

The Prince George's Post



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Md. Falls in Providing Resources to Quit Smoking

By EMILY HOOPER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Smokers in Maryland aren't provided enough help to quit, according to a new report by the American Lung Association.

Maryland ranks third from the bottom of all states in providing resources to help smokers quit, according to the Lung Association.

The findings came as a surprise to Maryland health officials, said Frances Phillips, deputy secretary for Public Health Services at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

"We don't think it projects the whole picture of what's going on in Maryland by any means," said Phillips. "Maryland is doing really well, particularly compared to other states."

Maryland has cut the smoking rate more than 30 percent over the last 10 years -- double the national average, according to Vincent DeMarco of Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative. It now has the fifth-lowest smoking rate in the country -- significantly lower than some of the reports' highest ranking states.

For example, Oklahoma, which ranks fourth from the top in resources, has one of the highest smoking rates in the country at 24.7 percent of the adult population. Only 15 percent of Marylanders smoke,

See **SMOKE**, Page A5

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Red Light, Speed Cameras Remain Controversial Even as Numbers Grow

By JESSICA TALSON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - In the 14 years since the Maryland legislature approved red light cameras, about 200 of the ticket-issuing machines have been installed in the state, according to a database compiled by AAA Mid-Atlantic.

That doesn't include speed cameras, which are numerous in Maryland, but for which there is no comprehensive database.

"[The cameras] are effective because they scare people," said Amanda Clark, 29, who has received four red light camera tickets and a speed camera ticket within the last five years. "People don't want to get hit with a [\$40] ticket every day. But sometimes they're placed in the wrong places, like where people don't know the speed limit or if the speed limit changes drastically. But I think they should be in all school zones."

Even after 14 years and hundreds of installed cameras, the debate over automated traffic enforcement continues.

Red light and speed camera supporters argue that they decrease accidents and save lives. Opponents say the cameras operate in questionable legal territory and provide a warped incentive to the private companies that maintain them.

"Cameras reduce crashes. Cameras save lives," said Anne Fleming, senior vice president of communications for the Insurance Institute for

See **CAMERAS**, Page A7

Political Corruption Cyclical and Almost Predictable

Researchers Say Various Conditions in Which it May Arise Can be Identified

By EMAUN KASHFIPOUR
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - Former Prince George's County Councilwoman Leslie Johnson was sentenced to a year and one day in prison on charges of tampering with evidence three days after her husband, former County Executive Jack Johnson, was sentenced to 87 months and other penalties for corruption. Area residents are not surprised.

"Politics is a corrupt game," said Jerome McNeil of Prince George's, who was present at Jack Johnson's sentencing. "In order to be a politician, you have to be corrupt."

But researchers say that sometimes the idea that politics is supposed to be corrupt helps fuel corruption, so much so that corruption almost becomes predictable. A couple of university professors have it down to a set of formulas.

John Duffy, an economics professor at the University of Pittsburgh, and Cristina Bicchieri, a philosophy professor at the University of Pennsylvania, use variables such as the market price of a public work, the amount of a bribe paid to a public official, the social cost of a corrupt action, and other factors to develop equations that help identify when corruption is most likely to occur.

"I don't think you can predict corruption, but you can identify the various conditions in which

it is likely to arise," Duffy said. "There may be periods where corruption isn't visible, but it's slowly building up over time."

Bicchieri and Duffy used game theory to come up with equations that help determine when it becomes beneficial for a politician to receive a bribe or for a contractor to offer the bribe.

Duffy and others say public corruption is almost a cyclical process, and under certain conditions it becomes beneficial to a public official.

"Usually in the aftermath of an outbreak of corruption there is an effort from the regulators to tighten laws regarding corruption and increase enforcement," said Matthew Crenson,

See **CORRUPT**, Page A3



FILE PHOTO
Former County Executive Jack Johnson

Fracking Commission to Recommend Making it Easier for Landowners to Sue

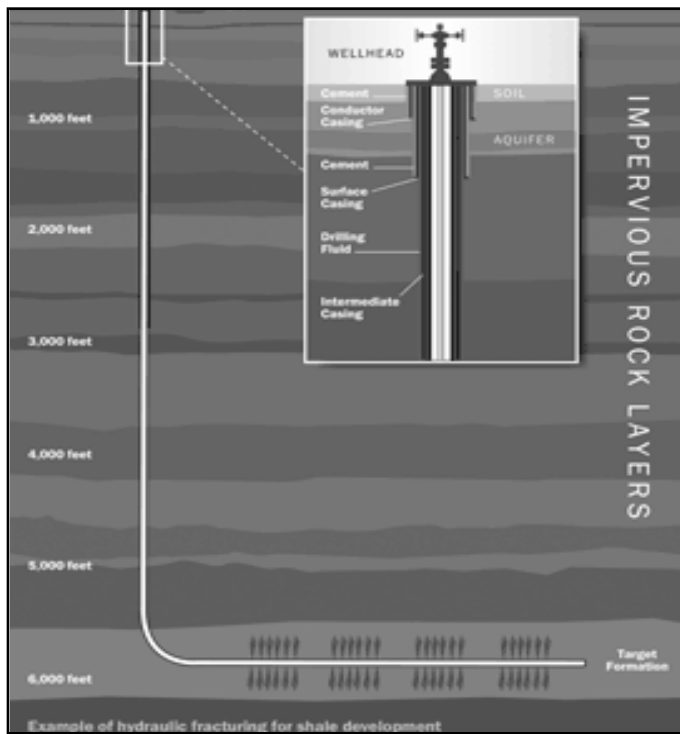
By GREG MASTERS
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - A commission tasked with advising Maryland on possible shale gas production supports a change in the law that would make it easier for landowners to bring claims against drillers regarding water contamination and other damages near hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," sites.

