

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1952

Vol. 82, No. 18 May 1 — May 7, 2014

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MIKE DENISON.

Sen. Catherine Pugh, D-Baltimore, analyzes documents. Pugh authored a bill that would formalize cybersecurity standards among state entities.

Maryland State Agencies Threatened by Cyberattacks

By MIKE DENISON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Maryland government entities have suffered at least six cyberattacks since the beginning of 2013, according to incident reports from the Department of Information Technology. The heavily-redacted reports, obtained by Capital News

Service through a Maryland Public Information Act request, reveal that data-hungry hackers and scammers aren't only going after retailers like Target and Neiman Marcus -- they're targeting state agencies.

"Our government doesn't move as quickly as the private sector ... and the private sector isn't moving as quickly as it should be," Sen. Catherine Pugh,

D-Baltimore, said in an interview.

The report said a phishing scam that hit the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation affected "more than 100 users," and two other incidents affected an estimated "more than 10 users."

Elliot Schlanger, the state director of cybersecurity, said specific numbers of affected users are often difficult to pin down,

particularly with phishing attacks. Phishing involves sending a large number of emails asking for sensitive information, like passwords, under the guise of a legitimate sender.

One listed incident involved the Maryland State Police in September. Last year, the police

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Protection for Waters Under Proposed EPA Rule

By JUSTINE MCDANIEL
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to extend Clean Water Act protection to smaller bodies of water across the country, including waterways that feed into the Chesapeake Bay, in an effort to clarify which bodies of water are protected by the act.

Maryland environmentalists say the rule would close loopholes that have allowed for pollution and contamination of state water, including the drinking water of nearly 4 million residents.

"The fact that they are finally closing these loopholes... is going to be really significant for Maryland waterways," said Joanna Diamond, director of Environment Maryland.

Approximately 17,000 miles of water in Maryland is unprotected, she said. More than half of Maryland's streams are at risk for pollution, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Hydrography Dataset.

One in three Americans gets drinking water from systems that partially draw from the

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Concussion Sensor Bill Dies Without a Vote

By JUSTINE MCDANIEL
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - A House of Delegates bill that would have established a pilot program to add concussion sensors to football equipment at high schools throughout the state died in subcommittee this session without a vote.

The bill would have required each county to select a high school that would equip all football players' helmets with sensors to alert athletic staff of potentially concussion-inducing hits.

Lead sponsor Delegate Jon Cardin, D-Baltimore County, has said he hoped the bill would allow for better evaluation of the num-

ber of impacts high school football players sustain, as well as ensure that adults know when potentially dangerous impacts occur.

But the bill faced opposition from school officials and doctors, who raised concerns about the sensors' safety and the measure's requirement that every county require a school to participate.

Delegate Anne Kaiser, D-Montgomery, who chairs the House Ways and Means education subcommittee, said her panel passed several bills aimed at safety this session. But this bill was different, she said.

See **CONCUSSION** Page A7

Rise In Suicidal Behavior At Waxter Girls' Detention Center

By TAMIEKA BRISCOE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS--Incidents involving suicidal behavior among girls significantly increased last year at Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center, a female juvenile detention facility in Laurel.

The Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit's 2013 annual report indicated a spike in suicide ideation and attempts from youth serving time at Waxter. The Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit is an independent organization in the Maryland Attorney General's Office that conducts annual evaluations of the Department of Juvenile Services regulated facilities.

According to the report, the number of ideation - also called suicidal thoughts -- and attempts increased from 75 in 2012 to 117 in 2013 - a 56 percent jump.

In the report, the Department of Juvenile Justice had the opportunity to respond to the findings.

"All youth expressing suicidal ideations and or ges-

tures are immediately evaluated by behavioral health staff," the Department of Juvenile Services wrote. "The youth may verbalize intent or gesture, but be at low lethality because of restricted access to instruments and close staff supervision."

Eric Solomon, public information officer for the Department of Juvenile Services responded to questions in an email.

"The Department takes every ideation very seriously," wrote Solomon.

"The last thing we want to happen is for one of these youth to move forward with their statements. " Solomon continued. "You will see our response in the ... report that these ideations are youth making statements for secondary gain and to get attention from the staff. Many of these statements came from the same individual."

Solomon wrote that 62 individual girls were responsible for the 117 incidents in 2013, and 51 girls were responsible for the 75 incidents in 2012.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Waxter Juvenile Detention Center in Laurel, Maryland.

Capital News Service's requests for access to the Waxter facility, interviews with staff or youth and copies of the incident reports were denied.

Solomon responded to additional questions by referring to the content of the report issued Feb. 18 by the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit.

That response indicated: "While there was an increase in reported incidents of suicidal ideation, only two incidents involved gestures, and

no youth required transfer to a hospital setting."

The report continued: "The high frequency and low lethality pattern may be indicative of youth displaying this behavior seeking secondary gain in these verbalizations and gestures; either desiring one to one supervision by staff, attention from peers, or to receive other social reinforcers."

See **WAXTER** Page A3

Fusion Centers' Collection of Local and State Data Worries Civil Libertarians, Others

By ILANA SHULEVITZ
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE COUNTY - As many Americans question the data collection programs of the National Security Agency and worry about other privacy breaches, information from license plate readers, suspicious activity tipsters and more is being collected and stored at the state level in dozens of databases around the country.

So-called fusion centers, created after 9/11, collect and sort data from municipal, state and national sources in the name of combating domestic terrorism.

But critics of fusion centers, including members of Congress and civil liberties organizations, say they often violate Americans' privacy, waste taxpayer dollars, and have demonstrated little success catching terrorists.

In Baltimore County, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, one of 78 fusion centers nationwide, sees itself like links in a chain, connecting doers and go-getters when the time calls.

"We were one of the first fusion centers in the country," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Harvey Eisenberg, the official coordinator of Maryland's anti-terrorism efforts. "What we're set up to do is to receive information from all sources and to look at it... with some trained eye to see who then should get it."

Tucked Away in Suburbia

Situated in an unmarked office in Woodlawn, an unincorporated suburb in Baltimore County, dozens sit tied to their desks, surrounded by flat screen televisions broadcasting the news, ready to connect the FBI to Prince George's County Police or the U.S. Army to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and primed to dig up files from databases filled with troves of data.

In this nondescript building in a humdrum neighborhood, a couple of clicks can give an employee access to extensive databases on tens of millions of li-

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INSIDE

English Program Aims to Change More than High Schoolers' Writing

Every Wednesday, university students in the "Writing for Change" class travel four-fifths of a mile to Northwestern and act as "buddies" to the high schoolers in an effort to change their perceptions about college.
Community, Page A3

Medicaid Enrollment Grows By More Than 3 Million

The Affordable Care Act provides states with new opportunities to expand their Medicaid programs to increase access to affordable coverage. In states that expand coverage, most individuals under age 65 with incomes up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Commentary, Page A4

Strong Bay Harvest Brought Few Undersized Oyster Violations

There were so many full-size oysters in the Chesapeake Bay this year because 2010 was an exceptional reproductive year and there has been low disease mortality since then, said Michael Naylor, the shellfish program director at the Department of Natural Resources

Business, Page A5

MovieReview: "Divergent?"

"Divergent" is based on a young-adult novel about a teenage girl living in a post-apocalyptic wasteland. In this case, the girl's name is Beatrice, and her society is one in which everyone is divided into five groups matching their personality (basically: smart, brave, honest, selfless, or kind).

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is the gray wolf still endangered in the United States and how successful have re-introduction efforts been?

— Loren Renquist,
Salem, OR

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

World-known D'Amore Duo in performance at Davies

The Davies Concert Series, now in its 43rd year, presents The D'Amore Duo, featuring oboist Yeon-je Sohn and guitarist William Feasley, in concert on Sunday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church, in Camp Springs.

D'Amore Duo was founded in 1991 to investigate the little-known wealth of chamber music for oboe and guitar. They have toured worldwide to enthusiastic reviews, released several excellent records, and performed at St. Martin in the Fields, Yale Centre for British Art, National Cathedral, Arts Centre in Christchurch, Spanish Institute in New York, Smithsonian, and live on ABC International Radio out of Sydney, Australia. They have twice been winners of the Baltimore Chamber Music Awards Competition.

A reception to meet the artists will be held after the concert. Admission is \$15; students, \$5. Davies Memorial UUC is at 7400 Temple Hill Road in Camp Springs. For information, call 301-868-0082.

Morningside election May 5

Morningsiders go to the polls May 5 to fill the two Town Council seats currently held by Sheila Scott and Lori Williams. In the running are Benn Cann, Sharon Fowler and incumbent Sheila Scott.

Polls at the Town Hall will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Neighbors

Kilana Jenkins, of Joint Base Andrews, was named Maryland State Military "Youth of the Year" in Annapolis on May 2. She won in recognition of academic success, character, essays and public speaking ability. She

is 18, attends Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro, and plans on majoring in biology with a minor in women's studies.

Hodari Robinson was an amazing Jesus in the Living Stations, enacted by teens at St. Philip's Church on Good Friday. Tomas Do and John Smith narrated and Clare Rose handled the music. Other actors were: Angela Hay, Christopher Wilson, Vincent D'Haiti, Zachary Fitzpatrick, Andrew Melvin, SheK-inah Banks, Jasmine Adgerson, Cameron Blanc, Annelise Mejicanos, Antonio Lord, Tavon Lewis, Olivia Gray and Sydney Bowie. Emily Rose directed this poignant play.

