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PASADENA, MD

JANUARY 23, 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 the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, and the Oscars and Grammy Awards.

During that 90-day timespan, the 188-member Maryland General Assembly will engage in policy debates, with Democrats and Republicans drafting legislation that will have a long-term impact on Marylanders.

EDUCATION

Created in 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence has spent two years analyzing ways Maryland can meet the challenges of a changing global economy. Often called the



Kirwan Commission because of its chair, William "Brit" Kirwan, the group was asked by lawmakers to devise specific recommendations on how to improve student performance at all levels and how to fund the necessary investments.

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 educa-

tion while also increasing teacher pay. Hogan wants to allocate some of the funds for the same purpose — he set aside \$200 million to implement the commission's recommendations and an additional \$20 million to expand access to prekindergarten — but he also wants to earmark \$1.9 billion for new construction funding over five years.

Delegate Nic Kipke said education is important but that Maryland schools need to be held accountable for the current funds they have before taxpayers are asked to fork over more money.

"Our schools systems are some of the best-funded schools systems in the country, and currently, our educational outcomes rank middle of the pack," Kipke said. "We have some of the worst SAT

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Sterling Organization is planning a full-scale redevelopment of Pasadena Crossroads, including bringing in new businesses.

Businesses Coming To Pasadena Crossroads

By Maya Pottiger

There could be new businesses in the Pasadena Crossroads Shopping Center as soon as October.

In November 2015, Sterling Organization purchased the shopping center. At that time, all of the storefronts were occupied. Now, the organization is planning a "full-scale redevelopment" of the

property, as well as bringing in new tenants.

"The property was 100 percent leased at acquisition, but Sterling believed that during its ownership there would be an opportunity to recapture the Kmart, and potentially the Babies R Us and Shoppers Food spaces to add value as they all paid below-market rents," said Greg Moross, principal and chief operating

» **Continued on A7**

What Does The MD Report Card Mean For Anne Arundel 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 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

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Polar Bear Plunge Dares Marylanders To A Cold Swim In Support Of Special Olympics

By Dylan Roche
dylan@severnaparkvoice.com

Brrr! Are you ready to bear the cold? About 10,000 people from across the state of Maryland are — and you could be one of them! On Saturday, January 26, the Maryland State Police's annual Polar

Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park will bring a crowd of warmhearted thrill-seekers to take a dip in the cold waters of the Chesapeake Bay as a way of raising money and showing support for more than 7,000 Special Olympics Maryland athletes.

"What excites me every

year is the generosity of Marylanders who support this event," said Greg Shipley, spokesman for the Maryland State Police, and one of those who was there for the inaugural Polar Bear Plunge in 1997. "This is our 23rd Plunge, and we have people who return year after year to support

Special Olympics in this unique way. It's amazing to see thousands of people out there willing to do this crazy thing — probably against the advice of family members and others — who I guarantee will have a good time."

For the 23rd installa-

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Jay Offer Recognized At AACC's Annual MLK Breakfast

By Maya Pottiger

Jay Offer received the Leon H. White Clergy Memorial Award at this year's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at La Fontaine Bleue in Glen Burnie on January 21. The breakfast

is sponsored by Anne Arundel Community College.

"That's still sinking in. I'm blown away," Offer said. "What it's saying is, in my work as a pastor, I've made a difference in Anne Arundel County while embodying the principles and the legacy of

Dr. King."

Offer works in many roles across Anne Arundel County: community ambassador at Chesapeake High School, pastor at Harvest Crusade Ministries, general secretary of Empowering Believers Apostolic International Network, president of the Black Officers' Association of Maryland Natural Resources Police, and as a member of the county executive's transition team. In addition to his work in the county, Offer is also a



Jay Offer

U.S. Army veteran and NAACP subscribing life member.

Recently, Offer organized Souls to the Polls, which transported voters to the polls on Election Day. This school year, he helped establish a food pantry at Chesapeake High School through Caring Cupboard LLC.

"My most proud achievement is just being able to come to the table where issues

for Anne Arundel County are being discussed, to be a voice for people that don't know how to get to the table or otherwise feel like they have no voice," Offer said.

The Leon H. White Clergy Memorial Award is decided by the United Black Clergy of Anne Arundel County. Apostle Larry Thomas Sr., a mentor to Offer and president of UBC, called to give Offer the news.

The two partnered to build an organization called Empowering Believers Apostolic International Network. The organization now reaches the United States, Tanzania,

Kenya and Ghana.

"I've told people that I mentor and I'm training, I tell them, 'When you want to make a difference, you've got to put on your servant hat, and don't look for a reward. Just get up every morning, start your day with a purpose, and your purpose should impact somebody's life. If you do that, one day, that which you have sown is going to come back to you,'" Offer said.

Offer attended the memorial breakfast with his wife and daughter. "I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve anywhere and anyway I can," Offer said.

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Margueritte Mills
Volunteer
Of The Month

For Two Decades, Darryl Despeaux
Has Been Freezin' For A Reason



Super Plunger and Ravens Roost 65 president Darryl Despeaux received his Volunteer of the Month award from Voice sales account executive Shannon Vitielliss.

By Zach Sparks

When Darryl Despeaux participates in the Super Plunge every winter, he feels as if he's attending a family reunion. There are laughs. There are tears. Above all, there is unity for a common purpose: raising funds for the athletes of Special Olympics Maryland.

"You might not see these people all year, so it's sad to say goodbye," Darryl said.

Darryl did his most recent Super Plunge on January 18. Since 2005, he has marked the event on his calendar annually, knowing he has to raise \$10,000 and charge into the Chesapeake Bay 24 times in 24 hours. Even before that, Darryl got involved during the second year of the Polar Bear Plunge in 1998 because Victoria Hill — the daughter of his friends Walt and Cathy — had Downs syndrome and played basketball with Special Olympics.

"They ski, they volleyball,

they do bike rides — it's very competitive," Darryl said of Special Olympics Maryland athletes. "They are very enthusiastic."

Darryl and his wife, Tracey Despeaux, have been enthusiastic about the Plunge since they were first recruited. As president of the Solley Elementary PTA in the early 2000s, Tracey rallied a group from the school to descend upon Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis.

Their own daughter, Rebecca, joined the Super Plunge when she was 12. She continued for seven years until leaving for college.

Darryl formed Ravens Roost 65 in Pasadena in 2001 to combine his love of philanthropy and football fandom. Two years later, other roosts started joining Roost 65 for the Plunge at Sandy Point.

"They come down in coach buses, yellow school buses, vans and pickup trucks, and they tailgate like it's a game," Darryl said.

The Council of Baltimore Ravens Roosts has kept track of its fundraising totals since only 2006, and in that time, the collective roosts have raised \$1.5 million for Special Olympics Maryland through the Polar Bear Plunge and Deep Creek Dunk.

Those two events have spawned many memorable moments for Darryl.

"I remember one time in 2005 or 2006, the Chesapeake Bay froze over," he said. "They had to bring big monster barges to do circles on the bay and break up the ice."

He recalled that once during the Deep Creek Dunk, "these guys put scuba gear on, and with a chainsaw, they made holes in the ice so people could get in."

Darryl will now turn his attention to the Deep Creek Dunk and then two Ravens Roost fundraisers: a bull roast at Martin's West on February 9 and an event at Beefalo Bob's in March.

For more information about Roost 65, contact Tracey Despeaux at 410-456-9999. Darryl welcomes donations to his plunge page at www.plungemd.com. Select "Donate" and "To A Plunger" and search for Despeaux.

Darryl may be a hero for helping special needs athletes, but that's not the way he sees it.

"Walt and Cathy are my heroes because I've watched how they've raised Victoria," Darryl said. "I've been inspired."

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?

Eagerness and anticipation can be good things because they keep us looking forward, but there can be times — especially when you're putting together a monthly community newspaper — where you feel as if you're always living several weeks in advance, and you can have trouble enjoying the moment.

Maybe instead of asking what you're looking forward to now that Christmas is over, maybe I should ask how you plan to enjoy living 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.

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.

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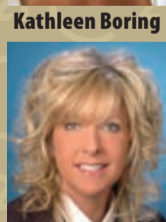
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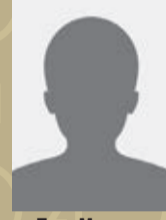
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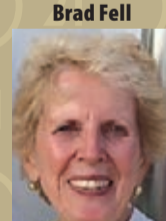
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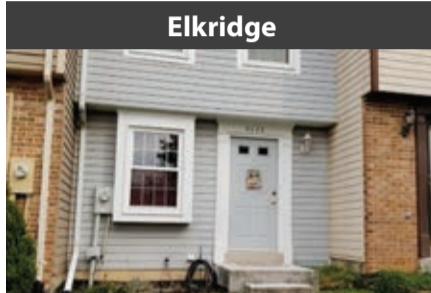
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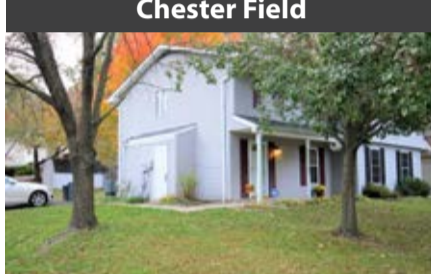
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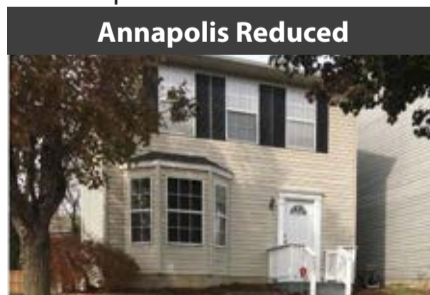
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The New Year Brings A New Look To Galilee Lutheran Church

By Judy Tacyn

Low ceilings and dark carpets and walls may have been the style in churches decades ago, but members of Galilee Lutheran Church knew it was time for much-needed updates to both the interior and exterior of the building.

Gary Thomas, manager of renovation projects, said the planning took two years, but after breaking ground in October 2018, the changes to the interior are now complete.

The project, which exceeded \$500,000, included a new sidewalk leading to an impressive pergola at the main entrance of the church. In the narthex and sanctuary is new flooring,

fresh white paint on the walls and ceilings, updated lighting, new furniture and a state-of-the-art sound and projection system. Most renovations bring unplanned surprises, and this one was no different. It was discovered that a total of 21 windows needed to be replaced due to rotting. Improvements to the parking lot, including fixing drainage issues, are still in progress at the Mountain Road church.

"The changes were a long time coming, but everything came together beautifully," said Bob Cosler, congregational president. "We came in on time, on budget, and with minimal disruption. We're just tickled!"

The new sanctuary space not only looks great, but it is bright and joyful, if not a bit of an optical illusion. The once dark — now pristine white — domed roof opens the sanctuary to highlight the soaring ceiling while not distracting from the beauty or serenity of the space, and it makes the entire space look larger.

Repositionable chairs have replaced bench pews in some areas of the sanctuary. The seating arrangements allow flexibility to use the space for activities like Bible study,

concerts and community events. An updated audio and visual system allows families with children the opportunity to leave the service and still watch or listen from the lobby, nurseries or other locations.

"As I focus on discipleship at Galilee, the building and how it looks has never been my primary focus, but this renovation has provided a more welcoming space for people to connect, find encouragement, and have the confidence to then go out and share Jesus with others," said Emily

Phoenix, director of discipleship. "We are blessed to have a building to gather and worship in, as not all ministries and churches have that, and while God can be worshipped in any space, this highlights the value we place in gathering as a community to learn about and worship Jesus."

Thomas insisted that the extensive project was enjoyable. "We had an excellent team that worked very well together," he said.

"I'd like to thank Gary for providing just the kind of

leadership we needed on this project, Messick & Associates (engineers), and Maryland Contracting and Design (interior designers)," added Cosler. "But mostly, thank you to everyone who contributed toward or prayed for this project. I cannot say that enough."

Comments from members have been positive and encouraging, Phoenix added. "People are faithful, regardless of what the space looks like, but it has been a facelift in a season of transition as we search for a new pastor," she said.



Above: The domed roof opens the sanctuary to highlight the soaring ceiling while not distracting from the serenity of the space. **Below:** In the narthex and sanctuary is new flooring, new furniture, and an upgraded sound and projection system.



Polar Bear Plunge Dares Marylanders To A Cold Swim

» Continued from A1
tion of the annual event, Maryland State Police hopes to raise \$2.5 million. All participants need to do to register is pledge \$75, which they can raise through crowdsourcing, sponsorships or a donation from their own pocket. After garnering the attention of their friends and family who donate, those participants make good on their promise to take the plunge on the big day — it's up to them whether they want to just run into the water up to their ankles or fully submerge themselves. It all counts as plunging!

