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PASADENA, MD

DECEMBER 12, 2019

A1

Hundreds Gather For Pasadena Tree Lighting Ceremony

By Haley Weisgerber

The holiday season is about cherished traditions for many people. Here in Pasadena, one of those traditions is the Pasadena Business Association (PBA)'s annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Hundreds of neighbors and local businesses gathered in Lakeshore Plaza on December 3 for the event, which is now in its 10th year.

"ACE Hardware plays a big part. We help set the parking lot up," said PBA president and event chair Doug Cashmere of Costello's Ace Hardware & Hearth. "Bay Country Rentals donates the heaters every year; we have Brewster's with ice cream; Mutiny Pirate Bar brought cookies, The Greene Turtle is here making hot chocolate; Geresbeck's also brought cookies; and the PBA has a booth talking about our organization and handing out our membership information. It's a great event."

The entertainment for the evening was provided by DJ Marcus and Northeast High School's Deep Treble ensemble. After the tree was lit, Santa Claus

rode in with the Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company to take photos with the children. All of the photos were free and donated by MOJO.

"It's all about the kids. This is near and dear to me, and I love giving back to the community," said Mike Jacobs, owner of Up & Out Boat Lifts and J.B. Machine and Marine. "It's great to see all these kids and seeing the smiles on their faces."

Jacobs was a part of the group that founded the event. He credits the PBA with the event's popularity.

"The PBA took over and they have been making it bigger, better and more memorable every year. You see the numbers grow every year," said Jacobs.

For many Pasadena residents, this event is about more than lighting the tree. It's about community involvement and bringing people together.

"What we see each year is more and more people getting involved and giving back to the community," said Jacobs. "We never wanted to be a vendor or sales type of thing. It's just about what we can do to give back to the community."



Photo by Haley Weisgerber

New Cell Towers Coming To Lake Shore

Shoppers And Residents Can Plan For Improved Service In The New Year

By Chris Fincham

Anyone who has spent time around the Lake Shore area in Pasadena has undoubtedly noticed the cellphone service — or in many instances, the lack thereof.

Whether shopping at Lakeshore Plaza or cheering on young athletes at Lake Shore Athletic Complex, getting a quality signal can be harder than finding front-row parking or scoring a winning goal.

With that in mind, local representatives have been working diligently to coordinate with Verizon on resolving the cellular service issues in the area.

"We have been working with Verizon, encouraging them to improve service around the Lake Shore area," explained Delegate Nic Kipke, who said it's been a coordinated effort alongside Senator Bryan Simonaire, Delegate Brian Chisholm and Councilman Nathan Volke.

According to Kipke, Verizon conducted a study and confirmed that there were significant issues regarding the service in these areas. Based on the findings, the plan is to install a small relay

» Continued on A2

Geresbeck's Is All About Fresh Food And Friendly Service

By Zach Sparks

zach@pasadenavoice.com

When Geresbeck's Food Market took over the former Lauer's Supermarket and Bakery location in Riviera Beach in mid-October, it felt like a homecoming for the Greeley family.

Family patriarch Carl Greeley opened his first store, Foodland, in the Orchard Beach community in 1971. Since that time, he opened a few Box & Save stores and acquired the Geresbeck's Food Market in Baltimore in 1985, keeping the name because it was well-known to locals.

Carl placed emphasis on seafood, the deli and the bakery — along with top-notch customer service. With the help of his daughter, Joanne Greeley Graham, and grandson, Justin Graham, that is the same model he intends to have at the Pasadena store.

"He has always believed in customer service and making everything fresh," Joanne said of her father. "He'd say, 'If you wouldn't take it home and put it on your table, it doesn't go out [for sale].'"

At Geresbeck's Food

Market, 90% of the salads are homemade. Produce, meats and seafood are purchased from local vendors.

"We have a crew that comes in overnight and makes all the salads," Joanne said. "We do it that way at all three stores."

Meat is cut fresh on the premises. Quick and convenient meals, like imperial stuffed salmon and chicken Chesapeake, are sold in sealed microwavable bags. Customers can also find prepared meals from the fresh salad bar, fried chicken, or get chicken wings and tacos for their tailgate parties.

When the Greeley family acquired the Riviera Beach location, they changed the colors from beige and blue to Geresbeck's signature red and white. They also removed eight feet from most aisles to make the store roomier and to make space for a seafood department.

"It's mainly crab meat and shrimp, but we also carry a wide variety of fish filets, snow crabs, lobsters, scallops and other seafood," Justin said.

The Avenue News, which covers Essex and the sur-

rounding area in Baltimore County, held its first reader-approved contest in 2019, with Geresbeck's being awarded Best Produce and Best Bakery. The store also won a Master Marketer Award from SUPERVALU in 2018 for its seafood.

The aisles of Geresbeck's are filled with local brands: Ostrowski of Bank Street, Baugher's Farm, Zeke's Coffee, Taharka Brothers Ice Cream, McCutcheon's Apple Products, Fisher's Popcorn and Roma Gourmet Sausage.

Customers also flock to the store for an array of specialty items such as marshmallow-

» Continued on A9



Joanne Greeley Graham and her son, Justin Graham, are thrilled to have a Geresbeck's Food Market in Pasadena. In the bakery, customers can find eclairs and marshmallow-filled doughnuts.

RELIVE THE BEST MOMENTS OF THE YEAR

From new Pasadena businesses to the academic and athletic accomplishments of Pasadena's youth, 2019 had plenty of great moments. This is some of the news that stood out during the last year. See the rest on page A10.



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Marguerite Mills
Volunteer
Of The Month

Good Samaritan Exemplifies
The True Spirit Of The Holidays



Pat Quesenberry (right) received her Volunteer of the Month award from editorial assistant Haley Weisgerber.

By Haley Weisgerber

Pasadena resident Pat Quesenberry has been providing Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners to families in need for three years.

"This ministry started three years ago and it was over a bag that I had got from one of my clients that had

toys and gloves and hats," said Quesenberry, an active member of Lighthouse Church in Glen Burnie. "I asked a friend of mine that was a nurse at Park Elementary [in Brooklyn] if she could use it. She said she would take a look at it and she asked me if I wanted to make Christmas baskets."

In her first year, Quesenberry donated to 25 families; the second year, she provided for 50 families; this year, she has donated to 97 families

from five schools, all while maintaining a full-time job as a hairdresser and raising two children.

The donations go to local Title 1 schools. Title 1 schools are low-income and receive funding from the government to prevent students from falling behind. Many of these students are on free or

reduced lunch programs and may not have food when they are home. "Not only are we providing a meal, but we are providing take-home food for these children who don't have food for the time that they are off of school,"

— PAT QUESENBERRY

said Quesenberry. With the help of Facebook friends and members of her church, she has not been alone in her efforts. In addition to meals, she encouraged friends to adopt a child during Christmas and together they donated gifts to 99 children.

"Facebook has been my vehicle," said Quesenberry. "I've been blessed enough to put that out there, and people provide."

Quesenberry looks for new ways to lend a helping hand as her ministry grows.

After learning that many teachers have to buy their own supplies, the ministry changed directions, and she has provided everything from backpacks to electric pencil sharpeners for every teacher at Park Elementary.

"We are raising a generation and that is huge. They're teaching those kids," said Quesenberry. "It's important to give back to the teachers that are looking after our children."

She also supports BKind Gives, a nonprofit organization based in Glen Burnie that provides meals, toiletries and clothing to those in need every Saturday behind the old Harundale Mall. Recently, Quesenberry received a donation of frozen turkeys from Costco and assisted the organization in providing its own Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

"I feel blessed and honored that I'm able to help out," said Quesenberry. "I don't have needs. If I see the need and I'm able to provide, it's just about giving back."

She credits the support from her "church family" for keeping her going. The support from the community has given her the opportunity to grow the ministry into more than she ever imagined.

Mountain Road Widening

By Chris Fincham

In a coordinated effort to enhance safety and reduce congestion, plans are moving forward to widen Mountain Road from Catherine Avenue to Edwin Raynor Boulevard.

Anne Arundel County engineers conducted an initial planning and engineering study, before the process was turned over to the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), which has taken the lead on engineering, planning, and execution of the project moving forward. The MDOT SHA team revisited the initial concept and aims to minimize major right-of-way impacts and enhance safety benefits for the future project.

Representatives from the state highway office plan to go door-to-door to ensure the small businesses along Mountain Road are engaged in the planning and answer

any questions or concerns. The goal is to ensure that they are not negatively impacted by any development, according to Delegate Nic Kipke, who thinks this project will be a tremendous asset to the community.

"People need to engage in the process in a constructive manner. In the end, it will be good for businesses, and positive for everyone in and around the Pasadena area," Kipke said.

Currently, MDOT SHA and Anne Arundel County anticipate meeting with the business community in early 2020 and the surrounding community in spring 2020.

"We worked successfully in the past with the county and Delegate Kipke to make improvements that relieved traffic on Mountain Road, and this next project will help improve safety and accessibility along an important business corridor," said Charlie Gischlar, a media relations manager at MDOT SHA.

New Cell Towers Coming

» Continued from A1 tower to increase services around Lakeshore Plaza and Magothy Plaza before the end of the year. In 2020, Verizon plans to install a larger tower along Woods Road.

"We are working toward adding a cell site in the Woods Road area that will add coverage and capacity for residents, businesses and first responders," said David Weissmann, a Verizon communications manager. "This is one of several projects locally, including new small cells, that will enhance capacity for our customers."

There is also potential for an additional tower to be built in 2021 along Magothy Beach Road, according to Kipke.

However, specific dates and timelines for construction are not locked in at the moment, as the projects are contingent on local zoning and building regulations.

Weissmann said that there are still several steps before Verizon can install the equipment.

While there's still work to be done, things are headed in a positive direction.

"For me, being in public office, since day one I've worked to solve problems rather than focusing on getting involved with partisan political [side-shows]," Kipke added. "All of these will provide service enhancements to better serve the members of the community."

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Holiday Light Hot Spots Around Town



Photos By Haley Weisgerber

Left: Located at 1532 Marco Drive, this house combines old and new decorating trends for the ultimate festive display. **Right:** This house is located at 1126 Mount Drive.

By Haley Weisgerber

While it may not be easy to string up lights, decorating is a special part of the holidays for many people, and driving around Pasadena and Severna Park to look at lights has become a local tradition. Consider stopping by these local favorites this holiday season.

PASADENA

1126 MOUNT DRIVE

Located off of Stoney Creek Drive, this display is a byprod-

uct of the hard work of a family that works hard to bring together decorations.

1532 MARCO DRIVE

This house off of Forest Glen Drive in Cedarwood Cove combines old and new decorating trends for the ultimate festive display.

207TH STREET

Perpendicular to Outing and Catherine avenues, one home on 207th Street goes all out.

703 PASADENA ROAD

The Sterling family decorates their home every year after

Halloween. This year, the decorations will stay in place until the week after the New Year.

HOUSE OF CHRISTMAS AT 1121 SLEDGE COURT

Located in Green Haven, off of Tick Neck Road, the House of Christmas is a local favorite. The display will be up through January 2 from 5:00pm to 11:00pm.

FARMINGTON VILLAGE

Many houses in Farmington Village have beautiful light displays. This is the perfect drive-through neighborhood with access to both Waterford

Road and Catherine Avenue.

LAKE SHORE DRIVE

Driving down Lake Shore Drive is beautiful during the holidays.

ULLMAN ROAD

The lighted tree on Ullman Road has been a local favorite for years. Holiday light enthusiasts come from all over Anne Arundel County to witness this famous tree.

SEVERNA PARK

519 WHITE OAK DRIVE
Located off of Robinson

Road and across from Severna Park High School, this house has a beautiful display every year.

ARMSTRONG LANE

There is a house on Armstrong Lane with an interactive light display. Community members have been invited to walk down the driveway in years past.

FORDHAM COURT

Located off of West Pasadena Road and Fordham Drive in Millersville, a house in this court is sure to impress.



Located at 703 Pasadena Road, this house, which has become a well-known attraction, features a drive-through light display with reindeer, Santa, illuminated candy canes and much more.

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A Lifetime Of Service: The Illustrious Career Of John Christian



During the Vietnam War, John Christian served in the military police, working with convoy security, including protecting medical convoys that carried supplies. As a SWAT coordinator, he was not only in charge of stopping crime, but he also designed motorcade routes and security for Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush when they visited Baltimore. He was once invited to the White House by President Bill Clinton for a luncheon to discuss a crime bill.

By Declan Keefe

Vietnam veteran, Baltimore City police officer, and chief of the University of Maryland Medical Police. An individual would be considered noteworthy to hold just one of these jobs in his or her life; Pasadena resident John Christian has held all of these prestigious roles during his long career of service.

Originally from Elmira, New York, Christian moved to Frederick, Maryland, with his mother the summer after his eighth-grade year. After graduating high school, Christian was drafted into the Vietnam War at age 18, though he had already planned on enlisting before his number came up.

“Ever since I was a young boy, I wanted to be a police officer, so this was an opportunity to serve and prepare me for the future,” he said.

He did a tour in Vietnam, starting near the end of 1968. Christian recalls that

being in Vietnam as a young man was scary at first, but he was helped by the older guys. He served in the military police, working with convoy security, including protecting medical convoys that carried supplies.

In 1971, he was awarded a commendation for his role in the wake of a 1969 rocket attack in North Saigon.

“They were aiming rockets at us and they hit an English-speaking school of children,” he said, recalling the attack. “We rescued about 60 children, but some died.”

After coming home in late 1969, Christian worked as a military police patrol supervisor at Edgewood Arsenal in Aberdeen, where he reached the rank of sergeant. As a member of the 511th Military Police Platoon, he and two other men were awarded with the Army Commendation Medal for entering a smoke-filled building twice to help evacuate the residents of a burning house in January 1971.

“Helping people was my goal, especially when I saw someone in need.”

— JOHN CHRISTIAN

In 1972, Christian left the Army and joined the Baltimore City police force, where he worked for nearly three decades. Christian worked as a SWAT coordinator and was not only in charge of stopping crime, but he also designed motorcade routes and security for Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush when they visited Baltimore. In addition to providing presidential security, Christian delivered the same service for Pope John Paul II upon his visit to Baltimore in 1995.

For the pope’s visit, Baltimore County police and Maryland State Police worked in two-man

teams, along with the help of Secret Service agents, Christian said.

“We had 55 sniper teams in downtown Baltimore,” Christian recalled. “We had guys on every high roof and high-ground position, so we could take the advantage. At least 150 officers on the parade route had observation on all the buildings.”

Being so impressed with his protection, Pope John Paul II met with Christian at the Baltimore Basilica in a private meeting to thank him. Christian described his experience of meeting the pope as “very solemn. Kind of took your breath away.”

Christian was invited to the White House by Clinton for a luncheon to discuss a crime bill. He also worked security during Cal Ripken’s record-breaking 2,131st consecutive game for the Baltimore Orioles.

Despite having protected many prominent figures, Christian said the best part of being a police officer was serving the citizens of Baltimore.

“Helping people was my goal, especially when I saw someone in need,” he said. “I had an exciting career, and I was blessed to work with some great guys. I

attribute my accomplishments to my fellow officers.”

After leaving the police force in 2000, Christian took time off to care for his mother. In 2001, Christian started working for the University of Maryland medical police, where he provided security for personnel on the exterior side. Christian had the rank of captain and worked for the university until 2009.

Today, Christian continues to give back to the community by transporting veterans to their medical appointments. Christian has transported veterans of all ages to their appointments, from veterans of World War II to the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm and present day.

The years of serving in Vietnam and as a police officer have come with a small price. Christian has partial hearing loss from being in close range of gunfire so many times during his life. “He is dedicated through and through,” said Debbie Groat, Christian’s sister-in-law of 20 years.

When asked why he continues to volunteer, Christian said, “Self-fulfillment. I enjoy helping people. I’ve done it my whole life. I can’t stop now.”

Lake Shore Santa Runs



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Boulevard Park: 9:00am to about 10:30am
- Lake Shore Drive: 11:00am to about 1:00pm
- Chelsea Beach: 1:30pm to about 3:30pm
- Blossom Hills, Fairwood Drive, North Shore, and Maryland Road: 5:30pm to about 9:00pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

- Pinehurst: 9:00am to about 11:30am
- Long Point and Hickory Point: 11:30am to about 3:00pm
- Forest Glen: 5:00pm to about 7:00pm
- Bodkin Avenue and Forest Drive: 7:00pm to about 8:30pm

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ACROSS FROM ANN’S-DARI CREME

Green Valley Marketplace Customer Wins Shopping Spree

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

Christmas came early for Pasadena resident Kara Frazier, who won an 88-second shopping spree at Green Valley Marketplace.

Though the grocery store is still relatively new to Pasadena, the family-owned group of Maryland stores started with the Elkridge location in 2011. To celebrate the store's birthday, managers held drawings and contests for the eighth anniversary "sale-a-bration." Frazier entered a drawing at the store to win the grand prize, which included the shopping spree and a \$500 check.

"It was shocking that I won," Frazier said.

Frazier was notified of her win a few days in advance of the November 16 shopping spree. Dressed in athletic gear and sneakers, Frazier gathered as many items as she could in 88 seconds.

There were some limitations, however. She could take only two of the same item, and some merchandise was excluded, such as gift cards, medicine and floral pieces.

Frazier said her strategy

during the shopping frenzy was twofold: to help family and to select items that would last the longest.

"I wanted get items for my parents for everything they've done for me," she said after the shopping spree. "I also bought a ham for Christmas for my grandmother and a turkey for my cousin who is hosting Thanksgiving."

She also gathered meats because of their value and because they can be frozen. In addition to meat, she picked up several cleaning items and toiletries.

