

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

## ABCs of News



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- KidsPost Reprint: “No monument for Madison. But one of his legacies is freedom of the press.”
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## KIDSPOST

# No monument for Madison. But one of his legacies is freedom of the press.

*Founding Father put newspaper protection in First Amendment, and his support grew a decade later.*

BY CHRISTINA BARRON

When you think about the Founding Fathers, you probably think of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and, these days, Alexander Hamilton. There's another founder whose legacy isn't a monument, memorial or Broadway musical.

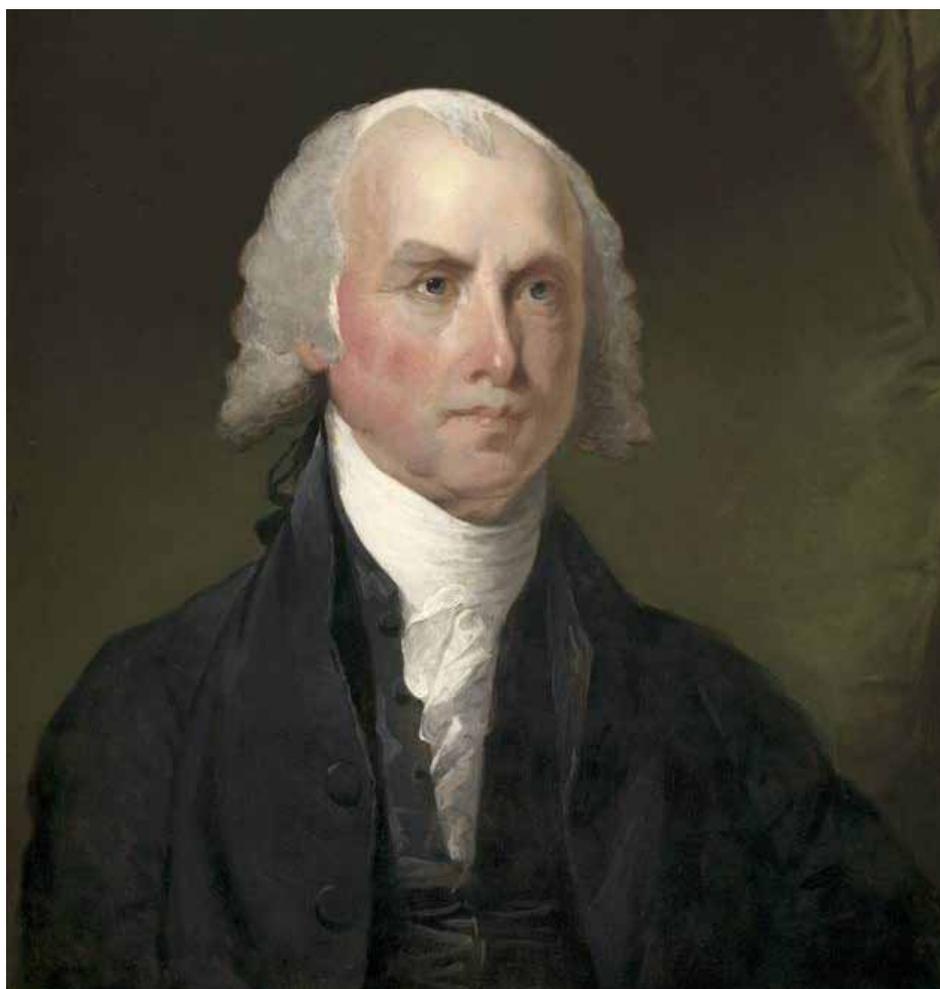
He's James Madison, and he left behind words that protect U.S. citizens — the Bill of Rights.

To mark Madison's 266th birthday, which is [March 16], we decided to examine one part of his legacy: a free press. Let's look at why Madison included free press guarantees in the Bill of Rights.

### Truth wins

As a British subject, Madison knew it was a crime for newspapers to criticize the king's government. This was called seditious libel, and in England it didn't matter whether the criticism that the newspaper printed was true.

"That was the baseline that the American colonists were working with," said Lata Nott, executive director of the First Amendment



NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

**James Madison didn't see the need to protect individual freedoms when he helped write the constitution in 1787 but later agreed to add a Bill of Rights.**

Center at the Newseum Institute in Washington. But even before Madison's time, American laws had

begun to change.

In 1735, a New York newspaper publisher had been found not guilty

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of libel because what he had printed about that colony's governor was true.

