

COMMUNITY



The members of the United Methodist Women of Grace United Methodist Church in Aberdeen honored Karen Dare Mitchell as their Woman of the Year. She was presented with a special membership pin and money was sent to missions in her honor. Retired from full-time nursing, she was honored for her volunteer work in UMW, Grace Church and the community. Pictured are Karen Mitchell, left, holding her grandson, Aiden, and UMW president Ruth Bender.

A birthday charity benefit for the Boys & Girls Clubs and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society was held on Dec. 4 to raise money for the club in Aberdeen and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



Alec Ishak, of Havre de Grace, was awarded U.S. Patent 7,832,121 for an improved hiking boot with deployable crampons. He got the idea while hiking Vermont mountain trails in icy conditions. He graduated high school in 2009 with honors from the St. Johnsbury Academy and is a sophomore at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he is majoring in robotic engineering. While in high school, Ishak took engineering classes and joined a FIRST Robotics team, where he gained hands-on experience in designing and building robots and robotic circuit boards.



The Jarrettsville Lions welcome Ron Holmes into their community service organization. Vice District Governor Owen Landis, left, presided over Holmes' induction. Holmes is sponsored by Lion Ed Calary.

BJ's Wholesale Club, of Abingdon, donated a large area rug to benefit the Harford County Visitation Center at the Aberdeen Community Center. The Visitation Center is a unique program that provides a safe, neutral environment for parents and children engaged in child welfare and custody cases to meet in a supervised, home-like setting. The program is a collaborative venture operated by the Harford County Department of Social Services, the Office of Family Court Services, CASA of Harford County and Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland. Pictured, from left, Amie Myrick, program coordinator at the Visitation Center; Jill Svrjcek, HCDSS assistant director of services; and Mikki Hogue, of the HCDSS advisory board.



Over New Year's weekend, Colby Bransky, of Bel Air, participated in the second annual Offense-Defense Youth All-American Bowl in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Colby, a fullback/linebacker for the Bel Air Terps, participated in week-long practices that culminated in an All-American Bowl game on New Year's Day. Colby was selected from a group of young athletes numbering in the thousands across the country and played well, representing Bel Air and the Terps.



The Homeschool Heart in Hand 4-H Club met Jan. 8 at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Madonna. Club members were presented with 2011 4-H calendars sponsored by Walter G. Coale Inc. in Churchville, which has been supplying calendars to Harford County 4-H members and volunteers for 63 years. Receiving a calendar were: front row from left, Julia Dietz, Ben Dietz, Joshua Klein, Joshua Schucker, Logan Miller, Michael Klein, Josiah Beichler, Tara Miller, Megan Beichler and Holly Miller; middle row from left, Sarah Dietz, Jacob Schucker, Emily Dietz, Grace Dietz, Nathan Klein, Amelia Beichler, Katelyn Dietz and Kelsey Gilligan; and back row from left, Samantha Heston, Jordan Gilligan, Annah Stimax, Allison Deitz, Amos Beichler, Jake Heston and Ashley Beichler.



Harford Mutual Insurance Companies presents The Arc Northern Chesapeake with a check for the fall appeal "Dreams Campaign." Pictured, from left, are Torri Dietrich, director of development, and Shawn Kros, executive director at The Arc; Steven Linkous, president/CEO, and June Poole, vice president/treasurer of Harford Mutual Insurance Companies.