

# The Prince George's Post



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## Homebuyers in PG County to Get Significant Rate Reduction Assistance

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

Hyattsville, MD - Families looking to buy a home in Prince George's County through the Maryland Mortgage Program may be eligible for as much as \$20,000 in downpayment assistance under a new initiative designed to stabilize county neighborhoods by promoting homeownership. The MMP Triple Play Initiative, a \$100 million initiative which could help an estimated 500 families own the home of their dreams in the county, is the result of a

unique partnership between Prince George's County, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and the Maryland Attorney General's office.

Through the initiative, all eligible Maryland Mortgage Program borrowers purchasing in Prince George's County receive a .25 percent discount on the already low rates of the regular Maryland Mortgage Program and \$10,000 down payment assistance in the form of an inter-

See **HOMEBUYERS** Page A6

## Inmates Take Care of Bees as Bee Population Struggles

By DENNIS TING AND  
BEENA RAGHAVENDRAN  
Capital News Service

HAGERSTOWN - John Anderson and James Jones walked into their classroom at the Maryland Correctional Training Center in Hagerstown on a recent morning wearing their jumpsuits to start another day of work.

But the inmates' jumpsuits were thick, protective body suits with a mesh head cover, and their classroom was actually a yard-- filled with thousands of buzzing bees.

Two correctional officers, Cpl. Chuck Neikirk and Lt. Jeff Golden, who are known around

the prison as "master beekeepers," are leading the new beekeeping program at the correctional facility. Neikirk said that the warden approached them about starting up a class after finding out that the two kept bees in their spare time.

The program started in August 2013 with a gift of about 100,000 bees from a bee apiary in Germantown. The correctional officers teach the inmates how to become beekeepers, about the environmental impact of the bees and how to process honey.

See **BEES** Page A7



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JESSICA WILDE

Photographers and birdwatchers flock to the Conowingo Dam to see bald eagles flying around the concrete structure, and Exelon Power holds an annual bald eagle photo contest.

## Report: Nutrients, Not Just Sediment at Conowingo, Affect Chesapeake Bay

By DANI SHAE THOMPSON  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — The Chesapeake Bay may have water quality issues, but according to a new study, the Conowingo Dam doesn't seem to be a major cause of them.

A multi-agency report found that the Conowingo Dam is not the biggest culprit for water

quality issues affecting the bay, and dredging sediment from the reservoir behind the dam should not be considered a cost-effective solution.

Rather, the report points to nutrients associated with the sediment, washed down from states upstream, and from other tributaries to the Chesapeake, that pass through the dam and are contributing to dead zones in the bay.

The Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment, made public Thursday, details the movement of sediment and nutrients through the river, reports how they may affect the Chesapeake Bay, and offers suggestions for how to best manage the problem.

Suggestions include continued research and monitoring of nutrients, stormwater management, and a recommendation

that the EPA integrate findings of this study into their water quality assessment of the bay.

"The overwhelming majority of pollution entering the bay from the Susquehanna River comes not from behind the Conowingo Dam but from the 27,000-square-mile watershed upstream," Alison Prost, Mary-

See **CONOWINGO** Page A3

## State Report Aims to Help Maryland Campuses Address Sexual Assault

By LEJLA SARCEVIC  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - To combat sexual violence on Maryland college campuses, the state's public and private higher educational institutions should change campus culture and encourage reporting of sexual assault cases, state Attorney General Doug Gansler recommended Thursday.

A report Gansler presented at the University of Maryland, College Park contains a half-dozen key recommendations, among them: encouraging bystanders to intervene when possible; addressing the relationship between alcohol and consent; and training campus employees about sexual trauma.

Statistics show that one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college, according to the report, which comes as a response to the Obama administration's "It's On Us" campaign to combat sexual crime on campus.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LEJLA SARCEVIC

Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler (left), listens as Katherine Swanson, director of student groups with the University of Maryland, College Park's Student Government Association, addresses media with Delegate Ariana Kelly, D-Montgomery, a sexual assault survivor, to the right, at the Adele H. Stamp Student Union on the University of Maryland, College Park campus, Oct. 13, 2014.

"It occurred to me that the issue of bystander intervention is probably one of the most effective ways of dealing with this issue," said Gansler, who advo-

cated training students, at campus orientation and while enrolled, to safely intervene and monitor when their friends appear to be in vulnerable situations.

Alcohol is also often a factor in campus sexual assaults, and

See **RAPE** Page A7

## Statement from County Executive Rushern Baker, III on Passing of Mayor Marion Barry

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of Rushern L. Baker, III

Upper Marlboro, MD - Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement in honor of the passing of Councilman and Former Mayor Marion Barry:

"We are deeply saddened by the death of Councilman and Former Mayor Marion Barry. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, colleagues and constituents.

Marion Barry was more than a politician, he was and will forever be an icon. He spent his life fighting for those who did not know how to fight for themselves. From his days as a civil rights leader, Marion Barry ascended from the streets of the city to become Mayor of the District of Columbia. He was committed to making a difference in people's lives - a visionary, who saw the potential of the city and believed that everyone deserved a fair opportunity to fulfill their potential.

Like so many others, I credit Marion Barry with giving me

my first job, and he would remind me every time he saw me. I also credit him with being a wonderful example of what leaders of government can and should do to change lives and communities. Whether it was investing in youth employment or supporting local businesses, his impact on the city and this region will last for generations to come. The District of Columbia we see today and will experience into the future would not be where it is without him.

He is an inspiration to us all, and the people of Prince George's County will never forget this incredible man, his legacy of service and his unwavering commitment providing a hand up to those who needed it most. He was truly a man of the people and it is why he will always be known and loved by so many as the "Mayor for Life."

On behalf of the 900,000 residents of Prince George's County, we send our condolences to our neighbors, our friends, and our family members in the District of Columbia for their loss."

### INSIDE

#### New Report Finds Adult Obesity Rates Increased in Six States

Adult obesity rates remained high overall, increased in six states in the past year, and did not decrease in any, according to The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America, a report from the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).  
**Community**, Page A3

#### Learning to Love What You Have

Despite all her challenges, Monica sees a happy future for herself and shares more about what she's learned about thankfulness: "Maybe my family is not going to be back together again, or my life is not going to be the same again, but if I only thought about that I would be grumpy the whole time."  
**Commentary**, Page A4

#### Maryland's Flying Fisherman - Kayak Crabbing, Taking Wing, and Going Viral with Langston Majette

While his early childhood was spent in Brooklyn, New York, his father moved Majette, his mother and two brothers to Maryland in 1994 because he wanted a change of scene and a different environment to raise his family.  
**Business**, Page A5

#### Movie Review: "Foxcatcher"

Foxcatcher tells the story of Olympic Gold Medal-winning wrestler Mark Schultz, who sees a way out from the shadow of his more celebrated wrestling brother Dave and a life of poverty when he is summoned by eccentric multi-millionaire John du Pont to move onto his estate and train for the 1988 Seoul Olympics.  
**Out on the Town**, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I know that some large buildings filter some of their wastewater to irrigate exterior landscaping. Is there an affordable way to do this at home?

— Bill P.,  
Salem, OR

**Features**, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### National Children's Museum moving again

The Capital Children's Museum was founded in 1974, located on the H Street Corridor at 800 3rd Street NE, in what was once—do you remember the statues?—the nursing home of the Little Sisters of the Poor who had moved to Harewood Road.

In its heyday, it was a leader in children's museums with 200,000 visitors annually. I loved taking my grandchildren there. Imagine, they could help make tortillas, dress in a real fireman's suit, pet the live donkey, dial an old phone to alert the "police," sit on a Harley, and so much more.

Since people are not content to leave alone something that really works, it was decided a new building for the museum was needed and the name changed. Thus "National" was added and "Capital" was ditched.

For a time the museum had traveling exhibits and programs. And then the announcement came that The National Children's Museum would be moving to National Harbor. Prince George's officials were delighted. Mothers and children were excited. National Harbor was thrilled.

It opened its doors two years ago, in December 2012. But it just never worked. Now Ross Hechinger, chairman of the Museum's board of directors, has announced that they're moving back to Washington where it's closer to Metro. They're looking for a new site.

I wonder if 800 3rd Street NE is available.

### Breakfast with Santa

The Morningside Recreation Council and the Town of Morningside are hosting their Annual Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Town Hall. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausages, juice and coffee. Santa arrives at 10:45 and will be happy to have his picture taken with your children.

Admission is \$3 per person; children two and under free. Reservations must be made and paid by Dec. 5. R.S.V.P. to 301-523-2966.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### BREAKFAST with SANTA

Families will be able to enjoy breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 13, 2014 10 AM-12 Noon with Santa. The event is a catered breakfast, live entertainment and other surprises reserved for the day. Children must be accompanied by an adult. All ages are welcome. Residents pay \$8.00 and non-residents pay \$10.00. Photo with Santa cost \$3.00. It is necessary to pre-register by December 5, 2014 because space is limited to first 100 registrants.

