Essex, Middle River, Rosedale, White Marsh, Nottingham, Perry Hall, Kingsville & Dundalk

INSIDE:

News
Legally Yours Page 7
Community Calendar Page 8
PoliticiansPage 9
Obituaries Page 10
Entertainment Page 11
911Page 13
Sports Page 14
SpotlightPage 15
Classifieds Page 17
-

VERSE OF THE WEEK - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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Eastside women rule in county's Women of the Year awards







Left: Kelli Szczybor was named the Baltimore County Woman of the year for bringing to life her vision of an all-inclusive playground and park in Perry Hall. Middle: Toni Torsch will receive the LaFrance Muldrow Woman Making a Difference award in recognition of her advocacy for opioid addiction awareness. Right: Nhu Dang has been named the Young Woman of the Year for her school leadership, academic excellence and community volunteerism.

- By Marge Neal -

Three women with ties to eastern Baltimore County will sweep the awards when the county's Commission for Women gathers this Tuesday, March 28, to recognize its annual Woman of the Year honorees.

Kelli Szczybor of Perry Hall, Toni Torsch of Nottingham and Nhu Dang, a Parkville High School senior, have been named the Commission's Woman of the Year, LaFrance Muldrow Woman Making a Difference awardee and Young Woman of the Year, respectively.

Szczybor is being honored for bringing her vision of an all-inclusive playground and park to fruition; Torsch is being recognized for her advocacy for opioid addiction awareness, education and treatment; and Dang is being honored for her school leadership, academic excellence and community volunteerism, according to Commission staff member Nancy Surosky.

"These women are all really amazing," Surosky told the East County Times. "Our Commission is really proud of their work."

Woman of the Year

Kelli Szczybor turned a family tragedy into a lasting legacy when she pursued a vision that eventually became Angel Park, an all-inclusive, passive and active recreation area in Perry Hall.

In creating a space that she hoped would bring people of different generations and abilities together, Szczybor was driven by the memory of her son Ryan, who died of leukemia 19 years ago when he was just 15 months old.

This is the second time she is being honored by a county commission for her work on Angel Park. She and park co-founder Michelle Streckfus were honored in October with the Accessibility Award from the Commission on Disabilities.

Szczybor got the idea for an accessible playground while volunteering to help build a similar play area, "Annie's Playground," in Harford County.

Her vision for such a play area in Baltimore County morphed into a much bigger plan that included passive, contemplative areas and includes room for future growth, with additional amenities as fundraising allows.

There were naysayers who said the women would never be able to raise that kind of money, and if they did, it would take years, according to Szczybor. But those naysayers underestimated the drive and passion of the project leaders, and the needed money was

soon in the bank.

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and County Councilman David Marks were instrumental in finding a piece of land near the Perry Hall library that was designated for the park and the project became a reality.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Angel park, a project that Szczybor estimates cost closer to \$3 million with in-kind services and donations, was held last October.

Bill Paulshock, owner of Bill's Seafood and Catering, as well as Szczybor's employer and uncle, nominated her for the Woman of the Year honor. In his nomination, he wrote that, while Angel Park was a highly visible project that garnered a lot of attention, Szczybor also does a lot of quiet, behind-thescenes work for others.

Through the Ryan Foundation, Szczybor helps families who have children being treated at the Johns Hopkins Childrens Center, according to Paulshock.

In the nominating form, Paulshock wrote of Kelli taking time out of her Angel Park work to help a family from El Salvador pay for burial expenses for their child, who they had brought to

- see **WOMEN** on page 6 -

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- By Marge Neal -

The marquee event of St. Baldrick's fundraisers nationally - including the one in Middle River - is the ceremonial head shaving of participants who raise money for childhood cancer research.

And while that event is fun and gets a lot of publicity, the real stars of the show are the "honored children," according to local event founder Dan Jarkiewicz.

"We center our event around our honored kids - all local kids who have or are battling cancer," the Perry Hall resident told the East County Times. "Our greatest focus is on these kids, to hear their stories and to know they're getting a second chance at life.

Half of the 40 local honored children were in attendance at the event held Sunday, March 19, at Martin's East.

Organizers created a slide show featuring each child, many of whom shared activities and hobbies they are able to pursue thanks to successful cancer research, which translates to better treatment.

One girl wore her prom dress and proclaimed that, thanks to cancer research, she was able to go to her school's prom, according to Jim Pizzini, a shavee and DJ who provided entertainment for the event.

Pizzini participated in his seventh St. Baldrick's event, which allowed him to be named a Knight of the Bald Table.

"It's really a cute ceremony," Pizzini said of the honor bestowed upon

St. Baldrick's: Shave a head, change a life

participants in their seventh year. "The kids are given little plastic swords and they tap us on the shoulder and declare us Knights of the Bald table."

In addition to getting his head shaved this year, Pizzini decided to grow his beard out with the hope of generating more donations. He raised a little over \$500 before the event from donors he recruited, and then worked the crowd at Martin's to raise money for the elimination of his beard.

His plan worked, with donors offering nearly \$275 more to see his facial hair go the way of his head hair.

As with many participants, Pizzini got involved in the fundraiser for personal reasons. Seven years ago, his mother was diagnosed with cancer and she was upset about the harsh treatments and probable loss of her hair.

"I told her I would lose my hair with her, that I would get involved with St. Baldrick's in her honor," Pizzini said.

He estimated he has raised nearly \$2,900 in his years of participation.

Since its inception in 2009, the Baltimore-based event has raised about \$1.1 million, according to Jarkiewicz. This year's gathering included 140 shavees who raised about \$168,000, he noted.

'We hoped to hit \$1 million with last year's event, but we fell about \$4,000 short," he said. "So we hit that goal early in this year's effort."

Nationally, the St. Baldrick's Foundation has provided \$200 million in



Jim Pizzini while being shaved.

cancer research grants to a variety of hospitals and research institutions, according to its website.

"Right now, there are two new cancer drugs on the market thanks to St. Baldrick's funding," Jarkiewicz said. "That's two new tools in the oncologist's toolbox because of our efforts we really are making a difference in these kids' lives."

Jarkiewicz has a daughter, Ally, who was diagnosed with a rare, genetic, blood immune disorder called HLH. While not a cancer, the disease is treated with a bone marrow transplant.

Strictly by coincidence, the new father found himself dealing with his daughter's potentially fatal illness while he was planning his first local St. Baldrick's event.

"I started planning it before she was born," he said. "And then in one of life's little twists of coincidence, she was in the hospital, surrounded by cancer patients, getting the same treatment they were getting."

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Ally was diagnosed at just six months old, received her transplant at nine months and then spent the next 10 months hospitalized because of complications of the treatment, Jarkiewicz said. Ally is now 8, and while she has some longterm complications caused by the treatment, the transplant cured her blood disorder.

'So I didn't start the event because of my daughter but being around all those children, seeing the work of all the medical staff, knowing too many children who have died, has driven my passion since then," he said.

St. Baldrick's is a national organization, but 15 studies at Johns Hopkins have received grant funding from the group since 2010, according to Jarkiewicz. He stressed that all Baldrick funding supports cancer research, as opposed providing financial assistance to individuals or families fighting cancer.

He's proud of the local contribution to that pool of money and what it means to many local families.

"It really says a lot for the community," he said. "This community really comes together for these kids. And the research made possible with this money has provided better treatments with fewer side effects."

Ever the energetic fundraiser, Jarkiewicz said it is not too late to contribute this year. Donations can be made online at www.stbaldricks.org/events/ bmoreheroes2017.

'And next year's event is March 18," he said, "in case you're interested."



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Environmental group loses county funding due to policy change

- By Devin Crum -

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy has lost about a third of its funding from Baltimore County for the next year because of a change in how the county distributes those funds, according to a leader in the organization.

Peggy Perry, GVC's Education and Restoration Program director, said first that the county has changed over from providing environmental grant funding for the calendar year to the fiscal year. That means that funding previously covering the period from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 in a given year will now be given for the fiscal year which runs from July 1 - June 30.

Perry also noted that the GVC received a supplemental grant of \$45,000 from the county to cover the period from Jan.1 -June 30 of this year, keeping their funding level the same as last year until the fiscal year changeover.

The decrease in funding will start in the new fiscal year which begins on July 1.