In addition to the Plunge itself, that Saturday will offer a festival of activities for plungers and spectators alike. Live music, games, food and drinks will make the day enjoyable for everyone involved.

A rolling plunge schedule on January 26 will give even more people a chance to participate than in past years. The day will kick off with a Pee Wee and Family Plunge at 11:00am, and other special times throughout the day will include a 98 Rock Plunge at noon and a Purple Plunge with the Ravens players at 2:00pm. Plunges for the general pub-

lic will take place at 1:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm.

The festival will also feature a new layout this year, and new bands lined up for the show at the Rams Head Ice Lodge tent will be Vertigo Red, Hot Tub Limo, Under the Covers and Blue Miracle.

In the days leading up to the Polar Bear Plunge, special days will give specific groups the opportunity to plunge together. The Cool Schools Challenge on Thursday, January 24, will bring student groups to the park, and the Police Plunge and Corporate Plunge on Friday, January 25, will make a

great excuse for officers and businesspeople to break away from their routine to support a good cause.

To find more information on how you can participate in this year's Polar Bear Plunge, flip through this guide and check out stories on how to prep for the plunge, what to expect at Plungefest, and what your fundraising dollars will go to support. For even more details, visit www.plungemd.org.

And you don't have to worry, Shipley assures everyone. "It's not as cold as you think it will be," he said.



The 5th Annual ClearShark H2O Brunch is just about a month away. It will be held on February 24, 2019 at Two Rivers Steak & Fish House. We are getting excited and looking forward to see all who attend!



We would like to thank everyone who has made a donation to the live raffle over the years!



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- Katie Detrich, Artist
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ClearShark H2O is a local nonprofit group working to create engaging opportunities for our youth to connect with our waterways by designing experiences that ignite a passion and appreciation for them.

Pasadena Drag Racer Gets Checkered Flag, Earns World Championship Title

By Judy Tacyn

Ask most people how they would react to driving more than 150mph and you might see them cringe, but not Ronnie Smith.

"Drag racing is an adrenaline rush. I am very competitive and always like to strive to be the best, No. 1," Smith said. "Racing can be dangerous, but it is in my blood and it keeps me sane. I couldn't imagine my life without racing."

Smith has been racing motorcycles for 25 years, first in motocross and for the last six years drag-racing motorcycles, but 2018 proved to be his most successful year to date. Smith won the Professional Drag Racers Association (PDRA) World Championship race season in the PXM (Pro Extreme Motorcycle) class. The last race of the season was held October 20 at Virginia Motorsports Park. It was there he clinched the championship after being the points leader

all season.

Smith received the world championship award on December 7 in Indianapolis. He also received a reward for setting a national record at Maryland International Raceway in May, running 3.973 seconds in one-eighth of a mile at 176mph. He currently holds the national record for the fastest nitrous bike.

The international competition in the drag racing world is tough. Drivers from around the world vie for one spot in a field that has no more than 16 bikes in a final race.

Striving for perfection in a sport where winning and losing is separated by hundredths of a second or being out of position by the width of a hair requires hours of practice and fine-tuning.

"My team and I go to Capitol Raceway and Budd's Creek a lot on the weekends to practice," Smith explained. "We also pay to practice at all of the races the day before qualify-



Ronnie Smith has been racing motorcycles for 25 years, first in motocross and for the last six years drag-racing motorcycles.

ing. All races have one practice day, so you can get experience at the track and make adjustments in your tune-up for that specific track."

Smith said that even though he's the one on the bike, drag racing is a team sport. "I would not be where I am without my tuner, Shane Smith," he added. "I love motorcycles, the camaraderie and the drag-racing sport itself. It is a

family affair. My family and friends come to my races. I enjoy putting a smile on the spectators' faces as they root me on. When my infant twin boys are older, I hope to pass my legacy onto them and get them into racing."

The racing circuit requires a lot of traveling because there are few local races. Smith said he's driven up to 14 hours to get to a race. He's

his own transporter, using his vehicle and 24-foot trailer to get his bike from one place to another.

For the most part, Smith funds his racing expenses. He owns his bike. He does have sponsors, including Innovative Performance, Vance and Hines, and FuelTech. Now that he's a champion, he's also actively seeking sponsors to help him defend his title in 2019.

Smith's bike is custom made by Innovative Performance Racing. It is maintained by Innovative Performance Racing, and partners mechanic/tuner Shane Smith, Eddie Kraewic at Vance and Hines, and Robinson Transmissions.

Smith is married and has five children; his oldest is 25 and he has twin newborns.

"Racing is extremely expensive, and my family has made a lot of sacrifices so that I can pursue my dream," he said. "They forgo family vacations and other luxuries we would be able to afford if I

didn't race. My family is very supportive of me racing. They come to races whenever they can. Whenever they are not physically able to attend, they always watch the live feed from home."

As he reflects on 2018, he said he vividly remembers the entire race season — every race, the good and the bad.

"I remember how good it felt to accomplish my goal and win the championship. The day I knew I had clinched the championship, I had actually lost the race due to a mistake and I thought that mistake had actually cost me the championship," Smith said. "I ended up still winning, but I remember how upset and disappointed I was, and how a few seconds later when I found out, I had clinched the championship, how great it felt. I will never forget that feeling."

To follow Smith's career, follow him on Facebook by searching for "Ronnie Pro-mod Smith."



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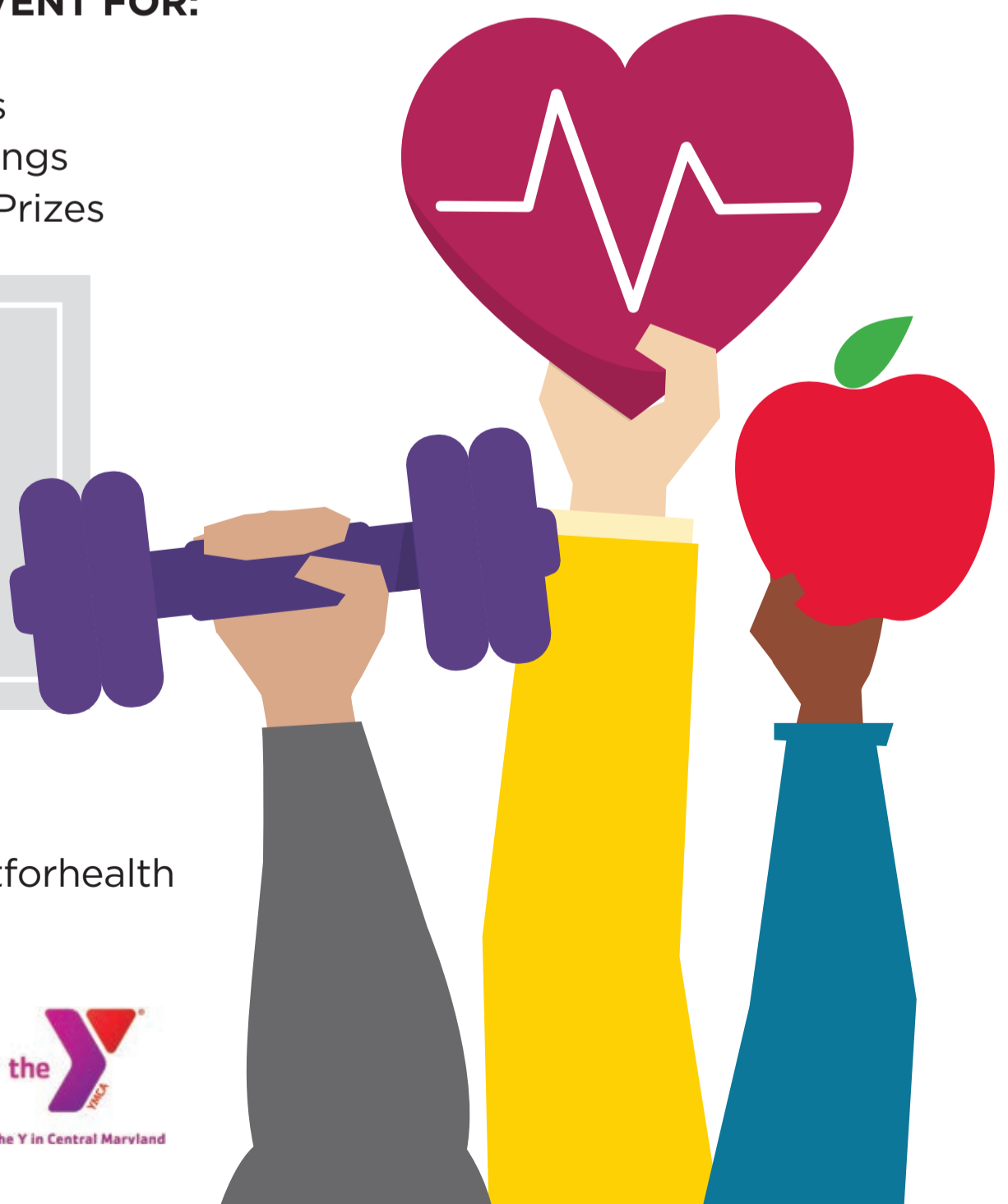
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The 2019 Legislative Session Will Shape The Future Of Maryland

» **Continued from A1** scores in America, for example. So there isn't a direct correlation between funding and educational outcomes."

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.

The legalization of recreational marijuana would mean more money to spend on schools. Based on discussions he has heard, Senator Bryan Simonaire anticipates the debate to heat up next year in the Senate. Kipke expects the measure to go on the 2020 ballot and be passed by Maryland voters.

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 31B representatives have strong feelings on the subject. Newly elected Delegate Brian Chisholm said that the minimum wage, for some people like his wife's aunt who has Down syndrome, provides opportunities to fulfill a purpose rather than feed a family of four. He also has other concerns.

"As a small-business owner, the message I get consistently is 'We have openings, we have positions and we can't fill

them. We can't find able-bodied people who want to work for us,'" Chisholm said. "So you can take that minimum wage from \$10 to \$100 and I think it's just going to have a negative effect on the business community as a whole. You will set your own value if you're good at what you do and if you're willing to work."

Reflecting on his own experience working an entry-level job at the Friendly's restaurant on Mountain Road, Kipke said a higher minimum wage would result in fewer jobs for teens who rely on those jobs to learn how to arrive to work on time, manage a schedule and checking account, and work with the public.

"If the Democrats are insistent on passing the \$15 minimum wage, which I think is irresponsible, frankly, it would be my hope that we could look at protecting some of our rural areas, which would immediately be put at an economic disadvantage to all of our surrounding states, [which pay less]. And I would also like to look at how we can exempt certain youth so it doesn't harm youth employment."

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.

Simonaire would like the law to be modified after the state gets input from sheriffs and police officers who have seen the law's impact. Kipke is concerned about the risk to law enforcement officers who cease the guns, and he believes the people "flagged" by the bill should be brought in for psychiatric evaluation and treatment. Some people, he said, are worried that such a provision would stigmatize people with mental health issues.

Both Democrats and Republicans have also pushed for banning "ghost guns," which are homemade guns without serial numbers, and firearms made with 3D printers. Those bills would mirror laws passed at the federal level.

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.

The main debate is whether to allow gaming only at casinos or also at racetracks, Kipke said. He's in favor of either so long as there are protections against gambling addiction, which Simonaire also sees as a problem.

"You may get the money for education, but you have to realize it will adversely affect other families," Simonaire said.

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.

If the bill is passed, Kipke estimates that taxpayers would see their BGE utility bills doubled.

"I'm supportive of growing the clean energy portfolio as technologies come online that are cost-effective, but simply passing a bill that sounds good without taking into account the people that it will ultimately hurt, I can't support that," he said.

Chisholm added, "There's going to be new mechanisms coming online to provide us with clean energy ... You can't eliminate the free market because it will always provide the best product."

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.

TAXES AND CRIME

Last year, Republicans sought to modify the state tax code to ensure all Marylanders received the same tax cuts

from which people nationwide are benefitting. Kipke expects that debate to return this session.

"When the federal government cut taxes, the Democratic leadership refused to modernize our code to accommodate and it was sort of a backhanded way of increasing taxes on Marylanders by about \$200 million a year," he said.

He is also focusing on legislation to create a violent criminals registry online, much like the sex offender registry, but to notify people of any neighbors who were convicted of carjacking, armed robbery and other crimes.

OTHER LAWS

After successfully passing a service dog program to help veterans, Simonaire now wants to extend the program to include horse therapy. Simonaire visited Maryland Therapeutic Riding in Crownsville where he saw the horses' impact on veterans, children and individuals with special needs.

