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AUGUST 21, 2019

A1

“Partisan” Decision Revives Workforce Housing In AA County



Planning and Zoning officials compared the architecture of Park View at Severna Park to the layout of possible affordable workforce housing sites.

By Zach Sparks
 zach@pasadenavoice.com

Almost five years later, residents of Pasadena and Severna Park have not forgotten a proposal to build 84 apartment units at 134 Ritchie Highway to accommodate workforce housing. That project was again on their minds as the county council voted along party lines this July to pass new affordable workforce housing incentives.

“It [was] calling for four multistory apartment buildings, which would have abutted directly on single-family homes on two sides,” Severna Park resident Chris Ronk told the county council in July. “On the third side, it was across the narrow local street from single-family local homes. But the fact that it was on Ritchie Highway on one side made the planners and advocates think it was perfect.

It was not.”

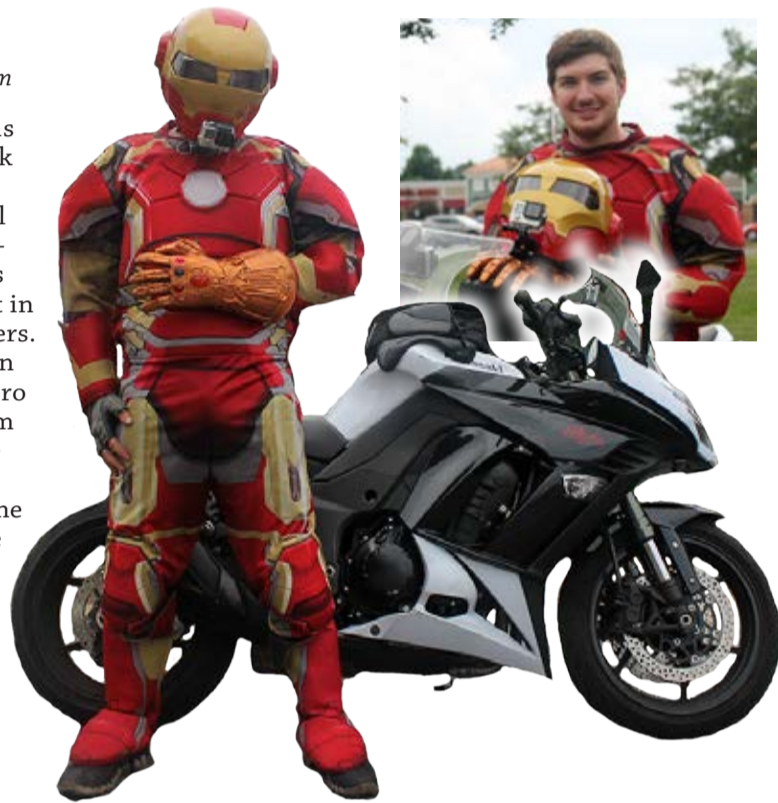
A 2011 Anne Arundel County bill allowed workforce housing as a special exception, granting development. **>> Continued on A4**

Dressed As Iron Man, Motor Corey Spreads Kindness Around Pasadena

By Zach Sparks
 zach@pasadenavoice.com

Most Marvel fans and comic book readers know Iron Man as tech mogul Tony Stark, but in Pasadena, a different man is donning the red helmet in his crusade to help others.

Corey Adams has been dressing as the superhero while doling out random acts of kindness for the last four months. The idea was sparked after he received nurturing care from Anne Arundel County nurses and emergency medical technicians following a motorcycle accident in August 2018.



Corey Adams has helped a stranded driver, handed flowers to moms on Mother’s Day, visited the graves of soldiers on Memorial Day, given gifts to crossing guards and more.

“I had a broken femur, a broken thumb and a rod put in my leg, but I was super lucky,” Adams said. “A week after the surgery, I was walking a mile. It took a few months to get back to normal.”

Wanting to give back, the 25-year-old Chesapeake High School graduate decided to dress as a superhero and do good deeds. “Iron Man has a helmet, so I went with that,” said Adams, who recently added the Infinity Gauntlet to his wardrobe. “My brother had a suit that was skin-tight. This one is more bulky.”

He hopped on his Kawasaki Ninja 1000, attached a GoPro Hero 4 video camera, and began spreading kindness around Pasadena. His first act was to help a stranded motorist push. **>> Continued on A4**

At National Night Out, Neighbors See Beyond The Badge

By Zach Sparks
 zach@pasadenavoice.com

During National Night Out on August 6, 7-year-old Pasadena resident Pierce Rosencranz had the same initial reaction to police that many people have.

“My boy, Pierce, was hiding behind me until the officers (photographed) loosened his nerves up by telling him his cool hair was the first thing he needed to join the police force,” said Pierce’s mom, Vicky Rosencranz.

That moment exemplified



National Night Out had a variety of activities, allowing kids to try on tactical gear, meet first responders and much more.

the reason National Night Out was brought to the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company in the Eastern District five years ago. Law enforcement officials want the community to see them as a resource, not as an enemy.

With giveaways, games for kids, music, and police and fire vehicles on display, National Night Out again created a welcoming atmosphere where families mingled with first responders.

Sergeant Erin Brandt

was one of those officers in attendance. “It’s wonderful to have the opportunity to interact with the community members in a non-stressful environment, and just enjoy everyone together,” Brandt said. “It was a great family and community event.”

Another sergeant, Bryan Isaac, enjoyed educating people about police work. “The smiles on the kids’ and parents’ faces when they pose with our police helmet and shield is priceless,” he said. “It’s such an honor to

work for this great county and state.”

The Anne Arundel County Sheriff’s Office brought two trucks and partnered with the Anne Arundel County Police Department to offer K-9 demonstrations.

Sheriff Jim Fredericks said National Night Out is just one way his office is expanding its presence in the community.

“People need to be able to approach us in a good fashion and that doesn’t happen every day,” Fredericks said.

“National Night Out is just one more tool for us. Everybody knows the police come when you call 911, but it’s great for them to get to know us as well.”

“People assume everyone in uniform does the same job,” he continued. “We can do the same job, but we have different roles.”

While hundreds of visitors packed the outdoor parking lot at Earleigh Heights, other attendees went inside to pose for pictures with costumed. **>> Continued on A3**

Meet The New Planning And Zoning Director

By Darrell Mak

Longtime Annapolis resident Steve Kaii-Ziegler started his new position as the county’s director of the Office of Planning and Zoning on July 31 and immediately got acquainted with Anne Arundel County residents during a special town hall meeting held the next day at Severna Park High School.

Kaii-Ziegler took over from former Plan-

ning and Zoning Director Phil Hager, who was appointed in July 2017, after succeeding Larry Tom, who retired after serving nearly a decade in the position.

“I am absolutely thrilled to be here and to bring my experience home to Anne Arundel County,” said Kaii-Ziegler, who has worked in this field for four other Maryland counties.

Kaii-Ziegler brings nearly three decades of experience leading planning efforts in Charles, Frederick, Harford and Queen Anne’s counties. He has also held positions with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning. **>> Continued on A6**



Steve Kaii-Ziegler

Remember When? Guess This Landmark

Take a look around Pasadena and you might not notice any monumental changes, but longtime residents may remember a different way of life. In the 1940s and 1950s, James Brown sang for families who brought their children to ride the Ferris wheel at Beechwood Park. From 1954 to 1978, Pasadena had a drive-in movie theater, and a cinema occupied Jumpers Hole Road from 1974 to 2005. Over the years, the peninsula grew, reaching a total of 12 public



This beach was a popular weekend destination for families.

nies, and many local businesses and civic groups that are entrenched in the community.

Join us in a walk down memory lane. Even if you

weren’t born during the years when some of these photos were snapped, chances are that you can still spot these local landmarks. Play along by

guessing and by spotting the answer in the next month’s print edition, or follow the Pasadena Voice on Facebook to engage in a discussion.

Last month, we featured the wooden Stony Creek Bridge in service from 1912 to 1946. This month, we’re asking readers to name this beach. Opened in 1933, it served as a weekend destination for Baltimore-area families. Need a hint? Today, the site is a popular destination for weddings, banquets and family reunions.

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Margueritte Mills
Volunteer
Of The Month

Mary Vogelsang Uses Nursing
Background To Nurture Kids

By Zach Sparks

When Mary Vogelsang's father died unexpectedly when she was 16, the community stepped in to help.

A local Boy Scout troop helped choose flowers for the funeral. Neighbors taught her how to drive.

With a mom who was a PTA president and a dad involved in Boy Scouts and youth baseball, Vogelsang learned from an early age the importance of being involved in the community.

"It tells you what's going on and makes you feel connected," said Vogelsang, a retired nurse who lives on Light Street Avenue in Pasadena, a stone's throw from Severna Park.

For about 10 years, Vogelsang has been active with Vacation Bible School at Pasadena United Methodist Church (PUMC). This year's VBS, with the theme "To Mars and Beyond," ran from August 5-9.

"We were going to Mars and we had to get energy because our spaceship was stuck in space and we had to get it home," Vogelsang said. "We had to collect hope, boldness, faith, kindness and joy."

Vogelsang has been a member of PUMC for 54 years, where she is a faith



Mary Vogelsang received her Volunteer of the Month certificate from Will Nauman, creative director for the Pasadena Voice.

National Night Out on August 6, Vogelsang waved people from the parking lot toward the activities. She was also involved in planning the event. For the night of August 6, she recruited Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and kids from Pasadena United Methodist Church.

"I want to get the kids involved in the commu-

nity and know they count. It's more than a badge," she said. "Our church is between the fire and police stations, and they need to know it's a safe haven. It's a good place to be."

While she is proud to live in Pasadena, Vogelsang is also attends Greater Severna Park Council meetings and tries to stay informed on matters affecting both zip codes. When overdevelopment occurs, her first thought is often about the kids. Why doesn't the proposed complex have a playground? Will the kids be safe if their bus stop is located on Ritchie Highway?

As a member of the community, she feels compelled to look out for others the way her former neighbors took care of her. "Everyone needs to work together," Vogelsang said.

community nurse, and no activity during that time has brought her more joy than working with kids.

"Kids are our future," she said. "If we don't take care of the kids, we have no future."

When teaching Sunday school to children ages 3 to 6, it's not hard for her to see the possibilities of the future, even though it can be challenging to keep the kids' attention.

"Kids see things in a different way, and all of the generations are different," Vogelsang said. "You always learn new things because kids look at things a different way. They keep you on your toes."

"That's why I like National Night Out: the kids are so excited to see the police," she added. "It's free for kids. Any age category can come."

During the most recent

Editor's Voice

Dylan Roche
Editor



It feels very strange to sit down and write this column for the last time. Some of you who know me personally may have already heard that after this issue of the paper, I'm stepping down from my role as editor of the Pasadena Voice to pursue other endeavors. It's a bittersweet feeling for me — as excited as I am for the future, and as grateful as I am for my years here, I am sad to leave.

I want to say thanks to our devoted readers who have been in touch throughout the years, sending in story ideas and providing feedback on the news we provide. You are the ones who truly make a small local newspaper what it is: an embodiment of the community it represents. You are the ones who make the news, who give us stories to tell, who create change where life is static and who provide healing where there is hurting. Having a supportive following like you makes the hard work worth it.

I promise that I won't disappear completely and hope to stay an active community member. If our paths cross out in public, please don't hesitate to say hello.

I'm also happy that the paper is being left in good hands. My longtime teammate Zach Sparks is stepping up as editor, and I know he is going to do an excellent job. Many of you are already familiar with him, so he doesn't need much of an introduction from me. For those of you who aren't, trust me when I say this guy has talent and a work ethic unlike anyone else I know. You can expect great things from him.

It seems appropriate to write about endings and new beginnings this time of year, as summer draws to a close and everyone anticipates the beginning of a new school year. Fall sports and other activities are about to start back up, everyone is resolving to get back into a structured routine, and so many new opportunities are available for each of us as we head into a new season.

So, my question to you: What will you do with those new opportunities? Where is life going to lead you, and what stories will you have to tell about yourself?

And if you have a story that's worthy of being told, don't hesitate to reach out to Zach and let him know. Send him an email at zach@pasadenavoice.com. Who knows ... you might end up on the cover of next month's paper.

Thanks for everything, Pasadena. Stay in touch.

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National Night Out Gets Neighborhoods To See Beyond The Badge

Neighborhood Organizations

- Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Severna Park Council
- Cape St. Claire Improvement Association
- Broadneck Council of Communities
- Pasadena Business Association
- Arnold Preservation Council
- Greater Pasadena Council

» **Continued from A1** heroes, to grab food from local restaurants and to find more activities provided by vendors. Severna Park Kiwanis had a craft station specially geared toward the event. “The kids are making cards and thank you notes and taking them to the police officers,” explained Rachel Jacobs, past president of Severna Park Kiwanis, which aspires to improve the area’s

quality of life through activities promoting health and education. Event organizer Sam Tanner was pleased with the turnout, as was Captain Jeff Adams, the new commander of Eastern District. “A great time was had by all,” Adams said. “I want to thank the community for their support by attending, in addition to the organizers and vendors who help make the evening a success.”



Above: K-9 demonstrations are a popular spectacle during National Night Out each year.



Right: Kids stopped by the Severna Park Kiwanis table to make thank you cards for first responders.

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“Partisan” Decision Revives Workforce Housing In Anne Arundel County



A new bill allows developers to build 22 units of housing per acre in R5, R10 and R15 residential zones if certain conditions are met. Planning and Zoning officials used Park View as an example of what workforce housing buildings might look like.

» **Continued from A1**
 operators in some cases to build up to 22 units per acre on land designated for low-density single-family homes. Following the Earleigh Station proposal, the county council voted to remove special exceptions from R2 and R5 residential districts.

This July, the council debated County Executive Stuart Pittman’s proposal, Bill 54-19, to allow developers to build 22 units of housing per acre in R5, R10 and R15 residential zones, and in commercial and industrial zones, under certain conditions. The property must be located on a collector or higher classification road served by both public water and sewer. At least 40% of the homeownership units must be occupied by a household with an income that does not exceed 100% of the area median income. At least 60% of the rental units must be occupied by a household with an income that does not exceed 60% of the median income. All adequate public facilities tests must be met — school capacity, road and

utility tests. All environmental rules must be obeyed, including critical area.

Pete Baron, government affairs officer for Pittman’s administration, said that over the next four years, an estimated 1,174 households will not be able to find housing they can afford in Anne Arundel County.

“It frustrates me that we’re building all of this stuff and the average price of a new unit, single family, is \$600,000 and the average price of a townhome or even a condo is \$400,000 and it’s out of the price range for so many people and that just, to me, feels wrong and we have to fix that,” Pittman said.

