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Coalition to Fight Same-Sex Marriage

Bill Was Narrowly Defeated in 2011

By JESSICA TALSON
Capital News Service

TEMPLE HILLS - A number of organizations announced the creation of a new interfaith coalition on Wednesday that will oppose same-sex marriage during the 2012 legislative session in Annapolis.

A bill to legalize same-sex marriage was narrowly defeated in 2011. Both sides started preparing immediately for 2012, and vowed to return more organized and with increased support. Gov. Martin O'Malley has promised to take a more prominent role and will sponsor a bill legalizing same-sex marriage.

But members of the Maryland Marriage Alliance believe that marriage should be defined solely as a union between one woman and one man, and that protecting traditional marriage is vital for society.

"Our nation has thrived on the fabric of the family," said Pastor Joel Peebles of Jericho City of Praise in Landover.

The group is recruiting interfaith religious leaders and community members who will urge their legislators to vote against the legalization of gay marriage. The Maryland Marriage

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Andrew Updyke makes his choices at the donated salad bar in the Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School cafeteria. The school is the first Washington, D.C. school to achieve the Gold Award of Distinction from the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSC). They will now hold the certification and distinction for four years. The goal of the HUSC is to improve the health of the Nation's children by promoting healthier school environments. The challenge criteria include four major elements. (U.S. Department of Agriculture photo by Lance Cheung)

White House's Let's Move Program Lets Schools Snag Salad Bars

By GINA CAIRNEY
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Young children may not jump for leafy greens and crispy carrots, but Maryland schools are seeing a surprising interest from students for healthier options than the pizza and chicken nuggets already on the menu.

Four schools throughout the state were awarded grants for salad bar equipment thanks in part to Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools" program, to promote healthier lifestyles by funding and awarding 6,000 salad bars throughout the country by the

end of 2013.

Any school participating in the National School Lunch Program, offering students reduced-price lunches, are eligible to apply for a grant of \$2,500 dollars toward salad bar equipment for their school, according to the Let's Move website.

"It was more intricate than we initially thought," said Laura Green, development director at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women in Baltimore City, but she saw "people were excited from the moment we were awarded the salad bar equipment."

Baltimore Leadership School applied for its grant in October 2010 through Whole Foods Market, and received its equipment in March.

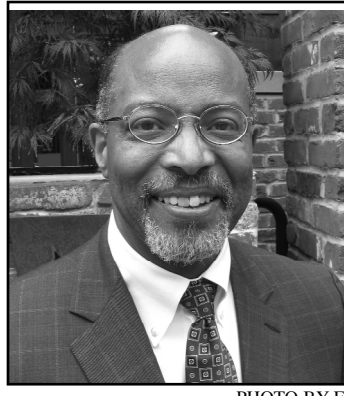
Let's Move was founded to combat childhood obesity rates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said childhood obesity rates have tripled since 1980. Approximately 12.5 million children and adolescents between ages 2 and 19 are considered overweight or obese.

A 2006 Maryland Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System

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Incumbent Rep. Donna Edwards, D-Fort Washington, (left) is being challenged by former Prince George's County prosecutor Glenn Ivey in the 4th Congressional District race.



Anne Arundel Voters Could Shape 4th District Race

By ANDREW DAMSTEDT
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Anne Arundel County could play a pivotal role in the newly aligned 4th Congressional District race, even though no candidate from there has officially entered the race.

So far, the match looks to be between incumbent Rep. Donna Edwards, D-Fort Washington, and former Prince George's County prosecutor Glenn Ivey. Anne Arundel County Councilman G. James Benoit has formed an exploratory bid.

Two other candidates have filed with the state to be in the Democratic primary April 3, George McDermott of Forest Heights and Ian Garner of Suitland. No Republicans have filed.

The race is a hot one because the district was changed to include part of Anne Arundel County and eliminate a section

of Montgomery County to form a new 4th District.

Edwards opposed the changes, especially the plan to remove the section of Montgomery County.

After the redistricting plan was approved, Edwards released a statement saying she looked forward to representing the newly formed district even though she still disagreed with the outcome.

But at least one political analyst said that conciliatory statement may have come too late.

"The way she went about protesting the lines, she made it sound as if she didn't want to represent the portion of Anne Arundel County she got," Center Maryland columnist Josh Kurtz said. "And voters may remember that and hold it against her. It's so much an insider game, that it may not

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Native American Tribes Struggle for State Recognition

By EMAUN KASHFIPOUR
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Every year around this time, Thanksgiving reminds many Americans of the relationship between Native Americans and Pilgrims who shared a meal hundreds of years ago.

But in Maryland, today's Native Americans are not as well-known.

There are more than 20,000 Native Americans living in Maryland, according to the most recent census, and there are eight indigenous tribes who form and operate communities just like any other group.

Still, these indigenous tribes are bereft of economic and cultural benefits afforded to other Native American tribes that

have obtained recognition.

"It's kind of an insult when you grow up as something and the government says you're not one," said Chief Joseph Crow Neale of the Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee Indians in Garrett County.

Still, he has chosen not to pursue state recognition for his tribe.

"I don't want to become a ward of the state," he said. "I'm interested in the dignity part of it."

There is a legal process for tribes to obtain state recognition and individuals can identify themselves as Native American without worrying about regulations. Still, there are certain benefits for Native Americans who are members of a recognized tribe.



In order for a tribe to obtain recognition in Maryland, it must identify itself as a Native American tribe that has continuously existed since before 1790, that its members are descendants of Native Americans that were members of that tribe since before 1790, and that they do not belong to any other tribes.

For many of Maryland's tribes, this process is too expen-

See TRIBES, Page A6

Supercommittee Failure Could Cut Millions From Maryland Budget

By JEFFREY BENZING
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - The congressional supercommittee has failed, and now Maryland could face as much as \$150 million in cuts to its 2014 budget, including millions in lost funding through federal education and health care programs, state And that's not all. Maryland's defense and federal work force could be in jeopardy through mandated cuts to defense and other federal programs.

"Defense spending -- that means jobs in Maryland," said Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Cockeysville, who sits on the House Armed Services Committee. "It would clearly be very hurtful to our economy."

The supercommittee, officially known as the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, was charged with

cutting more than \$1.2 trillion from the federal deficit over 10 years. It was to submit a plan by Wednesday, but members gave up in frustration on Monday.

The Maryland Department of Legislative Services laid out the consequences of failure in a briefing last week, outlining cuts to the state budget based on the supercommittee's impasse. Congress mandated across-the-board "sequestration" cuts be imposed should the joint committee fail to meet its obligation.

"We're staying in tune to what's happening on the federal level," said Takirra Winfield, Gov. Martin O'Malley's deputy press secretary. "Most of the impact, I believe, would affect a lot of the local programs."

Of \$9.3 billion in federal funding Maryland currently receives, about 20 percent could be subject to the mandat-

ed cuts -- including funding for special education grants, child support enforcement and some low-income housing vouchers, according to the state report. Predictions could change, but Winfield said the low estimate for 2014 budget impact is \$130 million.

States like Maryland, with high concentrations of federal employees and contractors, could feel an even deeper sting when \$600 billion in defense spending and \$600 billion from other federal agencies is lopped from budgets over the next 10 years.

Reaction from Maryland and elsewhere includes plenty of finger pointing and mirrors the type of bickering that led to the threat of government shutdowns earlier this year and the

See BUDGET, Page A7

INSIDE

The Nancy S. Grasmick Award
Congressman Steny H. Hoyer accepted the Nancy S. Grasmick Leadership in Early Care and Education Award from the Maryland Family Network. The Grasmick award is given to a Marylander who, through his or her outstanding record of accomplishments, exemplifies the commitment to young children, their families.
Community, Page A3

The Suprecommittee Failed ...
The failure is being cast as the result of both parties refusing to give ground, and attempts at explanation are dismissed as partisan finger-pointing. That is a convenient narrative, but it ignores the facts. The public has a measuring stick against which to judge competing claims.
Opinion, Page A4

Historic Trade Mission
Governor Martin O'Malley kicked off an historic trade mission to India, in Hyderabad with a delegation of more than 100 Maryland business leaders, educators and elected officials -- the largest-ever trade mission delegation from Maryland to boost two-way trade and investment and promote Maryland as an ideal location.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review
"THE MUPPETS"
Rated PG for mild rude humor.
The premise of "The Muppets" is that this hard, cynical world needs the gentle-but-firm humor and optimism of the Muppets. If you doubt this is true, I suggest you watch "The Muppets," a movie that winningly makes the case for its own existence.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk
Dear EarthTalk:

I would like to make my holiday gifts matter this year. Where can I find ideas for green gifts?

-- Mary Baumgartner,
via e-mail
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Victorian delights, legends, lights, and a Santa breakfast

The Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House, in Waldorf, is hosting its 10th annual Victorian Christmas Dec. 3 and 4, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. A Civil War encampment on the grounds (both North and South), a Civil War Santa and Mrs. Santa showing their vintage toys, Victorian Christmas trees and decorations, and refreshments are part of the experience. Admission: adults, \$7, and children, \$2. For information: 301-645-6870 or 301-274-9358.

The Surratt House, in Clinton, invites you to enjoy Legends of Civil War Santa on Dec. 17, as Civil War Santa (aka Kevin Rawlings) tells tales from the ages. Tour the decorated, historic house. Hours, noon to 4 p.m. Regular tour admission.