"That's probably where the idea of free press was born," Nott said. "If you say something true, you shouldn't be charged with any sort of a crime."

### Ensuring freedom

As the colonies were separating from Great Britain, there was a lot of talk about freedoms. Just before Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776, fellow Virginian George Mason championed a free press in that colony's Declaration of Rights. He said it was something that "can never be restrained but by despotic governments." (In a "despotic government," one or a few leaders have all the power.)

Madison didn't see the need to protect individual freedom with a bill of rights when he and others wrote the Constitution in 1787.

"Madison's feeling was the checks and balances would keep authority in check," Nott said, referring to the separate powers of the three branches of government.

But some lawmakers, including Mason and Jefferson, strongly supported the idea of guaranteeing freedom of the press.

In 1789, Jefferson wrote to a fellow lawmaker: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

So Madison agreed to come up



ISTOCKPHOTO

**The Bill of Rights that Madison wrote includes a constitutional amendment guaranteeing freedom of the press.**

with amendments to protect citizens' rights. He included this: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Congress approved this amendment, and by December 15, 1791, three-fourths of the states ratified, or agreed to, it and nine others, adding them to the Constitution.

### An early test

It didn't take long for some lawmakers to decide they didn't like a free press. In 1798, Congress passed the Sedition Act, which made it a crime to publish "any false, scandalous, and malicious writing" against the government and President John Adams.

More than a dozen newspaper editors were fined or jailed, and

even a member of Congress, Representative Matthew Lyon, was arrested for writing that Adams had "an unbounded thirst for ridiculous pomp."

"People were being thrown in jail for expressing opinions," Nott said.

The law expired when Adams left office in 1801, but that challenge to the First Amendment intensified Madison's support for an independent press, according to Hilarie Hicks, a research associate at Montpelier, Madison's home in Orange County, Virginia.

"I would definitely say that the freedom of the press was always important to him, but he didn't see it challenged until the ... Sedition Act," she said.

### Thick skin

Presidents before and after Madison weren't entirely supportive of the press.

"As for what is not true, you will always find abundance in the newspapers," Jefferson wrote while in office.

But there's nothing in Madison's papers to suggest that he changed his opinion about a free press, Hicks said. "I don't think things got under his skin."

Even after two terms as president, Madison didn't waver. As he wrote to a former senator from Kentucky, "A people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with power which knowledge gives."

— March 14, 2017

# First Amendment Protection of the Free Press

Read “No monument for Madison. But one of his legacies is freedom of the press” by Christina Barron and respond to the following questions.

1. You will need to know certain keywords before reading this story. Define each of these terms:
  - a. “Checks and balances”
  - b. Despot
  - c. Founding Father
  - d. “Free press”
  - e. Government
  - f. Libel
  - g. Malicious
  - h. Pomp
  - i. Ratify
  - j. Sedition
2. What is seditious libel?
3. From the king’s view, why is it bad that newspapers criticized his government? In your response, consider who is reading the newspapers.
4. Define “freedom of the press.” Contrast this definition with the Sedition Act of 1798.
5. What are the negative effects of the Sedition Acts? Why are they important?
6. When and where did freedom of the press begin? Summarize the story mentioned in the reading.
7. George Mason said that a free press “can never be restrained but by despotic governments.” Describe why this is the case. Compare and contrast a despotic government with the system of checks and balances.
8. How does freedom of the press help democratic governments?

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## Finding Bias in the News

You are provided two news articles that focus on the rollback of Michelle Obama's healthy school lunch program. Read the Breitbart article "Trump administration eases Michelle Obama's school lunch restrictions" and answer the first set of questions. Then, read *The Washington Post* article "Schools get a pass on serving more healthful lunches next fall" and answer the second set of questions.

**BREITBART** **B** **BIG GOVERNMENT** **BIG JOURNALISM** **BIG HOLLYWOOD** **NATIONAL SECURITY** **TECH** **VIDEO**

**THE OFFICIAL BREITBART STORE**

### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION EASES MICHELLE OBAMA'S SCHOOL LUNCH RESTRICTIONS

Facebook | Email | Share | Tweet

by THE WITMAN REPORT | 4 May 2017

**U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue is easing some of the restrictions former First Lady Michelle Obama worked to enforce in school lunch programs throughout the country.**

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email address **SUBMIT**

A new interim rule will suspend requirements for sodium reduction and whole grains during the 2017-2018 school year. Additionally, 1-percent flavored milk will be permitted again in school cafeterias.