Former Morningside Peg Richardson noted my obit last week for Jack Riordan and emailed, "So sorry to hear of his passing. Back in 1964 he & Jean paid my way to go see The Beatles in Baltimore, if I would drive his 2 daughters. Took me 3 days to regain my hearing after that concert."

Bands, clowns, vintage cars, etc. wanted for July 4 Parade

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

Academia

Ian Madden, McNamara '08, graduated in December from George Mason University.

Crossland Class of 1969 plans a Sept. 5-7 reunion. Go to www.crossland1969.com.

Frederick Douglass Class of 1964 has a reunion planned for

Sept. 27. Call Tony Marshall, 760-247-0456.

Bishop McNamara High School will be celebrating the school's 50th anniversary beginning the fall of 2014. Planning for the yearlong event has already begun. If you have been involved with McNamara, have great ideas and would like to join the committee, send an email to advancement@bmhs.org.

I'll be glad to run reunion notices. And I want names, schools and destinations of this year's graduates. Call 301-735-3451 or email muddmm@aol.com.

May they rest in peace

I attended the burial of my dear across-the-street neighbor Pat Thompson this week and will tell you more about her in a future column.

Bernard L. "Buddy" Allen, 82, of Camp springs, who retired from the Department of Commerce as a division chief, died March 28. He was a native Washingtonian, and that is where he married his wife and raised his children. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. His wife Ann and son Michael preceded him in death. Survivors include his children, Teresa Nichols (Mark) and Michael Allen (Kelly), five grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, and a brother.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Kathryn Deaver, Ann Lacey, Ernestine Taylor Wood, Dante Ross Jr. and Janet Booth Kaye, May 2; Sheila (McHale) Mudd and Lori Williams, May 3; India Goodall and Ruby Haines, May 4; Donald Young, Jim Henderson and Marlyn Meoli, May 5; Elsie Dent and Gretchen Ennis, May 6; and Dwight "Chipper" Hol-loway Jr., May 7.

Neighborhood Events

Space Subcommittee Approves Bipartisan NASA Authorization Act

Washington, D.C. — The Space Subcommittee today approved the NASA Authorization Act of 2014 (H.R. 4412) with unanimous bipartisan support. The bill updates the previously committee-approved bill to reflect the funding agreement reached in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. The Subcommittee also approved a bipartisan Palazzo-Edwards amendment that ensures sustainability of purpose and budget for high-priority NASA programs. The amendment reaffirms Congress's commitment to space exploration, both human and robotic, and makes clear that a human mission to Mars is the goal for NASA's human spaceflight program with biennial reports for what progress has been made toward that goal.

Space Subcommittee Chairman Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.): "I want to thank my colleague, the Ranking Member, Ms. Edwards for her hard work, determination, and patience in working with me to put together this agreement. I also appreciate the support of full Committee Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson. This agreement represents this Subcommittee's commitment to our nation's leadership in space and a secure future for NASA. Finding bipartisan agreement in an austere budget environment is never an easy task, and our work is not done. I feel this is good first step."

Space Subcommittee Ranking Member Donna Edwards (D-Md.): "Today's bipartisan markup is a strong first step in maintaining NASA's preeminence as a robust space agency and global leader. I want to thank Chairman Palazzo for his leadership and willingness to engage on the tough issues facing NASA. I look forward to working with Chairman Lamar Smith and Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson to bring this bill before the full House and see it through to enactment."

Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas): "At a fundamental level, space exploration—the mission of NASA—is about inspiration. The agreement reached by Chairman Palazzo and Ranking Member Edwards demonstrates what we can accomplish together. It is my hope that the bipartisan agreement embodied in this agreement will establish a precedent of the future. I look forward to continuing this discussion with Ranking Member Johnson. It is my desire to move this bill through the Full Committee and to the House floor as soon as possible."

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas): "Today's subcommittee markup represents a step forward for NASA... It is also a step forward for our Committee. Chairman Palazzo, Chairman Smith, and their staffs have worked constructively with Ranking Member Edwards and me and our staffs to try to reach agreement on a bipartisan NASA bill—something that had always been a hallmark of this Committee. It has not been easy to get to where we are today, and the Committee's work on this NASA Reauthorization bill is by no means done. However, I greatly appreciate the willingness of Chairman



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Palazzo and Chairman Smith to work with us, and I look forward to our continued collaboration so that at the end of the process we can have a bill that we will all take pride in having enacted into law."

The bipartisan NASA Authorization Act passed by voice vote in Subcommittee today continues the consistent guidance Congress has given to NASA for nearly a decade by reaffirming a stepping stone approach to exploration in a go-as-you-can-afford-to-pay manner by developing an exploration roadmap. It supports the development on the Space Launch System and the Orion Crew Vehicle to push the boundaries of human exploration, and focuses NASA's efforts to develop a capability to access low Earth orbit and the International Space Station so that America can once again launch American astronauts on American rockets from American soil.

The bill also supports a healthy science directorate that reflects the input from the scientific community and an aeronautics research directorate that contributes to our nation's aerospace economy. The bill establishes necessary oversight provisions to ensure that NASA manages its programs and projects efficiently and effectively.

The Children's Guild's School Based Mental Health Program Expands into Prince George's County

The Children's Guild's School Based Mental Health Program, a program of its Family Help Center, has expanded to serve schools in two of the six neighborhoods that are part of the Prince George's County Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative to uplift neighborhoods in the county that face significant economic, health, public safety and educational challenges.

The School Based Mental Health program provides counseling services to children, adolescents and their families in the school setting. Students that are referred for services have a range of behavior problems, emotional crises, adjustment disorders and other issues that affect academic, social and emotional development. "We believe that our role encompasses much more than being a counselor for a student. We train our counselors to weave themselves into the fabric of the school and the community at large. Many times a student's behaviors are related to problems that they are having at home so we work to meet with families in their home or at the school. We also spend a lot of time with teachers and administrators educating them about mental health diagnoses and how to integrate this knowl-

edge into teaching strategies for their classroom," said Elizabeth Garcia, director of Behavioral Health Services.

The program will serve the following schools in the Transformation Neighborhoods Initiative of Kentland/Palmer Park and Suitland/Coral Hills. The initial schools to be served will be: Central High School, Cora Rice Elementary School, G. James Gholson Middle School, William Paca Elementary School, Andrew Jackson Elementary School, Bradbury Heights Elementary School, Drew Freeman Middle School, Suitland Elementary School, Suitland High School and William Hall Academy.

The Children's Guild's School Based Mental Health Program also serves schools in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties. With the addition of 10 Prince George's County schools, the program is now in 59 schools in the state of Maryland.

The Children's Guild consists of special-needs schools in Baltimore City and Prince George's County that serve children and adolescents who are difficult to educate due to autism, multiple disabilities and trauma. The Children's Guild also operates three therapeutic group homes, a treatment foster care program, an outpatient mental health program in Baltimore, and school based mental health programs in Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Prince George's counties (www.childrensguild.org)

Hospice of the Chesapeake CEO Appointed To Maryland Health Care Commission

Michael S. McHale, President and CEO of Hospice of the Chesapeake, has been appointed to the Maryland Health Care Commission, the nonprofit announced today.

McHale is among the 15 member Commission appointed by Gov. Martin O'Malley and approved by the Senate for a four year term beginning next month. McHale is filling an empty seat on the Commission and will be considered for reappointment in October.

An independent regulatory agency, the Maryland Health Care Commissions' mission is to plan for health system needs, promote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public.

In January, McHale was elected to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) Board of Directors where he serves on the Finance Committee. The NHPCO is the largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. McHale also serves on the board of the Hospice Network of Maryland.

"I am honored to serve the citizens of Maryland in this new role. I'm eager to share my knowledge and offer my expertise to the commission on the very important health care issues facing Maryland residents now and in the future," McHale said.

Remember, May 5th is

Cinco De Mayo

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

WOODBOROUGH FARM

Prince George's Soil Conservation District 41ST Annual Awards Dinner was held at Baden Firehouse on April 17, 2014. Phil and Linda Hutton received the 2013 Cooperator of the year Woodborough Farm Award. Woodborough Farm located in the heart of Aquasco is owned by Phil and Linda Hutton. The farm was purchased in 1966 by Mr. O.D. Hutton, Phil's grandfather. Phil and Linda moved to the farm in 1980 and have adapted to a changing farm economy and are succeeding with a farm that is invested in conversation.

Parts of the farm have been retired from crop and livestock production and planted to riparian forest buffers through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The farm is productive and practical. The Hutton's are a great example of conservation farmers

BLUES ALLEY

Matthew Montgomery son of Carey and Kim Montgomery who resides in Upper Marlboro is a member of Bowie State Jazz Ensemble (Student Band). The

band performed at Blues Alley on April 15, 2014. Blues Alley is Washington's Premiere Jazz Supper Club located at 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007. This was an evening spent with family and friends enjoying New Orleans Cuisine and Jazz entertainment.

JOHN ISABELLE ACRES FARM, INC.

John Isabelle Acres Farm, Inc. in Brandywine, Maryland has hay for sale. Contact Frank Deville, Manager for reasonably priced quality hay for horses, cows and goats @ (301) 466-8360.