Have Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 10, 9 a.m. at the Morningside Town Hall. Call 301-412-0144 for a reservation. Admission is \$5 per person.

Correction: Last week I had the wrong phone number for The 25th Annual Winter Festival of Lights at Watkins Regional park in Upper Marlboro. The correct number is 301-699-2456. The Festival remains open daily, 5 to 9:30 p.m., until Jan. 1. Admission is \$5 for cars and vans. Free on Christmas.

Longtime Morningsider dies
Claudie N. "Noel" Nanney, 84, auto mechanic and longtime resident of Morningside, died Nov. 15. He was a native of the Tupelo area of Mississippi.

In 1964 he and his wife Ruth moved to Maple Road in Morningside, next door to his brother Harold and his wife

Melma. Harold died in 1973 and now Noel has passed away. But sisters-in-law Melma and Ruth are still next-door neighbors.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and a mechanic for gas stations owned by Mel Sherbert, including the Sunoco at the corner of Randolph and Suitland roads and the Amoco in Suitland. He was also employed by Hawkins Sunoco in Takoma Park.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Ruth Nanney; daughter Joyce and her husband Dennis Cook; sister, Martha Gann, a grandson and three great-grandchildren. Services were at Lee's with burial at Cheltenham.

Engagement

Audrey Pridgen-MacLean, of Skyline Drive, announces the engagement of her daughter Kendra MacLean to Anthony Pomilla, of Alexandria, son of Anne and Anthony Pomilla. Time and place of the wedding have not been revealed.

Neighbors

Sandra Mickey has been living on Morgan Road in Morningside since 1974 and celebrated her 66th birthday on Dec. 7. Thank you to her daughter Kathy Swartz for letting me know.

I enjoyed a Thanksgiving visit from my brother, Tom Mudd, and his wife Evelyn, who drove from Saginaw, Mich. They had rain all the way here and sunshine all the way home.

Changing landscape

The new \$2 million library is almost completed at Grace Brethren Christian School in Clinton.

Malcolm Grow Medical Center, at Joint Base Andrews, is

discontinuing patient services. It will, however, continue to receive casualties and injuries from overseas, though some will be sent on to Fort Belvoir or Walter Reed. In the spring, Malcolm Grow will break ground for a new medical clinic.

May they rest in peace

Carol A. Cann, 81, president of Marlow Sports in Forestville, a store she founded with her husband in early 1960s, died Oct. 5 in Silver Spring. A Washington native, she was a 1949 graduate of Hyattsville High, attended the University of Maryland, and worked as a legal secretary and court reporter. She performed in local theaters, was a founding member of the New Dimension Singers, and a member of the First Baptist Church of Hyattsville where she sang in the choir for 65 years. Her husband of 48 years, William L. Cann Jr., died in 1997. Survivors include five children, a sister, 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Condolences to Mary Cornu on the death on her son, Paul R. Cornu, and to Betty Fitzpatrick on the death of her sister-in-law, Betty Vamdell.

Milestones

Happy birthday to John Anthony, Jr., Vonn Branch and Tyonda Simms-Taylor, Dec. 2; Louise Lantz, Mary Straud and Sen. Mike Miller, Dec. 3; Mark Witherow, Jr. and La'Keshia Johnson, Dec. 4; Denise (Eskew) Simms and Steve Ferralli, Dec. 5; Virginia Rosch, Dec. 6; Brian Doyle, Dec. 7; and Charles Boxley, Dec. 8.

Where were you 70 years ago, on Dec. 7, 1941? Call me.

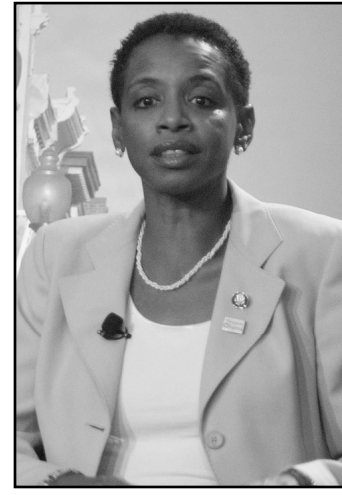
Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

Congresswoman Edwards Opposes Latest Republican Attempts to Deny Workers' Their Rights

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) today opposed the latest Republican attempt to deny workers' rights by voting against H.R. 3094, the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act, which passed the House 235-188. The legislation would create a 14-day waiting period between the time the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) certifies a petition to unionize and an NLRB pre-election hearing begins. Further, the bill requires that the election must wait to be held after a subsequent waiting period of at least 35 days and that all union elections occur under a secret ballot. "Once again, instead of focusing on the needs of the American people to create jobs, the Republican majority

is wasting valuable time attacking the middle class in an attempt to deny workers their rights," said Congresswoman Edwards. "Ensuring America's workers can hold fair, free, and safe elections to form a union have served as a critical cog to creating the American middle class, increasing families' paychecks, and strengthening health and retirement security. Republican obstructionism, not unions, is what is standing in the way of America making the necessary investments to create good jobs, grow our economy, and spur innovation for generations to come.

"I applaud today's vote by the NLRB to move ahead with a rule that would decrease litigation in disputed elections and simplify procedures to reduce delays. America's workers deserve nothing less and I look forward to a final vote on the



rule as soon as possible." H.R. 3094 would also make it harder to hold an election by allowing employers to expand the pool of eligible voters to those employees who had expressed no interest in joining a union. This way, they dilute the percentage of employees interested in forming a union making it more difficult to reach the 30% threshold required, and thus heading off an election.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC

Meetings for the Association are on the third Wednesday of each month September through June, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Median Center at the Brandywine Elementary School. Membership dues are \$30 a year per household. Checks can be sent to Brandywine North Keys Civic Association, Inc., PO Box 321, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. (Visitors are welcome to attend Meetings.)

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

New Hope Fellowship North Location at Nottingham Myers Church will present a Christmas Cantata on Sunday December 18 at 2:00 PM. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful Christmas Music. The church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772. Pastor Daryl L. Williams. Church telephone number is 301-888-2171.

"KID'S NIGHT OUT"

World View Christian Center offers a night of fun from 6:30 PM-Midnight. There is extreme fun, outings and din-

ner that includes a night of fun with Hide-N-Go Seek, Movies, Pizza, Bowling, Skating, Go Kart Track all inclusive in the price of only \$30.00. Phone: (301) 372-0053. To get more information please visit www.worldviewchristiancenter.com or info@worldviewchristiancenter.com.

MEDICAL & SURGICAL CLINICS OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Clinton Family Medical Center located at 10403 Hospital Drive Suite 103 in Clinton Maryland have office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 AM- 5:00 PM. If you need more information you can visit the website at www.familymedicalcarecenters.com or call (301) 856-8990.

HOLIDAY BREAK CAMP

Upper Marlboro Community Center located at 5400 Marlboro Race Track Road in Upper Marlboro, Maryland offers a Holiday Break Camp. The Camp will be available Tuesday, December 27, 2011 – Friday December 30, 2011. The Camp will be open from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The fee is \$20 (R) / \$24 (NR). Call 301-627-2828 for more information.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Stephan Deville, Ernestine Dorsey, Shaunelle Hawkins, Darnell Johnson, Albert Makle, Annette Makle, Lisa Mckelvy, Arietha Savoy, and Renie Maxcine Spriggs.

PRESERVING AGRICULTURE: FARM AND FOREST LAND

Come and provide your feedback on the Prince George's County Preliminary Priority Preservation Area Functional Master Plan on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 7:00 PM. We will meet at the County

Administration Building in the first floor hearing room 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Doors will open at 6:00 PM for participants to view exhibits. Planning staff will be available to answer questions.) Your input is needed.

HOLIDAY BLESSINGS

I would like to thank everyone for your support this past year for providing me with information for my column. Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

We Can't Wait:

President Signs Memorandum to Modernize Management of Government Records

Today President Obama took the most significant steps since the Truman Administration to improve the management of federal records. Today's Presidential Memorandum directs agencies to move into a digital-based records keeping system, a move that will save taxpayer dollars, promote accountability, and increase government transparency. Today's action delivers on a commitment the President made in September 2011 when the White House put forward the Open Government Partnership: National Action Plan for the United States.

"The current federal records management system is based on an outdated approach involving paper and filing cabinets. Today's action will move the process into the digital age so the American public can have access to clear and accurate information about the decisions and actions of the Federal Government," said President Obama. Over the last 10 years, the National Archives and Records Administration has

taken in an average of 475 million pages of records per year. Recently there has been significant growth in the volume of electronic records being accessioned, and total archival electronic holdings currently total 142 terabytes. According to a recent report by the National Archivist and Records Administration, agencies have done a poor job of managing the increased volume and diversity of information that come with advances in information technology. Many are unlikely to fully comply with legal requirements under the Federal Records Act. The Records Management Presidential Memorandum responds to this underlying problem. Today's Presidential Memorandum initiates a comprehensive assessment of agency systems for collecting, maintaining, and preserving the records that document the operation of our democracy. Specifically, it calls for reports within the next 120 days, by each agency head, describing current plans for improving records management

programs; outlining current obstacles to sound, cost-effective records management policies; and cataloguing potential reforms and improvements. The agency reports will inform, and be followed, by a Records Management Directive, to be issued by the Director of OMB and the National Archivist of the United States that will identify specific steps agencies must take to reform records management policies and practices.

