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Falcons defeat Broadneck, ascend to top of MSHL standings.
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Chesapeake Forge Blacksmith Guild
Local artisans meet at Kinder Farm Park.
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Health, Beauty & Fitness
Get insight from local experts.
>> Inside



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SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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SEVERNA PARK, MD

JANUARY 16, 2019

A1

The 2019 Legislative Session Will Shape The Future Of Maryland



By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

Between January 9 and April 8, many Americans will focus on playoff football, Valentine's Day, the Oscars and Grammy Awards, and closer to home, preparing for the Polar Bear Plunge or securing tickets to Severna Park High School's Rock 'N' Roll Revival.

During that 90-day timespan, the 188-member Maryland General Assembly will engage in policy debates, with Democrats and Republi-

cans drafting legislation that will have a long-term impact on Marylanders.

EDUCATION

When the Kirwan Commission announced in December 2018 that Maryland would need \$4.4 billion annually to meet those goals, Governor Larry Hogan balked at the price tag. The panel later lowered that figure to \$3.8 billion, but legislators still need to determine how state and local governments will divide the cost.

With Marylanders voting

"yes" on a ballot referendum in November to ensure casino revenues are spent on Maryland schools, the state is expecting to receive an additional \$4.4 billion in school funding.

Democrats want to spend the money on the commission's recommendations: investments in prekindergarten and special education while also increasing teacher pay. Hogan wants to earmark \$1.9 billion for new construction funding over five years.

Why is Hogan proposing

to use a chunk of the funds on school construction instead of meeting the commission's suggestions?

"Capital budget investments are one-time budget expenditures whereas the operating budget is reoccurring," said Senator Ed Reilly, who represents District 33. "For the operating budget, you have to have a reoccurring source of revenue, and gaming revenue fluctuates."

Delegate Heather Bag-nall, newly elected to a seat in District 33, wants her

>> Continued on A6

CSEG Has New Idea For Crownsville Hospital Site



By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

Chesapeake Sports and Entertainment Group (CSEG) President Mark Burdett was met with consternation in November 2017 when he shared his organization's grand plans for Bayhawks Village.

The complex would have brought a 10,000-seat stadium for the Chesapeake Bayhawks lacrosse team, 20 turf fields for youth athletics, a hotel and restaurants to the 544-acre property that was for-

spectators. The Bayhawks averaged 4,169 fans for home games in 2018.

With direction from Bayhawks owner and general manager Brendan Kelly, Burdett and his team noted the community's feedback and revised the concept, which is now called Chesapeake Park.

Their design expunged the access point from Crownsville Road and Generals Highway, instead asking the state to add an interchange from Interstate 97 to Farm Road as the sole entry point. They added hiking and biking

Severna Park Community Offers Helping Hand To Moose



By Judy Tacyn

For years, Severna Park residents have passed by the friendly and unassuming man who frequents park benches and stores in the community's central corridor. They often have questions. Who is the man? Does he need shelter?

Arthur "Moose" Williams was born in 1955 to Lucinda and Christopher Williams. He grew up in Severna Park along with his brother Clifton and half-sister Patricia, and lived on Whites Road and Vinton Lane as a child. He attended Jones and Folger McKinsey elementary schools before attending Severna Park High School and graduating in 1974.

He recalls getting good grades in high school and earning a scholarship to a local college. He said he "turned it down" because

he didn't know where he wanted to go, what he wanted to study or what he wanted to do.

In 1974, Moose started working at the McDonald's on Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard — a restaurant he still frequents. After he graduated from high school, he worked at other restaurants, but Moose said he preferred working outdoors by drilling wells or doing landscaping. Moose never married or had children; rather, he and his brother helped care for their mother and lived with her at 34 Whites Road until her death several years ago.

Moose prefers not to talk about his father, only stating that he was born in Kingston, Jamaica. He's protective of his mother, saying that he and Clifton shared responsibility for household expenses, though Clifton was

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Left: In 1974, Moose started working at the McDonald's on Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard — a restaurant he still frequents.



What Does The MD Report Card Mean For County Schools?

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

Parents of students in Anne Arundel County Public Schools can now see their child's school ranked in the same way as restaurants and hotels: by a five-star rating.

The new Maryland School Report Card,

released in December, evaluated schools statewide on a variety of factors: attendance, having a well-rounded curriculum, growth on English and math state assessments, and progress of English language learners.

The new grading metric is part of Maryland's accountability system

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AACC Honors Eight At Dr. King Breakfast

Every year, Anne Arundel Community College recognizes local residents for carrying on the mission of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year, eight community members will be honored at the 38th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

"This breakfast allows them to be recognized as keepers of the flame for the philosophies of Dr. King," said Eugene Peterson, who chairs the breakfast.

The 2019 breakfast will be held on January 21 from 8:00am to 10:00am at La Fontaine Bleue, and tickets are \$35 per person. To purchase tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com.

VICKIE GIPSON, ESQ. ALAN HILLIARD LEGUM HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Vickie Gipson is a social justice advocate. She has worked with the Caucus of African-American Leaders, the Anne Arundel County branch of the NAACP, the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, and many other local community and social justice organizations.

She is a lawyer and has



Vickie Gipson

worked as a legal professional for 30 years. Gipson has a versatile legal background, and has worked on issues related to wills and estates, contracts, real estate, business, non-profits, civil rights and other issues.

JAY OFFER LEON H. WHITE CLERGY MEMORIAL AWARD

Jay Offer has served in religious leadership for 27 years and was ordained in 2007. He founded Harvest Crusade Ministries in Glen Burnie, through which he has reached a segment of the community often forgotten.

Offer served in the U.S. Army for three years, and then for 27 years as a decorated police officer and administrator. He retired in 2015 and became an entrepreneur and full-time pastor.

Offer expanded his personal ministry by feeding families through a community food bank, and serving as the community ambassador at a high school in a racially charged community.

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Jay Offer

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Margueritte Mills
Volunteer
Of The Month

SPHS Band Knows Babet
Regalado As “Mama Regs”



Babet Regalado accepted her Volunteer of the Month award from Voice Assistant Editor Zach Sparks in recognition of her many years with the SPHS band.

By Dylan Roche

Many parents stick with a volunteer effort as a way of staying involved with their kids’ activities. For Babet Regalado, however, volunteering with the Severna Park High School band has been something she has stuck with even when one of her own four children aren’t involved. That’s because she has found herself a surrogate mom to each of the students who are involved. As she put it, “The band was so much more than my own personal kids — they are all my kids.”

For as long as she can remember, Regalado has volunteered in some capacity. In college, she was a member of Circle K International, a collegiate-level program of Kiwanis. When she and her husband

started a family, a friend invited her to volunteer with Boy Scouts, thus beginning a years-long stint with scouting.

“The band was so much more than my own personal kids — they are all my kids.”

— Babet Regalado

Her biggest volunteer endeavor came along in 2006, when her oldest son was a freshman at SPHS and joined the band. For the first year, Regalado shadowed a fellow volunteer and learned how to manage uniforms, which the SPHS band owns and alters based on the students involved each year.

“I don’t have a sewing machine — I sew by hand,”

she said. “I would have what I call old-fashioned sewing parties at my house on Saturday mornings. You bring your sewing stuff and we sit around and sew and iron and put buttons on.”

When the band was able to afford a new set of uniforms a couple of years ago, and retire the set of uniforms it had used for about 20 years, Regalado helped pick out the new pieces. “My job was to make sure they were functional for at least five to 10 years,” she said. “They were not cheap. They were \$65,000 worth of uniforms. You don’t just replace those every day or every year.” One major benefit of the new uniforms, she noted, is that they can be altered with hem tape rather than sewing.

After 12 years with the band, Regalado expects she will step down soon, but she doesn’t know yet how she’ll redirect her time. What she does know is that when she looks back on her many years with the band, she’ll always count her favorite memory as being that of watching the growth of the many students, who all call her Mama Regs. “Watching them come in as freshmen and seeing how confident they were by the time they’re seniors — to me, that’s the best part,” she said. “I know that maybe, in some way, I had a little impact.”

Editor’s Voice

Dylan Roche
Editor



By now, you’ve probably put away your holiday decorations, taken down your tree, found a place around the house to keep all the gifts you received, and let life return to normal after days — or maybe even weeks — of celebrations, visits and festivities.

So, now what are you looking forward to? Valentine’s Day? Easter? Maybe spring and some warmer weather? (All right, I’ll admit that last one is what I’m looking forward to.)

Instead of asking what you’re looking forward to now that Christmas is over, maybe I should ask how you plan to live in the present in 2019. I’m no expert, but I’m willing to try it myself.

There are many aspects of the Voice mission that lend themselves to living in the present, and here are just a few off the top of my head.

We like to give credit where credit is due when one of our community members accomplishes something especially impressive. We also hope that we’re able to tell these local stories in such a way that they’re worth cutting out and putting in a scrapbook or posting to your refrigerator — not just skimmed over and forgotten the next day.

Most months of the

year, the paper comes with a special edition enclosed in its fold, and it’s often pretty timely to the season. This month, it’s our Health, Beauty & Fitness Guide. This magazine has insight and advice from local experts about how to take control of your health — and if sticking to a resolution isn’t all about appreciating the present, I don’t know what is. You’re not stressing over past missteps, and you’re not thinking about what outcome you’ll have weeks or months from now — instead, you’re enjoying what you’re able to do right now, right here.

Finally, there’s our interest in encouraging our community to shop local and support small businesses here in town. I know it’s convenient to just click a button on Amazon, but the experience of shopping local means enjoying an inventory of products picked specially for consumers in our area, having face-to-face interaction with employees, and supporting an entrepreneur who lives right here and invests in the community.

So even though it can be tempting to look forward to exciting days ahead, especially during these cold (and sometimes uneventful) days of January, let’s not lose sight of the present.

Until February, everyone —enjoy! And remember, you can always shoot me an email at dylan@severnaparkvoice.com.

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The Severna Park Voice is published by
THE VOICE MEDIA INC.
Family owned and operated since 1981

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COMPASS

AACC Honors Eight At Dr. King Breakfast

» **Continued from A1**
KELLIE MCCANTS-PRICE
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ZEITGEIST AWARD

Kellie McCants-Price, Ph.D., is an associate profes-



Kellie McCants-Price

A social justice advocate, she co-chairs the college's Intergroup Dialogue program, which allows the community to better understand social identity groups through facilitated conversation.

As a mentor for AACC's Diversity Faculty Fellows Program, McCants-Price is devoted to creating a pipeline for adjunct faculty members from underrepresented groups to become full-time faculty members.

McCants-Price provides monthly commentary on mental health and diversity topics for a local NPR station.

TRYPHENA ELLIS-JOHNSON
GEORGE H. PHELPS JR. DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Tryphena Ellis-Johnson is a life member of the NAACP and chairs the Juvenile Justice Committee. On the first Sunday of the month, she mentors youths at the Thomas J.S. Waxter



Tryphena Ellis-Johnson

Children's Center.

A member of Jack and Jill of America Inc., Arundel Bay Area chapter, Ellis-Johnson serves on various committees and is treasurer of the *Associate Jewels* magazine.

Ellis-Johnson is financial secretary to the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Anne Arundel County Chapter. She is also a contractor for Homeland Security.

On the county Board of Elections, she oversees all elections in Anne Arundel County and ensures the process is nonpartisan. Ellis-Johnson is the first African-American to serve on the county Board of Elections.

TAYLOR PYLES
DALLAS G. PACE SR. HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Taylor Pyles founded the Blue Ribbon Project based on his personal and professional experiences involving child abuse and the foster care system. He created the Backpacks of Love program, designed to provide emergency essentials to children being placed into foster care. Pyles is a detective with Annapolis Police Department, assigned to the Criminal Investigations Section.

Pyles also is vice chair of the Children's Justice Act Committee, which is the Maryland Children's Justice Act Task Force. Additionally, Pyles sits on the Anne



Taylor Pyles

Arundel County Child Fatality Review Board.

JANICE HAYES-WILLIAMS
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AWARD RECIPIENT

Janice Hayes-Williams descends from enslaved Africans from Anne Arundel County and traces her family history back to 1760.



Janice Hayes-Williams

After 20 years of government contracting, Hayes-Williams started researching local African-Americans.

She was hired as co-producer and Maryland history consultant for the documentary "Pip and Zastrow: An American Friendship," which won the Target Filmmaker Award — For Inspiration to Dream in Color at its first film festival.

She continues to provide African-American walking tours of Annapolis and shares the hidden histories of the African-American community of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.

Hayes-Williams is a senior staff member for Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley.

SHANE NIKOLAO
ALAN HILLIARD LEGUM HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Shane Nikolao

While at Hastings College, Shane Nikolao was a member of the Hastings Race and

Poverty Law Journal.

He was admitted to the Maryland state bar and began working for the personal injury firm of Rosen and Ester-son in Baltimore. In January 2008, Nikolao joined the firm of Alan Hilliard Legum, P.A., where he practiced law under Alan Hilliard Legum.

In 2014, he became a partner. Since joining the firm, Nikolao has represented Marylanders in both state and federal courts.

CASSANDRA SMITH MOORE
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ZEITGEIST AWARD

Cassandra Moore is as-



Cassandra Smith Moore

Development and Admissions at Anne Arundel Community College. She feels privileged to work with families in the county, for her life's work has been devoted to ensuring access, inclusion and equity in higher education.

Moore received the Thomas Bilger Award for her consistent vision, service and leadership to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

She is active in the Chesapeake and Potomac Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, where she is a founding board member. A graduate of Leadership Anne Arundel, Moore is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Anne Arundel Women Giving Together and the Fort Meade Historic Post Chapel.

CSEG Proposes Concept

» **Continued from A1**
 as the Green Hornets in Severna Park and as far as Virginia and Delaware.

Yet it's a stark difference from the solar farm proposed by the Generals Highway Council of Civic Associations, which represents roughly 24 communities. Before taking office as county executive in December, Steuart Pittman championed the solar farm plan.

Burdett praised Pittman's intent to protect the area. With the state spending about \$1 million annually to maintain the site, Burdett also sees a better opportunity.

"He has some uber-green thinking," Burdett said of Pittman. "We're all for the parks and the trails, but there has to be some economic engine."

Burdett said he expects Chesapeake Park to generate, at full operation, more than \$40 million annually for the county and state. "It's no longer going to be a tax burden," he said.

Pittman wants Anne Arundel County to acquire the property from the state.

"We understand that the state is completing a feasibility study via the Maryland Stadium Authority and we look forward to that report," Pittman said. "The administration's vision for the property is one that is centered on preservation and passive recreation."

Speaking on behalf of the Generals Highway Council of Civic Associations, president John Hamm said the Crownsville community does not favor the new plan more than the first one.

"We proposed [the solar farm] at that forum Steuart Pittman ran before the election," Hamm said. "We had 94 people in attendance, according to Steuart Pittman's website. To our audience in attendance, we asked who's in favor and who's against [Chesapeake Park]. Overwhelmingly, the people came out against this commercial development."

Hamm doesn't expect the state to approve the single-use exchange of I-97, the one component CSEG most needs for Chesapeake Park to be built.

If the project is approved, the Maryland Stadium Authority could lease the stadium to CSEG. Since 2004, the site and its 69 buildings have been mostly vacant.

"Not only is there an asbestos and lead [problem], but there is a rodent infestation," Burdett said. "... No one wants to say that out loud."

Most of the tenants are nonprofits or treatment centers — Anne Arundel County Food Bank, Gaudenzia Drug Treatment, Hope House Treatment Center. Under the original Bayhawks Village concept, those groups may have been displaced. CSEG now aspires to accommodate the nonprofits and offer jobs to the people they serve.

CSEG is preparing a financial report to present in mid-January. Burdett believes that it will forecast the promising potential of Chesapeake Park.

"The word developer has been created as a negative word," Burdett said. "There are 800 square feet of existing development on the property today and that environment is followed. ... There's parking lots, barns, a sewage treatment plant. Our project is 69 percent of that number. We're not bringing more development to Crownsville Hospital. We're bringing less development."

For Chesapeake Park to have a future, Burdett will have to change the community's reaction from consternation to excitement. "If the hospital grounds had to be rezoned and later the Bayhawks have to fault on the deal, the state would be stuck with the property," Hamm said. "It would be one bad move after another."

For more information, visit www.chesapeakepark.com or find Chesapeake Park on Facebook and Twitter.

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What Does The Maryland Report Card Mean For Anne Arundel County Public Schools?

» **Continued from A1**
under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), legislation signed in 2015. Over an 18-month period, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, community leaders, advocacy groups and other stakeholders around Maryland drafted the plan, which was adopted by the U.S. Department of Education in early 2018.

ESSA succeeded the No Child Left Behind Act in governing state school improvement plans.

Jason Dykstra, executive director of the instructional data division for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, explained the ratings at a December Board of Education meeting.

“The biggest difference with this new accountability plan is that the old one was based solely on test scores and whether or not students passed state assessments,” Dykstra said. “That was really, essentially, it.”

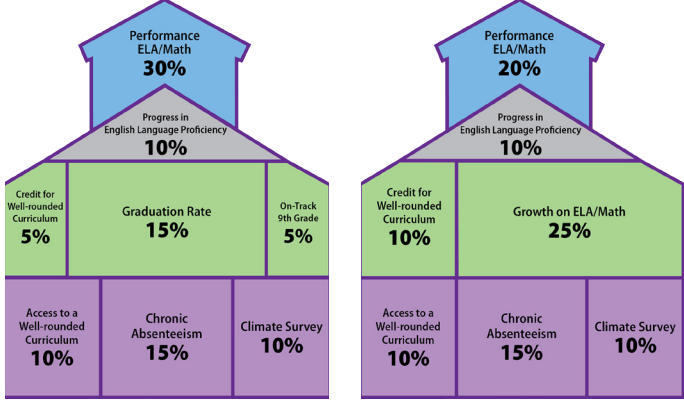
The new plan, he said,

“will show a much more balanced approach to how Maryland’s accountability program works.”

Under the new ratings, only five county schools received five stars, and three of those were Severna Park High School, Severna Park Middle School and Magothy River Middle. Schools with four stars included Broadneck High School, Severn River Middle and several elementary schools — Benfield, Folger McKinsey, Jones and Shipley’s Choice.

How did Anne Arundel compare to other counties? Severna Park and Broadneck’s five-star schools scored between the 88th and 95th percentile. The four-star schools classify a broader range, as they fell between 44th and 82nd percentile. Three-star schools ranged from the 20th percentile to the 31st.

Most of the three-star schools saw their biggest drop come from test scores.