"A third of what we had been getting we lost, so now we have to try to find that [funding] from other sources," Perry said.

She declined to specify exactly how much GVC will receive from the county since there is competition for county funding among different environmentally focused groups.

Perry said GVC has applied for a grant from another source that would provide

some supplemental funding for their initiatives in the second half of this calendar year, but they had not yet heard if they will get it.

"If we get that, that would take care of some of that third that's missing," she said.

Some environmental advocates have have decried the loss of the county's Stormwater Remediation Fee - popularly known as the "Rain Tax" - and blamed its repeal in 2015 for the loss of funding for environmental projects.

However, Perry said it seems to be due more to a change in policy on the county's part.

"From everything I've gathered, the main reason is because they want to try to expand their ability to reach more organizations with funding," she said.

Perry pointed out that the county has invited local groups such as the Bird River Restoration Campaign and others to apply for the county's pot of funding as well.

"They indicated they're trying to reach out to more community organizations to get them funding to do similar types of work," Perry explained, such as advocating for cleaner waterways and encouraging the use of "Bay-wise" practices in order to preserve the Chesapeake Bay.

Perry noted that some of the funding GVC and other organizations received in the past did come from the Rain Tax,

but she did not know the details of exactly how its absence affects the GVC and its Clear Creeks Project initiatives.

"It is possible," Perry said, that the fee's repeal is a factor in their funding decrease from the county. But she left it to the county to say for sure.

A spokesperson for the county had not responded by press time to questions about the reason for the decrease in funding for the GVC.

"Unfortunately, [the policy change] means if we don't replace the funding, we're not going to be able to do as much as we had been doing," Perry said.

She said the funding from the county had been used to help pay for GVC's activities, particularly their Clear Creeks Project. Since 2013, they have held workshops through the program to encourage homeowners, businesses and community organizations in the Middle River and Bird/Gunpowder River watersheds to use methods of stormwater management on their properties that will contribute to better water quality.

In 2016 alone, GVC planted 858 trees across more than eight acres of land, removed 4,300 pounds of invasive plants from around 3,500 trees, and removed 7.5 tons of trash from along 16.75 miles of streams, according to their website.

The organization also installed 19 conservation gardens, including 10 rain gardens, which will treat 12,045 square feet of impervious drainage area.

Over the past 26 years, GVC has planted more than 28,000 trees in the Gunpowder River watershed, most of which is in Baltimore County.

But what Perry said was particularly valuable about the county's funding was that it could be used for labor costs.

"A lot of the grant funding that's out there has a restriction on the amount that you can spend on staff labor," she explained.

The county's grants do not have that, she said, and staff labor and compensation are important for getting all of their administrative work done.

Using the funding they have already received for this year, GVC plans to hold several tree plantings in the Bird River watershed this spring on April 8, April 15 and May 6, as well as stream cleanup events and outreach and education workshops throughout the spring

The April 8 planting will add more trees to a 77-acre, privately owned former quarry near the Bird River where GVC previously planted more than 300 native trees in the spring of 2015.

Following its use as a quarry, the site had eroded away heavily, dumping untold tons of sediment material into the river with each rainfall. But after more than a decade of remediation, nature

- see **FUNDING** on page 6 -

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Homicides, violent crime on the rise in Baltimore County

Essex precinct sees sharp decline in robberies and burglaries; North Point precinct sees increased homicides

- By Patrick Taylor -

Baltimore County police recently released the crime stats for 2016, and violent crime in the county is up by 4.3 percent. Violent crime consists of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and human trafficking.

In 2016, Baltimore County counted 35 homicides - a 34 percent increase over the five-year average. Since 2013, when the county only recorded 20 murders, the number of homicides has risen

While violent crime saw a larger increase, total crime saw only a slight increase of 0.1 percent.

Anyone looking at the stats, which are available on the county's website, will notice that rape surged by 89 percent, with forcible rape increasing by 93.4 percent. While the numbers don't look good, the sharp increase has to do with a change in how the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which tracks crime across the country, classifies rape. Previously, rape only consisted of "the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will," which, left to interpretation at the local level,

excluded offenses such as oral or anal penetration, as well as penetration with objects and rape of males. The new summary definition of rape employed by the FBI states, "Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim."

Total robbery saw a slight 1.6 percent increase, while aggravated assaults increased by less than half a percent. Regarding robberies, convenience stores and gas stations have seen a major uptick, with both types of businesses seeing more than a 23 percent increase in robberies.

Across the county, burglaries are down almost 5 percent. Total theft saw a miniscule increase, but motor vehicle theft is up in almost every sub-category and up across all precincts. Last year saw a 33 percent increase in stolen automobiles, a 17.6 percent increase in stolen trucks and buses, and an 18.7 percent increase in other vehicle thefts.

On the local level, the Essex precinct saw a sharp decline in burglaries, with 419 burglaries committed last year against the five-year average of 474. That was good enough for an 11.6 percent drop. Robberies also sharply declined for the precinct,

with 151 committed last year against the five-year average of 173. The 12.7 percent drop represents the largest decrease in the category across the county.

"We receive reports on where criminal activity is taking place and... using data and past history and trends, we figure out where to focus a lot of our resources," said Essex precinct Captain Andre Davis. "A lot of times we reach out to community members to help us. Lastly I think it's a combination of really good police work by the officers in patrol making the observations they need to, and improving communication infrastructure."

While the numbers for robberies and burglaries have gone down, motor vehicle thefts are on the rise, with a 32.8 percent increase in the Essex area. Aggravated assaults are also on the rise in Precinct 11. Last year, the Essex precinct saw a 5.2 percent increase in aggravated assaults. But according to Davis, those aren't crimes that are easy to prevent.

"When you talk about aggravated assaults, those aren't normal crime issues we can manage through resources; they happen spontaneously," Davis said.

Davis noted that when assaults do happen, the clearance rate for the precinct is high. He also noted that his precinct goes through proactive measures, such as having an officer read over domestic reports and working to get people who could be in danger help with the proper services.

While things on the whole look solid for the Essex precinct, the White Marsh and North Point precincts saw mixed results.

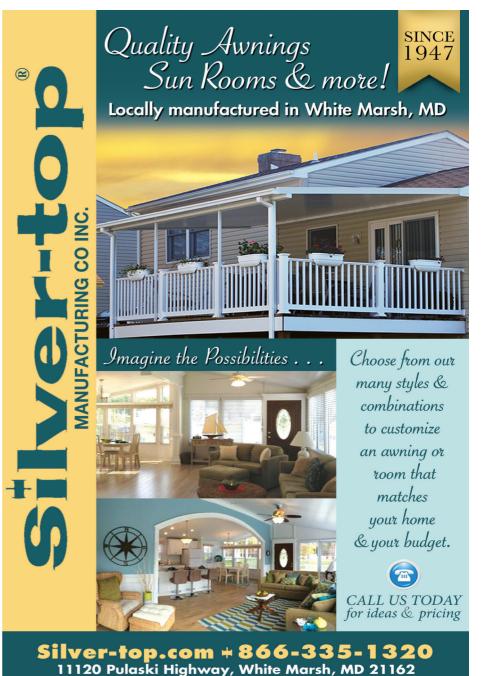
In White Marsh, robberies increased by almost 2.5 percent, while burglaries soared by 47.8 percent. Of the 10 precincts in Baltimore County, only White Marsh and North Point saw increases (6.7 percent). Overall in White Marsh, only aggravated assault, theft and arson saw decreases.

For the North Point precinct, the number that stands out the most is eight, for the number of homicides committed in that area last year. The jump represents a 166.7 percent increase against the five-year average.

The North Point precinct also saw significant drops in robbery (9.7 percent), burglary (11.6 percent) and aggravated assault (12.1 percent), and total crime for the precinct essentially stayed stagnant, with a 0.1 percent drop in the overall numbers.

Neither Captain Christopher Kelly of the White Marsh precinct nor Captain Orlando Lilly of the North Point precinct were available for comment by press time.





WOMEN

- continued from page 1 -

Hopkins for treatment, according to Surosky.

She also helped a start a grief support ministry at St. Joseph's Church in Fullerton.

LaFrance Muldrow Making a Difference Award

When Toni Torsch lost her son Dan to a drug overdose in 2010, she quickly discovered there was little to no support available to grieving family.

