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

Johnny Olszewski Jr. officially

kicks off county executive campaign

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VERSE OF THE WEEK -Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.





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WWW.JOHNOLSZEWSKI, IR COM

Approximately 100 people attended Johnny Olszewski Jr.'s campaign rally at the Battle Grove Democratic Club in Dundalk on Tuesday, June 27.

Article & photo by Patrick Taylor -Four years after losing the District Six State Senate race to Senator Johnny Ray Salling, former Delegate Johnny Olszewski Jr. is firing up another campaign, this time for county executive.

Seeking the Democratic nomination, Olszewski, 34, announced his candidacy at a campaign kick-off event in Woodlawn last Tuesday, June 27, before ending the day with a rally at the Battle Grove Democratic Club in Dundalk.

Olszewski is the first to officially announce his campaign for the Democratic nomination, and he wasted no time in laying out a progressive platform consisting of universal pre-kindergarten, expanding free breakfasts and lunches and making the Community College of Baltimore County tuition-free.

"There's no better investment in education, whether you're a Republican or Democrat. If making pre-k and college open and feeding our kids is progressive, I'm happy to have this race being decided on whether that's the right move," said Olszewski in an interview with the East County Times.

Olszewski, a former teacher at Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts, acknowledged that education is his highest priority. He highlighted the need to continue with the county's school construction plan but added that more needs to be done to ensure the county's children have the tools they need to grow. For Olszewski, that means prioritizing.

He noted that, should he be successful in his campaign, a comprehensive spending audit would be done to see where funds could be shifted. Olszewski pointed to the STAT program, which puts tablets in the hands of students, as something that could be done away with.

STAT], but for me, if it came down to - see OLSZEWSKI on page 5 -

McDonough compares campaign initiatives to former Governor Schaefer's



Del. Pat McDonough appeared at a legislative wrap-up event at Carson's Creekside restaurant in May. File photo.

- By Devin Crum -

Following his declaration as a candidate for Baltimore County Executive, State Delegate Pat McDonough embarked on a "listening and learning" tour of the county to find out what people think are the most important issues they face.

After speaking with community and business leaders all over the county, as well as four county government agencies, McDonough said at a campaign event on June 24, "people are in agreement from Catonsville to Dundalk" that the top issue is that the county is rapidly moving in the wrong direction.

He believes 2018 will be a "keystone" election because the county is "at a crossroads."

"If we make a mistake and elect the wrong person, we will go for another four years in the wrong direction and at that point in time the county will be lost," McDonough said.

He pointed to growing crime and poverty rates and escalating violence in schools as major problems in the county.

"We need a leader who is going to - see MCDONOUGH on page 6 -



"There's certainly some value [in

NEWS

Growth issues dominate County Charter review hearing

- By Virginia Terhune -

Checks on development and more transparency in government again surfaced as important issues for organized community groups at a recent hearing about proposed changes to the Baltimore County charter.

Several people spoke about the need for preserving the legal weight of the county master plan in land-use disputes and for maintaining the independence of the People's Counsel, who represents the public in such cases.

"Independence is crucial," said Elizabeth Wilmerding, a board member with the Valleys Planning Council, during a hearing on Wednesday, June 21, in Towson.

The hearing was hosted by the Charter Review Commission, which is nearing the end of its public discussion of proposed changes the County Council may approve for the election ballot in November 2018.

Recommendations are due to the Council in October, and Commission Chairman Ted Venetoulis has asked Council attorneys to draft language in time for the com-

mission's next meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 10 a.m. in Towson.

In addition to development issues, speakers advocated for more time for public comment on bills and last-minute amendments during the Council's current 40-day process of passing laws.

George Harman, a past president of the Reisterstown-Owings Mills-Glyndon Coordinating Council, suggested a tiered system that would allow a short turnaround time for emergency measures but 70 - 75 days for more complicated issues.

Harman and others also advocated for more conservative fiscal management by lowering the debt limit, which they said has risen steadily in recent years.

The County Code states that the county's general obligation indebtedness cannot exceed 10 percent of the assessed value of all real and personal property.

Master Plan

Speakers concerned about development and its potential effect on property values advocated for strengthening the county's master plan.



Back River Restoration Committee, Inc. Back River Restoration Committee, Inc. 730 Riverside Drive • Essex, MD 21221 443-414-4384

www.savebackriver.org

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If you are on the East County Times home delivery route and do not wish to receive the paper, please contact the office at 410-780-3303. The East County Times is printed on 40% recycled paper. Planning power is granted to counties by the state legislature, and in years past, legally binding zoning changes approved by the County Council would sometimes prevail in court over master plans, which are created with citizen input but considered only guides.

In 2009, however, the General Assembly passed the Smart and Sustainable Growth Act, which requires consistency between a master plan and local zoning ordinances.

The Baltimore County charter says the zoning maps should be "consistent" with the master plan, but the master plan is referred to as a "guide" and some believe it needs more enforcement capability.

Commission member John Gontrum, a land-use attorney, suggested including a reference to whatever is the state law in the section.

People's Counsel

Also raised as a subject for ongoing discussion by the commission is the role of the county's People's Council.

Currently part of the Department of Planning and staffed by two part-time attorneys, the office was created in 1974 to defend the county zoning maps approved by the County Council and also advocate for the public interest in zoning and development cases, including appeals to higher courts.

Unlike other county employees, the People's Counsel does not directly report to anyone, a status created intentionally to help insulate him or her from political pressure. The position is also not subject to reappointment every four years like some other higher-level county employees. However, the county executive, who initially appoints the People's Counsel, can remove him or her with confirmation by at least five of the seven Council members.

Access to Information

Speakers also said residents should have an easier time getting requested information from the county when researching issues that could affect their communities.

Speakers said responses to requests for information can be inconsistent and in some cases hostile, with citizens being shuffled between departments or being told they must file a Public Information Act request.

Specific information that is not exempt under the law can be requested by the public in writing, but speakers said the process can take time and money, with information coming back too late to participate in a legislative debate or land-use hearing.

Speakers said they can ask their council member for help, but results can vary depending on the council member's standing with the county administration, which can make the process political.

County Attorney Michael Field, who sits on the charter commission, said he spends about 20 percent of his time dealing with PIA issues. He also said he recently trained 200 county employees in how to respond to requests.





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NEWS

Dundalk Concerts in the Park series kicks off with No Drama

- By Marge Neal -There's a changing of the guard this year with Dundalk's Concerts in the Park series, but concert-goers will only notice the same great chance to hear some good, free music.

