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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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SEVERNA PARK, MD

JUNE 2022



## STATE CHAMPS



Three teams continued their dominance this spring with state championships. For the Severna Park boys track and field team (bottom right), their title completed a season sweep in three sports. In lacrosse, the Severna Park boys (bottom left) and Broadneck girls (top right) defended their titles with impressive wins. **Read more on page 17.**



## Find More Stories Online

June is a busy time of year and several stories did not make the *Severna Park Voice* print edition. Here's a sample of some of the content available at [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).

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Broadneck High School's baseball team had a fun year but lost in the regional tournament.



Benfield Elementary School raised \$595.93 for the Services from the Heart Backpack Buddies Program in May.



Severna Park High School students made personalized books for their little buddies at two elementary schools.



## Margueritte Mills Volunteers Of The Month

By Lauren Cowin

Before the students of Oak Hill Elementary took the field for their spring fundraiser, Race for Education, parent volunteers arriving for duty heard a common refrain when asking for their assignments – “check with Lindsay.”

Ready for action on an 80-degree Friday morning was their tireless leader, Lindsay Rooney, for whom the mission of Race for Education is about much more than money.

“Students regardless of age have endured so much change and adjustment over the past years. I feel like it was such a great way to let these kids understand that exercise is great for many reasons,” said Rooney, who is at the helm of the event for the second time.

Race for Education is a schoolwide event in which students raise money for technology, recess equipment, assemblies and other items for school enrichment. Race day is the culmination of their efforts as they take the field with their friends, teachers, and parents to walk or run as many laps as their hearts and legs please.

It’s also the result of Rooney’s efforts – which began months ago with establishing a fundraising goal, setting the date, organizing and ordering all of the event-related items such as tents, T-shirts and prizes, and perhaps most importantly, assembling a team of volunteers to assist with the big day.

## Oak Hill Parent Caps Years Of Service With Successful Fundraiser



Rooney and her fifth-grade son enjoyed race day, where she donned the mascot costume despite the heat.

“There’s just so many people willing to donate their time, and I feel like Oak Hill has this wonderful supply of helpers in our community that it’s a total team effort. I couldn’t do it without them,” Rooney said of her co-chair Jean Nagle and the 100-plus volunteers who helped with the event.

A mental health clinician who also served as the school’s PTO

president for four years, Rooney is especially fond of this event because “exercise is super important to physical health but it’s also really instrumental in mental health,” she said.

While the fundraising is optional for the students, between their efforts and sponsorships from the community, the school raised roughly \$40,000 – on par with its pre-COVID events and a number that knocked the initial goal out of the water.

This is Rooney’s last Race for Education, as her fifth-grade son will move on to middle school next year. As she reflects on this event and her years volunteering for Oak Hill, it’s not the hours put in that stand out, but the joy.

“[The students] come out with their T-shirts on, they’re swimming in these shirts and they are just smiling from ear to ear,” Rooney said. “That joy on their faces brings me joy. My son is happy to see me there; it’s almost like he is proud to know that mom’s there and so that is what it’s all about for me. Knowing that I’ve been present and part of something that brings joy and positivity. That’s all I need.”



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## Orphan Grain Train Serves Moldova, Ukraine

OGT volunteers loaded and shipped a 40-foot container in May.



As the world watches Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is sending humanitarian aid to refugees fleeing into Moldova, a country on the western border of Ukraine.

OGT is an all-volunteer Christian charity located in Millersville and dedicated to serving the needy wherever

they are around the world. Volunteers loaded and shipped a 40-foot shipping container in May. The aid included winter and summer clothes, hygiene and school supplies, linens, bicycles and an assortment of medical supplies.

To offer help or donations, go to [www.ogt.org/md](http://www.ogt.org/md) or visit OGT’s warehouse at 621 East West Boulevard.

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# July Concert At Severna Park Taphouse Will Support BWMC Foundation

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

It's a recipe that has worked well since 2018: live music, tasty food and drinks, and a packed crowd. Larry Sells and Severna Park Lanes owner Mike Hall have relied on that formula to raise funds for Fight Colorectal Cancer, the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation, and on July 9 from noon to 8:00pm at Severna Park Taphouse, they will support the Baltimore Washington Medical Center (BWMC) Foundation.

"All the proceeds are going to go to the BWMC Foundation because they do a lot of things – they feed people, they help nurses, they improve employee morale," Sells said.

Nashville recording artist Chad Bearden will headline the concert, with Brent Stover and other musicians set to take the stage throughout the day.

