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CBF presents findings of contamination in Bear Creek to public

- by Devin Crum -

NEWS

Representatives from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation convened a meeting with the public on Wednesday, Dec. 16, to share the results of their independent investigation into the toxicity of Bear Creek and to solicit their input on where to go next.

The CBF representatives revealed at the meeting, held at the Sollers Point Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library in Dundalk, that the water and mud of Bear Creek contain levels of contaminants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and various heavy metals that pose a minimal risk to human heath because our skin protects us. Therefore, people living, working and recreating on the creek likely are not at risk, the investigation showed.

But those same contaminants create an environment that is lethal to more than 80 percent of organisms living in the top two centimeters of the sediments closer to the adjacent Sparrows Point former steel mill property.

"The good news is the water itself presents minimal human health risk," said CBF President Will Baker in a statement. "The bad news is the old steel mill pollution has accumulated in the sediment and continues to be deadly to critters that spend time on or near the bottom."

Following the 2012 bankruptcy filing by RG Steel, a former owner of the steel mill, \$500,000 was set aside by the company to conduct offsite work around the property's shoreline to study the level of contamination that might be present, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has carried out.

However, CBF expressed concerns with EPA's investigation plan documents, according to CBF scientist Beth McGee. "And many of those concerns were ignored," she added. Specifically, they were concerned that

the sediments in the waterways around the former steel mill property are toxic to things that live in the mud, so they asked EPA to run toxicity tests, but they refused. Additionally, previous sediment sampling had been restricted to nearshore areas, but CBF had evidence that the contamination existed farther out into the water.

Therefore, using grant funds from the Abell Foundation, CBF carried out its own independent sampling of sediments and water all across Bear Creek in hopes that EPA will take their findings under consideration when developing their remediation plan for the waterway.

The human health risk assessment, carried out by the environmental consulting firm Exponent, Inc., determined that human contact with the contaminants would be via the skin, which posed little risk to them.

'Metals are not going to penetrate your - see FINDINGS on page 7 -



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NEWS

Perry Hall Town Fair to return to high school grounds

- by Emily Blackner -

The Perry Hall Town Fair will return to its previous location near Perry Hall High School in 2016, sponsors announced on Dec. 16.

In 2013 and 2014, the fair had been held in the parking lots of the Crossroads @ 95 retail and business complex on Route 43 in nearby Middle River. But for the 2016 fair, scheduled for Saturday, June 25, the festivities will be back in the heart of Perry Hall on Ebenezer Road.

"I'm thrilled that it's coming back to Perry Hall," said County Councilman David Marks. "While the Middle River location offered some benefits, it didn't have the same appeal to Perry Hall residents."

Lynn Richardson, president of the

Perry Hall/White Marsh Business Association which sponsors the town fair, said in a statement, "We are delighted that the 20th Annual Town Fair will return home to Perry Hall, where it was a successful and popular venue for so many years."

She also thanked Marks and the Baltimore County Police Department for their help in securing approval to use the site.

Richardson and Marks worked together to organize the first Perry Hall Town Fair in 1997. That year, it was held at Perry Hall Middle School and featured the unveiling of a new Perry Hall logo.

"It was a success, and since then it's really become kind of an institution," Marks said. He added that the Perry Hall Apple Festival is similarly beloved, but asserted, "I do think that both can coincide."

From 2003 - 2009, the fair was held along Ebenezer Road in front of Perry Hall High School, bringing petting zoo animals, food, games and vendors for residents to enjoy.

"In 2009, the school system started putting a lot of demands on the town fair to let it use the space," Marks said. "And now they've relaxed those demands, so we feel we can move it back."

One of the main restrictions was that there could be no gambling within 30 feet of the school, which meant no raffles would have been permitted at the fair.

"I think it will be a much more com-



The White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company and other area businesses had used the previous location to help introduce themselves to the people they serve. File photo.

fortable atmosphere for Perry Hall," Marks said.

Information about the town fair, including how to become a vendor, can be found at <u>http://www.thetownfair.</u> <u>net</u>.



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NEWS

White Marsh gym sponsors families for Christmas season

- by Emily Blackner

A small business owner in White Marsh is playing the role of Santa, spreading Christmas cheer and collecting gifts and food for needy families in the local community.

Barbara Laukaitis, owner of the Curves gym for women in White Marsh, has been adopting families for Thanksgiving and Christmas since 2010. She provides Thanksgiving dinner (including the turkey, stuffing, vegetables, rolls and desserts) as well as a Christmas basket containing a holiday ham, rolls, potatoes, peas, corn and other dishes for the meal and Christmas presents for the entire family. All of it is provided through donations from members of the gym, and names are submitted by people in the surrounding communities.

"These people might not be the poorest of the poor, but they're poor enough that they won't have Christmas dinner," she said.

This year, Laukaitis collected about 1,200 pounds of food to be distributed among 10 families. They also contain hundreds of dollars worth of Mars gift cards to help fill food needs in the coming weeks as well as presents for the members of each family.

This year, two of their "Angels" are senior citizens, aged 80 and 94, so effort was made to provide sweaters and gift cards for items like toothpaste, socks and other toiletries that aren't covered by health plans and can get sacrificed in tight budgets.

"It's really about finding the need and solving problems, at least in the short term," Laukaitis said. "We're trying to fill those little gaps and pockets of need."

She works with Debra Gallio to coordinate dona-



The Curves gym in White Marsh, with the support of owner Barb Laukaitis, collects food, drinks and presents for needy families in the community at Christmas. This year, they provided about 1,200 pounds of food to 10 families. Photo courtesy of Barb Laukaitis.



tions and deliveries throughout the area. "She's the real backbone of this," Laukaitis said of Gallio.

Gallio praised her friend as well, saying, "I can't say enough about her. She helps so many people in the local community and never asks for anything in return."

Laukaitis shared the credit with the members of the gym, who she says are always "so generous" and eager to help with the project.

It all stemmed from the annual food drive that Curves as a company holds every March, Laukaitis explained.

"We realized that even though Curves does this [drive] every year, there was a need throughout fall and December," she said.

Although they have helped many families over the years, Kaukaitis says that the single mothers tend to stand out, since the gym is for women only and fellow women hold a special appeal to members. In 2014, they sponsored a single mother with three daughters, providing food, coats and Barbies for the girls. They also were able to secure new bicycles for the girls and their mother.

"Mom didn't know she was getting a bike, so it made Christmas all the more special," Laukaitis recalled. "We wanted her to be able to go out and enjoy Christmas morning with her kids."

In addition to adopting these families, Laukaitis said her gym is involved with St. Joseph's and St. Ursula's food pantries, the Maryland Food Bank and other charity projects at the local level.

"It's amazing that we're still able to do it even as a small business," she said. "And I'm not doing anything other small companies aren't doing."

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NEWS

Alice Strathy named Clear Creeks Project Community Leader of the Year

- submitted by Christine Potts -

The 2015 Clear Creeks Project Community Leader of the Year, Alice Strathy, remembers the day she drove down Bird River Road and saw an expanse of mud and tree stumps where once a green wood had stood.

"They were cutting down all these trees to make way for houses. It broke my heart. I said to myself, if I ever get a chance to do something to make the environment better, I will do it," Strathy said.

And that chance did come, years later, when Strathy, who is secretary of the Bird River Road Neighborhood Association (BRRNA), was asked to attend a local civic group meeting where the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's Program Director, Peggy Perry, was giving a presentation on the Clear Creeks Project.

Clear Creeks: Our Water, Our Heritage, Our Pride is a community-based, grant-funded initiative managed by the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, a Baltimore County watershed restoration and land preservation non-profit.

