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Star of Bethlehem a beacon of hope, honors legacy



The 1.5-ton, 28-foot star once again graces the Sparrows Point landscape as it has at Christmastime for the last three decades. File photo.

- By Marge Neal -

The Star of Bethlehem once again shines brightly over Sparrows Point.

Handcrafted by steelworkers to pay homage to the steelmaking industry as well as the birthplace of Jesus Christ, the giant lighted star adorned the L blast furnace at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant from the 1980s until 2014, according to Aaron Tomarchio, vice president of corporate affairs for Tradepoint Atlantic, the new owner of the 3,100-acre industrial campus.

The star was taken down in late 2014 in anticipation of the early 2015 demolition of the blast furnace, according to Tomarchio, but company officials believed it was important to continue the tradition of lighting the star at Christmastime.

"We inherited a site very rich in legacy and history and it's important to us to preserve that legacy," he told the *East County Times.* "It's a very special burden we bear to honor the workers

and what happened here over the past 125 years."

The steel star, with a weight of 1.5 tons and diameter of 28 feet, has a temporary home on the property's water treatment building. With a crowd that Tomarchio estimated to be about 100 people observing, the star's 196 light bulbs were brought to life Nov. 30 in the second such ceremony under Tradepoint's stewardship.

A love for and respect of traditions is what drew Patty Sauerwald and her husband, Mark, to the star lighting for the second year.

"We love traditions and these smalltown touches," Sauerwald said. "We went last year, and we went again this year to show Tradepoint how important this is to the community."

She has familial ties to the steel plant property. Her father, John Melvin, was a steelworker for a brief time before becoming a police officer, and her husband worked for the shipyard in the

late 1970s

"My grandfather came from Ireland as a teenager to work at the steel mill," she said. "He was one of 16 children and he left his family to come here and did so well he never went back."

The star can be seen by motorists traveling across the Key Bridge, according to Tomarchio, and it is partially visible from Peninsula Expressway.

"It is our plan to find a more permanent home for the star," he said. "Once we build out a little more, we'd like to find a higher, more central, more visible spot for it."

Sauerwald hopes those plans come to fruition. She suggested last year that the star be placed on a tower so it is more visible to the entire community.

"Right now, you can only see it from the Key Bridge if you happen to be driving over it at dark-thirty," she said with a laugh. "I'd like it to be more visible to the community."

While Bethlehem Steel was a large corporate entity that employed more than 30,000 people during its heyday, it managed to maintain the feel of a small town where people knew each other and cared about each other, Sauerwald believes.

"Those traditions, those small-town touches are so important and what made Sparrows Point so unique," she said. "It was this huge company, but the little touches like the star gave it that small-town feel. It's really important to carry that on."

The star will illuminate the campus until after the first of the year before going dark until the tradition renews next year.

"We consider ourselves the new stewards, the caretakers of this property and its legacy," Tomarchio said. "We think it's important to carry on the traditions and preserve that history and we take that responsibility seriously."



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Lockheed Martin progressing with environmental cleanup on Middle River

- By Devin Crum -

Decades of pollution in Middle River resulting from industrial manufacturing done by the Glenn L. Martin Company is in the process of being cleaned up in order to protect public health.

Lockheed Martin Corporation has planned the cleanup activities in three Middle River tributaries - Cowpen Creek, Dark Head Cove and Frog Mortar Creek - over the last several years to address the environmental damage done by its predecessors. But the remediation work began in earnest this October.

In Cowpen Creek and Dark Head Cove - also known as Martin Lagoon - workers began the first of two seasons of dredging on Oct. 17 to remove contaminated sediments from the waterway, according to Mike Martin of Tetra Tech, a contractor for the project.

The cleanup effort also involved some light dredging two years ago, Martin said. "This time around we're back to basically do the full job."

In accordance with their permits, the company has until Feb. 14, 2017, to complete the work planned for this season so as not to interfere with any fish breeding that may occur in the waterway. But Martin said they hope to finish by January.

He explained that this round of work consists of dredging in Dark Head Cove to finish what they started in 2014, as well as using barges to dredge as far up Cowpen Creek as they can get.

"So where the North American Electric property is, that's somewhere around the area where we'll be able to make it," Martin said, adding that beyond that point is "basically a mud flat" at low tide.

Along with the dredging, the company will replace the metal sheets along the bulkhead that keep additional contaminated soil from entering the waterway.

Dark Head Cove and Cowpen Creek will remain closed to public access during the work, as they will during the second season which begins in June.

Although Martin was unsure of the exact timeline for season two, he said that work will involve the clean-up of the rest of Cowpen Creek, working down from the BGE substation at the top toward the point at which they could no longer continue during season one.

The chief contaminants being removed from the waterways are substances classified as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polyaromatic hydrocarbons

(PAHs), which are known to be carcinogenic, as well as some heavy metals such as cadmium and chromium.

These substances are bound to the sediments, Martin said, and do not migrate through the water. Additionally, a turbidity curtain lines the work area to ensure the sediments they stir up while dredging do not travel

Although work could not begin in the water until Oct. 17, Martin said they began much of their preparation work on land before that.

'Obviously a lot of the work has to occur on land," he said, noting that the contaminated sediment they remove must be taken up onto land so it can be processed, put onto trucks and hauled off for disposal.

Martin described the sediment they remove from the water as "like a thick milkshake" when they bring it up. As the water - which contains some of the contaminants - is filtered and drained off, it is collected into a holding tank before being discharged to a county sanitary sewer, as permitted by Baltimore County. That water will ultimately be treated by the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The sediments themselves are processed by adding Calciment - a cement and quicklime mixture - to stabilize it and make it more like soil so it is safe for transport to a landfill.

"Landfills don't want a big truckload of mud, and you don't want to be driving a truckload of mud down the highway," Martin explained.

He added that the quicklime dries up the moisture and the cement binds up the material. It is then hauled off for disposal in approved landfills in Virginia and Pennsylvania which are specifically equipped to handle and dispose of those types of contaminants.

Martin expected the project to cost about \$2 million.

But according to Paul Calligan, Lockheed Martin's project manager for the remediation, because the pollution occurred as a result of work done for the federal government, the company will be allowed to recoup that cost using the price of future contracts with the government.

On the other side of Martin State Airport, along Frog Mortar Creek, workers are constructing a ground water filtration facility to prevent pollutants from leaching into the creek from a former dump site used by the Glenn L. Martin Company.

Until the mid-1970s, the Martin Company - and subsequently Martin Marietta - owned all the land that now includes Martin State Airport and the Maryland Air National Guard base. And during the 1950s and 1960s, the company used a 20-acre area along Frog Mortar Creek as an industrial landfill, where they disposed of waste materials from manufacturing, according to Mark Salvetti of contractor CDM Smith.

"This was all legal at the time," Salvetti said. "It was covered over, and when the airport was sold it went with the land. It wasn't recognized as an issue back then."

Through extensive investigation, Lockheed Martin has found a lot of debris along with degreasing products and industrial solvents, Salvetti said.

"So what we find here is groundwater that has been contaminated with primarily trichloroethylene," which he said breaks down into other products in the environment known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The pollutants in this area are found in the water as opposed to the sediments, according to Salvetti. But they do not migrate far because of their volatility and instead vaporize into the air before dispersing.

A water contact advisory extends 200 feet into the water from the shoreline, but Salvetti noted the majority of the toxins are found much closer to the shore.

As a result, they are building a groundwater treatment system which uses 16 groundwater wells along about 1,000 feet of shoreline to extract the polluted water before it reaches the creek. The facility will then treat the water by removing and destroying the contaminants before discharging the cleaned water back to Frog Mortar Creek via a submerged outfall.

"And it really is clean; it actually will meet drinking water standards," Salvetti said.

The building for the facility is expected to be fully enclosed by early to mid-January, he said. It should be turned on in April, becoming fully operational by May or June of next year.

"We'll be running around the clock, seven days a week, treating that groundwater," Salvetti noted. "And then we'll keep treating until the water is clean enough that we don't need to treat anymore to keep Frog Mortar Creek clean."

He estimated that the facility will be in operation for a period of between 30 - 50 years at an approximate operating cost of \$1 million per year.