The Management Directive will focus on making records management more cost-effective and accessible to the public and on transitioning from paper-based records to electronic records where appropriate. In a key provision, the President has required the Director of OMB and the National Archivist to consult with those inside and outside the government – including public stakeholders interested in improving records management and open government.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

Congresswoman Edwards' Statement on November Jobs Report

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement today on November's jobs report. In figures released by the Labor Department, the unemployment rate dropped from 9 percent to 8.6 percent in November. The country added 120,000 jobs, marking 21 consecutive months

of job growth and the lowest unemployment rate since March 2009.

"November's jobs numbers are a good sign of economic recovery, but also an indication that we need to continue to focus like a laser beam on job creation — Americans' top priority. That is why Congressional Democrats have called on Republicans to help pass President Obama's American Jobs Act while extending unemployment benefits to mil-

lions of Americans and their families. As the economy recovers, now is not the time to eliminate an economic lifeline that returns 150% on our investment.

"While today's numbers are encouraging, it is undeniable that too many Americans are out of work and Republicans have done too little to spur economic growth. Democrats remain committed job creation. I hope my Republican colleagues join us in that effort.

SECU Experiencing Unprecedented Member Growth

LINTHICUM, MD (11/29/11) — SECU — Maryland's largest financial cooperative — is experiencing unprecedented member growth as an increasing number of consumers shift their accounts from other financial institutions to SECU.

In addition, "current SECU members are expanding their relationships with our credit union, opening new personal and business accounts and increasingly making SECU their primary financial institution," says SECU President and CEO Rod Staatz.

"With the holidays, we typically see account openings flatten in November and December," Staatz explains, "but with negative sentiment toward the big banks continuing and more people switching financial institutions as a result of events such as the recent Bank Transfer Day, we are experiencing a reversal of that trend this year."

According to Staatz, new checking accounts opened during the week of November 5 showed an increase of 62% over the same week in 2010 and 2009. Similarly, new members for the week of November 5 were up 61% over the same week in 2010.

The week ending November 12 was even better, despite the Veteran's Day holiday. During that week, SECU saw a 67% improvement in the average number of checking

accounts opened and a 72% increase in the average number of new members acquired per business day when compared to the same week in November 2010 and 2009.

Staatz notes that 34% of new checking accounts opened in November came from existing SECU members, "confirming that many members who may not have thought of SECU as their primary financial institution in the past are now beginning to do so."

Staatz adds that 34% of the new checking accounts were for SECU's best checking account, Premier Interest Checking. That compares to 26% in November 2010 and 2009. "This is interesting," notes Staatz, "because it tells us that consumers are being very deliberate about moving more than just their checking accounts to SECU. They are refinancing their loans and opening other accounts as well."

Premier Interest Checking members earn daily interest and receive free online bill pay, mobile banking, and ATM transactions.

About SECU:

Founded in Baltimore in 1951, SECU is the largest financial cooperative in Maryland. SECU is ranked among the top 47 credit unions for total assets in the U.S. As of August 2011, assets were \$2.4 billion.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Finding your lost money



You may not know it, but millions of Americans are owed money from long-forgotten government payments, stock sales, bank accounts and other lost accounts. When the entities holding these funds can't find the rightful recipients, they turn over the money to individual states, which hold it in escrow until claimed.

State treasuries and other government agencies are sitting on more than \$33 billion in unclaimed assets. And that doesn't include billions of dollars in unredeemed U.S. savings and treasury bonds, unclaimed pensions and income tax refunds returned to the IRS as undeliverable.

Here's a guide to locating unclaimed assets that may belong to you:

Money winds up in government lost-and-found agencies for many reasons, including:

People move and don't leave accurate forwarding addresses; or, they forget to update companies where they do business, hold investments or have earned retirement benefits.

Dying without a will leaves it up to the court to assign assets. You could unknowingly be named as beneficiary of an insurance policy or other account.

Forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts or product rebates. Overpaid mortgage payments after a home sale. Name changes after marriage or divorce.

Start your search with the nonprofit National Association of Property Administrators (NAUPA), which provides tips on finding your money, as well as links to unclaimed property programs maintained by each state (www.unclaimed.org). Many individual state programs also participate in MissingMoney.com (www.missingmoney.com), a free, centralized database endorsed by NAUPA.

Companies are required to surrender balances from accounts that have been inactive for one year or longer to the state government of your last known address; also check with other states where you've lived or done business, just in case. To improve your chances, search using different variations of your name (such as first name and middle initial, first and middle initials, last name first, etc.), as well as common misspellings.

NAUPA also provides a handy round-up of links to other sources for unclaimed property such as unclaimed veteran's benefits, refunds from HUD/FHA-insured mortgages and unclaimed foreign bank accounts.

Other helpful sites include:

The IRS' "Where's My Refund?" page, where you can track down an expected federal tax refund you never received — or check the status of your current filing (www.irs.gov).

The Treasury Department's "Treasury Hunt" search engine can help you find and redeem matured, uncashed Series E savings bonds issued since 1974

(www.treasurydirect.gov).

The Public Benefit Guaranty Corporation (www.pb.gc.gov) can help you track down forgotten pension benefits you've earned. Other helpful sites include PensionHelp America (www.pension-help.org), and the Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration

(www.dol.gov/ebsa).

The National Registry of Unclaimed Retirement Benefits can help you find an unclaimed defined contribution plan, such as a 401(k) or profit-sharing plan

(<https://www.unclaimedretirementbenefits.com>).

Many legitimate companies use states' freedom of information acts to obtain owner information for unclaimed accounts. They contact individuals and offer to help find lost property for a fee (often a percentage of the total). This is the same information you can find yourself, for free.

Also, beware of emails or letters purporting to be from the state treasurer asking you to supply personal information — either by mail or by logging into a link provided. This is how many cases of identity theft begin. If in doubt, contact your state treasurer or controller's office to ensure the contact was legitimate.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter:

www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

Hoyer Receives Grasmick Leadership in Early Care and Education Award

ANNAPOLIS, MD — This afternoon, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) accepted the Nancy S. Grasmick Leadership Award from the Maryland Family Network. The Grasmick award is given to a Marylander who, through his or her outstanding record of accomplishments, exemplifies the commitment to young children, their families, their teachers and care providers that former Maryland State School Superintendent Dr. Nancy Grasmick embodied throughout her career. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

"Thank you. I am honored to be the inaugural recipient of the Nancy Grasmick award. Nancy and I have been friends for over fifty years, and I could think of no one more deserving of having this award named for her.

"In her twenty years as Superintendent and her years of service to the city of Baltimore prior to serving in Annapolis, Nancy has been an untiring

advocate for all our students and, in particular, a voice for the disabled. She has crossed our state week after week, visiting schools and meeting with administrators, educators, parents, and students to make sure Maryland's education system is the best in the nation.

"Central to her approach has been preparing children for elementary school through increasing access to early childhood learning. In doing so, she is following the timeless wisdom of another outstanding Marylander, Frederick Douglass. He said 'it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.'

"Early education was also a passionate cause for my wife Judy. She made the wellbeing of families with young children and their access to education and quality social services her number one mission. Today, there are 26 Judy centers throughout Maryland, providing single point access to a range of community services and early learning programs.

"Right now as our nation faces a cascade of challenges, my primary concern is making sure we help Americans find jobs. A good education has always been the key to a good job. That's why I have been leading an effort in Congress, along with other House Democrats, called Make It In America.

"It promotes economic growth and job creation through investments in our workforce, including a strong education system that prepares graduates for the 21st century economy. Part of this, I believe, must be a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education that strengthens the way we prepare children for kindergarten.

"President Obama reaffirmed the importance of early childhood education when he announced the \$500 million Race To The Top early learning challenge grant program in May, and Maryland's application has been submitted.

"Earlier this month, Secretary Duncan announced the creation of a new office of early learning at the U.S. Department of Education, a move that will focus more attention on early childhood programs.

"St. Ignatius of Loyola once famously said 'give me the child until he is seven, and I will show you the man.' He knew what Nancy knows and what Judy understood so well — that the first years of life are the most important ones for development of the so-called 'soft skills' that help make people better citizens, better neighbors, and better workers.

"I will continue to fight for the investments in early education that will help more children in Maryland and across our nation enter school better prepared for success. I want our education system to be able to say to parents: give us your child until seven, and we will show you the student ready to achieve. Thank you."

"Toys for Tots" Program Kicks-Off

The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department, the County Police Department and members of the United States Marine Corp Reserves are partnering again this year for the "Toys for Tots" program.

The "Toys for Tots" program collects new, unwrapped toys each year and distributes them as gifts to children in need during the holiday season. These are difficult times for many and we are urging the community to help less fortunate children experi-

ence the joy of holiday season. Your gift of giving promises to place a smile on every recipient's face. Donation boxes are located throughout Prince George's County to include your community Fire/EMS and Police Stations.

Voters from A1

have a huge impact when people go to the polls. But, people in Anne Arundel may remember that Donna Edwards wasn't wild about representing them. They may take it out on her come primary day."

Edwards, 53, through her staff, declined to be interviewed for this article.

The new 4th District has more potential voters in Prince George's County than Anne Arundel County. Maryland Legislative Services data shows Anne Arundel's voting age population is 135,520 people, compared to Prince George's 407,440 people. In the 2010 Democratic primary, voter turnout in Anne Arundel was 26 percent whereas Prince George's turnout was 24 percent.

