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VERSE OF THE WEEK -

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



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After several false starts, Shaw's Discovery seeking fall occupancy



The older plan depicted above remains mostly unchanged by the current proposal. However, the new plan will feature five single homes instead of the one shown here. Image courtesy of Hoehn Landscape Architecture.

- By Marge Neal -

If Mother Nature is cooperative, new residents may be able to call Shaw's Discovery home by this fall.

"At this point, the only thing that will slow this process down will be the weather," developer Mark Sapperstein said in a phone interview Jan. 6. "As long as we don't get any wet, mucky weather with extended rain or snow that makes it hard to move equipment, we'll be good to go."

The 143-unit housing development slated for the Bauer Farm land in Edgemere includes five single-family homes and 138 townhouses. The units will be built to run parallel with the existing Willow Road and along the waterfront, according to Sapperstein.

The developer was scheduled to give

a project update at the Jan. 5 meeting of the North Point Peninsula Council (NPC), but inclement weather canceled the gathering. In giving an update to the East County Times, Sapperstein said he hoped to reschedule for the February or March NPC meeting.

Crews are now clearing out for road sections and working on sediment and erosion control and storm water management elements, according to Sapperstein.

"That's what I call earth work, and that will take us into spring - about two to three months," he said. "After that, we'll do the pipe work for water and sewer and other utilities and then we'll be ready to start building the first group of houses.

Plans call for the single-family units to be built first and then individual

groups of five or six townhouses at a time. Sapperstein's original design called for four-cornered "villa" town homes but he has since opted to build the more traditional rows of houses. The project is being built by NV Homes.

In response to some community conversations taking place on social media that are spreading false information, Sapperstein said the development will not include any "Section 8" housing.

"Absolutely not," he said. "There will be no subsidized housing."

Sapperstein deferred to NV when asked about estimated list prices, but noted the houses will cost "hundreds of thousands of dollars." In 2007, when the planned unit development, or PUD, was first approved by Baltimore County

- see BAUER FARM on page 7 -

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MTA's transit revamp nearly complete; customer input still sought

- By Marge Neal -

A long and complex process to revamp the Maryland Transit Administration's public transportation system, known as Baltimore Link, is coming down the home stretch.

And if the number of people who gave public testimony recently about the proposal is any indication, the proposal meets with customer acceptance, officials believe.

A public hearing held at the White Marsh library on Monday, Jan. 9, attracted few people and only two residents offered testimony.

After holding two rounds of community workshops from October 2015 to September 2016, in which residents were invited to offer comments and suggestions regarding current service across all transportation modes offered by MTA - bus, light rail, MARC commuter trains, Metro subway and Mobility - a proposal that presents more efficient, logical routes and better links between those modes was created.

The final phase of customer input is underway with a series of public hearings that allow for one last gathering of comments before finalizing the plan. The proposed service changes will take place on June 18, according to Kevin Quinn, MTA's director of planning and programming.

MTA serves about 380,000 riders per day across all transit modes, with 250,000 of those daily customers riding buses, according to Quinn.

"Clearly the majority of our riders are using buses, and buses are our least efficient system," he said. Because many routes go through downtown Baltimore, with a four-street area that he compared to the skinny center of an hourglass, it is not uncommon for buses to be behind schedule.

Recognizing that MTA started as a bus company which added other modes of transportation over the years, company officials recognized that the modes were not efficiently integrated.

"Most of our routes and the current system are at least 50 years old, and

a lot has changed in 50 years," Quinn said, noting that many communities look vastly different than they did 10 years ago, let alone in the 1960s, with new housing patterns and employment hubs

We need to better reflect the region, we need to better connect to other modes and we need to be more reliable," Quinn said.

To that end, officials studied both the growth and death of employment centers and living areas, the length and complexity of existing routes and the relationships of different modes to create a plan that would achieve the obiectives.

The result, MTA hopes, is an adjusted transportation plan that offers shorter, more manageable and efficient routes that will have a much better chance of staying on schedule; routes that are scheduled to better connect with different modes; and routes that better meet the needs and locations of

For example, Quinn said, he and his colleagues looked at long routes that traveled from Catonsville into downtown Baltimore and then on to White Marsh. They discovered that few, if any, people travel the entire length of the 40-mile route. Because the line travels through the downtown bottleneck and from one side of Baltimore County to the other, it experiences many opportunities to be thrown off schedule. When a line gets jammed up in one area, that causes a ripple effect throughout the rest of the route, according to Quinn. A 15-minute delay becomes a 30-minute delay by the time the bus gets back to its point of origin, and that time can never be made up; the schedule is off for the rest of the

The solution was to chop that line up into smaller, more manageable segments while still meeting the needs of all riders

While this plan is the first comprehensive revamping of the company's offerings in most employees' memories, minor tweaking of services happens all the time, according to Ryan Nawrocki, senior director of MTA's Office of Communications and Marketing.

"We are constantly tweaking around the margins to address small problems or needs," he told the East County Times. "We can do all the tweaking we want but that won't fix core structural issues. The system operates on a grid laid out 50 years ago and it doesn't work anymore."

Alta Apartments resident Amanda Bull said she is already benefitting from an adjusted bus line that added stops at her apartment complex.

In her testimony, she said she is "really benefitting from the new 102 line" and that she appreciates the more convenient, safer stop. Bull, who does not own a car, said she now gets to work in half the time that it used to take when she used the 58 and 55 bus lines.

"It's a very convenient route and takes me to a lot of different places," she said.

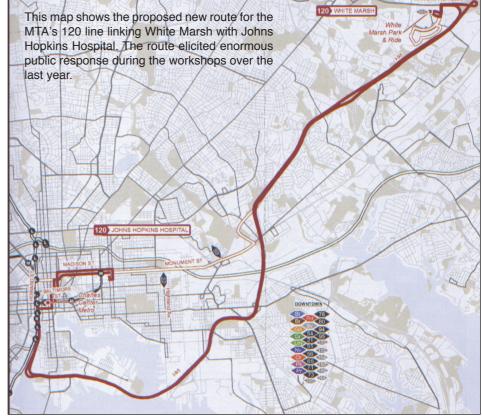
After her testimony, she told the Times that her apartment complex,

which is near the Oak Crest retirement community in Parkville, never had bus stops. She and other residents had to walk to a stop on Belair Road.

"One night, when I was walking home from the bus stop after work, I was robbed at gunpoint," she said. "I feel much safer with the new stops so much closer to home - I'm not getting any younger and that's important to me."

Several public hearings still remain for customers to weigh in on the proposal, and written comments are being accepted through Feb. 21. The department's comment form can be downloaded at baltimorelink.com and mailed to MTA's Office of Customer and Community Relations, 6 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21202. Comments can also be emailed to HearingComments@mta.maryland.gov with "written testimony" in the subject line.

Future hearings include those set for 6 - 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the Catonsville library and from 5 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Waverly branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.





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NEWS

Dunkin' Donuts planned for former Meineke site in Essex

- By Devin Crum -

A developer revealed his plans to build a new Dunkin' Donuts on a currently vacant site at the intersection of Eastern Boulevard and N. Marlyn Avenue in Essex at the Wednesday, Jan. 4, meeting of the Essex-Middle River Civic Council.

The site, formerly the location of a Meineke Car Care Center and most recently Windshields on the Go, has been vacant for several years and the building now sits dilapidated. It is also located within the Essex Commercial Revitalization District.

The developer's plan is to improve the roughly 16,000-square-foot site with a nearly 1,800 square-foot Dunkin' Donuts carry-out and drive-through, according to John Povalac of Baltimore Land Design

Group, the civil engineering consultant for the project. Carry-out would be the primary purpose for the establishment, he said, but it would also have limited seating inside.

The establishment would maintain its existing right-in, right-out access to Eastern Boulevard and full-movement access to Marlyn Avenue.

"Presently, the site is almost entirely paved," Povalac said, so nearly all storm water runs off into the street and storm drains. "We're going to add about 20 percent green area with the improvements, expanding some of the existing grass areas in the back, maintaining the grass area between [us and] the Essex Liquors store and really working on improving the landscaping and green space along the Eastern Boulevard and North Marlyn Avenue frontages."

They will also construct a micro-bioretention facility closer to Eastern Boulevard for storm water management. About 75 percent of storm water on the site will flow to the facility rather than into the street.

Some EMRCC members expressed concern that trash from the bus stop at the intersection could end up in the storm water management area.

But architect David Roberson, representing Dunkin' Donuts, said the corporation would not allow a franchisee to have a messy location and inspects them frequently. Franchisees are expected to keep their properties clean, and if they don't, they can be forced to sell the franchise, he said.

"Even if it's off-property, Dunkin' will not allow that appearance," Roberson said. "Monthly they are rated on the appearance of their store, inside and out."