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Appeals court rules North Point Government Center sale needs state approval

- By Marge Neal -

In what Dundalk United leaders consider a "major victory," Maryland's Court of Special Appeals has ruled that Baltimore County officials must have the approval of the Maryland Board of Public Works to sell the North Point Government Center and surrounding

Gov. Larry Hogan, state Treasurer Nancy Kopp and state Comptroller Peter Franchot sit on the BPW, which is charged with overseeing state ex-

penditures to ensure the state's fiscal integrity, according to its website.

Baltimore County has a deal to sell the former North Point Junior High School building to a developer who has proposed a retail center called Merritt Pavilion for the land at the corner of Merritt Boulevard and Wise Avenue.

Since Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz announced in 2012 his comprehensive plans to close Eastwood Elementary School, sell the government center and move the Dundalk police precinct offices from the government center to Eastwood, the plan has been championed by some residents and protested by others.

After competitive bids were reviewed, Vanguard Commercial Development was named the winning bidder. The company proposed a retail center and pledged to upgrade or create athletic fields and other outdoor amenities.

A statement on the Baltimore County government website boasted

that the developer had letters of intent with several nationally known businesses, including Chipotle, Panera Bread and Five Guys, that committed to leasing space at the proposed shopping center.

The project would create 2,000 jobs, including 1,500 short-term construction jobs and 500 permanent retail jobs once the center was fully occupied, a ccording to the statement.

While the Dundalk Renaissance - see APPEAL on page 4 -







APPEAL

- continued from page 3 -

Corporation supported the idea, citing the jobs and retail opportunities it would provide for the community, some area residents and Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council volunteers decried the loss of indoor recreation space, particularly a 600-seat theater used year-round by a variety of organizations.

The recent Court of Special Appeals verdict was a "Merry Christmas gift, a little early," according to Dundalk resident Bob Staab. The former Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks director is a leader of Dundalk United, an organization created to fight the county's effort to sell the property.

Staab believes the sale of the building and surrounding park land is a

"horrible precedent" to set, and warns other communities that a park in their neighborhood could be next if this sale is completed.

He also complained that the community was kept in the dark and was not allowed to participate in the planning process.

"We are just losing, losing, losing while the county gives us false promises and lies after more lies," Staab said in a phone interview. "The county executive doesn't care about the residents of Dundalk, and he doesn't work for the residents of Baltimore County. He works for Caves Valley [Partners] and all the other developers who want to build in Baltimore County."

Don Mohler, a spokesman for the county executive, said Tuesday that county officials don't agree that a covenant in the property deed about a potential sale needing approval from the Board of Public Works is still relevant.

The state has no financial interest in the land, he said, with loans taken to build the school long paid off, he said.

"We continue to request that the governor put the approval of this project on the agenda and bring it up for a vote," Mohler said. "Let us make our presentation on why we think this is an outstanding project and then vote up or down, but don't continue to keep the project in limbo."

The proposed project would tear down an "outdated, dilapidated, falling down building" and replace it with a "state-of-the-art" recreation center, Mohler said.

"The new center would be one of our finest rec centers," Mohler said. "The



County Executive Kevin Kamenetz's administration has asked the BPW to bring the Government Center issue for a vote of the Board instead of keeping it "in limbo."

governor is allowing politics to get in the way of progress and he's ignoring the recreational needs of Dundalk resi-

Phone calls to Leonard Weinberg of Vanguard were not returned by press



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Dundalk man killed in early morning beltway crash

- By Marge Neal -

The Greater Dundalk community is rallying around the family of a North Point Village man who was killed in a car crash Saturday, Dec. 3, while helping his father fix a flat tire on the Baltimore Beltway near Woodlawn.

Robert Peros, 32, had stopped on the shoulder of the highway near Crosby Road at about 8:35 a.m. Saturday to help his father when he was struck by a 2003 Buick LeSabre that veered from the roadway to the shoulder, according to a Maryland State Police statement. The Buick first struck a Nissan van, owned by Peros, and continued along the shoulder, hitting a 2009 Chevy Silverado that was stopped on the right shoulder with a flat tire, according to the statement.

Peros was declared dead at the scene, according to Sgt. Horton, a spokesman for MSP's Golden Ring barrack. Peros' father, whose name was not available, remained hospitalized in critical condition as of late Monday. The driver of the LeSabre was also hospitalized.

It is unclear where Peros was at the time of impact, Horton said.

"The father said he was outside of the vehicle when the crash occurred, but was not sure where his son was at the time of impact - he couldn't remember," Horton said Monday. "It's still under investigation."

The name of the driver who veered onto the shoulder and struck the two vehicles

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had not been released as of Tuesday, and no charges had been filed, according to Horton. The case would be reviewed by the state's attorney's office, he said.

"We don't believe alcohol or drugs were involved; there was nothing on the scene to indicate that," Horton said. "We will request the medical records."

At least two online fundraisers have been created using the gofundme.com organization, and the Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, where Peros was a probationary firefighter, is raising money for his family, according to company spokesman Bob Francis.

Peros was married and the father of four children. He and his wife, Ashley, had also adopted two nieces and a nephew, according to longtime friend Rob Dunford.

"Rob was just one of those guys who would give you the shirt off his back," Dunford said of Peros. "If this had happened to me, he'd be out on a street corner with a sign, collecting money for me."

Peros was a field technician who repaired commercial kitchen equipment, according to Dunford, and his wife is a stay-at-home mother, which means the family is abruptly without an income.

"Rob was a good person, just a regular blue-collar kind of guy who would do anything he could for anybody, and we're just trying to do something for him," Dunford said.

Peros joined the Wise Avenue fire

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company as a probationary firefighter in April, according to Francis. He needed to schedule a physical exam for the medical clearance to achieve firefighter status, according to Francis.

The fire company has pledged to donate the proceeds of this Saturday's train garden income to Peros' family.

"We will donate at least \$500 to the family, or all of Saturday's train garden income, whichever is greater," Francis said.

Noting that for-profit online fundraising sites charge administrative and other fees, Francis said the fire company is accepting donations for the Peros family.

Anyone who wants to make a donation to Rob's family can do it through the Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, and then 100 percent of the donation will go to the family," Francis said.

Donations to the Robert Peros Fund can be mailed to the fire company at 214 Wise Ave., Dundalk, MD 21222.

The online fundraisers can be found at www.gofundme.com/mike-and-robsfamily-fund and www.gofundme.com/ rob-peros-family-fund. As of Tuesday, the two funds collectively had raised about \$5,000 toward a combined \$15,000 goal.





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Patapsco United Methodist hit with potential \$12,000 citation for housing homeless

- By Patrick Taylor -

After months of complaints from neighbors about homeless individuals taking residence in the back yard area of Patapsco United Methodist Church (PUM), the church, located at 7800 Wise Avenue in Dundalk, has been slapped with a \$12,000 citation and order to appear in court on Dec. 21.

Baltimore County code enforcement has been out to inspect the church multiple times this year, with complaints being lodged against the church in June, July, August and November. The first three visits yielded no violations against the church. But the last one, dated Nov. 22, found that the church was in violation of county zoning codes for "failure to cease exterior use of property as housing units."

According to neighbor complaints, homeless persons in the area had set up tarps on concrete slabs to create makeshift shelters at the back of the church. The complaint filed in June cited the shelters and noted that trash and waste were being created. The July complaint referred to the June complaint, while the August complaint noted that a local business owner had started to get upset due to the homeless "urinating on his trees."

For many churches, turning away the homeless population is in direct conflict with their faith according to Pastor Katie Grover, who heads up PUM.

"The business of the church is to serve God, and God says, 'Whatever you've done for the least of these you've done unto me," said Grover. "We want to care for these people the best we can."

Grover stated that while they don't encourage people to stay on the property, they aren't going to rid their property of those looking for a place to sleep. Aside from utilizing the back area, benches around

the church are often occupied at night. A garden area in the middle of the property also frequently houses those without permanent housing at night.

With a new heating system required for the church - which Grover estimates will cost about \$80,000 - the loss of \$12,000 to code enforcement would be a major blow to PUM.

"We're kind of in a tricky situation here, because we don't exactly know how we can be compliant since we don't have people here at all hours of the day to make sure the back area is clear," said Grover. "We were told if the violation is fixed before the court date the fine could be rescinded, but we're not exactly sure about what it is we need to do right now."

