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VERSE OF THE WEEK-

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HLLG officers Adele Newson-Horst (center) and Courtney Speed (right) used the wax figures of significant African American historical figures Mary Eliza Mahoney (left) and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (seated) as examples of what they hope to create for Henrietta Lacks.

- Article & photos by Marge Neal -

Thanks to some high-profile efforts, the importance of Henrietta Lacks' cervical cancer cells to the advancement of medical research and disease prevention and treatment is well-doc-

Author Rebecca Skloot's book, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," told the story of Lacks' cells being harvested and reproduced without the knowledge or permission of the Turner Station resident or any of her family members. Television personality Oprah Winfrey, who is producing the film version of the book, was recently in Baltimore taping scenes for the pro-

With that medical science legacy secure, Turner Station residents and members of the Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group now hope to preserve her memory in a three-dimensional manner with a wax likeness of the unwitting medical pioneer at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Balti-

The legacy group held a luncheon at the Fleming Community Center on Friday, Sept. 30, to honor Lacks and raise money for the wax statue. The ambitious event featured a keynote address

by Dr. Roland Pattillo, a physician and medical researcher from Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, and honored the group's man and woman of the year - all while raising money for the wax display.

"It's important to recognize the importance of what her cells have done for medical science," Pattillo said of Lacks in an interview before the event started. "The polio vaccine was the first major contribution made by the HeLa cells."

Pattillo was the first to give recognition to Lacks' role in major medical - see LEGACY on page 6 -

The Fort Howard Haunted Dungeons

OCTOBER

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NEWS

New trash transfer station opens at Eastern Sanitary Landfill

- Article & photo by Devin Crum -

On Monday, Sept. 26, Baltimore County opened its new \$7 million refuse transfer station at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill (ESL) in White Marsh, meant to transfer residential and commercial garbage to commercial disposal sites.

The landfill facility accepts refuse from Baltimore County residential and commercial sources, as well as Harford County-generated trash. But only the Baltimore County residential trash is disposed of in the landfill, according to a county spokeswoman.

The commercial and Harford County

trash is brought into the ESL transfer station where it is tipped onto the tipping floor and then loaded into commercial tractor trailers which take it to a variety of permitted commercial disposal sites in the region, such as the Bresco Waste to Energy Plant in Baltimore City, Annapolis Junction, one of six mega-landfills in Virginia or Pennsylvania, or the York Waste Energy Plant.

But Kari Hodgson, landfill engineer at ESL, said the majority of Baltimore County's trash goes to the Bresco facility.

"They need a lot of trash to feed that thing," she said.

And the whole point of a transfer station is to landfill as little as possible, she continued. "We want to extend and prolong the life of our landfill."

The new station was also not built using Baltimore County tax dollars. Harford County paid for the station under a 20-year agreement through which Baltimore County handles all of Harford's trash.

"The basis for the agreement with Harford County stems from a time when Harford County ran out of landfill space, and for a period of 37 months, Harford County brought their trash to the Eastern Sanitary Landfill as an alternative," said Baltimore County spokeswoman Lauren Watley.

When that period was over, Harford County accepted back 130 percent of the amount of garbage they had deposited into ESL.

"Using that model it was later determined that a joint transfer station would be mutually beneficial to both Baltimore and Harford Counties," Watley explained. "Today, none of Harford County's trash stays in the Eastern Sanitary Landfill as the transfer station simply acts as a pass through for their trash."

- see **STATION** on page 5 -

Fort Howard Dungeons organizers dare you to 'make it out alive'

- By Marge Neal -

In real estate, it's all about location, location, location.

If the same adage applies to haunted houses, Fort Howard's Haunted Dungeons have it made.

What better place to hold a Halloween attraction than in a series of abandoned, dark, musty military batteries surrounded by a dense wooded area?

For the 33rd year, the Haunted Dungeons, a fundraiser for the Edgemere-Sparrows Point Recreation Council, has filled the old military installation at Fort Howard Park with horrific, scary scenes designed to make visitors scream, jump and shake in fear, according to program chairman Brian Frank.

Cash or Debit only on sale items

Without spoiling surprises for those who have not yet attended the show, Frank said there are many changes to this year's production.

"We've redone Dungeon 1 and it's now a maze," he said. "I've been in that building a thousand times and know my way around it well, but I have to admit I got a little disoriented and lost when I went through it. The volunteers really did a great job on it."

A second dungeon features all torture scenes, with some "pretty creative" approaches to means of torture and the "contraptions that people must escape from to survive."

Frank said more than 120 volunteers are needed each night to run the at-

traction. Frank noted the work of cochairman Mike Estep and area leaders Michelle Gray, Tim Dodge, Dave Elliott, Josh Larison, Andy Phelps, Rachael Morris and Jess Chaney as being instrumental to the success of the annual event.

"This couldn't happen without them," Frank said.

The haunted park is open Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 29. Gates open at 7 p.m. and tours begin around 7:30 or when it begins to get dark. The gates remain open until tour capacity is met. Fort Howard Park is at the end of North Point Road in Fort Howard, to the left of the former veterans hospital

campus.

The cost is \$15 per person, with all proceeds benefitting rec council activities. Concessions are also available.

Visitors should come dressed for the elements and be prepared for muddy conditions in the woods if there has been a recent rain.

All groups are led through the dungeons and outdoor trails by a tour guide, according to Frank.

"Some of the trails can be self-guided but we have tour guides to make sure people make it out alive," he said.

For more information, visit www. haunteddungeons.com or call 443-216-9001.



The volunteers at the Fort Howard Dungeons challenge Halloween enthusiasts to survive a night with them. Photo courtesy of Brian Frank.



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Patriot Java Stop offers coffee, early morning camaraderie

- Article & photo by Marge Neal -

The Keurigs were working overtime Tuesday morning, Oct. 4, trying hard to keep up with the long line of customers that formed after the ribbon cutting to officially reopen the Patriot Java Stop at Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts.

The student-run retail outlet is back in business after being shut down by Maryland State Department of Education officials because the school sale of caffeinated drinks didn't comply with state nutrition regulations.

A Maryland State Legislature bill sponsored by Delegate Robin L. Grammer Jr. changed that.

The coffee shop serves as a laboratory setting for developmentally disabled students, according to teacher Brandy Widzbor. Tasks like making coffee, providing polite customer service with a smile and running a cash register put into action skills the students have learned in the classroom.

But Tuesday morning, curriculum connections aside, student workers just seemed to be happy to be back on the job, while students, staff members and visitors appreciated the opportunity to get a cup o' joe in the school cafeteria.

Ryan Madrid, a 15-year-old sophomore, was making his first stop to the coffee stand.

"I had money and I really like coffee," he said about his first visit as he doctored his brew and headed to a table with friends.

Sabrina Cain, a student in the Functional Academic Learning Support

program, smiled from ear to ear as she talked about her job running the cash register. The 20-year-old St. Helena resident takes the customer's money and gives change when necessary.

She grinned again when asked if her job as a cashier makes her feel important and trusted. "Yep" was her re-

Her favorite part of the job aside from running the register? "Being with my friends," she said.

The Patriot Java Stop is open each morning from 7:15 to 7:40. Coffee and supplies are replenished from profits and the remainder helps student workers pay for field trips and other educational opportunities, according to Widzbor.

"While the students don't get paid

\$16,999

\$22.999

for their work, they do benefit from the profits and are able to make that connection between their hard work and earning money," Widzbor said. "It helps pay for extras and we aren't always going to the parents asking for more money.'



Patapsco High teacher Brandy Widzbor (second from left) helps two students to cut the ribbon, officially reopening the Patriot Java Stop.



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STATION -

- continued from page 2 -

Hodgson pointed out that trash coming in from commercial or Harford County sources is billed at a rate of \$100 per ton, known as a "tipping fee," as per the agreement with Harford.

"These payments cover the cost of construction, operation and maintenance of the transfer station, and in so doing Harford County pays for their portion of use of the Transfer Station, as do the commercial users," Watley explained.

Baltimore County bids out contracts with haulers to truck the trash to other facilities, and those haulers have their own contracts with the disposal facilities. So they determine where the trash goes after it leaves ESL.

"Baltimore County residents benefit as Baltimore County can get cheaper per-ton rates on its disposal contracts when they are bid by having the higher tonnages from Harford County added to their contracts," Watley pointed out.

Hodgson also noted that last year the county consistently landfilled only about 16 percent of its residential trash at ESL, it's only active landfill. But this year the numbers have fluctuated from a steady rate of about 300 tons per day being landfilled to as much as 1,200 tons per day. And she stated they recently started seeing about 500 less tons per day coming in since the summer.

The rate fluctuates seasonally, Hodg-

son said, rising much higher around the holidays.

She also said the station operates on a first come, first served basis. So when the tipping floor is full and no trucks are there to haul it away, any garbage coming in must be landfilled.

Some residents of the adjacent Bowerman-Loreley Beach community, however, see the new transfer station as problematic.

"I see it as a continuation of the dump," said Dorothy Hinnant, who has lived in the community for 55 years and is vice president of its community association. "I do not think they will ever close."

According to Hinnant, when ESL opened in 1982, the community was told that it would close after 30 years since that was the typical lifespan of a landfill.

But advances in disposal techniques and technology and increases in recycling have stretched that timeline. While ESL is more than half full, if it receives an ongoing input of 125,000 tons of trash per year, as in 2015, the landfill is projected to remain open until 2053, according to Baltimore County's website.

Hinnant said the continued in-flow of trash and truck traffic has become part of the burden the community has to bear. And she stressed that Baltimore County draws revenue from the transfer station and landfill.

"As long as they continue to get paid, we will continue to have Harford County

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trash in our neighborhood," she said.

Hodgson explained that the landfill employees and management do their best to make sure the facility is a good

"The community was here first," she acknowledged, "and they were told it would be there a certain amount of time but it's still here."

Hodgson said she has a specific complaint protocol for community members to report problems such as odors or illegal dumping, and that they can reach her on her personal phone at all times.

"We're all neighbors," she said. "You've got to get along with your neighbors."

Hinnant agreed that ESL has been a good neighbor and that she gets along well with its employees, attending meetings with them regularly.

"They've got great employees up there," she said. "They're part of this community.

"But it's just what it is - a trash facility," she affirmed.

Hinnant also stated her belief that any profits seen by Baltimore County from tipping fees at the transfer station should be used for a tax break that the community has sought for having the landfill indefinitely located next to them.

"They might as well get used to us going after [that tax break]," she said.



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NEWS

LEGACY ———

- continued from page 1 -

discoveries with a scientific paper published in 1996 in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynocolgy.

Her cells, known as the HeLa cell line in the medical research community, have been used in thousands of medical experiments, according to Pattillo. In addition to the polio vaccine, Lacks' cells contributed to the advancement of in-vitro fertilization and the creation of Gardasil, a vaccine that helps prevent many oral, genital and reproductive cancers caused by the human papilloma virus, including cervical cancer, the disease that took Lacks' life in 1951 at the age of 31.

Playing a role in the creation of a vaccine that will reduce the instances of cervical cancer brings the HeLa cells - and Henrietta Lacks' life - full circle, Pattillo said.

The Gardasil vaccine was created by using the HeLa cells, which contain HPV-18 and the CasKi cell line, which contains HPV-16. Pattillo created the CasKi cell line from a patient he treated.

More than 70 percent of all cervical cancers are caused by HPV-16 and 18, Patillo said.

Pattillo's history with and knowledge of the HeLa cell line dates back to his days as a post-doctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University, where he studied under Dr. George Gey. Cells harvested from biopsy tissue were used by Gey, who found unprecedented success in growing them in the lab.

The "enormous suffering" of Lacks had an emotional impact on Pattillo, who became a guardian of sorts for the Lacks family.

"Throughout my career, even during pre-medicine, my work and research has been driven by my early exposure to Henrietta Lacks and the enormous suffering that this 31-year-old wife and mother had



The familiar image of Henrietta Lacks, recreated in painting form by David Horst, was also on prominent display during the luncheon.

to endure," according to a biographical sketch in the event program. "I was very much affected by the family's suffering."

The successful proliferation of the HeLa cells allowed researchers to stop experimenting on humans and many small animals, Pattillo told the luncheon crowd.

Courtney Speed, a founder and president of the Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group, is excited about the possibility of Lacks being immortalized at the wax museum.

The group needs to raise \$60,000 to have the figure created and faces an uphill climb in a tight economy. The group has raised about \$5,000, according to Speed. But she's already looking forward to the time

the statue exists, noting that the museum loans out figures for educational purposes.

