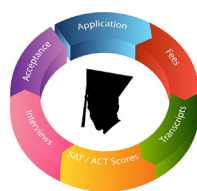
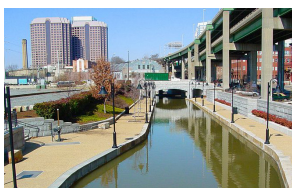


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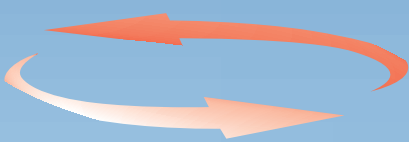


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# Konnect

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SC1113 P1A

November 2013

## American adults score poorly on global test

KIMBERLY HEFLING  
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's long been known that America's school kids haven't measured well compared with international peers. Now, there's a new twist: Adults don't either.

In math, reading and problem-solving using technology — all skills considered critical for global competitiveness and economic strength — American adults scored below the international average on a global test, according to results released Tuesday.

Adults in Japan, Canada, Australia, Finland and multiple other countries scored significantly higher than the United States in all three areas on the test. Beyond basic American adults

score poorly on global test

reading and math, respondents were tested on activities such as calculating mileage reimbursement due to a salesman, sorting email and comparing food expiration dates on grocery store tags.

Not only did Americans score poorly compared to many international competitors, the findings reinforced just how large the gap is between the nation's high- and low-skilled workers and how hard it is to move ahead when your parents haven't.

In both reading and math, for example, those with college-educated parents did better than those whose parents did not complete high school.

*Continued on Page 7... Adults*



## New Kindle good contender for Amazon users

ANICK JESDANUN  
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon's new Kindle Fire HDX tablet resembles Google's Nexus 7 in many ways — from its light weight to its sharp display. Both tablets run a version of Google's Android operating system, and they even have the same starting price of \$229. The similarities end when you turn them on.

Amazon.com Inc. modifies Android so much that it no longer resembles Android. The company calls it Fire OS 3.0, or Mojito. Amazon's services are front and center on the Fire, and Google's are nowhere to be found. It's the other way around on the Nexus 7 and other Android devices. For a day or two, I even forgot the Kindle Fire can do much more.

Regular customers of Amazon will appreciate that integration. A row of tabs at the top of the screen offers quick access to various Amazon services, including e-books, music, videos



and audiobooks, the latter from the Audible business that Amazon bought in 2008. Another tab gets you Amazon's shopping site, where you can buy television sets, vacuum cleaners and tennis rackets. The Kindle is already tied to your Amazon account, so it's easy — perhaps too easy — to just click and buy. You also get Amazon's excellent recommendation technology. Browsing the e-book  
*Continued on Page 11...KINDLE*

## Ethical issues as scientists peek into baby genes

LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Little Amelia Sloan is a pioneer: Shortly after her birth, scientists took drops of the healthy baby's blood to map her genetic code.

Amelia is part of a large research project outside the nation's capital that is decoding the DNA of hundreds of infants. New parents in a few other cities soon can start signing up for smaller studies to explore if what's called genome sequencing — fully mapping someone's genes to look for health risks — should become a part of newborn care.

It's full of ethical challenges.

Should parents be told only about childhood threats? Or would they also want to learn if their babies carried a key gene for, say, breast cancer after they're grown? Could knowing about future risks alter how a family treats an otherwise healthy youngster? And how accurate is this technology — could it raise too many false alarms?

This is the newest frontier in the genetic revolution: how early to peek into someone's DNA, and how to make use of this health forecast without causing needless worry.

*Continued on Page 9 ..Baby Genes*

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## Syncro Communication

## School Hair Bans

By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

"Why are you so sad?" a TV reporter asked the little girl with a bright pink bow in her hair.

"Because they didn't like my dreads," she sobbed, wiping her tears. "I think that they should let me have my dreads."

With those words, second-grader Tiana Parker of Tulsa, Okla., found herself, at age 7, at the center of decades of debate over standards of black beauty, cultural pride and freedom of expression.

It was no isolated incident at the predominantly black Deborah Brown Community School, which in the face of outrage in late August apologized and rescinded language banning dreadlocks, Afros, mohawks and other "faddish" hairstyles it had called unacceptable and potential health hazards.

A few weeks earlier, another charter school, the Horizon Science Academy in Lorain, Ohio, sent a draft policy home to parents that proposed a ban on "Afro-puffs and small twisted braids." It, too, quickly apologized and withdrew the wording.

But at historically black Hampton University in Hampton, Va., the dean of the business school has defended and left in place a 12-year-old prohibition on dreadlocks and cornrows for male students in a leadership seminar for MBA candidates, saying the look is not businesslike.

Tiana's father, barber student Terrance Parker, said he and his wife chose not to change her style and moved the straight-A student to a different public school, where she now happily sings songs about her hair with friends.

"I think it stills hurts her. But the way I teach my kids is regardless of what people say, you be yourself and you be happy with who you are and how God made you," he said.

Tiana added: "I like my new school better." As for the thousands of emails and phone calls of support the family has received from around the world, she said she feels "cared about."

Deborah Brown, the school's founder, did not return a call from The Associated Press. Jayson Bendik, dean of students at Horizon in Lorain, said in an email that "our word choice was a mistake."

In New York City, the dress code at 16-year-old Dante de Blasio's large public high school in Brooklyn includes no such hair restrictions. Good thing for Dante, whose large Afro is hard to miss at campaign stops and in a TV spot for his father, Bill de Blasio, who is running for mayor.