Roberson and other community members remarked, though, that two other Essex locations - on Eastern Boulevard near Stemmers Run Road and on Hyde Park Road near MD-702 - owned by the same franchisee that would own the new location, are continually kept clean.

Additionally, no one is on the site now to police the trash produced by the bus stop, which is heavily used. Having the business there would help to keep the trash under control, Roberson said. He added that they would not be opposed to putting an extra trash can on the property near the bus stop.



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NEWS

Bromwell, Kamenetz announce Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative

- Article & photo by Patrick Taylor -

Delegate Eric Bromwell (D-Perry Hall) and Senator Joan Carter Conway (D-Baltimore) joined Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and state Attorney General Brian Frosh to announce a Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative on Tuesday, Jan. 10, outside the State House in Annapolis.

The initiative, which has the support of dozens of medical and citizen groups around the state including the AARP and NAACP, consists of two proposed bills - one that calls for drug corporations to explain the high cost of drugs as well as notify the public before substantial price increases, and another that gives the attorney general the authority to take legal action to stop prescription drug price gouging.

Bromwell, who is now the vice chair of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, is the lead sponsor of the House bill aiming to bring about transparency.

"I first ran for the House of Delegates when I was 24 years old and the first mailers and walk pieces I have from back when I first ran said that I wanted increased access to affordable health insurance and prescription drugs for all Marylanders," said Bromwell. "Fifteen years later I'm happy to be standing before you fighting the good fight."

Kamenetz, who grew up working

at his family's pharmacy in Overlea in the 1970's, said he's seen how increasing drug prices have affected people looking to get prescriptions filled.

"I watched the anguish as our customers were unable to afford prescriptions, and they had to make choices as to what they could pay for and what they could not," he said.

Kamenetz went on to say that he still sees that anguish today, as senior citizens around Baltimore County struggle to pay for prescriptions. He also noted that high drug prices have placed a burden on local governments who provide prescription drug benefits.

"We're also an employer of 25,000 employees, and we give our county employees a prescription drug benefit," he said. "I've seen over the last 10 years the price of prescription drugs that we have to pay out of our budget has doubled."

The county executive stated that allowing the attorney general to take legal action to avoid price gouging while forcing drug companies to be transparent is the right move.

Frosh stated that over the last several years, prices for generic drugs have increased dramatically. Citing a 2014 survey of pharmacists related to 25 generic drugs, prices increased by 600 to 2,000 percent in some instances. Frosh maintained that the reason for the in-

crease in costs wasn't due to manufacturing, but rather back-room dealing by companies to avoid competition.

Frosh alleged that companies are divvying up the market and allowing costs to skyrocket by not competing. He pointed to a slew of generic drugs that have been available for decades whose costs have skyrocketed for no reason.

One such drug, the officials said, is Daraprim, the price of which rose from \$13.50 per tablet to \$750 per tablet. The price of Naloxone, a drug popular among first responders for its ability to reverse the effects of an overdose,

jumped from \$1 a decade ago to \$40 today. Every police officer in Baltimore County now carries Naloxone, costing the county \$14,000 annually.

"This kind of hedgefund behavior has threatened the health and the lives of working families across the country," Frosh said. "It's affected our ability to deliver healthcare, it's squeezed the budgets of hospitals and it's cost state and local governments hundreds of millions of dollars."

Frosh maintained that high costs threaten the entire health care system and asserted that price gouging will be a thing of the past in Maryland.



Delegate Eric Bromwell (right) is leading the fight in Maryland to keep pharmaceutical costs from skyrocketing while providing transparency for citizens.



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BAUER FARM

- continued from page 1 - officials, Sapperstein estimated the homes would sell in the range of \$450,000 to \$750,000.

NV officials did not respond to requests for information and the project is not yet listed on the company's website.

While buildings will be concentrated along Willow Road and the shoreline, most of the interior of the parcel will be left undeveloped. A portion of former farmland has already been reforested. The only additional clearing that will

occur will be for the creation of community walking paths. A public boat ramp with trailer parking is planned, as well as three proposed piers for the use of Shaw's Discovery residents only. The community boat facility is a "public benefit" negotiated as part of the PUD planning process. Developers who create PUDs are allowed to work outside of current zoning limitations in exchange for allowing public input during planning stages and providing amenities that benefit the general public.

Bauer's Farm Road, now a private road,

will be improved and widened to meet public road standards, Sapperstein said. The public will use the road to access the boat ramp and walking paths. At the point the road curves left toward the new houses, a landscaped turnaround will end at a gatehouse entrance to the private community. A gate will also be placed at the entrance of the new road off North Point Road near Willow.

The project has been stalled several times. When Sapperstein first acquired the land - nearly 200 acres - for \$2.85 million in 2004, he inherited a landfill contaminated

with toxins, including heavy metals. The developer estimates he spent about \$3 million on that remediation and when he was ready to start building, the market for such luxury housing had plummeted because of the recession.

Sapperstein is now confident the economy is healthy enough to make the project a success.

"I've sold all of the lots and all I have to do is perform," he said, referencing the "earth work" needed to prepare the land for building. "I would think the first residents could move in by fall."





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SPORTS

Mount Carmel falls to top ranked Mount Saint Joseph

- By Patrick Taylor -

Before I get into any recaps, I figured the midway point of the season would be as good a time as any to address the success of new rule changes for this

Last year, games had a tendency to drag on a bit longer than they should. That can happen for a multitude of good reasons - a lot of fouls, overtime, etc. But for all of the legitimate reasons for lengthy games, there were quite a few areas that needed improvement to ensure the flow of a game.

Before this season, two rule changes were announced to help keep things moving. First, non-playing personnel (such as cheerleaders) are not allowed onto the court during breaks that are 30 seconds or less. For those who follow basketball, 30-second time-outs are hardly ever just 30 seconds - just pay attention to the buzzer sounding to alert coaches that their time is up. Usually you'll hear it two or three times. Add in cheerleaders or any other type of nongame performance, and 30-second time-outs turn into a full minute.

The second rule the rule committee passed reduces the amount of time to replace a disqualified or injured player from 20 seconds to 15 seconds. This may seem miniscule, but it's huge. Oftentimes coaches use these types of breaks as mini time-outs. They use the time to game plan and move their pieces as opposed to quickly subbing out the injured/disqualified player. With injuries it's more understandable, especially if the player is having trouble leaving the court. But when a player fouls out, the transition to a new player should be swift. This has worked

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SHARON A. CHRISTIE Author of the Unofficial Guide to Social Security Disability Claims

wonders this season. While I'm a big proponent of gamesmanship, I'm not willing to sacrifice the flow of a game.

Around the league

Mount Carmel took on Mount Saint Joseph this past Sunday in a highly anticipated matchup between two of the areas preeminent teams. The contest lived up to the billing, with the two heavyweights slugging it out from the opening tip.

Mount Saint Joseph has been on an absolute tear this season, winning 17 of 18 games on the season and occupying The Sun's top spot in their area rankings for the last few weeks. They have a ton of athleticism, size and sharpshooting ability that just makes them a nightmare to go against.

But Mount Carmel has plenty of the same going for them, and on Sunday it looked like there could have been an upset in the making.

Both teams started off slow, but eventually Mount Saint Joseph started pulling ahead thanks to big plays down low from forwards Jalen Smith and Darryl Morsell. The two big men threw their weight around beneath the rim often, extending plays with key rebounds and finishing off plenty. Smith would finish with 19 points while Morsell would finish with 13.

Still, Mount Carmel didn't back down. William Thomas got going midway through the first quarter and ended up leading the team in points with 14. Jordan Jones and Christian Evans finished behind Thomas with 11 apiece.

Mount Saint Joseph took a 17 - 13 lead into the second quarter and fought to maintain their slight lead for the remainder of the contest. They extended it by three in the third quarter and entered the fourth with a 46 - 39 advantage.

In the fourth, Mount Carmel battled hard, chipping away at the lead occasionally but not doing enough to really make their opponent nervous. They managed to get within four points on multiple occasions, but they couldn't make it a one-possession game.

A lot of that comes down to the stifling defense put forth by Mount Saint Joseph. Mount Carmel guard Terry Nolan, who has averaged 16 points-per-game

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Baltimore Humane Society's ETS OF THE WEEK



ooking for a happy hound who will bring tons of fun ito your heart and home? Well, I'm Diego and I can to that for you. In my run I may look like I'm scared or nsure so make sure you get to visit with me outside of ne kennel. You will see my active and funny side as I put my paws on you and try to hug and kiss you.