Join us at Baden Community Center located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Call 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030 for more information.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Stephan Deville, Ernestine Dorsey, Shaunelle Hawkins, Gwendolyn Johnson, Annette Makle and Renie Maxcine Spriggs, Charles Dorsett, Irena Stammer, Taylor Terry, Shawnee Hendricks, Lamenthia Walton, Nurbet Hughes, Anthony Bell, Elvin Falby, Nahemia Hendricks, Valentine II, Grant, Lilly Jalloh,

### Neighbors

We have two new citizens! On Nov. 19 Sister Haimanot and Sister Zion became American citizens. They are from the Eritrea, in Africa. They are my neighbors and I'm so proud of them.

The Oxon Hill Food Pantry turned 30 this year—30 years of feeding the needy. The Skyline Citizens Association always has a basket available at their meetings for donated canned goods. One of our Skyline officers, Betty Cottrell, delivers the donations. She has volunteered at the Pantry for years and edits their newsletter.

While Diane Zirkle was giving me a haircut last week at Hair Force, she mentioned Betty Call who died recently. Diane recalled how Betty, who worked checkout at G. I. Market, would tell her the exact amount of her bill before she punched the Total key on the cash register. I am delighted that someone else remembers that.

Diane, by the way, grew up on Pickett Drive in Morningside and is the daughter of the late Waverly Miller.

I had an email from Jill Flaherty Kimmel who used to live on Elemendorf in Skyline. She's retired, living in Hagerstown and enjoying her 20 grandkids and 3 great-grandsons. She told me that at one time she was the only licensed and bonded female motorcycle mechanic in the state of Maryland.

### Changing landscape

JB Fitness Studio has opened at 6901 Old Alexandria Ferry Road in Clinton. JB stands for Johnnie Boi. Some of the offerings are pilates, power body calisthenics, TRX and a bunch of other exercises I don't know anything about. You can call the studio at 301-437-1682.

As I write this, parts of Silver Hill Road near Suitland High School are closed due to a water-main break. Several businesses and homes are without water. The problem: a 71-year-old man. It's being replaced but I imagine there

are a lot more 71-year-old pipes under our streets.

Aldi grocery in District Heights has been refurbished and is open for business.

A huge new Shell station and convenience store is going in on Woodyard Road in Clinton, next door to McDonald's.

All 85 stores in Tanger Outlets at National Harbor are leased, and they're celebrating their first anniversary. Some people, however, have complained about lack of sit-down restaurants. As for me, I'm waiting for a bookstore.

### Craft Fair with door prizes every half hour

St. Columba Church is hosting a Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 25 crafters will be there under one roof. They suggest you continue your Christmas shopping there while the kids enjoy the Secret Santa Workshop and free art activities. Door prizes will be awarded out every half hour. St. Columba's is at 7804 Livingston Road in Oxon Hill.

Come to the Table Gathering at Davies Memorial

Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church invites you to the Washington Area Coming to the Table Gathering on Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. They'll discuss healing the wounds of racism rooted in the U.S. history of slavery. The church is at 7400 Temple Hill Road in Camp Springs. For information, contact Lynda at lynchadvis@aol.com.

### 40 years ago

I wandered over to Skyline School to watch the Marylandaires Barbershop Chorus practice for an upcoming concert. Dice West spotted me and had the chorus burst into a wonderful rendition of "Dear Old Girl."

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Denise (Eskew) Simms and Steve Ferralli, Dec. 5; Virginia Rosch, Dec. 6; Sandra Mickey and Brian Doyle, Dec. 7; Charles Boxley, Dec. 8; Beth Shipman, Dec. 9; Sharon Fowler and Diane (Miller) Zirkle, Dec. 10; and Michelle Anderson, Dec. 11.

301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030 for more information.

### JAZZ CAFE

Save the date for a Jazz Café featuring Chuck Farmer and the New Prospect Band Sunday, December 27, 2014 at New Hope Fellowship-Nottingham Myers Campus Family Life Center at 7:00 PM. Come out and enjoy the smooth Jazz sounds of our local musicians. Ticket cost \$30.00. Family Life Center is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

### FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation will display the Festival of Lights Friday, November 28, 2014 thru Thursday, January 1, 2015 from 5:00 PM-9:30 PM. This spectacular holiday drive-through event featuring more than one million twinkling lights is something that you will not want to miss.

The address is Watkins Regional Park 301 Watkins Park Drive (Route 193) Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Call 301-699-2456; TTY 301-218-6768 for more information.

## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Statement on President Obama's Executive Action on Immigration

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement regarding President Obama's executive actions on immigration.

"The temporary actions taken tonight by President Obama are a necessary first step to fix our broken immigration system. Over 500 days ago, the Senate passed a bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform bill that would protect families, grow our economy, and secure our border. I am a long-time cosponsor of this bill in the House of Representatives, and I am frustrated and dismayed by House Republicans' continued refusal to bring it to a vote. The blatant inaction by House Republicans has left the President no choice but to do what his predecessors, including Presidents Bush and Reagan, have done for over 50 years — use their legal authority to protect families and ensure accountability in our current immigration system. It is disingenuous for Republicans to suggest otherwise, and dangerous to threaten shutting down the government in retaliation for the President doing his job.

"This is a first step taken to reform our immigration system, but it cannot be our last. I urge House Republicans to pass bipartisan immigration reform before leaving Washington for another holiday."

### WSSC Sells \$250 Million in AAA Rated Bonds

Laurel — November 18, 2014: The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) competitively sold \$250 million of Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds today to J.P. Morgan Securities & Co. The bonds were issued at an average interest rate of 3.486094%.

The bonds were rated AAA by all three Bond Rating Agencies: Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's, which also reaffirmed WSSC's AAA rating on its other outstanding bonds.

Six firms registered to bid on the bonds, with 4 placing competitive bids. The range of True Interest Cost (TIC) was from a low of 3.486094% to a high of 3.749238%.

### Thompson Creek Windows Reviews 2014 "Dealer of the Year"

Thompson Creek Window Company, the mid-Atlantic's leading window replacement products company, today announced it has been named "Dealer of the Year" by Window and Door magazine for excellence in community service. The 2014 Window and Door magazine Dealer of the Year awards recognize eight remodeling companies for their accomplishments.

Each year, Window & Door magazine's Dealer of the Year program recognizes window and door retailers and distributors that stand out among their peers as innovators in terms of business practices, sales strategies, customer service, installation



Congresswoman  
Donna F. Edwards

methods and community service. The Dealer of the Year program has 8 categories that range from leadership and innovative thinking to community service, and showroom design.

This award recognizes Thompson Creek Window Company for their involvement in several large community service projects where they donated materials, manpower and knowledge and support to help improve the lives of others.

Thompson Creek Window Company's president, Rick Wuest, said, "We are thrilled to be honored with a community service award for our contributions in Maryland, Washington, DC and Virginia. We are a local company and strive to give back to the communities in which we serve. This award is validation that we are succeeding in our effort to help others."

### Maryland Fire Deaths Tracking Lower

State Fire Marshall Promotes Smoke Alarms, Home Escape Plans and Residential Fire Sprinklers

STATEWIDE (November 7, 2014) — State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci reports a decrease in the number of fire deaths so far in 2014 compared to this period in 2013. Forty-four Marylanders have lost their lives to fire compared to fifty-five this time last year. This represents a 20% decrease in fire fatalities.

"Maryland's fire service is cautiously optimistic with this year's data, however, everyone must remain vigilant in their fire prevention efforts to continue this trend," stated State Fire Marshal Geraci. "An estimated 80% of all structure fires in Maryland occur in what most assume to be the safest place, our homes."

The month of October experienced the loss of six lives resulting from fire related incidents. Four adults lost their lives in Carroll, Calvert, and Washington Counties and Baltimore City. Two young children died in a home fire in Allegany County where the cause for the fire remains under investigation.

To help survive a home fire, the State Fire Marshal recommends the following:

- Working smoke alarms should be located on every level of the home and in each sleeping area.

- Test smoke alarms monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year.

- Develop a home escape plan with a safe meeting

place and practice the plan with all family members. It is extremely important to, "Get Out, Stay Out" of a working fire, never return inside for anything.

- Smoke alarms combined with a residential fire sprinkler system increase surviving a fire by over 97%.

A new Maryland law became effective on July 1, 2013 involving "battery only" smoke alarms used in residential properties. When "battery only" smoke alarms have reached their 10-year life span, they need to be replaced with new long-life sealed lithium battery smoke alarms with silence/hush button features. The silence/hush button feature temporarily disables the alarm so the occupant can ventilate the space from mild smoke conditions typically created during some cooking operations. The use of these alarms eliminates the need to replace the batteries during the 10 year life of the alarm.

Recent smoke alarm donation programs offered by Pepco and Delmarva power companies have provided several smoke alarms to the fire service to be installed in the communities they provide service. On October 30th, Pepco donated 1,000 ten-year long life battery smoke alarms to the Prince Georges County Fire and EMS Department and 1,000 of the same life saving devices were provided to Montgomery County Fire Department. On November 3rd, Delmarva Power donated 1,200 ten-year long life smoke alarms to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, which were then immediately shared with the fire service organizations providing services on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

If your property is protected with 120 volt electric smoke alarms, they should be replaced every 10 years with new 120 volt smoke alarms w/ battery back-up to ensure proper and timely operation in the event of a fire.