Barbara Daniels, fair housing attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, said the state pegs the deficit of affordable housing in the county at 21,517 units. “We’ve got a mismatch between the county’s growth as a major regional job center and one of the fastest-growing residential areas in the region and the zoning,” she said.

Republicans on the county council were critical of Pittman’s administration for sharing information with only the Democrats before the bill was introduced. Several Republican amendments were shot down before the final vote was tallied.

“I’m extremely disappointed that this is what we’ve reached,” said Councilman Nathan Volke, who represents District 2. “I mean we have offered eight amendments that are potential compromise amendments ... some of them are major substantive, some of them frankly are

going to improve this bill by allowing a greater number of people to be eligible for this relief and frankly the people that we’ve ostensibly said are the ones we want to help, and so I’m very disappointed that we can’t take the time as a council to work together to try to come up with a better bill on this.”

Pittman said he felt uncomfortable with the “way it went down,” so he attended the Greater Severna Park Council meeting in July to answer questions from his constituents.

“To be honest, on this one

“In my community and in this community and in communities all over the county, people don’t want to change the character of the neighborhood, and that doesn’t mean that they are racist or hate poor people or a lot of the rhetoric that gets thrown around when you have these hearings on these issues.”

— COUNTY EXECUTIVE STEUART PITTMAN

it became very partisan and I think the wrong assumption got made that only the four Democrats were going to support it and the three Republicans weren’t,” Pittman said. “Land use issues aren’t partisan issues ... The agenda moving forward — we’ve committed to both sides that we’ll be talking to them and we’re going to try to use a system where we reach out in advance.”

The Department of Planning and Zoning estimated that the new bill might lead to only one new development, but that didn’t allay the fears of people worried about overcrowding and traffic. Pittman sees workforce housing as a potential remedy to the traffic problem.

“We reduce traffic by mak-

ing it possible for people to live, work and play in one area so they don’t have to drive as much,” Pittman said. “Right now, we have a lot of people driving out of the county to go work in Baltimore and D.C. and a lot of people driving into the county because they can’t afford to live here and they work in a job where it doesn’t pay a whole lot.”

Pittman said just because a bill has passed doesn’t mean the discussion is over.

“We’re not going to go back and then try to overturn this bill,” he said.

“We’re going to try to fix the whole system and make it so it works and do the form-based code where we don’t do these projects that are big multi-family stuff next to single-family stuff.”

Motor Corey Spreads Kindness Around Pasadena

» **Continued from A1**
 her car. Subsequent videos featured Adams surprising kids as Iron Man, handing flowers to moms on Mother’s Day, buying cookies for customers at Chick-fil-A, visiting the graves of soldiers on Memorial Day, giving gifts to school crossing guards, and presenting gift cards to firefighters and EMTs, including some who were on the scene of his rescue in 2018.

All of the videos are posted on his “Motor Corey” YouTube channel.

He started with one act of kindness every Monday, but he’s now trying to do two acts per week.

“I have tons of ideas,” he said. “I eventually want to get a lot of people thinking about others and not just themselves.”

On August 12, he filmed a video while feeding stray cats at Rise Above Animal Rescue and Sanctuary. The nonprofit’s president, Kaitlin Neal, said Adams’ visit had a profound impact on the feral “community cats,” which were part of a TNR (trap, neuter, return)

program that combats the feral cat populations humanely while providing the cats with much-needed veterinary care.

“Corey not only brought us donations of supplies and food for the cats, but he also built us a new feeding station and an insulated cat house for one of the many colonies we care for,” Neal said. “His work will help these cats live a much more comfortable life!”

Brainstorming ideas has not been tough for Adams, who aspires to get more people involved in similar

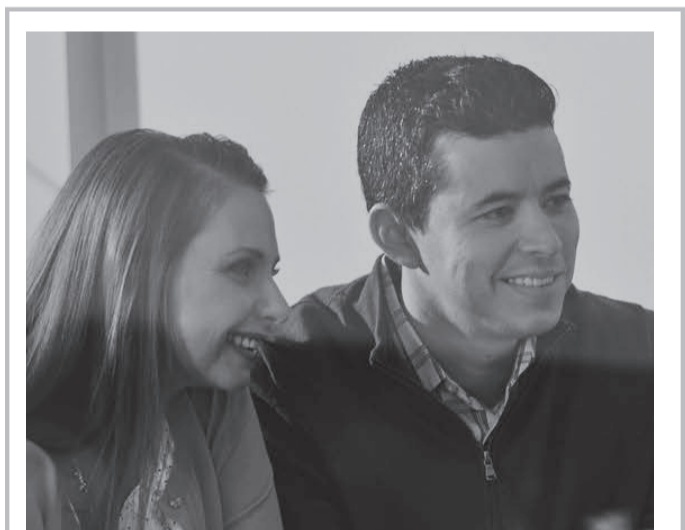
acts of kindness, but he has faced other challenges.

“It gets hot, but I love doing it, so I don’t mind,” Adams said.

For now, the superhero will continue serving the people.

“You know what? I can’t stop now,” he said with a laugh. “I have a whole bunch of kids who look up to me, and the smiles have intensified.”

Follow “Motor Corey” on YouTube or visit Adams’ fundraising link at www.gofundme.com/f/motorcorey.



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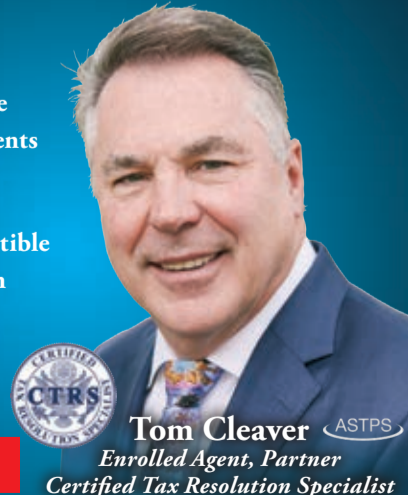


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Galilee Pastor Followed His Father's Footsteps

By Jillian Amodio

Galilee Lutheran Church welcomed the Rev. Matt Hilpert as its new pastor in July. Hilpert described the service as a day of joy and appreciation.



Matt Hilpert

"I am in awe of the wonderful people at Galilee Lutheran," he said. "I have never lived in Maryland before, but the people are so warm and welcoming. It was truly a day of heartfelt thanksgiving for this new opportunity."

Hilpert considers himself to be an "accidental pastor" of sorts, for this was never his intended career path. Even so, Hilpert is a fifth-generation pastor. Growing up in a pastor's household, Hilpert never felt he could do what he saw his father do in the church.

"He was an incredible pastor," Hilpert said of his father. "I never wanted to stand up and speak in front of people."

While Hilpert admired the work of his father, he instead went to college, where he met his wife, Mary, and pursued a career in marine biology. "It was incredible; I actually trained sea lions," he said.

Eventually, Hilpert switched gears and began work as a biochemist in California. While he was fascinated by science, he was left feeling disenfran-

chised by some of the darker business components that a career in biochemistry had brought to light.

A man of faith, Hilpert sought advice from pastors and family members and began to feel an urge to enroll in seminary. Although he had doubts, Hilpert could find no reason not to follow this calling, and he went off to seminary with Mary.

Along with their three kids, they have lived in Hawaii, Nevada, Texas, Missouri and California. When asked how the family felt about their move to Maryland, Hilpert replied, "We felt almost immediately at home. We feel very blessed to be here. Our kids are excited to be starting public school after lengthy experiences in private schools, and my son is excited to become a true Marylander and do things like crabbing."

Hilpert considers this move to have been a huge leap of faith for the family members, but he said they have always relied on their faith to lead and guide them through life decisions.

As a father of teenagers, Hilpert is excited to implement more programs and provide more opportunities for youth involvement at Galilee Lutheran. Hilpert said the July service was a way of publicly stating, "As a church, we have been given a new pastor to help lead and guide us in our faith. It was a blessing of a new union of sorts, one in which we will love and support each other as pastor and congregation."

Chesapeake Christian Center Excited For Future With New Pastor, Jonathan Fuson

By Judy Tacyn

The Rev. Jonathan Fuson and his wife, Missy, moved to Pasadena from North Carolina when he was named the lead pastor at Chesapeake Christian Center in April 2019. It didn't take long before the area's abundance of exceptional seafood and breathtaking waterways, and Pasadena's deep history, made the Michigan natives fall in love with the Old Line State. Having lived in the north and the south, the couple considers Maryland to be a perfect blend of either side of the Mason-Dixon Line.

The duo first met when they were teenagers and have been in full-time ministry since 2005. They have settled into their new home, Chesapeake Christian Center (CCC), and are already impressed with their community.

"Chesapeake Christian Center is a great place to worship," exclaimed Fuson. "We are a traditional and contemporary blend. We possess a traditional, biblical worldview, and yet we practice these values and beliefs in a contemporary context."

Fuson appreciates that CCC is a generational church with people of all ages, and the church offers ministries for every age.

"What has inspired me most about CCC is the congregation's desire to make an impact on our community," Fuson said.



The Rev. Jonathan Fuson and his wife, Missy, believe Chesapeake Christian Center is a great place to worship.

"CCC is not an exclusive church; we are growing and we want you to come and grow with us."

— THE REV. JONATHAN FUSON

"The gospel should make a difference in our lives and upon those around us. CCC is not an exclusive church; we are growing and we want you to come and grow with us. There is something for everyone to plug into: powerful music program, Straight-Up youth minis-

try, Outsiders young adult ministry, children's ministries, outreach ministries, men's and women's ministry groups, and more. You will find a place to connect and grow here."

Fuson said the CCC experience begins with a welcome at the front door, from which people are ushered into the sacristy where wonderful music and an expository alliterated sermon taken straight from the Biblical text will be heard. Sermon outlines are provided so that people can follow along and write down the important parts of the message. Chesapeake Chris-

tian Center offers complete interpretation for the deaf, a nursery, and toddler and children's ministries every Sunday at 10:00am and Wednesday at 7:00pm.

In September and October, Fuson will begin sharing a new mission statement, casting vision for the future of CCC, and defining the community's core values. An NFL Sunday is being planned for September 22, when all are welcome to worship and then tailgate together before 1:00pm kickoffs, and a fall festival will be held on October 25.

He added that there are many "fun, impacting, wonderful events and ministry happening at CCC. All are welcome to come join us or check out our Facebook page, where sermons and updates are posted."

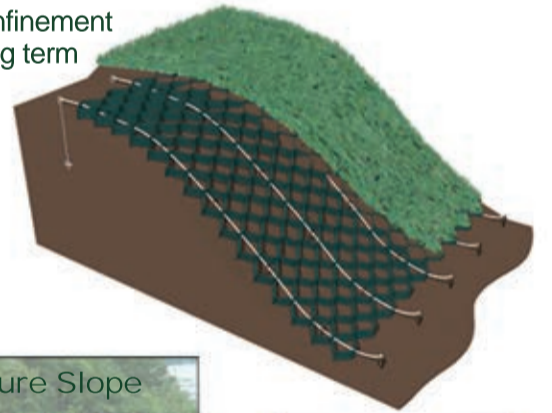
Fuson has four children ages 4 to 13: Ariel, Josiah, Hannah and Isaac. He and Missy both graduated from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, before both completing master's degrees. He is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree, while she will teach at Nantucket Elementary School in Gambrells this fall.

Chesapeake Christian Center is located at 206 Weston Woods Drive in Pasadena. To learn more, visit www.ccc-cog.org.

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News From University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center



Left: Senator Ben Cardin recently visited the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) to meet with hospital leadership and discuss the effects of federal health care policy at the local level. **Right:** UM BWMC's stroke program recently received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award, which recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence. Dr. Christopher Stack, medical director of the stroke program, accepted the award on behalf of UM BWMC.

Canine Influenza – The Misunderstood Vaccine

Dr. Monica Capella

Associate Veterinarian
VCA Calvert
Veterinary Center



Maybe you've just adopted a new furry friend – an 8-week-old Yorkie puppy that has eyes filled with excitement, or maybe a sweet 9-year-old Labrador that is happy to spend its days lounging on the back porch. As part of a routine wellness visit, your veterinarian will discuss keeping your pets up to date on vaccinations to protect them from certain diseases.

Some of these, like the ones for rabies and distemper, are core vaccines, meaning they are necessary due to the potential for high rates of infection, potential dangers to human health, and because they can affect pets of all life stages. Others, like leptospirosis and Lyme, are recommended by the veterinarian based on your pet's potential risk of exposure, which is determined by geographic distribution, overall lifestyle routine, etc. So where does the canine influenza vaccine fit in the world of vaccination? What is canine influenza and how do you know if your dog should be vaccinated? These are questions veterinarians hear commonly, so let's discuss them.

Canine influenza is a viral

“Although canine influenza has a low mortality rate compared to diseases like rabies and canine distemper, vaccination has become a key factor in reducing severity of clinical signs in dogs and reducing spread of the disease.”

— DR. MONICA CAPELLA

infection first reported in 2004 in Florida, but it has spread to many states, and there are even documented cases internationally. The disease is spread between dogs, and currently, there is no conclusive evidence that the disease is zoonotic (meaning to spread from animals to humans or vice versa). Dogs that are infected with this virus can have a mild form or more severe form. The majority of dogs with the mild form may have a soft, moist or dry cough that persists for 10 to 30 days with or without nasal discharge. This form is often self-limiting compared to the severe form, which often presents more suddenly with fever, severe respiratory signs including difficulty breathing, and can potentially lead to acute death.

Although canine influenza has a low mortality rate compared to diseases like rabies and canine distemper, vaccination has become a key factor in reducing severity of clinical signs in dogs and reducing spread of the

disease. This vaccination is recommended based on risk of exposure. Dogs that are higher risk for contracting canine influenza are those that attend pet day care centers, pet parks, groomers, boarding, or are traveling to endemic areas. It is important to note that the vaccine is not labeled to prevent infection itself; however, by vaccinating dogs that are at higher risk, the goal of the vaccine is to reduce clinical severity and duration of infection if contracted. Typical vaccination protocol recommended by veterinarians involves an initial vaccine followed by a booster vaccination several weeks later. As with human vaccinations, protective immunity is not immediate! If you are planning to board your furry friend or take it to a high-risk location, ensure that your pet receives its second booster vaccine at least two to three weeks before travel to maximize protection.