"I wouldn't be as big as I am today without flavored milk," Perdue said in remarks, according to ABC News.

"School Nutrition Association [SNA] is appreciative of Secretary Perdue's support of school meal programs in providing flexibility to prepare and serve healthy meals that are appealing to students," said SNA CEO Patricia Montague, CAE in a statement. "School nutrition professionals are committed to the students they serve and will continue working with USDA and the Secretary to strengthen and protect school meal programs."

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, a 2010 law that was part of Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" initiative, was met with intense controversy in school districts. Many students disliked the lunches, leading to significant amounts of food being discarded.

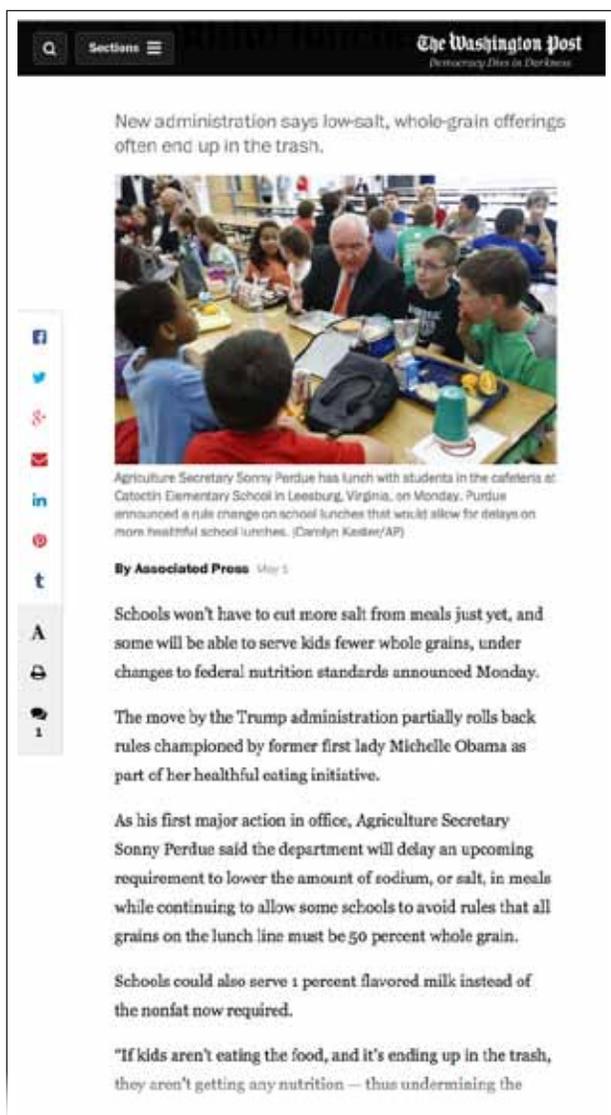
"If kids aren't eating the food, and it's ending up in the trash, they aren't getting any

### Breitbart

Visit: <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/05/01/trump-administration-eases-michelle-obamas-school-lunch-restrictions/>

1. When was the article published?
2. Who is the reporter?
3. Click on the reporter's name under the photo. Can you find her biography or any information about her? Perform a Google search. What did you find?
4. Do you believe the reporter is credible? Why or why not?
5. Summarize the article. What are the reporter's findings?
6. Analyze the photograph of Michelle Obama at the top. What are your initial reactions? Explain why the photo editor may have chosen this photo to go with the article.
7. How many sources did the reporter use? Are they primary or secondary? Are the sources biased or unbiased? Explain your answer.
8. What different points of view does the reporter provide? How many viewpoints are expressed in total?
9. After reading, is there any more information you would like to know?

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The screenshot shows a Washington Post article from May 5, 2017. The headline reads: "New administration says low-salt, whole-grain offerings often end up in the trash." Below the headline is a photograph of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue sitting at a table with several young students in a school cafeteria. The article text discusses a rule change by the Trump administration that allows schools to delay implementing federal nutrition standards, specifically regarding salt and whole grains. A quote from the article states: "If kids aren't eating the food, and it's ending up in the trash, they aren't getting any nutrition — thus undermining the..."