Graphics courtesy of Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Left: High schools are graded by tests, graduation rate and chronic absenteeism above other factors. **Right:** Middle and elementary schools are graded by growth on test scores, progress on English language efficiency and other factors.

All Anne Arundel County elementary schools lost 15 points in two categories: Access to a Well-Rounded Curriculum and Credit for a Well-Rounded Curriculum. The AACPS website said that when the indicators were established, the school system had no mechanism to track which fifth-graders experienced all health standards in different curriculums.

Given the inconsistency of the data, Superintendent George Arlotto decided not to report any fifth-grade student as having met standards in these two categories. The situation was addressed, and AACPS can now track all fifth-grade students and their access to the health curriculum.

While Arlotto said he expects each elementary

school to earn an additional star next year, Board of Education president Julie Hummer noted that 14 of the 24 Maryland districts had the same issue with health programs, so the added points might not give Anne Arundel elementary schools a big boost over other schools next year.

One thing is for sure: the new Maryland Report Card shows where students are excelling and where improvement is needed.

“This is a significant new tool for our county and our state to use in terms of measuring the performance of schools,” Arlotto said in a statement. “We, along with our schools, are eager to use this baseline data as another measure in the context of our Strategic Plan, which remains our guiding force to help every single student achieve his or her full potential.”

To learn more or to see an individual school’s grades, visit www.mdreportcard.org.

How Local Schools Rank

- Five-Star Schools**
- Severna Park High School
 - Severna Park Middle
 - Magothy River Middle
- Four-Star Schools**
- Broadneck High
 - Severn River Middle
 - Benfield Elementary
 - Folger McKinsey Elementary
 - Jones Elementary
 - Shipley’s Choice Elementary
- Three-Star Schools**
- Arnold Elementary
 - Belvedere Elementary
 - Broadneck Elementary
 - Cape St. Claire Elementary
 - Oak Hill Elementary
 - Severna Park Elementary
- **Of the 26 schools with two stars, none are located in Severna Park or Arnold.*



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The 2019 Legislative Session Will Shape The Future Of Maryland

» **Continued from A1**
fellow lawmakers to look beyond the cost.
“The question keeps recurring, ‘How much is this going to cost?’” Bagnall said. “That’s kind of the wrong question, because it’s an investment. The recommendation has a 10-year rollout and the investment is going to pay off massively in the long run with a more educated, prepared workforce, which is also going to help attract employers to our area.”
The state may not determine the funding formulas until 2020, but look for the conversation to get started in 2019.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

A debate about recreational marijuana will likely flow along party lines. Medicinal cannabis was made legal in 2013 but licenses were not issued until 2016.
“I supported medicinal marijuana and we need to make sure that’s up and running,” said Delegate Sid Saab. “We just now have the dispensaries, so I think it’s premature to talk about recreational use.”
Bagnall wants to address any concerns so the state can draft policy that creates a “safe and equitable path.”

“I think we have seen, nationally, very successful rollouts of recreational marijuana and very unsuccessful ones,” Bagnall said. “But I also know that it would be another revenue stream for the state of Maryland, so I think you are going to see a lot of argument back and forth.”

MINIMUM WAGE

Now that a four-year rollout has brought Maryland’s minimum wage from \$7.25 to

\$10.10, Democrats in the General Assembly want to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
District 33 representatives have strong feelings on the subject. Because he sees the minimum wage as a training wage, Reilly is against bumping it again.
“You give me a 16-year-old or an 18-year-old high school dropout and the proposed law would say we pay him almost \$30,000 a year,” Reilly said. “He has no incentive to work harder or go back to school.”
Asked about Republicans compromising on a bill, Delegate Michael Malone said, “I try to make bad bills less painful. I see myself voted against it, but I will put in a sloped enactment, a delayed enactment.”
Bagnall anticipates the General Assembly raising the minimum wage while finding a compromise for small businesses.

GUN LAWS AND MENTAL HEALTH

The gun debate has renewed life after five *Capital Gazette* newspaper employees were shot in their Annapolis office in June 2018.
One bill in 2018 addressed the issue of mental health. The “red flag” law allows judges to order that someone’s guns are temporarily ceased if that person is a danger to themselves or others. The current law allows officers, health professionals, spouses and family members, legal guardians, and dating or intimate partners to file a petition.
Some of those details need to be clarified this session, Malone said.
“A romantic partner is

District 33 Representatives



Ed Reilly Republican **Michael Malone** Republican **Sid Saab** Republican **Heather Bagnall** Democrat

currently eligible to [file a petition], and there is nowhere where that term is defined,” he said. “Is a Facebook partner a romantic partner? Does going on one date with someone make them a romantic partner?”
Both Democrats and Republicans have also pushed for banning “ghost guns,” which are homemade guns without serial numbers, and firearms made with 3D printers.

SPORTS BETTING

If Maryland legalizes sports betting, more money would be available for schools, roads and other needs. Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, West Virginia and several other states have already approved sports betting.
Reilly has no problem with the idea but he and Malone both want to see the details.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The General Assembly has already committed to reaching 25 percent renewable energy by 2020, and lawmakers are now looking to enact the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act, which sets the bar at 50 percent renewable energy by 2030.
According to a report published by the Maryland Energy Administration in January 2018, the state uses nuclear for

45.5 percent of its energy, coal for 25.4 percent and natural gas for 16.3 percent. Much of its electricity is imported from surrounding states.
“If we’re going to get to 50 percent, where is it going to come from?” Reilly said. “We’re not increasing production in the state of Maryland. It’s not homegrown renewable energy. When the sun goes down and the wind stops blowing, we have no energy.”

GERRYMANDERING

A federal court ruled the drawing of lines in the 6th district to be unconstitutional, but Attorney General Brian Frosh appealed the ruling. While the legislature awaits a final decision from the Supreme Court regarding gerrymandering in Maryland and North Carolina, Hogan has tasked a commission with redrawing the maps so they better represent the public instead of manipulating the lines for political gain.
Malone supports Hogan’s efforts and he introduced his own constitutional amendment, House Bill 1022, using guidance from the Court of Appeals. The amendment calls for each district to “consist of adjoining territory, be compact in form and be of substantially equal population.”

HEALTH CARE, COLLEGE AND MORE

Legislators have floated the possibility of fining people without health insurance but allowing them to use that fine as a downpayment on the insurance. Lawmakers are also expected to tackle the issue of drug prices.
Reilly wants to keep Marylanders healthy and safe by passing several small measures. “Matthew’s Law” would require the Department of Natural Resources to have boaters take a safety education course that includes information relating to carbon monoxide poisoning.
Another bill would improve Lyme disease testing. Reilly said, “About 50 percent of blood tests for Lyme disease come back as false negatives.” Malone wants to fix a wide gap in child support payment requirements — a problem he labeled the “cliff effect.” Currently, the difference in seeing a child 127 days or 128 days can mean an extra \$400 in child support.
“I support the payment of child support,” Malone said. “I don’t support when people are more motivated by money than what is best for the child.”
For the best interest of future adults, Malone is asking colleagues to double the tax deduction for 529 college savings plans, which allow parents or grandparents to deduct up to \$2,500 of payments each year. The plans were created in 2001, and tuition has become more expensive, Malone explained.
“We see taxes increased with inflation, but we don’t see tax credits increased with inflation,” Malone said.

LOCAL LAWS

Saab wants to revisit a bill to eliminate abuse of the elderly. “We still don’t have a mechanism for people to petition visitation outside of guardianship,” he said. “Last year, we got 20 percent of what we wanted.”
Touting weddings as one motivating factor, Reilly wants to add Anne Arundel County to the list of Maryland jurisdictions that can host 200 people in a barn for special events. Currently, only 50 people can occupy a barn in Anne Arundel County.

UNIFIED OR DIVIDED?

With 60 legislators being elected for the first time or moving to the Senate from the House, and with a record 72 women serving in the state legislature, the General Assembly has a new look.
One of the new delegates is Bagnall, who notices an energy and enthusiasm brewing among the “problem-solvers” who were elected in part because of their diverse backgrounds and skillsets.
“We’re approaching old problems — or as my father likes to say, don’t call it a problem, call it an opportunity — but we’re approaching old opportunities with fresh perspectives,” Bagnall said. “And I think that can be really healthy and that can be really good for some new innovation. I also think we are going to have a lot more community advocacy than we have had in the past, because our communities are fired up.”

Read the full story online at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

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Severna Park Community Offers Helping Hand To Moose

» **Continued from A1**
not always living with Moose and their mother.

Moose’s recollection of dates following his mother’s death are not clear. He said that after his mother died, he and Clifton continued to pay for the family home on Whites Road; however, they soon learned that his mother owed money, and they were evicted. Moose said he moved around, staying with relatives for a time, but prefers being on his own. Clifton now lives in an apartment not far from Severna Park.

In fall 2018, Moose had been sleeping in an area near McDonald’s; his belongings could be seen in trash bags near the sidewalks at McDonald’s and at the Maryland Transportation Authority bus stop across the street. He said while he was away from his “hidden” sleeping area one day, another person ransacked his camp and stole most of his belongings, including new winter boots and a winter coat.

Moose currently sleeps in a shed owned by an acquaintance in Severna Park. He refused to provide an address because of concerns over privacy, safety and possible theft. He no longer leaves his belongings at the bus stop because he said his bags were recently thrown out with the trash.

Because he has to carry his belongings, he keeps his possessions to a minimum. Kindness donations in bulk are hard for him to keep. He shops at the Dollar Tree, where he can purchase single hygiene items or a small bundle of soaps.

Even though Moose is on his own and experiencing homelessness, his typical day is social. He often walks during the evening, tries to sleep overnight, and is at McDonald’s for breakfast by early morning. On warmer days, he sits at the bus stop,

waving to commuters who greet him and accepting cash or other kindness gifts when offered. Though Moose has never begged, the Severna Park community provides him with enough money and food to keep him full and clothed.

During one meeting at McDonald’s for this article, a man dropped off a Styrofoam plate wrapped in aluminum foil. Inside was fish, shrimp and potato salad. Shortly thereafter, a girl handed cash to Moose while her mother ordered food at the counter. Another customer stopped at the table to say hello and ask if Moose needed anything, to which Moose replied he was “all set.”

McDonald’s manager Iban Quinones said Moose is welcome to warm up or avoid the rain. “He is absolutely no bother. He’s polite, quiet, respectful and clean,” Quinones said. “When it’s time to close the dining room in the evening, he always leaves without any problem.”

Moose also earns money by helping local businesses with odd jobs. Pointing to some dried tan paint on his winter jacket, Moose said that he recently painted the outside attendant booth at Macy’s Corner Exxon station. In return for working at Exxon, he uses the station’s restroom to clean up.

He takes his clothes to a Glen Burnie laundromat via public transportation when he has quarters. He purchases single-use detergent and fabric softener from the vending machine when he’s there.

Chatter in Severna Park is a nearly 8,000-member Facebook page for Severna Park residents and Moose is often a topic of conversation. Posts or threads about Moose garner hundreds of likes and comments. Members often post updates or ask questions about Moose. For instance, when one member recently

shared that Moose needed new boots, Moose had new boots that day.

Moose doesn’t ask for assistance, but when asked about his favorite foods, he lists jellybeans, barbecue ribs, potato salad, chocolate chip cookies, and fruits, such as bananas, oranges, apples and grapes.

Faith Burns is one of the many Severna Park commuters who pass Moose’s favorite corner, Macy’s Corner Exxon at the junction of Routes 2 and 648 near McDonald’s.

One day, Burns noticed that Moose’s tennis shoes looked too small and she later asked what boots she could buy for him.

“He smiled broadly when I dropped them off to him,” Burns said. “My perception of Moose is that he prefers his independence over being a part of the ‘system.’ It sounds like our community really embraces him.”

Kate Whitman has known Moose as a fixture in Severna Park for about 17 years. “On many occasions, we have given him some food or money to ease his troubles. He is always thankful and kind,” Whitman said.

Whitman’s mother knitted Moose a wool hat for Christmas. Other people brought him cookies, socks and warm clothes over the holidays.

Anne Arundel County keeps close watch over individuals experiencing homelessness or who are housing insecure, because those people may have untreated medical or mental issues, or addictions. The Department of Social Services formed the Homeless Outreach Team in late 2016 to more effectively serve this population by providing continuing case management.

“The purpose [of the Homeless Outreach Team] is to reduce cold weather deaths and chronic homelessness by increasing access to services, shelter and other permanent

housing opportunities,” said Brian Schleter, public information officer at Anne Arundel County’s Department of Social Services.

Schleter said outreach workers visit known and reported homeless camps, identify individuals experiencing homelessness, address any unmet emergency needs, make service referrals and offer to continuously manage their case. Schleter said that since late fall 2016, 80 formerly homeless individuals have successfully transitioned to permanent housing. The outreach team assisted these clients with the housing application, the referral process and the time-consuming follow-up necessary to help them transition to housing. The Homeless Outreach Team presently provides ongoing case management services to 74 individuals experiencing homelessness.

Twice a year, in January and August, the Anne Arundel and Annapolis Coalition to End Homelessness leads an effort to count sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night. The January point-in-time count is required annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The recorded average homeless population in Anne Arundel County from 2009 to 2018 was 372, with 79 considered “unsheltered.”

According to Schleter, Anne Arundel County DSS also hosts an annual Homeless Resource Day. Held on a Saturday each fall, the event enables people experiencing homelessness to access needed medical, identification, economic assistance and other services from more than 60 community providers and government agencies, all in one location.

“Community volunteers sign up to serve as guides to homeless guests, helping them devise a plan for

the day and escorting them around the campus to receive services,” said Schleter. “At the October 29, 2018, event at Glen Burnie High School, 234 registered volunteers, including 60 United States Naval Academy midshipmen, assisted 307 homeless guests.”

Moose is not interested in county, state or federal assistance. He said he was receiving federal benefits in the past, but he added “paperwork got messed up somewhere” and his assistance ended. Moose has no desire to work with an agency or a kind individual to investigate. He also knows he could be eligible for health care assistance, but insists he’s his own doctor and cannot remember when he had last been to any health care provider. He said that he’s never spent a night in a shelter or gone to a county-designated warming or cooling station.

For now, Moose depends on the kindness of his Severna Park neighbors who continue to offer unsolicited help.

How To Help The Homeless

GET INVOLVED

- **Happy Helpers For the Homeless** – www.aacvc.org
- **Volunteers of America** – www.voa.org/homeless-people

SHELTERS

- **The Light House**, Annapolis – 410-263-1835
- **Sarah’s House**, Fort Meade – 667-600-3561
- **Arundel House of Hope**, 514 North Crain Highway, Glen Burnie, in-person only
- **Winter Relief**, contact your local church for information

Anne Arundel County Crisis Response can be reached at 410-768-5522.

Jeff Jeffers Named Ski Club Member Of The Year

After being off the water for a few months, members of Severna Park’s ski and wakeboard club, Lil’ Round Bay



Jeff Jeffers

Ski Club (LRBSC), were looking for a good excuse to get together. They decided to establish

an annual gala for the club.

At the gala, club members recapped the 2018 waterskiing season with pictures, videos and a few tall tales. The gala was held on December 29 in Avalon, New Jersey.

The highlight of the evening was the inaugural Member of the Year award to celebrate the outstanding achievements of one club participant. This year’s award went to Severna Park’s Jeff Jeffers, “not only for his exemplary wakeboarding but also his tireless commitment to the club and its members,” said LRBSC’s community chair, Chris Accinelli.

“The momentum of a ski club is dependent not only on the enthusiasm of its members but also on properly working equipment,” said club president Jason Goger. “Jeff spent countless hours managing the equipment of the LRBSC so that the club was ready to enjoy the water each week.”

The Lil’ Round Bay Ski Club was founded in 2011 by water sports enthusiasts from all around the Severna Park area. From May through October, club members meet each Friday morning at 6:00am in Round Bay to enjoy skiing and wakeboarding on the calm waters of the Severn River. There are roughly 30 members of the club.

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NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

Severn Heights

Neighborhood of the Month takes an in-depth look at the unique communities that make up Severna Park as a whole. Each has its own history, its own special amenities and its own people who are happy to call that place home. Want to share with our readers all about your neighborhood and what sets it apart from others? Email spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com and let us know!



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Left: (L-R) Greg and Jeanine Woods, Sherry Hewitt and Jon Korin were all charmed by Severn Heights.



Severn Heights Is A Tiny Hidden Gem On The Severn River

By Judy Tacyn

Severn Heights is relatively small, and perhaps not as well-known as other neighborhoods in Severna Park. The community sits on Ringgold Cove, which faces Round Bay on the Severn River. It has great water views of the widest part of the Severn, providing lovely sunsets year-round. The only access is via Rio Lane, off Hillcrest and Old County roads.

Residents actively address water quality through projects that have included the removal of phragmites along the shoreline and replacing them with native plants and grasses. A clogged stormwater pipe was replaced with a bioswale to slow drainage to allow native plants to soak up nutrients before the water reaches the river. Severn Heights residents are also helping Maryland oyster restoration efforts.

In April, Severn Heights residents hold a sock burning party, an Annapolis tradition where watermen would wear the same socks all winter, then burn them in the spring. Get-togethers for holidays and spur-of-the-moment potlucks are always on the agenda.

The tranquil beach has a tot lot, a volleyball net, a barbecue pit, and a sandy area with plenty of room to relax and watch the Severn River. A dock has boat slips and spaces for kayaks and paddleboards.

JEANINE WOODS RESIDENT FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS

Jeanine Woods left Minnesota, "the land of 10,000 lakes," and knew she wanted water access for her family after her husband took a job in Baltimore.

"While we were researching towns in Baltimore County, my husband's co-worker suggested Severna Park," said Woods. "As we were trying to decide between [Severn Heights and a neighborhood] in Lutherville, our realtor suggested we walk down to the beach. When we saw it, I knew this was the neighborhood for us, where my children could continue to grow up close to water and all the fun that brings."

Woods loves the fact that Severn Heights is a small community with lots of privacy. "We like to think that our beach has the prettiest view in Severna Park," she added.

As a parent of young children, Woods appreciates Jones Elementary School.

"It's a small school, and we love it. It is like an extended family, where everyone knows everyone else," said Woods. "Jones has a rich history in Severna Park, recently celebrating the current school building's 60th anniversary. Jones has always been a community school and it shows."

As for Severna Park, Woods believes the town's uniqueness comes from distinct

neighborhoods.

"Everyone takes pride in their own special piece of 'The Park,'" she added. "The boating culture, access to the Baltimore-Annapolis bike trail, and proximity to major cities makes living here like living in a resort town."

"We love that our neighborhood is a mixture of longtime residents and newcomers. Everyone is kind and welcoming," Woods added.