Keeping up to date on news of canine emerging diseases

is another way you can work with your veterinarian to ensure your pet is as protected as possible from potential exposure. The most recent outbreaks of canine influenza occurred in 2015 and 2016 in the Midwest states (Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois). These outbreaks were caused by a variation of the influenza strain H3N2, which differed from the original H3N8 strain that caused the initial outbreak of 2004. Veterinarians are continuing to work closely with manufacturing companies to develop vaccines that cover both of these strains. The manufacturer of the vaccine that we carry will cover the cost of laboratory testing for a variety of upper respiratory viruses and other pathogens as well as covering up to \$5,000 in costs if your pet is found to have one of the diseases that the vaccine protects against. This gives pet owners assurance that your pet will be protected. If you have any questions about canine influenza or are looking for reliable resources, reach out to your local veterinary community for support!

Calvert Veterinary Center has been serving Pasadena and surrounding communities for 15 years. The office is conveniently located at 4100 Mountain Road in Pasadena. Call 410-360-7297 or visit www.calvertvet.com to schedule an appointment.

Planning And Zoning

» Continued from A1
Commission and with the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

So far, he has been busy getting accustomed to his new position. In addition to meeting with the public, he is still getting to know the Planning and Zoning team. “I love meeting people, and I've been impressed with the staff,” he said.

Kaii-Ziegler said that his department is now in the unusual position of hiring more employees after years of reductions. “We're ramping staff up and looking for office space,” he said.

The new director said he and County Executive Stuart Pittman share many of the same passions regarding land preservation, environmental protection and sustainable growth. “Many of my goals align with the county executive's,” noted Kaii-Ziegler. “I met him for the first time a couple of months ago, and we had a fabulous conversation.”

The county is currently updating its General Development Plan while holding meetings with the Citizen Advisory Committee, a 13-member commission responsible for providing input to the Office of Planning Zoning. Kaii-Ziegler's priority initiatives will be to orient the county to future small-area processes, comprehensive rezoning, and rewriting the zoning code. “It's a lot of work to do over the next eight to 10 years,”

he admitted.

From his extensive experience, Kaii-Ziegler knows that each jurisdiction is unique, but he hopes to identify inefficiencies and make adjustments. “We're at the very early stages to how to do things better,” he acknowledged.

Kaii-Ziegler wants to balance the interests of all parties. His aim is to take a closer look at adopted policies, including the GDP, codes and ordinances. “Our elected officials adopted them, so it is important to carry them out,” he said. “We shouldn't ignore any policies but make adjustments if needed.”

Kaii-Ziegler's preference is to concentrate on redevelopment of underutilized sites as opposed to developing green fields. He also noted climate change is becoming a more prominent issue. Kaii-Ziegler enrolled in the climate education academy at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “It's a phenomenal educational program,” he touted. “Climate change will affect future plans and regulations. I want to orient staff to this area and adapt as best as we can.”

Kaii-Ziegler plans to evaluate environmental issues from a modification perspective. “A major goal of mine is to determine what we protect versus what we allow and be respectful of the laws to achieve the best balanced position for county land use.”

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NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

Brookfield On The Magothy

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
Top right: (L-R) Dillon Lombardi, Mike Jansen and Anna Jansen appreciate their quiet but tight-knit community.



Left and right: The yards are generally large and the trees are mature, providing an almost impenetrable canopy over the hidden neighborhood. Wildlife flourishes in Brookfield on the Magothy.



Brookfield On The Magothy Is Off The Grid, But Near Everything

By Judy Tacyn

Brookfield on the Magothy is likely the most secluded neighborhood visited by the *Pasadena Voice* staff for the Neighborhood of the Month feature. It's unique in that Brookfield Road was divided when Route 100 was built, so to find the community, drivers need to be on the "right side" of the highway.

Brookfield on the Magothy, like so many other waterfront communities in Pasadena, was originally populated by summer vacation cottages. Though many of the approximately 30 homes have been renovated, there are still a handful of quaint and adorable cottages of less than 1,000 square feet.

The yards are generally large and the trees are mature, providing an almost impenetrable canopy over the hidden neighborhood. Wildlife flourishes in Brookfield on the Magothy; bald eagles, osprey, foxes, deer, turtles, salamanders and geese are abundant, and they far outnumber the human inhabitants.

The community has Halloween costume and holiday parties each

year. A small community boat ramp provides access to the upper Magothy River, north of the Magothy Bridge.

Neighborhood children attend Pasadena Elementary, Chesapeake Bay Middle and Chesapeake High School.

DILLON LOMBARDI
 RESIDENT FOR 10 YEARS

Dillon Lombardi was blessed to have loving relatives living in Brookfield on the Magothy after a life-changing event necessitated his move from Brooklyn Park. The differences in the two communities were evident from the start.

"I like the neighborhood because it's very secluded yet in the middle of everywhere you need to be, and easily accessible to Route 100," Lombardi said. "You can still see a lot of nature and wildlife, there are great views of the Magothy River, and [there is] easy access to the community beach."

Lombardi said his favorite community amenity is privacy, though he does like to come out for the annual block party. He appreciates all of the small and

family-owned businesses in the area, as well as the rich history of Pasadena.

"If you are into the country lifestyle then Brookfield on the Magothy is a perfect place to live," said Lombardi, who lives on a private road maintained only by the residents. "Our neighbors are helpful and hardworking."

ANNA AND MIKE JANSEN
 RESIDENTS FOR EIGHT YEARS

Anna and Mike Jansen were looking for a fixer-upper in 2011 when they happened to stumble upon a 1920 brick colonial "speakeasy" in desperate need of repair. After growing up in Severna Park, Anna liked the idea of living on a quiet dead-end street on the water.

"I had never heard of Brookfield on the Magothy until we looked at this house," Anna said. "The house really picked us! We talked to people in the neighborhood and liked the laid-back, quiet surroundings. It is also very convenient to Route 100, and feels like you are in a rural setting, but you are in fact very close to all necessary conveniences."

The Jansens operate a small

hobby farm with a miniature donkey, miniature mule, goat, chickens and a goose. They renovated their home to three stories, giving them multiple levels of spectacular views of the river right in their backyard.

"If you are looking for a laid back, quiet pace of life with a rural setting, Brookfield is for you," Anna said. "Folks are friendly and keep to themselves but are always there to help in a time of need."

Anna said that during weather events, such as downed trees, deep snow or heavy rainfall, neighbors lend a hand. Most of the community roads are not maintained by Anne Arundel County, so maintenance depends on the residents.

Anna and Mike love to walk the few streets in Brookfield. "We are social and enjoy interacting with our neighbors," Anna said. "We walk our dog, Molly, twice a day and know many of our neighbors as well as neighbors in the surrounding community. It's always fun to introduce neighbors we know from our walks to their own neighbors who have never met."

SARAH TULEY
 RESIDENT FOR 22 YEARS

Sarah Tuley and her husband chose Brookfield on the Magothy because of its proximity to BWI due to her husband's job. Another requirement? Waterfront.

"We like that the community is private: One-lane road on a peninsula, private docks, boat ramp, and easy access on and off Route 100," Tuley said. "Since we live very close to the Severna Park line, we are really close to everything."

Tuley said that living on a private road allows residents to become close to their neighbors, and the tiny, secluded community provides a real feeling of safety, as well as privacy.

"You make lifelong friends here. We have to work together for snow or fallen tree removal, maintaining community property, maintenance on the road, etc.," Tuley said. "Some of my fondest memories are working together to shovel our road! We watch out for each other, take care of each other's pets and homes during vacations. There isn't anything we could ask for and someone on the road not step up to help. It's that type of community."



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High-Quality Education

Nic Kipke
Delegated
District 31B



Public education will be one of the top issues of the upcoming legislative session. I firmly believe that every child in our state deserves a quality education, no matter where they live. We are fortunate to have many fantastic schools in our community, but that is not the case in many parts of our state. During the 2019 session, I supported legislation to enact the preliminary recommendations of the Kirwan Commission.

An important element added to this legislation is the significant accountability measures that Governor Larry Hogan and I have advocated for over the last two years. The bill creates an independent Office of the Inspector General to investigate allegations of waste, fraud and abuse in our local school systems. With the recent and repeated allegations of wrongdoing and mismanagement in school systems across the state, this is a critical initiative.

The final recommendations of the Kirwan Commission are due in a few months and there are serious concerns that the price tag for fully enacting the Kirwan recommendations could lead to significant tax increases.

During the Glendening administration, when the Thornton Commission recommendations were passed, providing historic funding for education, no funding source was identified. As a result, the state has been plagued with an ongoing structural deficit that contributed to the massive tax increases during the O'Malley administration.

While we all want our state to have a world-class education system, we have to do this right, and money is not the only ingredient in the solution. I am hopeful we can find bipartisan solutions that provide our children with the education they deserve without crippling their families with

monstrous tax increases.

Those debates, while important, are still a few months off. It's hard to believe that summer is winding down quickly. The 2019-2020 school year will soon be upon us and many families have already begun their back-to-school shopping.

If you are not sure what supplies your child needs for the upcoming school year, Anne Arundel County Public Schools has links to supply lists for all schools in the county. You can access these lists at www.aacps.org/schoolsupplies.

A variety of organizations help provide school supplies for children in need across Anne Arundel County. They work with school counselors to identify students in need and provide backpacks full of school supplies to the schools for distribution. The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services administers one such program. If you would like to donate supplies to a student or students in need, contact the back-to-school program office at 410-269-4462. In addition, Anne Arundel County Public Library is partnering with the Sharing Foundation to collect school supplies for children in need. Donations of school supplies are being accepted at all library locations, including Mountain Road Library and Riviera Beach Library. If you need assistance in providing school supplies for your children, contact the guidance department at your child's school.

To kick off the year, schools will be hosting back-to-school events for students and their families. Some of these events occur prior to the school year starting. For a county-wide listing, visit www.aacps.org/btsevents. Below is a list of the back-to-school events in District 31B. Please contact the school if you have specific questions about these events:

NORTHEAST FEEDER SYSTEM

- **Northeast High:** August 28 at 6:00pm
- **George Fox Middle:** September 10 at 6:00pm

- **Solley Elementary (Pre-K through Grade 2):** September 11 at 6:30pm
- **Solley Elementary (Grades 3-5):** September 12 at 6:30pm
- **Sunset Elementary:** September 17 at 6:30pm
- **Riviera Beach Elementary:** September 19 at 6:30pm
- **High Point Elementary:** September 26 at 6:00pm

CHESAPEAKE FEEDER SYSTEM

- **Pasadena Elementary:** August 29 at 5:30pm
- **Lake Shore Elementary:** August 29 at 6:00pm
- **Fort Smallwood Elementary:** August 29 at 6:00pm
- **Bodkin Elementary:** September 5 at 5:30pm
- **Chesapeake Bay Middle:** September 12 at 6:00pm
- **Chesapeake High:** September 19 at 6:30pm
- **Jacobsville Elementary:** September 26 at 6:00pm

I hope students and teachers have had a great summer and are refreshed and ready for another school year. As always, if I can be of any assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact me at 410-841-3421 or by email at nicholous.kipke@house.state.md.us.

Serving The Community

Anne Colt Leitess
State's Attorney



Each year, Anne Arundel County gathers to celebrate National Night Out, an annual event that promotes camaraderie between public safety agencies and the community. The festive occasion was held on Tuesday, August 6, at five locations across our county. The events included fun games and activities for adults and children, law enforcement K-9 demonstrations, and lots of free food and treats for everyone. The event is a reminder of the importance of an engaged public safety-community partnership built upon the common goal of creating a safe place to live and work. During the festivities, the sense of community is palpable.

As we build beyond the energy of the event, the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County remains committed to diligently serving the citizens of our community and engaging in conversations about crime and the justice system regardless of how challenging they may be. Unfortunately, there have been countless discussions

lately about the rise in gun violence and the accessibility of criminals obtaining guns in our community.

Recently, the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County won a \$100,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. Our office will use those funds to redirect the path of youths caught with guns while also aggressively prosecuting defendants who reoffend or perpetuate gun violence. We will partner with local agencies and nonprofits to create ways to engage young people who are pursuing a dangerous course of criminal activity.

In addition, the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County continues to provide our community with interactive programs on numerous quality-of-life topics. We are committed to helping citizens avoid becoming victims of crime and improving public confidence in the justice system.

Our community outreach programs include:

• **Online Safety: Keeping Children Safe In A High-Tech World** – Learn about the dangers that lurk online and receive real-life tips on how to effectively navigate online issues like bullying, predatory activity, sexting

and grooming.

• **Forensic Evidence In The 21st Century** – This interactive presentation explores the importance of forensic evidence in solving crimes and prosecuting cases today.

• **Dating Violence: Awareness And Prevention**

– Learn about the warning signs of toxic relationships, discuss ways to effectively communicate, and identify the tools to sustain healthy dating relationships and break the cycle of domestic violence.

• **Avoiding Identity Theft: How To Deter, Detect And Defend Against It** – This presentation will offer tools to empower citizens against identification theft, fraud, scams and exploitation.

• **Distracted Driving** – Learn ways to avoid distracted driving and safety tips for staying safe on the road.

If you are interested in having a representative from the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County speak at your event on one of these topics or another topic of your choosing, contact our public information officer at 410-222-7686 or tialewis@aacounty.org.

As your state's attorney, I will continue to pursue justice, safeguard our community and, always, stand for the people.

Hogan Administration Unveils New Financial Transparency Web Application

Maryland Transparency Portal Will Make Fiscal Operations Easy To Understand

Governor Larry Hogan and the heads of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) have launched the Maryland Transparency Portal, a new web-based application that will empower citizens to become better informed about the details of the state budget with a user-friendly and easy-to-navigate interface. Using the Socrata platform currently trusted by government agencies at the local, state, and federal level throughout the country, the Maryland Transparency Portal (mtp.maryland.gov) will allow users to:

Navigate budget information, including expenditure detail, fund detail and position information

Navigate vendor payment detail by fiscal year (FY)

Navigate grant and loan detail by fiscal year

Four years of budget information will be available at launch: the FY 2020 legislative appropriation, the FY

2019 working appropriation, and actual data for both FY 2018 and FY 2017. Additional budget information will be added with the introduction of future budgets, revised following the Maryland General Assembly's action on the budget each year, and finalized to coincide with the release of each fiscal year's closeout report.

"One of our greatest challenges has been to find a way to convey information about the state budget that makes it easy for our citizens to understand where tax revenue is coming from, where it's going and why," Hogan said. "Finally, with the Maryland Transparency Portal, we're able to give the public the tools necessary to cut through the partisan rhetoric and media spin to see for themselves how much of their money is being spent on the government programs and projects that are important to them."

Although information regarding vendor payments and the details of state grants and loans are already available on DBM's website, the Maryland Transparency Portal will streamline that information and place it within the context of the overall state budgetary structure. In addition, the new web app will enable DBM and DoIT to update budget information earlier

than in prior years, and it will interconnect with other valuable Maryland data sources, including the Open Data Portal, in order to provide citizens with a comprehensive archive of Maryland's fiscal actions.