Local initiatives across Maryland now mandate the installation of residential fire sprinklers in every newly constructed single-family home. Currently 12 Maryland counties, Baltimore City and numerous municipalities have adopted these requirements. Additionally, all townhomes built in Maryland since 1992 require residential fire sprinklers, and to date, no fire fatalities have occurred in any of these protected homes.

"Maryland's fire service along with many partners in the public and private sectors have focused on proven fire and life safety strategies such as: working smoke alarms, home fire escape plans and residential fire sprinklers. Community outreach programs emphasizing personal responsibility for surviving a home fire are steadily showing positive results,"

—State Fire Marshal.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Smart Financial Moves for Transitioning Vets

The latest generations of veterans face a particularly complicated financial picture, attributed to multiple deployments, a tough civilian economy, predatory lending threats at home and disability and health issues.

That's why the Veterans Financial Coalition (<http://www.veteransfinancial-coalition.org>) was formed in June 2014 by a diverse group of organizations including Visa's Practical Money Skills for Life, Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE), Consumer Action, and the Consumer Federation of America. The coalition welcomed three new members in November — Call For Action, the National Consumers League (NCL) and the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC).

The organization aims to meet the needs of veterans reentering civilian life by executing three goals:

- Educate veterans and the community organizations that serve them.
- Research consumer protections for veterans.
- Raise awareness for veterans' financial needs.

Aside from the Veterans Financial Coalition, returning veterans and reservists can also use the following suggestions and resources to build their post-military financial and career path:

Get personalized advice: Throughout the military career life-cycle, active military, reservists and retired military personnel have access to specific savings, investing and spending resources. But nothing takes the place of personalized financial/tax advice and lifetime personal finance education. Veterans can view and download resources such as budgeting tips, tax break information and educational games from the Veterans Financial Coalition. As part of the Coalition's free resources, the AFCPE also provides an online database to locate a certified professional financial counselor to help with savings, spending, investing and tax issues. On the credit front, Wells Fargo has partnered with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and its Sharpen Your Financial Focus initiative to deliver Wells Fargo's Hands on Banking (<http://www.handsonbanking.org/financial-education/hands-on-banking-for-military/>) education program specifically for servicemembers.

Take advantage of all transition assistance programs. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is a first-step clearinghouse for information on VA career, educational, financial and vocational rehabilitation assistance. Workshop and video guides are available on the site in addition to links to the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) program and other VA training and career success programs. The U.S. Department of Labor's Career One Stop site also offers additional information on military-specific career programs.

Avoid scams. Sadly, active and returning military personnel are often targets for a diverse range of financial fraud. Veterans Financial Coalition member Consumer Action offers an Economic Survival Guide for Servicemembers and Veterans.

Get tax help. The Internal Revenue Service website provides a variety of tax resources for active military and veterans. It is also worthwhile to work with a licensed tax professional with expertise in military transition issues. It's a good idea to rely on trusted friends and family for referrals to tax professionals who have experience working with active military and veterans, but you can also contact your state CPA (Certified Public Accountant) society to gather names of professionals in your area. Always remember to interview professionals before you hire them.

Go deeper on education breaks. Check the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website for its education benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill, for example, may cover the full cost of in-state tuition and fees for a public college for up to 36 months (four years) after release from active duty. A combination of VA tuition and training programs can offer more assistance. Student aid programs also exist for the children of deceased and disabled veterans. FinAid.org offers background on many of these programs.

Bottom line: If you're a veteran or know one, take advantage of the full range of financial, career and training resources to secure a bright, post-military future.



## New Report Finds Adult Obesity Rates Increased in Six States

Rates Higher in South, and Among Blacks, Latinos and Low-Income Americans

By PRESS OFFICER  
NAACP

Washington, D.C. — Adult obesity rates remained high overall, increased in six states in the past year, and did not decrease in any, according to The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America, a report from the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

The State of Obesity reviews existing policies and issues high-priority recommendations for making affordable healthy foods and safe places for physical activity available to all Americans, such as focusing on healthy food financing, improving nutrition and activity in schools and child care settings, limiting the marketing of unhealthy foods to kids, and improving the built environment to support increased physical activity. For this year's report, TFAH and RWJF partnered with the NAACP and others to identify more effective strategies for implementing obesity-prevention policies in Black and Latino communities.

"The issue of childhood obesity in America goes far beyond the arena of health. The growing weight of our nation's children has both moral and ethical implications that can no longer be denied or ignored," said Niiobli Armah, Director of Health Programs for the NAACP. "Those of us who are engaged in grassroots efforts and understand the social, economic, and political implications of childhood obesity, know that we must take action. With the release of this year's report we are one step closer to understanding what it will take to achieve our collective goal of curbing this growing epidemic."

Report findings also reveal that significant geographic, income, racial, and ethnic disparities persist, with obesity rates highest in the South and among Blacks, Latinos and lower-income, less-educated Americans.

### Conowingo from A1

land executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said in a statement Wednesday.

According to measurements taken from 2008 to 2011, only 13 percent of sediment pollution came from the Conowingo Reservoir—the other 87 percent came from the greater watershed area, said Anna Compton, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers biologist and manager of the study.

The Susquehanna begins in Cooperstown, New York, flows through central Pennsylvania and into Maryland where it winds its way down to the Chesapeake Bay.

Along the way, the river collects runoff—sediment and nutrients—from farms, cities, yards, and anywhere in between.

Sediment essentially means dirt—clay, silt and sand—but it has the potential to carry nutrients, pesticides, oil residue, manure and other toxic particles.

Dams are designed to hold back water, but they also collect and hold back this sediment—millions of tons of it.

Some of that sediment gets through the dam, and for dams in the greater Chesapeake Bay watershed, this means sediment will continue on to the bay, where it has the potential to harm the aquatic ecosystem.

Before the new assessment was completed, researchers thought that this sediment was causing major harm to the bay

The report also found that more than one in ten children become obese as early as ages 2 to 5.

"This year's report provides us with an opportunity to hear voices from local communities that gives additional depth to the data," stated Jennifer White, Manager of Health Programs and Partnerships for the NAACP. "Reducing childhood obesity rates among African-Americans requires a health equity perspective and effective engagement with community advocates."

### Report Highlights:

- NAACP leaders address socioeconomic and environmental factors, particularly less access to healthy, affordable foods and a shortage of safe, accessible spaces for physical activity;

- NAACP leaders provide increased education about healthy choices and how to make these choices more relevant to their daily lives;

- NAACP encourages leaders to feel and take shared ownership of the long-term success of an initiative; and create models where local, state and national organizations form lasting collaborations, access to ongoing resource and a shared set of priorities and goals.

To read the full report, visit: <http://healthyamericans.org/report/115/>

### About Trust for America's Health

Trust for America's Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority. For more information, visit [www.healthyamericans.org](http://www.healthyamericans.org).

### About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation has worked to improve the health and health care of all Americans. We are striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all Americans to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.rwjf.org/twitter](http://www.rwjf.org/twitter) or on Facebook at [www.rwjf.org/facebook](http://www.rwjf.org/facebook).

### About the NAACP

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. You can read more about the NAACP's work and our five "Game Changer" issue areas here.

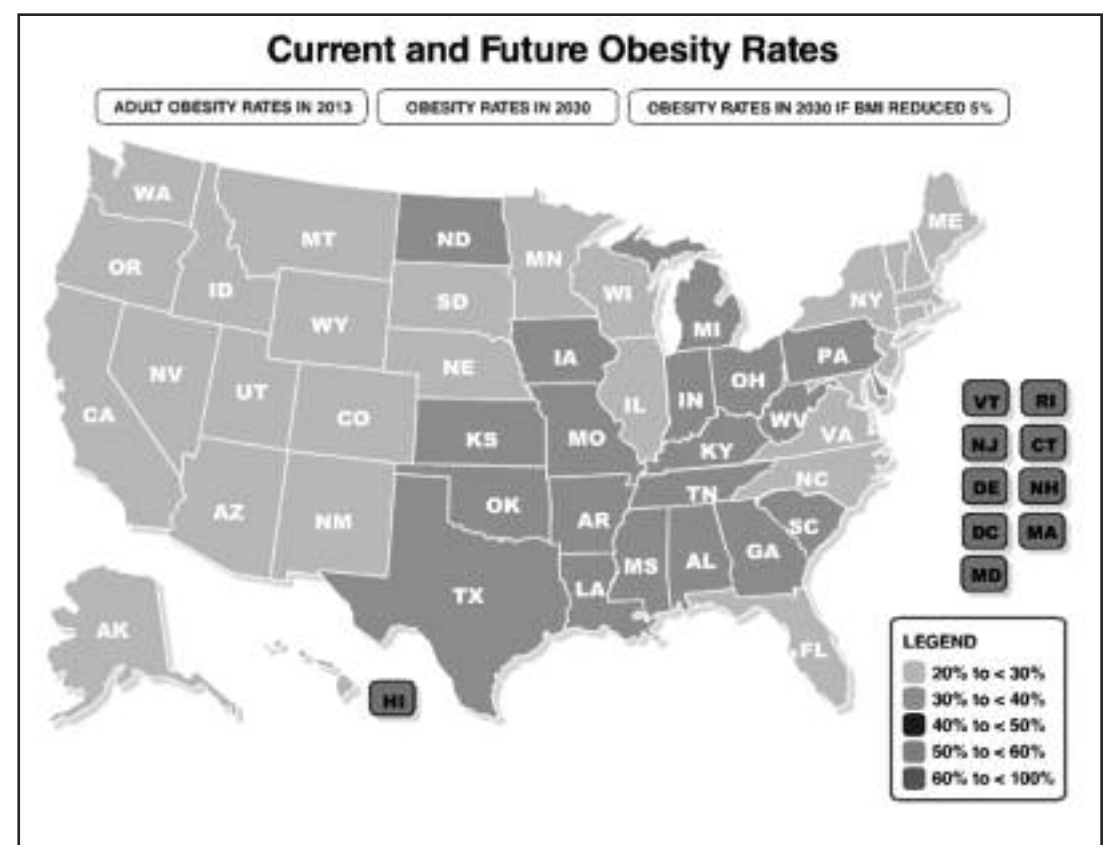


PHOTO COURTESY TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH  
Findings reveal that significant geographic, income, racial, and ethnic disparities persist, with obesity rates highest in the South and among Blacks, Latinos and lower-income, less-educated Americans. The report also found that more than one in ten children become obese as early as ages 2 to 5.

because an abundance of particles floating in the water could block out light or bury bottom-dwelling aquatic species.