However, former Anne Arundel County Democratic Central Committee chairman Stephen Thibodeau said not to overlook the voters there.

"It will be an interesting race," he said. "The message I tell any candidate, in particular running in the Democratic primary, is not to ignore Anne Arundel County. The candidate that doesn't look for votes here does so at their own peril."

The campaign issues for Anne Arundel are likely going to be the economy, the environment and how population growth stemming from military base realignment affects the county, Thibodeau said.

Having an Anne Arundel candidate could make a difference, such as Crownsville resident Benoit, 40, who is still mulling an entry into the primary. The dynamics of the election would change if he enters, he said, because he represents most of the Anne Arundel portion of the district.

"If I'm not (in the primary), it will be sort of the traditional Prince George's County primary," Benoit said, indicating he planned to make a decision in the next week.

If he decides to run, Benoit could have a third-candidate effect on the race, which usually favors the incumbent, said Paul Herrnson, Center for American Politics and Citizenship director at the University of Maryland.

But, Ivey also might be an appealing candidate to voters in the newly added portions of the district because of his law enforcement career, Herrnson said.

Ivey, 50, of Cheverly, still faces the same hurdles as anyone challenging an incumbent. He just started fundraising, so he hasn't reported any donations to the Federal Election Commission. However, he said the goal was to have "an impressive number" by the Dec. 30 reporting deadline. He declined to share how much he has raised.

FEC filings show Edwards has \$67,031 cash-on-hand and has raised \$231,380 this year.

Ivey is running on the momentum of the new district boundaries because both he and Edwards will have to introduce themselves to voters there.

"I don't know if this is your typical challenger-incumbent dynamic," he said. "I think for a significant portion of the district, it looks like an open seat." Incumbents are rarely defeated in primaries, Herrnson said, although that's how Edwards began her route to office.

Before Edwards won the Democratic nomination in 2008 by 29,123 votes, she lost the 2006 primary by 2,731 votes, both times running against Democratic Rep. Albert Wynn.

In the 2008 primary,

Edwards had the financial support of the liberal advocacy group MoveOn.org, the Service Employees International Union and Emily's List, a political action committee that works to elect pro-choice female Democrats. In that campaign, Edwards criticized Wynn on his Iraq War vote and supporting a bankruptcy bill endorsed by former President George W. Bush, the Washington Post reported.

After the 2008 primary, Wynn resigned and Edwards was elected to fill the remainder of his term. She went on to win the general election.

Facing no strong primary opposition in 2010, Edwards won the general election with 84 percent of the vote, elections data shows. She spent \$675,840 in that campaign when an average winning 2010 congressional campaign in Maryland cost \$1.68 million, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

A poll released Nov. 17 by Edwards campaign, showed her ahead of any challengers, and beating Ivey 52 percent to 16 percent. The poll, conducted by Lake Research Partners, surveyed 400 likely primary voters in the 4th District Nov. 10-13 and has a 5 percent margin of error.

In her congressional career, Edwards has supported domestic violence funding, introduced legislation to increase the minimum wage for tipped employees and sponsored a bill to set national safety standards for subway systems.

She serves on three House committees: Transportation and Infrastructure; Science, Space and Technology; and the Committee on Ethics.

Ivey's name has been brought up as a potential candidate for lieutenant governor and Prince George's County execu-

tive, and he has considered running for Congress before. He now works as a trial lawyer at a Washington, D.C., firm.

Ivey won races for Prince George's County state's attorney in 2002 and 2006, facing no challengers in either general election or in the 2006 primary. He won the 2002 primary with 60 percent of the vote.

As a state's attorney, Ivey said he addressed critical issues not funded through a government budget, such as helping start programs for at-risk youth. He also highlighted his involvement with Project Safe Sunday, a domestic violence victims outreach program, and his work helping rehabilitate criminal offenders.

Ivey said he would work to help fix economic problems so many Maryland residents face, such as foreclosures and bringing economic development to the district.

"I think we need more assistance from the federal level, especially to help people stay in their house," Ivey said.

Closer to the primary, political consultant Kevin Igoe said Republicans are likely to get more involved in the race even though the district leans Democratic.

A Republican candidate is most likely to come from Anne Arundel, he said. Anne Arundel has more registered Republicans (120,117) than Prince George's (46,715), the Maryland State Board of Elections October voter registration report shows. However, Democrats outnumber Republicans in both counties.

"The way they've drawn the district it's going to be tough for a Republican," said Alan Rzepkowski, Anne Arundel County Republican State Central Committee chairman, "but it's not impossible."

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COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen
House Democratic Minority Whip



The supercommittee failed because ...

On Sept. 8, six Democrats and six Republicans sat down to breakfast at the first meeting of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. We all knew that congressional gridlock had brought us together, but I arrived with high hopes that we would be able to make the tough decisions needed to address the twin challenges of job growth and deficit reduction. We did not succeed — and a huge opportunity was missed.

Our failure is being cast as the result of both parties refusing to give ground, and attempts at explanation are dismissed as partisan finger-pointing. That is a convenient narrative, but it ignores the facts.

Often in politics there is no objective measure for reasonable compromise. Fortunately, in this case the public has a measuring stick against which to judge competing claims. The recommendations made by the president's bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (known as Simpson-Bowles, after the Republican and Democratic co-chairs) provide a model for comparing the major plans offered by both sides during the supercommittee deliberations.

First, consider the ratio of spending cuts to revenue increases in Simpson-Bowles vs. the plans discussed by the supercommittee. As documented by the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, when you factor in the \$900 billion in budget cuts Congress made this year, Simpson-Bowles recommended about \$2 in cuts for every \$1 in revenue. By comparison, the major Democratic plan reflected a ratio of \$6 in cuts for every \$1 in revenue. The center noted that the Democratic plan "stands well to the right of plans" offered by Simpson-Bowles and other bipartisan groups. By contrast, the Republican plan fell far short of all other bipartisan plans. Compared with the Simpson-Bowles base line, it relied entirely on spending cuts and actually reduced revenue by permanently locking in tax cuts for the highest-income

earners.

Second, Democrats were prepared to make important reforms to entitlement programs. While strongly opposing Republican proposals to end the Medicare guarantee and force seniors into the private insurance market without adequate support, we were prepared to put on the table all the Medicare and Medicaid reforms recommended by Simpson-Bowles. In total, the mandatory health-care savings proposed by the major Democratic plan equaled those in Simpson-Bowles. And when faced with the Republicans' "cuts only" approach to Social Security, we considered a plan to strengthen that essential retirement security program through a mix of new revenue and reforms — the same approach taken by Simpson-Bowles and other bipartisan groups.

Third, in an effort to reach agreement, Democrats presented a plan with significantly lower revenue than in Simpson-Bowles. Relative to their base lines, the Democratic plan would have raised about \$450 billion, almost \$1 trillion less than Simpson-Bowles.

There has been much misinformation about the Republican tax proposal. The Republican claim to have raised \$300 billion in "new tax revenue" is misleading. In reality, their willingness to raise \$250 billion of that revenue was conditioned on Democrats agreeing to make permanent more than \$800 billion of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, which are scheduled to expire at the end of next year — thereby locking in \$550 billion of tax breaks for the top 2 percent of earners. Their proposal was further conditioned on reducing tax rates while dramatically cutting various deductions. Analyses by the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation indicate that the Republican plan to drop the top rate from 35 percent to 28 percent, while slashing

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To Be Equal
Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Occupy the Hood ... Now!

"I just want to help somebody's child go to college"

Oseola McCarty, recipient of 1995 Presidential Citizens Medal

The Black "Tweetersphere" and "blogosphere" are abuzz with talk about ways to engage more African Americans in the "Occupy" movement. There are even social networks forming under the banner: "Occupy the Hood." From Zuccotti Park in Manhattan to Westlake Park in Seattle, the participants in Occupy events tend to be overwhelmingly young, white, and middle class. This is the case even though the ills the Occupy Movement have identified — income inequality and the corrupt and predatory actions of big banks — are hitting communities of color the hardest.

In pondering the potential reasons for this disconnect, I thought that maybe the stress of unemployment and lack of opportunities are so draining in the "hood" that there simply isn't enough time or energy to join a rally. Or maybe with more of a focus on racism's role in structural inequality more people of color would join. But then I thought about a woman named Oseola McCarty from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

In 1995 at the age of 85, Ms. McCarty, an African American woman who earned a living washing and ironing other people's laundry, donated her entire life-savings, \$150,000, to the University of Southern Mississippi to give black children the chance she never had to attend the previously segregated university. Her actions inspired many and led President Clinton to award her the Presidential Citizens Medal. Oseola McCarty's only wish was that she be allowed to attend the graduation of the first recipient of the McCarty Scholarship. She developed a friendship with that student, Stephanie Bullock, and died a few months after

Stephanie's graduation in 1999.

I tell that story because it reminds us of the legacy of community service and philanthropy that have always been at the heart of the black community. There is no way we could have survived the hardships of slavery, Jim Crow, the Great Depression and the Great Recession without leaning on one another — whether that meant assisting travellers on the Underground Railroad, or sharing food with an out-of-work neighbor. Giving back has always been front and center in the African American experience.