Frazier said the 88 seconds went quickly. Even sur-

rounded by family and her fiancé, who came to support her, the experience was intense.

"I was shaking the entire time," she said.

She spent the time in only two aisles and the meat section. In total, she amassed 44 items worth \$327. Frazier has been impressed with the overall friendliness of the new grocery store.

"They have been welcoming to the community," she shared, adding that the store manager and employees were present during her shopping spree to cheer her on.

After the shopping spree, Frazier was surprised one more time when the grocery store presented her with a \$500 check. She had not been told of the cash prize when she was called about being the winner of the shopping spree.

As a lifelong Pasadena resident, Frazier said she had been going to Lauer's all her life. Now she is excited to be a customer of its replacement.

"The store's generosity encourages me to continue to support the local Green Valley Marketplace," she said.

"I wanted get items for my parents for everything they've done for me. I also bought a ham for Christmas for my grandmother and a turkey for my cousin who is hosting Thanksgiving."

— KARA FRAZIER



Photos by Larry Sells

During her shopping spree, Kara Frazier amassed 44 items worth \$327.94. She was also presented with a \$500 check after the shopping spree. Afterward, she was joined by Green Valley Marketplace General Manager Mark Schepers; Rick Rodgers, COO of B. Green & Company; her fiancé, Ryan McQuillen; her mom, Jane Frazier; and store employees.



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6TH ANNUAL ClearShark H2O Brunch

Realtors Collect More Than 75 Tons Of Donations



Photos by Chris Fincham

The Anne Arundel County Association of Realtors (AACAR) collected more than 151,000 pounds of food for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank when it hosted its 14th annual Harvest for the Hungry Happy Hour on November 21 at Twain's Tavern.



By Chris Fincham
chris@severnaparkvoice.com

The Anne Arundel County Association of Realtors (AACAR) hosted its 14th annual Harvest for the Hungry Happy Hour November 21 at Twain's Tavern.

Through monetary donations and nonperishable food items, AACAR collected more than 151,000 pounds of food for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.

"The Realtors in the Anne Arundel County Association of Realtors and affiliates are the best around for coming together to contribute their time, resources and energy," said Pam Harrison, who

organizes and manages the event. "I am so proud to be part of this community."

The Harvest for the Hungry food drive started more than 20 years ago with Rich Dobry, the manager of Coldwell Banker, asking the Realtors to collect food every year for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. "Boxes would be put in offices and food would be dropped off," explained Harrison.

Five years later, AACAR started hosting a happy-hour event to kick off the annual food drive.

"The first year, we had two bathroom scales and weighed the bags as people

brought them to the happy hour," Harrison said. "I believe we collected 500 pounds that year and thought we were doing fantastic!"

From there, things took off. With a passion for giving back, and a bit of competitive spirit, Realtor offices around the county started collecting more and more each year, with more than 55,000 pounds in 2018.

"This event helps so many people in the county where we live and work," Harrison added. "Many members have said they wouldn't miss the food drive. We are competitors daily, and we come together daily to volunteer to better our industry."

Founded in 1986, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank was established to collect, purchase, and distribute food to not-for-profit human service organizations in the county. The AACFB is the only free multipurpose agency in Maryland that provides free food and nutritional supplements.

According to its website, in Fiscal Year 2019, AACFB processed and distributed almost \$4 million worth of food and basic necessities, which included more than 2.6 million pounds of food to member agencies, including pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and more.

Pasadena Says Goodbye To "Mr. Fudd"

Elmer Banister, known to most as "Mr. Fudd" of Fudd's Rabbit Hole of Comics in Pasadena, passed away November 17 due to complications after suffering a stroke in October. Below are some of the comments received about Mr. Fudd. (Note: Some comments have been shortened for space)

He was very passionate about everything he accomplished. When we were involved with Rivera Beach Little League, he was the equipment supervisor and made sure that every player had their uniform and equipment needed to play. The players loved him because of his sense of humor. He spent many hours getting the season ready for Opening Day. He was the glue of the league for over 10 years.

Dawn Lorch

Fudd has been a legend in Pasadena as far back as I can remember. It was one of the first places my mom reluctantly let me ride my bike to as long as I took the backroads to play his son Chris for hours at "Overpower." I was happy a few months ago to be able to take my stepson to pick out a few comics and pass that tradition on to him. That smell of old comic books hits you in the face and immediately takes you back.

Chad Koepf

He was like visiting the candy store for my son! Pokémon, baseball cards. Always such a kind and patient man.

Maryann Pettie

I am 43 and knew Fudd since I was 14. We were good friends; he nicknamed me "the rocker" because I played in bands and had long hair. We shared lots of stories of rock stars who would come from the night club that used to be next store. I lived down the street as a kid, but then moved to North Carolina and would still come to his shop every six months to see him.

Steven Whiteman

He always cared about his customers and he was almost



like a surrogate father/grandfather to his customers. I'm going to miss him.

Monroe Jory

When I was really down in the dumps or just needed somebody to talk to, I would walk over there and say hello. Usually I would pick out a comic and I would ask him about his day, and me and him would sit at his table in a store and have a little chat about how our life is going, and he would always sit and listen to what was on my mind.

I would sit there for hours playing cards with him or just chatting about comic books, or anything for that matter. I felt safe around him. I felt like I was loved by a sweet man that did not know me by heart. He was a kind, sweet soul and I will miss him dearly. He'll always be fresh in my mind and heart.

Alexis Arceneaux

I first met Fudd in 1995 at the age of 15. Obviously I couldn't drive at the time, but I managed to get there any chance I could. I was always amazed at the store and loved all the back issues. That, to me, was one of the store's backbones. The next year and a half or so, I earned my driver's license and started going weekly as I was working and made enough to get a box to get weekly comics. In the later '90s, I actually played tackle football with Fudd.

Fast forward to 2002, I joined the Navy. I talked to Fudd about this and he saved almost a year's worth of books for me for when I made it back to the store. After the

Navy, I had been a weekly customer since I have been home in 2007. Fudd hadn't forgotten me and enjoyed talking to me about my time overseas.

He was also interested in how I progressed in life. I would come in for my weekly books and would always end up updating him on my family, my wife and kids. My oldest loved going to see "Uncle Fudd" as he would give him a snack to give to one of the dogs. And my then 2-4-year-old loved running around the store checking out the cabinets and doing circles on the chairs by the registers. Fudd giving my son a toy most visits was great for him but not always approved by mom, age appropriate and all that.

I'm glad I was able to see my friend Fudd a week and a half before his passing. He repeated multiple times that he didn't think he would see me again. I talked to him about my early years at the store and the football games, at which point I found out what level of people I may have played tackle football with close to 20 years ago. I was also able to leave a card made from my 5-year-old addressed to Uncle Fudd.

I was glad to see a few other regulars helping Fudd's son Chris out with getting the store emptied out and was also told a few stories of Fudd helping new shop owners. I am going to miss my drives to Riviera Beach to get the newest books and to BS with Fudd, talking about my family, job, a current comic story, some crazy customer. I'm going to miss my friend Fudd.

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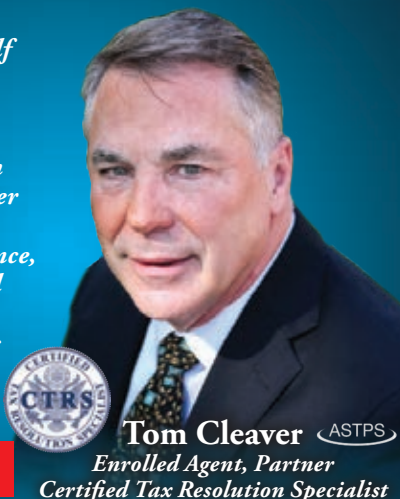
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Sledding Spots Around Anne Arundel County And Across The State



Depending on who you ask, Maryland may (or may not) be in store for an eventful winter. Just in case, we've compiled a list of some of the best sledding spots around the area to help you be prepared to enjoy the snow.

PASADENA

Tick Neck Park
7750 Edwin Raynor Boulevard, Pasadena

ARNOLD AND SEVERNA PARK

Folger McKinsey Elementary School
175 Arundel Beach Road, Severna Park
Rated as a "medium"-size hill by various members of the community.

Kinder Park
1001 Kinder Farm Park Road, Millersville
Next to Kinder Road; watch out for the fence at the bottom!

Anne Arundel Community College
101 College Parkway, Arnold

Though the main entrance to AACC is closed when the college is closed for weather, prospective sledders can enter the school via College Drive (near the white farmhouse). From there, they can make their way to parking lots B and C, which make for fun sledding.

Chartwell Golf & Country Club
1 Chartwell Drive, Severna Park

A short but steep hill on the driving range

Severna Park Middle School
450 Jumpers Hole Road, Severna Park

A nice and small hill for the little ones.

Elvaton Park
311 Dogwood Road, Millersville

If the roads are safe and you're up

for a drive:

ANNAPOLIS

Quiet Waters Park
600 Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis
Sledding and ice skating.

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts
801 Chase Street, Annapolis

The hill behind Maryland Hall in Annapolis is a regular gathering spot for young sledders. There is plenty of open space, but this spot can also attract a crowd.

BALTIMORE

Federal Hill
300 Warren Avenue, Baltimore
Sledding on this steep hill also provides iconic views of the city.

COCKEYSVILLE

Oregon Ridge State Park
13401 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville

This state park is filled with opportunities to hike, cross-country ski and sled. Years ago, it was home to a ski resort; the hill is still a popular spot for sledding.

ELLICOTT CITY

Centennial High School
4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City

With lots of open space and a large hill that starts steep, has a midpoint drop, then eases to a gradual decline, this sledding spot is popular with sledders of all ages.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

UM Laurel Medical Center
7300 Van Dusen Road, Laurel

TIMONIUM

Ridgely Middle School
121 East Ridgely Road, Lutherville-Timonium

This is a go-to Baltimore County spot and boasts a large hill that wraps in a horseshoe.

TOWSON

Baltimore County Board of Education, Greenwood Campus
6901 Charles Street, Towson

Known simply as "The Hill" to some, this slope is a family-friendly hotspot on cold days. Clearly visible from Charles Street, the steep hill, which ends in a ditch, is often packed with kids of all ages and their parents.



Safety Tips To Practice When Sledding

When looking for spots to sled, safety should be a priority. Make sure it's well-lit and don't sled at night where it's dark and you can't see obstacles. Also, ponds or water might look frozen, but, especially in Baltimore, it's typically never cold long enough to fully freeze. Lastly, be sure to check your gear and equipment, and take appropriate safety measures. The Anne Arundel County Fire Department has shared some sledding safety reminders:

GETTING READY

- Always wear a helmet to prevent head injuries. Multi-sport and bicycle helmets are good options.
- Sleds that can be steered may be safer than flat sheets, snow discs, toboggans, and tubes.
- Make sure children are dressed warmly and that they are wearing gloves and boots.

SLEDDING TIPS

- Avoid sledding in areas with trees, fences,

- and light poles or on rocky hills.
- Always go down the hill feet first.
- Learn how to stop and turn the sled by using your feet.
- Do not sled in the street or on a highway.
- Never ride a sled being pulled by a car, ATV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle.
- Avoid sledding on driveways, hills or slopes that end in a street, drop-off, parking lot, river or pond.

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Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24

Church: 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, midnight

Parish Activities Center: 3:15pm, 5:15pm

Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25

Church: 9:15am, 11:00am

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Let's Grow Flower Fact Series

Amaryllis: Bringing Timeless Beauty to the Home

Submitted by Let's Grow

As the chill of winter begins to set in and all of nature settles into hibernation, flowers and plants inside the home can lift our spirits through the coming months.

Amaryllis is just one of the many flowers that showcase the beautiful colors of the holidays, and their towering stems and star-shaped blooms make a stunning presentation in both potted-bulb and cut flower forms.

A LITTLE HISTORY

The name amaryllis was first described in the late 1700s and has dual meanings, being derived from ancient Greek words for "sparkle" and "knight's star." The flowering bulb cultivars that we see during the holidays originate from South American countries



but are now bred mainly by Dutch and South African sources, with some breeding taking place in the U.S. (Texas, Florida and California), Japan and Australia. This cultivation began in the 19th and 20th centuries and has grown to become of great importance

to the floral industry. Horticulturists have managed to create hybrid cultivars in single, double and miniature flowering varieties and an array of colors including pink, peach, green and orange as well as multicolor and striped. In their natural habitats, they are reproduced by bulbils, self-pollination or assisted by pollinators, such as hummingbirds carpenter bees and moths.

SYMBOLISM

Historically, amaryllis symbolizes the blood of the love-struck nymph Amaryllis based on poet Virgil's "Eclogues." The Victorian language of flowers shows the amaryllis as representing pride. The bloom has also been adopted by groups that are searching for the cure and treatment of Huntington's disease.

GROWING AMARYLLIS

Amaryllis can be grown indoors in pots from bulbs purchased in the fall that will bloom in winter or by purchasing pre-potted bulbs that already have been growing and will bloom within a few weeks. Bulbs indoors are easy to care for and they give stunning results with little efforts. Simply keep them in a well-lit and warm location (about 68 degrees) and make sure the soil is kept moist, but not overwatered - their bulb and roots will rot with too much watering. With proper care and a dormant period, amaryllis can continue to grow year after year, and there is even evidence of bulbs living 75 years.

Let's Grow carries a variety of cut and potted amaryllis throughout December and January, allowing homeowners to bring warmth inside during these colder months.

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Geresbeck's Is About Fresh Food And Friendly Service

» Continued from A1
filled doughnuts, crab pretzels topped with Bill Bate-man's crab dip, and eclairs that are so good, Joanne said, many local restaurants carry them on their dessert menus.

That variety of specialty foods is important to the family, as is being part of the community.

"We've always been community-oriented," Justin said. "We do ice-cream eating contests and give free balloons to kids when we celebrate our store anniversaries."

Joanne added, "Every Thanksgiving, we give pumpkin pies to the first 100 customers. Usually, customers line up at 4:00am and people play football in the parking lot while they wait." Geresbeck's also gives out 100 free watermelons on Labor Day.

Geresbeck's supports the Ed Reed Foundation and The SEED School of Maryland, a statewide, college-preparatory, public boarding school. Partnering with the Ed Reed Foundation, Jimmy's Seafood and J.J. McDonnell, Geresbeck's supplied students with 600 turkeys and over 1,200 sides like sauerkraut, pumpkin pie, and corn this Thanksgiving.

Carl, whom family members affectionately call "Pop," taught his family from a young age the importance of giving back. Justin started with the family business when he was 16. Joanne started with her dad at age 12.

"He would wake me up every Saturday and Sunday and ask me, 'Are you ready to go?'" Joanne recalled. "He would have me count pennies from the gumball machine. As I got older, I learned to work in every department throughout the store. My father always said, 'If you don't know how to do the job yourself, you can't expect to tell someone else how to do it.'"

Now the family has come full circle with a store in Pasadena and as members of the Pasadena Business Association. Even though Carl turns 90 years old in February, he works four to five days per week and has the help of his family, who continue to carry on the Geresbeck's legacy.

"We're thrilled to be in Pasadena," Joanne said. "We're family-owned, third-generation, and that's the way it will stay."

Geresbeck's is located at 8489 Fort Smallwood Road. Store hours are 7:00am to 10:00pm Monday through Sunday. Geresbeck's closes at 6:00pm Christmas Eve and is closed Christmas day.

Seafood Sale

Geresbeck's is preparing for a big New Year's seafood sale on raw shrimp, hot and cold steamed shrimp, and frozen shrimp. The sale starts December 26.

MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

WWII Vet Recalls Time On The USS Alabama

By Haley Weisgerber

William Hahn, a 96-year-old veteran and Arnold resident, served in the United States Navy as a turret gunner during World War II.

Growing up during the Great Depression was difficult for Hahn, who lost both of his parents at a young age. His three brothers all went to work, and his older sister raised him. Hahn played high school football, and he thought about trying to get a college scholarship offer before realizing his calling.

"I wasn't interested in college, except to play football, but I had always been pro-military," said Hahn. "That's what I wanted to do, but I didn't know how to go about it."

Hahn went to Fort Meade Army Base for Citizens' Military Training Camp, a month-long program that afforded citizens an opportunity to obtain basic military training without enlisting. When the training was completed, he was set on joining the Army, but his neighbor talked him out of it. Hahn was in a theater during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The movie never stopped rolling, but he heard the news from outside. This was the push he needed.

"I knew as soon as Pearl Harbor I was bound to go. I wasn't going to wait to get drafted," said Hahn.

At 17 years old, Hahn left school and joined the Navy.

"I had to have my sister sign," said Hahn. "But she didn't want to do it, of course. This is terrible, but I told her, 'If you don't sign, I'm going to Canada to join.' I meant it, and they would have taken me."

After a 10-week basic training, Hahn was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, to guard ships.

"That's the last thing in the world I wanted to do," said Hahn.

With a desire to "see some action," he took matters into his own hands.

"I said, 'I'm not going to take this sitting down. I'm going to do something about it,'" said Hahn. "I had two other fellows from Baltimore with me, so we went to see the commanding officer. He could have put all three of us in the brig for going over our chief's head, but he said, of all things, 'I wish we had more people like you.' And boy, that made me feel good."

The commanding officer stationed Hahn on the USS Alabama, where he stayed until the end of the war.

"I had no idea where that was, and they were still building it. I had to live in barracks until it was ready to go out," said Hahn.



William Hahn, 96, reflected on his time aboard the USS Alabama in World War II.



"We didn't know. All we knew was that we bombarded Japan twice and once at night. We didn't have any idea it was an atomic bomb," said Hahn. "We didn't know what an atomic bomb was. Actually, they just told us it was a super bomb."

