, working-class, African-American family at a turning point in their lives. The film powerfully conveys the inter-familial and inter-generational conflicts that arise from different hopes, dreams and ambitions.

Cost: Tickets: \$5/per person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

EARTH TALK ... What's going on with Earth Day this year and how can I get involved?

Dear EarthTalk:

What's going on with Earth Day this year and how can I get involved?

—Christine B., Boston, MA

This coming April 22 will mark the 44th annual celebration of Earth Day, and the focus this year will be green cities. "As the world's population migrates to cities, and as the bleak reality of climate change becomes increasingly clear, the need to create sustainable communities is more important than ever," reports Earth Day Network, the Seattle-based nonprofit that helps coordinate Earth Day celebrations and serves as a clearinghouse for related information and resources. The group hopes to galvanize the support of more than a billion people across 192 countries this Earth Day for increasing the sustainability and reducing the carbon footprints of urban areas everywhere.

By focusing on buildings, energy and transportation issues in cities this year, Earth Day Network hopes to raise awareness about the importance of making improvements in efficiency, investments in renewable technology and regulation reform in the urban areas where half the world's population lives today. By 2050, three quarters of us will live in cities, making it

more important than ever to adapt and adopt policies that take into account how to support larger numbers of people with less environmental impact.

Earth Day Network has already mobilized a network of partners on the ground in strategically placed cities and towns around the world to organize grassroots efforts to improve local codes, ordinances and policies that will help cities become models for sustainability, but participation of the wider public is crucial to making the Green Cities campaign a success. The Green Cities section of Earth Day Network's website features a series of in-depth tool kits designed to educate the public about key elements of the campaign and serves as the locus of organizing around Earth Day 2014. By making such resources freely available, Earth Day Network hopes to spur individuals to take civic action by signing petitions, sending letters to policymakers and organizing more events.

Some of the ways to get involved and raise awareness in your local community about Earth Day itself and the need to green our cities include: hosting a talk for co-workers or community members on the topic of local sustainability initiatives; starting a farmers' market; organizing a day of tree planting, park or beach clean-up, or an eco-fair; and leading a recycling drive to collect as much



CREDIT: MATTHEW RUTLEDGE/FLICKR

Earth Day Network hopes to galvanize the support of more than a billion people across 192 countries this Earth Day for increasing the sustainability and reducing the carbon footprints of urban areas everywhere.

metal, plastic and glass as possible. Schools can register with Earth Day Network and get access to many student-friendly resources, including an interactive Ecological Footprint Quiz and environmentally-themed lesson plans tailored to the needs of different grade levels from kindergarten through high school. College students can work with dining services to start a composting program or switch over to reusable plates and flatware or start a competition between classes or residence halls to reduce waste and electricity use.

Those looking to initiate just participate in an Earth Day event need look no further than

Earth Day Network's website, where a comprehensive database of Earth Day events around the world is updated daily. Even better, keep in mind that every day is Earth Day and the planet—and generations to come—will benefit from every positive action you take.

CONTACT: NRDC, www.nrdc.org.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - **The Environmental Magazine** (www.emagazine.com).
Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Gas from A6

To compensate for local air pollutants, the company will purchase offsets through the federally mandated cap-and-trade program.

"We're operating within the laws, which are quite stringent about what you have to do," Frederick said.

Pollutants from construction and operations include mono-nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), according to a report from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

"What is that going to do to the air quality here for us locally?" said resident Kathy Mazur. "Their reply is, 'We will meet federal standards.' Okay, that's great, and I'm glad you're meeting them, but... what is the effect here?"

Waiting for Answers
The permitting process has moved to the center of the controversy.

FERC, rather than any state agency, will provide the most comprehensive oversight.

After the agency decided to do an environmental assessment rather than a more rigorous environmental impact statement, residents became nervous about the thoroughness of the oversight.

The two types of reports cover the same issues, said FERC spokeswoman Tamara Young-Allen. An environmental assessment is used for projects that have already been constructed, while impact statements are for brand-new projects, she said.

If FERC finds evidence of a significant environmental impact in the assessment, it will recommend an environmental impact statement, Young-Allen said.

FERC will release its environmental assessment May 15,

the agency said. A final federal decision is due Aug. 13, after a public comment period.

In response to community concerns and at the request of Rep. Steny Hoyer, the Maryland Democrat who represents Calvert County, FERC will hold a public meeting to discuss the draft, something usually reserved for impact statements.

Some opponents blame FERC for what they say has been a lack of transparency and information about the affair.

"I think there should be more local input into these decision-making procedures," said Sen. Ben Cardin, a Maryland Democrat. "I have reservations on how these regulatory decisions are made at FERC."

FERC is not Dominion's only obstacle. The company needs dozens of permits from federal, state and local agencies. Many have already been issued, but some have attracted public attention.

On Feb. 20, when the Maryland Public Service Commission began a hearing on a permit it must issue for the generation facility, protesters marched through downtown Baltimore, wrapping around several city blocks.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Sierra Club and Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law organization, have been some of the most active groups in protesting the project.

On February 28, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals affirmed a lower court ruling, saying that an existing agreement between the Sierra Club and Dominion allows for LNG export.

The environmental organization has shared stewardship of the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust since 1972, when it

formed a settlement with then-owner Columbia Gas to protect the land and set environmental restrictions for the facility, Tulkin said.

The Sierra Club said exporting is not allowed, as that wasn't an option in 2005 when the agreement was last updated. Dominion and the Sierra Club filed motions against each other in May 2012.