The study concludes that this is not the case.

"When we ran the model simulations looking at removing a really large amount of sediment, we fully expected to see water quality improvements in the Chesapeake Bay," said Compton.

"We were surprised. We simply didn't see it."

The reason for this is that sediment quickly settles and dissipates without burying bottom-dwelling species.

The assessment found that even in a major weather event, like Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, large sediment plumes in the Susquehanna and the Chesapeake dissipate quickly without affecting water clarity for long.

"(The satellite imagery) looks very catastrophic. You think 'Oh my goodness. This has got to be impacting the bay.' And it does, there are short-term impacts, but the sediment falls out quickly," said Bruce Michael, the Resource Assessment Service Director for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The problem with sediment is that it carries nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, along with it.

These nutrients can stimulate the growth of algae, leading to low levels of dissolved oxygen in the water. This can create dead

zones—areas uninhabitable for aquatic species that need oxygen to survive.

Since the sediment itself is not harming the Chesapeake Bay, the study suggests, one way to improve water quality would be to reduce nutrient pollution upstream.

"The nutrients are more the driving factor in this and not the sediment alone. Further reductions in nutrients will have a larger impact on meeting our water quality standards," Michael said.

This includes better management of storm water, agricultural runoff, and runoff from paved surfaces like roads, or residential areas.

For Marylanders, fees to pay for this kind of management have become known as the "rain tax."

The bill, more formally known as a "stormwater management fee," was signed into law by Gov. Martin O'Malley in 2012, and requires nine counties and Baltimore City to implement watershed protection programs.

As part of the program, local governments charge landowners based on the amount of impervious surface on their property.

Despite political controversy about the tax, the new study recommends stormwater management as an important strategy to lower nutrients and protect the water quality of the bay.

The assessment ([link: http://bit.ly/LSRWA](http://bit.ly/LSRWA)), was released for public comment Thursday morning. The 185-page report was three years in the making and cost \$1.4 million to complete. It involved several agencies, including the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maryland Department of the Environment and The Nature Conservancy.

Another recommendation of the assessment is to continue long-term monitoring of the lower Susquehanna River system.

Exelon Generation Co., which owns and operates the Conowingo Dam, has offered to cover the \$3.5 million price tag of this enhanced monitoring over the next few years.

Exelon currently leases the Conowingo Dam and Reservoir. The lease was issued on Aug. 14, 1980, but it expired on Sept. 1.

So now Exelon is in the process of negotiating a new leasing license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The final decision will be made by FERC in January, and a new lease would be effective for another 46 years.

Of course, what comes of the report could also depend largely on the opinion of governor-elect, Larry J. Hogan Jr., who has

See CONOWINGO Page A5

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# COMMENTARY

## Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



### Mikulski Urges Senate to Pass Bill to Help American Families Access Safe, Affordable and Quality Child Care

Senator introduced bipartisan legislation to support CCDBG which serves more than 1.5 million children every month, including 19,000 in Maryland

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, called on the Senate to take up and pass the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014. This bipartisan bill will improve the quality of child care for the more than 1.5 million children and families, including 19,000 in Maryland, who benefit from the federal child care subsidy program. The legislation passed a Senate procedural vote today 96-1. A vote on final passage is expected to occur on Monday, November 17th.

"Before I was the Senator for Maryland, I was a social worker for Baltimore families and worked with children and the elderly. Today, I'm a social worker in Congress, working to build opportunities for families throughout America. Every family deserves child care that is affordable, accessible and exceptional," Senator Mikulski said. "This bill reforms and refreshes important child care legislation, so moms and dads of modest means can afford child care while they go to work or school. Child care is something all families worry about, regardless of income or zip code. People want care that is reliable and undeniable, safe, affordable, and accessible. It's time for Congress to pass this bill so we can help ensure that all children get the care they need and deserve so they and their families can have a better, brighter future."

An earlier version of the legislation, introduced by Senator Mikulski along with Senators Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), unanimously passed the Senate HELP Committee, passed the Senate by a vote of 96-2, and was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives in September after negotiated changes were made. The modified bill must now pass the Senate again before being sent to the President to be signed into law.

The CCDBG reauthorization bill incorporates feedback and suggestions provided to the Committee since 2012. The bipartisan and bicameral legislation promotes high quality care by reserving funds at the state level to improve the quality of care provided to children, enhances states' ability to train providers, and develop safer and more effective child care services. The bill enhances parental choice by providing information about available care options from all providers, including faith-based and community-based providers, and allowing parents to choose the child care provider that best suits their family's needs. Finally, the legislation ensures that all providers comply with state health, safety and fire standards and undergo annual inspections and background checks.

The text of the bill is available in PDF at [http://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/s\\_1086\\_ans.pdf](http://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/s_1086_ans.pdf)

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### Gun Safety and Minimum Wage Big Winners in Midterm Elections

"The midterm elections have upended the old tropes about what you can or can't do or say about guns during campaign season... This year gun sense champions around the country were re-elected. And campaigns around the country showed that candidates can run on the gun issue, not away from it — and win."

— Everytown for Gun Safety memo

There's no getting around it. November 4th was not a good day for many of the ideals and policies supported by the National Urban League and the communities we serve. In the coming months, we can expect to see renewed battles over the Affordable Care Act, immigration, voting rights and a host of other issues affecting jobs and opportunity for middle and working class Americans. But all is not lost. There were a few bright spots on Election Day. For example, four states passed legislation to raise the minimum wage — Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska and South Dakota. This follows a growing trend, considering that as of August 2014, 23 states and the District of Columbia had minimum wage rates higher than the federal rate of \$7.25. More states are expected to follow as the debate over a federal minimum wage remains deadlocked in Congress.

Another election-day victory that has not gotten much attention was the passage of a major gun safety measure in Washington State and the election of national and state legislators who openly supported common sense gun safety legislation in the face of vigorous opposition by the National Rifle Association (NRA). In the only state where voters had the opportunity to directly cast a ballot for or against a specific gun safety measure, the people of Washington State voted to require background checks for all firearms sales, including at gun shows and on the Internet. This was an historic victory that may pave the way for other states. As with the minimum wage, states are not waiting for federal gun safety legislation. They are leading the way. According to a recent report on

MSNBC.com, on November 4, Washington State became "the seventh state to require background checks on all gun sales and the fifth (after Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware and New York) to do so since the shooting inside Sandy Hook Elementary School."

Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy, who in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting signed one of the nation's toughest gun safety bills in 2013, was among a number of gun safety champion midterm election winners. In Maryland, Attorney General-elect Brian Frosh made no secret of his support for common sense gun safety measures, and in Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada and Oregon, winning state legislative candidates highlighted their gun safety records throughout their campaigns.

Everytown for Gun Safety, the organization backed by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and for which I serve on its advisory board, has been in the forefront of many recent state efforts to pass common sense gun laws. The organization mounted a vigorous campaign in support of the Washington State gun safety bill. It has now set its sights on Nevada where it has already collected hundreds of thousands of signatures in support of a 2016 background check ballot initiative. According to a post-election memo from the group, "For decades, the gun lobby has held the field to themselves. We're finally meeting them on their turf and showing them — and the legislators in their pockets — that Americans will stand up for public safety. If elected officials won't change the laws that make it all too easy for dangerous people to get guns, we'll change our elected officials..."

Everytown for Gun Safety President John Feinblatt added, "When Americans vote on public safety measures to prevent gun violence, gun safety wins." But as we applaud this important midterm election victory, we cannot rest until every state and the federal government honor the demands of 90% of Americans who support background checks and other commonsense gun safety laws nationwide.

