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December 28, 2017 • Volume 23, No. 10

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VERSE OF THE WEEK-Psalm 23:1

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Volunteers placed and lit seasonal luminarias to light up certain Dundalk neighborhoods, including along Veterans Park (shown) with some festive flair. Inset: The luminaria bags had decorative cutouts to add to their aesthetic appeal. Photos courtesy of Will Feuer.

- By Marge Neal -

After a two-year cancellation because of bad weather, downtown Dundalk was again awash with the warmth of candlelight Friday, Dec. 22, when the tradition of Luminaria Night was carried out.

Started by the Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and Museum about six years ago, the first Luminaria Night involved lining the society's Center Place building and the neighboring Veterans Park with the soft, festive light provided by votive candles inside small paper sacks weighed down with sand.

The event was so popular that other community organizations, including churches and businesses, decided to join in.

"The last two years, it was canceled because of bad weather, but we participated for two or three years before that," the Rev. Kristi King, pastor of New Light Lutheran Church said. "This year, we had the perfect night for it."

Unseasonably warm weather and lack of winds allowed the event to get off without a hitch.

About 10 church members volunteered to decorate the sanctuary and line the property at the convergence of Dundalk and Pine avenues and Willow Spring Road with candles.

"And this year, we did something special," King said. "We have a regular crafty group that meets at the church, and they did some decorative hole-punching in the bags to make them more festive."

Historical society member Will Feuer said he supplies "manual labor" for Joe Stadler, chairman of the candle effort.

"This really is Joe's project," he said. "I just lined half of the park with candles."

The luminaria event augments the society's train garden attraction, Feuer said. With nice weather this year, he believes the event generated a bigger

- see **LUMINARIA** on page 5 -





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NEWS

Sparrows Point Country Club developer wants to be a good neighbor

- By Marge Neal -

Noting that "people just don't like change," Sparrows Point Country Club president Ron Belbot nevertheless hopes the Dundalk community will embrace a proposed development project planned for the club's Wise Avenue property.

"This isn't a project to 'sort of' save the club," he told the *East County Times* in response to a question about the reasoning behind the plan to develop a portion of the waterfront property. "This is a plan to save the club, no doubt about it."

The club, which dates to the days of the Bethlehem Steel plant at Sparrows Point, has partnered with Craftsman Developers to build a total of 308 housing units on about 75 acres of club property.

SPCC started as the domain of Bethlehem Steel management staff. In 1985, it was sold to the membership and since then, little more has been done except to throw on an occasional coat of paint, according to Belbot.

"Like every other country club, we're struggling with membership and we never had the resources to keep up with facility needs," he said. "The building just got older and older and more work needed to be done."

In assessing needs, Belbot said the club house needed to be replaced, a new irrigation system is needed for the golf course and the pool house is a 1950s locker room that "no one wants to go into."

"After determining what needed to be done, we were looking at a figure north of \$10 million and we knew that was never going to come from the membership," Belbot said.

The plan to develop a portion of the property has been on the books for more than 10 years, but the recession of 2008 and its effect on the housing industry brought the plans to a screeching halt, according to Belbot.

When the original concept was being shopped, which called for the club to sell acreage outright to a developer, the builders wanted the club to assume most of the risk involved.

"We looked at the numbers we would realize with us footing the risk, and they were well south of what we needed to survive," the club president said.

After the housing market rebounded, club officials revisited the plan and entered into the partnership with Craftsman, which Belbot believes will benefit both parties.

The acreage identified for building will not be sold to the developer. Instead, both parties will share the risk and both will benefit from profits as units are sold, according to Belbot and Conor Gilligan, vice president of Craftsman.

Gilligan hosted a community meeting Dec. 21 at the Southeast Regional Recreation Center in Dundalk to update community residents who were unable

to attend a similar meeting held Dec. 5.

The development, to be known as Country Club Estates, will include townhouses, single-family houses and villas, which Gilligan described as "age-targeted" housing that will put all living amenities on the first floor and have second-floor bedrooms that could be used for grandchildren and other guests.

About 10 residents, mostly from the Edgepoint community directly across the street from the club, attended the most recent meeting.

They voiced concerns about current traffic that often impedes their ability to access or leave their driveways, lack of sidewalks, poor stormwater drainage, crowded schools and other issues they believe will be worsened by additional development in the area.

Wise Avenue resident Richard Taylor, who has lived in his house for 30 years, said his cars have been hit 11 times in that span, with seven being totaled because of such extensive damage.

Several residents, including Richard Davis, a Democratic candidate running for the Seventh District Baltimore County Council seat, are concerned about the potential loss of mature trees that line the club property along Wise Avenue.

In response, Gilligan displayed revised drawings that show an increased setback from the road and said not only would the mature trees be left standing, but additional landscaping would include fill-in shrubbery and "shade-loving" trees to create more of a curtain for local residents.

While the land in question was rezoned from DR1 (one house per acre) to DR5.5 during the 2012 comprehensive rezoning process, the partners decided to pursue a planned unit development process because the proposed development area did not fit perfectly within the rezoned area, according to Gilligan.

About 40 acres of the designated area is

a critical area buffer, wetlands and steep slopes - and, therefore, not buildable, according to Gilligan.

"If we are kept to that area, we would only be able to do about half of what we originally planned and the project would not be feasible," Gilligan said.

He told the meeting attendees that Craftsman "would like to be a friendly neighbor" and listen and respond to community suggestions and concerns.

He emphasized the project is not a "done deal" and much remains to be done to get the approval to move forward.

The PUD has been submitted to Baltimore County officials for review, and more work will need to be done before the final document goes to the County Council for discussion and a vote, Gilligan said.

In the meantime, the developers are listening to the community and making changes to be the "good neighbor" country club and development company officials want to be.

The Wise Avenue setback has been moved to 100 feet, or twice what the law requires, and some units have been reconfigured while others have been eliminated to achieve that, Gilligan said.

Club president Belbot said the development is the best plan for the club and surrounding community.

"The alternative would be to lose the club completely," he said. "And if we were to lose the club, the entire parcel could be developed. We really think this is the solution to ensure the club and its open space exists for generations to come."

If all goes smoothly in the rest of the approval process, Gilligan hopes ground-breaking can occur in the second quarter of 2019, with the first units available for sale that summer

Construction is expected to be carried out in five phases, with the next phase commencing as the last group of houses is sold, he said.



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NEWS

Kingsville residents ask for natural landscaping around solar array

- By Virginia Terhune -

Required landscaping is expected to block the views from Philadelphia Road and Interstate 95 of a proposed array of about 8,000 solar panels in Kingsville, according to operators.

Turning Point, a for-profit company based in Denver, presented its plans for the site on the northeast corner of Raphel and Philadelphia roads to a county administrative law judge on Monday, Dec. 18.

Under a new county law, operators must ask the judge for a zoning special exception with a public hearing before the judge can issue a decision that can include conditions.

The Greater Kingsville Civic Association was scheduled to meet Wednesday, Dec. 20, to discuss the plan and submit any comments to the ALI.

"Thankfully, placing the solar panels on this fairly hidden site presents very little visual impact in our rural community," wrote Kingsville resident Doug Behr in an email.

Behr attended the hearing and advocated for a mix of trees and other plantings to make the required screening of the array more natural looking.

If approved as proposed, the solar facility would generate enough energy to power about 500 single-family houses for a year, according to the operators.

The panels are designed to track the path of the sun throughout the day, which should result in no glare from the array, according to operators.

The 23.5-acre solar property is part of

the former Huber farm. On the eastern end of the site is a non-buildable strip of environmentally sensitive land that would serve as a buffer between the array and residents of Old Long Calm Road.

As part of the plan, the operators are asking for a variance that would allow them to install three panels in a small wetland area in the center of the site.

West of the site is an open field held by a separate owner that is expected to serve as a buffer between the array and Raphel Road.

About three acres of farmland will also be preserved along the southern border of the array, which will be accessed via an existing driveway shared with the farm off Philadelphia Road.

Crossing the Turning Point site above

ground are major transmission lines running from the BGE substation located on the south side of Philadelphia Road.