Now in its third year, the Clear Creeks Project helps residents take steps in their own backyards and neighborhoods to help improve water clarity in the creeks and rivers of the Bird River, Middle River and Tidal Gunpowder watersheds.

When Strathy heard about the many initiatives the Project offered - like price shares on bay-friendly gardens and rain barrels and participation in community-led creek adoptions and tree plantings - she remembered the moment years before when she first beheld the clear cut stretch of ground.

"I heard the presentation [about the Clear Creeks

FINDINGS

- continued from page 2 -

skin too often," noted Randy Wentsel of Exponent. "The skin is a layer of protection."

McGee also pointed out that there is a fish consumption advisory in effect for the Patapsco River, of which Bear Creek is a tributary, which she called "pretty restrictive."

However, the investigation showed that sediments on the creek bottom are extremely toxic to organisms that normally live there. And an "apron" of poisoned sediment fans out hundreds of feet from the old steel mill site, with heavier concentrations of contaminants near areas of heavy mill activity.

CBF attorney Paul Smail explained that EPA is expected to finalize the report for their own investigation in January 2016, which will be used to guide any reme-

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2015 Clear Creeks Community Leader of the Year Alice Strathy (pictured right) with husband Darrell Strathy at a Clear Creeks Project tree planting in Gunpowder Falls State Park – Hammerman area.

Project] and my ears perked up. After the meeting, I went over and I signed up for a yard assessment. I went home and started looking at everything I could do. And I thought, 'This is it!''' Strathy said.

Flash forward to early December 2015, when Strathy was awarded the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's highest environmental stewardship honor for her work with the Clear Creeks Project. Strathy has installed

diation they deem necessary, and CBF would like their findings taken under consideration as well. "We keep banging on their door to say, 'look, this is toxic sediment; let's do something about this," he commented.

But after sending their results to EPA in early December, they have yet to receive any response. "So we don't have a clear indication yet whether this [contamination] will be remediated or left in place," Smail affirmed.

EPA is also developing a work plan for investigations to be done around Old Road Bay and Jones Creek and will oversee that work. But "we're not getting a lot of action out of the agencies to do further investigations, and that's a problem," CBF representative Terry Cummings asserted.

McGee thinks that the reports that come out from

Project rain barrels and a bayscape garden in her yard, served on committees and hosted workshops. She has spread the word about Project events on social media and mobilized members of the BRRNA to adopt and clean a quarter mile section of White Marsh Run, from which they have collected 1,465 pounds of trash to date. And, of course, she has planted trees.

"I'm just doing what I'm doing to be part of the solution," Strathy said of her multiple contributions.

When faced with the news of the recent Middle River fish kill, Strathy, who was born and raised in Dundalk and has lived in Essex, Middle River and Bird River communities for over 30 years, says she felt "devastated" and "helpless," but also strengthened in her resolve.

"I can't give up. All the work everybody is doing. They are just as concerned as I am," Strathy said. "We just have to keep trying."

Strathy responded to news of the fish kill by posting on Facebook "about the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy and how rain gardens and bayscape gardens and rain barrels help slow runoff and the other things we can do," said Strathy.

If you would like to learn more about the Clear Creeks Project, visit the Project website at <u>www.clearcreeks.org</u>.

The Clear Creeks Project is made possible through funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Chesapeake Bay Trust; Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability; Baltimore Gas and Electric; Gunpowder Valley Conservancy; and Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

EPA in January will be telling, though. "We'll know whether they plan to do anything more or if they're just going to stop," she said.

In the meantime, CBF encouraged citizens to contact EPA's point person for the project, Sean Garvin, with their concerns. The CBF investigation findings are available on their website at <u>www.cbf.org</u>.

Correction: In the article "PAPA's Smokehouse delivers flavorful meat, seafood," a former chef was listed. The current chef at PAPA's is the extremely talented Chef Robert Reightler, who prepared the excellent food for us. *East County Times* regrets the error.

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IN OUR OPINION

Towson police incident potential black eye for department

- by Patrick Taylor -

Over the weekend, a video of a young man getting pummelled by Baltimore County police outside of the Greene Turtle in Towson went viral. In the video, you can clearly see an officer punch 19-year-old Zachary Blumenstein at least seven times in the head. It's the second time in two years that a confrontation with police in the Towson circle has gained attention.

I have watched the video a few times and reviewed statements, and as far as I can tell Blumenstein absolutely deserved to be arrested. I have a hard time believing that anyone would disagree with that.

At 1:20 a.m. on Dec. 20, officers saw Blumenstein engaged in a confrontation and ordered him to leave the area. At 2 a.m., officers observed Blumenstein push a man into York Road. From there, things get hairy. An officer runs over to subdue Blumenstein, dragging him to the ground. Two other officers eventually enter the fracas, with one holding Blumenstein's left arm behind his back while another repeatedly punches Blumenstein in the face, all while yelling that Blumenstein is "resisting."

In a release sent out by the Baltimore County Police Department, they state that they take "the use of force seriously and will review this incident for compliance with use of force training," which "requires officers to use the least amount of force needed to bring a situation under control and to escalate the use of force based on circumstances."

Seven punches to the head, a knee to the back of the head and pepper spray to the face don't sound like the least amount of force. After viewing the video multiple times, it's apparent that some force was needed. The pepper spray, which is not captured on the video, was the first tactic used. From there, Blumenstein definitely deserved to be dragged to the ground.

But seven punches to the head are absolutely unnecessary, and it brings up the predicament of beating a man while yelling "stop resisting." When getting beaten, your natural reaction isn't to relax your body and put your hands behind your back. It's to protect yourself. It's kind of counter intuitive to put a massive amount of physical stress on a person while yelling at them to just chill out. That's simply not how the body works.

In those instances, things are always going to be tricky for officers, especially when you have alcohol and bystanders exacerbating a situation. In their release, the police department states, "Officers faced with violent, chaotic situations often must use force to protect themselves and others." This is absolutely true. Unfortunately, the man was already relatively restrained and not in a position to inflict harm on the officers. What it looks like to me is that the officer throwing the punches was frustrated at Blumenstein's belligerence and wanted to end the incident quickly, regardless of the amount of force used.

I've already seen many cry "thug" and "juvenile punk," and while Blumenstein absolutely deserved his arrest, seven punches to the head is simply too much. Rather than focusing on proper escalation tactics, maybe the department needs to shift focus to deescalation tactics.





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SPORTS

Owls need to be wary of player fatigue

- Article & photo by Patrick Taylor -It wasn't that long ago that the Dundalk Owls football team was playing in the state final at M&T Bank Stadium. Now, a slew of those players are suiting up for Dundalk's basketball team and playing prominent roles.

Though the season is young, it's already been a bit of a mixed bag for the Owls. Currently sitting at 2-2, they've suffered losses to Woodlawn and Perry Hall while beating Towson and Overlea.

Both of their losses were winnable games, especially the game against Perry Hall which saw the two teams tied as they entered the fourth quarter. After catching a few of their games so far this season, I think it's safe to say that the team's core group of players -Duron Ball, Kobi Eure and Ta'vaughn Johnson among others - would benefit from taking a bit of a rest.

Football season is brutal on the body, even without a postseason appearance. For months, players beat up on each other in practice and in games. Usually, a rest is required between sports, but that requirement was waived for the Dundalk players who had just finished up the football season the week before the basketball season tipped off.

This is no knock on the Owls, who actually have a very strong squad complete with capable big men, athletic guards and plenty of raw talent. But the thing about the Owls is that they play an up-tempo style, especially defensively. This is a team that thrives on trapping opponents and utilizing a full-court press. And in order for that to be effective, you need your players to be fresh.