"We can send her to anyone who asks," Speed said, noting an airline's offer to transport the statues for the museum. "Just think of how many more people can learn about Henrietta's story."

Speed, a long-time community volunteer and cheerleader, was noted for her diligence and tenacity by many speakers at the luncheon. Many believe that tenacity leaves little doubt the wax figure will become reality.

In other luncheon business, Muriel L. Christian Gray and Thomas "Tidy" Bagley were named the legacy group's woman and man of the year, respectively.

Gray was cited for her multi-faceted involvement in the community, including her 10-year term as president of the Turner Station Development Corp., her role as a founding member of the Turner Station Conservation Team and her unending relationship with the local Girl Scout Troop. As a 37-year member of St. Matthew United Methodist Church, Gray assists senior citizens in their homes with tasks like serving food, cleaning and organizing outings. She has also held numerous leadership roles with the International Church Usher Association at both national and state levels of office.

Bagley, who retired after 37 years of service at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant, was recognized for his service to the Turner Station Development Corp.; the Gridiron Club and the Dukes Club, where he coached and mentored community youngsters; and Boy Scouts. Bagley is known as the community's historian and shares his knowledge with anyone wanting to learn more about the area, according to event organizers. He is a Master Mason and belonged to the Andrew J. Evans Lodge 102 for more than 50 years



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Ruppersberger votes against 9-11 families

- by Delegate Pat McDonough (R-7) -

The Senate voted 97 to 1 to override President Obama's veto of the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act."

The House voted for the override by a margin of 348 to 77. It was an overwhelming bipartisan victory. The new law will allow the families of the victims of the 9-11 terrorist attack to have their day in court.

Dutch Ruppersberger was one of the 77 Democrats who voted to support Obama's veto and against the 9-11 families. The law only applies to terrorism.

The families of the 9-11 victims have lobbied Congress for this legislation for almost a decade. "We rejoice in this triumph and look forward to our day in court and a time when we may finally get more answers regarding who was truly behind the attack," said Terry Strada, National Chairwoman of the 9-11 Families and Survivors United for Justice.

The vote by Ruppersberger demonstrates how out of touch with the people and how imprisoned he is with his obedience to Obama. Ruppersberger has displayed this type of poor judgment in the past when he supported the dangerous nuclear treaty with the Iranians. He made comments in a radio interview claiming the Muslim Brotherhood was a group we could deal with. After taking power in Egypt, the Muslim

Brotherhood shredded that nation's Constitution and began murdering Muslims and Christians. I believe that poor judgment, such as this, puts America at risk.

Those who voted with Ruppersberger claim this new law will endanger our military with lawsuits for those serving around the world. They are wrong. Our soldiers do not engage in terrorism. Moreover, Obama supports the United Nation's International Court System which would permit foreign countries to execute lawsuits against United States military personnel. It should be noted that Democratic Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin voted against Obama and Ruppersberger. Senator Cardin said, "I believe the risks of shielding of terrorism are far greater than the risks this legislation may pose to America around the

President Obama is a lame duck whose political power and influence are on the decline, except with rubber stamp politicians such as Dutch Ruppersberger. His failure to support the override of the veto sends a message to the Saudi's, ISIS, and Al-Qaida that there would be no punishment of those nations who finance or assist in murderous terrorist actions.

I believe this type of legislation will help protect

American citizens against future terrorist attacks because it sets a precedent that we will fight the battle against terrorism in the future on multiple fronts including the American judicial system.

Long to host Active Shooter town hall meeting

- By Delegate Bob Long -

Sadly, it seems almost every week there is another mass shooting in America. We hate that this is a new reality, but we need to be prepared. What would happen if you were in a public setting and an active shooter entered the room or building? What would you do? What should you do? What shouldn't you do? How do you try to get out alive?

Hopefully, these are questions you will never face, but how do you prepare if you were faced with that horrible situation? We want to invite you out to our Active Shooter town hall meeting on Monday, Oct. 17, from 6 - 8 p.m. at the North Point Library. We are inviting a guest speaker from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that will inform the public how to react if you are faced with this life or death situation.



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POLITICIANS

Ruppersberger hits back at McDonough on 9-11 bill

- by Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger -

Once again, Pat McDonough's incoherent rantings reflect his inexperience on national security issues, and more disturbingly, his inability to put politics aside for the safety of our country.

In recent days - and in this newspaper, on the opposite page - Pat is criticizing my vote against legislation that would enable Sept. 11 families to sue Saudi Arabia. In one of the toughest votes of my time in office, I voted to support a Presidential veto of the bill because our national security experts - including the CIA chief, Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff - warned it could open U.S. troops and intelligence workers to similar lawsuits in other countries by lifting what is known as sovereign immunity. A group of Iraqis are already threatening to sue U.S. troops for alleged war crimes. It could also force the disclosure of classified military secrets in courtrooms around the world.

What Pat is not telling you is that just one day after the vote, Congressional leaders in both parties - who supported the successful veto override - began to express buyer's remorse. Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan conceded that the law needs to be changed so that our "service members do not have legal problems." Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell shared similar reservations, saying it "appears there may be some unintended ramifications ... worth further discussing."

Courage isn't voting for a bill that you hope to change later. Courage is voting against a bad bill even if it might hurt you politically - because that's

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the right thing to do for our troops and our country. Pat wouldn't understand that because he votes with his party far more often than I do, despite his campaign rhetoric to the contrary. As usual with Pat, facts be damned.

In one of Pat's typical Facebook posts on this subject, he cropped a photo of me standing next to a man dressed in typical Islamic fashion, the racist suggestion being that my cozy relationship with the Saudis is one reason I supported this legislation. Nevermind that the man is actually a defense minister from the United Arab Emirates, whom I met with to discuss counter-terror efforts to protect our country.

That's why I stand behind my record of fighting

terrorism and bringing the perpetrators of heinous acts like September 11 to justice, including Osama bin Laden. The 9-11 victims and their families deserve relief, but the benefits of this bill could unfortunately endanger more American lives. If only more law-makers had the political fortitude to back the veto, Congress wouldn't be scrambling to undo it today.

Contact Your County Council

David Marks (R-5)

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Towson Office Phone: 410-887-3388 E-mail: council6@baltimorecountymd.gov



SPORTS

Perry Hall rebounds after loss, Parkville keeps on rolling

- by Patrick Taylor -

After losing a close one to Parkville last weekend, the Perry Hall Gators looked to rebound against Catonsville on Friday night. And while they finished with the result they wanted, the game itself didn't do much to dissuade my concerns about Perry Hall going forward.

Catonsville was 1 - 2 entering Friday's contest, with their lone win coming against Patapsco in their season opener. Catonsville followed that up by losing 48 - 35 to Dulaney and 51 - 7 to Franklin. While Catonsville can certainly put up points, their defense leaves a lot to be desired.

That's what makes Perry Hall's 20 point output so alarming.

Defensively, the Gators looked very good. They limited their mistakes and the secondary looked tighter than it had against Parkville. They caused some chaos and forced Catonsville to make some bad decisions which led to turnovers.

But on the offensive side of the ball, Perry Hall needs to do more. When Dulaney and Franklin put up 48 and 51 points respectively and you can only put up 20, that doesn't bode well, especially after a sluggish performance last week.

So there's definitely reason to be concerned from Perry Hall's perspective. On the other hand, they secured the win and got the points. And as any coach will tell you, it's not necessarily about how you win the game, but rather that you actually win. Still, the performance has to be concerning, and I no longer



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pup looking to find a family of my very wn! I am a social guy that enjoys hanging out with people and getting belly rubs. I'll turn the love by giving you a kiss or a Labrador lean"! Bring your family out so I can show you some of the tricks I know like sit" and "down"! What can I say, I am a etty smart fellow! Hope to see you soon



Hey everyone....Ballet here. I am a sweet and laid back kind of kitty. I enjoy loungand laid back kind of kith; I enjoy loung-ing on comfy cat beds checking out the scenery, or sitting in a window watching the birds. I am affectionate and really like chin rubs. I can be playful too. Give me a wand toy or use a laser pointer and I'm ready to go. Do I sound like the kithy for you? If so, please stop by the Baltimore you? If so, please stop by the Baltimore Humane Society to meet me. You won't be disappointed

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BALTIMORE HUMANE SOCIETY

see Perry Hall as a lock for the postseason like I of which have been wins. They now sit at 4 - 1 and had to start the year. But if I can quote Principal Seymour Skinner, "Prove me wrong, children. Prove me wrong."

Around the league

The Parkville Knights reaffirmed their position as one of the most dangerous teams around with a 19 -16 win over Dulaney on Saturday. Both teams entered with one loss to their name, and this turned out to be a real test for Parkville. Dulaney had put up scores of 28, 48 and 40 before getting stifled by Parkville's defensive unit. I focused on Parkville's quarterback last week, but the entire defensive unit deserves applause. Through four games, only one team has managed to put up more than 16 points, and that was an incredibly strong Milford team that only managed to put up 21. A good quarterback can only take you so far, same with a good defense. But the combination of both is deadly, and that's what Parkville is working with right now.

The Dundalk Owls continued their winning ways by absolutely routing Towson by a score of 42 - 0. Towson has been getting this treatment all year, so it should really come as no surprise given the talent on Dundalk's roster. Still, the Owls have now put up 34 or more points in their last three outings, all

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will be looking to extend their winning streak against

Overlea took on Sparrows Point over the weekend, with Overlea looking to build off of a solid win against Chesapeake. And they did just that, beating the Pointers comfortably by a score of 44 - 0. While Overlea hasn't played a great team yet, they've won their games convincingly. And, as I've noted before, Chesapeake is actually pretty decent. Overlea was my dark horse pick of the year, but with the way they've been playing they need to be considered real contenders.

Speaking of Chesapeake, the Bayhawks put up a good fight but dropped a big game to New Town, losing by a score of 14 - 6. Chesapeake has shown that they have a strong defense, but they lack the offensive ability to do any real damage. With that said, they can certainly surprise a few teams ahead, including this weekend's opponent, Hereford.

Elsewhere, Kenwood, Eastern Tech and Patapsco all dropped games this weekend. Kenwood has a relatively easy contest looming against Towson, while Tech will take on Pikesville. And things don't get any easier for Patapsco, who will take on Parkville this weekend.

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"I know we're supposed to do something to our trees in the fall, but what?"

Tree owners often feel compelled to spray, prune or apply something to their trees and landscape plants on a regular basis. But, unless there is a specific reason to spray, prune or apply things to landscape trees, the best thing to "do" to keep your trees healthy is apply a layer of composted mulch.

"Fall is a great time to be out in the yard spreading shovels-full of composted woodchip mulch under your trees," says Tchukki Andersen, BCMA, CTSP and staff arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association. "Trees with mulched root zones are usually larger, healthier, develop faster and have higher rates of survival than plants surrounded by turf grass or bare dirt. Mulches retain soil moisture and nutrients and reduce erosion and soil compaction."

Mulched trees also have fewer weeds growing near the trunk, which reduces the need for the roots to compete for limited resources. The soil under the mulch also likely stays warmer longer into the winter and also warms faster in the spring, helping extend the growing season for plants in colder regions.

Natural mulches are a favorite among profes-





Fall is a great time to mulch

sional arborists, who view wood chips as an excellent, attractive mulch for trees. Other natural mulches include bark chips, ground bark, composted lawn clippings, leaves and straw. These mulches are high in cellulose and low in nitrogen, and should be free of weed seeds.

Good mulching

How wide is wide? A good mulch bed should extend out at least three feet from a tree's trunk in all directions, though extending out to the dripline is preferred. This is where the fine, absorbing tree roots extend out into the soil, and mulch provides many health-related benefits for those roots. Keep all mulches several inches away from the base of the tree to avoid rot and diseases.

How deep is deep? The mulch bed depth should be maintained at 2 to 4 inches.

Go ahead, cover the grass! If there is grass in the area that needs to be mulched, put a five-page layer of newspaper over the grass, get it wet, then add mulch on top (this will help keep the grass from growing up through the mulch).

Use the right mulch. For poor soils, use wellcomposted mulch to build up the nutrients. Soils that are healthy will do fine with a highly stable softwood bark (such as cypress bark), which doesn't break down as easily.

