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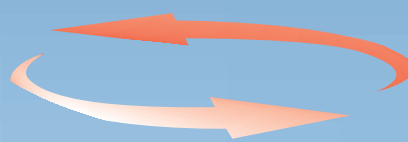


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Konnect

Community and you



SC0114 P1A

January 2014

Va company reopen- ing poultry processing facility

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A newly formed Harrisonburg company is planning to reopen a former Pilgrim's Pride poultry processing facility, creating the equivalent of 102 full-time jobs.

Shenandoah Processing will invest more than \$2.2 million in the project.

The company also plans to purchase an additional \$160 million of Virginia grown poultry over the next three years. The facility will serve the growing market for organically raised and "all-natural" chicken.

Officials say the facility start-up will involve Shenandoah Processing leasing the facility and up-fitting with processing equipment. It will go from processing ap-

proximately 20,000 birds a day in year one to 30,000 birds a day in year two to 50,000 birds a day in year three.



Local leaders planning for climate effects

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When it comes to climate change, local officials have a message for Washington: Lead or get out of the way.

Local governments have long acted as first responders in emergencies and now are working to plan for sea level rise, floods, hurricanes and other extreme events associated with climate change.

As a presidential task force began its work Tuesday, local officials said they want and need federal support but worried that congressional gridlock and balky bureaucratic rules too often get in the way.

"Government, whether the White House or Congress, is not there to make you whole after a disaster," said Bob Dixon, mayor of Greensburg, Kan., which was leveled by a 2007 tornado.

Federal assistance was crucial after the tornado, which destroyed 95 percent of the town. But federal agencies "are there as a resource. You have to be engaged and involved if you really want your community to thrive afterwards," Dixon said after a meeting of a White House task force on climate preparedness and resilience.

Continued on Page 7 **Environment**

Review: Xbox One nearly a set-top box replacement

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Xbox One won't quite replace your TV set-top box, but it comes awfully close.

The latest game console from Microsoft takes a big leap toward being the main entertainment hub in your living room. It gives you a program guide for browsing what's on TV and what's highlighted in apps such as Netflix and Amazon. You can listen to music and view photos stored on Microsoft's SkyDrive service. You can make Skype video calls.

And yeah, you can even play games.

Some of the updates to the Xbox One and Sony's PlayStation 4 help turn them into multi-function devices that make them more attractive to non-gamers. The Xbox goes further than the PlayStation, mainly because it integrates regular live TV. Slick new operating systems and voice controls on both consoles can make navigating the offerings part of the fun.

The Xbox still requires a regular TV set-top box to feed it TV signals using what's called "HDMI pass-through." And you need subscriptions for TV and streaming services. The Xbox One acts like a traffic cop and weaves it all together elegantly. It doesn't pull up on-demand shows or programs saved on a digital video recorder; you have to use the traditional remote control with the Xbox still powered on to do that. But Microsoft is looking at adding that feature in a future software update.

The \$500 Xbox One comes with an updated Kinect device for motion and voice detection, while the \$400 PlayStation 4 has a voice-command camera system for the first time, sold



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Critical thinking hallmark of Com- mon Core class

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

MIDDLETOWN, Del. (AP) — Remembering the plot of a short story is no longer good enough in teacher Amy Lawson's fifth-grade classroom.

Today's students are being asked to think more critically. For example, what might a character say in an email to a friend?

"It's hard. But you can handle this," Lawson tells them.

Welcome to a classroom using the Common Core State Standards, one of the most politicized and misunderstood changes in education for students and their teachers in kindergarten through high school.

In 45 states and the District of Columbia, Lawson and other teachers are starting to use the standards to guide what skills students learn and when.

To hear the standards' critics — mainly tea party-aligned conservatives, but also some parents and teachers — tell it, there are few things more dangerous happening in the country.

But in this fast-growing community in northern Delaware, it's just another day in the classroom.

The Common Core State Standards are academic benchmarks that outline the skills a student should have at each level.

For instance, third-graders should know how to find the perimeter of a figure. A fifth-grader should be able to compare and contrast two characters from a story.

The standards were created by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers to improve academic achievement and increase accountability. President Barack Obama and his administration embraced them.

That led critics, including Republican members of Congress, to call the standards a national curriculum, or "Obamacore." The standards are not a curriculum, despite the opponents' claims. Each state, school or even teacher can determine how to help students reach those standards.

Alaska, Texas, Nebraska and Virginia decided not to adopt them. Minnesota has adopted only the English standards.

At the core of the standards is a reduced emphasis on memorization. Students now have to connect the dots and apply critical thinking. It's what experts call higher-order



thinking. Teachers say it's preparing students for life after high school.

That has made classrooms much more of a hands-on proposition.

In teacher Melissa Grieshober's classroom, students have set aside work sheets in favor



of a game board. On their 10-by-10 grid of numbers, they are playing a version of capture the flag, using flashcards to guide their moves: a "22-7" card lets them move 15 spaces; "16-9" allows them to move 7.

In pairs, the students try to reach targets on the board, not only by solving the problems at hand but by figuring out which cards would get them closer to their targets. It's as much about probability, predictability and luck as it is about rote memorization of addition and subtraction tables.

In fact, in Grieshober's classroom, there is no right or wrong way to figure out such problems. Yes, there are correct answers. But students are encouraged to explain how they got there.

"How did you reach that number?" Grieshober asked one of her third-grade students. "Show me your strategy for solving this."

But what about those who say schools exist to teach students facts, such as 15 subtracted from 20 equals five?