Still to be scheduled for a hearing is a request by Power52 Energy Solutions to install solar panels on the northwest corner of Raphel and Philadelphia roads on land that is owned by BGE.

An article in the Dec. 14 edition of the Times incorrectly named the nonprofit Power52 Foundation as the entity that has applied to operate that solar array.

The Ellicott City-based foundation will be supplying and selling the power to low- and moderate-income individuals and to other customers.

Power52 Energy Solutions will be building the project using graduates from the Foundation's job training program.



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Republican Robertson wants to return County Council to the people

- Article & photo by Marge Neal -

Bowleys Quarters resident Allen Robertson has been advocating for his community for more than 25 years and he is ready to step up his involvement.

On Dec. 4, Robertson, a Republican, registered his candidacy for the Sixth District Baltimore County Council seat, joining a crowded race that so far has four official candidates vying for the chance to challenge incumbent Democrat Cathy Bevins in the November 2018 general election. One other Republican has announced his intention to run, and a Democrat is reportedly considering a challenge to Bevins in the primary.

Robertson, 61, grew up in Hawthorne and graduated from Kenwood High School in 1974. In 1978, he received his bachelor's degree in accounting from what was then Loyola College. He has been in the financial services and banking industry since 1992 and currently works as an investment representative for Securities America.

"I'm semi-retired and plan to devote full-time hours to my work as councilman if I get elected," he said. "I have permission from my employer to do this."

Robertson's community activism began in 1992 when he started fighting against proposed development on the Bowleys Quarters peninsula that did not fit in with the local area plan and the Baltimore County Master Plan.

More recently, he has been fighting a plan to build condominiums on the site of a marina, a project that he believes violates Baltimore County planned unit development (PUD) laws, ignores environmental requirements of a parcel of land within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and is not consistent with current community architectural patterns.

In citing the political influence of land use attorneys, Robertson said he would like to put an end to the "nepotism and



corruption" that he believes is rampant throughout Baltimore County politics.

"Too many of our elected leaders are bought and paid for by these lawyers, and the way they vote proves that," Robertson said.

He rattled off a variety of development projects around the county that residents have been adamantly opposed to, yet the local councilperson endorsed the projects.

"That has to stop," he said. "The influence of big money has to stop and leaders need to truly represent their districts."

Robertson said he wants to govern without special interests and believes he has the appropriate work experience and ethics to accomplish that goal.

"I've worked in an industry where trust and integrity are everything," he said. "My background will allow a seamless transition to an elected position guided by that same trust and integrity."

Many community issues, such as senior housing, school discipline, the use of police officers in schools and overdevelopment, are on Robertson's radar.

After discussing a variety of concerns he would like to address if elected, Robertson reflected on his motivation for running for office.

"I'm not a politician; never have been and don't want to be," he said. "I want to be a community advocate; I want to do this for the community."

Robertson is a founding member of the Bowleys Quarters Community Associa-

tion and takes pride in that organization making a difference in the community. Members perform regular cleanups along Bowleys Quarters Road and recently sponsored a Christmas concert that collected donations for the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church food pantry. They also advocate for other quality-of-life issues affecting the area.

"We are just people working together to help others in the community," he said. "But when we're always fighting corruption, that takes away from the energy we could be using to get things done. I need to go into a position where I can stop spinning my wheels, and winning

a seat on the council will allow me to do that."

Robertson said his goal is to see a majority-Republican council elected next November. Democrats now hold a slim majority of 4-3 on the County Council.

"I certainly am hoping I am the Republican candidate to face Bevins, but I will throw my full support behind whoever wins our primary," he said.

Other Republican challengers who have filed to run are Glen Geelhaar, Erik Lofstad and Deb Sullivan. Ryan Nawrocki has announced his intention to run but had not filed as of Dec. 26.

The deadline to file is 9 p.m. Feb. 27.

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LUMINARIA -

- continued from page 1 - crowd than usual.

About 40 people gathered in front of the museum to sing Christmas carols, and children lined up to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, he said.

"Santa Claus and his wife arrived this year on a fire engine, which was new," he said. "That's a tradition we're hoping will continue, and will bring out even more people in the future."

Firefighters from Dundalk's Station 6 had the honor of escorting Santa to his

appointed rounds.

Luminaria Night, while officially a project of the historical society, is truly a community event, with support from the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation, Dunmanway Apartments and the St. Helena Community Association, according to Four

"It really is a community effort," he said. "And it's such a magical time - a time to take a moment out of today's busy world just to contemplate that magic of the season."



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Streets of Hope offers shelter, services to homeless men

- Article & photo by Virginia Terhune -

As the new year approaches, Ron Mc-Bride is without a place to call home, but he is working six days a week to earn the money to get one.

A part-time custodian at the Essex library on Eastern Boulevard, he is one of more than a dozen homeless men in the nonprofit Churches for Streets of Hope winter shelter program serving southeastern Baltimore County.

Thanks to a former program manager who helped him find the job, McBride has been banking his paycheck so he can move into a nearby apartment complex by April.

"God has a plan for me... It's going to happen," said McBride, a graduate of Dunbar High School in Baltimore who once had an apartment and a car but

"I never thought I'd be homeless,"

On Thursday, Dec. 21, the longest night of the year and the start of winter, Baltimore County homeless advocates held their annual vigil at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Towson to remember the 37 homeless men and women who have died in the county this year.

Those who died ranged in age from 19 to 69, according to speakers.

Among them was a woman suffering from cancer who spent much of her time in Dundalk and Essex, and two other people who died at the Eastern Family Resource Center on Franklin Square Drive in Rosedale due to overdoses.

The new county-built center, which replaced a smaller center, provides beds and expanded social and medical services for women and children, as well as 50 first-time beds for homeless men that adds to beds for men available in Catonsville.

Because of the new center, the cold

weather shelter that served men, women and children at the North Point Government Center in Dundalk will only be used as a backup facility.

Founded in 2010, the Streets of Hope program based in Essex is run by a coalition of churches that provides up to 16 men with cots, meals and services from early November to April 15.

"We now have a full staff of shift managers, over 30 member and partner churches and over 400 volunteers," wrote Executive Director Patrick Dickerson in an email.

Applicants must get a referral from the county's Department of Social Services, and the number of available openings are posted on the program's website. As of last week, there were two.

Churches sign up to host the program, which relocates every few weeks to a different church. This year, the program started at First Baptist of Essex, moved to St. Stephens A.M.E. in Essex and spent Christmas at St. Matthew Lutheran in Bowleys Quarters.

The organization recently began raising money to find a permanent location, Dickerson said.

Other participating churches also provide daily dinners and breakfasts, along with clothes and other necessities. Several participants said one thing they could also use are MTA bus tokens and passes.

The men must report to the shelter by 6 p.m. and then leave early the following morning to spend the day elsewhere. Some need to get to medical appointments while others head to the Essex library.

"All are welcome," said branch manager Yvette May, whose staff helps patrons

Custodian Ron McBride makes sure rooms for the public and staff are regularly maintained at the Essex library.

look for jobs by assisting with things like résumé writing and filling out job and healthcare applications.

People can make an appointment to meet with a librarian for an hour if they need help with computers, she said. The library also recently partnered with Goodwill to provide free job readiness

McBride said he sometimes spent \$4 to catch a cab from First Baptist to get to the library by 7 a.m., where he cleans and maintains the public and staff areas on two floors.

"He always has a smile on his face," May said. "He always has a positive attitude and he's very dependable and accommodating."

At other times, McBride and others in the program, including Gerald, 33, who preferred not to give his last name, would make the 40-minute walk from Mace Avenue to the library.

Gerald grew up in the Key Landing apartments in Dundalk before moving to Essex in the eighth grade. A 2002 graduate of Chesapeake High School, he was living out of state when his mother got sick and asked him to come home.

He has worked in retail, human resources, food service and distribution and now is looking for another ware-

"I can lift boxes all day," said Gerald, who played football at Chesapeake High.