Angel Ball, who chaired the music series for the past several years, handed the organizational keys over to Joe Buccheri, a broadcaster and promoter well known in local entertainment circles.

"I am very excited about the Concerts in the Park this year," Ball wrote in a Facebook post advertising this year's lineup. "Joe Buccheri is the new chairman and I am his trusty sidekick."

The organizers, through a network of contacts, keep the concerts free to the public by asking bands to perform for free - no easy feat in this economy.

The program also receives financial

and in-kind support from the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation and Parks Council, American Media Entertainment, Dunmanway Apartments, Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society, Costas Inn, Chick-fil-A of Eastpoint and Kim's Dessert Island.

Buccheri, who has worked in radio broadcasting and music promotions for many years, praised the generosity of the local music community.

"These guys are so wonderful; it doesn't matter if it's a car show or a benefit concert, whenever I need music I call upon this group of gentlemen and they are always there for me," he said.

The Dundalk summer concerts have become mini-music festivals, with food vendors, photo props, spontaneous contests and other activities.

This year, an added element will be

a guest performer who will begin each concert with "God Bless America" as the colors are being presented, and then lead the crowd in The Pledge of Allegiance before introducing the main act, according to Buccheri.

The new concerts chairman, whose life was saved by an organ transplant 11 years ago, has embraced his new duty as a way to give back to a community he loves.

"Anything like this volunteer position that allows me to help others while doing something I love is a gift."

The Thursday night concerts kick off at 6:30 p.m. July 13 with a performance by No Drama, an acoustic classic rock band.

The band bills itself as a "four-piece acoustic-based amplified group with an electrified kick" that plays classic rock from the 60s, 70s and 80s, according to its listing on the Maryland Party website.

Established in 2014, No Drama boasts veteran musicians Michael McClaskey (guitar, keyboards, mandolin, harmonica and vocals), Mike Soukup (guitar and vocals), Greg George (bass, vocals and keyboards) and Jay Wise (percussion and vocals).

The band is well-known to eastern Baltimore County audiences, having played at restaurants, pubs and marinas in Essex, Middle River, Dundalk, Parkville and Perry Hall.

Concert organizers encourage attendees to bring the entire family, blankets or camp chairs and enjoy an evening of free, live music.

The next few concerts include the Russ Greene Blues Band on July 20; Chris Presley (Elvis Tribute) on July 27 and Point Boys (classic rock) on Aug. 3.



NEWS

OLSZEWSKI

- continued from page 1 investing in one versus the other, having taught in classrooms where kids haven't had a meal or they're trying to learn in sweltering heat, I know that there's no bigger priority than feeding our kids and making sure they're in a safe, comfortable learning environment," said Olszewski. "No curriculum or other program is going to be as useful if kids don't have foundational needs met."

Olszewski also noted that there were other ways to get funding, including through the federal government and through public/private partnerships with non-profits and businesses.

In Baltimore County, four schools already take part in a free meals program, while two take part in a free prekindergarten program.

"We'll go and we'll find partners, be it the federal government, or whoever, to help fund things like meals for kids," Olszewski said. The former delegate also noted that he still has strong relationships at the state level that could be useful in bringing more money into the county.

Olszewksi's relationships at the state level were on display at his campaign kick-off events, with Delegate Pat Young (D-44-B) and Senators Kathy Klausmeier (D-8) and Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (D-44) putting their support behind Olszewski.

"I want Johnny Olszewski Jr. to be the next county executive," said Klausmeier at the Battle Grove Democratic Club. "For the sake of Baltimore County, we need him in county government. We've had many conversations and I'm excited to support him."

"We're strong in the county... because we have advocates like Johnny Olszewski Jr.," said Young. "He invests in people, he invests in neighborhoods, he invests in people's ideas of what they want their community to be, and he helps them with that."

Pulling in early support from elected officials at the state level could prove to be a huge push for Olszewski. While Councilwoman Vicki Almond (D-2) and State Senator Jim Brochin (D-42) weigh the decision to run, Olszewski has gotten out ahead of the curve.

But the young Democrat, who is telling constituents to refer to him by the more folksy "Johnny O.," knows that he'll need his campaign to be more of a grassroots effort if he wants to come out on top, and that's exactly what he's working toward.

Over the last year, Olszewski has been working his way around the county with his group, Better Baltimore County, building relationships and partnerships. He's spent a lot of time building up support in the heavily Democratic Woodlawn area, which Young and Nathan-Pulliam represent.

Keeping in line with a grassroots movement mentality, Olszewski stressed that he would like to see campaigns in Baltimore County utilize public funding to keep special interests at bay. Similarly, Brochin has called for a ban on developer contributions to county candidates.

"What I like about a public finance system is it's the voters who fund your campaign and vote, so it's solely for them," said Olszewski. "There's no question about whether or not there was influence coming from somewhere else."

Olszewski highlighted Governor Larry Hogan as a successful example of a politician utilizing public funds. He also stressed that his position wasn't a shot at developers or business, but one that's focused on individual citizens.



"I'm not anti- or pro-development, I'm smart development," said Olszewski. "If a project makes sense, grows and strengthens our communities and we can pull it off financially, I'm all for it. I don't want to chase off anyone. But development needs to be citizen and community centered, and the best way to do that is recognize there are all kinds of special interests in the county."

Despite losing in his last race in 2014, Olszewski is hopeful for his chances this time around. While he only lost his race by 2.8 percentage points, former Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, now a Congressman, lost Baltimore County to Hogan by just over 20 points. Hogan remains highly popular in the county, and statewide he has an approval rating of 65 percent as of March.

"If you're investing in good schools and job creation, that's something that resonates across party lines," Olszewski stated.

While Olszewski hasn't officially filed his campaign, he still has plenty of time. When asked when Olszewski plans to file, Olszewski's campaign manager, Tucker Cavanaugh, responded, "Before Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018 at 9 p.m.," which is the deadline to file with the State Board of Elections.

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Yuengling Lager 24-12d	oz loose cans 16.99
Heavy Seas	7.00



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- NEWS

MCDONOUGH -

- continued from page 1 -

address these problems and try to find solutions to move this county in the right direction," he said.

McDonough has been labeled "the Donald Trump of Baltimore County" in the media and has since embraced the title. But his model and narrative for this campaign is not Donald Trump, it is Donald Schaefer, he said, referring to former Baltimore Mayor and Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer.