There is no central clearinghouse for local school board policies on hairstyles, or



surveys indicating whether such rules are widespread. Regardless, mothers of color and black beauty experts consider the controversies business as usual.

"Our girls are always getting messages that tell them that they are not good enough, that they don't look pretty enough, that their skin isn't light enough, that their hair isn't long enough, that their hair isn't blond enough," said Beverly Bond of the New York-based esteem-building group Black Girls Rock.

"The public banning of our hair or anything about us that looks like we look, it feels like it's such a step backward."

Bond founded the organization in response to an episode in 2007 when radio host Don Imus called members of the Rutgers women's basketball team "nappy-headed hos." He later apologized.

In Chicago, Leila Noelliste has been blogging about natural hair at Blackgirlonghair.com for about five years. She has followed the school cases closely. The 28-year-old mother with a natural hairstyle and a year-old son said it is a touchy issue among African-Americans and others.

"This is the way the hair grows out of my head, yet it's even shocking in some black communities, because we've kind of been told culturally that to be acceptable and to make other people kind of comfortable with the way that we look, we should straighten our hair, whether through heat or chemicals," she said. "So whether we're in non-black communities or black communities, with our natural hair, we stand out. It evokes a lot of reaction."

Particularly painful, said Noelliste, is the notion that natural styles are not hygienic.

"Historically natural hair has been viewed as dirty, unclean, unkempt, messy," she said. "An older black generation, there's this idea of African-American exceptionalism, that the way for us to get ahead is to work twice as hard as any white person and to prove that if we just work hard and we look presentable we'll get ahead, and that's very entrenched. My generation, we're saying that that's not fair. We should be able to show up as we are and based on our individual merit and effort be judged on that."

Continued on Page 3.... Hair Bans



## Virginia Landmarks Registry grows by a dozen

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A home for Confederate veterans on the grounds of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has been added to the Virginia Landmarks Registry.

The Robinson House in Richmond is among a dozen sites added to the register by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. A property on the registry opens the door to seek tax credits for improvements.

The other 11 additions announced this week include historic properties in northern Virginia, the state's western frontier, and the Richmond and Roanoke areas, among others.

The properties also include tobacco warehouses in Richmond, a plantation home in Powhatan, a historic district in Franklin County and a centuries-old brick house in Nelson County.

The former Confederate veterans' home was constructed in the mid-19th century for Richmond banker Anthony Robinson Jr. The Robinson family sold the house in 1884 to the R.C. Lee Camp, No. 1, Confederate Veterans. Renamed Fleming Hall as a soldiers' home, the home officially closed in 1941 after serving as a barracks and museum.

The department said Fleming Hall was the nation's first successful home for needy Confederate veterans.

The other registry additions, with descriptions provided by Historic Resources, are:

— The Chesapeake warehouses, built in 1929 to serve Richmond's cigarette manufacturing industry. They marked a shift away from independent warehouses.

— The Roanoke River & Railroad industrial historic district. In southeast Roanoke, the district developed rapidly as an industrial corrector with the completion of the Roanoke & Southern Railway in 1892 and the Virginian Railway line in 1909. The rail lines spawned the city's growth of lumber yards and iron and bridge works. The district's rail station ended service for freight and passenger service in 1959.

— Fighting Creek, originally part of a 1,699-acre plantation in Powhatan County. Built in 1841, it is an example of a mid-19th century plantation home, and it still retains much historic building material and its original floor plan.

— Three Chimneys, built in 1795, is one of the earliest still-standing brick houses in Nelson County. The property has several outbuildings, including an original kitchen.

— The C.P. Jones House and law office, located in Monterey in Highland County, has evolved since its construction in approximately 1850. It may have been home to the first tavern in the area. Its namesake is Charles Pinckney Jones, a former state legislator.

— Huntland in Loudoun County is an estate covering about 400 acres. Once devoted to foxhunting,



the property was purchased in the early 20th century by New Yorker Joseph B. Thomas. He converted and enlarged a brick country dwelling dating to 1830 and designed kennels and horse stables for the property.

— Ferrum College Historic District encompasses the historic core of what was originally the Ferrum Training School, a Methodist-affiliated high school established in 1913.

— Bath County, located in far-western Virginia, claimed four of the 12 additions. They include

Switchback School and John Wesley Methodist Church, both associated with African-American communities; Barton Lodge, now known as Malvern Hall, which was built on a hill overlooking The Homestead in Hot Springs between 1898 and 1900; and Three Hills, located on a hill outside the village of Warm Springs. It was built in 1913 by Mary Johnston, a best-selling novelist of the 20th century.

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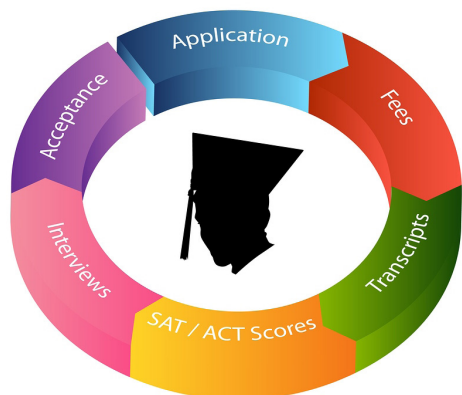
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## Average SAT scores up in Va.



RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia students' average scores on the SAT college-admission test have increased in all three subsections and continue to top national averages.

Figures released Thursday by the College Board show the state's public school class of 2013 scored 512 points in reading, up four points from the previous year. The math score increased 1 point to 511, while the writing score rose 2 points to 494.

Virginia students scored 21 points higher than the national average in reading, eight points higher in math and 14 points higher in writing.

African-American students' scores improved in all three sections. They scored an average 439 in reading, up seven points from the previous year. Their average math score rose four points to 431 and the average writing score increased five points to 422.

Hispanic students' average reading score rose five points to 491 and their math score increased one point to 490. Their average writing score was unchanged at 474. The number of Hispanic students taking the SAT increased 7 percent from 2012.

Nationwide, average scores in reading, math and writing were unchanged from 2012.

"Most Virginia high schools are doing a great job preparing our students for the college entrance exams. While nationwide test scores showed no growth, this year we saw in Virginia impressively high marks on every section of the SAT. This is due to the rigorous standards we hold our students too, and the high-quality classroom instruction by our teachers," Gov. Bob McDonnell said in a news release.

Sixty-seven percent of Virginia's 2013 public high school graduates and 71 percent of graduating seniors took the SAT. The total number of students who took the test, 53,072, was down slightly from 53,806 in 2012.

"Virginia teachers at all grade levels should take pride in the improving performance of our graduating seniors on the SAT," Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright said in the news release. "The long-term trend on the SAT is up as students are challenged by more rigorous standards as they advance through elementary and middle grades to high school, and ultimately graduate better prepared for their first year of college or the work force."

The number of Virginia public school students who took at least one Advanced Placement exam in high school increased 5.7 percent, and the number of tests taken rose 1.1 percent, the College Board reported.

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*Continued from Page 2* **Hair Bans**

Ryan Kiesel, executive director of the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said legal rulings on hair and other issues pertaining to school dress codes have been fairly clear.

"For decades now, Supreme Court precedent has reaffirmed that clothing, including hairstyle, is part of a student's speech, and if you're going to interfere with that, then the school district has to make some findings beforehand demonstrating that there is an immediate threat to the academic environment," he said. "That wasn't the case here and in most dress-code cases."

Denene Millner in Atlanta created a blog, Mybrownbaby.com, for other African-American moms and also followed the school hair controversies. She went natural nearly 14 years ago

for the sake of her daughters, now 11 and 14.

"I didn't want them to grow up with the same idea that I had when I was little, that there was something wrong with the way that my hair grew out of my head," said Millner, 45. "It's something that we've grappled with for a very, very long time. There's a whole lot of assumptions made about you that may not necessarily be true: that you're political, that you're Afro-centric, that you might be vegetarian, that you're kind of a hipster."

She said watching Tiana sob on camera "about these grown-ups, black folks, who are supposed to not just educate her but show her how to love herself, it tore my heart to shreds."

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**Adults** *Continued from Page 7...*

The United States will have a tough time catching up because money at the state and local level, a major source of education funding, has been slashed in recent years, said Jacob Kirkegaard, an economist with the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

"There is a race between man and machine here. The question here is always: Are you a worker for whom technology makes it possible to do a better job or are you a worker that the technology can replace?" he said. For those without the most basic skills, he said, the answer will be merciless and has the potential to extend into future generations. Learning is highly correlated with parents' education level.

"If you want to avoid having an underclass — a large group of people who are basically unemployable — this educational system is absolutely key," Kirkegaard said.

Dolores Perin, professor of psychology and education at Teachers College, Columbia University, said the report provides a "good basis for an argument there should be more resources to support adults with low literacy."

Adults can learn new skills at any age and there are adult-gear programs around the country, Perin said. But, she said, the challenge is ensuring the programs have quality teaching and that adults regularly attend classes.

"If you find reading and writing hard, you've been working hard all day at two jobs, you've got a young child, are you actually going to go to class? It's challenging," Perin said.

Some economists say that large skills gap in the United States could matter even more in the future. America's economic competitors like China and India are simply larger than competitors of the past like Japan, Carnevale said. Even while America's top 10 percent of students can compete globally, Carnevale said, that doesn't cut it. China and India did not participate in this assessment.

"The skills in the middle are required and we're not producing them," Carnevale said.

Respondents were selected as part of a nationally represented sample. The test was primarily taken at home using a computer, but some respondents used a printed test booklet.

Among the other findings:

—Japan, Finland, Canada, Netherlands, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Flanders-Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Korea all scored

significantly higher than the United States in all three areas on the test.

—The average scores in literacy range from 250 in Italy to 296 in Japan. The U.S. average score was 270. (500 was the highest score in all three areas.) Average scores in 12 countries were higher than the average U.S. score.

—The average scores in math range from 246 in Spain to 288 in Japan. The U.S. average score was 253, below 18 other countries.

—The average scores on problem solving in technology-rich environments ranged from 275 in Poland to 294 in Japan. The U.S. average score was 277, below 14 other countries.

Online: <http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/publications.htm>

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Lori Hinnant contributed to this report from Paris.

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## Poe Museum in Va. seeks to preserve illustrations

MICHAEL FELBERBAUM  
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The Edgar Allan Poe Museum is starting a fundraising effort to preserve illustrations of the American writer's famous 1845 poem, "The Raven."