DoIT Secretary Michael Leahy applauded the launch of the new web app, saying, "The connected nature of the Maryland Transparency Portal will not only allow people to view details of the state budget in all of its phases faster than they've ever been able to do so before, but it will also link that information to data from the other sources that people are already familiar with - making for a seamless transition between that and the new portal."

The Maryland Transparency Portal is an essential step in keeping the governor's promise to make state government accessible and convenient. In the 2018 review of Maryland's existing

vendor payment site by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, the evaluation criteria emphasized several user-friendly features not present in the state's current system, such as the ability to drill down into the data to identify spending by agencies on categories such as motor fuel and legal services. Using the Maryland Transparency Portal, all of that information — and more — is just a few clicks away.

"Making sure that people can understand the fundamentals of the state's budgeting system is necessary if we hope to foster the growth of an informed populace," said DBM Secretary David Brinkley. "We're confident this new website will inspire Marylanders to take a closer look at where their tax dollars are going and start to hold their elected officials accountable for the votes they've taken on those very taxes."

American Legion Names Simonaire The Outstanding Legislator Of The Year



American Legion legislative chairman Patrick Guibao (left) and American Legion Department of Maryland Commander David Johnson (right) presented Senator Bryan Simonaire with an award for Outstanding Legislator of the Year.

For his advocacy of veterans, Senator Bryan Simonaire was named Outstanding Legislator of the Year during the American Legion annual convention in Ocean City on July 17. Simonaire has sponsored Senate Bill 105 to offer horse therapy to veterans and Senate Bill 95 to continue the hunting and fishing license program

for wounded warriors. He has also cosponsored other legislation, such as Bill 521, which is geared toward suicide prevention.

"I am honored to receive this award, but I am so thankful to be able to partner with the true heroes who are working for our veterans every day at the American Legion," Simonaire said.

Got An Opinion? Share It With Us!

We want to hear your thoughts regarding what's happening in the neighborhood. Is there a current issue at hand that you feel strongly about? We know our readers are passionate about their neighborhoods, schools, community and so much more — and the Voice would love for you to tell us about it.

Letters to the Editor can be emailed to pvnews@pasadenavoice.com and may be edited for space, clarity, grammar, spelling, etc. We encourage you to express yourself, but please be brief — letters should be limited to 250 words, though we do on occasion run longer letters. We look forward to hearing from you!

Letter To The Editor



Calling all serious dumpster divers —

there is lots of great junk and some food to be had at the new Anne Arundel County dump annex located on the parking lot of the Pasadena post office on Mountain Road. Of special interest are the never-opened boxes of expired cake mixes. You are strongly encouraged to wear protective clothing and gloves if you want to snag these treasures as you might have to fight off the rats,

mice and flies to get to them. There are so many other goodies as well: bed pillows, several glass vases, broken toys, worn-out shoes and so much more. The annex is open 24 hours a day seven days a week for your diving pleasure. And now there are three boxes of pure, unadulterated, vermin-drawing junk for your diving pleasure. And our politicians could care less.

**Bonnie Hunt Conrad
Pasadena**

PBA Update

Sandi Parrish
Executive Director



Our 2019-2020 Membership Directory and Community Guide is printed, and many of our PBA businesses have them. Please pick one up for free and check it out. This is a great way to shop local and give back to the businesses that support our community. If you are looking for goods or services, you will find everything you need in the directory.

The PBA needs your support. We are holding our 16th annual golf tournament on September 11 at Compass Pointe Golf Courses. We need golfers to make this a success and provide funds for our community assistance events. This tournament is open to the public and event proceeds will benefit the PBA community assistance projects, which include the fifth-grade straight A lunch, school supply drive, Educational Excellence Awards, Veterans Day ceremony, tree lighting ceremony, A Child's Christmas, Caring & Sharing Parade, Friends of Downs Park donation, Friends of Hancock's Resolution, National Night Out, the flag site at Route 100 and Mountain Road, and new flags.

Please bring your family, friends and employees to have a fun day on the golf course with the PBA. We will have a light breakfast,

hot dogs on the turn, and a picnic lunch of sausage and peppers, pulled pork, coleslaw, baked beans and dessert catered by Cheshire Crab.

If you don't play golf, you can purchase a tee sign or donate a prize for the golfers to promote your business.

PBA will have a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of Icon Beauty Lounge on August 29 at 5:00pm. The business will have a grand opening celebration from 10:00am to 7:00pm. Icon Beauty Lounge is located at 25 Magothy Beach Road, Suite 201. Stop in and welcome the team to the Pasadena business community.

Our annual crab feast will be on Wednesday, September 25, at Kurtz's Beach from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. You can purchase tickets on the website or mail a check to PBA, PO Box 861, Pasadena, MD 21123. Soon, we will announce locations in the area where people can purchase tickets.

Please check our website, pasadenabusinessassociation.com, for upcoming events like the trade show, Caring & Sharing Parade, Veterans Day ceremony and the tree lighting ceremony (always the first Tuesday in December).

Remember to shop local whenever possible. Local businesses support our community.

You can reach me at pasadenabusinessassociation1@verizon.net or go to pasadenabusinessassociation.com for more information.

After 29 Years Of Service, Body By Simmont Closes Up Shop

By Dave Topp

It's hard to find a good car guy, and for residents of Pasadena, that search just got more difficult.

After 29 years of repairing fender benders, completing oil changes, matching paint colors and so much more, Gary Simmont has closed the gates to his auto-body repair shop, Body By Simmont, for good.

"I'm done. I've done this for almost 50 and been here 29 years," Simmont said. "I've done it all my life. The industry has changed. It's kind of like, 'Go big or go home,' and I opted for go home."

For nearly three decades, Simmont and his crew have strived to deliver quality service to their customers before officially closing on August 12.

As Simmont put it, the auto-repair industry is heavily influenced by the insurance companies, and that hasn't always been the easiest thing to handle. A shift in using aftermarket parts never sat well with Simmont.

"Early on, I never wanted to do that," he said. "It's changed so much that it hasn't been fun anymore."

That didn't deter the company from its well-intentioned efforts. "This has been



After 29 years of repairing fender benders, completing oil changes and so much more, Gary Simmont has closed the gates to his auto-body repair shop, Body By Simmont.

a great community to do business in," said Simmont, who grew up in Linthicum. "[The] people were wonderful."

Simmont also expressed his gratitude for his employees but was especially thankful for Don Wickless.

"I've had some good people work for me," Simmont said. "Don Wickless, I cannot say enough good about him. This is just one in a million. He was a gift."

Wickless worked at Body By Simmont for 25 years prior to the shop closing. "As the years go by, we've got closer," Wickless said of Simmont.

"[He's] almost like a brother to me now."

Wickless plans to continue working in the industry at another privately owned shop. "I thought for sure I would retire from here," he said. "Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way. I couldn't ask for a better boss or better friend."

Simmont decided about six months ago to close the shop. No formal announcement was made; instead, he just notified customers as they came in for work on their vehicles.

As the news spread that the shop would be closing, customers rushed to either

get their cars in one more time or just say thank you for the years of service.

"A great compliment was when people found out I was closing up," Simmont said. "You would think they wouldn't want to bring their car to you, because if there was a problem, you're not there. I had people trying to get in before I closed up so I could fix their car. That was pretty neat."

For now, though, Simmont would just like a break. He plans to buy a motorhome and travel the country to visit friends and family.

And as much as he's enjoyed the auto-repair industry, he's found two new passions. The first is working with animal shelters to help rescue dogs.

His second desire, as a living donor, is to spread awareness about kidney donations.

"It was one of the most incredible things I've ever done," Simmont said. "It was a life-changing event."

After nearly 50 years in the business, he'd like to think he had a big impact on his customers as well.

"A lot of people stopped by to say hi and shake my hand," Simmont said. "It was pretty cool. We made an impact. It's been a good place to do business."

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Albrecht Properties & Home Improvements Offers High-Quality Craftsmanship

By Zach Sparks

He didn't know it at the time, but during his days in the Army, Tom Albrecht was laying a foundation for a career that would last a lifetime. "I was a combat engineer, so you do carpentry and masonry," he explained.

He took those skills and started his own business, Albrecht Properties & Home Improvements. Thirty years later, Tom and his son, Alec Albrecht, are catering to the needs of Maryland customers who have a broad range of needs, from kitchen and bathroom design and remodeling to deck installations. They also buy rehab houses and renovate them to sell.

"We've been doing a lot of kitchens, baths and sun rooms lately," Tom said. "Everybody wants that bathtub-to-shower conversion."

Regardless of the project, the focus is always customer service. The company has an A+ bond rating with the



Tom Albrecht and his son, Alec Albrecht, specialize in jobs big and small: decks, siding, garages, baths, kitchens and more.

Better Business Bureau because Tom and Alec take pride in being reliable and efficient. They aspire to honor each customer's timeline and budget.

"When we start a job, we finish the job," Tom said.

That's just one of the many lessons Tom has taught Alec over the years. Alec studied carpentry and masonry at Center for Applied Technol-

ogy North (CAT North) in Severn and now he's pursuing a degree in architectural design and construction management from Anne Arundel Community College.

"Education has helped me communicate with people better and also learn to work with computers so I can combine my ideas with the ideas in their mind," Alec said. "Giving people what

they want is one of the best feelings."

Tom couldn't stay in business for three decades without the support of the local community. He's also had great subcontractors and partners over the years, including Brenda Garver of Permit Services, Nathan Foster of Foster Enterprises, Greg Currence with GreenDena, and Dick Brown with Brown Plumbing and Heating.

He hopes to one day give control of the business to Alec, who will continue improving the business. "Soon, it will be time to pass the hammer, not the torch," Tom said with a smile.

Albrecht Properties & Home Improvements gives free estimates. The company is located at 1215 Harbour Court in Pasadena. Hours are 7:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday, but people are encouraged to call the business anytime at 410-360-7703. For more information, visit www.albrechthomeimprovements.com.

Ribbon Cutting



CBD Live More Offers Alternative Treatment Options



Christina Cahall greeted members of the Pasadena Business Association and other community leaders at a recent ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of CBD Live More, located at 2608 Mountain Road in Pasadena.

Is It OK To Have A Mortgage When You Retire?

Jason LaBarge
Managing Partner
Premier Planning Group



I am frequently asked whether a mortgage should be paid off before retirement or if it's OK to have a mortgage into retirement. If you read the headline of this article, you will assume that my answer is to always have a mortgage, but as you might imagine, life isn't that cut and dry.

Most of my clients come from the generation when their parents told them to be debt-free as soon as possible and to never have a mortgage in retirement. They come from the "greatest generation," when mortgage-burning parties were common. Obviously, not having any debt in retirement is an advantage and you

should strive to be debt-free if possible. But if the question is whether to take money that might be invested in other places like a 401(k) or IRA, or to pay off a mortgage, that is another question.

No one said financial decisions have to be logical. I frequently have clients who tell me they are paying off their mortgage no matter what and there is nothing I can say to change their minds. To those people, I say, "Congratulations! Welcome to the wonderful world of being debt-free!" It is never a bad decision to pay off your mortgage; however, it may not be the best idea if you plan on taking withdrawals from your retirement or other investment accounts to pay off that mortgage. Sometimes, you have to think about it economically and not emotionally. If your interest

rate is 4% and you are getting a return on investment of 7%, is it prudent to take the money that is earning 7% and pay off the mortgage you are paying 4% on? You can think of this as a simple leverage play. You are earning a net 3% in that scenario. To take it further, let's say you have a guaranteed investment paying 7% from an investment, such as an annuity. I would much rather have that money earning 7% then take the money out and pay off a mortgage where I am only paying 4%.

To make these decisions, there are important factors to consider. When planning for retirement, the factors you need to consider are your interest rate, the investment's rate of return, and your income sources.

If your retirement income is enough for you to live on,

including your mortgage payment, and if your income comes from guaranteed sources like a pension, Social Security or guaranteed annuity where you can pay your mortgage as well as the rest of your monthly expenses, then it's much easier and prudent to keep the money invested instead of withdrawing it and paying off the mortgage. If you're struggling to pay your monthly bills, it may be in your best interest to pay off your mortgage as soon as you are able and before you retire.

We've been hearing a lot about interest rates and the Federal Reserve in the news lately, but most of the chatter has concerned interest rate decreases. It's unthinkable nowadays that a 30-year fixed mortgage would be 18%, but that was reality for those in 1981. The average 30-year fixed mortgage in 2010 was

4.750%; that's a significant difference. The approach one takes to deciding whether to pay off a mortgage or continue one into retirement is different for these two situations, right?

The bottom line here is that in today's environment, with low interest rates, it's OK to have a mortgage. This is especially true for those who have significant pensions and Social Security payments in retirement where it's providing enough income to make the monthly mortgage payments. It's important to note that being debt-free should be the goal for everyone in retirement, but for some, it's just not a possibility and shouldn't prevent you from retiring.

For more information about the author, Jason LaBarge, visit his website at www.jasonlabarge.com.

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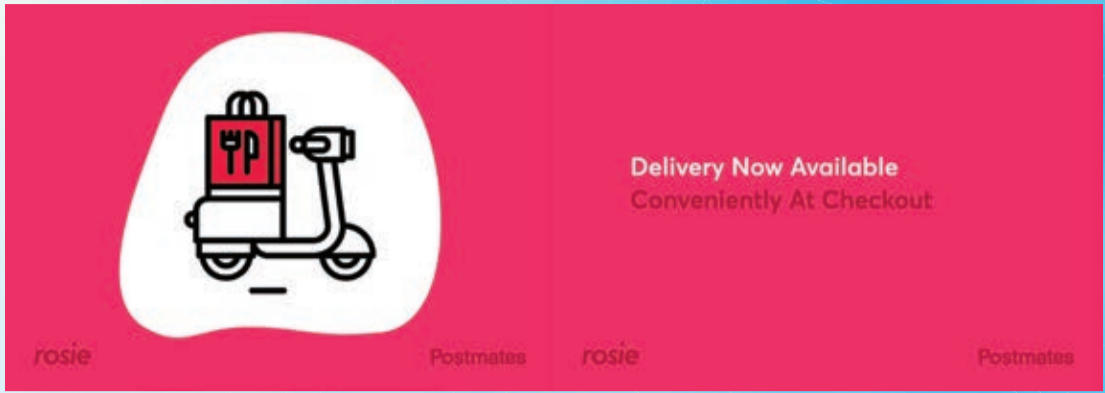
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» **Page B8**



Arts In The Park Returns August 24

» **Page B10**



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B1



BACK AT IT

The Chesapeake and Northeast football teams produced historically good seasons in 2018, exceeded the hype of their own rivalry in not one but two classic showdowns, and made all of Pasadena and Anne Arundel County proud with excellent play throughout the fall and into November. What will they do for an encore? *Story and photos by Colin Murphy*



The Chesapeake and Northeast football teams dived right into drills and conditioning work on August 14, the first day of practice for Anne Arundel County Public Schools football teams.