Measure the pH content. Checking the pH content of the mulch ensures it is compatible with the tree

Bad mulching

No volcanoes, please! The biggest no-no when mulching is to create a "mulch volcano" that is

piled high around the base of the tree. This practice traps moisture around the tree trunk and root flare leading to decay and, eventually, structural failure.

Avoid fine mulch. Thick blankets of fine mulch can become matted and prevent the penetration of water and air.

Don't let mulch sour. Low oxygen levels (from packed mulch) creates a toxic "sour" mulch - which may give off pungent odors. Even worse, the compounds produced during the souring process (methanol and acetic acid) can kill young plants.

Don't keep adding new mulch on top of the old. While mulch does decompose, you do not want to accumulate excessive mulch year after year by adding fresh mulch every spring. If you want the look of fresh mulch, break up the old with a rake, and only add a layer of new on top if there is less than 4 inches in depth.

What can you do?

A professional arborist can assess your landscape and work with you to determine the best trees to plant. Contact the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), a public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture since 1938. It has more than 2,300 member tree care firms and affiliated companies who recognize stringent safety and performance standards and who are required to carry liability insurance. TCIA has the nation's only accreditation program that helps consumers find tree care companies that have been inspected and accredited based on: adherence to industry standards for quality and safety; maintenance of trained, professional staff; and dedication to ethics and quality in business practices. An easy way to find a tree care service provider in your area is to use the "Locate Your Local TCIA Member Companies" program. You can use this service by calling 1-800-733-2622 or by doing a zip code search on www.treecaretips.org.



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Tips for avoiding the cold comforts of a drafty house

For those who live in older homes, the transition to colder weather can

be extra disheartening, as the vision of expensive heating bills, chilly rooms

and drafty windows dance in their heads. However, it's easy to change the outlook from cold to cozy with a few simple DIY solutions.

The most effective way to improve the comfort level in your home is to properly insulate. Insulation can be inadequate in older homes. Over time, it can settle and compact, creating

gaps. Topping up attic insulation will help keep the warm air in, reducing heating bills and preventing stress on your furnace.

You can also seal out drafts by replacing worn weatherstripping and caulking along windows, doors, baseboards, and trim. Consider inexpensive window insulation kits as well.

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Best to remove thatch before winter hits

Before saying "so long" to yard work at the end of autumn, homeowners should remove thatch from their lawns. Thatch is dead grass that's often identifiable by its yellowish tint, and this dead grass, if left to loom in the lawn over the winter, can block air and moisture from making its way into the soil. That can make it difficult for a lawn to recover come

the spring and may even cost homeowners a substantial amount of money to address when winter finally skips town. When removing thatch, resist the temptation to rake with lots of physical force, as raking too hard can harm the lawn. Instead, commit to three or four easy passes with the rake, as this will collect the thatch without damaging the lawn.

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Many people rent a dethatcher from a nearby lawn and garden supply store, and such a device can make the process of removing thatch much easier. However, be sure to clean the machine before using it on your lawn, as there is no way of telling what condition the previous renter's lawn was in when he or she used the device.



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Stay safe when cleaning leaves from your gutters

Come the fall, when trees start to shed their leaves and winds pick up in advance of winter, gutters can easily become clogged with all sorts of debris. When clogged gutters are not cleaned out, a host of potentially costly issues can result, making gutter cleaning an essential autumn chore no homeowner should ignore.

Fully functioning gutters direct water away from the structure of a home and into nearby drainage systems. When clogged, gutters cannot direct that water away, and the result is often costly water damage to the home's foundation. Water that is not directed away may find its way into the basement of a home, causing issues with flooding and mold. But clogged gutters also prevent water from leaving a roof, possibly leading to costly roof repairs and damage to the roof that can put a home's inhabitants in danger. When snowfall accumulates on a roof, melting snow needs to make its way off the roof via the gutters. If those gutters are clogged with debris leftover from the fall, roof damage, including leaks, is more likely to occur.

Clogged gutters also make a welcome respite for unwelcome pests, including rodents and insects. In the warmer months, clogged gutters may make an inviting home to mosquitoes and other pesky insects, while rodents may seek the warmth of clogged gutters when temperatures dip to near or below freezing.

Cleaning gutters is not that complicated, and many homeowners can clear their gutters of debris in a typical weekend afternoon. But the ease of cleaning gutters should not overshadow the safety risks homeowners take when climbing a ladder to clear out their gutters. The following are a few safety tips for homeowners to keep in mind when cleaning their gutters.

• Wear appropriate clothing. Loose-fitting cloth-

ing should not be worn when cleaning gutters. Such attire is a tripping hazard and can easily compromise your balance by catching on the gutter or ladder as you reach to remove debris. Wear clothing that does not hang off of you and choose pants that do not fall below your sneakers. Pants that might be a little long in the leg can catch under your feet as you climb the ladder, momentarily costing you your balance and possibly leading to a fall. When choosing footwear, avoid old sneakers or work boots without much traction, opting instead for footwear that easily grips each rung of the ladder.

- Don't forget safety gear. Many people forget to wear safety gear when cleaning their gutters. Such forgetfulness increases your risk of injury. When cleaning gutters, always remember to wear work gloves, which can protect your hands as you dig into gutters. Should you reach into a gutter without gloves on and grab something sharp, not only will you be cut but also you may be so startled that you lose your balance and fall off the ladder. In addition to work gloves, wear a dust mask and safety goggles when cleaning gutters to prevent debris from getting into your mouth and eyes.
- Work with a partner. Cleaning gutters alone is a recipe for potentially devastating injury. Even if you are not afraid of heights, scaling a ladder is not something to take lightly. Ladders can be shaky, especially on brisk autumn afternoons when the wind kicks up. Working with a partner when cleaning gutters ensures someone is below you to hold the ladder steady in case of a stiff wind or if your jostling unintentionally shakes the ladder. Working with a partner also means someone is there to seek help should you fall off the ladder or suffer another type of injury that requires medical attention.
- Use a trowel instead of your hands. Digging into the gutter with your hands, even if those hands

are covered by gloves, is an unnecessary risk that can leave you susceptible to injury. When cleaning the gutters, dig out the debris with a trowel.

• Dump debris below into a large garbage can. When cleaning the gutter, do not carry a bucket with you to the top of the ladder. Carrying something as you climb up a ladder only increases your risk of injury. In addition, a bucket full of debris placed at the top of a ladder may tip over and compromise your balance. When dumping the debris you dig out with your trowel, dump it into a large garbage bin below. If you miss the bin every now and again, you can always sweep up after the job is completed.

Few homeowners look forward to cleaning their gutters. But such a task is necessary to prevent water and roof damage to your home. When cleaning the gutters, remember to place safety at the top of your priority list.

Avoid shivering this winter

January and February are typically considered the coldest months in the northwest, northeast and midwestern United States. It can be tough for homeowners trying to bear the cold without running up heating costs. Yet with some planning and investment, we can avoid the winter chills. An effective and efficient heating system needs a solid air barrier, say specialists. Traditional insulation materials are regarded as economical options. However, these same materials can contribute to unnecessary heat loss. Innovations, like the spray foam insulation from leading name Icynene, afford homeowners an upgraded insulation system that also provides an air barrier.

Understanding what products are available allows homeowners to reduce energy bills for a warm winter and be ready for a cool summer. More information can be found at www.icynene.com.







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Prep the yard for cold winter weather

As quickly as autumn weather arrives it seems to move aside for the blustery, cold days of winter. Winter can catch a person off guard and the seasons are now less predictable than ever before.

It's never too early to begin preparing your yard and outdoor living spaces for winter. Homeowners may be sad to bid farewell to the furniture and accessories of the fair-weather season, but time is of the essence when prepping for impending ice and snow.

- Clean patio furniture. Give cushions and structures a thorough cleaning and allow to dry completely. Cleaning items before storing them for the winter saves time and energy next year when it's time once again to set up the yard for recreation. If anything is damaged beyond repair, discard it and look for replacements during end-of-season sales when savings can be had.
- Move things indoors. The more items you can store in a safe and secure location the better. Load the garage, basement or storage shed with outdoor gear. Leaving items exposes them to the elements, and such exposure can cause rust, wear and damage. Flower pots and lawn ornaments also can blow around in winter wind or collapse under the weight of the snow, so collect these items and store them for the winter. Take out patio umbrellas and put them in the shed. If something is too large to move indoors,

such as a barbecue or a pool filter, cover it with a durable tarp and secure it with rope.

- Cover delicate trees. Depending on where you live, certain fruit trees, including fig trees, may need to be covered for the winter. Covering protects them from subfreezing temperatures and helps ensure they will rebound in the spring. Tropical plants should be moved indoors where they can thrive in a heated home. Do not rip out chrysanthemum plants. Contrary to popular belief, these are not annuals. They will rebloom year after year if allowed to do so.
- Remove water collectors. Bring in or cover anything that may accumulate water, such as bird baths or kids' toys. Water expands when frozen, and that means water trapped in any ceramic, glass or even plastic vessel can expand and cause the container to crack.
- Clean up leaves and debris. Piles of leaves not only can suffocate a lawn and cause discoloration, but also can be attractive homes for rodents and insects looking for a warm place to spend their winters. Keep your yard neat and clean to discourage wildlife from taking up residence near your home.
- Cover vegetable and flower beds. Invest in some burlap to lay down over planting beds. This helps to keep the ground from freezing over and minimize weeds for next season.

- Care for outdoor ponds. If you have a pond on your property, remove any weeds around it and fish out any leaves from the water. Leaves will decay in the water and build up ammonia levels that can harm fish. If the pond is small, cover it for the winter. Also, start cutting back on feeding outdoor fish. These aquatic animals' bodies begin to prepare for winter by slowing down metabolism. Continuing to feed them can harm the fish when the tempera-
- Wrap up pool season. It's wise to close the pool and cover it before leaves start to drop. Otherwise you will have a hard time of keeping the water clean.
- Plant spring bulbs now. Now is a good time to plan where you want to put spring bulbs. Once you have mapped things out, get the bulbs in the ground. Bulbs are relatively inexpensive and will provide that first punch of color when winter finally skips town.
- Take steps to fight snow mold. Homeowners who live in regions where snow falls into spring or where spring tends to be cold and damp may want to take steps to prevent snow mold. To prevent snow mold, continue mowing into the fall, even as lawns grow dormant, clearing the lawn of grass clippings and leaves after each mow. Thick lawns may provide a breeding ground for snow mold, so make a habit of mowing just a few weeks longer.

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These insects can harm your home

Homeowners looking to prevent their homes from becoming a meal or nesting site for potentially harmful insects may know to keep watch for termites during the year. But termites aren't the only insects that can damage a home. There are a few other pests that can bore through the wood of homes and structures, potentially causing considerable damage. People can familiarize themselves with these other wood-boring bugs and recognize the signs of infestation.

- Carpenter ants: These insects get their name because they prefer to nest above ground in wooden structures. Unlike their smaller ant cousins, who make intricate colony systems underground, larger carpenter ants prefer tree stumps, lumber, subfloors, or even roofs. They don't use the wood for food, and can establish residence in just about any solid housing material, including rigid foam insulation.
- Powderpost beetles: Though termites might have the most name recognition, according to <u>LivingWith</u>

Bugs.com, powderpost beetles are potentially more destructive to seasoned wood. Wood boring powderpost beetles spend most of their lives as larvae (woodworms) in wood, where they tunnel in search of starch and other nutrients they need. They can cause all sorts of structural issues if they damage beams and other major components to homes.

• Carpenter bees: These large bees resemble bumblebees, except they have a shiny black abdomen instead of a furry one. Carpenter bees bore symmetrical holes in exposed wood, where they lay eggs and in which larvae grow. Although the bees' holes are superficial and rarely cause much damage, birds in search of larvae for food, such as woodpeckers, may peck at wood containing the larvae and cause more significant damage.

Call an exterminator annually to come out and spray around the inside baseboards and outside of the house to limit the possibility of an insect infestation.

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Transform spaces into cozy retreats

Cool weather often drives people to spend more hours indoors than they do during the warmer months. Autumn is a time to winterize gardens, put away lawn furniture and prepare for the holiday season. Autumn also provides the perfect opportunity to begin home interior projects.

Many people decide to redecorate their homes to reflect each season. When temperatures change, it's time to transition from the light colors and breezy fabrics symbolic of summer to thicker, darker materials that evoke coziness.

With some inspiration and a little know-how, any homeowner or apartment dweller can cozy up a space in time for fall and winter.