**The Washington Post-AP**

Visit: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/schools-get-a-pass-on-serving-more-healthy-lunches-next-fall/2017/05/01/1b8385ba-2eaf-11e7-8674-437ddb6e813e\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.ebeba8316b0d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/schools-get-a-pass-on-serving-more-healthy-lunches-next-fall/2017/05/01/1b8385ba-2eaf-11e7-8674-437ddb6e813e_story.html?utm_term=.ebeba8316b0d)

1. When was the article published?
2. Sometimes news sources publish articles from other websites. Who was the original publisher of the article? Can you find the original work on their website?
3. Summarize the article. What are the reporter's findings?
4. Analyze the photograph of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue at the top. What are your initial reactions? Explain why the photo editor may have chosen this photo to go with the article.
5. How many sources did the author use? Are they primary or secondary? Are the sources biased or unbiased? Explain your answer.
6. What different points of view does the reporter provide? How many viewpoints are expressed in total?
7. After reading, is there any more information you would like to know?
8. Which of these articles was more reliable and why? Explain your answer using at least three examples from the questions above.

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## A Guide to Finding Reliable Sources

### **What is bias?**

Bias is when somebody shares information that is opinionated or untruthful instead of factual. This means that the information could reflect the viewpoints or goals of a specific person or organization, or it could trick people into believing something that is incorrect. It is important to look out for bias all the time — it could be in the news, in your textbooks, or on your favorite websites. Recognizing where bias is and how to avoid it is the key to finding good sources of information

### **What is a reliable source?**

A reliable source is a basis for information that can come from a person, an organization, or both. A source becomes “reliable” when it is professional, well-researched, and “unbiased.” Something is unbiased if it does not reflect the opinions of a person or organization, instead offering factual evidence for something.

A reliable source may have a particular point of view because of expertise in a particular area. This person will provide the latest research, findings or action with accuracy and the intent to inform.

### **What is a primary source? How does it relate to reliability?**

A primary source is someone who has first-hand information on something. This means he or she was an eyewitness or was directly involved in an event.

### **What is a secondary source? How does it relate to reliability?**

A secondary source is someone who does not have first-hand information on something. Instead, he or she learned about the event from a primary source and is sharing the information.

### **What is a beat? How is it helpful in the field of journalism?**

A beat is a specific topic that a journalist covers in his or her reporting. Journalists often cover the same topic for a long period of time, even for their whole careers, in order to become experts. They establish connections with other professionals who work in the field they cover. This helps them earn credibility and expertise, which can decrease bias in their writing.

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## Online Sources

A URL is the three-letter code at the end of an online Web address. The type of URL attached to a Web address provides an important clue to the type of content on the website. The chart below details five common URLs that you may find when doing an Internet search. Pay close attention to the source of each URL and the significance in terms of bias.

URL	Source	Meaning
.com	Any company	Any organization may create its own commercial website to promote its products and services. There is a bias towards the company in most .com websites, but some may be written by a credible source or from a respected and well-regarded institution (like <i>The Washington Post</i> ).
.gov	The U.S. government	Each department and bureau of the U.S. government has its own website that includes information about the purpose and goals of the bureau. For example, the Department of Education website details how the department is run and how it works to promote education in the U.S. Each website is edited when a new government enters office.
.net	An online network	Online networks are created by companies that work in business and communications. They emphasize working through Internet communication.
.org	A non-profit organization	Non-profits are companies that work for a specific cause and do not gain revenue for their work, instead relying on donations.
.edu	A school, university, or other educational institution	Educational institutions have their own websites that feature professional work done by students, professors, and researchers. Many online research articles from .edu websites are peer-reviewed, which means that they were evaluated by a panel of experts for truthfulness and fairness. Keep an eye out for who wrote the content of the website — sometimes student work that has not been reviewed can be found on a .edu website.

1. Describe how a website with a .com or a .org URL may contain bias.
2. If you wanted information about American history, which type of URL would you look for at the end of a Web address? Why?
3. Search “education.com,” “education.org,” and “education.edu” online. Compare and contrast the websites that you found. What are the key differences between them? How do the URLs reflect these differences?
4. Ask your teacher which URL your school prefers for student research. Which one is most preferable and why?

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## KIDSPOST

# On World Press Freedom Day, student shares her opinion on why a free press matters

*Winner of the KidsPost essay contest says, “free press and technology go hand in hand.”*



LUNASIX/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

You might think that the United States is a pretty safe place to be a journalist. In nations such as China and Syria, independent journalists are often jailed and sometimes killed for doing their jobs. In the United States, such danger is not typical. But a recent report shows that the country is not a shining example of press freedom.