Cleats and helmets made their way to turf fields in Pasadena on August 14 as the Chesapeake and Northeast football teams joined the rest of Anne Arundel County for the first day of fall practices. The

successes of last year are still fresh — Northeast went 7-4, defeated Chesapeake in the Dena Bowl and made the playoffs; Chesapeake had the school's best season ever, notched playoff wins over Northeast and J.M. Bennett

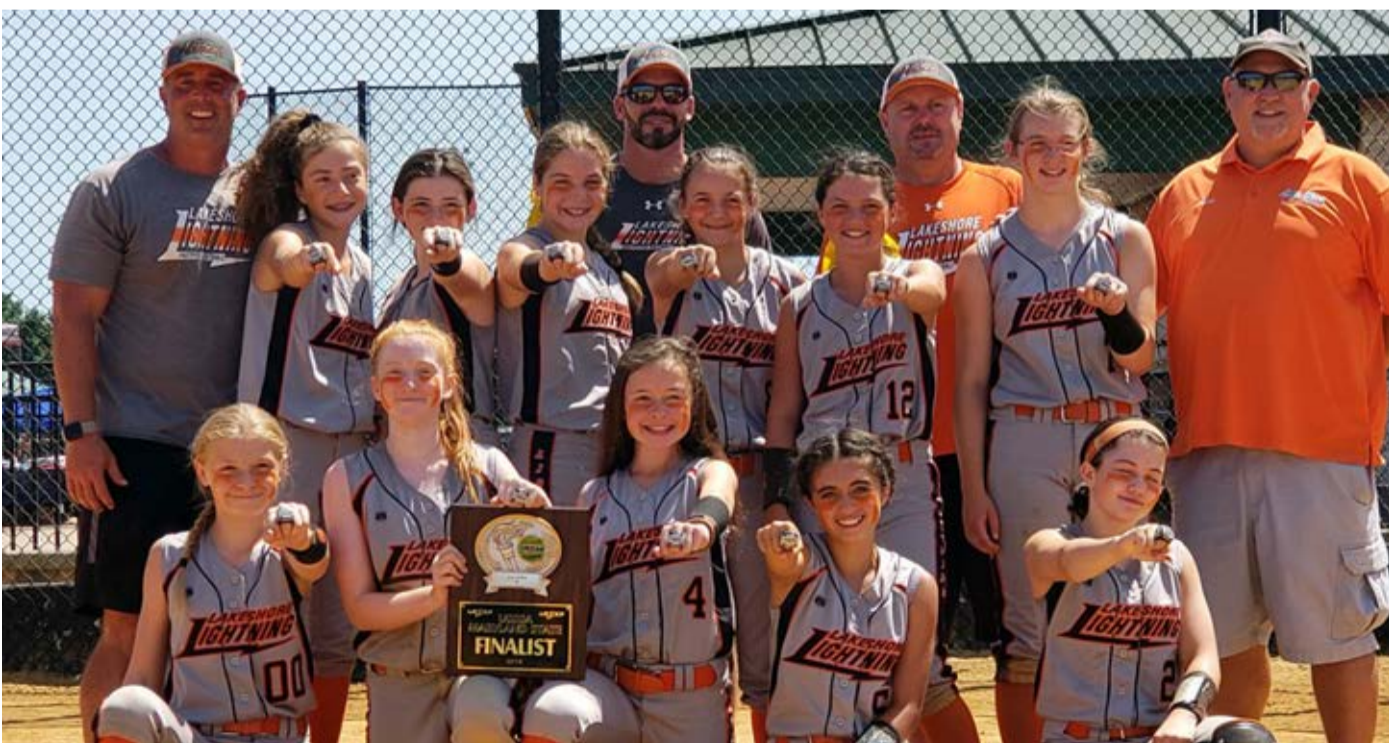
and won the region championship in finishing 9-4 overall. Now, the Eagles and Cougars are both looking to continue the upward arc their respective programs have taken in recent years. They, along with all

the football programs in the county and state, will navigate a significant change this year: in April, the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Board of Control voted to reduce the state's high school football regular

season by one game, from 10 to nine. The move to shorten the regular season comes with the accompanying change of expanding the playoff field from four to eight teams per region and adding a week to the now-32-

team playoff bracket. Chesapeake's and Northeast's seasons will count toward contention in the newly realigned 3A South, a 10-team region that includes Huntingtown and » **Continued on B2**

Lake Shore 12U Lightning Softball Excels At States, Nationals



The Lake Shore 12U Lightning softball team won 47 games this season and finished seventh out of 44 teams at the United States Specialty Sports Association Northeast Nationals in Connecticut.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The 2019 season is one of the members of the Lake Shore 12U Lightning softball team will remember for a long time. The Lightning steadily progressed over the last three seasons since the team's inception in the fall of 2010, and they stood out prominently among softball teams in Maryland and beyond this summer. Lake Shore won 47 games

and compiled a 47-23 overall record playing against top competition from all over the Northeast.

The team of **Aliceanna Weibley, Mara Gilkey, Rose Mozloom, Leah Miller, Lilly Bergeron, Alyssa Simms, Riley Price, Lilly Tinker, Samantha Waters, Taylor Barchanowicz and Ava Cicchetti** achieved multiple distinctions as one of the state's top 12U softball teams. The squad played in a whopping 12 tournaments, finishing in the top three in

and dropping their first bracket game in the double-elimination tournament, the team rallied for a 3-0 day on the second day of the tournament. The three wins included a 5-4 walk-off victory over the New Jersey Mystics, a 13-3 win over the New Jersey Madness and another walk-off win in a 4-3 victory over the Connecticut Fusion. Still facing elimination the following day, the Lightning were all but » **Continued on B4**

Pasadena '07 Soccer Girls Go Unbeaten, Win Overlea Cup

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

Brausa United Futebol Club's '07 Blue club girls soccer team, composed mostly of Pasadena-area girls, went undefeated to win the championship of the Overlea Cup on August 10 and 11.

The team of **Emilee Mack, Gracie Asare, Riley Haney, Jaide Whitehead, Ayla Weseman, Alison Muzik, Emily Bryant, Leilah Horrgan, Lillian Barnum, Kendal Barnes, Lily Dorsey, Madelyn Raynes, Maggie Cochran, Isabella**

Scarlato and Natalie Baker went 3-0-1 and, with goalkeeper Horrgan allowing only one goal in four games.

“We as coaches are so proud of these girls,” said coach **Cary Shank**, who noted it was Brausa's first 11-on-11 tournament of the season. “Every week they continue to push themselves and work as a team. It just amazes me how much heart these girls have.”

The team was an impressive 19-4-2 last season and will compete in the exclusive Disney Junior Showcase this November.



The Brausa '07 girls soccer team went 3-0-1 to claim the championship at the Overlea Cup this August.



BACK AT IT

» Continued from B1 Northern (Calvert County), North Point and St. Charles (Charles County), Oxon Hill (Prince George's County), Chopticon and Great Mills (St. Mary's County) and Bennett (Wicomico County). North Point made the state final as a 4A school last year.

Eight of the 10 programs in the 3A South will make the playoffs, making it entirely possible that a team with a sub-.500 record will be in the playoffs. The Cougars and Eagles, fresh off seasons in which they earned spots in a much more competitive four-team playoff field, aren't thrilled about the change, a common sentiment among Anne Arundel County coaches, who collectively voted initially to oppose the change.

"I particularly don't like it," said Northeast head coach **Brian Baublitz**. "I believe that eight teams in the playoffs, you're probably going to have a team with [three or four wins] make the playoffs. But it does give more teams the opportunity to get that playoff atmosphere, playoff feel. But I prefer actually earning it. With the four playoff positions, you actually had to earn a playoff spot."

Chesapeake coach **Rob Elliott** concurred, adding

the point that the JV programs lose a game, with nothing to play for after Week 9 — no county, district or state crown, and no playoffs.

"I'm not a fan," said Elliott. "To me, this school had never been to the playoffs, and then three of the last four years we've been to the playoffs. It was a huge accomplishment. If we go 3-6 and get in as an eight seed, that's not an accomplishment to me. I don't like the fact that from the JV standpoint, we lost a JV game in this structure. I'm just not a fan of, 'Everybody gets a trophy,' and that's what this feels like."

Supporters of the change might say that it gives more kids a playoff experience, as football is still the only sport in the state where not every team makes the postseason. Similarly, more teams will be in contention in the second half of the regular season, making it possible for teams to play their best football down the stretch and peak at the right time — a goal of every team and coach — and possibly come away with a playoff upset.

There might not be a clean apples-to-apples, year-over-year way for casual fans to compare playoff teams from 2018 and 2019, but

the Cougars and Eagles will always be able to say they made the field when it was twice as exclusive; their respective playoff berths last year in four-team brackets remain as standalone accomplishments.

Besides — they've got bigger goals in 2019.

NORTHEAST

The Eagles believe they have the depth and skill to fly even higher this fall. For starters, Northeast had 90 kids come to tryouts, an increase for the third straight year.

Now in his fourth year as head coach, Baublitz has seniors who began with him at the helm when they were freshmen.

"So we can't blame anything on anyone else," Baublitz said with a laugh. "These are all our kids now."

What is not a joke, however, is the talent level the Eagles have entering the season.

Northeast is thin on seniors but loaded with a skilled junior class, giving the program a two-year window to compete at a high level.

Leading the way is junior **Riley Pitt**, who enters camp as the team's starting quarterback after taking

over that role midway through his freshman season in 2017.

No longer the precocious up-and-comer, Pitt believes the team's growth bodes well



for its continued progress. "We're expecting to win this year," said Pitt. "Just like last year, but hopefully

do better. We've got a lot of talent. We lost a few good people from last year, but I think we'll be all right. We worked out a lot in the summer. A lot of conditioning, and the coaches really pushed us."

Pitt will have help at the skill positions. Junior **Jayden Roberts** comes in at wingback to replace the speedy **Josh Krcik**, and Roberts will see plenty of carries. At 6-foot-2, junior **Mason Knipe** provides speed and size at receiver. Junior **Stephen Haley** and senior **Brandon Baublitz**, nephew to his head coach, are strongholds on the offensive line.

Roberts was one of 11 Eagles to make the team's 13,000-yard club this summer by totaling up a series of daily timed runs. Haley conceded that Brandon Baublitz might be a little stronger than him for now — Baublitz noted he put up 21 bench-press reps of 185 pounds recently — and Baublitz said the team is ready to add to its recent success.

"We're coming back hitting harder than last time," Brandon Baublitz said. "I just think we're even more tight-knit this year, more of a family, so we can really get it done this year."

Northeast will have to produce a replacement for the nearly 600 combined pounds of graduated

defensive linemen **Matt Wukitch** and **Aiden Barnhart**, but they will play to their strengths elsewhere. A potential X-factor on the early roster is **Kayla Alexander**, a junior attempting to become the team's lone female player. Alexander is a soccer standout who plays year-round for her club team, preventing her from taking on the commitment of playing for the Lady Eagles soccer team in the fall. However, while just having fun with her cousin and brother in July, she discovered she can ping footballs through the uprights from up to 35 yards out. She hopes to do so on Friday nights for the Eagles.

"They noticed I was doing really good, and they were like, 'Kayla, you should seriously try out,'" said Alexander. "I talked to some of the guys on the team I know, and they were like, 'You should do it.' Me and my dad came to the field to kick, it was just my second time, and the football team asked me to come kick with them. So it's pretty exciting stuff."

The Eagles have other reasons to be excited. Coach Baublitz decried the schedule reduction, but the matchup they lost in the shuffle was against Meade. The Eagles don't play the Mustangs or traditional powers Arundel and Broadneck, a silver lining not lost on

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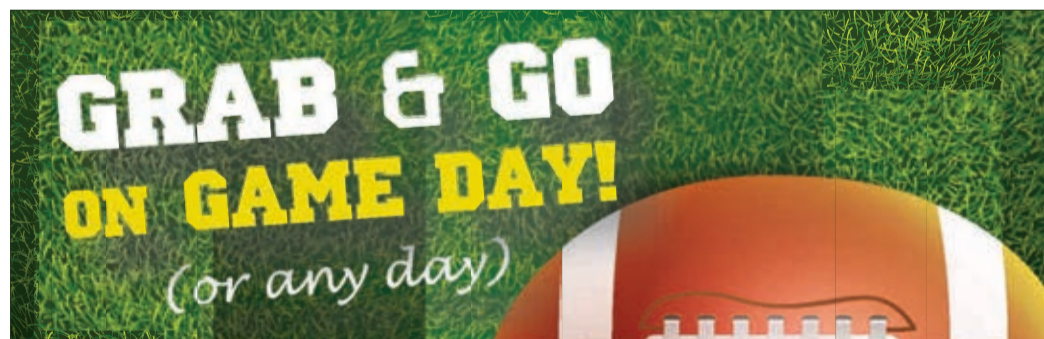
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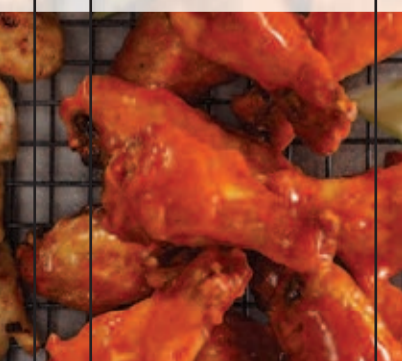
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coach Baublitz.

"The football gods have been kind to us this year," said Baublitz. "I was telling the kids this morning when we addressed them for the first time, this is the first year I can honestly say, I go down every game and we have an opportunity to win every game," said Baublitz. "We couldn't tell our kids that in previous years, because there was legitimately some games where we were not going to be able to compete. That is not the case this year. And that's not to say we don't play good football teams. We do have Old Mill, which is going to be a battle. We put Dover (Delaware) on our schedule [in Week 3]."

The Eagles open with Mount Hebron on September 6 and follow with North County, Dover, Glen Burnie, Eastern Tech, Annapolis, Old Mill, Southern and Chesapeake.

Never one to shy away from lofty goals, Baublitz said the 2019 squad will continue to advance toward the Eagles' ultimate aim.

"Our expectations and our goal is always going to be the same: win a state championship," he said. "That's ultimately what we want to do. What we explained to this senior class is, last year's senior class set an unprecedented bar here at Northeast with seven victories, and we

have no intentions of going backward."