Museum officials hope to raise \$60,000 for the nearly 130-year-old illustrations by English street artist James Carling. The 43 works of



The Museum was opened in 1922 in the Old Stone House, the oldest standing structure in Richmond.

watercolor and ink bring the haunting lines of the poem to life.

The images of death and torment were once an important part of the museum's collection and were on display for 40 years.

But the illustrations, now stacked in a series of worn cardboard boxes, were glued to cardboard, causing them to darken and deteriorate over the years. They

were even named one of Virginia's top 10 endangered artifacts in 2013 by the Virginia Association of Museums.

Officials at the museum in Richmond are looking to safeguard the drawings by raising money through the Internet crowdfunding site Kickstarter. If the entire amount isn't raised

by Nov. 15, the museum won't get any of the money, according to the website's rules.

The illustrations "interpret Poe's works in a way that nobody really quite has," said Chris Semtner, curator of the museum that is located blocks away from Poe's first Richmond home. "Carling really had become merged with Poe's personality. He understood Poe's motivations."

Carling, who billed himself as the "fastest drawer in the world," sought to outdo the world's most popular illustrator, French artist Gustave Doré, who did his own illustrations of the poem.

Carling wrote of his works: "Mine are stormier, wilder and more weird; they are horrible; I have reproduced mentality and phantasm."

The illustrations once graced the walls of the museum's "Raven Room," where they evoked shudders from visitors, including Kevin Williamson, writer of "The Following," a television show on Fox about a former FBI agent who is forced to recapture a serial killer.

Williamson said his mother brought him to the museum years ago, and the trip later inspired the

TV show.

"And the walls were red and looked like blood, and they had 'The Raven' written on the wall, and you had to follow around to read it. I remember it being most magical day," Williamson said in January at the Television Critics Association tour in California. "The Raven," first published in the New York Evening Mirror, tells the story of a grieving man who gets a midnight visit from a strange bird that repeatedly speaks the word "Nevermore."

Poe, who was born in Boston on Jan. 19, 1809, lived in Baltimore, London, New York, Philadelphia and Richmond. He died under mysterious circumstances at the age of 40 during a visit to Baltimore on Oct. 7, 1849. The cause of his death has been the subject of much speculation over the years, with theories ranging from murder to rabies.

Poe Museum: <http://www.poemuseum.org/>  
Michael Felberbaum can be reached at <http://www.twitter.com/MLFelberbaum>.

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The Enchanted Garden, Poe Museum Richmond, VA



One area where the HDX falls short is in app selection. The iPad Mini reigns with access to the thousands of apps adapted for tablets. But even compared with other Android tablets, the HDX doesn't have as wide a selection, as Kindles work only with Amazon's app store, not Google's broader Play store.

But I was surprised to see one Amazon video rival, Hulu Plus, available. And Netflix is supposed to get an update that works with the HDX by the time it ships. You won't find everything at Amazon's app store, but you'll find plenty to keep you busy. And if an app isn't available, you might still be able to access the service through Amazon's Silk Web browser.

I've been skeptical with the Kindle Fires in the past because they don't do everything other Android tablets can do. But after trying out the HDX, I find it a worthy contender. Ultimately, it comes down to whether you regularly buy from Amazon and want to make its content work easily on your device.

ABOUT THE KINDLE FIRE:

Amazon has three tablet computers out this fall: the Kindle Fire HDX in two sizes and an entry-level, 7-inch Kindle Fire HD. They all come with similar features, though the HDX has better hardware and comes with Mayday technical support.

The 7-inch HDX starts at \$229 and is expected to ship Oct. 18, while the 8.9-inch HDX starts at \$379 and should come out Nov. 7. The base models have 16 gigabytes of storage. You can pay more to get additional storage or to get rid of ads that come on the tablets' lock screens. Versions with 4G LTE cellular access will cost \$100 more.

The HD, available Wednesday, starts at \$139 with 8 gigabytes of storage. It replaces last year's HD model.

Anick Jesdanun, deputy technology editor for The Associated Press, can be reached at [njesdanun@ap.org](mailto:njesdanun@ap.org).

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New aircraft carrier marks another milestone in Va

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP) — Another milestone is being marked for the Navy's newest aircraft carrier.

Huntington Ingalls Industries says workers at Newport News Shipbuilding have installed four 30-ton bronze propellers on the USS Gerald R. Ford.

At 21 feet in diameter, each propeller spins to push the aircraft carrier through the water.

Officials say work continues on piping and electrical systems and habitability areas such as the galley and mess spaces.

Construction of the Ford began in November 2009. The ship's christening is scheduled for Nov. 9.

The Ford is the lead ship in a new class of carriers. It features a new nuclear power plant, a redesigned island, electromagnetic catapults, improved weapons movement and an enhanced flight deck.

The Ford will replace the USS Enterprise, which was inactivated last year.

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**Defense lawyer recaps WikiLeaks case at law school**  
BRISTOL, R.I. (AP) — The lawyer who defended Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning against charges of leaking classified information is discussing the court-martial at Roger Williams University Law School in Bristol, R.I. Civilian attorney David Coombs speaks at the school, where he has taught. Coombs also will take questions from students and reporters.

Manning is at Fort Leavenworth prison in Kansas serving a 35-year sentence for a July conviction on espionage, theft and other offenses. Manning sent more than 700,000 documents and some battlefield video to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks while working as an intelligence analyst in Iraq. Manning contends she wanted to expose wrongdoing and provoke a policy debate.