The organization is reviewing the case to determine whether it will appeal the latest ruling, Tulkin said.

Two Camps, One Chasm
Some are anxious for the project to start.

"Calvert is a very rural community still, and to have the largest expansion happening in our backyard, with the types of jobs that we need from a proven business partner that's been here the whole time in our community, we couldn't have asked for a better opportunity," said Carolyn Hart, president/CEO of the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce.

Hart, who lives near the facility, said she encourages citizens to do research and contact Dominion.

But others say they've done just that with little result.

"What we've been pushing for is that Dominion would just be more open with their answers and accurate with their information and have more of a public hearing where we can engage them more," said Lusby resident Holly Herzog.

Like many, she has attended meetings where Dominion representatives were present but said she is concerned, based on her own research, that the company isn't telling the whole truth.

Dominion representatives have appeared at public hearings, held two open houses at the plant and had more than 50

meetings with citizens. They also mailed a pamphlet to more than 20,000 households, Frederick said.

"We've met with anybody that's asked," Frederick said.

The project has found support in Hoyer and O'Malley, among others.

"I support the Cove Point project, subject to appropriate environmental review, because I believe it will spur economic growth and bring well-paying jobs to Calvert County," Hoyer said in a statement.

Cardin and Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski asked FERC to engage the public "to the fullest extent possible" through public meetings in a March 6 letter. The senators met with community groups to discuss the project in February.

"I share their concerns that the environmental impact be known, so we want to make sure that whatever's done at Cove Point is consistent with the protection of our environment," Cardin said.

At the local level, as in the broader LNG debate, the two sides consistently dispute each other's facts, and the fundamental disconnect between the camps is large.

While some residents plan to continue fighting, others, like Ward, are becoming resigned to what they see as an inevitability.

"I have a feeling it's going to go through even though we don't want it to. But I still pray. And maybe we still stand a chance," she said.

Frederick said it is in Dominion's interest to protect its facility and ensure it operates correctly.

"From an environmental perspective and a safety standpoint - I live here too. Our employees live here too," Frederick said. "We want to do it right."

Watch from A4

sures to gun violence. "They've had loved ones murdered by guns, they've seen people carrying guns, they've been threatened by guns, they've seen a dead body in the street—three or four different exposures to gun violence," said its president and CEO Paulette Carter.

The trauma these children suffer—depression, anxiety, anger, post-traumatic stress disorder—is especially hard to ameliorate be-

cause "we can't remove the threat," Carter said. "The best thing you can do for a child who has experienced a traumatic event is to make sure they are safe afterwards. But for kids and gun violence in New Orleans, you can't reinstate the safety, and this makes the recovery process difficult. We can't assure children that this won't happen again to somebody they know or they won't see guns again or hear gunshots because they probably will." She said that "a lot of kids we work with have

a sense of hopelessness that things are never going to change." Their schoolwork is affected, as is their potential to go on to live productive adult lives.

Most of the victims and the perpetrators of gun violence in New Orleans are 15- to 25-year-old Black males with low educational achievement. According to a U.S. Department of Justice study of homicides in New Orleans in 2009 and 2010, many of the perpetrators and victims knew each other; some were

childhood friends. Most grew up in the city's poor and more violent neighborhoods and had easy access to guns, legal or illegal. Under Louisiana law, anyone 18 or older can purchase a gun unless he or she is a felon.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the world they come up in—the environment, the social norms of their peers, the normalization of violence as the

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Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

Watch from A7

way to deal with conflict," said Jamaal Weathersby, pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church in the Central City neighborhood. "They don't see the relevance of school. They're not thinking there is an opportunity for them to get a good job. I don't think many of them can see past the block."

David Kennedy, director of the Center for Crime Prevention and Control at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and the City of New Orleans' consultant for reducing group violence, said that most of the murders are committed by undisciplined, random leaderless groups of high rate offenders often organized around neighborhoods or blocks—and are not about money but about "personal friction, respect and disrespect, retaliation and vendettas. It is so important that they literally live and die for it." Dr. Kenneth Hardy, a professor of Family Therapy at Drexel University in Philadelphia, believes that the reason disrespect is so often a trigger point relates to the devaluation—the "constant lacerations to dignity"—of poor young Black males who are considered a threat and a problem, with the worst rather than the best expected of them.

Kennedy said that alienation from law enforcement underlies personal retaliation. "If representatives of the law in your neighborhood are seen not only as not legitimate but as the enemy, then when you have a grievance or somebody you know got shot, you don't call the cops. You get a gun and friends and do it yourself." A scathing 2011 report

by the U.S. Department of Justice found that New Orleans police officers "too frequently use excessive force and conduct illegal stops, searches and arrests with impunity," almost exclusively in Black neighborhoods. City, state and federal law enforcement agencies in New Orleans recently began focusing more on identifying and prosecuting members of the violent criminal groups committing most of the murders, including the four men charged with killing Brianna Allen and Shawanna Pierce. This strategy appears to be paying off since the city's murders dropped by 20 percent in 2013.

Ka'nard still sees a psychologist because "I get mad real fast," he said. His mother said he doesn't like to go places by himself. But he attends a school he likes, has a mentor, has taken trips thanks to a local foundation, and plays drums in his school's band. This year he was looking forward to marching in some of the city's Mardi Gras parades—an event that should be a simple childhood pleasure, but one Ka'nard, like so many of our nation's children, can no longer take for granted.

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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