Luckily for Dundalk, they have high quality athletes who seem more than up to the challenge (ah to be young again), but this type of up-tempo play on limited rest does not bode well for the remainder of the season. It'll either result in players getting burned out or injured.

The Owls have three more games to play before they have a week off to begin the new year. It would be wise to tread lightly with those returning from football season. At that point they will have already played in seven games and knocked off the rust. And considering they just hopped from one sport to another, they don't need to worry about getting into shape. Some light walkthroughs and going over the playbook seems to be what's needed.

After the break I imagine we'll get a better picture of what this team brings to the table. As I stated earlier, they have plenty of strengths and the one major detraction can be fixed with some rest.





Carl Bradley eyes up a Towson defender in Friday night's victory for the Owls.

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SPORTS

Owls bounce back from Perry Hall loss to topple Towson

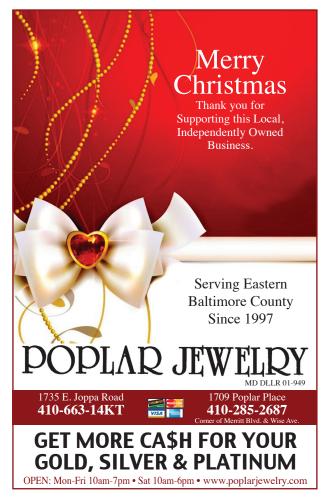
- by Patrick Taylor -

The Dundalk Owls bounced back from a tough loss to Perry Hall last week, upending Towson by a score of 70-37 on Friday night. The win puts the



but our hearts are warmed by thoughts of our many good friends and neighbors at this special time of year.

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Owls at 2-2 for the season. With the loss to Perry Hall, Dundalk had fallen below .500 for the first time in three years, but the win against Towson put them back on the right track.

Friday night's contest against Towson started slow, with both teams struggling to get much going early on. Really, Dundalk didn't settle down and take control until senior guard Duron Ball started getting things going midway through the first quarter. And even then they struggled to separate themselves from Towson, with the first quarter ending with Dundalk ahead 11-9.

Ball highlighted his importance to the team on Friday night, kickstarting Dundalk's offense with his ability to slice into the lane and hit the deep three. In the second quarter, the Owls rode Ball's hot hand. While guard Malik Winston struggled to get much going from the field, Ball hit crucial back-to-back three pointers to give the Owls the bump they needed, and from that point on there was no containing the Dundalk offense. Ball's second three was a thing of beauty, as he took possession of the ball about five feet from the three point line, took a dribble and quickly drilled a three in the defender's face.

Despite Ball's big night, the real point of emphasis



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And of course, that defensive hustle was reflected in the box score, as Towson struggled to put points on the board. In the first quarter, they put up nine points, followed by seven and five points in the following quarters. Anytime you keep your opponent in single digits in a given quarter, you've given yourself a chance to win. To do that three times in a game essentially secures victory.

Unfortunately that defensive prowess was not on display for a full four quarters against Perry Hall, as the Gators upended the Owls by a score of 65-60. Despite being held to just three points in the third quarter, the Gators surged in the fourth to keep Dundalk at bay.

Dundalk had fallen behind big after a rough second quarter but bounced back in the third to tie things up. Perry Hall couldn't be held for long, however, and eventually the game was settled at the free throw line. Dundalk next plays in the Dundalk Holiday Tournament on Dec. 28 at 6:45 p.m.

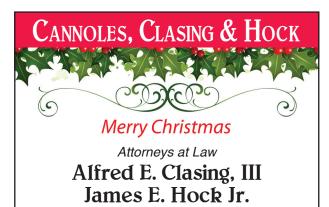
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Councilman Marks names five Perry Hall residents as Citizens of the Year

Baltimore County Councilman David Marks has named four Perry Hall volunteers as Fifth District Citizens of the Year. They include:

Dennis M. Robinson, Jr., for his service as President of the Perry Hall Improvement Association since 2010;

Greg Heitner, for his leadership in advancing the recreational needs of the Perry Hall community and his service on the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board;

Will Lutostanski, for leading periodic clean-ups of the Seven Courts Drive traffic circle;

Jimmy Lien, for his leadership in improving Downtown Perry Hall through annual spring cleanup activities and for his service as a board member for the Y of Central Mary-

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land; and

Diane Hartke, for her leadership in beautifying Downtown Perry Hall through new tree plantings.

The individuals have been honored at several community events, including the Perry Hall Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 15.

Councilman Marks created the award program to recognize indi-

viduals and organizations that make a difference in the Fifth District. "I would like to thank these volunteers for helping to build stronger neighborhoods," Councilman Marks commented. "From Kingsville to Towson, we have men and women who set an example and work hard to improve our communities."

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May the holiday season fill you with happiness! Thanks for making 2015 a great year for us.



The Friendly Food People

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT THE EAST COUNTY TIMES 2015 - By Pam Spittel

'Twas the night before Christmas at the East County Times As I struggle to make sure this corny poem rhymes. I do this for you, George, because you love it so much So, what can I tell you about this crazy newspaper bunch?

We all love to eat, that much you know At the same time each day, back to the lunch table we go I read the paper, Terri and Emily talk about each other's pet While Pat & Devin wait to see what leftovers they will get.

It never fails; this is the time the phone starts to ring We always stop to answer, never know what this call will bring We got a new phone system this year, complete with caller ID I love to hurry and answer it, when I know the call is for me.

Nancy is now our publisher, but there's another job that she's had Providing round-the-clock care for both her mom and her dad Jessie has stepped in to help ~ there's always so much to do Her cubicle is disinfected now; we all call Jaime our hero!!

The summer was hot, so the girls came to my house to get cool And Michele caused a splash when she pushed Carol into the pool! No more loitering in front of our office, we couldn't stand the stench So Terri & Clarence came and took away our once beautiful bench.

George's daily breakfast at Shea's will be a thing of the past However, they are merging with Jad's, so his favorites will last The Avenue's parent bought The Eagle, so they are locally-owned no more And we celebrated 20 years since the day we opened our door!!

Linda & Angie have been here since day number one And I came four years later to join in the fun Many of you have also come to love this paper; it is very clear So let's celebrate Christmas & have a Happy New Year!!!



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www.eastcountytimesonline.com December 23, 2015 Page 13

Vishing Our Dear Friends A Merry Christmas

HOLIDAY CLOSING

The East County Times' office will be CLOSED Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th so that we may spend Christmas with our families.

The office will RE-OPEN on Monday, December 28th. All deadlines for the December 31st edition will be Monday, December 28th at 4 p.m.

We wish you & yours a MERRY CHRISTMAS East County Times

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- POLITICIANS

Metzgar attends education and business forum

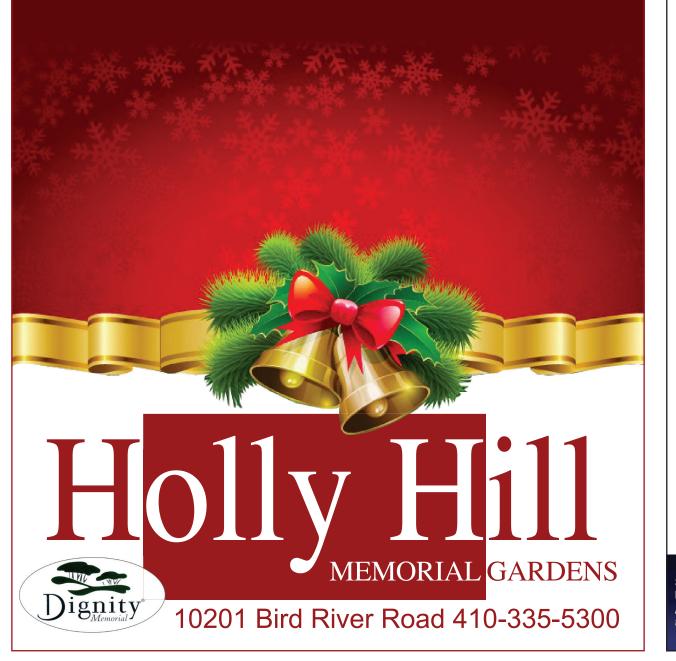
Delegate Ric Metzgar (R-6) attended Maryland Rising, an education and business breakfast forum, held at Stevenson University in Owings Mills. Del. Metzgar sits on the House Ways and Means Committee education subcommittee.