McDonough said Baltimore County today can be compared to Baltimore City circa 1971 - a lot of issues that need to be solved, but also a lot of unfulfilled potential.

The delegate noted that there has been a 35-percent increase in incidents involving weapons in Baltimore County Public Schools over the last two years for a total of 311 incidents. He said BCPS this coming year will surpass the number of such incidents in the city's schools.

For its part, BCPS has responded to the claim with their belief that much of what people are seeing is either old videos resurfacing on social media or things happening in areas outside the school board's jurisdiction.

However, the school system has admitted to seeing an increase in anonymous reporting of such incidents by students.

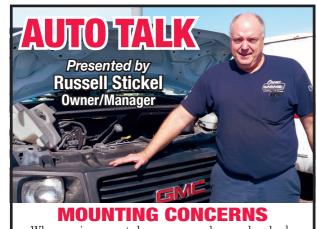
McDonough also said there has been a 38-percent increase in poverty in the county over the last eight years. "Which means we have more people on povertylevel status in the county than we've ever had," he said.

He said there is also a growing problem of vacant houses in the county.

McDonough also commented on the "enormous" drug problem in the county, particularly with heroin and other opiates, along with a growing crime rate, which he said is "mostly unreported."

Baltimore County officials have touted in recent years a decrease in overall crime and especially violent crime, seeing their lowest numbers since the 1970s. However, unreported crimes would not affect those numbers.

The second-biggest issue in the county, McDonough believes, is insider politics and the influence special interests have on county government.



When engine mounts become worn, damaged, or broken, they can cause clunking, banging, and other impact-type sounds that result from the weight of the engine shifting excessively to the point of contact. Marks on the radiator indicate that this might be the problem. In vehicles in which the engine faces forward with the cooling fan being driven by a belt, these marks are a likely indication that worn mounts are allowing the engine to lurch forward in the engine compartment. Unlike older engine mounts, which were composed of simple slabs of rubber, today's mounts are precisely engineered into specific shapes, with some filled with silicone or hydraulic fluid. It is important to replace worn and damaged mounts with like components.

You may have noticed a slight banging noise that has gone undiagnosed. With an examination, one of our ASEcertified technicians can determine if engine mounts are at fault. Whether it be engine mounts or another source, it is best to get to the cause before it becomes a costly problem. Call for an appointment and have one of our skilled technicians make the repair whatever the need.

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Orems Garage, Inc. 8127 Pulaski Hwy. · Baltimore, MD 21237 410-682-5220 He said the previous three county executives - Dutch Ruppersberger, Jim Smith and Kevin Kamenetz - spanning the last 24 years, all had the "same operation."

"They listened to the powerful insiders, collected the money and did what they were told to do," McDonough said. "If you wanted a deck built onto your house, you could get it. If you wanted a 10-story condo [building] built in a neighborhood where it didn't belong, you could get it."

He asserted that they did not care about the people, but McDonough is offering his "Put People First" contract highlighting many of the issues he wants to address as county executive, such as crime, schools, special interests and illegal immigration without going into partisan politics.

"What that means is that the corruption and the neglect in Towson will be over when I'm sworn in," he said. "It's about saving the county and building a great future."

Regarding illegal immigration, McDonough said Baltimore County is second only to Montgomery County in the state for its acceptance of undocumented immigrants.

McDonough criticized the Baltimore County Council for rejecting legislation last month that would have seen Baltimore County work more closely with the federal government on illegal immigration via its 287(g) program.

The program reports to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when undocumented immigrants commit crimes and finish their prison sentences here, giving ICE the opportunity to pick them up for deportation.

Baltimore County Council members, in their tabling of the measure, expressed concern over added costs the program could bring to the county and stressed that the county's corrections officials already report to and cooperate with ICE on a daily basis. They also maintained that Baltimore County is not a "sanctuary county."

"On my first day in office, I take out the red pen," McDonough said, "all immigration policies gone." He added that he has a close relationship with the White House and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions. "There are numerous programs we will bring into Baltimore County, including money."

While McDonough stressed the link between himself and Schaefer, rather than Trump, he touted his closeness with the Trump administration on several issues, particularly with regard to obtaining federal funding for his initiatives.

He stated he wants to institute a "sector policing" method of law enforcement which would see police in every neighborhood and who have close relationships with residents.

ÂcDonough would also seek to initiate what he called "project exile" for offenders who commit crimes using firearms in the county. The program would see those convicted serve their time at a federal penetentiary



across the country rather than close by.

To complement the crime initiatives, McDonough said he would seek to have a strong community association in every neighborhood and a community liaison in every County Council district to report back to him with any issues.

He also said sitting County Executive Kamenetz has neglected to sign an executive order which he claimed could bring up to \$100 million to the county from the federal and state governments for such communitystrengthening programs.

"Unless we reverse the trend in our communities, we'll be in trouble because they are the foundation of our entire county," McDonough said.

In the realm of education, McDonough noted he would pursue phasing out of the Common Core standards, using his control of the county's budget as leverage.

He also criticized former Superintendent S. Dallas Dance for how much he has spent on technology in the classroom.

"Computers are great, but every grade does not need computers," McDonough opined. "We shouldn't be spending \$200 million on computers."

The delegate said he would cut that number in half and use the savings to finance rebuilding of aging school facilities around the county.

He lamented that the state gives millions of dollars to subsidize transportation and schools in the city while the county gets very little. And even Baltimore County contributes millions from its budget to arts and entertainment in the city.

"Like Schaefer loved the city, I love this county," McDonough stated, adding that he wants to spend more to promote tourism in the county. "When I'm county executive, it's no longer a love-fest for Baltimore City. They're competition."

Regarding his potential competition in the race, he said the Democratic primary could greatly affect his chances in the general election, noting that Senator James Brochin and former Delegate John Olszewski Jr. could each cut into his voter base in northern and eastern portions of the county, respectively. But County Councilwoman Vicki Almond would only get votes that McDonough would not get anyway, he said.

Olszewski Jr. officially announced his candidacy last week while Brochin and Almond continue to explore runs for the office. None has filed officially.

McDonough predicted that Brochin and Olszewski will split the vote, allowing Almond to prevail in the primary and paving the way for McDonough to defeat her in the general election.

He also had sharp words for his potential Republican rival for the office, Al Redmer, currently the state's insurance commissioner.

Although Redmer has not publicly declared his candidacy, McDonough said Governor Larry Hogan is supporting Redmer for the office. But McDonough said Redmer cannot win in the general election because of his political baggage, including that he is currently weighing a requested major increase in rates from insurance companies, which could cost him votes.