The new law, which commission chair and Towson University professor David Vanko said has "pretty broad support" from the commission, would shift the burden of proof to energy companies by creating a "rebuttable presumption" that drilling activity causes certain kinds of damages occurring close in time and proximity to natural gas operations.

"I think (asymmetry of resources) always has been an issue in litigation, particularly where an aggrieved party, Joe Homeowner, is suing a Fortune 500 company," said Harry Weiss, a lawyer in the Philadelphia-based law firm Ballard Spahr and a member of the advisory commission. Weiss said Pennsylvania already has a similar presumption statute for damages that occur near natural gas operations.

See **FRACKING**, Page A3



Maryland Women's Lacrosse Looks to Rebound from Loss

By SARAH MEEHAN
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - Brittany Dipper isn't dwelling on her last game in goal for the Maryland Women's lacrosse team.

After unexpectedly losing in the NCAA National Championship game earlier this year, she has a new motto: New team, new season.

"We may be young, but we have the depth," said Dipper, who was named national goalie of the year by several lacrosse groups and is one of four pre-season All-Americans on the Terps' 2012 roster. "We have a lot of young girls that are stepping up big time."

Dipper and the team will look to rebound from a near-perfect season that ended in a disappointing fashion. After winning the national championship in 2010 and all but one of their regular season games in 2011, Maryland lost by a goal to Northwestern University in the championship game.

Dipper said she and her teammates are "hoping and planning on being back there."

Jason Murphy, who covers Women's Lacrosse for WMUC Sports, said he has no reason to believe that the Terps aren't capable of getting back to the

See **WOMEN**, Page A3

INSIDE

Spring Registration

Peak registration for spring 2012 semester at Prince George's Community College begins January 9 - 21. In person registration is available in the student services wing of Bladen Hall on the Largo campus, Prince George's Community College at University Town Center and Laurel College Center.
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A Christmas Prayer

God help us to end poverty in our time. The poverty of having a child with too little to eat and no place to sleep, no air, sunlight and space to breathe, bask, and grow. The poverty of watching your child suffer hunger or get sicker and sicker and not knowing what to do or how to get help because ...
Commentary, Page A4

Race to the Top

Hoyer Announces Major Education Grant for Maryland
Maryland was chosen as a winner of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge, a competitive grant program jointly administered by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services
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Movie Review

For a director to make the switch from animation to live-action is no small task. Brad Bird's first flesh-and-blood effort has the best action sequences of any movie this year. "The Iron Giant," "Ratatouille," and "The Incredibles" smooth, masterful action scenes might as well have been for "Mission: Impossible -- Ghost Protocol."
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:
Is it true that asthma rates in the U.S. have doubled in the last three decades? What's behind this troubling trend and what can we do to reverse it?
-- Patrick, via e-mail
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Albert Yeatman, Library of Congress retiree, dies at 83

Albert Edward Yeatman, Jr., of Temple Hills, who was retired from the Library of Congress, died Dec. 15. He was born at the old Sibley Hospital on North Capital and Pearce Streets, NW, grew up in Washington and graduated from McKinley Tech High School.

He was an artist and earned a fine arts degree at Catholic University. Many of his paintings hang in his Temple Hills home.

He met his future wife when both were working for Acacia Insurance on Louisiana Avenue NW. They were married at Nativity Catholic Church in 1958 and moved to Temple Hills in 1964. With proficiency in several languages—including German, Italian, Spanish and ancient classic Greek—he went to work for the Library of Congress, from which he retired in 1993.

He was a longtime member of St. Philip's Parish where he had taught catechism.

Al is survived by his wife of 53 years, Karin M. Yeatman; three children, Victoria and her husband Andrew Limerick, Daniel and his wife Kym, and Kenneth and his wife Lesya; brother, William Yeatman, and sister, Mary Reader; and six grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's Church.

Baby Coles

Clare Therese Coles, daughter of Andrew and Marlen Coles of Waldorf, was baptized at St. Philip's Church on Dec. 18. She was born Sept. 24 at Civista Medical Center, weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Baby Clare is the little sister of Rebecca, 9, Anthony, 6, and Jonathan, 4.

Neighbors

My granddaughter, Leah

Mudd of Laurel, has been inducted into the National Honor Society. She is a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Also a new member of the National Honor Society is Maria DeGraba, a junior at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Montgomery County. She is the granddaughter of longtime Morningsider Martha Kline, daughter of former Morningside Councilwoman Carol DeGraba, and the cousin of current Councilman Kevin Kline.