Grover noted that it's not ideal for the homeless to be outside on their property, but added that bringing them into the church brings more codes into the equation. And considering the lurch they currently find themselves in, they can't afford to take that risk.

The bigger issue at play here is homelessness in general, Grover admitted, adding that people want an answer to the issue, but predominantly want it to be an out-of-sight, out-of-mind approach.

And in east Baltimore County, it is an issue that is increasingly working its way to the forefront.

The 2010 census found that 25 percent more people didn't have permanent housing than the last census. Of the homeless population, 36 percent lived in Dundalk, Essex and Rosedale. While there are no solid numbers at this time, it stands to reason given the economy that the number has most likely risen.

There's also the issue of shelter availability, with the only men's shelter in the county located in Catonsville. Next year, the Eastern Family Resource Center will be adding beds for men, but as it stands

they only serve women and families. There are cold weather shelters in the county, but only one readily accessible to those in the Dundalk area. They're also only open between Nov. 15 - April 15 and do nothing about housing homeless when the temperatures rise in the summer.

Councilman Todd Crandell and Delegate Ric Metzgar both agree that the homeless problem needs to be seriously addressed. Crandell talked about the need to stress available resources that churches can utilize, while also noting that the issue of homelessness is tricky because some are on the streets due to addiction while others are there for mental health or other reasons. Metzgar added that a community town hall needs to be held to evaluate what's working and what isn't, and that churches like PUM who currently provide this type of help to the homeless need to band together.

Grover conceded that she understands the issues that neighbors have and added that she isn't trying to start a fight. She doesn't want to split the church or divide the community in any way. But she also knows that her church's mission is to provide aid for those who need it. And with the Christmas season upon us, she can't help but think of the parallels between this ordeal and the biblical story of Mary and Joseph being turned away from housing in Bethlehem.

'We have to remember that when Christ's parents went into Bethlehem, they couldn't find a place. The savior of the world was born in a stable and he later said in his ministry, 'foxes have dens and birds have nests but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head," Grover said. "Our savior was a homeless man. If we can't welcome the homeless, can we welcome God?"





LEGALLY YOURS

Holiday drivers should know about new drunk driving laws and penalties

- By Parker, Pallett, Slezak & Russell, LLC -

This past session of the Maryland legislature passed several bills which seriously impact one's driving privilege and license. Maryland was already a comparatively tough state with regard to drunk driving. But the new bills, signed by Governor Hogan and which took effect Oct. 1, are among the most serious in the country.

What's behind the new legislation is this: the legislature wants citizens who are arrested for alcohol or drug-related violations to take breathalyzer or drug tests. Previously, the sanction was fairly stiff for a refusal to do so: a first refusal mandated a 120-day license suspension. But now, the suspension penalty for refusal has taken a giant leap to 270 days. A second refusal previously mandated a one-year suspension; that has ballooned to two years.

One option was to agree instead to have an ignition interlock system installed for one year if you refused to take the test. That option has remained, but now a second refusal mandates two years of the interlock.

If the driver does agree to take the blood or breath test, the "over the limit" penalties have also been stiffened. Before Oct. 1, a breath test or blood test showing a 0.08 - 0.15 blood-alcohol reading mandated a 45-day suspension; that has now leaped to 180 days. A read-

ing of over 0.15 mandated a 90-day suspension; that should call our 24-hour hotline; we're here to help now is 270 days.

Agreeing to have an interlock installed rather than suffering a suspension is still an option for these readings, but the duration of its installment has been modified to 180 days for a 0.08 - 0.15 reading and 270 days for a reading above 0.15.

Perhaps the greatest change in these laws is reflected in the imposition of the interlock for any conviction of driving while under the influence or driving while impaired. The interlock is also mandated for homicide by automobile, while the driver was impaired or under the influence. First offenders are required to have the interlock for six months. Second offenders are required to have same for one year. For a third or subsequent offense, the requirement is a staggering three years!

So our advice at Parker, Pallett, Slezak and Russell is don't drink and drive! If you are stopped you you. It's now more critical than ever to have competent representation for these offenses, both at trial and at the Administrative Law hearings. Call Parker, Pallett, Slezak and Russell at 410-335-3800 or go online to ppsrlaw.com.

Hope & Healing Support Group

Have you ever lost a family member or friend to suicide? There is a support group called Hope & Healing where people have the opportunity to share openly with fellow suicide loss survivors about what they've lived through and help support one another. Meetings are held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 518 Frankliln Ave. in Essex, at 8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Use the double red doors on George Avenue to enter the church. Call 410-687-4621 for more info.



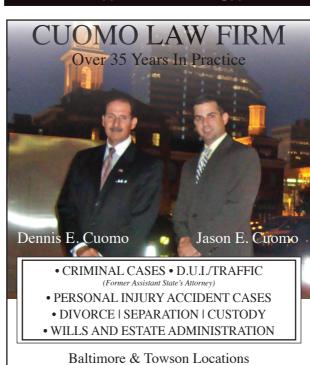












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ENTERTAINMENT

Drown Your Sorrows in 'Manchester by the Sea'

- By Teddy Durgin -

"Manchester By the Sea" is one of the best films I've ever seen... that I plan to never see again! Lord, have mercy, this is one sad, heartbreaking movie! You'll be crying throughout and for a while afterwards like Snoopy listening to Schroeder play the piano... like the Cowardly Lion getting slapped by Dorothy... like Frodo and the other Hobbits after Gandalf the Gray bites it in "Fellowship of the Ring." You'll need drinks afterwards, dear readers. Antidepressants. A ride on a roller coaster. Anything that will snap you out of the funk this flick is going to put you in... a

flick that, nevertheless, you SHOULD see.

Yes, it's one of the best films of 2016. It's going to do very well come award time. It's already picking up several early critics association accolades and scored hugely well at film festivals leading up to its release. The film is now open at the Charles in Baltimore and will be expanding in the coming weeks as the Golden Globes and Oscar nominations near.

Casey Affleck stars as Lee Chandler, a janitor/handyman in Quincy, Mass., who drinks too much, gets into bar fights, and insults many of the tenants in the building where he works shoveling snow, fixing sinks and performing other small

upkeep tasks. He's about to become even more moody when he learns that his older brother, Joe (Kyle Chandler), has passed away of heart failure. He was only in his mid-40s and leaves behind a teenage nephew, Patrick (Lucas Hedges).

We learn that Joe was also divorced and that Patrick's mom is a raging alcoholic who has been absent from the boy's life for several years. Joe's last will gives custody of Patrick to Lee, and we immediately see that it is a responsibility that Lee does not want. He loves Patrick, but he can't do what must be done... and he certainly can't move back to his hometown of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass.

Why is that? Oooof. That's the part of the story that will wear you out! There is an unbelievable tragedy in Lee's not-too-distant past that has changed him forever. It's one that if you read about it in newspapers or online, you'd think to yourself, "How could anyone go on after that?!" And Lee has not gone on. He has just existed. He's just gone through the motions.

Finishing Patrick's upbringing? It will require him to kick-start parts of his being that have died. Can he form human connections again? Can he even come close to being the happy-go-lucky younger guy we see in fleeting flashbacks, teaching a younger Patrick to fish?

Affleck is amazing in the lead role and will very likely sweep many of the



upcoming Best Actor awards. But really the whole cast is spot-on, with not a single false note played by anyone. The film is almost too raw. You fight becoming emotionally involved once you find out everything that has happened in the past. But Affleck and Hedges' characters are so wounded and so in need, you can't help becoming invested in their fates. And a scene late in the film between Affleck and Michelle Williams is quite simply the saddest damn thing I've seen on screen in a long time.

"Manchester by the Sea" is written and directed by Kenneth Lonergan, and I can't imagine the months and years of his life he spent intimately with these characters and this story and how it must have affected him. Bless him for pulling this tale out of his soul. It's honest, it's stark, it's affecting. And it dares to flirt with the painful realization that there are just some things in life that one cannot come back from. Oh yeah - there will not be a blooper reel playing over these end credits, folks.

"Manchester by the Sea" is rated R for language and some sexual content.