Reporters Without Borders, which monitors press freedom around the world, has been ranking at least 139 countries since 2002 on how well they protect journalists and allow them to do their jobs. The United States ranked 43rd of 180 nations this year. Two years ago its ranking was 49th, and in 2007 it was 48th. Only once in the past 15 years has

the country ranked higher than 20th.

Why doesn't the United States get top marks? The organization mentions several reasons. The Trump administration has blocked some journalists' White House access. Reporters have been arrested while covering protests. The Obama administration pressured journalists to reveal sources of government "leaks," or information that wasn't intended to be made public. In 2013, government lawyers secretly took two months' worth of phone records from Associated Press journalists. And the government has been slow or has sometimes refused to provide public information to reporters.

So as we mark World Press Freedom Day, we wanted to share your thoughts on whether the free-press guarantees in the Constitution were still important. We asked readers in grades four through eight to share their ideas.

Our winner is Jahnvi Dave, an eighth-grader from Burke, Virginia. Jahnvi said she has studied freedom of the press in her civics class at Lake Braddock Secondary School. She reads the newspaper and watches world news on TV with her parents.

The 14-year-old wants to be an aerospace engineer when she grows up. In her essay, Jahnvi ties her interest in science and technology to freedom of the press.

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“I read a lot about new technology,” Jahnavi said. “I always want to know if that’s true. I don’t want to think something is true and later find out that it’s not true. I feel that free press and technology go hand in hand.”

Jahnavi makes a compelling case for why we still need the protection for a free press that James Madison included in the First Amendment. For her winning essay, she will receive four tickets to the Newseum, along with a KidsPost T-shirt and other goodies. Here is her essay:

*We may not know it, but history is being made right now, in this moment. From the change in power in government domestically, to the growing terror internationally, to the climate crisis being faced globally, we are part of an ever-changing society. As citizens and residents of the United States of America, it is important to be informed about everything going on around us. Without having knowledge about current problems, we cannot work together to solve*



**Contest winner Jahnavi Dave is an eighth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School**

*them. Furthermore, the 21st century is an expeditious time, with new and rapid technological advances in medicine, space engineering, and other fields. Now more than ever, it is important for the free press to portray the world without any filters.*

*Freedom of the Press, or free press, is a one of the five First Amendment freedoms. Free press*

*includes newspapers, news shows, and radio broadcasts, all of which have the right to gather and publish any true information. Government is a big example of where free press is important, especially in the 21st century. Some politicians may take advantage of the public by not telling the whole truth. The free press holds government officials accountable to the public so that all information is known and proper decisions can be made. Industrial and business growth is also another reason why free press is necessary.*

*As we continue to find cures to diseases, explore the depths of space, and create revolutionizing technology, the free press needs to fact check and report to the public every detail to ensure safety and truth of the products being made.*

*Free press is a great gift given to us in the Bill of Rights. As we continue to build our economies, strengthen international relations, and pass legislation, the importance of free press cannot be underestimated.*

### What other readers had to say about a free press

*If the Freedom of Press was not there, you may not realize it, but the world would seem and be very different. Newspapers would have no diversity in articles on the same subject, as every article on a certain topic would be what the powerful leaders want it to say.*

— Arihan Dixit, sixth grade, Ashburn, Virginia

*If we didn’t have this freedom people wouldn’t know what is going on in the government or would get arrested for writing about the government if they weren’t pleased with the news.*

— Audrey Wang, fifth grade, Rockville, Maryland

*I believe that free press is important because it ensures that citizens are getting the full story of any problem and not only what the government wants you to hear.*

— Tawj Tymus, sixth grade, Washington, D.C.

— Christina Barron, May 3, 2017

Christina Barron is the editor of KidsPost, a section of *The Washington Post* for ages 6 to 13.

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# When your home is at risk: Trailer park families fight eviction over sewage leaks

BY ANTONIO OLIVO

• Originally Published April 4, 2017

Nightfall at East End Mobile Home Park means dinner cooking in renovated kitchens, children staring at homework or television, parents returning from hourly-wage jobs.

Outside, crumbling underground pipes leak sewage in some spots and swallow up groundwater in others, costing the city of Manassas, Va., tens of thousands of dollars a year at the wastewater treatment plant and jeopardizing the existence of this affordable oasis, one of a decreasing number of mobile home parks across the country.

