



## HARFORD'S TEAM USA

Local lacrosse players make the cut

SPORTS PAGE A16

## ASHES TO ASHES

Harford Christians begin Lenten observance

PAGE A5

Since  
1856



Continuing the cleanup Friday afternoon, Harford County government employee Chuck Shenk uses some heavy horsepower and a large plow to open roads like Dry Branch Road in Norrisville.

MATT BUTTON | AEGIS STAFF

# The roads in Harford passable, not perfect

BY KIRSTEN DIZE  
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Harford County highways personnel and private contractors worked through the weekend to open all county-maintained roads to traffic, and officials say snow removal for the back-to-back storms cost the county more than \$2 million.

By Saturday evening, all county roads were considered passable, county government spokesperson Bob Thomas said, but schools still didn't open until two hours late today (Wednesday).

While all roads were passable, some areas may still be packed with snow or ice.

Friday afternoon, 42 roads still were not passable, but Thomas said crews made a lot of progress and by Saturday morning, only four were closed. They were opened by Saturday evening.

Thomas said the Emergency Operations Center was deactivated at 5 p.m. Saturday.

"Snow removal efforts are continuing this week and we continue to salt roads where we have ice," Thomas said.

County crews are expected to focus on neighborhoods and cul de sacs this week.

"All the roads are passable; not all the roads are to their widest point," Thomas said.

He admitted the narrowly plowed roads have caused concern among residents and school officials. Harford County Public Schools held early dismissal Friday, Feb. 5, and had not been back to school as of Tuesday.

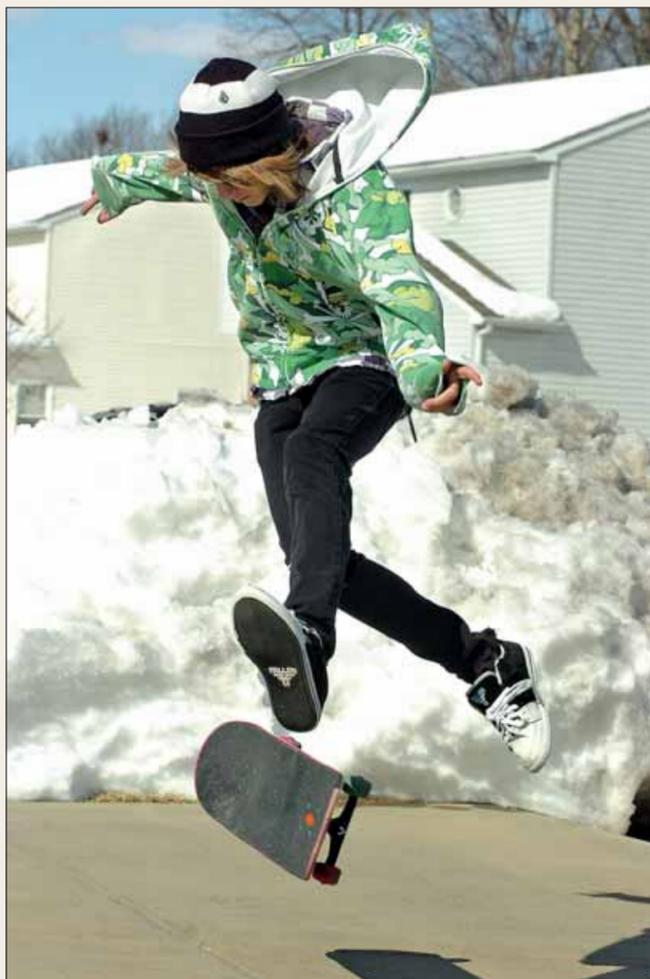
"Crews are working to plow and remove snow on those roads, particularly in the northern part of the county, that are somewhat narrow for passage," Thomas said.

David Buck, spokesperson for state highways, voiced similar concerns about shoulders and sidewalks, with mounds of snow still covering many walkways and posing a danger for pedestrians.

"Particularly as we work closer to these schools

Please see **SNOW, A4**

For stories and images of Harford dealing with the snow, see Page AA1



Enjoying his birthday, 14-year-old Matt Cale soaks up the sun and does some tricks outside Sunday afternoon in Abingdon.

NICOLE MUNCHEL | AEGIS STAFF

# Schedules are out of whack

BY RACHEL KONOPACKI  
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Most of Harford County was back up and running on Tuesday — except for Harford County Public Schools — following two massive back-to-back snowstorms that practically shut down the entire county last week.

After Monday's federal holiday, the

county government, agencies, court system and most other entities were operating normally Tuesday, except for Harford County Public Schools, which was closed Tuesday and is operating two hours late the rest of the week and taking extra precautions to ensure students get to school safely.

After being closed for five days last

week and on Monday for President's Day, all Harford County public schools remained closed Tuesday for students and teachers to allow for additional snow cleanup.

Yet, all school offices and the school system's central office opened on time Tuesday.

Please see **CLOSINGS, A2**

# Grads soared on AP exams

Two years in a row

BY RACHEL KONOPACKI  
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For the second straight year, more of Maryland's high school seniors passed AP exams than seniors in any other state and Harford County's seniors exceeded the rate that made the state tops in the nation.

In 2009, 24.8 percent of Maryland's high school seniors, which is 1.4 percentage points better than 2008, earned a score of three or higher on one or more Advanced Placement, or AP, exams — the highest percentage in the nation two years and counting.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program, which began in 1955, allows students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school, and a score of three or better is considered

Please see **AP, A17**

Along with staff

# Council cutting its raises

BY L'OREAL THOMPSON  
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All seven members of the Harford County Council appeared to be on board for a bill that will prevent the next council from receiving annual cost of living raises if county government employees don't receive them either.

Last month, Council President Billy Boniface, at the request of Harford County Executive David Craig, introduced Bill 10-06, which eliminates a scheduled annual increase in compensation for elected officials.

Please see **RAISES, A6**

# Offering HOPE for drug abusers

BY BRYNA ZUMER  
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For India James, it turned her life around.

The Havre de Grace resident, who spent 15 months in the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women for theft, recently signed on for an unusual new program that she said was the key to her transformation.

James was one of the first to take part in Healthy Options Provide Empowerment (HOPE), developed by the county's health department for people leaving the county detention center

Please see **HOPE, A17**

## WEDNESDAY

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HARFORD COUNTY'S #1 NEWS SOURCE

Classified . . . . . B1  
Editorial . . . . . A12  
Happenings . . . . . AA4  
Death notices . . . . . A10-11  
Open Forum . . . . . A12  
Religion . . . . . AA5  
Sports . . . . . A15-16

### Sex offender bills introduced

Harford Sen. Nancy Jacobs has introduced legislation to crack down on child sex offenders

PAGE A13

### COMING FRIDAY

#### WORDS AND MUSIC

A Bel Air man honors his fallen relatives from World War II by turning their letters home into a musical memorial set for a March 6 performance.