## Riversdale House Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

### RIVERSDALE HOUSE MUSEUM

Riversdale was one of the most distinctive homes in the region during the early Federal period. Today, the central portion of the house serves as a museum interpreting the lifestyle of an affluent family. The rental areas include a large carpeted ballroom in late 19th century decor as well as a smaller meeting/banquet room and catering kitchen. Riversdale House Museum and the Museum Shop are open to the public Fridays and Sundays from 12 noon - 3:30 pm year round. Riversdale is available for weddings, receptions, and meetings. For fees and availability, and to view contracts, please call 301-864-0420 for more information.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Learning to Love What You Have

In a season focused on gratitude, 17-year-old Monica Chica has an attitude about choosing to be grateful that's wise far beyond her years: "The most important lesson I learned is that being happy is not about having with you what you loved in the past, but learning to love what you have in the present."

Monica learned this lesson the hard way. She grew up in El Salvador where her father was a lawyer and teacher and her mother was a doctor. Monica's mother suffered from Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a nervous system disorder which caused her a lot of weakness and pain. The disease often left her bedridden and kept her from playing an active role in the family's daily routines. Monica was grateful to have her at home and had lots of other support. The school just across the street from her house where she was a star student, the beloved church where she started teaching Sunday school at age 9, and her best friend's house a block away were the center of Monica's childhood. As pervasive gang violence began striking closer and closer to home, when Monica was 15 her family decided to leave everything behind to try to start a better life in the United States.

Almost immediately, the American Dream wasn't what they'd expected. Monica, her parents, and her older brother and sister moved in with an aunt and other family members in Montgomery County, Maryland. Monica—who only knew a few words in English—was enrolled in a large high school where even other Hispanic students teased her about her accent. For the first six months she avoided speaking in school at all. Her aunt had worked for years to secure legal residency for Monica's family. But her father discovered that being a lawyer and a teacher in El Salvador did not translate into a good job here. It took more than a year for him to find a job as a janitor. Her mother's health took another turn for the worse and there wasn't enough money

for the health care or medicine she needed. Before long her parents decided to separate and her mother and brother returned to El Salvador leaving Monica hopeless: "Everything that I had left was my family and now it was destroyed. In less than one year my life had turned meaningless and worthless for me."

In an unexpected twist a sport Monica had never played before was about to help turn her new world around. Monica is 6'3", and word traveled to the girls' basketball coach about the new student in school. "I was in my ESL [English as a Second Language] class, and the coach got close to me, and I was like, 'Why is a tall woman talking to me? I don't understand anything of what she's saying.' . . . I just told her that I didn't speak English [and] that I had never played basketball before. And she said, 'I don't mind. I'm going to teach you. If you want to, you can try.'" Somehow, Monica agreed. "At the beginning it was hard because I didn't know what side of the court I was supposed to run—I just knew that I had to throw the ball to the basket. That was it.

I didn't know the rules. I didn't know why the referee was whistling. I didn't know anything. But I went to practices. I started playing. I started practicing [on] my own because I really liked it . . . I don't know how, but I did it, and that gave me more confidence in myself."

Being part of the team also gave her a new set of friends and a lot more practice learning to speak to and understand her teammates, and her growing confidence on the basketball court translated to more confidence in the classroom. As her English improved she was moved out of her ESL classes into regular ones and then from regular classes into honors courses. Today, less than two years after beginning school in Maryland, she has taken Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses and has a 4.0 grade point average. She's also a starter on the varsity basketball team. She was recently honored with one of the Children's Defense Fund's Beat the Odds® Awards for how much she has overcome.

See WATCH, Page A12

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Does A Family Gathering Have To Mean Family Conflict?

For many families Thanksgiving is a special opportunity to bring far-flung family members back together and to renew family ties.

Unfortunately, many families find the holiday more an opportunity to gather and renew family squabbles and fights.

While there's no guaranteed way to avoid family conflict, there are things you can do to decrease the chances of family fights and increase the odds of enjoying the event yourself.

Start with realistic expectations. Your family is probably not Norman Rockwell's perfect family around the Thanksgiving table, yet the media and advertisers bury us with such images.

Expecting perfection from your holiday get-together almost guarantees you're going to be disappointed. Problem friends and relatives don't change just because the holiday season arrives or you want them to. In fact, the only person you can ever really change is yourself.

Relatives who are usually critical, argumentative or drink to excess, will be exactly the same this year. So try to be realistic in understanding what you can do and change, and what things are simply beyond your control.

If you're the host, for example, and have parts of your family warring with each other, try inviting one group for Thanksgiving, and the others for your next celebration. House rules, such as no-smoking or a no-alcohol party, can also help if those activities make you crazy or lead to problems every year.

If the holiday celebration is one you're traveling to, and dreading, look for ways to minimize potential problems. Maybe a shorter visit, staying at a hotel instead of the family home, or being careful to avoid that always argumentative relative might be good choices. Try "self-talk," where you actually talk to yourself about potential problems and helpful solutions.

It helps to remember that you, as well as your relatives and friends, have likely changed, perhaps in major ways, since you've last been together. It isn't realistic to expect someone who sees you only once a year to understand what that job loss, divorce or other major life event has meant to you. Just accept that they no longer know the real you of today.

Most of us don't have perfect, "Martha Stewart" holiday gatherings, but if you're realistic with yourself about your expectations, and ready to accept that you're not going to be able to change other people, you can find ways to enjoy even the most stressful family gatherings.

*Counseling Corner* is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACAcorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACAcorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)

### PG County Council Offers Condolences on the Passing of Marion Barry, Jr.

The members of the Prince George's County Council express profound sympathy to the family of former four-time Mayor of the District of Columbia and current Ward 8 Council Member, The Honorable Marion S. Barry, Jr., especially to former First Lady Cora Masters Barry and his son Christopher at this most difficult time.

Mr. Barry was a tireless advocate for expanding economic opportunity to small businesses, youth and low-income families. His tenure as Mayor of the District of Columbia greatly contributed to the growth of the middle class in Prince George's County.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to the residents of the District of Columbia, particularly those who live in Mr. Barry's beloved Ward 8 communities, as well as to the many elected officials he served alongside, including Mayor Vincent Gray, Mayor-Elect Muriel Bowser, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and the entire D.C. City Council, as well as Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

## Maryland's Flying Fisherman – Kayak Crabbing, Taking Wing, and Going Viral with Langston Majette

By DANI SHAE THOMPSON  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland - In his bright yellow motorized kayak, Langston Majette glided across the waters beneath the Naval Academy Bridge in Annapolis.

Wire net in hand, his well-trained eyes scanned the murky Severn River.

The shadow of a Maryland blue crab materialized a few feet below the surface, and Majette readied his net.

In one swift motion of pure muscle memory, Majette scooped the crab out of the water and into the bushel basket resting on the bow of his kayak.

"Gotcha!" he said. "Now I just need to catch his cousins."

Majette's "sit-on-top" style kayak is outfitted with a lithium ion battery-powered trolling motor that can be steered using foot pedals.

A propstick that Majette constructed using PVC pipe jets out a few feet on the right side of the kayak, allowing him to use a trotline to catch crabs.

Trotlining is a well-known crabbing method that uses a long baited rope to lure crabs to the water's surface so that they can be scooped up with a net. (See a video, *Kayak Crabbing Explained*, here: <http://youtu.be/2cgTK7sWWsA>)

The method may be well known, but executing it with a kayak is not—a fact that gets Majette a lot of notice for his hobby.

Since 2006, Majette's 168 YouTube videos have earned him over 117,000 views so far. ([youtube.com/user/madcartographer](http://youtube.com/user/madcartographer))

From time to time, his virtual celebrity gets him recognized in the real world.

"Let's be honest, people recognize a black guy in a yellow kayak. They know me from YouTube!" Majette said.

"People will come up to me and they know my name and what I did three weeks ago. Sometimes it's creepy, but it's flattering."

In summer 2014, Maryland Loves Crabs, an annual magazine dedicated to crabbing in the state, asked Majette to write a guest article about his experience. ([www.mdlovescrabs.com](http://www.mdlovescrabs.com))

"Langston's article in (the magazine) received many — and a variety — of comments from readers and advertisers," said Allan Ellis, publisher of Maryland Loves Crabs.

"Some thought he was a brave guy, others wondered about his sanity!"

Majette would be the first to admit that crabbing from a kayak isn't the most traditional method, but for him, it's the most practical one.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY DANI SHAE THOMPSON  
Majette admires his catch before tossing it into the bushel basket on the bow of his kayak in the Severn River in Annapolis on Oct. 2.

"I can load the kayak on the roof of my Jeep by myself, I can launch from more places, and I don't have to pay for gasoline," said Majette. "On a good day I can catch a whole bushel of crab in a few hours."

A successful day on the water will mean crabs for dinner at home with his family that night.

Majette also loves to cook, and one of his favorite recipes to make (when he has fished and crabbed while out on the water) is freshly caught, broiled rockfish stuffed with crabmeat, he said.

#### The kayak fishing and crabbing scene

Majette isn't the only one enjoying the practical benefits of kayak fishing.

Matt Baden, also a kayak fisher and crabber, is a shift manager at the Alltackle fishing-gear shop in Annapolis.

Baden knows Majette through the kayak-fishing internet forum called Snaggedline, an online community of over 2,300 kayakers in the mid-Atlantic. ([www.snaggedline.com](http://www.snaggedline.com))

When he began kayak crabbing in 2011, it was on this and other similar forums where Majette would read old threads and look at pictures to figure out the best way to rig his kayak for trotlining.