"We are asking kids to do more, and to dig deeper," Grieshober said after class. "We are teaching them to be lifelong problem solvers."

She knows the criticism and political punch it carries. But she isn't ready to ditch the benchmarks.

"It's eye-opening when you come into a school," Grieshober said. "I encourage any politician to go into a local school and see what it is."

Critics' biggest disagreement with the standards is that students and teachers are being expected to do more and do it more quickly. If either group doesn't keep up, there are serious consequences.

Continued on Page 10 - Common Core Class

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Amish Forgiveness

Continued from Page 3:

Charlie Roberts said in suicide notes and a last call with his wife that he was tormented by unsubstantiated memories of having molested a couple of young relatives and by the death of his daughter in 1997, shortly after she was born.

His mother first shared her story nine months after the Oct. 2, 2006, slayings at West Nickel Mines Amish School, when a friend from work asked her to speak to some Japanese exchange students. The message resonated, and Roberts said she felt a calling from God.

Roberts remains close with Charlie Roberts' wife, Marie Monville, who is also breaking her silence with a book, "One Light Still Shines," which shares a similar message of hope amid despair. Like her former mother-in-law, Monville has relied on her Christian faith to carry her through the worst time in her life.

"The message of the book is that it doesn't matter how dark the day is, the love of the Lord continues, and he is capable of writing a redemption story over our lives even in those dark places," said Monville, who has since remarried.

She said God has given her "healing and freedom from the weight of Charlie's choices and from the words, 'the shooter's wife,' that tried to define who I was."

The Amish were celebrated for how they responded to the massacre. Yet forgiveness doesn't always come easily or automatically, even for this Christian sect whose members are known for their plain dress and simple ways.

Rosanna King's father, Christ King, said the Amish are like anyone else, with the same frailties and emotions.

"We hope that we have forgiven, but there actually are times that we struggle with that, and I have to ask myself, 'Have I really forgiven?'" King said.

"We have a lot of work to do to live up to what we are bragged up to be," he continued. "Everyone was talking about this forgiveness thing, and I felt that was putting a lot of weight on our shoulders to live up to that."

Rosanna wasn't expected to survive after being shot in the head. She laughs, cries and responds to stimuli, and King said she is mentally alert. But she requires constant care.

Terri Roberts' weekly visits with Rosanna force her to confront the damage her son caused. But Roberts also finds peace as she spends time with Rosanna and provides some relief to the teen's family, if only for a few hours.

"Beautiful young woman, but life is not as it should've been for this little girl. So my mind will never forget the hardship that day has caused in many people's lives," Roberts said.

"And yet," she said, "none of us needs to live in the saddest part of our lives 24/7."

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Charter School .. continued from Page 12..

post a graduation rate 10 percent below the overall state average for two out of three consecutive years, or see 15 percent of more of its students withdraw in two out of three years.

North Carolina already operates an online public school that offers classes to students trying to keep up with coursework, interested in subjects unavailable locally, prepping for tests, or seeking career planning help. A virtual charter school would receive the same state funding as the state's existing virtual public school, but not additional local funds, the state school board's rules state.

The state Superior Court judge who last year blocked North Carolina Learns estimated it could enroll about 1,800 students statewide and collect about \$18.5 million in state and local funds.

Herndon-based K12 has managed online public

schools in about 30 states with mixed academic success. Test results for students in a virtual academy operated by the company in Tennessee have been among the state's worst in each of its two years of existence. An investigation by the inspector general for Florida's Department of Education found that K12 assigned teachers in one school district to classes they weren't certified to teach and recorded educators as teaching students with whom they had no contact.

The company said in April that it did not intentionally avoid Florida's teacher certification requirements but was responsible for some reporting and record-keeping errors

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Amish school shooter's kin: Horror, then healing

MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

STRASBURG, Pa. (AP) — Once a week, Terri Roberts spends time with a 13-year-old Amish girl named Rosanna who sits in a wheelchair and eats through a tube. Roberts bathes her, sings to her, reads stories. She can only guess what's going on inside Rosanna's mind because the girl can't talk.

Roberts' son did this to her.

Seven years ago, Charles Carl Roberts IV barricaded himself inside an Amish schoolhouse near Lancaster, tied up 10 girls and opened fire, killing five and injuring five others before committing suicide as police closed in.

The Amish responded by offering immediate forgiveness to the killer — even attending his funeral — and embracing his family.

Terri Roberts forgave, too, and now she is sharing her experience with others, saying the world needs more stories about the power of forgiveness and the importance of seeking joy through adversity.

"I realized if I didn't forgive him, I would have the same hole in my heart that he had. And a root of bitterness never brings peace to anyone," Roberts said. "We are called to forgive."

Roberts has delivered the message to scores of audiences, from church groups to colleges, and is writing a memoir. She's even considered traveling to speak in Newtown, Conn., where a gunman killed 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School last year. But she is cautious, mindful an appearance there could give offense.

A book on the Amish school shootings, "Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy," was found among the possessions of Sandy Hook Elementary School gunman Adam Lanza, according to a recent report by the prosecutor in charge of the Newtown investigation. The report said Lanza was preoccupied with mass shootings.

One of Roberts' sons is making a documentary — called "Hope" — about her remarkable journey from heartbroken mother to inspirational speaker.

Zachary Roberts originally conceived the film to help his mother. But it's also proving to be cathartic for him.

"It was like a step toward getting this

off my shoulders and being able to speak about it," said Roberts, 35, who



lives in Sweden. "I have a kid now, and I don't want this to be one of those dark family secrets that nobody talks about. I want to be OK with it, and I want my daughter to be OK with it."