Father Everett Pearson, pastor of Mt. Calvary Catholic Church in Forestville, recently celebrated his 20th anniversary in the priesthood.

Diane Ruby was hired as St. Philip's parish secretary in January 1979, and is now retiring after 33 years of dedicated service. A large crowd turned out for a reception in her honor on Dec. 18 in the Parish Hall.

Betty Cottrell, of Skyline, has been volunteering at St. Philip's School for the last two years. This year Mrs. Betty—as the children call her—is helping in PreKindergarten 3 and the children are very excited when she arrives. She always has a song to teach them or a great project. This month, she's helping the children make a nativity scene.

Condolences to Jean Bohannon and Ruth Hoehl on the death of their nephew, Tommy Coyle.

Condolences to Gus and Dolores Steinhilber on the death of Gus's brother, Martin Steinhilber.

I've received word that former Morningsider Patrick Macdonald has died. He used to live on Marianne Drive. Can any of you Morningside old-timers give me information about him?

Changing landscape

For more than 20 years Skyline lobbied for a bus shelter on Suitland Road. We finally got one installed at the Morningside firehouse two years ago. Then, a week ago, four more shelters suddenly appeared on Suitland Road and we didn't even have to fight for them. They are at Randolph Road, at Poplar Road (both sides), and at McKeldin Drive. They must be a Christmas gift for our bus riders.

A site plan has been approved for a Chick-Fil-A at Silver Hill Road and Pennsylvania Avenue.

New Years at Bells

Bells United Methodist Church invites you to join them in seeing in the New Year. A New Year's Eve Family party will be held on Dec. 31, 8 to 10 p.m.; New Year's Eve Praise Party from 10:30 p.m. to one minute after midnight, and a New Year's Day Special Worship, 9 to 10 a.m. For information, call the church office, 301-899-7521.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Paul Ford and Russ Kyser, Dec. 23; Kendall Lanehart and former Morningside Councilman Ken Miller, Dec. 24; Jean Nichols, Samantha Bowie Christine Mucker and Loretta Hooe, Christmas Day; Jeffrey Norton and Michael Nichols, Dec. 26; Virginia Simms, Carolyn Jeffcoat and Kirra Starr Mears, Dec. 27; Christopher Garris, Anne Lucas, Patsy Anderson and my granddaughter, Samantha McHale, Dec. 28; Brayden Proctor, Dec. 29; Amy Anthony and Robert Tretler, Dec. 30; and Pat Spry, Dec. 31.

Happy anniversary to Nola and Bruce Thomas, their 34th on Dec. 27; and my grandson David and Nina McHale, their 11th on Dec. 30.

A blessed Christmas to you, dear readers!

this award will allow the State to continue to raise standards, improve our child care workforce, and prepare every child for a lifetime of learning."

BACKGROUND:

Maryland was one of nine winners of a Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant from the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. The total amount to be awarded is not finalized, but Maryland is eligible for \$50 million over four years. The grant will be used to increase access to high-quality early learning programs, reform standards and evaluation, and improve professional

Statement from Governor O'Malley on Maryland's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant:

ANNAPOLIS, MD Governor Martin O'Malley released the following statement on Maryland's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant:

"Thanks to President Obama, Maryland's #1 ranked public schools will now be able to implement many strategies to improve early childhood education in our State. Together, we can better coordinate state and local efforts, encourage more involvement from our families, expand health and behavioral programs, and provide more support for our teachers and principals to better prepare our children in their early years.

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

Congresswoman Edwards' Statement on the End of the War in Iraq

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement today on the end of the war in Iraq.

"I echo the sentiments of many Americans in expressing relief that after nearly 9 years in Iraq we are able to bring this war to a close. I offer my sincere gratitude to the families of the 4,487 American service men and women who gave their lives, the 32,226 wounded warriors to whom we owe a lifetime of gratitude and care, and remember an estimated 100,000 Iraqi civilians who died. As President Obama remarked "history will judge" the war in Iraq, but, as Americans, we must all stand behind all the service members and their families who sacrificed so much.

"It is now time for our country to focus on the essential issue of creating jobs and growing our economy. The end of the war in Iraq closes a significant chapter in our country's history, but the fight for a better future for our children must begin anew here at home."

Congresswoman Edwards' Statement on Passage of FY 2012 Appropriations

Omnibus

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) released the following statement today after voting for H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2012. The nine appropriations bills contained in the legislation provide \$915 billion in funding for the federal government for the 2012 fiscal year.

"I supported today's Omnibus to avoid a government shutdown, bring stability to our federal agencies, and provide peace of mind to the American people and our federal workers through the 2012 fiscal year. I don't agree with some provisions in this legislation, including restrictions that the District of Columbia cannot use its own money to provide reproductive services. Nonetheless, the funding for education, Pell Grants, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and job training are critical to working families in the 4th Congressional District and across the country. Now I urge my Republican colleagues to drop controversial policy provisions and join us in passing a clean payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance extensions to help struggling families make ends meet and to provide a boost to our economy."