The senator also wants Maryland to adopt an Election Day program similar to one implemented in Montgomery County.

"It allows middle schoolers and high schoolers who are not eligible to vote yet to come participate in the election process to get them interested while they are young, because we always talk about young people not voting," Simonaire said. "They will be an assistant to the election chief judge, so they will get credits for volunteer service."

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. Uncertainty looms over Annapolis. Will lawmakers hold firm in their requests or will they cross the aisle to find compromise?

"In the Senate, we have 40 percent new membership, which is a huge turnover not only in numbers but also in knowledge," Simonaire said. "Of the eight chairmen and vice chairmen from last term, we have seven new names. You lose a lot of institutional knowledge."

Kipke has noticed a change, with the legislature shifting more to the left. "Many people on the left are political activists and their experience in the private sector is limited, and as a result of that, they are pushing for bills that in many cases might sound good but would actually be detrimental to our economy," Kipke said.

Chisholm, who met many of those new legislators during a three-day bus tour, agreed with Kipke but said the new legislators are all good people who he's excited to work with.

"One of the best pieces of advice I got was to form relationships and work with everybody," Chisholm said. "And I agree that as Republicans in the minority, if we can just slow down some of the bills and speak to the other legislators that are trying to push the laws, maybe we can amend the bills and give them our side of what the real impact of the bills will be."

Read the full story at www.pasadenavoice.com

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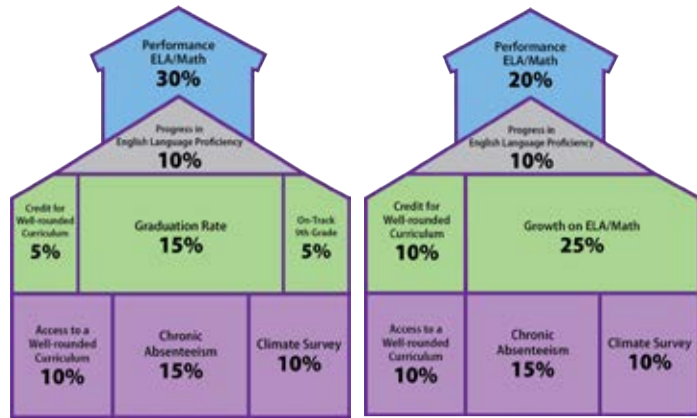
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What Does The MD Report Card Mean For Local Schools?



Graphic courtesy of Anne Arundel County Public Schools

High schools are graded by tests, graduation rate and chronic absenteeism above other factors. Middle and elementary schools are graded by growth on test scores, progress on English language efficiency and other factors.

New Businesses Coming To Pasadena Crossroads



tive Director Sandi Parrish said she wonders what the next five years will look like.

"I think any impact is good rather than an empty storefront," Parrish said. "Any kind of new business is good for

the economy."

Parrish also noted the additional jobs these new businesses will bring to Pasadena.

"Obviously it's going to bring jobs to the area," Parrish said. "Hopefully some of those people that lost their jobs when those businesses went out can now recoup jobs with these incoming companies."

Other than TJ Maxx, HomeGoods and Hobby Lobby, none of the other incoming tenants have been announced.

Sterling Organization owns more than 10 million square feet of real estate across the United States. Pasadena Crossroads is the company's only property in Maryland.

"We anticipate commencing a full-scale redevelopment of the property in early Q2 with tenants opening for business between October 2019 and March 2020," Moross said in the statement.

"We anticipate commencing a full-scale redevelopment of the property in early Q2 with tenants opening for business between October 2019 and March 2020," Moross said in the statement.

With other big corporations, like Sears, going out of business in the area, Pasadena Business Association Execu-

» Continued from A1

program works." Under the new ratings, only five county schools received five stars, and none of those are located in Pasadena. Schools with four stars included Chesapeake and Northeast high schools, Chesapeake Bay Middle School and Pasadena Elementary.

How did Anne Arundel compare to other counties? Pasadena's four-star schools represented a broad range, from Chesapeake High in the 72nd percentile to Pasadena Elementary in the 47th percentile. Three-star schools peaked at the 45th percentile for George Fox Middle, 24th for Bodkin Elementary and 23rd for Riviera Beach Elementary, and went as low as the 13th percentile for Lake Shore and Solley elementary schools.

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

Four-Star Schools

- Chesapeake High
- Northeast High
- Chesapeake Bay Middle
- Pasadena Elementary

Three-Star Schools

- George Fox Middle
- Bodkin Elementary
- Fort Smallwood Elementary
- Lake Shore Elementary
- Riviera Beach Elementary
- Solley Elementary
- Sunset Elementary

Two-Star Schools

- High Point Elementary
- Jacobsville Elementary

Web Only: CSEG Proposes Chesapeake Park



Visit www.pasadenavoice.com for a story on Chesapeake Sports and Entertainment Group's newest plans for the 544-acre property that was formerly home to Crownsville Hospital Center: a 10,000-seat stadium, 24 turf fields and 360 acres of open space near the Bacon Ridge Natural Area.

Moore Earns Zeitgeist Award

Cassandra Moore, an assistant director of enrollment, development and admissions at Anne Arundel Community College who serves on Northeast High School's Signature



Cassandra Moore

Program's Integrated Community Stakeholders Team, earned the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Zeitgeist Award.

Moore said that as a black woman who grew up in the south, she was influenced by King. One such way was through a discussion he had about faith, requiring "you to take the first step when you don't know what the whole staircase will look like."

"For me, that summed up the work we do at AAC. We ask students to take their first step with us, and we get them to the top of their staircase," Moore said. "To

me, that ties into the work I do on equity, inclusion and diversity. I'm very proud to receive that award."

At Northeast, Moore has done "very nontraditional things," and she is proud of her work at the high school.

"The people at that school are always looking for ways to improve the success of their students, and I'm privileged that they have included me in those conversations," Moore said. "It's helped me grow as a professional, and hopefully we've helped students, as well."

Moore has dedicated her career toward helping first-generation college students succeed.

"I'm most proud of the fact that I can help first generation college students be hopeful and give them the guidance so they will know what they need to do to not only enroll in college but to graduate from college," Moore said.

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NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

Stoney Beach

Neighborhood of the Month takes an in-depth look at the unique communities that make up Pasadena 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 pvnews@pasadenavoice.com and let us know!



Photos by Judy Tacyn
Above: Faith Ringler-Stevinson has never seen the need to live anywhere other than Stoney Beach.
Left: Stoney Beach offers a playground, tennis courts, and beautiful views of creeks and coves.

Pristine Condo Community Is Pasadena's Best-Kept Secret

By Judy Tacyn

Stoney Beach is a tiny community of condominiums located off Fort Smallwood Road. It's a peninsula nestled within the Patapsco River, Nabbs Creek, Stoney Creek, Cox Creek and Back Cove. Water views are plentiful in this neighborhood of small courts and cul-de-sacs. The condos are spacious at approximately 2,000 square feet.

Residents can see Baltimore across the river and watch the cruise and cargo ships come into Baltimore Harbor. With very little traffic, life in Stoney Beach is quiet and tranquil.

The tight-knit community enjoys cookouts, meet-and-greets, Halloween and other holiday parties for the children, beach clean-ups and community days, community yard sales, and dumpster days twice a year for yard cleanup.

There are tennis courts, a dog-walk area, a boardwalk, a pool, camper and boat storage, and a small boat ramp.

Public schools in the area are Solley Elementary, George Fox Middle and Northeast High schools. The development started to spring up in 1990.

FAITH RINGLER-STEVINSON
 RESIDENT FOR 27 YEARS

Once upon a time, Baltimore residents considered Pasadena the "country." Faith Ringler-Stevinson's family was one of those families. Her parents bought a rancher in Pasadena in 1953, and Ringler-Stevinson has never seen the

need to live anywhere else. After she married, she wanted to stay in Pasadena.

"Stoney Beach was a new upcoming community with a pool and tennis courts for the girls, and they were able to stay in their same school," said Ringler-Stevinson, a Northeast Senior High School graduate. "We liked Stoney Beach because it is close to water with easy access to D.C. and [Interstate] 695."

As one of the original homeowners in 1991, Ringler-Stevinson has seen the area develop over the years, but she insists it still feels like the country. "Stoney Beach is not congested at all," she added.

As for recommending the neighborhood, Ringler-Stevinson gives the community a resounding two thumbs up.

"We are very happy here. Everyone is neighborly and helpful in times of need," added Ringler-Stevinson. "There is always someone helping a friend or a family in need. We do that no matter what. It's the American way. Whether it's watering your plants or walking or feeding your dog, our neighbors are always there."

Ringler-Stevinson's children

are now married with children of their own, but she has no intentions of moving. She and her husband occasionally attend homeowners meetings, where residents discuss what improvements could be made to the neighborhood.

JANE WHITMIRE
 RESIDENT FOR 17 YEARS

Jane Whitmire's father was raised in Stoney Beach, so she knew the area well. When it was time for her family to move, she had Stoney Beach on the top of her list of neighborhoods to visit.

"The community is unique in several ways," said Whitmire. "It's a private community that provides police officers as security for our residents. Outdoors, you can crab and fish right outside your doors. It is a pet-friendly community and has plenty of walking paths to walk your dogs."

Whitmire noted that the community has an HOA that works hard to keep the community up-to-date and clean, providing great curb appeal to visitors.

"Another great feature is the fact that we have gas stations, fast food restaurants and stores less than two miles away," added

Whitmire. "The location alone is appealing to most people. It is located in Anne Arundel County but is an easy commute to Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Annapolis, and the D.C. areas. Shopping is close by and malls are within 15 to 30 minutes away."

Whitmire also highly recommends Stoney Beach for anyone looking in Pasadena.

"Stoney Beach been a nice place to raise my family," she added. "The neighbors have been respectful, helpful and just good friends. In my court, we watch over each other. For me, I like jogging. So the area is safe to run and provides trails, boardwalk and the private community road to run on."

"My neighbors are like my own family. We have always gotten along with our neighbors and I trust them. We know they are there when we need them," she continued. "Most of the time, our neighbors work together with snow removal, shoveling their cars out, and coming to your aid if you have car issues or a flat tire. And most of all, we provide moral support at times when a loved one is sick or recovering from a surgery."



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Bryan Simonaire
Senator
District 31



Opportunities are readily available for those who seek them in America. That is also true for Anne Arundel County. For someone who came as a newbie to politics with only a desire to restore the voice of the people in Annapolis, I am honored again to represent the people of Pasadena.

I never imagined I would end up in politics, as I came from relatively humble beginnings and cared little for public speaking. However, in our county, all things are possible with the will to work hard, a passion to find solutions and a desire to serve our fellow residents.

First, let me say thank you for your confidence in me. I always think of my position as one of public service, and please know that I have an open-door policy to everyone independent of your views, party affiliation or anything else. My goal

is to make our community better.

With that being said and the elections over, the General Assembly has opened its door again in 2019. Many issues need our immediate attention, and it is time to get back to the business of the people.

We will deal with budget issues that range from the large price-tag of the Kirwan Commission on education to the work needed to restore the bay to the financial remedy for the state workers drug prescription program.

Additionally, we will continue to work on the opioid issue that is ravaging our county, state and country. No single solution will fix this growing problem, but we must continue to work to reduce this epidemic. This issue knows no boundaries and it affects every demographic.

We will continue to work on a nonpartisan solution to the disrespectful and disgraceful political drawing of maps for Congress and local representation. The highest court in the land will hear

the appeal from Attorney General Brian Frosh. Personally, I am not sure why he did not allow the corrective action needed, but he chose to appeal the ruling that Maryland's maps were unconstitutionally drawn.

Another issue facing my committee and Senate will be the rapid decline of the oyster population despite numerous attempts to revitalize their numbers in the bay. This complex issue has many moving parts, interests and variables. As our district is basically surrounded by water, it is especially important to me that we continue to improve the quality of our waterways.

In the Senate alone, there will be nearly 1,000 bills introduced that will attempt to change Maryland law. Some will be mundane bills that are primarily corrective in nature, but there will be other bills to move us in one direction or another. It is my intention to listen intently to the hearings to understand if these initiatives help or hinder our community and state.

Based on the hearings and input from readers like you, I will vote accordingly.

It should be noted that some bills also repeal existing bad laws. So for those who say, "Don't pass any more laws, because we do not want any more government in our lives," please realize it takes new legislation just to repeal a bad law.

My personal view is that there will be some good legislation that improves our lives and there will be some bad legislation that would create more burdens in our lives. My goal is to distinguish between the two and vote accordingly.

