

WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY AND SAFE THANKSGIVING!

# The Prince George's Post



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## Maryland State Senator Ulysses Currie Not Guilty

By JIM PITTMAN  
Staff Writer

A federal jury in the corruption trial of Senator Ulysses Currie, found him not guilty. Currie was cleared of all charges of conspiracy, bribery, extortion and making false statements.

Federal prosecutors argued that Currie's consulting agreement with Shoppers Food was a front. That he was paid to work behind the scenes for the grocery store.

Defense attorneys argued that there was nothing illegal about the consulting work. That Maryland has a part-time legislature and most lawmakers do additional work to earn money.

Currie's defense had maintained from the beginning that he never hid his employment with Shoppers Food Warehouse, including filing tax records and reporting that income.

Currie had a list of character witness-

es that included U.S. Representatives Steny Hoyer and Elijah Cummings, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and former governor Robert Ehrlich.

After the verdict was read, Currie praised his legal team for working together. "It was a great outcome, and I had tremendous support.

Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller said in a statement that he was pleased and happy that the jury saw what his friends and colleagues know to be true, that Senator Currie is a good and decent man.

Currie had been the chairman of the Senate Budget and Taxation committee but he stepped down after he was indicted last year. He continued to serve in the Senate.

The verdict ends a lengthy investigation that began nearly a decade ago

Currie's co-dependents, William White and R. Kevin Small were also acquitted.



FILE PHOTO  
Senator Ulysses Currie (D-District 25)

## Information Experts: Improving Search Skills Critical

*Lack of Literacy Makes it Very Difficult Take Full Advantage of Online Resources*

By JASON LEWIS and ALI-SON KITCHENS  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - Web users need to vastly improve their online research skills in order to take advantage of growing stores of data on the Internet, a group of leading information thinkers said Monday.

"The digital divide has typically been a distinction between those who have computers and those who don't," Dan Russell, director of user happiness at Google, said at a panel on the future of information at the University of Maryland. "There is also a divide about people who know how to search."

Citing a study that over 90 percent of Americans don't know how to search for a word or phrase within a Web page, Russell said that lack of information literacy has made it difficult for the public to take full advantage of online information.

"You have got to take on this challenge for yourself in becoming

literate in your own information technology," he said.

Russell's job takes him into the homes of regular Google users, where he tries to figure out why they can't find the information they want using the search engine.

For many, the problem comes from a lack of knowledge about the types of information that can be found online, he said. Many users are unaware that they can search entire books Google has digitized or find event calendars.

"We have to figure out how ... we provide information for these people. How do we accommodate their particular needs, their particular strengths?" he asked.

In addition to finding information from secondary sources, the panel discussed how cell phones and new wearable technologies are making it easier than ever for people to collect

See SEARCH, Page A3

## Mikulski Vows to Protect Social Security Benefits for Seniors

*Senator Says Using Chained CPI to Calculate COLAs Will "Chain Seniors to Poverty"*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Sen. Barbara Mikulski's Office

*Proposals Before Deficit Reduction Super Committee Would Cut Benefits to Seniors by Changing Formula Used to Calculate COLA Increases; Social Security Benefits Would be Slashed by Hundreds of Dollars Per Year*

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) introduced the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act, which

would change the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) formula for Social Security to more accurately reflect the expenses of seniors. The legislation maintains the social contract with seniors by protecting Social Security benefits from proposals before the deficit reduction Super Committee to change the formula used to calculate COLAs.

"Protecting Social Security preserves the social contract we have with our seniors," Senator Mikulski said. "Social Security shouldn't be in the

debate about how to reduce our debt or our deficit. It didn't cause our debt. It didn't cause our deficit. We must ensure the safety and solvency of Social Security so that benefits are based on the reality of how our seniors live and what their costs are. Social Security must be undeniable, reliable and inflation proof, which is why I've cosponsored the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act."

Because of the method by which inflation is calculated, seniors and other Social Security recipients did not

receive a COLA in 2010 and 2011, even though the price of prescription drugs, food, energy, and other necessities continued to rise.

"Because of an outdated and flawed formula, seniors are seeing their energy, food, and prescription drugs costs rise, while their Social Security checks remain stagnant. With two-thirds of seniors depending on Social Security for the majority of their income, too many seniors

See BENEFITS, Page A3

## Sixth District Council Member Davis Sworn In

*Oath of Office Was Administered Clerk of the Circuit Court*

By EMILY HOOPER  
Capital News Service

The newest member of the Prince George's County Council, Derrick Leon Davis (D) - District 6, was administered the Oath of Office today by Clerk of the Circuit Court Marilyn M. Bland, during a swearing-in ceremony in the Council Hearing Room in Upper Marlboro.

Council Member Davis won a special election to fill the District 6 Council seat left vacant by the resignation of Leslie Johnson in July 2011. He encouraged District 6 residents to look forward. "This day is about our future—about how we keep working, growing and progressing together. How we invest in Prince George's County and in each other. It's about what unites us and moves us forward."

In remarks to family, friends and District 6 residents assembled in the Council Hearing Room, Council Member Davis thanked his



PHOTO COURTESY COUNTY COUNCIL  
Council Member Derrick E. Davis (D) - District 6

supporters and recognized his mentor, former County Council Member the Honorable JoAnn Bell. "I want to thank each of you for supporting me on every learning side in this journey to fulfill my life's purpose—public service, said Davis. He added, "I will forever be indebted to my mentor, the Honorable JoAnn Bell, for teaching me to

See DAVIS, Page A5

## Young, Underemployed Graduates Make Pitch for Obama Jobs Program

By ANDREW DAMSTEDT  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Braden Dauer has been looking for a government or political job since he graduated from the University of Maryland.

He's put in hundreds of applications and been interviewed exactly once, he told a crowd of young supporters of the American Jobs Act at an event on Capitol Hill Wednesday.

"There are so many young people out there competing for the same jobs, we simply need more of them and soon," Dauer, 25, said. "The American Jobs Act would help create hundreds of thousands of jobs that young Americans and all Americans urgently need."

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., and Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., spon-



Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., center, speaks Wednesday at an event highlighting young adult unemployment while Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., left, writes notes. At right, Braden Dauer, an underemployed 2009 University of Maryland, College Park graduate, listens to Cardin. Capital News Service photo by Andrew Damstedt

sored the event with a youth advocacy group called the Young Invincibles to show the need for President Obama's

American Jobs Act, which would create jobs through infrastructure projects; prevent teacher, police and firefighter

layoffs; and provide tax breaks

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### INSIDE

#### County Council Approval

The Prince George's County Council confirmed thirteen nominees submitted by County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. The nominees filled positions on the Advisory Committee on Aging, the Cable Television Commission, and the Prince George's County Housing Authority. Community, Page A3

#### Winter Festival of Lights at

Watkins Regional Park. 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Dates to be Announced. HOURS: 5-9:30 p.m. daily. \$5 per car; \$15 for mini-buses and limos; \$25 for buses; \$10 for multi-visit passes for cars and vans (good for three visits). The festival is FREE on December 25. Opinion, Page A4

#### Sen. Mikulski Leads Social

Security Crowd in Supercommittee "Occupation". She called it "Occupy the Joint Committee" when seniors groups spilled into the hallways of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to "wake up the Supercommittee," who they fear will unfairly cut health care and Social Security to reduce the nation's debt. Business, Page A7

#### Movie Review

"Rule number one is that you go into every movie with an open mind. No matter how bad the trailer makes it look, no matter how terrible the previous films made by the same people have been. I mention this so you will know that even though "Jack and Jill" has a trailer that makes it look awful, I went into it hoping for the best. Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:  
  
How clear (or not) are the links between the rising incidents of cancers around the world and the prevalence of synthetic chemicals in modern society?  
  
-- Alberto Buono, Lee, MA  
Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Just imagine—more than a million twinkling lights!

The 25th annual Winter Festival of Lights opens the day after Thanksgiving at Watkins Regional Park in Upper Marlboro and will remain open daily until Jan. 1. The 2.5-mile drive-through features more than a million lights. Hours are 5 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for cars and vans, \$10 for a multi-visit pass, \$15 for mini buses (13-14 seats), and \$25 for buses.

And it's free on Christmas. For information, call 301-218-6768.