"After Dan passed away, I wanted to do something," she told the *Times*. "I had gone to a couple of grief support meetings but it just wasn't cutting it; it didn't address my needs."

With some research, Torsch discovered an organization called GRASP - Grief Recovery After Substance Passing - but the closest group was in Philadelphia. She went to a meeting and connected with the group right away.

"I knew immediately I wanted to bring this back to Baltimore - to start a group here," she said.

The chapter she started here now has 300 members and often meets at the Perry Hall library.

The grieving mother founded the Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation, named for her late son, and has dedicated much of the past six years to helping other families deal with the power of addiction and the grief of losing loved ones to the disease.

She has been instrumental in getting legislation passed to make Naloxone, a

drug that reverses the effects of an overdose, easier to get for third parties, according to Torsch's sister, Deb Kennedy, who nominated her for the award.

Before the legislation, Naloxone could be prescribed only to the addict, according to Torsch.

"But that makes no sense, " she said.
"If the addict overdoses, then they are in no position to administer themselves a life-saving injection."

Torsch has spent much of her life volunteering in schools, churches and the community in general, according to Kennedy, so it was only natural that she took her personal grief and used it to help others.

"If your son has cancer, everyone wants to help," Kennedy said. "If your son is an addict, no one wants to help. My sister is right there doing something about it."

Torsch said that she has trained nearly 400 families to administer Naloxone, and has been told that four of her kits have been used to saves the lives of individuals who had overdosed.

She laments the greed of pharmaceutical companies that has substantially driven up the costs of the drug.

"It used to be \$1 a dose; it's now \$37.50 a dose," she said. "I know it's supply and demand, because the drug has become so much more in demand, but this is just pure greed."

Foundation funds also help individuals pay for substance abuse and sober living treatment programs.

Torsch is candid about how her son

succumbed to the power of opioid addiction, which he fought for seven years. An injury while still in high school spurred a prescription for opioid-based pain medication, which Dan began abusing.

Looking back, Torsch now recognizes that her son began complaining about various aches and pains in an effort to get doctors to prescribe more medication.

"I didn't see it then, but when I look back, I see that he was shopping doctors for pain medication," she said.

Dan attended four different rehabilitation programs, two in Maryland and two out-of-state, his mother said. Each time, he seemed to being doing well, but would relapse when friends from his drug circle would encourage him to do drugs with them.

"In the end, \$40 killed him," she said. "He went and bought drugs and died the next day."

Torsch said she is "humbled and more than a little uncomfortable" with being singled out for this award.

"But I will accept it because this kind of recognition keeps the conversation going and lets people who need us know we exist."

Young Woman of the Year

The awe in Surosky's voice was audible as she described Nhu Dang's accomplishments in the four years the native of Vietnam has been in this country.

Reading from the nomination form submitted by Parkville High School's guidance department, Surosky spoke of Dang's quick mastery of the English language, her straight-A course transcript, her weighted grade-pont average of 5.57, the leadership positions she holds in a variety of school clubs and organizations, her community volunteerism and the fact that she's headed to Yale University, where she plans to major in biology/pre-med, on a full scholarship.

"Her mother came to this country in 2011 and worked a minimum wage job to save enough money to bring Nhu here," Surosky said. "In 2012, she was able to bring Nhu here and the main reason for coming here was to better Nhu's life through education."

Each year, the Commission receives between 30 and 40 nominations for its awards and competition is stiff, according to Surosky.

"But even with that competition, this year, the student stood right out," she said. "Nhu just rose to the top."

Dang is a student in Parkville's Math, Science and Computer Science Magnet Program and is ranked first academically in her class of 412 students, Surosky said.

In addition to her school and community involvement, Dang has taken on the responsibility of being a caregiver of sorts for her mother, who has suffered from chronic illnesses since living in Vietnam. Because of her quick mastery of English, Dang has become her mother's translator and navigator of the local health care system while her mother is being restored to good health, according to the nominating information.

Dang hopes to become a medical doctor and plans to work with underserved populations.

"Her concern for others, maturity coupled with academic prowess and strong commitment to learning makes her a young woman destined for great success," school officials wrote in her nominating form.

FUNDING

- continued from page 4 - and bay-healthy conditions have happily returned.

The property's owner, Norm Sines, has also placed all of his land into a conservation easement with GVC to protect it from any future development.

The April 15 and May 6 plantings will take place on two acres of land owned by the Maryland State Game and Fish Protective Association in Perry Hall. GVC and Clear Creeks volunteers will plant 200 new trees on the site, as well as install 10 rain barrels, one bayscape garden, one rain garden and three microbioretention systems which will all help

to improve the water quality and clarity of the property's ponds, as well as the Bird River, to which the site eventually drains.

The Clear Creeks Project will also hold educational and outreach events such as Bayscape Garden and Rain Barrel workshops along with Bay-Wise Certification parties throughout this spring and summer. More information on these events is available on the GVC website at www. gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org.

The Clear Creeks Project area includes Perry Hall, White Marsh, Nottingham, Middle River, Bird River, Carney, Parkville, Glen Arm and Kingsville.



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Distracted driving: A growing concern for truck driving safety

- By Attorney Randolph Rice -

Truck drivers log dozens of hours on the road in a given week, traversing states and time zones to deliver their payload on time. When they run on tight schedules, truckers may have their attention divided while behind the wheel; eating, using a GPS or talking on the radio can act as driving distractions, which can have catastrophic consequences.

A collision involving a semi-trailer or other large truck usually creates a lot of property damage and causes injuries more often than not. Their sheer size compared to that of a sedan makes them especially dangerous without even considering how much the truck can weigh. The driver of a vehicle this size needs to be focused on the road at all times.

Distracted Driving Accidents in Semi-trucks

According to the most recent accident data, large trucks were involved in about six percent of all distracted driving fatality accidents in one year. Using a cell phone or any electronic device is strictly prohibited for all truck drivers by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). This includes actions ranging from but not limited to making calls, texting, using a GPS or emailing.

Truckers spend most of their time on highways and as such are driving at a fast rate. It's estimated that if you take your eyes off the road for five seconds to read a text and are going 55 mph, you miss more than

300 feet of road. A lot can happen in that distance, and it's just one of the many factors which make distracted driving so perilous.

How Can Distracted Driving Be Prevented?

More and more, no-tolerance policies have been put into law which apply to all drivers. Regulations vary by state, but 46 of them have bans on texting and driving, and 14 states, including Maryland, prohibit hand use of cell phones of any kind for drivers of all ages. The penalties for a truck driver are severe; if caught using a cell phone while driving, a commercial driver is fined up to \$2,750 per offense. They could also have their commercial license revoked for a period of time.

Beyond strict laws and heavy fines, a lot of distracted driving prevention amounts to personal responsibility; a driver just has to be disciplined enough to put the phone down and focus on the road in front of them.

Other Truck Driving Safety Tips

1) Out of sight, out of mind. If you place your phone in the center console or silence it and keep it in your pocket, you won't know if you get a notification and thus won't be tempted to look.

2) Be prepared. Eat the granola bar at home, save the paper for the office and have your makeup applied before getting behind the wheel. We all like to multitask, but driving is not a good time for it.

3) Secure all items. If something falls onto your car floor, your instinct will be to reach for it. Distracted driving doesn't just involve phones, and reaching for something will take your eyes off the road and affect your steering.

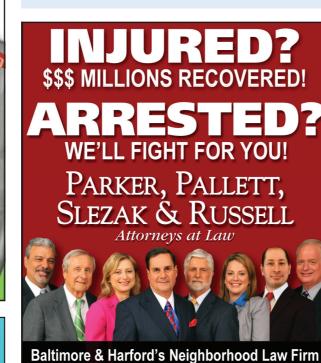
4) Set a good example. If you have passengers, show them what it means to be an attentive driver. If you are a passenger, speak up if the driver of the car is not paying as much attention as they should be.

A distracted driver will not see lane changes, sudden braking or upcoming exits in time. When a semi-truck is involved, it's a nightmare scenario. Truckers and other drivers just have to put the phone down and not look at it until parked off of the road. That text or email can wait; your life and those of others depend on you being 100 percent focused on driving.

Attorney Randolph Rice can be contacted at 410-288-2900 with legal questions.