After filming on location in Pennsylvania, Zachary Roberts and the documentary's producers recently released a trailer and have turned to a crowd-funding website to raise money to complete production.

Roberts appears in the trailer and doesn't mince words about the challenge that faced his mother after his 32-year-old brother's rampage: "How does the mother of a mass murderer move forward in life?"

Terri Roberts' path toward healing and reconciliation began, surprisingly enough, that very first afternoon.

Her husband, Chuck, had wiped away so many tears that he'd rubbed his skin raw. The retired police officer hung his head, inconsolable. "I will never face my Amish friends again," he said, over and over.

An Amish neighbor named Henry told him otherwise. "Roberts, we love you. We don't hold anything against you or your son," Terri Roberts recalled Henry saying as he massaged Roberts' slumped shoulders. "We're a forgiving people."

It was an extraordinary gesture, one that gave Terri Roberts her first glimmer of hope. She calls Henry her "angel in black."

That same day, a counselor helped her realize that "we do not need to live in our sorrow." Her son's rampage was one part of his life, a terrible snapshot, the counselor said. Better to focus on all the good years. "I can't tell you what that did for me. That was just so helpful for me, and I feel now that it's helped many other people," Roberts said.

Contd on Page 15 **Amish Forgiveness**

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Top general to teens: Watch what you post online!

PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — If they don't believe their parents, maybe America's teens will listen to the Pentagon's top general.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey worried aloud that the next generation of possible military recruits is ignorant about the damage that can come from showing bad or illegal behavior online.

"I worry a bit about ... the young men and women who are now in their teens, early teens, and who probably underestimate the impact of their persona in social media and what impact that could have later in life on things like security clearances and promotions" and so on, he told a conference in Washington.

He said military officials have been considering the idea of giving people a "second start. In other words ... say to young men and women, 'You know



what, you probably exposed some things in your social media persona ... Twitter or Facebook ... that would disqualify you, actually, from service. But we're going to give you a shot at starting over ... if you agree from this point forward to live to the set of values that we describe."

Officials later said there is no formal proposal on the table. Rather, Dempsey was merely expressing the growing challenge the military and other employers face assessing their recruiting pools in the no-holds-barred environment of the Internet.

More than three-fourths of teenagers have a cellphone and use online social networking sites such as Facebook, according to the Pew Research

Center's Internet and American Life Project. Educators say kids have used their mobile phones to post everything from videos of school drug searches, to nude images of girlfriends or boyfriends. Most parents, they say, have no idea.

According to recent polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV, young people say digital "abuse" — such as taunting someone online or threatening them — remains prevalent. Young people also report that they aren't very offended by the slurs and mean-spirited videos they see on social networking sites that target minorities and overweight people.

But the recent polling also suggests

that teens and young adults are less comfortable with the idea of circulating offensive posts and view digital abuse as a growing problem that society should address.

Technology also has been a complicating factor for the military's efforts to reduce incidents of sexual assault. There have been several sites on Facebook dedicated to posting offensive comments about female Marines, including posts that make light of violence against women. Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., has accused Marine Corps leadership of turning a blind eye to the posts, some of which appear to be made by on-duty Marines and which Speier says fosters a hostile work environment for women in the military.

The Marine Corps has said it won't tolerate behavior that intimidates its female recruits and has sent out warning letters when it believes one of its personnel has posted something offensive. But the Marines also have acknowledged that tracking down the authors of offensive posts can be difficult and time consuming.

Associated Press writer Anne Flaherty contributed to this report from Washington. Copyright 2013 AP.

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Team Loaded is Fall League Champions



Front: from left: Brandon Vaughn, Keaton Turner, Jason Nelson, Isaiah Blackwell, Jahme Ested
 Back: from left: Kendrick Thomas, Joseph Bamisile, Nicholas Reese, Shamar Britt, Elvin Edmonds
 * Coaching Staff (not in the picture): Coach Edmonds, Coach Nelson.

Richmond VA - Team Loaded definitely lives up to its glory. The basketball team, fully equipped and loaded with skillful and talented youngsters, display their chemistry on the court and prove once again, they are the rising stars of tomorrow.

The recently completed fall league tournament, organized by Uturn, runs through September 8th and November 2nd was more of a remarkable event as the Team Loaded 12U 6th graders compete with the challenging 13U 7th graders' teams.

Team Loaded wins every game with outstanding margins on a 10-0 streak and therefore remains

undefeated. Team Havoc one of the challenging teams, vigorously contests to steer Team Loaded winning streaks a different direction but falls short on each attempt in three trials.

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Jay Breez
 Staff Writer, Richmond, VA

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Fertility drugs lead to more big multiple births

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

Triplets-and-more increasingly are the result of drugs given to women to make them produce eggs — not from using multiple embryos from IVF, or lab-dish fertilization, new research shows. More than one-third of twins and three-quarters of triplets and higher multiple births in the U.S. are due to fertility treatments of all types, researchers from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Brown University report in this week's New England Journal of Medicine.

Multiple births raise medical risks and hospital bills for moms and babies. Guidelines urging the use of fewer embryos were strengthened following the 2009 "Octomom" case, in which a California woman had octuplets after

her doctor transferred 12 embryos made from an IVF treatment.

But most cases of infertility are treated not with IVF but simpler measures such as drugs to make the ovaries produce eggs. The first step often is a pill, Clomid, to spur hormones that aid conception. If that doesn't work, more powerful drugs can be given in shots, but those bring a much higher risk of multiple eggs being released.