Streets of Hope operates with the help of donations, grants and nearly \$70,000 from the county to help with insurance and extra heat and electricity costs related to the winter shelter operation.

This year the organization has been able to hire a part-time case manager to work with volunteers who interview participants and research available affordable housing openings and other

"One thing we provide differently from the new shelter is the community aspect of our work," wrote Dickerson. "The men in our shelter connect with volunteers and visit their churches, building relationships with actual members of the community that last beyond the cold weather season."

For more information about Streets of Hope, visit www.churchesforsoh. org, call 443-764-4249 or email info@ churchesforsoh.org. For the county's homeless shelter hotline, call 410-853-3000 and press option two.







NEWS

Depot owner misses code enforcement deadline; Walmart no longer moving

- Article & photo by Devin Crum -

Despite being given more than two months to resolve county code violations on his property, the owner of the Middle River federal depot failed to do so and now faces increased fines, as well as an added bill for the county to correct the problems itself.

At a hearing on Sept. 20, county administrative law judge Lawrence Stahl ordered property owner Middle River Station Development, LLC and its principal, Sal Smeke, to remove masses of discarded tires, debris and old boats from the property within 60 days. He imposed a \$6,000 fine for the violations, but suspended all but \$750 provided the mess was cleaned up.

Having missed the deadline late last month, Smeke now must also pay the remaining \$5,250, along with the cost for the county to come remove the tires and other materials, according to county officials.

County code enforcement officials were moving in the latter half of this month to remedy the situation, having submitted contractor requests to perform the work. The contractors were scheduled to visit the site in the following two weeks to provide cost estimates, after which the county would choose a bid and work would begin.

The bill would then be sent to the property owner for payment or else end up as a lien on the property. Since the winning bid had not yet been chosen, there was no word as of press time how much the county's removal cost would be.

Walmart/development

In another blow to the owner and his plans to redevelop the site, Walmart has confirmed through the local County Council representative that they will no longer close their nearby Carroll Island location in favor of a new store at the depot.

County Councilwoman Cathy Bevins, who represents the area, told the *East County Times* Dec. 18 - and community groups before that - that she had a meeting with Walmart representatives who told her they will no longer move the Carroll Island store.

"They came to me personally," Bevins said, adding that she was somewhat relieved because of what Walmart's departure would have done to the Carroll

Island Shopping Center where it currently acts as the anchor store.

Leadership of the Essex-Middle River Civic Council, which has followed the issue for years due to concerns that the vacant Walmart building would blight the shopping center, echoed Bevins' sentiment.

"The bottom line is, I think it's good for Carroll Island Shopping Center," said EMRCC President Bob Bendler at the organization's meeting on Dec. 6.

"I think this is probably going to be the best thing to happen," Bevins said.

She noted that two weeks after she met with Walmart officials, she received a call from another developer - who she confirmed is Blue Ocean Realty - interested in purchasing and developing the property.

The current owner purchased the depot property for \$37 million in 2007, and it is reportedly now listed for sale at \$49 million. However, the state tax assessment value is listed at \$9 million.

Bevins told the *Times* on Oct. 30, before she could reveal the name of the developer, that they had a project in mind for the depot site that is "very different" from the plan that Middle River Station Development currently has on file with the county.

"It would have a very positive effect on the Middle River area," she said at the time, noting that it would not include a lot of retail, as is proposed now.

Bevins also said then that when she rezoned the property in 2012, her office got a lot of comments from the community that they would like to see fields there for recreation, athletics or some other form of entertainment along those lines.

She pointed out as well that the current zoning allows residential uses and the plan on file calls for them, but she does not want to see residential uses there.

"In having conversations now that Greenleigh is being developed, and I've had other people's projects now starting out that [were approved before I was in office], I really don't want to see residential there," she said in October.

She said Blue Ocean also has no intentions to include residential uses in their plan.

The depot site also exists under an easement from the Maryland Historical



At least four large piles of tires remained untouched behind the depot's main building as of Friday, Dec. 22.

Trust which protects certain aspects of the main building - specifically the window frames and saw-tooth roof design - from being demolished or changed during redevelopment.

Bevins and community leaders have observed that the easement has proved to be an obstacle to redevelopment in the past, resulting in a more recent community push to explore the removal of the easement and the site's historical designation.

While Bevins said she has contacted MHT to re-inspect the site and perhaps reevaluate the designation, they notified her that they have a lot of properties to inspect and will not be visiting the site until sometime next month.

"But they're flexible" with the use of the buildings, she said.

She indicated that if a plan for the site came about that enjoyed wide-spread support from the community, Baltimore County, elected officials and

other relevant stakeholders, they would ease the pressure to preserve the building exactly as is.

However, in a potential barrier to any future development at the depot, Paul Svoboda announced at the Dec. 6 EMRCC meeting that he and several members of the Baltimore County Mobile Homeowners Association, as well as the BCMHA itself, had filed suit against the county and Middle River Station Development.

They have environmental concerns over the soil and groundwater at the site - located adjacent to Williams Estates and Peppermint Woods, two mobile home park communities - which are contaminated from past industrial activity, yet they claim the county is moving forward with development approvals as though no further cleanup needs to be done.

The suit was filed on Nov. 7, Svoboda said, and received by the county Nov. 24. They had 30 days from that date to respond to the suit.



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POLITICIANS

Delegate Bromwell's General Assembly session preview

- By Delegate Eric Bromwell (D-8) -

When the 2018 General Assembly convenes on Jan. 10, the first order of business will be three bills approved during the 2017 session and vetoed by the Governor

Redistricting Reform which allows an independent panel to draw congressional district lines if five other states (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina) join Maryland in a Mid-Atlantic Regional Compact and take similar redistricting action.

Ban the Box in College Admissions applications in Maryland removes the space on college applications used for the applicant to divulge his or her criminal history record.

Paid Sick Leave which requires businesses with

15 or more employees to provide five days of paid sick leave.

The Governor has proposed his own sick leave legislation. He views his proposal as a compromise that will not overburden small businesses. The bill requires businesses with 25 or more employees to offer paid sick leave. The benefit will be phased in over a three-year period. I do not support any legislation that forces businesses to provide paid sick leave as I feel that it places an undue financial burden on small businesses.

Leaders of both Houses of the Assembly have pledged to secure approval for The Rape Survivor Family Protection Act. The legislation provides that the mother of a child conceived by rape can take court action to terminate the rapist's parental rights. This is law in most states and is supported by The Maryland Catholic Conference, NARAL, the Attorney General, the Governor and more than 30 other organizations. Last year, the legislation passed both Houses, but died in conference committee.

Gun Control legislation in the form of a ban on bump stocks, the device that turns a semiautomatic weapon into an automatic weapon, will be debated in 2018. Las Vegas shooter, Stephen Paddock, used bump stocks to make his rapid-fire assault possible, killing 58 people and injuring hundreds. Supporters of the legislation emphasize that the only purpose of bump stocks is to make killing more people possible.

Harsher sentences for repeat violent offenders. Governor Hogan plans to introduce emergency legislation calling for tougher sentencing for repeat offenders who commit a felony using a gun. The legislation will increase the minimum criminal penalty from five years to 10 years without parole or probation. The legislation also makes repeat violent offenders serve their full sentences without suspension, parole or probation. Additionally, the legislative package includes stronger laws targeting gangs that would allow prosecutors to try cases across jurisdictional lines. Governor Hogan regards these bills as part of a crime fighting package to stem violence in Baltimore City and statewide.

To see Delegate Bromwell's full preview, visit us online at <u>www.eastcountytimesonline.com</u>.

Introducing Our New Bariatric Surgeon

MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Alain Abdo, MD to our Bariatric Surgery Center.



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Dr. Abdo earned his medical degree at Lebanese University, then relocated to the Baltimore area, where he completed extensive post-graduate clinical training

at MedStar Franklin Square, and at two local academic medical centers. Dr. Abdo is a member of the American College of Surgeons and is fluent in English, French and Arabic.