Hahn estimates the ship was 20 miles away from Tokyo, which put him about 500 miles away from the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

When the war ended in 1945, Hahn was ready to go home. He finished his obligation with the military and went home to his family.

"I signed up, my rank was seaman first class, and I had a V6, and what that meant I didn't know until way after," said Hahn. "It meant I was obligated for six months after the war. Well, it took that long to get back from Japan. We stayed out there for a while to patrol."

Even though his Navy days are in the past, Hahn never strayed from the water. He worked on a charter boat in Florida for two winters and had a family home on the Magothy River.

Hahn has also been canoeing competitively for 50 years. He has traveled to Milton, Delaware, for the Broadkill River Canoe & Kayak Race every year since its beginning, and in 2019, for the 20th anniversary, the race was named for him.

Today, the USS Alabama is decommissioned and housed in Mobile, Alabama. For 40 years, the crew has been invited back for re-enactments. They are allowed to shoot blanks from their stations as old planes fly ahead. Hahn said he remembers exactly how to use the machine guns.

"A reporter asked me how it felt. I said, 'Well it was fun, but it wasn't like the real thing. We didn't use blanks,'" joked Hahn.

Many of the remaining crew members are unable to attend due to disabilities or age, but Hahn said he will go as long as he can.

"I try and go back," said Hahn. "I mean, that ship was my home for four years."

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Year in Review



RELIVE THE BEST MOMENTS OF THE YEAR

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

WINTER

While the federal government was in the midst of the longest partial shutdown in U.S. history, the newly elected Anne Arundel County leadership was hard at work on another issue: immigration. County Executive Stuart Pittman held two town hall meetings in January to solicit input from citizens after he suspended the 287(g) immigration screening program.

Bill Martin, acting superintendent for the Department of Detention Facilities, was happy to see the program end.

"We have now returned to what has been successful for 14 years, the criminal alien program, and the work is again being done by the right people: federal ICE agents," Martin said.

Pasadena's track and field athletes made their presence felt at the Anne Arundel County indoor championships on January 22. Christal Pommells (55-meter dash in 7.49 seconds) and Josh Krcik (55 hurdles in 8.24 seconds) both claimed county titles for Northeast, and the Northeast girls had the winning 4x200 relay team of Somorha Smith, Kamryn Johnson, Kiersten Lamke and Pommells.

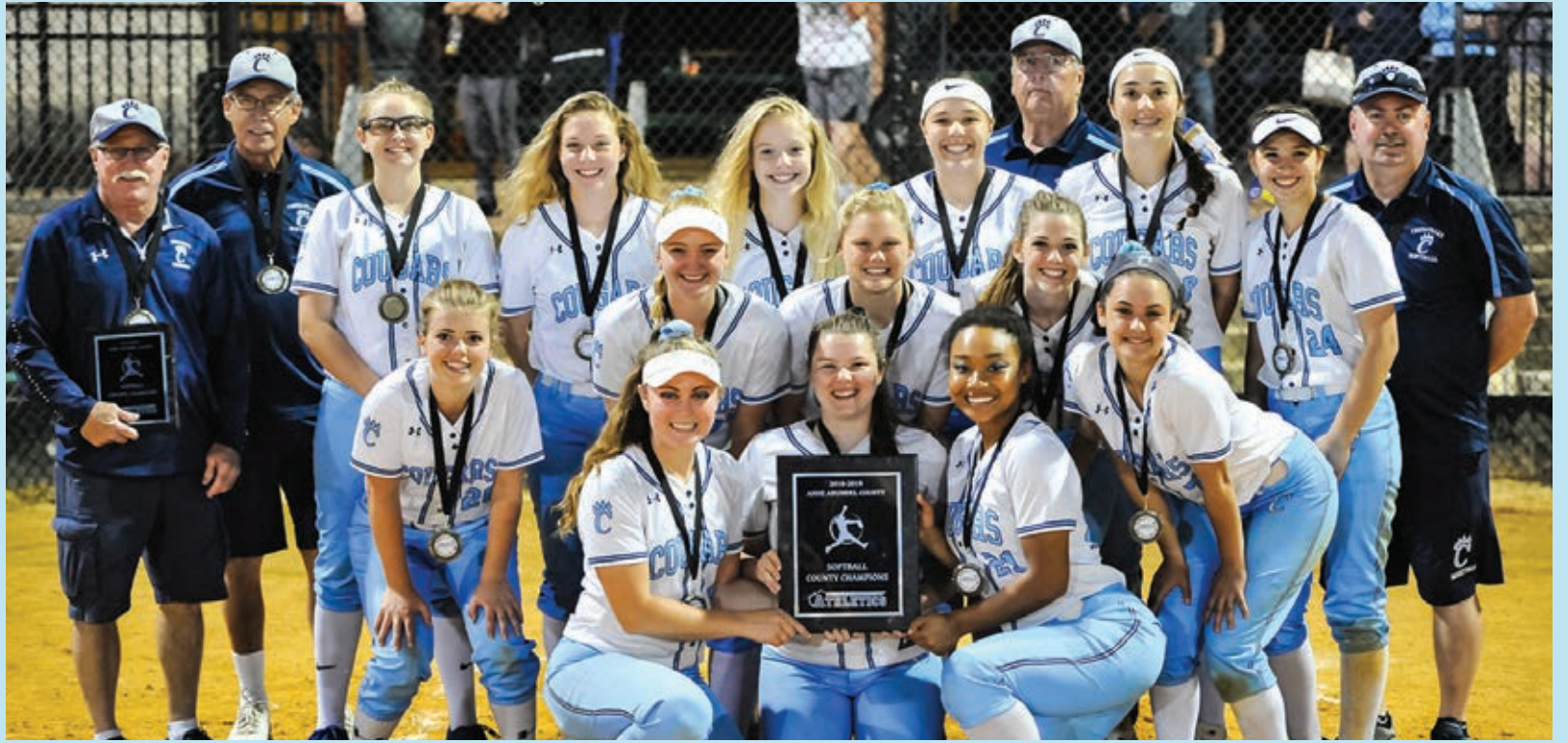
The Chesapeake Cougars cheerleading team scored a 126.2 out of 130 to beat 20 teams for the state crown at Harford Community College on February 13. Chesapeake swept the county, region and state championships in both the fall and winter seasons during the 2018-2019 school year.

Also during the winter, 10-year-old Lake Shore Elementary student Daniel Cox was one of 12 kids selected to film a Chick-fil-A kids correspondent public service announcement that aired on Fox45.

Along with all the personal achievements, two special displays of empathy occurred in the face of crisis.

Nick Curran administered CPR to Charlie Harrison, who was suffering from cardiac arrest on February 5. Curran and several other good Samaritans saved Harrison's life.

In the wake of an assault and robbery in February, 95-year-old Edna Holsey, owner of The Brass Rail Pub, showed resiliency by returning to her workplace for a 96th birthday celebration in March. Pasadena residents were there to welcome her back and show their love.



SPRING

For roughly eight weeks, from March 4 through the end of April, volunteer firefighter Duane McKee rented a mobile coffee truck to partially fund Second Alarm Brewhouse, a nonprofit coffee shop designed to raise awareness about the volunteer fire service.

"I'm a lieutenant next door in the firehouse, so I was looking for a way to bring the community together, not have this as a bar but have it open during the day for the community and at the same time create some awareness for the volunteer fire service in our county because we are dying," McKee said.

Elsewhere in Pasadena, Glenda Blessing was welcomed as the new principal at George Fox Middle School, and the Northeast High culinary team won a competition at the ProStart Student Invitational at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor on March 12.

Two hometown talents had big accomplishments in the spring of 2019. Jamie Auld starred in the documentary "Madonna and the Breakfast Club," which came out March 12. Nilah Magruder's first installment of the "Marvel Rising" miniseries was released March 27.

Christal Pommells captured individual county crowns in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes during the county championship meet on May 8. She helped Northeast's 4x100 team to first place as well. Northeast's Josh Krcik was county champion in the 300-meter hurdles.

On April 26, Chesapeake High

School's Evolve a cappella group competed at the International Championship for High School A Cappella Finals. The singers finished in fourth place overall and earned Best Choreography.

The Chesapeake Cougars softball team earned a convincing 5-0 win against the Lingonore Lancers in the 3A state semifinals on May 21 at Bachman Sports Complex to advance to the state championship game at the University of Maryland on May 25. The final yielded a 2-0 loss to the reigning state champion Huntingtown Hurricanes, but Chesapeake players enjoyed a proud season, going 20-4.

Several business owners were proud of their new locations in Pasadena. Everhart Veterinary Rehabilitation, The Anne Arundel Home Services Company, and Chelsea Michele Hair Studios all came to the area.

Richard Watts was named the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Volunteer of the Year for

his 14 years of service at Pasadena Elementary School.

The Fiscal Year 2020 budget passed 4-3 along party lines on June 14, with Democrats approving a \$1.7 billion spending plan almost identical to the one County Executive Stuart Pittman proposed on May 1. The budget pushed the property tax rate from 90.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 93.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. County residents now pay 2.81% in income taxes instead of 2.5%.

"My colleagues have mentioned this budget is transforming the county, and yes, it's transforming the county, a county that has spent two decades underfunding itself, and we can no longer wait for someone else to rescue us," said Councilwoman Allison Pickard from District 2. "It's time. It's time we take care of ourselves and invest in our children, in our public safety, in our communities."

SUMMER

On July 3, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health issued a health advisory that warned people to avoid any direct contact with the water at Lake Waterford because of a blue-green algae bloom. More than three months later, the advisory was lifted.

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.

"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," he said.

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) announced in late August that one of three potential sites for a new Chesapeake Bay bridge crossing runs between Pasadena, Rock Hall (Kent County) and Centreville



RELIVE THE BEST MOMENTS OF THE YEAR



(Queen Anne's County), much to the chagrin of Pasadena residents.

Pasadena resident Aaron Jezierski, though, had much to celebrate. In the span of a month, his Haulin N Balin boat was involved in three astonishing wins: a first-place 465.5-pound blue marlin in the White Marlin Open, a state-record 74.5-pound mahi-mahi in the Poor Girls tournament and a first-place 630-pound blue marlin in the MidAtlantic Tournament, all in Ocean City.

John Yore, who spent seven years as the principal at Meade High School in Fort Meade, was appointed to the same position at Chesapeake High School over the summer. He replaced Stephen Gorski, who is now an assistant principal at South River High School.



FALL

After Lauer's reached 45 years of serving Pasadena, sisters Bernie Snoops and Babbie Poyer announced in September that they were selling both Lauer's locations. The Chesterfield store is now Green Valley Marketplace. The Riviera Beach store is a Geresbeck's. Both stores are family owned.

New businesses also came to the 316,753-square-foot Pasadena Crossroads shopping center at the intersection of Ritchie Highway and Jumpers Hole Road. Gone are Kmart, Babies R Us, Shoppers Food, and Rugged Warehouse. In their place will be Hobby Lobby, HomeGoods, TJ Maxx, Ulta Beauty, Sprouts Farmers Market, and DSW Designer Shoe Warehouse.

Pasadena welcomed two

other new businesses in the fall: Let's Grow and Schaner Insurance Agency.

One business many people did not want in Pasadena was a Starbucks, but most of the opposition was to the location, not the business. Insite Real Estate Investment Properties has met the zoning requirements to build a Starbucks at 4314 Mountain Road, across from the Lakeshore Crossroads shopping center that has a Giant, 1978 Pizza and other shops.

"They have a right to build on the property, but the entrance is on a residential street, Temple Road," Fran Burton Zimmerman said. "There are no sidewalks, and we have traffic-calming barriers that are useless."

In one of the most stacked Anne Arundel fields in recent memory and perhaps ever, the Cougars outperformed everyone to win



their 18th county championship in cheerleading at Severna Park High School on October 23. Chesapeake's routine earned a score of 128.1 out of 130, the highest score by any team in the state this season. The Cougars, whose 18 titles began with the fall county championship in 2008, have won three straight fall county championships and six straight county championships, including winter seasons, dating back to the 2016-2017 winter season.

Kayla Alexander's 26-yard field goal in the fourth quarter on November 1 propelled Northeast to a 9-7 win over Chesapeake in 43rd edition of the Dena Bowl, which came as both the Eagles and Cougars were in a fight for playoff positioning in the 3A South. Both teams made it to the opening round of the playoffs, where their seasons came to an end.

The Chesapeake High marching band participated in three competitions within the Maryland Marching Band Association 1A class and was undefeated within the circuit, making them state champions.

Chesapeake girls soccer enjoyed a successful season, making to the state semifinals. Northeast volleyball reached the state quarterfinals.

While young athletes had much to celebrate, some Pasadena residents were in mourning. Elmer Banister, known to most as "Mr. Fudd" of Fudd's Rabbit Hole, passed away on November 17 due to complications after suffering a stroke in October.

Pasadena received good news before the start of the new year, as the community learned that cell service will be improved with the addition of new towers in the Lake Shore area.



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NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

Rockview Beach

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

It's All About The Water: Rockview Beach Residents Love The Outdoors

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

Marcia Patterson recalled a simple time during her childhood in Rockview Beach, the community that became her home in 1951.

"The creek was clean and we lived in our bathing suits all summer long while we swam and fished and crabbed," said Patterson, whose family moved to Rockview Beach when she was 8 years old. "When the sea nettles appeared later in the summer, we just rowed around in the row boat and dipped them with the crab net and put them in a bucket."

Patterson moved when she got married, returned to Rockview Beach in 1969 and left again last year. Her former house now belongs to her grandson, John Patterson, who first lived in the community from ages 1 to 19.

"I like being able to see the water from my kitchen window," said John, who lives with his wife and two children. "My hope was that

my kids would grow up in the same neighborhood and go to the same schools: Jacobsville Elementary, Chesapeake Bay Middle and Chesapeake High."

A former teacher at Annapolis High School, Eunice Seamour has called Rockview Beach her home since she was born in 1941.

"I was comfortable here and I knew people here," said Eunice, who raised her two children in Rockview Beach with help from her husband, Earl. "It's a relatively safe community."

Minnie Bush wasn't far behind Marcia Patterson. Bush moved to Rockview Beach in 1953 with her family when she was 4 years old.

She said her grandmother, Clara Meeks, bought a summer cottage in the area in 1932. Bush's parents later bought a waterfront house around the corner. At one point, her son lived across the road, as did one of her sisters.

"Until about 15 years ago, no one really knew where Rockview Beach was," Bush said. "People grow up here,

get married and stay. It's only a few of us that are 'originals.' Most everyone minds their own business — that, I like."

She called Rockview Beach a "plain, water-privileged community," and that's why residents love calling it home.

"A handful of people try to keep the improvement association going along with Riviera Isles, which is on one side of Elizabeth Road coming into Rockview Beach," she said. "We have a new president, Allan Straughan, who has done a fantastic job."

Since moving to the community two years ago, Taylor Blake has witnessed the neighborhood's charm.

"What drew me to the community was the school district and how it is water privileged," said Blake, who lives with her husband, Chris; daughter, Quinn; and Chesapeake Bay retriever Chance, who loves swimming at the Rockview Beach boat ramp. "Also, it is not a huge community like some others in our area, so it seemed like

it would be a close-knit and quiet community."

Blake also likes the people she has met and the safety she feels when walking Chance or playing with Quinn. But that's not all.

"What makes it unique is how it has county water and it's inside Chesapeake school district," she added. "Growing up in Pasadena, I know firsthand the struggles of dealing with well water!"

Blake's family is thrilled to be in Rockview Beach. One day, like Marcia Patterson, Minnie Bush and Eunice Seamour, she may have stories to share about Rockview Beach and the people who make it a special place.

"We also love that our county councilman, Nathan Volke, has been involved in our neighborhood by helping to resolve community issues and by listening to members' concerns and input on district and county matters," she said.

"We love living in this community and plan to stay here awhile."



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A Year Later: 2019 County Council Summary

Nathan Volke
Councilman
District 3



December is upon us. It's the most wonderful — and busy — time of the year! This month also marks one year since members of the county council were inaugurated. Knowing that it can be hard to find time to keep up with what is happening in local government, especially during this season, I want to share a summary of our work over the last 12 months.

Since last December, the council has considered 82 bills. Of those, 67% passed unanimously, illustrating that most of the council's work is noncontroversial and nonpartisan. However, there are some issues where our different worldviews and beliefs are highlighted. Those are most apparent in the 18% of bills (15) passed on a four-to-three vote, with 14 of those 15 being party-line votes (Democrats yes, Republicans no), including:

- Banning the use of polystyrene products (Styrofoam) by food service facilities in the county, like Chick-fil-A and Dunkin' Donuts.
- Making it easier to locate medical marijuana dispensaries in neighborhoods.
- Increasing fees like the rain tax and movie tax.
- Increasing your income and property taxes by roughly \$553 per year for the average household.
- Allowing high-density housing (R-22) in medium-density (R-5) zoning to create affordable and workforce housing.
- Allowing the county to require union contractors on public works projects.
- Banning discrimination in housing based on



Councilman Nathan Volke joined civic groups and businesses in the Pasadena Business Association's annual Caring & Sharing Community Harvest Parade on the first Sunday of November. The event helps collect food for neighbors in need.

things like citizenship, source of income, and gender expression.

- Creating a commission to investigate and fine housing discrimination violations at up to \$10,000 per offense.
- For my individual legislative work, I have spearheaded a number of initiatives this year, including:
 - Asking the county executive to reconsider his withdrawal of the county's participation in the 287(g) immigration program and ICE detainee housing program (both efforts defeated on party-line votes).
 - Capping your local income tax rate to prevent future tax increases. This plan was similar to property tax cap already in place, although the county executive and county council used a state law to bypass our property tax cap and increase your property taxes this year (effort

defeated on party-line vote).