Woods is part of the Jones Elementary School PTA, and her family is active at St. John the Evangelist Church. "Our children also play soccer for the Green Hornets (Greater Severna Park Athletic Association), and we have met many wonderful people through that organization," Woods concluded.

SHERRY HEWITT LIFELONG RESIDENT

Sherry Hewitt's family moved to Severn Heights from Baltimore the summer before her fifth birthday because her father had family who lived in the neighborhood. "After we moved to Severn Heights, our family owned four homes on Rio Lane along the waterfront," she said.

Hewitt purchased one of those family homes in 2003, and since then, the home she grew up in was sold following a complete rebuild by her brother-in-law and sister, who purchased it from her father.

"For me, the choice [to live in

Severn Heights] was made due to my family's history in the neighborhood," said Hewitt. "My dad worked along with his cousin for a marine construction company that was owned by the McGeady family, who also own a few homes in our neighborhood. I have never considered moving any place else permanently, even with a commute to Bethesda three to four times per week for my job with Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic."

"I would recommend Severn Heights as a great place to live. Many of the homeowners on the waterfront have lived here since I was a kid," she said. "We have very friendly neighbors who are willing to help each other out and who gather socially throughout the year."

Hewitt has been on the Severn Heights board for almost 15 years; her parents and other family members served on the board for many years, too.

JON KORIN RESIDENT FOR EIGHT YEARS

Jon and Kathy Korin moved to Severna Park from Olney in 2011, after the newly empty-nesters explored retirement locations throughout the mid-Atlantic. They wanted water and bike trail access, so Severn Heights perfectly completed their wish list.

"After settling in on the greater Annapolis area, we looked for a place with water and bike trail

access and that would allow space for Kathy's fiber art studio," said Jon. "The house we chose needed a small expansion but otherwise fit perfectly. We were familiar with biking on the B&A Trail but had never ventured into the neighborhoods until our house search."

Jon became a community board member soon after he moved in and became president soon after.

"We have neighbors who have been here as long as 60 years or so who know a great deal about the history and folklore of the community and surrounding area. It is great to hear their stories," said Jon. "We have pictures of the history of our own home from its start around the original summer cottage circa 1930."

Jon, an avid bike rider, has participated in Bike to School Day at Jones Elementary School and other area schools through his work in bicycle advocacy with BikeAAA.

"I participated in Leadership, Anne Arundel's flagship program, from 2012 to 2013 and launched BikeAAA in 2013," added Jon. "I also chair the Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission, am on the county transportation commission and am now participating on a transition team. I've built wonderful relationships with a diverse range of people and organizations and love that I can bike to most of the places where we meet."



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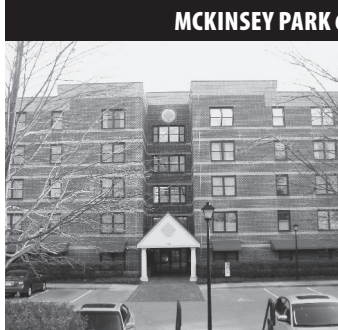
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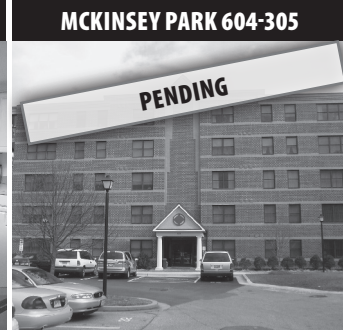


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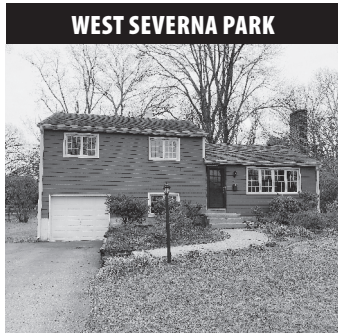
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Reduce The Burden Of College Debt

Michael Malone
Delegate
District 33



Going to college has long been part of the American Dream. Over the holidays, my family and I relaxed in front of the iconic film “It’s A Wonderful Life,” where George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) contemplates ending his life, counting not going to college among his personal failures. Instead, after working and saving while his friends went to college, George took over the family business, the good ol’ Building & Loan, after his father unexpectedly died, so his college savings went to his brother.

That was the 1920s, and George Bailey faced other challenges and made other sacrifices, but one problem remains the same: how to effectively save for college. College debt has been escalating over the past 10 years, prompting recent articles in outlets from *CNBC* to *Forbes* to *Consumer Reports* to *Time*. According to *Bloomberg*, federal student loans is the only consumer debt segment with continuous growth in the past 10 years, having grown over 150 percent over the past 11 years, and is the second-largest segment of consumer debt after mortgages. Currently, there is \$1.5 trillion owed in student debt, which trickles down into the economy as fewer graduates are able to save, invest, buy homes or start businesses.

No doubt, many of you are familiar with 529 college savings plans. Created in response to the 1996 Internal Revenue Code change, these state-sponsored plans offer contributors one of the best long-term options for saving for college. Growth is not taxed, nor are distributions so long as they are used to pay college-related expenses.

Here in Maryland, contributions to the Maryland 529 plans are tax-deductible on your Maryland tax return — to a certain extent. An account holder or a contributor can deduct up to \$2,500 of contributions each year from Maryland state income per beneficiary per account. This \$2,500 amount has remained unchanged since the

Maryland 529 plans were first created in 2001. That’s right, since 2001, when the average college debt in the 1990s was \$10,000, not over \$37,000 like it is today. Leaving aside the effects of the college debt crisis, this \$2,500 amount should be increased to account for the rapidly increasing costs of college, to account for inflation, to reflect reality. When the Maryland 529 plans were created in 2001, \$2,500 covered the annual contribution for the most expensive four-year prepaid university plan. Now, every prepaid plan has a minimum annual payment

in excess of \$2,500 and the annual cost for the four-year university prepaid plan is more than \$5,700 if you start when the beneficiary is in first grade. To this end, I am filing a bill in the House of Delegates this session to double the tax deduction from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per year per beneficiary per account. Obviously, I have no illusions that this measure will fix the nationwide college debt crisis. However, to the extent that we can encourage parents, grandparents, families, even the students themselves to save first for college, that will help

reduce the burden of college debt. After all, despite the sensational stories of persons owing \$200,000, which ballooned to more than \$400,000, the largest concentration of college debtors owe between \$10,000 and \$25,000. That amount can become smaller with more saved and investment growth over time, especially if you didn’t have to pay Maryland or federal income tax on growth or distributions. Let’s make college more affordable by encouraging savings, and support a bill to increase the state tax deduction allowed for Maryland 529 plans.

The Kirwan Commission

Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33



It is a challenge even before I have entered my office to know what will be the hot-button issue of the season. Nothing represents this truth more in the 439th legislative session than the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (CIEE), more commonly known as the Kirwan Commission, named after the commission chairman, Dr. William Kirwan.

Even before I took office, I was asked by constituents about the Kirwan commission. “What is it?” “What are they recommending?” and “What will it cost?” Many had seen reports that the CIEE did not complete their work before the start of the session and assumed we in the legislature would not be working on policies in support of the recommendations. I think it is essential to get the funding formulas right, but equally essential to get ahead of this narrative, which supposes that we cannot start drafting policies without them, so I will attempt to alleviate some of the confusion.

The commission is composed of 25 members from various entities including local and state government, state agency leaders, public appointments, and appointees from various

community and educational entities and unions, as well as the business community. Recommendations have come after an extensive two-year analysis of educational and equity gaps across Maryland and a comparison of our national and global rankings. The Kirwan Commission seeks to make us not only competitive nationally but also a global leader in education and innovation, offering a 21st-century education to all Maryland students, a public education to rival any private institution, while addressing the additional equity gaps that can emerge from instabilities. More than 40 percent of our students across the state are eligible for free or reduced lunches. It is an immensely ambitious endeavor, one that we should not fear but rather embrace.

I am a 20-year veteran of arts education with a focus on alternative learning and non-classroom learners, and I’ll confess, I have to stifle my near-giddy enthusiasm when I consider the possibility that in under a decade, Maryland could not only return to its first-place ranking nationally but could be a global leader. Massachusetts became the national leader in education starting in 2012 with the elevation of educators and an aggressive investment in education, an initiative closely studied by the Kirwan Commission. Currently, we face a

serious shortage of qualified teachers, with morale at an all-time low due to overcrowded classes, and underpaid and overburdened educators who often supplement their schools with supplies purchased on their own. This year, we will look at how best to address the equity gap for our educators and bring the profession in line with other professions requiring a similar level of education. We will work to expand early childhood education not only to give students a head start and close equity gaps but also to help working families offset the cost of child care. Additionally, we will look at expanding community schools to offer wrap-around services.

Every one of our children deserves a world-class education, and our community deserves a global workforce, trained and ready for 21st-century opportunities. The commission will continue its work to ensure we get this right. In the meantime, we can start to change the educational profession and expand our early education so we can begin to close the gaps early on. Ballot question one, which put a lockbox around casino revenue, had overwhelming bipartisan support across the state, so we know as legislators that Marylanders support quality education. Maryland has the will. Now we must simply find the way.

Creating Solutions

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



There is no time for pause when your tax dollars are at work. It has been one month since the new county council was sworn in. While campaigning, it became clear I needed to hit the ground running. There were “backyard issues” that required attention. I wanted to focus on constituent services, being an active presence in our communities, and working together to create solutions. You have taken me up on those goals, and for that I thank you. To date, my office has more than 45 open constituent cases. I do my best to personally touch every correspondence that comes through my office, because you have entrusted me with this responsibility and I take it very seriously. Legislation initiatives at the county and state level for 2019 have just begun.

On January 9, the legislative session for the Maryland General Assembly began. This is important for county legislatures. State laws directly affect our local legislation. In preparation for the 2019 session, the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) held its annual winter conference in Cambridge, Maryland, from January 2 through 4. This conference was three days of legislative training sessions geared toward legislative priorities, intercounty relationship building, and public/private partnership opportunities. MACo is a legislative watchdog for counties across the state, voicing the positions of local government to the Maryland General Assembly. It was a pleasure to attend, and I am thrilled to be serving on the legislative committee for MACo as an alternate member representing Anne Arundel County. I will remain engaged in the legislation that comes before our state senators and delegates.

To understand how our county and state will work

closely during session, it is important to understand the legislative initiatives of MACo: continuing state commitment to education, reprioritizing public health, repealing the “implied pre-emption” court doctrine, and next generation 911 implementation.

The buck certainly doesn’t stop at the state level. In District 5 specifically, we have concerns regarding pedestrian safety, most recently near Severna Park High School and Severna Park Elementary School. The Department of Public Works recently installed temporary traffic chokers and LED blinking pedestrian crossing signs at Evergreen and Cedar roads. This is not a “walk away” solution. All parties in the community, and elected officials, remain engaged in the results of these structures and finding the best solution. The year 2018 also brought record levels of precipitation across the county and state. Many of the water-related issues are new and involve a balance of county and private ownership solutions. I believe through open communication we can get there. Hopefully Mother Nature will work with us.

In 2018, I made a commitment to keep you informed on the issues, public meetings, and legislation that could affect our area. An electronic newsletter was the initial goal for this platform. In just a few weeks, I recognized the need for “real time” information to you and your family. A monthly newsletter would not be timely for those circumstances. While I continue to work with my office to create a monthly newsletter, please visit my county blog that will be updated as information comes to my office. Visit the county council website and click on my page as your councilmember. My blog is at the bottom. www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council.

My first month in office has been everything I anticipated it to be and more. Your continued communication will only better our district for years to come.

Gearing Up For This Year’s Tax Filing Season

Peter Franchot
Comptroller



With the 2019 tax filing season set to officially start on January 28, my agency has been hard at work over the last several months to ensure that our agency has the capability to continue delivering the level of service and results that taxpayers have grown to expect from the Maryland Comptroller’s Office.

While I am extremely frustrated by the historic duration of the current federal government partial shutdown, I am hopeful the Internal Revenue Service will process tax returns as scheduled despite the considerable disruption in government operations brought about by the shutdown.

Annually, we collect \$17 billion in revenue, process more than 3 million tax returns, and we disburse more than \$2.2 billion in refunds. I’m exceptionally proud of the fact that the vast majority of electronic tax refunds are deposited into Marylanders’ bank accounts, on average, within 2.1 business days.

Providing respectful, responsive and results-oriented customer service continues to be the core pillar of my agency, and we continue

to find more ways to improve taxpayers’ experience.

I am pleased to announce that we are rolling out a brand-new, state-of-the-art, and transformational tax processing system — which we are calling COMPASS — that will deliver increased efficiencies by providing our taxpayers (both individuals and businesses) with an easier and more user-friendly filing experience.

Our new COMPASS system also will significantly improve our ability to identify tax avoidance, conduct audits and issue assessments — all of which are critical tools to ensure tax fairness. What’s more, the state-of-the-art technology will transform the process by which we protect Maryland taxpayers from tax fraud and identity theft.

Our 12 regional branch offices across the state serve as critical organs of our taxpayer service operations. Our friendly professional staff can assist taxpayers with making payments to settle tax liabilities and provide free state tax preparation and filing services. Taxpayers who have questions can either visit our branch offices or call our taxpayer services hotline at 1-800-MD-TAXES. To find a list of branch offices across Maryland, please visit www.marylandtaxes.gov.

Bills Before The General Assembly

Ed Reilly
State Senator
District 33



The 439th session of the Maryland General Assembly convened on January 9. It is my honor to once again be sworn in as your state senator for the next four years. Thank you so much for putting your trust in me to represent you in this esteemed body.

I would like to bring to your attention six of the pieces of legislation that will be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration this session. Some of these pieces have been submitted to the General Assembly in past years, while others are being discussed for the first time.

One of the reoccurring bills pertains to how the congressional district maps are currently drawn in Maryland. These districts are heavily gerrymandered. Several bills have been submitted in past sessions pertaining to the redistricting of these congressional districts without much success. A lawsuit pertaining to the gerrymandering of the Maryland’s 6th congressional

district was recently heard in a federal court. The court ruled that the boundaries are unconstitutional and they were ordered to be redrawn. However, Maryland’s attorney general, Brian Frosh, has appealed this ruling. The case will be heard in the United States Supreme Court sometime in March, with the opinion coming in June. Meanwhile, Governor Larry Hogan introduced legislation to form a commission that will redraw the lines for the 6th congressional district. This commission would institute a nonpartisan redistricting process to ensure free and fair elections.

The Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, also known as the Paid Sick Leave Bill, was passed in 2018. Governor Hogan is concerned that this legislation has placed financial hardship on many small businesses in Maryland. He will submit legislation called the Small Business Relief Tax Credit Act of 2019. In order to qualify for this tax credit, a small business must employ 14 or fewer employees, and provide employees with paid sick and safe leave as mandated by the paid sick leave bill. The governor’s

legislation will allow small businesses to claim a refundable tax credit for the accrued paid sick and safe leave for each employee — up to \$500 per employee, or \$7,000 per small business.

There will be a push this session to legalize recreational marijuana. House Speaker Mike Busch is in favor of creating a task force to consider a referendum on this legislation, with the referendum potentially being on the 2020 ballot. Senate President Mike Miller’s opinion, at this time, is to have the issue decided in the legislature. I foresee that this issue will be contentious.

Raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour will once again be considered. Governor Hogan continues to have concerns of raising the minimum wage to this level. There is a possibility of businesses leaving Maryland for neighboring states where the minimum wage is lower. Currently, Virginia’s minimum wage is \$7.25.

Both Speaker Busch and President Miller are in support of legislation that would create a prescription drug advisory board. This board would decide whether the cost of prescription drugs is fair to

the consumer.

The last piece of legislation I would like to bring to your attention is the possibility of legalizing sports betting in Maryland. Speaker Busch and Governor Hogan have both indicated that they are open to exploring this item. Money raised would fund education and possibly transportation. Currently, the states that have legalized sports betting are Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, Nevada, Rhode Island, New Mexico, Mississippi and the District of Columbia. Maryland is essentially surrounded by states that allow this form of gambling. This issue would be decided by voters in a referendum on the 2020 ballot.

These few pieces of legislation will be part of approximately 2,500 to 3,000 bills introduced in the Maryland General Assembly this session. I am totally dedicated to you, my constituents, to consider each piece of legislation that comes before me. I will vote to best represent the people of my district. You may contact me through my office by email at edward.reilly@senate.state.md.us or call me at 410-841-3568.

Chesapeake Forge Blacksmith Guild Revives An Ancient Art



Above: Curtis Chestnut of Pasadena joined the guild in November 2018. His latest January project was making a spoon. **Below:** The blacksmiths at Kinder Farm Park use coal forges. **Inset:** Mark Ramey struck a piece of steel with a hammer on January 7.



By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

Members of the Chesapeake Forge Blacksmith Guild have a unique way of hammering out their problems. On Sundays and Mondays, they convene at Kinder Farm Park in Millersville to practice the art of blacksmithing, which was common in the Middle Ages.

“You start off like a Boy Scout, learning about fire management, how to make a fire and keep it going,” explained Mark Ramey, an Arnold resident who is president of the Chesapeake Forge Blacksmith Guild.

Before they can bend, cut and hammer steel and iron objects, the blacksmiths prepare their coal forge, which can exceed temperatures of 2,000 degrees. A chimney ferries the smoke outside.

Sparks danced around Ramey on a January night as he withdrew his steel from the flames. He placed the steel, with its fiery glow, on

an anvil and pounded it with a hammer. For him to make a knife blank, he had to methodically repeat the steps of heating the bar in the forge and striking it.

Ramey has been with the guild since 2011. He wanted to learn how to make knives, but he discovered there was more to blacksmithing.

“Some years ago, the average age of a blacksmith was in the 50s,” Ramey said. “Now, you can talk to just about any blacksmith and they will tell you what they’re doing. They want to pass that knowledge along.”

While he was creating a spoon, newcomer Curtis Chestnut of Pasadena asked Ramey questions to glean some of that knowledge.

“The first project is usually a poker or rake,” said Chestnut, who joined the guild in November 2018. “There’s definitely a lot to learn. It’s fun beating it and shaping it to whatever you want.”

Crofton resident Rob
» Continued on A11



The Most Memorable Movies Of 2018

By Audrey Ruppert

It’s that time of year again - where we list the top (and bottom) movie picks for 2018. While I did manage to see a whopping 50 films or so this year, I didn’t manage to see everything, so if I missed one of your favorites, apologies!

TOP FIVE FILMS

1. First Man, Drama

A touching, quiet biopic by Damien Chazelle (“Whiplash,” “La La Land”) which tells the story of Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon. The film focuses on Armstrong’s private life and the tense family dynamic between Armstrong and his wife, portrayed by Claire Foy. This film reminds us of the human cost of innovation and progress.