Some funding highlights from the Omnibus include:

- Education: Title I grants for school districts with a high percentage of low-income students would be funded at \$14.5 billion, \$60 million above the FY 2011. And investments in IDEA for students with disabilities would receive an increase of \$100 million above FY 2011, totaling \$11.6 billion.

- Head Start: Provides \$8 billion for Head Start, which is \$424 million above last year's level,

- NIH: The National Institutes of Health would receive a nearly \$300 million increase from last year, to \$30.7 billion.

- Pell Grants: Protected the current maximum at \$5,550 per student.

- LIHEAP: Provides \$3.48 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), over \$100 million more than the House GOP bill.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

Christ Church and Nottingham Myers Church will be sharing together in a special Watch Night Service on New Year's Eve. Service will be held at 10:00 PM at the Nottingham Myers Campus located at 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, Pastor Daryl Williams. New Year's Day we will have a joint worship service 10:00 AM at the Nottingham Myers Campus. Telephone number is 301-888-2171.

SURRATT HOUSE MUSEUM

There will be special exhibit Commemorative the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War and the role the state of Maryland played in this great conflict. The exhibit will be on Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The address is 9118 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. Cost for adults is \$3.00, Senior Citizens \$2.00 and Children (5-18) \$1.00.

BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC

Meetings for the Association are on the third Wednesday of each month January through June, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Media 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.)

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Southern Maryland Hospital offers blood pressure screenings on Thursdays from noon to 4:00 PM in the Hospital Solarium. Call 301-877-5700 for information.

"KID'S NIGHT OUT"

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

AFRICIAN DANCE GROUP

Upper Marlboro Community Center will be celebrating the African American Dancer on Saturday, February 25, 2012 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. The fee is \$5.00 R and \$6.00 NR. Join us as we pay tribute to the African American Dancers of the past and present. The celebration will feature Dance performance, Special Tribute, Craft Project, Music and Dancing. The Center is located at 5400 Marlboro Race Track Road Upper Marlboro, MD 20744 Telephone : 301-627-2828 TTY 301-203-6030.

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. Visit the website at www.familymedicalcarecenters.com or call (301) 856-8990 for more information.

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge

Hoyer Announces Major Education Grant for Maryland

State Awarded Grant as Part of Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement after Maryland was chosen as a winner of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge, a competitive grant program jointly administered by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. The Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge is designed to help states develop new approaches to raising the bar across early learning centers and to close the school readiness gap.

"I want to congratulate all of those who worked hard to secure this vital funding for Maryland," stated Congressman Hoyer. "In awarding this grant, the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services recognized our State's long history of educational excellence and commitment to implementing reforms that will benefit students from an early age."

In applying for this grant, Maryland created a plan to increase access to high-quality programs for children from low-income families, providing more children from birth to age 5 with a strong foundation necessary for success in school and

beyond. Thirty-five states, DC, and Puerto Rico competed for funding, and Maryland was one of nine winners. The number and list was determined both by the quality of the applications and the funds available.

"Investing in education is a priority in our state and winning this competition shows that we are strongly committed to providing all children, especially in their early years, a foundation for success," continued Hoyer. "I have long supported these efforts, and will continue working with the Administration to ensure investments in early education are working to help more children in Maryland and across our nation enter school better prepared to succeed."

Van Hollen Applauds Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant for Maryland

Washington, DC — Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen issued the following statement on Maryland being selected as a winner of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge:

"I congratulate the State of Maryland on winning the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant today. Investments in early childhood education are the most effective way to close the achievement gap and give students the opportunity for success. Maryland is a national leader in this effort, and

Neighborhood Events

Prince George's County Offers Christmas Tree Recycling Program

Free program provides environmentally safe alternative to disposal of holiday trees

LARGO, MD — The Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources' (DER) Waste Management Division (WMD) will provide County residents with Christmas tree collection and drop-off services for recycling of their live Christmas trees, at no charge beginning December 27.

"This is a perfect way to "go green" after the holidays," says DER Director Samuel E. Wynkoop, Jr. "Recycling your Christmas tree helps ensure the sustainability of our community by saving valuable landfill space." Every tree collected will be shredded and cured into mulch for DER's annual spring Mulch Giveaway event. Last year, more than 26 tons of Christmas trees were collected.

To participate, residents with County-provided

yard waste collection service should place their undecorated Christmas trees at curbside before 6:30 a.m. on their regularly scheduled collection day starting December 27, 2011. Residents may also bring their undecorated trees, at no charge, to the Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility, 6601 Southeast Crain Highway in Upper Marlboro; Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or to the Brown Station Road Public Convenience Center, 3501 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro; Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through January 31, 2012. Before dropping off the trees, residents are reminded to remove all tree stands, tinsel, lights and ornaments from trees. Only undecorated trees will be accepted.

For more information on recycling, call WMD's Recycling Section at (301) 883-5045.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Credit card stolen? Here's what you do

Despite high-profile media attention, the odds of having your credit or debit card number stolen by crooks remains at historically low levels. That said, it's always good to know what to do in case lightning does strike and someone fraudulently uses your card. Left unchecked, they might try to run up bills, drain your checking account or worse — steal your identity.