"Langston has his kayak crabbing down to a T," said Baden. "He was one of the first people I knew of to start doing it in this area."

Although Baden was already well versed in the sport of kayak fishing, he consulted with Langston when he decided to try crabbing.

One of Majette's best ideas was to use 5-gallon buckets to store his trotline and anchors on the kayak. The buckets double as floats for the line once it has been deployed into the water, he said.

When you are crabbing from a small kayak, every bit of space counts.

Majette's artful setup (including two cameras rigged to record him in action) and efficient method for managing the trotline makes kayak crabbing look easy.

#### Master of air and sea

As comfortable as Majette is in the water, he is equally at ease in the air.

"Master of the air. Master of the sea—self-proclaimed of course," Majette said, half laughing.

While his early childhood was spent in Brooklyn, New York, his father moved Majette, his mother and two brothers to Maryland in



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY DANI SHAE THOMPSON  
At Jonas Green Park in Annapolis, Majette holds up two Maryland blue crabs he caught from his kayak in the Severn River in Annapolis on Oct. 2.

1994 because he wanted a change of scene and a different environment to raise his family.

Growing up, Majette always liked earth sciences, but he found his true passion after taking an intro-level geography class in college.

He began working at the College Park Airport at age 17 and got his pilot's license at 20.

"I just loved the field of aviation. I still work at the airport part-time because I enjoy being in that environment," Majette said.

He graduated from the University of Maryland in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in geography specializing in geographic information systems and computer cartography.

Shortly after graduating, he was offered a job as a cartographer for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Now 34 years old, Majette still works with the FAA pro-

ducing aeronautical charts that pilots use for navigation as a supervisory aeronautical information specialist.

Whether for travel or for fun, he still flies often, using a small plane owned by a friend.

"When you're up there, in control of the airplane, you don't have any time to worry about your problems down on earth. You need to be focused on maintaining your safety and awareness in the plane," said Majette.

"It's a feeling of freedom. Every flight is like a new experience."

#### Bringing it all together: The Flying Fisherman

While on a road trip with a friend, a producer in Los Angeles, Majette came up with an idea for a television show that would highlight his adventures in the air and sea.

"The Flying Fisherman" would document Majette flying his plane to a seaside destination, going fishing in that location, and then joining with a local chef to prepare the fresh catch.

Majette and his producer followed through with their idea in summer 2012, filming a pilot episode in Ocean City, Maryland, where Majette goes fishing for flounder on a chartered boat.

The pilot episode, funded by Majette and his friend, was published online last year. ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=Drbki99aVfg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Drbki99aVfg))

The show has yet to be picked up by any networks, but Majette is still shopping it around, he said.

If Majette is disappointed by the lack of response to "The Flying Fisherman," he doesn't let it show.

"It was a huge sense of accomplishment. We had this vision, we turned it into a plan of action, we executed the plan, and then we had our final product," he said.

Last fall, Majette began filming the second episode of "The Flying Fisherman," in Florida.

For this episode, he is going crabbing.

### Conowingo from A3

pointed to upstream states as complicit in the pollution of the bay, and responsible for their shares of the cleanup.

"I think we can help clean up the bay by standing up for Maryland and fighting back against some of the upstream polluters," Hogan said in a YouTube video (link: <http://youtu.be/d3RNxZHKCAU>) produced by his campaign on Aug. 19.

"We've got to push back against the EPA, the federal government has a role to play ... and we've got to get the other states to pay their fair share."

Hogan's staff confirmed they received a copy of the report on Wednesday, but the governor-elect could not be reached for comment as of Thursday afternoon.

### SIDEBAR

The Big Four—Important Findings from the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment

- Before the completion of the assessment, it was thought that the Conowingo Dam would continue to trap sediment for 10 to 20 years. But the report found that the reservoir is essentially at full capacity for sediment.
  - The assessment says the dam is in a state of "dynamic equilibrium"—meaning sediment continually accumulates, but every so often a large storm event will push enough sediment from the reservoir through the dam to leave extra room for additional trapping.
  - Because of these storms, the reservoir never reaches a "full" capacity of sediment, but it also can't be expected to trap much more. This means any additional sediment coming into the Conowingo Reservoir from upstream will pass through the dam and continue on to the Chesapeake Bay.
- The nutrients carried with the additional sediment passing through Conowingo Dam is affecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay.
  - Sediment contains nutrients that can stimulate the growth of algae, leading to low levels of dissolved oxygen in the water. Low dissolved oxygen levels can cause dead zones—areas uninhabitable for aquatic species that need oxygen to survive.
  - If nothing is done to mitigate the amount of sediment and associated nutrients flowing through the Conowingo Reservoir, water quality standards set for the Chesapeake Bay (intended to be met by 2025) will not be attainable.
- Upstream sources of sediment and nutrients have more impact on the Chesapeake Bay than the sediment and nutrients collecting at the Conowingo Dam.
  - The Susquehanna River watershed upstream of the Conowingo Dam is responsible for the majority of pollutants, which include phosphorous and nitrogen, associated with negative impacts on the Chesapeake Bay.
- Dredging (removing) sediment from the Conowingo Reservoir would not be an effective method for improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.
  - Dredging would cost between \$48 million and \$267 million each year just to keep the sediment at its current levels. It would have to be done annually in order to make even a short-term difference in sediment storage capacity in the Conowingo Reservoir. To dredge enough sediment to return to 1996 levels, the assessment estimates it could cost as much as \$2.8 billion.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “Foxcatcher”

*Foxcatcher*  
Grade: A-

Rated R, because of a scene where someone does cocaine, and a brief moment of moderate violence. There is zero profanity, sex, or strong violence. The film has unsettling themes, but nothing beyond the PG-13 range. The R rating is laughable.  
2 hr., 14 min

If you don't remember the bizarre news story from the '90s about weirdo billionaire John du Pont and gold-medalist wrestlers Mark and Dave Schultz, then Bennett Miller's *Foxcatcher* won't just be deeply unsettling, it will also be surprising. And even if you do know ahead of time what direction the story goes, you may not be prepared for the masterful way that Miller keeps us off-balance and uneasy, or for the gnawing sense of doom that gradually builds.

The story begins in 1987, three years after the Schultzes both won medals in the Los Angeles Olympics. Dave (Mark Ruffalo), the more well-established of the two, has a family and job opportunities. Mark (Channing Tatum), less successful, more monosyllabic, is making money however he can, including doing inspirational talks at elementary schools that thought they were getting his brother. He lives alone in an upstairs apartment, eating ramen, and spends hours training with Dave.

Then Mark is contacted by someone representing John E. du Pont (Mark doesn't know who that is, no matter how many times the caller repeats the name), who would like to fly him out to his Pennsylvania estate for a meeting. A plane trip and a helicopter ride later, Mark is at the estate, called Foxcatcher (release the hounds!), to meet C. Montgomery Burns—er, John E. du Pont.

John is played by Steve Carell, almost unrecognizable under the elaborate makeup used to make him resemble the real John du Pont. (Tatum and Ruffalo are modified too, but not as drastically.) John is an odd duck, to put it mildly—socially awkward, fabulously rich, completely isolated from the normal world but almost heartbreakingly eager to connect with it. He has no friends, and his only family is his ancient mother (Lynn Redgrave), whom he can't stand. His hobbies include stamps, bird-watching, and guns.



ROTTENTOMATOES

**Foxcatcher tells the story of Olympic Gold Medal-winning wrestler Mark Schultz (Tatum), who sees a way out from the shadow of his more celebrated wrestling brother Dave (Ruffalo) and a life of poverty when he is summoned by eccentric multi-millionaire John du Pont (Carell) to move onto his estate and train for the 1988 Seoul Olympics. Desperate to gain the respect of his disapproving mother, du Pont begins "coaching" a world-class athletic team and, in the process, lures Mark into dangerous habits, breaks his confidence and drives him into a self-destructive spiral. Based on actual events, Foxcatcher is a gripping and profoundly American story of fragile men who pinned their hopes for love and redemption on a desperate obsession for greatness that was to end in tragedy. (c) Sony Classics**

John also fancies himself a wrestling coach, and he wants to sponsor Mark and Dave's training here at Foxcatcher, to give them all the resources they need to bring home the gold again and make America proud. Dave is skeptical when he hears the proposal—it's only natural to be suspicious of eccentric billionaires, I think—but Mark is all for it. John du Pont has made a friend through the time-honored practice of making a dumb guy feel special.

Thus begins a peculiar, often unnervingly funny bromance, complete with a training montage set to plaintive piano music that would not be out of place in a falling-in-love montage. While there are no overt references to it, John is clearly sexually repressed, 50 years old with nary a mention of any relationship he's ever had. Mark is oblivious, but it's not hard to see why John might want to hang out with a strapping young athlete. Mark becomes his pet, his prize to show off at parties ("Mark won a gold medal in the Olympics!"). At one point he actually commands him to "stay," like a dog.