I totally love toys. You can ask the staff here... They have to keep giving them to me because all of min wind up outside. Long walks, running, being in the great outdoors—these are all of my favorite things. I have become a staff favorite because I have of

wonderful personality and just want a family of my who will love me forever. I have lived with kids in my previous home. I am currently ered so I cannot go home with you until I have surgery. I hope to see you soon!



on fee is \$100 for Diego and \$50 for Casper. For more information visit www.bmorehumane.org

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on the season, was held in check throughout the contest, unable to get clear looks like he usually does. Nolan is able to create off the dribble and moves very well off the ball, but Mount Saint Joseph had his number all night. He finished with three points to his name.

Mount Carmel now sits at 12 - 5 on the year and dropped six places to 11 in the area rankings.

Perry Hall has also been making waves this season, with the Gators holding a 9 - 1 record at the moment. They kicked off the new year with a cool 79 - 64 win over Dulaney before thrashing Chesapeake by a score of 96 - 60.

While the big wins look nice, the Gators will be facing some stiffer competition over the next two weeks. In their next five games they'll take on three teams that occupy spots or received votes in *The Sun's* rankings - Woodlawn, Lake Clifton and Franklin. After that, Perry Hall has a relatively easy schedule. We'll see what they're made of over the next two weeks.

Since coming back from the holiday break, the Dundalk Owls have been untouchable. Their first game saw them dominate Kenwood by a score of 66 43. They followed that up with a 56 - 49 win over Pikesville and a 79 - 28 win over Eastern Tech. The Owls now sit at 6 - 3 on the year and are looking like a good dark horse candidate in the postseason.

For Parkville, the new year has been a bit rougher. They started off 2017 with a loss to a formidable Woodlawn squad before losing to Hereford by a score of 68 - 52. They regained a little composure with an easy 60 - 37 win over Carver, but they need to get their footing before the season slips away. Defensively, this crew really needs to buckle down and put in the work.

Patapsco started off their season with a few big wins that inspired confidence. Sitting with a 3 - 1 record after four games, it looked like the Patriots could work their way up the standings. But they leveled out before the break, and things haven't been good for them since. Including the Dundalk Holiday Tournament, Patapsco has lost four on the trot. They need to pick up some wins in the next few if they want to have a shot at making some noise this year.





LEGAL NEWS

Gap insurance and diminution of value - challenges in an auto accident situation is more than the car is worth). But what if you still

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

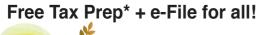
The terms "gap insurance" and "diminution of value" apply when payments still remain on a car which has been deemed a total loss. The liable party is responsible for the cost of repairs to the car, or for its book value if it is "totaled" (if the cost of repairs

Angels Sugar Up Your Troops

Chocolate is in demand for our military troops overseas! Help fill our care packages with any chocolate or hard candy until April. Also in demand are pop tarts, beef jerky, popcorn, peanut butter and jelly, 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. We also need 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 information, contact Irene Spatafore at 410-284-5275 or drop off items on the picnic table at 7914 Diehlwood Road in Dundalk.

Cooties Collecting for Comrades

The Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 4 is collecting toiletries for male and female hospitalized veterans at the Loch Raven VA Community Living and Rehabilitation Center in Baltimore. Items requested include one-gallon zip-lock bags, liquid hand soap, shampoo, disposable razors, shave gel, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, denture cleaner, non-alcoholic mouthwash, nail clippers, combs, socks, feminine products and wordsearch/crossword puzzles. Items can be brought to the Essex-Holly Neck Memorial VFW Post 2621, 206 Riverside Road, between the hours of 2 - 10 p.m.



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ing payments can be quite high or extend for years! That's where a gap insurance policy comes in. It covers all remaining payments. A gap insurance policy is not required by law, but

owe more than that total? Sometimes those remain-

it should always be purchased when a car is financed with less than a 20-percent downpayment. It should not be purchased from the auto dealer, but from an independent carrier, where its cost is usually quite low. Its benefits can be very, very high.

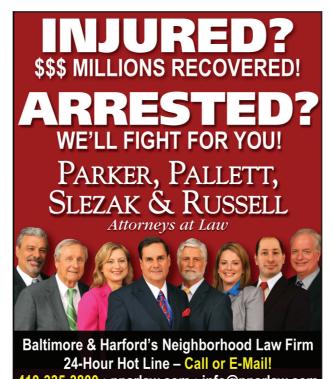
Diminution of value occurs when a car has been repaired; it may look and run as good as ever, but its resale value is now certainly thousands of dollars less! In these circumstances, a diminution of value claim (a concept recognized in all 50 states) can be made against the liable party's carrier. However, it's not easy to get one paid. In our experience, the liable carrier begrudges the payment, presenting an appraisal

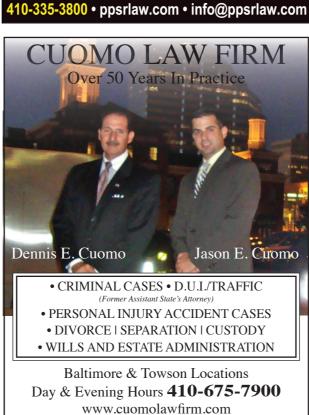
showing little diminution of value or that the vehicle was not worth claiming it.

Don't swallow that! If you've been an auto accident victim, seek the help of counsel. At our firm, we regularly handle diminution of value claims. We will have a value appraisal done by a collision expert. We will negotiate a fair settlement with the carrier for the liable party. We are ready to file suit on your behalf if a compromise cannot be reached!

Parker, Pallett, Slezak & Russell, LLC, is a full service law firm. We leave no stone unturned in our pursuit of our client's rights. We encourage all clients to purchase gap insurance, and we always seek a diminution of value claim on any repaired auto of substantial value. Our fees are a modest percentage of the money recovered from the liable party's carrier and we receive no other fees. For more information, call us at 410-335-3800 or go online to ppsrlaw.com.









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Progress made in 2016 to preserve open space and reduce school overcrowding

- By Councilman David Marks (R-5) -

In 2016, the Baltimore County Council completed the most intense responsibility of its four-year term. During the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process, the County Council looks at the development potential of thousands of acres of land.

In the Fifth District that I represent, I initiated most of the 181 rezoning issues. My constituents want land preserved from development and school overcrowding addressed.

As a result of the 2016 rezoning process, about 1,690 acres of land between Perring Parkway and the Harford County in the Fifth District now has the Neighborhood Commons designation. Development is expressly prohibited in these areas. I was the lead sponsor of the legislation that created this "open space zoning" in 2012, and since then, Councilmembers have applied it throughout Baltimore County.

Since I was elected, four new parks have opened in northeastern Baltimore County. This fall, we celebrated the completion of Angel Park. But the Neighborhood Commons zoning also protects ribbons of green space that will never be actively used and will function as sanctuaries

for wildlife.

We also downzoned acreage that was in imminent likelihood of being developed. Between Perring Parkway and Harford County, more than 2,860 acres in the Fifth District now have the lowest level of residential zoning, or one house per acre. While downzoning private property can be unpopular with landowners, I believe we needed to take these steps to deal with school overcrowding.

The County Council recently approved \$49 million to construct the new Honeygo elementary school near Chapel Road, Perry Hall's first new school in two decades. The elementary school is scheduled to open in August of 2018. I am now working to obtain county funding to alleviate the overcrowding at Perry Hall Middle School, and work toward the goal of a new high school in eastern Baltimore County.

These are not inexpensive projects, and quite candidly, we are years behind where we should be. But I believe the downzoning in 2016 at least lightens future school overcrowding while we work toward new schools.

House of Delegates college scholarships

Delegates Rick Impallaria and Pat McDonough (both R-7) announce the availability of information regarding student financial aid for the 2017-18 academic year.

Delegate McDonough reminds students, "Pamphlets published by the Maryland Higher Education Commission as well as the U.S. Department of Education are valuable resources to help families determine potential sources for funding college education."

A pamphlet entitled "Student Guide to Higher Education & Financial Aid in Maryland," published by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, contains information about scholarships, grants, and loans available to Maryland residents. The U.S. Department of Education has published a similar booklet which

details federal programs available to college students. Copies of the Federal Student Financial Aid Form (FAFSA) are also available at most local high schools and online.

Delegate Impallaria points out, "We are happy to provide a resource to help working families navigate through the complicated process of funding college education."

Any resident of Legislative District 7 interested in receiving a House of Delegates scholarship application for the 2017-18 academic year may contact the Annapolis office of Delegates Impallaria and McDonough at 410-841-3334. As a reminder, House of Delegates scholarships are not renewable, so past recipients who are continuing students must reapply on an annual basis.



Preview of the 2017 Legislative Session

- By Delegate Eric Bromwell (D-8) -

Once again, Maryland is facing a budget deficit...\$400 million this year and another \$400 million next year. It's not Governor Hogan's fault and it's not the General Assembly's fault. The Board of Revenue Estimates did not project the state's revenue intake correctly. When the Assembly adjourned in April, the state was in great shape. A \$42.3 billion balanced was approved - \$1 billion was put in the Rainy Day Fund - and we had a \$400 million surplus. We have to make cuts. There is bipartisan agreement that we will not fix the deficit with tax or fee increases. However, cuts will not be easy because over 80 percent of spending in the budget is mandated and increases every year.