WEE EDUCARE

WEE EDUCARE is a state of Maryland Licensed Childcare Center located in Upper Marlboro. They currently offer After Care Services for school aged children (Ages 5-12). Phone (301) 267-2035 or email: info@wee-educare.com. You can also visit the website: www.wee-educare.com.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Craig Contee, Renata Contee, Elandra

Dorsey, Yvonne Ford, Jackie Gibson, Jina Jackson, Andrienne Johnson, John Johnson, Linda Johnson, Dorothy Margruder, Emily Newman, Angélique Mcalpine-Gilliard, Alvin Pinkney, Hattie Shivers, Shenell Tolson, Maxine Wallace, Ashley Ward, Patricia Washington, and Chantel Wright who are celebrating their birthdays during the month of May.

IT'S CASINO TIME AGAIN

It's Casino time again so come join us on our after Mother's Day Casino Trip. We will be going to Harrington Raceway and Midway Casino in Harrington Delaware on Sunday, May 18, 2014. Bus will leave Park-N-Ride, Clinton Maryland at 10:30 AM and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 AM. The bus returns at approximately 7:00 PM. Fun package includes a \$10.00 rebate plus a full buffet meal. Donation is \$40.00. There are absolutely no refunds. Benefit: St. Philip's Church Bull Roast. For tickets contact Doretha Savoy (301) 372-6173, Ernest Douglas (301) 888-1937 and Shirley Cleaves (302) 690-4260.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Why Disability Insurance Is Critical

Most people understand why having life insurance is a good idea: Nobody wants to leave their survivors in a financial lurch if they were to die suddenly. But what if you suffer an accident or illness and don't die, but rather, become severely disabled? Could you or your family make ends meet without your paycheck, possibly for decades?



Although most people are entitled to Social Security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits if they've paid sufficient FICA payroll taxes over the years, the eligibility rules are extremely strict, applying can take many months, and the average monthly benefit is only about \$1,150.

So what are your other disability coverage options? Many companies provide sick leave and short-term disability coverage to reimburse employees during brief periods of illness or injury. Some also provide long-term disability (LTD) insurance that replaces a percentage of pay for an extended period of time.

But employer-provided LTD plans usually replace only about 60 percent of pay and the money you receive is considered taxable income, further lowering your benefit's worth. Plus, such plans often have a waiting period before benefits kick in, will carve out any SSDI benefits you receive, and cap the monthly benefit amount and maximum payout period (often as little as two years).

Thus, even if your employer provides basic LTD, you might want to purchase additional coverage. Just be prepared: LTD insurance can be expensive. Yearly premiums may cost 1 to 3 percent of gross income, depending on plan features, your age, and whether you have preexisting conditions.

First, see if you can buy supplemental coverage through your employer's plan — their group rate will be cheaper than an individual policy and you probably won't need a physical exam. Or see if any professional or trade organizations you belong to offer group coverage.

If not, you'll have to buy an individual policy. A few of the things to keep in mind:

- ❑ The younger and healthier you are, the lower the premiums you'll be able to lock in.
- ❑ Some policies won't pay benefits unless you can't perform the duties of your own occupation, while others specify that you must be physically unable to perform any job (the latter coverage is much cheaper).
- ❑ Look for a "non-cancelable" policy, which means the insurer can't cancel or refuse to renew your policy — or raise the premium — if you pay on time.
- ❑ The longer the waiting period before benefits are paid, the lower the premium. Thus, if you have enough sick time and savings to wait 120 days before payout, your premiums will be significantly less than for a 60-day waiting period.
- ❑ Some policies only provide benefits for two years, while others pay until your normal Social Security retirement age — most cover somewhere in between. The shorter the term, the lower the cost.
- ❑ Many plans exclude preexisting conditions, mental health or substance abuse issues.
- ❑ For an additional fee, policies with a "future purchase option" allow you to increase coverage as your wages rise, without having to take another physical or rewrite the policy.
- ❑ Check whether the benefit payout amount is fixed or if cost-of-living adjustments are made periodically. The latter type is more expensive but offers better protection against inflation if you're disabled for many years.

Bottom line: If you became seriously disabled it could easily wipe out your savings and put your family in financial jeopardy. Before you actually need it, investigate what disability coverage you already have and what other options are available.

English Program Aims to Change More Than High Schoolers' Writing

By DREW RAUSO
Capital News Service

HYATTSVILLE - Northwestern High School sits in the shadow of the University of Maryland. But to many of its students — less than half of graduates go on to enroll in a four-year college — it might as well be hundreds of miles away.

Students in an English class at the University of Maryland are working to change that.

Every Wednesday, university students in the "Writing for Change" class travel four-fifths of a mile to Northwestern and act as "buddies" to the high schoolers in an effort to change their perceptions about college.

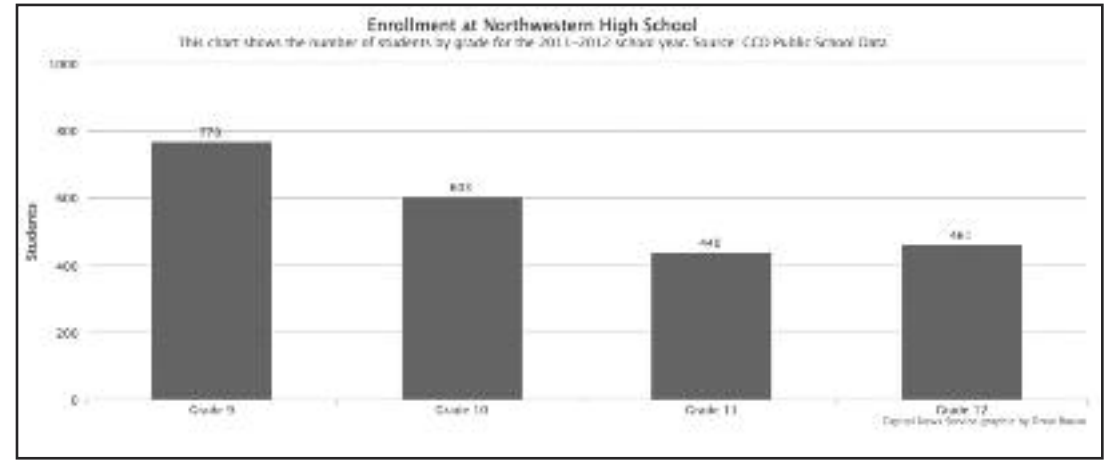
"Many of these high school kids have been ignored or been told that college is not an option for them," said Heather Lindenman, a University of Maryland English lecturer and doctoral candidate who teaches the class. "We have the ability to change that philosophy."

A former employee of Teach for America and then a teacher at Cesar Chavez High School in Washington, D.C., Lindenman said she realized service learning was an excellent basis for a class, and decided to look to high schools for a partnership.

"There is something infinitely hopeful about high school English," Lindenman said.

The course is designed to overlap with the high school curriculum. The goal is to introduce high schoolers to university students and the idea of college as a possibility, building confidence in the process.

"I just want [the high school students] to realize that these college kids at 'intimidating' University of Maryland are human and normal people," said Carly Finkel-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE IMAGE

stein, a ninth grade English teacher at Northwestern who helped create the syllabus with Lindenman.

Working in groups of two or three, the students collaborate on performance pieces centered around social issues—skits, monologues and spoken word presentations. At the end of the semester the high school students will perform their projects—with a focus on bullying this semester—at both the high school and the university.

Jaylin Miles, a Northwestern freshman, said she was nervous about performing, but was slowly overcoming her fear.

"I'm excited for the performance, but I've never been in front of so many people," she said.

The course does not have the college students serve as tutors for the high school students, Lindenman said. Instead, the two groups work together as equals.

"I want there to be a shared goal for everyone involved to achieve," she said.

Tutoring creates a power structure that detracts from the overall goal, Lindenman said, which is to have the students (both college and high school) develop intercultural communication skills and broaden perspectives on life.

Kevin Kim, a freshmen at the university who is in the

class, said he related to the community building.

"Our two classes are expanding each other's communities," he said. "Community cannot exist without communication, and through that communication we bridge our two worlds, which really aren't that different."

Pat Belson, who took the university course last spring, works for Metro D.C. Reading Core, which provides reading and writing tutoring, and was recently accepted to be a teaching resident for KIPP Academy.

Before taking the class, Belson said he had never thought about working with at-risk students. But "Writing for Change," which he described as the "most influential class I've ever taken," changed that.

After working in classrooms for the last eight months, Belson said he liked the importance the "Writing for Change" course placed on confidence development in the students.

"With such an overemphasis on data points and test scores, a class that focuses on another aspect of high school students—confidence—is a great change," Belson said.

Lindenman and Finkelstein said that the intangibles at the class emphasizes—different

perspectives and confidence building—is just as important as testable knowledge.

"Going against the state standards and focusing on personal connections is much more valuable for the students," Lindenman said. "I'm hoping to be the catalyst for a few kids' academic careers, but if they develop confidence from something other than doing well on a quiz, that is just as successful."

The problem with aligning a university course with a high school class? Time. Meeting only once a week for a couple of hours is not enough, Finkelstein said.