Doctors are supposed to use ultrasound and blood tests to monitor how many eggs are being produced and advise couples against trying to conceive that month if there are too many, to minimize the risk of multiple births. But that monitoring often isn't done, or done well, and couples eager for a baby may disregard the advice.

"It's very easy to demonize this dumb doctor who didn't do the right thing. That may not always be the case," said Dr. Nanette Santoro, obstetrics chief at the University of Colorado in Denver. "Frustrated people who don't get pregnant after a couple cycles will think more is better. It's the American way."

The new study examined trends over several decades and finds that the rate of triplet and higher-order births peaked in 1998 and has been declining since then.



couples to avoid multiple births, and to use one embryo at a time if they are doing IVF.

"There are medical, social, emotional and financial reasons to avoid having twins" or larger multiple births, he said.

Online: Study: <http://bit.ly/1berIPE>

CDC info: <http://www.cdc.gov/Reproductivehealth/Infertility/>

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From 1998 to 2011, the estimated proportion of twin births due to IVF increased from 10 percent to 17 percent, while the proportion of triplets-and-more declined.

During the same period, the estimated proportion of triplet and bigger multiple births from non-IVF treatments such as fertility drugs increased from 36 percent to 45 percent.

Dr. Fady Sharara of the Virginia Center for Reproductive Medicine in Reston, Va., and an OB/GYN at George Washington University, said he urges

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A glance at why the US is buying Russian copters

Some answers to questions about how the United States ended up buying more than \$1 billion in new helicopters from the Russian arms export agency that has supplied weapons to Syria’s military.

— Why Russia? Defense Department officials have maintained that Afghanistan’s national security forces need heavy-duty helicopters capable of moving troops and supplies in rugged conditions, and that Russia’s Mi-17 is best suited for the mission. The Afghans have years of experience flying the Russian chopper.

— Why couldn’t an American-made helicopter do the job? Turns out one actually could. A top-secret Pentagon study found that the Chinook, a heavy-lift helicopter built by Boeing in Pennsylvania, was the most cost-effective option for the Afghans. Congressional critics of the Mi-17 contract said the Pentagon used the study to prove the necessity of buying Mi-17s and never mentioned the Chinook. The Pentagon declined to speak on the record about the study or provide any details about its

conclusions.

— What is Rosoboronexport? That’s the Russian arms export agency the U.S. signed a contract with a few years ago for the Mi-17s. Doing business with Rosoboronexport before then was forbidden. The Bush White House had imposed penalties against the agency in 2006 after it determined Rosoboronexport had provided sensitive military technology to Iran and Syria. The Obama administration lifted the sanctions in 2010, one of a number of diplomatic moves aimed at “resetting” relations between the former Cold War adversaries.

— How many members of Congress are opposed to buying Mi-17s? A lot. From both political parties, too. In July, for example, more than 80 House members voiced their opposition to the contract with Rosoboronexport in a letter to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. Copyright AP



NC court rebuffs company on virtual charter school

EMERY P. DALESIO
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A three-judge panel of the state Court of Appeals on Tuesday unanimously rejected a bid by a company to establish an online-only charter school for students whose parents opt out of existing public school classrooms.

The court ruled the State Board of Education was entitled to delay consideration of virtual charter schools while studying how best to manage them and create rules for their operation. The nonprofit called North Carolina Learns, which was created by Virginia-based K12 Inc., sought special permission from the state to operate outside many normal school rules.

But the school board held off because the General Assembly hadn’t addressed online versions of charters in 2011 when it lifted a statewide limit on their numbers.

Under state law, the State Board of Education “is vested with sole authority regarding charter schools in North Carolina, including all decisions regarding the formation and operation of such

schools,” Judge Wanda G. Bryant wrote for the court panel

The unanimous ruling means an appeal to the state Supreme Court depends on the high court’s desire to weigh in.

A K12 spokesman and lawyers for North Carolina Learns did not respond to requests for comment.

The nonprofit and K12 Inc., the nation’s largest online educator, sought to set up a charter school with a statewide reach in a deal with Cabarrus County’s school board. North Carolina Learns agreed to pay 4 percent of its revenue to the school system in Cabarrus, located north of Charlotte, as well as pay K12. A state judge last year blocked the plan from advancing without getting approval from the state school board.

Rules adopted by the state school board in January — 14 months after North Carolina Learns first submitted a “fast track” application for its planned school — impose conditions on operating the schools.

The new rules ban online courses before students reach the sixth grade and limit the student-to-teacher ratio at 50-to-1. Operators would be required to have a physical location within North Carolina and describe how they would provide equipment and Internet connections to enrolled students.

A state charter would be lost if operators fail to test at least 95 percent of enrolled students for academic progress,
Continued on Page 14 **Charter School** .

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 "Lorna Doone" character
5 Sinbad's bird
8 Demolish: Brit.
12 Idea (Fr.)
13 Alas
14 Cheese
15 Leg ends
16 Burmese knife
17 Taro
18 Small S.A. rabbit
20 Pilgrim
22 Skin vesicle
23 Veneration
24 Beginning
28 Blaubok
32 Public vehicle
33 54 (Rom. numeral)
35 Israelite tribe
36 Ringed boa
39 Reading desk
42 Abdominal (abbr.)
44 Have (Scot.)
45 Female falcon

48 Butterfly
52 State (Fr.)
53 Television channel
55 Endearment
56 Mine (Fr. 2 words)
57 Rom. first day of the month
58 Per. poet
59 Maid
60 Compass direction
61 Foreign (pref.)