- Invest in area rugs. While wood floors can look beautiful and work well with many different design styles, wood can feel chilly underfoot. Thick area rugs add warmth to a room and can help it look more lived-in. Area rugs also help a room appear more cohesive, coordinating with other colors in a space and providing a visual border.
- Practice layering in rooms. An affordable and relatively easy way to make a room seem more cozy is to layer fabrics and other accents. Layers can include throws and blankets. Remove place mats from the dining room table and use them on accent tables or an ottoman in the living room. Table runners also can add a splash of color to the top of bedroom dressers.
 - Play with texture. Look for fabrics

that boast texture and can add a tactile feel to spaces. When used on throw pillows or small accents, faux fur can create that cozy cabin feel. Draperies made from nubby fabrics or those with grooves and ridges can add dimension to a room as well. Even a lampshade made of an unusual fabric, such as a waffle-patterned material, can add a little depth and warmth to a space.

- Reevaluate your lighting. Lighting a space is more than just flipping on a switch. Finding the right balance of lighting fixtures can instantly transform the feel of a room. Create more warmth and a cozy feel by switching out bulbs from cooler shades to warmer ones those that give off yellow and pink hues rather than cool blues. Accent lighting helps establish a comfortable space for curling up and reading a good book. Spot lighting, such as fixtures that are trained on artwork or inside of a curio or china cabinet, also can set a more welcoming mood.
- Install a bookshelf and start a book collection. Piles and stacked books can add warmth to any space. Books evoke the hallowed halls of schools and quiet nooks in the library. Fill shelves with books interspersed with additional design accents, and you will instantly make a room feel more inviting.

Use the colder weather as an opportunity to reinvent some of the rooms in your home. With paint, texture and more, rooms can be quickly transformed into cozy respites from the cold.



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Simple fire prevention measures

Did you know that, according to the National Fire Protection Association, most people have a false sense of security regarding house fires, believing that they would have approximately six minutes to evacuate their home in the event of a fire?

In reality, smoke and fire spread rapidly and can overcome occupants in less than three minutes.

When a fire occurs, there's no question that time is critical. The good news is there are several important steps you can take to maximize your escape time. With the following measures in place, you'll create critical protection for what matters most - your home and family.

- 1. Install smoke alarms. You should have one in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.
 - 2. Inspect and clean smoke alarms

monthly. Replace batteries in spring and fall. To clean the alarm, open the cover and gently vacuum the interior.

- 3. Prepare and practice a fire escape plan. Draw a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of every room - especially sleeping areas. Discuss the escape routes with every member of your household, and agree on a meeting place outside your home in case of emergency. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.
- 4. Select building materials that provide passive fire protection. Passive fire protection is part of the core of the building and helps control fire by limiting its spread. One very effective form of passive fire protection is the installation of insulation. When adding or upgrading insulation, look for products made from naturally fire-resistant, inorganic materials. A favorite among builders, contractors and homeowners is a stone wool insulation called Roxul Safe 'n' Sound, which offers fire resistance up to 2,150°F.

Enjoy the Majesty of Fall: Join the Arbor Day Foundation in October

The Arbor Day Foundation will brighten up your fall by offering 10 free autumn classic trees or five free crape myrtle when you join the organization in October.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation's Trees for America campaign, a program dedicated to environmental stewardship through the planting of trees.

Everyone who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in October will receive five free crape myrtle trees or 10 free autumn classics selected for your area. The 10 autumn classics include: two sugar maples, two red maples, and one each of scarlet oak, sweetgum, northern red oak, silver maple, white flowering dogwood and Washington hawthorn.

"Members will especially enjoy these trees during the autumn months because they'll add abundant, vibrant color to any yard or landscape for years to come," said Matt Harris,

chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between Nov. 1 and Dec. 10. The six- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Planting instructions will be enclosed with each shipment of trees.

Trees can help with the aesthetic of a yard, and they can also help keep your house cool in the sweltering summer months. Of course, there's also an environmental advantage to planting trees.Trees make a great gift, something tangible and lasting. So even if you don't have room for another tree in your yard, maybe someone you know does.

To receive your free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution with your tree selection to Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Oct. 31, or join online at www.arborday.org/october.



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How to make your home disaster resilient

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"Our advanced design combines two panels of thick (EPS) foam with the structural strength and thermal mass of concrete," Rector explains. "The resulting envelope immediately gives your house hurricane wind-resistance up to 250 miles per hour."

- see **DISASTER** on page 19 -









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DISASTER

- continued from page 18 -

Insulated concrete wall systems have proven resilient in real-life situations. In 2004, an ICF home featuring this technology survived the storms in Florida when other homes in the neighborhood built with wood did not.

ICFs are also fire-resistant, with a non-toxic fire retardant expanded

polystyrene foam ensuring maximum safety and offering a fire protection rating of up to four hours. Importantly, homes built with this concrete system are also more environmentally friendly, can be built faster and reduce energy bills.

If you want your builder to use ICFs, be sure to discuss it early in the plans. Find more info. online at <u>nudura.com</u>.





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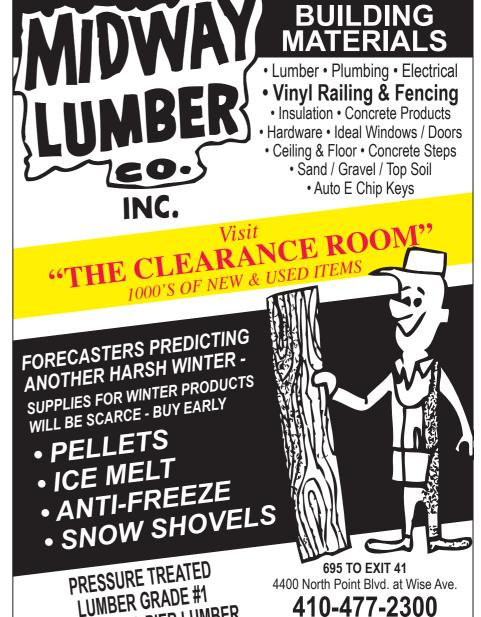


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OBITUARIES

Reichart, Gertrude

On Oct. 3, Gertrude M. Reichart (nee Jasper) passed away. She was the beloved wife of the late Raymond J. Reichart and dear companion of James A. Kuba; devoted mother of Lynn Hall and Terry Allen; loving grandmother of James Anthony Huster, Jr., Ashley Lynn Huster, Christopher Benjamin Hall and Duane Raymond Allen; she is also survived by other loving family and friends.

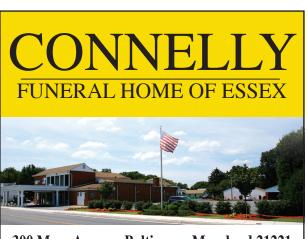
A funeral service will be provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham on Oct. 7 at 10 a.m. Interment at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens.

Biddison, Josiah E., Jr.

On Sept. 28, Josiah E. Biddison Jr., loving brother of Bertha Mann, Dorothy Umstot, George Wolff and the late Audrey Fischer, John Biddison and William Biddison, Sr. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 6 - 8 p.m. A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made out to: Duck's Unlimited, 1 Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120.





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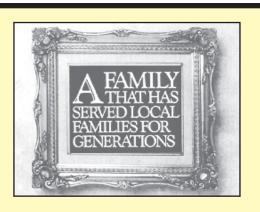
Fuller, William On Oct. 2, William "Bill" Fuller, Jr. passed away. He was the beloved husband of the late Lorraine Fuller; devoted father of Bill Fuller and his wife Barbara and Michele Merchant and her husband Terry; cherished grandfather of Barbara, Mindy, Michael, and Terra; loving great-grandfather of Abigail and Ashlyn; dear brother of Pat Meushaw, Ken Fuller, the late Evelyn Flynn and Wayne Fuller.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home Inc. in Nottingham. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Oak Lawn Cemetery.

Brown, Helen K.

On Sept. 28, Helen K. Brown, (nee Keck), devoted mother of David W. DeVelbiss, Michael D. DeVelbiss and Sharon A. Stevenson. Also survived by 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and many loving family members and friends.

Interment private. Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex.



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McFaul, Dennis

Dennis Warren McFaul, 76, of Perry Hall, MD was welcomed into heaven on the morning of Oct. 3. He was born on Oct. 7, 1939 to the late James Vernon and Marie McFaul who are undoubtedly hugging him again in heaven, along with many dearly loved family and friends.

After a long fought battle with Lewy Body Dementia, Dennis finally found the peace he longed for, in the comfort of his home, surrounded by the love of his family. Even though he had many challenges, Dennis's faith was unwavering and inspiring. He was a devout Catholic and beloved husband, father and grandfather. He leaves his loving memories to be cherished by his wife of 52 years Elizabeth Mary Hughes-McFaul; his two children Mary Elizabeth McFaul-Walsh and Eileen McFaul-Gunther; and three wonderful granddaughters Kelley Elizabeth Gunther, Katie Elizabeth Gunther and Meagan Elizabeth Walsh, as well as many nieces, nephews and great- nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind three caring siblings, a dear cousin and beloved sisterin-law.

The family is deeply grateful for the outpouring of love, prayers and support from so many amazing friends, who made such a difference in his life. A special thank you to the doctors and nurses at Gilchrist Hospice.





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OBITUARIES -

Brownson, Charles B., Sr.

On Oct. 1, Charles B. Brownson Sr., beloved husband of Lottie "Ruth" Brownson (nee Ness); devoted father of Charles B. Brownson Jr. and Matthew W. Brownson; loving grandfather of Ashlyn T., Cara M., Beau A. and Macy J. Brownson. Also survived by many loving family members and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 3 - 5 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made out to: American Heart Association, 415 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201.

Schriefer, Elsie

On Sept. 30, Elsie Marie Hajek-Schriefer (nee Pridgeon) passed away peacefully at the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center. She was the beloved wife of the late Frank J. Hajek, Sr. and the late John A. Schriefer; devoted mother of Frank J. Hajek, Jr. and his wife Rosemary, Joan Lundberg and her husband Kevin, and Keith Schriefer and his wife Kitty; cherished grandmother of Keri and Shawn Ellerman, Jason Hajek, and Luke Schriefer; loving great-grandmother of Brennan, MaKenna, Landan, Aidan, and John Patrick. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Interment will follow at Gardens of Faith Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation, 520 Upper Chesapeake Dr., Suite 405, Bel Air, MD 21014.

E-mail Obituary announcements to rectreporter@comcast.net or fax to 410-780-2616.

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9705 Belair Road • Nottingham, MD 21236 410-256-3600 610 W. MacPhail Road • Bel Air, MD 410-638-5360 Williams, Dianne

On Sept. 29, Dianne Lynn Williams (nee Fleishman); devoted mother of Allison Heiderman and her husband Donald, and Michael Williams and his girlfriend Jennifer Shannon and their father Ronald Williams; loving grandmother of Zachary, Caitlin, and Amelia Heiderman; dear sister of Harriet Bean and her husband Richard, and Roberta Gibbs and her husband Joseph; cherished sister-in-law of Rosie Little; dear friend of Cynthia Quinn. Also survived by many loving extended family members and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather at Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham on Friday, Oct. 21 from 3 - 5 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held on Oct. 22 at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will be private.

Santini, Francesco

On Sept. 28, Francesco Santini passed away peacefully in his home supported by his family. He was the beloved husband of 64 years to Vicenta Santini; devoted father of Raphael J. Santini and his wife Mary Louise; loving grandfather of Gabriella, Annamaria, and Francesca; dear brother of Giuseppe Santini and his wife Maria, and the late Carmelo Spadaccino and his wife Maria Raffaela; loving uncle of Silvia (Giuseppe), Ana (Gilbert), and Raffaele (Maria); also survived by his loving great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Entombment at Gardens of Faith Cemetery. Those who wish, may make memorial contributions to St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 227 S. Exeter St., Baltimore, MD 21202.



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COMMUNITY

BRRNA Meeting

The Bird River Road Neighborhood Association (BRRNA) general meeting, originally scheduled for Tues., Sept. 27, has been rescheduled for Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Our Lady Queen of Peace church hall, 10003 Bird River Road. Our guest speaker will be Marsha Parham, executive director, Baltimore County Office of Housing. She will explain the Section 8 process.



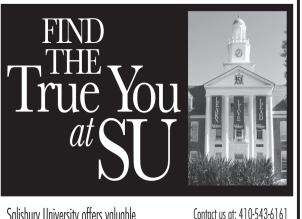
Fort Howard Informational Meeting

Information regarding the latest redevelopment concept for the Ft. Howard Veterans Hospital site will be presented at a community meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. in the North Point Edgemere Volunteer Fire Hall, 7500 North Point Road in Edgemere. Time will be allotted for questions and comments. Light refreshments served starting at 6:30 p.m.