Also, I will lead the effort on legislation dealing with helping our military and veterans, improving our election system, improving the lives of children and a few other areas of need. However, that discussion will have to wait until another *Pasadena Voice* edition.

If I can be of any assistance, contact me at Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us or call my office at 410-841-3658.

Fighting For Greater Transparency

Nathan Volke
Councilman
District 3



Your new Anne Arundel County Council has been in office for just over one month. In that time, I have been pushing hard on something I campaigned to do: make local government more transparent. The issue of transparency has come up in two areas in just the past few weeks: 1) appointing a new county auditor and 2) the process that ended the 287(g) program.

The county auditor in Anne Arundel County is selected by and reports to the county council. The auditor's office ensures that the money appropriated by the county executive and other county departments in the correct way. This is a vital position because it serves as the fiscal watchdog for the county's money — and your tax dollars.

When we first took office in early December, the county council members learned that our current county auditor was scheduled to retire on December 31. We had to select a replacement, and fast. In the past, the county council has chosen someone who already works within the auditor's office to serve as the new auditor. But I and others on the council had a significant concern: how do we know that we have the best candidate for the position in-house? We have some tremendously intelligent and capable people in our county auditor's office, which is one of the best in Maryland. But there are also many smart, hardworking people in the private sector and other parts of government who might be qualified for the position.

Fortunately, the council was able to come up with a bipartisan solution: advertise the position, seek applicants, interview the ap-

plicants and select the best candidate. Sound familiar? Of course it does. That is how most jobs get filled. It's just common sense. It also sets a more transparent standard for selecting people for some of the top jobs in Anne Arundel County government. And I think that is a good thing.

Another area to which I am currently working to bring transparency is the termination of the 287(g) program by County Executive Stuart Pittman. The 287(g) program deputizes highly trained detention officers to assist in screening individuals during the booking process at our local detention centers after they have been arrested and charged with a crime. While I feel strongly that 287(g) is a solid program that worked well here in Anne Arundel County, and I wish the administration had taken the time to hear that argument before terminating it, I also realize that there is another argument on the other side that is worthy of discussion.

I am happy that we are finally having a discussion around the merits of 287(g) as a result of a resolution I introduced that asks the county executive to reinstate the program. Discussion around issues like this one between citizens and their elected officials — before policy decisions are made — is what government and making policy is all about. In my opinion, discussions like this one lead to better understanding and better policy.

While I hope that the county executive changes his decision and decides to reinstate the 287(g) program in Anne Arundel County to make our community safer, at least I can say I was part of bringing that debate to the people who elected us, and we heard from them. You elected me to listen and then act, not the other way around. I intend to act accordingly.

A Quick Update From The General Assembly

Nic Kipke
Delegate
District 31



The 439th annual session of the Maryland General Assembly is underway! It began with swearing in a new legislature and Governor Larry Hogan. Our swearing-in was really meaningful for me as it is such an amazing privilege — thank you for your trust! It was special for me to have Susannah and the kids with me during the ceremony.

I was once again elected Republican leader in the House, and our caucus will work aggressively this session to advance mean-

ingful and commonsense solutions to issues we face here in our state. We have a legislative package that includes accountability in courtrooms to expose judges with a record of leniency of violent repeat felons, creating a repeat violent offender registry, and adding the option of cameras in the courtroom so the public will be able to more easily witness criminal sentencing. We plan to add school resource officers in public schools and will support Governor Hogan's accountability in education legislation to create better safeguards against waste, fraud and abuse. We will also work to reduce taxes on retirement income.

As a member of the

Health and Government Operations Committee, I plan to introduce legislation that will expose pricing schemes in the prescription drug supply chain. I believe patients are paying way too much for many aspects of health care, especially pharmaceuticals. Furthermore, there is also a real threat to community-based pharmacies like Mike's Pharmacy and other EPIC pharmacies that could be forced out of business. I have a series of bills designed to protect these pharmacies from unfair monopolistic practices.

Locally I am working with Senator Bryan Simonaire and Delegate Brian Chisholm on nu-

merous issues. One of those issues includes finding a solution to the part of Fort Smallwood Road inside Baltimore City in Curtis Bay. Even though this is outside our district, many of our citizens use this stretch of road to reach Interstate 695 or Ordinance Road, and it's in deplorable condition. I hope to report good news on this in the near future.

It's not too late to reach out to me regarding issues that you'd like to see addressed in the community or legislatively. The best way to reach me during session is by email at nicholaus.kipke@house.state.md.us or by calling 410-841-3421.

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.

It remains a true privilege to serve as your comptroller, and I continue to be firmly committed to provide all Maryland taxpayers with the level of service they deserve from my agency.

What To Know: Resolutions On 287(G)

After the January edition of the *Pasadena Voice* went to print, the Anne Arundel County Council debated Councilman Nathan Volke's resolutions to reinstate the 287(g) immigrant screening program and not to use funds provided by the federal government for the legal representation of detainees in civil proceedings instituted by the Department of Homeland Security.

County Executive Stuart Pittman suspended the program after a press conference on December 27, and although he said he had no plans to reinstate 287(g), he held two town hall meetings in January to solicit input from the community.

During the January 7 county council meeting, several Anne Arundel County residents spoke in general terms about immigration (they were asked to withhold testimony specific to the resolution until the January 22 meeting). Much of the testimony came from the following Pasadena

residents.

Debbie Jasen referred to the program's "fear tactics."

"I am opposed to any program that encourages the use of racial profiling and racial discrimination," she said. "I am opposed to any program that makes our county less safe by making anyone, including immigrants, whether documented or undocumented, feel that they or others in their community may be deported if they come forward to talk to the police about crimes in their neighborhoods."

Corine Frank said we are all descendants of immigrants, but that doesn't mean the county should "suspend the processes of good government."

"Most recently, this new administration has chosen political agenda over good government. This administration has declared that taxpayer money will be used to fund legal representation for illegal immigrants."

David Zwald of the North County Republican Club opined that 287(g) is a "tremendous benefit to public safety," allowing local officials to partner with federal officers in identifying "criminal aliens."

A first-generation American, Harry Freeman detailed how he was born to Mexican parents and adopted by a man in Miami. There, he saw other first-generation Americans blossom into successful people.

"We have grown up to be very successful people and stewards to our community," Freeman said. "We carry the torch for our future. I have a son, and this county is where I chose to call home, not him. And I want to make sure that the home that he inherits is one that we can all be proud of."

Stay tuned to the *Pasadena Voice* Facebook page and website at www.pasadenavoice.com for updates on the January 22 meeting.

Have An Opinion?

Send us a letter to the editor by emailing
pvnews@pasadenavoice.com

A Pasadena Landmark, Lauer's Celebrates 45 Years In The Community

By Judy Tacyn

Forty-five years ago, Ed and Helen Lauer purchased the Super Thrift grocery store at the intersection of Mountain and Tick Neck roads with a vision of establishing a family-owned and community-based grocery store to serve their Pasadena community.

The Lauers' hard work ensured the vision would be as strong in 1974 as it is today, 45 years later, under the leadership of their daughters, Bernie Snoops and Babbie Poyer.

"I think our parents would be very happy that we've made it 45 years," said Poyer, "and I think they would be very excited about where the next 45 years will take us."

Snoops agreed, saying, "Mom and Dad would be surprised by what's going on in the industry today, but they'd be very happy that the Lauer's tradition continues."

Last year, Lauer's Supermarket & Bakery added online shopping with curb pickup — another example of the store's impressive customer service. Poyer expects delivery to be the store's next offering.

The addition of those services may have been hard to foresee in 1982 when Ed and Helen added a second store by purchasing the Acme Supermarket in Riviera Beach. In 1998, the original store relocated to its current Chesterfield location on Edwin Raynor Boulevard at Mountain Road. In 1999, the



Above: Bernie Snoops (left) and Babbie Poyer purchased Lauer's Supermarket & Bakery from their parents in 2006, though they had been running the business since the late '90s. Together they build on the traditions of their parents to keep their focus squarely on the customer. **Right:** Ed and Helen Lauer envisioned having a family-owned and community-based grocery store to serve their Pasadena community.



family acquired space once occupied by Rite Aid. The additional space brought the store to 40,000 square feet, three times the size of the original store.

Snoops and Poyer purchased the store from their parents in 2006, though they had been running the business since the late '90s. Snoops worked in the store since 1974, and Poyer since 1982. Together they build on the traditions of their parents to keep their focus squarely on the customer.

That service doesn't stop at the door to Lauer's. Snoops and Poyer estimate that Lauer's has donated \$1 million locally since 1994, with \$40,000 given annually to

area schools through the Lauer's Learning Ladder program, which allows customers to donate a portion of their grocery purchase to a school of their choice.

Lauer's also participates in the Pasadena Business Association's annual Caring & Sharing Community Harvest Parade. Each November, the event serves to collect non-perishable foods that are donated to local food shelters.

The Pasadena store is also known for fresh food, just like you would make at home. "We don't buy pre-packed meat; everything is cut right here onsite by butchers," said Snoops. "Also, in our deli are only homemade salads."

The homemade tradition continues in the bakery, where bakers make everything from scratch. "The bakery was our mother's project," Snoops added. "We hope we have kept it just the way she would want it."

Customer service is always top priority at Lauer's, where when shopping, the sisters say they hope everyone feels like family. Snoops said she and her sister strive to maintain a family atmosphere where customers and employees, like Betty Ann McNelly, feel welcome and appreciated. McNelly is the longest-tenured associate not related to the Lauer family.

» Continued on A11

PBA Update

Sandi Parrish
Executive Director



The Pasadena Business Association held its tree lighting ceremony in December. It was a cold evening, but the children were still in attendance to play games, eat treats, sit on Santa's lap and get their pictures taken. Costello's Ace Hardware & Hearth pulls this event together for the PBA. The employees help decorate the tree along with Gable, Pasadena Sign Company and several PBA members.

Macaroni Kid is also on hand to play a game with the children. The Greene Turtle, Mutiny Pirate Bar & Island Grille, Two Rivers Steak & Fish House, Bruster's Ice Cream (Severna Park and Glen Burnie), and Salsa Tex-Mex Grill provided the great refreshments for the crowd. Bay Country Rentals and Atlantic Coast Charters provided warmth with buses and heaters on the lot. Delegate Nic Kipke led the countdown to the lighting of the tree, the Northeast High School vocal ensemble sang Christmas carols, DJ Marcus of ProSound provided the music, and St. John Properties provided the parking lot and, of course, Santa and his elf. The Lake Shore

and Riviera Beach fire departments are always a big help with the star on the tree and bringing Santa in on his sleigh. All of these groups and businesses make the tree lighting what it is. We really want to thank the Eastern District Police Department and the reserve officers for keeping everyone safe. We are gearing up for our Membership Directory and Community Guide, which will be out in July. We print and distribute 5,000 copies, and there are opportunities to advertise. If you have a business, now is a great time to join the PBA.

We will hold our annual scholarship fundraiser on March 2 at Kurtz's Beach from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. The Guys in Thin Ties band will be back to help us dance and have fun. Last year's profit exceeded \$15,000, which went to Pasadena high school seniors. We hope to break that record this year but need your help.

Please buy tickets for the event, and bring your friends and family to enjoy a great time. You can be an event sponsor even if you cannot attend. See the sponsor levels for details. Donate an item for our silent auction, which raised more than \$2,400. Tickets and sponsorships are now available online at www.pbafundraiser.com.

PBA Launches Shop Local Scavenger Hunt



The Pasadena Business Association's Shop Local Committee is launching its inaugural Shop Local Scavenger Hunt.

By Maya Pottiger

For the month of February, the Pasadena Business Association is challenging community members to get to know local businesses. To get the community out in local businesses, the PBA created a scavenger hunt.

"We're always looking for ways to showcase and highlight the members, and do things to drive people to the businesses and promote shopping local," said Paulette Morris, chairperson of the PBA's Shop Local Committee. "We thought this is just another tool to do that."

The scavenger hunt consists of more than 30 trivia questions about local businesses. To play, pick up one of the game pieces (booklets) at one of the 10 designated locations. The game piece has instructions on how to play, includes all of the trivia questions and details some of the prizes available to winners.

"Even if you didn't get all the questions answered, you still have a chance at winning," Morris said.

"The more questions you answer, the better the chances of winning."