2. Blakkklansman, Drama

Funny, poignant and powerful, this Spike Lee

and Jordan Peele collaboration is surprisingly slick. It follows Ron Stallworth (John David Washington), Colorado Springs’ first black police officer, and his undercover sting operation to infiltrate the KKK with the help of his white, Jewish partner Flip (Adam Driver). “Blak-

klansman” will make you laugh and think at the same time.

3. Hereditary, Horror

A truly terrifying tale, with a horrific message: the sins of past generations are hereditary, and you cannot escape the traumas passed down to you by your parents and

grandparents. The film follows Annie Graham, a professional miniature sculptor, who makes model dolls and dollhouses for a living. By the end, we realize that Graham and her family never had any more power to dictate their lives than the dolls

» Continued on A12



Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures
One of the top movies of 2018 was “A Quiet Place,” which boasted a novel concept that seems to have spawned numerous spin-offs.

CTA Transports Audiences To Narnia In “The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe”



Photo courtesy of Steve Buchanan Photography
Arden Tierney portrays the White Witch in CTA’s “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.”

By Judy Tacyn

C.S. Lewis’ Narnia — the fantasy land of talking animals, mythical creatures, a witch and a magical wardrobe — will come to life in the Children’s Theatre of Annapolis’ production of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” which runs from February 1 through 10.

“The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” is a children’s story, first published in 1950, and is the first of seven novels in “The Chronicles of Narnia” series. Four English children discover a magic wardrobe can transport them to Narnia, where they soon learn they are to save Narnia from Jadis the White Witch, a ruler who has kept Narnia in perpetual winter for 100 years.

Although released in 1950, “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” is still relevant today because the story speaks

to familiar themes of power, trust, family and belief. “Regardless of the time setting, these motifs are timeless,” said Michelle Bruno, the play’s director. “They speak to the trappings of humanity.”

Actors ages 8 to 18 make up the cast and crew of the production. While that may seem like a wide range of ages, Bruno said the entire cast will benefit.

“The challenge in working with a wide range of ages is that there is a wide range of experience,” Bruno said. “But this is a good thing. If you are just starting out in theater, or are younger, you have cast members to look up to, to emulate. Older cast members have a chance to mentor and see their craft through newer eyes.”

Bruno calls the cast “brilliant,” and added that she continues to be inspired by
» Continued on A12

VEER Is A Throwback To The Days Of Hook-Laden Hard Rock



Above: VEER was named Best Rock Artist at the Maryland Music Awards in December. **Inset below:** Jon Malfi’s wife, Cara, designed the cover for VEER’s debut album, “Apocalyptic, Baby,” which was released during a sold-out show at the Metropolitan Kitchen and Lounge in Annapolis on December 1.

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

They may not be rich or famous but members of the hard rock band VEER are gaining notoriety in the Maryland music scene.

They released their 12-track debut album “Apocalyptic, Baby” during a sold-out show at the Metropolitan Kitchen and Lounge in Annapolis in December. They won Best Rock Artist at the Maryland Music Awards two weeks later. And along the way, they’ve opened for national acts like Puddle of Mudd, Sponge, Fuel, Eve to Adam and 40 Below Summer.

All of this success has come in just two years. Bassist Christian Mathis, drummer Jon Malfi, vocalist and guitar player Ronald Malfi, and guitarist Ryan Fowler played their first set as VEER during

the second annual Tattoos, Scars and Custom Guitars festival at Fish Head Cantina in Halethorpe in August 2016.

“If you ask our wives, it wasn’t the right time [to start a band],” joked Jon, who



lives near his brother Ronald in Cape St. Claire. “We were out of the scene for 10 to 15 years. With Tattoos, Scars and Custom Guitars, we wanted to pull something together.”

Ronald Malfi and Fowler
» Continued on A13

Meet Jackson Dean

Anne Arundel County Singer Rises To Fame After His Performance Goes Viral

By Judy Tacyn

Ordinarily, an Anne Arundel County high school football game wouldn’t attract worldwide attention, but on October 19, Arundel Wildcats defensive end Jackson Dean made sure his Senior Night was one that no one would soon forget.

With the visiting Chesapeake High School Cougars on the sidelines, and hundreds of fans on their feet in the Wildcats stadium, Dean strummed his guitar and belted out a unique country rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The video was posted to several social media sites and YouTube before it went viral, racking up millions of views.

Dean has been singing since he was young, and he performed in both elementary and middle school plays before auditioning for NBC’s “The Voice” television completion when he was 14 years old. His band, Jackson Dean and the Outsiders, has produced two albums. “The Flood Zone” was re-



Photo courtesy of BChord

Arundel Wildcats defensive end Jackson Dean is also a country musician who has recorded two albums with his band.

leased in 2015, and “Who We Are” followed in 2016. The group’s latest single, “Saturday Night,” was released in the fall of 2018.

“We’ve played all over the area, from West Virginia to Delaware,” said Dean, “at places like Rams Head, 9:30 Club and The Fillmore Silver Spring.”

Shortly after the Wildcats defeated the Cougars 49-21 that night, propelling them into the county playoffs, Dean received an invitation to join Steve Harvey in Los Angeles as a guest on the “Steve” TV show to perform his version of the national
» Continued on A13

Dining Out

The Breakfast Shoppe Offers Flawless Food

By Mary Cobbler

The first time I went to the Breakfast Shoppe, located in the Park Plaza shopping center at 552 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park, I was amazed at how crowded the place was for 9:00am on a Wednesday. Folks were standing outside the door! A friendly greeter seated my dining companion and me at a tiny table. We later asked to be switched to a booth, but here's the deal: Even if we stayed at that small table, it would have been worth it. It was the best breakfast I've ever had — worth the wait and worth the cost.

It's a cozy restaurant, brightly colored with hanging lights and a partial aluminum tile ceiling. Photos of classic kitchen tools line the walls, and decorated chicken and rooster figurines are perched on ledges. Patrons can sit at booths, round tables or at a breakfast bar.

Our waitress, Ashley, promptly arrived with coffee. Throughout our meal, Ashley, along with other wait staff, was friendly and professional. Glancing around, I saw folks with

huge servings of food, including giant pieces of French toast. I'd heard about the harvest pancakes and was anxious to try them (the Breakfast Shoppe offered them through December 31), but there were many other tempting offerings.

Ashley suggested the backpacker's pie, so I picked that along with just one of the harvest pancakes. My dining companion chose the biscuits and sausage gravy.

Smiling servers brought the food quickly, and we laughed at the enormous servings. The backpacker's pie, served in a cast-iron skillet, could have fed a couple of lumberjacks. It was a feast of eggs, ham, sausage, peppers, onions, potatoes, mushrooms, spinach and broccoli topped with a generous portion of melted cheddar jack cheese. Sizzling hot, it was a fantastic mix of freshness, and the flavors exploded in my mouth. The meal came with a choice of biscuit, cornbread or croissant. It was so filling; I could eat only a quarter of it and took most of it home for my hubby.

I ordered one of the

harvest pancakes to taste, and what a treat! These are made from a variety of flours and spices and freshly baked pumpkin. It was a delight, but the icing on the cake was the topping: cinnamon whipped cream. The cream was not too sweet, just light, fluffy and perfect. Ashley suggested using some of it in the coffee too, which I was quick to do, and I stirred it with the accompanying cinnamon stick. It was wonderful! I discovered later that these pancakes are legendary, and folks come from all around the state in the fall to get their pumpkin pancake fix.

My dining companion's meal came with two sausage biscuits topped with gravy and two eggs, with another biscuit for dipping, and a side of home-fried potatoes. My companion is a senior citizen

and regularly goes to breakfast, and to be honest, he didn't expect much from the eggs because he always orders over-easy eggs and they arrive undercooked or fried hard. These, he pronounced perfect. The biscuits were fluffy, and the sausage gravy was savory and somehow didn't even taste greasy. The potatoes weren't greasy either. They were cooked through, so they were soft and pleasantly hot.

The food was flawless. The cost of the entire meal

was \$49, but once again, that was actually with three meals and both of us took home doggie bags.

Since the pumpkin pancakes are now gone, I called a few days after the New Year to place a carryout order of the winter apple pancakes, which are made from three types of apples that simmer for hours and are blended with the house pancake recipe, cinnamon and brown sugar. It's topped with about one-half cup of cooked apples, walnuts, apple chips, butter and powdered sugar. It's a great

combination with tons of apple flavor, not too sweet, with a good bit of crunch. The only thing I'd add is whipped cream, which I'm sure I could have requested.

The Breakfast Shoppe also offers lunch with wraps, sandwiches and salads, and the restaurant caters. Order a waffle or omelet station! Be sure to check out the entire menu online.

This place has me hooked. It's one of my top five restaurants in the area.

Photo by Mary Cobbler

The backpacker's pie at the Breakfast Shoppe was big enough to feed a lumberjack and served piping hot.

Chesapeake Forge Blacksmith Guild Revives An Ancient Art

» Continued from A10

Wheelwright self-started for a similar reason.

"You have something physical you can look at," he said. "Whether it works or not, you have nobody to blame but yourself."

As he bent metal to create C hooks for his sister's closet, Wheelwright explained that he was a blacksmith in Missouri before joining Chesapeake Forge in October 2017.

"I got ahold of some books, found some equipment on Craigslist and self-started," he said.

Wheelwright learned through trial and error that he had to keep his forge at the right temperature and not let the metal overheat. Every blacksmith has individual goals.

"Just like anything else, you have to practice, practice, practice."

— MARK RAMEY, CHESAPEAKE FORGE BLACKSMITH GUILD

Forge welding, Ramey said, is a skill most of them covet. The process joins two pieces of metal by heating them and then hammering them together.

"A lot of it is mental,"

Ramey said of the forge-welding process. "Just like anything else, you have to practice, practice, practice."

Members practice making other objects too: letter openers, trammel hooks, candleholders and garter snakes of rebar. They read newsletters and tips provided by the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America and the Mid-Atlantic Smith's Association.

The Chesapeake Forge Blacksmith Guild has more than 30 members, and they meet every Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and every Monday from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Prospective

members are asked to complete a safety course at Kinder Farm Park. For more information, visit www.chesapeakeforge.org.

Members are often willing to help others, said Brandon Fortin, an Essex resident who in May will reach his second year as a member of the guild. Fortin makes necklaces and ornamental pieces, and he loves the idea of making new items from old materials.

"We're the first recyclers," he said of blacksmiths.

"The key to *Successful Aging* is to pay as little attention to it as possible."

- Judith Regan

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Most Memorable Movies Of 2018

» **Continued from A10**
she painted.

4. The Death of Stalin, *Black Comedy, Satire*

Stalin and his cohort are reimagined as wisecrackers and buffoons with English and American accents; Steve Buscemi as Khrushchev is the real highlight. When Stalin dies, those around him (some more intelligent than others) must vie for power. The “reformer,” Krushchev must pit himself against the evil Beria, while tolerating the idiotic Molotov - Stalin’s formal replacement - and managing Stalin’s spoiled and unruly children. This is probably the funniest film of the year.

5. A Quiet Place, *Thriller*

"A Quiet Place" comes from a novel concept that seems to have spawned numerous spinoffs, like "Bird Box." The monsters in this post-apocalyptic thriller are blind but have an excellent sense of hearing. Make a sound, and they will kill you. If you can get past the fact that the main character is that guy from "The Office," this real-life husband-and-wife duo

(John Krasinski, Emily Blunt) will have you on the edge of your seat and afraid to crunch your popcorn as they attempt to protect their family in complete silence.

FOREIGN FILMS YOU HAVE TO SEE

These two foreign films were so powerful that I simply had to mention them. They are available with English subtitles.

1. Kler

“Kler” is Polish for clergy. This lineup of Polish A-listers broke the Polish box office and sparked a national conversation about the abuses of the Catholic Church, which still holds tremendous power and influence in Poland. “Kler” follows three priests who span the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, from a senior official to a lowly lay priest, and exposes the corruption and abuse all three have participated in, but from a sympathetic perspective, which examines causes as well as effects. “Kler” is powerful and an absolute must-see.

2. Black 47

When asked by cinema patrons what "Black

47" was, I replied, "Irish 'Rambo' set in 1847." When an Irishman returns home from fighting an English war and finds his family dead and his countrymen abused and stripped of their identity, he embarks on a one-man mission to avenge his loved ones and kill everyone responsible. Pretty impressive considering all he had was a musket that must be reloaded after every shot. Half the film is in Gaelic with English subtitles, and the other half is in English.

HONORARY MENTIONS

1. The Post

A poignant film for our time, “The Post” reminded us of the dire need for free speech and freedom of the press. The film focuses on the owner of the *Washington Post* (Meryl Streep) during the Nixon era and her firebrand editor (Tom Hanks) who face potential criminal indictment for revealing vital information about the corrupt administration through the newspaper.

2. Sorry to Bother You

"Sorry to Bother You" is a wacky, off-the-wall take on racism and the evils of

a society, which glorifies corporations. While the film lacks direction and coherence, there are gems of brilliance here hidden in the rough. Watch with an open mind (it is strange) and you might just enjoy it.

And finally...

WORST FILMS OF THE YEAR

“The Darkest Minds” and “Fifty Shades Freed” win my worst film of the year awards. The former is hopefully, but doubtfully, the last of a series of bland, young adult, post-apocalyptic drivel spawned in the already questionable wake of “The Hunger Games,” which makes little logical sense and is hardly compelling. The latter was watched with my boyfriend; we hoped this would be in the “so bad it’s funny” category — it wasn’t. It was just bad. What happened to the “racy” (it was never even that racy) source material? It was a badly botched kidnapping drama that ends, terrifyingly, in a sociopath procreating with a brainless woman who lacks personality.

» Continued from A10

their professionalism and maturity in tackling the more adult themes.

“The kids have been exploring character development and how literature can move from the mind to stage, from a book to a play,” Bruno said. “They have been encouraged to read or reread the novel, and then develop a back-story around their character that gives more detail than the story. This allows them to bring an authenticity to their character work and play. Additionally, the actors have been exploring stage combat and the more physical aspects of acting.”

Audiences will be transported to a magical land through larger-than-life sets, beautiful costumes, and brilliant acting and storytelling. The play, Bruno said, is true to the story.

"The sets are lush, bold and dynamic. The costumes are beautiful, colorful and striking," Bruno added. "The great thing about working at CTA is the volunteers. The expertise that we are able to draw from to produce and create our productions never fails to impress me."

Arden Tierney, and Arnold resident and sophomore in the Performance and Visual Arts program at Annapolis High School, plays Queen Jadis, the White Witch. She's been part of the Children's Theatre of Annapolis since she 5 years old.

"I was really excited to audition for this play because I love non-musicals," Tierney said. "Plus, I really love playing a villain. I was elated when I learned I got the part of Queen Jadis. She's complex, and I really like her."

Bruno said that a fantasy piece can be more complicated than a normal play or even a musical.

"I think the hardest part

of producing a fantasy piece is creating the realism within the fantasy world,” Bruno said. “There has to be some sort of tether to the audience to allow them to connect to the piece. Additionally, there is a creative license and fun aspect that one can have with fantasy, as it is a fantasy. It really is up to one’s imagination. But with a story as beloved as ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,’ there are elements that must remain and must be kept.”

Arnold resident **Gabrielle Dean** plays Susan, the second oldest of the Pevensie children. Dean is a sophomore in the Performance and Visual Arts program at Annapolis High School; she's been acting since she was 7 years old. She was excited to audition for this production because "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" was one of her favorite stories when she was younger.

"I auditioned because I really wanted to try out for a straight play rather than a musical," Dean said. "The most exciting part of this story is all of the action and anticipation between the two sides."

Dean hopes the audience will be thrilled with not only the heart-warming moments but also the action-packed moments.

"Everyone has been doing a fantastic job," she said, "and I'm so grateful to be working with such a great cast."

Bruno said she was an avid reader growing up, and C.S. Lewis was one of her favorite authors. "The lands and characters he created enchanted me," she said. "To be able to put what I envisioned as I read his stories on to the stage has been nothing short of fantastic."

For tickets to "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," visit cta.ticketleap.com.

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Meet Jackson Dean

» **Continued from A10**

earned Maryland’s Best New Songwriter and Best Breakout Artist during the star-studded event.

Dean is kicking off the new year with several local shows, including an already sold-out Rams Head concert, followed by a January 18 show at Dockside Restaurant & Sports Bar, located at 421 Deale Road in Tracy’s Landing.

Scheduling gigs will be much easier after his high school graduation in May. Dean said he and his band are filling the summer months with a tour that could span from Texas to Montana.

For a full list of Jackson Dean performances, to purchase merchandise or sign up for fan mail, visit www.jacksondeanmusic.com.

Ballet Theatre Of Maryland To Present “Snow White”

Ballet Theatre of Maryland (BTM) invites the public to attend its 40th-anniversary premiere of “Snow White” at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts on February 22 at 7:30pm, February 23 at 7:00pm and February 24 at 2:00pm in Annapolis.

The ballet brings to life a vivid fantasy tale with a wicked, powerful, vain queen; a beautiful, empathetic princess; dwarves fraught with humor; a bold and courageous prince; magic mirrors; and poisoned apples.

Snow White and her whimsical dwarves will take audiences on a journey of unexpected twists and turns filled with magic, suspense, humor, romance and intrigue in this retelling of the beloved Grimm fairytale.

“My goal,” said Artistic



Director Dianna Cuatto, “is to infuse new life into this tale of ‘Snow White’ by adding depth to the story and by creating some additional challenges for the characters to overcome as they discover that real power exists only in true beauty, caring and love. I also

want to capture enough of the elements that have delighted all ages in the past, while adding some new characters and plot twists of my own that can only be expressed best through the powerful language of dance.”

Emily Brennan stars as

Snow White with Lindsey Hinchliffe as Wicked Queen Regina, Jackson Kettell as her courageous prince, and Stephane Hood as the Huntsman, torn between his love for the queen and his duty to serve the greater good.

Surprise your valentine with tickets to “Snow White” and celebrate the 40th anniversary of BTM. Those who attend the performance on February 24 at 2:00pm will gain free admission to a princess tea party at 1:00pm. Come dressed as your favorite fairytale character or come dressed as you are. Snow White and the dwarves will be on hand for autographs along with great eats, treats and games for children. For tickets, go online at www.marylandhall.org or call the box office at 410-280-5640.