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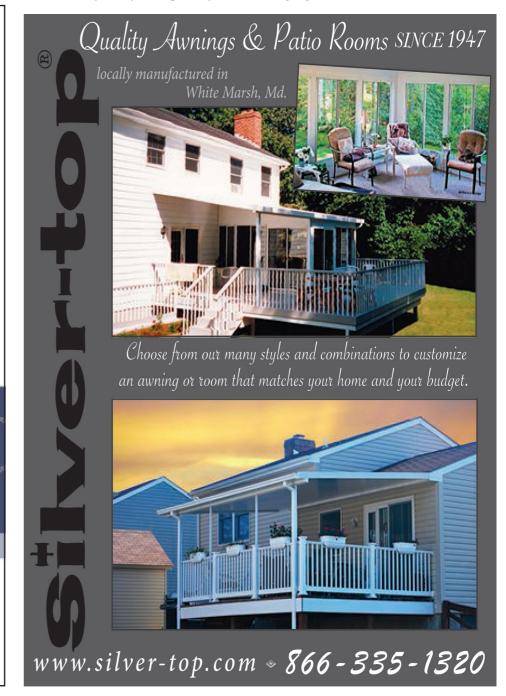


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Gilmore Girls return on Netflix... flaws and all

- By Teddy Durgin -

I'm really loving Netflix! "Stranger Things" is the best thing I've seen on a small screen in years. And one of the shows I was very passionate about years ago was "Gilmore Girls" with its eccentric characters and mix of silliness and seriousness. I never thought I'd see "Gilmore Girls" creator Amy Sherman-Palladino and her husband, Daniel, get the chance to end their series the way they intended. The husband-and-wife team couldn't come to terms with network execs back in the day and left as show runners just prior to the final season. So, everything that happened with the characters that last year, while still fun, transpired with an asterisk.

Finally, after years of rumors and fan hopes, Netflix and the Palladinos announced they would indeed get the opportunity to revisit the town of Stars Hollow and wrap up the series the way they always intended with four, 90-minute tele-films broadcast via the streaming service.

Subtitled "A Year in the Life," each new installment takes place during a different season - winter, spring, summer and fall, playing off the show's classic theme song - of a contained year. The result? "A Year in the Life" is a bit melancholy and a bit awkward in spots. It finds its footing for long stretches of time, then loses it briefly,

but gets it back by the end. There's no denying that Amy and Daniel know these characters better than anyone on the planet. Lorelai, Rory, Luke, Emily, Kirk and Co. once again sound like themselves. Oh, they still make infuriating decisions. But they also still fire off hilarious, rapid-fire, pop culture references and still have the ability to make fans laugh, think and feel.

I enjoyed this reunion.

"A Year in the Life" has aged the characters in real time (although Lauren Graham looks ridiculously amazing for 49), but Stars Hollow remains refreshingly stuck in the past in many ways with its terribly spotty cell phone reception and struggling tourism business vs. trendier nearby locales. Lorelai (Graham) still runs the Dragonfly Inn, and she now lives with her longtime love, local diner owner Luke (Scott Patterson).

All seems to be right with Lorelai, but it's not. She's missing her best friend, Sookie (Melissa McCarthy), who has gone on to greener (literally) pastures. Her now-grown daughter, Rory (Alexis Bledel), only pops in for occasional visits due to her journalism career. Worst of all, Lorelai has lost her beloved father (Edward Hermann died in 2014) and has to deal with a grieving mother (Kelly Bishop), who she's quarreled with for years.

Rory, as it turns out, is not doing well

NETFLIX

either. Once the valedictorian of her college class, she has failed to gain traction in journalism. She was recently published in *The New Yorker*, but she's been unable to parlay that into greater success. Her personal life is a mess, too, dating one man who she forgets time and again while having an affair with her old college flame, Logan (Matt Czuchry), who's engaged to another woman.

I wouldn't dare spoil how it all turns out in the fourth segment "Fall." For diehard fans, the fates of these characters is personal, so Sherman-Palladino can't possibly please everyone. But you truly get the sense that the end result has pleased her. And, hey - SPOILER ALERT - she and her hubby don't nuke Stars Hollow in the end. There's always a chance for more installments.

I do recognize the flaws in "A Year in the Life." Chiefly, there is the mishandling of Rory's journalism career. First of all, she's a freelancer and she apparently earns enough money to jet back and forth to London whenever she wants?! It's also laughable that the woman writes one



Gilmore girls

piece in *The New Yorker*, and seemingly the entire journalism world has read it. She eventually accepts a GQ assignment to write an article about people who stand in long lines in Manhattan, waiting for everything from theater tickets to the newest comic book releases. And one of the first people she interviews, she literally FALLS ASLEEP while he is talking! While writing that same piece, she also has a one-night stand with one of her sources!

But I can't help it. I'm a forgiving fan. I want more "Gilmore Girls." I love these characters and stories... flaws and all.



May all
Baltimore babies
sleep Alone,
on their Backs,
in a Crib,
in a smoke-free
environment
this holiday season.



PATTERSON PARK NORTH & EAST

For more information, contact Cherice Marrow at BMS: 443-703-3649 **OBITUARIES**

Dennison, Charles R.

On Nov. 30, Rev. Charles Roger Dennison, Pastor of the Crusaders For Christ Church, beloved husband of Eleanor C. Dennison (nee Jones); devoted father of Donna M. Hastings and her husband Carl, Donna Kafeder and her husband Kurt, Robert C. Dennison and his wife Shelley, Linda C. Whalen and her husband Philip, Betsy J. Mose and her husband Tim and the late Charles R. Dennison, Jr. and his surviving wife Patricia; dear brother of Perry Dennison and the late Robert Dennison. Also surviving are 12 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; his Church family; other relatives and friends.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment, private. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial contributions to the Church for the Radio Ministry.

Much, Barker B.

Barker B. Much, born in Washington D.C. on Oct. 2, 1935, passed away on Nov. 28 at the age of 81. He is survived by his sister, Susanna L. Chmielowski.

During his lifetime he served in the U.S. Army. He later was employed in retail sales in the Baltimore area. As a member of the Maryland Transit Administration Citizens Advisory Committee, Mr. Much was a strong advocate of mass transit. He also was an active participant in his local church and a strong proponent of Bible study.

A memorial service will be planned at Hope Lutheran Church in Essex in the near future.

Bennett, Sue

On Nov. 30, Sue Bennett (nee Proudfoot); beloved wife of Richard E. Bennett, Sr.; devoted mother of Richard E. Bennett, Jr. and Scott C. Bennett and wife Stacy; loving grandmother of Laurie, Trevor and Nathan Bennett and the late Crystal Bennett; greatgrandmother of Isabella Bennett; dear sister of Cathy Knight, Jean Schumann and the late Sonny Proudfoot.

Services to be provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., with a Celebration of Life service at 1 p.m. Interment private.

Gensler, Martha

On Dec. 3, Martha E. Gensler (nee Kessler), beloved wife of the late Daniel G. Gensler; devoted mother of Diane M. Gensler. Also survived by many loving family members and friends.

Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Interment at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery.



Dowell, Dovie Betty

On Dec. 1, Dovie Betty Dowell (nee Cummings), devoted wife of the late Walter G. Dowell; beloved mother of Glenn F. Dowell Jr. and his wife Linda, Reggie Dowell and his wife Josie, and the late Cecil G. Dowell; loving mother-in-law of Elaine; loving "Grandma" of Christopher, Jill, Dana, Reggie Jr., Michelle, Greg, and Tonya; loving "great-grandma" of Carly-Lynn, Corey, Jayden, Noah, Caleb, Sierra, Lilly, Gage, Cole, Georgie, Emma, Collin, Dylan, Garrett, Austin, Brooklyn and Trenton.

Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Interment at Gardens of Faith Cemetery.

Williams, Bernadette

On Dec. 1, Bernadette Mae Williams (nee Harris), devoted wife of the late Walter "Jack" Williams; beloved mother of Mark Williams and his fiancée Pam, Allan Williams and his wife Celeste; loving Grandmother of Nicholas and his wife Sarah, and Tyler; loving great-grandmother of Brayden and Beckham; dear sister of Shirley Solana, Dow Harris and Jack Harris.

Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Interment at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens.

Hacke, Thomas E.

On Dec. 3, Thomas E. "Tom" Hacke; loving son of Dorothy C. Hacke and the late Herbert J. Hacke; dear brother of Debbie and Mark Hild, Jim and Karen Hacke, Jane and Gerald Placek, Barb and Steve Cosgrove. Also survived by 10 nieces and nephews.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Interment Gardens of Faith Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Ryan Foundation, c/o Kelli Szczybor, 7 Over Ridge Court, Kingsville MD 21087.

