

# THE SUN



DAVID STEELE'S COLUMN >>>> SPORTS

## CHEATING IS CHEATING

ASTERISKS ARE NEEDED TO AFFIRM HONESTY, INTEGRITY IN SPORTS



IN FOCUS >>>> PG 6A

## FLU SHOTS

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

**MIND GAMES**  
 MENTAL, PHYSICAL EXERCISES HELP SHARPEN YOUR MEMORY  
 >>>> HEALTH TODAY

# O'MALLEY DETAILS CUT IN INCOME TAX

SUN EXCLUSIVE

## NSA to defend against hackers

Privacy fears raised as spy agency turns to systems protection

BY SIOBHAN GORMAN  
 (SUN REPORTER)

**WASHINGTON** // In a major shift, the National Security Agency is drawing up plans for a new domestic assignment: helping protect government and private communications networks from cyberattacks and infiltration by terrorists and hackers, according to current and former intelligence officials.

From electricity grids to subways to nuclear power plants, the United States depends more than ever on Internet-based control systems that could be manipulated remotely in a terrorist attack, security specialists say.

The plan calls for the NSA to work with the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies to monitor such networks to prevent unauthorized intrusion, according to those with knowledge of what is known internally as the "Cyber Initiative." Details of the project are highly classified.

Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell, a former NSA chief, is coordinating the initiative. It will be run by the Department of Homeland Security, which has primary responsibility for protecting domestic infrastructure, including the Internet, current and former officials said.

At the outset, up to 2,000 people — from the Department of Homeland Security, the NSA and other agencies — could be assigned to the initiative, said a source. *(Please see NSA, 5A)*

ONLINE

For related coverage, go to [baltimoresun.com/nsa](http://baltimoresun.com/nsa)



As reporters and photographers crowd the kitchen doorway, Gov. Martin O'Malley talks with visitors in the dining room of the Baltimore County home of Sarah Achenbach and Jason Knott about his plan to restructure the state income tax.

KARL MERTON FERRON (SUN PHOTOGRAPHER)

### TAX PROPOSAL

A look at the reduction or increase in state income tax Marylanders would receive under O'Malley's plan

Gross income	Married*	Single
\$25,000	-\$141	-\$90
\$50,000	-\$175	-\$90
\$75,000	-\$176	-\$90
\$125,000	-\$176	-\$90
\$250,000	-\$72	-\$71
\$750,000	\$7,028	\$7,997

\*With two children  
 Source: O'Malley administration

(SUN NEWS GRAPHIC)

## Governor says 95% in Md. would pay less

BY ANDREW A. GREEN AND JAMES DREW  
 (SUN REPORTERS)

Seeking to make the first changes in 40 years to Maryland's income tax structure, Gov. Martin O'Malley unveiled a plan yesterday that he said would lead to an income tax reduction for most people but would cost top earners thousands more a year.

The proposal is the first that O'Malley has discussed in detail

from his plan to close a projected \$1.7 billion budget gap next fiscal year and add hundreds of millions in new spending. He called it a measure that would cut taxes for 95 percent of Marylanders, but he has not released enough specifics to calculate the total impact of his proposals — which include increases to the sales tax and other levies.

The measure would transform Maryland's income tax from a system in which effectively everyone is in the top bracket of

4.75 percent into one in which the rates are steeply graduated by income. The governor said that change would make the system more progressive and benefit most taxpayers.

"If you're a billionaire, you're [now] paying the same 4.75 percent rate that the woman who comes in and cleans your office at night as a second job pays," O'Malley said in a campaign-like appearance at a Baltimore County family's home.

*(Please see TAXES, 7A)*

ONLINE

More state politics news can be found at [baltimoresun.com/politics](http://baltimoresun.com/politics)

## Charges against Freeman dropped

O.C. case involved death of newborn

BY GADI DECHTER AND GREG GARLAND  
 (SUN REPORTERS)

Prosecutors have dropped all charges against an Ocean City woman accused of killing a newborn twin several years ago, the Worcester County public defender's office said yesterday — apparently ending a gruesome case that drew national headlines this summer.