"I always love anything for charity, especially when we can help health care workers," Bearden said. "I love coming to Severna Park and I don't think I've come to any event where that community hasn't packed the place. I love seeing the way a small town rallies, and it's an honor to support these organizations."

Bearden will perform a stripped-down acoustic show.

"Typically for a full-band show, we have a setlist and we know what works," Bearden said. "For these acoustic shows, it's a nice change of pace. I get to sit on a barstool and play what people want to hear."



Nashville recording artist Chad Bearden will headline the concert. He previously performed at Severna Park Taphouse for a fundraiser supporting cancer research.

"Of course, we'll probably end up playing 'Sober' because people like to hear that song, but if people say, 'Play a Waylon Jennings song,' we'll do that too," he said. "We'll also have some new stuff. We're just excited to be back in Severna Park after missing a few years because of COVID."

George Evans will also play music for attendees. The Severna Park musician performed at Severna Park Taphouse in May for Burgers & Bands.

"Mental health is a big concern in our area. I've had two kids grow up in this area and I did as a teenager," he said. "... Music is a fantastic vehicle to give back to communities."

The BWMC Foundation concert is a

"Two Good Guys production," as Sells and Hall like to call their events.

"Our family has been a supporter of the hospital and foundation for decades," Hall said. "Fundraisers like the one we are supporting at the Severna Park Taphouse July 9 are important and critical to help raise funds. Now more than ever, it is important to support our local hospital given the recent COVID impact and budget and financial challenges of operating a first-rate medical enterprise."

Severna Park Taphouse regularly donates space to philanthropic causes, so when this request came to ownership, it was a resounding yes.

"The Severna Park Taphouse is delighted to host the BWMC Foundation

music festival featuring Chad Bearden and so many other great local artists, including George Evans and Lee Priddy," said Jessica Tinordi, general manager at Severna Park Taphouse. "The Taphouse has been a longtime supporter of local charities and we are grateful to be able to host events like this to bring the greater Severna Park community together. We hope that this event raises awareness about the BWMC Foundation that supports so many in our community."

In addition to music, the event will feature a raffle for a 10-person crab feast (with beverages and sides included) at Donnelly's Dockside. Raffle tickets are \$100 and can be purchased online in advance, but only raffle 100 tickets are being sold.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. To purchase tickets for the concert, the raffle or both, visit [www.umms.org/bwmc/giving/tap-house](http://www.umms.org/bwmc/giving/tap-house).

"Community support is always important, but it's especially important right now," said Kathy Burk, executive director of the BWMC Foundation. "Even though things have gotten better and life has somewhat returned to normal, we're still impacted by COVID from a staff and revenue standpoint. It means a lot to our entire team but especially our frontline team to know they aren't forgotten during this challenging time for health care workers. I want to give a shoutout to Larry Sells, Mike Hall and Jessica Tinordi for making this possible."

## The Race Must Go On!

By Mary Marta  
RBSA

For Round Bay Sailing Association, Race Committee (RC) has the important job each week of setting the course and start line. Other responsibilities include registering boats, periodically recording wind speed, raising class flags and recording finish times. That fairly technical job became a bit hazardous on race three of the season.

It was a calm night, a real drifter, which should have made for three easy starts, with a shortened racecourse to finish, with a few beers in between. But race three was nothing like that for RC!

Staffed by Lightfoot (an Olson 30) but using a borrowed powerboat, RC found itself with wet shoes – water was coming onboard at the first start. Lightfoot skipper Ken Shuart and crewmates checked the engine compartment, and a third start racer provided a bilge pump and bucket. RC found itself pumping and bailing their own boat as it started the second fleet. They were able to start the final fleet three about five minutes later but recognized that it would not be safe to stay on (or in) the water. According to Shuart, RC had the distinct feeling that, "Oh my God, we have to get out of here!"



Photo courtesy of Andrew Troy

*This drifter race proved to be memorable for its beautiful sunset. Here is a calm night on Round Bay, with Tango Too in the background.*

While furiously pumping water out of the boat, RC pulled up anchor as soon as fleet three started and headed back to the dock. RC then put the sailboat Lightfoot in the water and headed back to station.

While Lightfoot is slower under

power than the original RC powerboat, RC knew that it at least would not be taking on water. Maneuverability and speed are important for RC because in very light winds, courses are often shortened, and RC must move from the original start line to the new finish line. Indeed, RC shortened race three to just 1.1 miles, with three of 11 boats withdrawing before finish.