Both Congress and state law-making bodies are seeking solutions to stop rapidly escalating prescription drug prices. Since 2007, Mylan, the pharmaceutical company that produces EpiPen, has raised the drug's price 548 percent. A pack of two doses of EpiPen now sells for \$608.61. I am the prime sponsor of legislation to halt this unconscionable fleecing of people who need prescription medicines. The bill, similar to a law recently approved in Vermont, requires drug companies to reveal how they set their prices, as well as how much they spend on research, advertising and production. In addition, the legislation authorizes the State's Attorney General to take legal action to prevent price gouging.

Governor Hogan has said that his top priority is the repeal of the transportation scoring law approved during the 2016 session. Opponents of the bill are convinced that the scoring system will favor rail over road projects and urban projects over rural ones. The Governor insists that the legislation "axes" road projects throughout Maryland, including several in Baltimore County. He has repeatedly stated that his hands are tied by the law, which was approved in 2014. The Governor subsequently vetoed the bill, which was then overridden by the Legislature.

After the 2014 election, I made a promise to you that I would not support bills that I believe to be partisan in nature, regardless of the bill sponsors. I saw this bill as a response to Governor Hogan cancelling the Red Line, and therefore voted no.

I then supported the Governor by voting against the veto override.

However, I feel that there is misinformation being spread about this legislation. While I did not support the bill, we insisted the bill include the following language: "And be it further enacted, that nothing in this Act may be construed to prohibit or prevent the funding of the capital transportation priorities in each jurisdiction." This protective language is key to understanding the "teeth" of this legislation. As enrolled, the law determines which transportation projects that cost over \$50 million get priority, based on a scoring system which weighs factors such as public benefit from the project, environmental benefit, increases in highway or transit capacity and safety. The Governor can choose to begin a project which has a lower score over one with a higher score, but has to justify the departure in writing. As you can see by the language above, the bill absolutely does not tie the hands of the Governor to fund road projects anywhere in the state.

For years, nationwide and in Maryland, attempts have been made to change the bail system. All too often the current system leaves poor people in jail for months awaiting trial, while those with the same charges against them are not confined to jail, awaiting trial only because they can pay the bail. A commission to reform Maryland's pretrial system has called the state's bail system grossly unfair, if not unconstitutional. In 2015, more than 8,000 people were jailed in Baltimore City awaiting trial, which cost taxpayers \$100 to \$159 per person daily. The 2017 Assembly will consider legislation to prohibit Maryland judges from setting bail higher than the defendant can pay, unless the defendant is a flight risk or a danger to society.

Both the 2015 and 2016 General Assembly rejected paid sick leave legislation that originated in the House of Delegates. Governor Hogan will now ask the 2017 general assembly to once again consider paid sick leave legislation. The Hogan bill applies to businesses that employ at least 50 employees, who work at least 30 hours a week, while the House bill applies to businesses with 15 or more employees, as well as a great number of part-time workers.



Warrant issued for teacher for sexual abuse of a minor

A warrant for the arrest of a Franklin High School teacher has been issued after detectives found she engaged in sex acts with a student.

Ekatherine Pappas, 24, of the 200 block of Lyndale Avenue in Nottingham, taught Spanish at the school. She will be charged with sexual abuse of a minor, 4th degree sexual offense and related charges. The investigation shows Pappas has left the country. Anyone with information that could assist detectives with this case, including locating Pappas, should contact Baltimore County Police, 410-307-2020.

Franklin High's School Resource Officer became aware yesterday of a video depicting a female teacher engaged in a sex act with a male student. The SRO immediately contacted the Baltimore County Crimes Against Children Unit with the information. Detectives from this unit initiated an investigation which confirmed the existence of the video and the teacher's involvement in sex acts with the 16-year-old student on two occasions, once on Dec. 21 and again on Dec. 22.

The crimes did not occur on school property. Anyone with information on Pappas's whereabouts is asked to contact Baltimore County police.

Police investigating domestic-related homicide

Baltimore County Police are investigating a domestic-related homicide that occurred in Dundalk on Jan. 7. The victim has been identified as Richard William Zenobia, 35, of the 3300-block of North Point Road in Dundalk.

On Jan. 7 at 6:50 p.m., County police responded to the 3300-block of North Point Road for an assault call. When officers arrived they found the Zenobia lying in the back yard of the house, suffering from multiple stab wounds. The man was transported to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased just after 9:30 p.m.

The suspect has been identified as David Paul Thomas, 16, of the 2800-block of Henley Avenue in Aberdeen. Thomas has been charged as an adult with one count of manslaughter. He is currently being held at the Baltimore County Detention Center on a denied bail status.

Police determined that Zenobia was in a fight with his live-in girlfriend. The argument continued into the backyard of the house between Zenobia and his girlfriend's son, Thomas. During the argument, Thomas stabbed Zenobia several times.

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Bitten sandwich leads to standoff with police

A bitten grilled cheese sandwich led to shots being fired inside a Dundalk home on Sunday night, and the suspect is now facing a slew of charges.

Daniel Brian Blackwell, 55, of the 7100 block of E. Baltimore St. in Dundalk, has been charged with attempted first- and second- degree murder, first- and second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and various firearms violations.

Police were dispatched to an end-of-group row home in the 7100 block of E. Baltimore St. at 4:48 p.m. on Jan. 8 for a domestic disturbance involving a gun.

Blackwell's wife told first-arriving officers her husband had shot at her through the basement floor after he became angry when she took a bite out of his grilled cheese sandwich.

She said the first shot was fired as she was in the kitchen making dinner. At that point, she went down to the basement to check on her husband, found him surrounded by guns and ammunition and went back upstairs. Blackwell briefly came upstairs, but retreated to the basement again. Soon after, the wife heard three more gunshots, the projectiles of which came through the kitchen floor near where she was standing. She and three teenagers fled the house and met waiting police officers.

BCoPD Tactical, K-9 and Hostage Negotiation teams responded. Blackwell engaged them in a standoff that lasted about three hours. The standoff ended when the suspect - who was wearing a holster of ammunition around his waist but was not carrying a weapon at the time - stepped out on the porch, allowing officers to use less lethal means (pepper balls) to subdue him and bring him into custody.

Police later found a loaded, lever-action long gun with a chambered round placed just inside the front door.

Blackwell was taken immediately to a local hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. Currently, he remains in police custody in a hospital pending an emergency evaluation.

Inside the home, officers found 15 guns - three handguns and 12 long guns. Due to a previous conviction for assault, Blackwell is not legally allowed to own guns.

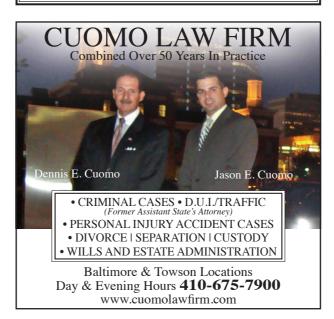
Attorney, G. Randolph Rice, Jr.

(Former Assistant State's Attorney)

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MSP holiday traffic enforcement yields results

Traffic enforcement efforts by Maryland state troopers during the six-week holiday period resulted in more than 47,000 traffic stops that led to more than 1,300 criminal arrests and almost 700 arrests of impaired drivers.

Maryland State Police patrol troopers began increased holiday traffic enforcement efforts on Nov. 23 that continued through Jan. 2. During that period, troopers arrested 699 impaired drivers, arrested 623 for criminal offenses and arrested another 724 people who were found to be wanted on warrants.

The arrests occurred during 47,555 traffic stops made by troopers working traffic safety initiatives that included additional patrols, sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and speed enforcement. Troopers issued 27,149 citations, 31,906 warnings and 6,871 safety equipment repair orders. Troopers at each of the 23 Maryland State Police barracks were involved in special enforcement operations during the holiday period.





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OBITUARIES

Hardesty, Richard E.

On Jan. 6, Richard "Chick" Hardesty, 82, beloved husband of the late Daisy Hardesty; devoted father of Barbara Alleman and her husband Ray, and Theresa Painter and her husband Thomas; loving grandfather of Jeffrey Alleman and his fiancée Kalyn, Shawn Alleman and his wife Breanna, Heather Painter, Nicholas Painter, and Daniel Alleman and his wife Megan; loving brother of Margaret Maggio, the late Robert Hardesty, the late Lillian Pfeiffenberger, and the late Patricia Horchar; loving great-grandfather of Sean, McKayla, Emma, Rylan and Lennox.