Miller (Capote, *Moneyball*) keeps a quiet, deliberate pace, moving the film gently but steadily

toward its climax. E. Max Frye and Dan Futterman's screenplay carefully avoids telegraphing what sort of climax it will be, leaving us with the sense that it could happen in any scene. John's behavior becomes more erratic, more bizarre ("Most of my friends will call me Eagle, or Golden Eagle"), more angry at Dave for rejecting his kind offer of training. Dave eventually comes around (everyone has a price), but John, spoiled child that he is, can be petulant and nasty. And Mark finds that John is less happy with him when he doesn't win matches.

I'll just say it: The makeup seems unnecessary. Du Pont and the Schultz brothers are famous-ish, but their faces aren't. Why go to so much trouble to make the actors resemble them? It's distracting at first to hear Steve Carell's voice coming out of a face that obviously isn't his. I got used to it as the film went on, though—a testament to how good Carell is, completely losing himself in the role. And I suppose if the makeup helps the actors get into their characters, more power to 'em. Still, it means viewers are spending the first however-many-minutes gawking at the prosthetics instead of being drawn into the story.

Carell is fascinating here, totally different from Michael Scott on *The Office* even though the characters share many traits (awkwardness, eagerness to be a mentor, a lack of self-awareness). Du Pont can be dull or outrageous, pathetic or humorous depending on the day, but Carell plays him at all times as a real person, albeit one with idiosyncrasies. Tatum is likewise deeply committed as Mark Schultz, adopting a wrestler's physique and swagger and going to great lengths to convey the character's intense frustration and sadness. Ruffalo's role isn't as large, but he has one terrific moment in particular where he's asked to describe du Pont for a documentary and struggles with how to respond honestly. Ruffalo, an actor's actor, nails it.

Miller doesn't make sport of anyone in the story. He calmly lets the characters present themselves and do what they do without feeling a need to point out how weird they are, or how amusing something is. The movie is often funny yet not a comedy; it's disturbing but not a horror. It's a riveting character study, a non-sensationalist account of a true story that compels our interest even if we know the ending.

## Homebuyers from A1

est-free, deferred loan, good for the life of the loan. The state will waive also its fee on the Maryland HomeCredit, which allows homebuyers to claim a federal income tax credit of up to \$2,000 for as long as the Maryland Mortgage Program loan is outstanding. In addition, borrowers purchasing in one of 14 county zip codes can receive a \$10,000 grant. Those zip codes are 20706, 20710, 20722, 20737, 20743, 20744, 20745, 20746, 20747, 20748, 20772, 20774, 20784 and 20785 and include the neighborhoods of Lanham, Capitol Heights, Fort Washington, Oxon Hill, Suitland, Forestville, Upper Marlboro, Camp Springs, Riverdale, Landover, Landover Hills, Bladensburg, Hyattsville, Cheverly and Brentwood.

"Prince George's County is one of the best places in the state to live and work. We are pleased to expand opportunities for families who want to share the American Dream," said Prince George's County Executive Rush-

ern L. Baker, III. "Over the past four years, Prince George's County has attracted new jobs and retail options, decreased crime, expanded our health care system, and improved our schools. These successes, along with the incentives offered in the Maryland Mortgage Program Triple Play Initiative, are going to jumpstart housing sales and attract many new residents to Prince George's County. I want to thank the State Department of Housing and Community Development, the Maryland Attorney General's office, and the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development for creating and implementing these exciting new incentives."

Working together, the partners recognized homeownership as the most effective use of a portion of the \$10 million that was set aside for Prince George's County as part of the landmark Mortgage Servicing Settlement between the nation's attorneys general and the five largest lenders.

"With its very low interest rates and significant down

payment assistance, the Maryland Mortgage Program is a good deal for homebuyers, a good deal for our state economy and now with this new MMP Triple Threat Initiative, a very good deal for Prince George's County," said Acting Maryland DHCD Secretary Clarence Snuggs.

The Maryland Mortgage Program has been the state's flagship mortgage purchase program for more than 30 years. Program loans are administered by a network of more than 60 private lending institutions across the state, including about 30 lenders in Prince George's County. Additional benefits of the program include pre-purchase home buyer education and significant downpayment assistance.

"The Maryland Mortgage Program Triple Play can make a difference for potential homebuyers who have been struggling to afford a home and it brings occupants back to those properties rendered vacant during the depth of the foreclosure crisis," said Eric

C. Brown, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development.

The MMP Triple Play Initiative was launched at Busboys & Poets in Hyattsville on November 20, 2014. To access photos of this event, please click here. To watch video this event in its entirety, please click here.

"Many young families have the monthly income to afford a reasonable mortgage payment and the day-to-day expense of homeownership, but they lack the necessary down payment to make buying their first home a reality," said Desiree Callender, President of the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS, Inc. "This program affords a fantastic and unprecedented opportunity for them to begin homeownership and start building wealth."

A list of participating lenders, current interest rates, and more information are available at the Maryland Mortgage Program website: <http://mmp.maryland.gov>.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### FIFA Denies Women's World Cup Players an Equal Playing Field—Literally



At some point in the near future, a Canadian tribunal will determine whether or not the 2015 Women's World Cup will be the setting not only of guts, goals and glory but torn ligaments, stretched hamstrings and a profound level of disrespect. A group of the top players in the world, including US stars Abby Wambach and Alex Morgan, are suing soccer's international ruling body, FIFA as well as the Canadian Soccer Association, over their insistence that the Cup be played on artificial turf. German great Nadine Angerer, and Brazil's international icon Marta are also supporting the suit. This is nothing more than an issue of sexism and, in the words of US midfielder Megan Rapinoe, a "frustrating" level of "gender discrimination." They have received support from across social media, including words of solidarity from US men's soccer goalie Tim Howard.



For Howard, this is hardly an abstract issue. Both female and male World Cup players overwhelmingly prefer playing on natural grass. It is a softer surface with more give and less propensity to catch your treads in the surface and have something in your legs dislocate or rip apart. It is also far less abrasive when you slide or fall. The ball moves faster, but players are less likely to slide or dive. In other words, it changes the game for the worse. But while the men's World Cup was played entirely on natural grass, FIFA has decided to stand with the Canadian organizers who have cited weather concerns to justify their turf-only cup. It is not inclement weather, however, that compels Canada's committee to defend turf-ball. After all, natural grass was used amidst Brazil's rainforest region for goodness sake. It's the fact that turf does not need to be cared for. You save pennies at the margins, even if it risks the very physical health of the players. As Ken Baxter pointed out in the *Los Angeles Times*, it would cost \$3–6 million to cover the artificial fields with natural grass, which is just a fraction of the \$27 million FIFA bafflingly spent on an unwatchably self-serving biopic about their exalted grand leader, the corrupt sexist doorknob, Sepp Blatter.

If the women's players do not get the decision they seek or if FIFA simply finds a way to not comply with what the court rules—their head of women's soccer said recently, "We play on artificial turf and there's no Plan B"—the women's players may have to rely on more drastic action and simply refuse to play unless the field meets their safety requirements. There is precedent for this. In the lead up to 1996 Olympics in Atlanta the double standards afflicting the women's and men's game in the United States became too much to bear. Despite the fact that they were gold-medal favorites and the men's team was middling at best, the women were being treated like afterthoughts. They were set to earn \$1,000 a month, a fraction of the men's take, with a bonus kicking in only if they won the gold. The men, in addition to a higher stipend, were set to get their bonus no matter how they medaled. The players decided to get advice from someone who knew a thing or two about fighting for equal pay and respect: the great Billie Jean King. King, in addition to her history as an all-time tennis great and outspoken opponent of sexism in sports, had also campaigned for years to achieve a measure of prize-money equity in her sport. Through that work, she became a founder of the first-ever women's athletic union. (King also came from a working-class background, her father a firefighter, who hardly came out of the country clubs and academies that birthed most tennis stars of her day.) In recounting the advice she gave to the 1996 team, King said, "I told them, you just don't play. That's the only leverage you have."

The players unified and basically had what one called a "wildcat strike," refusing to report to practice. USA soccer caved, providing a lesson that hopefully has not been forgotten. There is no spectacle, no show, no nothing, without the players. Today, the women soccer players of the world should cross their arms and stand on the sidelines unless FIFA throws down a few million for some decent grass. If not, they should stand proudly with the words of the great baseball player Dick Allen, who said, "If a cow can't eat off it, I don't want to play on it!"