"Unfortunately, the most you can do is make minor changes in a high schooler's life," Lindenman said. "The course may stick with a couple high schoolers and they'll move on to the next grade and possibly enter honors or AP, but there are always several relationships that fall victim to the minimal contact."

For Fredy Mejia, a freshman in Finkelstein's class who is working closely with Kevin Kim, the class has brought up one question: "Maryland is right down the road; can I just go there now?"

Waxter from A1

In the response, the Department of Juvenile Services said, "Mental health clinicians and administrators will continue to closely monitor and evaluate interventions for this behavior at Waxter."

Eliza Steele, Juvenile Justice Monitor for Waxter said that the facility is "not an appropriate place for mental health treatment."

For Steele, the suicide ideation and attempts are part of a larger mental health issue — particularly among girls.

In the report, the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit states: "Data produced by the Department shows that, in 2010, 75 percent of girls in out-of-home placements had a moderate to high mental health need, compared to 57 percent of boys. However, the availability of

mental health services at Waxter is inferior to that at comparable facilities for boys."

Steele said, "There is a significant number of kids, particularly girls that come into the juvenile justice system with mental health problems." She added that aside from suicidal behaviors, some girls have other mental problems that the detention centers are not equipped to properly address.

To solve this, Steele suggested an increase in the availability of evidence-based treatment programs for youth in the juvenile justice system.

Waxter formerly served as a detention and committed treatment facility for female youth. The treatment program has been discontinued and Waxter is now a secure detention center with the capacity for 42 girls. According to the Juvenile Justice Monitoring

Unit's report, the average population in 2013, was 26, which is a reduction of 16 percent from 2012.

Dr. Marilyn Benoit, a board certified child psychiatrist who is not affiliated with Waxter, said that "All behavior is a way of communicating."

"It may be attention-getting, but look at why they want attention," Benoit said, "Some of them have problems and don't know how to communicate what they are feeling."

Benoit, who has a practice in Kent Island, said that many of the emotional problems incarcerated teens have were developed before they were placed in the system and family problems could have lead them to getting in trouble.

Since Benoit has no direct relationship with Waxter, she couldn't speak to specific concerns that may be causing the

increase. She said that in order to understand why each teen is displaying suicidal behavior, the child's environment should be evaluated.

"For kids to be in a detention center to begin with, something has gone awry," Benoit said, and that many of the children in the system have a history of learning problems, mental illness, child and substance abuse issues.

Benoit said that adolescent years are generally a time of "emotional turmoil" for girls and that being in detention leads to more feelings of isolation. She said that for the girls, the incarceration itself is a risk factor for suicidal behavior and referenced incidents of teens around the country committing suicide while in custody.

"They feel that they are social outcasts and are angry," she said.

EPA from A1

types of streams that would be protected under the rule, the EPA said in a statement.

The agency says the rule will clear up longtime confusion over Clean Water Act protection, which arose after two Supreme Court decisions in the 2000s provided a muddled opinion on whether tributaries and streams fell under the act's jurisdiction.

"We are clarifying protection for the upstream waters that are absolutely vital to downstream communities," EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said in a statement.

Many conservatives view it as an overreach of EPA authority. Like the conservative plurality in the 2006 court decision, they more

narrowly interpret the definition of the phrase "the waters of the United States," which is how the act defines the areas it covers.

Trade organizations like the National Association of Home Builders and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association released statements opposing the rule, as did Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

McCarthy said in comments and in a video released by the agency that the rule will not expand the coverage of the Clean Water Act or protect new types of waters.

More than 70 Maryland businesses have signed on with Environment Maryland in support of the rule.

The environmental organization has been working on the is-

sue for at least a decade, and there will be "dire consequences" if the rule is not passed, Diamond said.

"We want to make sure that the EPA both feels supported in the rule itself and also just sort of know(s) that Marylanders are on their side for proposing a strong rule," she said.

Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin, chairman of the Senate Water and Wildlife Subcommittee praised the decision.

"The importance of the disputed streams and wetlands is on display every day in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The shoreline of the Chesapeake and its tidal tributaries stretch for over 2,000 miles and more than 100,000 streams and rivers

and thousands of acres of wetlands provide the freshwater that flows into the Bay," he said in a statement.

Other national and state environmental groups praised the rule.

"The Chesapeake Bay Foundation welcomes the proposed new rule, which we expect to play an important role in protecting local waterways. The health of seasonal and rain-dependent streams and wetlands near streams and rivers is crucial to the health of downstream waterways," said Chesapeake Bay Foundation Vice President Kim Coble in a statement.

The draft rule will be open for a 90-day public comment period once it is published in the Federal Register.

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COMMENTARY

By Kathleen Sebelius,
*Secretary, Health and Human Services
of the United States*



Medicaid Enrollment Grows By More Than 3 Million

Because of the Affordable Care Act, 7.1 million people have signed up for quality, affordable, private health insurance options in the Health Insurance Marketplace through March 31. And, according to a new CMS report released today, 3 million additional individuals enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP through the end of February 2014 compared to enrollment before the Health Insurance Marketplace opened on October 1, 2013. Enrollment in states that adopted the Medicaid coverage expansion increased five-fold compared to states that are not expanding Medicaid. We expect enrollment in March to be even higher, although individuals can continue to enroll in Medicaid all year round. Eligibility determinations also continued to grow: between October 2013 and February 2014, 11.7 million people were determined eligible for Medicaid and CHIP by state agencies, up from 8.9 million reported last month for the October – January period.

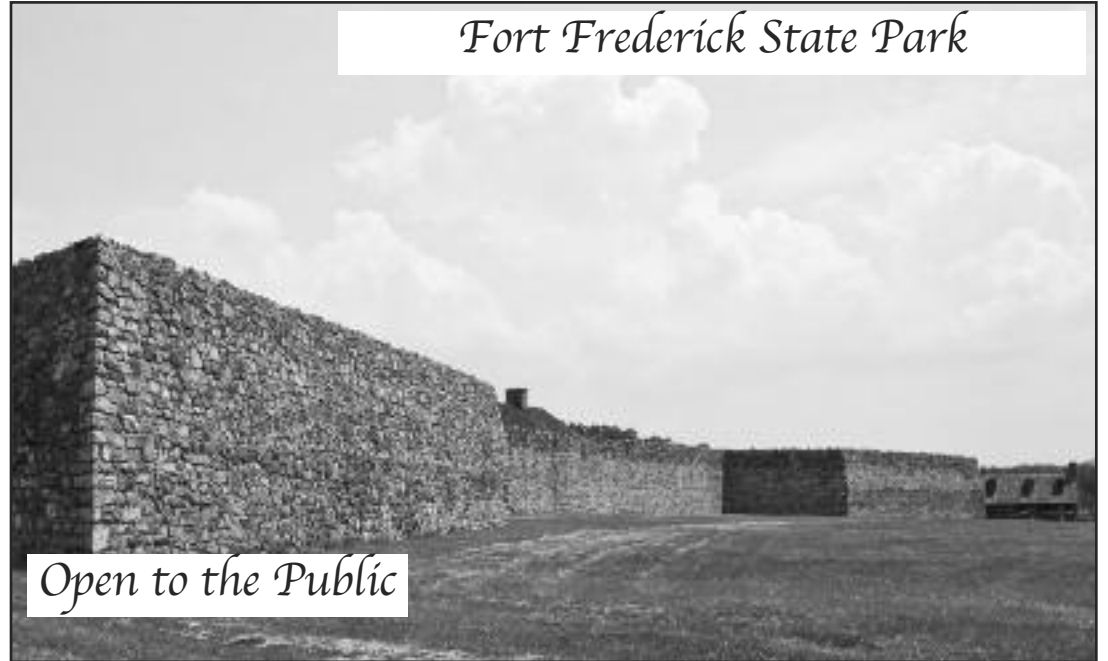
The Affordable Care Act provides states with new opportunities to expand their Medicaid programs to increase access to affordable coverage. In states that expand coverage, most individuals under age 65 with incomes up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$15,521 for an individual and \$31,721 for a family of four) will be eligible for Medicaid coverage. To date, 26 states and D.C. have expanded their Medicaid programs.

States that have expanded Medicaid saw a much more dramatic increase in Medicaid enrollment than states that have not. According to today's report, among states that adopted the Medicaid coverage expansion and whose expansions were in effect in February, Medicaid and CHIP enrollment rose by 8.3 percent compared to the months prior to Marketplace open enrollment period. States that have not expanded Medicaid coverage reported an increase in Medicaid enrollment of 1.6 percent over the same period.

There's no deadline for states to expand, so we're going to keep working with the remaining states as they decide to come on board. Not only is expanding Medicaid coverage helping many people gain health coverage, it's a good deal for states: Coverage for newly eligible adult beneficiaries is fully federally paid for under the Affordable Care Act for the first three years, and never less than 90 percent for the years following. Expanding coverage reduces hospitals' uncompensated care, lowers "cost shifting" to businesses that see higher health insurance premiums as some of the costs of caring for the uninsured are passed on to them, and strengthens local economies.

The increase in Medicaid enrollments across the country is encouraging, but more work is left to do to ensure that the millions of uninsured Americans eligible for these programs gain coverage. Medicaid does not have a set enrollment period so people may be determined eligible for coverage at any time.