The purpose of Maryland Rising is to bring education and business leaders and legislators together to enhance education and leadership with technology for Maryland for the 21st century.

James T. Brady, former Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and current member of the Maryland Economic Development Commission, who was present to represent Governor Larry Hogan, was the first speaker. Brady, in his opening remarks, spoke about "Maryland Open for Business," a job theme of the Hogan administration, and the sense of optimism and hope in the creation of economic development and job growth in the state.

He spoke about how the governor has changed things by lowering taxes, lowering tolls, making Maryland more business-friendly to keep businesses in Maryland and encourage others to locate here, changing the name of the Maryland Department from Business and Economic Development to the Maryland Department of Commerce and using strategic planning to improve the business climate in Maryland.

Merry Christmas To you and yours!



Brady also spoke about career technologies, which most of us know as vocational education, a theme that Metzgar has talked about a lot. College is not for everyone. Some people like to work with their hands and we need carpenters, bricklayers, machinists, electricians and the like. Metzgar sees tremendous value in these skilled professions.

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of UMBC, spoke about integrating science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs with the arts and humanities to make STEAM to teach group work, problem solving and collaborative learning.

Metzgar found the forum educational and enlightening. He supports the governor's plan to bring more jobs to Maryland. Metzgar has had several meetings with officials from the Sparrows Point Terminal to discuss bringing good-paying manufacturing jobs to the old Bethlehem Steel site, which is the largest tract of industrial land with a shipping channel on the East Coast.

Klausmeier recognized by Maryland Association of Counties

On Thursday, Dec. 10, Senator Katherine Klausmeier (D-8) received an award of recognition from the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) acknowledging her leadership on heroin and opioid legislation during the 2015 session.

Klausmeier was honored to receive this award and wishes to thank MACo for recognizing her hard work.

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



911

MSP investigate decomposed body found by I-95

Maryland State Police are investigating a severely decomposed body found on the side of the road in Baltimore County on Dec. 16.

A positive identification of the individual found has not yet been made. State Police homicide investigators are on the scene with Maryland State Police crime scene technicians.

At about 10 a.m. on Dec. 16, Maryland State Police received a call from highway maintenance workers with a report of a dead body observed in a wooded area near the highway. Maryland state troopers from the JFK Highway Barrack responded, as did police officers from the Baltimore County Police Department.

The body was found about 30 feet from the high-

Officers, victim identified in Middle River shooting

Baltimore County Police have identified the officers and victim involved in a Dec. 14 Middle River shooting that left one dead. All officers are assigned to the Essex Precinct and have not been involved in any previous shootings. They will remain on administrative status while the incident is reviewed.

Officer Canup - 8-year veteran

* Officer Pfadenhauer - 13-year veteran

* Officer Spahn - 14-year veteran

The man shot by Baltimore County officers after he threatened them with knives has been identified as Jeffrey Gene Evans, 52, of the 4000-block of Bay Drive in Middle River.

Just before 10 a.m. on Dec. 14, Baltimore County Police and Fire units responded to a home in the 4000-block of Bay Drive in Middle River for an attempted suicide. The caller to 911 said that a man at the location had taken a large amount of pills.

When officers arrived on the scene, they met with the complainant, a woman in her late thirties, at the front door. The woman went outside while officers went inside and made contact with the live-in boyfriend, a man in his early 50s. Officers began speaking with the man and attempted to talk him into

Precinct 9/White Marsh

First Degree Burglary: Officers from the White Marsh precinct responded to a call just before 10 p.m. on Dec. 17 in the 5900-block of Schering Road in Overlea. Sometime between 6 and 9:50 p.m., an unknown suspect broke a window and an interior door to gain entry into the residence. Once inside, the suspect stole a game system and fled.

First Degree Burglary: On Dec. 15, Baltimore County police were called to the 200-block of Lyndale Avenue in Nottingham. At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect followed the victim into her home and stole her purse. He then fled in a vehicle. Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact Baltimore County police.

Robbery: Baltimore County police responded to a call in the 3900-block of Hannon Court in Nottingham late in the morning on Dec. 14. At 11:25 a.m., while the victim was walking to her apartment, an unknown suspect ran up from behind and snatched her purse from her arm. The suspect then fled. The victim was not harmed.

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way, in the woods, on the eastbound ramp of Route 43 approaching southbound I-95 in White Marsh. Troopers summoned Maryland State Police crime scene technicians and investigators from the State Police Homicide Unit. The body is being transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore for an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death.

The eastbound ramp of Route 43 getting on to I-95 southbound will remain closed as Maryland State Police investigators continue this investigation. State Highway Administration responded to assist with the ramp closure. No further details are available at this time.

going to the hospital. When officers were unable to convince him to go to the hospital voluntarily, at least one taser was deployed in an effort to bring him under control. The taser deployment was not effective.

The man then reached into a kitchen drawer and retrieved several knives. He advanced on officers with those knives. Another taser was deployed against the man, but it was not effective. Three officers then fired, striking the man.

The man was declared deceased at the scene. The Homicide Unit is investigating.

Car crash in Rosedale leaves one dead

Baltimore County Police are investigating a Dec. 12 crash in Rosedale that killed a man.

The preliminary investigation into the crash in Rosedale indicates that just before 1:30 a.m., a BMW 328I was traveling southbound on Chesaco Avenue, south of Dalrose Avenue. The vehicle went off of the roadway and struck a concrete culvert, several trees and two parked cars. The passenger in the vehicle was eiected.

The ejected passenger was declared dead at the scene. The operator of the vehicle was transported to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center with serious injuries. His current condition is unknown.

This crash remains under investigation by the Baltimore County Police Crash Team. The investigation is expected to take several weeks.



Woman found dead in apartment in Essex

Terrence L. Jenkins, 49, of the unit-block of Skipjack Court in Essex, has been charged with first degree murder in the death of Shelly Fillion, his girlfriend, also of the unit block of Skipjack Court. Jenkins is also a suspect in the murder of a woman in the 3600-block of Pulaski Highway in Baltimore City.

Jenkins was arrested on Dec. 17 in Baltimore City at about 5:30 p.m. He is held without bail at the Baltimore County Detention Center.

Fillion's body was found Monday afternoon at the Skipjack Court address. Baltimore County homicide detectives quickly identified Jenkins as a possible suspect in the Skipjack Court murder. On Dec. 17, detectives received information that Jenkins made a phone call from an address in the 3600-block of Pulaski Highway. A team of detectives conducted a surveillance operation at and around that house. They saw a man they believed might be Jenkins enter the home after a woman let him in. The detectives maintained the surveillance. While the suspect was inside the house, detectives found a Ford Explorer belonging to Shelly Fillion parked nearby.

Detectives approached Jenkins when he left the house, about 30 minutes after he entered, and followed him as he walked toward Fillion's vehicle. Jenkins fled on foot, with the foot chase continuing across Pulaski Highway. Jenkins was taken into custody without further incident.

Detectives entered the Pulaski Highway house, intending to glean information from whoever was in the house. Instead, they found the body of a woman, whose relationship with the suspect is unclear at this point. Baltimore City Police are investigating the Pulaski Highway homicide.