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Shooting on Wise Avenue leaves one injured

Detectives from the Violent Crimes Unit are investigating a shooting in Dundalk that occurred on Dec. 19 and left one injured. The victim, a 24-year-old man, reported being shot at least once in the lower body just after 8 p.m. as he was walking in the unit block of Kavanagh Road in Dundalk. The man was transported to a local hospital for treatment and is expected to survive his injuries.

Police continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding this shooting. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 410-307-2020.

Metro Crime Stoppers offers rewards for information in connection with felony offenses. Anonymous tips can be sent to Metro Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-866-7LOCKUP or online at www.metro crimestoppers.org.

Police investigating serious assault of 14-year-old girl

Just after 1 p.m. on Dec. 20, Baltimore County Police were called to the 4700-block of Stellabrooke Lane in Rosedale for a serious assault. Police learned that a 14-year-old boy was returning home from school, along with a relative. When the boy got out of a car, he was approached by a suspect and struck several times with a baseball bat. After assaulting the child, the suspect ran from the area. The victim was transported to a local hospital and is currently in serious condition.

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Middle River crash leaves three dead

Baltimore County Police are investigating a fatal crash in Middle River that occurred on Dec. 23 that left three dead and two others injured.

Police responded to the crash at Eastern Avenue and Carroll Island Road just after 1 a.m. when a 2010 Dodge Ram 1500 truck traveling westbound on Eastern Avenue approaching Carroll Island Road left the roadway, striking several trees.

The two rear passengers, identified as Michael Darnell Satchell Jr., 26, of Akin Circle in Middle River, and Michael Jackson Jr., 15, also of Akin Circle, were pronounced deceased at the scene by Baltimore County Fire Department personnel.

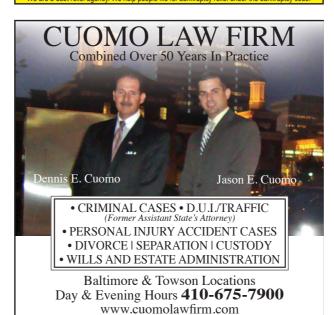
The driver and two other passengers were transported to a local hospital, at least one of which remains in critical condition. On Dec. 24, Baltimore County Police announced that the driver of the truck, Andre Demonte Dixon, 39, of Alberge Lane in Middle River, had succumbed to his injuries and died.

The cause of this crash remains under investigation by the Baltimore County Police Department Crash Investigation Team. Anyone with information regarding this accident should contact the police at 410-307-2020.

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Pedestrian struck and killed in Dundalk identified

The pedestrian struck and killed in while crossing Dundalk Avenue on Dec. 17 has been identified as Danny Ray Cornett, 56, of the unit block of South Carrollton Avenue in Baltimore City. The Baltimore County Police Crash Investigation Team continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding this fatal pedestrian crash.

On Dec. 17, just after 7 p.m., police responded to the intersection of Dundalk Avenue and Bayship Road in Dundalk for a crash involving a pedestrian. Cornett was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. Police are investigating the details that led up to the collision at this time.

Attorney, G. Randolph Rice, Jr.

(Former Assistant State's Attorney)

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■ ENTERTAINMENT

'Father Figures': Durgin has no major daddy issues with this one

- By Teddy Durgin -

The new comedy "Father Figures" could almost be described as the new drama "Father Figures." In fact, probably the best way to describe it is as a comedy-drama or "dramedy." It's pretty evenly balanced, despite the trailer and commercials that make it look like a hilariously contrived romp featuring the star of "The Hangover" and the star of "Wedding Singers" as twin brothers on a quest to find their real biological daddy.

Watching it made me wonder what the original intent was. Did screenwriter Justin Malen sit down to write a broad, jokey comedy about a once-promiscuous young woman in the 1970s who slept with everyone from football great Terry Bradshaw to her local veterinarian and really doesn't know who the father of her twin sons is? Or was it a more serious movie he envisioned, centering on two directionless 30-something men looking for identity? Elements of both are in "Father Figures." It's an uneven movie that tries to blend scenes of Owen Wilson getting into a urinating contest with a child in a public men's room and Wilson and Ed Helms marveling over the giant size of a cat's testicles with moments like Helms angrily and tearfully realizing he's dedicated his whole life and life's work to a man who never actually existed.

Helms and Wilson play twins Peter and Kyle Reynolds, who find out on their mother's (Glenn Close) wedding day that the man they thought was their father (who died from cancer before they were born) was not their dad. Mom was apparently so promiscuous back in her Studio 54 days that dad could have been a car thief, a legendary Boston cop, a neighborhood vet, or (yes) the MVP of Super Bowl XIV. Needless to say, the two men are hoping for Bradshaw and his four NFL championship rings. But their quest takes them to all four dudes, with Oscarwinner J.K. Simmons doing predictably funny-creepy work as the dirtbag car thief and Christopher Walken removing all punctuation from his scripted lines



FINDING THEIR FATHER WOULD BE A FAMILY MIRACLE

to deliver a suitably weird performance as the shaky-handed pet doctor.

"Father Figures" is a likable film that is being released totally in the wrong time of the year. This feels more like a March or September kind of flick. It's raunchy in spots, but not uproarious. It's poignant in other places, but never a tear-jerker. It's actually a modest endeavor that is at its worst when it's trying to be too zany or wacky for easy scene pulls to go into the trailers and commercials, like Simmons getting hit with a Ferrari driven by Helms, or Bradshaw thoroughly grossing out Helms and Wilson with his detailed remembrances of he and their mother in bed.

The film shines brightest when Helms and Wilson are given side characters to play off of who are as playful as they are. Katt Williams is very memorable as a hitchhiker the two pick up, who they like but fear might be a killer. So they tie him up as they drive him from New York to New England, but he maintains his same kooky, good-natured sense of humor from the backseat as the two siblings bicker harder and harder. I also liked Katie Aselton as a woman Peter picks up in a hotel bar, has a one-night stand with, then later in the film learns could very well be his half-sister.

If you go to "Father Figures" not expecting too much, I think you'll have a good time. In fact, that's a good way to be with dads in general. We're all trying. Sometimes we lean more towards the dramatic than the comedic. Sometimes vice versa. But we're always trying. So is this movie, and I appreciated it.



A (hopefully) final number for the 'Pitch Perfect' franchise

- By Teddy Durgin -

"Pitch Perfect 3" has a running time of 93 minutes. Without the musical numbers, the film is maybe 33 minutes. Combined, that hour and a half plus three feels like it's an hour longer than the 152 minutes "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" flickers across the screen. My God, what a bad movie! I was in a capella Hell.

Seriously, the songs in this movie have an absolute bludgeoning quality to them. There are so many of them, performed so often, edited with strobelight ruthlessness and sung by a bunch of characters who look like they are caffeinated to an alarming degree, that I was actively rejecting every sound and image that assaulted my senses by the half-hour mark. I was like a baby in a high-chair refusing his Gerber strained peas, and no amount of "choo-choo" coaxing could make me open myself back up to it.

I gave a positive review to the first "Pitch Perfect." The songs were fun, there was some fine character work and Rebel Wilson emerged as a star from that flick. The second movie was bigger and mostly held serve. This one? It's a cash grab from the very concept stage, and a soulless one at that.

Wilson, Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow, Anna Camp and various minor, one-note hangers-on return from the previous two films. These ladies are supposed to be so tight, so close. But two of them are marginalized as part of a recurring comic gag that's more cruel than funny. In another instance, two characters who have known each other for three films have a heart-to-heart talk - and one of them isn't quite sure of the other's name. But in the scenes before and after these, the characters preach "sisterhood" like it's a campaign slogan.

At any rate, Kendrick's Beca, Wilson's Amy (who's still called "Fat Amy") and the others are former members of the competitive Bellas a capella singing group. They sang in college together. Now, they're out in the "real world" with jobs like music producer, veterinary intern, street performer and food truck entrepreneur. They are followed around by the pathetic show commentators from the first two films, Gail (Elizabeth Banks) and John (John Michael Higgins), who are filming



a snide documentary about the Bellas fading into mediocrity.