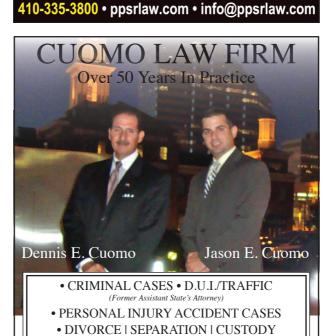
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NPVCA Meeting

The North Point Village Civic Association will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m. at the Southeast Regional Recreation Center, 4021 North Point Blvd. in Dundalk. Please note the change of location.

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UTO TALK Presented by Russell Stickel Owner/Manager

A constant velocity (CV) axle has two "CV joints" (an inner and an outer), which allow the axle to transfer the engine's power to the drive wheels at a constant speed while accommodating for the different travel. Packed in grease and covered with rubber boots, CV joints don't require any maintenance, but they should be regularly inspected for leaks and cracks. Deteriorating boots can begin to leak grease, which will splatter on the inside of the wheel and on the suspension. This cannot be seen from the outside of the vehicle and must be viewed from underneath. Replacing a boot immediately after a leak is found costs far less than what it would cost to replace a CV joint.

How do you catch a leak in your boot if you don't want to get down on the cold ground and look for yourself? Bring your car in for regularly scheduled maintenance right away. Our experienced technicians are ASE certified and we'll provide the preventive care that can save you the time, money, and headache of having to replace your CV joint. If you have questions or would like to make an appointment, please call our office.

Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5. We fix check engine lights! HINT: The outer CV joint almost always fails before the inside one does because it does more work than the inner joint.

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BCGS Meeting

On Sunday, March 26, the Baltimore County Genealogical Society, 8601 Harford Road in Parkville, Room 308, will host guest speaker Mary Mannix with her presentation, "Researching Western Maryland Families." It will discuss family research from Carroll County to the end of the state and south to Montgomery County, including an overview of the resources, institutions and things to keep in mind when doing research. For more information about this speaker or upcoming programs visit www.baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/ program-of-speakers or call 410-665-8769.

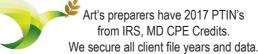
Free Narcan Training

The Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services will provide free training to use Narcan to prevent an opioid overdose death. The session will teach participants to recognize, respond to and prevent an opioid overdose. Participants receive a completion certificate and a kit containing naloxone. Sessions will be held from 6 - 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, at Hiss United Methodist Church, 8700 Harford Road in Parkville; and Wednesday, June 7, at the Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center, 323 Sollers Point Road in Dundalk. Registration required via www.baltimorecountymd.gov/odresponse or 410-887-3828.

Boating Safety Course

The Rosedale American Legion Post 180, 1331 Seling Ave., is offering a Boating Safety Course through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Dates are April 18, 25 and 27 from 6 - 9 p.m. Call 410-866-9656 or 410-935-0857 for complete details.

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Baltimore Humane Society is in dire need of foster families. If you or anyone you know is interested in doing so, please contact Wendy at goldband@bmorehumane.org or visit our website at www.bmorehumane.org and click on "Foster A Pet!"

Baltimore Humane Society's PETS OF THE WEEK



ve meet. I'm a social guy who loves to run and go for long walks. My previous owner was teaching me commands like sit, stay and come. I like tennis balls and stuffed animals to play with, or sometimes I just enjoy chilling out with you and watching a movie. I may try to hug you with my big paws or give you kisses if you let me In my previous home I was around older kids. How abou giving this big ball of love a home?

CHICO



Hey there...Tiger here! I am a big handsome guy looking for my forever home. I can be a little shy at first, but once! get to know you I'm tove bug. I will rub against your legs to get you attention. I enjoy chin rubs and will roll over for more attention. It's really cute. But I also have



1601 Nicodemus Road, Reist

BdRRC Meeting

Join the Bird River Restoration Campaign for its spring watershed community meeting on Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m. at the Gunpowder VFW, 6309 Ebenezer Road in Middle River to discuss efforts to address dredging, development and harmful bacteria in our waters. Tom Zolper of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will speak to high levels of bacteria in the Bird River. The Gunpowder Riverkeeper will provide information on the recent fish kill. And Joe Davis with BCPS will relate the environmental programming available for students in schools. For details, contact Janet Terry at 410-335-8915 or janet@restorebirdriver.org.

Quit Smoking Program

The Essex Library, 1110 Eastern Blvd., is hosting a free "Up in Smoke" quit smoking program, starting on Tuesday, April 4, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. The program will run on Tuesday evenings through May 9. Free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges will be part of the many options for people who want to quit smoking. To sign up, call Greta Brand at 410-399-2001.

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. Volunteers are needed at our local distribution site in Dundalk. In sharing a smile along with a little of your time you will make a lasting difference in the life of a homebound senior. To get started please call Volunteer Services at 443-573-0925 or email us at volunteer@mowcm.org.

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Body man must be able to turn the hours and keep quality first! Quality collision repair a must! I-car, ASE, or any collision training a plus. Must have in-shop experience.

Please email Carol@cliffshitech.com or fax resume to: 410-391-3018

Legislative update from Senator Jennings

- By Senator J.B. Jennings (R-7) -

Paid Sick Leave

The Senate passed its version of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act on Thursday by a 29-18 vote, despite what I and others did to stop it. The bill, which states that businesses with at least 15 employees are required to provide five days of paid sick leave per year, will impede job growth in the State and stop businesses from creating additional jobs. There are approximately 20,000 small businesses in the State with at least 15 employees; we cannot expect them to continue to have a positive influence on the economy while simultaneously demanding that they meet unrealistic and expensive demands.

Transportation Scoring Bill

This bill, also known by opponents as "the road kill bill," would require the State to rank highway and transit plans in order of need and importance before deciding which project to fund. This legislation favors big transit rail projects over road projects, and urban area needs over rural and suburban transportation ones. It has jeopardized funding for almost all of Maryland's major transportation projects, and will force the State to cancel nearly \$1 billion in planned road projects. It was vetoed by the Governor; the veto was subsequently overridden by the General Assembly.

Veterans Service Dogs (SB 441)

I'm a proud co-sponsor of this bill, which establishes the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program. The purpose of the program is to pair physically and mentally wounded Veterans with service or support dogs, who provide assistance, companionship and help in adjusting to life after war. These dogs have been trained to be familiar with and sensitive to all symptoms and behaviors of PTSD. To be eligible for this program, Veterans must be Maryland residents, must have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and been honorably discharged.

Less Testing, More Earning Act (SB452)

I have co-sponsored this legislation, which would limit schools from spending more than 2 percent of classroom time on testing mandated by federal, state and local entities. The bill also repeals the requirement for statewide social studies assessments in middle and high school (the high school assessment is known as the Government HSA). Instead, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, each local board of education would be required to develop a locally designed and implemented performance-based social studies assessment. Each local board of education must also establish a District Committee on Assessments to monitor and evaluate the county's assessment program.

Paid sick leave strains small business

- By Delegate Eric Bromwell (D-8) -

Legislation to require businesses with more than 15 employees to provide paid sick leave was recently approved by the House of Delegates. I voted against that bill last year, and again voted no in 2017.

There is no way around it - paid sick leave hurts small business. Small business has always been the engine of job creation. The ADP National Employment Report shows that in 2015, small business created almost double the new jobs compared with large business. Small business, defined as those with under 50 employees, created 75,000 jobs to the 34,000 jobs created by big business. We cannot expect small business to keep producing new jobs at the current rate if government keeps burdening it with requirements like paid sick leave.

It can neither be denied, nor glossed

over, that passage of the paid sick leave bill will have a significant impact on small business. Based on U.S. Census data, the Department of Labor Statistics estimates that approximately 1.9 million employees work for Maryland employers with 15 or more employees. Approximately 20,000 businesses have at least 15 employees and would be required to provide paid sick leave. Fewer than 20 percent of businesses in the state have 15 or more employees, however, these businesses employ 86 percent of the workers.

Having grown-up in a small business that would have been negatively impacted by this bill, I have to use my knowledge and my experiences to make a decision. While my parents would have loved to provide this benefit to their employees, they simply could not afford it. There are many business owners in Maryland who share that opinion.