Kielian, Lillie

On Dec. 1, Lillie "Marsha" Kielian (Sawyer), beloved wife of the late Francis J. Kielian; loving mother of Linda Deems and husband Richard, Joseph Kielian and wife Dorothy, Karen Bowers, Timothy Kielian and wife Carol; grandmother of Mandy, Nichole, Timothy, Justin, Casey and Tori. Also survived by great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Services provided by Kaczorowski Funeral Home.

Sokal, Alexander

On Nov. 25, Alexander W. Sokal, devoted father of Alexander and wife Casa, Matthew, and the late Mark Sokal, dear grandfather of Alexander and Tara; loving great-grandfather of Isabelle Sokal. Alexander is also survived by his ex-wife Barbara Zack, and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Services provided by Kaczorowski Funeral Home.





IN MEMORY OF Steven Douglas Smith Feb. 11, 1993 - Nov. 27, 2016

Suddenly, on Nov. 27, 2016, Steven Douglas Smith passed away. He was the beloved son of Tania Pappas and Melvin Smith;

devoted brother of Kayla Pappas, Michael Smith and Tracy Smith; cherished grandson of Jackie Aburn and the late Nick Pappas and the late Betty and Melvin Smith; loving nephew of Sandi, Carol, Lorie, Jeff, Bob, Debbie and Sandy; dear cousin of Sara, Hannah and Liam.

A memorial service was held on Sat., Dec. 3 at the Charles S. Zeiler and Son, Inc. Funeral Home.

Clauss, Frank H.

On Dec. 4, Frank H. Clauss, beloved husband of Bonnie B. Clauss (nee Behn); loving son of Erma Clauss and the late Robert Clauss Sr.; dear brother of Robert Clauss Jr. and Kerry Clauss; devoted uncle of Robert Clauss III and Kerry Clauss Jr. Also survived by many dear friends and co-workers.

Funeral services are private. A memorial service and reception will be held at the Long Beach Oyster House, 818 Bowleys Quarters Road on Sunday, Jan. 1 at 3 p.m.

Wilson, Herbert H.

On Dec. 4, Herbert H. Wilson, beloved husband of the late D. Irene Wilson (nee Dobbins); devoted father of Shirley A. Murphy and Terry L. Wilson; loving grandfather of Heather Ferro and her husband Christopher, Timothy Murphy and his wife Sarah and Cheryl Cole; loving great-grandfather of Jacob Chase and Julia Ferro and Kylie Murphy.

Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Interment at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens.

O'Neal, John Lester

On Dec. 2, John Lester O'Neal, devoted father of John G. O'Neal and Tonya Jackson and her husband Allen; dear brother of Jerry O'Neal, Linda Haynes and her husband Larry, Robert O'Neal and his wife Brenda and Dominic Petrecca and his wife Elizabeth; loving grandfather of Allen Jackson III, Aaron Jackson and the late Anthony Jackson. Also survived by nieces and nephews.

Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Interment at Gardens of Faith Cemetery.

Kujawa, Cecelia

On Dec. 4, Cecelia L. Kujawa (nee Beall); beloved wife of Frank R. Kujawa, Sr.; devoted mother of Frank R. Kujawa, Jr. and wife Linda, Nancy M. Harrison and husband George, Michael Kujawa and wife Roechel; loving grandmother of Frank R. Kujawa, III, Ben Kujawa, Anastasia and Kyle Lake, Ryun Kujawa; great-grandmother of Leah Lake.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Interment Sacred Heart of Mary Church.

Smith, Irvin Charles

On Nov. 27, Irvin Charles Smith, beloved husband of the late Evelyn Falwell Smith; dear brother of Robert Smith, Catherine Martin and her husband Roger, Margaret Summers and her late husband Carl, Helen Poteet, and Joyce Sawyer. Irvin is also survived by his best friend and care giver, Patricia Crutchfield and 11 nieces and nephews.

Wanner, James

On Nov. 24, James E. Wanner, beloved husband of Ruth Wanner (nee Anders); devoted father of Jamie and Wayne Wanner; loving son of Rosemary Wanner and the late James C. Wanner; dear brother of Mark and Karen. James is also survived by other loving relatives and friends.

Services provided by Kaczorowski Funeral Home.

Current crime trends

Since Nov. 23, there have been two commercial robberies in the Essex Precinct believed to have been committed by the same suspects. The suspects implied a weapon and took money and cigarettes.

Since Nov. 19, there have been 11 commercial burglaries in the Towson, Parkville, and White Marsh precincts. Cases occurred during overnight hours. Multiple locations were targeted on the same night. Doors were pried in nine cases. Glass was broken in two cases. Items taken include safes, register drawers, money, a van, collectible coins and tools.

Since Nov. 12, there have been six commercial robberies countywide believed to have been committed by the same suspect. The suspect displayed a weapon and took money from the register.

Since Nov. 12, there have been six auto thefts and one attempt between the Cedemont and Cedonia communities in the White Marsh Precinct. Vehicles were stolen during overnight hours. In one case, the vehicle ignition was popped.

Since Nov. 9, there have been seven residential burglaries targeting the Ballard Gardens community in the Essex Precinct. Six cases occurred between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. No force was required in three of the seven cases. One location was targeted twice. Items taken include money, a safe, jewelry, game systems, keys, IDs, TVs, tablets, and a 2013 Hyundai Sonata.

Anyone with information on these cases is asked to contact police at 410-307-2020, or you can submit a tip to Metro Crime Stoppers at 1-866-7LOCKUP. For more information please feel free to visit www.metrocrimestoppers.org.

Detectives investigating Dundalk double-shooting

Baltimore County Police detectives continue to investigate the Dec. 1 non-fatal double shooting at a Dundalk gas station.

The victims, a 44-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman, were changing a tire in the parking lot of the Exxon station in the 1300 block of Merritt Boulevard when the suspect, possibly male, walked up to them and fired at close range. The suspect fled the area on

The male victim was shot multiple times in the upper body, and the woman was shot once in the lower body. Both were transported by Baltimore County EMS personnel to local hospitals.

The shooting remains under investigation by the Baltimore County Police's Violent Crime Unit. Detectives are investigating whether this was a targeted

Attorney, G. Randolph Rice, Jr.

(Former Assistant State's Attorney)

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Precint 9/White Marsh

Robbery: On Dec. 5, officers from the White Marsh precinct were called to the 8900 block of Cowenton Avenue in Perry Hall. At 9:45 a.m., two unknown suspects approached the victim, threw him to the ground, then stole money, casino chips and other

Robbery: Baltimore County police were called to the 8000 block of Pulaski Highway in Rosedale on Dec. 5. At 2:30 a.m., four unknown suspects entered the rear door of the Regal Inn and Suites. The sus-

MSP reminds drivers to give space for emergency vehicles

Two Maryland state troopers at the scene of a traffic crash in Charles County on Dec. 5 were struck by an impaired driver passing the scene, bringing to 37 the number of troopers hit while on traffic stops, crash scenes, or in construction zones this year.

Both troopers were seated in the same patrol car when a 2007 Mazda MX-5 northbound on Rt. 301 struck the unoccupied patrol car and then spun into the patrol car ahead of it, where the two troopers were seated. The first patrol car struck sustained disabling damage and the second sustained superficial damage.

In addition to 37 state troopers being struck while on the side of Maryland roads this year, another 20 State Police patrol cars have been hit, fortunately while the trooper was outside the vehicle. There is a clear purpose behind Maryland's move over law. The purpose is to save the lives of our police officers, our emergency services workers, and our tow service operators.

The move over law requires drivers approaching







pects stole money from the cash drawer, and money from a safe. They also stole the cashier's cellphone. One suspect carried a small handgun. The suspects locked the cashier in the bathroom, then fled the scene on foot.

Second Degree Burglary: Officers responded to a burglary call in the 8000 block of Pulaski Highway in Rosedale on Dec. 4. At 5:01 a.m., unknown suspects entered the building through a side location. The suspects stole several items and two cars.

from the rear an emergency vehicle or tow service vehicle using visual signals while stopped on a highway to, if possible, make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency or tow vehicle. This movement should only be done if another lane in the same direction is available and the move can be made safely and without impeding other traffic.