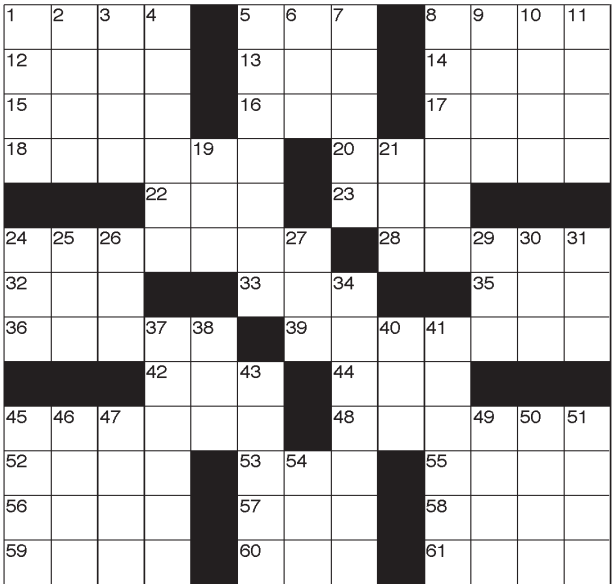
DOWN
1 Breach
2 Design
3 Profound
4 Hate
5 Fanatical
6 Wood sorrel
7 Rudderfish
8 Flat molding
9 "Cantique de Noel" composer
10 Kemo ____

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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A	C	U		A	K	E	E		B	A	B	A
P	E	S		L	E	A	D		I	A	M	B

11 Turk. title
19 Jap. fish
21 Intimidate
24 Amazon tributary
25 Grab
26 Kwa language
27 "Abner"
29 "Fables in

Slang" author
30 Rhine tributary
31 Television channel
34 Car
37 Insect
38 Presidential nickname
40 Helper
41 Caddy (2 words)
43 Male duck
45 Loyal
46 Hindu soul
47 Cella
49 Crippled
50 Dayak people
51 Aeronautical (abbr.)
54 Low (Fr.)



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Titbits

Education funding proposal announced in Va

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Gov. Bob McDonnell is proposing more than \$582 million in increased state funding over the next two-year budget cycle for K-12 and pre-kindergarten education.

The proposals include increased direct aid to local school divisions, support for school construction loans, funding to expand innovative programs like the Virginia Center for Excellence in Teaching.

McDonnell also is proposing additional support for math and reading specialists for schools not meeting accreditation requirements.

He's also proposing funding to continue support of pre-kindergarten programs, as well as funds to implement kindergarten readiness assessment programs.

Va police seek help in I-95 shotgun shooting

CHESTERFIELD, Va. (AP) — The Virginia State Police is asking for help in an investigation into a shooting incident that severely injured a Pennsylvania couple on Interstate 95 in October.

Officials say that an analysis confirms Thomas and Betty Doyle were injured by shotgun pellets while driving on south on I-95 outside Richmond on Oct. 10.

The driver's side window of their dark gray, four-

door 2007 Chevrolet Silverado was struck at around 11:30 p.m. as the pickup truck approached Chippenham Parkway in Chesterfield County.

Investigators say evidence collected following surgery strongly suggests the couple was shot at very close range in a vehicle that was traveling right beside them.

The Doyle family is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Foster care, adoption funding proposed in Va

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Gov. Bob McDonnell is proposing nearly \$28 million in state funding in the next two-year budget cycle for the foster care system and adoption efforts.

The budget proposals include funding to cover child welfare costs, including a 3 percent increase for payments to foster and adoptive parents. McDonnell is also proposing funding to expand foster care and adoption subsidies to age 21, as well as allowing the state Department of Social Services negotiate adoption subsidies for local departments.

The governor also is proposing a study be done to examine the impact of a state-run adoption program.

VCU gets grant to help with education for disabled

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Commonwealth

University is getting a \$1.25 million grant to address the shortage of teachers for infants, toddlers and preschool-age children with disabilities.

The Richmond school says the five-year grant comes from the U.S. Department of Education.

Officials say the grant will allow the VCU School of Education to prepare 40 fully-credentialed, highly qualified teachers with the aim of improving outcomes and academic success for infants and young children with disabilities. They'll focus on high-need communities like the greater Richmond metropolitan area.

According to the school, national statistics show persistent and growing needs for qualified personnel in early intervention, special education and related services. Special education ranks in the top 15 shortage areas, with 98 percent of the nation's school districts reporting shortages.

Budweiser's mobile brewery tour

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Anheuser-Busch is providing an in-depth look at how it brews beer with its mobile Budweiser Brewmaster Tour

The ten-minute tour takes visitors through Budweiser's eight-step brewing process and five brewing zones. It'll also focus on the beer's ingredients: barley, rice, hops, yeast and water.

The tour is slated to visit more than three dozen cities through fall 2014.

separately for \$60. Both systems are good at facial recognition and will sign you in automatically.

The Xbox adds a few neat tricks: Using your voice, you can power it on, adjust the TV volume, find shows and channels and start photo slideshows. That's much easier than searching my couch cushions for the TV remote control, even though my wife found it odd that I kept talking to the machine.

A nifty "snap" function that is unique to the Xbox makes it possible to do two things at once. This way, I could play "Need for Speed: Rivals" in a large window and watch the British TV show "Sherlock" on Netflix in a smaller one. I simply say to the machine, "Xbox snap Netflix," after firing up the game and the show separately. Because snap also works for TV, I found this a great way to keep tabs on a football game, listen to a talk show or see when a commercial break ended.