The Black church has led the way. Community "Giving Circles," where individuals collectively pool their resources and decide what projects to fund, are on the rise. And for years, philanthropic organizations such as the National Urban League, National Black United Fund and the United Negro College Fund, have been providing critical and in some cases, life-saving, assistance to millions of African Americans. A new generation of African American philanthropists is also making a difference — people like Oprah Winfrey, Bill Cosby, and Alphonse Fletcher are empowering the most vulnerable to dream and create better tomorrows.

As we enter the holiday season, we should draw strength from that well-spring of compassion. And we should remember, while public protest has its place, these African Americans that have walked through the doors of opportunity and achieved economic success have an absolute responsibility to make a difference, and to give back. Neither do you have to be a college graduate. And giving back can be in the form of time and talent as well as money. Occupy the Hood with whatever gifts you have. As Oseola McCarty put it, "If you want to be proud of yourself, you have got to do things you can be proud of."



Open to the Public

Seabrook Schoolhouse

Seabrook Schoolhouse, 6116 Seabrook Road, Lanham, MD 20706?301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544. The Seabrook Schoolhouse was built in 1896 by the residents of the Seabrook community and provided education for grades one through eight until the early 1950s. This one-room schoolhouse is one of the few surviving one-room schoolhouses in Prince George's. The building is unique in that it was built to resemble the Victorian Gothic architectural style of the cottages that were originally built in the community. The schoolhouse has been restored and continues its legacy of education. It is open for tours by appointment and features a multi-faceted, overall program that includes interpretive exhibits and artifacts and programs. For further information, call Marietta House Museum at 301-464-5291. Seabrook Schoolhouse is available for tours the first Friday of every month from 11 am-3 pm and by appointment. Call Marietta House Museum at 301-464-5291 for more information. Admission: \$3/adults, \$2/seniors, \$1/ages 5-18, Free for 4 & under

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



"The Worst Feeling"

"Being hungry is possibly the worst feeling anyone could ever experience, and honestly, when you're hungry, you can't be productive, and you can't really do anything. And I just remember, sometimes in school I would definitely be hungry," said 17-year-old New York City high school senior Ninaad Dave. During the recession, his father had to close the small business he'd successfully run for 25 years but found another job after nearly nine months of unemployment. "Now, when I am able to have a nice meal or eat, I'm just always thankful that there is food on the table, there is food in my stomach. I'm just always considerate, and I always think back when I was hungry and how privileged all of us are to eat."

So many American families, including my own, celebrate Thanksgiving Day with a traditional feast and an overabundance of food. In many homes, the sight of a table with enough food for everyone to eat and to get seconds and even thirds is actually nothing special. The tablecloths and menu might be a little fancier on Thanksgiving but every night there's something in the house for dinner and everyone goes to bed full. For some families Thanksgiving may be the only meal of the year where they pause long enough before eating to truly give thanks for the food in front of them. But for millions of our neighbors—including Ninaad Dave and children like him—they cannot always count on the next meal.

Sixteen million U.S. households are food insecure—struggling to afford food their family needs. With record numbers of families living in poverty and unemployed and food prices increasing, one in seven Americans rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or food stamps. The overwhelming majority—three quarters—are families with children. The latest data showed that in August nearly 46 million Americans relied on food stamps to eat—the 37th straight month the num-

ber has increased, and the highest number since food stamps began in 1939. These families do not take any meals for granted.

Like so many American children, Ninaad knows what it's like to feel hungry. He recently told the Children's Defense Fund, "I've always tried to do what I could to help my family out and achieve the American dream." For most of his childhood, that meant being helpful with his mother's health problems at home and a good student at school. But when his father was struggling to keep his business afloat and it became harder for his family to make ends meet, Ninaad found a new way to help: "It was very visible that the business wasn't doing as well. So I would just try to help alleviate the problem by just making a note to eat at school, to take advantage of school meal programs, eat breakfast at school in the morning, eat school lunch, and then come home and have just, you know, a small meal...I just felt that there should be enough food to go around for everyone, and that my dad was just doing the best he could, so I shouldn't have to be burdensome." After his father

became unemployed, Ninaad really learned what it was like to go hungry—"possibly the worst experience anybody could ever go through."

On December 14th, Ninaad is being celebrated by the Children's Defense Fund-New York City's Beat the Odds® program as one of five exceptional high school students who have overcome tremendous challenges to excel academically and give back to their community. They will receive a scholarship, college counseling, a laptop computer, and an invitation to join CDF's youth leadership training ladder to help pave the road to college and a successful adulthood.

Hunger and food insecurity are particularly devastating for children and Ninaad and millions of young people like him will never forget how it feels to be hungry. Proper nutrition is essential to a child's health, development, and well-being. Hunger and poor nutrition are linked to low birthweight and birth defects, obesity, mental and dental health problems, and poor education outcomes. We know safety net programs like

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

O'Malley Kicks Off Historic India Trade Mission Four Maryland Companies Sign Agreements with Indian Partners

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (November, 2011) – Governor Martin O'Malley and First Lady Katie O'Malley kicked off an historic trade mission to India, arriving earlier in Hyderabad with a delegation of more than 100 Maryland business leaders, educators and elected officials – the largest-ever trade mission delegation from Maryland. Governor O'Malley and the delegation will spend two days in Hyderabad, then travel to Mumbai and New Delhi to boost two-way trade and investment and promote Maryland as an ideal location for Indian companies looking to establish U.S. operations, particularly in life sciences, technology and aerospace and defense. The six-day mission will wrap up with a visit to the Taj Mahal. Governor O'Malley is the first sitting Governor from Maryland to lead a trade mission to India.

"While Maryland and India have a long history of trade, this mission will help open new doors for investment, for both Maryland businesses looking to enter or expand in Indian markets, and for Indian companies looking to enter U.S. markets by locating in Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "We are pleased to promote our State as the gateway to doing business in the U.S. and to seek opportunities to partner in our innovation and technology sectors."

As part of today's events, Governor O'Malley joined Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy to discuss their intentions to sign the first Sister State agreement between Maryland and India. Andhra Pradesh is India's fourth largest state and the country's center for information technology, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. An agreement would strengthen India's partnership with Maryland and commit the two regions to working together on matters of business and industry, culture and arts, and education and health.

The Governor also witnessed signings between four Maryland businesses and their Indian partners. ANGARAI, a Greenbelt-based management consulting firm specializing in project management, oversight and business transformation solutions and one

of Prince George's County's fastest growing small businesses, signed an agreement with CI, a technology product development company based in Chennai, to pursue opportunities in mobile and web applications, potentially opening up an office in Maryland. The second signing was between Rockville-based Sheladia Associates, an engineering, architecture and development company and two Indian firms – M/S Sai Matarani Toll Ways Ltd. and Gayatri Projects Ltd. Sheladia will provide design and project management services valued at \$3.7 million for upgrading the Panikoili – Rimouli Section of National Highway 215 to a 4 Lane facility in the State of Orissa. A third signing involved an MOU between Maryland-based DataNet Systems Corp. in and RT-MediBus Technologies and the Health Management and Research Institute in Hyderabad to create MediHelp, a 24-hour/seven day a week health care helpline that can help screen minor ailments and illnesses and reduce the overall cost of public healthcare. The call center would be located in Prince George's County. In addition, Amarex, a Germantown-based clinical research organization, signed an agreement with Gaithersburg's Shreis Scalene Sciences LLC to gain FDA approval for the medical device Cytotron, which uses a patented technology to treat regenerative and degenerative diseases such as cancer, osteoarthritis and multiple sclerosis. The device was invented and developed by Dr. Rajah Vijay Kumar, Chairman of Scalene Cybernetics in Bangalore, a technology and equity partner of Shreis Scalene Sciences.

"It is an honor to represent the residents and businesses of Prince George's County, Maryland on Governor O'Malley's trade mission to India," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "I am here alongside our County's economic development experts and 12 County businesses to extend our collective hand to the Indian business community. We see this as a unique opportunity to promote Prince George's County, Maryland as a ready business partner, a source of investment opportunities, and a gateway to the State of Maryland and our neighbor,



Governor O'Malley joined Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy to discuss their intentions to sign the first Sister State agreement between Maryland and India.

Washington D.C." "This trip represents a continuation of Montgomery County's reaching out in the global economy," said Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett. "Our emphasis remains on the cutting edge of biotechnology and the life sciences in terms of attracting investment, business, and good jobs."

"With the signing of the MOU with CI, ANGARAI has a great opportunity to make significant leap in the Project Management, Oversight & Business Transformation solutions that we offer by leveraging technology expertise and bandwidth that CI provides," said Venkat Subramanian, President and CEO, ANGARAI. "This will bring significant value to our customers and would tremendous help in bringing efficiency and effectiveness to their processes. Further, it will help us to grow thus creating more job opportunities, development and growth for our country and Maryland and Prince George's County in particular."

Earlier Governor O'Malley also gave a keynote address at a meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industries, one of India's oldest and largest business groups with a direct membership of more than 8,100 organizations from the private as well as public sectors, and an indirect membership of over 90,000 companies from around 400 national and regional associations. The First Lady met with the advocate general for Andhra Pradesh to discuss the possibility of establishing a Rule of Law partnership with Maryland.

In 2010, India was Maryland's

12th largest export market with \$233 million in goods and services, and was the State's 13th largest import market, with more than \$465 million. As of September, Maryland exports to India were valued at over \$192 million, representing an 18 percent increase over the same period in 2010. In the first nine months of this year, the Port of Baltimore saw \$341 million in trade to and from India compared with \$229 million from the same time frame in 2010 – a 49 percent increase.