Metzgar introduces bill to tweak tax credit

- By Delegate Ric Metzgar (R-6) -

Delegate Metzgar has introduced House Bill 643 to the Legislative House Ways and Means Committee. The Bill is to amend the verbiage of House Bill 898, which passed unanimously in both houses and was signed into law May 10 last year. The new bill alters the definition of "eligible individual" by requiring that an elderly individual must live in the same county, rather than the same dwelling, for at least

the preceding 40 years to be eligible for a specified statewide optional property tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after June 30. Delegate Metzgar says "this Bill brings clarity to the language and will be more beneficial to our constituents. Further, I am pleased to say the Bill comes with great support from both the House and Senate.



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Klemkowski, Henry W.



On March 6, Henry W. Klemkowski beloved husband of Regina J. Klemkowski (nee Drost) devoted father of Donna LaVerghetta and her husband Joseph, Ronald J. Klemkowski and the

late Henry W. Klemkowski, Jr.; loving grandfather of Michele Dolan, Mark LaVerghetta and Mary Beth McGowan and loving great-grandfather of eight.

Services provided by the family owned Ruck Towson Funeral Home. Inurnment at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Loyola Blakefield.

Parks, Mary C.

On March 19, Mary "Boots" Carolyn Parks, beloved wife of the late Charles Parks and former wife of the late Charles Jones; devoted mother of Charles "Larry" Jones, Dennis W. Jones and his wife Stefanie; loving grandmother of Patrick, Lauren, Eric and Brittany; survived by nine great-grandchildren; loving sister of the late Frank Hoyt, Joe Hoyt, Charlie Hoyt, Lawrence Hoyt, Billie Hoyt, "Dot" Zeller, Millie Klaus, and Josephine Hoyt. Also survived by several nieces and nephews, along with other loving relatives and friends. Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex.

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Delcher, Joan

On March 18, Mary Joan Delcher (nee Wooldridge) passed away. She was the beloved wife of the late William J. Rostek, Sr. and Howard Delcher; devoted mother of William J. Rostek, Jr. and his wife Marsha, Stephen J. Rostek and his wife JoAnn, Julie Carter and her husband Gary, Susan Hill, Rita Kirchner and her husband Bruce, Joanie McPherson and her husband Thomas, and David A. Rostek and his wife Anita; loving grandmother of 14 grandchildren and four greatgrandchildren; dear sister of Helen Maravich and her husband Ted, Martha Mathis and her husband Tom, Julia Wooldridge, and the late Ward Wooldridge, Jr.; cherished sister-in-law of Donna Wooldridge.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Donations may be made in Joan's name to the American Cancer Society.

Reinisch, Gail D.

On March 18, Gail D. "Honey" Reinisch (nee Larkins), beloved wife of the late Edward L. Reinisch; devoted mother of Kimberly A. Reinisch and Patricia A. Brune; dear sister of Bee Fullagar, Jackie Stillerman, Butch Larkins, Fran Dunham and Judy Talley; loving grandmother of Joseph Hall and Michael Brune; aunt of Stacey, Tammy, Parris, Melaine, Hope, Jackie and the late Pam and Jerry. Funeral services are private.



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Teddy looks back at the movies of 1987

- By Teddy Durgin -

When you think of 1980s movies, most people generally go to the height of the John Hughes era from 1984 - 1986. Or they point to the biggest of the blockbuster years in 1981, which had "Raiders of the Lost Ark," or 1982, which had "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial." But don't sleep on 1987! It may not have had a great John Hughes flick or a Steven Spielberg blockbuster (he directed "Empire of the Sun" that year). But it has some of the truly seminal films of that decade.

I can't believe each of these films below is celebrating its 30th anniversary year. Let's start with my 10 Favorite Movies of 1987 (in alphabetical order):

1) "Fatal Attraction" - In its time, this film was held up as a cautionary tale of "This is what could happen if you cheat on your wife!" I always thought the lesson to be learned from it was "This is what could happen if you cheat on your wife... with Glenn Close!"

2) "Lethal Weapon" - One of my favorite Christmas flicks. Nothing says the holidays like a coked-up hooker doing a header from a 40th-floor balcony.

3) "The Living Daylights" - This is how old I am. I totally STILL think of Timothy Dalton as the "new James Bond!"

4) "No Way Out" - You can have your "Last Emperor." If I'd been a film critic back in '87, this would have been my pick for the year's best movie! As tense a thriller as I've ever seen.

5) "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" - Del: "Why are you holding my hand?" Neal: "Where's your other hand?" Del: "Between two pillows." Neal: "THOSE AREN'T PILLOWS!" Classic.

6) "Predator" - The single greatest moment in the history of cinema may be Arnold Schwarzenegger and Carl Weathers clasping hands. Yup. It's all been downhill since...

7) "Robocop" - Most flicks in this genre have one great death scene. "Robocop" has at least a half-dozen!

8) "Stakeout" - One of the best plots for a cop flick ever. Two detectives go on a boring stakeout of a woman's house,



waiting for her former boyfriend (a recently escaped felon) to show up. One of them falls in love with the woman.

9) "The Untouchables" - "You wanna get Capone? Here's how you do it. He pulls a knife, you pull a gun. He puts one of yours in the hospital, you put one of his in the morgue. THAT is the Chicago way!"

10) "Wall Street" - Gordon Gekko for President! Now THAT is a guy who could... oops.

Ten Others:

"Eddie Murphy Raw" - Considering some of the jokes Eddie told back then, how did he ever get liberal Hollywood's forgiveness?!

"Dirty Dancing" - For me, this film was "Red Dawn 2," and this is a shared fantasy dream of Jed (Patrick Swayze) and Toni (Jennifer Grey) before each of them die at the hands of those invading Commies. WOLVERINES!!!

"The Lost Boys" - Now, that saxophone player on the pier... he REALLY believes!

"Hellraiser" - Pinhead is only in this first film for five or six minutes. But Doug Bradley absolutely... er... nails that character!

"Jaws IV: The Revenge" - Years later, Michael Caine was asked about this film and I've always loved his response: "I have never seen it. But, by all accounts, it's terrible. However, I have seen the house that it's built, and it is terrific!"

"The Running Man" - Richard Dawson: the only man who ever showed up Schwarzenegger. When Arnie is about to be dispatched into the titular survival game, he looks up at Dawson's evil TV game-show host, Killian, and says "I'll be back!" To which Killian replies, "Only in re-runs."

"The Secret of My Success" - One of the few quintessential '80s movies that I completely hate! I hate the collective hair products wasted on the actors in this film. I hate the fact that Michael J. Fox plays a guy named "Brantley." I hate the fact that it's only a year removed from "Ferris Bueller" and they re-used Yello's "Oh Yeah." Ugh! I hate it!

"Spaceballs" - May the Schwarz be with you!

"Superman IV: The Quest for Peace" - It sometimes kills me that Christopher Reeve, Margot Kidder and Gene Hackman only got a handful of films to appear as Superman, Lois Lane and Lex Luthor, respectively, and one of them was this cheap-o misfire.

"Three Men and a Baby" - The year's top-grossing film. And it was directed by Mr. Spock!

The Rest: "Beverly Hills Cop II," "Broadcast News," "Cry Freedom," "Full Metal Jacket," "Good Morning Vietnam," "The Last Emperor," "Moonstruck," "Raising Arizona," "Throw Momma From the Train" and "The Witches of Eastwick."

Fleet Foxes announce new album

- By Patrick Taylor -

After a six year hiatus, the Fleet Foxes are back. The Seattle folk rockers announced that *Crack-Up*, the follow up to the group's monumental sophomore album *Helplessness Blues*, will be released on June 16.

The group released the tracklist and a single, "Third of May/Odaigahara," along with the announcement of the album. And for those who have been jonesing for more soaring melodies and expertly-crafted folk, this track will certainly suck you in.

The first four minutes of the song (which runs close to nine minutes total) features beautiful imagery and singer Robin Pecknold's usual introspection. The melodies soar as drums pound, reminiscent of Simon & Garfunkel's "America." It also features a

fairly prominent bassline, which is unusual for the group.

While most of the song deals with relationships within the band and dealing with the success they have cultivated, there's enough open-endedness to not get the listener bogged down. "Aren't we made to be crowded together, like leaves," Pecknold sings, musing about the nature of friendship.

The final four minutes get a bit abstract, but the track retains its beauty. First-time listeners may want to opt for the radio version, which cuts the track in half

For folk lovers, this is as good as it gets. The group has yet to take a misstep over the course of their existence, and judging from "Third of May," it looks like they hit another home run.