Here are actions to take if this happens to you:

First, contact the bank or credit union that issued your card. You'll find a toll-free number on the back of your card, on your billing statement or at the company's website. Close the compromised account and open a new one with a different account number. Change related passwords or PIN numbers and notify companies that have automatic payments tied to the closed account to make sure you don't miss a payment. Also log all calls, letters and emails you have with your card issuer about the fraud — this will be helpful if you need to file a claim or police report.

Contact one of the three major credit bureaus, Equifax (888-766-0008), Experian (888-397-3742) or TransUnion (800-680-7289), and place an Initial Fraud Alert on your credit file if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. Whichever bureau you contact will notify the other two to do the same. If you wish, you can renew these fraud alerts each quarter, free of charge. If you determine that you actually have suffered identity theft, you can also file an Extended Fraud Alert, which will stay on your reports for seven years.

Placing a fraud alert entitles you to one free credit report from each bureau. Although the alert makes it harder for someone to open new credit accounts in your name, it won't necessarily prevent them from using existing accounts. That's why it's important to close compromised accounts and to carefully review your credit reports for errors, fraudulent activity, or suspicious credit inquiries from an unfamiliar source. Also be aware that posting a fraud alert could delay your own ability to obtain new credit.

If you determine someone has stolen from your account or your identity has otherwise been compromised, file an identity theft report with the police. The Federal Trade Commission's "Defend: Recover From Identity Theft" website contains step-by-step instructions for completing and filing the report with local, state and federal law-enforcement agencies (www.ftc.gov/consumer).

Also send copies of the report — by certified mail, return requested — to the credit bureaus and companies whose accounts were impacted. You can also file a complaint with the FTC, which will enter the information into a secure online database shared by thousands of civil and criminal law-enforcement authorities worldwide (<https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>).

Most card issuers provide "zero liability" coverage for unauthorized credit and debit card use when you promptly report the loss. Rules vary, so ask your bank or credit union for its policies.

Going forward, carefully monitor your monthly credit card and bank statements for fraudulent charges. To learn other good tips for protecting your personal and account information and preventing fraud, visit:

The National Cyber Security Alliance's www.StaySafeOnline.org.

The FBI's "Be Crime Smart" page (www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/be_crime_smart).

Visa Inc.'s VisaSecuritySense (www.visasecuritysense.com), which contains tips on preventing fraud online, in stores and at ATMs, spotting deceptive marketing practices, and more.

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

Register for Spring Courses at PGCC Jan. 9 - 21

Students Can Apply, Register and Pay for Courses the Same Day

By JOE CLARK
Public Relations Specialist
Prince George's Community

LARGO, Md. —Peak registration for spring 2012 semester at Prince George's Community College begins January 9 - 21. In person registration is available in the student services wing of Bladen Hall on the Largo campus, Prince George's Community College at University Town Center and Laurel College Center. Returning students also can participate in Peak Registration by visiting the college's Web site at www.pgcc.edu or by calling the Information Center at 301-336-6000.

During Peak Registration, students will be able to receive one-stop service including academic advising, registration and financial aid counseling as they choose their prospective disciplines and finalize financial

obligations.

Hours are Monday —Thursday, 8:30 a.m. —8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. —5:00 p.m.; and Saturday, January 21 and 28, 9:00 a.m. —1:00 p.m.

"The registration process can be overwhelming for many students," said Tracy Harris, dean of enrollment services. "Our goal is to offer students as many services and resources as possible to help them reach their completion goals," he added.

Prince George's Community College offers more than 200 academic, workforce development and continuing education programs in areas such as environmental studies, health sciences, human services, business, mass communication, theatre and environmental studies.

About Prince George's Community College

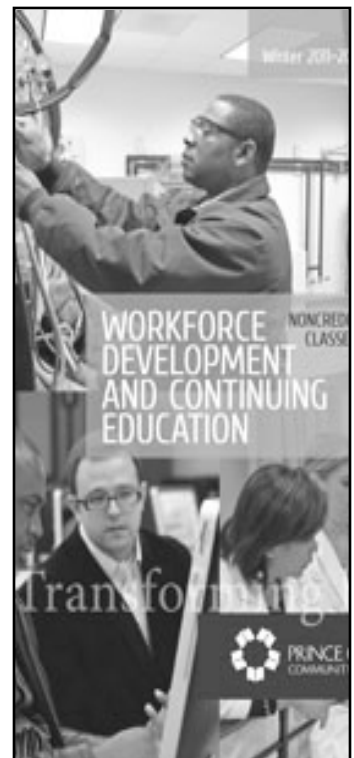
Prince George's Community

College is a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Two-year Education (CAE2Y) designated by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security for the years 2010 to 2015. Established in 1958, Prince George's Community College provides transfer and career programs that help students transfer to four-year colleges and universities and prepare them for the workforce. Each year, 40,000 students take part in more than 200 academic programs and workforce development and continuing education courses.

Located in Largo, Maryland, Prince George's Community College has additional sites at Joint Base Andrews, University Town Center in Hyattsville, Laurel College Center, Skilled Trades Center in Camp Springs, and Westphalia Training Center

in Upper Marlboro. For more information, visit the college website at

www.pgcc.edu. College



Corrupt from A1

a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University. "Then things quiet down and nobody has been arrested in a while, so politicians forget about the new laws."