I did notice some quirks, though. Using snap, I found the image stuttered when the console was starting a game or doing some other intense computing. In some cases, I found the audio lagged people's lips moving, even when I went back to full-screen mode. In troubleshooting with Xbox support, I was told to restart the set-top box and console and make sure I had the highest-rated HDMI cables. That didn't resolve the issue, but the hiccup isn't a deal-breaker. When I'm doing two things, I'm not zeroing in on every detail anyway.

At this point, the PlayStation's new user interfaces are more rudimentary, but they seem capable of improving over time. The voice commands you can give it are more limited than on the Xbox, and its home screen doesn't make use of the touchpad on the new DualShock 4 controller. Its PlayRoom app shows off what's possible, like kicking imaginary robots that appear to multiply in my living room. But I got the sense that game developers have yet to take advantage of the new hardware.

Both new consoles bring music into the mix with their proprietary music subscriptions, "Music



Unlimited" and "Xbox Music." Either allows you to listen to music while playing a game if you have a \$10-a-month subscription. In both cases, you'll have to fiddle with volume settings manually.

Both consoles also offer ways to buy movies and TV shows, similar to the previous generation of consoles. And both consoles play streaming video in 1080p high definition. With the One, the Xbox has caught up to the PlayStation in enabling you to watch video on Blu-ray discs.

Both systems also introduce new ways of sharing some of your game play with friends. On the Xbox, you say "Xbox record that." With the PlayStation, you press the share button to capture a good chunk of action that just happened. The PlayStation makes it much easier to post to Facebook and Twitter. Both offer ways to edit these videos. The Xbox lets you insert video commentary, while the PlayStation lets you broadcast your game play and video commentary live on the online game video app Twitch.

Although the Xbox One's ambitions are higher, it comes with a few oddities. You can't say "Xbox play game" to go back to your video game, because the "play" command is reserved for playback controls or launching the music app. You have to say "Xbox select" to light up certain words on the screen that

allow you to navigate, but the choices are inconsistent. Sometimes apps have "full screen" as an option, and sometimes it's "go to full screen."

However, I think the benefits outweigh any initial frustrations.

There are reasons to buy either console, not least of which is to benefit from machinery that is more powerful than its predecessors. And neither company is done innovating. The Xbox will have a Verizon FiOS app by early next year so subscribers can pull up on-demand programming. Sony plans to add original video content from Sony Pictures exclusively for its PlayStation Network. If done regularly, it will be a long-term benefit of owning its console, though it's not yet clear whether you need to pay for a PlayStation Plus subscription for those extras.

Neither console is perfect out of the box, but both offer a range of intriguing possibilities that will definitely entertain you — at least until the next consoles come out years from now.

Follow Ryan Nakashima on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/rnakashi>

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Environment - Continued from Front-page

President Barack Obama appointed the task force last month to advise the administration on how to respond to severe storms, wildfires, droughts and other events affected by climate change. All but four of the 26 task force members are Democrats.

The task force meeting occurred as the White House announced that John Podesta, a former chief of staff under President Bill Clinton, will join Obama's inner circle, focusing on energy and climate change issues.

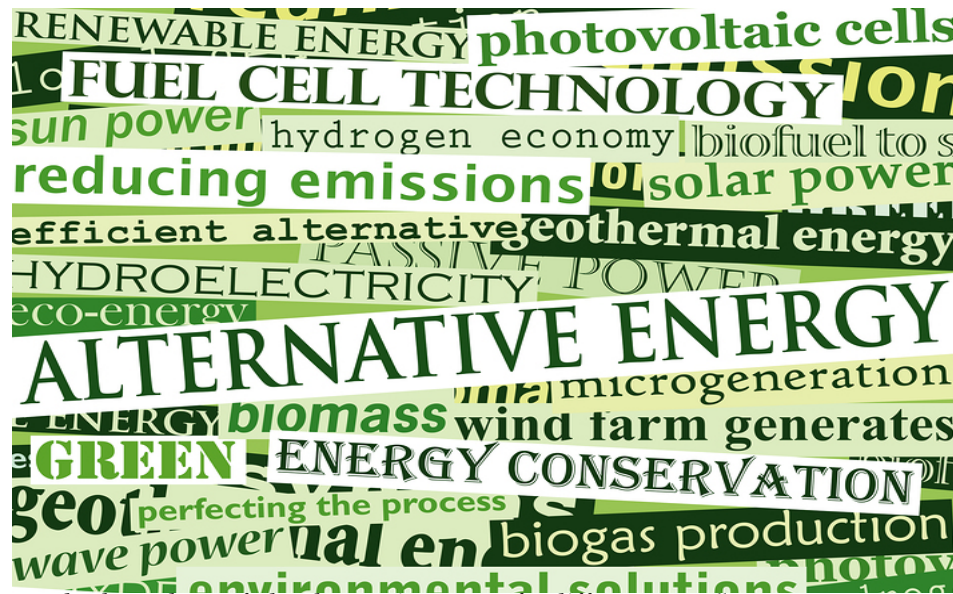
Dixon, a task force member and a Republican, called climate resilience a key part of environmental stewardship. Neither issue should be partisan, he said, nor should it be left to the federal government.

"It has to come from the community level," he said. "It can't be an edict from the Beltway."

Greensburg's population has shrunk from about 1,500 people to 850 since the tornado, but Dixon said the town is thriving, even as it continues to recover.