Relatives and friends may gather at Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham on Thursday from 3 - 5 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday at 10:30 a.m. at St. Ursula Catholic Church. Interment at Meadowridge Memorial Park in Elkridge. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or the Alzheimer's Association, 1850 York Road, Suite D, Timonium, MD 21093.

Griffin, Catherine Mary

On Jan. 7, Catherine Mary Griffin (nee Johnson), beloved wife of the late Frank R. Griffin; devoted mother of Kathleen Dawn Griffin and her husband Dale; loving grandmother of Ryan F., Joey M. and Sara E. Griffin; dear sister of George H. Johnson and the late Susanna "Sue" Baltusis, Ella "Dee" Lovill and Thomas E. Rosenthal. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends.

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

Conner, Marie P.

On Jan. 2, Marie P. Conner (nee Patrick) passed away. She was the beloved wife of the late George F. Conner; dear sister of the late Curtis Patrick, Ben Patrick, Lewis Patrick, Frank Patrick, Paul Patrick, Rose Patrick, Edna Banfield, George Patrick and Sadie; dear friend of Jerry. She is also survived by her loving nieces and nephews.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Interment will follow at Oak Lawn Cemetery.

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Schroeder, Mary Ruth

On Jan. 9, Mary Ruth Schroeder (nee Wilson) beloved wife of Frederick Schroeder, Sr.; devoted mother of Ricky, Terry and Frederick Schroeder Jr. Also survived by four grandchildren, and one greatgrandchild.

A funeral service will be held at the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex, 300 Mace Avenue on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 1:30 p.m. Visiting hours on Wednesday from 3 - 5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Entombment Holly Hill Memorial Gardens.

Reitze, Frederick Carl

On Jan. 6, Frederick Carl Reitze, Jr. beloved husband of Sandra O. Reitze (nee Lein); devoted father of Scott E. Lein; loving grandfather of Sarah Elizabeth Lein; dear son-in-law of Eleanor E. Lein. Also survived by in laws nieces and nephews.

Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the charity of your choice in Mr. Reitze's name.

Cunningham, Phyllis E.

On Jan. 6, Phyllis E. Cunningham (nee Crissinger), beloved wife of the late Robert L. Cunningham Sr.; devoted mother of Debra A. Malecki and Robert L. Cunningham and his wife Dot; dear sister of Julia Miller, Carol Dupstadt and Betty Paulus; loving grandmother of Joseph A. and Andrew P. Malecki, Roberta E. Luthardt and the late Joshua L. Cunningham Sr. and Nicole D. Malecki; great-grandmother of Joshua Cunningham Jr., Eric Tucker and Coralyn Malecki. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

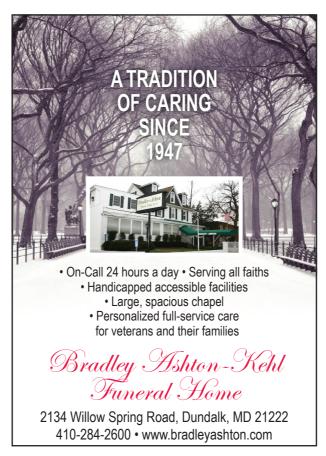
Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Interment at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens.

Shive, Grant

On Jan. 6, Grant Truman Shive, devoted husband of Ursula Shive (nee Morgereth); beloved father of Janet Pereira, Deborah Sutherland, Pamela Alpigini, Susan Shive, Robin Stacharowski and Douglas Shive. Also survived by eight grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren.

Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Entombment at Oak Lawn Cemetery.

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



Straw, John

Suddenly on Jan. 6, John J. Straw, Jr., loving father of John J. Straw, III and Ava Straw; dear son of John J. Straw, Sr. and his wife Anna, and Donna Thornton and her husband David; loving brother of Deonna Ernest and her husband Marty, Nicole Straw and her son Ashton DeVenny, Jacob Straw, Kamran Insari, and Sophia Insari; grandson of the late David and June Straw, and Thomas and Gerrie McCarthy; loving fiance of Amanda Casey and her daughters. John is also survived by many aunts, uncles, great aunts, great uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Services provided by Kaczorowski Funeral Home. Interment private.

Knoedler, Joseph

On Jan. 6, Joseph G. Knoedler, Jr. passed away. He was the beloved husband of Carol Pittman Knoedler; dear brother of Jean Campbell, Thomas Knoedler and the late Jerome Kendall. He is also survived by his loving nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a future time. Those who wish, may make memorial contributions to the American Heart Association / American Stroke Association, 4217 Park Place Ct., Glen Allen, VA 23060-9979, www.heart.org.

Wilson, Richard E.

On Jan. 2, Richard Edward Wilson passed away. He was the beloved husband of Patricia Anne Wilson (nee Roguski); devoted father of Michael P. Wilson and his companion Tina Kerr, and Kimberly A. Peck and her husband Kevin; loving grandfather of Zachary Santmyer, Amelia Wilson, Kayleigh Peck, and Kaeden Peck; dear brother of Jerry Wilson and Maureen Abbott. Also survived by many loving extended family members and friends.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Interment at at St. Joseph Catholic Church Cemetery.

Obituary Correction Policy

No newspaper blunder is more certain to upset someone than a mistake in a loved one's obituary. Unless an error made it difficult for readers to identify the deceased, no obituary will run twice in full; however, a corrected version of a flawed obituary will be mailed promptly if requested by any immediate family member.

All published obituary corrections will be as brief as possible.

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Cowan, Douglas C.

On Dec. 31, Douglas C. Cowan, beloved son of Virginia and Robert Randales and the late Fred J. Smith and Douglas Crane; dear brother of Brenda Ryan and husband Richard, Dawn Borgyon, Tina Smith, Robert Smith, Reina McDanniell and the late

William Smith; godfather and uncle of Tyler Hammonds; uncle of Elizabeth Smith, Abigail Rhone, Harley Fountaine, Zachary Ryan and Liam Ryan. Also survived by many other family and friends.

Services provided by Kaczorowski Fueneral Home. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted by the family to offset funeral expenses.

Pawlak, Francis Joseph, Jr.



On Jan. 9, Francis Joseph Pawlak, Jr. passed away at the age of 74. A memorial service in his honor will be held on Friday, Jan. 13 at 4 p.m. at Essex United Methodist Church, located at 524 Maryland Avenue in Essex. Food will be served.

He was a dedicated husband, father, son, brother and friend to many. He worked tirelessly to provide for his family and touched the lives of many in the process. Rest well, our angel.

Windes, Jerald

On Jan. 6, Jerald H. Windes, beloved husband of Sarah C. (nee Bockner); devoted father of April Morris and her husband Jonathan, Brandy Windes and John Poklis; cherished grandfather of Hailey, Liam and Jacob; loving son of Barbara Beam and the late Herman Windes; dear brother of Richard Windes.

Services provided by the Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk.

Rollins, Albert W.

On Dec. 29, Albert William Rollins, beloved husband of the late Fave Loretta Rollins (nee Sweat); devoted father of Jennifer F. Rollins and her husband Chris Newman; loving grandfather of Charlotte and Jensen Newman; dear brother of Leo Rollins and his wife June; brother-in-law of James Sweat and his wife Joyce and Gary Sweat and his wife Kathy.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Contributions may be made in Mr. Rollins' name to the American Cancer Society.

Maskell, Howard J.

On Jan. 4, Howard J. Maskell, Jr., passed peacefully with his family and friends by his side. Beloved son of Jeannette "Janina" (nee Boksz) Maskell and the late Howard J. Maskell, Sr., dear brother of Marlene J. Glinski and her late husband Ben, and Jeannie Quinn and her husband Robert. Howard is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, greatnephews, and other relatives and friends. Howard's family would like to thank Creative Options, Gilchrist Home Hospice Care and Eldercare at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center for their love and support.

Services provided by Kaczorowski Funeral Home. Interment private. Please omit flowers. Make donation's in Howard's name to either Shriner Children's Hospital or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Lader, Erma V.

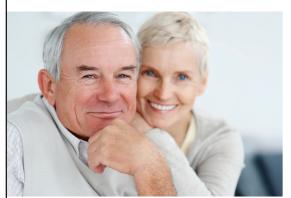
On Jan. 4, Erma V. Lader (nee Kappel) beloved wife of the late Gordon L. Lader, Sr.; devoted mother of Gordon L. Lader, Jr. and the late William A. Lader; loving grandmother of Stephen, Julie, Ashley, Jordan, C.J. and the late Kimberly; great-grandmother of Adrian, Aaron, Peyton and Gavin; sister of Lorraine Morrissey, Pat Dofflemeyer and Lois Delfosse

Services provided by Kaczorowski Funeral Home.