Both homicide investigations are ongoing. BCoPD and BPD are cooperating fully on these cases.

Current crime trends

Since Nov. 30, there have been nine residential burglaries in the city line vicinity of the White Marsh Precinct. Most cases occurred between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. Two cases occurred overnight and one case occurred at 5:36 a.m. Unlocked doors or windows were used to enter locations in most cases. A front window was broken in one case.



New **Star Wars** movie is a 'Force' to be reckoned with



- by Teddy Durgin -

If I had one word to describe "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," it would be... EMOTIONAL! Writer-director J.J. Abrams has returned high drama to the space opera that George Lucas unleashed on the world in 1977. The stakes are once again high. You don't know how everything is going to turn out. When characters are in jeopardy, they're in real danger and you can see it on their faces, hear it in their voices.

That said, I am going to surprise many of you by starting out with what I did

NOT like about it. There's not a lot I didn't like. I could spend 30 paragraphs on what I loved, loved, LOVED and just two or three on my nitpicks. But what Abrams and co-screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan have done here that I didn't like is the same issue I have with so many big-screen franchises nowadays, and that goes for Marvel, "Harry Potter," "The Hunger Games" and so forth. The individual films are not complete films. Yes, their scripts have beginnings, middles and ends. But they pose questions and seed plot and character lines, and then leave them hanging to be answered and/or resolved... eh, maybe in the next film... eh, maybe in the film after that one.

Nitpick No. 2. For my liking, there's just not enough in the movie about how the evil First Order rose to become such a threat. It's clear the Republic has been re-established, and the Resistance is its military wing having descended from the original Rebellion. But there is one character in the film - Andy Serkis' Supreme Leader Snoke - who, at this point, is extremely vague. And what this character has done between the events of "Return of the Jedi" and "The Force Awakens" is absolutely momentous. But... uh... who is he? We get scarcely few details. And since I am the biggest "Star Wars" fan among my circle of friends, family members and colleagues, I don't like having to reply "Uh, I dunno" when asked.

Now, what's great about the film? Ahem... EVERYTHING ELSE!!! Here are my top three "Loves." One, the new cast! Daisy Ridley's Rey is the main character. This is her first film, and she is terrific. Plucky, determined, self-reliant, she is compelling in a way that, I think, is more attractive than Jennifer Lawrence's dour, sour Katniss from "The Hunger Games." John Boyega's Finn is one of the most original "Star Wars" characters since the original trilogy. A stormtrooper with a conscience, he has seen the evil of the First Order first-hand. And while he has the makings of a hero, that experience and knowledge just as often tells him to run as to fight. And Adam Driver's villainous Kylo Ren possesses the unhinged rage and the raw, conflicted emotions that so many fans wanted to see more of in Anakin throughout the prequels.

Two, I love how the old cast was used! Front and center, Harrison Ford is absolutely terrific as Han Solo and really anchors the film. After years of trying to distance himself from the franchise, Ford returns and gives his absolute best performance of the four films he has appeared in. And, yes, I know that is saying a LOT. And that's all I am going to say. Abrams, meanwhile, gets a credible performance out of Carrie Fisher as Leia, and Chewie, Threepio and R2-D2 are their old selves.

Three, it's already been bandied about ad nauseum in all the hype leading up to the film. "The Force Awakens" once again uses real sets, real locations, real props and so forth. The artistry and attention to detail throughout is simply stunning. That's a full-sized Millennium Falcon the characters are in. Those are real stormtroopers in costume. That's a real desert, a real forest, a real snowscape. Things go squish underfoot.

And, yes, as before when this film ends, you'll want them to run "Episode VIII," umm... IMMEDIATELY!

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" is rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence. It's perfectly fine for the kids, though.



'The Big Short' comes up big

- by Teddy Durgin -

"The Big Short" is a chronicle of the months leading up to the 2008 economic meltdown in which the crash of the housing market brought down giants like Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers and introduced the phrase "too big to fail" to the pop-culture lexicon. And it's told from the perspective of several smart money men who recognized the coming crash months before it happened and positioned themselves to bet against the U.S. housing market. It's a fascinating film, full of star power that will have viewers seeing stars when they realize just how bad most of the country and the world got punched ... and how close we all came to getting knocked out for good.

Christian Bale heads the ensemble as Michael Burry, a Silicon Valley money manager who's the first to recognize the coming storm. Burry is an anti-social eccentric, with a glass eye, a fondness for Metallica and a wardrobe that would make Brian Wilson say "Button that shirt, son, and put some socks on."

Across the country, we meet the New York contingent. Steve Carrell is Mark Baum, a blustery hedge-fund manager who rages against the machine whenever anyone will listen (or not listen). When he gets the tip that the market is headed for collapse due to Wall Street's greed and stupidity, he jumps at the chance to make the system pay. He finds the perfect slimy accomplice in Ryan Gosling's Jared Vannett, a Wall Street banker eager to game the system from within. Finally, there is Brad Pitt as a burned-out investment titan living off the grid in Colorado, who's brought back into the game by two upstarts (Finn Wittrock and John Magaro) who know there will be a LOT of money to be made off the bundled mortgage products that are being sold to the public... but need money and a high-placed connection to get a seat at the table.

For the most part, most of these players never meet each other in the film. They're all on different roads to the same destination, but they only briefly intersect at a financial convention in Sin City. They're extremely smart guys, who can't believe how dumb other truly smart people were being within the worlds of high finance, big business and government.

What distinguishes "The Big Short" is how self-aware it is. The filmmakers know their protagonists are essentially weasels who have no intention of saving the public from near-certain financial calamity. Gosling even says so right to the camera early on. And even if you're fans of him, Bale, Carrell and/or Pitt (who's also co-producer here), you know they're making obscene buckets of cash, too, while pointing their fingers at all concerned.

But the movie isn't really about finding

a rooting interest. It's about showing you the viewer how and why this momentous financial collapse happened and how it could happen again. And if you're worried that things like collateralized debt obligations and mortgage-backed securities are going to be too complicated to understand as the plot unfolds, director Adam McKay employs a marvelous narrative device in that he literally stops his film every 15 or so minutes and has big-name celebs appear and put it all in terms us commoners can understand. These cameos include "Wolf of Wall Street" beauty Margot Robbie laying out matters of high finance while taking a bubble bath, Selena Gomez playing

a hand of blackjack in Vegas and chef Anthony Bourdain preparing one of his delicious stews.

ENTERTAINMENT

"The Big Short" will entertain you, scare you, depress you, make you think and make you feel. You will likely have a strong reaction to it while watching it and on the drive home from the cinema. In fact, you should have a strong reaction, because we're still dealing with the fallout of those times now and many families, households, retirees and individuals will be for years. If you timed the market just right back then... congrats. Here's hoping this movie times its market right, too.

"The Big Short" is rated R.







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OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm / Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm / Closed Sunday



OBITUARIES

Clasing, Alfred E., Jr.

On Dec. 16, Alfred E. Clasing, Jr., 90, longtime resident of Essex, WWII veteran and community activist.

One of 13 children, Al was born and educated in Baltimore City. His dad was a welder at Bethlehem Steel and his mom was

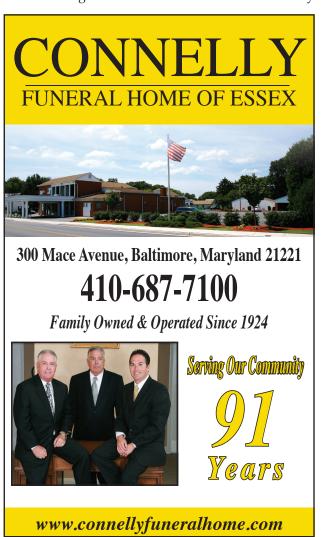
a homemaker. In 1943, at age 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy. During WWII, he served aboard a landing craft in the South Pacific, making invasions on Saipan, Tinian, Peleliu, the Marshall Islands and Angaur. In recognition of his valor, he received three bronze battle stars, a Naval Unit Citation and a letter of heroic service from President Truman.

