

WEATHER



Cloudy, rain
High 45 Low 41
Rain likely tonight
Full Weather Page A15

NATION

NYC cranes always a risk

They are part of New York's skyline: Hundreds of spindly construction cranes like the one that toppled over the weekend, pulverizing parts of a city block below and killing seven people. As the machines work furiously amid a supercharged building boom, experts say it's always a risk.

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WORLD

France honors WWI veterans

France unfurled its military majesty Monday in honor of its last World War I veteran, who died last week at 110, and all the other Frenchmen who fought in the conflict.

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MARYLAND

Va. crabbers face tighter rules

Virginia's crab pot season started Monday under recently tightened rules, with commercial crabbers knowing that more restrictions likely are on the way.

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SPORTS

Md. women get top seed in West region

The fifth-ranked Maryland women's basketball team learned Monday night it is the No. 1 seed in the West regional.

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Police look for man who touched girl

Deputies search woods for suspect

CHESTER HARBOR — Deputies from the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office searched the area for several hours after a man reportedly inappropriately touched a 10-year-old girl, then fled into the woods upon seeing another child.

At 2:17 p.m., deputies were dispatched to the 100-block of Creston Road, a development just over the Chester River from Chestertown, police said.

A man in his 20s approached a 10-year-old girl in the backyard of a home near the woods, police said. The man fled back into the woods after seeing another child around.

Deputies in both marked and unmarked cars, along with a K-9 unit, searched the area for hours. Several men were stopped and identified.

The suspect is described as a white, heavy set man of more than six feet tall, with dark hair, scraggly facial hair and wearing a long black puffy coat with sleeves that were too short.

Detective Kristy Murphy interviewed the victim and witnesses. The investigation continues. She can be contacted at 410-758-0770 if anyone has information about this subject.

Gravel pit near city opposed

Environmentalists worried about rare wetland site

CAMBRIDGE (AP) — Environmentalists are afraid that a company's plans to excavate sand and gravel on a parcel of farmland and forest along Marshyhope Creek in Dorchester County will spoil a very rare wetlands area.

Delaware-based Horsey Family LLC is asking the county zoning appeals board on Thursday for a zoning exception for the proposed excavation east of Cambridge.

The environmental concerns are unfounded, said the company's attorney, William McAllister.

Noting that the Horsey family has been in the sand and gravel business for two generations, McAllister said they will be "just as careful and sensitive in this case as they always are."

McAllister said much of the property outside the pit would not be disturbed.

"We're not excavating wetlands, we're avoiding wetlands," he said.

But environmentalists fear the operation will threaten a habitat for birds and amphibians. State ecologists say the area also is home to the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel.

"It's really pretty shocking, with respect to the potential impact on a whole myriad of resources that are on that property," said Liz Zacker, director of the Nature Conservancy's Eastern Shore Project.

Environmentalists say the plans call for an open water pit 25 feet from a rare wetland ecosystem known as Wades Savanna. It is the only wetland of its kind in Maryland and one of just seven in the world.

If the county grants the zoning exception, the Horseys would also need a surface-mining permit from the state Department of the Environment.



Carlos Mir awes the crowd as he juggles sticks on fire during the annual St. Patrick's Day parade Monday in Easton. PHOTOS BY ERIN FLUHRARY

Easton goes Irish

By KRISTYN EGGCHARD
Staff Writer

EASTON — Whether you're a descendant of St. Patrick or have never seen a shamrock, everyone's Irish on March 17 and Easton residents are no exception.

Easton Main Street sponsors the annual celebration with a full day of activities. Earlier in the day, there was an ecumenical service at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, followed by a traditional Irish tea hosted by the McDaniel House bed and breakfast. Just before the parade, there were children's games including a potato race, sack races and a bike raffle on the Talbot County Court House lawn.

Linda Townsend of Easton said she brings her daughter, Sophia, 6, every year for the face painting and the leprechauns.

"This year she ran first thing over to the potato sack races," Townsend said. Hunter Olson, 12, was excited to win the bike in the raffle sponsored by Easton Cycle and Sport.

The day's events are co-sponsored by merchants of Easton and the Avalon Foundation and the day was coordinated by Carolyn Jaffe, Easton Main Street community coordinator, and Kathy Hanna, Easton Main Street events manager.

Irish bagpipers led the St. Patrick's Day parade, followed by the Easton Police color guard and Jack Kirk, this year's leprechaun, from West Dover Street up Washington Street and down Harrison Street. Always a highlight, Hanna said, the decorated golf carts vied for a trophy from parade judges, including Mayor Robert Willey and town council members. Legal Spirits restaurant's entry had won three of the



Ellen Vayne General, executive director of the Avalon Foundation, waves as she holds her grandson Sam Rogers during the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

See IRISH
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A chemical warehouse at Phillips Industrial Park on Washington Street caught fire late Monday afternoon. Firefighters from Cambridge, Linkwood-Salern and Madison responded to the scene. A portion of Washington Street was briefly closed to traffic. By 5 p.m. the road was reopened. PHOTO BY JENNIFER FU

Warehouse fire sends up smoke

No chemicals burn in blaze at Phillips Industrial Park

By JENNIFER FU
Staff Writer

CAMBRIDGE — A chemical warehouse at Phillips Industrial Park caught fire late Monday afternoon and the blaze was controlled within 45 minutes, emergency responders said no chemicals caught fire.

Around 4 p.m. Monday, firefighters were called to the Intercoastal Trading warehouse at 29 Phillips Industrial Park Drive. The fire was reported in the rear corner of the building. The four-alarm fire took about 75 firefighters 45 minutes to control, said Fire Chief Jeff Hurley from Cambridge Rescue Fire Company.

No chemicals caught on fire, Hurley said. "Everything was contained to inside the building," Hurley said. He said a few empty chemical vats had minor exposure to the fire. There was a lot of smoke, he said.

Parts of Washington Street to the east of Race Street were closed to traffic in both directions. Cambridge Police Department helped reroute traffic. By 5 p.m., the road was reopened.

Firefighters from Dorchester and Talbot counties responded to the scene. Hazmat units from Cambridge, Talbot County and Wicomico County were called, as well as the Maryland Department of Environment's Emergency Response Division.

Deputy state fire marshals are investigating the cause of the fire. Hurley estimates the warehouse sustained \$4,000 to \$5,000 in structural damages.