"The goal is to make the playoffs and have a winning record, and we're at the point where that's our goal every year."

— **ROB ELLIOTT**
CHESAPEAKE HIGH SCHOOL
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

CHESAPEAKE

The Cougar community was treated to an all-time squad in 2018 as the team notched the first playoff victories in program history and the first region championship, making it all the way to the state tournament before bowing out to Linganore in the state semifinals and finishing 9-4 overall. The gym on campus now has a football banner for the first time.

Elliott, entering his ninth year leading Chesapeake, has overseen a program overhaul that has yielded success and consistency throughout his tenure. As a result, despite turnover from year to year, including this season, when Chesapeake will look to replace a range of players at important positions, the Cougars stay confident.

"I think what I've learned here is that every year is just a new year," said Elliott. "We've kind of got our

program built to where we have, on a normal year, 17-25 seniors every year. Getting our classes to be that size, every year is a little bit of an adjustment. Last year, our O-line was all new. This year, our three top receivers graduated, our quarterback graduated. Four of the five O-linemen graduated. We've got a good bit back on defense. Secondary is going to be new. So it's another year where we're rebuilding in certain spots, and each year we seem to have specific target areas where we have to rebuild.

"The goal is to make the playoffs and have a winning record," Elliott said, "and we're at the point where that's our goal every year."

There are three players on the quarterback depth chart for the Cougars this August, all of whom will look to fill the void left by accomplished graduate **Dylan Young**. Senior **Tyler Clark** probably has the inside track on the starting quarterback spot based on his experience, while juniors **Jordan Ambrose** and **Nate Rosado** will be ready to take over signal-calling if necessary. In the backfield, the Cougars won't be short on options: **Jaylen Richardson** got some carries last year and returns as the primary carrier as a senior, while **Bradly Vest** and **Raphial Smith** will also be in the backfield mix. **Julian Sutton** should play

big role as fullback, a spot that will be supplemented by **Devin Forrester**, **Calvin Padden** and **Logan Peapos**. **Victor Listorti** could also see time at tailback.

There are big holes to fill at receiver, where Chesapeake's top three pass-catchers from a season ago will all be on college rosters this fall: **Russell Tongue** at Gannon University, **Hunter Davis** at Salisbury and **Colton Spangler** at Maryland.

Fortunately, the Cougars have size at receiver in **Alonzo Wilkes**, the 6-foot-6 senior who is also a force for the Chesapeake basketball team. **Brian Plummer** will provide blocking and pass-catching at tight end.

Chesapeake has always buttered its bread on the offensive line, where **Chris Casalino** and **Brent Vogt** will look to clear way for the Cougar offense.

Casalino said the linemen pride themselves on technique and will make up for any size disparity it faces

with solid fundamentals.

"We need to work hard, and hopefully we'll do better than last year," said Casalino. "This year we're looking a little smaller than usual, so we have to stick to the technique and work hard. But, [this summer] we worked out four days a week, lifting, weight room and field work."

On defense, Sutton, **Guy Wagner** and **Zach Baumann** will play important roles on the line, with **Nathaniel Enoch** coming off the edge as a pass-rushing defensive end. Senior **Dan Rausch** brings speed, experience and tenacity as an outside linebacker.

"We did a lot of seven-on-sevens this summer, placed third in the tournament at Snow Hill outside Ocean City, mainly receivers and defensive backs, so we got a lot of work in with the skills players," said Rausch. "We have a lot of potential talent on the team.

If we work hard and focus on what we can do well, we'll be successful. Our goal is to get further than last year."

The confidence is admirable, especially when they know that getting results won't come easy. Chesapeake suffered the opposite fate as Northeast in the schedule change; the Cougars sacrificed a winnable matchup (North County) but still have to play Meade, Arundel and Broadneck. Chesapeake plays on the road in the first two weeks at Largo and Randallstown before coming home to host Severna Park in its home opener on September 20. The Cougars travel to Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association B Conference opponent St. Paul's in Week 4 before playing Arundel, Broadneck, Southern, Meade and Northeast.

Not having to play Old Mill is little consolation with 4A behemoths Broadneck and Arundel on the schedule and winnable matchups with North County and Glen Burnie noticeably absent.

The Cougars aren't complaining. They have their standards, and they look forward to kicking off another successful campaign.

"The goal is to make the playoffs, have a winning record, not back into the playoffs," said Elliott. "And once we get to the playoffs, see if we can do some damage."



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Briefs

Blair Reps USA At Baseball Tournament In Dominican Republic



Lance Blair, a rising fifth-grader at Fort Smallwood Elementary School, was the starting shortstop for the USA World team that played at the Latin America Baseball Classic in the Dominican Republic this summer.

Fort Smallwood Elementary rising fifth-grader **Lance Blair** had a memorable summer playing his favorite sport against some of the best players in the world.

Blair, 10, was part of a USA baseball team that traveled to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic to take part in the Latin America Baseball Classic tournament spanning the end of July and the first week of August.

After being named the team's starting shortstop for the tournament, Blair batted .500 in the tournament with an on-base percentage of .600 in helping his team to a 3-3 record in six games.

Blair plays locally for API's

10U select team and said the experience this summer showed him a new side of baseball.

"I really enjoyed being able to play with players from all over the United States and compete against some of the best 10U players in the world," said Blair. "The level of play and time the Dominican players put in really made me understand what type of work and time needs to be put in to play at the next level."

Blair is also the starting quarterback for the Pasadena Bucs 10U Division-I football team and an honor roll student at Fort Smallwood.

"I made friends and memories on the baseball field this week that will last a lifetime," Blair said.

Eagles, Cougar 'Crosse Over' In UK Lax Tour

Northeast's **Zoie Stanton** and **Addie Piechowiak** and Chesapeake's **Mayjian Idleman** were members of the Anne Arundel County-based girls lacrosse team that traveled to England for a two-week tour of the country and a slate of lacrosse games as part of the Crosse Over Tour.

The local contingent represented strongly against many of the best teams in the Cheshire region of Northern England, going 6-0 overall, including a 15-7 win against the host Stockport MetroGirls Lacrosse Club.

Pasadena Players Shine At Field Hockey Nationals



Shelby Bumgarner was MVP of the U16 tournament.

Several Pasadena residents made an impact for Freedom HKY club at the National Club Championships field hockey tournament at the Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, over a six-day stretch from July 8-13.

Freedom HKY sent teams at the U16 and U14 levels, and each competed in 16-team brackets in the national tournament.

At the U14 level, Freedom HKY featured Pasadena residents **Stella Bumgarner, Natalie Forman** and **Lauren Widdowson**, and the team finished third overall, defeating the Charlotte Ambush 2-1 in the bronze medal game.

Freedom HKY's U14 coach is **Kasey Tapman**, a volunteer assistant coach at University of Maryland who also lives in Pasadena.

Lauren Widdowson also played as a member of the U16 team along with Pasadena residents **Caroline**

Widdowson and **Shelby Bumgarner**. The Freedom HKY U16's placed fifth in the tournament out of 16 teams, and Shelby Bumgarner was named Tournament MVP.

Lawn Competes For USA Field Hockey At AAU Junior Olympics



Pasadena resident **Becca Lawn** was one of approximately 110 girls who participated in the USA Field Hockey Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics Games on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, over a several-day period spanning late July and early August.

The AAU Junior Olympic Games are described by USA Field Hockey as the largest multi-port event for youth in the United States, providing U16 female athletes the opportunity to experience an Olympic-style, multi-sport competition while enjoying the camaraderie and inspiration from top athletes in other featured sports.

Lawn, 15, was one of seven players from Maryland to earn an invite to the U16 event, which split the USA players into seven teams for a round-robin tournament. Lawn is a rising sophomore at Archbishop Spalding.

Lake Shore 12U Lightning Excel At States, Nationals

» **Continued from B1** buried in their next bracket game when they trailed the Pennsylvania Xtreme 9-3 with two outs in the final inning. Amazingly, Lake Shore rallied for six runs, getting clutch hits by Simms, Cicchetti, Price, Waters, Gilkey, Barchanowicz, Tinker, Miller and Mozloom to tie the game at 9-9. In extra innings, the team walked it off once again, getting an RBI double by Simms to win, 11-10.

Lake Shore won its next game 12-1 over the Pennsylvania Blue Thunder before finally falling 5-4 the New Jersey Ruthless in their sixth game in 24 hours.

For the tournament the team went 7-3 and finished seventh out of 44 teams.

"The girls represented Maryland and Pasadena like the champions they are," said head coach **Jimmy Simms**, who coached the Lightning with assistant coaches **Carl Cicchetti, Brian Price** and **Tom Waters**.

With their excellent overall record and strong tournament performances, the 12U Lightning finished the season with the No. 1 ranking in the state in the USSSA's points-ranking system for 12U teams.

Coach Simms said the girls' resiliency and never-say-die attitude was a defining feature for them; 10 of the Lightning's 47 wins were secured in clutch, final-inning or extra-inning moments.

"I am most proud of the group because the girls

refused to quit on one another," Simms said. "They share a genuine love for one another, they believe in one another, and it showed with how they play the game. It's a testament to their character and to their commitment to one another to never quit and to play for your teammates."

The team formed two years ago as a 10U fall ball rec team and has steadily improved, advancing up the available levels of competition. The team won only 10 games in its first year playing mostly USSSA C tournaments, followed by 22 wins as 11U's playing in mostly B-level tournaments and 47 wins this season playing B and A tournaments, a trajectory that has yielded "a lifetime of memories and friendships," said coach Simms.

Simms also noted the Lightning's all-around character and work ethic out of softball. All 11 members of the team are honor roll students, and five are principal's honor roll students. Lake Shore's 12U Lightning players also participated in multiple volunteer efforts this season, including Challenger Baseball games for physically challenged athletes at Lake Waterford Park and the Autism Awareness Bike Camp at Old Mill High School, where the Lightning helped teach bike-riding skills to children with autism.

"It's an amazing group of young ladies representing what is best in Pasadena for sure," said coach Simms.

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Squeeze & Squish: Selling Lemonade For Charity

By Desirae Martins

Every summer, kids of all ages inevitably look for ways to earn money while school is out. Some look to earn extra cash to spend while on vacation, and some probably want to earn money to buy books or video games to keep them occupied on summer break. In Pasadena, one 5-year-old boy named Mark Wedemeyer has found his own way to earn money over the summer. However, instead of keeping his earnings, he is using that money to help children in local hospitals.

Charity work has always been a part of Mark's life. Since he was about 2 years old, he and his mother, Angela Wedemeyer, and his grandmother, Missy "Mimi" Sabino, have helped people in need around Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City. Over the years, Mark and his grandmother have supported the homeless population through the local nonprofit organizations Be More Caring and BKind. Along with other volunteers, they have dedicated countless weekends



Throughout the summer, Mark Wedemeyer ran a stand accepting donations for lemonade and temporary tattoos. His goal was to make \$1,500 to buy stuffed animals to donate to children in local hospitals.

Further, Mark buys gifts for Lighthouse Church's giving tree every holiday season, and regularly donates clothes and toys to children in need.

Based on his experience, Mark was looking for new and different ways to continue charity work this summer.

to donating and distributing blankets, clothes, shoes, outdoor and toiletries, as well as serving hot meals to hundreds of people in need.

After he ran an end-of-the-school-year lemonade stand at his preschool, he got the idea to start a charity lemonade and temporary tattoo stand. According to Angela, "Mark really enjoyed running the lemonade stand at his preschool, and he loves temporary tattoos," so he decided to combine those with his desire to help others.

Throughout the summer, Mark ran a stand accepting donations of \$1 or more for lemonade and temporary tattoos at locations around Pasadena. Mark spent over five hours designing and creating the stand itself, and through a Facebook page, "Squeeze & Squish," Angela spread the word about Mark's charity fundraising events. Moreover, because out-of-state family and friends wanted to support Mark's efforts, Angela created a GoFundMe page, and helped Mark raise \$700 for the lemonade and temporary tattoo stand.

Mark set up the stand four times this summer, once at his house, twice at the Fairwood Swim Club's busiest swim meets, and once at a family member's house in New Jersey. His goal was to make \$1,500 to buy the softest and squishiest stuffed animals to donate to children in local hospitals and the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Baltimore. According to Mark, he wanted to use the money he earned to buy and donate stuffed animals so "when kids are in the hospital and their dads and moms are not there, they have something to cuddle."

Mark earned \$2,075 from his lemonade and tattoo
» Continued on B6

Mother-Daughter Duo Enjoys Teaching Together At Riviera Beach Elementary



Courtney Flohr Zeleny (left) and Peggy Flohr appreciate that three administrations at Riviera Beach Elementary have supported their desire to work closely together.

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

When Courtney Flohr Zeleny began teaching at Riviera Beach Elementary School four years ago, she became part of a family legacy started by her mother, Peggy Flohr, who is beginning her 28th year at the school. With Zeleny as the school's pre-K teacher and Flohr teaching kindergarten, the mother and daughter have become unique colleagues. Zeleny is the first and only pre-K teacher the school has had since pre-K began at RBES in 2015.

Since she is the only pre-K teacher, Zeleny does not have colleagues educating the same grade. Zeleny said her mother immediately became her "team" and professional mentor. She was especially excited to work with her mother because her first year of teaching, just before coming to RBES, was difficult.

With her daughter teaching students in the grade level just under hers, Flohr feels she already knows some of the children when they come to her classroom. Zeleny also said she forgets she and her mom are colleagues.
» Continued on B7

Pasadena Youths Head To Charleston For Church Mission Trip



From a June Monday to Thursday from 9:00am to 3:00pm, small groups from the churches participating in the camp went into the community to help residents with a variety of tasks.

By Alyson Kay

Earlier this summer, 14 high school students and two adults from St. Jane Frances de Chantal Roman Catholic Church went on a mission trip to help the less fortunate of Charleston, South Carolina.

The trip was organized under Catholic HEART Workcamp. From a June Monday to Thursday from 9:00am to 3:00pm, small groups from the churches participating in the camp went into the community to help residents with a variety of tasks.

"My particular group painted the outside of a resident's home," said Claire Horvath, youth ministry director at the church. "They sanded, washed and painted the whole outside of the house. Other groups worked in food banks. And some people worked with Habitat for Humanity."

The St. Jane Frances Church does mission trips every year to places across the East Coast with high school students. Along with trips to South Carolina, the church has also organized trips to parts of Rhode Island and Virginia.

The church has done trips with Catholic HEART Workcamp for eight years. Although this was Horvath's last trip as youth ministry director, she expects the program to continue.

"This is something that the parish loves and the kids love," Horvath said. "And I have a feeling that it will continue for many, many years."