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COMMUNITY

County Looking For Volunteers

The Baltimore County Department of Aging Home Team Program is looking for volunteers willing to assist elderly Baltimore County residents with shopping, running errands and doctor appointments. Volunteers are needed for four hours per month. For more info., call the Home Team Office at 410-887-4141.

Hope & Healing Support Group

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

Summer Food Program

Noon - 1 p.m. Monday - Friday through Aug. 12 at the North Point Library, 1716 Merritt Blvd. in Dundalk. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and BCPS have partnered with BCPL to provide free lunches to children when school is out for the summer. There are no income requirements or registration. Any child under age 18 may come to eat. For info., call 410-887-7255. The Essex (1110 Eastern Blvd.), Rosedale (6105 Kenwood Ave.) and White Marsh (8133 Sandpiper Circle) branches are also participating in this program.

Volunteers Needed

Do you love nature, the outdoors, gardening and the arts? We need you! Holt Park and Center for the Arts is looking for volunteers interested in helping with programs, special events and taking care of the park. Day and time is flexible. If interested, call 410-887-5307 for more information or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HoltCenter.

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 to be distributed during the monthly visit with the veterans. 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 sanitary 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.

Food Pantry

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



Simple ways to lower blood pressure

High blood pressure is a big problem. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, roughly one in three adults in the United States has high blood pressure. In Canada in 2014, slightly less than 18 percent of Canadians ages 12 and older reported being diagnosed with high blood pressure.

While such figures might be frightening, Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that there are some simple and natural ways for people to lower their high blood pressure.

• Opt for heart-healthy foods. Instead of foods that are high in sodium, eat a diet that is rich in whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and lean proteins. Check labels before buying prepared foods at the grocery store, as many such foods are high in sodium.

· Look for foods that contain probiotics. Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that studies have linked foods that contain probiotics to healthy blood pressure. Probiotics are consumable live bacteria, and while studies regarding the relationship between probiotics and blood pressure are ongoing, researchers believe probiotics may produce chemicals that, when absorbed in the blood stream, may activate receptors in the blood vessels to lower blood pressure.

• Lose weight. People with high blood pressure who are carrying a few extra pounds should know that research indicates extra weight can cause injury to the heart. Dropping those pounds, especially through physical activity that can boost heart health, can help men and women lower their blood pressure.

• Quit smoking. Nicotine in cigarettes causes blood pressure to be raised. Quitting smoking shows positive effects of lowered blood pressure just 20 minutes after quitting.

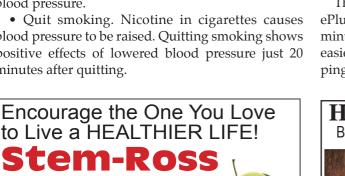
Food choice most important factor of weight loss

Trying to avoid certain foods during a weight loss regimen is more difficult than one would imagine. Although a healthy combination of healthy eating and exercise is essential to successful, sustainable weight loss, research indicates that one component of the weight loss recipe holds more power: diet.

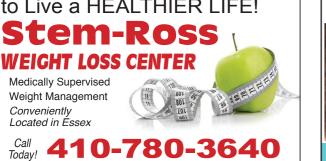
A 2015 study from the Loyola University Health System found that, contrary to popular belief, exercise does not help a person lose weight. The researchers responsible for that study examined the link between physical activity and obesity for years. They initially believed physical activity would serve as a catalyst for weight loss. But the evidence indicated otherwise. Exercise increases appetite, which can lead to increased caloric intake.

Furthermore, it seems that people who are extremely active burn a similar number of calories as moderately active people. Increasing physical activity to burn calories works up to a certain point, but eventually the body will adjust to keep energy use stable. According to Herman Pontzer of Hunter College at the City University of New York, who studied people in subsistence farming or hunter-gathering societies against those who live in developed countries who are more sedentary, less active people's energy expenditure increased alongside increases in physical activity. But at higher levels of activity, calorie burn plateaued. Pontzer found that the body works hard to maintain balance. Calories being burned by exercise will not equal the same level of calorie reduction offered by eating or drinking less.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine's MedlinePlus states that jogging or swimming laps for 30 minutes can burn as many as 350 calories. It's much easier to achieve the same calorie reduction by skipping two large sodas one day. That's important to



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note, as many people do not sustain the level of exercise needed for consistent weight loss.

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According to the study "Prevalence of physical activity and obesity in U.S. counties, 2001-2011: A road map for action," published in Population Health Metrics, the percentage of people who became more physically active in the United States increased between 2001 and 2009. However, this increase in level of activity was matched by an increase in obesity in almost all counties studied during the same period. The study showed that increased physical activity alone has a small impact on obesity.

But exercise should be not abandoned in favor of making smarter food choices. Physical activity is important for much more in terms of personal health. For example, physical activity reduces the burden of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Many studies and reviews also point out how physical activity can improve outcomes in pulmonary diseases, musculoskeletal disorders, neurological diseases and depression.

Did you know?

If you think that the only way to exercise and burn calories involves gym equipment, think again. Yard work can be just as challenging as a thorough aerobics workout at a nearby fitness club. To reap the greatest benefits, gardeners should use as little motorized machinery as possible. Manual tools will get you moving and can burn a substantial amount of calories. Try to vary positions and alternate which hands you use to reduce strain and get an even workout. Fitness experts say that gardening can improve strength, increase endurance and assist with flexibility. According to a report in the UK publication "The Telegraph," clearing a pond or weeding can burn some 300 calories in an hour.

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Important things to share with your doctor

It is important to be honest with a doctor about certain health habits, but sometimes it isn't so easy to be forthcoming. Fear of being judged or discussing embarrassing situations may prevent some patients from telling the whole story. Rather than omitting information, people need to be frank with their doctors, even when discussing sensitive topics, such as:

1. Smoking: Even if you aren't a daily smoker, mention if you smoke in social situations or grab a drag once in a while.

2. Alcohol consumption: Be honest about how much you drink, as alcohol can interfere with medications.

3. Supplement usage: Over-thecounter medicines, herbs and other supplements can affect overall health. A doctor needs to know the entire picture before prescribing treatment.

4. Exercise habits: Don't claim to be a gym rat if you're more of a couch potato. An accurate idea of their patients' fitness levels and habits is a key diagnostic tool for physicians.

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5. Unusual issues: Be forthright with any issues, even those that occur in embarrassing areas of the body. If you're uncomfortable with your doctor, you can always get a referral for a specialist.