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Change the World Day

On Saturday, Oct. 15, Piney Grove United Methodist Church, 201 Bowleys Quarters Road in Middle River, will host a day of service to the community from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free clothing, pantry food and resources for plaguing problems. For information, call 410-335-6927 or email colleen.s316@gmail.com.

Roll Up Your Sleeve and Help

Roll up your sleeve and participate in Johns Hopkins Bayview's blood drive on Oct. 17 - 19, from 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Knott Conference Center. All participants will receive a meal coupon, parking pass and special gift from the Medical Center. Eligible donors can make twice the difference by scheduling a "power red" donation, when a machine separates the red blood cells from other blood components and returns the remaining components back to the donor. By doing this, donors are actually donating two units of blood instead of one and saving twice the number of lives. For more info., or to schedule a life-saving donation, call 410-550-0289.

Free Breakfast

Middle River Baptist Church, 610 Middle River Road, will hold free breakfasts for neighbors in need on Saturdays, Oct. 8 and 22, from 9 - 10 a.m. Meal will include eggs, sausage, waffles, cereal, fruit cup, orange drink and coffee. Bus will pick up at the Eastern Resource Center at 8:45 a.m.

Financial Aid Workshops

Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger will host "College is Possible: Tips on How to Get in and How to Pay for It," at Overlea High School, 5401 Kenwood Ave. in Overlea, on Oct. 18, from 7 - 9 p.m. The workshops will feature financial aid and scholarship experts to help students and parents learn about ways to make the dream of going to college a reality. The event is free and open to all Second District residents.



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If you're worried about your battery, or if your check engine light is on, please call our office to make an appointment. Our experienced technicians are ASE certified and can provide the care that your car needs to keep you from getting stranded on the road. We can also provide the regularly scheduled maintenance that will prevent that little light from coming on in the first place!

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Incident results in adult charges for Kenwood student

An 11th grader at Kenwood High School has been charged as an adult with assault after an incident on Sept. 23.

The investigation has indicated that the suspect is an 11th grade student and the victim is a 10th grade student, both from Kenwood High School. Both the suspect and victim ride the same school bus. On Sept. 23 at 3:46 p.m., the bus dropped both of them off at Elm Drive and Wilson Point Road in Middle River. The victim approached the suspect to confront him about a previous incident. The suspect then produced a handgun from his backpack and pointed it at the victim. The victim was not injured during the

The suspect has been identified as 16-year-old Shane Kaleipaihala Pule Jr of the unit block of Dogwood Road in Middle River. He has been charged as an adult with first-degree assault and related charges. He was released on \$100,000 bail.

The .45 caliber handgun that Pule pointed at the victim was recovered by investigators.

This incident remains under investigation by the Essex Precinct Investigative Services Team.

Police investigate after body found in Rosedale home

A suspect has been charged with murdering a woman in her Rosedale home.

Just after 11 p.m. on Aug. 23, police were called to a home in the 1500 block of Chapel Hill Drive in Rosedale to check on a subject. A relative called police after not being able to contact the resident of the home for several weeks. Officers became concerned for the resident's safety and forced their way into the home. The body of 80-year-old Bernice Virginia Washington was found inside the home.

The autopsy indicated that the cause of her death was blunt force trauma and the manner of her death was homicide. The investigation led detectives to identify 51-year-old Timothy L Washington, Bernice Washington's son, as the person responsible for her murder. He was taken into custody on Sept. 14.

Timothy Washington has been charged with firstdegree murder and is being held without bail.



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Maryland's DNA database records 5,000th hit

Colonel William M. Pallozzi, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police, today announced another milestone for Maryland's DNA database, supporting its role as an invaluable tool to law enforcement in the ongoing effort to reduce crime, apprehend criminals, and exonerate the innocent.

Maryland's DNA database, housed at the State Police Forensic Sciences Division laboratory, has now recorded 5,000 positive comparisons, or "hits," as they are commonly referred to. A positive comparison occurs when DNA obtained from a crime victim or scene is matched with either a known offender sample or DNA from another crime scene that is on file in Maryland's DNA database, or CODIS, the Combined DNA Index System, which enables access to the national database.

Earlier this month, scientists at the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division forwarded information to detectives at a law enforcement agency in Maryland that the 5,000th positive DNA comparison through the use of Maryland's DNA database was connected to an open 2014 felony sex offense case they are investigating. Specifics in this case cannot be made known at this time because the investigation is ongoing and the suspect has not been charged.

Maryland's DNA database was established by law in 1994 and the first positive comparison occurred in 1998. It was eight years later, in August 2006, when State Police scientists reached the 500th hit.

Twenty-three months later, the 1,000th hit was recorded in July 2008. Fifteen months later, in October 2009, another 500 positive comparisons were reached. The 2,000th positive comparison mark was reached in January 2011. The 3,000th positive comparison was made in June of 2013. The 4,000th positive comparison was made in May 2015.

As of mid-September 2016, there were 120,978 convicted offender DNA profiles in CODIS. Current Maryland law requires all persons convicted of a felony, fourth degree burglary, or breaking/entering of a motor vehicle to submit a DNA sample that becomes part of the DNA database.

On Jan. 1, 2009, legislation took effect that requires those arrested and charged with qualifying violent crimes, or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burglaries and attempts to commit those crimes, to submit a DNA

sample. As of mid-September 2016, there were 33,106 DNA profiles in this database.

The success of the statewide DNA database is due to the diligent efforts and cooperation of many individuals. They include the personnel of the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division and those in local police DNA laboratories, as well as the cooperative collection efforts by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Department of Parole and Probation, sheriff's offices and

Current crime trends

detention centers across the state, and Maryland's

district and circuit court systems.

Since Aug. 11, there have been four auto thefts in Dunfield Townhomes and Alta Apartments in the Parkville Precinct. Cases occurred mostly during overnight hours. In one case the vehicle ignition was destroyed.

Since July 25, there have been multiple storage burglaries in the Wilkens, Woodlawn and North Point precincts. Most cases occurred during overnight hours. In all cases, storage unit doors were forced open or the locks were cut.

Since Sept. 4, there have been three commercial burglaries along the Shipping Place corridor in the Dundalk Precinct. Cases occurred during early morning hours. Front and side window glass was broken in all cases. Items taken include registers and money.

Since August 13, there have been eight robberies of convenience stores countywide involving similar M.O. and suspect description. The suspects implied or displayed weapons and used physical force.

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DINING OUT

Oktoberfest Celebration returns to Dellis'

- by Patrick Taylor -

I absolutely love Fall for a multitude of reasons - football and playoff baseball; changing colors of the leaves and subsequently the smell of burning leaves; cooler weather; the release of movies clamoring for awards. I could go on and on.

But arguably the biggest reason why I adore the shift from summer is Oktoberfest. Nothing beats a good wurst or a hearty plate of sour beef and dumplings. And when it comes to German cuisine, nobody does it quite like Dellis' Bar and Grill in Rosedale.

Dellis' is well-known for their Oktoberfest menu, and for good reason. They've been featuring an Oktoberfest menu for so long that they've perfected the art of German cooking.

My coworker and I stopped in to test out the menu, and, like always, we were blown away by the quality and the portion size of each plate we tried.

And we tried them all.

With our table filled with plates, my coworker and I poked around sampling everything Dellis' had to offfer.

We got started with the sour beef and dumplings, and I can safely say that I could probably eat that every day for a year and not get sick of it. Dellis' has perfected the amount of sourness you get with each bite - just enough, not too much. All too often restaurants go

a little heavy on the sour aspect of the meal, but not at Dellis'. Combine that with their perfectly tender beef and you've got yourself a winning combination. Of course, the dumplings were cooked immaculately, and they provide the perfect side to soak up all the excess topping from the sour beef.

From there we dove into the stuffed cabbage and mashed potatoes, an absolutely wonderful combination that always leaves me wanting more (not that I'd have any room, considering the heaviness of this meal.) Since having the stuffed cabbage last year, I've attempted to make it on my own. Shockingly, it doesn't compare. I'll leave the stuffed cabbage to the professionals at

Of course, the potato pancakes are always a hit. Topped with a few strips of crispy bacon, this dish is simple yet wonderful. The pancakes are always crispy around the edges but fluffy inside. And with sour cream and applesauce given on the side, there's plenty of flavor that can be added.

From there we dug into the Schnitzel (I know, we're gluttons) which pleasantly surprised me. I've never been a big veal fan, but Dellis' tender and juicy dish has me thinking that I should probably give it another shot.

Yes, all of those dishes are great. Yes, I would recommend them to pretty much

anyone. But with that said, those dishes are essentially the hype man to the main acts - the wursts and pork loins.

German cuisine is known for its "wursts," and Dellis serves up four different types - Bauernwurst, Bratwurst, Weisswurst and Knockwurst. Each packs its own special flavor, with the pork and beef Bauernwurst standing out due to its mildly spicy flavor. The pork Knockwurst had just a little bit of spice while the veal and pork Weisswurst was mild and smooth. The pork and beef Bratwurst had that smoky brat flavor that we've all come to know and love. These are some big wursts, so I would recommend not attempting to eat all of them in one sitting.

The Bauernwurst comes served with a side of mashed potatoes, as does the Weisswurst. The Knockwurst and Bratwurst come with a side of German potato salad.

After we made our way through the wursts, we tackled the smoked loin of pork and the roast loin of pork. And while I'd like to say that one stood above the other, both were simply excel-

\$35.00 ea.

lent. Last year I stated that the smoked loin was my favorite, but honestly it's too tough, like picking your favorite Beatles album.

The wursts and pork

wishing every month

could be Oktoberfest.

loins will have you

Of course, each meal comes with German cabbage salad, and almost all come served over seasoned sauerkraut.

Finally, no meal is complete without a little bit of sweetness, and Dellis' has you covered there. The Black Forest Cake is rich and decadent. This one is a bit heavy and might be better to share rather than have on your own. And while the same could be said about the heaviness of the Apple Struedel, it's way too good to share. The flaky, warm crust and cooked apples mix with vanilla ice cream to create one of the best desserts I've ever had. I know that this is one you won't want to share because I had to share with my coworker - and I'll never forgive him for that.

Dellis' Bar and Grill is located at 8776 Philadelphia Road in Rosedale. The Oktoberfest menu is only around for a limited time so stop by! For more information, feel free to visit www.dellisbarandgrill.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

'DEEPWATER HORIZON' Full of sound and fury

- By Teddy Durgin -

You know what you never read in the opening paragraph of a film review? The following three sentences. "Man, the sound design of this movie is awesome! It's the main reason to see this flick! And if you're going to see it in a theater, call ahead and ask if their speakers are cranked up fullblast!" So, I saw "Deepwater Horizon." And, yeah, any other respectable critic would talk about the directing, the acting, Mark Wahlberg's everyman star appeal, the spot-on recreation of one of the great tragic events of the current decade. But I'm not a respectable critic. I write what I want to write. And I'm telling you... this film sounds freakin' AMAZING!

They apparently built an actual oil rig just for this film, too. The movie's marketing touts it as the largest set piece ever built. So, OK, there's a second big reason to see "Deepwater Horizon." But it's the sound that really transports you onto that rig, makes you dread what's going on down below the poorly poured concrete and then ultimately makes you jump and jolt and shudder once all Hell breaks loose. Kudos to sound mixer Raam Brousard, sound effects designer Harry Cohen and their talented crews. These are people who never make it into reviews (well, occasionally, the legendary Ben Burtt will get a mention... but he invented the sound of lightsabers, so he's basically a god). So, I hope this write-up somehow gets back to at least one of 'em. And to that one, I say... I appreciate you!

Directed by Peter Berg, "Deepwater Horizon" chronicles the April 2010 explosion of the titular offshore drilling rig that killed 11 crewmen and created the worst oil spill in U.S. history. Wahlberg stars as engineer Mike Williams, an ordinary man suddenly thrust into an extraordinary situation when the lives of his co-workers are at imminent risk. There's not much plot here, and the film doesn't need it. It's basically "Something's rumbling down below... oh *BLEEP*! It all just blew up... how do we get off this thing?!"

At 97 minutes, the film is lean and it's mean. The script doesn't go out of its way to assign any political blame. It touches on the short cuts taken by the corporate types involved. But mostly, it's just Working Joes trying to stay alive.