Federal assistance also was crucial after a massive flood in Colorado in September destroyed nearly 2,000 homes, washed out hundreds of miles of roads and left many small mountain towns completely cut off. But even as cities and towns relied on the National Guard and other federal help in the storm's immediate aftermath, local leaders said the disaster illustrated problems with a one-size-fits-all approach.

In Fort Collins, Colo., for instance,



nearly three dozen federal agencies were involved in fixing a road destroyed by a mudslide.

"Half said, 'No, it can't be fixed,'" said Fort Collins Mayor Karen Weitkunat. "The other half said, 'Go ahead, that's a problem that needs to be resolved.'"

Weitkunat, who serves on the presidential task force, said her message to federal officials is simple: "Get out of the way and we can rebound."

The White House says it backs a local approach to climate change. That's a key reason President Barack Obama appointed the task force, which includes state, local and tribal officials.

"Climate impacts are really local," said Susan Ruffo, deputy associate director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. "They are about the place where you are, and everyone has to deal with this in a bit

of a different way."

In states such as Florida, climate change is "about sea level rise," Ruffo said, while in some Western states the main effects are more frequent wildfires, as well as extreme flooding or drought.

While the task force is looking at federal money spent on roads, bridges, flood control and other projects, most key decisions are local, Ruffo said, citing zoning rules and building codes that could be adapted to account for climate change.

Some local officials said Washington needs to reconsider national policies that encourage people to build in beautiful but vulnerable areas.

"The first thing the feds should do is stop making things worse," said Boulder, Colo., Mayor Matthew Appelbaum. Specifically, by subsidizing

flood insurance in low-lying areas and paying billions to fight wildfires that destroy property near national forests, the federal government is encouraging development "in all the wrong places," Appelbaum said at a recent forum on the impacts of climate change.

Even when Congress does act, it faces resistance. A law approved last year lowers federal subsidies for properties in flood zones. The measure, intended to keep the National Flood Insurance Program solvent after an onslaught of disaster-related claims in recent years, is under attack from lawmakers in coastal states worried about sharp insurance rate hikes for some property owners.

The pushback on the flood-insurance law shows the daunting task facing government at all levels, Appelbaum said.

"Maybe we'll never get up the political gumption to make everybody move" from flood- and fire-prone areas, he said, "but we should sure as heck stop encouraging people to increase development in those locations. The feds keep doing it."

Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, a member of the White House task force, said climate change demands immediate action. "We can't wait for Congress to gets its act together," he said. "We can't wait and we won't wait."

Follow Matthew Daly on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

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Common Core Class - Continued from Page 2

"Honestly, it's overwhelming at first," said Lara Crowley, an English and language arts specialist who is coaching teachers on the Common Core standards in Delaware's Appoquinimink School District. "I had a hard time wrapping my head around how this was going to work."

For instance, subtraction is now introduced in kindergarten instead of first grade.

"We were nervous," Crowley said. "It raises the bar for us." For the students as well as the teachers.

Coinciding with the new standards are new tests for students and evaluations for teachers. The tests, mandated under the George W. Bush-era No Child Left Behind education law, help states identify schools that are struggling and provide them extra help.

The teacher evaluations were not originally part of the Common Core. But in exchange for millions of federal dollars to help them avoid layoffs during the worst of the recession, states agreed to greater accountability for students and teachers. Many opted

to go with the Common Core and linked students' progress with teacher performance.

In some places, such as New York and Minnesota, the shift to Common Core testing produced in steep drop in student scores, which reflected poorly on teachers.

"We know there is going to be a bump in the road. But we're going to do our best for the students," said Silver Lake Elementary School principal Cynthia Clay, a 31-year educator who has insisted her teachers receive training on the new standards.

Teachers meet in the evenings, during their planning periods and exchange emails asking how they might best approach the standards. Clay pulled together teachers with similar levels of experience so they could share their stories and realize they aren't alone in their frustrations.

"In a perfect world, the tests would reflect how well the students are learning," said Melissa Bowser, a 15-year classroom veteran.

But she, like her colleagues, expects there will be a decline in student

scores.

"It will take two or three years," said Sherry Frangia, who has taught for more than 30 years and is bracing for the dip in scores.

That doesn't mean testing is the enemy. "We need some sort of evidence that they're learning," Frangia said. "We didn't get into teaching to stand up here and have nothing to show for it."

Back in Lawson's classroom, fifth-graders are continuing work on a lesson about points of view.

Students are clustered in groups as Lawson read aloud Judy Blume's 1974 short story, "The Pain and the Great One." Unlike previous years, when students were asked to remember basic details about the plot and characters, the questions this year weren't as simple.

She assigned each student a character in the book and then told them to write an email message from that character to a friend.

"I need to see all pencils moving, friends," she says.

In classrooms at non-Common Core schools, the assignment might have been filling out a work sheet with questions about which character said what. Now, the students are being asked to take the reading a step further and to critically question whether their character was an honest narrator. "It's not in the story. You will have to infer here," Lawson says. Students don't seem to mind.

"We're doing things, not just sitting there and listening," fifth-grader Jon Warner said after the lesson. "My opinions matter."

In fact, students are encouraged to disagree with their classmates and push them to defend their thinking.

"Are we allowed to have different opinions about this?" Lawson says, urging her students to share differing opinions about the picture book. "Yes, as long as you have evidence to back this up."

Follow Philip Elliott on Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/philip_elliott

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New Va. Tech president described as 'approachable'

LARRY O'DELL
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Tech's new president is an engineer — an expert in nanotechnology, one of the developers of energy-saving light-emitting diodes and holder of 16 patents in optoelectronics.