When the Bellas are at their lowest point and missing each other and the former university limelight the most, Camp's Aubrey comes up with the idea of entering the group in a USO tour of American military bases in Europe (only those near gorgeous, four-star resorts, of course) and competing with three other bands to be the opening act for DJ Khaled. If you have no idea who DJ Khaled is and his importance to today's pop culture, this movie is NOT for you.

"Pitch Perfect 3" sets up this competition fairly well, pitting the Bellas most directly against a mean girls/all girls band named Evermoist. But then, the film completely abandons its premise at about the one hour mark, takes a severe left turn and becomes... a hostage drama! It seems Amy's criminal father (John Lithgow, embarrassing himself here playing an Aussie) finds out his daughter has a \$180 million bank account (!) in the Cayman Islands she knew nothing about and he tries to bilk her. When she refuses, he kidnaps all of her friends except Beca and threatens to execute them (!) on his yacht if she doesn't cooperate. Even this leads to an impromptu musical number!

The film then turns Amy into some kind of "Matrix"-like action hero, capable of taking out a half-dozen huge henchmen at a time with some insane martial-arts skills. The whole thing culminates in an image you've already seen in the trailers: Amy and Beca running just ahead of a giant fireball, jumping off Lithgow's yacht, and into the water below (Amy faceplants on a rowboat... because... y'know... overweight people and pratfalls). Never mind that at any time, the kidnapped Bellas were NEVER tied up, NEVER held at gunpoint and NEVER placed in a locked room. They literally could have jumped ship like Beca and Amy did and swam about 200 yards to shore at any time during their "ordeal."

What an awful movie. The music really needs to stop for this franchise.



SPORTS

Dundalk boys' basketball holds off Kenwood to stay perfect on the season

- By Patrick Taylor -

The Dundalk Owls surged in the third quarter of their contest against Kenwood Wednesday, Dec. 20, and held off the Bluebirds in the fourth to stay perfect on the season.

Kenwood entered the second half with a one-point lead, but the Owls buckled down on defense and Michael Johnson led the way offensively with seven points in the third quarter to give Dundalk an 11-point lead. Pharaoh Walker almost managed to bring Kenwood back from the dead, but late freethrows by Jaylon Johnson and Gates Cook sealed the deal for Dundalk.

The highly-anticipated matchup got off to a relatively slow start as the two teams settled in. Rayonte Brown put Dundalk on the scoreboard first, with Walker hitting a free-throw for Kenwood to get them on the board shortly after. With just under six minutes to go in the first, Cook got an and-one call, making the free-throw. Kenwood would take the lead over their next two possessions off of back-to-back three-pointers by Darius Foster and Myles Dawson, but Cook responded with a three of his own to retake the lead for the Owls.

Jaylon Johnson extended Dundalk's lead to five with just over a minute to go in the first, but Kenwood scored four to Dundalk's one in the final 30

seconds to cut their deficit to two.

In the second, Dundalk started to build up a more significant lead. Jaylon Johnson and Cook got the ball rolling for the Owls, pushing the score to 21 - 14 just two minutes into the quarter. With just under two minutes left to play in the third, Michael Johnson hit a big three for the Owls, extending the lead to eight. But Kenwood's Donnell Loud hit a handful of free-throws and Walker managed to get things going with a couple of big drives to bring the score even at 32 with under a minute left to play in the half. Walker used two late free-throws to give Kenwood a 34 - 33 lead entering the break.

Halftime could not have come at a worse time for Kenwood, as all the momentum they built surging back at the end of the second quarter seemed drained in the third.

Dundalk quickly retook the lead in the third off of a bucket and freethrow by Brown. But Loud evened things up at 36 on Kenwood's next possession. At the halfway point in the quarter, Dundalk went on a nice run. Michael Johnson and Cook hit backto-back buckets and Jaylon Johnson added a third a few seconds later to give Dundalk a 45 - 38 lead. Foster and Walker managed to get to the line and cut Dundalk's lead to three, but Cook and Michael Johnson each hit

threes on either side of the two-minute mark to extend Dundalk's lead to nine. Michael Johnson would add another two just before the quarter ended to make it 53 - 42 heading into the fourth.

Dundalk would manage to jump a bit further ahead, with Willie Fedd working inside the paint to give the Owls a 56 - 44 lead. The 12-point lead would be their biggest of the game.

With time winding down, Kenwood buckled down on defense. They forced a few bad shots and turnovers, which turned into points on the other end. Walker and Jamal Logue hit a few big shots to bring Dundalk's lead back to a more manageable five points, before Walker cut the lead to two off of a freethrow and bucket from the elbow with just over a minute to play.

A Jaylon Johnson free-throw with just under a minute to play gave Dundalk a three-point lead. Kenwood had opportunities to even things out but could not find an open look. The final buzzer sounded with Dundalk taking a big win with a score of 67 - 63.

While it is still early in the season, this was a huge win for Dundalk. In their last two games, the Owls have picked up two wins by a total margin of six points. After opening the season with two blowout wins, showing they can win the tight games is a great sign. They might be a bit concerned about

how they closed this one out, but there are too many positives to be taken from this game to be concerned about letting their lead slip in the fourth.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Dundalk (4 - 0) is how they spread out their scoring. They have four or five guys capable of putting up double-digits each game, which is relatively rare for high school basketball. They also have shown they are a fairly efficient team. Turnovers will always be an issue in high school ball, but the Owls really do well to limit theirs for the most part.

Kenwood (4 - 3), will be disappointed with their play in the third quarter, which ultimately proved costly. They allowed Dundalk to hit some easy three-pointers and were relatively sloppy offensively. They followed up the loss to Dundalk with a big 80 - 63 win over Owings Mills, but then fell to Hereford with a score of 64 - 59 on Dec. 22. The Bluebirds need to find some consistency if they are going to make a run this season, and they certainly have the talent to do so.

Kenwood will try to regroup on Jan. 3 as they host North Harford at 5:15 p.m. The Dundalk Owls have their next contest on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 8:15 p.m., their first matchup in the annual Dundalk Holiday Tournament.





Important safety measures for winter drivers

Winter weather causes many people to retreat indoors until the spring thaw. However, for those who embrace the cooler temperatures or find that life must go on despite snow and ice, taking inventory of their vehicles is a must before the first snowflakes start to fall.

Tire care is an especially important area of vehicle maintenance. The tire experts at Michelin say that regular tires may be ineffective for win-

ter driving. Summer tires are made from materials that are optimized for warm conditions. When the mercury drops, these same materials can harden, reducing their ability to grip the road. That lack of traction can be compounded by the presence of snow or ice. Even all-season tires, which are designed to be driven year-round, can be insufficient in severe weather conditions. Winter tires can help drivers safely navigate winter roadways.

Bridgestone Tires says that having the right snow tires matters when driving in winter weather conditions. It's important to look for tires that can disperse water sufficiently and also grip the road. Snow tires are designed to remain softer and more flexible to conform to the road better in cold conditions. Some winter tires are even studded to provide better traction.

Unfortunately, even the best winter tires cannot provide perfect traction on slippery roadways. That is why it is essential - in conjunction with the use of winter tires or snow chains - to modify driving techniques to navigate safely.

• Drive slowly. Slow down on winter roads. Allow a greater distance for stopping than for dry conditions. Slippery conditions can make it more challenging to stop, and excessive speeds can make the situation worse.

• Shift into low gear. On hills, rely on low gears to maximize traction to travel up and down hills. This can minimize skids or sliding.

• Get the vehicle a tuneup. In addition to tires, be sure the braking system, battery and other major components of the vehicle are in good working order

· Replace windshield wipers. Reduced visibility can compromise the

> safety of drivers and their passengers. Replace windshield wiper blades before winter arrives. Consider purchasing winter-rated windshield blades.

- Know how to recover from a skid. When skids occur on black ice or slush, drivers should take their feet off of the pedals and steer gently in the direction they want to go. As the vehicle regains traction, only then should the brakes or accelerator be applied.
- Create a vehicle preparedness kit. In case the worst should happen, you should always have some form of sustenance (high calorie protein bars), water, weather supplies, a charged phone, reflective triangles, a tire jack, jumper cables and a first aid kit.