Fort Frederick State Park



Open to the Public

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FORT FREDERICK STATE PARK

Located in the Cumberland Valley, the 585 acre park features a unique stone fort that served as Maryland's frontier defense during the French and Indian War. The Fort's stone wall and two barracks have been restored to their 1758 appearance. Historic exhibits are in the Fort, barracks, CCC Museum and Visitor Center. The park annually holds programs such as artillery firings, junior ranger, colonial children's day and the 18th Century Market Fair. The park borders the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal passes through the park. The park also features a boat launch, campsites, camp store, fishing, flat water canoeing, a hiking trail, interpretive and educational programs, picnicking, a playground, and a shelter. Hours of operation are: April – October, 8 a.m. to sunset and November – March, 10 a.m. to sunset. For more information call 301-842-2155.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Making Strides for Preschool

New York City received a lot of attention recently with a bold promise made to some of its youngest residents: Mayor Bill de Blasio ran on a campaign to fund full-day public preschool for all New York City children through a modest increased income tax on residents making more than \$500,000 a year. Although Mayor de Blasio's tax proposal was not approved by the state legislature or supported by New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo, the legislature did approve statewide funding for pre-K that included a \$300 million increase for New York City's preschool program. This means that for the first time fully funded full-day quality preschool will be available for all four-year-olds in the city. New York City is moving forward for children—and it isn't the only major city and school district making strides towards providing high-quality public preschool programs to as many children as possible. Several large districts that have been doing this for a while are already seeing strong results.

In Massachusetts, the Boston Public Schools system (BPS) offers a full day of prekindergarten to any four-year-old in the district regardless of income, although funding limitations prevent the district from serving all eligible children. BPS ensures the quality of its prekindergarten program through high-quality teachers, professional development delivered through individualized coaching sessions, and evidence-based curricula for early language and literacy and mathematics. Prekindergarten teachers have the same requirements as K-12 teachers in BPS and are paid accordingly. And it's working. A study conducted by researchers at Harvard's Graduate School of Education examined the impact of one year of attendance in the BPS preschool program on children's school readiness and found substantial positive effects on children's literacy, language, mathematics, emotional development, and executive functioning.

Tulsa is another city making great strides. Oklahoma has offered universal preschool to four-year-olds since 1998, and in the 2011-2012 school year three-quarters of all four-year-olds in the state were enrolled in the

school program. High-quality year-round programs are also available to some at-risk Tulsa children from birth through age three through the Community Action Project (CAP) of Tulsa County, which combines public and private funds to provide comprehensive services for the youngest and most vulnerable children. Oklahoma's preschool teachers are required to have a bachelor's degree with a certificate in early childhood and are also paid equally to K-12 teachers. Preschool is funded through the state's school finance formula, although districts can subcontract with other providers of early care and education by putting public school teachers in community-based settings and Head Start programs. Researchers from Georgetown University have conducted multiple evaluations of the four-year-old preschool program in Tulsa over the last decade and found evidence of both short and long term gains, with the most persistent gains in math for the neediest children who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch. A long term economic projection of the future adult earnings effects of Tulsa's program estimates benefit-to-cost ratios of 3- or 4-to-1.

New Jersey has offered high-quality state-funded preschool to

three- and four-year-old children in 31 high poverty communities since 1999 in response to a series of state Supreme Court rulings starting with *Abbott v. Burke* that found poorer New Jersey public school students were receiving "inadequate" education funding. In the 2011-2012 school year more than 43,000 children were served through these preschools, and a partnership between the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services has established a wrap-around program of daily before and after school and summer programs to complement the full school-day year-round preschool program. These programs, often called Abbott preschools after the original court decision, are delivered through a mixed public-private delivery system overseen by public schools. Head Start programs and other community providers serve roughly two-thirds of the children. Researchers at Rutgers University's National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) have conducted a longitudinal analysis of the impacts of the Abbott preschool program on the cohort of children served in 2004-2005, and the fifth grade follow

See WATCH, Page A26

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 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.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone 301-627-0900 Legal Fax • 301-627-6260
email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2014, The Prince George's Post

Publisher Legusta Floyd	Subscriptions/Legals Liz Brandenstein
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Editor Legusta Floyd
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

How To Help Someone Losing Weight

As always, the most common New Year's Resolution is to lose weight. And while trimming that waistline may seem a solo job, the truth is that family and friends can have an enormous influence on the success or failure of someone's weight loss efforts.

If you're trying to help someone you care about lose weight, here are some things NOT to do:

1. Don't be the food police.
2. Don't buy exercise equipment or point out new diets.
3. Don't cite health risks of being overweight, or seek constant weight loss updates.
4. Don't try to deprive the person of favorite foods.
5. Don't tell the person that weight loss is easy and just a matter of willpower.

Such actions send destructive messages which re-enforce the person's negative feelings that something is wrong with them unless they lose weight. The result can be additional eating as a way to temporarily overcome those negative feelings.

Instead, try practicing positive behaviors that can help the weight loss effort:

1. Encourage the person trying to lose weight to express feelings, especially negative ones that may be triggering over-eating.
2. Offer ongoing encouragement, not about weight loss but about the person in general. Give sincere, honest, positive messages. Negative feelings that trigger eating are often tied to low self-esteem and being unhappy with one's appearance and life. Find areas of the person's actions, personality and appearance where you can offer positive support.
3. Help the person refocus on what may be the real problem. Weight gain is often a reaction to issues such as relationship problems, a bad work situation, a family loss or other major concerns. Remind the person that we all eat when stressed because food does make us feel temporarily better. Helping identify stress sources can minimize that need to feel better with food.

4. Be a positive model. This doesn't mean you have to diet yourself, but rather that you set an example, without lecturing, by making healthy, sensible food choices. Similarly, start or continue exercising and invite the person you wish to help to join you. Make it a positive experience.

Losing weight is never easy, especially when there are problems and stresses that helped trigger the weight gain. But being someone who truly understands the problem and is willing to care and listen, rather than lecture about weight, can go a long way in helping promote weight loss.

Business Spotlight

Financial Education Goes To Washington



PHOTO SOURCE: NAPSI

The Top 10 teams at the Awards Reception in the Capitol Visitor Center.

(NAPSI)—Are you interested in learning more about the importance of saving and investing and possibly having your member of Congress visit your school? Learn more about the Capitol Hill Challenge.

Here's How

Using the SIFMA Foundation's award-winning Stock Market Game™ program, each student team manages a hypothetical \$100,000 online portfolio and "invests" in real stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

The program teaches the importance of saving and investing, promotes a better understanding of the government, and helps students learn about the global economy, strengthen their personal financial skills and improve their knowledge of math, economics and business.

At the end of the 14-week competition, the Top 10 teams get to visit Washington, D.C. to meet their representative and attend an awards reception in their honor.

Learn More

Further facts are at www.sifma.org/chc, smg@sifma.org and (212) 313-1200.

Strong Bay Harvest Brought Few Undersized Oyster Violations

By LYLE KENDRICK
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS -- The number of oystermen cited or given warnings for having undersized oysters was at a five-year low this season, which some Maryland Department of Natural Resources officials said is the result of a particularly strong harvest.

There were so many full-size oysters in the Chesapeake Bay this year because 2010 was an exceptional reproductive year and there has been low disease mortality since then, said Michael Naylor, the shellfish program director at the Department of Natural Resources.

"Now they're reaching market size in great numbers," he said.

When the oyster population is high, fewer oystermen feel the need to catch them when they're still undersized, said Candy Thomson, Maryland Natural Resources Police spokeswoman.

Naylor said the 2012-2013 harvest was about 340,000 oyster bushels and while this season's numbers have not been fully tallied, he expects the number to be significantly higher. Maryland oyster season runs from Oct. 1 to March 31.

He said that the harvest in 2004 brought only 26,000 bushels of oysters across the bay.

Maryland's Natural Resources Police considers any oyster under three inches to be undersized, and allows five percent of the oysters in a bushel to be undersized as a leeway to oystermen.

"If you're really paying attention to what you're doing, you might have one or two (undersized oysters)," said Jim Mullin, executive director of the Maryland Oyster Association.

During the 2013-14 harvest season, 30 citations were given out for possession of undersized oysters, according to data from the Maryland Natural Resources Police.

This was half the 60 citations given out during the 2011-12 season. There were 34 of the same citation during the 2012-13 season.

The Natural Resources Police also gave out nine warnings this season, according to the data.

Naylor said poaching undersized oysters is dangerous to the ecosystem because they do not begin reproducing until they are about three inches.

"It's a direct threat to the productivity capacity of the whole fishery," he said.

While undersized oyster possession is one of the most common recorded violations, Mullin said the problem is not very widespread.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LAUREN LORICCHIO.
Oyster harvesting in fall 2013 on Broad Creek, a tributary of the Choptank River.

"It's the same select few (oystermen), but it reflects badly on the entire industry," he said.

Thomson said law enforcement officials use a tool with a three-inch opening to determine whether an oyster is below the legal size.

In January, police stopped a tractor-trailer in Easton on Route 50 which had 187 undersized bushels out of the 188 it was carrying.

"I was there and I can tell you they measured every oyster," Thomson said.

While this year's harvest was strong and violations were relatively low, similar ecological conditions are needed to allow for another abundant oyster reproductive cycle in the future.