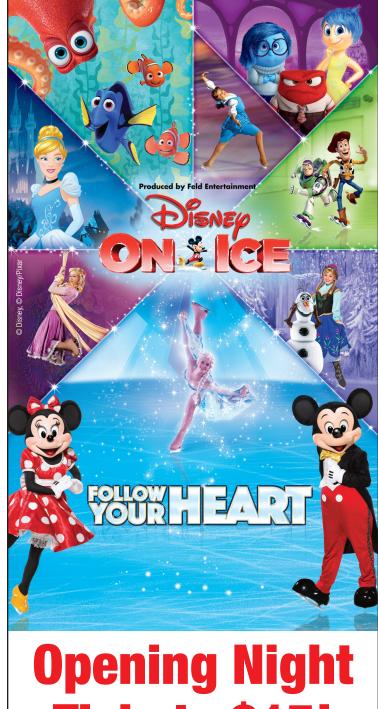
You do get some character set-up, mostly centering on Williams saying goodbye to his wife, Felicia (Kate Hudson), and tween daughter, Sydney (Stella Allen), and tough-girl drill worker, Andrea (Gina Rodriguez), saying farewell to her hubby and classic Ford Mustang in need of repairs. On the rig, we meet various blue-collar types played by Kurt Russell, Ethan Suplee and Dylan O'Brien, along with pompous oil executive Vidrine (John Malkovich, unnecessarily hamming it up with a Foghorn Leghorn-like Southern

The film is respectful of the dead (an end credits tribute is quite powerful). But, like the current hit "Sully," it still works great as a traditional Hollywood disaster thriller. So, expect lots of debris dodging, characters running from fireballs and such. I must admit, once everyone has their hard hats on and are covered in oil and sludge, it's hard at times to tell the different characters apart amid the chaos. So, you may find yourself turning to your companion and asking, "Did [insert name] just die?" or "Was that [insert name] who just jumped into the water?" And for some, the film may dwell a bit too much on drilling terminology, oil-rig practices and procedures and the like.

INSPIRED BY THE TRUE STORY MARK WAHLBERG WHEN FACED WITH OUR DARKEST HOUR, HOPE IS NOT A TACTIC ROM THE DIRECTOR OF LONE SURVIVOR SEPTEMBER 30

But those scenes lend a certain authenticity, and most of the actors playing the smaller roles really do seem like real folks doing the real jobs. They sound authentic. And, yes, there's that word again: "sound!" The film works because Berg and Co. make you feel like you are there for real. It's a pretty impressive film and definitely worth seeing on the big screen with the big speakers turned up.

"Deepwater Horizon" is rated PG-13 for prolonged disaster sequences, related disturbing images and some strong language.



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■ ENTERTAINMENT

marks the spot for 'Miss Peregrine's School'

- By Teddy Durgin -

Over the years, Hollywood has asked questions like "What would a Batman movie be like... if Tim Burton directed it?" and "What would a Planet of the Apes movie be like... if Tim Burton directed it?" The new flick, "Miss Peregrine's School for Peculiar Children" seems to ask and answer the question: "What would an X-Men movie be like... if Tim Burton directed it?" In those flicks, one of the only constants is Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, where all the X-people, young and old, go to receive tutelage from Charles Xavier and his mutant instructors. In this flick, Miss Peregrine (Eva Green) doesn't so much run a school as she does an orphanage. A being who can control time and turn into a falcon, she has created a "time loop" that provides refuge to kids with freakish powers and abilities. The catch? In exchange for their safety, they exist only on the same day and evening in 1943 that repeats over and over again.

The film is based on the novel by Ransom Riggs (who may have the best Scooby-Doo name of all time). And



under Burton's direction, it is an entertaining, oddball adventure drama that mixes parts of Burton's "Edward Scissorhands" with such other films as "Groundhog Day," "Jason and the Argonauts," and (yes) your pick of the "X-Men" movies. But instead of a group of misfit characters training to save the world, the film is about one woman trying to save a bunch of misfit characters from the world. Of course, it all eventually comes crumbling down and the Peculiars have to band together, brave the outside world and fight a common foe (Samuel L. Jackson's immortality-obsessed baddie).

Asa Butterfield stars as Jake, the grandson of one of Miss Peregrine's original "Peculiars" who inherited his grandfather's (Terence Stamp) ability to see invisible monsters that no one else can. These creatures hunt for people with abilities like Jake's. In 2016, he convinces his dad (Chris O'Dowd) to travel to a remote Welsh island that was the site of the school his granddad spoke of for years in bedtime stories. There, Jake discovers the bombed-out shell of the school and learns it was destroyed in 1943 during a Nazi air raid. But he also finds a time portal that transports him back to that fateful day in '43.

The film follows the story structure of "The One" seen in everything from "Star Wars" to "The Matrix." Take is heralded as a savior-leader of sorts and meets all of the colorful personalities that his grandfather

For information, call Paula 44:

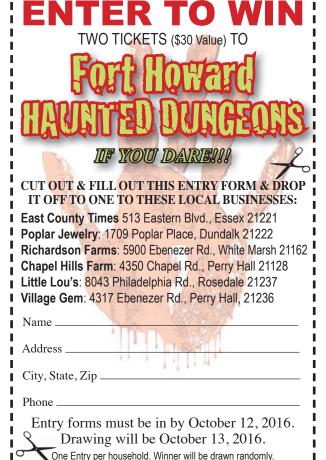
PECULIAR CHILDREN told him about for years from Peregrine herself to the beautiful, but light-as-air Emma (Ella Purnell). There are a host of children with extraordinary abilities, ranging from a teenager who can control fire to a little girl who can lift 10 times her weight.

What I liked is that not all of these abilities were conceived to work in some final battle royale. Some of the powers are just quirky and innocent, like the boy who can literally project his dreams and visions of the future from his right eye onto a movie screen. It ultimately becomes up to Jake to figure out how best to use each of these talents in a final confrontation with Jackson's Mr. Barron and his monstrous minions.

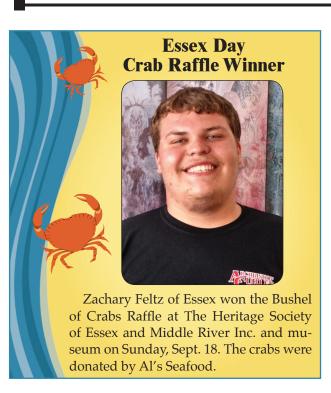
The screenwriter here is Jane Goldman, who penned "X-Men: First Class" and "X-Men: Days of Future Past." So, she knows her way around these kinds of stories. Goldman's script is more tell than show for my tastes, and it's hard to determine just how much children in the audience will be creeped out by a storyline that includes everything from kids' eyeballs being consumed to "Pan's Labyrinth"-like creatures waging war against young and old alike.

"Miss Peregrine's" is a jumble, for sure, but it's not a mess. It's quite entertaining, and I hope all concerned get to make the second and third books in Riggs' trilogy. "Miss Peregrine" is rated PG-13.









Fall Luncheon Bingo

The Ladies of the Essex Elks will hold a luncheon bingo at 1007 E. Homberg Ave. in Essex on Saturday, Oct. 8. Doors open at 10 a.m., lunch served at 11 a.m. and bingo starts at noon. Cost is \$7 for lunch and one free bingo card. Package deals are \$5. For more information, call Millie at 410-285-1009.

Pork Dinner

Gunpowder VFW 10067 Auxiliary, 6309 Ebenezer Road in Middle River, will hold a pork and sauerkraut dinner on Friday, Oct. 7, from 5 - 7 p.m. Menu will include pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert and coffee or iced tea. Cost is \$12. For more information, call 410-335-8933.

Karaoke

Dundalk American Legion Post 38, 3300 Dundalk Ave., will host Fun Time Karaoke with Annette and "Wild" Bill, on Friday, Oct. 7, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Come join us for an evening of good singing and a fun time. Call the post at 410-288-2297, with any questions.

Bull and Oyster Roast

On Saturday, Oct. 8, Retirees United Local 9477 will hold its annual bull and oyster roast at the UAW Hall, 1010 S. Oldham Street in Baltimore, from 1 - 5 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person; tables available. For ticket info., call Don Kellner at 410-227-8462.

Fall Festival

Eastern Technical High School, 1100 Mace Ave. in Essex, will hold a fall festival to raise funds for a greenhouse on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Food and drinks for sale, sand art, photo booth, dunk tank, pumpkin painting, face painting, a book swap, carnival-style games, a blood pressure check and more. The PTSA will sell mums. Many craft vendors on site. Also visits from Baltimore County Police Outreach, and the county Bar Association will offer a pro bono legal clinic. The event will be held rain or shine. Bring friends and family.

Karaoke

Essex American Legion Post 148, 20 S. Marlyn Ave. in Essex, will host Karaoke with Lightning Ron on Friday, Oct. 7, from 8 p.m. to midnight; For The Good Times Karaoke with Percy and Fred on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 8 p.m. to midnight; and karaoke with Wacker-Doo with Doug and Kim on Sunday, Oct. 2, from 4 to 8 p.m. Call the post at 410-686-2353 for kitchen availability, menu and specials.



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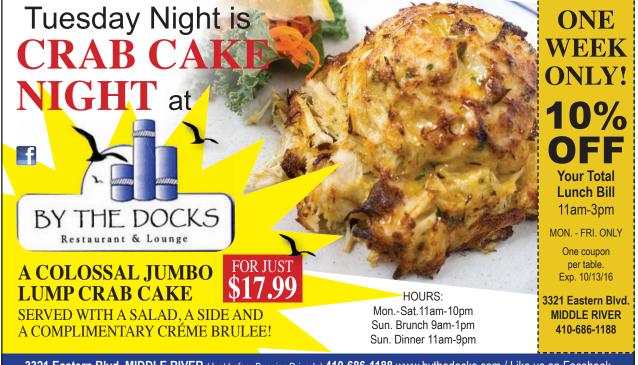
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The Woman's Guild of Zion United Church of Christ, 7146 Golden Ring Road, will hold a book sale in the church hall on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many new books have arrived and many large print books are available. Magazines are free. Cost is \$1 for hardbacks and 25 cents for paperbacks and VCR tapes. For more info., call Retha at 410-682-6571.

Quarter Auction

Christina The Purse Lady will hold a quarter auction at the Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, 214 Wise Ave. in Dundalk, on Thursday, Oct. 6. Doors open at 6 p.m., auction starts at 7 p.m. No bid will be more than two quarters. Tickets are \$5; includes three paddles (extra paddles available for \$2). To reserve seats, call Jerry at 443-841-9692. Proceeds benefit Wise Avenue VFC.



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IN OUR OPINION

Transparency preached more than practiced in Baltimore County

- By Patrick Taylor -

For years Baltimore County has preached transparency. It was the reason given for live streaming County Council sessions. It's why County Executive Kevin Kamenetz holds "Coffee With Kevin" events. It's part of the reason why county police will be equipped with body cameras and why salaries of county employees are posted online. Back in 2011, when the announcement about salary postings was made, Kamenetz stated, "People expect government to be open and forthcoming with information and that is what we are doing in Baltimore County."

But while Baltimore County often preaches transparency, when it comes to certain issues, it falls short. Specifically, I'm talking about the handling of school air conditioning and of documents detailing asset seizure.

Asset Seizure

Before I get into school air conditioning, let's take a quick look at asset seizure. Forbes perfectly defined civil forfeiture back in 2014. "Under civil forfeiture, property owners do not have to be convicted of a crime, or even charged with one, to permanently lose their property. Instead, the government can seize a property if it's found to "facilitate" a crime, no matter how tenuous the connection. So rather than sue the owner, in civil forfeiture proceedings, the government sues the property itself."

Assets taken by police forces get sent to the feds who in turn provide funding - utilizing the assets seized - to those police forces. The more you seize, the more you get.

While Baltimore County may not be at the same level as Philadelphia, the gold standard of asset seizure, the county still utilizes this program. A look into the FY17 capital budget shows Baltimore County police receiving \$207,214 in 2014 from the program, \$803,363 in 2015 and almost \$1.6 million in 2016. That is an exponential jump, and one that commands attention.

On Aug. 15, the *East County Times* filed a Public Information Act request for "an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that detail asset forfeiture by Baltimore County Police. I'm looking for all police reports from incidents of civil forfeiture and information on how much was seized at each stop. In the case of property subsequently being auctioned off after seizure, I am also asking for monetary value of the items sold. I'm specifically interested in the numbers from January 2011 through January 2016."