Winter weather requires making some vehicle modifications, and drivers may want to alter the way they drive to be more safe on the road.



Sensors used by fuel-injected engines to monitor and evaluate operating parameters take constant measure of air temperature and density, engine temperature, air flow, fuel flow, and other factors. Among the most important of these sensors is the "oxygen sensor," which is mounted in the exhaust manifold and monitors how much unburned oxygen is in the exhaust as the exhaust exits the engine. When this important component wears out, it sends unreliable information, which causes incorrect changes that can prove harmful to catalytic converters. At the very least, a worn oxygen sensor can lead to increased emissions and drivability problems such as surging and hesitation. Review the life expectancy of your vehicle's oxygen sensor, and replace it before it fails.

Of course, you can avoid some of these routine issues by having regularly scheduled maintenance by a service provider you trust. Put your vehicle in the hands of our ASE-certified technicians. We will maintain your service record and inform you when maintenance like replacing ${\rm O2}$ sensors is due. Our technicians are experienced with servicing any make or model of vehicle. Call us to schedule an appointment.

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SAFETY

MSP, MDTA remind motorists not to drive impaired or distracted

As New Year's quickly approaches, Maryland State Police (MSP) and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) are reminding motorists about the dangers of driving impaired and driving dis-

Through Nov. 30, there have been 97 DUI-related fatalities reported in Maryland, including 33 that were investigated by Maryland State Police. This compares to 97 statewide (44 investigated by Maryland State Police) over the same period in 2016.

In recent weeks, troopers have investigated multiple crashes that have led to fatalities, multiple injuries and / or extended lane closures and traffic delays. Just consider the following:

On Dec. 11, a four-vehicle crash in Talbot County led to two people being flown to Shock Trauma. Katie Cray Long, 43, of Centreville, is being investigated for driving under the influence as she was driving westbound in the eastbound lanes of U.S. Rt. 50 when she struck three vehicles, including one head-on, according to investigators.

On Dec. 7, Taylor Anne Halbleib, 21, of Hughesville, died after being involved in a three-vehicle crash on MD Rt. 6 in Charles County. According to investigators, the driver at fault was Daniel Juwan Butler, 22, of Newburg, Md. The preliminary investigation indicates that Butler was driving eastbound

on MD Rt. 6, west of Cooksey Road when the crash occurred. Butler for unknown reasons failed to stop, striking Halbleib's car in the rear, which was then pushed into another car. Speed and alcohol are believed to be contributing factors in this crash, according to investigators.

Troopers from each of the 23 Maryland State Police barracks who patrol every county will continue to focus enforcement efforts on impaired driving, aggressive driving, speeding, distracted driving and other violations that often contribute to highway tragedies, especially during the holiday season. Additional troopers will be working overtime assignments funded by highway safety grants from the Maryland Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office.

Extra holiday traffic this week through New Year's includes additional Maryland state troopers who will be using a variety of patrol initiatives to keep traffic moving, respond quickly to highway incidents and take appropriate enforcement action when violations are observed that threaten the safety of travelers.

Through Nov. 30, state police have made 6,508 DUI arrests, compared to 6,816 over the same period in 2016. In regard to distracted driving, troopers have made 36,269 traffic stops and issued 16,934 citations and 19,334 warnings through Nov. 30. This compared to 31,644 traffic stops and issuing 15,434 citations and 16,210 warnings for distracted driving in 2016.

Among those assisting with this effort will be the State Police Impaired Driving Effort, or SPIDRE, team. The targeted law enforcement program was launched in May 2013 and focuses on reducing alcohol related crashes in Maryland by targeting areas across the state with high crash rates involving impaired drivers. Since its inception in May 2013, the SPIDRE Team has made 2,480 DUI arrests, 115 criminal arrests and issued 16,893 citations.

Troopers urge motorists to avoid impaired driving and plan for a designated driver or a sober ride home. Help us keep Maryland highways safe throughout this holiday season.

Likewise, MDTA police are stepping up enforcement over New Year's, with officers taking part in a highly-visible enforcement operation. They are also urging motorists to use mass transit or call a taxi or ride share service if they have been drinking. So far this year, MDTA police have made 944 impaired

"We remind motorists to be safe during their celebrations and plan ahead. If you see a drunk driver on the road, report him or her to law enforcement immediately by calling 911," said MDTA Police Chief Col. Jerry Jones.



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OBITUARIES

Jones, Betty

On Dec. 24, Betty Jane Jones (nee Beggarly) passed away. She is survived by her daughters Cheryl Anthony McLaughlin (Jack), and Cynthia L. Jackson (Sam); grandchildren John S. Anthony, Jr. (Kelly), and Jennifer L. Rosas (Danny); great-grandsons Steven C. Anthony (Brooke), and Brandon M. Anthony; great-great-grandson Benjamin C. Anthony; siblings Dorothy Morgan and the late Terry Roe, Bill Beggarly and Dick Beggarly.





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7205 Eastern Avenue Baltimore, MD 21224 410-284-7404 Local to Churchville & Bel Air 410-734-4332 / 410-879-5351 We can meet with you at our office, your home or at the cemetery **Budres, Elsie Mills**

Elsie Mills Budres of Essex, Maryland died peacefully on Dec. 10; while the prayers and love of many were surrounding her. Elsie was the epitome of an old school "Down East" river woman. She would say absolutely anything to absolutely anybody, and look them in the eyes while doing it. She was quick to smile and quicker to laugh, at your expense or her own. She claimed not to have a heart, but instead a thumping gizzard. If that be true or not, it was the biggest thumping gizzard heart I have ever known. Her friends were many, her acquaintances legion, her enemies few.

Elsie was born in Eastern North Carolina sometime between 1920 and 1927 depending upon who you ask. However, she has been a solid sixty-three plus year resident of the Middle River / Bowleys Quarters area. Her tales of life on the Eastern Shore of both MD & NC were timeless and endless. Her stories of men and women chasing each other were always scandalous and hilarious. Her recollections and stories of her days as the wife of Captain Charlie, that ended too soon, and the loss of Johnny K. before love could bloom, were epic ballads of the greatest human sorrow that she would seldom, if ever, sing.

Elsie had a special place in her heart for everyone she called friend and she had a special nickname for them too. If you came to know her well enough, she

Davis. Alpha Joseph Jr.

On Dec. 21, Alpha Joseph Davis Jr.; beloved husband of Pam Davis; loving father of Alpha Joseph Davis III and his fiancée Jennifer Grelak; cherished grandfather of Allyson, Sara, Katherine, Zoe and Molly; dear brother of Colleen Mattheu and her husband Walter; devoted brother-in-law of Bob and Pat Elliott. Predeceased by his parents Alpha Joseph Davis Sr. and Lillian Davis (née Estep). Also survived by many nieces, nephews and a host of many loving family and friends and his loving cat Roxie.

Friends may call at the family owned Bruzdzinski Funeral Home P.A. at 1407 Old Eastern Avenue, Essex at Route 702 on Thursday, Dec. 28 from 4 p.m. -8 p.m. Funeral services on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. A private cremation will follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Alpha's name to The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or a charity of your choice.

E-mail Obituary announcements to ectreporter@comcast.net or fax to 410-780-2616. would often gift you with a "Maryland Love Stone" and share with you its secret origins.

Her birth family and most of her contemporaries have all preceded her in death. She leaves behind an extended family too large to list, but not too big to fit in her thumping gizzard of a heart. She leaves behind the third man I have ever heard her say she loved, the man who gave her their four legged furry child "DJ" (aka Little Buckets), her loving partner "Love-Buckets" (aka Tom)

Also left behind is her closest friend, Miss Barbie; her business partner, Chief; her fellow friend of Bill W. - Stud-Muffin; her grandbaby Sharron; and the street urchins she kept an eye on: Tire-Biter, Twofer, Short-Shank and Mud Turtle, to name only a few.

There will be no formal service as her remains have been donated to John Hopkins University Hospital for research into further scientific discoveries that may help other people; and possibly figure out why she'd say absolutely anything to anybody, at any time.