- Enabling greater access to county records for the county auditor to find waste, fraud and abuse (passed unanimously; will be on the 2020 ballot for approval).
- Confirmation of the police chief, fire chief and county attorney (passed unanimously; will be on the 2020 ballot for approval).
- Ethics reform for the county council to ensure that we are held to the same high standards of transparency, accountability, and no self-dealing that we expect from others (currently under consideration).

Another topic that I have worked on behind the scenes this year is regulation for community-based assisted living facilities and group homes. While we absolutely need these facilities

in our community, some developers are using the loose regulations and rules in place to change the "community" nature of these facilities into major businesses operating in residential areas without adequate infrastructure or safety measures to guarantee safety for some of our most vulnerable citizens. I am working with the community and others to try and find a solution that respects the rights and dignity of all parties involved. This is something I expect to continue working on into the New Year.

Representing you on the county council this year has been a joy. Through the challenges, I remain committed to doing my very best to give back to this community that has given so much to me. From my family to yours, we wish you a merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy New Year!

Remember Your Local Businesses This Holiday Season

Peter Franchot
Comptroller of
Maryland



It's never been easier to do your holiday shopping from the comfort of your home. Major retailers make it easy to buy online, offering deep discounts and the ability to avoid long checkout lines. Amazon and other web-based platforms have a seemingly endless supply of gifts to choose from for anyone on your list.

That's why it's more important than ever to shop local this holiday season. In recent weeks, I have visited local retailers across Maryland — a bike shop in Cumberland, a gourmet popcorn vendor in Ellicott City, and an outdoors store on Kent Island, to name a few. Each of these businesses depends on strong holiday sales to survive.

The National Retail Federation projects holiday sales will increase around 4% from 2018, a slight uptick over the previous five-year average. That's largely a reflection of an improving economy and greater consumer spending.

That's great news, indeed. But within that data, online sales are expected to increase between 11% and 14%, meaning brick-and-mortar stores face growing competition.

Shopping local keeps your money circulating within our local towns and communities. These stores also employ thousands of Marylanders and represent the lifeblood of

Maryland's small business community. The owners care deeply about their customers and neighborhoods, because they are invested in their success.

Earlier this year, I presented the Cornerstone Award for Local Business Excellence in all 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. This award recognized small and family-owned businesses that are part of the fabric of their community. These honorees have stood the test of time, overcoming economic challenges, prioritizing customer service and showing a commitment to the community through sponsorships, service, charitable giving and civic engagement.

Put another way, they are the "Cheers" of their county — everybody knows their name.

I'm talking about businesses like Homestead Gardens in Anne Arundel County, the iconic Bengies Drive-In in Baltimore County and Clark's Elioak Farm in Howard County. They are deeply rooted in their communities. They sponsor Little League teams, they support local law enforcement, and they generate tax revenue that helps fund schools, roads and more.

Yes, online is easy, but the personal in-store experience and customer service of your local retailer cannot be matched. That's why I urge you once more to shop local when crossing off your gift lists.

I wish all Marylanders a restful and joyous holiday season spent with family and friends.

A Message From Sheriff Jim Fredericks

Jim Fredericks
County Sheriff



It's hard to believe that it's been a year since I was sworn in as your sheriff, but I can assure you that the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office is moving forward to become more modern and efficient than ever before.

I am excited to enter 2020 with more ideas to improve services and to make our communities safer. I hope your holiday season is filled with family, friends and good times.

Remember to practice good safety habits while driving and shopping for the holidays. Most importantly, let us all remember to practice being good to others. Have a wonderful December, and, from the hardworking women and men of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office, we wish you happy holidays!



Photo by Haley Weisgerber

Officers from the Eastern District salute during the Pasadena Business Association's Veterans Day ceremony.

"Innovation Schools" Accountability Initiative, School Construction Plan

In early December, Governor Larry Hogan announced an education package that includes an accountability initiative to turn around persistently underperforming schools, as well as the largest school construction plan in state history.

"We are here today to launch the next chapter of education reform in Maryland, which will provide increased investment for our schools, more accountability for Maryland parents, teachers and taxpayers, and most importantly, help to achieve better results for

our children," Hogan said. Community and Local Accountability for Struggling Schools (CLASS) Act

At the start of the 2020 legislative session, Hogan will introduce the Community and Local Accountability for Struggling Schools (CLASS) Act to help quickly and effectively turn around persistently underperforming schools. Modeled after a program developed by former Democratic Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, the legislation will designate "Innovation Schools" that operate with greater local autonomy and flexibility

while keeping school funding within districts.

The CLASS Act will define any school that receives a one-star rating for two consecutive years as an Innovation School. The local school board will establish a committee to develop a turnaround plan, which will cover a wide range of areas, including curriculum, budget, schedule, staffing and professional development. The committee, which will hold a public hearing on its five-year plan, will be comprised of local residents with relevant experience in education, youth development,

management and finance.

Innovation Schools will continue to receive full funding while being held accountable for meeting benchmarks in such areas as graduation rates, student performance, and closing achievement gaps.

Building Opportunity Act Hogan will also reintroduce the Building Opportunity Act, which provides a record \$3.8 billion for school construction funding over five years.

"This is the largest investment in school construction ever in Maryland history," Hogan said.

New funding for this initiative will come from a share of casino revenues in the education lockbox, which Hogan pushed for and enacted to ensure that an additional \$4.4 billion in funding would go toward K-12 education.

The Building Opportunity Act provides funding to cover all of the projects currently requested by local school systems. The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) is conducting a statewide school facilities assessment to better evaluate local requests.

Letter To The Editor

News From Fort Smallwood Park

There is good news and bad news to report. The good news is that the current sand restoration project will soon be completed, and the walking path around the pond will be reopened. Other good news is that the current phase of the shore restoration has been completed.

The bad news is that, as part of the shore restoration, about 200 saplings have been planted in a 1-acre plot to replace removed trees. The idea is to create a mini-forest, as required by the state and federal governments. Those of us who love the park wish the 200 saplings had been more spread out.

Continuing bad news is that walkers at the park still have no walking path through the shore restoration area. Having to walk in the road makes for a dangerous situation, as cars are coming and going. Even worse, the road goes by the children's play area. Keeping cars and pedestrians separate should have been a major goal of the various restoration projects at the park.

PAUL STRECKFUS
PASADENA, MD

HEALTH & FITNESS

Tech Talk With Dr. Cranska

Jeffrey Cranska
Family Laser
Dentistry



In upcoming months, I will answer questions on high-technology dentistry. Please direct inquiries to my website at www.cranska.com or email me at familylaserdentistry@outlook.com.

WHAT EYE TECHNOLOGY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE MODERN DENTAL OFFICE?

What dental technology do dentists find the most indispensable? What can't they live without? A recent publication surveyed dentists, and the No. 1 response was eyeglass loupes and headlamps. Magnified eyewear has become essential over the past 20-plus years, and attaching an independent light source adds to the view.

Q: Why do dentists wear goggles?

A: Dentists wear eyeglasses for protection and to improve vision. Loupes are magnifying glasses that enlarge everything I see in the mouth. Magnification of three times or larger is needed for me

to perform precise dental work and to properly diagnose conditions in the mouth.

The headlight, mounted on the loupes, shines where I look.

Dentists need to work in a dark area (your mouth). Lighting is essential for treatment in the oral cavity. Used overhead in the treatment rooms, LED dental lights produce more neutral white light, use about one-fifth of the power consumption of halogen light bulbs, do not produce radiant heat, and will last up to 30,000 hours. Adjustable LED overhead lights are also mounted on the ceiling or chair. Rechargeable mini LED headlamps are also attached to glasses or loupes to increase illumination of the magnified treatment area.

Q: Why does the dentist make me wear glasses?

A: The tinted glasses handed to the patient in the dental treatment areas are provided for safety. These protect your eyes from anything that could splash or drop into your eyes during dental procedures. The dental team wears glasses for the same reason.

When dental lasers are

utilized, as a precaution you will be required to wear specially treated eye glasses during treatment to protect your eyes from inadvertent laser light beam exposure.

If anything drops into your eyes, it can cause damage. The liquids used in dentistry are often acidic or strong alkaline, which could damage the soft tissues of the eye. If your dental treatment involves restorations, particles of filling material could escape the high-volume suction and have the potential of lodging into the eye and scratching it. Ultrasonic cleaning of your teeth dislodges tartar and bacteria into the air. Glasses will also protect your eyes from the instruments and equipment that the dental team is holding. Every patient has always worn eye protection since I opened my first office, so luckily I don't have any stories to tell.

Safety glasses are thoroughly decontaminated following strict guidelines after every use.

Eyewear in dentistry is made for improved vision, but eyewear also has many components for safety. Remember, safety glasses work only if you wear them.

Howliday Fun!

Dr. Catherine DeJesus
Associate
Veterinarian
VCA Calvert
Veterinary Center



The time of year approaches for family gatherings, dinners, lots of decorations, and presents.

By your side through all this are your pets, whether that be for good (comfort/support) or bad (mischief/theft). So why not give them something to do and something to learn.

At VCA Calvert Veterinary Center, we use the art of distraction to help with exams and treatments.

HERE ARE SOME THAT MAY HELP THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS:

- Food puzzles/slow feeders. These are great for getting your pets to slow down while eating and to give you some free time. They come in many forms. The more complicated they are, the longer it takes pets to get through. Remember, if it's too difficult, they can become disinterested or destructive.
- Enzymatically treated rawhide dental chews. These are easily digestible and remove plaque

and tartar while promoting fresh breath when brushing is not possible. They can take a while to work through and can give you the 10 to 15 minutes you need.

• Treat-dispensing toys. These allow small amounts of kibbles at a time to come out depending on how your pet grasps it or drops it. There are even mice to hide kibble in to allow cats to "hunt."

WE ALSO LOVE TO BE A PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS.

If your dog gets overly excited when guests enter, try to teach it to grab a toy at the sound of a door bell or go to their bed. This should teach them an appropriate behavior if their greeting to people is a little overzealous.

Pheromone scents for dogs and cats are great for creating a sense of calm for the holidays. Try these around the holidays to help with any anxiety that this time of year creates.

Old dogs and cats can learn new tricks, and sometimes these are a little easier than the old ones. Older pets have a harder time sitting and lying down. You can teach them to nose touch, ring a bell, or make a figure-

eight between your legs. This also helps keep them mentally stimulated. Tell your guests about their new tricks and get everyone involved.

There are many ways to distract pets to help you get things done while involving the pets in the festivities of the holidays. Please make sure your pets are comfortable and safe.

We would love it if you could share how your pets are involved in holiday festivities or what you do to distract them. Send us a story or picture on Facebook. You may have another tip that can help a nosy or bored pet. Happy holidays from VCA Calvert Veterinary Center. The veterinarians of VCA Calvert Veterinary Center have over 35 years of combined experience helping pets stay healthy and happy.

Call today at 410-360-PAWS for an appointment or schedule online from www.vcahospitals.com/calvert.

VCA Calvert Veterinary Center is conveniently located at 4100 Mountain Road and has been proudly serving the Pasadena community for over 15 years.

UMBWMC Calendar

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
1:30-2:30pm:
Preventing Diabetes Class.**

A diabetes educator discusses factors leading to diabetes and lifestyle changes to prevent diabetes and improve overall health. To register for this free class or for more information, call 410-787-4940. (Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology at UM BWMC, 300 Hospital Drive, Suite 223).

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
5:30-6:30pm:
Diabetes Support Group.**

Meets to discuss current issues regarding diabetes management (Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology at UM BWMC, 300 Hospital Drive, Suite 223). Reservations are not requested. For more information, call 410-787-4940.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
9:00am-2:30pm:
American Red Cross Blood Drive**

sponsored by UM BWMC. To schedule an appointment to make a life-saving donation, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or UM BWMC's community outreach department at 410-553-8103. (Dr. Constantine Padussis Conference Center, 301 Hospital Drive, third floor).

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28
10:00-11:00pm:
Opioid Overdose Response Program.**

Free classes help the community learn the signs and symptoms of an opiate overdose along with how to safely administer naloxone (Narcan), the FDA-approved emergency treatment nasal spray. Preregistration is required as space is limited. For more information or to register, call 410-787-4490.

For more information, contact the community outreach department at 410-553-8103 or visit www.umbwmc.org.

BWMC Foundation Hosts Successful Gala

The Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation's signature event, The Power of Caring gala, was held in November at the Live! Casino and Hotel in Hanover with the honorary chair, the Creston G. Tate and Betty Jane Tate Foundation.

About 450 guests attended the event, which included a cocktail reception, seated dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the live music of the band Millennium. Proceeds directly benefit University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center and enable UM BWMC to increase investments in technology, programs and services that improve patients' experiences.

"This year, we celebrated the power of caring to acknowledge the impact of UM BWMC's exceptional medical care and the impact of the everyday acts of kindness, care and compassion from our community

members — especially the Tate family," said Kathy Burk, the BWMC Foundation executive director. "We were honored to recognize the Tates for all they've done to support both the UM BWMC and the entire community."

Supporting this year's event were more than 80 sponsors and underwriters including community businesses, medical leaders, physicians and individuals. Sponsors were recognized by a variety of superhero-themed monikers. The Creston G. and Betty Jane Tate Foundation was Earth's Mightiest Caregiver sponsor. Guardians of Wellness sponsors included the UM BWMC medical staff and Live! Casino and Hotel.

While, the Men and Women of Steel sponsors included Kaiser Permanente, UM Baltimore Washington Emergency Physicians, UM Baltimore Washington Primary Care, UMMS



About 450 guests attended the gala, which included a cocktail reception, seated dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the live music of the band Millennium.

and UM BWMC.

Additionally, support came from major sponsors including J.B.A. Chevrolet, Ron and Karen Lowman, VNA of Maryland, Gable, FutureCare Health and Management Corporation, Chesapeake Oncology

Hematology Associates, BB&T, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, Sandy Spring Bank, U.S. Anesthesia Partners of Maryland, Chesapeake Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center, Leach Wallace Associates Inc., Maryland

Primary Care Physicians, Woodholme Gastroenterology Associates, Gallagher Evelius & Jones, Hospice of the Chesapeake, M&T Bank, University of Maryland Radiation Oncology, UM Baltimore Washington Heart Associates, UM Baltimore Washington Oncology & Hematology, The Vascular Center at UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center, UM BWMC Executive Team, and BWMC Foundation's Next Generation Group.

The BWMC Foundation is the fundraising arm of the UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center. It helps bridge the gap between the medical center's basic operating costs and its ability to stay abreast of advancing technologies, programs and services, and plays an integral role in helping UM BWMC provide the highest-quality health care to the communities it serves. The BWMC Foundation accepts gifts of all sizes and offers numerous ways to donate. Visit www.bwmcfoundation.org for more information.



Find Tips For Staying Safe In Cold Temps This Winter

Anne Arundel County residents can safely enjoy the outdoors during cold weather by visiting the "Cold Weather Tips" page of the Department of Health's website, www.aahealth.org. The webpage includes advice on dressing for cold weather, suggestions for items to have in case of a snowstorm, and a list of frostbite and hypother-

mia symptoms. Tips for preventing freezing and bursting pipes, advice for maintaining space heaters and fireplaces, and links to information on portable generator safety are also included.

Visit www.aahealth.org and click on "Cold Weather Tips" under "In the News," or go to the page directly at www.aahealth.org/cold-weather.



PBA Update

Sandi Parrish
Executive Director



I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. This is always a busy time of year for the Pasadena Business Association. We have a golf tournament and community crab feast in September, trade show in October, parade and Veteran's Day ceremony in November, and tree lighting in December. Our Caring & Sharing Parade was a fun afternoon for many who either participated or just came out to watch. I know the parade is entertaining for some people, but for others, it was an inconvenience. Please know that

this is once a year on the first Sunday of November starting at 2:00pm. It was our 24th year doing the parade and we will be doing it for our 25th year on November 1, so mark your calendars.

We collected enough food to supply seven Pasadena pantries with food for the holidays. Thank you to all of our corporate and community sponsors, all who participated, all who watched, and those who donated food for those less fortunate.

The ninth annual Veterans Day ceremony was really nice. We had 200-plus people in attendance. The veterans and active military were presented with a gift and thank you cards while they announced their name and when and where

they served. The thank you cards written by students in Pasadena, Jacobsville and Bodkin elementary schools were a big hit. This is truly one of my favorite events of the year.

This ceremony is always on Veterans Day at 1:00pm at the flag located at the intersection of Route 100 and Mountain Road, so plan to attend next year.

PBA maintains the flag site and flag with the help from many of our businesses, so thanks to all for the continued support.

Remember to shop local whenever possible. These local businesses are supporting our community, so please support them.

I can't believe Christmas is right around the corner. We wish you a happy holiday.



Photos by Haley Weisgerber

More than 200 people attended the PBA's annual Veterans Day ceremony at the intersection of Route 100 and Mountain Road.

Lauer's Supermarket Owners Inducted Into Food Industry Hall Of Fame

Bernie Snoops and Babbie Poyer joined their parents, Ed and Helen Lauer, in the Food Industry Hall of Fame during a ceremony at Martin's West in Baltimore on November 7.

Here's what the program said about two of its newest inductees:

Bernadette Snoops and Babbie Poyer worked in the family business alongside their parents since its inception in January 1974.

Through high school and college, they gained experience in all departments while learning the different facets of the business.

After college, Babbie left to pursue a career in accounting while Bernie continued to solidify her interest in the family business. At that time, Lauer's implemented "computer associated checkout," becoming the first independent grocer in Maryland to have scanning at the checkout.