Manning was previously known as Bradley Manning. She announced in August her desire to live as a woman and receive hormone therapy for gender identity disorder.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS
- 1 Metrical unit

5 Arabian judge

9 Grandfather of Saul

12 Exude

13 Sleeping

14 Mountain on Crete

15 Javanese carriage

16 Weed

17 Computer generated imagery (abbr.)

18 Alcott heroine

20 Sable

22 Article

25 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)

27 Garland

28 Time period

29 International (abbr.)

31 And other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.)

34 Sinbad's bird
- 35 Fr. author

37 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)

38 Wing (pref.)

40 Grape syrup

41 Jap. fish

42 Article (Fr.)

44 Negative population growth (abbr.)

45 Deviate

46 Necktie

49 Droop

51 Male person

52 Baseball equipment

54 Eth. Danakil people

58 Pointed (pref.)

59 Afr. tree

60 Polish rum cake

61 Footlike structure

62 Direct

63 Poetic foot

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

F	I	C	O		M	A	H	A		T	A	V
E	V	O	E		A	G	A	R		A	B	E
D	E	A	N		I	A	N	A		C	I	T
				C	O	R	N	U		R	E	T
S	C	H	N	O	Z				L	A	D	
W	I	D	E	N		U	T	T	E	R	E	D
A	M	O			E	L	D			I	R	E
B	A	G	A	S	S	E			A	S	C	I
			R	H	E		S	A	T	E	E	N
S	A	B	E	R		C	A	L	E	B		
A	B	A			I	C	A	L		E	R	A
H	I	C			V	I	N	A		V	A	C
O	A	K			E	R	A	T		E	N	C

- DOWN
- 1 Before some vowels (pref.)

2 Tumor (suf.)

3 Free

4 Monad

5 Felis (2 words)

6 Amateur Boxing
- Assn. (abbr.)

7 Skin (suf.)

8 Utopian

9 Wink

10 Wayside

11 Pour

19 Camelot lady

21 Female ruff

22 Manmade protective mound

23 Owl's cry

24 Moon of Saturn

26 Hindu soul

30 Pulka (2 words)

32 City in Judah

33 Den

36 Legend

39 Race the motor

43 Palmetto

46 Thunder sound

47 People

48 Subtract

50 Taro

53 Yarn measure

55 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)

56 Antiballistic Missile (abbr.)

57 Mortar beater

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## 5 free things to do in Richmond, Va.

MICHAEL FELBERBAUM - AP

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** — With terrain varying from the mountains to the coast, Virginia offers an array of fall colors for leaf-peepers. But before or after your drive along one of the state's many scenic byways, consider a fix of Southern city living with a visit to the state capital, Richmond. Located along Interstate 95, it's an easy stop-off point. And whether you like the outdoors, art or history, there's plenty to do here — and you don't have to spend a dime.

### CANAL WALK/BROWN'S ISLAND/BELLE ISLE

Find out why Outside magazine readers voted Richmond the nation's most livable river town in 2012 by taking in the scenic James River. Canal Walk runs more than a mile (1.6 kilometers) through downtown Richmond along the river and the banks of the city's canals, with monuments and exhibits along the way highlighting Richmond history.

With various access points around the city, Canal Walk eventually leads to Brown's Island, a popular venue for concerts and festivals located between the canals and the river. It has a series of walking trails and bridges, including one that takes you to the middle of the river. Just steps away, a pedestrian bridge suspended under the Lee Bridge takes visitors over the river to Belle Isle, where you'll find locals exploring the 54-acre (29-hectare) island and resting on its rocky shores.

Belle Isle was first explored in 1607 by Capt. John Smith, who helped establish England's first North American settlement in Virginia. The island was once home to a granite quarry and hydroelectric plant. It was also used as prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War. It features several bike trails, a rock climbing wall, and tons of off-the-beaten-path areas to explore.

Canal Walk is open 24 hours a day. Brown's Island and the Belle Isle access bridge are open sunrise to sunset.

### VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL

The State Capitol building, designed by Thomas Jefferson in the Monumental Classical style, has housed state government since 1788. The wings of the building were added between 1904 and 1906. The Capitol reopened in 2007 after a \$104.5 million restoration and expansion project that began in 2004. Statues of Virginia historic figures dot the grounds. Also onsite is the historic Bell Tower, which houses a state welcome center and, at the other corner of the grounds, the Virginia Executive Mansion, where the governor's family lives.

The Capitol building is open Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and on Sundays 1 p.m.-5 p.m. You can tour on your own or with a guide.

### HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY

The cemetery along the James River is named for its plentiful holly trees. But while the Hollywood Cemetery isn't a graveyard for famous actors, it has its own who's who from Virginia history. The cemetery opened in 1849 and has grown to more than 135 acres (55 hectares) with more than 80,000 people buried there, including Presidents James Monroe and John Tyler (who was William Henry Harrison's vice president and became president in 1841 after Harrison died), as well as Confederate President Jefferson Davis and numerous Virginia governors. The first battle casualty of the Civil War is buried there along with more than 18,000 Confederate soldiers interred beneath a 90-foot (28-meter) granite pyramid.

The cemetery is open daily with historic walking tours Monday-Saturday at 10 a.m., April through October.

### VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts houses more than 33,000 works of art spanning 5,000 years of world history. Highlights include Faberge objects, Art Nouveau and Art Deco collections, Asian and African art, and paintings ranging from French Impressionist to modern and contemporary American. With a recent expansion, the museum encompasses 640,000 interior square feet (59,000 square meters), and has a sculpture garden, casual dining area and restaurant.