However there will be an informal remembrance for her to be held at River Point in the main Lounge area on Dec. 28 at 11 a.m. This will be a remembrance celebrating life, laughter, joyousness and overall happiness, along with scandalous story telling of Elsie's life and times will be encouraged.



Bish, Anna M.

On Dec. 13, Anna M. Bish, a member of St. John the Evangelist Church (Hydes) and the Catholic Community at Oak Crest Village; beloved wife of Fred N. Bish, Sr.; devoted mother of Janine Anne Bonnell, Fred Neil Bish, Jr. and Kimberly Ellen Ledergerber; dear sister of the late Eleanor Nelson, Edward Aburn, Charles Aburn, Cecelia Rockwell, Loretta Ridolfi, Mary Jakubowski, William Aburn and David Aburn. Also survived by four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

Brown, James

On Dec. 24, James Brown; beloved husband of Jeannette L. Brown (nee Geoghegan); devoted father of Phyllis M. Liptrap and her husband Calvin W. Liptrap, Jr., and the late James K. Brown; loving son of the late Albert O. and Helen D. Brown; dear brother of Marlene Wilhelm, Robert Brown and the late Albert Brown; cherished grandfather of Connor S. Liptrap and Cameron H. Liptrap.

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The Meals on Wheels Grocery Assistance Program is looking for volunteers! Do you have three hours a month to help a home-bound individual? Do you like to shop? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity with flexible hours? Then we need your help! Our Grocery Assistance Program pairs volunteers with a client in need, and with their shopping list in hand the volunteer goes to the store on the client's behalf. You don't spend any of your own money and may make a friend for life! If interested, contact Meals on Wheels at 443-573-0933 or jones@mowcm.org.

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.

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 2 - 10 p.m.

Give Your Candy to Our Troops!

The Angels Supporting Your Troops, Inc. is asking for candy to fill care packages for our troops overseas. Other needed supplies include beef jerky, nuts, trail mix, cookies, jelly, crackers, tuna or chicken in pouches, drink mixes, Little Debbie cakes, Nutella, Slim Jims, microwave popcorn, Pop Tarts, Pringles, granola bars, gum, mints, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, bars of soap, deodorant, foot powder, Chapstick, baby wipes, feminine products, razors, shave cream (no aerosols), wash cloths, Frisbees, basketballs, footballs, wordsearch books, aspirin, Band-Aids, cough drops, any size Zip-Loc bags and dog food. Monetary donations also greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Irene Spatafore at 410-284-5275 or drop items off on the picnic table at 7914 Diehlwood Road (off Wise Avenue & Lynch Road) in Dundalk.



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Free Mammograms

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

Volunteers Needed

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

Refuge Recovery Ministry

Dundalk Church of Nazarene has a Refuge Recovery Ministry every Thursday night at 7 p.m. We do provide a nursery for your children. For info., call 410-288-5136.

Celebrate Recovery

Do you need recovery from hurts, hang-ups and habits? This program is not just for alcohol and drug addictions. Some examples of issues covered are depression, co-dependency, loneliness, abuse, grief or eating disorders. Come join our Celebrate Recovery® group at Middle River Baptist Church, 610 Middle River Road, on Friday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. (come at 6:30 for food and fellowship). For more information, call Bill or Phyllis at 410-661-4751. You must be at least 18.

Reformers Unanimous

RU (Reformers Unanimous) meets weekly on Friday evening at First Baptist Church of Dundalk, 100 St. Helena Ave., at 7 p.m. in the Sr. Adult Sunday School room. The program is designed to help with all kinds of addictions. Everyone is welcome!



NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY SPECIAL

Lobster Bisque - \$5.95 / Oysters on the Half Shell - \$10.50 Oysters Rockefeller - \$10.95 / Stuffed Mushroom Caps w/Jumbo Lump Crab Meat - \$12.95

7oz. Lobster Tail - \$22.95 - Stuffed with Jumbo Lump Crab Meat - \$27.95 Roast Prime Rib Au Jus - \$24.95 Surf & Turf - \$33.95 - 7oz. Lobster Tail & 6oz. Filet

Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes - \$28.95

24oz. Porterhouse - \$25.95 / 24oz. T-Bone - \$24.95 / Triple Crown - \$32.50 Filet Oscar - \$32.50 / Steak & Cake - \$32.50

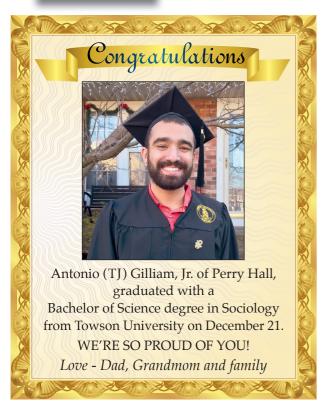
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SPOTLIGHT



Martinville Train Garden

The 4th annual Martinville Christmas Train Garden at the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum at Martin State Airport, 701 Wilson Point Road in Middle River, is now open. The holiday display of miniature planes and trains will be open during museum hours (11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday), through Jan. 13, 2018. The train exhibit is included in the museum admission of \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. For more info., call 410-682-6122.

Orems UMC Thrift Shop

Orems United Methodist Church, 1020 Orems Road in Middle River, will hold its Hall Closest Thrift Shop from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 6. Collectibles, adult and children's clothing, toys, books, jewelry, housewares and bedding will be available at reasonable prices. For more info., call 410-687-9483.



DAILY SPECIALS

SUNDAY SPECIALS - Fillet of Haddock w/1 Side \$7.99 1 lb. Steamed Shrimp (with or without onions) \$10.99

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

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

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

THURSDAY SPECIALS - Jumbo Crab Pretzel \$12.99 Steak & Cake Platter w/1 Side \$19.99 1 lb. Steamed Shrimp (with or without onions) \$10.99 49¢ Jumbo Wings Min. 10, Eat-in Only

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

SATURDAY SPECIALS -

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

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Karaoke/Line Dancing

Essex American Legion Post 148, 20 S. Marlyn Ave. in Essex, will host Karaoke with Lightning Rod from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Dec. 29, and For the Good Times Karaoke with Percy and Fred from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 30. Line dancing with The Dude will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday in the hall. No karaoke on Sunday, Dec. 31. Call 410-686-2353.

New Year's Eve Party

Knights of Columbus Bethlehem Council 2605, 7401 Bay Front Road in Edgemere, will hold its annual New Year's Eve party from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31. The event will include a buffet, beer, wine, coffee, soda and a whiskey sour bar. A champagne toast and pickled herring will be offered at midnight. Entertainment provided by the Lenny Adams Band. Tickets cost \$30. To reserve seats, call 410-477-5225.

Rotary Christmas



The Middle River Rotary Club recently hosted a Christmas party for local families in need. Chesapeake Mini-Storage Plus hosted the gathering Dec. 9, for eight families, including 17 children, all of whom received gifts from Santa. The club also provided \$100 Walmart gift cards to five families at five area schools. Alexys (left) and Madisyn Grove are pictured visiting with Santa. The club meets on Mondays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Call Mark Humphrey, 410-931-2317, for meeting information.

SOAR Meeting Notice

The Senior Organization of Active Retirees Local 9477 (SOAR) will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 1010 S. Oldham St. For more information, call Don Kellner, 410-227-8462.

Celebrate Trivia Day

Victory Villa Senior Center, 403 Compass Road in Middle River, will celebrate National Trivia Day on Thursday, Jan. 4. Trivial Pursuit games will be available and trivia questions will be asked during lunch. Must be a center member (membership is free). For more information, call the center, 410-887-0235.

Wise Avenue VFC Train Garden

The Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, 214 Wise Ave. in Dundalk, will hold its annual Christmas train garden through Jan. 7. The hours are noon to 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and from 6 to 9 p.m. weekdays. Admission is \$1 per person; children 7 and younger will be admitted free of cost.