If moving to another lane away from the stopped emergency vehicle is not possible, the law requires drivers to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

Violating the move over law can result in a fine of \$110 and one point. If the violation contributes to a traffic crash, the fine is \$150 and three points. If the violation contributes to a traffic crash resulting in death or serious injury, the fine is \$750 and three points, in addition to the devastating personal tragedies a crash like that will cause.

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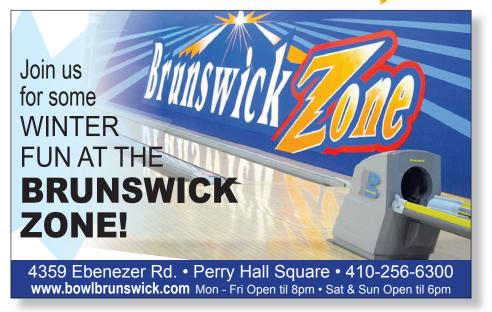
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COMMUNITY

Pearl Harbor Anniversary Exhibit

"They Answered the Call" is a tribute to the men and women who served on the World War II homefront working for the Glenn L. Martin Company in Middle River. The photo exhibit story shares work and home experiences of these workers who kept the homefront moving when the men went off to war. A featured display showcases the contributions of women workers, the Rosie the Riveters who were pioneers of the 1940's, doing jobs never before done by women. The museum, located in Hangar 5 at 701 Wilson Point Road in Middle River, is open Wednesday - Saturday, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Active military or veterans with ID receive free admission. For more info., call 410-682-6122.

Holiday Dinner

Middle River Baptist Church, 610 Middle River Road, will host a Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday dinner for neighbors in need on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 1 - 3 p.m. On the menu are roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, rolls and desserts. Vans will pick up at the Eastern Resource Center at 12:40 p.m. Call 410-686-8810 for more information.

Volunteers Needed

Brightview White Marsh assisted living, 8100 Rossville Blvd., is in need of volunteers to help with things like Rosary, cooking, short stories, games, discussions and visiting for their residents. For more information, contact Diane Gibson at 410-668-1588.

Photos with Santa

Santa Claus is coming to town for a holiday photo session with your family Saturday, Dec. 10, 1 - 3 p.m. Brightview White Marsh, 8100 Rossville Blvd. in Nottingham, invites grandparents, parents and kids of all ages to pose for a complimentary keepsake portrait with Santa. Also enjoy holiday music and refreshments. Don't miss this joyous opportunity to mix and mingle with our residents and their families while preserving merry memories with yours. Call Michelle at 410-668-1588 to RSVP.

Wreaths Across America

The public is invited to celebrate Wreaths Across America on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Lamky, Luther, Whitehead Veterans Memorial in Holly Hill Memorial Gardens, 10201 Bird River Road in Middle River. A brief ceremony will take place at the monument at noon. Following the ceremony, everyone in attendance will be asked to help in the placing of over 300 wreaths on the graves of Veterans interred at Holly Hill.

Food and Toy Drive

Henry Chiropractic Center, 1103 North Point Blvd., Suite 404 in Dundalk, will hold their 21st annual food and toy drive to benefit the Family Crisis Center of Dundalk. Donations of non-perishable foods and unwrapped toys and gifts may be brought to the office through Dec. 19 during business hours. Gift cards ad monetary donations also appreciated. For more information, call 410-285-2600.

Angels Sugar Up Your Troops

Chocolate is in demand for our military troops overseas! Please help by filling our care packages with any chocolate or hard candy until April. Also in demand are pop tarts, beef jerky/Slim Jims, popcorn, peanut butter and jelly jars, crackers, Old Bay, potato chips, Cheez-Its, hot chocolate, tuna pouches/cans, ramen noodles, Cup Noodles, tea bags, coffee, powdered drink mixes, hot sauce and other snacks. Also cough drops, dental floss, men's and women's deodorant, baby wipes, feminine products, socks, music CDs, DVDs and any other morale builders. To donate or for more info., call Irene Spatafore at 410-284-5275 or drop off items on the picnic table at 7914 Diehlwood Road in Dundalk.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland is seeking caring, reliable people to help deliver meals to your homebound neighbors. Give us about one hour of your time to deliver nutritious meals on any weekday (Monday-Friday) beginning at 11 a.m. Local distribution sites in Dundalk and Bowleys Quarters. In sharing a smile you can make a difference in the life of a homebound senior. To get started, call Volunteer Services at 443-573-0925 or email us at volunteer@mowcm.org.

Free Mammograms

Baltimore County Women's Cancer Protection is currently offering free mammograms to those who wish to be screened. Call 410-887-3432 to schedule an appointment or for more information.









Basketball season tips off across the county

- By Patrick Taylor -

The winter sports season kicked off in earnest on Monday night, with the first regular season basketball games taking place across the county. And it couldn't have come soon enough.

While I love football and soccer, I never quite learned how to dress for the weather. And by that I mean I never check the weather reports and kind of just wing it. That can lead to cold nights on the sidelines. But now...warmth.

While the Sparrows Point and Perry Hall girls soccer teams had reason to be proud of their seasons, a few of the eastside football teams underperformed this year. Schools like Dundalk, Eastern Tech and Kenwood have storied sports histories that you know their teams will be giving it all on the court to give their school something to cheer about.

The Dundalk boys basketball team will look to build off of their success last year. The Owls won two games in the MPSSAA playoffs, reaching the sectional final. In the first two rounds they slaughtered North Harford and Edgewood before falling just short against C. Milton Wright. They graduated a few key players, but this team should still be good enough to make it back to the postseason. On the girls side, a first round playoff loss to Edgewood will remain fresh in the minds of this team as they look to exact revenge.

The Eastern Tech boys basketball team will also be looking to build on last season, which saw them make it to the second round of the postseason before getting knocked out by Carver. Also looking to build with be the Chesapeake girls basketball team, which made it all the way to the regional final last year, beating Sparrows Point and Dunbar on the way. They fell to New Town, but retain a strong team with the potential to challenge for the title.

There will be plenty of other teams looking to do a bit more, including both the Sparrows Point boys and girls teams, who saw their playoff aspirations dashed in the first round of play.

Around the league

Speaking of Sparrows Point, the girls got off to a great start on Monday afternoon, taking down Patapsco by a score of 52 - 26.

Sparrows Point got out to an early lead and never really looked back, dominating all facets of the game. Whether it be commanding the low block for rebounds or utilizing a highly efficient press, the Sparrows Point girls just couldn't be slowed down.

In the first quarter, things were a bit closer as the early season rust was shaken off, but by the time the

Middle River

410-238-0080

half closed the Patapsco girls were looking down the barrel of a 26 - 13 deficit. But strong guard play from the Pointers kept the Patriots at bay, and Sparrows Point easily walked away with their first win of the new season.

On the boys side, Sparrows Point tipped off against - you guessed it - Patapsco! This game was another runaway, this time with the roles reversed as the Patriots upended Sparrows Point by a score of 55 - 18.

Last year it took until the ninth game of the season for Patapsco to secure a win, so to get out ahead and grab one in the first game will relieve a lot of pressure. The team was young last year, but after Monday's route they're looking like a team to keep an eye on.

Defensively, the Patriots locked out everything Sparrows Point threw their way. Every shot was contested and offensive rebounds for the Pointers were few and far between. Probably the most surprising aspect of the game was how good the Patriots did in help defense. Early season rust is very real, but it's most apparent when you're looking at the team as a whole rather than individually. Are the plays crisp? What's the free throw percentage? But, most importantly, is the defensive unit working as a whole. Basketball is a game of separation, and as soon as Sparrows Point created any amount of separation on Monday, the Patriots were right there to close it

down, which is the best takeaway from the season opener.

Elsewhere around the league, Perry Hall kicked off their season with a big win over Archbishop Curley, winning by a score of 59 - 42. After a few disappointing seasons, the Gators will hope that this can be the start of something good.

For the remainder of the week, the rest of the area teams will be kicking off their season. The Chesapeake girls kicked off their season on Dec. 7 and take on Sparrows Point on Dec. 9 in what should be a great contest. The Dundalk boys got their season going against Catonsville on Dec. 7 and follow that up with a Dec. 8 contest against Woodlawn. Both teams are historically strong so that should lead to some great play. Kenwood started their redemption tour on Dec. 7 with a game against Patapsco, and they also take on Parkville on Dec. 8.