You Shouldn't Have to Sacrifice Service When Celebrating Your Loved One's Life

The cost of some funeral services may seem unreasonably expensive, which may be a shock when taking care of your loved one. We at Kaczorowski Funeral Home, P.A. want you to know that we are able to help fulfill your wishes at a modest cost without sacrificing service. Listed here are just a few of the many services we offer. These prices are real and there are no hidden fees. Our services are available should you have an immediate need or you wish to plan for the future.



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*Plus outside expenses such as Death Certificates, Cemetery purchase/opening, Clergy, Newspape These services are a starting point for cost. Other caskets are available and will only add the differe in the price of the casket to the charges listed above.

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You may be gone from my sight... But you are never gone from my heart In Loving Memory Nicolette Alexandra Alt July 3, 1991- January 14, 2012 We miss you so very much. XOXO Mom Brzowsky, Carolyn W.

On Jan. 8, Carolyn W. Brzowsky (nee Schweitzer), beloved wife of the late Jacob L. Brzowsky; devoted mother of Allan J. Brzowsky (Peggy), David P. Brzowsky (Gail), Donald P. Brzowsky (Sharon) and her late sons Robert J. (his surviving wife Carroll J.) and Richard T. Brzowsky (his surviving wife Carol L.); loving grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of nine; cherished sister of Harold Schweitzer (Lynn), Grace Morris and Lorraine Pensak. She was preceded in death by sisters Elsie Schweitzer, Lillian Wheeler and Ruth Schweitzer.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk.





Knowing that our children and grandchildren won't be left with the financial and emotional burdens that come with planning funeral arrangements gives us peace of mind.

Pre-planning gave us the opportunity to make important decisions about our wishes together, and make a difficult time a little less stressful for each other and the people we love.



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Page 14 East County Times January 12, 2017



- By Teddy Durgin -

Well, 2016 was certainly a topsyturvy year in many ways. And that could certainly be said of the movie biz, where we would get a truly great flick every couple of months until December when Hollywood (as it typically does) released a barrage of heady, massively entertaining, award-caliber films. Below are some movies that I really and truly love, and I hope you have or will see each of them. Here goes:

- 1) "Hell or High Water" This is as perfectly constructed a film as I've seen. It's one of those movies that has everything action, drama, comedy, suspense, social commentary. The four leads are amazing, but so too are all of the supporting players in this film whether they had one line or 12.
- 2) "La La Land" Normally I don't like to over-hype films. But if you haven't seen it yet, it is as great as you've heard. Well, "great" is too bland a word. The film is transporting. It's joyful. It's explosively fun. And the songs, characters and images will linger in your mind for days... maybe forever.

- 3) "Rogue One" Yeah, I did it. I put it at No. 3! In years past, I have disqualified "Star Wars" films from my 10 Best lists because I'm too close to the subject matter. But "Rogue One" is special, and it gets deeper and more rewarding for a fan of the saga and a lover of cinema the more I watch it.
- 4) "20th Century Women" The film is only out in four theaters in New York and L.A., but expands wide on Jan. 20. Set in 1979, this hypnotic comedy-drama stars Annette Bening as a single mother raising a teenage boy in the age of punk rock and feminism. What transpires is a wise, little movie about changing times, confusing feelings and the journey we're all on where we know the beginning but can't possibly predict the end.
- 5) "Hacksaw Ridge" Hollywood fashions itself a liberal town, but it's not a forgiving one. And a guy who messed up on the level director Mel Gibson did a decade ago has to deliver a film of near-incontestable quality and power to have it even enter the discussions during award season. He has done so

with this gripping film.

- 6) "The Nice Guys" Ryan Gosling had quite a year. His shining turn in "La La Land" has completely outshone his wonderful comedic performance in Shane Black's crazy period caper. Gosling stars as a bottom-feeding private eye who reluctantly teams up with a part-time P.I./part-time enforcer to investigate the death of a porn star in 1977 Los Angeles.
- 7) "Captain America: Civil War" This movie really doesn't get enough credit. Think of all the things it had to be. Not only is it a third "Captain America" film, it's also essentially a fourth "Iron Man" movie and a third "Avengers" flick. In addition, it has to serve as the launching pads for a new "Spider-Man" and a "Black Panther" series of flicks. It excelled at all of those!
- 8) "Hidden Figures" I love movies that teach me a slice of history I didn't know about before. This is such a wellmade film, effortlessly telling the stories of African-American math, engineering and computer whizzes Katherine Johnson, May Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan who

played key roles at NASA during the 1960s space race. Seeing their struggles dramatized in such a PG-rated way has made it great for the whole family to watch and learn.

- 9) "Pete's Dragon" I always reserve my No. 9 spot on each year's list for a film that probably won't make many other critics' Top 10 lists, but that I loved, nonetheless. Past selections have included "Cinderella," "Zombieland" and "Big Miracle." "Pete's Dragon" was a truly beautiful movie that features great performances from the very youngest (Oakes Fegley in the title role) to the very oldest (Robert Redford, playing a local codger who once saw a dragon when he was Pete's age).
- 10) "Moonlight" This is one of those little gems that seemingly came out of nowhere to capture the arthouse cinemagoers' imaginations... and, hopefully, soon mainstream movie watchers, too.

Honorable Mention: "Sully,"
"Manchester by the Sea," "Deadpool,"
"Hail, Caesar" and "Zootopia."

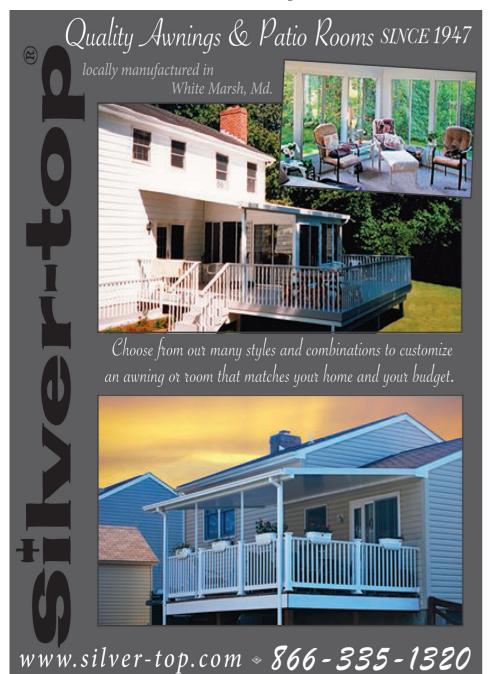
The 10 worst films of 2016

- By Teddy Durgin -

Ah, my annual 10 Worst Movies list. My last chance to exact some revenge on flicks that took hours out of my life. And as 2016 proved time and again, the clock's tickin' for us all, y'all! I swear, a few of these flicks almost broke me. But I always try and look on the bright side. So, this is also my last chance to warn you good folks away from some truly miserable motion pictures. Please don't let my sacrifices go in vain:

- 1) "Dirty Grandpa" During this past election cycle, Robert DeNiro went a little scooters and posted an Internet video in which he threatened to punch Donald Trump in the face over the President-elect's campaign rhetoric. Trump should have tweeted back: "I want to punch YOU in the face ... for making 'Dirty Grandpa!'" This crass, deeply unfunny misfire was one of the most depressing moviegoing experiences of my life. I've never seen a better actor debase himself any worse than DeNiro does in this film.
- 2) "Independence Day: Resurgence" How smart was Will Smith in turning down this sequel, which was at least a decade past its due date?! When your film's biggest laugh is Liam "The Lesser" Hemsworth urinating on an alien spacecraft, it's time to acknowledge that you have run out of ideas.
- 3) "Gods of Egypt" A half-hour in, I wanted to yell, "My eyes! My eyes! Make it stop!" The film did end eventually, but not before this barrage of Real-D, 3-D CGI masquerading as a motion picture gave me an involuntary retina-twitch for the better part of a weekend.
- 4) "Nine Lives" Kevin Spacey plays a corporate a-hole who gets turned into the family cat to teach him what's "really important" in life. OK, do you know how many scripts this man is offered in any given month? I can only guess that when this one crossed his agent's desk, it had blackmail photos stapled to its title page. And those photos must have depicted some seriously messed-up stuff!
- 5) "The Boss" I truly don't know why one of Hollywood's most charming and likable performers, Melissa McCarthy, continues to play such coarse, profane, unlikable characters. I find films like this and "Identity Thief" and "Tammy" just depressing.
- 6) "Mechanic: Resurrection" The first "Mechanic" made \$29 million at the North American box office. And it got this uninspired sequel, which made \$21 million. So, now I guess it'll be turned into a weekly TV series. Hollywood ... winning!
- 7) "Swiss Army Man" You either find a movie in which Daniel Radcliffe plays a corpse who Paul Dano rides like a jet ski using Radcliffe's flatulence as its source of propulsion daring ... or you find it literally the stupidest thing you've ever seen in an indie arthouse film. You know, there was a time when "indie arthouse film" meant "Pulp Fiction" ... or "Trainspotting" ... or "Being John Malkovich."
 - 8) "Shut In" It's how I felt watching this wannabe thriller.
 - 9) "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" And I never will.
- 10) "Max Steel" I saw this film. I reviewed it. But, for the life of me, I can't remember it! Not a single line ... not a single moment ... complete mind erase! Why couldn't this have happened with "Dirty Grandpa?!"