East County TIMES

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'Beauty and the Beast' stretches out the tale as old as time

- By Teddy Durgin -

Have you ever heard the expression "less is more," but couldn't quite explain

what it meant? Here's what you do. Go and watch the 1991 animated version of "Beauty and the Beast." It's a classic, and

it's only 84 minutes long. Then go watch the 2017 live-action version. Budget some time. It's 129 minutes long! And, while I'm not going to lie and say it's about 45 minutes too long, it feels at least 15 - 20 minutes too long.

Mostly, it feels bloated. Whereas the cartoon Belle once lived in a small village filled with a few dozen simple-minded townsfolk, she now lives in a hamlet teeming with seemingly hundreds of just terrible people... most of them tenors and falsettos. She and the local populace often punctuate their songs by sprinting to the enormous, digitally enhanced "Sound of Music" hills that roll on seemingly forever outside the town. Doors are two stories tall if they're a foot, staircases twist and wind upwards to the point where you hope all concerned have done some serious cardio cross-training. It's all so much. Too much really.

Man, I wanted to love this flick! And I just didn't, dear readers. I freely acknowledge that if you pay \$8, \$10 or \$12 for a ticket for this thing, you'll make your money back in eye-popping costumes, set design, special effects and overall spectacle. But this film feels more like a product than a movie.

My basic criticism? It's just really not a story that needs to take two hours and nine minutes to tell. It's a tale as old as time. But that time doesn't have to be glacial. The '91 classic was the first animated film ever to be nominated for Best Picture. It was THAT good! At under an hour and a half, there was not a single second of wasted screen time. It was a graceful film that cast a complete spell in the cinemas that November, through the holidays and on into awards season. I was a senior in college. I didn't think an animated film about a forgiving, angel-voiced beauty falling for a hairy, introverted man-child would appeal to me on any level. Who

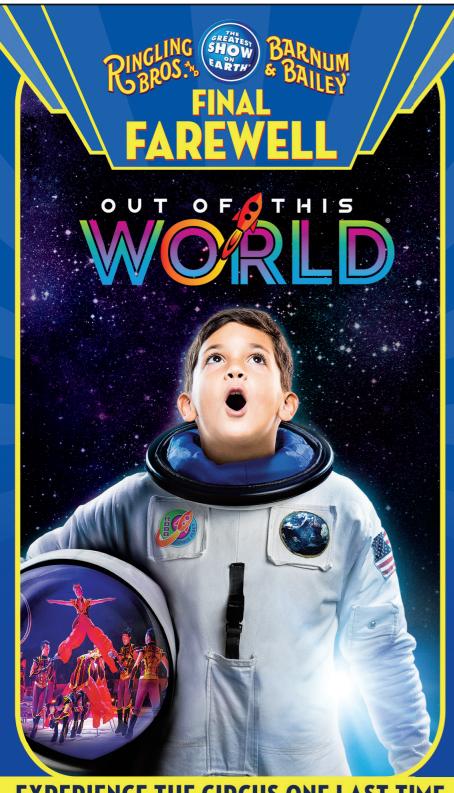
knew back then it would basically be a blueprint for how I'd take a wife one day. Nevertheless, I was completely taken with the film.

The new "Beauty and the Beast" is more bombastic. It believes that improving on the great classic sequences entails setting them on even grander sets with louder acoustics and swooping the camera from angles previously only possible with animation. It's a fireworks show, to be sure, and you will be dazzled. But you won't get the feels.

Emma Watson stars as Belle, and she's fine in the role. It often looks like it takes considerable effort for her to smile. But she is required to act completely on her own opposite computer-animated creations throughout much of the film, and her years filming the "Harry Potter" flicks have served her well in this regard. In her capable hands, you always believe what you're seeing when she is acting opposite the old clock Cogsworth (voice of Ian McKellan) or the beguiling teapot Mrs. Potts (voice of Emma Thompson).

The Beast, meanwhile, is played by Dan Stevens as a mostly digital concoction. Honestly, I wish there was more of him in the flick. Director Bill Condon clearly sees this more as Beauty's story than the Beast's. But I liked the way Stevens played him, sort of like a storybook version of the gruff, grumpy Mr. Worf from "Star Trek: The Next Generation." As a human, Stevens has the look of a long-haired fugitive from Extreme's "More Than Words" music video from the early '90s. But his Beast is well-rendered and sized perfectly for scenes both big and small.

Final Take? This latest version of "Beauty and the Beast" is like the villain Gaston (Luke Evans, giving the film's best performance) - beautiful to look at, charming and very entertaining at times, but shallow at its core.



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Five indicted for armed robbery of gun shop

Federal officials announced the indictment of five men for the armed robbery of Blue Fins Bait, Tackle and Guns in Dundalk last August.

District Court papers show that David Wise, age 22; Raymond McCullough, age 33; Reginald Smith, age 24; Tavon Hawkins, age 34; and Lerron Sheppard, aka D-Loc, age 23, all conspired to steal and later sell an array of guns from the shop. All five men are Baltimore residents.

On Aug. 5, the five men stole a vehicle and raided the shop later that night. They took cash, a cell phone, computer, credit cards, 36 firearms - including three assault rifles - and silencers. After the robbery, the five men returned to a Baltimore apartment where they split the money and guns.

Among the firearms taken were Charter Arms, Taurus, Ruger and S&W revolvers; Beretta, Colt, Glock, Sig, Grand Power and Accutek pistols; and rifles and rifle receivers made by Sig, Anderson, Spikes Tactical and Remington. After the robbery, the group moved to barter and sell the firearms and it is not known how many, if any, were recovered by investigators.

The indictment was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein; Special Agent in Charge Daniel L. Board Jr. of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives - Baltimore Field Division; and Chief Terrence B. Sheridan of the Baltimore County Police Depart-

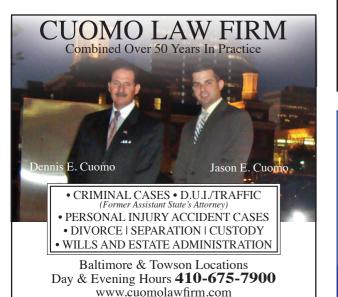
"Keeping illegal firearms from hitting the streets of Baltimore is ATF's number one priority," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Daniel L. Board. "The men and women of the ATF Baltimore Field Division will relentlessly pursue any criminals who attempt to acquire or distribute stolen weapons and we will utilize all of our resources to ensure that they are held accountable for their violent and dangerous actions."

Each of the defendants faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison for the firearms conspiracy; 20 years in prison for the commercial robbery conspiracy; 20 years in prison for the commercial robbery; and a mandatory minimum of seven years and a maximum of life in prison for using and brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence. Wise, Mc-Cullough and Smith also face 10 years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Police seek help locating Dundalk shooting suspect

Police are investigating after a man was shot in the head and the thumb outside of the Airport Bar and Grill in Dundalk on Sunday night.

Officers were called to Riverview Avenue shortly before 10 p.m. When they arrived, they found that the victim had driven away after being shot, only to crash his car on Broening Highway. Anyone with information is asked to call 410-396-2221.



Middle River woman charged with child abuse

The Middle River mother shown abusing her children in a viral video that surfaced on social media last week has been charged with second degree child abuse and second degree assault.

Rachel Marie Pietro, 26, of the unit block of Cool Breeze Drive, was arrested on March 21 by Warrant Task Force officers at a location in Essex. She is held without bail at the Baltimore County Detention Center. She faces two counts of each charge.

Patrol officers from the Essex precinct visited the Cool Breeze Drive home at 1:26 a.m. on March 16, after many concerned citizens forwarded to police a video showing a women repeatedly striking two young children, a boy and a girl. Officers spoke with Pietro and her husband and referred the case to the Crimes Against Children Unit.

Detectives from the Crimes Against Children Unit visited the home the next day and began an investigation. The two children in the video, a 5-year-old boy and 6-year-old girl, as well as a 2-year-old boy who does not appear in the video - were placed in the care of the county Department of Social Services and subsequently transferred to the care of family members.

The investigation shows that Pietro - who initially told police the video was two years old - recorded the video at the home on Cool Breeze Drive some time in the past two months. She said she recorded the video because she hoped it would encourage her husband to come home and take care of her. She also said she was angry with the children.