VEER Is A Throwback To The Days Of Hook-Laden Hard Rock

» **Continued from A10**

had previously played in the band Nellie Blide while Jon was a member of Public Eye. The musicians then veered off in different directions. Ronald published more than 15 books, mostly in the horror genre. Jon started Freestate Custom Guitars. Both married and had kids. Fowler joined Kelly Bell Band, the Baltimore-based blues outfit. When they reunited, Mathis was the final piece to forming VEER, an alternative hard rock band with pop sensibilities.

“I was always into heavy music, heavy groove,” Jon said. “My music taste was melodic choruses and hooky riffs. Ron is song oriented. He likes different key changes and chord progressions. I like the heavy stuff and he likes the lighter stuff. We have a good dichotomy together.”

Along with Jon, Mathis provides a steady groove. Fowler augments the band’s sound with catchy lead guitar and soaring solos. In an era where many rock bands have found

mainstream success by trading in their guitars for synthesizers, VEER has proven that there is still an audience for melodic hard rock.

“We just play what feels natural to us,” Jon said. “Ryan’s solos aren’t exaggerated. They’re not in there because he’s showing off but because they fit the song.”

While any band member can bring ideas to the group, Ronald writes the lyrics. With the band’s upbeat tempo, the casual listener may not realize the dark depths of his words.

“They’re not storytelling songs, about a girl who does a thing, but they’re nuanced to an issue,” Ronald said. “Some of the lyrics are about the failures of life, how people had drug addiction. You can just enjoy the song or you can decode the lyrics to hear what’s being said.”

The song about addiction is “Come Clean,” which VEER played during the Maryland Music Awards at Rams Head Live! on December 15. Sponsored by the Sheffield

Institute for the Recording Arts, the Maryland Music Awards benefitted the Nicole Van Horn Foundation, which raises money to help terminally sick children.

VEER won Best Rock Artist and was also nominated for Best Breakout Artist, which ultimately went to country singer-songwriter Jackson Dean. The final votes for each category were tallied by a panel of judges with backgrounds in radio and music.

Competing for the title of Best Rock Artist against VEER were the bands Wise Eyes, The Rhythm Surf Monkeys, Relentless Souls, Thrillkiller and Vertigo Red.

“I was shocked we won,” Ronald said. “The fact that we have been a band for such a short time and that people involved in the Maryland scene are so rich and creative, it is staggering to me.”

The group is garnering recognition domestically and abroad. Singles “Come Clean,” “Make You” and “Power Drive” have all reached the No. 1 spot on Australian indie charts.

Next, the musicians will perform on day one of the Frozen Harbor Music Festival in Baltimore on February 22. The time and date will be

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» Page B8



Indian Creek Girls Basketball
Eagles are contenders
in IAAM C Conference.
» Page B2



SEVERNA PARK SPORTS

SEVERNA PARK, MD

JANUARY 16, 2019

B1

Broadneck Boys Edge SP For Rivalry Win, 38-35



Photo by Colin Murphy
Broadneck center Logan Vican scored a game-high 16 points in the Bruins' 38-35 win over Severna Park.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Broadneck senior guard **Mike Cantrell** has a unique shot in his arsenal.

It's a running, one-handed floater — it looks like a layup, but it comes from jump-shot territory. No coach would ever teach it.

But Cantrell is confident taking it, even when the game is on the line.

Cantrell's patented floater

from 17 feet away with 20 seconds left gave his Bruins the breathing room they needed to finish a 38-35 victory over Severna Park in front of a packed Friday-night gym at Broadneck on January 11.

Logan Vican led the Bruins' effort with 16 points, 8 rebounds and 5 blocks; **Nick Gatton** pulled down 10 rebounds; and Cantrell made 3 steals to go with 10 points, twice deploying his unguardable floater for baskets, none

bigger than his last-minute basket that iced the rivalry victory for the Bruins.

"I just trust in my teammates," said Cantrell. "It's great, the crowd was awesome. I always enjoy these games."

The game was enjoyable not just for the players but also for the students and families that packed the house and watched the Bruins and Falcons play neck-and-neck basketball right down to the wire.

Coming off a three-point loss to Annapolis, Severna Park (2-9) was the presumed underdog against Broadneck (10-2), which came into the game undefeated in county play and averaging 61.2 points per game.

But the Falcons held their own, relying on depth and defense to dictate pace. Right from the jump, Severna Park hounded the Bruins and slowed Broadneck's otherwise run-and-gun offense. The Falcons didn't score a field goal in the first quarter partially thanks to three blocks by the 6-foot-5 Vican, but Severna Park's **Colin Wolfe** was 4-for-4 from the free throw line, and **Orion Young** added three free throws to keep the game close. Broadneck led 8-7 after one.

Ethan Mills gave the Falcons a 9-8 lead with a drive down the middle and a layup over the outstretched fingers of Vican to open the second quarter. Two baskets by Broadneck's **Che Colbert** and one by Severna Park's

» Continued on B6

Park Girls Dominant In Defensive Blowout Of Broadneck, 50-13

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

If the continuous, piercing screams of *DEFENSE!-defense!-DEFENSE!-defense!* from the Severna Park girls basketball bench weren't enough, maybe the trio of first-quarter blocks by **Lena McLaughlin**, **Julia Ryan** and **Rachel Spilker** or the smothering help rotations of **Jess Albert**, **Kelsey Powers** and **Rachel Ward** or the hellacious on-the-ball pressure of **Cam Chew** made the message clear: Broadneck was in for a long night.

The Falcons dropped a defensive bomb on the Bruins January 11, demolishing every Broadneck action and limiting the host Bruins to just three field goals in an overwhelming 50-13 rivalry throttling.

Three days after holding Chesapeake to 30 points and winning ugly in a defensive battle against the Cougars, Severna Park was at it again with its defense, this time annihilating the Bruins to improve to 8-3 overall and 5-1 in the county.

"I thought we had a really good game plan, and these girls do a great job preparing for teams," said Falcons coach **Kris Dean**. "We're not the best offensive team, so we've got to be good at something. We work defense to a T, every single day. We stop, we adjust what we need to, and there's nothing with our defense that we don't go over. These girls have bought in from the second we started this year, and we knew they would. We pride ourselves on defense, and these girls are working their



Photo by Colin Murphy
Severna Park's Lena McLaughlin got the inside step on Broadneck's Molly Yeomans for two of her game-high 12 points.

butts off every day."

As Dean noted, the Falcons have relied on defense throughout the season. Severna Park has allowed more than 40 points only once this winter and is yielding a paltry 27.8 points per game on average to the opposition in eight victories.

Nothing changed against Broadneck (4-5), except that the Falcons deployed their defense even better than they have all year. Blocks, steals, perimeter pressure and excellent rebounding

in the first quarter allowed Severna Park to navigate through a so-so offensive start, and the Falcons led 11-0 behind 6 first-quarter points by McLaughlin and buckets by Albert and Ward. McLaughlin found **Hailey Betch** with a nice inside pass out of the quarter break to make it 13-0 early in the second quarter; McLaughlin ended the game with a team-high 12 points.

Chew entered the game late in the first period

» Continued on B3

Severna Park Tops Broadneck In Ice Rivalry, 2-1



Photos by Colin Murphy
Severna Park ice hockey hadn't beaten Broadneck since the 2012 season, but an influx of young talent and a veteran core helped the Falcons to a 2-1 rivalry win on January 4.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Broadneck forward **Seth Culmore** had to give Severna Park goaltender **Ethan Meyer** a dap.

Culmore's breakaway look at goal was a screaming slap shot destined for the top corner of the net, but Meyer, like a hawk spearing its prey, snared it cleanly in out of mid-air, protecting Severna Park's 1-0 lead in the second period and eliciting a respectful glove-to-glove pound from Culmore — nice

save, man.

Meyer and the Severna Park defense frustrated Broadneck several more times before game's end, including throughout a close third period, to lift the Falcons to a 2-1 win over the Bruins in rivalry-on-ice action at Navy's McMullen Hockey Arena on January 4.

The victory was Severna Park's first over Broadneck since 2012 and moved the Falcons to 5-1-1 in Maryland Student Hockey League play.

Goals by Falcon freshmen **Josh Testerman** and

John Clements helped make a winner of Severna Park and Meyer, who made 13 saves and anchored a stout defensive game for the Falcons.

Severna Park senior captain **Alex Garcia-Phelan** has taken his lumps from Broadneck and was hungry for a Falcon win in the rivalry.

"We're breaking the curse right here," said Garcia-Phelan. "[Broadneck] has been consistently good. They have, every year. So it really says something to

pull through this year and take the win."

With the stands packed full of students from both schools — more on that later — Severna Park got off to a propitious start against the rival they hadn't beaten since the seniors were 12. Just four minutes into the game, Testerman intercepted a Broadneck pass near his own blue line, blazed down the ice and fired a wicked wrister over the stick shoulder of Broadneck goalie **Chris Lowe**. Top-shelf snipe. 1-0.

"I just started skating, realized I had an opening and took the shot," said Testerman. "I wasn't expecting it go in, just wanted to get a shot off to get it started."

He got it started. From there, the teams battled fairly evenly for the remainder of the period and into the second. The defenses allowed limited chances, and Meyer and Lowe traded dazzling saves. Lowe made 5 saves in the first period, once sprinting way out of the crease and diving to blow

up a breakaway chance for Severna Park's **Aidan Byrd**, and 7 more in the second, including a pair of nice glove saves and an excellent deflection stick save. Lowe finished with 14 saves.

After Meyer's robbery on Culmore, he repeated the feat moments later, gloving another breakaway slapshot by Broadneck's **Colin Bright**. Severna Park's fans were cheering in delight as the Falcons closed the second period up 1-0.

Just 30 seconds into the

» Continued on B4

Indian Creek Girls Defeat Broadneck, Set Sights On IAAM C

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

It's always an interesting test for a private school to go up against one of the local public high schools, and the Indian Creek girls basketball team had a chance to see how it measured up against a 4A rival when it visited Broadneck on December 17.

The Eagles were up to the task.

Indian Creek turned what was a tight contest at halftime into a runaway victory, defeating the Bruins 48-32. **Maddy Evans'** game-high 22 points led the effort for Indian Creek, which improved to 7-1 overall on the season.

Playing its fourth game in eight days, Indian Creek used a smothering zone defense to ignite fast-break offense and come away with its third consecutive victory.

"I feel like we're really clicking right now," said Indian Creek first-year head coach **Ciaran Lesikar**, who took over the program this season following the departure of longtime Indian Creek athletic director **Jamie Cook**, who took the same position at Bladensburg

High School. "We have a lot of experience. It took us a little while to get the new system in, but the thing is, they love to play defense. You can see it — they love it. Every game the defensive rotations get better, and they're able to focus. We had to focus on a few specific players, and this is probably the best we've done in picking up and trying to find those shooters in the action. Then, trying to push the ball up."

Creek led 17-16 after the first quarter behind four points by senior center **Delaney Dignam**, four points by sophomore **Meghan Bunker** and nine by Evans. In the second quarter **Janeyah Cajudoy** drove and kicked to Evans for a 3-pointer, and sophomore **Kaya Lesikar** had an offensive rebound and put-back to stretch the Indian Creek lead to 27-22 by halftime.

The Eagles took off to start the third quarter. They smothered Broadneck with a fast-rotating zone defense, and Evans and Bunker leaked out for easy fast-break points off turnovers and rebounds. Senior **Paige Wells** swished two corner 3's in the period, and senior



Photo by Colin Murphy

Indian Creek's Meghan Bunker pushed the fast break against the defense of Broadneck's Devon McCue as the Eagles notched an out-of-conference win over the Bruins on Dec. 17.

guard **Kara Matthews** found Evans slashing to the hoop for another layup. A late 3-pointer by Broadneck senior **Claire Flynn** provided some pushback, but Indian Creek

led 37-28 after three.

Buckets by Lesikar, Cajudoy and Evans in the fourth complemented more strong Indian Creek defense as the Eagles held Broadneck to just four

points in the period — just 10 total in the second half — to close out the 48-32 win.

"We were really coming out here wanting a win," said Evans. "It's always cool to beat a public school, because we're a smaller school, especially after last year." Evans' Eagles lost to Broadneck in last year's matchup after beating the Bruins in the 2016-2017 season as a sophomore.

Broadneck senior **Tylia Washington** led the Bruins with 12 points, while Flynn and **Nicole Hagopian** scored 6 each.

For Indian Creek, the win was the latest in a strong start to the season. The Eagles play in the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland C Conference but have two wins over IAAM B Conference teams, having defeated both Severn and Annapolis Area Christian School; the win over AACs came in the championship game of AACs' home tournament. The Eagles lost to B Conference contender Mount de Sales, but they also defeated C Conference rival Catholic, and they have confidence in contending for the conference championship this year.

Evans helped Indian Creek win an IAAM C Conference championship as a sophomore, and she eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for her career in the Eagles' 50-24 win over Catholic on December 14.

"We've really been working on communicating and meshing as a team, especially with our defense," Evans said. "Then, we just really work on our passing."

The Eagles only go 10 deep on the roster, so durability and conditioning will play a role by season's end. Still, with quality wins in the bank and tough opponents still on the schedule, coach Lesikar is happy with the Eagles' progress.

"I know there are a lot of good teams," he said. "I'm happy with where we are right now. We have a couple players in Maddy and Meghan who are both just slashers, and they love to get out and run, they're long and fast, and the other girls are getting it out quick. We have had four games in eight days — Monday, Wednesday, Friday, then Monday again — and for them to come out and play with that kind of energy, I couldn't ask for anything more."

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Severna Park Girls Dominant In Defensive Blowout Of Broadneck, 50-13

» **Continued from B1** and agitated Broadneck's ball handlers, coming up with two steals and two deflections. In the second quarter, Chew swished a 3-pointer and fed Betch inside for another basket to give Severna Park a 20-1 lead.

Both reserves, Betch finished with 9 points and Chew scored 8. Chew gave insight on her fundamentals when asked about the team's defense.

"All you gotta do is sit down, get low and make sure you slide your feet to be able to stop them," said Chew, a junior who recently committed verbally to play lacrosse at Loyola. "We've got to make sure we're in help, first slide, second slide, hedging, so everyone on defense has a job even when they're far away from the ball, they're always in help making sure they're looking and ready to help. I feel like this was a team win. Everyone on the bench got in, and it's always great to beat Broadneck."

Severna Park's offense was galvanized by its D, as the Falcons moved the ball crisply to get open shots in the second and third quarters.

"We recognized that they were pressuring early in the game, and we used that to our advantage," said Spilker. "We had some height on them, and it worked out. We moved the ball really well, and it came together for us playing as a team."

Trailing 24-3 at half, Broadneck didn't record a field goal until the third quarter, when freshman **Nicole Hagopian** hit a 3-pointer. In the Bruins' victory over Southern a week

prior, Hagopian hit eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points, but she was limited to only 3 against the Falcons. **Ty Washington** scored 4 points for Broadneck; **Devon McCue, Nellie Gownley** and **Caleigh Fletcher** had 2 points apiece.

With a sizable lead, the Falcon reserves got minutes in the second half, and the starters delighted to see senior **Campbell Kline** drive and finish for a bucket and the foul. Kline finished with 6 points, and Powers scored 4, both getting all their points in the second half. **Kaila Stasuli, Delaney Ott, Lilly Knapp, Michaela Schnidler** and **Maddy Gillin** all got minutes in the win.

As one of the first players off the bench, Powers spoke proudly of the Falcon reserves. Severna Park's bench was chanting constantly throughout the game, particularly in the first half, when the Falcons' shrill stream of incessant cheers was bearing down on Broadneck's offensive end of the floor.

"It's a big part of our team and a big part of what we do," said Powers. "They're always awesome, the bench, they're always very supportive, always cheering, always loud. We'll be down or an individual will be down, and you hear the bench, and you get hyped up. It's a big part of what we do."

She said the Falcons have a goal for their emerging identity.

"We are trying to be the best defensive team in the county," said Powers. "That's our goal. Our coaches always talk about it. Defense is really where you win the game."



Photos by Colin Murphy
Cam Chew (3), Jess Albert (25), Rachel Ward (12), Michaela Schindler (20) and the Severna Park girls basketball team overpowered Broadneck on January 11.



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Severna Park Tops Broadneck In Ice Rivalry, 2-1



Photos by Colin Murphy

Josh Testerman (left) fired this slap shot for the game's opening score, Ethan Meyer (right) had 13 saves to help seal the victory, and a full Severna Park student section enjoyed a rivalry win.

» Continued from B1
third period, Clements made a spectacular play for another Severna Park goal. A shot by the Falcons' **Henry Testerman** was sent in front of net, where it deflected and popped straight into the air. Clements leaped off the ice, gloved the puck over his head, plopped it down on the ice and slapped it into the net for a 2-0 Severna Park lead. Chants of, "He's a FRESHman, clap clap, clap-clap-clap" rained down from the Falcon student section. Under heavy Broadneck pressure, the Falcons preserved their lead with a pair of great defensive plays in the third period. **Marcus Good** was dispossessed of his stick in his defensive third, but he still disrupted

the Bruins' attack enough to soccer the puck out of the zone. Moments later, a Bruin shot trickled underneath Meyer, but **Stephen Oxley** dived to clear the puck off the goal line with his stick, the play of the game to keep Severna Park ahead 2-0. The Bruins made it interesting in the closing minutes. **Graham Cohen** scored for the Bruins off a pass from **Robert Roth** to ruin the shutout and put the heat on the Falcons. Broadneck pulled Lowe for the final 100 seconds, but their all-out assault didn't result in an equalizing goal as Severna Park's defense held. "I think our team overall played really well, a whole lot of chemistry with our offense and defense," said

Meyer. "In the last minute when it was really intense, the team really came through in the clutch." Broadneck has dominated the rivalry in recent years. Severna Park last defeated Broadneck in 2012, and the teams tied 5-5 in 2013, the season the Falcons went on to win the 1A state championship. Broadneck has taken every matchup since, until this year. "It was a typical Severna Park-Broadneck game," said Bruins coach **Brendan Curley**. "It was very intense and physical on both sides, good physical game, and I thought the difference was, their goaltender played amazing ... They played well defensively, and I thought we did as well. We had our chances at the end to tie it,

and he closed the door. ... Hopefully we can see them again [in the playoffs]. We always enjoy playing them. We played them pretty solid, and they're a good, physical team." At 4-4-1, the Bruins still sit in third place in the 11-team MSHL Eastern Conference, still with hopes for the playoffs and with many of their players having standout seasons. Roth (9 points), Bright (9), Culmore (7), **Nathan Lime** (5), **James Terry** (5), **Brittney Collette** (4), **Ian McManus** (3), Cohen (3), **Caitlyn Dahut**, **Michael Bondsignore**, **Stephanie Collette**, **Jack Costello** and **Matthew Bonsignore** have all contributed offensively. But this year's matchup — and the season thus far — have Severna Park's prints all over them. The Falcons' win pushed them to the top of the conference, and a mix of upperclassmen leaders and talented underclassmen has the Falcons poised for a playoff run. Henry Testerman leads the team with 12 points on 5 goals and 7 assists, and Josh Testerman is right behind with 9 points on 4 goals and 5 assists. Byrd (7 points),

Ben Hunt (6), **Durham Butcher** (6), Clements (4), **Thomas Kondracki** (3), **Daniel Seeman** (2), **Logan VanMetre** (2), Garcia-Phelan, Oxley, **Connor McGrath**, Good, **Leah St. Lawrence** and **Michael Wiley** have all registered offensive contributions. **Nic Howland** has alternated goaltending duties with Meyer and excelled. Assistant coach **Joe Meyer** was happy with the Falcons' performance against Broadneck. "They played as a team, and that's why they won the game," said coach Meyer. "Playing smart hockey, passing the puck and getting shots on net. ... Everybody played great, and it's a great win for us. It's been a long time coming [beating Broadneck]."