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6. Drug use: Prescriptions are written in dosages for the intended recipient. Taking drugs that are not prescribed to you, whether it's a loved one's prescription or an illicit drug, affects your body. Consult with your doctor so you can get your own legal prescription or begin addressing your addiction.

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OBITUARIES

Landis, Daniel Mark



Daniel Mark Landis, of Essex, passed away on June 15 after a long illness. He is survived by his sister Sandy Quigley, brother-in-law Stephen Quigley, niece Valerie Wood, nephew Mark Wood, nieces Meghan and Madison Wood,

Stephanie Prentice, Brittany Ittner, Sarah Quigley, and niece and nephew Anna and Christopher Prentice.

A memorial service was held on June 25 at Merritt park Baptist Church, conducted by Pastor Ronald Wright. The service was attended by a host of family and friends. Mark worked for the federal government/ Ft. Meade for 25 years. He was a veteran who served in the Army for several years and he was honored with the playing of "Taps." He will be missed by all.

Schultz, Martha Gertrude

On June 30, Martha G. Schultz (nee Siebert) passed away. She was the beloved wife of the late Charles J. Schultz; devoted mother of Charles J., II and his wife Sheri, Stephen J. and his partner William Baker, Damian R. and his late wife Kathryn, Dennis J. and his wife Jean, T. Duane and his wife Monta Jean, and Cheryl Melhorn and her husband Robert, Jr.; cherished grandmother of thirteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; dear sister of Marlene Glava and her late husband Gus, and the late Alice Cresta, Dolores Olszewski and William H. Siebert, III.

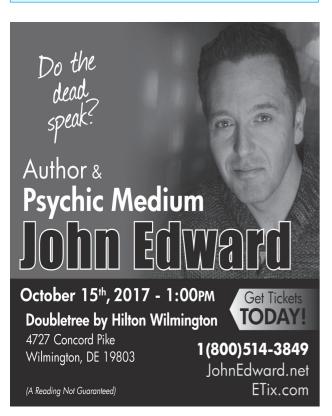
Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Those who wish, may make memorial contributions to The Franciscan Center, c/o Development Dept., 101 W. 23rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218.

Tkach, Eleanor

On June 26, Eleanor Tkach; beloved wife of the late John Frank Tkach; devoted mother of John Leon Tkach and Bernadine Irene Smith; loving grandmother of Tracy Tkach, John Tkach, II, David Tkach, Kevin Smith and Megan Smith; great-grandmother of Audrey and Garrus Tkach, Nathan and Kathryn Smith, Ryan Tkach.

Relatives and friends will gather at Schimunek Funeral Home in Nottingham on Thursday, July 6, from 6 - 8 p.m., with a funeral service at 8 p.m. A graveside service and interment will be held on Friday, July 7, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Dominic's Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Susan G. Komen - Maryland, 200 E. Joppa Rd., Suite 407, Towson MD 21286.

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



Gera, Edward Paul

On June 25, Edward Paul Gera, beloved husband of the late Ilse Gera (nee Beyer); loving father of Nancy Gera and her fiance David Escobedo and Paul Gera and his wife Charlene; cherished grandfather of Justin Gera and his wife Trish, Andrew Moglia and Emily "Rosebud" Moglia and her fiance Chris Mychajluk; dear great-grandfather of Royce and Dahlia Gera.

Services provided by Bruzdzinski Funeral Home of Essex. Cremation private.

Dulina, George Sr.

On June 20, George Dulina Sr., beloved husband of Margaret Dulina; loving father of John E. Dulina and his wife Beth, George Dulina Jr. and his wife Donna Jean and Stephen A. Dulina; cherished grandfather of Jeffery Dulina and his wife Sarabeth and Stephanie Buchan and her husband Matthew; dear great-grandfather of Brianna Buchan.

Services provided by Bruzdzinski Funeral Home of Essex. Entombment at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in George's name to Gilchrist Home Hospice Care, 11311 McCormick Road, Suite 350, Hunt Valley, MD 21031.

Freeman, Nancy

Nancy (Hewitt) Freeman, 68, of Mount Wolf, passed away at 8:13 p.m., Thursday, June 22, at York Hospital. She was the wife of the late Donald L. Freeman. Nancy was born Jan. 28, 1949 in Baltimore, and was the daughter of the late Walter and Eula (Hodges) Hewitt. In 1967 she graduated from Kenwood High School.

Nancy is survived by her two daughters, Lisa Freeman and Sandra Hicks and her husband Brian; her sister Deborah Weaver; three grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

Her memorial service will begin at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 8, at Grace Pointe Baptist Church, located at 12029 Eastern Avenue in Middle River. Burial will be private. Officiating will be Pastor Joseph Smith, II. Arrangements have been entrusted to The Diehl Funeral Home & Cremation Center of Mount Wolf, PA.

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.

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All published obituary corrections will be as brief as possible.



Butler, William Douglas

William Douglas Butler Jr. passed away on June 10. He was the loving son of the late Lucille and William Douglas Butler Sr. and the brother of the late Phyllis Butler and Barry Butler. He is survived by his devoted son William Douglas Butler III (Bill) and his wife Joy of Westminster, MD; sisters Valerie Loffler and Vanessa Butler, of Washington state; brothers David Butler and Joe Butler of Washington state. He is also survived by the Sokal family and many other loving family and friends.

Those planning an expression of sympathy, may wish to consider American Lung Association, 3001 Gettysburg Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

Snearly, Dorothy P.

On June 29, Dorothy P. Snearly (nee Colvin), beloved wife of Paul L. Snearly; devoted mother of Sue Ellen Nos, Randy and Gregory Snearly and the late Esther V. Stanfield and Jeffrey Snearly; dear sister of Elizabeth E. Smith, Barbara A. Sheesley, Patricia L. Colvin, James L. Colvin and the late Jean M. Otto, Carolyn Pizzini, Burrell Colvin, William L. Colvin and Kenneth B. Colvin; also survived by four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment at Oak Lawn Cemetery.

Armillei, Rose

On June 30, Rose Ann Armillei, beloved wife of the late Raymond R. Armillei; devoted mother of Denise M. Schwartz and her late husband Don and Ray J. Armillei Jr. and his wife Sherry; loving grandmother of Christopher and his wife Amber, Valia, and Peter; dear great-grandmother of Anika, Isabella, Harley and Exavier; also survived by her loving sister Wilma Picchi

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment at Gardens of Faith Cemetery.