With the second generation well on their way to success, Lauer's founders Ed and Helen started to explore succession planning.

In 2006, the baton was officially passed, and Babbie and Bernie completed the purchase of the stores.

Since then, they have continued to expand the homemade offerings in their grab-and-go and home meal replacement



Bernie Snoops and Babbie Poyer have sold the stores, but the Lauer family legacy will be remembered in Pasadena for years to come.

"The Lauer's Luscious Bakery has become a well-known destination in the community and surrounding areas. Babbie and Bernie continued to operate the stores while emphasizing the Lauer's commitment to the Pasadena community."

departments.

The Lauer's Luscious Bakery has become a well-known destination in the community and surrounding areas. Babbie and Bernie continued to operate the stores while emphasizing the Lauer's commitment to the local Pasadena community.

Bernie and Babbie have

sold the stores, but the Lauer legacy will be remembered in Pasadena for years to come.

Babbie's retirement plans include traveling with her three sons — Greg, Ryan and Brad — and her grandson, Liam.

Bernie plans on traveling with her husband, Craig,

and spending time with her daughter, Whitney, and son, Garrett.

Other 2019 inductees included Governor Larry Hogan, Otterbein's Bakery, and John Gates of Lancaster Foods LLC. The Best-Met, Pete Manos Award went to Nicholas Bertram, president of Giant Food Stores LLC.

MAKES A DIFFERENCE — SHOP LOCAL

For every \$100 spent in locally owned independent stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures.

This purchasing choice vs. other purchasing options keeps the most money in the area, and these dollars continue to flow through our community!

Come One, Come All!



The Anne Arundel Home Services Company invites the community to its inaugural holiday open house on Friday, December 20.

Come out to meet the company's staff and enjoy food, sweet treats, drinks and fun. The party will start at 2:00pm at The Anne Arundel Home Services Company office, located at 8371 Baltimore Annapolis

Boulevard in Pasadena. The party will be at the office until 6:00pm, and will then move to Twain's Tavern next door.

Please park at Twain's Tavern since parking is limited. The Anne Arundel Home Services Company team would love to show its appreciation to Anne Arundel County, and the staff looks forward to seeing everyone.

Three Unique Ways To Give This Holiday Season

Jason LaBarge
Managing Partner
Premier
Planning Group



The holiday season is here! This is my favorite time of year. We get to spend time with family and give thanks for all the blessings we have in our lives.

It's the time of year to think about giving as well. Giving comes in many forms. Many of you went out on Black Friday and shopped 'til you dropped. Others decide to exchange gifts with family, friends and coworkers. I want to highlight a few unique ways to give that you may not hear about as often.

THREE UNIQUE WAYS TO GIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

We're going to briefly mention how you can give your required minimum distribution (RMD) to charity, how to contribute to a loved one's individual retirement account (IRA), and how to give to a youngster's 529 plan.

GIVING YOUR RMD TO CHARITY

The end of the year means our office is speaking with many of our clients about their RMDs. The IRS requires that individuals over the age of 70.5 years old take a certain amount out of their IRAs each year. The amount changes depending on how old you are and is required to be withdrawn before December 31.

One way you can give this year is by donating your RMD to a charity. You can contribute up to \$100,000 to a charity to avoid paying income taxes on the distribution. You can choose to donate a portion or your full RMD, which may help to mitigate your tax implication of these withdrawals as well.

If this interests you, you should contact your retirement planner, and ask for help in setting up a direct transfer between your IRA and the 501(c)(3) organization.

GIVING TO A LOVED ONE BY CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR IRA

Another unique way to give this season is by contributing to a loved one's IRA. Anyone who has earned income during this tax year is eligible to open an IRA. They don't even have to be adults! Anyone with a job is eligible to open an IRA as well.

You can contribute to both types of IRAs: a traditional IRA, where the taxes are deferred until the money is withdrawn, or a Roth IRA, where contributions are made with after-tax money. When the recipient withdraws the money from their Roth IRA, no taxes will be due (the account holder can be subject to penalties, however, if they make an early withdrawal.)

If you choose to give by contributing to someone's IRA, just be aware that you cannot give more than the person's earned income that year, so if they earned only \$3,000

this year, you can contribute up to \$3,000 to their IRA.

Oftentimes, family and friends like to contribute to or start an IRA for young adults since time is on their side. The younger the recipient is, the longer he or she will have to let interest in the account compound and grow.

This can be a particularly good strategy for couples when one person has already made the maximum contribution for the year, and the other hasn't. You can also contribute to your spouse's IRA.

GIVING THE GIFT OF EDUCATION THROUGH GIVING TO A 529 ACCOUNT

If you have a younger person in your life who you'd like to give to, consider giving the gift that will last a lifetime — an education! If the child's parents have already opened a 529 account for them, all you need to do is contribute whatever amount you want. Just be aware that in 2019, you can give someone up to

\$15,000 before you need to worry about the gift tax.

Contributing to a 529 can be as easy as asking the parents for the account number and sending a check. My parents give to my children's 529 this way. You can also request a link to the account and contribute online.

If these ideas do not suit you, consider giving savings bonds or gold or silver coins as gifts. I find it very cool when my in-laws get my children gold coins every year, so when they turn 18, they will have a large hoard of gold in their possession. What a great gift!

If you're in the giving mood and want an alternative to consumable goods, consider one of these methods. Of course, as with all financial decisions, we'd suggest you talk to a financial professional before taking action, especially since their staff can often make the process even easier for you.

Learn more about Jason LaBarge at www.jasonlabarge.com.

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Before investing, the investor should consider whether the investor's or beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits available only from the state's 529 Plan.

Jason LaBarge, Managing Partner and Financial Consultant at Premier Planning Group

115 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401 443-837-2520

DOUGLAS REALTY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are joining forces with the Kamryn Lambert Foundation to collect toys & gift cards for local children in need!

This drive helps many families throughout our state at a time of year that can be very stressful, especially when caring for a sick child, facing financial hardship, or dealing with environmental struggles. The drive benefits pediatric patients at area hospitals and oncology clinics, CASA organizations, the Ronald McDonald House, the Boys and Girls Clubs, foster homes, shelters, and needy families.

Drop off toys (must be NEW), gift cards, or monetary donations between now and Dec. 15th at our main office, located at 8585 Fort Smallwood Road in Pasadena.

HOLIDAY WISH LISTS COMPILED BY AREA HOSPITALS

Infants/Toddlers

- Baby brushes
- Baby socks
- Baby spoons and sippy cups
- Bath time toys and plastic books
- Bibs
- Blankets
- Books (cardboard and cloth)
- Cause and effect toys
- Crib Aquariums (Fisher Price)
- Crib mobiles
- Infant mirrors
- Little Tikes Piano
- Onesies
- Pajamas
- Pillow Pets (brand new)
- Play gyms
- Rattles (Sassy, Bright Starts, First Years, Oball)
- Sensory blocks by Fisher Price
- Small soft balls (no Nerf balls)
- Snap beads
- Stacking toys (ring stack, cups, nesting animals)
- Teething toys
- Wrist and foot "jingles"

Toddler/Preschool

- Action figures
- Aquadoodles
- Baby dolls
- Books
- Soft Balls
- Bubbles
- Color Wonder kits
- Crayons & coloring books (toddler sized crayons)
- Duplo sets
- DVDs (G-rated)
- Fisher Price/ Playskool toy cars, trucks, school buses, etc.
- I Spy/Seek and Find books
- Play-Doh
- Pop-up books
- Puzzles (24 pieces or less, wooden w/pegs)
- Shape sorters
- Stuffed animals (brand new)
- Toy kitchen and tea sets
- Toy phones
- Toys with lights & noises
- Viewmaster and slides

School-Age

- Action figures
- Barbies
- Baseball gloves
- Bionicles
- Books (pop-up, picture, chapter)
- Bubbles
- Craft kits
- Crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Coloring books/activity books
- Decks of cards
- Disney store items
- DVDs (G, PG-rated)
- Fuzzy posters and markers
- Hair accessories
- Handheld electronic games
- Hot Wheels cars
- iTunes gift cards
- I Spy/Seek and Find books
- Kids' magazines
- Lego sets
- Model kits (snap)
- Model Magic
- Nail polish
- Paint sets
- Play Doh
- Puzzles (24-70 pieces)
- Silly Putty
- Slinky
- Slipper socks with characters
- Stickers and sticker books
- Travel size and regular size Etch-A-Sketches, Magna Doodles, Connect 4, Operation, Sorry, etc.
- UNO
- Yo-yos

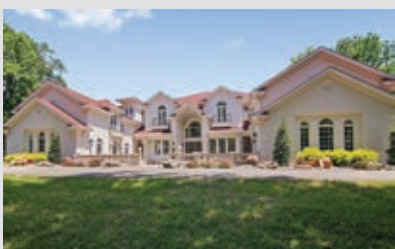
Teenagers

- Art supplies
- AXE body care products
- Bath & Body items
- Blank journals/sketch books & pencils
- Board games
- Card games
- Compact mirrors
- Craft kits
- Crossword books/word search books
- Deck of cards & UNO
- DVDs (G, PG & PG-13)
- Gel pen sets
- Gift cards (iTunes, Walmart, Subway, Bath & Body, Target, Old Navy)
- Hair care items
- Hand held electronic games
- Headphones/earbuds
- Lounge pants
- Mad Libs
- Model kits (snap and glue)
- Modeling Clay
- Movie passes
- Nail polish
- Plain scrapbooks
- Plush Throws
- Sports apparel
- Teen coloring books
- Travel toiletry bags
- Watches w/ alarms
- White t-shirts w/ set of fabric markers
- Wood building kits
- Yo-yos

All Ages

- Critter Pillers
- Neck Rolls
- Pillow Pets

Featured Homes



Custom Built Home on 5 Acres
0600 Land Tree Dr, Upper Marlboro - \$1,750,000



Luxurious Custom Pool, Guest Quarters
425 Heath Dr, Sykesville - \$1,500,000



Custom-Built Waterview Home
328 Hickory Point Rd, Pasadena - \$1,495,900



Opulent Manor with Custom Finishes
2403 Nora Ct, Forest Hill - \$1,049,000



Elegance on ~2ac, Gourmet Kitchen
12845 Dover Rd, Reisterstown - \$849,900



Beautifully Updated Potomac Paradise
12002 Reynolds Ave, Potomac - \$769,888



Custom-Built Home w/ Water Access
1903 Blue Waters Farm Ln, Pasadena - \$769,900



Severna Park Retreat on ~1ac
92 Premier Ct, Severna Park - \$689,000



Entertainer's Dream on Cul-de-Sac
1208 Chrisland Ct, Annapolis - \$675,000



New Cons., Gourmet Kitchen, Available Now
1705 Trents Way, Annapolis - \$649,900

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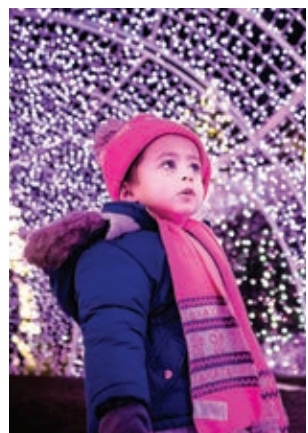
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Holiday Events Worth The Drive
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Northeast High's Tim Stedman Wins P.E. Teacher Of The Year
>> Page B6



Voice Values
 Be Sure To Take Advantage Of All The Local Deals
>> Inside

PASADENA SPORTS

VOTED THE 2019 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MARYLAND FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

PASADENA, MD

DECEMBER 12, 2019

B1

CHS XC Competes At State Championships

By Haley Weisgerber

The Chesapeake High School boys and girls cross country teams attended the state championship at Hereford High School on November 9.

Though individual runners had qualified, the girls team had not competed at states in six years.

"This has been a great year because we've had both the boys and girls teams qualify for states, and that's been a long time coming for the ladies," said assistant coach **Joe Hatcher**.

The boys team finished in 19th place with 434 points, and the girls took 14th with 323 points.

The course at Hereford, commonly known as Bull Run, is one of the hardest in the nation. Head coach

DeWitt Kneass knew the runners were up to the challenge.

"This is Bull Run, and it's one of the toughest courses in America, and they are familiar with it," said Kneass. "You have to be tough to be in this sport. It's all mental, and that's why I love cross country."

In the girls race, sophomore **Nia Quinn** ran the course in 20:41.75 and placed 21st to medal in the top 25. Sophomore **Bailey Healy** (36th) finished in 21:09.17, followed by freshman **Bridgette Van Valkenburgh** (75th), junior **Lainie Mikeska** (102nd), sophomore **Rachel Snyder** (123rd), senior **Lindsey Weisgerber** (124th) and senior **Holly Boggs** (128th) for an average time of 22:19.

In the boys race, junior >> Continued on B3



Photos courtesy of Chad McMeen

The Chesapeake cross country teams represented at the state championship meet on November 9 at Hereford High School.

Panthers Shut Out PAL 12-0 For 14U AAYFA Championship



The 14U Panthers are Anne Arundel Youth Football Association champions after their 12-0 defeat of PAL in the Central Division playoff final at Annapolis High School on November 8.

By Colin Murphy
 colin@pasadenavoiced.com

The majority of the 14U Panthers football players have been playing together for years, going all the way back to their days as 70-pounders.

In some seasons, the team struggled. One year, they went 0-9 and didn't score a touchdown.

But that was then. This is now.

The Panthers completed their years-long climb to the top of the Anne Arundel Youth Football Association on November 8 when they defeated the Peninsula Athletic League Hawks 12-0 in the AAYFA Central Division championship at Annapolis High School.

The team finished 10-2 overall with a sendoff championship in the final game of their youth careers. "I'm extremely proud of the boys," said Panthers head coach **Duane Jackson**, who guided the team to the ideal

finish to their youth football careers before they head off to play high school football next fall. "With the years we had in the past, we've been beat up on quite a bit over the years, and they just stuck with it. It's a great way to finish. It's great for the kids, and that's what it's all about."

The Panthers players are **Brady Grunder, Jackson Wheeler, Kaleb Richardson, Ty Guamera, Collin Lewis, Patrick Connolly, Xander Dodd, Aaron Rhodes, Jacob Berry, Talan Behler, Grant Dempsey, Jake Blanch, Nathan Kreuger, Richard Smith, Dakota Owens, Tyler Jackson, Jonas Hendrickson, Andrew Lloyd, Ty Schwartz, Chase Bivens** and **Caiden Zacharski**. The team went 7-2 in the regular season to enter the playoffs as one of two No. 1 seeds in the eight-team playoff bracket.

The Panthers defeated Cape 18-6 in the first round

of the playoffs before defeating Severn 20-0 in the semifinals and PAL 12-0 in the final; in three playoff games, the Panthers posted two shutouts and allowed only one score.

"The defense played lights-out, and that's really what we had all year," said Jackson, who noted the standout play of middle linebackers **Guamera** and **Berry**, which allowed the team to shut down the middle of the field and focus on sealing the outside. "Our defense always kept us in position to win the game."

In the championship game, the Panthers took a first-half lead on a touchdown run by **Lewis**. Leading 6-0, the Panthers put the game away in signature style, running their increasingly famous hook-and-ladder play. **Rhodes**, the quarterback, hit **Blanch** on the sideline with a pass, and **Blanch** lateraled to **Connolly**, who blazed 40 yards downfield for a touchdown and a 12-0 lead.

The Panthers ran the hook-and-ladder four times this season and hit on the play three of those times, twice scoring touchdowns and another time gaining 40 yards to set up a touchdown.

Word was already out and opponents knew the play was in the Panthers' arsenal, but assistant coach **Zach Tolle** dialed up the play at the perfect moment.

"The opposing team coaches knew it was coming, but it was a matter of when," said Jackson.

Guamera iced the game with a late interception, running it back 40 yards to give the Panthers possession and allowing them to run out the clock.

Tolle said the team is well prepared for the next level. "I think the most notable thing was getting these kids ready for high school," said Tolle, who was one of three assistant coaches along with **Anthony Casalino** and **Rick Smith**. "They got >> Continued on B4

U15 Storm Win Titles For PSC



The Pasadena Soccer Club U15 Storm won championships at the Fallston Cup and Mountain Road tournaments.

By Colin Murphy
 colin@pasadenavoiced.com

The Pasadena Soccer Club 2005 Storm girls soccer team finished its fall season with a pair of tournament championships.

The Storm, who are **Katherine Mariano, Lauren Leather, Lainey Ordakowski, Reagan Chilton, Savannah Sparenberg, Reggann Shoemaker, Madison Machi, Grace Dickerson,**

Sadie Fishburne, Eileen McCullough, Keilei Knox, Eden Abey, Alyssa Frasier, Audrey Evans Ward, Grace Walko, Felicia Fishburne and **Kailey Schissler**, began with a championship at the Fallston Cup, in which they earned a shutout in all of their victories, including a notable 2-0 win over the Broadneck Groove.

The team, which is coached by **Wayne Frasier**, followed with

a win at the Mountain Road tournament in late November.

"This is a hardworking group of girls who have grown under Coach Wayne," said team mom **Rosie Leather**. "This year has been tough for the team with some of the girls playing on their high school teams and multiple injuries, but they came back together to dominate these tournaments. They did a great job representing Pasadena Soccer Club."

10U Buccaneers Win AAYFA National Division Championship



The Bucs went 2-0 in the playoffs with victories over Cape and South Bowie to win the Anne Arundel Youth Football Association 10U National Division championship.

By Colin Murphy
 colin@pasadenavoiced.com

The 10U Bucs football team entered the Anne Arundel Youth Football Association National Division playoffs at just 4-4 — not exactly favorites to run away with the postseason title.