Dishonorable Mention: "The Girl on the Train," "Assassin's Creed," "The Huntsman: Winter's War," "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice," "Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie," "Jason Bourne," "The Perfect Mate" and "Now You See Me 2."



COMMUNITY

Blood Donations Needed

As freezing temperatures and harsh weather grip much of the nation, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets to help meet the constant need for blood this winter. Donors with all blood types are needed now to help patients. Donate blood at the White Marsh Blood Donation Center, 8114 Sandpiper Circle, Suite 118, on Jan. 12, 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; and Jan 14, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Food Pantry

Dundalk Church of the Nazarene, 1626 Lynch Road, has a food pantry with nonperishable food items. If you are in need or are interested in donating, please call the church at 410-288-5136.

Senior Steelworkers 9477

Senior Steelworkers United meets the third Wednesday of each month at Local 2609 Hall, 550 Dundalk Avenue., beginning at noon. Coffee, donuts and lunch are provided, with a brief business meeting between meals to discuss matters like pensions, medical insurance, Social Security and more. All Sparrows Point retirees are invited. Dues are \$30 per year. For more information, call Don Kellner at 410-227-8462.

Free Mammograms

Baltimore County Womens 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.

Almond to address local Democrats

Baltimore County Second District Councilwoman Vicki Almond will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Riverside Democratic Club at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12, at the Essex-Holly Neck VFW Post 2621, 206 Riverside Road in Essex. Ms. Almond is rumored to be a candidate for Baltimore County Executive in 2018. She is expected to expound on the current state of our county and her vision for our future. The meeting is open to anyone interested in hearing Ms. Almond and working to improve the community. For more information, contact Jay Hidden at 443-854-9965 or new7thnews@gmail.com.

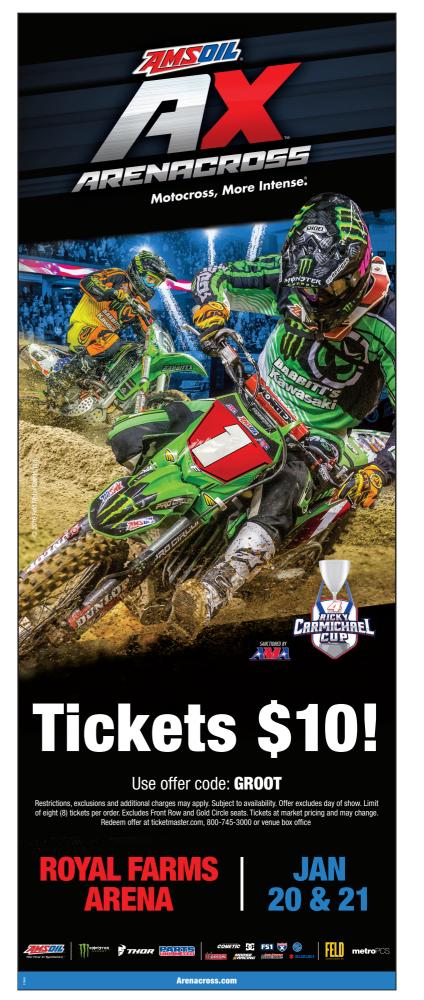
Maryland Seniors HOF

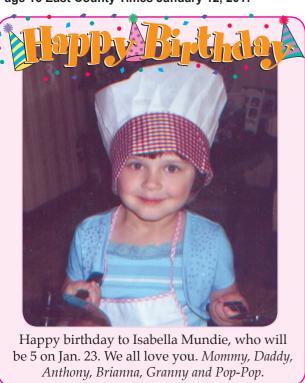
The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc. (MSCHF) is seeking nominations of Maryland residents, 65 years of age or older, who as active volunteers (since age 65) have made outstanding contributions to improve the lives of others in the community. Nominations are accepted Jan. 1 - April 10. Approved nominees are inducted into the MSCHF at our annual awards luncheon in October. The nomination form and specific details for eligibility are available at mschf.org or by contacting Tom Kline at mschf1@ verizon.net or 410-322-5193.

For more Community Calendar, visit <u>www.eastcountytimesonline.com</u>.









Essex American Legion Post 148, 20 S. Marlyn Ave. in Essex, will host Fun Time Karaoke with Annette and Wild Bill from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Jan. 13, and 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15; and Karaoke with Jimmy and Judy D from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 14. Call 410-686-2353 for kitchen availability, menu and specials.

Dinner on the Bay

Knights of Columbus Bethlehem Council 2605, 7401 Bay Front Road in Edgemere, will hold its monthly Dinner on the Bay from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15. The menu will include fried chicken, sausage and peppers, turkey, sweet potatoes, rice, vegetables, salad, dinner rolls, dessert, soda, coffee and tea. Tickets cost \$14 for adults and \$7 for children ages 8 to 12. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Animal Rescue Quarter Auction

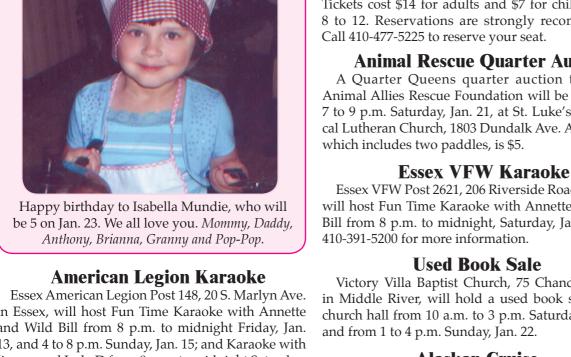
A Quarter Queens quarter auction to benefit Animal Allies Rescue Foundation will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1803 Dundalk Ave. Admission,

Essex VFW Post 2621, 206 Riverside Road in Essex, will host Fun Time Karaoke with Annette and Wild Bill from 8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Jan. 14. Call

Victory Villa Baptist Church, 75 Chandelle Road in Middle River, will hold a used book sale in the church hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21,

Alaskan Cruise

Alaskan 10-day land and sea cruise in July 2017. Call Anthony at 443-801-5678 for more information.





Kerry Kuhar, daughter of Ron and Dee Kuhar of Dundalk, and Joshua Moroz, son of Don Moroz and Margie Moroz, both of Sparrows Point, are engaged. Joshua proposed on Jan. 1, and Kerry said yes. A Fall 2019 destination wedding is planned.

Piney Grove UMC Flea Market

Piney Grove United Methodist Church, 210 Bowleys Quarters Road, will hold its annual indoor Friendship Circle flea market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21. Food and baked goods will be sold. The Friendship Circle holds luncheons at the church for the residents of three assisted living centers. Flea market proceeds help fund that program.

Philly Flower Show Bus Trip

Church of the Annunciation, 5212 McCormick Ave. in Overlea, will hold a bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show on Thursday, March 16. The theme is Holland - Flowering the World. The cost is \$70 and includes the event ticket, bus transportation and snacks on the bus. Lunch is on your own. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 10 a.m. and return at 7 p.m. A deposit of \$25 is due at the time of reservations and the balance is due Jan. 22. Call Jane at 410-866-8016 to reserve your seat.

Patapsco Class of '72

Organizers are looking for classmates for Patapsco High School Class of 1972's 45-year reunion set for Oct. 14, 2017. If you are not in touch via Facebook or Classmates.com, please email pspittel@verizon.net or call Pam (Bukowski) Spittel at 443-768-3210.

EVT 40-Year Reunion

Eastern Vocational Technical High School class of 1977 is planning its 40-year reunion. Organizers are looking for classmates for a reunion set for Sept. 30, 2017. If interested, contact Martin Friedel, 410-458-9039, or Madman@closecall.com.







544 Back River Neck Rd., Essex, MD 21221

IN YOUR WORDS

Angels say thanks from the Military

Our military personnel are still in the Middle East war zones after 15 years. The troops are foregoing lots of greetings and hugs this holiday season to keep us safe.

Angels Supporting Your Troops, Inc, are starting their eighth year in January 2017 of mailing care packages. Some deployed units are still in awe when they open one of the Angels' care packages.

Many many individuals, churches, organizations and clubs cared by dropping off donations on the picnic table. Monetary donations have been very generous this year. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Our postage for 2016 was \$8,225.50.

The candy drive was awesome; so many people dropped off mounds of candy and cookies. Our troops were surely sugared up. We are always collecting candy, as well as snacks, Old Bay, beef jerky, toiletries, activity balls, games, hot chocolate and much more.