The museum is open Saturday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. The Virginia Historical Society is next door and offers free parking and admission.

### MAYMONT

This 100-acre (40-acre) estate was given to the Richmond community by James and Sallie Dooley, who lived there in a 33-room mansion from 1893 to 1925. The grounds feature elaborate Italian and Japanese gardens, an arboretum, butterfly trail and other smaller gardens that feature cactus, herbs and daffodils. A wildlife exhibit includes animals native to Virginia, such as black bears, bison, white-tailed deer, bobcats, bald eagles and other birds of prey. A children's farm features goats, pigs and other animals.

Entrance to the gardens, visitors center and wildlife exhibits is free. The mansion, nature center and children's farm have suggested donations of \$5 or less. The grounds are open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., but some areas are closed Mondays.

Michael Felberbaum can be reached at <http://www.twitter.com/MLFelberbaum>.

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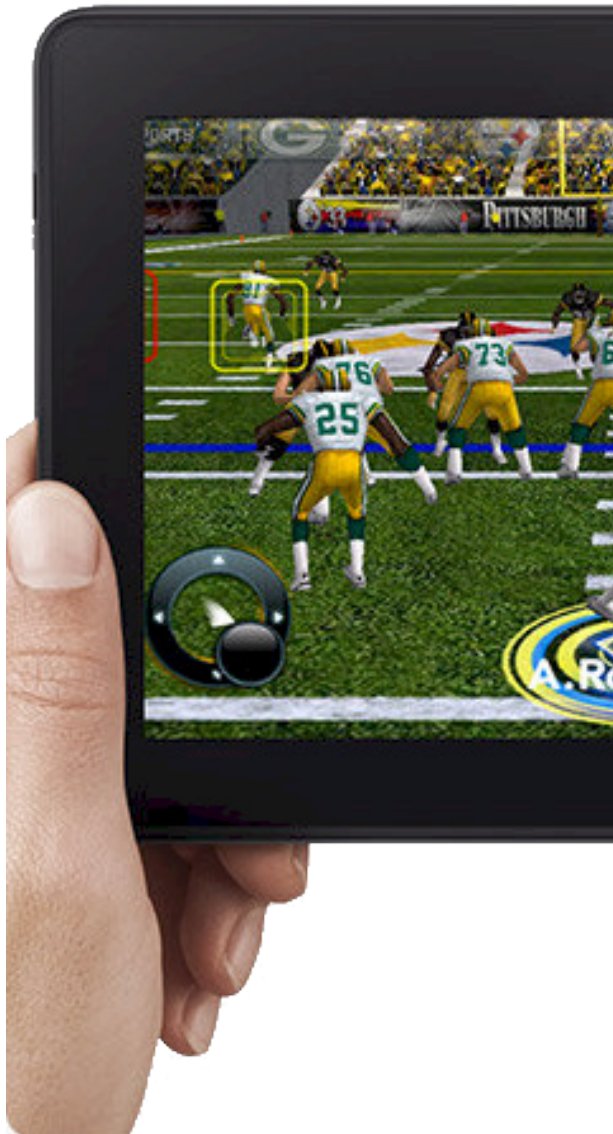
**KINDLE** Continued from frontpage... section, "The Great Gatsby" came up, likely because I had just added a movie version to my video watch list. Kindle versions of "Buffy The Vampire Slayer" comic books came up, likely because I own the entire television series on DVD. Under music, digital copies of physical CDs I had purchased were waiting for me, along with recommendations for other songs and albums from artists in my shopping history.

If you spring for Amazon's \$79-a-year Prime membership, you also get quick access to thousands of free movies and television episodes and the ability to borrow one e-book a month from a select list. For the first time, you can download the free Prime video to watch on a plane or anywhere else lacking an Internet connection. On older Kindle Fires and other devices, you're limited to streaming, which requires a constant Internet connection.

Amazon plans to start shipping the smaller version of the Kindle Fire HDX on Oct. 18. Like the Nexus 7, it has a 7-inch screen, measured diagonally. A larger, 8.9-inch version is expected Nov. 7 and starts at \$379. Amazon is also updating last year's 7-inch HD model, lowering the price to \$139 but cutting a few features including the camera.

All three models expand on an X-Ray feature that Amazon introduced last year. While watching a movie or TV show on older Fires, you can get a list of actors appearing in that scene. Click on one for more information, mostly culled from Amazon's IMDb celebrity-database service. With the new devices, you also get summaries on major characters and opportunities to buy songs played during the show. You also get trivia and goofs, such as a lottery ticket having the wrong code in one scene of "Breaking Bad." You can jump directly to that scene with a click. When playing music, you also see lyrics for selected tunes, perfect for sing-alongs.

My favorite new feature is Mayday on the HDX. It's free, live technical support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A tech adviser appears in a small win-



dow on your Kindle, but the adviser can only hear you and see what's on your screen. Advisers can guide you by highlighting certain settings and buttons with a virtual orange marker. Advisers can also take control of your device and do the task for you, though you're better off learning to do it yourself.

I tried three times to stump the tech advisers. For the most part, I found them patient and knowledgeable. It appeared to me they were really thinking

through the problem, rather than following a script, as I typically find with my cable company. That said, one late-night staffer was willing to give up easily and dismiss my issue as a device malfunction, until I nudged him to walk me through the steps to discover one I had inadvertently skipped.