He said the personnel pieces fit well on the ice this year, an improvement over previous seasons. "This is the first time in a while we've got a team that can play really well as a team," said Hunt. "The past couple years we've been picking up better players each year. This year our freshmen our very good, and it's nice to have good prospects and more depth." Garcia-Phelan said the program is in good shape this year and beyond. "The team is going to keep building as the years go on," he said. "Having those good freshmen as a solid base is going to keep moving it forward, and they're going to keep being good." With playoffs approaching, Josh Testerman, one of those talented freshmen, said this year's team feels great about how they're playing. "We've got good chemistry," Testerman said. "We're here, we're kind of a brotherhood if you think about it, we're all showing up to practice and working hard, and we're getting it done. We're passing it and moving the puck amazingly, and it works out for us."

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Broadneck Dominates Severna Park On The Mat, 56-19

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Broadneck wrestling team made swift work of rival host Severna Park on December 20 as the Bruins jumped out to a big early lead, stacked up victories and ran away with a 56-19 victory over the Falcons to move to 6-0 on the season.

Broadneck coach **Reid Bloomfield** praised the execution of his lineup, which dominated the majority of the matches and didn't relent throughout a convincing team win.

"I was very happy," said Bloomfield. "We were super aggressive on our feet. That's what we preach in the room, that's the position we want to dominate, and we did that."

The night started with the 106-pounders, and the Bruins' **Will Donahoe** needed only 59 seconds to pin Severna Park's **Andrew Truett** and give Broadneck a 6-0 lead.

With injuries sidelining Severna Park's 113 and 120 starters (**Jack Chadwick** and freshman **Ty Daniels**, respectively), the Falcons had to forfeit consecutive weight classes, and Broadneck's lead was 18-0 within minutes of the dual meet starting.

The Bruins pushed the lead to 24-0 behind **Jacob Miller**, who pinned Severna Park's **Ryan Campbell** in 51 seconds at 126.

Matthew Thompson painstakingly plugged the bleeding for Severna Park at 132, grinding down Broadneck's **Aidan Stewart** to win an 11-1 decision in a grueling three rounds, and the Falcons were on the board, trailing 24-4. Even then, the victory was small; Stewart did well to fight off getting pinned, wrestling through a battered nose and two blood timeouts to make it the full six minutes and surrender only a four-point major decision.

The 138 matchup featured two of the county's top contenders in Severna Park's **Colin Shadowens** and Broadneck's **Nick Schardt**. Schardt led 2-0 after the first round, 8-2 after the second and 17-4 when he pinned Shadowens late in the third round to give Broadneck a 30-4 lead.

"Before my match, I just told myself to go out and keep moving in neutral," said Schardt. "I'm trying to work on my neutral a lot more this year, so I just kept thinking about my

movement and setting up angles for takedowns." Schardt is a perfect 13-0 this season, and Bloomfield said he should figure into state contention.

"Nick is a top-ranked kid in the state, and he's believing it, and it's starting to show," said Bloomfield.

At 145, Broadneck's **Michael Garlington** kept the rout going with a 21-5 tech fall victory over Severna Park's **Collin Ryan**. After Broadneck's **Dylan Rupert** pinned Severna Park's **Jimmy Hopper** in the first round of the 152 match, the Bruins led 41-4. At 160, Broadneck's **Kyle Keller** took 59 seconds to pin Severna Park's **Keith Powell** to make it a 47-4 Bruin lead.

Giavon Meiklejohn led Severna Park's **Matthew Haskell** 6-0 early in the second round when he pinned Haskell to win the 170 matchup and give Broadneck a 53-4 lead.

Ron Schilpp momentarily slowed Broadneck's steamrolling in the 182 match. Schilpp secured a first-round pin on Broadneck's **A.J. Maltese** at 182 to make the score 53-10.

Severna Park banked three hard-earned points at 195 on the strength of **Carson Gotimer**, who slogged through three rounds of 0-0 wrestling with Broadneck's **Aiden Doyle** before winning a 2-0 minor decision with an overtime takedown of Doyle. Broadneck led 53-13.

At 220, **Vinny Facciponti** got Broadneck back scoring with a well-fought 8-2 decision over Severna Park's **Ty Broadway** to give the Bruins a 56-13 lead.

Facciponti is the faceoff man for the Bruins' lacrosse team and said the interplay between the two sports has helped him in both.

"[Wrestling] helps [faceoff] a lot," said Facciponti. "It helps with your balance. It's a big thing. I've been wrestling and playing lacrosse since I was 5. I've always been a faceoff kid. What really started it was wrestling to give me that balance and hand-eye coordination, and also the stamina."

More importantly, Facciponti moved to 13-0 on the season in helping the Bruins stay unbeaten.

"As a team, we wrestled really good tonight," he said. "We had a tough one on Tuesday against Southern which we ended



Photos by Colin Murphy

Broadneck wrestling had its way with Severna Park on December 20, and the Bruins figure to contend for the county and qualify for the region tournament. Severna Park eyes a return to full health and a full lineup in advance of the county championships.

up winning, so this one was good to come in and win and punish our rivals."

In the heavyweight match, Severna Park's **Conor Bowes** led 5-1 in the second round when he caught Broadneck's **Luke Del Rosario** for a pin to end the dual, get six more points for the Falcons and wrap up the meet with the final score of Broadneck 56, Severna Park 19.

"It was a little different as a match because that kid was a lot lighter as a heavyweight, so I had to chase him around a little bit," said Bowes, who improved to 11-1 on the season. "He got in on shots pretty quick, but in the end I [pinned him]."

For the Falcons (3-3), a return to health and increased practice time in the new year bode well for an upward surge in the

county standings.

"The beginning of the season has been a meat-grinder for us, but it's a process," said first-year head coach **Trevor Bryden**. "The second half of the season opens up for us. We're going to have long stretches where we're going to be able to practice, and that's when we'll see some growth."

There are reasons for optimism: Broadway placed first overall at 220 in the Boonsboro Tournament, where many of the Falcons wrestled upward of eight matches. Daniels didn't wrestle against Broadneck but took third at Boonsboro and gives the Falcons strength at 120. Bowes placed second at Boonsboro, Schilpp took fourth, and Ryan wrestled 10 matches at Boonsboro. Shadowens, **Griffin Strickler** at 145

and **Mike Hamlett** at 170 should give the Falcons a strong lineup as the season progresses and they build toward counties and regions "The future is bright for us, we just need the time to get into the room and work," said Bryden.

For Broadneck, team goals have the Bruins' eyes on the county with a mind for region dual qualification, while several individuals should contend at the county, region and even state level. With Old Mill and South River on the schedule in 2019, the Bruins have their work cut out for them, but Facciponti said they are confident in their progress.

"We're going into Christmas break 6-0, and we've got Old Mill and South River, so definitely the hardest part of our schedule is coming up," said

Facciponti. "But, we control our own destiny, and we just have to keep doing our thing."

With Broadneck, Old Mill and South River all figuring to contend for the county, Bloomfield said the Bruins maintain the same target all the time.

"Goals are always the same: qualify for regions, make the state tournament, win the state tournament. Some years we're closer than others, but that's always the goal," said Bloomfield. "It's an interesting year in the county. Old Mill is good as always. South River is good. And we've got some new guys who are good, Southern is tough, North County is tough, Chesapeake is tough. There's a lot of parity across the county, and I'm excited about it."

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Broadneck Boys Edge Severna Park For Rivalry Win, 38-35



Photos by Colin Murphy

The Falcons and Bruins entertained a packed gym of students and families on January 11. Records didn't matter as the underdog Falcons took the host Bruins right down to the wire in a 38-35 Broadneck win.



» **Continued from B1** **Jordan Hallet** followed, but Vican closed the half with a highlight. With Severna Park leading 15-14 and holding for the last shot, Gatton intercepted a pass, and Vican picked up the deflection near midcourt. Broadneck's center took a few dribbles and some massive strides to throw down a thunderous two-hand dunk just before the halftime buzzer, putting the Broadneck students into a frenzy and giving the Bruins a 16-15 halftime lead.

Vican said the rivalry atmosphere hyped up the players throughout the game.

"There's a lot of emotions leading up to the game, the whole day at school, and when you finally play the game, it just feels great," he said. "It feels even better to get the win."

The Bruins still had work

to do, and the lead changed hands several more times before game's end. Wolfe hit a corner 3-pointer to give the Falcons a 20-19 lead in the third quarter, and after a basket by Vican, Severna Park's **Jacob Goodman** scored for a 24-23 lead. Colbert gave Broadneck a 26-24 lead with a 3-pointer, and baskets by Vican and Cantrell had Broadneck up 30-26 by the end of the third.

Wolfe again hit from 3-point territory to open the fourth, but Cantrell followed with the first flash of his unique floater to make it 32-29. Broadneck put together the only sustained run for either team, getting buckets from Vican and Gatton to go up 36-29 with 4:29 left, the largest lead for either side.

With the game in danger of slipping away, Severna Park responded. Young drove the baseline for a

both free throws to make it a one-point Broadneck lead at 36-35 with 51 seconds left.

That set up Broadneck with the ball and a one-point lead with under a minute to play. The Bruins got the ball inside to Gatton, but his pass to Vican was deflected, and the ball popped 12 feet into the air. Vican skied for a controlled tip to the wing right to Cantrell, who took a power dribble toward the top of the key and lofted his patented floater with no hesitation and nine seconds left on the shot clock.

"I practice that shot," said Cantrell of his unusual runner. "Coach Williams allows me to be the player I want to be, and I thank him for that."

After a Severna Park miss, Gatton missed the front end of a one-and-one that would have put the game away. Severna Park

point guard **Matt Simms** got the rebound, and the Falcons called timeout to set up a final play with 2.6 seconds left. On the inbound, they found Goodman on the wing, but he was triple-teamed on the catch, and his contested 3-point attempt was off the mark, with Vican's tall frame obscuring a clean look at the basket.

Vican said the offense wasn't playing its usual pace, but the Bruins can win a defensive battle, too.

"When it comes down to it, it's all our defense," Vican said. "When we play defense, teams make passes they don't want to, and we take advantage. We go to the hoop and get those buckets off turnovers. That's where we really excel."

With solid minutes against Severna Park from Vican, Cantrell, Colbert, **Brendan Davis** (3 assists), **David Stewart**, **Josh Ehrlich**, **Brendan Kennedy** and **Andrew Rose**, Broadneck coach **John Williams** was keen to point out that the Bruins' success this season

has been a team effort.

"We've had a number of different people contribute offensively," Williams said. "We're definitely attempting to hang our hat on the defensive end and make sure we come to play every night on the defensive end. The fact that we're able to do what we need to do defensively gives us a fighting chance, and we had just enough offense tonight to get it done."

He noted the nature of the rivalry always makes for a close matchup regardless of each team's record.

"Any time we play our rival it's always a bit of a challenge," said Williams. "They are very prepared. Coach **[Paul] Pellicani** does a really good job of coaching his guys up, they play really good defense, and they never beat themselves. So, I think it just came down to who had the last possession and who took care of the ball in the end. We had just enough to get over the hump this evening."

The Falcons were pained by yet another close loss

— Severna Park has four losses by one possession — but encouraged by the depth the team showed.

"I'm very proud of them," said Severna Park coach Paul Pellicani. "[Broadneck] is a very impressive team, and they've got some pieces to work with. The thing I was most impressed with was, we had a game plan, and the kids executed it. The kids trusted and believed, they hung with it on both ends of the floor, and we could still be playing [in overtime] right now. That was a heck of a high school basketball game."

The teams' rematch on February 15 in the second-to-last game of the season.

"We've got to play them one more time," said Pellicani. "I just think the contributions from so many guys, and to a person, each person we put in made us better. It wasn't a Band-Aid. That's one of the things that really excites me. We're getting a little deeper and guys are contributing. We are right there."

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SP JV Boys Protect Home Court In Winter Jam Sweep



Photos by Colin Murphy

The Falcons won the inaugural JV Winter Jam tournament, going 2-0 in the four-team competition with wins over James H. Blake and Northeast. Severna Park is 6-4 through 10 games.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Severna Park JV basketball team entered 2019 with three county wins and freshly crowned as champions of their home Winter Jam tournament. Severna Park played two games at home over the holiday break as the second annual Winter Jam added a JV component for the first year, and the JV boys went 2-0 with wins over James H. Blake and Northeast to claim the inaugural JV tournament trophy. Against Northeast in

the Winter Jam final on December 28, **Michael O’Callaghan** and **Lance Reynolds** both scored 12 points for the Falcons, who struggled to score in the first half but relied on their defense to ultimately notch a 46-36 win over the Eagles. “They did a nice job just playing through their defense, and then in the second half we kind of found our groove, got the ball up the floor a little bit quicker, got some easy buckets, just got out in transition,” said head coach **Dan Reagan**. **Nick Carparelli** added 9 points and 10 rebounds

for Severna Park, helping the Falcons follow through on their focus to defend and rebound. “Just our energy on defense has been a strong suit for us, and when we play good defensively, everything just flows,” said Carparelli. A day prior, O’Callaghan, a sophomore, contributed a team-high 18 points in the Falcons’ 47-40 win over James H. Blake. “Last year [O’Callaghan] was a tough kid who got significant [playing time] as a role player, and this year it’s paid off and he’s

really doing everything right for us,” said Reagan. “He’s our best defender, he handles the ball, makes his free throws, just does all the right things. He’s been awesome.” Reynolds, a sophomore who missed most of last season with injury, scored 11 points against Blake in the win, while **Declan Fox** added 7 points and Carparelli (4), **Anders Hansen** (4), **Ian Ferris** (2), **Colton Adams** (3) all chipped in with buckets. The Winter Jam performance came after the Falcons racked up

three county wins to start the season. Severna Park kicked off the year with a 46-45 triple-overtime victory against Southern on December 7 before notching wins over Arundel (39-34) and South River (46-31). Against the Seahawks, Severna Park employed a balanced scoring attack as Reynolds led with 10 and O’Callaghan and **Gus Bachmann** each scored 9. Fox, Hansen, Adams, **Chanze Coates** and **Shane Goldberg** all contributed scoring in the victory. At 5-2 overall entering 2019, Reagan believes the

early wins are valuable experiences and catalysts for continued strong play. “Won that first game in triple overtime, and that game was ugly, and getting through that, we grew up quick in that game,” said Reagan. “We’re 5-2 now having pretty much no experience. This is the least experienced team I’ve had. But when we play well, we’re pretty good.” The JV Falcons scored a 37-33 win over Broadneck on January 11 behind a team-high 13 points by Hansen. Severna Park is 6-4 through January 14.

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

David Britton Honored As Teacher Of The Year Semifinalist

By Maya Pottiger

After one year of teaching, David Britton landed his dream job: a research coordinator at National Geographic.

"I thought that was going to be the dream job because I'm very much into environmentalism; I'm very much into geography; I'm very much into outdoor experiences," Britton said. "After two years of doing that, I was so bored. I missed the constant rush and excitement of working with kids."

Britton returned to teaching, which he has now been doing for 18 years, and is currently a sixth-grade social studies teacher at Magothy River Middle School.

This year, Britton is a semifinalist for Teacher of the Year. He described the honor as "humbling."

"There are days where you feel like you're not the best teacher. That's one of the things that's great about teaching: There are days where you feel like you've somewhat failed," Britton said. "By getting that recognition of long-term success over 18 years, it's incredible."

Britton has received a number of previous honors: National Board Certification, Exceptional Needs Specialist and other awards around the school, including Teacher of the Month.

"As I visit classrooms throughout the day, it is always a pleasure to stop by Mr. Britton's class because I know I am going to learn an interesting fact, hear a great story about important figures in history or discover what character he has decided to embody to make history become relevant and alive for his students," said Nuria Williams, principal of Magothy River Middle School.

Prior to teaching social studies, Britton was a special



David Britton, a sixth-grade social studies teacher at Magothy River Middle School, is a semifinalist for Teacher of the Year.

education teacher for 10 years.

"I think the thing that continually draws me to teaching is it is constantly changing and incredibly challenging,"

Britton said. "One of the things that keeps me going with it is you never master it. It is a consistent challenge every day. In a class of 30 kids, you're never going to have a perfect day from everybody."

In the classroom, Britton's philosophy is to maximize engagement.

"You have to make your classroom as engaging as you possibly can because there's such a competition in students' brains now for what I'm going to connect into and what I'm not going to connect into," Britton said. "If you don't grab them, whether that be through personal relationships or through what you do in your classroom to make the topic interesting or the way you present it interesting, it's very difficult."

Britton is active in the Magothy River school com-

munity, specifically with the Carson Scholar program and Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS). The Carson Scholar program awards scholarship money to two students each year who are not just academically successful, but are also involved with community service. PBIS promotes ways to encourage positive behaviors throughout the school, such as with Polar Bear Plunge.

"Teaching is an incredibly demanding occupation; I would be the first one to admit that," Britton said. "To be recognized for all of the hard work that you've put into it is really exhilarating. It's amazing."

All of the semifinalists will be honored at the Excellence in Education Awards dinner at the BWI Marriott in Linthicum on April 25.

Meet New Board Of Education Member Dana Schallheim

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

At-home parent, education advocate and former ACLU of Mississippi Volunteer of the Year — these are some labels that define Dana Schallheim, District 5's first elected school board member.

Schallheim was sworn in for a six-year term beginning December 3. She hopes to bring her fiscal knowledge (she holds a Master of Business Administration degree) and 32-year volunteer service to her new role.