### First class postage going up -- again!

On January 22 the cost of a first class (1 ounce) letter will increase to 45 cents. Letters weighing additional ounces will require a 20-cent stamp for each additional ounce. Postcards will be 32 cents, a 3-cent increase. One-ounce letters to Canada and Mexico will increase to 85 cents, a 5-cent increase. Other international 1-ounce letters will go to \$1.05, a 7-cent increase. Express Mail and Priority Mail will stay the same.

Those Forever stamps you bought for 41, 42 or 44 cents will cost 45 cents but—as with the others—will forever be okay for a one-ounce birthday card or letter. (Do people still get letters?)

### Neighbors

Senior Airman Kiel Russell, of Joint Base Andrew, won the title of top active-duty player in the Air Force at the U.S Armed Forces Open Chess Tournament Oct. 9-11. He started playing chess in 2004 when he was a freshman at Oregon State

University.

Susan Mullins is the president of the Morningside Recreation Council. Other officers are: Amy Schlor, vice-president; Sharon Fowler, treasurer; and Gina Foster, secretary. Meetings are the 1st Wednesdays at the Town Hall. New members are always welcome.

Warren Wimbush, of Skyline, retired in 2010 from Metro (WMATA) after 35 years of service.

Condolences to Sister Haimanot, of the Daughters of St. Anne, on the death of her mother, Huiut, who lived in their native Eritrea, in Africa.

### Coming up

Ages 2 to 7 are invited to Holiday Family Storytime at Spauldings Branch Library on Monday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m. They'll hear the "Gingerbread Man," by Paul Galdone, and then have a chance to make gingerbread homes.

### Changing landscape

The Ft. Washington Police Station (District 7) is finally on track for development at Fort Washington and Livingston roads. Major Samir D. Patel has already been assigned commander. The station will handle a large part of what is now covered by District 4, which is my station.

Capital Hospice has been renamed Capital Caring, "to help more patients and families gain access to our care earlier and easier." Services include: Care Navigation, Palliative Care, Point of Hope Counseling, and Hospice Services. Call 1-855-571-5700 or go to [help@capitalcaring.org](http://help@capitalcaring.org).

### May they rest in peace

Eugene Henderson, who had lived on Lori Street in Skyline since 1981, died Oct. 19. A native of Clarksville, Va., he had a career in air-conditioning and refrigeration and, after retiring, worked for Bond's Water Technology. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Rosetta; children, Sheila Henderson-Glass, Renee Waring and Eugene Jr.; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and two sisters.

Brian Tyrone Woodall, an archives specialist at the National Archives and a long-time resident of Ladd Road in Skyline, passed away Oct. 29. He had served with the Marines, Air Force Air National Guard, Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. As staff sergeant with the National Guard, he was stationed for a year in Afghanistan. He had earned many medals and commendations. He was the son of the late Lucille and Edward Woodall, brother of Edward Jr., Renee, Pamela, Anthony and the late Katrina,

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Kendra MacLean and Katie Frostbutter, Nov. 18; Herbert Hanson and Andrew Boone, Nov. 20; Linda Cullinan and Brea Sandy-Hanson, Nov. 21; Dolores Steinhilber and Sharon McKlveen, No. 22; Leslie Greene, Nov. 23; Ben Gryskewicz and Mike Waby, Nov. 24.

Happy anniversary to Paul and Sharon Locke on Nov. 22.

**A Blessed Thanksgiving to all my readers!**

## Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Statement Honoring Our Veterans

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement in honor of Veterans Day, observed on November 11, 2011:

"As the daughter of a career military service member, it is with a profound sense of appreciation that I join all Americans as we recognize and value the sacrifice of our nation's veterans and their families. These Americans answered the call and served our country with honor and distinction throughout our nation's history. It is for that act of selflessness that we as a nation owe a debt of gratitude to those who serve today and yesterday.

"My Congressional colleagues and I passed several key pieces of legislation during the 111th Congress to help our veterans and service members in the 4th Congressional District and across the country secure jobs, receive needed benefits, and increase access to medical care. We enacted historic legislation that created a new G.I. Bill, expanded VA health care access for returning veterans including 1.8 million women, increased mental health programs, and provided pay raises for service members. It is unfortunate that this level of focus on the needs of veterans has diminished in the 112th Congress. That is why I applaud President Obama for his actions to get veterans back to work by offering tax credits in the Affordable Jobs Act to businesses who hire veterans, creating a veterans job bank, and establishing an online resource that allows veterans to enter their military occupation code and discover civilian

occupations for which they are well qualified. It is my sincere hope that this Congress can come together to build on these successes and initiatives.

"As we pay tribute this Veterans Day, I remain steadfastly committed to ensuring that America's service members and veterans receive the care, services, and honor they have earned and deserve. Our grateful nation owes nothing less."

### Congresswoman Edwards Hosts Town Hall on Accessing Veterans' Health Care after BRAC

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) hosted a town hall meeting last night to ensure that service members, veterans and their families in the 4th Congressional District are apprised on how and where to access their health care benefits now that Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) actions are complete. Congresswoman Edwards was joined by federal, state, local, and military officials, including representatives from the federal and state departments of Veterans Affairs.

"As Veterans Day approaches, we must work every day to ensure that America's servicemembers and veterans receive the care they have earned," said Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards. "The town hall meeting was an opportunity to provide important information to our veterans, servicemembers and their families about the heightened level of care available and where to access it as a result of BRAC. Those who serve today and yesterday and their families deserve nothing but the best for their sacrifices in service to our



country. I hope this town hall meeting was useful in helping veterans access the care they deserve, and I thank all the officials, including Lieutenant Governor Brown, for their leadership and sharing this information with our veteran community."

"Base Realignment and Closure has provided an opportunity to enhance the level of health care for our brave men and women in uniform who have answered the call to serve their country," said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, Chair of the Governor's BRAC Subcabinet and the nation's highest ranking elected official to have served a tour of duty in Iraq. "With the BRAC moves now complete, it is important that those who need these health services know how to best access their care, and I thank Congresswoman Edwards for holding this town hall to provide the most up-to-date information to our community."

For more information about Veterans' Services, contact your local Veterans' Representative or visit the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation at <http://dllr.maryland.gov>

## Congressman Chris Van Hollens' Legislative Update

### Van Hollen Statement in Honor of Veterans Day

Rockville, MD — Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen issued the following statement in honor of Veterans Day:

"Today we pause to honor and celebrate the brave men and women who fought for the safety and freedom of our nation. Our veterans answered the call of duty and have put their lives at risk in defense of our liberty. They reflect the best of our country, and we must do everything we can to honor their valor and incomparable commitment.

"Our work does not begin and cannot end as we reflect on

Veterans Day. Part of honoring their work is reaffirming our commitment to providing for our troops, veterans, and their families. Congress must continue to do everything it can to ensure veterans have job opportunities, and this week we made important progress on President Obama's VOW to Hire Heroes Act. We must also continue to give them access to the very best health care and the chance to receive a quality education.

"Honoring those who have served our nation is a bipartisan commitment that must remain in focus all year long. I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the



aisle to keep the promises we have made to our troops and veterans."

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

### NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

The Ushers of New Hope Fellowship (NMUMC North Location) will celebrate their Ushers Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday December 10, 2011 at Immanuel Church Hall in Baden Maryland. The cost per ticket is \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 and under. Please contact Audrey Johnson at 301-888-2153 for more information and to purchase a ticket.

### PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

There will be a Public Hearing on School Boundaries Thursday, December 1, 6:30 PM at Gwynn Park Middle School located at 13800 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, MD. "The Public Hearing will formally brief parents, students and community members on the Superintendent's proposed changes that will go before the Board of Education for a vote in December. The public may register to speak for three minutes by contacting the Office of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries at

301-952-6300 by 4:30 PM the day of the hearing."

### ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH, BADEN PARISH

St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish presents their Annual Prayer Breakfast (Die twice and live forever with Christ, die once and live eternally with Satan) on Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 8:30 AM. Tickets cost \$12.00 for adult, children 5 to 12 cost \$6.00, and under five is free. The church is located at 13801 Baden-Westwood, Brandywine, Maryland.

Guest Speaker, Mr. James Pindell, Macedonia United Methodist Church, Odenton, Maryland. Featured will also be Macedonia United Methodist Men's Choir. For tickets please call Djuana Turner 301-378-9730 or Debra Butler 301-520-3145.