Following honorable discharge after VJ day, Al went to work at Bethlehem Steel Corporation. He married Marie Wiegand, moved to Essex and together they raised six children. He worked at Sparrows Point for 35 years, retiring as a member of exempt management.

In addition to his loyalty to country, family and employer, Al was devoted to his community, veteran's organizations and the environment. He was the founder and/or president of the Hart and Millers Island Environmental Group, the Back River Peninsula Community Association, Lamky-Luther-Whitehead Veterans Memorial and the Back River Neck Safety Association, as well as Vice President of the Baltimore County Police - Community Relations Council and a leader in the VFW, American Legion and numerous other civic organizations. Mr. Clasing coordinated fundraising for Franklin Square Hospital and the United Appeal.

Al's commitment to education included leadership roles in local PTAs as well as the Baltimore County PTA Counsel and the Maryland State Congress of PTAs. He served as a Baltimore County Delegate to the State Board of Education. Mr. Clasing was an instructor in the Labor Studies Program at CCBC-Dundalk and served on the college's Curriculum Development Board. He was on the Advisory Board of the Maryland Labor Education Association.

Mr. Clasing had a lifetime commitment to the Boy



Scouts of America. He was the proud recipient of the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor bestowed by Scouting upon an adult volunteer. This award recognized his long service as Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Neighborhood Commissioner, Asst. District Commissioner, Round Table Commissioner, Sustaining Membership Commissioner and Camporee Chairman.

Mr. Clasing worshipped at the Back River United Methodist Church, serving as Chairman of Evangelism and the Administrative Board. He served on the Transportation, Long Range Planning and Pastor-Parrish Relations committees.

His energy, commitment to community and enthusiasm continued until the last six months of his life. Al was well into his 80s when he learned of the VA's plan to cede the former Fort Howard Hospital property to a private developer. Outraged to discover that this project was not for the exclusive benefit of vets, he helped organize and lead a citizen's "Save Fort Howard" campaign. He was active in that cause on a daily basis until his most recent illness.

Al is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marie J. Clasing (nee Wiegand); his daughter, Kimberly Hock; five sons; 17 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.



You will not be home for Christmas and we will all miss you both so much. The holidays are so empty without you. Your laughter, smiles and just being in your presence was exciting. Death changes everything and Time heals nothing. Our lives have changed so much with your passing, and nothing is the same. Hopefully we will all be together one day.

> Til we meet again down by the water Hugs and kisses, Your family





Odom, Richard N.



On Dec. 11, Richard N. Odom, 50, of Wilmington, N.C., died at UNC Medical Center, Chapel Hill, N.C.

He was born Oct. 22, 1965, in Laurel, and raised in eastern Baltimore County. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, an avid fisherman, dedicated Baltimore

Ravens fan, gardener, dog lover, helping hand and loyal friend. Rick had a larger-than-life personality, always sharing a good story and a big laugh.

Rick is survived by his parents Cecil Jay and Graeme H. Odom; his son, Justin Moriarty; daughter Heather Chrystina Sheppard; brother Cecil Jay Odom, Jr., sisters Cynthia Coyle and Sacha Epperson and grandchildren Bradley, Ethan and Hunter Sheppard.

Visitation and a funeral were held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Wilmington on Dec. 16. Interment Oleander Memorial Gardens.

In the obituary for Marion E. MacCrehan published in the Dec. 17 issue of the *East County Times*, the names of two family members were misspelled. Her husband was William A. MacCrehan, Jr. and a granddaughter is Corrin MacCrehan.

A loving Christmas Tribute to my Sister, "Angel" (Patricia Locklear, nee Jaski)



Christmas is a time for sharing with those we hold so dear. So all I want for Christmas is a special gift, with all my love, A gift to be delivered to my beautiful sister in Heaven, up above.

It's wrapped with memories from the past that were so sweet, in ribbons and bows, of all the dreams we had no time to complete. It's such a very special gift, please, don't delay. I would like it to be in Heaven in time for Christmas Day. Most people wish for presents under their tree My wish is different, I wish you, my darling sister, were here with me. You will always be our shining Angel on our trees. Merry Christmas to you, with all our love. Janice, Ronnie and Family

> Merry Christmas

"We Wish You Peace & Joy"

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COMMUNITY -

Food Pantry

New Life Sanctuary, 4 Margaret Ave. in Essex, has a food pantry for those in need every Saturday from noon - 2 p.m. on the side of the building facing Margaret Avenue. For more info., call the church office at 410-687-1199.

Candlelight Service

Life Source International Church Perry Hall Campus, 8855 Belair Road, will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m. All are welcome! For more info., contact the church office at 410-256-2225 or visit <u>lifesourcechurch-perryhall.com</u>.



Chocolate for our Troops!

Angels Supporting Your Troops, Inc. is collecting unopened candy to send to our soldiers overseas. Please consider donating any type of candy, especially chocolate. Other items in demand include powdered drink mixes, beef jerky or Slim Jims, unopened jars of peanut butter and jelly, crackers and chewing gum. Also in need are ink pens. Contact Irene Spatafore at 410-284-5275 or drop items off at 7914 Diehlwood Road in Dundalk on the picnic table.

Free Mammograms

Baltimore County Women's Cancer Protection is currently offering free mammograms to those who wish to be screened. Call 410-887-3432 to schedule an appointment or for more information. **Senior Groups at Back River** The Back River area has two senior citizen groups.

The Golden Agers of Back River group meets Thursdays at the Back River Recreation Center, 801 Back River Neck Road in Essex, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Sandalwood Golden Agers have moved to this location as well, meeting Wednesdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, contact the Back River Recreation office at 410-887-0217.

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.



Make Reservations Early for New Year's Eve Dinner!

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SPOTLIGHT

New Year's Eve Party

On Dec. 31, Bethlehem Council 2605 Knights of Columbus will host their old-fashioned New Year's Eve Party from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. at their hall, 7401 Bay Front Road in Sparrows Point. Includes live and DJ music, party favors, beer, soda, dessert, meal platters, whiskey sours and a champagne toast at midnight. Cost \$25 pp; call 410-477-5225 and leave a message.

Aerobics Classes

Bengies Chase Recreation Council will present In-Shape Aerobics and In-Step Aerobics classes at Vincent Farm Elementary School, Mondays -Thursdays, 7 - 8 p.m., starting Monday, Jan. 11. Call 410-887-5194.

Thursday Dinner

Essex - Holly Neck VFW Post 2621, 206 Riverside Road, will serve dinner every Thursday from 5 - 7 p.m. Menu changes each week. For info., call 410-391-5200.

Karaoke

Essex American Legion Post 148, 20 S. Marlyn Ave., will host karaoke with Jimmy & Judy D on Saturday, Dec. 26, from 8 p.m. - midnight. And on Sunday, Dec. 27, from 4 - 8 p.m., the Post will feature karaoke with P & J Karaoke. Closed on Friday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas. Call the Post at 410-686-2353 for kitchen availability, menu and specials.

Bingo

American Legion Post 130, 8666 Silver Lake Drive in Perry Hall, will host bingo every Thursday beginning promptly at 7 p.m. Lite fare dinner available from 5:30 p.m. For more info., call 410-870-0625.