Bicchieri said this reactionary process is one of the reasons why corruption will exist well into the future.

"The issue is, you can set up very strict rules for corrupt

actions, but you need to go to the root of the problem," she said. "Otherwise you will continue to have corruption problems."

Crenson believes the root of the corruption problem in Prince George's may lie in its demographics and the difficulty black candidates face when running for statewide office.

"When you eliminate political ambition, you replace it with financial ambition,"

Crenson said.

Duffy believes that another reason corruption is so prevalent in general is the election process.

"The way they (politicians) stay in office is to solicit donations or bribes from the people they are supposed to be serving," he said. "Then competing interests collide and they are thrown out."

To many Prince George's County residents, this is no

secret. In addition to the Johnsons, State Sen. Ulysses Currie was recently acquitted of bribery charges but still faces an ethics probe. Also, Delegate Tiffany Alston of Prince George's was recently indicted for stealing from her campaign fund.

"Politics is pay to play," said McNeil. "If you can pay the right people, you can get the right result."

Women from A1

title game, if not winning it altogether.

"Coach Cathy Reese is bringing in some of the best players in the country," said Murphy, adding that this year's recruiting class was chosen by Inside Lacrosse magazine as the best in the nation.

The new recruits will have to shoulder the scoring burden left by graduating seniors Laura Merrifield (45 goals), Sarah

Mollison (56 goals) and Brandi Jones (21 goals).

The Terps returned top scorer Katie Schwarzmann (65 goals) and Karri Ellen Johnson (39 goals). Johnson missed the second half of the season due to injury, which makes the Terps' run to the title game last year all the more impressive.

"A healthy Karri Ellen Johnson, the return of 2011 WomensLax.com goalie of the year Brittany Dipper for her senior campaign, and

Schwarzmann with another year of experience under her belt, combine for a very strong core group of leaders," said Ashley Gersuk of WomensLax.com.

"The Terps have depth at both ends of the field, a solid freshmen class, and will be hungry after a one-goal loss in the national championship game," she said.

Murphy has similar expectations for this season's squad. Ultimately, he said, "They still

have Big Dipper in the cage."

Dipper had a standout junior season in which she started all 23 games, posted 141 saves, and led the NCAA with a 6.54 goals-against average.

But even with last year's successes, Dipper said she's focusing on ways she can improve and on keeping the pressure to succeed at bay.

"New team, new season," Dipper said. "We're hoping and planning on being back there."

Fracking from A1

tions.

This and other changes to the state's liability structure, as well as potential revenue sources from gas drilling, will be included in a set of recommendations due Dec. 31 - the first milestone in a three-year study that Gov. Martin O'Malley required by executive order in May.

State regulators are working with the advisory commission to form recommendations on all aspects of shale gas drilling before deciding whether Maryland should ultimately allow the controversial practice.

The first recommendations will come just weeks after the Environmental Protection Agency announced for the first time that there may be a link between fracking and groundwater contamination. The draft report, released Dec. 8, describes high levels of benzene, synthetic chemicals and methane in private drinking water wells near Pavillion, Wyo., where fracking is widespread.

The EPA study is "a watershed moment in the discussion of this issue," said Paul Roberts, a small business owner in Garrett County and a member of the governor's advisory commission.

"We finally have the federal government confirming what people have been saying for

years," Roberts said.

Encana Corporation, which owns the natural gas field in question, issued a news release this week criticizing the EPA study's methodology and findings. "Natural gas developers didn't put the natural gas at the bottom of the EPA's deep monitoring wells, nature did," the statement read in part.

Fracking is an unconventional method of gas extraction that involves drilling horizontally into a shale layer and injecting a pressurized mixture of water, sand and chemicals to crack open the rock, releasing trapped gas.

Fracking sites are numerous in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, which allow energy companies to drill in the Marcellus Shale, a natural gas-rich rock formation that underlies much of northern Appalachia.

But Maryland, where the same formation cuts across Garrett County and part of Allegany County, has not approved or denied permits for Marcellus Shale drilling.

Vanko emphasized there may be differences between the fracking involved in the EPA study in Wyoming and the kind of fracking that might occur in Maryland.

"It should influence us if the situation in that case, in Wyoming, is similar to that of the Marcellus Shale, and I just don't know yet how similar that

is," Vanko said.

In a news release accompanying the report, the EPA said the findings are "specific to Pavillion, where the fracturing is taking place in and below the drinking water aquifer and in close proximity to drinking water wells - production conditions different from those in many other areas of the country."

The second phase of the Maryland study, due August 2012, will address "best practices" to limit the environmental and public health risks of shale gas production. The commission will look closely at the EPA's findings in this phase, Vanko said.

Roberts said Maryland should consider a recent incident in Bradford County, Pa., where the state's Department of Environmental Protection in May fined Chesapeake Energy almost \$1 million for improperly casing wells, allowing methane to migrate and contaminate the private water supplies of 16 families.