But the Bucs had confidence and a belief they could ride their abilities all the way to the championship.

Pasadena made good on its goals, defeating Cape in the semifinals before shutting out South Bowie 13-0 in the championship game on November 10 at

Severna Park High School to win the AAYFA National Division championship.

"To win a county National championship is a special accomplishment," said Bucs head coach **Tony Blair**. "Many of the boys, myself and my staff have coached them in football since they were 4 years old, and to see them progress and accomplish this goal is not only special for them but also for the staff and myself. This is a special group of boys that understands you must give all you have from the beginning of the game to the end of the game." The team of **Cam**

Weidner, Anthony Daniels, Boaz Domizio, Sean Saunders, Lance Blair, Antoine Parns, Gary Windsor, Parker Holland, Richard Swartz, Joey Schollenberger, Dyllin Jackson, Dontae Townes, Dominic Waters, Mason Kolodziejski, Jacob Schanken, Micheal Taylor, Kyle Cusick, Gunnar Giunta, Lenox Lavicka and **Chase Hyatt** had its work cut out entering the postseason. They had lost previously to Cape during the regular season, but they avenged that loss by defeating the Cougars in the semifinals >> Continued on B4

PSC Fusion '11 Boys Bring Home Two Tourney Titles



The PSC Fusion captured championships at the Columbia Fall Classic and Mountain Road Tournaments.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Pasadena Soccer Club 2011 Fusion boys soccer team punctuated a challenging fall regular season with a pair of tournament championships.

On November 10, the Fusion capped a 3-0-1 performance at the Columbia Fall Classic with a 1-1 penalty-kick victory over the DC Stoddard Metros in the tournament's championship game. Down 1-0 in the final, **Jackson Odom** scored a game-tying goal for the Fusion, who went on to win on penalty kicks.

On November 24, the Fusion held down home

turf with a championship in the Mountain Road Tournament, in which the team went 3-1-0.

The Fusion players are **Jackson Odom, Calum Alexander, Cohen Alexander, Brendan Cook, Liam Finnegan, Marcos Gargano, Josue Guzman, Nohelan Kamani, Brayden Parker, Tyler Pellegrini, Ian Smith and Luke Steen.**

The team is coached by **George Parker, Patrick Smith and Jason Pellegrini.**

"[We] are proud of the boys for hanging in there this season and winning two tournaments at the end of the season," said coach Parker.

PSC Tornadoes Win League, Tourney Titles



The Pasadena Soccer Club U14 Tornadoes won two tournament championships and their regular league title this fall.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Pasadena Soccer Club U14 Tornadoes girls soccer team went 4-0 to capture first place in The Nations Capital Cup in Fairfax, Virginia, in November. The team of **Isabella**

Will, Ava Cicchetti, Alexis Cook, Sarah McWilliams, Kayley Paugh, Rori Campbell, Nora Stankard, Fiona Panzer, Nia Howell, Kelsie Payne, Kaylee Hamilton, Veronica Lowry, Alexis White, Megan Strevig, Lindsay

Cavey, Isabella Green and Jessica Julian outscored the opposition 14-0 in four wins, which included a 5-0 victory in the championship game over the Maryland Independent Renegades.

The Tornadoes also won their Eastern Development Program league with a 5-1-1

record, scoring 23 goals and allowing only five.

The team was also champion of the Columbus Day Coastal Shootout and runner-up at the OBG Labor Day Tournament.

The PSC Tornadoes were coached by **Sam Campbell and Michael Paugh.**

U10 Lightning Girls Win League, Tournaments



The Pasadena Soccer Club U10 Lightning girls soccer team finished out its fall season by winning the Cecil Soccer Club Fall Blast. The Lightning placed first in their division in the Central Maryland Short-Sided League. The team went undefeated across both league and tournament play.

Pasadena Family Opens Lady Aces Volleyball Academy

By Haley Weisgerber

When their oldest daughter started playing volleyball, **Bill and Jenn Volberding** grew to love the sport.

When the opportunity arose to form their own club, they knew it was something they had to do, and the Lady Aces Volleyball Academy (LAVA) was founded in September 2019.

"We fell in love with the sport, and also being there for the young adults," said Jenn. "It's a sport that's been near and dear to our hearts."

After volunteering to coach at the recreational and club levels, the Volberdings decided to open a volleyball club within the community so families had a local option.

"We thought, let's try



When their oldest daughter started playing volleyball, **Bill and Jenn Volberding** (right) fell in love with the sport. The Lady Aces Volleyball Academy (LAVA, left) strives to teach the sport of volleyball while simultaneously building character and community.

our hand at it," said Jenn. "So after a few ideas here and there, LAVA was born."

LAVA is a nonprofit organization, so the starting process was tedious, but Bill and

Jenn spoke with people who had gone through similar procedures and former coaches before they took the leap.

"Together, we worked on gaining a digital footprint

through social media, and then through word of mouth, we worked with local high schools and recreational teams to get the word out," said Jenn. "The rest, as they say,

is history."

LAVA strives to teach a sport while simultaneously building character and community. For the Volberdings, this club is about more than playing volleyball.

"Initially, we wanted to give our young ladies another opportunity to play volleyball at club level in our community," said Jenn.

"However, as time goes on, we see LAVA as an opportunity to create positive motivation to not only excel in the sport of volleyball but also to help encourage these young

individuals to do more in their lives."

The organization began with one coach and has grown to include four coaches and many parent volunteers. **Caitlin Adams** is in charge of the 17-and-under team, **Myeshia Wallace** coaches the 16-and-under team, and the 14-and-under group is split between **Brittany and Jordan Thompson**. Bill and Jenn function as co-directors of the organization.

"The most special part of LAVA is the support of our players, parents, volunteers and coaches. Without them, we would not be successful," said Jenn.

To learn more about LAVA, visit www.ladyacesva.org or email ladyacesva@gmail.com.





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PSC Storm Place First In County U8 Division



The PSC Storm went 6-0 in AAYSA league play this season.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The PSC U8 Storm girls soccer team produced an undefeated season in county play this fall.

The Storm went 6-0, outscoring the opposition 31-5 to win the U8 Division 2 of the Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association.

The team also earned second-place finishes at

both the Arundel Cup and Mountain Road Tournament.

The Storm are **Kendall Bratton, Lilyana Donnelly, Shelby Duncan, Callie Fallin, Addison Fowler, Rosalie Goff, Brianna Listman, Lucia Mawn, Layla Penner, Kylie Sterry** and **Caraline Warner**. They are coached by head coach **Mike Fallin** and assistant coach **Ryan Krueger**.

Prime, United Shine For Pasadena Soccer Club U10 Boys Program



The Prime (left) and United (right) are part of a deep and talented U10/U11 program with Pasadena Soccer Club.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

A pair of U10 Pasadena Soccer Club boys teams excelled throughout the fall season.

Both the PSC U10 Prime and U10 United had solid seasons playing against strong competition.

The Prime went a combined 20-5-4 playing in tournaments as well as the Central Maryland Soccer Association and Beltway

Premier League. In both of those leagues, the Prime played up an age division against U11 competition in nine-on-nine play.

The PSC Prime won the championship at the Richmond Cup in Virginia and also placed second in the Overlea Cup, both times playing in U11 brackets.

The team was coached by **Jennifer Crocetti, Stephen Abey** and **Craig Drenning**.

"We are all three very proud of the boys' efforts this season

playing against bigger, faster kids," said Crocetti. "Their growth and determination is unmatched. The way they move the ball is very impressive to watch. We are very excited to see where this team will go."

United was PSC's 2010 developmental squad that progressed very well this season under the leadership of Crocetti and the direction of coaches **Brandon Sharp** and **Luis Martins**.

The PSC United went 6-2

in the seven-on-seven U10 division in the CMSA, and they placed second in both the Crownsville and Overlea Cups.

PSC will add another layer to the U10-U11 cohort this winter with Premier, its midlevel team to complement Prime and United, with the goal of working and growing in advance of the spring season.

For more information on the PSC program, contact Jennifer Crocetti at jcrocetti15@gmail.com.

CHS XC Competes At States

» Continued from B1 **Hayden Healey** finished in 17:14.95 and placed 28th followed by senior **Liam Rhodes** (50th), senior **Connor Wolfe** (110th), senior **Brennan Penafiel** (135th), freshman **Jaden St Pierre** (137th), sophomore **Malachi Newsom** (144th) and junior **Grayson McMeen** (160th) for an average time of 18:28.

"I thought we ran great. We were much faster than we were last year and our

girls haven't qualified," said Kneass. "They ended up finishing 14th from nowhere. They are young, and both teams have a great future."

Of the combined 14 varsity runners, only five are graduating seniors. The future is bright for this Chesapeake team.

"We have the potential to just keep getting better and better," said Quinn. "We're all capable of improving, and that is really exciting."

Student-Athletes Make College Commitments Official



Class of 2020 seniors had their first opportunity to make college commitments official during the early signing period that began on November 13, and Chesapeake



and Northeast student-athletes marked the occasion with Signing Day ceremonies on their respective campuses.

Chesapeake's college-bound group of student-athletes

included (L-R) **Mariana Donahue** (Mount Saint Mary's, lacrosse), **Ashley Chew** (Frostburg, soccer), **Dalton Nicklow** (Park Point University, baseball) and



Eve Vickery (University of Delaware, field hockey).

Northeast's class included **Alyssa Borgert** (Salisbury, lacrosse) and **Ryan Adams** (Frostburg, baseball).

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Pasadena Girls Star In First-Place AAYSA Finish



Harrison, Holquist, Cookus and Jacques, who combined for a 30-7 scoring advantage over the opposition. Myers, Rancourt, Trakas, Durrant and Robidoux anchored the defense, and goalkeepers Bartram and Nichols combined for five shutouts.

After starting 1-1-2 through four games, the team finished the season on a tear, winning its final seven matches.

"The coaches were very proud of how hard the girls practiced every week while learning to trust one another by staying in their respective positions throughout the game," said coach Harrison. "All in all, it was a great season, and the coaches couldn't be more proud of the work the girls put in and the progress they made throughout the season."

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Pasadena Stars 2011 girls soccer team had a successful fall season in Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association play as the team went 8-1-2 to finish atop the league.

Stars players **Alayna Bartram, Bella Myers, Casi Nichols, Chloe**

Rancourt, Erin Trakas, Kayla Jacques, Kira Shehane, Madeline Holquist, Rachel Durrant, Reese Cookus, Reese Robidoux and Sophia Harrison were coached by **Jason Shehane, Brett Harrison and Steve Robidoux.**

The team was led on offense by Shehane,

14U Panthers Defeat PAL For AAYFA Crown



Photos courtesy of Kerri Lewis

Patrick Connolly's touchdown on the Panthers' increasingly famous hook-and-ladder play (top) doubled the lead to 12-0 in the second half on November 8. The 14U Panthers celebrated the championship victory (bottom) just a few years removed from a winless season.

» Continued from B1 better with the concepts every single week. The kids never cared about who got the ball the most or who scored. They were worried about winning."

Jackson said the Panthers had the right mentality all season in two main areas: play as a team and have fun doing it.

"Them gelling as a team and playing as one really defined the team this year," said Jackson. "In years past we've had a few instances where they would argue. None of that happened this year. They played as one team, and that's what it takes. ...Really the focus was to have fun. The game is supposed to be fun. Go out and have fun and trust each other to do your job. That's really the emphasis we had. This is such a great group of kids who have played the game for so long."

Bucs 10U Win AAYFA Championship

» Continued from B1 to make the championship.

Playing without starting quarterback Lance Blair in the championship due to a prior baseball commitment, backup quarterback Mason Kolodziejski led his team to the title in its 13-0 win in the final.

Offensively the team was led throughout the season by the ground attack of running backs Jackson, Parns and Swartz, which opened up the air assault of Blair at quarterback and receivers Schollenberger and Kolodziejski.

Outstanding O-line play by Daniels, Guinta, Saunders, Weidner and Taylor was a key to success for the Bucs' offense, which was led by offensive coordinator **Gene Zimmerman.**

Defensive coordinator

Shayne Parsons said the defense "was a special group across the board and outperformed my expectations by a mile," and the group punctuated a strong season with a championship-game shutout.

Coach Blair, who coached with Zimmerman, Parsons, **Anthony Guinta, Tony Daniels, Gary Windsor, Dale Bowers and Steve Schanken,** said a turning point of the season came in a September 29 victory over PAL. The Bucs trailed the Hawks 12-0 at halftime but came back for a 13-12 win.

"From that point on, the boys believed they could compete with any team in the county," said Blair, "and they carried that mentality into the playoffs."

Following the county

title win, the Bucs went on to compete in the four-team 10U All-Pro State Championship tournament, where they fell to the Herford Bulls in a competitive 12-0 game.

Still, the season was a resounding success marked by a county crown.

"This team had a relentless mentality, which the boys have displayed since they began to prepare for the season starting way back in June when they played flag football," said coach Blair. "They bought into the team philosophy from day one and understood it takes a team to win, and success is not based on just one player. Each boy embraced their role on the team and did everything they could to support their teammates."

Northeast Volleyball Wins Region, Falls At States

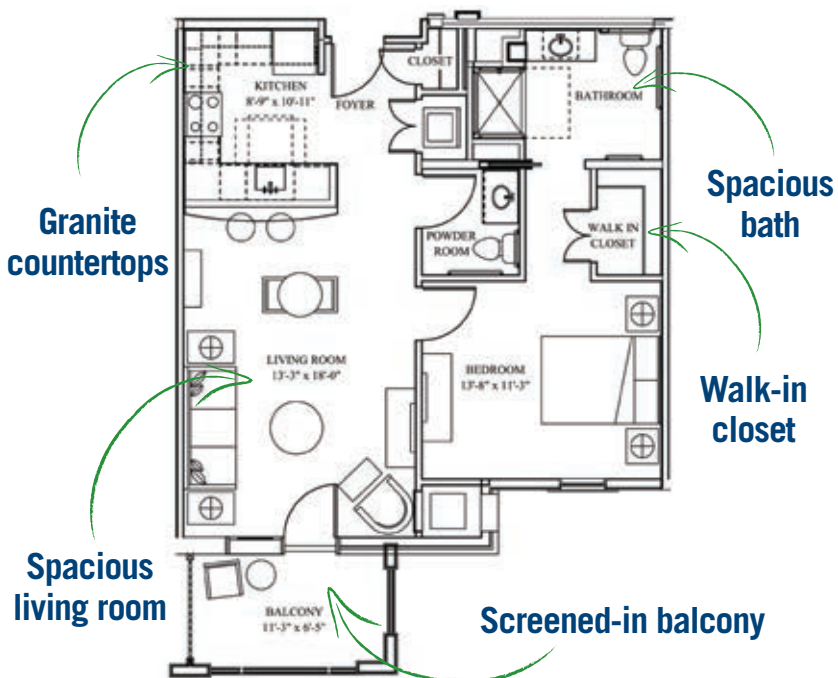
Photo by Scott Bruce / Courtesy of Northeast Athletics
The Northeast volleyball team captured the 3A South Region II championship on November 6 with a four-set win over Easton. The Eagles fell in the state tournament to eventual 3A champion Magruder but made the community proud with the program's first state tournament appearance since 1989.



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SCHOOL & YOUTH

Student Hopes Her Artwork Will “Provide A Feeling”

By Chris Fincham
chris@severnaparkvoice.com

At the fall 2019 First Lady's Youth Art Gallery event in early November, Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan recognized student artists and art teachers from across the state.

Noemi Hedges, from Pasadena, was one of the young artists recognized during the event for an abstract work that she titled “Sandpiper.”

“It's so cool! I didn't think I would win,” Noemi said. “I used color for my inspiration. I chose a color palette that was calming and wanted to play around with the different shades and how they worked together to provide a feeling.”

Noemi's parents have always encouraged her to explore her passions and creativity.

“At a young age, we fostered her interest in art by exposing her to many different art platforms



Noemi Hedges stood alongside her “Sandpiper” artwork during the fall 2019 First Lady's Youth Art Gallery event.

and encouraged her to have fun with art and not worry about what people think about it,” said Wendy Hedges, Noemi's mom. “Her dad introduced her to the world of computer programming at a very young age and fostered her interest by melding both art and programming into her tutorials.”

This mix of art and technology has enabled

her to explore a variety of creative mediums and express herself in unique ways. For example, her “Sandpiper” piece was created using Adobe Photoshop.

“I prefer art projects that require technology,” Noemi explained. “I love that technology allows me to create almost anything I want and in so many

» Continued on B8

Principal Spotlight

JASON WILLIAMS
NORTHEAST
HIGH SCHOOL

How well do you know the principal at your neighborhood school? We're surveying local principals to learn more about their hobbies, their best stories and some facts that might surprise you. This month, we're featuring Jason Williams of Northeast High School.

Q: How long have you been at Northeast High School?

A: I am currently in my eighth year as principal. I was an assistant principal at NHS from 2008 to 2011.

Q: What is your favorite part of being a principal?

A: Working at this school. I truly enjoy working with the students, parents, and faculty and staff of Northeast High School. I enjoy coming to work and creating the best



Having spent more than 10 years at Northeast, Jason Williams enjoys the school spirit shown by students, and supporting kids on graduation day.

educational experience I can for these kids.

Q: Which school event do you look forward to the most each year?

A: Spirit Day. The school spirit our kids have is second to none.

Q: If you could have dinner with one person from history, who would it be?

A: Thomas Jefferson. He's the most influential architect of our democracy.

Q: Where in the world have you not traveled but would like to travel eventually?

A: I would love to take my family Europe: Italy, Greece, and the British Isles.

Q: What is your favorite professional sports team?