DAILY SPECIALS

SUNDAY SPECIALS - Fillet of Haddock w/1 Side \$7.99 1 lb. Steamed Shrimp (with or without onions) \$9.99

MONDAY SPECIALS - 49¢ Jumbo Wings Min. 10, Eat-in Only 2 Treasure Chops w/1 Side \$7.99

TUESDAY SPECIALS - 12oz. New York Strip w/1 Side \$10.99 12 oz. Ribeye Steak w/1 Side \$11.99 Large Caesar or Large Garden Salad \$3.99 Chef Salad \$5.99

WEDNESDAY SPECIALS - Soft Crab Wrap \$9.99 Cheesesteak and Fries \$6.99

THURSDAY SPECIALS - Jumbo Crab Pretzel \$12.99 Steak & Cake Platter w/1 Side \$19.99 1 lb. Steamed Shrimp (with or without onions) \$9.99 49¢ Jumbo Wings Min. 10, *Eat-in Only*

FRIDAY SPECIALS - Crab Cake Platter w/1 Side \$19.99 6 oz Crab Cake & 5 Butterfly Shrimp w/1 Side \$13.99 10 Butterfly Shrimp w/1 Side \$7.99

SATURDAY SPECIALS -

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POLITICIANS

Salling takes hard stance on northern equestrian center

- By Senator Johnny Ray Salling (R-6) -

It has come to my attention, that Baltimore County has added an item to the agenda of the upcoming Board of Public Works Meeting. Baltimore County would like to use \$2.325 million in Program Open Space funding to build a 9,800 square foot indoor equestrian arena in Cockeysville. This is another pet project from our County Executive and a slap in the face to the people of Dundalk.

The County Executive let the North Point Government Center go to hell, but is now stockpiling more than \$2 million for a new equestrian center. I know many of my constituents would like to see OUR money go to the North Point Government Center, not a fancy horse center in Cockeysville. The County needs to get its priorities straight and use funds in a more equitable manner.

Contact Your State Senators

Johnny Ray Salling (R-6)

Phone: 410-841-3587, 301-858-3587 or 1-800-492-7122 x3587 (toll free)

Email: johnnyray.salling@senate.state.md.us

J. B. Jennings (R-7)

Phone: 410-841-3706, 301-858-3706 or 1-800-492-7122 x3706 (toll free)

Email: jb.jennings@senate.state.md.us





A message from the Councilwoman

- By Councilwoman Cathy Bevins (D-6)

Friends and neighbors:

The holiday season is now upon us and it is a time to reflect on this past year as we look ahead to 2017. It has been a busy year for the County Council. This year the Council considered the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) which occurs every four years to determine the zoning classifications around the county. Through this process I worked with community organizations, business associations and neighborhoods to come up with the best zoning classifications for District 6. The zoning will help create new neighborhoods, attract new businesses and bring high-quality jobs to the district. I am proud of what the Council has accomplished and the bipartisan approach taken to serve our constituents.

As I look ahead to next year, I remain as committed as ever to constituent services. My office has received, researched and responded to over 4,400 issues since my first year as a councilwoman. I will continue to work with citizens and community associations to solve problems and address the quality of life issues that I know are important to those I represent. Your priorities are my priorities and I look forward to representing your priorities on the Council in 2017!

This holiday season there are so many things to do in the district to celebrate with your family. I hope you learn about all of the events - such as fire department tree sales, community tree lightings, the Ballestone-Stansbury House Holly Tours in Essex and the annual Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens in Middle River - and take advantage of these festive activities.

And finally, I look forward to a new year and many new opportunities for the Sixth District. Here's wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Marks applauds legislation to preserve Hawks Hollow Farm

- By Councilman David Marks (R-5) -

On Nov. 21, the Baltimore County Council passed legislation sponsored by Councilman David Marks that will preserve Hawks Hollow Farm, a longtime horse stable in Kingsville.

For 21 years, Hawks Hollow Farm in Kingsville has given families the opportunity to ride horses and enjoy the countryside. Earlier this year, the farm faced thousands of dollars in legal fees when a Baltimore County inspector claimed the farm was out of zoning compliance.

Under the legislation sponsored by Councilman Marks, long-standing stables that have been in operation for at least 15 years are considered in zoning compliance in the RC-5 zoning area.

"We should not force family farms and stables to spend thousands of dollars seeking a special exception if they have been good neighbors for the past 15 years," Councilman Marks commented. "We should be doing all we can to help these rural businesses, which help make places like Kingsville special in Baltimore County."

"Hawks Hollow Farm thanks Councilman Marks for his work in preserving our family business," added Robert Weyworth, owner of the farm. "Councilman Marks worked with us and saved us thousands of dollars that we can now use to improve our stables, which are used by many visitors every year."

Marks also recently took time to announce a change in ownership at the iconic Carney snowball stand, as well as announce legislation that will help out snowball stand owners along major corridors.

Claude and Joni Elmore have entered into an agreement to purchase the property at Joppa and Magledt Roads, where there has been a snowball stand for more than 60 years. The Elmores plan to upgrade the snowball stand and make improvements in 2017. Marks has also introduced legislation that would provide some certainty for snowball stand operators like the Elmores, allowing stands by right in certain zones and with some restrictions.

"This property has been eyed by developers for many years, and I applaud the Elmores for investing to improve this iconic structure," Councilman Marks commented.

Contact Your County Council

David Marks (R-5)

Phone: 410-887-3384

E-mail: council5@baltimorecountymd.gov

Cathy Bevins (D-6) Phone: 410-887-3388

E-mail: council6@baltimorecountymd.gov





Welcome RGIII!



My wife, Kathy, and I would like to share news of the birth of our first child, Robin Leroy Grammer III. Baby Robin joined this world eight weeks early at three pounds, 4.6 ounces. Robin was born on Nov. 25 at St. Joseph Medical Center. Both mother and baby are doing very well. We are thankful for this blessing and for the help of so many members of the community who have offered personal support and positive wishes.

Delegate Robin L. Grammer Jr.

Dundalk Luminaria Night

Luminaria Night in Historic Dundalk will be Friday, Dec. 16, from 6 - 10 p.m. Business owners, church members and area residents will set out luminarias along sidewalks, buildings and curbs in Old Dundalk and some sections of Merritt Boulevard and Wise Avenue. Residents are invited to set out their own lumnarias if they would like to join the effort. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will visit the Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and Museum's train garden beginning at 6 p.m. Keyboard player Jay Walton will lead Christmas carolers in song beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the museum's front lawn, 4 Center Place in Dundalk. For info., call 410-284-2331 or visit dundalktraingarden.blogspot.com.

Tov Donations Needed

St. John's Lutheran Church, 518 Franklin Ave. in Essex, needs donations of gently used toys, dolls, games, puzzles and books for its annual Christmas toy giveaway. Donations can be dropped off at the church from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. All donated items will be given away to local children in need on Dec. 10.

Wise Avenue Train Garden

The Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, 214 Wise Ave. in Dundalk, hosts its annual train garden from noon to 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday through Jan. 8. Admission is \$1; free for children under 7. Fire house merchandise is available for purchase.



39th Annual Holly Tour

Ballestone Preservation Society will hold its 39th annual Holly Tour from 2 to 8 p.m. Dec. 11; and from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 10. Free cider and cookies will be served in the kitchen building. Baked goods, cider and sweets will be sold at Ballestone's Bakery. The gift shop, which accepts debit and credit cards, offers new merchandise for Christmas shoppers. Tour admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children 11 and younger. For more information, call Cas, 410-686-5821, or visit www.ballestone stansburyhouse.org. In case of bad weather, call to verify tours are on as scheduled. For information during the event, call 410-887-0218.

Karaoke

Dundalk American Legion Post 38, 3300 Dundalk Ave. in Dundalk, will host Fun Time Karaoke with Annette and "Wild" Bill from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Dec. 9. For more information, call the post, 410-288-2297.

Designer Purse Bingo

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, 730 Wampler Road, will hold a designer purse bingo Saturday, Dec. 10. Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. Tickets, which include 20 regular games, cost \$20. Proceeds benefit the Eastern Tech wrestling team. To order tickets, call Ari, 410-982-1673, or buy online at www.4fopevents.com.

