

Economic news is good, but

By BRIAN BLOMQUIST
Independent Staff Writer

WASHINGTON
economic news
the recession
good
down

On
ment
unemployment
percent
cent in
been since

In Maryland,
rate fell from
September to 6.
In Southern
counties' unemployment
dropped.

However, at
Maryland counties
unemployment
than a year ago.

In Charles County,
unemployment rate was 6
October, down from
September but up from
a year ago.

In St. Mary's County,
rate was 6 percent in October
from 6.3 percent in September
up from 5.4 percent a year ago.

Habitat board to meet

Habitat For Humanity, an ecumenical organization devoted to building homes for lower income families, will have a meeting of its board of directors Dec. 17 at Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative in White Plains at 7 p.m. Any member of the public or church representatives are welcome to attend. Call 645-4531.

Library closing extended

The Charles County Public Library underestimated how long it would take to match 40,000-plus books with barcodes, so the P.D. Brown and La Plata branches will be closed for two weeks instead of the originally-scheduled one week.

The P.D. Brown (Waldorf) branch (545-2864 or 843-7688) will re-open Monday, Dec. 14.
The La Plata Branch (934-9001 or 870-3520) will close Dec. 14 and re-open Monday, Dec. 28.

Customers are still being asked to return all library materials to their branch before or during the time the branch is closed so that all materials get barcoded.

During branch closings, the other two branches will be open normal hours: Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday noon to 5 p.m.; and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Materials borrowed from one library branch can be returned to any other branch.

The Bryans Road Branch is open and librarians are learning the new system.

ment Development said in a prepared statement.

"This is the first report to indicate a meaningful rise in the number of people employed," said Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.), chairman of the Joint Economic Committee.

Sarbanes, a frequent and vocal critic of President Bush's attempts to deal with the recession, is still skeptical the recovery has begun.

"The job market has not yet started to show the kind of improvement normally associated with an economic recovery," Sarbanes said. "We have a growing population, an expanding labor force, and unemployment that remains too high."

flatter unemployment numbers part of the story. It now appears the economy is growing at a faster rate again.

Wasserman said the holiday season should provide the state

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