Christy Lynn Freeman, 37, was released yesterday afternoon from the county jail after a grand jury declined to return an indictment, the public defender's office said. She had been jailed since July 27.

The case involved a series of bizarre twists. First, Freeman was charged with first-degree murder after authorities found a stillborn baby wrapped in a blanket in her bathroom. Then, after investigators found three additional fetal remains in and around her home, the initial murder charge was dropped and she was charged with having murdered a baby three or four years earlier.

Reached at home last night, Freeman's longtime boyfriend, Ray Godman, said she was angry charges were ever brought against her. The case *(Please see FREEMAN, 12A)*



### MARYLAND ADVOCATE DIES

Peggy Ewing Waxter, who agitated for civil rights, women's issues, and children and the elderly, dies at age 103. >>>> PG 1B

### WEATHER SUNNY

High, 80; low, 60. Yesterday's downtown high, 80; low, 61. >>>> PG 8B

## Take a number, Southwest fliers

Airline to keep open seating but assign places in line

BY DAN THANH DANG AND M. WILLIAM SALGANIK  
 (SUN REPORTERS)

Kiss the cattle call goodbye, but get ready to take a number the next time you fly Southwest Airlines.

The Dallas-based airline said yesterday that it will change the open-seating system that has been central to its maverick identity through 36 years in business by assigning numbers to position passengers in boarding lanes.

Starting in early November, fliers will no longer have to show up at the gate early and get in line to jostle, elbow and vie for the best seat. Instead, assigned letters and numbers on new boarding passes will mark positions in line, from which passengers will be able to board in small groups and choose their favorite seats. The airline will not assign seats, as nearly all of its competitors do.

It's a system designed to make the most people happy without compromising Southwest's famed efficiency or forcing major change on its cult of open-seating

die-hards.

"No more cattle call," Gary C. Kelly, Southwest's chief executive officer, said yesterday. "But it's still open seating. It's still first-come, first-served. But now, we will alleviate the need to save your place in line, so customers will no longer need to queue up early. You'll have your assigned place in line."

"It was very clear when we did customer research and surveyed our customers," Kelly added. "They said, 'We like open seating. We like picking our seats. We just don't like waiting in line.' This will vastly improve on what is already a good process."

The long-awaited announcement comes after the carrier, which provides more than half the flights at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, spent more than a year trying to decide whether to change or do away with open seating.

Southwest was hesitant to alter *(Please see SOUTHWEST, 13A)*

ONLINE

To see a video of Southwest's new boarding procedure, go to [baltimoresun.com/southwest](http://baltimoresun.com/southwest)

## Marylanders are joining people nationwide to show support for the Jena 6 Thousands take outrage to La.

BY KELLY BREWINGTON  
 (SUN REPORTER)

For many, the Jena 6 have become a symbol of persistent racism and uneven justice in the Deep South.

But for Clinton homemaker Kim Carrington, the case of six black teens charged with attempted murder of a white student because of a schoolyard brawl feels very personal.

The accused, she thought, could have been one of her five sons. That's how vulnerable young African-American men are to racial bias in the criminal justice system — even today, even in Maryland, she said.

"This movement is something that they can relate to," Carrington, 42, said of her sons, ages 14 through 21. "They know, just because it's down there in Louisiana doesn't mean that it could not happen here. In fact, I'm sure it does."

The case of six black students has resonated with parents, college students and civil rights leaders well beyond the sawmill hamlet of Jena, La. The fight and subsequent national outrage were sparked by a jarring display — three nooses hanging from the so-called white tree at Jena High School.

Today, thousands, including Carrington and her sons, will descend on Jena (pronounced JEE-nuh) to protest the treatment of the young men in a case that has exposed racial wounds in Louisiana and beyond. Organizers say about 30,000 people could show *(Please see JENA, 9A)*



Kim Carrington (left) of Clinton says the injustice in Jena, La., could happen to young black men elsewhere in the United States, including in Maryland. With her are her sons Bryce (seated), 20, and Braxton (right), 16; and family friend Sean Pace, 18.

GENE SWEENEY JR. (SUN PHOTOGRAPHER)