The scavenger hunt kicks off February 1, and » Continued on A11

How To Create Your Own Pension

Jason LaBarge
Managing Partner, Premier Planning Group



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 companies 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 » Continued on A11

Dr. Stiehl Joins Lake Shore Pet Hospital

Lake Shore Pet Hospital has been growing quickly and it recently added a full-time associate veterinarian who will allow the hospital to help more pets each day. The newest member of the team is Cheryl Stiehl, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Stiehl is a native of New Jersey but has called Maryland home for the last five years. Before joining the Lake Shore Pet Hospital team, Stiehl practiced small-animal medicine in Olney, Maryland. She completed her undergraduate degree and veterinary degree at the University of Georgia, where she concentrated her studies in companion animal (canine, feline and equine) medicine and surgery. Prior to attending veterinary school, Stiehl was a registered veterinary technician for many years both in private practice and at the University of

Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, where she worked in the small-animal intensive care unit.

Stiehl employs an integrative approach to animal wellness. This complementary approach uses both conventional and holistic treatment modalities. Stiehl completed acupuncture training in mixed animal acupuncture at the Chi Institute in 2011 during her third year of veterinary school. Stiehl completed her animal chiropractic certification at Options for Animals in 2015, and she plans to pursue advanced Chinese herbal medicine training in the future.

Stiehl has bred and shown Irish setters since the 1990s and has an interest in genetic disease and genetic testing. She has a special interest in all aspects of canine reproduction. She is

a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Greater Baltimore Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association.

Stiehl shares her home with her Irish Setters, a few spoiled house cats, and Maverick, her wonderful Tennessee Walking Horse. Having grown up 14 miles outside of Philadelphia, Stiehl is a die-hard sports fan and attends as many Eagles, Phillies and Flyers games as time allows. She is also an avid Bruce Springsteen fan and enjoys spending time with her dogs, horseback riding, reading, live music, and "the shore."

Stiehl is excited to help expand the services offered by Lake Shore Pet Hospital. She looks forward to meeting the four-legged members of your family!

PBA Launches Shop Local Scavenger Hunt

» **Continued from A10**
players have until February 28 to complete and return their game pieces.

Throughout February, the PBA will give hints to the answers and share information about the prizes on its social media pages. To follow along with these updates, visit Pasadena Business Association on Facebook and @PasadenaBiz on Twitter.

The grand prize is a fire pit donated by Costello's Ace Hardware & Health. There will be a number of additional prizes inside the fire pit. In addition to the grand prize, several other prizes will be awarded to more winners.

"The prizes are still coming in. The Pasadena Business Association members are such a giving group. We have great support from those that really like to reach out and like to give and participate in activities like this," Morris said. "Shopping local is not just a February thing, it's not just a once-a-year thing; we hope that it's a mindset."

The scavenger hunt will prompt the community to

You can pick up and drop off your game pieces for the PBA Scavenger Hunt at the following locations:

- Costello's Ace Hardware & Health: 4167 Mountain Road
- Arundel Federal Savings Bank: 4179 Mountain Road
- Bay Vanguard Bank: 8070 Ritchie Highway
- BB&T Bank: 3030 Mountain Road
- Calvert Veterinary Center: 4100 Mountain Road
- Century 21 Don Gurney Real Estate: 3201 Mountain Road
- Lauer's Supermarket: 8095-A Edwin Raynor Boulevard
- M&T Bank: 8493 Fort Smallwood Road
- Riviera Beach Community Library: 1130 Duvall Highway
- The UPS Store Riviera Beach: 8482 Fort Smallwood Road

get to know the local businesses, as well as help PBA members get to know one another. Overall, it will engage the community in shopping local.

"In the slower months right after Christmas, a lot of the businesses

are seeing a little bit of a decline because people are paying off their Christmas bills," said Sandi Parrish, executive director of the PBA. "We thought that was a good way to get people back in the businesses."

Lauer's Celebrates 45 Years

» **Continued from A10**
ily. She joined the team in 1976 as a front-end manager and works part-time in accounting today.

Barbara Butt, a lifelong Pasadena resident, has been shopping at Lauer's for nearly 40 years. She said she prefers the local grocer over the mega-stores be-

cause of the friendly, family atmosphere.

"Checkout lines are much shorter here, and everyone is very friendly," said Butt. "Everyone says 'hello,' not just those at the checkout." She also said that Lauer's is close to her home, and if she needs something and cannot find it in the store, the employees are always willing to get it for her. "Everything I need is right here. There is no reason to go anywhere else."

Create Your Own Pension

» **Continued from A10**
the annuity product for its features, costs, risks and how the variables associated with the benefits reference are calculated.

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Jan 19

Steak 'N Shake In Millersville 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 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



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

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 deploy-

ments in the Mediterranean 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.

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from the National Fire Protection Association

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PASADENA SPORTS

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JANUARY 23, 2019

B1

Shorthanded Chesapeake Girls Grinding Through Tough Stretch

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Chesapeake girls basketball team has a prickly thorn in its side, and it's a persistently familiar one for anyone who has competed in or followed sports in Anne Arundel County: Severna Park.

The Falcons are the only county team the Cougars have not beaten during the highly successful tenure of head coach **Maria Gray**, now in her fifth season as Chesapeake coach.

The losses included a buzzer-beater in 2017 and a 2018 home loss that kick-started Severna Park's second-half-of-the-season surge and run to the 4A East region final.

Despite this extra motivation, the Cougars couldn't engineer any flipping of the script when the teams met at Severna Park on January 8. The Falcons employed a smothering defense to disrupt a hitherto potent Chesapeake offense, holding the Cougars in check and grinding out a 34-30 win.

"We got it done, that's the biggest thing," said Severna Park head coach **Kris Dean**.

"You'll have games like this, just a gritty game... [Chesapeake is] fast and they move a lot, and they're just a tough team to defend consistently."

Chesapeake's **Haley Downin** led all scorers with 18 points, but 13 came in the first half, when the Cougars were digging themselves out of an early hole. Severna Park started fast with early buckets by **Jess Albert**, **Julia Ryan** and **Lena McLaughlin**; the Falcons forced a handful of turnovers; and late in the first quarter Severna Park led 10-0.

The Falcon lead was 12-1 early in the second, and prospects looked grim for the Cougars, who nonetheless responded. Downin swished two



Photo by Colin Murphy

Chesapeake's **Morgan Gray** took a jump shot against Severna Park on January 8. The Cougars are 9-4 through January 18.

3-pointers in the frame and came up with two of her game-high 6 steals. When **Morgan Gray** fed **Corinne Castle** for a bucket inside with a minute left before halftime, Chesapeake improbably had an 18-17 lead, if only for a hot second. Ryan made one of her 5 steals and was rewarded on the other end with a basket, and Severna Park led 19-18 at half — Chesapeake's short-lived advantage was its only lead of the game.

An adjusted Severna Park defensive scheme largely bottled up Downin and the Cougars in the second half, with Albert crowding Downin off the ball and Falcons **McLaughlin** (11 rebounds), **Ryan** and **Rachel Ward** (7 rebounds each) finishing possessions on

the glass.

"Haley, she's tough," said Dean. "We tried to basically take her out of the game, and we couldn't. That's an athlete and what a good player does. Jess did a good job on her in the fourth, and we did a combination of things to be gritty against her."

Chesapeake was held to 12 points in the second half. Ward stretched the Falcons' lead to eight in the fourth quarter with a deep 3-pointer and two free-throws, and Severna Park iced the game with two seconds left on a free throw by **McLaughlin** to win, 34-30. **McLaughlin** finished with a team-high 8 points and 11 rebounds.

The Falcons got >> Continued on B2

Northeast Boys Taking On All Challengers

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Northeast boys basketball team won its rivalry matchup with Chesapeake on January 4, so the Eagles get the headlines — for now.

Northeast hosts the Cougars for a rematch on February 8, and in the meantime, they're navigating the rough realities of boys basketball in Anne Arundel County, where Broadneck has separated from the pack but parity otherwise rules and matchups are regularly close.

To wit: Northeast is 5-8 overall, just 2-6 in the county — not exactly setting the county on fire. But a closer look shows how thin the margins are in the battle for the county and playoff seeding. Northeast has wins over North County and Chesapeake, beating the Knights by eight and the Cougars by two. A pair of losses to perennial powers Meade on December 7 and Old Mill on January 11 came by just seven and eight points, respectively. Broadneck stretched out a 20-point win over the Eagles on January 8, and Annapolis ran away with a 90-60 victory in an uncharacteristically flat effort by Northeast on January 15, but the Eagles have the depth and firepower to hang with anyone on any given night.

The Eagles nearly dealt the Mustangs a blow in a rematch of both teams' season opener on a Friday night at Meade on January 18, but the Mustangs clipped them for a 56-55 win. **Jaylin Albury** led Northeast with 12 points, 8 assists and 4 steals, while **Brandon LeBarron** had 11 points and **Brennen Volkman** had 8 points and 6 rebounds. **Trent McNeill** scored 7 points and had 3 assists, and **Jaleel Petty** came off the bench to hit his first two



Photo by Colin Murphy

The Eagles' **Jaylin Albury** attacked against Annapolis on January 15. Northeast is in the midst of the toughest stretch of the schedule but still has hope for strong playoff seeding.

shots to finish with 5 points. **Trenton Culley** played a great game defensively with 3 steals, 4 blocked shots, 6 rebounds and 5 points, and **Darrell Sheppard** had good game defensively with 5 rebounds, 3 blocks and 2 points. **Keishon Thomas** ended the game with 5 points in support.

"The boys really deserved a win tonight," said head coach **Roger O'Dea** of the Eagles' output against Meade. "It was a well-played game and a great team effort. There was a lot of energy from the starters and off the bench."

The Eagles also have wins over Chesapeake Science Point, Reginald Lewis and Eastern Tech, and while they're currently in the midst of the toughest part of the schedule, O'Dea is confident the team can continue to improve as it battles with

Chesapeake, **Stephen Decatur** and **J.M. Bennett** for 3A East region playoff seeding.

"We've been in all these games. We've seen a lot of good things," said O'Dea. "We have seniors, juniors and sophomores, and we have four sophomores getting significant time. We just have to bounce back and get back to practice. Decatur, Bennett, Chesapeake, all of us are right there mixed with each other. We can come out and play good defense and hit our shots."

One way or another, the Eagles have early bragging rights on the Pasadena rivalry. In the win at Chesapeake, Northeast jumped out to a 17-0 lead, holding the Cougars scoreless in the first quarter, but they had to stave off a furious Chesapeake rally, and the >> Continued on B2

Bucs Boys Excelling In 12U Division



The 12U Bucs boys basketball team is contending for the best record in the county at 6-1 through seven games.

The team of **Winston Watkins**, **Hunter Reid**, **Evan Dickey**, **Andrew**

Robinette, **Peyton Youngbar**, **Logan Williams** and **Chase Buttery** is excelling under the stewardship of head coach **Mason Sutton**, a recent Northeast graduate who played for the Eagles.

Sutton said the group is positioned for continued growth and success.

"It's a good group of kids [who] listen well and follow directions," he said. "They have a very high basketball IQ as a team."

Lake Shore 12U Boys Remain Undefeated



Look out for the 12U Lake Shore boys basketball team.

Coach **Doug Sisson**'s squad improved to 6-0 in the county's 12U B League on January 19 with a 31-14 victory over Davidsonville.

The team of **Mason Ambrose**, **Talon Behler**, **Mitchell Collier**, **Carter Drab**, **Nathan Krueger**,

Jackson O'Brien, **Austin Sealing**, **Camryn Sisson**, **Edward Webb** and **Holden Williamson** has wins over Millersville, Lake Shore (coached by William Reil), Glen Burnie, Arden and Davidsonville in the 19-team league.

The team is coached by **Doug Sisson**, **Jason Sealing**, **Dave Webb**

and **Chad O'Brien**. With five games remaining, the best overall record in the league is possible for Lake Shore.

"I've had the core group of this team since 8U," said coach Sisson. "We play aggressive defense and just never stop playing hard. It's truly a team effort."

Lake Shore 12U Girls Coming On Strong



It has been a season of growth and progress for the 12U Lake Shore girls basketball team coached by Ramiro Moreno, as the team showed improvement with a 22-13 win over Glen Burnie in January. View a full article at pasadenavoice.com/sports.

Northeast Boys Taking All Challengers

» **Continued from B1**
game went down to the final seconds; it was Albury's last-second game winner that lifted Northeast to the win. After Chesapeake's **Reed Rebstock** hit a 3-pointer to tie the game at 50-50 with less than nine seconds left, Albury drove the length of the floor and hit a five-foot floater to beat the buzzer and lift Northeast to 52-50 win.

"It was the perfect amount of time for me to get all the way up the floor, and once I got to half court, I knew

I could take it all the way," said Albury. "I just got the finger roll, and it went in. It felt good because it's at Chesapeake, it's our rival, and talking trash and stuff like that is always fun. I'm looking forward to the next game and hope to have the same outcome."