For Horvath, the goal of the trips is to teach the students compassion and help them learn about people from all walks of life. A big component of each job is meeting the people.
» Continued on B7

Family Honors CHS Alumna Through Annual Scholarship

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

Two years after Sarah Pyles graduated from Chesapeake High School in 2009, she lost her life in Italy while studying abroad. To keep her memory alive, the following year in 2012, Pyles' family established a scholarship for graduating seniors from CHS.

The Sarah G M Pyles Foundation was created to award the Aspire to Change the World - Sarah's Scholarship. "The best way to honor her would be help students at Chesapeake," shared Susan Swanger, Pyles' mother.

While at CHS, Pyles was a senior editor for the school newspaper, she was on the yearbook staff and she was part of the school's annual Shakespeare Day Festival.

After graduation, Pyles attended St. Mary's College in St. Mary's City, Maryland.

land. She was majoring in political science and minor-ing in both art history and women, gender and sexual-ity studies.

To enhance her art history studies, Pyles enrolled
» Continued on B7



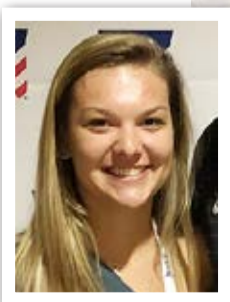
While at CHS, Sarah Pyles was a senior editor for the school newspaper, she was on the yearbook staff and she was part of the school's annual Shakespeare Day Festival.

CHS Senior Travels To Indianapolis For National Leadership Summit

By Dave Topp

The opportunity to demonstrate and foster leadership can be found in many places: the classroom, on athletic fields, around the community and beyond.

On July 22, high school seniors Abby Mollick of Chesapeake and Jake Marcus of Old Mill joined fellow seniors from across the country at the 2019 National Student Leadership Summit in Indianapolis. As a part of the National Federation of State High



On July 22, high school seniors Abby Mollick of Chesapeake (pictured left) and Jake Marcus of Old Mill joined fellow seniors from across the country at the 2019 National Student Leadership Summit in Indianapolis.

School Associations, which serves more than 11 million students nationwide each year, the year's summit host-

ed students for three days of leadership training and contemporary discussions. "This experience has re-

ally showed me that I am a leader," Mollick said. "Even for someone who doesn't see themselves that way, they

can turn that around." Mollick and Marcus are members of the Anne Arundel County Student

Athlete Advisory Committee. The county's coordinator of athletics, Clayton Culp, first pitched the idea of the trip to the students.

"We felt like Abby and Jake would be great to represent the county," Culp said.

Two students from Montgomery County public schools also represented Maryland at the summit. Students participated in numerous activities and workshops covering topics such as perspective and inclusion, and what makes a healthy team and environment for sports. They also held discussions about college and the future.

Attendees even had the opportunity to work with and learn from members of
» Continued on B6

CHS Senior Travels To Indianapolis For National Summit

» **Continued from B5**
the Special Olympics teams at an Indiana high school. "It was really eye-opening to be with the Special Olympics athletes," Mollick said.

A leader on the Old Mill football and baseball teams, Marcus particularly enjoyed a forum discussing leadership and its influence on others, as well as an activity designed to teach listening with a purpose. "It's really changed how I look at life," Marcus said.

A three-sport student-athlete, Mollick enjoyed the chance to meet and work with so many new people. "A lot of the workshops were really interactive and you got to learn a lot about people," she said.

Adrienne Bulinski, a 2006 Miss America contestant turned inspirational speaker, shared a story with the students detailing how her career in entertainment was hindered due to a horseback riding accident. Instead of

letting the situation harm her life and career, she chose every day to look in the mirror and say, "It's going to be a good day."

Marcus has taken this same task to heart and has already noticed a difference. "I try to do that every day now," he said. "I've been having pretty good days recently."

Both Mollick and Marcus plan to take these new leadership skills and relevant topics of discussion back to their

schools and athletic teams.

"With my sports teams, I want to share a lot of the things from the workshops: building a healthy environment on the team and respecting each other," Mollick said.

With fall sports underway in Anne Arundel County, Marcus is working to include all of his new teammates.

"I've been trying to include a lot of people and make them feel welcomed on the football team," he said.

Squeeze & Squish

» **Continued from B5**
stand, crushing his original \$1,500 goal. With his earnings, he purchased 325 stuffed animals, which he plans to donate to 54 families at the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore and local Anne Arundel County hospitals in September and again around the holidays. Overall, Angela and Mark are thankful for what Mark was able to accomplish this summer.

"Everyone has been very generous and very nice,"

Angela said, "and if this little bit gives someone a smile and makes them happy through a hard time, then that is what it is all about."

The generosity of family, friends, community members, as well as support from the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, Lighthouse Church, Fairwood Swim Club and CVS Pharmacy was pivotal to Mark's success this summer and he looks forward to organizing future Squeeze & Squish charity events.

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Pasadena Youths Head To Charleston

» **Continued from B5**

ple that they're going to help. "It develops a real compassion and understanding that lives are very different, and you can help simply with a can of paint," Horvath said. "We can do a great deal of work and a great deal of good."

The students also grew in their faith. "The goal that I have is that we come back hav-

ing seen Jesus in the different people that we work with and the counselors," Horvath said. "The kids learn to see him in all of these different people. They can be the hands and feet of Christ."

The church also has a summer mission program for middle schoolers. Instead of going to other states, the younger kids go on day trips to

help residents in places closer to home in places such as Pasadena, Glen Burnie and the outskirts of Baltimore.

The adults benefit from the trips as well. "We get to know the youths really well, which is a bonus, but the service work affects us as well," Horvath said. "We all grow in our love of service by accompanying these kids."

Mother-Daughter Enjoy Teaching Together

» **Continued from B5**

leagues, and on occasion, calls Flohr "Mom," which some students have affectionately repeated when addressing their teacher.

Until this past May when Zeleny was married, she also shared the name Flohr with her mother. Zeleny said she is proud to be Flohr's daughter, as her mom has a rich history at the school. Changing her name was a hard transition for Zeleny, but only at the RBES community, where the family name is well-known and respected. "I feel famous here," Zeleny said enthusiastically.

During the time Flohr and Zeleny have been teaching together, there have been three different principals.

Flohr said all three administrators have been supportive of her and Zeleny's desire to work closely. "I am very appreciative of administrators to allow us to work together," she said. For example, when new pre-K and kindergarten classrooms were built at the school this summer, Flohr and Zeleny requested their rooms be next to each other, and the principal agreed.

Zeleny said that being colleagues with her mother has brought them closer together. Though they spend much of their day together, they also talk in the evenings. They vacation together in the summers as well. Zeleny said she has become more protective of her mother while at work. "It's a balance

between a professional life and family," she related.

Flohr said she is nearing retirement, though, she is unsure which year will be her last. Zeleny responded jokingly, saying, "I am not going to let her retire. I do not know how to function without her." Flohr said even during retirement, she will continue to be a part of the RBES community through substitute teaching and volunteering.

Zeleny said she hopes she continues to teach pre-K because she enjoys the age. "Four-year-olds are the best age," she said. "They are like sponges." Though her last name may have changed, it seems likely Zeleny will continue the family legacy at the school for years to come.

Family Honors Alumna Through Scholarship

» **Continued from B5**

in a semester abroad program during her junior year at a St. Mary's. In Italy, she succumbed to symptoms of altitude sickness. Pyles had planned to attend graduate school at George Washington University to pursue a degree in international relations. Swanger believes Pyles would have eventually worked in a role where she could help the less fortunate, with a focus on women's needs.

Swanger proudly said Pyles' aspiration was to help change the world for the better. In that spirit, applicants for Sarah's Scholarship are asked to pen a short essay titled, "How I would change the world and make it a better place." Other criteria include demonstrated financial need and

a minimum GPA of 3.2. The scholarship is open for any undergraduate major or career field.

There was one recipient each year for the first four years Sarah's Scholarship was awarded at CHS, and for the last four years, there have been two recipients each year. Swanger hopes her family will be able to award three recipients in 2020, in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Donations to Sarah's Scholarship have come primarily from Sarah's family and friends, in addition to community fundraisers. A GoFundMe page was also created.

Applications are due in April each year. Students who are interested in applying for Sarah's Scholarship should inquire in the

guidance counselor's office at CHS. More information is also available on the "Sarah Pyles Memorial Page" on Facebook or by contacting Swanger directly at sswanger8@gmail.com.

Pyles' family members choose the scholarship recipients and present the awards during an annual spring ceremony at CHS. Pyles' brother, Daniel, has attended every award ceremony since the inception of the scholarship, and other family members also attend when they are able.

Swanger said the personal connections she makes with recipients are uplifting and help her through sorrowful times. "We get to know who won," she said. "It feels personal. We feel the good the scholarship is doing, and we love that."

Our Lady Of The Chesapeake Youth Visit West Virginia

Approximately 60 high school and college students joined 30 adults in West Virginia from June 23-June 29 for an Appalachia West Virginia mission trip. Among them were six students and four adults from Our Lady of the Chesapeake in Pasadena.

Over a five-day span, the volunteers removed a deck and replaced it with a 35-foot-long wheelchair ramp for a double amputee. They also repaired a sagging porch roof, built a 12-by-14-foot addition and breezeway onto a trailer for a single mother of three children, and installed new shingles on a roof.

"The most rewarding parts

“*The most rewarding parts of the trip for students and adults were the connections we made with the homeowners.*”

— **TIM JANISZEWSKI**
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR
YOUTH MINISTRY AT OUR
LADY OF THE CHESAPEAKE

of the trip for students and adults were the connections we made with the homeowners, the Preston County community, and with the students and adults from other Archdiocese of Baltimore parishes,”

said Tim Janiszewski, pastoral associate for youth ministry at Our Lady of the Chesapeake.

"It was an incredible experience being able to disconnect from day-to-day life in Pasadena and focus on serving strangers who became friends very quickly," he added. "The students love contributing, whether it's hand-digging holes for deck supports or mixing 80-pound bags of concrete or learning how to use power tools or talking/listening/laughing with a homeowner. This year's jobs were bigger and more complex than previous years and the students gave 100% effort on every job."

Area Schools Offer Sneak-A-Peek Sessions

With school starting after Labor Day, students have a few extra weeks of summer vacation. But that doesn't mean they can't get a head start, meeting their teachers and seeing their classrooms before the school year officially begins. These are some of the schools offering such events.

Administrators and teachers from **Sunset Elementary** will ride a community bus around the area on the afternoon of **Monday, August 26**, to welcome kids back to school. Students can find the welcoming bus at local businesses and community pools, and look for surprise giveaways. Participating locations are still being finalized.

For more information, call 410-222-6478.

Kids and their parents can visit to the new and improved **High Point Elementary** on **Wednesday, August 28**, for a ribbon cutting ceremony at 2:00pm and a meet and greet from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. The school can be reached at 410-222-6454.

Several schools will host events on **Thursday, August 29**. **Solley** will have a sneak-a-peek from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Call 410-222-6473 for details. From 2:30pm to 3:30pm, **Riviera Beach Elementary** students can meet their teachers, visit their classrooms and bring their school supplies. To learn

more, call 410-222-6469. **Sunset Elementary** will have its sneak-a-peek at 3:30pm, and also on August 28, the school will host an orientation at 3:00pm for grades one through five.

Lake Shore Elementary's sneak-a-peek and its back-to-school night are also on Thursday, August 29, at 6:00pm. Students can see their classrooms, meet their teachers and chat with the principal. Parents will proceed to classrooms for back-to-school meetings with teachers while the students enjoy snowballs provided by the PTA. Lake Shore Elementary can be reached at 410-222-6465.

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Pasadena's Reed Sigmon Plays Servant To Renaissance Festival's King Henry

By Sharon Mager

The wooded village of Revel Grove in Crownsville will come to life once more as the Maryland Renaissance Festival kicks off its 43rd season on August 24. Festivalgoers, many fun and flamboyantly costumed, will eagerly step back in time to the year 1532, when King Henry is on the throne.

This fall is Pasadena resident Reed Sigmon's second season as a member of the Company of the Rose, the festival's acting team. Sigmon, playing the role of Master Francis Weston, is privileged to be a personal servant to Henry and be part of the king's privy chamber.

For over a decade, Sigmon has acted in various venues, including the Laurel Mill Playhouse, and with the Colonial Players. Following a performance of the role of Harry Witherspoon in



Photo courtesy of Melissa Jo York-Tilley

During the 2018 Maryland Renaissance Festival, Reed Sigmon performed a poem he wrote as George Cavendish.

the Colonial Players' play "Lucky Stiff," directors from the Company of the

Rose invited Sigmon to be a part of their team. He accepted and has loved

every minute.

Sigmon is excited to portray Weston. Under-qualified to be part of the royal court, Weston gained the king's favor by playing dice and cards with him. He didn't know yet that in a few years he would be executed for adultery with Anne Boleyn and treason, said Sigmon.

As the playful Weston, Sigmon will interact with fairgoers along the Revel Grove pathways, and in festival bars, he will challenge them in a variety of games. Weston's newly acquired social status causes jealousy in a few of the older gentlemen of the court, so some playful antagonism may spontaneously happen along the way.

Sigmon will also participate in a new show called "Audience with the King," and sing as Weston in the Queen's Singers and at PubSing. He'll also par-
» Continued on B10

"The Lion King" Is A Rehash With Varying Degrees Of Success



Photo courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures

Disney's "The Lion King" brings together a lot of talent, but certain problems — such as the difficulty creating realistic animals that convey human emotions — hinder it from being a true masterpiece.

By Audrey Ruppert

"The Lion King" immediately reminded me of 2009's "Avatar." The latter featured a story we'd heard many times before but was captivating because of the groundbreaking animation and CGI used to create an alien world. "The Lion King" also boasts truly remarkable visuals, with animals that look like something out of a David Attenborough documentary. Even the unique tics of each animal have been captured, from a meerkat's tendency to scratch itself to a bird's tendency to flick its tail.

My primary gripe with "The Lion King" is that it's a musical epic, which isn't particularly suited for a live-action adaptation. It's an intensely emotional story, and some animals' faces cannot convey human emotion well. While the animated expressions of the original Zazu channelled Rowan Atkinson and his energy, the new Zazu feels disconnected from his equally talented and vivacious voice actor, John Oliver. This disconnect makes some of the most famous scenes, including Mufasa's death and Simba and Nala's reunion, far less emotionally impactful. When the characters start to sing, the disconnect gets even worse.