Reese, Rose Marie

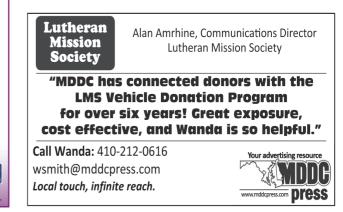
On June 30, Rose Marie Reese (nee Romanello), beloved wife of 58 years to Francis J. Reese; devoted mother of David C. Reese, Scott F. Reese and his fiancé Maria Brown and the late Karen R. Pavik; dear sister of Richard Romanello; loving grandmother of Jessica Durcan, Rachel Watkins, Julianna Reese and Alyssa Reese.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment at St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

Brouse, Erma

On June 29, Erma Ruth Brouse (nee Grace), beloved wife of the late Charles E. Brouse Sr.; devoted mother of Charles E. Brouse Jr. and his wife Catherine and the late Ruth J. Bauer; dear grandmother of Charles Ellwood Brouse III and his wife Deanna, Joseph Harrison Brouse and his wife Amy and Douglas Bauer and his wife Reagan; cherished great-grandmother of Gavin Alexander Brouse, Douglas Bauer II and Lukas Harrison Brouse.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment at Bel Air Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her name to Inverness Presbyterian Church, 7909 Wise Ave., Dundalk, MD 21222.



911

Three crashes, five injuries in 695 construction area

Two construction workers and a driver were injured last week after a car crashed in a work zone along I-695 - the third work zone crash to occur in a two hour span on June 30.

Two male highway workers were transported to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center for treatment of injuries. One was flown by Maryland State Police helicopter and the other was transported by ambulance. The female driver was taken by ambulance to the University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center for treatment of injuries.

At about 3 a.m. on June 30, a Maryland state trooper working MDOT State Highway Administration work zone enforcement reported a crash had just occurred on the inner loop of I-695 at Harford Road. Additional troopers and fire/rescue personnel responded to the scene.

The preliminary investigation indicates the driver of an SUV drove into the construction zone and struck the rear of an unoccupied pickup truck. The pickup truck was pushed forward into the two construction workers who were on foot.

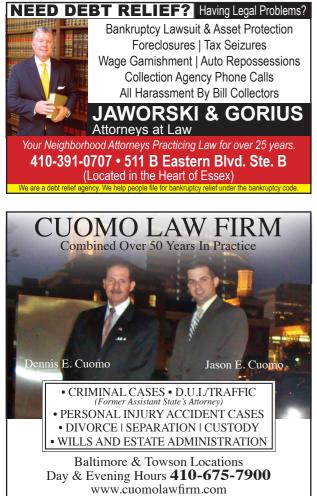
The cause of the crash remains under investigation. There is no indication of alcohol/drug impairment at this time. The active work zone was marked and a state trooper working an overtime assignment at the assignment had the emergency lights activated on his patrol car when the crash occurred.

All lanes of the inner loop of I-695 were initially closed due to the crash investigation and cleanup. MDOT SHA personnel are on the scene assisting with detours around the area. Lanes are being reopened

Current crime trends

Since June 7, there have been three street robberies in the area of the Route 702 footbridge within the Essex Precinct. Cases occurred on various days and during early morning hours in two cases. One case occurred in the afternoon. Suspects drove up to the victims, exited their vehicle, displayed weapons and took property. In two cases the suspects assaulted the victims. Items taken include cell phones and money.

Since May 22, there have been two smash and grab burglaries targeting gas stations in the Pikesville and Dundalk precincts. There has been no new activity since June 15.



as soon as possible. Motorists are urged to check <u>md511.org</u> or for the latest traffic information.

Earlier in the morning, just after 1 a.m., troopers responded to the same work zone at Harford Road for the first of the three overnight crashes. A truck carrying construction equipment was slowing to enter the work zone when it was struck in the rear by a driver who failed to slow down. The driver of the passenger car was taken by ambulance to Sinai Hospital.

Shortly after 2:30 a.m. two vehicles on the outer loop of I-695 at Providence Road failed to merge as the lanes reduced due to construction. The vehicles collided and drove off the roadway into a wooded area nearby. One driver was taken by ambulance to Franklin Square Hospital.

With the largest construction season in history underway, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is urging drivers to stay alert, slow down and travel carefully in roadway work zones. After leading the country in the national observance of Work Zone Awareness Week earlier this spring, work zone crashes continue to occur along Maryland roadways.

"The people who work on roadways are mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers, and they deserve to get home to their families. Their safety is in your hands," said MDOT SHA Administrator Gregory Slater. "We should also remember that in four out of five work-zone related crashes, it is a driver or vehicle passenger who is injured or killed, so drivers need to stay vigilant in work zones for their safety as well."

Precinct 11/Essex

Robbery: On June 29, officers responded to the 1100 block of Sandystone Road in Essex. At 9:30 p.m., three suspects approached the victim, a Domino's pizza delivery driver, as he was returning to his car. One of the suspects implied a gun and stole the victim's cash.

Robbery: Baltimore County police responded to a robbery call in the 200 block of Southeastern Terrace on June 27. At 7 p.m., the victim was approached by two suspects, one was armed. The armed suspect assaulted the victim and then stole his cash and tablet. The suspects then fled.



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Nottingham man charged in triple stabbing incident

A Nottingham man was arrested and charged with multiple counts of attempted murder, assault and more after an altercation led to a triple stabbing at the El Rich Motel in Rosedale on June 27.

Timothy Lee Nobles, 20, of the 3800 block of East Joppa Road in Nottingham, was arrested on June 29 and has been charged with two counts of attempted murder, three counts each of first and second degree assault, three counts of reckless endangerment, armed robbery and theft under \$1,000. He is being held without bail at Baltimore County Detention Center.

Police now believe that the suspect approached one of the victims outside of the motel for reasons unclear, and was escorted to the motel room where a second victim was located. An altercation between the suspect and victim in the hotel room ensued, resulting in the suspect using a knife to cut that victim. The other victim was cut while he attempted to restrain the suspect for police. The suspect fled that area and encountered a third person sitting outside of one of the motel rooms, whom the suspect, unprovoked, began to stab in the upper body before fleeing the location. This victim remains hospitalized in serious condition.

Following the stabbings, detectives spent much of last Tuesday and Wednesday on foot, canvassing the area for witnesses and leads on the possible identity of the suspect. By Thursday that foot work paid off, leading them to the identity of the suspect, who they located at a Royal Farm store on 62nd Street in Rosedale.