The troops say a big "Thank you" through letters and emails. To donate or for more information, contact me at 410-284-5275 or drop off items on picnic table at 7914 Dielhwod Road in Dundalk.

Irene Spatafore Angels Supporting Your Troops, Inc.

Jerry's Childrens Fund Says Thanks

Thank you to all who donated this year. It was the best year we've ever had. The caring people from Edgemere, Dundalk, Essex, Overlea, Perry Hall and other places stepped up again - even a few from out of state.

We were able to give to approximately 120 children, 10 to 20 gifts for each one. It could not have happened without you! Each of you should be happy and proud that you made a big part of a child's Christmas.

This was the first year I needed help sorting out items for delivery. Thanks to Danielle, Bonnie and Mary who helped me out a lot.

I was out looking for families that we could help several days before Christmas and Christmas morning. I was able to help about nine families at the last minute. The looks on their faces when I told them what we do were priceless. As one mother said, "God works in mysterious ways."

I've already started buying items the day after Christmas and will continue the whole year until next Christmas. You can call me anytime at 443-895-8137 if you want to help.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and have a happy new year!

Jerry Bathory Jerry's Childrens Fund

NEW MENU DAILY FOOD SPECIALS LIQUOR STORE OPEN 7 DAYS ONG BEACH OYSTER HOUSE Bar Open 11am-2am Daily / Restaurant Open Mon-Thurs 3pm-10pm Fri & Sat 11am-11pm Sun 9am-10pm SUNDAY BRUNCH 9AM-1PM \$16 Includes Juice, Coffee, Soda (Kids Under 6 FREE / Under 12 \$7) \$22 - UNLIMITED Includes Mimosas / Bloody Marys HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS 11AM-6PM / MON-FRI \$5 Crushes / \$4 Craft Drafts / \$3 House Wine \$2 Domestic Drafts and Bottles / \$1 Local Oysters \$2 OFF all Starters / \$2 OFF All Quesadillas \$2 OFF All Wings and Bites 818 Bowleys Quarters Rd. • 410-335-9444

Stand Up, America!

Throughout the years, citizens of the USA have had the privilege of making contributions to their Social Security - a program which was founded by a great president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1935 - and Medicare which was founded in 1965 by another great president, Lyndon Johnson.

Today, millions of aging Americans are threatened with reductions in Social Security, increases in age of eligibility, elimination of COLA or restructuring. To add to the turmoil, they are threatened by the privatization of Medicare using a coupon system instead of our current system as we see it today.

Retired Americans need to challenge these proposals. Both funds are healthy for years to come, but those in power see it as a financial resource to their wishes.

The average Social Security check is approximately \$1,700 a month for a U.S. citizen. Much less to widows who struggle to survive in many cases. The average pension for a U.S. senator exceeds \$144,000 per year.

First, a petition drive headed by Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) is open to all groups or individuals. Petitions can be requested by calling 410-227-8462. Plans are underway by SOAR in conjunction with the Alliance for Retired Americans to not allow allow any changes. Protect your Social Security and Medicare!

Donald E. Kellner Dundalk

Andrew Puzder

Andrew Puzder, President-elect Trump's choice for secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor, would be a disaster for working people. He has railed against a meaningful increase in the minimum wage, opposed expanding overtime pay and supported replacing working people with machines.

Willie Hicks Baltimore





With friends like U.S., who needs enemies?

The recent United Nations address by Secretary Kerry was an outrage and a sad day in U.S.-Israel relations!

The Obama administration has pursued a path that is a dramatic departure from our decades of full support for Israel - a life-long ally and friend of the U.S.

President Obama's underlying support for the Palestinians and a flawed two-state solution was clear.

Obama's refusal to sincerely condemn terrorists like Hamas and ISIS is appalling. He refuses to use the phrase "radical Islamic terrorism." This is equivalent to pouring gasoline on the fires of international terrorism. Kerry's obvious back-pedaling (at the direction of

the president) was a true international comedy which exposes the weakness of the U.S. foreign policy and should be cause for concern from our allies.

Secretary Kerry spent more than 30 minutes condemning the Israeli settlements, but only a brief mention of Palestinian terrorism.

The multi-step plan outlined by Secretary Kerry and the promise of security for Israel can be summed up as "a path to the eventual demise of Israel." The Palestinians had an opportunity for peace through the 1967 U.N. resolution (S/RES/242) but the PLO opposed the agreements with renewed violence.

The United States, over the past eight years, has NOT had a strong track record in international policy. The recent agreement with Iran may prove to be greatest misstep in U.S. foreign policy in decades. The recent failures in Iraq are just another reminder.

R. Gary Strebeck Middle River



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 - 12 oz. 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

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 -

Chef Salad \$5.99

Hamburger Platter w/Mashed Potatoes & Gravy \$8.99 1/2 lb. Specialty Burgers w/Fresh Cut or Seasoned French Fries \$6.99

*Prices are subject to change.

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REGISTRATION & INSPECTION STARTING AT 7:00 a.m.

To view autos being offered this week go to: www.bscamerica.com & click on Public Sale

ided day of sale if a purchase is Quired. SatruckAuction

Car 8 TruckAuction

OF MARYLAND RECAMBRICA not made. If you are attending the Public Sale and not bidding a deposit is not required.

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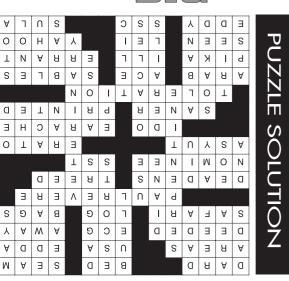
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HAPPY ADS

small



HAPPY ADS

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TUESDAY MORNINGS 10:30 A.M.

> ALL LEVELS, **ESPECIALLY BEGINNERS &** SENIORS.

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www.newbfc.com

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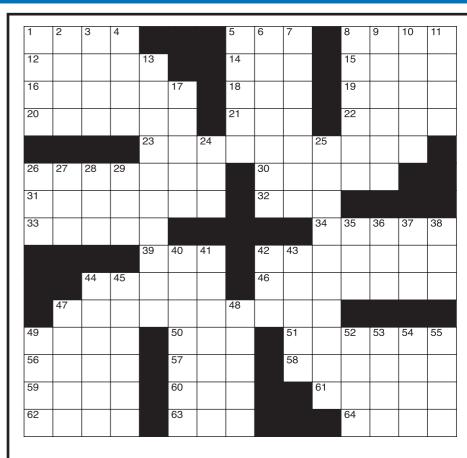
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Short tributary of the Seille
- 5. Where you sleep
- 8. Crinkle
- 12. Regions
- 14. United States
- 15. Icelandic poetry books
- 16. Transferred property
- 18. Electrocardiography
- 19. From here
- 20. Hunting or observation expedition
- 21. Used to make cabins
- 22. Containers
- 23. Famed patriot
- 26. Makes less intense
- 30. Forced to take refuge
- 31. Campaigner
- 32. Special security team
- 33. Egyptian city

- 34. The Muse of lyric and hymns
- 39. What newlyweds just said
- 42. Pain
- 44. Norwegian village
- 46. Produced on paper
- 47. Acceptance
- 49. Semite
- 50. Detective Ventura
- 51. Martens
- 56. Small mammal related to rabbits
- 57. Airsick
- 58. Itinerant
- 59. Has spotted
- 60. Garland
- 61. Search engine
- 62. Former Knick and Bull Curry
- 63. Student selected components
- 64. Norwegian island

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fathers
- 2. Region
- 3. The Great Barrier ____
- 4. Father
- 5. Civil War general Don Carlos
- 6. Bodyguards
- 7. Knives
- 8. Member of U.S. Navy
- 9. English prince
- 10. Expression
- 11. Giants great Willie
- 13. Curving
- 17. Actress Keaton
- 24. Deploy

- 25. Medicine that treats animals
- 26. We all have it
- 27. Greek goddess of the dawn

- 29. City in India
- 35. Went jogging
- 36. What thespians do
- 37. One and only
- 38. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 40. Obstructs from a course
- 41. Prophets
- 42. Prefix meaning on or above
- 43. Got up
- 44. Drenched
- 45. N.Y. State capital
- 47. Sampled
- 48. Tending to an end
- 49. Architectural recess
- 52. Undergarments
- 53. Ethnic group in China
- 54. Reactive structure
- 28. Kevin Smith film "Chasing ___"55. Greek portico

HAPPY ADS

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Rosedale, Md. (Plenty of Parking/ Handicap Accessible)

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TAMIL SERVICE - 2ND SAT. OF THE MONTH

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410-686-4195

544 Back River Neck Rd Community Worship:10:30am www.backriverumc.com

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READER ADVISORY: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID. or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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WORDS

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at the

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