In addition to Maryland's trade office in India, which opened in 2009, the State also recently opened foreign offices in Russia and Colombia to attract foreign-owned companies to Maryland and encourage trade opportunities. The offices, which are opened on a contingency basis with no up-front cost to taxpayers, are part of the State's network of foreign offices which also include China (Shanghai), France (Paris), Israel (Haifa), South Korea (Seoul), Taiwan (Taipei), Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City) and the Western Balkans (Montenegro).

Maryland's Office of International Investment and Trade works to stimulate foreign direct investment in the State, offers export assistance for small and mid-sized Maryland companies and coordinates international trade and investment missions and trade show opportunities for Maryland companies. For more information on resources available to business that want to market their products or services globally, visit:

www.choosemaryland.org

Marriage from A1

Alliance is led by Pastor Derek McCoy, executive director of the Maryland Family Alliance.

Coalition members say that changing the definition of marriage would impede on religious freedoms.

"It is not discrimination to treat fundamentally different things differently," said Deacon Douglas A1 Turner, director of the Office of Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Washington. The issue of same-sex marriage has been heavily debated in Maryland and around the nation for the past few years.

During the 2010 legislative session, several bills were introduced that opposed same-sex

marriage. One bill invalidated same-sex marriages that were entered into legally in other states or countries. A second bill would have essentially brought the question of same-sex marriage to Maryland voters. Both bills failed.

In 2011, a bill to legalize same-sex marriage passed in the Maryland Senate. Many expected the bill would pass without problems through the House, which is traditionally more liberal than the Senate. However, pressure from constituents and religious groups caused several delegates to have doubts, and the bill ultimately failed.

The defeat of the same-sex marriage bill in the 2011 session galvanized both sides of

the debate.

"When it became more obvious that the threat was real, the faith community and other supporters of marriage rose up," said Pastor Victor Kirk of Sharon Bible Fellowship in Lanham, and a representative of the Prince George's Baptist Ministers Association.

Proponents have also been organizing support.

Groups such as Marylanders for Marriage Equality, a coalition of political, religious and community groups, are working to legalize same-sex marriage. Members of Marylanders for Marriage Equality include the Baltimore chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Equality Maryland and

community members who support same-sex marriage.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan research group, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and the District of Columbia have all legalized same-sex marriage. California is in the midst of a legal battle over same-sex marriage.

Maryland Marriage Alliance members say that the near success of the bill last year has made some same-sex marriage supporters feel like passage is all but inevitable next year.

"We have something to say about that inevitability, and with all humility let me say, bring it on," Kirk said.

Business Exchange by William Reed



Power Radio

The National Women's History Museum recently honored African-American radio maven Cathy Hughes. The founder and chairperson of Radio One Inc., was feted at the museum's Christine de Pizan Awards in Washington D.C. where Hughes received the "Ida B. Wells-Barnett Living Legacy Award" for her accomplishments in media and communications. The Christine de Pizan honors celebrate the legend of pioneering American women by showcasing their achievements alongside the contributions of their modern-day counterparts.

Catherine Elizabeth Woods (later Hughes) represents the great American success story in the mold and model of Ida B. Wells. As founder and chair of Radio One, Inc. the nation's largest African-American owned and operated broadcast-company, Hughes is a powerful voice on behalf of Blacks. Hughes and son Alfred Liggins are Black media's power couple. Radio One Inc. is the parent corporation of TV One, Syndication One and Reach One. Each of their media entities reaches millions of listeners daily. The National Women's History Museum affirms the value of knowing women's history and says Hughes was made a de Pizan award recipient because "Radio One continues to expand its media presence based on the spirit of family and commitment to the community."

Hughes and the Radio One Family deserve recognition for their advocacy and leadership. Both have served as stalwarts for the causes of people of color. She was born in 1947 in Omaha, Neb., and grew up in a Black-housing project. She became pregnant at age 16 and subsequently gave birth to her son, Alfred Liggins, Jr. But, her marriage only lasted two years and soon she was raising her child alone. Her family were pillars in Omaha's Black community. Her career in radio began in 1969 at KOWH radio station. In 1971, she got a job as an administrative assistant with Tony Brown at Howard University. Brown was a noted commentator who founded the institution's School of Communications. Brown transferred her to the university's radio station, WHUR-FM. By 1975 she had become the station's vice president and general manager. Under her guidance WHUR increased its

annual revenues. In 1979, she and then-husband, Dewey Hughes purchased WOL-AM, a small Washington, D.C. radio station. Her marriage to Hughes ended shortly after the station's purchase casting her once again in the role of single mother. Soon hard times forced Hughes and her son, to give up their apartment and move into the station. Due to Hughes' determination, over time, WOL began turning a profit. In 1986, the station turned its first profit, and the following year, Hughes purchased her second station, WMMJ-FM, for \$7.5 million.

Radio One went on to purchase 70 radio stations across America. In 1995, the son Hughes raised singlehandedly earned his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious Wharton School of Business. In 1999 Hughes' time and energy paid off. Radio One became a publicly traded company with Liggins as CEO and president and Hughes as chairperson. In January 2004, Radio One launched TV One, a national cable and satellite television network that is the "lifestyle and entertainment network for African-American adults." Hughes interviews prominent personalities in the entertainment industry, for the network's talk program TV One on One. Liggins reported Radio One's 3rd Quarter 2011 revenues as \$104.4 million. Hughes' dedication to minority communities, entrepreneurial spirit and mentoring are manifested in her work and life. She has been immortalized in the Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore. She received McDonald's 2011 365 Black Awards for "influencing and inspiring greatness."

Hughes is a role model for African Americans and single mothers. Hughes not only has opened doors and opportunities for them; she strives to keep them open. Last year President Obama tapped her to chair the U.S. Small Business Administration's Council on Underserved Communities to promote agency initiatives that help minority entrepreneurs. The 20-member advisory council includes professionals who provide recommendations on how the council can strengthen businesses in underserved communities. Hughes' successes are the results of acts and attention she's devoted to the development and growth of "underserved

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"The Muppets"

"THE MUPPETS"
A-
Rated PG for mild rude
humor.
1 hr., 38 min.

The premise of "The Muppets" is that this hard, cynical world needs the gentle-but-firm humor and optimism of the Muppets. If you doubt this is true, I suggest you watch "The Muppets," a movie that winningly makes the case for its own existence.

It's also a movie that's well aware of the Muppets' current position in pop culture: fondly remembered by those of us who were kids in the '70s and '80s, but mostly unknown to today's youngsters. (The "Sesame Street" Muppets don't count.) Nostalgia plays a significant part in the film, both overtly -- the plot centers on the Muppets' attempt to remind people that they love the Muppets -- and as subtext: we know that the human star and co-writer, 31-year-old Jason Segel, grew up with the Muppets and has long dreamed of making a movie with them. So while this is technically a children's movie, the real target audience is the millions of adults who feel the same way Segel does.

But hey, kids, don't worry if your parents drag you to see this. I bet you'll like it almost as much as they do.

Segel plays Gary, a resident of Smalltown, U.S.A., who grew up watching "The Muppet Show" and the Muppet films of the early '80s. (We don't speak of "Muppet Christmas Carol,"

"Muppet Treasure Island," or "Muppets from Space.") Gary's brother, Walter (voiced by Peter Linz), shares his affinity for the fuzzy creatures, and looks suspiciously like one of them. While taking a tour of the Muppets' dilapidated old theater in Los Angeles, Gary and Walter, accompanied by Gary's long-suffering girlfriend Mary (Amy Adams), learn that the place will be torn down by a greedy oilman named Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) unless someone can come up with \$10 million to save it.

You know what that means: Gary, Walter, and Mary must reunite the disbanded Muppets and help them put on a show! Segel and his co-writer, Nicholas Stoller (who directed him in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall"), have thus found an ingenious way of bringing the Muppets back to us without it feeling like someone at Disney just wanted to relaunch a cash cow. The movie acknowledges the group's history, acknowledges that a lot of time has passed, and gives the characters a logical reason to reunite and do a version of their old TV show. And if this reunion of theirs should happen to spark renewed interest in the Muppets, well, they'd probably be willing to make more movies....

I'll leave it for you to discover the specifics of how Kermit, Fozzie, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, and the rest get back together, what they've been doing in the meantime, what unresolved issues they have with each other. As in



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

On vacation in Los Angeles, Walter, the world's biggest Muppet fan, and his friends Gary (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams) from Smalltown, USA, discover the nefarious plan of oilman Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) to raze the Muppet Theater and drill for the oil recently discovered beneath the Muppets' former stomping grounds. To stage The Greatest Muppet Telethon Ever and raise the \$10 million needed to save the theater, Walter, Mary and Gary help Kermit reunite the Muppets, who have all gone their separate ways:

the Muppet capers of yore, there are road trips, montages, celebrity cameos, self-referential jokes, and musical numbers. The new songs were written by Bret McKenzie, from "Flight of the Conchords," and abound with catchy tunes and rhyming wordplay. (The film's director, James Bobin, worked on the "Conchords" TV show.) I particularly enjoyed the opening number, "Life's a Happy Song," if my inability to stop humming it is any indication. It's unabashedly cheerful, cleverly self-aware without being smug, and simple, funny, and sweet -- which means it sets the tone for the whole movie.