Albury led all scorers with 21 points and added 5 assists and 3 steals. LeBarron had 15 points, hitting three 3-pointers; Volkman had 6 points and 7 rebounds; Sheppard had 4 points and

6 rebounds; **Olimade Ajayi** scored 3 points; and Thomas had 2 points and played excellent defense.

With a deep roster and multiple players contributing, Albury said the team has a good outlook on the rest of the season.

"From here we just have to improve, keep our head up, because the season is far from over, and we've got lots of practicing to do," said Albury. "These next games are crucial and we should be able to win most of them."

Chesapeake Girls Grinding Through

» **Continued from B1**
contributions from up and down the roster in improving to 7-3 overall, while only Downin (18 points), Castle (6 points) and **Ashley Chew** (6 points) scored for the Cougars.

Coach Gray said the output was atypical for Chesapeake.

"We've been averaging over 40 rebounds and over 60 points, so it wasn't the type of game we've been playing," she said.

The loss for Chesapeake is one result in an otherwise strong season. The Cougars fell to 8-2 but still have reason for optimism for the rest of the winter. They played without starting senior point guard **Summer Smith**, who is sidelined indefinitely with an ankle injury. Smith had been averaging over 9 assists and over 9 rebounds through the Cougars' first nine games, leading the team in both categories.

"Obviously at this point of the season with our starting point guard out, we're going to have a little growing pain to get through," said Gray. "We need to learn that you can't get down and keep fighting back, eventually you're going to come out on the losing end. Resiliency will help, and we're having other players step up for our long-term playoff goals. But with Summer out ... it's a tough loss."

Downin believes that with fellow senior Smith in the lineup, her class would have been going out with a win over Severna Park on their resume.

"Our bench has really stepped it up, and they work really hard in practice,

so when they do go out on the floor they know what they're doing, and we haven't always had that," said Downin. "Our starting five works really well together, and with Summer out it's going to be a little bit different, but I think we'll pull it together since our bench has been a lot more helpful."

The Cougars have nonetheless racked up several highlight wins, including a tournament championship over the holidays. Chesapeake won the All About The Girls Holiday Showcase at Wise High School, defeating Dunbar 55-42 and Atholton 54-31. Against Atholton, Downin had 23 points and 6 steals; Smith had a career-high 17 assists to go with 11 rebounds and 6 steals; Chew scored 17 points; Castle had 9 points and 9 rebounds; and Gray had a near-triple-double with 8 points, 8 rebounds and 8 blocks.

Chesapeake also notched the all-important rivalry win over Northeast on January 4 by a score of 60-29. In that contest, Downin scored 15 points and dished out a career-high 10 assists, and she eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for her high school career. Chew scored 15 points against the Eagles and pulled down a career-high 11 rebounds, while Castle scored 9 points and had 13 rebounds; Smith had 8 points, 7 rebounds and 4 steals; and Morgan Gray added 9 rebounds.

With a short bench and only 10 players on the roster, Chesapeake is focused on getting everyone game experience, particularly

with Smith out of the lineup. If Severna Park is a thorn, Chesapeake is on the edge of a thicket, with Meade and South River as their next two opponents. The Cougars have Broadneck and Old Mill still to play later in the year, along with out-of-conference opponent Severn and a season-ending rematch with Northeast in the Eagles' gym.

Coach Gray noted a 54-50 win over Glenelg Country on December 10 as a strong victory, saying the Cougars can learn every time out on the floor.

"Every win can bring something that we learn and grow from," Gray said. "This is a time for us to develop depth as we move forward. Glenelg Country was a close one, we were down and came back to win 54-50. That helped them to learn when you're in a tight situation, fight through it, so hopefully that translates to some of the big games down the road."

Chesapeake rebounded with a quality win over Meade on January 11 to improve to 9-2 on the season, but they suffered back-to-back losses against South River and upstart North County and are 9-4 through January 18. Against the Mustangs, Corinne Castle led with 16 points and 7 rebounds as the Cougars scored a 56-43 win. Morgan Gray had a double-double with 14 points, 12 rebounds and 2 blocks. Downin had 13 points, 6 assists and 5 steals, and Chew scored 9 points to go with 5 steals.

The Cougars have winnable upcoming contests ahead of a February 8 showdown with Northeast.



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Pasadena Sports Briefs

Wrestling Roundup

A slew of Northeast and Chesapeake wrestlers are having strong seasons and building impressive individual records as county teams approach the county championship tournament at Arundel on February 15 and 16.

At Northeast, the Eagles have a handful of standouts who are posting exceptional seasons.

Junior Billy Katzenberger is 27-5 overall and leads the Eagles in individual wins. He placed second at the Easton New Year's Brawl Tournament and third at the Severna Park Scuffle Tournament. He is currently ranked No. 17 in the Maryland State Wrestling Association state rankings and No. 4 in the Maryland 3A/4A rankings.

Junior **Jayden Mason** is 21-6 overall and placed second at the Easton New Year's Brawl. All 21 of Mason's victories include bonus points: 18 pins, two tech-falls and one major decision.

Senior **Thomas Gargano** is 24-7 and placed fourth at Easton and third at Severna Park. Freshman John Owen Schmidt is 24-8 and placed fifth at Easton and fourth at Severna Park.

Sophomore **Jeisel Delorme-Sanchez** is 17-12, and sophomore **Colin Cook** is 16-11. The Eagles are 3-8 and have three remaining home dual meets against Severna Park, Annapolis and Glen Burnie prior to the county championship meet.

Chesapeake wrestlers are likewise piling up impressive numbers. At a remarkable 28-1 overall, **Chase Listorti** leads Chesapeake in

win percentage. **Victor Listorti** (28-6), **DJ Hoover** (28-6), **AJ Richardson** (25-9), **Jacob Rosenbloom** (24-8), **Chandler Booker** (23-11) and **Bryce Carleton** (20-12) have all reached or eclipsed the 20-win mark. **Adam Taifouri** (19-8), **Aidan Yost** (18-7), **Reese Russell** (17-9), **Dion Ambrose** (16-15), **Hunter Beck** (16-18), **Zak Hardin** (15-13) and **Aden Rivas** (4-3) all have solid win totals in their matches.

Kolarik To Lead Northeast Girls Lacrosse



Kim Kolarik

Northeast athletic director **Ken Miller** confirmed the hiring of **Kim Kolarik** as the school's new varsity girls lacrosse coach.

Kolarik replaces **Kaitlyn Davis**, who led the program for five years.

Kolarik is a 2009 graduate of South River High School who starred at goalie for the Seahawks and played collegiately at the University of Virginia.

Following her college playing career with the Cavaliers, Kolarik was an assistant coach with the women's lacrosse teams at Lehigh University and Virginia Tech.

Kolarik is in her third year as a social studies teacher at Northeast High

School and was the JV girls lacrosse coach prior to her installment as varsity coach.

"What excites me the most is to have the opportunity to build on the success of last year's team and continue the 'All In' mindset of the program," said Kolarik. "The focus this year will be to empower the girls to become the best they can be both on and off the field by creating a fun environment where each player is an integral part of the Northeast Lacrosse family."

A Stronger And Deeper Lake Shore Basketball

The tying bonds of Lake Shore and Chesapeake basketball continue to strengthen as coaches are united in their efforts to grow and fortify basketball in Pasadena.

"Almost all if not all members of the CHS girls and boys basketball coaching staffs have coached or are coaching a Lake Shore basketball team," said Chesapeake girls varsity head coach **Maria Gray**, who is also the president of Lake Shore Basketball.

Gray and assistant girls varsity coach **Leroy Downin** both have over a decade of Lake Shore coaching experience; Downin has coached for 15 seasons and is coaching a 13U boys team this year. Girls JV head coach **Shane Smythe** was a long-term Lake Shore basketball girls intramural and county coach, and varsity assistant **Abbey Kipke** is a Chesapeake graduate

who played Lake Shore and Chesapeake basketball and helped coach Lake Shore 13U girls last season. JV assistant **Tracy Yeager** also assists **Ron Bumgarner's** Lake Shore girls county team.

On the boys side, Chesapeake varsity head coach **Shawn Rebstock** and assistants **Mike Hill** and **Jeff Young** both have over a decade of Lake Shore coaching experience. New Chesapeake JV boys coach **Wiley Baker** is also coaching a Lake Shore 11U boys team and is actively partnering with the Lake Shore feeder system to strengthen the pipeline of incoming athletes at Chesapeake. Assistant coach **Brian Brady** has also coached Lake Shore youth teams.

Lake Shore has three teams competing in the county's 12U girls divisions, and all three are doing well, with **Glenn Clayville's** 12U C team undefeated, **Melissa Slade's** AAU team with only one loss in the 12U A Division and **Ray Moreno's** 12U team coming on strong after a recent upset victory.

Jon Kelly's 13U girls team is also excellent, and Gray said "Jon Kelly has done a great job developing girls that will feed into CHS."

The intramural program is thriving, with tons of local girls participating; the 5/6 age group plays a coed league; and the 7-9 age group of girls plays at Bodkin Elementary on Saturdays.

There are 784 kids playing Lake Shore basketball this winter on 94 total teams, with 12 girls teams and 14 boys teams competing in the county.

Athlete Spotlight: Shelby Bumgarner



Shelby Bumgarner (bottom right) competed with USA Field Hockey teammates in Croatia over the holidays.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

Even though she just turned 16, Pasadena resident **Shelby Bumgarner** has already made a name for herself in local and regional field hockey circles.

Over the holiday break, Bumgarner took her game international.

The Archbishop Spalding sophomore was one of 12 players to represent the United States as members of the 2019 Junior U.S. Women's Indoor National U-21 Team, which traveled to Croatia to compete in the Croatia Cup.

Bumgarner and her teammates notched victories over Slovenia, Slovakia and Hungary on the trip, which naturally she said was an unforgettable experience.

"It's been my dream now for a while recently to get that international experience...so I was just extremely grateful and thankful that I got this opportunity," Bumgarner said. "Flying the flag and playing for the USA, there's just really nothing like that. That's something that I'll remember forever."

While Bumgarner's field hockey career is taking flight, it started right here in Pasadena. She began playing Lake Shore field hockey at age 5 and played with Lake Shore all the way through eighth

grade, coached by her mom, **Jenny Bumgarner**, and aunt, **Cindy Grant**.

In middle school, Bumgarner ratcheted up the level of training by joining Freedom HKY club, and that's when her love for the sport deepened.

"That's when I knew I really wanted to play this [sport] and work hard and be the best I can be," Bumgarner said.

After winning a Junior A county championship with her Lake Shore teammates in 2016, Bumgarner matriculated at Spalding, where she's been a defender for the Cavaliers in the ultra-competitive Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland A Conference, twice leading the Cavs to the playoffs.

Bumgarner went through several rounds of tryouts to make the final USA team that traveled to Croatia and said being around other players of her caliber and dedication made the experience rewarding.

"The speed, the intelligence, the game sense that these girls had is something that I really learned from."

Apart from field hockey, Bumgarner listed her other interests as lacrosse — "that's my non-pressure sport, but I really enjoy it" — traveling, cheering for the Boston Red Sox and hanging out with her family, including her mom Jenny, her dad Ron and her sister Stella.

While an IAAM championship and college field hockey are the next goals to pursue, Bumgarner said she'll also pursue making the Olympic outdoor team in the longer term. She plans on taking the same approach that has earned her accolades and opportunities so far.

Said Bumgarner, "I am just going to train and work hard and see where that takes me."

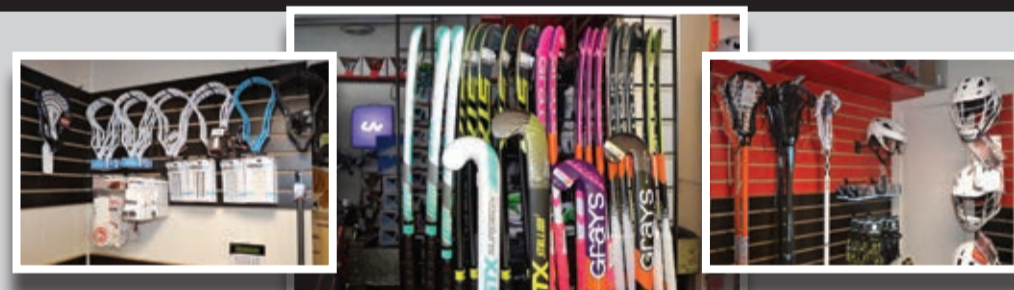
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Riviera Beach Elementary Welcomes New Principal John Wojtila

By Maya Pottiger

After Jason Anderson's departure in November, John Wojtila was announced as the new principal of Riviera Beach Elementary School.