Elise Armacost, who handles media relations for the police department, swiftly responded to me on Aug. 15, saying that the request had been forwarded to the legal department. Typically, 30 days is a reasonable time to get a response, so the waiting game began.

On Sept. 15, I sent an email back to Armacost asking about the PIA request, eagerly awaiting a trove of files. Instead I received a call from a member of the legal department who informed me that there was confusion and that they had just received my request. The blame was shifted onto me for sending the request to the wrong department. But considering the request was sent to media relations, who handle all media requests for the police department, I wasn't really far off. And considering Armacost promptly responded on Aug. 15 and told me that the email had been forwarded, that excuse doesn't hold water.

While on the phone with the legal department, I was told a few things, first and foremost that I didn't even know what I was looking for and didn't understand asset seizure.

I promptly assured the woman I was speaking with (withholding her name) that I had done plenty of research on asset seizure and knew the laws surrounding it. And with regard to what I was looking for, the exact reason shouldn't mean much. Basically it was an open-ended request.

I don't go into stories with an idea about how they'll take shape, but I am open to the idea that it might end up miles away from where I originally thought it might end up. In this instance, my original thought was that perhaps the county was utilizing this program to boost its budget. But considering the fact that the county's crime stats have been trending down over the past few years, I was - and still am - very open to the possibility that asset seizure may very well be helping the county decrease crime. Regardless, the condescending tone and declaration that I didn't know what I was talking about was completely unprofessional.

I was then told that my request was too large, and that it would cost an exorbitant fee to get what I wanted because it would be thousands upon thousands of papers that would need to be sorted through. I then suggested tightening my request to three years, but was told the same thing. The representative then suggested I look at one year's worth of information (which would still have a fee attached to it).

But the process for money and goods that had been seized is lengthy and a one-year snapshot wouldn't be able to tell me much because it might take years for something to work its way through the system. Obviously, when trying to find a pattern, multiple years are needed.

I then told the department representative that according to the capital budget, the amount of money being given to Baltimore County was eight times what it was just two years ago. They were unaware of those numbers so I sent another email on Sept. 16 detailing what was in the capital budget. That day I received a response saying, "Ill [sic] take a look at it and Ill [sic] either email you or call you to discuss." Only no call or email followed.

On Sept. 30 I again emailed the legal

department representative that I'd been dealing with and asked if there was anything new with the PIA request. I received a response that said, "Hi! I'll email you some information today. I have an update."

Again, no information was sent. So now it's press time and as of Oct. 4, the PIA request has gone unresolved.

Civil forfeiture is a huge issue. In the U.S., you're considered innocent until proven guilty, but for your property it's a totally different story. Civil forfeiture flies in the face of a fair judicial system, and the people of Baltimore County deserve to know if this is a program that is working. And we shouldn't have to pay to get this information out into the daylight. That's not transparency.

Back in March of 2014, the county moved Code Enforcement complaints from paper to digital. The move saves Baltimore County approximately \$75,000 annually and the Code Enforcement department isn't bogged down by paperwork.

During the announcement of that shift to digital, Kamenetz said, "We are not only leaving last century, we're entering into the next century, using technology as a way to deliver services efficiently and in a cost-effective manor. We're bringing the county out of the stone age."

Apparently the BCoPD legal department is still stuck in the last century. And if the department is dealing with thousands of pieces of paper per day and if these issues take years to process, as the representative claimed, it's appalling to think of how much time and money is wasted each year, not to mention the burden it puts on citizens who have had their assets wrongfully seized.

Police Chief Jim Johnson recently said in a statement, "We constantly balance the need for transparency with the need to protect investigations and safety. This is a situation where I feel we must err on the side of safety." In this instance, safety cannot be used as an excuse. They're simply choosing not to be transparent.

School Air Conditioning

The fight for school air conditioning has been bogged down by similar issues of transparency. Last week while meeting with the Southeast Area Education Advisory Council (SAEAC), Pete Dixit, who heads up the Physical Facilities department for Baltimore County Public Schools, told the group that three elementary schools would be replaced by 2021. He then stated that every elementary and middle school would receive air conditioning by 2017. The advisory council sought clarification, asking if the schools getting new buildings would receive air conditioning before the new buildings were constructed. The council was told they would not receive air conditioning until construction was finished.

"So we're not talking about all schools," said one SAEAC member.

This is a frequent issue with the

county's air conditioning announcements. When the Schools for Our Future plan was originally announced, Kamenetz frequently stated that schools getting renovations or new buildings would not receive air conditioning until those upgrades were complete. But over the past year and a half, that distinction hasn't been made often, leading to conflicting reports.

In a May 12 press release, the county stated that "Baltimore County is in the midst of a comprehensive \$1.3 billion plan to build and renovate schools, add classroom seats and install central air conditioning in every single Baltimore County school by 2019." The release goes on to say, "With the current budget, 80 are funded or installed and every single school is now funded or programmed to be completed by 2019." This release made no mention of schools going through renovations or rebuilds.

In the FY16 capital budget, Kamenetz said, "This budget will also reduce the number of schools without central air conditioning to just 10 - down from 90 only six years ago - and those final 10 schools are on track to have central air conditioning installed by 2019."

That was a highlighted excerpt from Kamenetz's remarks to the County Council, again with no mention about the delay for schools going through other upgrades.

In an email sent on April 5, Ellen Kobler stated, "As we've said all along, we plan to have 100 percent of our schools air conditioned by 2019."

In a letter sent to the principal of Kingsville Elementary, along with the school's Parent Teacher Association, Kamenetz stated that, "When [the Schools for Our Future initiative is] complete, 97 percent of schools will be air conditioned, including every elementary and middle school."

While the county likes to play the victim on the air conditioning issue, they don't do themselves any favors. They either need to learn how to consistently use qualifiers or stop using words and numbers like "all," "every" or "100 percent."

Too much has happened in the past two years for the county to assume that everyone remembers the schoolsbeing-constructed qualifier. With all of the movement in funds and the time frame for schools to receive air conditioning, it stands to reason that other aspects would have changed as well.

While this might not necessarily be an issue of the county hiding information, they aren't doing themselves any favors by frequently glossing over the fact that schools slated for renovations or rebuilds will need to wait up to five more years for air conditioning. Words and numbers like "all," "every" and "100 percent" have specific meanings.

The above article reflects solely the opinion of its author and not necessarily that of the East County Times.

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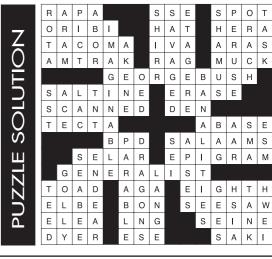
FALL HIKING LANDSCAPE **LEAVES**

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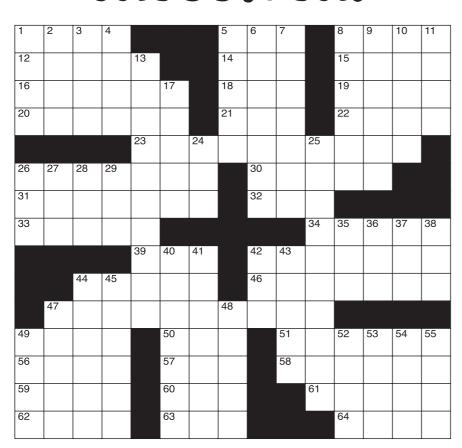
P T E D R K В E \mathbf{O} G U N W R N M P I Z D S T D K A J K U E B A R C I Y I Y M Α N T E R O V A A F S V T P R I O A B M S E V E L E X E R B O S T S E G G H K P I Y K



(Solution to Crossword Puzzle on page 32)



CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- Nui, Easter Island
- 5. Midway between south and southeast
- 8. Small mark
- 12. Small antelope
- 14. Protects from weather
- 15. Goddess of women and marriage
- 16. City in Washington
- 18. Independent voters association 51. After seventh
- 19. Bird genus
- 20. Train line
- 21. Annoy
- 22. Waste matter
- 23. 41st President
- 26. Type of cracker
- 30. Remove
- 31. Looked quickly
- 32. The habitat of wild animals
- 33. Type of gene
- 34. Humble

- 39. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 42. Respectful compliments
- 44. Star Trek: The Next Generation doctor
- 46. Pithy remark
- 47. Sums up
- 49. Tailless amphibian
- 50. American Gaming Association (abbr.)
- 56. Czech River
- 57. Folk band
- 58. Kids ride this
- 59. Ancient Greek City
- 60. Liquefied natural gas (abbr.)
- 61. Net
- 62. Colors clothes
- 63. Midway between east and southeast
- 64. Japanese beverage

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Island north of Guam
- 2. Biblical region
- 3. Scottish ancestor
- 4. Hills in northeast India
- 5. A way to cook by baking
- 6. Attacked ferociously
- 7. Furniture with open shelves
- 8. Burt Reynolds film
- 9. A way to examine
- 10. Plant of the goosefoot family
- 13. Capable of being thought
- 17. One seeded fruit
- 24. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 25. Platitudes

29. Explosive

- 26. Very fast airplane
- 27. Pet detective Ventura
- 28. Resinous substance

- 36. Swiss river
- account (abbr.)

- 41. Mythical monsters
- 43. Domed recesses
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. Cause to be loved
- 47. Expression of surprise
- 48. Jessica , actress
- 49. Drove
- 53. Chinese dynasty 54. Military vehicle
- 55. Chinese Muslim

(See answers page 31)

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PAYNE TRUCKING CDL A&B Dump Truck Drivers in our Baltimore Terminal. 1 Year verifiable driving exp. & a satisfactory driving re-cord required. Local/ OTR/regional positions available. \$1K sign on bonus for OTR drivers. Full benefits, competitive pay, and weekend home time for OTR. For consideration, visit paynetrucking.com and click Careers or call our recruiting team at 540-898-1346

VOLUNTEERS needed for non-profit to scan / type documents. Great for interns, seniors and students looking for community service learning hours. THIS IS A NON-PAYING POSI-TION. Apply 516 Eastern Blvd. Essex. MD 21221 Saturday only 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Holly Hill Memorial Gardens seeks a full time family service counselor. Experience preferred but will train the right candidate. The right person will be comfortable using computers, working with families under difficult situations, willing and interested in learning a new career. This position does require the ability to work evenings and weekends on occasion. As a full time employee you will qualify for heath, dental, vision and a 401k retirement plan. If you wish to apply, please e-mail your resume to William.Carter@dignity memorial.com

e.o.e.

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HEI P WANTED

Need To Earn Extra Cash??

Tele-agents needed for part time position in our call center.

For More Information, Please Call

410-327-5900 OR **410-327-5902**

between the hours of 2 - 4 PM, Tuesday thru Friday only,

or apply at

Central Donation Services

3702 Bank Street, Baltimore, MD 21224 Monday-Friday 2-4 PM only.

> To work from home, call 410-522-2221

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Houses, Apts **FALL SPECIAL** 3 Moving Men

WE NOW OFFER EARLY EVENING MOVES

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3133
TREE SERVICES

TREE SERVICES

Dave's Tree Service

Tree Trimming / Removal / Lot Clearing / Crane Service / Stump Grinding FREE ESTIMATE

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EMPLOYMENT

CAREER TRAINING

COSMETOLOGY/NAIL TECH TRAINING - Maryland Beauty Academy of Essex. Open to the public.



Call 410-686-4477.



EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

ANIMAL CARE FACILITY -**NEEDS ENERGETIC, RELI-**ABLE PERSON TO CLEAN & CARE FOR ANIMALS & DO OFFICE WORK. COM-PUTER SKILLS AND DEDI-CATION TO JOB NECES-SARY. CALL 410-527-1466

BARBER STYLIST PT - GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME-ONE SEMI-RETIRED. CALL 410-688-3444 AFTER 5 P.M.

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DRIVE TRAFFIC TO YOUR BUSINESS and reach 4.1 million readers with just one phone call & one bill. See your business ad in 91 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia for just \$495.00 per ad placement. The value of newspapers advertising HAS NEVER BEEN STRON-GER ... call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 today to place your ad before 4.1 million readers. Email Wanda Smith @ wsmith@mddcpress.com or visit our website at www. mddcpress.com



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FREE OF CHARGE! If you have something personal to give away, advertise with us at no cost!