### PRE-HOLIDAY FUN AND DANCING

Come and join us for some Pre-Holiday Fun and Dancing (Hand Dancing, Line Dancing, and Good Old Dancing). The event will be on Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 8:00 PM -12:00 Midnight at St. Philip's Church, Baden

Parish Fellowship Hall located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland, 20613. Donation is \$15.00. Music by Ms. Jackie (D). Light refreshments will be served.

Point of contacts Michelle Williams 201-528-7422, Sallie Glover 240-299-5239, Christine Johnson 301-888-1126 or Shirley Cleaver 302-690-4260.

### 25th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

This year the Annual Winter Festival of Lights will be on display from Friday, November 25, 2011 through Sunday, January 1, 2012 5:00 PM-9:30 PM (daily). Please bring a canned good with you for the donation to local food banks.

The cost is \$5.00 for cars and vans, \$15.00 for mini-buses and limos; \$25.00 for buses; \$10.00/multi-visit passes for cars and vans. The festival is free on December 25. All ages are welcome. Location is Watkins Regional Park at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. Contact 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544.

## Help to Rescue the Public Safety Assistance Food Basket Program

In September 2011, The Clerk of the Circuit Court warehouse in Upper Marlboro sustained significant flood damage due to Tropical Storm Lee. This resulted in the loss of over fifteen thousand dollars worth of Public Safety Assistance Program (PSAP) non-perishable food supplies stored in that warehouse for the annual Holiday Food Basket Program.

The Board of Directors of the Public Safety Assistance Program has asked public safety agencies to conduct a special in-house monetary donation campaign to help replace these supplies through bulk purchase. The Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department is pleased to partner with the Police Department, Homeland Security/Public Safety Communications, Department of Corrections, and the Office of the Sheriff to support this request. Your charitable donations will ensure that families in our community will have a happy holiday. PSAP is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Fire Fighter/Emergency Medical Technician-I Nicole Orme has agreed to serve as the coordinator and point-of-contact for all Fire/EMS Department



contributions. Field personnel are encouraged to coordinate cash donations through their assigned Battalion Chief, who will assure delivery to FF/EMT Orme.

If you have further questions, FF/EMT Orme can be reached at 301-883-5200.

Please consider supporting this worthy cause. All donations are encouraged. Through your generosity, we will help the PSAP to meet their goal of supplying a food basket to every Prince George's County family in need for the 2011 Holiday Season.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

**Call 310-627-0900**

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Tax deadline looms for charitable contributions

Each year, roughly one-third of American households itemize deductions on their federal income taxes. If you're among that group, there are several important actions you need to take by year's end in order to take full advantage of available deductions.

For example, by December 31 you must pay for any uninsured medical expenses, state and local income and property taxes, and unreimbursed employee expenses you want to deduct from your 2011 taxes. You also need to decide how much to contribute to charitable organizations and either charge your credit/debit card or postmark a check by midnight on the final day of the year.

Here are a few issues to keep in mind when choosing how you'll make — and report — your charitable contributions:

Confirm the organization's tax-exempt status. The IRS revoked the tax-exempt status of approximately 275,000 non-profit organizations because they hadn't filed annual reports for three consecutive years, as required by law. Although donations you may have made to those organizations prior to their being disqualified still count as tax-deductible, going forward, such organizations are no longer eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions unless they're reinstated by the IRS. Go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities) to see if your donations are affected.

Charitable auction purchases and donations. If you buy an item at a charitable auction, you're only allowed to claim a deduction for the amount you pay that's above its fair market value, so be sure to get documentation from the organization (e.g., a catalog showing a good-faith estimate). On the other hand, if you donate an item for a charitable auction, you're only allowed to claim your "tax basis" in the item — that is, the amount you originally paid for it, vs. its current fair market value.

IRA distributions. For many, one of our tax code's downfalls is that unless you itemize deductions you cannot reap tax advantages from your charitable contributions. However, an important exception is made for senior citizens, many of whom no longer carry a mortgage and thus don't itemize deductions: People age 70½ or older may contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to charity and have it count toward their 2011 Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Although the RMD contribution itself isn't tax-deductible, the amount won't be included in your adjusted gross income (AGI), thereby providing several potential tax benefits:

A lower AGI could reduce taxes on your Social Security benefits.

It could make you eligible for tax breaks that are tied to AGI. The contribution will lower your overall IRA balance, which in turn reduces the size of future mandatory distributions.

Choose wisely. Before making a donation or volunteering your time, make sure the non-profit organization is well-run. Ideally the organization applies at least 75 percent of contributions to programs that serve its beneficiaries, as opposed to spending them on salaries, advertising, fund-raising and other administrative expenses.

The IRS' Tax Information for Contributors website ([www.irs.gov/charities/contributors](http://www.irs.gov/charities/contributors)) website features a search engine for eligible organizations, information on reporting and substantiating charitable deductions and other helpful tips. Also, GuideStar's website ([www2.guidestar.org](http://www2.guidestar.org)) features helpful questions to ask potential recipients and tips for choosing a charity.

The personal rewards that come from donating your time and money to worthy causes certainly far exceed mere tax breaks, but still, it pays to know how the rules work in case you do qualify.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney](http://www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney)



## County Council Approves Appointments of Nominees

County Council Approves Appointments of Nominees for Advisory Committee on Aging, Cable Television Commission, and Chair of the Housing Authority

UPPER MARLBORO, MD Yesterday, the Prince George's County Council confirmed thirteen nominees submitted by County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. The nominees filled positions on the Advisory Committee on Aging, the Cable Television Commission, and the Prince George's County Housing Authority.

"I have said many times that we need to find the best and brightest to fill positions in Prince George's County, which is why I am so pleased and proud that the County Council has approved my nominees for these positions," said Baker. "All of these individuals have proven their dedication to this County and will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to their roles."

The Prince George's County Advisory Committee on Aging is comprised of 24 members who are citizen leaders representing the public and private

community. Its mission is to support and advocate the promotion of choice, independence and dignity for all older Prince Georgian's and their families.

The Cable Television Commission enforces the County's franchise agreements with Comcast Cable Communications and Verizon Maryland, Inc.

The Prince George's County Housing Authority is a quasi-governmental agency that falls under the Department of Housing and Community Development. It manages services related to housing information and referral, resident services, property management and public housing occupancy.

### Appointees to the Advisory Committee on Aging:

**New Members:**  
Carolyn Butlern, Temple Hills  
Jacqueline Byrd, Bowie  
Darilyn Marinelli, Bowie

### Reappointed Members:

Albert Dickson, Temple Hills  
James Lyles, Temple Hills  
Ethel Mitchell Rock, Glenn Dale



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
**INGRID M. TURNER, Chair, Prince George's County Council (Democrat)**

Dorothy Powell-Allen, Bowie  
Byron Richardson, District Heights

**Appointees to the Cable Television Commission:**  
Doris McMillon of Ft. Washington

Pleshette Monroe, Landover  
Jimmy Tarlau, Mt. Rainier  
Michael Thompson, Landover Hills

**Appointee for Chair of the Housing Authority:**  
Paul E. Rowe, Tacoma Park

### Search from A1

and store information about themselves online.

Users can tap into that data for self-improvement. For example, wearable devices that measure heart rate can help people improve their health, said Mary Czerwinski, research area manager of the visualization and interaction research group at Microsoft.

But widespread adoption of those tools could be hindered by privacy concerns, she said.

### Youth from A1

for small businesses, among other things.

This month, the Young Invincibles released "State of Young America," a report describing the economic problems young adults are experiencing. Nationally, the unemployment rate for 16-to-24-year-olds is 18 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in August.

Congress has yet to approve any legislation set forth in the \$447 billion American Jobs Act Obama introduced in September at a joint session of Congress.

### Benefits from A1

are being forced to choose between heating their homes or filling their prescription drugs," Senator Brown said. "Last month, the Social Security Administration announced that seniors would get their first cost-of-living adjustment increase in more than two years. But while seniors will finally receive a COLA in 2012, the increase is less than it should be. It is time to give seniors the level of benefits they deserve — and that starts with fair COLAs. The current formula used to calculate COLAs for Social Security recipients actually measures the costs of younger, employed individuals — and simply does not reflect a retiree's true expenses, which can include high prescription drug bills.