Such a description might evoke the stereotype of a cubicle-dwelling introvert, but that's not the type of person Virginia Tech is getting with the hiring of Timothy D. Sands, one of his longtime colleagues at Purdue University says.

"You don't see him with a slide rule strapped to his belt," said David J. Williams, a veterinary medicine professor and chairman of the University Senate at Purdue. "You'll find him to be very personable. He's a very approachable person, very easy to be with."

Sands, 55, was named Virginia Tech's 16th president Friday. He takes over June 1 for Charles W. Steger, who is retiring.

As executive vice president and provost — a position he has held since April 2010 — Sands oversees Purdue's academic activities, libraries, cultural centers, admissions, student success programs and the appointment and retention of faculty and staff, according to the West Lafayette, Ind., university's website. He served six months as Purdue's acting president before former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels took over in January 2013.

In the 1980s and early '90s, Sands worked in private industry putting to practical use his skills in nanotechnology — the science of working with at-



oms and molecules to build extremely small devices such as robots — and optoelectronics, technology involving the combination of electronics and light.

"I loved industrial research but was missing something," Sands said. When he learned about an opportunity to become a professor at his alma mater, the University of California at Berkeley, he took it.

With a broad range of experience in industry and academia, it was only a matter of time before Sands landed a permanent job as a college president, Williams said in an interview.

"None of us are surprised," Williams said. "I think it was just a matter of when and where."

Sands said the answer to the question of "where" wasn't a tough one to figure out.

"That's an institution that is similar to the one I'm coming from," Sands said at his introductory news conference

Friday at the Blacksburg campus. "The moment where we felt like this was something special was probably after my first experience with the search committee. I thought, 'Wow, these are people who think like I do.' That clicked."

Virginia Tech officials said Sands was chosen from a field of more than 200 candidates.

"Dr. Sands impressed many from the start and garnered even more support after our personal interviews," Mike Quillen, rector of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, said in a news release. "We are particularly impressed with Tim's sense of the modern research university's role in advancing American society and its economy."

Sands was equally impressed with Virginia Tech.

"Virginia Tech has so much momentum," he said. "This is a place that is clearly not happy with the status quo. It always wants to do better, always wants to improve."

Williams said Sands, who described himself as more of a "builder" than a caretaker, is the right person to help the university continue to advance.

"He's keenly intelligent with an excellent command of the issues that face higher education today," Williams said. "He has a calm demeanor about him, which I think really serves him well."

Sands and his wife Laura, a Purdue nursing professor, have four grown daughters — three Purdue graduates, and one a junior at the university.

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California student wins \$100k science scholarship

WASHINGTON (AP) — A California high school student has won a \$100,000 scholarship for research that could be used to develop drugs to combat the flu.

The Siemens Foundation announced the winners of its annual high school science competition during a ceremony in Washington. Top individual honors went to Eric Chen, a senior at Canyon Crest Academy in San Diego.

Top team honors went to a group of three students from George W. Hewlett High School in Hewlett, N.Y., who did research on plants' resistance to ozone. The group will share a \$100,000 scholarship. They are: Priyanka Wadgaonkar, Zainab Mahmood, and JiaWen Pei.

Six individuals and six teams were competing for awards. In addition to California and New York, the finalists came from Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, Texas and Virginia.

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Co-owner of Va. drug firm admits illegal imports

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The co-owner of a now-defunct Virginia drug company has pleaded guilty to illegally importing Botox and other prescription drugs and selling them to physicians in violation of the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory scheme.

Thirty-eight-year-old Syed "Farhan" Huda of Arlington entered the plea Monday in federal court in Alexandria on charges of importation fraud, selling misbranded drugs and distributing prescription drugs without a license.

Huda, a Canadian citizen, also entered a guilty plea on behalf of the corporation, Gallant Pharma. He is the eighth person to plead guilty in connection with the FDA's investigation of Gallant.

Court records state that Gallant represented itself as a Canadian company but was actually importing drugs from countries including Turkey and Switzerland. Prosecutors say the drugs were shipped in ways that compromised their safety.

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Dozens of blackbirds found dead along Va. road

NOKESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Prince William County police say dozens of blackbirds were found dead along a Nokesville road and authorities are investigating the cause.

The birds were found near the intersection of Aden Road and Fitzwater Drive on Thursday afternoon.

Officer Jonathan Perok, a county police spokesman, estimates that fewer than 100 birds were found. He says a Virginia Department of Transportation crew cleaned up the birds.

Perok says the birds may have gotten into a poison or been caught in a power line surge. He says animal control officers don't believe there is any threat to the public, but a few carcasses were sent out for testing.

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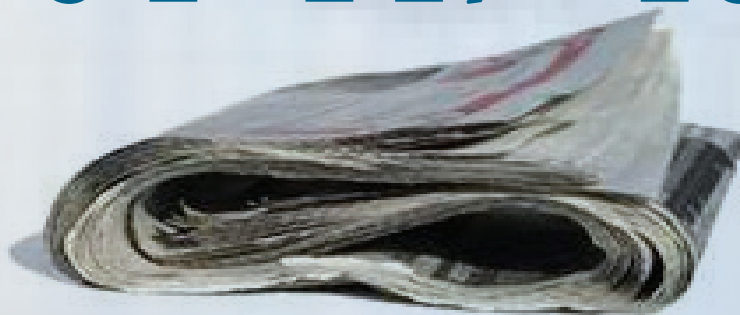
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