The cast is packed with incredible people, and I sadly feel this talent has been somewhat wasted. Most characters do not get

enough new lines to truly have their personalities shine through, and many of the characters originally channeled other icons — making the end result rather confused. Keegan Michael Key and Eric Andre play characters initially portrayed by Whoopi Goldberg and Cheech, but they aren't given enough space to make the characters their own, resulting in a bit of a muddled mess.

The few exceptions were Seth Rogen and Billy Eichner as Pumbaa and Timon; Rogen channels the original energy of Pumbaa excellently, and Eichner gives us a new, campy and hilarious Timon. Florence Kasumba is also terrifying as the head hyena, Shenzi.

Of course, the moment we were all waiting for was the appearance of Beyoncé as Nala. While she delivered an incredible rendition of "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," which has completely transformed the song, Beyoncé was notably absent from almost every press appearance and behind-the-scenes clip regarding the project. She was infamously Photoshopped in with the cast photo, as she couldn't make it in person when it was taken. This absence bleeds into the film, with her addition feeling like an afterthought rather than the work of someone emotionally invested in a project that took tremendous effort from everyone else involved. It's true that Be-
» Continued on B10

Chesapeake Grad Continues Design Journey With Freelance Business And Art School

By Jane Seiss

Lauren Ortega graduated from Chesapeake High School this year and is now headed to New York City to study design at the School of Visual Arts, where she will pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

The Pasadena resident became interested in graphic design as a sophomore, and after taking design courses at Anne Arundel County's Center of Applied Technology North (CAT-North), she launched her own company during her junior year.

"I've always been an artist," Ortega explained. "A friend said that I was so talented with drawing, I should try it on the computer."

Ortega took that advice seriously and completed two design courses at CAT-North. In her senior year, she opted for AP Art at Chesapeake and customized the course to focus on building a design



Lauren Ortega showed her work at the senior art show at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore during 2019.

portfolio.

"I got to design my own ideas," she said. "It was really fun. I got to do

whatever I wanted."

Ortega's portfolio theme celebrated the beauty of women throughout

different time periods, beginning with the late 1800s. Each of her 12 designs was a portrait with backgrounds that were indicative of the time they represented.

"I felt a connection with each one of them," Ortega said. Some of her senior-year pieces were chosen for exhibits — one at the senior art show at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore and one at the library at Anne Arundel Community College.

Ortega said that her freelance ambitions were sparked after she did some volunteer design work at school. In 2018, she designed the prom tickets for CAT-North, and in 2019, Ortega designed keepsake keychain prom tickets for Chesapeake's senior prom. She also designed T-shirts for her graduating class. The shirts featured a vicious cougar to represent the school's mascot. Coming up with these creations gave Ortega essential
» Continued on B10

"Mamma Mia!" Is Back By Popular Demand At Toby's Dinner Theatre

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By Judy Tacyn

You likely already know "Mamma Mia!" as a worldwide phenomenon. Whether you've seen a live performance or the movies, or you've been meaning to check out the show, "Mamma Mia!" in the round at Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia promises to be unlike anything you've seen before.

Audiences around the globe love this musical for its high energy, fast-paced love story, and music. It was a smash hit on Broadway, running for more than 14 years and 6,000 performances. On film, it has grossed more than \$615 million, (the sequel, "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" grossed nearly \$400 million) and at-

tracted a superstar cast led by Meryl Streep and Cher. And, you don't have to be a child of the '70s to know most of ABBA's "Dancing Queen" lyrics.

The Toby's cast for "Mamma Mia!" is extraordinary. Audiences familiar with the venue will see some new faces and many of the "stars" they have come to love over the years.

"As the director, I did my best to present the story with heart, honesty and a lot of fun," said **Mark Minnick**, director and choreographer. "Mamma Mia!" is a wonderful story about family, and it is accompanied by outstanding music that works so well within the story. We just brought out the truth of the moments. Our show will bring great joy, laughter and some tears."

Toby's has been producing quality musical productions for more than 40 years. Dinner is served before the show.

"Diners will enjoy a won-



Photo courtesy of Jeri Tidwell Photography

The Toby's cast for "Mamma Mia!" features some new faces and many of the "stars" audiences have come to love over the years.

derful summertime menu, and we name the items after songs or characters from the show," Minnick said. "The audiences chuckle at the names and it just brings a sense of fun while in the buffet line."

Maggie Dransfield,

a Columbia native, plays Sophie, a young woman in search of her heritage. "[Toby's] is very different than traditional theater because [actors] meet the audience before performing for them [by waiting tables]. I'm able to connect

and create a small relationship with my guests during the dinner hour. That is so fulfilling for me. I work the hardest I ever have at Toby's and I'm proud of my work."

After dinner, the special experience continues. Unlike a traditional theater, Toby's is round rather than a proscenium (stage) theater, which means the audience is seated 360 degrees around the stage. Every seat in the theater is between 1 and 25 feet from the stage, creating an intimate experience between the audience and the cast.

Minnick promises the audience will be treated to "top-notch talent, pouring their heart and soul into the production. [It's] an intimate in-the-round production that will draw you in from start to finish. It really is beautiful," he said. "Our musical director has created a sound that is true to ABBA and gloriously fills the theater. This is a perfect date night!"

Heather Beck plays

Donna, the lead. "I think the most interesting thing about the role of Donna is that it can be played differently depending on the vision of the director and the cast of people," Beck said. "Every performer will bring unique nuances to the role. I play her, well, a little like me. I try to keep her as real as possible, a hardworking mom who has done the best she can and continues to do the best she can while having to unexpectedly relive some of her past. I like the strength in Donna."

Beck is a lifelong performer originally from the Lone Star State. She said of all venues, Toby's is her favorite to perform.

"I prefer theater in the round rather than a proscenium stage. I love meeting the people who come to the shows and I love all the energy they bring," Beck added. "This production of 'Mamma Mia!' is so much crazy fun and also a bit of an emotional roller coaster
» Continued on B9

Dining Out

Fine Food And Service Are Staples At Sunset Restaurant & Lounge

By Mary Cobbler

Sunset Restaurant & Lounge in Glen Burnie provides a hearty dose of character and charm, topping it off with a helping of nostalgia.

A Glen Burnie landmark, Sunset is tucked away on 625 Greenway Road. Open the thick wooden doors to find a foyer with plush seating and shiny wood paneling.

Tables are topped with white tablecloths and lit by Tiffany-style chandeliers and lamps. The restaurant has several rooms, but the most popular is one with a large fireplace.

Our hostess seated us in an airy room close to the front of the restaurant, decorated with gilded photos and wrought iron spirals around doorways. Art is everywhere in this restaurant. Large pictures depict Adam and Eve sent from the Garden of Eden, and a variety of land and seascapes, portraits and framed memorabilia.

On a previous visit, we enjoyed music from the '60s and '70s. This time, it was the late '70s and '80s. I would have at first expected maybe Nat King Cole or Frank Sinatra, considering the décor, but the light pop and rock music fit the atmosphere just as well.

Karen, our waitress, was professional and friendly. Knowing the cream of crab soup is a restaurant favorite, I ordered a cup for my appetizer, and my companion went for stuffed mushrooms. Both arrived quickly.

The cream of crab soup was superior to any I've had since Bush's Chesapeake from many years ago. Flavorful and spicy with just the right thickness (the spoon didn't stand straight up but went down slowly), it was chock full of lump crab meat without a single shell. Our six medium-sized mushrooms were savory and stuffed with lightly spiced crab imperial.

Karen, when asked about



Photo by Mary Cobbler

Strawberry shortcake makes a sweet end to a meal.

customer favorites, suggested the stuffed shrimp. I took her suggestion and my dining companion went with an open roast beef sandwich. Our sides were mashed potatoes, cucumber salad, stewed tomatoes, and coleslaw. A few minutes after taking our orders, Karen presented the restaurant's complimentary

cracker basket filled with a variety of wrapped crackers and a plate with dipping cheeses — a unique treat! She then brought a basket of homemade bread and butter.

Our entrees arrived piping hot; both were generous-sized portions, especially the open roast beef sandwich. The shrimp were large and

succulent, packed full of backfin crab meat and imperial, all baked to a rich golden brown. Aromatic and flavorful, this dish was well prepared and perfectly tender.

The hot roast beef sandwich was served over white bread with gravy. Most folks won't cheer about vegetables, but I give a standing ovation to these. The mashed potatoes were a savory blend of fresh potatoes with fresh cream and butter all whipped to perfection. And I dare you to find better stewed tomatoes — these were slightly sweet, a little tart and just right. The coleslaw and cucumber salads were like mom used to make, both fresh. It was home cooking at its best.

I would never leave Sunset Restaurant without ordering their pièce de résistance: the best strawberry shortcake in town. This dessert, easily satisfying two or more people, is a perfect mix of biscuit and cake, just sweet

enough to allow the juicy strawberries and heavenly, homemade whipped cream to take center stage. I'm willing to sacrifice an extra pound or two for this worthy treat.

There are many menu options: meat and seafood, pasta, dinner salads, sandwiches and even specialties, such as escargot and frog legs. There's also a full bar.

Note, too, that the restaurant hosts events organized by Do or Die Murder Mysteries that include the show and dinner for a reasonable cost.

The food altogether is excellent and reasonable. Our meal was \$85, which included two appetizers, two entrees, dessert and drinks. There are many modestly priced entrees.

I'm so glad this restaurant stays the course, with excellent food, fantastic service and nostalgic grace. Visit www.sunsetrestaurant.com for more information, including the mystery events.

"Mamma Mia!" Is Back By Popular Demand At Toby's

» Continued from B8

ride. Then we throw in a rock concert at the end!"

Dransfield, too, loves the unique atmosphere. "Theater in the round is intimate on so many levels," Dransfield said. "Although the audience never participates on the physical stage, they are close enough to see more expressivity than almost anywhere. During each performance, I could reach out and touch the audience. I don't, but that's how intimate the space is.

They are right there on the island with us every night."

Beck could not say enough about her colleagues. "Our cast and crew, music director, and Toby herself, are amazing. Each and every one of them," Beck said. "It's like being surrounded by this amazing buoy of talent and energy. They keep me afloat. I'm pretty lucky."

Minnick promises the spectacular will sell out, so people should get tickets now. For more informa-



Jeri Tidwell Photography

Heather Beck plays Donna.

tion or to purchase tickets, visit www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

"Expect to see light, love and real emotional connection," Dransfield said. "Our production is rooted in the heart. We wanted to create something really special and honest that radiates to our audience members. I believe we have done that. Escape with us for a few hours. We laugh, cry, and dance our hearts out. Our cast would love to share this experience with you!"

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Artists, musicians and the Community of Hope will join forces on August 24 at the Arts in the Park Festival at the Chesapeake Arts Center, located at 194 Hammonds Lane in Brooklyn Park. Local artists will exhibit and offer their work for sale, while a festival of live music will be presented from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The Chesapeake Arts Center is organizing the free event, under the

leadership of the executive director Belinda Fraley Huesman and sponsor Whiting-Turner.

During the festival, patrons can enjoy live music by singer-songwriter Ellis Woodward and Fast as Lighting, and a special performance by Meki's Tamure Polynesian Arts Group Inc. and the Dream of Reality Summer Theatre Kids Camp. The festival will also include cornhole,

a moon bounce, a food truck, community resource partners, and local artists displaying and selling their art.

The Arts in the Park Festival is a great opportunity to see work of local artists and to enjoy good music. For the music part of the festival, feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket. For further information, check www.chesapeakearts.org or call 410-636-6597.

"The Lion King" Is A Rehash

» **Continued from B8**
 yoncé is the queen and her mere presence often speaks for itself, but the reverence we feel toward her appearance might have taken away from the story. I wonder if casting such a powerhouse as a supporting role made much sense; the end result seems to be an overshadowing of the invested Donald Glover, who does play the main character after all.

I was encouraged that a story that is distinctly African was played by an all-black cast (with the exception of the comic relief) and Beyoncé herself said she hoped the new album released for the film would be considered an "ode to blackness."

The music has been given a modern update by Pharrell Williams, but in the end, the music is still distinctly

the product of Tim Rice, Elton John and Hans Zimmer.

Ultimately, I wish this incredible group of comedians, animators, composers, musicians and actors had been brought together to produce something original, which allowed them to shine as their own distinctive characters rather than rehashing a timeless classic with varying degrees of success.

Chesapeake Grad Continues Design Journey

» **Continued from B8**
 experience, she said, and brought additional work her way. Ortega's projects through L.O Design have mostly been logos and business cards.

"My mom has her own business, and growing up in that environment and being an independent woman inspires me," Ortega noted.

Her mom, Steph, owns O's Paint and Design, a local interior painting and design company that she runs with her husband, Jose. "I have hardworking parents; they inspire me," Ortega said, adding that she has been positively influenced by her grandparents as well.

While at Chesapeake and CAT-North, Ortega gained skills and confidence. She was a member of the art club and Future Business Leaders of America. Ortega joined the African American Heritage Club, spoke publicly about her experiences with racism, and received guidance and



In her senior year, Lauren Ortega opted for AP Art at Chesapeake High School and customized the course to focus on building a design portfolio.

mentoring from teachers and staff. Among those she credited with providing support and inspiration are CAT-North design teacher Megan Snyder, Chesapeake student advocate Demetrius Diakhate and student ambassador Jay Offer. "All of these people helped me understand my value," Ortega said.

As she prepares for college, Ortega is excited about the future. She

plans to continue her freelance work and hopes to be inspired by the community of artists she will encounter at school in Manhattan. "If you're dedicated and persistent, you're going to follow your dreams and be successful no matter what," Ortega shared.

See Ortega's online portfolio and learn more about her design services at www.lodesign.mypportfolio.com.

Reed Sigmon Plays Servant To King Henry

» **Continued from B8**
 ticipate in the new "Singing Pages," singing in three-part harmony about standing in line waiting for the "privies," or for the bank machines.

Improvisation and spontaneity are all part of the fun, said Sigmon. "The beauty of a festival day is that there is ample time for new bits to spring up, so the last day of the festival may look very different from the

first," Sigmon said.

In addition to his role as Weston, Sigmon will portray Peter in the Globe Theatre production of "Romeo and Juliet." He is especially excited about the sword-fighting scenes.

He will portray Callimaco in Niccolò Machiavelli's, "The Mandrake," and as the messenger in Shakespeare's, "Much Ado About Nothing" as part of the Streetspeare project — short scenes

that were written by Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

Sigmon is thankful to be part of a festival so many people anticipate and attend each year. He enjoys working with other actors and watching them perform various roles.

"This is wonderful work for an actor, and I feel very fortunate to be working with such a talented and devoted group of people," Sigmon said.

Fall is a great time to gain new skills or launch a career.

CLASSES START AUG. 26 | SEPT. 9 | OCT. 21
 Online, evening and weekend classes available.

