

The Washington Post METRO

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012

EZ SU



Obituaries Adrienne Rich, an honored poet who came from a privileged Baltimore family, explored her identity as a feminist, lesbian and agent for political change. **B7**

WASHINGTONPOST.COM
Ready, set, elect
Prepare for Tuesday's primaries in the District and Virginia. See our Voters Guide at PostLocal.com.

JOHN KELLY'S WASHINGTON
Norton at center of tussle
The battle over a memorial in Washington to the veterans of World War I just got a little more confusing. **B2**



MARYLAND
Muse 'in it to win it'
C. Anthony Muse says his bid to unseat U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D) is not symbolic. **B5**

FEDERAL DIARY
Airport screeners
How many is too many? Maybe the current number, suggests an Ala. congressman. **B4**

More news focused on your neighborhood in the Local Living section inside today's newspaper



Passengers at Dulles International Airport walk underneath one of Philadelphia artist Ray King's hanging sculptures.

As jets expand, so does Dulles Airport

BY ASHLEY HALSEY III

On a brisk autumn day almost 50 years ago, with its piston engines churning four-bladed propellers, an airliner banked over the farm fields west of Washington to make a graceful landing as an assembled crowd applauded.

About 80 passengers got off, and Dulles International Airport was officially open for business.

The farm fields and turboprop planes are long gone, and the massive airport 26 miles from the nation's capital is quietly moving toward a new era when the next generation of wide-body jets can deliver several thousand international passengers through its portals in a single hour.

Right now, a new Air France Airbus 380 that can carry 538 passengers arrives from Paris each day. Soon, more of the huge jets

may come calling, and United and ANA, two airlines that service Dulles, are taking delivery of the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which can handle up to 290 passengers.

"We may get as many as five wide-bodies at once in the afternoon when the northern European flights begin arriving," airport manager Chris Browne said Wednesday as he strolled through the cavernous new facility intended to process as many as 2,400 international passengers, and reunite them with their luggage, in a single hour.

The arrival of five wide-body jets from abroad at the same time could dump more than 3,000 pieces of luggage into a reception and processing area that has doubled in size.

The airport has gradually been making improvements to prepare for the new jets and their planeloads of passengers.

To handle all those bags, the airport completed the installation last year of

several baggage carousels in the international arrivals building that together are the length of six football fields.

While a dour economy has slowed air travel globally and at home, the number of international passengers passing through Dulles has continued to grow slightly, even as domestic travel dipped. Dulles served 23.2 million domestic and international passengers last year, an overall decline of 1.6 percent from 2010. By comparison, Baltimore-Washington International Marshall Airport served a record 22.4 million passengers overall.

But international traffic at Dulles is expected to continue to grow with the addition of flights to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Doha, Qatar; Dubai; Dublin; Manchester, England; Mexico City; and Toronto.

The airport expects to expand from 388

AIRPORT CONTINUED ON B10

Obama moves on offshore drilling

SEISMIC SURVEYS IN ATLANTIC PROPOSED

McDonnell pleased; environmentalists opposed

BY DARRYL FEARS

The Obama administration on Wednesday took a significant step toward allowing oil and natural gas companies to drill off the coasts of Virginia and other Eastern Seaboard states.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced a plan to allow companies to conduct seismic mapping surveys on the outer continental shelf of the Atlantic Coast from Delaware to the middle of Florida.

"As part of our offshore energy strategy, we want to open the opportunity ... to conduct seismic exploration ... so we can know what resources exist in those areas," Salazar said in Norfolk. "The fact is our information is ... 30 years old, and it's out of date. The bottom line is it's an important first step to understand what resources are out there."

In addition to assessing how much oil and natural gas is in the area, seismic testing would help determine the best places for wind turbines and other renew-

able energy projects, locate sand and gravel for restoring eroding coastal areas, and identify cultural artifacts such as historic sunken ships.

Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell, in a statement, praised the announcement as "a small step forward in the development of our offshore energy resources." But he also chided the administration for not allowing oil exploration off Virginia last year, a "breakthrough that would have led to the creation of thousands of new jobs in our state, generated significant revenues for state and local governments, and led to more domestic energy production."

Environmental groups attacked the survey proposal, saying the sonic booms could injure hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales and disrupt the feeding, mating and reproductive patterns of marine mammals millions of times each year.

DRILLING CONTINUED ON B6

D.C. is drawing more from outside region

Most new residents are college students or recent graduates

BY CAROL MORELLO

Even as the District bleeds residents to the suburbs, it is gaining newcomers who are moving to the city from outside the region, new census data show.

More people relocate to the District each year from Manhattan than from Fairfax County. The District gains more residents from Chicago and Los Angeles than from Alexandria, with newcomers from Philadelphia and San Diego close behind. Eight of the top 15 places that people have

left for the District are outside the region.

Census data released Wednesday show that migration patterns reflect a revitalized District that has been gaining residents for the first time in more than half a century. Most of the new arrivals are young adults who move here to attend college and stay, or arrive fresh from graduation to land their first professional jobs.

"The District is the place with day life and night life and action," said William H. Frey, a demographer with the Brookings Institution. "People who come in and want to be part of it move into the District. In a lot of other places, they would move into the inner suburbs."

CENSUS CONTINUED ON B6



TRACY A. WOODWARD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Travelers walk through the newly enlarged international arrivals building at Dulles International Airport on Wednesday. Officials say they expect the airport to expand from 388 weekly departures to 495 in the near future.

Dulles Airport is 'building for the future'

AIRPORT FROM B1

international departures each week to 495 in the near future.

"This facility is designed to be world-class," Browne said as passengers from a Korean Air flight filtered through. "We view ourselves as the doorstep to the nation's capital"

To that end, the almost 400,000-square-foot customs and baggage center was beautified with a suspended sculpture by New York artist Alice Aycock. Four skylights frame large hanging sculptures by Philadelphia Ray King, each one a series of lenses that are aligned to splash sunlight on the white terrazzo

floor. A resin wall sculpture by Boston artist Mikyoung Kim creates a textured reflection of the local seasons using global telescopic images collected by NASA.

Passengers too weary after hours of international flight to notice the fine art will, at least, find plenty of restrooms, including in the area before they line up

to share their passports with customs authorities.

Should they fail to notice them, a corps of multilingual college students in bright yellow shirts works the lines to point them out and answer other questions.

"We're building for the future," Browne said.

halseya@washpost.com