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



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Don't bet on this 'House'

- By Teddy Durgin -The new Will Ferrell-Amy Poehler comedy, "The House," wants to be "Risky Business" crossed with "Old School." But instead of it being "Risky School," it's just "Old Business." Every single performer in this film has been funnier elsewhere. Much, much funnier. And to see them in something this forced, this botched is just a depressing experience. The film was not screened for reviewers. And with a running time of 88 minutes including credits, it seems to have been given up on in the editing booth, too.

This is a shame, as the film has a potentially great comic premise. Ferrell and Poehler play Scott and Kate, a suburban dad and mom whose darling daughter, Alex (Ryan Simpkins), has been accepted into college. One problem: she didn't get a scholarship, and they have no money to pay the hefty tuition bill and room and board. So Scott and Kate get the bright idea to open up a casino in the house of their friend, Frank (Jason Mantzoukas), a man whose wife has left him and taken most of the furniture.

Hijinks will surely ensue, right? Well, they do. But there's a real meanness to a lot of the gags that short-circuits a lot of the laughs. We're talking about an underground fight club in which a soccer mom squares off against her carpool rival. Potentially funny? Absolutely. But the fact that the fight ends up being brutal causes audience members to cringe more than

- By Teddy Durgin -

"The Beguiled" is a remake of one of my favorite Clint Eastwood flicks from the early 1970s. That was when Eastwood was in his manliest man prime, starring as a Civil War soldier from the Union who gets shot behind enemy lines and taken in by the women and girls of an all-female boarding school in Virginia. The original was directed by Don Siegel, who helmed some of Clint's best flicks from that era ("Dirty Harry," "Escape From Alcatraz," etc.) In short, the duo made it a guy's flick, a kinky, deeply warped romp in which the women of the house can't control themselves around this musky man from the outside world. They vie for his bed, turn on each other, then eventually turn against him.

That's why this remake was one I thought could work really well - maybe even better than the original - if it were told in an entirely different way. That was the promise of Sofia Coppola's "The Beguiled." To have the male lead, in this case Colin Farrell, be the supporting player - still a source of jealousy, friction and division - but to have the story be much more centered on the females.

Coppola is a noted feminist. Of course, I am totally

laugh. Similarly, there's a running gag in which Scott begins to fashion himself an enforcer and chops people's fingers and hands off with an ax. It's not Ferrell's hard core slapstick that's off-putting; it's the buckets of blood that spew each time he does this. There's also a scene where a man is burned alive that we're supposed to chuckle at, but it totally falls flat.

And then there's just the general dumbness of the characters. It's one thing to be white-bread, suburbia dumb about the potential pitfalls of running an illegal gambling operation. It's another to be stupid to the point where one would not be able to function in the real world. When Scott and Kate go to the bank and swear they have \$401,000 in an account, the bank manager has to explain to them that their account is a 401k, and it has had no contributions. When Scott and Kate get their first tuition bill and it's for \$50,000, Scott takes one look at it and exclaims, "\$50 MILLION?!"

The film needed to be a lot sharper and more focused for the premise to work. "Risky Business" worked because Tom Cruise's teenager turned his parents' house into a brothel for one big night. Scott and Kate turn Frank's house into a casino... for an entire month! One night or even a weekend, they might have been able to get away with it. A whole month? It strains believability. And co-writer and director Andrew Jay Cohen leave the trio a tremendous out by shoe-horning in a town council corruption subplot that seems lifted from an

'**The Beguiled'** needs more guile

fine with that. But I think she sort of gets in her own way here telling this particular story. She forgets that this is essentially an exploitation flick at its core of cores. And, as such, you have to show your female characters not in their best light. Coppola is too timid with the material here. She falls back on arthouse cinema pacing and framing, faking profundity in silences and secret glances, and never giving us some delicious cat fights and screaming matches. She puts her movie on a slow burn. And when it comes time to have the story boil over, it just stays on simmer.

Case in point, Nicole Kidman plays the Page part, headmistress Miss Martha. She's clearly a woman in her 40s, almost certainly the most ... uh ... experienced of the females in the house. And she allows herself brief moments to lust after Farrell's Corporal John McBurney, giving him a slow towel bath while he is unconscious and opening up to him in one scene about the man she lost in the struggle between North and South. McBurney sees the vulnerability and slyly praises her for always having to be strong for her girls and never show vulnerability. It's just what she wants and needs to hear.



entirely different film altogether.

I usually dig Ferrell's manchild innocence shtick and Poehler's go-for-broke zaniness. But they seem to be forced to prop up a bad script, with scene after scene where Cohen clearly turned the camera on and told them to "Just riff!" As evidenced from the outtakes that play over the end credits, Cohen didn't even use some of their best ad-libs. There are even some weird "Huh?" moments sprinkled throughout like Ferrell being referred to as a 40-year-old (he's 50); like Alexandra Daddario of "Baywatch" and "San Andreas" being listed in the credits, but appearing nowhere in the movie; like Barack Obama still being President. The list goes on. All of this makes you wonder, "Was this movie filmed a while ago, and it's just been on the shelf?"

Ugh. If you go see "The House," folks, you're gambling with your good movie money. And it's a bet you are going to lose.

But he saves his most romantic affections for the school's younger teacher, Edwina (Kirsten Dunst), who wants only to escape from this remote place. At the same time, he saves his actual lust for the oldest of Martha and Edwina's students, the flirty teen Alicia (Elle Fanning), who sneaks into his room each night to kiss him goodnight on the mouth.

Martha's story arc should be one of age and longing, muted lust and quiet desperation. And when she finally delivers the line, "Edwina, go get me the chloroform and the saw," it should at least be partially motivated by the fact that she's been a woman rejected. But Coppola makes Miss Martha the responsible school leader at all times. Her motivations are almost purely to protect her girls. In the original film, Page's Martha was one twisted sister! We learn she had had an incestuous relationship with her brother and that her morality has become intertwined with her devout religious beliefs.

How is it that a film made in 1971 took more chances than a film in 2017?! Political correctness? Partly. But I think it's just basic timidity on the part of writer/ director Coppola. In short, I wish "The Beguiled" had more... well... guile!





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SPOTLIGHT

Have a Seat in the Cockpit



Aviation aficionados are invited to "fly in their imaginations" at the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum's Open Cockpit Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 8. The museum at 710 Wilson Point Road in Middle River offers a day of aviation fun with the opportunity to climb in to the pilot seats of vintage aircraft, including jet fighters, bombers and a helicopter. Shuttle buses to the outdoor aircraft display begin at 9:15 a.m. and the last tour departs at noon. In case of rain, the event will be canceled. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. For info., call 410-682-6122.