Chase UMC Food Drive

Chase United Methodist Church, 6601 Ebenezer Road in Middle River, is partnering with the *East County Times* for a food drive through Dec. 31. Non-perishable food donations, such as canned vegetables, soups and meats, boxed pasta and peanut butter, can be dropped off at ECT's office, 513 Eastern Blvd. in Essex, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Grocery store gifts cards, which can be used to buy turkeys and fresh foods, would also be appreciated.

It's a Boy!



Middle River residents Ryan and Lauren Nawrocki announce the birth of their fourth child, Jacob, who was born Nov. 13. Jacob was warmly welcomed to the family by siblings Emily, Matthew and Luke.

Crosstown Rivals to Play

Chesapeake High School will host Kenwood in a crosstown basketball competition Wednesday, Jan. 17. The JV game will begin at 4 p.m. and the varsity game will begin at 5:30 p.m. The gym will open at 3:15 p.m. Tickets will not be sold at the door; all tickets must be purchased in advance at Chesapeake and Kenwood from Jan. 2 through Jan. 12. Students must have a BCPS ID to buy tickets. Adults and senior citizens can buy their tickets from Chesapeake High Athletic Director Rod McMillion. BCPS and senior citizens pay \$3; adults pay \$5. Concessions will be sold. Spectators who leave the gym for any reason will not be readmitted. Info: Call Rod 410-687-5242.

Membership Open

The Baltimore County Genealogical Society is accepting new members for 2018. Membership includes publications, participation in all meetings, activities, the Eastern Europe and computer interest groups, guidance and assistance with research, and use of the lending library, data bases, computer programs and microfilm reader. Individual memberships cost \$15 and family plans cost \$20. Make checks payable to BCGS and mail to P.O. Box 10085, Towson, MD 21285. The society is at 8601 Harford Road, Room 308, in Parkville.

Historical Society Train Garden

The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and Museum, 4 Center Place in Dundalk, will host its 18th annual holiday train garden through Jan. 7. The garden will be open to the public from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free but donations will be accepted. The event will include the popular scavenger hunt that encourages visitors to find specific objects and characters in the garden. For more information, call 410-284-2331.

Homemade Lasagna Dinner

Gunpowder VFW Post 10067 Auxiliary, 6309 Ebenezer Road in Middle River, will hold its monthly dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5. The menu will include homemade lasagna, garden salad, Italian bread, dessert, coffee and iced tea. The cost is \$12 per person. For more information, call 410-335-8933.

Birthday Bingo

Victory Villa Senior Center, 403 Compass Road in Middle River, will hold a birthday bingo at noon Wednesday, Jan. 3, for all members celebrating January birthdays. Those celebrating in January will receive a free dabber and one free slice of pizza and will be entered in a special drawing. You must be a center member, but membership is free. For more information, call the center, 410-887-0235.

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534A - Rhonda Hardesty 572 - Ken Thomas

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Sunday Service 10 A.M. www.newbfc.com

HAPPY ADS

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(Handicap accessible)

Sunday Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30am

> www.stjohnsof essex.org facebook: stjohnsofessex

Prayer to St. Peregrine

"The Cancer Saint"
O GLORIOUS wonderworker, St. Peregrine, who suffered so patiently with incurable cancer in thy leg and then was healed miraculously by a touch of Our Lord's divine hand, I beg of thee to obtain for me deliverance from the infirmities that affect my body (especially....bladder & kidney), if this be God's Holy Will.

Obtain for me also a perfect resignation to the sufferings it may please God to send me, so that, imitating our crucified Saviour and His sorrowful Mother, I may merit eternal glory in Heaven. Amen.

St. Peregrine, pray for us. **L.P.K.**

Thank You Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Blessed Virgin Mother Maryand St. Jude for your help. **P.G.A.** HAPPY ADS

METHODIST

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

www.backriverumc.com

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TUESDAY
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sharp pain
- 5. Military hats
- 11. Software app on a network (abbr.)
- 14. Genus of freshwater mussels
- 15. Continent
- 16. Afghani monetary unit
- 17. Recovered
- 19. Ribonucleic acid
- 20. Refers to end of small intestine 55. Kilometers per hour
- 21. Ethiopia's largest lake
- 22. Hostelry
- 23. Defunct American automaker
- 25. Denotes origin by birth or descent
- 27. Part of a watch
- 31. Stare with mouth open wide
- 34. Found in granite
- 35. Competing
- 38. Stone film "Given Sunday" 69. Taro corm or plant

- 39. Junction between two nerve cells
- 41. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 42. Fight
- 44. Thin, narrow piece of wood
- 45. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 46. Type of kitchenware
- 49. Specialty of The Onion
- 51. Major Mexican river
- 56. Species of mackerel
- 60. Bones
- 61. Interest rate
- 62. New York Mets legend
- 64. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 65. Shawl
- 66. Gracefully thin
- 67. Type of deciduous tree
- 68. Not classy

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Jewish festival
- 2. Anoint
- 3. More pleasant
- 4. Type pf painting
- 5. Witness
- 6. Harm
- 7. Builder of Arantea (Greek myth.)
- 8. City in India
- 9. Used to unlock cans
- 10. Induces sleep
- 11. More bouncy
- 12. A branch of Islam
- 13. White (French)
- 18. Legal term
- 24. Covered with frost
- 26. Hengyang Nanyue Airport
- 28. Wash
- 29. Disorder of the scalp
- 30. North American tree

31. Helps cars run

- 32. Mandela's party
- 33. Aromatic plant of the daisy
- 36. Negative
- 37. College student educator (abbr.)
- 39. Most rare
- 40. Harm with a knife
- 43. Folk singer DiFranco
- 45. Return to
- 47. One who repairs
- 48. Eastern England river
- 49. Hockey players need two
- 50. Dismay
- 52. Rebuke
- 53. Plant of the arum family
- 54. Fish genus
- 57. Plant of the mallow family
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 63. One of Napoleon's generals

HAPPY ADS

HAPPY ADS

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Terms of Sale: Money Order/Certified Funds Only. Must be community approved. Pick up terms and application at Community Office before auction date.

- 1.) 128 Trailways Road, 1975, GUARDIAN, TL, G, VIN# PAX570123K016640
- 125 Trailways Road, 1973, BROA, TL, G, VIN# 64S3425
- 3522 Wagon Train Road, 1975, SYLVAN, TL, G, VIN# SP9228

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Baltimore Humane Society's PETS OF THE WEEK



Ay name is Zena and I'm glad you stopped to look It me! I'm a wonderful lady who came all the way to altimore Humane Society from a rescue in North Carolina hoping to find a new home. I'm a fun lady ho likes attention and really likes to play, too! I hav ne cutest tall ears and the personality to match my e cutest tall ears and the personality to match mod looks. I really like treats and am eager to lea training me should be super easy. If I sound like pup for you, please come out and meet me day. I hope to see you soon!

ZENA



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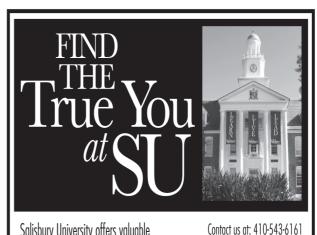
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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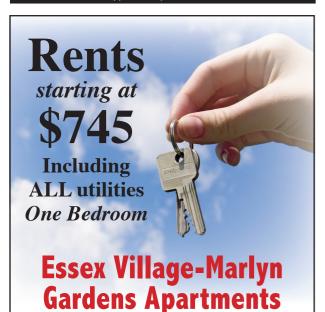
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Lovely 3BR 1.5BA home w/finished LL. New kitchen, new BA, beautiful hardwood floors, 1 car garage and 1 car parking pad.



201 I YNDAI F AVF BALTIMORE, MD 21236

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rm, hdwd flrs, SS appliances, granite countertops Finished bsmt has large open area, 4th BR and full BA. The large fenced backyard backs to State Park

in closet w/ add'l 2BR/1BA and a laundry rm. ML

boasts open concept, dining, kitchen, family & living

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home with pergo floors,

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level has a bar. Ceramic

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in sought after Sparrows

Point. UL features large master w/ en suite & walk-

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713 RIVERSIDE DR **ESSEX, MD 21221** Amazing rehab New siding & deck

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