During a strong reproductive season, the oyster larvae need to be in the right development stage, there has to be good water quality and there needs to be a clean place for attachment, like a shell, said Don Meritt, director of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Horn Point Hatchery.

Naylor said that he does not believe the next oyster season will be significantly bigger than this year's, but anticipates this year's high numbers to be maintained next season.

This year's numbers remained high despite icy conditions. Last month, state officials denied requests to extend the season to make up for days lost because of the weather.

Threat from AI

were bombarded with thousands of gun applications ahead of incoming stricter firearm laws. To reduce the massive backlog, volunteers from the departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, Transportation, Public Safety and Correctional Services, Human Resources and Juvenile Services offered to help out with data entry, according to a police press release.

According to a National Rifle Association press release, some state agencies' computers were not adequately secured to handle gun applications, which include sensitive information.

Elena Russo, director of the police's communications department, said the incident on the Department of Information Technology report was merely a notification of a potential security risk.

"It was not a security breach, it was not a cyberbreach, there were no hacks and no data brought forward by the Maryland State Police," she said.

Similarly, Maureen O'Connor, director of media relations for the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation, said that no personnel data was stolen in a phishing attack on her department. However, a malicious program known as a "ransomware" encrypted department information, demanding that money be sent to a specific account to unlock the data.

The attack began when an employee ignored a department-wide warning not to open a suspicious email. O'Connor said the malware was eliminated and the data restored within five days.

The document also said that three Department of Human Resources servers were attacked on Oct. 22. Brian Schleiter, director of communications for the agency, said the attack was launched on a department website used to post press releases. No data was compromised.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2014 notes that no "substantial disruptions" of state network services have occurred

since 2011, when records of disruptions began.

The state has taken steps to teach its employees about best practices in cybersecurity. In February, Isabel FitzGerald, secretary of the Department of Information Technology, told the House of Delegates that the department had begun monthly cybersecurity training courses for more than 40,000 state employees and contractors.

"They endeavor to make sure all the employees of all the agencies are aware of the possibilities of attacks," said O'Connor, who has taken the course.

The state's vulnerabilities aren't new. The Office of Legislative Audits has outlined weaknesses in several agencies' cybersecurity plans over several years. An audit of the state police from February 2009 to December 2011 found that some servers that guarded personal information, including about 176,000 Social Security numbers, were insufficiently secured. In a March 2013 response to the audit, the police insisted the auditors misunderstood a security measure, and personal information was secure.

The audit also found that police networks lacked systems designed to detect intrusions. The response said that those systems were added after the audit.

Similar audits found more cyber vulnerabilities in the departments of Labor, Transportation and Education as well as the State Archives.

Pugh aimed to promote state cybersecurity even further during the recently-ended 2014 legislative session. She authored a bill to adopt an overarching cybersecurity plan based on a similar document published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The Senate passed the bill unanimously, but it died in the House of Delegates in committee.

Pugh said the bill arose out of concerns for the state's long-term condition, citing the growing amount of information that state entities and contractors transfer online. A 2012 hack into

South Carolina records that exposed 3.6 million tax returns, according to the South Carolina Department of Revenue, encouraged her to make sure Maryland didn't suffer a similar fate.

"If this can occur in other states, it can occur here," Pugh said.

While the Department of Information Technology's information security policy currently encourages following National Institute of Standards and Technology recommendations, Pugh said that her bill would have given state departments incentive to ensure they were actually following best practices.

Costis Toregas, a computer science professor at The George Washington University, warned that the government reports may not tell the full story. He said that there are "probably hundreds of thousands" of attempted attacks on Maryland agencies every day that don't get public attention.

"We penalize people for coming forward and saying something bad happened ... there's no sharing of information happening," he said.

According to state information technology policy, agencies do not need to report viruses or malware that have been automatically thwarted by anti-virus software.

The Heartbleed security bug, first discovered on April 7, also may have a serious impact on government operations. The bug is a vulnerability in OpenSSL, a security protocol used to protect information on about two-thirds of all web servers, according to the technology website Ars Technica. Hackers can exploit the bug to steal passwords and other sensitive information.

Toregas said even if they aren't vulnerable to Heartbleed on their own, state agencies could still be seriously affected by it if they interact with vulnerable businesses.

"We live in an interconnected world. At some point the government will come into contact with a commercial entity on the web," Toregas said. "We've become too interconnected to draw a rigid

line between commercial [and government entities]."

Schlanger said after the Heartbleed outbreak, the Department of Information Technology shared strategies to deal with the bug with state information officers, some of which may have affected users. He added that the department would continue to keep tabs on potential fallout from the bug.

"Continuous monitoring of the cyber threatscape is one of the fundamental tenets of our cybersecurity program," Schlanger wrote in an email.

The Department of Information Technology report also included four incidents that were not cyberattacks, in addition to the police's risk warning. These included a stolen computer, a former employee sending an email from another's account, and an employee's home computer being infected with malware.

What the phishers and would-be hackers were looking for in state agency computers remains a mystery. Mark Cather, director of communications and security at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, said they were likely seeking employees' personal information "because they can turn identities into cash."

Hackers might also have tried to use government computers as a resource, utilizing their processing power to crunch numbers or launch further attacks, Cather said. He added that some may have sought trade secrets or other information worth selling, but it was unlikely because few state agencies make anything with patents or trademarks that would be worth selling.

Regardless of their objectives, hackers aren't going to leave state agencies alone anytime soon. Pugh hopes that legislators will take a more active role in promoting cybersecurity.

"I look at the government from the perspective of a business," Pugh said. "... What do you want the state to look like three years from now? I don't think we do enough of that kind of thinking and planning."

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Divergent"

Divergent
Grade: C
Rated PG-13, a lot of
violence, most of it bloodless
2 hrs., 19 min

Like most movies, "Divergent" is based on a young-adult novel about a teenage girl living in a post-apocalyptic wasteland. In this case, the girl's name is Beatrice (Shailene Woodley), and her society is one in which everyone is divided into five groups matching their personality (basically: smart, brave, honest, selfless, or kind). There's a test you take when you're, I don't know, 17 or 18 that tells you which one you're best suited for, and it's usually whatever your parents were, but you're allowed to actually choose whichever one you want. The test is just, like, a suggestion. And then once you've chosen, you go live with that group — the groups are segregated for some reason — and choose an occupation from among the careers assigned to that group. (People in the Candor tribe can be lawyers and judges; the Erudite group are the teachers and scientists; etc.) Once you choose a group, you can never go back and live in a different one, for reasons that — you will sense a recurring theme here — the movie does not share with us.

Beatrice discovers she's "divergent," which is to say she doesn't fit neatly into any particular category. This makes her rare and unpredictable, and thus a threat to an orderly society. The Man wants you to fit in a box, but Beatrice don't fit in no boxes. Keeping her freak



DIVERGENT is a thrilling action-adventure film set in a world where people are divided into distinct factions based on human virtues. Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) is warned she is Divergent and will never fit into any one group. When she discovers a conspiracy by a faction leader (Kate Winslet) to destroy all Divergents, Tris must learn to trust in the mysterious Four (Theo James) and together they must find out what makes being Divergent so dangerous before it's too late.

divergent status a secret and going by Tris now, she joins Dauntless, and she'll be darned if any lousy divergents are going to mess it up. Directed by Neil Burger ("The Illusionist," "Limitless"), this adaptation of Veronica Roth's novel (the first in a trilogy, naturally) looks slick, but it's nothing more than facile, easily digested teenage wish-fulfillment based on a shaky futurist premise. The point, spelled out repeatedly in case you're slow, is that Tris can conquer her enemies just by being herself, a unique snowflake

Jeanine (Kate Winslet), is planning a coup that will involve the Dauntless, and she'll be darned if any lousy divergents are going to mess it up. Directed by Neil Burger ("The Illusionist," "Limitless"), this adaptation of Veronica Roth's novel (the first in a trilogy, naturally) looks slick, but it's nothing more than facile, easily digested teenage wish-fulfillment based on a shaky futurist premise. The point, spelled out repeatedly in case you're slow, is that Tris can conquer her enemies just by being herself, a unique snowflake

in a world full of conformists. ("Whoa!" says the teenage viewer. "I, too, am a special individual surrounded by drones!") Whether something happened to humanity to make everyone easily categorizable, or whether we're supposed to believe this is just how people are (they aren't), the movie doesn't say, of course. The movie seems to think slapping some future-lookin' stuff on the screen with a hot-tempered girl and a pouty-lipped guy is all you need to make a dystopian hit. And there are two more of these? Ugh.

Data from A1

cense plate numbers and the locations where they were photographed. They also have information on tips about cagey activities, such as taking odd pictures in public places.

After the 9/11 attacks, a government commissioned task force identified a gap in the intelligence community between the local and federal levels. The commission recommended increased sharing among law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

The idea is to round up information that can be useful for cross-agency work.

"If a citizen calls in and says so-and-so met with so-and-so and I think there were hand grenades handed off, whatever is said has got to go into our databases," said Eisenberg. "Let's say it's a terrorism tip, that information is now available worldwide at every FBI office in the world... Let's say there's an incident in Seattle, there's an incident in Baltimore, there's an incident in New York and they can be connected, there has to be a way to connect those dots."