St. Peter VBS

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7834 Eastern Ave. in Eastpoint, will hold "Following God," its vacation Bible school, from 5:45 to 8:15 p.m. July 10-14. The free program will include dinner, crafts, music, stories, games and a puppet show. For more information, call 410-288-0537.



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Zion UCC Book Sale

The Women's Guild of Zion United Church of God, 7146 Golden Ring Road in Essex, will hold a used book sale in the church hall (one block past the church) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 8. Many new books have arrived and a selection of large-print books will be available. Hardbacks cost \$1 each and paperbacks are 25 cents each. For info., call Retha, 410-682-6571.

Epiphany Lutheran VBS

Epiphany Lutheran Church, 4301 Raspe Ave. in Overlea, will hold "Adventure Awaits," its vacation Bible school for children ages 5-12, from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. Sunday through Friday, July 9-14. Participants are invited to discover Rome, Paul and the underground church. Information: 410-485-7654.

SHM Bible School

Sacred Heart of Mary Church, 6736 Youngstown Ave. in Dundalk, will hold its annual vacation Bible school July 10-14. Children in Pre-K4 through eighth grade are welcome to participate in "Jesus and His Miracles." Activities will include Bible stories, arts and crafts, music and a picnic. Closing Mass will be held at 11 a.m. July 14. The school will meet in the lower church hall. For more info., call 410-633-2828.

St. John's Episcopal Flea Market

St. John's Episcopal Church, 11901 Belair Road in Kingsville, will hold a community flea market from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 8. For more information, call 410-592-8570 or send an email to office@ stjohnskingsville.org.



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Orems UMC Hall Closet

Orems United Methodist Church, 1020 Orems Road in Middle River, will hold its Hall Closet Thrift Shop from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 8. Collectibles, adult and children's clothing, toys, books, jewelry, housewares and bedding items are available at reasonable prices. Info: 410-687-9483.

SHM Bingo

Sacred Heart of Mary Church, 6736 Youngstown Ave. in Dundalk, will hold a cash bingo luncheon Sunday, Aug. 6, in the church hall. Doors will open at noon, lunch will be served at 1 p.m. and games will begin at 2. The \$25 admission cost includes lunch, 20 regular games, one early bird game, two "quickie" games, three specials and a \$100-prize big game. Tickets must be purchased in advance (limited availability). For info., call 410-633-2828, or send an email to Stephanie Sparzak (ssparzak@rcmd.com) or Donna Rosenthal (drosent2@jhmi.edu).

'Christmas in July' VBS

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1803 Dundalk Ave. in Dundalk, will hold its vacation Bible school, "Christmas in July," from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 17-21. Each class will begin with dinner and include Bible stories, activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 18. For info., call 443-570-3701.

Gunpowder VFW Dinner

Gunpowder VFW Post 10067 Auxiliary, 6309 Ebenezer Road in Middle River, will hold its monthly dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 7. Dinner will include a hot dog or hamburger, potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw and watermelon with coffee or iced tea. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. A G-rated Disney film will be shown at 8 p.m. Popcorn will be served. The canteen will sell alcoholic beverages. For info., call 410-335-8933, or Laura Godack, 443-442-7994.

Holy Trinity VBS

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1131 Mace Ave. in Essex, will hold vacation Bible school from 6 to 8:15 p.m. July 12-14. Presented by Steve Gambrill Sr., known as "The Extreme Balloon Man," the program will begin each night with a light dinner and include a mix of illusions, puppets, balloons and other activities that follow a different theme each night. Classes are open to children age 3 (must be potty-trained) through fifth grade. There is no cost to participate. Space is limited. Call the church, 410-687-5531, to register.

Dundalk Legion Karaoke

Dundalk American Legion Post 38, 3300 Dundalk Ave. in Dundalk, will host Fun Time Karaoke with Annette and Wild Bill from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, July 7. Info: 410-288-2297.

Smokin' Joe's in Dundalk serves up delectable barbecue and burgers

- By Patrick Taylor -

East Baltimore County used to be home to plenty of quality barbecue joints, but the number has fallen over the years. While there are still great places around our part of the county, certain areas have been lacking. Noticing the void, John Darney and brother-in-law Victor Marchese opened up Smokin' Joe's Grill on Merritt Avenue in Dundalk...and the residents of Dundalk should be celebrating.

For the past five months, the team at Smokin' Joe's has been whipping up delicious 3/4 pound hand-crafted burgers, huge, tender pit beef, turkey, ham, corned beef, sausage and pork sandwiches, and business has been good.

"There has been a huge demand," said Marchese. "I really think Dundalk needed this. The turnout has been fantastic from the community, and everyone around here has been great in supporting us."

Marchese said they were initially turning down business because they were so busy, but they recently added outdoor seating to accommodate more guests. But even with the extra accommodations, Marchese recommends calling ahead, as demand for Smokin' Joe's can sometimes lead to a 45 minute wait. "Definitely call ahead," Marchese recommended. "Especially during lunch and dinner hours. We tend to get slammed then."

So far the pit beef and burgers have been the big sellers. Approximately 120 burgers are hand-crafted each morning, with different specialty burgers available - including the Barnyard, which consists of lettuce, tomato, cheddar, bacon, fried egg and hotdog on top of the 3/4 pound burger.

"It's a monster," said Marchese.

Marchese said they listen to what customers want and try to adapt.

"We've had people asking for ribs, and this week we tried out different methods, different rubs. We'll have those ready soon," said Marchese.

For Marchese and Darney, both of whom have experience in the restaurant business, they're still trying to see what works. Fortunately for them, they seem to have a Midas touch, with no complaints about the quality of food.

"We try hard to put out a great product," Marchese said. "We take a lot of pride in our meats."

Smokin' Joe's is located at 2102 Merritt Avenue in Dundalk. For more information, including menu and hours of operation, feel free to visit online at <u>www.smokinjoesgrill.com/</u>.



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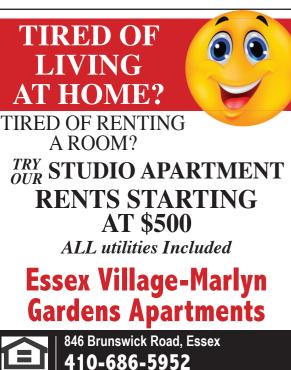
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