Talent Show and Supper

Hiss United Methodist Church, 8700 Harford Road in Parkville, will host a talent show and covered dish supper on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, at 5 p.m. Tickets \$5 or \$20 for a family of four or more. 410-668-5665.



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WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY - STEAK NIGHT

8oz FLAT IRON Steak w/2 Sides - \$9.99 8oz STEAK & CRAB CAKE w/2 sides - \$18.99 \$5 Crushes, \$2 Domestic Bottles, \$1.50 Miller Lite Drafts **TUESDAY - CLOSED**

WEDNESDAY - BURGER NIGHT

\$7 BUILD YOUR OWN BURGER (toppings 25¢ each) \$3 OFF SPECIALTY BURGERS / \$3 Import Drafts, \$4 House Wines

THURSDAY - FIESTA NIGHT \$6 SUNSET NACHOS / \$3 OFF ALL TACOS & QUESADILLAS \$3 Coronas, \$5 Margaritas

FRIDAY - 4PM TIL CLOSE \$1 Miller Lite & Bud Light bottles / \$4 Bombs, \$4 Fireballs

\$12.99 lb. STEAMED SHRIMP w/ONIONS / CHEF'S SPECIALS SATURDAY - ALL DAY

\$1 RAW OYSTERS / \$12.99 LB. STEAMED SHRIMP w/ONIONS
2 for 1 Domestic Bottles, Crushes and Rails.
\$5 Jager, Rumple, GM or Jameson Shots / CHEF'S SPECIALS

SUNDAY - ALL DAY

\$12.99 LB. STEAMED SHRIMP w/ONIONS / \$5 Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Crushes / \$2 Domestic Bottles, \$3 Coronas CHEF'S SPECIALS

Round

WEEKDAY \$9.99 EACH SPECIALS

SPECIALS 3pm-Close 8oz FLAT IRON w/Two Sides

Monday, Wednesday

& Thursday

SUISOE

CRAB CAKE PLATTER w/Two Sides

POT ROAST w/Mashed Potatoes

MEATBALL MARINARA w/Linguine. Served w/Garlic Bread

FISH AND CHIPS Rockfish Tenders w/Fries, Cole Slaw HOT ROAST BEEF open-faced w/choice of Fries or Mashed Potatoes

SHRIMP SALAD COMBO Half sandwiches w/ a Bowl of any of our Soups OR a side House or Caesar Salad

12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION INCREDIBLE DINNER BUFFET Open Bar 8pm-Midnight Champagne Toast at Midnight DJ from 8pm-1am \$60 in advance / \$70 at the door

3408 Red Rose Farm Rd. 21220 / 410-630-2031

Sunset (

Patapsco JROTC Change of Command



On Wednesday, Nov. 18, Cadet Captain Taylor Hood was appointed as Battalion Commander of the Patapsco High School Army Junior ROTC unit. She was also promoted to the rank of Major.

Cadet Major Hood was previously assigned as executive officer for the unit.

She joined the JROTC unit her freshman year. She has previously served as the unit's adjutant and the Alpha Company adjutant. Cadet Major Hood will be graduating from Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts this year.

Proud parents are Rachel and Jason Hood of Dundalk and equally proud grandparents are Kathy and Dave Midgett of Dundalk and Joan and Calvin Hood of Bay Country.



JOEY McCANN

Thrift Shop

The thrift shop at Salem United Methodist Church, 7903 Bradshaw Road in Upper Falls, will be open on Saturday, Jan. 2, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Christmas items half price and light refreshments will be served. The shop will also be open on Thursday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 410-592-2543.

Karaoke

Karaoke with PJ Karaoke will be at Essex American Legion Post 148 from 4 - 8 p.m. on Dec. 27.

up to 100 people.

For information, call Paula 443-324-5068

SPOTLIGHT -

Food Pantry

St. Peter Lutheran Church, 7834 Eastern Ave. across from Eastpoint Mall, has a food pantry to help needy families in the community. Call 410-284-0336 to apply.

Senior Bingo

A bingo luncheon is held the second Wednesday of every month at Essex Elks Lodge #1866, 1007 E. Homberg Ave. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Cost \$12 for cards and meal. For info., call Helen at 443-604-6731.



KARAOKE

olden Ring Rd.

410-866-3116



3229 Eastern Blvd. Middle River, MD 21220 **410-391-5678**

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

The Passing of a Great Man

It is with a tremendous amount of sadness that I learned of the passing on Wednesday, Dec. 16, of a true hero and great man.

He served his country proudly during WWII. He was an active participant and leader in the Boy Scouts of America. He was extremely involved in veterans' affairs such as the VFW and the American Legion, as well as being the founder and president emeritus of the Lamky-Luther-Whitehead Veterans Memorial in Middle River.

He was a long-time, active member of the Back River United Methodist Church. He also had a lifelong commitment to civic involvement second to none, as evidenced by his participation in groups such as the Make Back River Safe Committee,

Ogle Thanks Community, RBVFC

To the members of the Rockaway Beach Volunteer Fire Company and the Rockaway Beach/Turkey Point Improvement Association:

A huge "thank you" for dedicating the first annual Christmas tree lighting in my honor. It was a total surprise to me and I was overwhelmed by the amount of people who came out for the tree lighting. To all of those who attended, made donations and helped organize this first community lighting event, I thank you! Our community is one of the best around and everyone should be proud to be part of the lower Back River Neck

Peninsula of Baltimore County.

Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight

Committee, Savings and Loan Action

Committee, founding the Back River

Neck Peninsula Community Association

and much, much more. He did all of this

while raising (with his wife and partner

family, friends and those who did not

even know him, but whose lives are better

off because of him. I had the honor of

knowing and working with him for most

of my life. I was proud to call him my

"adopted" father. Alfred E. Clasing, it is

with much sorrow that I say goodbye to

you! I will miss you like my own Dad.

His presence will be missed by his

Marie) a family of six children.

Dear Santa,

I have a special request for you. We're

not sure if you got the news up north,

but many in our Dundalk community

have been working hard for over three

years to try to convince Baltimore County

Executive Kevin Kamenetz that it's

"naughty" to sell our children's park

land for commercial development. We

would send you the names of the more

than 7,000 petition signers who agree

with us, but we figure your mailbox may

be full this time of year. Unfortunately

some only think Scrooge-like in terms

of dollars and miss the true importance

of having this special treasure - a place

that has served our community for over

60 years. To us, selling a park would be

like Santa selling Rudolph - unthinkable

regarding Governor Hogan's effort to

bring some sanity to state government

pointed out a few things that will have

to be overcome to accomplish the goal.

its doom and gloom was mention of the

biggest impediment to any bureaucratic

reform. I am talking about the rulers who would not let the last Republican

What the editorial did not include in

An editorial in the Baltimore Sun

Leroy "Jimmy" Ogle, Essex

Keith Roberts, Essex





Letter to Santa to Save Our Park!

and un-American!

We're not asking for anything new or shiny for ourselves this Christmas, only that Dundalk will be able to keep its park and recreation center for generations to come. We are hopeful about our Christmas wish as Councilman Todd Crandell and our state delegation have stated publicly that they're with us. However, these guys are very busy. So we're asking you to help them. If we can keep our park, it would be like having the spirit of Christmas every day of the year! This is a special wish for our children, grandchildren and for every child that uses this park throughout Baltimore County. Thank you.

> Karen Fisher Cruz Dundalk

No Chance

this governor succeed. Yep, Miller, Busch and the Democrat-controlled legislature.

They are not going to sit idly by and let their friends and relatives employed by the state bureaucracy come to any harm. While it looks like the governor wants to make meaningful changes, it probably will not be allowed to happen.