Maryland's fusion center files away data from the U.S. Coast Guard, the FBI, the Maryland State Fire Marshal, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Army, most county police departments, and other federal, state and local agencies into its databases.

The "if you see something, say something" signs in Metro buses and trains list a number that connects callers directly to Maryland's fusion center. The information conveyed over the phone may be sorted into one of

the many "suspicious activity" databases the agency houses, which can later become available to the Maryland Transit Authority or NSA or many others.

Maryland's center also utilizes license plate readers throughout the state, which have been rapidly growing in number since 2011. In 2012 alone, Maryland law enforcement agencies collected 85 million license plate records through mounted police cameras, stationary highway cameras, and other surveillance methods, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Of the 68 police agencies in the state that currently utilize license plate readers, 55 submit their data to the fusion center.

"At Some Point, Bias Kicks In"

Fusion centers around the country have been criticized for ineffectiveness and misappropriation of funds for extraneous spyware, such as hidden "shirt button" cameras and cell phone tracking devices.

Most recently, however, with the NSA under scrutiny for data collection, risks to individual privacy are of growing concern.

"It's not that there isn't any utility behind fusion centers and it's not that we're unaware or incapable of understanding the benefits of law enforcement agencies sharing information," said David Rocah of the ACLU of Maryland. "The problem is a significant lack of control over what information is going in and thus what information is then being disseminated."

Maryland's fusion center does not require that the information it inputs into databases

meet any standards of reasonable suspicion. This means that sharing information that has no specific link to criminal activity is not prohibited.

Michael Price, counsel for the Brennan Center's Liberty and National Security Program in New York, said that suspicious activity reporting is the "bread and butter" of fusion center work. However, what constitutes suspicious activity is something that varies from center to center.

"They do a lot of reporting on First Amendment activities: people taking pictures, a person talking to someone outside the World Bank...and a lot of Middle Eastern men are singled out," Price said. "Which guy taking pictures of the White House is suspicious? At some point, bias kicks in. Maryland doesn't have...the standard we'd like to see them have to filter out some of the bad and irrelevant information."

In 2012, a 48-page Senate report by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations lambasted fusion center activity and inactivity.

The report concluded that little to no terrorist plots have been deterred by fusion center work and that fusion center intelligence is "of uneven quality - oftentimes shoddy, rarely timely, (and) sometimes endangering citizens' civil liberties and Privacy Act protections."

It also condemned fusion centers for putting Homeland Security grant funds toward non-terrorism related investigations.

The Department of Homeland Security told the subcommittee it was unable to declare how much federal money had been spent from 2003 to 2011 on fu-

sion centers, but estimated the figure to be somewhere between \$289 million and \$1.4 billion.

"It's troubling that the very 'fusion' centers that were designed to share information in a post-9/11 world have become part of the problem. Instead of strengthening our counterterrorism efforts, they have too often wasted money and stepped on Americans' civil liberties," Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who initiated the investigation, said in a 2012 statement.

Maryland's center was not mentioned by name in the report, and Eisenberg said the concerns expressed in it do not apply. However, the report emphasizes that its analysis is applicable to all fusion centers.

Julie Sandhaus, the Maryland Coordinator for Operation Defuse, a now defunct organization that opposed fusion centers, said that despite years of criticism from some members of Congress and civil liberties groups, fusion centers have not responded with improvements.

"There's so much money involved that there's no good incentive to reform," she said.

Terrorist Here, Terrorist There

The Department of Homeland Security hails Maryland's fusion center as an example of what fusion centers should strive to be, according to internal surveys cited by the Baltimore Sun. However, there have been issues with the program.

Five years ago, Laura Lising and 52 other Marylanders were en-

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Richard Sherman Defends His Dirt



The NFL traffics in rank hypocrisy often without consequence. Profess concern about head injuries, while demanding an eighteen-game season? Decry racial slurs while profiting off of a team called the Redskins? Say you are role models while ignoring domestic violence? Profit from publicly funded stadiums while maintaining nonprofit status? This is Roger Goodell's shield and you can smell the rot from outer space.

Stepping into this ethical vacuum we have Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman. Sherman is more than a breath of fresh air. He's oxygen in a moral corpse.

After spending Super Bowl week compelling the media to recognize what they are actually saying when they call young black athletes "thugs," Sherman called out a different hypocrisy. Even better, he did it for a friend.

The NFL world roiled last week when Philadelphia Eagles star wide receiver DeSean Jackson was abruptly released. News then leaked that a reason was that Jackson had "gang ties." It is unclear whether this was whispered by the Eagles to justify the cost-cutting move, but there was definitely a whiff of something that did not sit right. The cutting of Jackson and subsequent leaking of the "gang ties" accusation also happened after Eagles resigned their N-bomb dropping wide receiver Riley Cooper.

In normal NFL times, acts of hypocrisy such as this go unchecked. But DeSean Jackson grew up in South Central Los Angeles with Richard Sherman. In Sherman's words, "we come from the same dirt" and he felt compelled to write a response to all the rumors.

Sherman's piece in Sports Illustrated about DeSean Jackson should be read in its entirety but here is the core of his argument. He writes:

I'm not going to tell you that DeSean Jackson isn't in a gang, because I can't say unequivocally that he isn't.... I can only tell you that I believe him to be a good person, and if you think, say or write otherwise without knowing the man, you're in the wrong. And if it's true the Eagles terminated his contract in part because they grew afraid of his alleged 'gang ties,' then they did something worse.... But go ahead and judge DeSean for the company he keeps. While you're at it, judge me, too, because I still live in Los Angeles, and my family does, too. We didn't run from where we grew up.

He then commented directly on Riley Cooper writing:

"This offseason [the Eagles] re-signed a player who was caught on video screaming, 'I will fight every n— here.' He was representing the Philadelphia Eagles when he said it, because, of course, everything we do is reflective of the organization. But what did they do to Riley Cooper, who, if he's not a racist, at least has 'ties' to racist activity? They fined him and sent him to counseling. No suspension necessary for Cooper and no punishment from the NFL, despite its new interest in policing our use of the N-word on the field. Riley instead got a few days off from training camp and a nice contract in the offseason, too."

Altogether it is a remarkable statement about the double standards of race and class that stain the league. It stands as a rebuke to the relentless, unending stigmas young black men endure based upon not only how they look but where they are from.

Sherman's article also speaks to an NFL that alternates between protecting or demonizing its own players, depending upon the financial imperatives of the moment. (The Washington football team, in need of a receiver, wasted no time in scooping Jackson up.)

As for Richard Sherman, he is something we have not seen in a long time: an athlete who is perilous to his own paymasters. What makes him dangerous is that he is both untouchable as an athlete and merciless as a critic.

I think I started thinking Richard Sherman was truly special when a reporter compared him to Muhammad Ali and he would not hear it.

He said, "It's very humbling to be compared to Muhammad Ali because...he had to really stand his ground and almost go to jail because he wanted to stand up for what he believed in. So I think his situation was a lot more brave and a lot more serious than my situation is now, obviously, and he had to deal with a lot more scrutiny and just headache and criticism."

Richard Sherman is now officially risking more than just "headache and criticism." We have had more than a few athletes over the last thirty years who refused to "know their place." But we've had few who also knew their history. That's what makes Richard Sherman so dangerous to the NFL and that's also what makes him so valuable to the rest of us. By defending his dirt, Sherman shows how much the league acts in a manner that can only be described as dirty.

Calendar of Events

May 1 — May 7, 2014

On Exhibit: Riversdale in Bloom!

Date and Time: Friday, May 2-Sunday, June 8, 12:15-3:15 pm
 Description: In conjunction with the Brentwood Arts Exchange, we present this juried exhibit showcasing views of the picturesque Riversdale gardens by talented local artists! Deadline for submissions is April 23. Please call the Museum for additional details.
 Cost: \$3/adult; \$2/senior; \$1/student; FREE/children 4 & under
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

LIVE at Montpelier!-Margot MacDonald, Indie-Pop Rock Vocalist

Date and Time: Friday, May 2, 2014 8 pm
 Description: Join us for LIVE at Montpelier with multi-talented musician, Margot MacDonald! MacDonald is a songwriter, vocalist, live looper and one-woman band that give haunting and powerful performances. Her performances make you forget you forget about technology as you lose yourself in layers of lush vocals and striking melodies.
 Margot is the current Washington Area Music Association "Artist of the Year," a recipient of D.C.'s Power 30 Under 30 award, an Artist-in-Residence alumna at the Music Center at Strathmore and has been featured at TEDx.
 Cost: Tickets: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800 or 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Family Campfire

Date & Time: Friday, May 2, 2014 7:30-9 pm
 Description: Enjoy an evening nature program while roasting marshmallows. (Roasting sticks and marshmallows will be provided.) You may bring hot dogs and beverages. Pre-registration through SMARTlink is strongly encouraged.
 Cost: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$4
 Ages: 2 & up
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Concert featuring Nu Era

Date and Time: Saturday, May 3, 2014 8 pm
 Description: Come watch the talented brothers of Nu Era, who have been electrifying audiences for the last 15 years! Their unique blend of Motown classics of yesteryear with today's R&B, make them a favorite among younger and older generations.
 Cost: Tickets: \$30/General Admission; \$25/students and seniors
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
 10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington
 Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Celebrate National Fitness Month/Pen & Pose: A Workshop in Yoga and Writing