The humans and their subplots don't add a lot, but they

don't detract much, either. When the Muppets are the focus (which is 90 percent of the movie), they radiate magical, unfiltered joy. These characters manage to be edgy and innocent, satiric and kind, grown-up and childlike, all at once. That's how we remember them, and that's how Segel, Stoller, Bobin, and the talented puppeteers present them. Most of the gags are genuinely funny and most of the sentiment genuinely endearing -- enough so that when a joke misfires or a moment feels mawkish, we readily overlook it. I freely admit that I brought plenty of Muppet adoration with me into the theater. I was overjoyed when the movie earned it anyway.

Tribes from A1

sive and time consuming because it requires hiring historians to obtain records from more than two centuries ago.

The Accohannock Indian Tribe, which has submitted a petition that is currently under review, paid almost \$250,000 over the past 18 years to gather the information required, according to the tribe's chief, Rudy Laughing Otter Hall.

"We are the only minority in the country that has to prove who they are," he said.

The regulations for obtaining federal recognition require the tribe to identify itself as a Native American tribe that has continuously existed since before 1900, as opposed to 1790 in Maryland. Federally recognized tribes follow a different set of regulations and are eligible to receive services from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

This difference between the two sets of regulations prompted state lawmakers to introduce two bills that would allow tribes that can prove they have continuously existed since 1900 instead of 1790 to obtain state recognition. Neither of the bills passed the General Assembly in 2009.

In 1995, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe submitted a petition to the Governor's Commission on Indian Affairs. In 1996, the commission determined the petition satisfied the criteria set forth in the regulations and recommended that the governor grant the petition, according to a letter sent to the Governor's Commission on Indian Affairs from the Attorney General's office. The petition did not reach

the governor's desk until 2003, when it was denied. The petition was subject to review by the Secretary of Housing and Community Development when it was originally submitted in 1995, which delayed the transmission of the petition to the Governor. That step has since been eliminated from the process.

Former Gov. Bob Ehrlich denied the petition on the grounds that it did not provide documentation that the tribe was a continuous Native American community from before 1790 to the time of the petition, according to the letter from the Attorney General's office.

Rico Newman, a member of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe said this was an unrealistic expectation because Native Americans during that period were illiterate. Instead, that information would have to be found in government records from that period.

"You're relying on getting information from somebody looking to do their worst to you," he said, referring to past conflicts between Native Americans and the United States.

Newman said the tribe would not submit another petition.

"We have no intention of resubmitting the petition," he said. "What we are pushing for is for the state to review what happened the first time."

Newman said that misconceptions about state recognition and gaming stood in the way of Native American tribes seeking state recognition.

"It was another thing that just dragged us down," he said. "We could not discuss Native

American state recognition without somebody focusing on gaming."

Establishing gaming, however, is only permissible for federally recognized Native American tribes with land, and the tribe must first sign a contract with the state, Newman said.

Due to the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, only members of state or federally recognized Native American tribes can market their arts and crafts as "Indian made," according to the Department of the Interior. A 2010 amendment to the act gives a possible fine of up to \$25,000 to first-time small-scale violators. Businesses or large scale violators could be fined up to \$100,000.

While the law was designed to protect Native Americans, it has made attracting visitors more difficult for unregistered tribes.

Roz Racanello, the executive director of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area

Consortium, thinks that giving Native American tribes in Maryland state recognition could help with tourism.

"The interest in our own natural native heritage is very strong," she said. "It would certainly help heritage tourism in Maryland."

Most active Native Americans in Maryland live normal lives and work normal jobs, but some meet regularly to hold ceremonies and practice their culture.

"We are mostly focused on keeping our traditions and our culture from disappearing" said Neale. "We're not trying to make money or entertain anyone."

Neale is living temporarily on the 3.5-acre property that a farmer donated to his tribe. The tribe uses the property to farm traditional Native American plants and hold its ceremonies.

"A lot of our life isn't in the spotlight," he said. "We're still Indians and we're still doing our thing, but nobody tends to care."

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Two Scandals, One Connection: The FBI link between Penn State and UC Davis

Two shocking scandals. Two esteemed universities. Two disgraced university leaders. One stunning connection. Over the last month, we've seen Penn State University President Graham Spanier dismissed from his duties and we've seen UC Davis Chancellor Linda Katehi pushed to the brink of resignation. Spanier was jettisoned because of what appears to be a systematic cover-up of assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky's serial child rape. Katehi has faced calls to resign after she sent campus police to blast pepper spray in the faces of her peaceably assembled students, an act for which she claims "full responsibility." The university's Faculty Association has since voted for her ouster citing a "gross failure of leadership." The names Spanier and Katehi are now synonymous with the worst abuses of institutional power. But their connection didn't begin there. In 2010, Spanier chose Katehi to join an elite team of 20 college Presidents on what's called the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board, which "promotes discussion and outreach between research universities and the FBI."

Spanier said upon the group's founding in 2005, "The National Security Higher Education Advisory Board promises to help universities and government work toward a balanced and rational approach that will allow scientific research and education to progress and our nation to remain safe." He also said that the partnership could help provide "internships" to faculty and students interested in "National Security issues."

FBI chief Robert Mueller said at a press conference with Spanier, "We knew it would not be necessarily an easy sell because of the perceived tension between law enforcement and academia. But once we've briefed President Spanier on the national security threats that impact all of you here at Penn State and at other universities, it became clear to all of us why this partnership is so important."

But the reality of this partnership is far different. Its original mandate was about protecting schools from "cyber theft" and "intellectual property issues." But, as has been true with the FBI since Hoover, give them a foothold, and they'll take off their shoes and get cozy. Their classified mandate has since expanded to such euphemisms as "counter-terrorism" and "public safety." It also expanded federal anti-terrorism task forces to include the dark-helmeted, pepper-spray brigades, otherwise known as the campus police.

As Wired magazine put it in 2007, "Presidents are being advised to think like 'Cold War-riars' and be mindful of professors and students who may not be on campus for purposes of learning but, instead, for spying, stealing research and recruiting people who are sympathetic to an anti-U.S. cause."

Chancellor Katehi said in 2010 that despite these concerns, she was proud to join the NSHEA because, "It's important for us to learn from the FBI about the smartest, safest protocols to follow as we do our work, and it is equally important that the FBI has a solid understanding of matters of academic freedom." has accepted an appointment to serve on the board."

Sacramento's FBI Special Agent in Charge, Drew Parenti, praised her involvement, saying, "The FBI's partnership with higher education is a key component in our strategy of staying ahead of national security threats from our foreign adversaries.... we are very pleased that Chancellor Katehi has accepted an appointment to serve on the board."

As for the actual meetings between the presidents of academic institutions and the FBI, those discussions are classified. If you are a rabble-rousing faculty member or a student group stepping out of line, your school records can become the FBI's business and you'd be none the wiser.

Chris Ott, from the Massachusetts ACLU, said of the NSHEA, "The FBI is asking university faculty, staff, and students to create a form of neighborhood watch against anything that is so called 'suspicious.' What kinds of things are they going to report on? Who has the right to be snitching? One of the scary things is who [on the campuses] will take it upon themselves to root out spies?"

In the wake of the scandals that have enveloped and now destroyed the careers of Spanier and Katehi, the very existence of the NCHEA should now be called to question. Given the personal character on display by these two individuals, why should anyone trust that the classified meetings have stayed in the realm of "cyber theft" and intellectual property rights? What did the FBI tell Chancellor Katehi about how to deal with the peacefully assembled Occupiers? Was "counter-terrorism" advice given on how to handle her own students?

As for Spanier, how much of Sandusky's actions at Penn State, which were documented on campus but never shared with the local police, was the FBI privy to? Why did the school hire former FBI director Louis Freeh to head up their internal investigation? Does that in fact represent a conflict of interest? And most critically, did the "chilling effect" of a sanctioned FBI presence at Penn State, actually prevent people from coming forward?

When Spanier was asked in 2005, if he was concerned about whether a formal partnership with the FBI would cause objections he said, "If there is an issue on my campus, I'd like to be the first person to hear about it, not the last." In the context of recent events, it's probably best to let those words speak for themselves. But fear not for the futures of these two stewards of higher education and academic freedom. Maybe Spanier's can put his experience as a federal informant to good use from inside a federal prison. As for Katehi, if, as suspected, she'll be unemployed shortly, perhaps she can take advantage of one of those fabulous internship opportunities having the FBI on campus provides.

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Calendar of Events

December 8 - December 14, 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

PUBLICLY PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publicly 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.

EARTH TALK ... Green holiday gifts

Dear EarthTalk:

I would like to make my holiday gifts matter this year. Where can I find ideas for green gifts?

- Mary Baumgartner,
via e-mail

The holidays are a great time of year to share your enthusiasm for protecting the environment with family and friends. One meaningful gift—a fashion-forward t-shirt from Rain Tees—can help fight environmental destruction far away while raising awareness here at home. Every Rain Tee is hand-made in the U.S. from eco-friendly fabrics and features original artwork created by children living in countries facing rampant deforestation. For every t-shirt the company sells, proceeds help the cause and Rain Tees' charity partner, Trees for the Future, will plant a tree in a critically endangered part of the world.

Another way to link your gifting and philanthropic tendencies is to donate to the Paradigm Project to help purchase clean burning stoves for poor families in Africa. Your donation goes toward reducing deforestation and respiratory disease in a developing country, and the Paradigm Project will send you a unique holiday ornament in exchange.