> William M. Libercci, Sr. Perry Hall







2004 **HAPPY ADS**

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adorn, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us.

St. Jude the worker of miracles, pray for us.

SAINT JUDE Help of the Hopless, pray for us. P.J.S.

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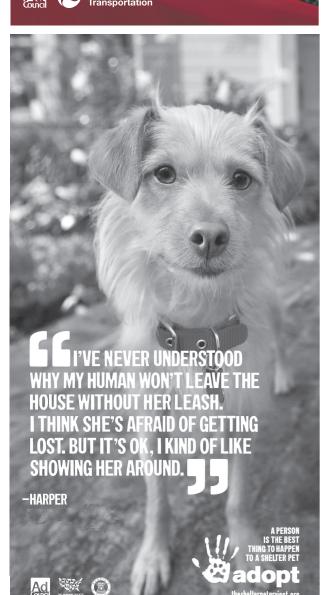
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> 2031 LOST

LOST WEDDING RING AT LOWE'S HOME IM-**PROVEMENT IN WHITE** MARSH, MD. PLEASE HELP, good samaritan tried to turn in my lost wedding ring on Black Friday. My name is Brandon and I work at Lowe's and I'm desperate to recover my wedding band. It's unique in design, celtic filigree and a diamond to match my wife's. If found please call 443-858-. 4139.

Thank you for not driving buzzed last night You saved my life. Liz Osaki SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING. U.S. Department of Transportation Ad と



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GOT KNEE PAIN? BACK PAIN? SHOULDER PAIN? GET A PAIN-RELIEVING BRACE - LITTLE OR NO COST TO YOU. MEDICARE PATIENTS CALL HEALTH HOTLINE NOW! 1- 800-419-3684

PLACE A BUSINESS CARD AD IN THE REGIONAL SMALL DISPLAY 2X2/2X4 ADVERTISING NETWORK - Reach 3.6 Million readers with just one call, one bill and one ad placement in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and DC TODAY! For just \$1450.00, Get the reach. Get the results and for Just Pennies on the Dollars Now ... call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or email wsmith@ mddcpress.com

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PLACE YOUR AD on Facebook; Twitter; LinkedIN and Google Ads Words through MDDC's Social Media Ad Network; Call today to find out maximize your pres-ence on Social Media; 410-212-0616; or email Wanda Smith @ wsmith@mddcpress.com

SOCIAL SECURITY DIS-ABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! WIN or Pay Nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 1-800-208-6915 to start your application today!

WANT A LARGER FOOT-



numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless

of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only

over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its

service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or

may not reach Canada.

www.eastcountytimesonline.com December 23, 2015 Page 25 GENERAL GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS **ANNOUNCEMENTS** DIABETES OR PROSTATE CANCER? Your love life can now survive \$50 FREE booklet by doctor reveals what the drug VALUE! companies don't want you to know! For a limited time, Dr. Michael J. Trombley, Board Certified Physician will mail all men that respond to this ad a free copy of his new booklet "Seven Secrets Doctors and Drug Companies Don't Want You to Know about Erectile Dysfunction." He's so sure this booklet will change your life he will even pay the postage and handling. If the popular pills don't work for you, regardless of your age or medical history, you owe it to yourself and your lady to read this booklet now! Call (800) 794-7974 24-hrs. and leave your name and address (only). SPREAD YOUR MESSAGE to over 4 Million readers with an THIS AD ad this size for just \$1,450! For a limited time, BUY 4 ADS, GET ONE FREE!* FOR SALE! CALL TODAY! 1-855-721-6332 Wanda Smith, ext. 6 www.mddcpress.com MDDC Press Service 60 West Street Suite 107 Annapolis MD 21401 *Certain conditions apply lerry Christmas! SERVICES SERVICES 3010 3010 BATTERY BATTERY WBR Walker's Battery Repair CORDLESS TOOL BATTERY REPAIR WE USE THE LARGEST NICAD CELLS ON THE MARKET TO REBUILD YOUR PACKS Call: 443-324-8499 www.walkersbatteryrepair.com Gregory S. Walker Sr. info@walkersbatteryrepair.com 12 White Ash Court Middle River, MD 21220 3017 BUSINESS TO BUSINESS CHIMNEY CLEANING CHIMNEY CLEANINGS - KEEP YOUR FIREPLACE ADVERTISE TO 500,000 HOMES with a business AND CHIMNEY SAFE. Call card size ad. You choose for Early Bird Special. Lithe area of coverage in free community papers...we do censed & Insured. We acthe rest. Call 800-450-7227 cept Visa, MC & Discover. ACE OF DIAMONDS CHIMor visit macnetonline.com NEY & HEARTH, 6921 Golden Ring Rd., dale. 410-477-9144 Rose-CLASSIFIEDS 3035 small ads deals **CLEANING SERVICES** CALL TODAY TO PLACE YOUR AD 410-780-3303 PAT'S **CLEANING SERVICE** WE LEAVE IT CAREGIVER SMELLING LIKE A ROSE. SERVICES COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL. **RETIREE WILL VISIT &** DO ODD JOBS FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATES SENIOR PARENTS. CALL BERNIE 443-453-8604 443-621-2771 3031

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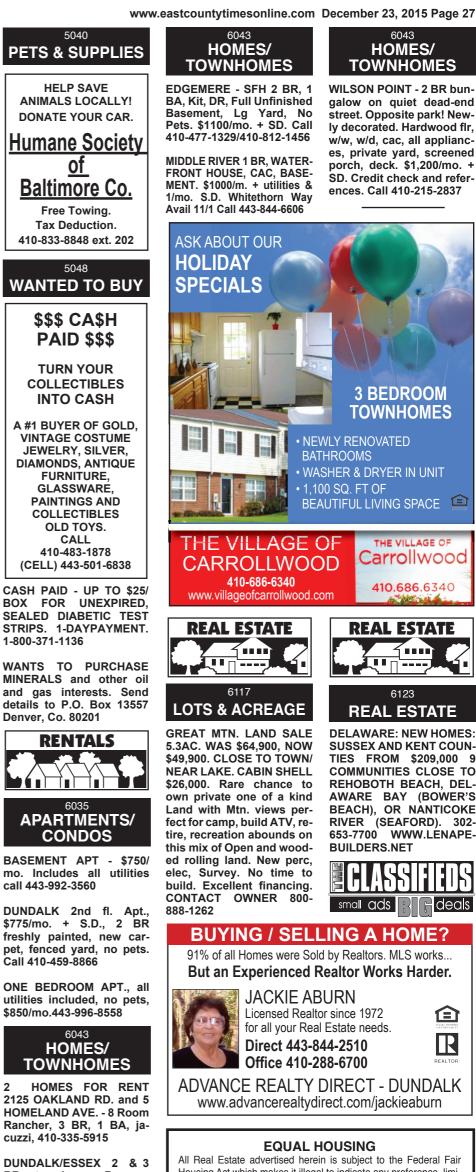
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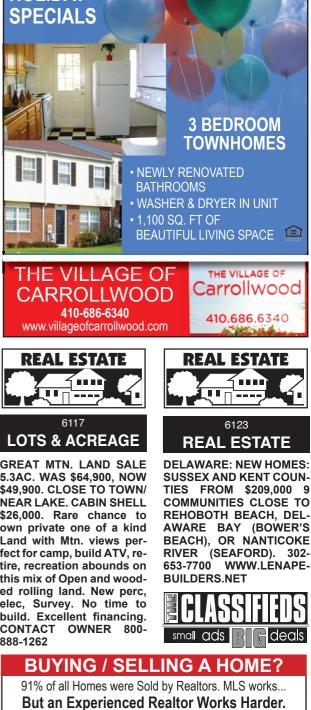
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