Date and Time: Saturday, May 3, 2014 11 am
 Description: In this unique workshop, poet and yoga teacher Yael Flusberg will lead you through yoga practices interspersed with writing exercises to help you mine your inner riches. Wear comfortable clothes, bring a mat and your favorite notebook and pen. The creative work of both yoga and writing can illuminate pathways into feelings, memories and images stored deep within our bodies.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 18 & up
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800 or 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

People & Pups Hike

Date & Time: Saturday, May 3, 2014 10-11:15 am
 Description: Come enjoy a naturalist-led hike with your pup! Meet us in the Watkins Nature Center parking lot. And, don't forget to bring a leash; your dog must be love other dogs and be people friendly. Reservations are required with SMARTlink.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 18 & up
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Mexican Legends and Song

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 6, 2014 10:15 am & 12:00 noon
 Description: Watch as historical characters Pancho Villa, Doña Marina, Cortés and Montezuma are brought to life with wit and charm by this versatile performer! Be prepared to sing along to "La Cucaracha", "Cu curu cu cuPaloma" and other favorites as Felix brings to life the culture of Mexico with puppetry, stories, songs, and more. The puppet show is performed in English interspersed with Spanish words and phrases.
 Cost: Tickets: \$6/person; \$5/groups of 15 or more
 Ages: Recommended for grades K-5
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Kids' Day Out-Cantare Buena Vida: FIESTA! A Celebration of Life in Latin America

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 10:30 am
 Description: Get ready to sing and dance during Cantare Buena Vida! You will be taken on a musical journey through Latin America, learning about the cultures, which shape music of indigenous, European and African Latin Americans.
 Cost: Tickets: \$5/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 ... Is the gray wolf still endangered in the United States?

Dear EarthTalk:

Is the gray wolf still endangered in the United States and how successful have re-introduction efforts been?

— Loren Renquist,
 Salem, OR

The gray wolf is still considered "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But a June 2013 proposal by the Obama administration to "delist" the animals—save for a small struggling population of Mexican gray wolves in Arizona and New Mexico—could change that if finalized later this year.

Gray wolves were added to the Endangered Species List in 1975 after being wiped out across the contiguous 48 states by government-sponsored trapping and poisoning programs. Thanks to protections under the ESA, populations have since bounced back nicely in two out of the three regions where protections and reintroduction programs were initiated. In the Great Lakes, wolf populations rebounded from just a few hundred individuals in the 1970s to over 5,000 today, expanding their range from Minnesota to Wisconsin and Michigan. In the Northern Rockies, natural migration from Canada and reintroductions in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho have resulted in some 1,700 gray wolves now roaming across Idaho, Montana, Wyoming,

Washington and Oregon.

"Despite these substantial gains, the job of wolf recovery is far from over," reports the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). "Wolves need connected populations for genetic sustainability, and natural ecosystems need wolves; yet today wolves occupy less than five percent of their historic range." That's why CBD has joined a chorus of voices in urging the federal government to continue protecting gray wolves under the ESA.

The U.S. government had been scaling back wolf protections in recent years, so animal advocates weren't surprised to see the Obama administration's proposal. "In April 2011 Congress attached a rider to a must-pass budget bill that stripped Endangered Species Act protections from wolves in all of Montana and Idaho, the eastern third of Washington and Oregon, and a small portion of northern Utah—an unprecedented action that, for the first time in the history of the Act, removed a species from the endangered list by political fiat instead of science," says CBD, adding that wolves were subsequently delisted in Wyoming and the Great Lakes. "Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Minnesota and Wisconsin have begun public wolf hunting and/or trapping, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with state agencies, is expanding its program of trapping, radio-collaring and releasing, then aerial



CREDIT: DON BURKETT, COURTESY FLICKR?

Gray wolves were added to the Endangered Species List in 1975 after being wiped out across the lower 48 states by government-sponsored trapping and poisoning programs. Thanks to Endangered Species Act protections, populations have since bounced back, but new efforts to "de-list" them could put the animals under the gun again.

gunning the pack-mates of these collared wolves—a program that...had been limited to those that preyed on livestock." CBD fears that such tactics will become common if ESA protections are removed in the lower 48 states.

Luckily for the wolves, the Obama administration's delisting proposal suffered a setback this past February when an independent review panel concluded that the decision was based on insufficient science and should therefore not be enacted. "The science used by the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concerning genetics and taxonomy of wolves was preliminary and currently not the best available science," reported panel

member Steven Courtney, a scientist at UC Santa Barbara.

The review panel finding has opened a new public comment period on a proposal that has already generated more than a million comments. A final decision on the delisting proposal is expected by June.

CONTACTS: CBD, www.biologicaldiversity.org; USFWS, www.fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Data from A6

tered into a fusion center supported database used to track alleged terrorists and drug traffickers.

Lising, an anti-death penalty activist, was confused and frightened when she received a letter in the mail from the Maryland State Police informing her that she had been labeled as a terrorist at both the state and federal levels.

The notice followed the ACLU of Maryland's unveiling of extensive police surveillance on the public meetings and activities of peaceful anti-war and anti-death penalty organizations. The surveillance persisted for 14 months in 2005 and 2006 under the administration of former Republican Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.

"The letter invited us to come take a look at our files in the police offices, but we weren't being offered a copy and we weren't allowed to take anyone in with us," said Lising.

At a hearing, police told Lising and her fellow activists that their files would be destroyed.

"They claimed they had no backups...but our lawyers were skeptical," Lising said. "When

you have this kind of broad information sharing, destroying a file in your possession when it's been spread across agencies doesn't seem like much."

The information was placed into a database accessible to Maryland's fusion center, according to the ACLU. Although the ACLU could not determine whether the fusion center was aware of the police investigation into the activists, its report on the matter said fusion centers are "clearly intended to be the focal point for sharing terrorism-related information."

Whether or not the fusion center knew about the investigation makes no difference, said Price. The names would not have been able to be entered if the center had clear, reasonable suspicion standards.

"Congress really needs to take a look at the money being given to fusion centers and institute a little more oversight and uniformity," Price said. "Being generally run by state and local police, the federal government can't really tell them what to do. We advocate bringing in an outside auditor or independent per-

son to look at the files and verify it's complying with the rules originally set out for fusion centers. There's really no mechanism in place to verify they're following procedure."

A Different Agenda

Despite the lack of terrorism-related cases Maryland's fusion center helps tackle, it has been useful in combatting other sorts of crime. And to Eisenberg, tracking and cataloguing general crime was a natural extension of the original task.

"It's something that grew...information sharing (was) a problem. So that was our focus. We started to get requests for information services from various police departments and others, for things that were outside of terrorism, which is a crime," said Eisenberg. The fusion center has helped to reduce automobile thefts and solve drug-related cases, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Some of the Maryland fusion center's "biggest successes," according to Eisenberg, have been tracking missing and endangered people. The center uses the license

plate readers to search for tags that could be related to abductions.

Eisenberg also emphasized the importance of information fusing to promote public health. One such example is syndromic surveillance.

"Health officials are in touch with pharmacies, doctor offices, and hospitals routinely," he said. "If they start to see something that needs to be looked at more strongly, then (we) alert the public or an agency...It doesn't have to be an anthrax attack but it could be. It could just be a simple virus."

Price said the reason for the mission creep is likely less noble.

"They were created for terrorism and you see them dealing with all crimes and all hazards, like natural disasters. I think part of the reason is, thankfully, there aren't a lot of terrorists running all around the country. So there isn't much work and they have to get something done to justify the money coming in," he said. "As they grow...they've had to expand their mandate for lack of work, which poses the question of whether that dilutes the original mission."

Concussion from A1

"There wasn't as much of a need as the people who make the sensors wanted them used," she said.

The bill stated the pilot program would not start unless sensors were donated, not purchased by schools. The local school boards would choose the manufacturer they wanted to use, Cardin said.

John Woolums, director of government relations for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, said attaching the sensors to helmets could impede helmet safety, making them "no longer conform with safety standards."

Greg Merrill, CEO of the Bethesda-based impact sensor

manufacturer Brain Sentry, said their sensors do not affect helmet safety.

The Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association and local school boards brought concerns about the bill to MABE. "The other flaw from our point of view was that pilot programs are ideally discretionary for the systems that want to participate," Woolums said. A narrower, more discretionary bill could have received their support, he said.

The medical community also voiced concerns.

Dr. Robert Graw, CEO of Righttime Medical Care, a provider in Maryland with spe-

cialties in sports injuries and concussions, said the technology used in impact sensors, such as an LED turning red upon a high-force impact, does not point to specific conclusions. "Nobody has shown that light going off and G forces on a growing brain [have] a certain outcome," Graw said.

He said each player's physiology affects concussion vulnerability.

Cardin said recently there is a need for more awareness in the treatment and diagnosis of concussions.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association released a statement in March underscoring how widespread the

health risks from concussions are. It said about 3.8 million concussions occur each year in the U.S. as a result of sport and physical activity. And, it said, sports-related concussions account for 46 percent of all concussions in teens 14 to 19 years old.

Recent studies at a number of universities have centered on how helmets can help reduce the risk of concussions. A recent study by Virginia Tech looked into the types of helmets that could best reduce head impact.

Staff writers Daniel Gallen and Rachel Walther contributed to this report.



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