I'll wait until the support center is fully staffed and trained before making a final judgment, but I'm pleased with what I've seen so far. I particularly like the security protocols; the adviser made sure to pause the screen sharing whenever I typed a password.

As devices get complex, we could use more of this type of offering. I'm hoping Amazon's approach to customer service gets adopted by Apple, Samsung and other rivals.

As for the hardware, the 7-inch HDX has a screen resolution of 323 pixels per inch, which is the same as the Nexus 7 and better than Apple's iPad Mini and Samsung's Galaxy Note 8.0.

For streaming video, I didn't see much difference in video quality, largely because of limitations in what's being sent over Wi-Fi. The differences are more pronounced with video downloads and e-books. Text on the HDX and the Nexus 7 is sharp, whereas letters bleed on the iPad and the Note.

The Apple and Samsung tablets do have slightly larger screens, about an inch longer diagonally. But both are also heavier and more expensive. The Nexus 7 is the lightest at 10.2 ounces, while the HDX weighs 10.7 ounces.

The HDX's front-facing camera is 1 megapixel, which is comparable with the Nexus 7 but much poorer than phones and tablets with rear cameras. The HDX does have one of the fastest processors for a tablet, but unless you're playing games or doing other data-intensive tasks, it won't make much difference.

*Continued on Page 12 KINDLE..*

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### **Adults** *Continued from Frontpage..*

The study, called the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, found that it was easier on average to overcome this and other barriers to literacy overseas than in the United States.

Researchers tested about 166,000 people ages 16 to 65 in more than 20 countries and subnational

regions. The test was developed and released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which is made up of mostly industrialized member countries. The Education Department's Center for Education Statistics participated.

The findings were equally grim for many European countries — Italy and Spain, among the hardest hit by the recession and debt crisis, ranked at the bottom across generations. Unemployment is well over 25 percent in Spain and over 12 percent in Italy. Spain has drastically cut education spending, drawing student street protests.

But in the northern European countries that have fared better, the picture was brighter — and the study credits continuing education. In Finland, Denmark, and the Netherlands, more than 60 percent of adults took part in either job training or continuing education. In Italy, by contrast, the rate was half that.

As the American economy sputters along and many people live paycheck-to-paycheck, economists say a highly-skilled workforce is key to economic recovery. The median hourly wage of workers scoring on the highest level in literacy on the test is more than 60 percent higher than for workers scoring at the lowest level, and those with low literacy skills were more than twice as likely to be unemployed.

"It's not just the kids who require more and more preparation to get access to the economy, it's more and more the adults don't have the skills to stay in it," said Anthony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a state-

ment the nation needs to find ways to reach more adults to upgrade their skills. Otherwise, he said, "no matter how hard they work, these adults will be stuck, unable to support their families and contribute fully to our country."

Among the other findings:

— Americans scored toward the bottom in the category of problem solving in a technology-rich environment. The top five scores in the areas were from Japan, Finland, Australia, Sweden and Norway, while the U.S. score was on par with England, Estonia, Ireland and Poland. In nearly all countries, at least 10 percent of adults lacked the most basic of computer skills such as using a mouse.

— Japanese and Dutch adults who were ages 25 to 34 and only completed high school easily outperformed Italian or Spanish university graduates of the same age.

— In England, Germany, Italy, Poland, and the United States, social background has a big impact on literacy skills, meaning the children of parents with low levels of education have lower reading skills.

America's school kids have historically scored low on international assessment tests compared to other countries, which is often blamed on the diversity of the population and the high number of immigrants. Also, achievement tests have long shown that a large chunk of the U.S. student population lacks basic reading and math skills — most pronounced among low-income and minority students.

This test could suggest students leaving high school without certain basic skills aren't obtaining them later on the job or in an education program.

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## Jupiter-bound craft runs into problem after flyby

ALICIA CHANG AP Science Writer  
LOS ANGELES (AP) —



hit a snag soon after it used Earth as a gravity slingshot to hurtle toward the outer solar system, but mission managers said it's on course to arrive at the giant planet in 2016.

Juno emerged from Earth's shadow in safe mode, a state that spacecraft are programmed to go into when there's some trouble.

Despite the problem, "we believe we are on track as planned to Jupiter," said project manager Rick Nybakken of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the \$1.1 billion mission.

Engineers continued to diagnose the issue, which occurred after Juno whipped around Earth in a mo-

mentum-gathering flyby. Up until Wednesday, Juno had been in excellent health. While in safe mode, it can communicate with ground controllers, but its activities are limited.

Previous missions to the outer solar system have used Earth as a celestial springboard since there's no rocket powerful enough to make a direct flight. The Galileo spacecraft buzzed by Earth twice in the 1990s en route to Jupiter, the solar system's largest planet located 484 million miles from the sun.

Launched in 2011, Juno flew beyond the orbit of Mars, Earth's closest planetary neighbor, before looping back toward our home planet for a quick visit. Wednesday's rendezvous boosted Juno's speed from 78,000 mph relative to the sun to 87,000 mph — enough momentum to cruise past the asteroid belt to Jupiter, where it should arrive in 2016.

During the swing past Earth, Juno snapped pictures. The solar-powered, windmill-shaped spacecraft slipped into Earth's shadow as planned, but engineers were puzzled by the too little data it sent back afterward. At closest approach, it hurtled 350 miles above the ocean off the coast of South Africa.