During a conversation in late December, Schallheim outlined her goals and expectations.



Dana Schallheim

It will take time for the board to review the budget Superintendent George Arlotto proposed, but I'm sure you're happy with the idea of more teaching positions and \$35.1 million for employee compensation increases?

This was a very huge topic on the campaign trail. We need to get back to meeting school need at the school level. Now, that will take far more teachers than even what Dr. Arlotto proposed, so we have to balance that with realism and recognize the fact that we are an importer of teachers, but he made great strides to fill those gaps, which would decrease class sizes, which is very important, and back steps is something I heard every other day on the trail.

I believe equity is important, not just for morale but also for retention. If we train these amazing teachers, we want them to stay. We don't want to train them and then lose them to surrounding counties, so I'm a huge proponent of the restoration of lost steps or any great stride toward that goal.

» Continued on B11

Girl Scouts Host Holiday Shop For Peers

By Judy Tacyn

Two Severna Park Middle School students and members of Girl Scout Troop 1848, Caroline Bresson and Emily Ranaghan, understand that it's better to give than to receive. The compassionate teens enjoy exchanging gifts with their families during the winter holidays, and they are aware that some young people may have challenges that preclude them from sharing the same joy.

Working toward their Girl Scout Silver Awards, the girls hosted a holiday shop in December at Old Mill Middle North School to allow their peers in that school an opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their own families.

Caroline and Emily presented the idea to their troop leaders, Karen Calish and Laurie Edwards, and then to leaders at Old Mill Middle North (OMMN), including Principal Dennis Kelly.



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Working toward their Girl Scout Silver Awards, Caroline Bresson (left) and Emily Ranaghan hosted a holiday shop in December at Old Mill Middle North School to allow their peers in that school an opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their own families.

"We loved the idea for the Old Mill North Middle School holiday shop," exclaimed Kalish. "The

"I know I feel good when I can give presents to my family, but it felt really good to be able to give others a chance to have that feeling."

— Caroline Bresson

opportunity to host a store arose suddenly and we were impressed at how quickly Caroline and Emily reacted and pulled it together."

Caroline said, "I know I feel good when I can give presents to my family, but it felt really good to be able to give others a chance to have that feeling."

Emily echoed that sentiment, saying, "I really liked seeing how genuinely happy the kids were, knowing that they would be able to give a gift to someone in their family. It felt really good to be a part of that."

» Continued on B10

Superintendent George Arlotto Recommends \$1.26 Billion Operating Budget

Just before winter break, Superintendent Dr. George Arlotto of Anne Arundel County Public Schools recommended to the Board of Education a \$1.26 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020 that would add 201 classroom teaching positions and provide school system employees with multiple compensation increases.

Arlotto's plan contains 295.6 new positions, 92 percent of which would be allocated to employees to have daily interactions with students. Of the 201 classroom teaching positions, 116 would help reduce existing class sizes and 44.5 would address enrollment increases.

The recommendation also includes \$35.1 million for employee compensation increases, to be allocated as follows:

- \$7.5 million to fund the second half of the mid-year compensation increase provided to employees in the current fiscal year.
- \$14 million to fund a step increase for all eligible employees in all bargaining units and an equivalent increase for non-represented employees.
- \$13.6 million as a compensation placeholder for addi-

tional employee increases, subject to negotiations with bargaining units.

The \$13.6 million "is sufficient to provide an additional step for eligible employees, cost-of-living increases for all employees, or some other distribution — including back steps — that a bargaining unit may desire to negotiate," Dr. Arlotto told the board in his budget address, which was attended by County Executive Steuart Pittman and County Council members Allison Pickard, Nathan Volke, Andrew Pruski and Amanda Fiedler.

"The decision about whether to convert funding for a step to some other form of distribution to cover more or fewer employees is one for bargaining units to make and negotiate," Arlotto added. "I would urge represented employees to make their priorities known directly to their bargaining unit representatives on this issue so that their voices can be heard at the bargaining table."

The recommendation also contains \$2.1 million to increase extracurricular pay for teachers from \$25 per hour to \$30 per hour, and \$928,000 to increase pay for substitute teachers by \$10 per day. This substitute pay rate has not » Continued on B10

Severna Park Family Seeks Help For Girl Paralyzed By Rare Condition

By Jane Seiss

Ava Janeski, a 4-year-old Severna Park resident, has been hospitalized since October after being diagnosed with a rare condition known as acute flaccid myelitis (AFM). The illness started as a respiratory infection. When Ave complained of a headache, her parents took her to a doctor. Ava was not getting better like her twin brother, who seemed to have the same illness. The family was advised to monitor Ava and her symptoms.

Within hours, Ava was not able to sit up and was having difficulty breathing. Her parents took her to the emergency room at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Doctors recognized her symptoms as signs of AFM. Ava was immediately transferred to Johns Hopkins Hospital. Within 24 hours, she was paralyzed from the neck down and placed on a ventilator because she could no longer breathe on her own. Ava spent a month at Hopkins stabilizing and gaining strength before moving to Kennedy Krieger's inpatient facility in Baltimore on November 6 for treatment and therapy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, there is no cure for AFM. The rare condition affects the nervous



At Kennedy Krieger, Ava Janeski spends three hours in the morning going through a range of therapies. She does physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and e-stimulation exercises.

system, specifically an area of the spinal cord known as gray matter. With AFM, the muscles and reflexes in the body weaken. Scientists do not know what brings on the condition, but they believe it is caused by a viral infection. Cases of AFM have been on the rise since 2014. The CDC estimates that in the United States, fewer than one to two children in a million will get AFM every year.

At Kennedy Krieger, Ava spends three hours in the morning going through a range of therapies: physical, speech, occupational, and e-stimulation exercises. After a midday break for medical care, she spends three additional hours working hard in what is known as the "spine gym." It is a state-of-the-art center where Ava goes through more activity-based restorative therapy (ABRT) to help her maximize her potential after

the spinal damage and paralysis caused by AFM.

Ava has made progress, learning to talk with a tracheal tube in place, managing to turn her neck from side to side, and she recently regained the ability to go to the bathroom on her own. She is not able to swallow and is on a feeding tube. Her spinal damage is severe, and although with lots of hard work she may make improvements for up to 10 years, doctors said she will not likely get much movement back.

While Ava is at Kennedy Krieger, her mom, Amanda, is overseeing her treatment and learning how to care for her. "It is really overwhelming," Amanda said of Ava's situation. "My parents are taking care of our son 24/7." Four-year-old Tristan has autism and attends special education programs in Anne Arundel County. Ava's dad, Ron, is working. The family does a lot

of Facetime to stay in touch. Ava's brother misses his sister every day.

"She's such a happy girl," Amanda said of Ava, who has always loved to sing and dance. "We promise her Ariana Grande videos to get her to do her therapies."

"She calls herself 'Baby Bird,'" Amanda continued. "She's so bubbly and full of life. It is hard on so many levels."

Ava's family expects her to be at Kennedy Krieger until February. Her parents will care for her and continue taking her to therapy at Kennedy Krieger three or four times a week. In the future, Ava will also need surgeries. Medical expenses and the cost of adaptations to the family home and vehicles are challenging.

To help the Janeski family as they adjust to a new life, make a donation at www.gofundme.com/princess-baby-bird-afm.

Q.
Question
of the month

Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, both fifth-grade classes at St. John the Evangelist School answered this question in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 21:

What does it mean
to be a hero?

To be a hero, it means to be a kind and helpful person. You don't have to be a superhero or have power. It is to provide people with your talents.

Abigail M.

To be a hero means to do good and help those in need. It also means saving lives, even if it is only one.

Alexandra L.

A hero is kind, helpful and caring. They always help others in need.

Amelia N.

Heroes are caring, patient and kind.

Ava K.

A hero is brave, caring and smart. Good teachers are heroes!

Bobby B.

To be a hero is to have courage and stick up for someone or something.

Bradley H.

A hero is a person who is brave, strong and caring. He or she always keeps citizens safe. Policemen are heroes.

Brendan H.

I don't think that being a hero specifically means you saved someone or have superpowers. It just means that you inspire or help someone in need. I think being a hero means that you're looked up to or people know you for what you are doing right.

Brennan C.

A hero is a person who is helpful and caring.

Brody K.

To be a hero feels good because you save or help someone in need and people come to know you.

Bryce W.



Students from both fifth-grade classes at St. John the Evangelist School answered the Voice's question of the month for January.

St. John The Evangelist School

A hero is a person who is caring, takes risks and is careful.

Caden G.

A hero is brave, smart and never gives up.

Charlie G.

Heroes are kind, nice and helpful. They are always kind and not mean or selfish. Good parents are heroes.

Charlotte H.

A hero is helpful, loving and someone who exemplifies kindness to others.

Chloe A.

Heroes do what others need help with. They do good all the time.

Collin S.

To be a hero means that you save people to do good. It also means to help.

Connor W.

I think a hero means that you are an inspiration to someone. It also means that you saved someone or gave them confidence.

Cora C.

A hero always cares for others, even if it means getting hurt or risking their life.

Daniel T.

Being a hero means that you save people's lives and help those in need. To be a hero, you must be courageous, smart and kind.

Delyla H.

A hero is a person who is brave, respectful and unselfish. He or she always puts others first.

Dylan T.

To be a hero, you need to have courage. You don't have to save

a life; you just have to do something kind.

Elana K.

Being a hero means that you have to save lives, help others in need, and shelter the animals in need.

Ellyse G.

A hero is smart, brave and trustworthy. A hero always rises to action to save or help another. A hero is a fireman.

Evan W.

To be a hero means to do what is right, not to be famous or a big symbol.

Finn M.

A hero is kindhearted and brave, and is a helping hand. Heroes usually have the qualities of leadership and caring for others. A soldier is a hero.

Gavin G.

Heroes are caring, loving and brave. They always demonstrate good behavior. Parents are great heroes because they are the ones who take care of you.

Gemma B.

Heroes help people in need. They stand up for people who are treated unfairly.

Greyson D.

A hero is courageous, brave and intelligent. Heroes show quick thinking in times of need. Policemen are heroes.

Jack G.

A hero is a person who is brave, kind and does not give up. Heroes always do good and take care of others.

Jaydon P.

Being a hero means that you help others, be kind and tell the truth.

Juliana H.

A hero is person who is brave, kind and loving. Parents are heroes!

Kaylee M.

To be a hero, it does not mean you have to have superpowers. It means to help others. You can be a superhero if you just help someone.

Lilianna C.

A hero is a person who is brave, kind and helpful. He or she is always there to help anyone in need. Soldiers are heroes because they sacrifice for their country.

Locke N.

What it means to be a hero is to be a kind, helpful person. Some heroes might not wear capes, but they wear smiles because they are happy helping others.

Lorelei B.

Being a hero means to standing up for what is right, no matter what.

Luke H.

A hero demonstrates bravery, kindness and intelligence. He or she always works hard to help others whenever they can. An example of a hero is a good doctor.

Maggie M.

A hero is responsible, kind and helpful. He or she always helps you and cares about you. Teachers and parents are great heroes that exemplify bravery and strong effort.

Maggie S.

A hero is a person who is brave, caring and thoughtful. He or she always acts as a leader. Good soldiers are heroes.

Mariah S.

What it means to be a hero is to be a nice and respectful person. Also, heroes help others when they are in need.

Maryann N.

A hero is a person who is strong, brave and saves the day. He or she always gets through tough situations and saves the day. The Army is a hero because they protect our country so we can have freedom.

Matthew L.

To be a hero is to save people and to help people.

McKinsey N.

A hero is a person who is brave, takes risks and is ready to help. He or she always goes out of his or her way to help the helpless or give hope to the hopeless.

Miles K.

To be a hero means to be brave and caring to others and the environment. Just small acts of

kindness can make you a hero. A hero solves problems, big and small.

Natalie W.

A hero is noble, loving and brave. A soldier is a hero who has enough bravery to sacrifice their life for us.

Nina M.

To be a hero means you help or save people. It also means to be a good leader.

Noah D.

To be a superhero, you don't need superpowers. You can use all the talents you possess to help people. One good deed that helps someone makes you a hero, and that good deed could change the world.

Sal A.

A hero is a person who is a role model, a helping hand and somebody to look up to. He or she always helps when help is needed.

Sam M.

A hero is a person who protects their country, shows courage and demonstrates what is right. They risk their lives for others. State police troopers are heroes.

Savannah W.

A hero is brave, diligent and caring. A hero never gives up, even in very hard situations.

Sebastian W.

To be a hero is to follow the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments.

Tobias C.

To be a hero, you don't have to have superpowers or save someone else. You can do a small heroic or kind thing for someone. Even if it's a small thing, it's a big change to someone's world.

Wafa A.

To be a hero, you don't have to have superpowers or save anybody. You can just make someone happy when they're sad. That is what a hero is.

Wyatt M.

A hero is a person who is brave, bold, and strong. He or she always exemplifies respect for the elderly. A hero is a role model and changes the world, one person at a time.

Yoshua A.

A hero is a person who has the guts to stand up. It does not matter what you look like. You can change the world.

Zachary S.

It means saving people's lives. It means to be nice to others.

Zoey R.

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Arlotto Recommends \$1.26 Billion Budget

» Continued from B8
been increased in 18 years.
Arlotto also included \$3.1 million for 473 positions to address enrollment increases and enhanced student needs in special education. It also includes \$2.4 million for 25 English Language Acquisition teachers, 10 bilingual teaching assistants, two bilingual facilitators, and a technician to assist English language learners and their families; and \$1.4 million for seven school counselors, three school psychologists, and three social workers to help further address social and emotional needs of students.
Also included is \$742,800 to expand the Triple-E program to the five elementary schools in the Broadneck cluster, making it the seventh cluster in the county with the curriculum.

Capital Budget Recommendation

Arlotto also presented to the board a \$172 million capital budget recommendation that includes \$88.8 million for ongoing construction projects at:
• George Cromwell Elementary School
• Edgewater Elementary School
• Tyler Heights Elementary School
• Richard Henry Lee Elementary School
• Crofton Area High School
It also includes \$3 million for feasibility studies at Quarterfield, Hillsmere and Rippling Woods elementary schools, and \$10 million for the design of the new Old Mill West High School.
Also contained in the capital budget recommendation is \$11 million for prekindergarten and kindergarten additions at Millersville and Linthicum elementary schools, and \$6 million to construct a classroom addition at Crofton Woods Elementary School and complete the addition at Solley Elementary School.
“Ladies and gentlemen, we continue to have a lot of work to do,” Arlotto said in his address. “I stand here tonight committed to doing everything I can to accomplish that work, and firmly believing that the right ingredients exist to bring about the results that we all want ... To every resident of this county, I say clearly that this is not just my work. This is not just your work. This is our work. These are our children. All of them. And all means all.”

Girl Scouts Host Holiday Shop For Peers

» Continued from B8
Finding inspiration from a holiday shop at Oak Hill Elementary School, Caroline and Emily asked for donations from their friends, family members and the Severna Park community. Donations could be of any value, but items had to be new and suitable for babies and children of all ages, parents, guardians, or other adults. OMMN students were invited to “shop” the donated items using their Patriot Passport dollars, which students earn through a PBIS (positive behavior intervention and support) program used at the Millersville middle school.
Kalish said the girls received a lot of support in donations from Severna Park friends. “[The tremendous support they received] shows the resourcefulness and respect Caroline and Emily’s families have in our community,” she added. “The store was very well received by the OMMN students who were able to ‘shop.’ Emily described the students as ‘grateful’ for the opportunity to pick out presents. She was obviously proud to provide that opportunity.”
The Girl Scouts estimated that 115 students came to the holiday shop, and they were touched to see their peers carefully inspecting each item and putting thought into each of their decisions. Emily noted that some students even made phone calls to family members asking for help in making the perfect

present selections. After a “purchase” was made, Caroline and Emily also wrapped the treasured gifts for the OMMN kids.
“What we thought might be a holiday shop for about 20 kids ended up helping more than 100,” Kelly said. “The shop was very much appreciated by our students and their families.”
Caroline and Emily were among 25 Oak Hill Elementary School kindergarten students who made up the inaugural Girl Scout Troop 1848, which was formed in September 2010. Under the direction of Calish and Edwards, the friends have been active members ever since.
Girls Scouts are required to complete community service projects. Some examples of Troop 1848’s work includes baking at Ronald McDonald House, packing hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train, hosting SPAN food drives, and participating in Giving Back, Linda’s Legacy toiletry drives and Christmas Eve homeless dinners, just to name a few.
In 2016, Caroline and Emily and Troop 1848 completed their Bronze Award, the highest award for community service at the Junior Girl Scout level, by donating a Kevlar K9 vest to the Maryland State Police (MSP). The vest was the first one in use with the MSP K9 officers. The troop also donated requested supplies for military working dogs overseas.
Edwards said that for their Silver Award, hosting the holiday shop was just

the beginning for Caroline and Emily.
“The Silver Award community service project requires 50 hours of work and the project must be sustainable,” she said. “Caroline and Emily need to create a how-to manual and tee-up another group or organization to run the shop in the future. They are also considering holding another shop later this school year, perhaps Mother’s Day, and involve more student shoppers.”
In addition to community service, Girl Scouts participate in activities that develop skills and spark new interests, like camping, rope challenge courses and self-defense lessons.
“Now that the girls are Cadettes in eighth grade, they have more responsibility in deciding and planning what we will do,” said Edwards. “We see their leadership skills in action as they plan and execute activities.”
Kelly applauded the girls for recognizing the needs of others. “This is an experience that will become a way of life for these girls,” he said. “What could possibly go wrong when helping and providing for those in need is your focus?”
The young leaders are also quick to recognize their longtime troop leaders.
“Mrs. Kalish and Mrs. Edwards are very inspiring leaders. We really look up to them,” Emily said. “[Caroline and I] love being Girl Scouts. We feel it’s very important to do good works and try to make the world a better place.”



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Meet New Board Of Education Member Dana Schallheim

» Continued from B8

Q You want to align start times with research findings. What do you see as your biggest obstacle?

ATo achieve that one obstacle, we need to figure out why the software that was implemented continues to be problematic from a bus-scheduling perspective and make sure that those staff are trained properly. They work very hard at what they do. I just feel think if we're feeling a little lost, we need to ask for some direction, perhaps get a consultant to assist with that, and then once that software is dialed down, we can use that software as it was designed and intended and put in scenarios that shorten that window between 7:25 and 9:30 or 9:40 so that the elementary school can start earlier, because those kids developmentally are up earlier, and create a healthier environment for our high school students.