Minor injuries were documented on one of the children.

Current crime trends

- * Since March 2, there have been two auto thefts and one attempt in the Commons at White Marsh apartment complex in the Essex Precinct. Vehicles were left running and keys were used in all cases. There has been no new activity since March 6.
- Since Feb. 16, there have been four commercial robberies within the Essex Precinct with similar suspect description. The suspect displayed a weapon and took money and cigarettes. In one case, the suspect took the victim's personal property.
- * Since Feb. 2, there have been seven commercial burglaries in the Wilkens, Woodlawn, Pikesville and White Marsh precincts that appear to be related.
- Since Feb. 28, there have been two robberies of the same convenience store with similar suspect description in the North Point Precinct.

Attorney, G. Randolph Rice, Jr.

(Former Assistant State's Attorney)

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Robbery: Baltimore County police responded to a call at the intersection of Riverside Road and Townsend Road in Essex on March 17 shortly before 9 p.m. Three suspects in a vehicle approached the victim. Two passengers exited the vehicle and, at knifepoint, demanded his property. The suspects took his cell phone and wallet and then fled in the vehicle. Anyone with information is urged to contact Baltimore County police.

Robbery: On March 16, officers from the Essex precinct responded to a robbery call in the 100 block of South Marlyn Avenue in Essex. At 12:30 p.m., a juvenile victim was robbed of a shoe, a belt and a cell phone while at school. The juvenile suspect was apprehended and charged.

Robbery: Baltimore County police were called to the 1900 block of Eastern Boulevard on March 14 just before 5 a.m. At 4:49 a.m., an unknown suspect, who was carrying a handgun, entered the 7-Eleven, then took money from the clerk and the cash register. The suspect also stole cigarettes before leaving. Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact Baltimore County police.

Second Degree Burglary: Officers from the Essex precinct responded to a call in the 500 block of Middle River Road in Middle River on March 15. Sometime between 2 p.m. on March 13 and 4 p.m. on March 15, a suspects entered the victim's fenced in backyard, broke into the shed and stole various items from the shed.

First Degree Burglary: On March 13, Baltimore County police officers were called to the 1500 block of Dornton Avenue in Middle River. At 12:30 p.m., the known suspect entered the victim's home and stole the victim's money. The suspect was arrested.

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SPORTS

Para swimmer Long makes pool history again

- By Marge Neal -

Paralympic swimmer Jessica Long, who grew up in Middle River, recently snagged another piece of disabled swimming history.

The highly decorated athlete with 23 Paralympic medals - including 13 golds - to her name, won the first event held at the newly created Para Swimming World Series, a circuit of swim meets that will culminate in the naming of series winners based upon points accrued at all of the meets.

The first meet was held March 11-12 in Copenhagen. When the dust settled, Long was ranked first in the S8 (disability classification) 100-meter freestyle (one minute, 8.36 seconds); 400-m S8 freestyle (4:58.27); and 200-m SM8 individual medley (2:49.33).



Jessica Long training at the Loyola University swimming pool in Baltimore. Photo courtesy of Jessica Long.

The three races were the only ones in which Long competed.

Long is excited about the series format and the competition it provides for world class disabled swimmers, according to a statement from World Para Swimming.

"I think it (the World Series) is fantastic," she said in the statement. "It is exactly what Paralympians need. It is really going to grow the movement and I am thrilled to be part of it."

Long burst upon the international para swimming world when she was named to the Paralympic swim team that would represent the U.S. in Athens in 2004. The then-unknown 12-year-old, the youngest member of the team, took the competition by storm and returned home with three gold medals.

She has since competed at the Paralympic games in Beijing (2008), London (2012) and Rio de Janeiro (2016), collecting 23 total medals while becoming the country's second-most decorated Paralympian, according to United States Olympic Committee records.

Long, who was born in Russia on Leap Day in 1992, was adopted from a Russian orphanage by Steve and Beth Long of Middle River. The future champion swimmer was born with deformed lower legs and, once in this country, it was decided that amputating her lower legs so she could be fitted with prosthetic legs would give her the best chance at a productive life.

She started her competitive swim career at the now-defunct Dundalk-Eastfield Swim Club, where she swam against able-bodied swimmers. Her dedication to training, her love of the sport and her continued progress in lowering her race times soon caught the attention of disabled swimming officials and she was invited to participate in para swimming events.

Since beginning her para swim career, Long has col-

lected more medals and accolades than she can count. In addition to medaling at national and international meets, she was the winner of the 77th AAU James E. Sullivan Award, given to the nation's best amateur athlete; is a three-time recipient of the Best Female Athlete with a Disability ESPY award, presented annually by the ESPN cable sports network; was twice named the Disabled Swimmer of the Year by Swimming World magazine; and in 2008 received the Juan Antonio Samarach IOC President's Disabled Athlete Award.

Long will take her number-one rankings to the next meet in the World Series event, set for April 21-23 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Future series meets will be held in Sheffield, England (April 27-30), Indianapolis (June 9-11) and Berlin, Germany (July 6-9).

The inaugural meet in Copenhagen attracted 122 swimmers from 17 countries, according to online records.

Football registration

Watersedge Hammerheads Football is currently holding registration for U-6 to U-14 every Friday at the Watersedge Community Center, located at 7894 Dundalk Avenue, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$125 per child (\$50 deposit to hold spot) and \$100 for returning players (\$50 deposit to hold spot). Ask about our sibling and refer-a-friend discounts. Registration includes: Home and Away Jersey's, integrated pants, socks, swagwear t-shirt. Do not hesitate to ask about payment options. Flag football for children ages 3 and 4 is also ongoing, and costs \$40 per child. All registration fees must be paid in full by the by Aug. 1. For more info, call Scott at 410-818-0435.

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History Lesson



Essex Elementary School fourth-graders and principal Amy Grabner visited the Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River on March 3. "The fourthgraders were so polite, pleasant and so engaged with the tour while learning about their community," Heritage Society President Terri Knachel said in a statement. She also thanked Baltimore County police Officer Chris Mast for providing a safety escort for the children who walked from the school to the museum. Photo by Ken Coldwell Jr.

New York Bus Trip

A bus trip to New York City will be held Saturday, April 22, from 6 a.m. to midnight. Call Anthony, 443-801-5678, for more information.





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Tribute to the Stars

Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Company will present Premier's Tribute to the Stars from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at Light House Gardens, 900 Bowleys Quarters Road in Middle River. Musicians will pay tribute to Neil Diamond, Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline and Tom Jones. Tickets cost \$25, which include the show, dinner, beer and set-ups. Dinner is from 6 to 7 and the show from 7 to 9. Info: 410-335-4136.

Stemmers Run PTSA Paint Night

Stemmers Run Middle School, 201 Stemmers Run Road in Essex, will hold a family paint night from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6, in the school's cafeteria. The event is sponsored by the PTSA. Tickets cost \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and \$10 for children up to age 10. Food, snacks and drinks will be sold.

Ravens Roost Quarter Auction

Ravens Roost 71 will hold a quarter auction on Friday, April 7, at Chug-A-Mug's banquet hall, 121 Earls Road in Middle River. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the auction will begin at 7. Tickets, which include two paddles, cost \$5. Proceeds will benefit the Roost's charity fund. Food will be sold. For more information, call Debbie, 410-679-6130.

Hawks Spring Fest

Hawks Pleasure Club, 430 Riverside Drive in Essex, will host Spring Fest by the Water from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8 (setup time is 7 a.m.). Vendors and crafter spots are \$20 each. To reserve space, call Ken, 443-226-3058. A community yard sale will be held at the same time, running along Riverside Drive from Eastern Boulevard to Cox's Point Park.

GREEK WEEK!

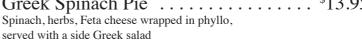
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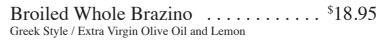
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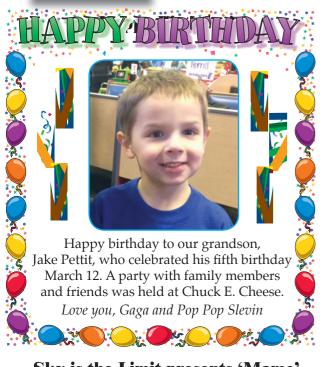
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SPOTLIGHT



Sky is the Limit presents 'Mame'

The Sky is the Limit Community Theatre, in residence at the North Point Government Center, 7701 Wise Ave. in Dundalk, will present "Mame" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 30. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for senior citizens and children 12 and younger. Tickets will be available at the door. For information, call 410-887-5370.