NASA said skywatchers with binoculars or a small telescope might have seen it streak across the sky, weather permitting. Ham radio operators around the globe were encouraged to say "Hi" in Morse code — a message that might be detected by Juno's radio.

By space mission standards, Juno's Earth rendezvous was low-key compared with the Curiosity rover's nail-biting landing on Mars last year, which drew crowds. Since flybys have been executed before, project managers predicted a smooth flight.

The unexpected problem causes "a moderate level of concern," Nybakken said.

Despite a government shutdown that has prevented NASA from updating its website or tweeting, the space agency's missions continue to operate. Earlier this week, NASA's newest spacecraft, LADEE, slipped into orbit around the moon.

Since the 1970s, spacecraft have circled or flown past Jupiter including the Voyagers, Pioneers, Galileo, Ulysses, Cassini and, most recently, the New Horizons barreling toward Pluto. Missions have beamed back stunning views of Jupiter's trademark Great Red Spot, a raging hurricane-like storm, and its many moons.

Juno promises to inch closer to Jupiter than previous spacecraft, orbiting the planet for at least a year and studying its cloud-covered atmosphere and mysterious interior to better understand how the giant planet formed.

Follow Alicia Chang at <http://twitter.com/SciWriAlicia>

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*Continued from frontpage...*

## Baby Genes

"This was something that was looming over the horizon," said Dr. Alan Guttmacher, a pediatrician and geneticist at the National Institutes of Health. Last month, NIH announced a \$25 million, five-year pilot project in four cities — Boston, San Francisco, Chapel Hill, N.C., and Kansas City, Mo. — to start answering some of the questions before the technology is widely offered for babies.

Today, the 4 million U.S. babies born annually have a heel pricked in the hospital, providing a spot of blood to be tested for signs of at least 30 rare diseases. This newborn screening catches several thousand affected babies each year in time for early treatment to prevent death, brain damage or other disabilities. It's considered one of the nation's most successful public health programs.

A complete genetic blueprint would go well beyond what that newborn blood spot currently tells doctors and parents — allowing a search for potentially hundreds of other conditions, some that arise in childhood and some later, some preventable and some not.

"If I truly believed that knowing one's genome was going to be transformative to medicine over the next decade or more, then wouldn't I want to start generating that information around the time of birth?" asked Dr. John Niederhuber, former director of the National Cancer Institute who now oversees one of the largest baby-sequencing research projects to date.

At Niederhuber's Inova Translational Medicine Institute in Falls Church, Va., researchers are mapping the genomes of newborns, along with their parents and other relatives for comparison. The long-term goal of the privately funded study is to uncover genetic patterns that predict complex health problems, from prematurity to developmental disorders.

But the experimental tests will turn up some gene mutations already well-known to cause serious ailments, and participating parents must choose upfront whether to be told. They don't get a full report card of their baby's genes. Only ones that cause treatable or preventable conditions — so-called

medically actionable findings — are revealed, to the family's doctor. That means in addition to pediatric diseases, parents also could learn whether a baby carries a particular breast-cancer-causing gene, information useful once she reaches young adulthood.

Nurse Holly Sloan was eager to enroll daughter Amelia, although she thought hard about how she'd handle any bad news.

"If it was something that we could hopefully prevent through diet or exercise or some kind of lifestyle change, we could start with that as early as possible," said Sloan, of Warrenton, Va. "I guess I'm just the type of person, I would rather know and address it." Five months after Amelia's birth, she hasn't gotten any worrisome results.

Until now, genome sequencing has been used mostly in research involving curious adults or to help diagnose children or families plagued by mysterious illnesses.

But many specialists say it's almost inevitable that DNA mapping eventually will be used for healthy young children, too, maybe as an addition to traditional newborn screening for at least some tots. It takes a few drops of blood or a cheek swab. And while it's still too costly for routine use, the price is dropping rapidly. Whole genome sequencing is expected to soon come down to \$1,000, what it now costs for a more targeted "exome" sequencing that maps only certain genes and may be enough.

The NIH decided this was a window of opportunity to explore different ways this technology might be used. One of the four teams — at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City — will test rapid gene-mapping to speed diagnosis of sick babies in intensive care.

Another will look for narrow sets of genes important in childhood, such as those involved with immune disorders not detected by today's newborn screening or that alter how a child processes medication. "It's not going to be some sort of fishing expedition throughout the genome," said Dr. Robert Nussbaum of the University of California, San Francisco.

The two other projects — at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill — will go a step further by enrolling healthy infants as they explore what kind of information parents want about their babies' future.

"We aren't even sure that genome-scale sequencing in newborns is really a good idea," cautioned UNC lead researcher Dr. Jonathan Berg in a recent Facebook chat to alert the community about the study. Rather than a one-time mapping, it's possible that "we will use targeted sequencing at certain times in a person's life, when that specific information will actually be medically useful."

For those pioneering babies whose DNA is being mapped already, researchers are "trying to figure out what is legal, versus ethical, versus good medicine" in revealing results, said Joe Vockley, Inova Translational Medicine Institute's chief science officer.

Mom and Dad may be told something their child, once grown, wishes hadn't been revealed. Other findings may be withheld now that would be good to know years later, as new treatments are developed.

"This is a living, breathing problem," Vockley said, "not a static decision that's made, and it lasts for all time."

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