"Comparing retired seniors to employed clerical workers is like comparing apples to oranges," Brown added. "That's why we should change

Czerwinski said users need to be assured that the personal information they provide using these Web-based services will be protected.

"We have to ask ourselves how comfortable we are with organizations shaping your experience on the web," she said.

The growth of social networks has made users more comfortable with sharing personal information on the Web, said Abdur Chowdhury, former chief scientist at Twitter.

Dauer, who is looking for a political job in the Maryland-D.C. area, is waiting tables at Fisherman's Inn in Kent and has a research job for a University of Chicago professor. Those jobs, he said, were the kind he wanted to work while he was in college -- not after he graduated.

"Since I left college two years ago, I have submitted hundreds of job applications, visited multiple career fairs and attended job seeker support meetings, but I still have not landed a long-term stable position," Dauer said.

He counts himself fortunate to live with his parents, who

also help with his student loans, he said.

Rory O'Sullivan, Young Invincibles policy director, said one of the proposals in Obama's plan, called the Pathways Back to Work Fund, would be most beneficial to young Americans. That program would provide subsidized jobs for youth as well as support on-the-job training for young and low-income adults. The United States needs to create more jobs now, Cardin said. "We think giving certainty to the economy will unleash a lot more activity so that those who are graduating college in

"Sharing of information in a free and open way is going to make us more and more aware of the world in which we live," Chowdhury said.

He cited the outpouring of assistance to Haitians after the earthquake in 2010 as an example of information sharing being used to accomplish goals that could have not been met otherwise, like fundraising.

"It is just no longer sharing about what happened, but it is reaching out to what happened," he said.

June are going to have a lot greater opportunity than we have right now," Cardin said.

Both senators serve on the Senate Finance Committee, and Wyden said on Thursday, the committee was going to look at unemployment system, which he said was "outdated for young people." His proposal, the Startup Act, would be to allow people to pool unemployment benefits to set up a business and become entrepreneurs.

"I'm struck by," Wyden said, "in how so many of the big debates here in the United States Senate, your generation is pretty much an afterthought."

Service, between 1982 and 2009, the cost of living under the CPI-W rose at an average rate of 2.9 percent, while the cost of living for seniors—as measured by an experimental CPI-E—rose at a rate of 3.2 percent.

The legislation would formalize a Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). The CPI-E would take into account seniors' specific consumption habits, including increased prescription drug and energy costs, and would be used to determine the COLA for Social Security benefits.

Mikulski and Brown's bill comes amid recent proposals—known as the "Chained CPI" or the "CPI-U"—before the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction would make further changes to the CPI-W that would negatively affect seniors. The Chained CPI would slash Social Security benefits by hundreds of dollars per year and effectively impose a tax increase that would heavily impact seniors and other

low-income families. "I don't think Social Security should be in the debate about how to reduce our debt or our deficit," Senator Mikulski said. "I think everything that caused our debt should be on the table. Social Security did not cause our deficit. Social Security did not cause our debt. While the Super Committee is charged with looking at a more frugal government, we must maintain the social contract between the American people and their government. I oppose the Chained CPI. Under Chained CPI, the older you get, the less you will get. The older you get, the worse it will get. It's not giving up Whole Foods. It's seniors with no food." Senator Mikulski said.

The legislation is supported by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the AARP, the AFL-CIO, the United Steelworkers, the UAW, the Alliance for Retired Americans and National Nurses United.

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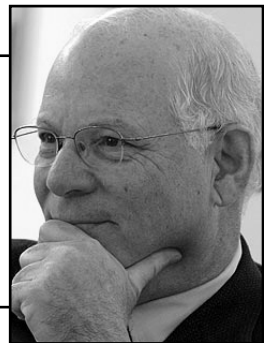
# COMMENTARY

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

### Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



### A Message to the Budget Super Committee

On November 23, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction — also known as the “Super Committee” — will issue its recommendations on how to deal with our nation’s economic problems. As the Committee members work on a plan, I have two recommendations for its members: focus on job creation and develop a balanced approach that will result in real deficit reduction.

President Obama has proposed a jobs initiative that I believe is the right approach. He has focused on rebuilding our nation’s infrastructure — schools, roads, and water and energy infrastructure — as a way to create hundreds of thousands of well-paying jobs.

The president’s proposal has gotten high marks. Economist Mark Zandi, who was Senator John McCain’s economic advisor during his 2008 presidential campaign, pointed out that the president’s proposal would increase our gross domestic product by 2 percent and create 1.9 million additional jobs. The president’s proposal also is completely paid for and would not add to the budget deficit.

By putting people back to work, we can restore our nation’s fiscal health. Working Americans are less reliant on governmental services, they purchase more — which helps spur the economy — and they pay taxes. The bottom line: More people working will help bring our budget into balance.

We also need to turn our attention to reducing our budget deficits. I believe we can achieve the President’s Debt Commission’s recommendations of reducing the deficit over the next 10 years by about \$4 trillion. In August, in conjunction with raising the debt ceiling, we trimmed \$1 trillion; we now need

another \$3 trillion in deficit reduction.

The key to deficit reduction is starting with a realistic baseline to determine revenues. The Alan Simpson-Erskine Bowles Debt Commission and the Senate’s Gang of Six used a realistic baseline that assumes that some of the expiring tax provisions will be extended — but not all of them. Both also assumed that we need additional revenues to tackle our budget problems.

We need about \$1.2 trillion in revenues in a \$4 trillion deficit reduction package. Despite partisan demands that the Super Committee avoid any tax increases, the reality is we need additional revenue to bring our budget into balance. We could accomplish this goal if we eliminate the hundreds of loopholes in the tax code that benefit special interest corporations and if we ensure that everyone pays their fair share. We cannot let the burden of deficit reduction fall only on middle-class families.

The Super Committee can help achieve fairness by looking at the growth of income inequality in United States over the last 30 years.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the number of American millionaires grew by almost 7 percent. The same study indicated that the top 1 percent’s share of national income more than doubled between 1979 and 2007, and their real after-tax income soared 275 percent. The CBO analysis also showed that while the wealthy have gotten richer, middle-class families’ incomes failed to keep up.

Deficit reduction will not be easy, but I believe Americans understand the seriousness of the situation and they want members of Congress to come together for the good of our nation.

### To Be Equal

#### Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### A Quiet Powerhouse, Smokin’ Joe Frazier Stayed Out of the Spotlight

*“Work is the only meaning I’ve ever known. Like the man in the song says, I just gotta keep on keepin’ on.”*

Joe Frazier

Years ago in a Philadelphia slaughterhouse, an aspiring young boxer trained in the early mornings by punching sides of beef. He would run up and down the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum.

The world associates these images with a fictional boxer, Rocky Balboa, but they were part of the fascinating life of Smokin’ Joe Frazier, who died earlier this month at the age of 67.

In many ways, the appropriation of Frazier’s early training days is emblematic of how, even at the height of his career, he was overshadowed by the slicker, brasher media favourite, Muhammad Ali.

Although their animosity defined an era of boxing, Frazier boycotted the 1967 heavy-weight elimination tournament to find a successor to Ali, and he personally Frazier petitioned President Richard M. Nixon to have Ali’s license reinstated. While Ali was banned from boxing, Frazier lent him money to pay his bills. “I’ve never fought anyone with a will so strong,” Ali would say of Frazier.

I’ve always been an Ali fan myself, but the only time I ever rooted against Frazier was when he fought Ali. Frazier, in comparison, was a man of few words, who proved himself with hard work and action in the ring. He let his boxing speak for him.

In many ways, Frazier’s very life, more than anything he said, defined the struggle of black America. He was self-taught and self-reliant. He rose from crushing poverty in Jim Crow-era South Carolina, one of 14 children born to struggling sharecroppers. He worked the fields from the age of 7 until he, like so many who are part of the Great Migrations of the 20th century, hopped a Greyhound bus to New York City before making his way to Philadelphia.

After he retired from boxing Joe Frazier’s Gym became an important part of the Philadelphia neighborhood. Though it’s no longer a training facility, fans and former students flocked to the building upon learning of Frazier’s death. It had been a safe haven for young people, a center of the community. In contrast to the violence and sometimes hopelessness of the streets outside, young people learned discipline and hard work, and their lives were changed forever thanks to Smokin’ Joe.