A: My hometown

in Western Pennsylvania played host to the summer training camp of the Pittsburgh Steelers. When most kids at a young age wanted to be superheroes, like Batman or Superman, I wanted to be Mean Joe Greene or Jack Lambert.

Q: Do you cook? What is your favorite dish to prepare?

A: If it were not for my loving and wonderful wife, we would all starve.

Q: What was your least favorite food as a child? Do you still hate it or do you love it now?

A: Brussel sprouts — hated them, they would make me gag. Now, when they are pan-fried with bacon — delicious!

Q: What is your favorite movie, show or book? Why?

A: The book “East of Eden” by John Steinbeck. I really enjoy the epic story, Steinbeck's ability to capture the Salinas Valley landscape in words, and mythical nature of the characters. Also, the character Lee is the most interesting character ever created.

Q: What is the best gift anyone's ever given to you?

A: That's easy. My beautiful wife, Nikki, gave me her hand in marriage, three beautiful children and a wonderful life together.

Q: If you have a day with absolutely no plans, how do you spend it?

A: Hiking with my kids. We go into the book “50 Hikes of Maryland,” pick a spot and go.

Northeast's Tim Stedman Named Maryland P.E. Teacher Of The Year

“I was very honored and humbled... For me, I look at this as, this is really about the kids and the people I'm surrounded by. I've had a lot of opportunity and I appreciate the people I work with...”

— Tim Stedman

By Colin Murphy
@c.murphy.photo

Many people have felt the positive impact of Northeast teacher Tim Stedman.

So many students and colleagues have been affected by Stedman's work as physical education teacher and chair at Northeast High School that he was named High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Society of Health and Physical Educators in Maryland (SHAPE).

Stedman received the award in Ocean City on November 16 at SHAPE's annual conference.

“I was very honored and humbled, and I was surprised,” said Stedman of the honor. “For me, I look at this as, this is really about the kids and the



Northeast's Tim Stedman (center) was joined by (l-r) Northeast Principal Jason Williams, Athletic Director Ken Miller and teachers Kevin Franc and Jesse Reiger at the Society of Health and Physical Educators in Maryland (SHAPE) annual conference in November, where Stedman was honored with the High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year award.

people I'm surrounded by. I've had a lot of opportunity and I appreciate the people I work with, and it's just taking advantage of those opportunities.”

Stedman grew up in Anne Arundel County, graduated from Severna Park High School in 1990 and attended the University of Maryland. He has been in education for 13 total years over two stints at Northeast High School, where he has coached

football, basketball and baseball, and he was part of the baseball coaching staff during the Eagles' state championship season in 2001.

He temporarily left education in the mid-2000's to pursue a sales job, and during that time he yearned to get back into the classroom.

“Everything that I do, everything I'm about is these kids; it's about making a difference,” said

Stedman. “I just knew that I had to get back.”

He has thrived in his roles since. Currently Stedman is chair of the physical education department at Northeast and teaches physical education and strength & conditioning. He also is involved with ongoing efforts that seek to strengthen school and community bonds; Stedman helped spearhead

» Continued on B8



Area Schools Improve Star Ratings On Latest Report Card

Shared by the AACPS
Communications Office

Seventy-three county schools — nearly 65% of those assessed under the Maryland Report Card five-star accountability system — increased their rating in the 2018-2019 school year, with 20 of those moving up two stars, according to data released by the Maryland State Department of Education. Overall, 62% of AACPS schools earned four or five stars, and 95% earned three or more stars.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools has 23 five-star schools, compared to five a year ago. More than 20% of AACPS schools rated on the report card earned five stars, the highest percentage among Maryland's five largest

school systems.

“This is a reflection of the tremendous work our incredible employees in classrooms, leadership and support roles continue to do at every level by focusing on every single individual student,” Superintendent George Arlotto said. “While we anticipated increases related to the elementary curriculum piece, these results surpass that. We quadrupled the number of five-star schools in our county and doubled the number of four-star schools.”

The following elementary schools increasing their ratings by two stars: Arnold, Belvedere, Cape St. Claire, Four Seasons, George Cromwell, Germantown, Glendale, Jacobsville, Meade Heights, Mills-Parole, Oak Hill,

Odenton, Park, Piney Orchard, Riviera Beach, Severna Park, Shady Side, South Shore, Southgate, and Waugh Chapel.

The ratings, calculated from data collected during the 2018-2019 school year, are the second issued using the metrics that are part of Maryland's accountability system under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The report card incorporates multiple indicators of school performance and calculates them into a final score to arrive at a rating of one to five stars. While the specific indicators vary between the elementary, middle and high school levels, a school's score generally includes academic achievement; academic growth; school quality, which includes attendance, climate and

access to a well-rounded curriculum; college and career readiness; and the progress of English-language learners.

Here's how Chesapeake and Northeast feeder schools ranked:

FIVE STARS

- Pasadena Elementary
- Riviera Beach Elementary

FOUR STARS

- Chesapeake High
- Northeast High
- Fort Smallwood Elementary
- Jacobsville Elementary
- Lake Shore Elementary
- Sunset Elementary

THREE STARS

- Chesapeake Bay Middle
- George Fox Middle
- High Point Elementary
- Solley Elementary

Pasadena Performer Gets Ready To Ring In The Holiday

Last year, Jasmine Dominguez-Taco demonstrated her acting chops in Solley Elementary's production of “The Jungle Book KIDS.” This year, the 10-year-old from Pasadena is preparing to sing and dance alongside Frosty, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and a group of elves during The Talent Machine Company's production of “Ring in the Holiday 2019” from December 13-22.

Jasmine is a member of the ensemble for the show. Her audition process started with a song, for which she chose “Tomorrow” from the film “Annie.” Afterward, she was taught a dance to later perform in front of judges.

“Any audition, I usually feel nervous, but I take deep breaths to calm myself,” she said.

Jasmine is excited for landing a spot in the ensemble.

“The dances we learn, they put us in most of the same groups, separated between the older kids and younger kids,” she said. “I really like the dances, because it's so much fun hanging out with my friends and doing the vocals.”

Jasmine said she feels “happy and honored” to be in The Talent Machine production. Not only will she enjoy singing and dancing along to holiday



Jasmine Dominguez-Taco is an ensemble member in The Talent Machine Company's holiday show, which runs from December 13-22.

remixes, but the opportunity will also allow her to improve as a performer.

“I want to keep trying for auditions,” she said. “I've always had a passion for singing and dancing.”

To learn more about “Ring in the Holiday 2019,” go to www.talent-machine.com.

Q.

Question of the month

Each month, the *Pasadena Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Mrs. Fleck and Mr. Bellarin's classes at Riviera Beach Elementary answered the question:

If you could create a new holiday, what would it be and why?

I would create National Dance Day. I would create this holiday because I think that dancing makes people happy. If that person is happy then it could make someone else happy.
Olivia Adkins

I would create, National Roblox Day, where every-

Riviera Beach Elementary School



This month, we asked fifth-grade classes, "If you could create a new holiday, what would it be and why?"

one in the whole world unites to play Roblox together. They have to play for the whole day.
Maggie Bolander

I would create National Mrs. Frank Day. I would

create it because Mrs. Frank is my favorite teacher.
Caleigh Brauckhoff

My day would be National Art Day. Art is fun because you can make anything

you want. I love art; it is just fun to me, and I think people would love it too.
Mackinze Bowman

National Video Game Day is where you get to play games all day. There would be no school, work, or sports. It would be a great holiday.
Channing Burton

If I could create a holiday, it would be Read All Day. You would get to read all day so you won't have school. I would create this holiday because I love reading. I wish I could read all day, and if it was a holiday, I could.
Ella Dash

I would create Family Day, which is a day when

you have a free day to spend time with your family and have fun! I would create Family Day because all people have that one family member that works all the time. Family Day would be on June 25.
Emma Fox

I would create National Banana Day because I would love to see a banana day and because bananas are delicious. I want a banana day because bananas taste good, and then I would be able to share bananas with everyone.
Braedyn Kuehne

If I could create a holiday, it would be called National Friend Day. I would create that holiday because people need time to spend

with friends and you get the day off.

Jordan Plange

I would create a holiday called Happy Flower Day. The date would be on April 22. I would create this holiday because flowers always make people happy, smile, and they have pretty colors.

Alexis Nauton

I would create the Day of Pizza because it is delicious and yummy.

Carlos Romero

If I could make my own holiday, it would be International Graphic Novel Day. I say this because I love graphic novels, and I feel that everyone should enjoy the greatness of reading graphic novels.

Suzanne Schmaus

If I could create my own holiday, it would be called Teacher Day. In my holiday, students would celebrate how hard teachers work to teach us new things every day of the year.

Joshua Stencil

I would create Animal Day to celebrate and save the animals of the world.

Mallory Strouse

I would create National Discount Day, where everyone gets 98% off for any three items of their choice. I would do this because a lot of people just look at something and don't buy it, but now they can.

Andrew Vasquez

My holiday is called Funny Fun Day. You go around and tell as many people as you can a joke. It is celebrated on June 14 every year.

Nicholas Venturella

Fort Smallwood Elementary Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Schools all over the nation participated in Red Ribbon Week in late October to promote a healthy and drug-free environment.

In Pasadena, Fort Smallwood Elementary School students and staff were encouraged to celebrate by dressing with a healthy and encouraging theme each day.

Monday Wear team clothing to show that if you work as a team, FSES can stay healthy.

Tuesday Wear sweatpants and a sweatshirt to show that being healthy is no sweat.

Wednesday Wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Thursday Wear your favorite superhero shirt and jeans because superheroes and "jean"iuses don't use drugs.

Friday Wear red or FSES spirit gear to show that if everyone should work together to be drug-free and healthy.



Fort Smallwood Elementary School students and staff were encouraged to celebrate by dressing with a healthy and encouraging theme each day.

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Board Of Education Elects Michelle Corkadel As President, Melissa Ellis As Vice President

Shared by the AACPS Communications Office

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County elected Michelle Corkadel as president and Melissa Ellis as vice president on December 4.

Corkadel was elected to a six-year term to represent District 7 on the board in November 2018 and took part in her first board meeting on December 3 of that year. She has served as the board's vice president since July and also currently chairs the board's policy committee.

A resident of Edgewater, Corkadel has served the community and a variety

of civic and nonprofit organizations as a volunteer. Among other positions, she has been a member of the board of directors for her community organization and served on the board of the Crofton Regional Community Center.

In the four years prior to joining the board, Corkadel served as a constituent services officer for then-County Executive Steve Schuh.

Ellis was elected to a six-year term representing District 4 on the board in November 2018 and also took office the following month. She is a home educator who taught three of her four children through

eightth grade before they entered the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system. She continues to educate her fourth child at home. Prior to becoming a home educator, Ellis was a human resources manager for a health care company and a logistician for a contractor for the U.S. Navy.

Also serving on the board are Candace C.W. Antwine of Jessup, Terry Gilleland of Millersville, Eric Grannon of Davidsonville, Julie Hummer of Laurel, Robert C. Leib of Harwood, Dana Schallheim of Severna Park, and student member Rida Alvi.

Stedman Named P.E. Teacher Of The Year

» Continued from B6
the effort several years ago to start the Northeast Captain's Club, which teaches positive values through a variety of leadership initiatives in the community.

Stedman named two teachers from his own upbringing, Hugh Belvin and Frank Houser, as mentors who had a formative impact on him and the value he places on leadership.

He expressed a pure-of-heart mentality of how he approaches his job.

"Every day I drive into work, I think about the amount of power we have as teachers to make a difference," Stedman said.

"That's kind of my thing. It's about these kids. It's about, what can we do to help them have not only the best experience, but to provide them with the best opportunity for what's next for them? Whether it's athletics or in my class or whatever it is, I want them to learn

and enjoy themselves and feel good about it."

Northeast students agree that Stedman's approach has served them well in their high school experience.

"The students at Northeast look up to Mr. Stedman as a role model in everything he does," said Austin Lane, a junior. "Students go to Mr. Stedman for life lessons and advice knowing he will let you open up to him with no judgment. He is very supportive. Whether it is Captain's Club or strength and conditioning, he is always motivating us to be great and be the best we can be. He is a great father to his daughter, always telling us the fun things he does with his daughter. A great person overall. Mr. Stedman has impacted me in my time at Northeast by pushing me to be a leader."

Student-athlete Shelby Diggs agreed. "Mr. Stedman is one of the most motivating

teachers I've ever had experience with," said Diggs. "In class he always finds exciting ways to get students to find their highest potential with strength and conditioning. His words and actions have pushed me to reach for the highest standards possible."

Stedman believes education is a collaborative effort, and earning a personal accolade is a reflection of the efforts of many people throughout the school and county.

"We don't go into this for the awards," said Stedman. "It's nice to be acknowledged, but for me, it's all about the kids, and this award is the whole department, the whole county. This isn't just me. This is the people I work with at the board, the people I work with here at Northeast. It's a combination of all of us doing this together."

Voice staff writer Chris Fincham contributed reporting to this article.

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Artwork Will "Provide A Feeling"

» Continued from B6
ways. I'm taking a photography class right now, and I love that as well."

Wendy added, "Noemi has always enjoyed creating and drawing characters, but her passion for computer science gave her a new artistic outlet. She uses that creativity and out-of-the-box thinking as she approaches her computer programming projects and video game programming projects."

Noemi does art "just for

fun," but she believes the practice will make her a better computer programmer someday.

"I'll be able to create more intuitive programs," Noemi said. "I also love programming video games, and that is sort of an art form that requires a lot of creativity."

Noemi is currently participating in a homeschool program, which enables her to take additional computer science classes. She's continuing her art studies

by taking a photography class, a video programming class and a guitar class, according to Wendy.

As for her award-winning art, it is on display in the House of Delegates gallery throughout the winter months, which is an added bonus and for the young creator, and a holiday treat for her parents.

"Noemi continues to amaze me at every turn," Wendy said. "I couldn't be more proud."

HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

Coming January 15!

The Pasadena Voice will publish a Health, Beauty & Fitness Guide in the January issue. This glossy special edition will feature insight from local experts on the latest in health, wellness, fitness and beauty.



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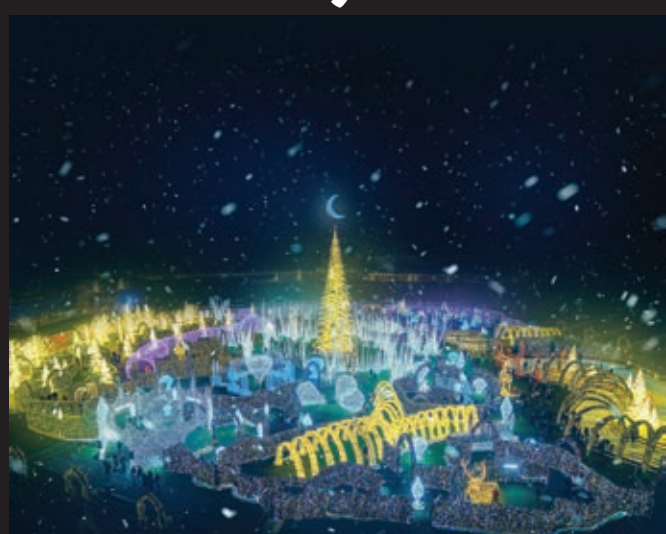
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Holiday Events Worth The Drive



Visit Nationals Park for a maze and market called Enchant Christmas. The outfield will be transformed into a giant lighted maze, the infield will turn into an ice rink, and the concourse will become a Christmas market.

By Laura McElwain
Colquhoun

With Anne Arundel County's close proximity to Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and beyond, families have the opportunity to enjoy unique holiday festivities within a relatively short distance from home. These events are open for several weeks during the holiday season and are worth the drive.

BALTIMORE

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET, HAMPDEN

Be dazzled by a city block full of bright lights, holiday music and over-the-top displays in a charming, kitschy Baltimore kind of way. Now in its 73rd year, the event now known as Miracle on 34th Street began when a teenager put a string of lights on a tree



Over 1 million holiday lights, hundreds of animated light displays and a 50-foot Christmas tree are part of Winterfest of Lights in Ocean City.

in front of his family home on 34th Street, and it grew to include the whole block of neighbors. Some of the unique attractions on the block include a hubcap Christmas tree, bike-rim snowmen, overhead trains and a lighted crab.

When
Through December 31
Evenings, beginning around 5:45pm

Where
720 34th Street, Baltimore, Maryland
Info
www.christmasstreet.com

GERMAN MARKET, INNER HARBOR

An authentic German Christmas market sets up annually in West Shore Park at the Inner Harbor. The market includes

around 50 vendors who sell authentic European food, Christmas decorations, crafts and more from all over the globe.

When
Through December 24
Sundays – Thursdays:
11:00am – 7:00pm
Fridays – Saturdays:
11:00am – 8:00pm
Thanksgiving Day
and Christmas Eve:
11:00am – 5:00pm
Closed Days: December 16-17

Where
West Shore Park
501 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland
Info
www.baltimore-christmas.com

B&O MUSEUM MAGICAL HOLIDAY EXPRESS

The B&O Railroad Museum celebrates the season through train rides with
» **Continued on B11**

Taking Back Tomorrow: What Would Happen If A Virus Hit?

Joe Coggiano
Pens Novel Set In
Pasadena

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

When he started working on his first book four years ago, Joe Coggiano discovered a fear he didn't know he had.

"I've been deployed



Joe Coggiano

to the Middle East and worked on dangerous jobs, like as a welder," he said. "To me, this is scary because it's out of my wheelhouse."

Coggiano's new project was born from conversations he had with a co-worker. In an apocalyptic event, where would he go?

"My parents live at the end of Fort Smallwood Road," Coggiano said. "You have resources here. You have fuel and food."