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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

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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

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

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Orems UMC Thrift Shop

Orems United Methodist Church, 1020 Orems Road in Middle River, will hold its Hall Closet Thrift Shop from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 1. Collectibles, adult and children's clothing, toys, books, jewelry, housewares and bedding items are available at reasonable prices. Pit beef sandwiches will be sold. For more information, call 410-687-9483.

SHM Stations of the Cross

Sacred Heart of Mary Church, 6736 Youngstown Ave. in Dundalk, will offer Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. each Friday during the Lenten season. All are welcome to attend. For more info., call 410-633-2828.

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.

K of C Fish Fry

Dundalk Knights of Columbus Council 2942, 2111 Eilers Ave. in Dundalk, will hold its 12th annual World Famous Fish Fry each Friday through Good Friday, April 14. Meals will be served from noon to 6 p.m. The menu will include Alaskan pollock, French fries, cole slaw, rolls, dessert and beverage. Beer and wine will be sold at an additional cost. Tickets cost \$12 for eat-in and \$13 for carry-out. A portion of the proceeds will go to local community and religious charities. Info: 410-409-8173 or 410-285-6660.



SHM Lenten Mass

Sacred Heart of Mary Church, 6736 Youngstown Ave. in Dundalk, will hold Mass at 7 p.m. each Wednesday during the Lenten season for all those who work or are otherwise unable to attend the morning Mass. All are welcome. For more information, call 410-633-2828.

Breakfast with the Bunny

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, 730 Wampler Road in Middle River, will hold its fourth annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 1, with seatings at 9 and 11 a.m. Tickets cost \$8 for ages 3 and older (children 2 and younger eat for free). Tickets are available online at www.4fopevents.com or in person at the lodge from 6 to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Sacred Heart Bingo

Sacred Heart of Mary Church, 6736 Youngstown Ave. in Dundalk, will host a cash prize bingo luncheon Sunday, April 9. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m. and bingo games begin at 1:30 p.m. Each \$25 ticket includes a meal, 20 regular games, early bird game, two quickie games, three specials and a \$100-prize big game. Tickets are limited and must be purchased by March 26. The event is sponsored by the church's Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality and all proceeds benefit the church. For information, call 410-633-2828, or email Stephanie Sparzak, ssparzak@rcmd.com, or Donna Rosenthal, drosent2@jhmi.

Middle River Baseball, Softball

The Middle River Recreation Council will hold registration for spring baseball and softball at the Victory Villa Community Center, 404 Compass Road in Middle River from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 25. Find more program info. at www.mrg.softball.com and www.middleriverbaseball.org, or register online anytime at www.middleriverrec.com.





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BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

An application has been made for a minor alteration to 1700 Bowleys Quarters Road. Work includes demolition of existing fixed piers/ fingers and replacement with four fixed piers, new floating docks. and wave attenuation structures on Galloway Creek. The overall number of slips is decreasing from 506 to 495. Public Comments may be sent to the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection & Sustainability. Environmental Review Section, 111 W. Chesapeake Ave, Room 319, Towson, MD 21204.

CRAFTY WORD SEARCH

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



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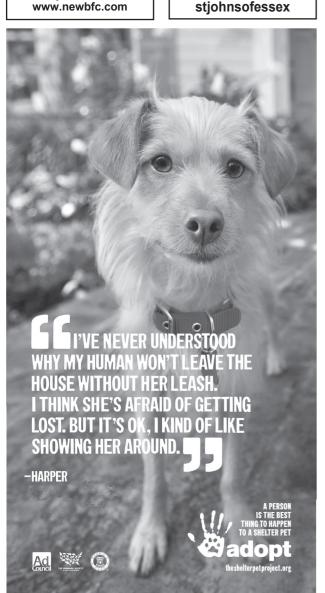
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Company will provide training.

Interested candidates should call for an interview at 443-696-3016 and ask for Debbie or Steve.

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

e.o.e.

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DUNDALK ROOMMATE WANTED - To share 2BR in a smoke-free environment. Call 443-503-6881

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MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE seeking to rent by 6/1/17. 2/3BR house in the Dundalk or Essex area. Both can pass background and credit check. Excellent Refs. Call 443-834-0860



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(BC9877238) Selling to settle

estate. Excellent opportunity for homeowner/investor 3BB HDWD FLRS, replacement dual glazed windows, updated ter-race kitchen w/farm sink leads to backvard & covered patio. 2nd unit from end, plenty of

on-street parking. ESSEX/LOU HAR TERRACE PRICE REDUCED!

(BC9864440) Excel-lent Opportunity to purchase an All Brick rancher w/LG Lot. 2 Fireplaces HDWD

firs 1st IVI, Front porch, LG rear covered stone patio. Multi-car off-street parking. Price reflects needed updates. Sold As-Is, Cash/Conventional. Seller will make NO repairs. Immediate Possession.

PARKVILLE

(BC9867351) Wellmaintained Brick 3BR, 1.5BA, hdwd

firs, din rm / liv rm w/lireplace, sunrm off kitchen. Huge fenced yard. 2nd fir sitting area w/pvt BR. Finished bsmt w/bar, pvt utility rm & BA. Tons of storage, Roof 2016, newer HVAC, windows, refrigerator, washer & dryer. A must see!

UPPERCO · RENTAL



544) Move right in 3BR, 2BA rancher. One leve living, private setting. Fully equipped eat-in gourmet kitchen, granite counter tops, SS appliances. Gleaming wood floors, fresh neutral paint, wood burning fireplace and in living room. Spacious master BR, double closets, attached master BA. No pets or smoking allowed.

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1BA detached home, one level living. LG Mstr BR, vaulted ceiling, Irg closet. Kitchen, NG range, Fridge, ceramic tile flr. Sep dining rm, natural gas heat, central air. Close

861131) Vouchers accepted / No Smoking / 2BR



w/det garage. Wood flrs, Liv Rm w/FP, sep Din Rm w/chair rail, gourmet KIT w/granite, glass tile backsplash, SS

rail, gourmet KIT w/granite, glass tile backsplash, SS appls included. U. - 3BRs w/full BA, LL - Fam Rm w/full BA, LL - Fam Rm w/full BA, LL - Sam Rm w/full BA, LL - Fam Rm w/full BA, **PENN NORTH**

voir Hill and many of the city's gems. Turnkey opportunity. Hurry this won't last!

DUNDALK/NORTH POINT VILLAGE

home! BA, stove, refrigerator, water heater, and roof, all updated. Some new paint, new

plush carpet in BRs, finished

(BA9872512) EOG TWHS



in the early stages of this area's revitalization. Grand 3BR townhome, with classic

layout, close to the Maryland

700 Druid Hill Park Reser-

BC9868939) Great starter

bsmt, new HDWD Floors in living

rm. Exterior includes brick patio



range & micro-wave. Roof & water heater 3 years. Heat pump 2 years. Kitchen & BA remodeled. Nice fenced yard w/shed. Floored

interior lighting

& doors. Newe

attic for storage. Don't miss this one! DUNDALK/DEL RAY PARK

vell-maintained Rancher in Gunpowder Estates. Nev

windows. New HVAC. New Water heater, Gleaming

hdwd floors thru out, Off-street parking, Recessed lights, Updated roof, HUGE screened-in patio, Fireplace with glass doors/Mantle, so much more!

ESSEX/MARLYN TERRACE

(BA9874296) Great oppor-BC9882066) Updated 4BR tunity to purchase a home



1.5BA home, spacious kitchen, dining & living space. MSTR BR has walk-in closet & provides ample space for California king bed. Skylight in BA. Updated heating, AC & sump pump, 3-year old roof. Sellers providing 1-year home warranty as a courtesy

IIDDLE RIVER/CARROLLWOOD MANOR (BC9878947) Updated, wel



naintained 3BR 2 5BA home PRICED TO SELL! Move-in ready, generous closets, eat-in kitchen, SS appliances, spacious deck. Finished LG BSM tons of storage. Great for entertaining. 1 year home warranty. Ideal location in a water oriented community.

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