Open to the Public

Winter Festival of Lights

**Winter Festival of Lights at Watkins Regional Park.** 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Dates to be Announced. HOURS: 5-9:30 p.m. daily. \$5 per car; \$15 for mini-buses and limos; \$25 for buses; \$10 for multi-visit passes for cars and vans (good for three visits). The festival is FREE on December 25. You may bring canned food items to donate to local food banks for the holidays. Winter Festival of Lights is Prince George’s County, Maryland’s spectacular drive-through Christmas light display featuring more than a million twinkling lights.

Watkins Regional Park includes more than 850 acres of land. The park is also home to the following facilities: Watkins Nature Center, the Chesapeake Carousel, Old Maryland Farm, the Watkins Regional Park miniature train and the Watkins Miniature Golf Course.

Those who enjoy nature, sports, picnics, hiking, camping, or outdoor family activities will find plenty to do at Watkins Regional Park. Throughout the year the park hosts a variety of exciting special events including summer concerts in the park, the Winter Festival of Lights, National Senior Health Fitness Day, and charity runs/walks.

### Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Celebrating Young People Beating the Odds

I’m often asked, what’s wrong with our children? Too often we focus on the negative without celebrating young people who, despite the odds unfairly stacked against them, overcome great adversity, demonstrate academic excellence, and give back to their community and country. Each year, the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) takes time to honor examples of these inspiring youths through our Beat the Odds® scholarship and leadership development program. Each student receives a \$10,000 scholarship, a laptop computer, guidance through the college admissions process, and an invitation to join CDF’s leadership training programs—putting them on the path to college, successful adulthood, and sustained child advocacy. Beat the Odds celebrations are held annually across the country. On November 15th we will honor five high school students from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia; on December 1st five in Los Angeles; and on December 14th five in New York City. All are succeeding and moving on to college despite overwhelming challenges. This year, CDF’s state offices honored 19 resilient students in Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and New Orleans. Since 1990 when CDF began Beat the Odds celebrations, about 700 youths have won scholarships and I could not be prouder of them. They are lawyers and educators and college professors and teachers and Peace Corps volunteers, and outstanding citizens. They make clear that no one has a right to give up on any child and that all of us lose when we waste the fine minds and great potential of millions of children every year. Their lives also make clear what a difference one or a few caring adults can make.

**Thurman Anderson’s** mother, a high school dropout, rarely worked. To provide for his siblings, Thurman sold candy and then drugs while still

in elementary school. When he was nine years old, Thurman and his siblings were removed from their home and separated by the foster care system. Four years and five foster home placements later, Thurman met Jon and Nia West-Bey, who became his adoptive parents. He described them as the first people who could “provide a home where I could finally find my place and where people wanted me.” Thurman is now a student at Washington Latin Public Charter School where he is passionate about being a leader and mentors fellow students. Thurman is excited that he will be the first in his biological family to attend and graduate from college.

**Andrew Finein** came into the world facing daunting odds. He was born mute, unable to utter a sound until he was two and a half years old. Diagnosed with a host of mental and physical problems, doctors told his mother he would never be able to care for himself. Andrew’s early years were spent in therapy learning to speak and to do

basic tasks like tying his shoes. But years of hard work and therapy paid off, and today, 17-year-old Andrew is already taking several college level classes and excels academically. Adults who know Andrew marvel at his positive attitude and strong work ethic.

As a child, **Leland Kraatz’s** home life was filled with anger and despair. His alcoholic father terrorized the whole family. When Leland was 10, his father was arrested after Leland’s two sisters revealed he had been abusing them. Leland’s mother became severely depressed and struggled to make ends meet. Home-schooled for years, the children were left to educate themselves. By the time Child Protective Services intervened, Leland had never had formal schooling and was years behind academically. He and his sister Chelsea moved in with their aunt and uncle. “For the first time in my life I was truly part of a real, functioning family the

See WATCH, Page A8

### The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## Davis from A1

navigate County Government, hold agencies and departments accountable, and help residents solve issues in their communities.”

Council Member Davis reaffirmed his strong commitment to education, and to the success of young people in Prince George's County. “I am absolutely passionate about enhancing the quality of public education, and creating a successful future for our young people in Prince George's County. I am ready to introduce exciting new ideas and concepts for improving our schools and I look forward to this legislative platform to make change happen.”

Following a reception, the County Council convened and Council Member Davis participated in his first County Council meeting. Thanking them for their support, he says he is ready to work with his Council colleagues and County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. “I offer you my hand in friendship and partnership, pledging to be a leader and team member; to contribute creativity and energy to our processes; and to work and study hard to improve the quality of life for our citizens and residents.”

A lifelong Prince George's County resident, Council Member Davis is a graduate of Central High School and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Previously, Council Member Davis held the position of Head Start Program Manager with Prince George's County Public Schools. Under his leadership, student classroom hours doubled and new program sites were added throughout Prince George's County.

A member of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden and the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Council Member Davis lives in Mitchellville with his wife, Sherry.

The District 6 constituent areas include South Bowie, Capitol Heights, District Heights, Forestville, Kettering, Largo, Mitchellville, and Upper Marlboro.

### “GIVE HOPE, GIVE BLOOD”

#### Red Cross Blood Donors Can Honor the Fight Against Breast Cancer

The American Red Cross, Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region is honoring those who have struggled with this disease with “Walls of Hope” at all blood drives and donor centers throughout the month of October. Participants may write a small card in honor of a cancer patient to post on the Wall Of Hope. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule a life-saving donation appointment. Platelet donors can call 1-800-272-2123 to schedule an appointment.

Blood is often used to treat those undergoing treatment for all types of cancer, including breast cancer. Cancer treatments such as chemotherapy can kill red blood cells and platelets, and these patients rely on blood transfusions throughout their treatment to remain strong and recover.



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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### "Jack and Jill"

*JACK AND JILL* "D"  
Rated PG for some crude  
humor.  
1 hr., 33 min.

Rule number one is that you go into every movie with an open mind. No matter how bad the trailer makes it look; no matter how imbecilic the premise is; no matter how terrible the previous films made by the same people have been; you always allow for the possibility that the movie will be good. In fact, you do more than that: you HOPE it will be good. If you find yourself going into theaters WANTING to hate the movies, you should probably stop going into theaters. I mention this up front so you will know that even though "Jack and Jill" -- in which Adam Sandler plays both a regular guy and that guy's annoying twin sister -- has a trailer that makes it look awful, and has an unworkable premise, and was made by people who have made an abundance of stupid movies in the past, I went into it hoping for the best. I didn't pre-judge it based on how miserable it seemed like it was probably going to be. And now, having seen the film, I can tell you that it is indeed every bit as lousy as it looks. So kudos to the marketing department, I guess. They nailed this one. Sandler plays Jack Sadelstein, a TV commercial director with a wife who for some reason is Katie Holmes, a son who for some reason is Indian, and a daughter who doesn't do anything of note. Jack grew up in the Bronx, where his twin sister still lives and evidently kept developing her Bronx accent after Jack moved to California.

Everyone hates Jill because she's loud, crass, clueless, obnoxious, needy, unreasonable, unhygienic, and ugly. Her poor social skills are probably the consequence of her dreadful physical appearance -- she looks like Adam Sandler in drag, after all, and Adam Sandler ain't exactly a "Gossip Girl" extra to begin with. Whatever the reason, she's dreadful and she should die, the end. Anyway, Jill comes to visit for Thanksgiving and stays indefinitely, during which time Jack tries to find her a boyfriend through some online dating sites. She goes on a date with Norm Macdonald, who is astonished by her physical appearance even though her picture was included in her profile. (The people who made the movie don't care. Ugly girls are funny!) She also goes for a pony ride and breaks the pony's legs. She's so "fat" she literally collapses a pony. She's pony-collapsingly fat. Of course, she's actually not fat at all, and doesn't weigh any more than her brother, but hey, ugly girls are supposed to be fat, so there. Meanwhile, Jack is going to lose the Dunkin Donuts account unless he can get Al Pacino to appear in the commercial. There's no way Pacino would do it, though, because a TV commercial would be beneath him. The movie gets a lot of mileage out of this premise, never realizing that it is negated by Pacino's appearance in this very movie. Jack stalks Pacino at a Lakers game, Pacino meets Jill and is smitten with her, maybe Jack can use his sister to get Pacino to do the commercial, Jill rebuffs Pacino and Jack