"In our own region, right here in the Marcellus Shale, in less than four years, the state of Pennsylvania is confirming that water contamination has occurred at drilling sites in multiple instances when, again, the drilling industry insisted that's not possible," Roberts said.

"I don't think it's alarmist to point out that this is occurring and that this could be our future

in Maryland if we allow drilling," he said.

Not all of the advisory commission members agree that a presumption statute, which would make it easier for landowners to sue gas companies over water contamination or other damages, is desirable.

"My fear is, are we trying to find a way to do this and do it safely, or are we trying to find a way to make it so the drillers aren't interested?" said Bill Valentine, Allegany County Commissioner and advisory commission member.

The commission also supports a recommendation to enact a "Surface Owners Protection Act," Vanko said.

This law would mainly help landowners who do not own their mineral rights and cannot negotiate for contractual protections from drilling activity on their land, he said. Surface owners who also own their mineral rights are able to negotiate for protections or compensation for possible damages when entering lease agreements.

On the revenue side, Vanko said the commission is "strongly in favor" of a state-level severance tax on any gas that might be produced, "if it's an appropriate level."

But the commission is divided over a recommendation for a per-leased-acre fee on the industry to fund the state's study of Marcellus Shale drilling.

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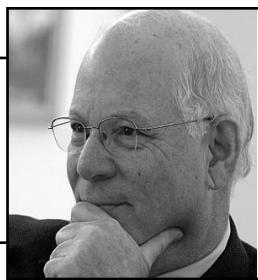
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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator for Maryland



Defense Authorization Bill, Civil Liberties

Washington, DC — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) made the following remarks following passage of the Conference Report on the National Defense Authorization Act:

“Every day, we celebrate the courage, excellence and dedication to country of the brave men and women who stand on the frontlines overseas and here at home to help keep every American safe and secure. We have a solemn obligation to support the health and welfare of our troops and we will continue to provide them with the tools they need to do their job on behalf of the American people. However, the role our civilian-led military plays within the borders of the U.S. has always been balanced with the protections of civil liberties and civil rights. Unfortunately, the defense authorization bill that was approved by the House, and now the Senate, does not keep that balance.

“I strongly supported several amendments that would have limited the military’s authority on US soil. I could not vote for the final version of this bill because I see it as allowing for the de facto indefinite detention of suspects on U.S. soil. In addition, I believe anything that would extend the life of detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay unnecessarily sullies America’s human rights record.

“This legislation also handicaps our federal courts. Our federal courts — unlike military tribunals — have an excellent track record of trying the most dangerous criminals and terrorists in the world, and Congress should not tie the hands of our law enforcement and intelligence agencies to use our Article III courts.

“Finally, I agree with the FBI Director, in his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday. Director Robert Mueller stated that by requiring certain terrorism suspects be held in military custody by default that uncertainty would be created at the time of arrest or apprehension. The FBI should have authority to conduct its terrorism investigations without having to suspend its

work or turn a suspect over to the military prematurely, because the agents may not know whether a terrorism suspect is covered by the new language in this bill. I had hoped that during the conference process that the Congress and the Administration would have found a better solution to each of these issues.

While I voted against the defense authorization bill because of both the detainee and Guantanamo provisions, I am pleased that the authorization gives certainty to our support for our national defense and military budget.

“This legislation also includes the Hotels for Heroes program. This initiative that I cosponsored with Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-2) will allow Americans to help others who have given so much to our nation by donating hotel points. It builds on the Hero Miles airline program and is the next step in providing military families with the support they need when their loved ones are wounded or injured.

“I also was pleased with the reauthorization of the six-year reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Those programs, so critical for Maryland companies, were last given extended authorizations more than a decade ago. Since those expired, the programs have been subject to repeated and painful, short-term extensions. The SBIR program is especially important because innovation spurs growth and job creation and leads to advanced technology, like clean energy and life-saving therapies and devices. Small firms employ 41% of the nation’s high-tech workers and generate 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large firms. Maryland has approximately 440,000 small businesses. Eleven federal departments participate in the SBIR program — including the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense and National Science Foundation — allocating 2.5 percent of their extramural research and development dollars the program.”

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



Broadband Access for All

“Whether we’re talking about jobs, education, or health care...Broadband is now a basic requirement to participate in the 21st century economy.”

Julius Genachowski, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission

Somewhere in the United States today, a student is unable to finish his homework, a father will not be able to find a job and a mother will not be able to seek proper medical treatment. Today, broadband is a basic need and provides information that is vital to the quality of life and economic stability. Unfortunately one third of Americans remain unconnected and they are overwhelmingly people of color.

The paradox of the Digital Age is that while technology has the capacity to bring people together and connect people to information, it simultaneously presents the threat of deepening the divide between society’s information “haves” and “have nots”, often referred to as the digital divide.

This dilemma was highlighted in a recent Commerce Department report which found that “Broadband adoption rates varied substantially between different racial and ethnic groups, with 81% of Asian and 72% of White households having broadband Internet access, compared to only 55% and 57% of Black and Hispanic households.” Major reasons for these disparities include lack of knowledge, the high cost of getting online, and the lack of an adequate computer. With so much of modern life tied to Internet access, these are barriers that must be overcome. As FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski recently put it, “Closing the digital divide is about achieving the basic American promise of opportunity for all.”