FREE REMOVAL OF USE-ABLE ITEMS, FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, CLOTHING, ETC. Call 410-961-1078

PLACE A BUSINESS CARD ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network - Reach 3.6 Million readers with just one call, one bill and one ad placement in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and DC TODAY! For just \$1450.00, Get the reach, Get the results and for Just Pennies on the Dollars Now...call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or email wsmith@mddcpress.com

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by TheShelterPetProject.org







Ad out of the same

CEMETERY LOTS & CRYPTS

GARDENS OF FAITH - 1 plot, Sermon on the Mount. \$1,500 O.B.O. 1-843-399-6910

LORRAINE PARK CEM-ETERY \$1,500/O.B.O. Discount for CASH. 1 plot. Call Bill 410-868-6516

5016

EVENTS/TICKETS

FREE LOCAL EVENT EVERY SATURDAY

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
THE HERITAGE SOCIETY
OF ESSEX AND MIDDLE
RIVER INC. / MUSEUM

Would like to invite the community to come and view their MUSEUM FREE OF CHARGE. 516 EASTERN BLVD. ESSEX 21221

HOLDING A CARNIVAL! FAIR! FESTIVAL! JUBILEE! PROMOTE IT TO OVER 1 MILLION READERS FOR ONLY \$200!!! VISIT WWW. MIDATLANTICEVENTS. NET FOR MORE DETAILS OR CALL 800-450-7227.

FLEA MARKET/ THRIFT STORES

JACK AND DIANE'S THRIFT & COLLECTIBLES 800 BOWLEYS QTRS. RD

WE WILL TAKE YOU BACK! WE HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING. DIANE 410-344-6316 AVON CASH & CARRY.

CARRY.
WED. 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
SAT. & SUN
9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
GEORGE'S
COMPUTER &
TV REPAIR
410-404-2959

5022 GARAGE/ESTATE/ MOVING/YARD SALE

BEECHWOOD ESTATES COMMUNITY YARD SALE - 4400 GREEN COVE CIR-CLE 21219. SAT., 10/8 (R.D. 10/9) STARTS AT 8 A.M. - ?

BOWLEYS QTRS

MULTI-FAMILY
YARD SALE
1334,1340,1342
BURKE ROAD 21220.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
OCTOBER 8TH & 9TH
8 A.M. - 1 P.M.

ESTATE SALE ESSEX 418 LORRAINE AVE. FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS. EVERYTHING
MUST GO! SAT., 10/8. 9
A.M. - 1 P.M.

ESTATE SALE ESSEX - 1540 DOOLITTLE RD., 10/8, SAT., 8 A.M. - 1 P.M., FURNITURE, HOUSEWARES, TOOLS.

MOVING SALE - 1108 WAMPLER RD. 21220. 10/8, -.AM. - ? EVERYTHING MUST GO!

HEALTH & FITNESS

VIAGRA 100MG and CIA-LIS 20mg! 50 Pills \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 1-866-312-6061 Hablamos Espanol

5034

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BULK ADVERTISING AT ITS BEST: advertise in over 70 newspapers and reach millions of readers with ONE call. Broaden your reach and get results for pennies per reader. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email wsmith@mddcpress. com.

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In business for more than 29 years. 1/2 cords and cords. Dumped on hard surface. Free delivery. Smaller quantities available for self loading and hauling. Call 410-335-2000. 6836 Ebenezer Road, Chase, MD 21220. Open 7 days a week.

LUNG CANCER? 60 OR OLDER? If So, You and Your Family may Be Entitled To A Significant Cash Award. Call 1-800-431-0146 To Learn More. No Risk, No Money Out of Pocket

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MAKE A CONNECTION.
REAL PEOPLE, FLIRTY
CHAT. MEET SINGLES
RIGHT NOW! CALL
LIVELINKS. TRY IT FREE.
CALL NOW: 1-888-9099905 18+.

5048

WANTED TO BUY

CASH PAID - up to \$25/ Box for unexpired, sealed DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. 1-DAYPAYMENT. 1-800-371-1136

WANTS TO PURCHASE MINERALS and other oil and gas interests. Send details to P.O. Box 13557 Denver, Co. 80201

MISCELLANEOUS

PLACE YOUR AD ON FACEBOOK; Twitter; LinkedIN and Google Ads Words through MDDC's Social Media Ad Network; Call today to find out maximize your presence on Social Media; 410-212-0616; or email Wanda Smith @wsmith@mddcpress.com

PRO-FORM XP WHIRL-WIND 280 STATONARY BIKE EXERCISER., NEW & NEVER USED, ALREADY ASSEMBLED. MOVING, MUST SACRIFICE.BEST OFFER CALL 410-365-9357

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PETS & SUPPLIES

Please spay and neuter your pets to prevent unwanted litters! AND, make sure your pets have ID tags.

HELP SAVE ANIMALS LOCALLY! DONATE YOUR CAR

Humane Society of Baltimore Co.

Free Towing. Tax Deduction. 410-833-8848 ext. 202

5048

WANTED TO BUY



TURN YOUR COLLECTIBLES INTO CASH

#1 BUYER OF GOLD, SILVER, COSTUME JEWELRY, WATCHES, ANTIQUE GUNS, MILITARY ITEMS, COINS, PAINTINGS, TOYS, FURNITURE, CONTENTS OF ATTICS AND BASEMENTS,

CALL 410-483-1878 (CELL) 443-501-6838

RENTALS

APARTMENTS/ CONDOS

DUNDALK - 1 BR, 1st floor. \$700/mo. +SD. Call 410-780-0486

FIRST FLOOR APT. Large 1.5 BR, off-street parking, \$950/mo. + SD. Call 443-621-8744



APARTMENTS/ CONDOS

ROSEDALE - 1 Bedroom, private entrance with deck. Non-smoker. No pets. \$775/mo. includes utilities. + \$700 S.D. (Add'll APT also avail \$880/mo.) Please leave voice mail. 410-682-2262



All you need to move in is your security deposit!

Rents starting at \$745
Including ALL utilities
One Bedroom

Essex Village-Marlyn Gardens Apartments



846 Brunswick Road, Essex

410-686-5952 Credit approval required. Limited Time Offer!

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TRY OUR STUDIO APARTMENT RENTS STARTING AT \$500

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AERO ACRES MIDDLE RIV-ER - Sfh, 3BR, 1 BA, completely rehabbed. \$1000/ mo. Section 8 Welcome. 410-730-1342

DUNDALK ROW HOME 2 BR, 2 BA. Section 8 Welcome. Call 410-419-0370

DUNDALK - TURNER STA-TION 2 BR, 1 BA, \$950/mo. Section 8 welcome. New Kitchen. Call 410-730-1342

EDGEMERE - SPARROWS PT. RD. - 3BR, Basement living qtrs., gas heat, fridge, gas range, microwave, washer & dryer, no pets. \$1295/mo. + Utilities, \$1100/S.D. Call 443-691-

DUNDALK/ESSEX 2 & 3 BR town houses. Reasonable rent. All nice areas, fresh paint. Rent from \$1050 to \$1250. Call 410-288-8333

E\$\$EX-ALL NEW INSIDE! 3 BEDROOM EOG TOWN-FENCED YAP' WINDOW, YARD, DECK \$1195. WON'T LAST! (443) 270-2469

MIDDLE RIVER - 3 BR, 1.5 Ba, full basement, huge deck, CAC. Section 8 welcome. \$1,450/mo. Call 410-730-1342

PARKVILLE - 3 bedroom EOG, cac, SS appliances, finished basement, W/D, fenced. Pets negotiable. \$1395. (240) 745-1254

ROSEDALE - 2 BR THS, not on bus line, no smoking, pets or drugs. Credit check and background required. \$1200/mo. + SD. Call 410-

ROSEDALE - 3 available immediately! 2/3 bedrooms, amenities vary. Pets and vouchers negotiable! 410-254-4920

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6123

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REAL ESTATE AUCTION

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REAL ESTATE AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

192 Acre Farm, Equipment & Household 1316 Stablersville Rd., Parkton, MD 21120

Sat., Oct. 29th, 2016 Real Estate will be offered at 11:00 AM Sale Starts @ 8:30 AM

with Tractors, implements and 4 generations of Farmhouse Furnishings and Antiques

Stone Farmhouse, Barn and full set of farm buildings, tractors, implements

and a large amount of farmhouse furnishings and antiques.

Directions: Southbound on I-83, find Exit 33 which is the third exit south of MD & PA border. This is Rt. 45, also known as Old York Rd. Go south on Rt. 45, approx. 300 yards and turn left onto Stablers Church Rd. Follow it for 1.3 miles, continue straight past the Stablers Church building and the road becomes Stablersville Rd. Property is on the left and signs are posted.





Beautiful Baltimore County Farm 192+/- acres with 110+/- tillable, known as the Christian Stabler Farm from the early 1800's. This is a preserved farm and a copy of the Easement is available. The sellers are keeping a two acre lot and this 192-/- acres is the net of this lot. The tillable land lays nicely for farming and some of the fenced pasture is tillable. The FSA map shows 108 acres tillable and with a few acres from the pasture, we are calling it 110-/acres tillable. There is a BG&E power line that runs through the pasture of this property. The two story, 3,366 square foot, stone home on this farm has six bedrooms and one bathroom. Four of the bedrooms have closets. The bathroom is on the main living level. This home has an eat-in kitchen, large living room and big front sitting room. This home appears to be structurally strong and well-preserved for its age.

This is an amazing farm with historic buildings, nice tillable land, harvestable timber, fenced pasture, great setting and a good location. The farm is less than 1.5 miles to Rt. 45 and the exit for I-83. Private showings are welcomed and available by calling John Mattilio of Farm and Land Realty Inc. at 717-917-4682 or Ed Leaman at 610-662-8149.

Terms on Real Estate: Deposit of \$100,000 as down payment day of auction, with balance at settlement within 60 days.

Brokers/Realtors Participation: We have incentives of up to 1% available for Realtors. Brokers and their agents on this real estate. Selling for Sonia Lee and Monica Lee Blatchly

LEAMAN AUCTIONS LTD. AY002063 717-464-1128 office, or Ed's cell: 610-662-8149 FOR UPDATES AND PHOTOS, USE THE AUCTIONS TAB AT

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REAL ESTATE

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floor plan/Exposed brick/Alarm/ 1/2 bath 1st floor/Eat-In Kitchen/ Sep. Dining or Breakfast Nook/ PARKING! Full basement is unfinished w/natural light & ready for your finishing touches. Please preview our home updates~Purrfect!







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(BC9010248) 3BR, 2FULL-BA, 2 HALF BATWHS b granite counters, wet ba large deck, patio, spacious closets, contemporary fin ishes. Beautiful outdoo setting seen from mstr BF

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FOREST HILL/SPENCEOLA FARMS



(HR9755374) Available 11/1, 3BR, 2,5BA, Patio off finished walk-out BSMT, Deck off kitchen, Pets case by case, NO LG Dogs, Housing Vouchers Considered, ALL applicants subject to Credit check/background

check/income verification & viewing of current home! INGS MILLS/RIDGE • RENTAL



Beautiful 4BR 2.5BA garage home. Great open floor plan, natura lighting, Irg kitchen generous granite counters & ss appliances, center

and. Hdwd thru-out, crown molding, chair rail, ceilng fans, washer & dryer. Luxurious master suite w/oaking tub. Large rear deck perfect for entertaining.



Priced To Sell Large 2BR 2BA
Terrace Level with open floor plan. Backs to grass knoll and

Ramp to Terrace provides easy access for handicapped individuals. All Appliances Convey.

RVILLE/TIMONIIUM/ MIDDLE RIVER/WATERFRONT PARKVILLE/HARFORD PARK PRO15/14/12



Creek. 4BR Cape Cod, 2BA FULLY Furnished! Pier



w/Gazebo. Conveniently located near Martin's Airport.

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BC9763014) 3BR, 1BA EOG, Double parking pad, resh paint throughout, refinished HDWD floors. Rear faces scenic water view! Immediate occupancy

derful opportunity to own this spacious house boasting two 1BR apartments

each with its own gas and electric meter. Large, level lot in sought afte Rosedale area. Excellent investment opportunity...live in one, rent the other. Currently, 1st floor apartmen rented with long term tenant.

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for this location! Don't miss out!

Large fenced yard. Oversized garage with loft. New furnace in 2015 and roof in 2012 Home is in good condition but seller will make no repairs. Cash or Conv loans only.

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3BR Cape Cod

HDWD floors

plenty of storage



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