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

**Jack and Jill is a comedy focusing on Jack Sadelstein (Adam Sandler), a successful advertising executive in Los Angeles with a beautiful wife and kids, who dreads one event each year: the Thanksgiving visit of his identical twin sister Jill (also Adam Sandler). Jill's neediness and passive-aggressiveness is maddening to Jack, turning his normally tranquil life upside down. Katie Holmes plays Erin, Jack's wife. -- (C) Sony Pictures**

has to put on a dress and a wig and pretend to be her, yada yada, the rest writes itself, David Spade has a cameo, everybody goes home and weeps. The director is named Dennis Dugan. This is the seventh Sandler movie he has directed, so he's gotten pretty good at letting everybody do whatever they want and not caring whether it's funny. He's gotten pretty good at showing up on the set, turning on the cameras, then taking a nap on the floor, is what I mean. The screenplay is credited to Steve Koren ("Click," "A Night at the Roxbury") and Sandler, from a "story" by Ben Zook. In Hollywood parlance, that probably means Zook wrote the original screenplay, then Sandler bought it and Sandlerized it up, i.e., added broad physical comedy and bit parts for his friends. As in most of Sandler's

lazier films, characters behave without motivation and make changes in their lives only because they've arrived at the point in the movie where characters are supposed to make changes in their lives. (Should you be unfortunate enough to see this film, I defy you to tell me why Jack changes his mind about Jill at the end.) I don't know what Pacino is doing here, but he's having fun with it. The guy's insane. Does he know how bad the movie is? He must. But he fully commits to every stupid thing he's required to do, which goes a long way toward making some of those stupid things bearable. His Dunkin Donuts commercial (spoiler alert: he winds up doing it) is genuinely funny as a parody of awful, embarrassing ads. The sad part is that the rest of the movie is every bit as bad as that intentionally bad commercial.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### The World Joe Paterno Made

Meet John Matko. John Matko is a 34-year-old Penn State class of 2000 alumnus, distraught by the recent revelations that Coach Joe Paterno and those in charge at his alma mater allegedly shielded a serial child rapist, assistant Jerry Sandusky. He was livid that students chose to riot on campus this week in defense of their legendary coach. He was disgusted that the Board of Trustees decided to go ahead as planned with Saturday's Nebraska game just days after the revelations became public. John Matko felt angry and was compelled to act. He stood outside Saturday's Penn State-Nebraska game in Happy Valley and held up two signs. One read, "Put abused kids first." The other said, "Don't be fooled, they all knew. Tom Bradley, everyone must go." [Tom Bradley is the interim head coach.]

The response to Matko gives lie to the media portrayal of last Saturday's game. We were told the atmosphere was "somber," "sad" and "heart-rending", as "the focus returned to the children." The crowd was swathed in blue, because, we were told, that is the color of child abuse awareness (also the Penn State colors). The team linked arms emerging from the tunnel. They dropped to a knee with their Nebraska opponents at midfield before the game. Once again, broadcasters told us, "the players were paying tribute to the victims of child abuse." We were told all of this, and I wish to God it was true.

I don't doubt the emotions in Happy Valley are genuine. I don't doubt the searing shock and pain that must be coursing through campus. But this is the pain of self-pity not reflection. It's the pain of the exposed not the penitent. Let's go back to John Matko. Matko stood with his signs behind a pair of sunglasses. He wasn't soapboxing, or preaching: just bearing silent witness. It was an admirable act but no one bought him a beer. Instead, beer was poured on his head. His midsection was slapped with an open hand. Expletives were rained upon him. His signs were also kicked to the ground and stomped.

As the Washington Times wrote, "Abuse flew at Matko from young and old, students and alumni, men and women. No one intervened. No one spoke out against the abuse."

One disapproving student said, "Not now, man. This is about the football players."

And with those nine words, we see the truth about Saturday's enterprise. It was about the football program, not the children. It was morbid theater where people were mourning the death of a jock culture that somewhere along the line, mutated into malignancy. It's a malignancy that deprioritized rape victims in the name of big-time football.

The signs of this malignancy did not emerge overnight. Looking backward, there are moments that speak of the scandals to come. In 2003, less than one year after Paterno was told that Sandusky was raping children, he allowed a player accused of rape to suit up and play in a bowl game. Widespread criticism of this move was ignored. In 2006, Penn State's Orange Bowl opponent Florida State, sent home linebacker A.J. Nicholson, after accusations of sexual assault. Paterno's response, in light of recent events, is jaw-dropping. He said, "There's so many people gravitating to these kids. He may not have even known what he was getting into, Nicholson. They knock on the door; somebody may knock on the door; a cute girl knocks on the door. What do you do? Geez. I hope -- thank God they don't knock on my door because I'd refer them to a couple of other rooms."

Joanne Tosti-Vasey, president of Pennsylvania's National Organization for Women in Pennsylvania, was not amused. With chilling unintentional prescience, Tosti-Vasey responded, "Allegations of sexual assault should never be taken lightly. Making light of sexual assault sends the message that rape is something to be expected and accepted." They called for Paterno's resignation and short of that, asked to dialogue with Paterno and the team. Neither Paterno nor anyone in the power at Penn State accepted the invitation.

This is the world Joe Paterno made. It's a world where libraries, buildings, and statues bear his name. It's a world where the school endowment now stands at over \$1 billion dollars. It's a company town where moral posturing acted as a substitute for actual morality. In such an atmosphere, seeing the players and fans gather to bow their heads and mourn Saturday wasn't "touching" or "somber" or anything of the sort. It was just sad. It was sad because they still don't get it.

One PSU student, named Emily wrote the following to si.com's Peter King, "Truth is, if not for Paterno's philanthropy and moral code (until his fatal lapse of judgment), I and thousands of others wouldn't be here right now. If not for Paterno ... Pennsylvania State might still be an agriculture school and State College might be lucky if there were a Wal-Mart within a 30-mile radius. Paterno made a huge mistake, but that doesn't mean he's not a good man."

Bullshit. Emily's words ring as false as the apologists for the Vatican, Wall Street, the military command at Abu Ghraib and any industry deemed "too big to fail." The same moral code that Emily praises absolutely cannot be the same moral code that covers up child rape. To do so is to make the very notion of morality meaningless. Emily's gratitude that her school isn't "30 miles from the nearest Wal-Mart" can't justify defending Paterno. To do so, makes you complicit in the crimes and the cover-up. It also ensures that such a thing could happen again.

On Saturday, while Matko endured the physical and verbal rage of the PSU faithful, hundreds gathered around the Paterno statue outside the stadium, laying down flowers and gifts. The pain might run deeply in Happy Valley but the cancer runs deeper. To really move forward, the malignancy must be removed. Fire everyone. Shut down Happy Valley football for a year. Rebuild a healthier culture. Do whatever you have to do to make sure that the world Joe Paterno made has seen its last day.

## 2012 CIAA Tournament and 100th Anniversary Celebration Day Countdown Officially Begins

HAMPTON, Va. (November, 2011) — The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) anticipates the largest Tournament in the history of the iconic Conference. The planning committee prepares to celebrate the 100th anniversary milestone during the week-long 2012 Tournament on February 27 - March 3 in Charlotte, NC.

"The CIAA's Board of Directors, staff, member institutions, alumni and fans are proud to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration as the CIAA turns 100 years old," says Leon Kerry, CIAA Commissioner. "The rich legacy and heritage established by the CIAA has provided over 100 years of educational and athletic opportunities to African-Americans who did not have the options. The lives touched by the CIAA are countless, and to experience its evolution into the third largest basketball tournament in the NCAA and its impact on millions of people is priceless. It is a remarkable feat to reach a 100 year milestone within any organization, and for the CIAA, the world will witness the celebration of this achievement in February."

Conceived on February 4, 1912, the CIAA has grown into a cultural phenomenon and arguably one of the most influential mechanisms in all of Black America and giving birth to one of the country's greatest, most financially successful event in all of black college sports. The first



FILE PHOTO

**Mr. CIAA (right) is always a favorite at tournaments.**

CIAA Tournament was created in 1946 on a \$500 budget. Over the past 13 years alone, the CIAA Tournament has generated over \$269 million in economic impact for the state of North Carolina and over \$17.1 million in overall scholarship dollars for CIAA member institutions.