When we are sleep deprived, the challenges that face our daily lives feel more insurmountable than they really are. It compounds the stress in high school, it compounds feelings of depression, it definitely affects grades, it affects happiness, and so we have seen this is starting to pick up steam across the country. Seattle Public Schools, slightly smaller than Anne Arundel County Public Schools, just moved their start times and are seeing fabulous results. I know we can do it too; we just have to try.

Q During your campaign, you mentioned the need to bring fiscal

oversight and accountability back to the board. How was the board lacking in that regard?

A This is not a slam or an insult or meant as an offense to previous boards. They worked very hard. I'm now witnessing firsthand what it takes and I applaud all of the former board members for their service and I'm grateful for that. However, especially in the last year on the trail, I heard a lot about not just accountability but about transparency, so I want to be sure that us as a new board, as a new body — I'm not speaking on behalf of the board throughout any of this conversation, just as an individual member — that we do our best to make all our decisions in public. In terms of fiscal accountability, what I really mean by that is making sure we are taking every effort we can to put every available dollar and cent to meeting school need at school level. In doing that, I would hope that the board as a body would want to do at least a human capital audit of Riva Road to figure out if there is any way we can be more efficient at the central office and really try our best in this budget cycle to make sure that the schools get what they need. At the end of the day, this is about our students first and so we need to make sure that every last resource is put there first, above other things.

Q Are there any other big issues you're especially excited to tackle?

A There is so much that I want to tackle. I started out with a pretty small platform mostly around decreased class sizes and aligning pay and working conditions

with surrounding counties. I started with that, and as I met people on the trail from various groups, from every background, everywhere on the political spectrum and various cultural and religious minority groups as well, my platform grew over the last year and I continue to learn. I want to hear from constituents not just in District 5 but across the county. I want to be as responsive as I can to concerns. Mostly I want to listen because a lot of how I am going to be effective will be determined by how willing I am to sit and listen and learn. This comes with a little bit of a learning curve, or quite a bit of a learning curve, and I just want to grow my knowledge so I can be effective.

I do want to tackle issues around special needs. I want to make sure we are an inclusive school system that celebrates the diversity within it, both from a religious standpoint and a cultural standpoint, race etc. Also the bullying and racism is huge and horrible and distressing to me as a parent. I can't believe what I hear is still going on in schools in 2019. Things that I never experienced as a youth or in any other place that I lived. This is clearly a systemic problem that needs tackling immediately. No child deserves to be bullied, and hate speech and actions of hate, to me, are unacceptable under any circumstance and need to be eradicated from our schools, so those are the other things I want to tackle. I'm thrilled see the diversity on the board, not just by gender and race but with respect to religion and background. It's going to bring a richness to our community and I'm very much looking forward to mak-

ing some amazing, positive changes for our students and our teachers going forward — just really thrilled to be working with the entire board. It started out good and I can't wait to continue to learn about each other so we can work well together, make some changes, grow as a community and be the best version of our school system that we can be.

Q Is there anything else you want to add about your family life or role as a parent?

A I have been a lifelong volunteer and advocate my entire adult life. It's something that feeds my soul. It's something I feel called to do. So obviously I don't do this for the sleepless nights and sometimes negative feedback I have received, but I do this because I love our community, I love all of our students, I really believe in our mission to elevate all students and eliminate all gaps, and I just want to do my best to accomplish that. We are new, so I ask for the community's patience but I also welcome the feedback — good, bad, otherwise. My email is dschallheim@AACPS.org and my phone number is listed on the AACPS website if you click on "board" and "Meet the Board Members." I am very responsive. I'm more than happy to email back and forth. I'm more than happy to talk on the phone. I'm more than happy to grab a cup of coffee and chat. I'm just want to be available to the community I serve, and it's an honor to serve the community.

■ VISIT WWW.SEVERNAPARKVOICE.COM TO READ THE FULL VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE.

Eagle Scouts Honored At SPUMC



Photo courtesy of Joanna Kouvaras

(L-R) Hunter Reeves, David Scarlett, Erick Howard and Mitch Decker recently completed projects to earn Eagle status.

Four Severna Park youths were recently bestowed Eagle Scout status in a Court of Honor ceremony held at Severna Park United Methodist Church.

Hunter Reeves has been active in scouting since the first grade as a Tiger Scout in Pack 918, which meets at Oak Hill Elementary School. For his Eagle project, Hunter designed and built two large compost bins at the Kinder Park Community Gardens, using wood donated from working woodsmiths on the premises. The bins have a grooved slat that can be removed to till and turn the compost, and three separate compartments for green, in-process and ready-to-use-compost for the gardeners.

David Scarlett joined Troop 993 at age 12. He quickly learned his scout skills and worked through his rank requirements. For Scarlett's Eagle Scout project, he chose to construct a sitting area in the Shipley's Choice community just outside Shipley's Choice Elementary School. Shipley's Choice is an active community

with people always outdoors. He wanted to create a comfortable resting place for them where they can relax after a long day's work or a walk and exercising at the park.

Erick Howard began his scouting career in 2007 when he joined Pack 855 at Benfield Elementary School. Howard's Eagle project involved building amphitheater seating in the memorial gardens of Severna Park United Methodist Church, his troop's sponsor church. He has been a member of this church since birth and wanted his project to be there so he could give back to the place and people that have meant a lot to him over the years.

Mitch Decker began his trail to Eagle as part of Pack 855 at Benfield Elementary School. For his Eagle Scout project, Mitchell built four new picnic tables for the playground area at Severna Park United Methodist Church. The picnic tables replaced old tables that posed a safety risk for the children of the preschool and the Sunday School.

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For 15 Years, Emidio Vincenzo Salon & Spa Has Been An Escape For Guests



Emidio and Kristen Tripodi (front) credited their dedicated staff and faithful customers for keeping Emidio Vincenzo ESCAPE Salon and Day Spa in business through recessions and other hardships.

By Zach Sparks

What's your special hideaway spot for relaxing: a man cave in the basement? The local coffee shop or diner?

For 15 years, many patrons

have found their relaxation at Emidio Vincenzo ESCAPE Salon and Day Spa.

Specializing in hair, skin care, manicures and pedicures, waxing, massage therapy and more, the Severna Park business was the lifelong dream

of Emidio Tripodi, who owns the salon and spa with his wife, Kristen.

Tripodi credited his grandfather for introducing him to the salon industry and for showing him the importance of guest service.

"My grandfather was an old-school Italian barber in Annapolis," Tripodi said. "He was a perfectionist in his craft for sure and [cherished] his interaction with people."

When starting Emidio Vincenzo Salon & Spa, Tripodi wanted to emulate his grandfather's devotion to the customer.

"You can't help but to establish relationships, getting to know the clients and being there for their families and them being there for us," he said.

Emidio Vincenzo ESCAPE Salon and Day Spa started with eight people, including Monica Ross, a hairstylist who has been a staple at the company for all 15 years. Her sister, Maria Sapienza, a nail specialist, will celebrate her 14th year in February. Currently, the spa has about 16 employees, but that number fluctuates.

"Part of what drives Kristen and I is watching their growth," Tripodi said of his employees. "You start out trying to establish a business » Continued on B13

Steak 'N Shake Now Under New Ownership

Steak 'n Shake in Millersville is now under new ownership. Dominic Rose is the operating partner and is in the restaurant almost every day, making sure the business executes at the highest levels possible and working to partner with the community. Whether it be working with Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County (TAAAC) to provide discounts to local teachers, providing discounts to first-responders and veterans, or setting up fundraisers, Rose is committed to serving the community.

Rose has been in the restaurant business for more than 30 years as a director



The new ownership team behind Steak 'n Shake in Millersville consists of Joshua Overholt, Dominic Rose and Chris Harding.

of operations and franchisee for multiple brands. He is always looking for positive

partnerships so he can provide opportunities for local groups, schools, churches and sports

teams to have group nights where Steak 'n Shake will donate a significant portion of the proceeds during the event back to the partner organization. In addition to those onetime events, Steak 'n Shake also offers Military Monday when any active duty military member or veteran who purchases a meal will get a \$5 coupon that can be used on their next visit. This offer is in addition to 10 percent off their purchase every time they visit.

Joshua Overholt and Chris Harding are Rose's partners. Harding is currently a commercial pilot. Harding's training as a pilot started in Anne Arundel County as a midshipman at the Naval Academy and extended throughout his career as a naval aviator. Harding served for 10 years as a fighter pilot for the Navy, including two deployments in the Medi- » Continued on B13

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO, GSPACC



Happy New Year! We are excited to announce our newest members of the chamber: **Dr. Brian Valle, DDS; Chesapeake Bay Aquatic and Physical Therapy; Susan Murray – RE/MAX One; Severn Vac and Sew; Meraki Graphics; Phoenix Private Wealth; Holly Oak Consulting; Jackie D'Amico Designs; Ariana Marshall LLC; and Isaacs Health Food Market.**

December featured two wonderful holiday events. We held the annual tree lighting and open house on Friday, December 7, and hundreds came out for the countdown. Thank you to our sponsors **Wright Orthodontics, Trinity Bible Church, Severn Bank, The Negron Farmers Insurance Agency, Chick-fil-A, Bruster's Real Ice Cream, and The Law Offices of Elmore and Throop.** We thank the **Toast of Severna Park Toastmasters Club** for providing thousands of cookies and running the open house. Thanks to our entertainers **Michael Binnie of Annapolis Piper, the Severna Park Elementary School chorus, the St. John the Evangelist School chorus, and Creative Force Dance Center.** The beautiful tree ornaments were created by the students at **Jones Elementary School.**

On December 12, we held our annual Successful Women in Business luncheon at the gorgeous **Café Bretton.** Thanks to Lisa Schneiderman of **Lisa's Cake Pops** for sponsoring the event, which featured five vendors. More than 50 women attended this

special gathering.

A ribbon cutting was held at **Rockwell Fitness** in celebration of the new owners, **Brian Chisolm and Sid Saab.** They have done many renovations, and the center looks beautiful.

The inaugural Leadership Breakfast was held at the **Blackwall Barn and Lodge** on January 14. This was a multi-chamber event and sold out quickly. The new county executive was the keynote speaker, and many other elected officials networked with constituents.

Our annual **Health and Wellness Expo for You and Your Pets** will be held on January 19 at the **Holy Grounds Youth Center**, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The event features 26 exhibitors who will give demonstrations and talking about ways to keep yourself and your pets healthy and tackle your New Year's resolutions. We will have presentations, raffles, giveaways, a blood drive, pet adoption through the SPCA mobile unit, and much more! The event is free, fun and open to the public.

On January 30, we will hold our 2019 general membership and new officer installation dinner at the **Chartwell Country Club.** Our keynote speaker is **Dr. Dawn Lindsey, president of Anne Arundel Community College.** The theme of the meeting is "From Good to Great to Exceptional."

Please join us and continue the growth and prosperity that our community enjoys. Our mission is to promote our businesses and organizations to the community and create opportunities to showcase your services. Call us at 410-647-3900 or email info@gspacc.com. Check out our site at www.gspacc.com.

How to Create Your Own Pension

Jason LaBarge

Managing Partner
Premier
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Part 2

Last month, I introduced you to annuities and the benefits they can give to someone in retirement who needs a guaranteed source of income. Annuities, generally speaking, can act like a pension plan for those who were not fortunate enough to be offered one through their employment.

I love using annuities as a tool when creating a retirement plan for my clients since they can be so helpful when paired with another pension and/or your Social Security benefits to create a dependable monthly paycheck in retirement that will cover your monthly budget needs. However, I always advise that you never have all your eggs in just one basket, and the same applies for annuities. Annuities are just one tool to consider when creating your retirement income plan, but if this tool sounds like something you'd like to consider, here are some things to have in mind when you speak to your financial professional about your options.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING TO PURCHASE AN ANNUITY

There are two main types of annuities: immediate and deferred.

An immediate annuity or what is known as a SPIA, single premium immediate annuity, is where you give an

insurance company a lump sum and they turn around and provide you a monthly payment right away. This will usually continue for the lifetime of you and/or your spouse. Most immediate annuities are annuitized, which means that in exchange for this immediate, regular, guaranteed income, you no longer have access to the money.

Deferred annuities are just what they sound like. In contrast to the immediate annuity, a deferred annuity will wait to pay you an income. Your money continues to grow in the meantime and you can often lock in guaranteed growth. Not all deferred annuities require you to annuitize the money.

There are two sub-categories: fixed and variable.

A fixed annuity pays a fixed rate, much like a CD. There is also a fixed index annuity, which pays a rate of return based upon the movement of some market index, but it also has a guaranteed no-loss provision.

With variable annuities, you have a mutual fund inside of an annuity wrapper where, theoretically, returns are higher than a fixed or a fixed index annuity. You need to remember, though, that you can lose money based on market losses. The insurance companies offering these types of annuities often charge a fee for their guarantee, known as the M&E, or mortality and expense fee, which fixed and fixed index annuities do not charge. Your financial professional should explain all fees to you before purchasing any financial product.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE ANNUITY THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU

If you have decided that an annuity would be a useful tool to have as a part of your retirement plan, you need to decide which annuity product is best for you. Because of the guarantees most annuities provide, you can work backward to determine how much you will need to put into an annuity to give you the payments you require. If you know how long you're going to defer taking payments, and you know what the interest rate is, you should be able to determine how much you need to allocate into the annuity to provide the monthly payment you need. You can find helpful calculators by Googling "annuity calculator" to give you a rough idea of what you can expect.

In addition to your own research, I recommend you speak to your trusted financial professional to help you determine what is best for your situation after considering your financial needs, life circumstances and retirement goals. They can explain, in understandable terms, what you are agreeing to, how the annuity works, and any related fees you can expect.

Annuities get a bad rap. So many people say they hate annuities, but I have yet to find a client who doesn't like to know what exactly they can expect each month in income and to have that amount guaranteed for life. That's why people like the idea of pensions so much. The funny thing is, to provide security and relieve compa- » Continued on B13

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

RUCK FAMILY AND BIKE DOCTOR START THRIVE KIDS CHARITY

By Maya Pottiger

Students in need at Cape St. Claire Elementary School received free coats for winter, and there's more to come.

Kristin Davidson-Ruck partnered with her husband, Steve Ruck, owner of Bike Doctor in Arnold, to start the Thrive Kids Charity.

"I always want kids to have the necessities that they need in life. I love to watch children smile, and I love to see them happy," Kristin said. "With Thrive, our goal is to bring the local community together to give things to children that they need so they can be happy and concentrate in school."

Through Bike Doctor, Thrive Kids Charity was able to get a wider reach and meet higher fundraising goals.

"For me, after being in business in 30 years in the area, it's a good way to help give back to the local community," Steve said.

Always active in giving to charity, Bike Doctor has previously held fundraisers to donate to the SPCA and other national



Kristin Davidson-Ruck coordinated with Cape St. Claire ES Principal Janet Lancaster to organize the coat drive.

organizations.

"[With Thrive], we can direct it to the local people," Steve said. "Going forward, this way, we can help local people here in Anne Arundel County."

The coats purchased by Thrive were delivered to Cape St. Claire Elementary on December 20.

"I've heard, 'This is an awesome idea. This is a great idea.' Everyone is very excited about how this is going to help the local children and provide warmth," Kristin said. "The feedback is great, and I've had a lot of people reach out to me."

As an ultimate goal, Kristin wants to expand Thrive to the rest of the county. However, she knows she needs to start small. Kristin's next goal is to help

students at Cape St. Claire afford everyday expenses. Thrive will specifically contribute to the school lunch program and the fifth-graders who need help affording the annual class field trip.

"If children need some necessity in life to help them get through the day, I want Thrive to be able to provide that for them," Kristin said. "I want school principals to know that we are here, and if there is a child who is in dire need of something, I want them to be able to reach out to myself or someone within our organization, and for us to provide that for them."

Thrive Kids Charity is currently designing a website. For more information on the charity, email sruck@bikedoctor.com.

La Posta Pizzeria Doubles Its Space For Patrons



After six months of work, La Posta Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen opened its new dining space, which allows the business to serve twice as many patrons as it did previously, as well as host private parties and events. Since it opened in early 2017, La Posta has been popular among patrons from Severna Park and beyond, but its small dining room was not able to accommodate the rush. “It’s a good problem to have,” observed owner Charlie Priola, who said his favorite part of the expansion is that the restaurant will now be able to serve more people and reduce the wait during peak hours.

Emidio Vincenzo Salon Has Been An Escape For Guests

» Continued from B12 and you watch them become established.”

The staff size is not the only noticeable change. About a year after opening their business, the husband-and-wife duo added healing therapy, angel card reading and meditation to their list of services.

“Energy work is something Kristen and I have always been into,” Tripodi said. “When we first opened the business, we weren’t sure how people would react to it. But we always pride ourselves on being unique. As opposed to not putting ourselves out there, we decided to embrace it.

“One of the worst things that can happen in business is when you forget who you are, when you don’t stay true to who you are and make decisions out of fear,” he added.

Those additions have made the interaction with guests

even stronger, he explained. “We’re still a salon-and-day-spa business,” Tripodi said. “Our philosophy and energy is what makes us who we are and draws people.”

The staff thanked its long-time supporters on December 15 with a party that included giveaways. “I don’t know if amazing is a good enough word to describe how supportive they’ve been,” Tripodi said of his clients.

Gratitude and appreciation were the two main words Tripodi used when asked about his staff, his customers, and the longtime success of the salon and spa.

“Kristen and I have incredible gratitude for our team, for our clients,” he said. “I don’t think we can ever tell what the future holds for us. We will do what we’ve been doing, but figure out how to do it stronger, how to do it better.”

Steak ‘N Shake New Ownership

» Continued from B12 terranean and Persian Gulf in support of the Global War on Terrorism onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Enterprise.

Overholt is a partner in an investment firm in Baltimore. He and Harding, as well as their wives, Laura and Susanne, provide support to the business by analyzing the financials and helping with location selection, marketing and doing anything they can to support Rose and the team operating the restaurant.

Steak ‘n Shake is located at 8100 Veterans Highway in Millersville.

Ribbon Cutting



Well-Wishers Gather To Meet New Owners Of RockWell Fitness



Members of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce gathered at RockWell Fitness to meet the center’s new owners, Sid Saab and Brian Chisholm, who celebrated their taking over the business with a formal ribbon cutting.

How to Create Your Own Pension

» Continued from B12 nies of long-term financial obligations, some companies are transferring their pension plans into pension annuities! So, if your employer doesn’t offer a pension plan, don’t despair, you can create your own pension-like income stream by purchasing an annuity that is right for you.

Any guarantees offered are backed by the financial strength of the insurance company, not an outside

entity. Investors are cautioned to carefully review the annuity product for its features, costs, risks and how the variables associated with the benefits reference are calculated.

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