Nearly a year ago, Manassas officials agreed to purchase the land and shut down the trailer park, having concluded there was no feasible way to fix the privately owned sewer system.

But the mostly Latino residents are fighting to remain. They say they can't move their trailers elsewhere or afford traditional homes with comparable space in the pricey Washington region, where according to 2015 census data about 1 in every 5 renter households spends at least half its income on rent. On the advice of a pro bono attorney, and cheered on by a hotel cook-turned-activist who



Source: Maps4News/HERE

THE WASHINGTON POST

has embraced their cause, the 49 families of East End have withheld about \$150,000 in monthly lot fees, part of a court case scheduled to be heard in June that could determine whether the owner of the park can be compelled to make repairs.

Their eviction date, originally scheduled for February, has been delayed until after that hearing, creating a window for a nonprofit housing group that is searching for financing to buy the property. It is the latest glimmer of hope in a journey that has been full of false starts, but has also won the trailer owners support from at least some city officials.

“How could you not be touched

and moved by the very impassioned pleas of people who are saying: ‘This is my home. This is where I raise my family, and now the rug has been pulled out from under me?’” said Manassas Vice Mayor Marc Aveni (R).

“We’re smart people,” Aveni said. “You can’t tell me there’s not a solution out there.”

## A staple of cheap living

Mobile homes are vanishing even as the cost of living in major metropolitan areas creeps steadily upward. In the early 2000s, there were 8 million manufactured homes in the country. Today, there are about 6.3 million, according to census

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estimates. The disappearances come in clusters.

In Richmond, 24 families were forced out after a 2014 housing-code-violation sweep, prompting a federal discrimination lawsuit that resulted in new policies geared toward protecting mobile-home communities. In Palo Alto, Calif., nearly 400 mobile home residents are fighting to keep the city from shutting down their park to make way for new condominiums and apartments.

“We see these cases every week,” said Rick Robinson, general counsel of the Manufactured Housing Institute, which has launched a task force to combat what it believes are local government efforts to regulate trailer parks out of existence.

Many East End families saved up money to buy their trailers while sharing cramped space in overcrowded houses and apartments. Selfo Sosa, a leader in the fight to stop the sale of the park, purchased his four-bedroom trailer for \$17,000 five years ago, after crowding his family of six into a two-bedroom unit in a nearby trailer park.

“None of us can afford a house anywhere else in this area,” said Sosa, a construction worker originally from Mexico who has organized community cleanups in an effort to win the favor of local officials. “We are all poor. ... The cost of living is too high.”

Mobile homes began as symbols of luxury, according to the Affordable Housing Institute. In the 1920s,

families riding the postwar economic boom hauled what were then known as “travel trailers” on camping trips. During the Great Depression, thousands of the contraptions were used as permanent housing, clustered in what came to be known as trailer parks.

The first true mobile home was a 22-foot-long trailer that included a kitchen and bathroom, produced by oil tycoon J. Paul Getty’s Spartan Aircraft Co. for workers at defense plants, coal mines and steel mills during World War II. The innovation drew disdain from some local officials, who relegated mobile home parks to mostly isolated areas on the outskirts of town. “Because they are privately owned and privately managed, they were really below the radar,” said Doug Ryan, director of affordable housing for the Corporation for Enterprise Development, a D.C.-based anti-poverty group. “There was little incentive to maintain them.”

John Clarke, a bail bondsman in Manassas, bought East End park in 1961. He left the six-acre property to his only daughter, Helen Loretta Clarke, who turned over responsibility for it to her attorney, Timothy A. Cope, in 2005 as her health declined. At some point, said Oren Rose, a resident since 1975, “they started to let things slide.”

The pipes flooded raw sewage after rainstorms, leaving a strong odor and attracting the attention of city officials. The porous lines also allowed up to 200,000 gallons of rainwater a day to drain toward the

Upper Occoquan water treatment plant in nearby Chantilly, eating up capacity that officials say soon will be needed for new commercial and residential development.

The city spent six years trying to force Cope to fix the system. Inspectors found holes in the pipes patched with aluminum cans and old construction signs, and estimated the cost of repairs at \$750,000 or more. In 2015, the city offered to buy the land, contingent on the residents being evicted.

“He just seemed to be indifferent” to the damage caused by the leaking pipes, city utilities director Tony Dawood said of Cope. “We were very frustrated.”