The CIAA's focus on education, a by-product of its annual Tournament, is an important initiative that has been a part of the fabric of the Conference from its formation. The CIAA's partnerships with its corporate sponsors have led to hundreds of jobs and

internship opportunities and millions of scholarship dollars for its students. Sponsors donate annually to the CIAA General Scholarship Fund (GSF) and actively participate in the annual CIAA Career Expo. The CIAA's Education Day introduces Middle and High School students to the CIAA educational experience through its member institutions by providing information and on-site admissions for high school seniors. Over the past six years, the CIAA has drawn over 10,000 students to Education Day, many of which

were accepted to CIAA member institutions. In an effort to continue to support the CIAA's mission to provide educational opportunities for students to attend any CIAA school, we are asking our alumni and fans to make a donation to the CIAA GSF by visiting [www.ciaatournament.org/donate](http://www.ciaatournament.org/donate).

The CIAA is home to legendary coaches and extraordinary athletes who have helped the Conference receive proper

See CIAA, Page A7

# Calendar of Events

November 24 - November 30, 2011

## 25th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Dates & Times: Friday, November 25, 2011 through Sunday, January 1, 2012 5-9:30 pm (daily)

Description: You won't want to miss this season's spectacular drive-through displays! Featuring more than a million twinkling lights, the 25th Annual Winter Festival of Light is a joyful event for everyone. Please bring a canned good with you for donation to local food banks.

Cost: \$5/cars and vans; \$15/mini-buses and limos; \$25/buses; \$10/multi-visit passes for cars and vans. The festival is FREE on December 25.

Ages: All ages

Location: Watkins Regional Park  
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774  
Contact: 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544

## Blankets of Love: Coloring Our Dreams

Date and Time: Monday, October 3-Monday, December 5

Description: Oakcrest Community Center is sponsoring a blanket drive to benefit two assisted living facilities: Forestville Health & Rehabilitation Center and Heartfield Assistant Living Center in Bowie.

The facility is also collecting coloring books, crayons, and soothing sounds CD's to benefit the Prince Georges County Pediatric Unit and the Sub Unit of Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital.

Ages: All ages

Location: *Oakcrest Community Center*  
1300 Capitol Heights Blvd., Capitol Heights 20743  
Contact: (301) 736-5355; TTY 301-218-6768

## Line Dancing at Seat Pleasant

Date & Time: Beginning November 5, Saturdays, 11:30 am-1 pm

Description: Here's a way to lose weight, release stress, build stamina and start a healthy life style -- all of this while having fun with Ms. Hattie Frazier. Wear comfortable shoes, bring a hand towel and get ready to dance your stress away.

Cost: Resident \$20; Non-Resident \$28; \$6/drop-in fee

Ages: 18 & up

Location: *Seat Pleasant Activity Center*  
5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant 20743  
Contact: 301-773-6685; TTY 301-218-6768  
SMARTlink # 692464

## 12th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show

Date and Time: Friday-Sunday, November 25-27, 12-5 pm

Description: For a sweet treat, come and view an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses. No nibbling allowed! Visitors have the opportunity to vote in the Viewer's Choice Award Competition. No reservations necessary.

Cost: \$1/person Ages: All ages

Location: *Darnall's Chance House Museum*  
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

## PUBLICK PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publick Playhouse 2011-2012 season includes national and international dance performances, beginning with The Philadelphia Dance Company's PHILADANCO on Friday, November 18 at 8 pm, in a leggy jet-propelled performance with soul that celebrates the company's 40th anniversary. On Friday, January 6, at 8 pm, the Playhouse hosts the international tour of the Russian National Ballet Theatre in a classical full-length presentation of "Cinderella" that is full of humor and features a large Russian company trained in the Bolshoi and Kirov traditions.

Saturday, February 4 at 8 pm, Nimbaya! Women Master Drummers and Dancers of Guinea make the Playhouse the only Washington area stop on their first American tour in several years. Formerly called "Amazones", these exciting, energetic artists are celebrated throughout Africa for breaking social barriers to women's independence by performing the dances and playing the instruments that for centuries were restricted to men.

In April, Dallas Black Dance Theatre returns for their annual Playhouse residency with a new program of feisty, fearless and fiery modern dance performances on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 29 at 4 pm.

Tickets to each of the four dance companies in this series are \$20, or \$15/seniors, students, DancePass, and groups of 15 or more. There's also an advance ticket savings of half price for one dance company when buying all four prior to November 18.

Area dancers are also part of the season. On Sunday, February 26, at 4 pm, the annual liturgical dance festival PRAISE! features gospel singer Cora Harvey Armstrong of Richmond and exceptional dance troupes from area churches. Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm, the 10th annual World Dance Showcase highlights the broad cultural richness and talent found in our nation's capitol. Tickets for each of these programs are \$12; \$10/seniors and students.

Young dancers are on stage at Bust a Move with Café Groove on Friday, March 2 from 7-10pm, when teens battle for cash prizes and the title of "Prince George's Best Dance Crew", with teen-only admission for \$3. And Sunday, March 4, at 4 pm, the Love 2 Dance Teen Showcase presents hot talent from area schools and studios. Tickets: \$12; \$10/seniors and students

Dance Classes with visiting artists include Nimbaya! workshops on Saturday, February 4, with a Drum Workshop at 10 am and an African Dance Workshop at 12 noon for drummers and dancers age 13 and up; fee: \$15/class. On April 25 and 26 from 7:30-9 pm Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers their annual Master Classes in Modern Dance for advanced dancers on Wednesday, and Liturgical Dance Workshop for intermediate and advanced dancers on Thursday; fee \$15/class or observer. Also, Big Girls Dance Workshops are being held during National Fitness Month, with an African dance workshop on Tuesday, May 8 from 6:30-8 pm, and a Belly Dance Workshop on Thursday, May 10 from 6:30-8 pm; free/one workshop per person, with advance registration required.

*The Playhouse is a facility of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Recreation, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division. For more information, call 301-277-1710 or visit arts.pgpc.com*

# EARTH TALK ... Chemicals, pollution ... and cancer

Dear EarthTalk:

*How clear (or not) are the links between the rising incidents of cancers around the world and the prevalence of synthetic chemicals in modern society?*

-- Alberto Buono, Lee, MA

With the World Health Organization hinting that cancer could unseat heart disease as the leading cause of death around the world, it's no surprise that per capita cancer incidence is on the rise globally. In fact, cancer is the only major cause of death that has continued to rise since 1900. While it might depend on whom you ask, most researchers now agree that environmental factors—including exposure to chemicals and pollution—play a significant role today in determining who gets cancer and who doesn't.

A blue ribbon panel of cancer experts initially convened by President George W. Bush researched hundreds of studies and concluded in 2010 (in its 240-page report, "Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now") that our exposure to chemicals, pollution and radiation is to blame for the uptick in cancer deaths. "The American people—even before they are born—are bombarded continually with myriad combinations of these dangerous exposures," the panel reported. "With the growing body of evidence linking environmental exposures to cancer, the public is becoming increasingly aware of the unacceptable burden of cancer resulting from environmental and occupational exposures that could have been



CREDIT: THINKSTOCK

**Most researchers now agree that environmental factors - including exposure to chemicals and pollution - play a significant role today in determining who gets cancer and who doesn't.**

prevented through appropriate national action."

The panel cited grim statistics about cancer's march, noting that 41 percent of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, with 21 percent likely to die from it. Cancer researchers fear that our reliance on chemicals is the main culprit, as borne out by hundreds of studies.

To wit, a 2000 study involving the examination of health records of more than 44,000 pairs of twins across Scandinavia found that "inherited genetic factors make a minor contribution" in causing most cancers but that "the environment has the principle role in causing sporadic cancer." A 2010 UK study, whereby researchers investigated the level of chemical exposure of more than 1,100 women during their employment history, found that those study subjects who had been exposed to various industrial chemicals and air-

borne hydrocarbons were at least three times more likely to get breast cancer later on than women with little or no exposure in their backgrounds.

Not everyone agrees. Writing in Forbes magazine, Henry I. Miller and Elizabeth Whelan of the industry-friendly American Council on Science and Health argue that the findings of the presidential panel are based on politics not science: "If the authors had only bothered to consult a standard textbook on cancer epidemiology, they would have learned that lifestyle factors such as smoking, obesity, excessive alcohol consumption and overexposure to sunlight—not chemicals in air, water and food—are the underlying causes of most preventable human cancers."

