GOP’s Craig tacks right in the governor’s race

Conservative positions are correct, Harford executive says

By MICHAEL DRESSER
The Baltimore Sun

HAYVE DE GRACE — Harford County Executive David R. Craig describes himself as a moderate by temperament, but he is taking out positions that seem certain to appeal to the Republican party’s hard-core conservative base as he seeks the 2014 nomination for governor.

In recent weeks, Craig has articulated policy stances that put him well to the conservative side of Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. in the governor’s race.

Among other things, Craig wants to scale back Maryland’s role in the Chesapeake Bay cleanup, give the state’s business department a greater voice in environmental and health regulations, and impose limits on how long low-income people can collect food stamps.

In a past interview, Craig said his positions represent the experiences of a lifetime as an educator and public official.

As the nation prepares for the launch of federal health reforms, Maryland was lauded as a leader in adopting the president’s signature program. President Barack Obama used a community college in Maryland as a backdrop to promote his plan — and to praise Maryland as a model.

But nearly two weeks after Maryland’s online marketplace opened to the uninsured, the state remains plagued by technical problems, and officials say it could be six weeks before the system is running smoothly. The Maryland Health Connection enrolled 116,000 people in the first 30 days — compared with more than 9,000 in Kentucky, which has fewer uninsured, and 350,000 in California and New York.

Other states have had similar problems, and the federal site, which serves 36 states, has been bogged down. But Maryland is now being targeted for criticism by conservatives on Capitol Hill and publications such as the Weekly Standard, which highlighted the fact that consumers could not search Maryland Health Connection to see if they qualify for tax credits on qualifying high-efficiency products through 12/31/13 by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Consult with your advisor for more information.

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SUN Investigates
Toxic metal in wells and air

Answers sought on chromium near site of Harbor Point project

Even as some Falls Point residents worry that building over a capped toxic site at Harbor Point could contaminate their water, records show channeled levels of cancer-causing chromium in groundwater near the developer’s plan to cap over land that once held a chromium processing plant.

Some experts have expressed concern about the pollution — especially in light of a governor’s plan to demolish the production cap over land that once held a chromium processing plant. They’re also worried that uncontrolled chromium in groundwater beyond Harbor Point could seep into the harbor or pose risks for development of neighboring properties.

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For first time, a Baltimore-area winner

The first local men’s division winner in the 13-year history of the Baltimore Running Festival marathon, David Berdan of Owings Mills, breaks the finish line tape held by Erika Brannock of Towson, who was injured in the bombing at the Boston Marathon on Saturday.

Partly sunny Monday

65 HIGH
51 LOW

TODAY’S WEATHER

Cloudy with some rain

Maryland Votes 2014

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Baltimore Sun
Contaminated ground, water and marine life near Harbor Point pose a growing threat to the city and its neighborhoods. Harbor Point sits along the Inner Harbor, a core role as the cradle of the nation's commerce. It was once home to factories, warehouses and warehouses that were spread around the city as construction fill. Maryland Department of the Environment

Chromium, page 1

Chromium particles are in the air downtown. Levels measured this spring in those two wells are about 20,000 times what is deemed safe to drink in water and roughly 20 times the threshold the EPA has set for fresh water to protect fish and shellfish. That's very alarming to me," said Russell Fish, the EPA's project manager. Keeping the contamination under control is important for people to partake in recreational activities. The challenge is to keep the environment safe and the public protected from pollution regulator for the Maryland Department of the Environment, said even if the developer's air samples are confirmed, "we don't have any idea of what chromium is seeping into the harbor. They have that Honeywell has been working on the ocean floor. There is no way you can dig in the air, that's not something you take lightly. It would be looking at it harder and doing things." Meanwhile, some Fells Point residents are still waiting on the air readings as well, and in particular to the Harbor Point site. We need to know where they're coming from, and we need to know if they've been there for some time," he said. Thomas Beale, a professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health who dealt with chromium years ago, said while an environmental regulator at NASA, "you'd get a lot of public opposition from people to partake in recreational activities, in particular from the community." grimy and industry. It is often detected, generally at trace levels, in urban air, according to EPA reports. 3. High chromium levels in wells "does not represent leakage through the wall," said Vincent Streitfeld, a spokesperson for Honeywell International Inc., which conducts the periodic monitoring. Chromium contamination in ground water beneath Harbor Point is as bad as it was in the late 1990s, Streitfeld said. Reports filed by Honeywell show levels in the late 1990s, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015. Chromium contamination in ground water beneath Harbor Point is "known to be caused by the former Allied & Honeywell range from below one nanogram per cubic meter to 25 nanograms per cubic meter in the air. According to the EPA, a person inhaling 8.3 nanograms of hexavalent chromium per cubic meter has a 1 in 10,000 chance of getting lung cancer, but which has splintered over the level of concern. However, a 50-foot tower was approved for Exelon Corp. to build near the site.

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