The National Urban League has stepped up to meet this challenge in a big way. In 2010, we joined forces with the One Economy Corporation as part of a Broadband Opportunity Coalition

(BBOC) focused on breaking down the barriers to people getting online and getting the information they need to improve their lives. The BBOC is comprised of other leading civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, National Council of La Raza, Asian American Justice Center, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council.

This effort is the outgrowth of efforts already underway by the non-profit One Economy Corporation. Since 2000, One Economy, under the leadership of Chairman Rey Ramsey, has been committed to ensuring that every person, regardless of income and location, can maximize the power of technology to improve the quality of his or her life and enter the economic mainstream. In April of last year, One Economy and the BBOC were awarded \$28.5 million in federal stimulus funds to support that goal. We are supplementing the stimulus award with private sector matching support valued at \$23 million for a total of \$51.5 million.

This effort will bring broadband connections to 27,000 low income housing developments, promote digital literacy to 20 million people and offer digital mentoring for more than 235,000 at-risk youth. The National Urban League has also made the expansion of minority participation in the Information and Communications Technology Industry one of the pillars of our 12-point Jobs Rebuild America plan.

In his 2011 State of the Union Address, President Obama set the goal of enabling businesses to provide high-speed wireless services to at least 98 percent of all Americans within five years. We support that goal. Broadband access for all is essential to expanding opportunity, creating jobs, reducing our deficit and winning the future.



The Public Record

Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

From the moment it opened, the **Clarice Smith Center at Maryland** has redefined the artistic and physical landscape of the University of Maryland campus and Prince George’s County. The Center continues to fulfill the mission of serving diverse regional audiences as well as campus departments and residents. Our 318,000 square foot facility, located on 17 acres, has been praised for its extraordinary architecture and acoustics.

Pictured: Elsie & Marvin Dekelbom Concert Hall

Child Watch

by **Marion Wright Edelman**



A Christmas Prayer

God help us to end poverty in our time.

The poverty of having a child with too little to eat and no place to sleep, no air, sunlight and space to breathe, bask, and grow.

The poverty of watching your child suffer hunger or get sicker and sicker and not knowing what to do or how to get help because you don’t have another dime or a car, money, or health insurance.

The poverty of working your fingers to the bone every day taking care of somebody else’s children and neglecting your own, and still not being able to pay your bills.

The poverty of having a job which does not let you afford a stable place to live and being terrified you’ll become homeless and lose your children to foster care.

The poverty of losing your job, running out of unemployment benefits, and no other help in sight.

The poverty of working all your life caring for your own children and having to start all over again caring for the grandchildren you love.

The poverty of earning a college degree, having children, opening a day care center, and taking home \$300 a week—or a month—if you’re lucky.

The poverty of loneliness and

isolation and alienation—having no one to call or visit, tell you where to get help, assist you in getting it, or care if you’re living or dead.

The poverty of having too much and sharing too little and having the burden of nothing to carry.

The poverty of convenient blindness and deafness and indifference to others.

The poverty of low aim and paltry purpose, of weak will and tiny vision, of big meetings and small actions, of loud talk and sullen grudging service.

The poverty of believing in nothing, standing for nothing, sharing nothing, sacrificing nothing, struggling with others for nothing.

The poverty of pride and ingratitude for God’s gifts of life and children and family and freedom and home and country and not wanting for others what you want for yourself.

The poverty of greed for more and more and more, ignoring, blaming, and exploiting the needy, and taking from the weak to please the strong.

The poverty of addiction to more and more things; drugs, drink, work, self, violence, power, fleeting fame, and an unjust status quo.

The poverty of fear which

keeps you from doing the thing you think is right.

The poverty of convenient ignorance about the needs of those around you and of despair and cynicism.

God help us end poverty in our time, in all its faces and places, young and old, rural, urban, suburban and small town too, and in every color of humans You have made everywhere.

God help us to end poverty in our time in all its guises—inside and out—physical and spiritual, so that all our and Your children may live the lives that you intend.

Marion 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.

Make your year-end tax-deductible contribution to CDF today.

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

Letter to the Editor

Filibuster on Nominee for Consumer Protection

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator **Barbara A. Mikulski** released the following statement after Republican Senators filibustered the nomination of Richard Cordray to serve as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The agency was established as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform legislation to protect middle class families from the abuses of big banks. Despite widespread bipartisan support for Mr. Cordray, Republicans have objected to anyone holding the position in an effort to cripple the consumer watchdog agency. This was the first time in Senate history a party blocked a qualified nominee solely because it disagrees with the existence of an agency that was created by law, through a bipartisan vote.

“Senate Republicans’ filibuster of Richard Cordray to serve as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is an outrageous attempt to protect Wall Street while hanging Main Street out to dry.

“As we work to rebuild our middle class, create jobs and get our economy back on track, we

cannot return to the failed and unfair practices that got us into this mess. We need a tough cop looking out for consumers first

and making sure the scammers and the schemers aren’t preying on hardworking American families with shady lending practices.

The Prince George’s Post

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