## Calendar of Events

December 4 — December 10, 2014

### Xtreme Teens: Arts & Crafts

Date and Time: Thursday, December 4, 2014 3:30-5 pm  
Description: Love doing arts and crafts? Well, come show your creative side with College Parks Arts Exchange's very own Ms. Potter!  
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: All Ages  
Location: College Park Youth Services Center  
4912 Nantucket Road, College Park 20740  
Contact: 301-345-4425; TTY 301-445-4512

### 15th Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show

Date and Time: Friday-Sunday, December 5-December 7; Friday-Sunday, December 12-December 14, 12 noon-5 pm  
Description: For a sweet treat, come view an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses! Although tempting, no nibbling allowed! You will have the opportunity to vote for best house in the Viewer's Choice Award Competition.  
No reservations required.  
Cost: \$1/person; Children 4 & under free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum  
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro  
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

### Holiday Hayrides at Watkins Regional Park

Date and Time: Friday & Saturday, December 5-27, 2014 7 pm  
Description: Join us for a hayride through the Festival of Lights with a visit to Watkins Nature Center to warm up by the fire, see the live animals and enjoy refreshments. Reservations required.  
Cost: \$5/person  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Watkins Regional Park  
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774  
Contact: 301-218-6770; TTY 301-699-2544

### Santa Fly-In

Date and Time: Saturday, December 6, 2014, 12-4 pm  
Description: Watch Santa fly into the historic College Park Airport and then have your picture taken with him. Holiday arts and crafts will also be offered throughout the museum. Santa will arrive at 12:30.  
Cost: FREE with museum admission  
Ages: All Ages  
Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive  
College Park MD 20740  
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

### Xtreme Teens: T-Shirt Design Time

Date and Time: Saturday, December 6, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: Bring your creativity to design your own t-shirt. Tonight you'll have the chance to tie-dye and/or put a press design on t-shirts. Please sign up before participation.  
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: College Park Community Center  
5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park 20740  
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-445-4512

### Xtreme Teens: Music Mix and Mingle

Date and Time: Saturday, December 6, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: Mix and mingle to your some of your favorite music with your friends. Request a song, we'll play and give you a shout out. Come out and let's mix & mingle to some of today's tunes. Light refreshments will be provided.  
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center  
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights 20740  
Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

### The Wonder of Bricks

Date and Time: Saturday, December 6, 2014 11 am-4 pm  
Description: Love legos? This Mini Lego® Festival is for you. Participants will have the chance to play games, workshops and other exciting activities on site. Pre-registration is required as space is limited.  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex  
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington 20744  
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-203-6030

### Hand/Line Dance Social

Date and Time: Saturday, December 6, 2014 8 pm-12 midnight  
Description: Spend a lovely evening dancing and socializing with friends at the Hand/Line Dance Social. Music for the night will be spun by DJ Greg Peeler and DJ Style and Rhythm. Refreshments will be served.  
Cost: Resident: \$10 (\$15 at the door); Non-Resident: \$12 (\$18 at the door)  
Ages: 18 & up  
Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center  
2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills 20748  
Contact: 301-505-0896; TTY 301-206-6030

### Ornament Emporium

Date & Time: December 8-23, 11 am-4 pm, Daily (Closed Wednesdays.)  
Description: See original, artistic ornaments in a traditional holiday setting. Montpelier hosts a juried show of handmade ornaments by several area artists. This is a great place to shop for unique gifts and support local artists. You will also find books, tea items, old-fashioned toys, Montpelier memorabilia and more.  
Cost: FREE admission  
Ages: Adults and children with adult supervision  
Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site  
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708  
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Reusing Greywater At Home

Dear EarthTalk:

I know that some large buildings filter some of their wastewater to irrigate exterior landscaping. Is there an affordable way to do this at home?

— Bill P.,  
Salem, OR

Now that solar panels are so commonplace on rooftops across the country, reusing so-called greywater—that is, the waste water from sinks, showers, tubs and washing machines—for landscape irrigation may be the next frontier in the greening of the American home, especially if you live in an arid region where water use is restricted. In fact, reusing your graywater may be the only way to keep your lawn and garden healthy without taking more than your fair share of the community's precious freshwater reserves.

"Using water from sinks, showers and washing machines to irrigate plants is a way to increase the productivity of sustainable backyard ecosystems that produce food, clean water and shelter wildlife," reports Greywater Action, a California-based non-profit dedicated to educating and empowering people to use water sustainably. According to the group, a typical U.S. single family home can reduce water use by as much as 30 percent by installing some kind of greywater reclamation system while simultaneously reducing pollution into nearby

water bodies by filtering out contaminants locally. Capturing and reusing greywater can also be part of the battle against climate change, given that you'll be helping grow plants that sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide while reducing demand on a regional wastewater treatment facility that's likely powered by fossil fuels.

The simplest way to get into home greywater reuse is to install a "laundry-to-landscape" system that sends washing machine wastewater outside via a diversion tank and hose that can be moved around to irrigate specific sections of the yard. Equipment costs for such a set-up max out at \$200, but labor and expertise may tack on another few hundred dollars. Handy homeowners can do much of the work in setting up such systems themselves, though those without much home repair or plumbing experience might at least consult a professional. Greywater Action suggests one way to reduce costs is by digging trenches for diversion pipes and mulch basins yourself -- or enlist friends who want to support the effort and learn about residential greywater reuse in the process.

A more comprehensive system can draw wastewater from sinks, showers and tubs, too—and then filter and distribute it to backyard landscaping via a drip irrigation network. Getting such a system professionally installed can run upwards of \$5,000.

### Rape from A1

students should be aware of each other's vulnerabilities while under the influence, he said.

The 52-year-old Gansler likened campus culture surrounding sexual assault to the social ignorance around drunken driving about 30 years ago when he was in high school and college, before designated-driver campaigns significantly reduced alcohol-related vehicle deaths among young people.

One of the most important goals is ensuring victims feel comfortable reporting sexual assault cases by educating students about where they can go to report incidents, he said.

Between 2009 and 2013, there were a total of 340 reported forcible sex offenses at more than 90 educational institutions in Maryland, according to the report.

However, nationally, it is estimated that only 13 percent of rape survivors report the assault, according to the report.



CREDIT: JEREMY LEVINE, COURTESY FLICKR

Using "greywater" from sinks, showers and washing machines to irrigate outdoor gardens is a great way to increase the productivity of backyard ecosystems while reducing household water use by as much as 30 percent. Pictured: A backyard garden watered with residential greywater.

Either way, once the greywater diversion system is in place, you'll need to be careful about what goes down the drain, given how it might affect the plants and soils right outside. "In any greywater system, it is essential to put nothing toxic down the drain — no bleach, no dye, no bath salts, no cleanser, no shampoo with unpronounceable ingredients, and no products containing boron, which is toxic to plants," adds Greywater Action.

For more information on installing a greywater reuse system yourself, check out the resources section of Greywater Action's website, where you'll find diagrams, written instructions and even videos to make the job go smoother. Those

more inclined to hire a professional can browse through listings of qualified installers across the country. And if you want to see how it's done first-hand, sign up to attend one of Greywater Action's one-day workshops on how to install a greywater catchment and diversion system in a residential setting.

CONTACT: Greywater Action, www.greywateraction.org.

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

### Bees from A1

The program harvested its first batch of honey - almost five gallons of it - in August 2014. According to Neikirk, some of the honey went to the prison's kitchen while some of it went to food banks in Maryland.

It's a precarious situation for bees across the country. The bee population has declined from about 6 million colonies in 1947 to about 2.5 million today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported in 2012.

Experts point to a population loss called Colony Collapse Disorder, in which the queen bee survives, but the other adult bees that support her vanish. The USDA said farmers began reporting significant colony losses in 2006. Causes could include pesticides, parasites or global warming.

Dennis vanEngelsdorp, an assistant professor in the University of Maryland's entomology department, said he hasn't seen Colony Collapse Disorder in colonies he's looked at recently. But nationwide, the loss rate for colonies has been about 30 percent.

And the loss is steeper in Maryland than in other parts of the country, vanEngelsdorp said.

It's harder for bees to find in food in Maryland than in areas where farms are plentiful, such as the Midwest. And many beekeepers in Maryland do not take steps to prevent mites that harm the bees, vanEngelsdorp said.

"It's important to realize that bees are essential to our food supply," vanEngelsdorp said.

Without bees, the world is in trouble. Each year, more than \$15 billion in U.S. crops and



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BEENA RAGHAVENDRAN

Inmates at the Maryland Correctional Training Center in Hagerstown take care of about 200,000 bees - both to further responsibility skills and to aid the bees' precarious population numbers.

vegetables are pollinated by bees, including apples, berries and cucumbers, the National Resources Defense Council reported in 2011. And the global economic cost of the bee decline has been estimated as high as \$5.7 billion per year, the NRDC said.

The threats to bees nationwide are further motivating the prison's program. Prisons in states including Oregon, Texas and Washington have implemented similar beekeeping programs.

"The bees are such an integral part of the environment," Neikirk said. "It's essential for pollination. And without pollination, things just die."

The pollinators have had an impact on the inmates at the prison, who check on the bees once weekly.

"I was ignorant about the bees," Anderson said. "I was scared of them. They're like spiders. They're scary, but what most people don't know is how

important they are to the environment and the ecosystem."

But aside from teaching the inmates about maintaining the bee population, the correctional facility hopes the program helps inmates prepare for life after prison.

"I'm very encouraged by what I've seen," said Gerard

Shields, the spokesman for the Maryland Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services. "I remember one of the guards telling me that the inmates, he said, 'The thing I've learned is that bees work in a society. They work together and they know their jobs. And we as a society should be doing the same things.'"

Anderson said he is looking forward to using his new skills to get back on track once he's released from the prison.

"I wouldn't mind having a hive in my backyard, teaching my son how to maintain them and to make honey," Anderson said. "You can make some money with honey."

Jones agrees, and said he knows his lessons learned in prison will push him forward.

"I know I wasn't on a good path in my past life," Jones said. "Me learning so much in Hagerstown is actually going to help me stay away from the streets and give me a new attitude on things."



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BEENA RAGHAVENDRAN

The bees hovered around frames, which is where the creation of honeycomb - and eventually honey - happens.

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