"Coming in midyear, I do come with that fresh perspective, seeing what is working, what's in place, what I can do to build upon those structures that are in place in order to continue to move us forward," Wojtila said.

Wojtila has worked in Anne Arundel County Public Schools for 12 years. He started his career as a fourth-grade teacher at Freetown Elementary and then became a Title I math resource teacher at Belle Grove Elementary. Next, he transitioned to Hilltop Elementary as the behavior intervention specialist; then he became assistant principal at Folger McKinsey Elementary. Immediately prior to Riviera Beach, Wojtila was the assistant principal at Freetown Elementary, where he started his career.

"Being a first-time principal, I think I'm in the perfect spot," Wojtila said. Because Riviera Beach is a smaller school, there isn't an assistant principal for Wojtila to collaborate with when it comes to resolving issues.

"Being the principal, I've been able to pull from my different experiences, my different leadership roles I've had in the county in order to come up with a resolution," Wojtila said.

The Riviera Beach community openly welcomed Wojtila, who has been able to meet families through various activities: Grandparents Day, Burger King night, Sundaes with Santa and the winter concert.



John Wojtila

"I went to Burger King, and I honestly felt like a celebrity. Kids were jumping up from the tables,

Being the principal, I've been able to pull from my different experiences, my different leadership roles I've had in the county in order to come up with a resolution."

— John Wojtila

giving me hugs," Wojtila said. "That was an opportunity for more of that personal time to sit down with families off the school campus."

During the day, Wojtila shuffles between classrooms to get to know the 309 students. "By the end of the year, I will know every name," Wojtila said.

These classroom visits also allow Wojtila to learn the strengths and talents

» Continued on B6

UMD Astronomy Student Leads Pasadena Girl Scouts In Space Investigation

By Jane Seiss

Chesapeake High School graduate and University of Maryland freshman Taylor Paul returned home to Pasadena this winter break to help local Girl Scouts earn their space investigator badges. The astronomy major used what she has already learned at college to create an afternoon of educational activities for the fourth-grade girls of Fort Smallwood Elementary School's Troop 377.

"It was my idea. My mom helped me find the right badge, and I planned it all," Taylor said of the endeavor. Her mom, Debby Paul, is the troop's leader, and Taylor's sister, 9-year-old Isabella, is a Girl Scout in Troop 377.

Taylor designed age-appropriate activities for the girls. The troop started its meeting by forming a human solar system. Each girl took a planet's name and got into positions that reflected real distances from the center of our solar system and the order in which the planets orbit the sun. The girls played a game to guess the number of moons each planet has. They also used the cellphone app SkyView to study celestial objects in the sky. The app provides an augmented reality experience that opens the front camera of



University of Maryland student Taylor Paul returned to Pasadena this winter break to help local Girl Scouts earn their space investigator badges.



the phone and allows users to look at their screens and see the positions of the stars, satellites and planets in real time.

Afterward, the girls made puff-ball aliens and used paper plates to craft UFOs — Taylor found these fun activities on

Pinterest. A question-and-answer session allowed Taylor to respond to the girls' queries. For fun, the group enjoyed a space-themed snack of fruit kabobs shaped like rockets and homemade purple-swirled "galaxy" chocolate bark.

"I've always had an interest in astronomy — for as long as I can remember," said Taylor, who has taken several college courses in her field of study, including Introduction to Physics, Introduction to Astronomy, and

» Continued on B6

Local Educators In The Running For Teacher Of The Year

By Maya Pottiger

Pasadena Elementary's Carrie Deaver Earns Second Nomination For AACPS Honor

Over the last 15 years, Carrie Deaver has seen many changes at Pasadena Elementary School.

As the physical education teacher, Deaver has constantly learned and adapted as the state changes the curriculums and objectives of her field.



Carrie Deaver

"We want everyone to feel comfortable," Deaver said. "We want everyone to participate so they take those happy memo-

ries from playing athletic things or physical things outside of here."

This year, Deaver is one of the 10 semifinalists for the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year award. This is her second time being nominated, but she did not make it to the semifinal round in 2012. In 2007, Deaver received the Northern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce Award. In addition, Deaver earned her National Board Certification in 2013.

"Mrs. Deaver is a National Board-Certified

Teacher who is dedicated and committed to her students, colleagues and school community," said Jennifer Quirino, principal of Pasadena Elementary. "She stresses the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and encourages her students and colleagues to be active and make healthier choices."

Deaver has spent her entire 15-year career at Pasadena Elementary. Though she initially set out to teach at a high school and coach, Deaver fell in love with teaching elementary school students.

At the elementary level, Deaver is focused on making sure her students are exposed to as many different opportunities as possible.

"I explain to them, 'It doesn't matter if you love it. You have to try it. Elementary school is about trying everything, and then you can choose,'" Deaver said. "I try to get them to participate, even though it's not their favorite thing. I think experiences are the biggest part of what we do here."

Deaver's lessons teach

» Continued on B6

Frozen Foxes To Plunge Again

By Maya Pottiger

George Fox Middle School is gearing up for this year's Cool Schools Plunge, which will be held on Thursday, January 24.

This year, the middle school is bringing 80 students to the plunge.

"The plunge is intended to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics," said George Fox Middle School Principal Russ Austin. "Our

students have always shown a heightened level of care and concern for our students with special needs."

Health and physical education teacher Michele Fenner is overseeing the school's team, Frozen Foxes, this year.

"Since I teach every student in the building, I continually hype everything up and put announcements in and put it out all over the place," Fenner said.

Fenner was interested

in heading this fundraiser due to her lifelong connection with Special Olympics Maryland. From growing up with a boy who was in Special Olympics to teaching the special education program at Old Mill High School, Fenner has always been involved with the organization.

"All my life, I feel like I've always been connected with those kids," Fenner said.

To participate in the

» Continued on B7

Dr. Arlotto Makes FY 2020 Budget Recommendation

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 additional 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 Stuart 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 been increased in 18 years.

Arlotto also included \$3.1 million for 47.3 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

» Continued on B6



George Fox Middle School sends students to the Cool Schools Plunge as the Frozen Foxes team.

Local Educators In The Running For Teacher Of The Year

» **Continued from B5** students the main fitness components. Then, by fourth and fifth grade, Deaver said students are able to create their own fitness programs.

"The biggest thing for me is there are a couple fifth-graders in this class that, when they were in kindergarten, they didn't want to participate and were not outgoing and didn't want to try things," Deaver said. "Now, over the last six years, they're doing everything. They're coming out of their shells."

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Deaver coordinates a wellness fair, holds a running club that trains for a 5k fun run, and leads a dance company for second- and third-graders. Outside of school, Deaver is a National Board facilitator, meaning she guides other teachers working toward their National Board Certification.

"I was really excited to be nominated," Deaver said. "The cool part is our staff votes on it. That was very touching."

Chesapeake High's Kimberly Collins Finds Life Calling As Phys Ed Teacher

As an athletic training major, Kimberly Collins knew something wasn't clicking.

"I knew I wanted to be involved in athletics or be active in general because

that's something I was all my life," Collins said. "I played soccer, basketball and softball, and ran track — all those things. I was always an active kid, and I knew I wanted to do something with being active."

She added education classes, and that's when Collins found her perfect fit. Now a health and physical education teacher at Chesapeake High School, she has been nominated as one of the 10 semifinalists for Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

Collins' students are able to immediately apply her lessons to their lives.

"More or less, they can use it right away. I get immediate feedback from kids," Collins said. "It helps build the relationships because they see that what I'm teaching them, they can use in real-life right away and they can use for the rest of their lives."



Kimberly Collins

Recently, one of Collins' students used the CPR lessons he learned in class to

save someone's life. "You are really proud of kids when they're able to use those things," Collins said.

Due to the sensitive and personal nature of the topics discussed in Collins' classes, students feel comfortable trusting her with problems they are facing outside the classroom.

"[They're] coming to me to open up and say, 'Hey, this is something that's going on in my life, I need help.'" Collins said. "And for you, knowing that you make a difference in their life, that's definitely something big to do."

Chesapeake High School Principal Stephen Gorski said Collins is "forward thinking" in terms of trying to address key areas or current topics, and tries to make a connection with the kids.

"She builds great relationships with her kids, which is something we strive for as teachers to have those relationships," Gorski said. "She uses that connection to really engage students in her classes."

Collins is not a stranger to recognition. Last year, she was named MAHPERD (Maryland Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) Teacher of the Year. In 2007, her second year teaching, Collins received the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce Educational Excellence Award for her work at George Cromwell

Elementary and Ferndale Early Education Center.

Collins is active both in her school and around the county. At CHS, Collins is the assistant athletic director, and she serves on the wellness team and AVID site team. Within the county, Collins is the 4A East girls soccer representative for state soccer tournaments and the boys and girls soccer commissioner for Anne Arundel County.

"I am not someone who likes a lot of attention, so it's very humbling that they nominated me for the award," Collins said.

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

John Wojtila

» **Continued from B5** each teacher offers. Using this information, he nominates a Teacher of the Week in his weekly staff newsletter, and that person gets a special parking spot at the front of the school.

Wojtila said that Riviera Beach Elementary, as a neighborhood school, is truly unique.

"I'm honored to be part of that legacy that this school truly has and continue on with the traditions that are established," Wojtila said. "The school really is the center of the community, and I will continue with that tradition and doing whatever we can to support the community."

Astronomy

» **Continued from B5** Calculus III.

"I want to work at NASA," Taylor shared, adding that she is unsure exactly what she would do, although she is interested in research.

"As a mom, I was very proud of her — that she was able to teach the girls something she had learned in school," Debby said. "She did a really good job; she was creative. It was great to have the girls be that involved and interested."

The space investigator badge is new for Girl Scouts. It is part of a STEM series of badges and activities designed to encourage girls to explore related fields and learn more ways they can make a difference in the world.

Dr. Arlotto Makes Budget Recommendation

» **Continued from B5** 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, Hillmere 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 our work. These are our children. All of them. And all means all."

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Q.

Question of the month

Each month, the *Pasadena Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Ms. Crawford's class at Sunset Elementary School answered the question:

What's one thing you can't wait to do when you get older?

I want to be a plastic surgeon or at least a doctor at the hospital because I want to help people when I get older, and you can get a lot of money. I am going to be rich — just kidding. But I want a lot of money for my family and to get food, and I can buy stuff for the homeless or for people in need.

Addison A.

When I grow up, I'm gonna be a teacher! I love school (maybe not always, though) because I have an awesome teacher, Ms. Crawford! She's the best. I miss our intern, Mrs. Kenney. She is awesome too. I also want to be a YouTuber. My favorite YouTubers are Pat, Jen and their cat, Cloud!

Allie R.



This month, we asked Ms. Crawford's class at Sunset Elementary, "What's one thing you can't wait to do when you get older?"

Sunset Elementary School

When I get older, I want to play baseball because I love baseball. I also want to help other families in need. I am also athletic.

Austin R.

I can't wait to be able to drive. I want to become an NFL quarterback and I want to be a point guard in the NBA.

Brandon M.

When I get older, I cannot wait to get a job as an author. I love writing books. So, I can get paid to do what I love.

Bryce M.

I can't wait until I grow up so I can be a professional softball player. I want to play for the Gators when I

grow up. I will be hitting dingers (home runs) and making awesome plays. I can't wait!

Brynn J.

I can't wait to own my own business. I will be a party planner or I would like to be a chef because I heard they make good pay. I would like a house and a car as well.

Caitlyn W.

I can't wait to play sports when I am older because I love to play with a good team. Also, I can't wait to drive to all of the places that I will be able to go to.

Dominic E.

I can't wait to get a job. It's a job that is like a

nurse for parrots. You basically work at a parrot shop and you can work in the nursery!

Gigi R.

I can't wait to drive around and go on trips and work, and then meet new people and learn new skills.

Hayden S.

I can't wait until I get to be more independent. I'll get a job and get paid. I'm the one who has to keep the Mierzewski name going, so I have to have a kid.

Jake M.

I hope to get a job. And I want to help animals, like dogs and snakes, so they feel better and so people can be happy to have their

best friends again.

John E.

I can't wait to live my lifelong dream of becoming a politician. I would seriously love to become a politician or part of the government. I do not know which branch of the government, but I would love to be secretary of state.

Karina C.

I can't wait until I'm more responsible, move out, become independent and get a job. I don't know what job, but any job.

Karley C.

I can't wait to be able to drive and become a teacher. I also want to be a track runner and be

very athletic. I could also drive myself to any store I would like and buy anything I want!

Keaira B.

When I get older, I can't wait to move out and be able to get my own pets! I have been saving money for one, but my mom's allergic, so she won't let me.

Lily P.