Cope said the city’s \$1.89 million purchase offer was a godsend for an attorney trying to do right by his client. He had been unable to secure a loan to fix the sewer system and was worried that Clarke would lose roughly \$117,000 per year in income if the city condemned the property.

“This isn’t a big corporation that could come in and straighten things out,” Cope said. “When they offered to buy it, it was in my opinion a very feasible answer to the quandary that I was in.”

The city has not said how it would use the land, located along the fast-developing Route 28 corridor that leads to Washington Dulles International Airport. “Potentially somebody might come in with a redevelopment option that the council would be willing to look at,” Manassas City Manager Patrick Pate said.

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### Seeking a way to stay

Since receiving their initial eviction notices in August [2016], the East End trailer owners have been on a roller-coaster ride of hope and worry.

They considered pooling their resources in a cooperative to buy the mobile home park — a longshot idea that quickly fizzled.

Led by Sosa, they picked up litter and debris left behind by former neighbors, and rented an electric plumbing snake from Home Depot one night to try to clear out a backed-up part of the sewer system themselves.

Sosa learned about the bad pipes when his toilet kept clogging, after he had spent \$10,000 on new floors, porch decks and an upgraded bathroom for his trailer. “I couldn’t believe it,” he said.

He and his neighbors have been mobbed by offers of help from strangers, including Helen Zurita, who cooks at a nearby Marriott hotel. After reading an article about the East End eviction notices in August, she called a local priest who had been quoted to ask how she could help.

Zurita joined other activists in searching for a buyer who would match the city’s purchase offer and keep the park open. She won over residents with her passion for their cause. “You have to do something to help my residents,” she sobbed to Mayor Harry J. “Hal” Parrish II (R) in November, after a City Council



PETE MAROVICH/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST  
**Selfo Sosa, a resident of the East End Mobile Home Park and member of the Save Our Homes Alliance, addresses the Manassas City Council in November.**

meeting where the trailer owners had testified.

But she also has made promises she didn’t know if she could keep.

“We’re very close to getting you a buyer,” Zurita told residents through a Spanish interpreter at a meeting in January, adding that she would love to become the park’s property manager if the plan was successful.

No buyer came through, and residents prepared to move out on Feb. 28.

They got an unexpected reprieve when another would-be activist showed up. Paulette Joy Millsaps, who works at a Fairfax City Toyota dealership and describes herself as an “amateur geologist,” approached Cope and Manassas officials with a plan to replace the sewer system through Hydro Relief and Water Conservation Resources, a nonprofit she formed last spring.

Cope delayed eviction proceedings for a few weeks to allow time for

Millsaps — who had had her own financial troubles, including two evictions for nonpayment of rent — to put a deal together. She, too, could not make it work.

Then Catholics for Housing, a nonprofit based in Dumfries, approached Cope. Its plan to take over East End, which would require bank or public financing and approval from Manassas officials, is in the initial stages, said chief executive Karen DeVito.

“We really have to make sure that we are not giving anybody false hope,” DeVito said. “Right now, we’re assessing a very complicated situation to determine whether we have the capability of getting involved.”

In the meantime, life at the trailer park has continued its routines. Each weekday, around 4 p.m., parents wait for their kids at a school bus stop in a nearby shopping strip parking lot.

Among them is Evelin Zavala, a single mother of two who works as a school custodian in Fauquier County.

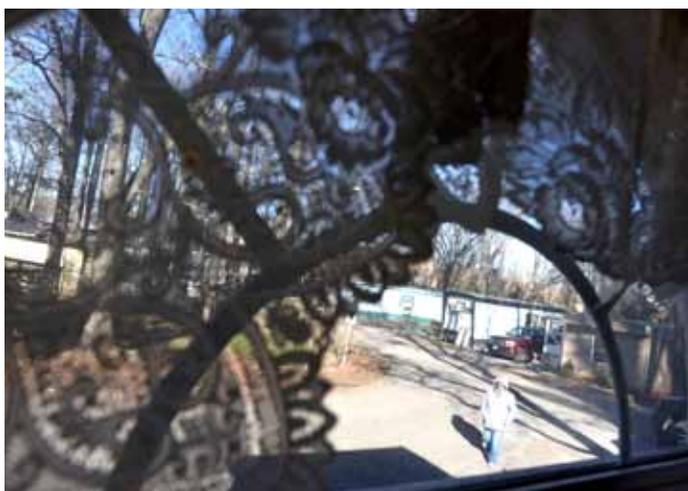
She has spent \$15,000 to fix the roof, floor and other parts of the dilapidated single-wide trailer she bought for \$11,000 in 2011. Before that, the family lived in a single room about five miles away.