In "Taking Back Tomorrow," Coggiano's self-published work released on November 23, characters face that dilemma. One of them works for the National Security Agency



The book cover was designed by Mike Dio.

and learns that a viral outbreak in Brazil is spreading across the globe.

"The story starts a couple weeks after the power plants are shut down," Coggiano said. "They run off generators and siphon fuel out of cars."

While the group members combine their skills to find resources, they also have to thwart off zombies that emerge during the pandemic.

"The type of zombie isn't like in 'The Walking Dead' where you can just cut off its arm, or like 'World War Z' with zombies flying around like they're on PCP," Coggiano said. "They can run, but they still have to sleep. You can kill them if you hit an artery."

» **Continued on B11**

"Last Christmas" Is Not A Gift Worth Celebrating

By Audrey Ruppert

"Last Christmas," a supposed seasonal rom-com, has all the trappings of a touching film but is unfortunately a bit of a scattered mess. The lead, Kate (Emilia Clarke), is also a scattered mess.

Kate is the child of Yugoslavian immigrants living in London, and is currently working as an elf in a year-round Christmas shop during the day, while auditioning for the West End (English Broadway) at night.

She is perpetually getting kicked out of flats and the houses of her friends, uses one-night stands to find nightly lodging, and is avoiding her dysfunctional family. Eventually, she meets a somewhat mysterious bicycle courier named Tom (Henry Golding) who pops in and out of her life. Over time, Tom teaches Kate to care more for herself and others, and become a better and happier person.

"Last Christmas" was not marketed correctly. It was



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

Fraught with loose ends and ham-handed subplots, "Last Christmas" is neither romantic nor that comedic, although it did have some funny moments.

neither romantic nor that comedic, although it did have some funny moments (if cringe-worthy interactions between a Chinese woman obsessed with Christmas and a German guy who loves sauerkraut is your sense of humor). Then again, who would you market this to? Its messages are so scattered and its tone inconsistent — I laughed for some of it but left the theater feeling depressed and moody.

We seem to be told to practice self-care, to value family,

and to take personal responsibility for what we have done wrong. These themes could have meshed well together, but they didn't. The twist at the end of the film was evidently guessed by many who saw the trailer (so don't watch the trailer if you plan on seeing the movie). This twist is not well explained and leaves you feeling rather sad, but for what effect?

The randomness goes beyond the main themes. Emma Thompson as a Yu-
» **Continued on B11**

AACC's Student Journal For The Arts Earns Prestigious Award

By Desirae Martins

Each year since the 1920s, the Associated College Press (ACP) awards two- and four-year colleges with the Pacemaker, its preeminent award for college journalism.

In 2019, Garrett Brown, associate professor of English at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), decided to enter the college's student journal for the arts, Amaranth, for consideration for this award. As it turns out, they won.

The ACP, whose mission is to provide journalism education services to students, teachers, media advisers and others throughout the United States and in other countries, names Pacemaker Award winners in various categories including online publications, newspapers, magazines and yearbooks. Each entry is judged by journalism experts based on coverage and content, writing and reporting, leadership, design, photography



and graphics.

AACC's 2018-2019 issue of Amaranth, issue 44, won for the Two-Year School Literary Arts Magazine category.

Amaranth's staff, led by editor in chief Mike Pierozio and graphic artist Ashton Poole, worked for a full academic year to create the winning issue. As with most creative projects, the staff began with one creative vision, and ended with something else by the time the project was complete.

Issue 44's staff initially planned to create a journal with a mythological theme. However, based on the various works of art and literary pieces they received for publication, the vision morphed into something with more of a classic look. The final copy resembled a manuscript featuring a cover with a multimedia heart-shaped art piece over a burlap-textured background.

"The theme of the journal is shaped by writer and artist submissions," explained Brown, Amaranth's faculty advisor. "The way it turned out wasn't the initial vision, but it turned out better."

After a year of planning, collecting submissions, and making decisions, the students created what Brown thinks is a remarkable issue, and he encouraged them to get involved with as many contests as possible. This year was the first year the journal competed for the prestigious Pacemaker Award, and winning it was a

huge accomplishment.

"Thankfully, the college is incredibly supportive of Amaranth," commented Brown.

The journal gets plenty of funding, as well as support and instruction from faculty and the copy center staff when it goes to print. Additionally, Amaranth receives support from the AACC graphic design department in the form of graphic artist interns who consult and work on creating the journal each year. According to Brown, the journal's success demonstrates how, when given the tools and support, students can do amazing things.

The Pacemaker Award is not the only award Amaranth has won over the past few years. Because of its high-quality writing and professional look, Brown has been working to get more recognition for the journal and the students who create it. Over the past few years, he has entered Amaranth in multiple contests including the Community College Humanities Association Literary Magazine Contest, where issue 43 placed first in the Eastern Division for Large Colleges, and the College Media Association's Pinnacle Award, where issue 43 placed third in the Two-Year Literary Magazine of the Year category.

To learn more about Amaranth, follow the journal on Instagram @AACC.Amaranth.

Pasadena Crafters Headline Holiday Events

These Pasadena artisans are ready to show off their wares during Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church's Winter Festival and at other events. Winter Festival 2019 is December 14 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. Attendees can meet Santa, enjoy music and food, participate in a tree-lighting ceremony, and browse items from local artists and crafters.

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will be featured at E. L. & Company (10:00am-2:00pm) and the Winter Festival



(3:00pm-7:00pm) on December 14. Her bright palette provides splashes of color, adding flair and fun to any space. Growing up in Maryland, she is inspired by anything and everything in and near the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact Gregory: betseacreations@gmail.com

COLOR STREET

Lisa Vann is an independent stylist offering nail art for all occasions. Contact Vann: llv2fly@hotmail.com

DESI DAISY

Amy Bartholomee makes driftwood pieces from the Magothy River with succulents planted in them, decorated with seashells and ephemera found at the water's edge. Contact Bartholomee: desidaisy@icloud.com

YOUNG LIVING

Stephanie Donaldson specializes in 100% pure essential oils, sugar scrubs, bath soaks, and diffuser bracelets. Contact Donaldson: oslover@verizon.net

Dining Out

Ming's Café Offers Excellent Food And Service With A Smile

By Mary Cobbler

Ming's Café is a cozy little eatery with a big selection of Szechuan, Hunan, and Cantonese offerings.

The cafe offers takeout, delivery and dine-in options. It's a hidden casual retreat for meeting a friend for a bite to eat and catching up. With soothing mauve and dark green walls, wood floors and tables, some Asian pictures and other collectibles, the atmosphere is peaceful.

After perusing the "customers' favorites" list, I ordered my food at the counter — steamed dumplings for an appetizer, and shrimp with cashews for my entrée, along with some hot tea. Yes, my friends, I dined alone. My trusty "dining companion" was otherwise engaged.

My waitress arrived quickly with a pot of steaming hot tea, a welcome comfort on a damp, chilly day. The dumplings came shortly afterward. I have to admit, steamed dumplings don't look as appealing as fried dumplings. Not at all. But these plump babies tasted delightful. Stuffed with fresh pork and savory seasoning, dipped in soy sauce, they were both filling and satisfying.



The cashew shrimp boasted a generous number of perfectly cooked plump shrimp atop a bed of carrots and green peppers, sprinkled with cashews and served with fluffy (not sticky) white rice.

Photos by Mary Cobbler



Stuffed with fresh pork and savory seasoning, and dipped in soy sauce, the steamed dumplings were both filling and satisfying.

The cashew shrimp boasted a generous number of perfectly cooked plump shrimp atop a bed of carrots and green peppers, sprinkled with cashews and served with fluffy (not sticky) white rice. Both the carrots and peppers were cooked crisp-tender, sealing in their natural flavors. The sauce hit just the right note — spicy enough to make it delicious, and the cashews provided a pleasant contrast of taste and texture. I read ahead and discovered that the restaurant uses fresh vegetables, and I could definitely see and taste the difference.

For the record, they also use only white meat chicken and make their fried rice from scratch.

My dessert choice was a slice of key lime pie, added to the "customers' favorites." The pie was possibly frozen and thawed, but that's OK; it was creamy, sweet and scratched an itch.

The meal was reasonable at under \$25, so I went back to the counter and ordered carry-out for my missing companion. When asked for a recommendation for a beef lover, the server, a friendly gentleman, said he likes Szechuan beef. I queried if it was spicy hot, and he offered to take the heat up a notch for me.

The dish featured tender (I did taste it) tangy beef, with julienned carrots and green beans in a spicy sauce, served with rice. My companion, grateful for the surprise meal, said his veggies were, his actual words, "not soggy."


With a menu boasting more than 70 selections, Ming's Café has something for everyone. The staff is also accommodating, offering vegetarian options for favorite meat dishes.

The restaurant is expanding its delivery area. Currently, Ming's delivers to Severna Park, parts of Arnold, and will soon expand into Pasadena.

Ming's Café is a no-frills Asian café that's a nice step up from carry-out only. The service was great. You can't beat good food, a comfortable environment, and smiles.

Where To Find Ming's Café

Robinson Crossing shopping center
480-D Ritchie Highway
Severna Park
410-544-9991



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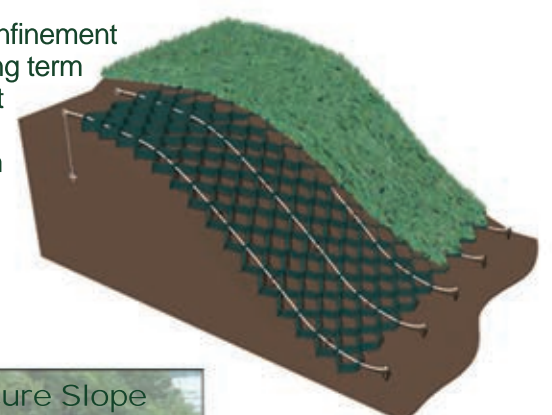
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Holiday Events Worth The Drive

» **Continued from B9**
Santa, Frosty and other characters. The museum also showcases a special holiday model train display and a 30-foot Christmas tree.

When
Through December 31
Mondays – Saturdays:
10:00am – 4:00pm
Sundays:
11:00am – 4:00pm
Closed Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day and New
Year's Day
Where
901 West Pratt Street,
Baltimore, Maryland
Info
www.borail.org/holiday

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ENCHANT CHRISTMAS AT NATIONALS PARK

Visit Nationals Park, home of the World Series champion Washington Nationals, for its first-ever Christmas maze and market. The outfield will be transformed into a giant lighted maze, the infield will turn into an ice rink, and the concourse will become a Christmas market.

When
Through December 19
Where
1500 S Capitol St SE,
Washington, D.C.
Info
www.enchantchristmas.com

ZOOLIGHTS AT SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO

During this free annual event, more than 500,000 environmentally friendly LED lights transform the zoo into a holiday spectacular. Features of the event include laser light shows, train rides for a fee, a field of swaying lights, and lan-

terns crafted in China.

When
Through January 1
5:00pm - 9:00pm
Where
3001 Connecticut
Avenue, NW, Wash-
ington, D.C.
Info
[www.nationalzoo.si.edu/
events/zoolights](http://www.nationalzoo.si.edu/events/zoolights)

U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN CONSERVATORY

The 2019 theme of "Season's Greenings: America's Gardens!" will highlight botanic gardens from across the country. In addition, visitors will find a room dedicated to model train displays, a conservatory filled with thousands of flowers including poinsettias, and D.C. landmarks made of plant materials. Concerts are offered on select evenings.

When
Through January 5
10:00am - 5:00pm
Where
100 Maryland Avenue,
SW, Washington, D.C.
Info
[www.usbg.gov/plan-your-
holiday-visit](http://www.usbg.gov/plan-your-holiday-visit)

WASHINGTON, D.C. SUBURBS

Christmas on the Potomac at Gaylord National offers many family-friendly activities and events throughout the holiday season. Decorated in over 2 million lights, the hotel offers concerts, light shows, a Christmas village, ice skating, train rides, ice tubing, scavenger hunts, gingerbread decorating and the ice sculpture attraction, ICE! This year's ICE! theme is "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

When
Through December 30

Where
201 Waterfront
Street, National Har-
bor, Maryland
Info
[www.marriott.com/
gaylord-hotels/gaylord-na-
tional-harbor-christmas-
on-the-potomac.mi](http://www.marriott.com/gaylord-hotels/gaylord-national-harbor-christmas-on-the-potomac.mi)

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA

Christmas past meets Christmas present at George Washington's estate. Activities throughout the holiday season at Mount Vernon include candlelight tours, wreath-making workshops, musical demonstrations and chocolate-making demonstrations.

When
Through December 31
Where
3200 Mount Vernon
Memorial Highway
Mount Vernon, Virginia
Info
[www.mountvernon.org/
plan-your-visit/tours-
activities/christmas-at-
mount-vernon](http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/tours-activities/christmas-at-mount-vernon)

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS, NORTHSIDE PARK, OCEAN CITY

Over 1 million holiday lights, hundreds of animated light displays and a 50-foot Christmas tree are part of this annual event. A 1-mile train ride goes through 58 acres of lights.

When
Through December 31
Sundays – Thursdays:
5:30pm – 9:30pm
Fridays – Saturdays:
5:30pm – 10:30pm
Where
200 125th Street, Ocean
City, Maryland
Info
[www.oceancitymd.
gov/oc/departments/
special-events/winterfest](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/special-events/winterfest)

"Last Christmas" Is Not Worth Celebrating

» **Continued from B9**
goslav? What? The George Michael music that the plot was unnaturally forced to fit into and work around? A shoehorned Brexit subplot, which could have made powerful points about the alienation of immigrants in the post-Brexit era, but instead came off as ham-handed? When the film ends, there are so many questions left unanswered. Why did Kate even try out for the West End? Did she have theater aspirations in childhood? Why did Tom always tell her to "look up" when walking through London? What did Kate end up doing with her life?

Once you get past the

bizarre, there's the problematic to contend with. I'm very tired of male romantic leads pressuring the female until she gives in and talks to them — no means no. As Kate says in the film, "I'm busy, you're weird, goodbye."

The family theme was also troubling - Kate's family is downright terrible in some aspects. Her sister is condescending and not empathetic, her father no longer loves her mother and avoids home, and her mother "needs to be needed," and thrives on Kate's illness. All these issues are mysteriously forgotten by the end of the film without ever being truly resolved. If family is toxic, there is no obligation to forget their sins, especially

if they don't take any responsibility or attempt to make amends. Kate is presented as trying to fix her mistakes with her friends and her employer, whom she has let down in the past, but she ignores her family's sins because they are family. Is this healthy?

Perhaps the only saving grace is an Asian male lead, without any discussion of the fact he is Asian — normalization of other races as attractive is important. It would just be great if Golding's character wasn't made of cardboard and actually had a personality.

Ultimately, I'm not sure who this film was for, but it certainly did not fill me with Christmas cheer.

What Would Happen If A Virus Hit?

» **Continued from B9**
Armed with the power to create or end life with a few keystrokes, Coggiano learned throughout the writing process that he needed more than action for a compelling story.

The 1998 Chesapeake High graduate had no formal training other than Anne Arundel Community College classes he took after his Navy days. He solicited help from two editors and a friend who majored in journalism. They all told him to cut unnecessary information and put emphasis on character development.

"I wanted it to be more than a run-around-and-shoot-them-up," Coggiano said. "You need action and that type of stress, but you also need relationships to be fractured."

"If you're describing two people, you have to give them different quirks," he added. "One might talk in double negatives or use certain phrases.

I also wanted to keep the tension going, both physical tension and psychological."

Thinking from the viewpoints of different characters was another challenge.

"They think about what would be the most sensible thing, but they still have to make impulse moves," Coggiano said. "One guy might hesitate whereas one guy might run."

"The main goal at first is just survival. They live in different places but all around Fort Smallwood Road. They start to clear out Pasadena, but people start getting hungry and desperate. The population density is less than in Curtis Bay, Brooklyn Park and Baltimore, so it makes more sense to

hunker down than to get stuck on a highway in a pickup truck."

Readers will recognize Route 100, Hog Neck Road, Fort Smallwood Park, the Stoney Creek Bridge and other landmarks.

"I think for Marylanders, it will have an authentic feel," Coggiano said.

While he anxiously awaits feedback on his book, he is celebrating the result of his hard work.

"I'm stoked. It's a huge accomplishment," Coggiano said. "I got a blue belt in jujitsu and that was exciting. Finishing work on my third house was exciting. This is exciting."

"Taking Back Tomorrow" is available on Kindle and in paperback on Amazon. A sequel is in the works.

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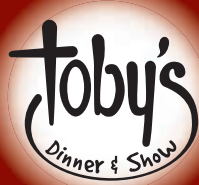
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Red Vine Ripe Large Slicing Tomatoes 1.29 Lb.

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<p>BONUS COUPONS</p> <p>Best Yet or Dairy Fresh Pure Creamery Butter Add'l. 3.29 2.99 1 Lb. Otrs.</p> <p><small>Limit 1 per Family w/add'l. 10.00 purchase. Excludes milk & cigarettes. Exp. 12/24/19.</small></p>	<p>BONUS COUPONS</p> <p>Assorted Varieties Turkey Hill Premium Ice Cream Add'l. 2.99 2.50 48 Oz. Conts.</p> <p><small>Limit 1 per Family w/add'l. 10.00 purchase. Excludes milk & cigarettes. Exp. 12/24/19.</small></p>	<p>BONUS COUPONS</p> <p>Domino Pure Granulated Sugar Add'l. 2.49 1.89 4 Lb. Bag</p> <p><small>Limit 1 per Family w/add'l. 10.00 purchase. Excludes milk & cigarettes. Exp. 12/24/19.</small></p>
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