While few today would doubt the health risks of such personal lifestyle factors, the President's cancer panel nevertheless concluded that "the burgeoning number and complexity of known or suspected environ-

mental carcinogens compel us to act to protect public health," and urged President Obama to use the power of his office to "remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water and air that needlessly increase health care costs, cripple our nation's productivity, and devastate American lives."

CONTACTS: President's Cancer Panel,  
deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/;

American Council on Science and Health,  
www.acsh.org.

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# Senator Mikulski Leads Social Security Crowd in Supercommittee "Occupation"

By JEFFREY BENZING  
*Capital News Service*

WASHINGTON - Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski called it "Occupy the Joint Committee" when seniors groups and activists, some toting alarm clocks, spilled into the hallways of the Dirksen Senate Office Building Thursday, to "wake up the Supercommittee," who they fear will unfairly cut health care and Social Security to reduce the nation's debt.

"Are we ready to fight?" Mikulski asked the standing-room-only crowd at the event in support of Social Security held with Sens. Ben Cardin, D-Md., Bernie Sanders, D-Vt., and Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.

The response? An emphatic "yes."

"Social Security did not cause the deficit. It did not cause the debt," Mikulski said. "My solution -- let's bring those troops home. Let's bring our money back home, and let's bring our jobs back home."

Mikulski has spoken out about the unfairness of cutting

programs like Social Security, which benefit vulnerable Americans. Members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, known as the supercommittee, have said that all federal programs should be on the table as they look for as much as \$4 trillion in budget cuts.

The committee must decide on a plan by Wednesday to cut at least \$1.2 trillion from the deficit over 10 years. The expected cost of health care over the next several decades is the No. 1 driver of debt according to data from the Congressional Budget Office. Social Security costs are not expected to dramatically rise as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product.

Republicans contend that the nation's debt problem has been caused by government spending. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, called on Congress to make cuts to Medicaid and Social Security during budget talks earlier this year, and Republicans have noted that raising taxes -- some-

thing Democrats prefer to program cuts -- would be disastrous for the economy.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Kensington, one of the 12 congressmen on the bipartisan committee, has said he favors health care reform that makes government programs like Medicare and Medicaid more efficient but doesn't cause "unnecessary pain."

Sanders, who was greeted with chants of "Bernie! Bernie!," said raising the age for Social Security eligibility above 65 -- something that has been discussed by the supercommittee -- would make health insurance unaffordable for ineligible seniors stricken with diseases like cancer.

"I will be damned if we're going to balance the budget on the backs of the elderly, the sick, the children and the poor," Sanders said.

Sanders cited two wars, tax cuts for the rich and reckless and illegal behavior on Wall Street as the cause of the deficit. Cuts by the supercommittee must be fair to all Americans,

he said, even as committee members are surrounded by lobbyists and big money interests.

Crowd members this morning passed around copies of "The Occupied Washington Post" in support of the Occupy Wall Street movement. Several speakers said they see all the breaks going to the richest 1 percent of Americans while the other 99 percent struggle to get by.

"I think that the middle class, the middle-income families have not done well across the decade," said Cardin, following the event. "The 1 percent can't control the day. It's got to be fair to the 100 percent."

If the supercommittee can't craft a plan by Wednesday, automatic cuts totaling \$1.2 trillion will take effect in 2013. Experts have said that these across-the-board cuts would be disastrous, particularly to the middle class. Defense programs would get the bulk of the cuts. Social Security and Medicare, along with other benefits programs, would remain protected.

## CIAA from A6

recognition and respect in the world of college sports. CIAA legends and NBA Hall of Famers include John McLendon -- the Father of Black Basketball, Clarence "Big House" Gaines -- the first African-American coach to win a NCAA Championship, Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, Earl Lloyd -- the first African-American to play in the NBA and Sam Jones. Other CIAA greats include Pee Wee Kirkland, Rick Mahorn, Fred "Curly" Neal of the Harlem Globetrotters, Alvin "Al" Attles, Jr., Bobby Dandridge, Charles Oakley, Ben Wallace, Ronald Murray, Darrell Armstrong and Celeste Trahan.

Fans can enjoy a multitude of prizes and free trips in honor of

the centennial celebration. The CIAA 100th Anniversary Sweepstakes has a grand prize trip for up to six people to any Wyndham Resort in the world; airfare not included. Fans can enter the sweepstakes through the CIAA Tournament's Facebook page. Smaller prizes will be given away weekly by randomly selecting fans from our sweepstakes database. The CIAA is slated to launch its first-ever mobile application in November, which is available on iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and Android phones and tablets. Fans can simply visit Apple's App Store, the Android Market or Blackberry App World and search for "CIAA" to download the mobile application to their mobile device or tablet. Fans that

download the application are eligible to enter for a free trip for two people to Saint Lucia, which includes airfare and a free breakfast at the Garden Bay Hotel/Beach Resort. The CIAA mobile application was created to conveniently provide fans with instant access to key CIAA event information, updates and news directly to their mobile device or tablet.

"The CIAA is excited with the momentum we have generated leading into the CIAA's 100th anniversary celebration in 2012. We have the support of our loyal fans, member institutions and sponsors. As a team, we're constantly enhancing the Tournament and affiliated activities to ensure the 'CIAA Experience' is as strong as ever,"

stated Leon Kerry, CIAA Commissioner.

For more information about how to purchase tickets and a complete list of official events, fans can visit

www.ciaatournament.org.

## About the CIAA

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) was founded in 1912 and is based in Hampton, Virginia. The CIAA is America's oldest historically black college and university conference and is made up of 12 colleges and universities situated along the Eastern Seaboard. For more information about the CIAA Basketball Tournament, visit www.ciaatournament.org. For more information about the CIAA, visit www.theciaa.com.

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## Child Watch from A4

way it should be," said Leland. Since then, he has worked extremely hard to adjust academically and socially. Although he entered formal school for the first time in ninth grade, he has maintained a 3.82 grade point average, tutors other students, and is thriving in his new life despite his tumultuous childhood.

Anh Luong is the youngest of five children born to Vietnamese immigrants. She grew up in extreme poverty in an unstable home with parents who battled substance abuse. When Anh was nine years old, she was assaulted by a family friend. She stopped going to school and failed fourth grade. She and her two older brothers then bounced back and forth between foster care and their parents' home for the next few years. She remembers vividly the fear and despair she felt during this time. Anh said she wanted to "give up on life. I began thinking that my life was cursed." But she didn't give up, and today, Anh is a hard working senior on the path to college. "I have learned that if I share my story and share the struggles that I've been through, then I can reach out to others and help them to overcome as well," she said.

When Mustafaa Nuraldin's teachers describe him, they paint the picture of an ideal stu-

dent—thoughtful, serious, and polite—but just a few years ago Mustafaa was

failing most of his classes. A precocious child, Mustafaa learned to read early and excelled in elementary school but a hostile environment in a new middle school disturbed him. He described it as "rowdy and violent, so much so that metal detectors were necessary. In addition to the crazed student body, there were a number of teachers who didn't do their job." Mustafaa started skipping school, choosing to read at a local bookstore. After his mother and grandmother enrolled Mustafaa at Washington Latin Charter School where teachers have encouraged his love of reading and creative writing, his attitude toward school changed completely. He plans to study philosophy or creative writing in college and is described by one of his teachers as "an old soul, a wise young man, a student with perfect moral pitch."

All of the stories over the years including this year's Washington, D.C. Beat the Odds scholarship recipients described here show the remarkable resiliency of children and the power of determination and hard work. They also show how much a caring adult can make a difference. Beat the Odds celebrations send a clear message to young people that we see and care about their plight, and understand what it

takes to succeed in school and life when faced with huge obstacles. Millions of children struggling against the odds can succeed if each of us reaches out to and celebrates them rather than write them off as failures. To learn more about how you can support young people at Beat the Odds events around the country, go to the Children's Defense Fund web site. In a Thanksgiving season when many Americans pause to count their blessings, it should also be a season of giving back and sharing with those less fortunate. You can also help by being a voice for voiceless children. Tell your Senators and Representatives that you want children protected from budget cuts and you want Congress to invest in their health, education, and well-being. Together as a community of caring adults we can and must change the odds for all children.

*Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).*

*Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.*

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