Zion UCC Book Sale

The Woman's Guild of Zion United Church of Christ, 7146 Golden Ring Road in Essex, will hold a book sale Saturday, Dec. 10. The cost is \$1 for hardbacks, 25 cents for paperbacks and magazines are free. For more information, call Retha, 410-682-6571.

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Martinville Train Garden

The third annual Martinville Train Garden at the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum, 701 Wilson Point Road in Middle River, is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays throughout the holiday season. Admission to the museum, which includes the miniature plane and train garden, is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. The museum is in Hangar 5 at Martin State Airport. For more information, call 410-682-6122 or visit www.mdairmuseum.org.

Christmas Luncheon

Point Breeze Pioneers will hold a Christmas luncheon from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman Ave. in Rosedale. The cost is \$33. For more information and tickets, call Jack Dohony at 410-426-1722.

Karaoke

Essex American Legion Post 148, 20 S. marlyn Ave. in Essex, will host Wacker Do Karaoke with Doug and Kim from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Dec. 9; Fun Time Karaoke with Annette and "Wild" Bill from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 10; and Wacker Do Karaoke with Doug and Kim from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11. Call the post, 410-686-2353, for kitchen availability, menu and specials.

Breakfast with Santa

The Middle River Recreation Council will hold Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Victory Villa Community Center, 404 Compass Road in Middle River. Santa will be available for seatings from 8 - 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Advance tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for children ages 3-10. Tickets at the door will cost \$12 and \$10, respectively. Advance tickets can be purchased at the community center Dec. 8, 13 and 15, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., or from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at the recreation office (in the community center). For more info., call 410-887-0234.

Historical Society Train Garden

The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and Museum, 4 Center Place in Dundalk, will host its 17th annual train garden through Monday, Jan. 2. The hours are noon to 8 p.m. seven days a week with the exceptions of Dec. 24, when the display will close at 5 p.m., and Christmas Day, Dec. 25, when the garden will be closed. Admission is free but donations will be accepted. For info., call 410-284-2331.

'Elf Jr. The Musical'

The Children's Playhouse of Maryland, in residence at CCBC Essex, 7201 Rossville Blvd. in Rosedale, will present "Elf, Jr. The Musical" at 1 p.m. Dec. 10, 11,17 and 18; at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 18, and 7 p.m. Dec. 10. American Sign Language interpretation will be offered at the Dec. 11 show. General tickets cost \$10. Tickets for senior citizens, members of the CCBC community and groups of eight or more cost \$8 each. CPM Actorlist tickets cost \$5 each. Performances will be held in the Administration Building lecture hall by parking lot 4 and is wheelchair-accessible. To order tickets, call the CCBC Box Office, 443-840-2787, or online at www. cp.m.arts.org. Tickets will be sold at the door only as space permits.

Community Christmas

The Louis and Anna Spath Foundation will hold its third annual Christmas party from 1 - 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at 3717 E. Baltimore St. in Highlandtown. The event - free for children and adults - will include music and other live entertainment, food and presents for all children. Santa Claus will be available for photo opportunities.

Soup Kitchen

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7834 Eastern Ave. across from Eastpoint Mall, operates its soup kitchen on the last Saturday of every month from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more info., call 410-288-0537.





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PUBLIC NOTICE

BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY NOTICE OF MARINA MINOR EXPANSION OR RECONFIGURATION

ADDRESS:

800 Chester Rd. Baltimore, MD 21220 **LEGAL OWNER:**

SS Marina Real Estate, LLC

The Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability hereby gives notice that a building permit application has been submitted in accordance with the Baltimore County Abbreviated Review Process for Marinas, pursuant to Section 26 454 of the Baltimore County Code, Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Requirements, for the purpose of reconfiguring an existing pier from 91 slips to 68 slips on the referenced property. Any person or persons may provide comments to the Department within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of this notice. Comments must be made n writing and must be mailed to Environmental Impact Review, Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, 111 W Chesapeake Avenue, Room 319 Towson, Maryland 21204.

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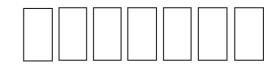
I am an actress and singer from Puerto Rico. I was born on December 11, 1931. At age 11, I found work dubbing Spanish-language versions of American films. I'm the first performer to win an Oscar, Emmy, Tony and Grammy.

үигмек: **К**ий Могепо

WORD SCRAMBLE

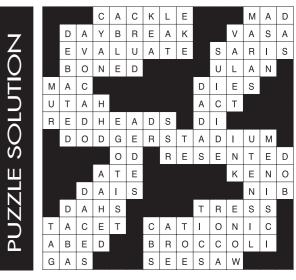
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Kwanzaa.

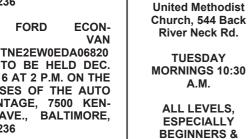
UETCRUL



Answer: Culture

(Solution to Crossword on page 19)





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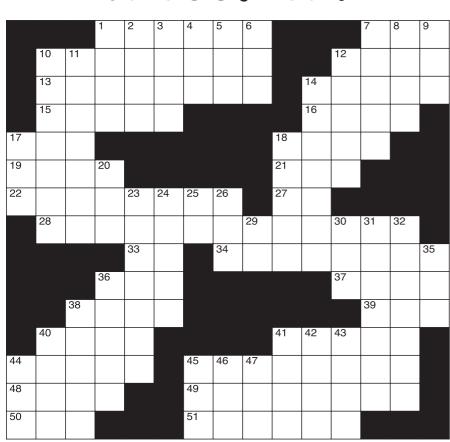
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THE HEART OF ESSEX

Back River United Methodist 410-686-4195 544 Back River Neck Rd Community Worship:10:30am www.backriverumc.com



CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Give a raucous cry
- 7. Mentally ill
- 10. Natural electrical phenomenon
- 12. Vessels
- 13. Judge the worth of something
- 14. South Asian garments
- 15. Studied intensively
- 16. District in Kazakhstan
- 17. Beloved meal __ and cheese
- 18. Ceases to live
- 19. Home to BYU
- 21. What thespians do
- 22. Julianne Moore and Christina Hendricks are two

- 27. Double in chemistry
- 28. Clayton Kershaw plays here
- 33. Overdose
- 34. Begrudged
- 36. Consumed
- 37. A game of chance
- 38. A low platform
- 39. Shelled and crushed coffee bean
- 40. Dashes
- 41. Long lock of a woman's hair
- 44. Indicates silence in music
- 45. Positively charged
- 48. In bed
- 49. Cruciferous vegetable
- 50. Fuel
- 51. Kids' ride

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Greenish-blue
- 2. Having sufficient skill, knowledge, etc.
- 3. Dirt
- 4. New Zealand mountain parrot 30. Pens are filled with it
- 5. Back muscle
- 6. Supplement with difficulty
- 7. Kate and Rooney
- 8. How Amazon identifies its products (abbr.)
- 9. Emirati island
- 10. Contended
- 11. Pear-shaped fruit
- 12. Parks cars
- 14. Killing oneself
- 17. Austrian river
- 18. Older brothers
- 20. Home hemodialysis
- 23. One who is self-absorbed

- 24. Yellow fever mosquitos
- 25. Pepper or Oz
- 26. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 29. Tellurium
- 31. Use this at dinner
- 32. Thin fibrous cartilage (pl.)
- 35. When you were born
- 36. Oohed and
- 38. Small freshwater fishes
- 40. Religion in China
- 41. Twitches
- 42. Cape near Lisbon
- 43. Management software
- 44. Game for kids
- 45. Ed Murrow's home
- 46. They
- 47. Part of the foot

(See solution on page 18)

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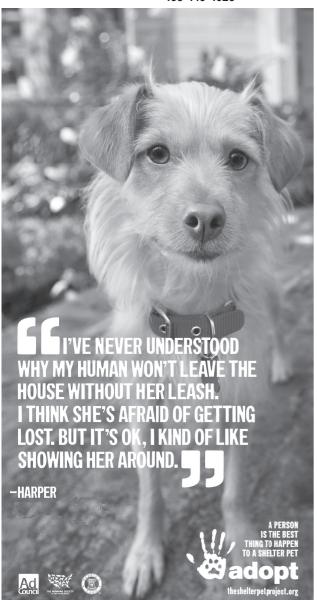
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