Many other non-profits also provide holiday season incentives to donate to their causes in the name of a friend or loved one. To wit, the NRDC's Green Gifts website offers dozens of gift opportunities related to various

campaigns the organization is conducting around the world. By donating through the Green Gifts program, you and your gift recipient can help defend polar bears, protect clean water, revive rainforests or promote renewable energy, among other options. Similar land and species "adoption" programs that can be leveraged as holiday gifts are available from groups such as the Nature Conservancy, WWF, Defenders of Wildlife and the Whale Museum.

If not spending money is a priority this holiday season, you can make artwork or functional items out of leftover materials otherwise headed for the trash can or recycling bin. Handmade gifts in any form are always appreciated and will likely be cherished for much longer than anything store-bought.

But if making your own presents isn't your thing, a wide range of green gifts, large and small, can be found online. Some companies that specialize in fairly traded, sustainably sourced gift-worthy items include The Hunger Site Store, Branch, Low Impact Living, BGreen Apparel, A Greener Kitchen, Green Heart and Organic Bug, among many others. And once you've completed your green shopping, wrap up your gifts in the festive designs of Earth Presents, which sells 100 percent recycled/recyclable gift wraps. For still more ideas on where to source that perfect green gift, check out the website of the non-profit Green America, which provides links



CREDIT: ORGANIC BUG

A wide range of green gifts can be obtained from nonprofit organizations that use the proceeds to fund important work and from green companies, easily found online, that sell recycled, recyclable or otherwise sustainably sourced and produced merchandise. Pictured: Organic Bug's Tree of Life recycled metal folk art.

on its website to dozens of firms that sell sustainable wares.

No doubt it feels good to go green over the holidays, given the excess we typically associate with gift-giving. And given the poor state of the economy, it makes sense to give gifts that will last, whether they involve furthering important environmental work or providing items that haven't caused unnecessary environmental destruction in their manufacture and that won't break down once the holidays are over.

CONTACTS: Rain Tees, www.raintees.com;

Paradigm Project, www.theparadigmproject.org ; NRDC Green Gifts, www.nrdcgreengifts.org;

Nature Conservancy's Holiday Giving, support.nature.org/site/PageServer?pagename=holidaygiving_xx_hgg;

WWF Gift Center, www.worldwildlife.org/gift-center/;

Whale Museum's Orca Adoption Program, www.whale-museum.org/programs/orcadoptio/orcadoptio.html;

Green America, www.greenamerica.org.

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Budget from A1

downgrading of the nation's credit rating this summer.

"This was doable, and the American people are justified in being disappointed that the supercommittee could not put aside partisan differences to seek a compromise," Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md. -- who called himself an optimist last week -- said Monday.

Supercommittee member Chris Van Hollen, D-Kensington, blamed the Republicans. They were unwilling to budge on taxes, he said, and presented a plan that did nothing for jobs creation. Some Republicans on the panel knew their plan lacked balance yet failed to compromise.

Republicans, including Maryland Rep. Andy Harris, R-Cockeysville, said Democrats are at fault for pushing tax increases over spending cuts.

As Thanksgiving approaches, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., said Marylanders see uncooperative congressman as "turkeys."

For Maryland, which is heavily dependent on federal and defense work, trigger cuts could hit the pocketbook.

Salad from A1

survey found a 15 percent obesity rate among children in the Women, Infants and Children program between ages 2 and 5, and an 18 percent overweight rate among children in the same age group.

It's no secret that good nutrition is important, especially to young children, but as Executive Chef Robert Hedetniemi from the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center said, "Some difficulties or barriers exist that restrict schools' and families' access to quality fresh foods."

Denzel Mitchell, founder of Five Seed Farms, a sustainable farm in northeast Baltimore, who also helps with the nutrition program at Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School, said the school's salad bar isn't set up yet because "there's no produce" and the rules set by the school district make it difficult to start the salad bar.

"There needs to be a connection between production and

Military bases accounted for 3.4 percent of the total job pool in Maryland and employed about 118,000 workers, before BRAC realignment, which increased these numbers, according to the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

War spending is protected, but military contracts and civilian personnel could be on the chopping block.

Mike Hayes, a retired brigadier general and director of Military and Federal Affairs for the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development said Maryland's military installations tend to have specialized missions like medical research, intelligence and cybersecurity that make them less likely to face cuts compared to bases in Texas, North Carolina and California.

"The bottom line is I think the uniqueness of missions associated with the installations in Maryland insulates us from cuts," Hayes said.

But cuts to contractors focused on weapons systems may be deeper, though these have already been set in motion, Hayes said.

Taken broadly, the potential

consequences of sweeping automatic cuts have been called "catastrophic" by budget experts. The point of the supercommittee was to find a balance of tax increases and cuts to develop a deficit reduction plan that wouldn't shock the economy.

That didn't happen.

"I think it's going to be absolute chaos," said Scott Lilly, a former Democratic staffer and former staff director of the House Appropriations Committee, now senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. "Pandemonium and massive unintended effects."

Agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service and Federal Bureau of Prisons could face massive staff cuts, he said. This not only affects the employees directly but affects the ability of the government to deliver services.

Programs like Social Security and Medicaid will be safe from trigger cuts. But Medicare is not.

Payments made through the program to hospitals and other care providers could be reduced by 2 percent. This is not a cut to actual services, but rather a cut

to what the government pays for them.

"The value of Medicare reimbursement has been eroding for many years," said Neil Bergsman, director of the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute. While 2 percent isn't a major cut, he said it could eventually lead some doctors to stop accepting Medicare patients.

Joseph DeMattos, president of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland, put it more bluntly.

"Ultimately, any cut to Medicare -- any cut -- is a cut to Medicare beneficiaries," said DeMattos, who is former senior state director for the American Association of Retired Persons.

For Maryland, budget analysts say the numbers are still up in the air. Congress may find some way to avoid the cuts, but partisan bickering has so far led to nothing more than a series of stalemates and missed deadlines, even as Americans struggle to find work in a dismal economy.

"I tend to think that somehow they're going to undo sequestration," said Lilly, "and we'll end up with nothing."

sive letters arguing for why the school needed the salad bar, which Schou said worked well, but "the bureaucratic process of getting a salad bar was definitely difficult."

Since the school started offering fresh produce to its students, Principal Angela Funya said the impact has been great.

"We continue to educate the students about the choices they can make about food."

The fourth school also awarded a salad bar grant was Gwynn Park High School in Prince George's County, but the salad bar is not yet set up.

The idea of having a salad bar in the school has been widely accepted by many staff members and students, but there are also other schools in Maryland waiting for salad bar grants.

Midtown Academy in Baltimore City could not be reached, but Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville applied for a grant, and is waiting for donations to match the grant of \$2,500 so it can upgrade its existing salad bar.

"We already have a healthy

lunch program, but we're trying to add more vegetables and fruits," Development Director Jennifer Zuckerman said.

The school has not advertised to the community to receive donations due to other priorities, but the school has been slowly upgrading the salad bar without grant money. Zuckerman said the academy is still interested in pursuing the grant, and it wants community support to be able to continue offering greater choices to its students.

"It's a kosher diet, so it's expensive to get the food," said Zuckerman.

Despite the advantages a fresh produce option provides students, Chef Sheila Crye from Young Chefs Inc. is quick to point out some of the negative aspects of having salad bars in schools.

"When hundreds of students use the same serving spoons," she said, there's a likelihood of spreading germs, and some students may be more susceptible to catching "E. Coli, Listeria, etc. from raw produce."

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Van Hollen from A4

deductions and preserving the current low rates on capital gains, would increase the tax burden on many middle-income families and give the superwealthy a massive tax cut.

Overall, the Republican tax proposal fell nearly \$2 trillion short of the revenue raised in Simpson-Bowles and, in comparison, increased the deficit by \$500 billion.

While zealously guarding tax breaks for the highest earners, Republicans refused a Democratic proposal to temporarily extend and increase the payroll tax holiday for all working

Americans next year. As a result, in January every U.S. worker will face a tax hike — at a time when consumer demand is likely to remain weak and the economy fragile. Republicans also rejected Democratic proposals to use some of the savings generated from our deficit-reduction plan to finance immediate job creation efforts and extend unemployment compensation to people out of work through no fault of their own.

When measured against the bipartisan standard set by Simpson-Bowles, supercommittee Democrats made every effort to move to the middle and put forward a deficit-reduction plan that met the

test of balance. Republican proposals, however, fell far short, relying totally upon spending cuts and achieving \$1 trillion less in total deficit reduction.

After weeks of intense talks, the failure to break the political gridlock is disappointing. We can no longer afford to punt on the difficult choices that we have been elected to address. The path to a balanced and fair solution is clear — but unless both sides are prepared to muster the political will, we cannot get there.

The writer is a Democratic representative from Maryland and ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

Child Watch from A4

food stamps, WIC—the Women, Infants and Children—nutrition program, summer feeding and school food programs work to combat child hunger. In the current recession they have proved to be indispensable lifelines for the millions of jobless families with no cash income in our rich nation.

During this Thanksgiving week, I hope those political

leaders who refuse to invest in creating new jobs to help struggling families while protecting tax breaks for the richest Americans and corporations and refuse to ask the privileged to contribute their fair share in this difficult economic period will reflect on what their and America's true values are. I believe it's morally unconscionable that the rich should keep getting richer while the poor get poorer—and hungrier.

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

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

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