I can't wait to help people, become a lawyer and get my own stuff — my own house, car and job — so I can be independent and do what I want. And keep my family going.

Mercedes C.

When I get older, I want to run my own shelter to help all of the animals out there that need help in the world. I really want to help them.

Skylar H.

When I get older, I want to be an entertainer and make lots of money.

Terrell T.

I can't wait to be an engineer because I really want to be one and have my own store and teach kids how to code and build.

Vivian G.

I can't wait to be a SWAT officer. That would be my dream. I can't wait to serve my country. I think I would be good.

Zach R.

When I get older, I can't wait to be the principal of a school. I want to work beside and coach others in helping students be successful while creating a culture that is energetic, enthusiastic, fun and relentless!

Ms. Crawford

Frozen Foxes To Plunge Again

» **Continued from B5** plunge, students must raise a minimum of \$75. This gets them a sweatshirt, lunch and a bus to the plunge, Fenner said.

As an added incentive to encourage students to participate, a few teachers have agreed to plunge.

"There are a couple teachers in the school who have said, 'If I can get my homeroom

100 percent to participate, I will go and plunge,'" Fenner said. "So we have a couple teachers who are going to plunge, too. I plunge, as well."

George Fox Middle School has made a name for itself during Harvest of the Hungry. In last year's competition, George Fox beat 422 schools to collect the most food in Maryland, ultimately donating 11,093 pounds of food.

Fenner is hoping that, over the years, the Cool Schools Plunge will gain the traction that Harvest for the Hungry has.

"The plunge has gained traction through the years," Austin said. "Our students love working toward a cause."

The Cool Schools Plunge on January 24 is open only to school officials and students. Students plunge around noon.

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Chesapeake High School Students Complete Science Fair Projects

More than 100 projects were submitted to Chesapeake High School's science fair in December. Students in the honors biology, honors chemistry and honors physics classes spent roughly two marking periods working on their projects. Several judges attended the fair to judge the projects,

including people from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's Central Maryland chapter and LinQuest Corporation.

There were six categories, which were broken down by area of science.

Some of the projects included testing the durability of paint on different surfaces, how different types of water impact the way rosemary grows, and whether we should colonize Mars or the moon first.

For a full list of winners from this year's science fair, visit www.pasadenavoice.com.



Students spent roughly two marking periods working on their projects.

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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 to whatever you want.”

Crofton resident Rob Wheelwright self-started for a similar reason.

“You have something
» Continued on B11



Pasadena Musicians To Perform At Frozen Harbor Music Festival



Brody Kean will open for headlining country music artist Brandon Ray and Arundel High School sensation Jackson Dean at PBR Baltimore on February 22.

By Alyson Kay

Ten stages, 150 musicians, multiple genres — One Koast Entertainment is bringing back its Frozen Harbor Music Festival to Baltimore on February 22 and 23, and Pasadena musicians will be there to please the masses.

Guitarist Brody Kean will open for headlining country music artist Brandon Ray and Arundel High School sensation Jackson Dean at PBR Baltimore on February 22. Kean started out playing guitar with his high school friends’ punk alternative band. But he found that the songs he wrote didn’t fit with the punk alternative genre.

“I kind of fell more into the country genre because I like the storytelling and songs,” Kean said. “I just related to it more.”

Kean also finds that his lifestyle in Pasadena is emblematic of country music.

“I like going places where everybody knows everybody,” Kean said. “It’s little things that you don’t appreciate living in a big city, and that’s what I like about living in Pasadena.”

Kean writes personal music about his life and growing up, such as his song “Thank You for Me.” Another song, “Go On,” is about admiring

your significant other.

Although Kean considers music more of a hobby, he hopes to gain more exposure. On February 13, he will visit the Tin Roof in Baltimore to open for Caleb Lee Hutchinson, who was a runner-up for the 16th season of “American Idol.”

As I Burn will perform at Angel’s Rock Bar on January 23 as a part of a show headlined by hard rock band Davey Suicide. The bassist for

As I Burn, Stevie Trise, grew up in Pasadena. The band originally started in 2015 under the name As Embers Fall. Its current lineup consists of four members: Trise, vocalist Jimmy Lewis, drummer Jeff Reinhardt and guitarist Bryan Murphy.

They play a blend of metal subgenres, such as thrash, with some alternative rock riffs. Each band member comes from a different background with musical influences ranging from rock artists Green Day and Meatloaf to metal bands Korn and Slipknot.

“It all comes together like a melting pot,” Lewis said. The band’s songs are mostly about overcoming obstacles. Their most

» Continued on B11

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!

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). “Blakk

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 B11

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



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.

Ron Bateman Publishes Nature-Themed Children’s Storybook

By Sharon Mager

Pasadena resident and former Anne Arundel County sheriff Ron Bateman saw and experienced a lot during his years in law enforcement — as sheriff, but much more as an undercover narcotics agent and homicide detective. He’s been in exciting, dangerous and gut-wrenchingly disturbing situations, and he’s written a crime fiction book, “Silent Blue Tears.” Thirty years in the making, “Silent Blue Tears” is now being edited. While awaiting the completion of that process, Bateman was encouraged by his wife, Elsie, to turn his attention to a different project — a series of children’s books.

The inaugural book of the series, “The Adventures of Bucky, Doey, Brownny, And Sandy, The Tine Family,” to teach children about nature.

tells the story of a deer family with Bucky, the father; Doey, the mother; and fawn



An avid outdoorsman, Ron Bateman wrote the children’s book “The Adventures of Bucky, Doey, Brownny, And Sandy, The Tine Family” to teach children about nature.

siblings Brownny and Sandy. It’s a simple, sweet story of the family on their trek through the forest. Along the way, the deer learn about nature. The child hearing the book’s words also learns about nature, said Bateman, as does the reader.

The stories flow naturally from Bateman because they’re part of his early memories. “When I was growing up, I was always in the woods, hiking trails,” Bateman said with enthusiasm. He loved studying animals and fish. “They intrigued me.”

By sharing about the Tine family waking up under the hemlock tree, with the illustrations, kids naturally learn about the tree, and how animals rest and seek shelter under them. As the deer family wanders
» Continued on B10

Mountain Road Library Celebrates Black History Month

By Sharon Mager

Black History Month is celebrated in February, and Mountain Road Library — located at 4730 Mountain Road in Pasadena — will commemorate the occasion with a series of documentaries and a presentation about the Harriet Tubman Museum & Educational Center in Cambridge, Maryland.

The documentaries will be shown each Tuesday in February at 10:00am. Coffee and snacks will be available.

Librarian Veronica Lathroum said she chose the videos with the purpose of focusing on different elements of the struggles many black people have endured.

“They reflect a variety of experiences and different perspectives,” Lathroum said. “I think it’s an important topic for us to feature and discuss, especially in our current



Photo courtesy of Magnolia Pictures
On February 12, Mountain Road Library will screen “Whose Streets: An Unflinching Look at the Ferguson Uprising.”

climate in this country in the last few years.”

The following documentaries will be shown.

“ANITA: SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER”
FEBRUARY 5

Step back in time to 1991 and learn the story of Anita Hill, an attorney and a university professor who accused U.S. Supreme Court nominee

Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment.

“WHOSE STREETS: AN UNFLINCHING LOOK AT THE FERGUSON UPRISING”
FEBRUARY 12

This 2017 Sundance Film Festival nominated documentary analyzes the Ferguson uprising from the perspective
» Continued on B10

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



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

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.

Mountain Road Library Celebrates Black History Month

» Continued from B9 of those directly involved. Please note that while all of the Black History Month documentaries are intended for adults, this one is rated R.

"KEN BURNS: THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE" FEBRUARY 19

Experience the sad retelling of five black and Latino teens from Harlem who were wrongfully accused of raping a white woman in Central Park in 1989. The teens spent between six and 13 years in prison before a serial rapist confessed to the crime.

"STRANGE FRUIT: THE BIOGRAPHY OF A SONG" FEBRUARY 26

This is the story of "Strange Fruit," a famous Billie Holiday song addressing the horrors of lynching in America.

REMEMBERING HARRIET TUBMAN

On February 8, the library will welcome Dana Paterra, park manager for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Museum and Educational Center.

The museum will celebrate its second anniversary in March. Paterra will

share how the museum came to be, what the staff has accomplished over the past two years, and future plans.

Paterra explained that the Underground Railroad was a network of people — white and black, men and women — who assisted Tubman and other freedom seekers trying to provide resources to slaves traveling north.

"Many people think [Tubman] rescued people from all over the south when in reality she came back to Maryland to rescue family

and friends," Paterra said.

The museum has numerous interactive exhibits. "Visitors can become immersed in Tubman's world, where she spent her formative years, and learn about the faith, family and community that shaped her to be the 'conductor' we all know," she said.

In addition to the documentaries and presentation, there will be a display of books relating to black history, and Lathroum said that librarians are always happy to offer book recommendations.

Bateman Publishes Storybook

» Continued from B9 through the woods, they meet Mr. Robbie, a raccoon. Mr. Robbie tells the deer he lives in an oak tree, and he explains how it keeps him warm. Bateman used the title Mr. before the character's name to encourage respect.

He also shows diversity. "If you look at the four deer, they all look different," he explained. Though they're in the same family, each has different traits, differences in skin colors, and the father deer has "drop tine," an abnormality that some

deer develop. Bateman has many ideas including making future figurines of the Tine family and a carrying case. Many more Tine family books are forthcoming.

The book is illustrated by Zoe Neely, a 17-year-old Ohio artist the Batemans discovered online.

Each book is \$8.99, and copies can be ordered on Facebook, @ronbateman-books, or on the website www.ronbatemanbooks.com.

Bateman expects his crime novel to be available in the spring.



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Chesapeake Forge

» **Continued from B9** 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.

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.

» **Continued from B9** 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

Most Memorable Movies Of 2018

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.

Frozen Harbor

» **Continued from B9** popular song, "My Name," is about making your own path despite what others think. The band ends with the song most shows.

On February 1, the band will perform at The Pinch in Washington, D.C. They just released a debut EP, which includes five songs: "Gugo," "Who Am I," "Lose Control," "My Name" and "Forever's End." It is available for sale at shows and through the band's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Former PASADENA frontman and current solo artist Joey Harkum will perform February 23 at PBR Baltimore. The Harbor Boys, a reggae band from Pasadena, will be onstage for the festival pre-party at Angel's Rock Bar on January 19, and the group will also play on February 22 at Baltimore Soundstage.

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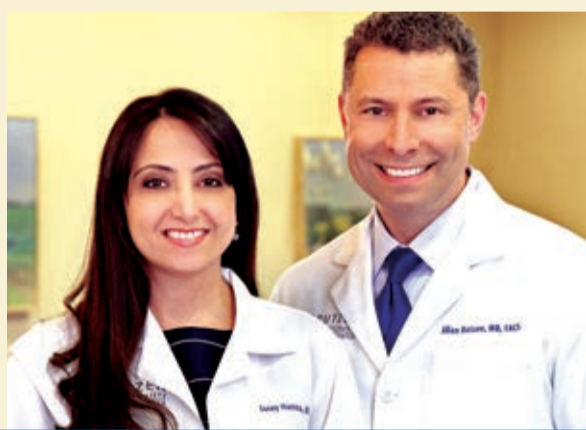
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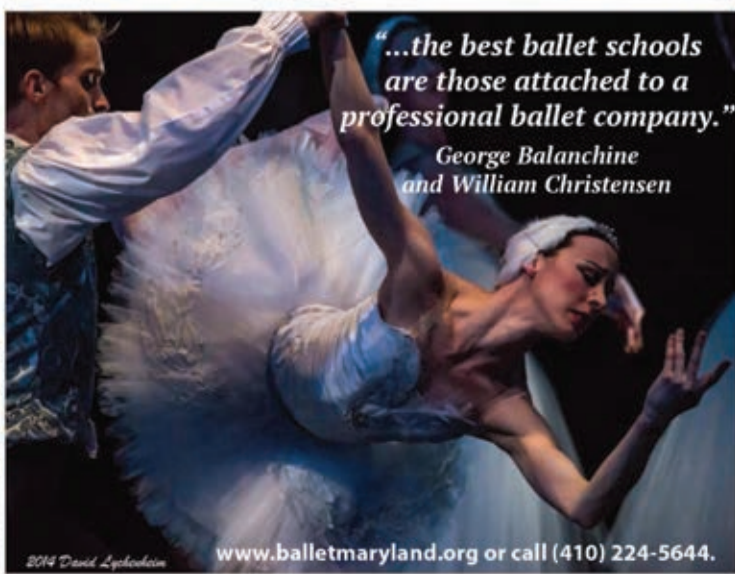
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