“We can’t go back to renting a room,” Zavala said one recent day, after ushering 6-year-old Brandon and 13-year-old Katherinne home from the bus stop. “I’m afraid this is going to turn out well for the owner. But not so well for us.”

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# What Do Angle, Lighting and Composition Communicate?

Photographers can stand, sit on the floor or climb a ladder to take a photograph. They can use natural lighting or manipulate it. They can show the worst of conditions or capture everyday life. Explore different angles, lighting and changes in composition to determine the impact. For this activity, we visit East End Mobile Home Park.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ/THE WASHINGTON POST

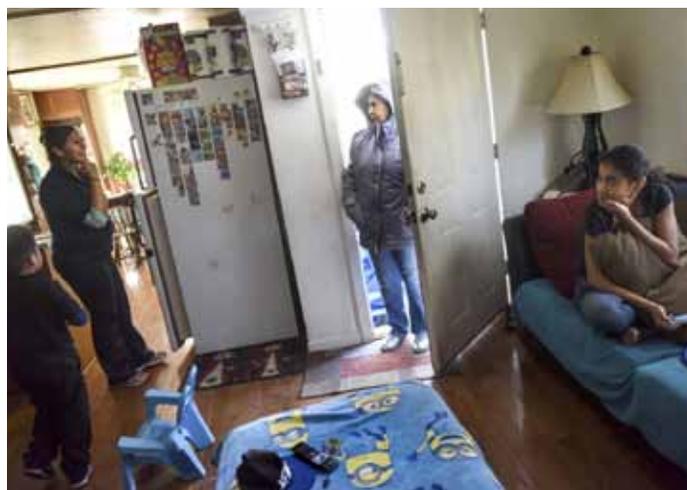
**Lucia Zevala walking through the East End Mobile Home Park in Manassas, Va. Residents are suing to compel the owner to make infrastructure repairs.**



**An empty trailer sits in the East End Mobile Park. Residents have organized Save Our Homes Alliance to save the Manassas, Va., property from closing.**



**A leader in the fight to stop the sale of the park, Selfo Sosa holds his son at the family's home at the East End Mobile Home Park in Manassas, Va.**



**The Zevala family, including from left, Brandon Soto, 6, Evelin Zeval, Lucia Zevala and Katherinne Gonzalez Zevala, 13, spend an afternoon in their home.**

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

## Photographs, Captions and The Article

### Pre-reading

1. Headlines summarize or give the key idea in a news story. Who are the parties in this story?
  - Online headline: “When your home is at risk: Trailer park families fight eviction over sewage leaks”
  - Does “trailer park” have a negative or positive connotation?
  - Contrast these terms: “trailer park,” “mobile home park,” and “mobile home community.”
2. The photographs that accompany this April 4, 2017, news story by Washington Post reporter Antonio Olivo were taken by Michael Robinson Chavez.
  - a. What story do the photographs tell readers?
  - b. Would images of sewage leaks add to the “truth” of the story or add a “visual bias”?
3. Compare and contrast the information conveyed through exterior photographs with that of the interior photographs.

### Reading

Read “When your home is at risk: Trailer park families fight eviction over sewage leaks.”

4. Who live in East End Mobile Home Park? Why do they live here in Manassas?
5. Why have officials of the city of Manassas, Va., gotten involved in a property owner-renter dispute?
6. The reporter includes a brief background on mobile homes. In a paragraph summarize its history since the 1920s.
7. Find the quotation from Doug Ryan.
  - a. What perspective does he add to the content of the news story?
  - b. What role does this quotation play in the structure of the article?
8. What insight to the situation does attorney Timothy A. Cope add?
9. Review the article and identify each person who was interviewed (highlight, number or underline).
  - a. List the different people who were interviewed for this story.
  - b. What sides of the story does each present? You may group those who represent a particular perspective.
  - c. Is there anyone else who could be interviewed for a more complete story?
10. If you were one of the following, what action would you recommend in June?
  - a. Owner of a mobile home at East End Mobile Home Park
  - b. Official of the city of Manassas
  - c. Leader of Catholics for Housing
  - d. Manager of a local bank