This drifter race proved to be memorable for a few things: the beautiful sunset, and that not all racers have the patience to sail in light winds, starting at 4, diminishing to 0.5 knots. Probably the most important lesson was that *the race must go on*, despite conditions on the RC boat.

Join us on Wednesday nights on the Severn River at Round Bay or online at [www.roundbaysailing.com](http://www.roundbaysailing.com).

## Making Memories On The Water



Photo courtesy of Alan Weiss

*The Magothy River Sailing Association has an active program of cruising and land-based social activities.*

By Margaret Burri  
MRSA

Life on the water is about sharing time with friends to make lasting memories. The Magothy River Sailing Association (MRSA) offers lots of opportunities to do just that with an active program of cruising and land-based social activities.

We just finished a successful weekend on the Wye River sharing an anchorage on Granary Creek with boats from East Point Yacht Club to celebrate Memorial Day. Games, barbecue,

fishing, relaxing and sharing sailing stories were the order of the day. And also seeing some amazing sunsets!

As the summer progresses, we have cruises planned to West River, Rock Hall, Langford Creek and Rideout Creek. If you'd like to explore more of the Chesapeake Bay and want to meet new people while doing it, visit [www.magothysailing.org](http://www.magothysailing.org). We have a full list of cruises and information on membership.

Hope to see you on the water!



# After Every Storm Comes A Clear Sky

**Michele Sabean**  
Director of  
Development  
SPAN Inc.



eviction or the need for a medical prescription? It is a large part of what we do.

We have been anticipating an increased need for emergency financial assistance and listening to our phones ringing and checking our log — it is clear that time has arrived. Food and gas prices are increasing and the government supports

**D**id you know in addition to being a food pantry, SPAN helps with emergency financial assistance to help individuals and families through an emergency situation — a utility turn-off, court-ordered

that have been here through the pandemic are ending. In the last months we have provided as many people with financial help as with food. The number of families we are helping financially per month has almost tripled since the end of last summer — indicative of the changes as we are passing out of the pandemic.

With this increase in the need for financial assistance, it is a great time for the return of SPAN's primary fundraiser. After a two-year hiatus, planning has begun for SPAN's 10th annual Turkey Trot 5k! Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 5, at Kinder Farm Park. Several businesses have already signed on as sponsors. If you would like to help plan the event or be a sponsor, please let us know. Look for race registration information in the coming months.

SPAN is considered an "emergency" or "crisis" network, meaning most of the

clients we serve are in a unique situation due to an emergency such as a job layoff, divorce, domestic abuse, illness or death in the family. Most of SPAN's clients are one-time clients who only needed a little assistance to get back on their feet. Recently I received a message from someone who we had helped and now wanted to give back.

Talking with clients, I have been thinking of these crisis times of life. Also, being in the midst of graduation season, I have reflected on life experiences.

*"Life has taught me I am not always in control. Life is full of experiences, lessons, heartbreak and pain. But it has also shown me love, beauty, possibility and new beginnings. Embrace it all. It makes us who we are, and after every storm comes a clear sky."*

-Anonymous

As I see people going through difficult situations, I also look around and see

beauty and love. I hear clients telling me, even when things are not easy for themselves, how they are caring for additional family members and or neighbors. I see our volunteers who are often going above and beyond in their time and effort. I see scout groups, youth groups, neighborhoods and other community members donating money and or food items — thinking of others even as prices are increasing for all of us. I see community members asking what items we especially need or reading our wish list from Facebook, and I see those donations at our door. I see the quick and generous responses of many local businesses to sponsor our Turkey Trot.

As I am thinking of new graduates, with new adventures ahead, I know they will encounter some rough terrain at times, but I am also continually reminded of the love, beauty and possibility that is out there also for all of us.



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# Hundred-Year-Old Still Living A Good Life

By Judy Tacyn

The average life expectancy of Americans is around 78.5 years, but Sally Dusinger Laing, an Arnold resident since 1967 and soon-to-be centenarian, is anything but average.

When asked about how she feels about reaching 100 years old, she quipped, "Accomplishment? I don't know if it's an accomplishment. It just happened!"

Born June 24, 1922, in Long Island, New York, this delightful woman packed plenty of adventures into her century on earth. From tickling the ivories with Liberace to drafting legislation to establish humane euthanasia for shelter animals, from working for a senator to spearheading an effort to institute health rooms in public schools, Sally has accomplished several lifetimes of good works.

After graduation from high school, Sally studied to become a nurse.

"I wanted to be a nurse since I was old enough to think about what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. It was just something in me; I don't know where it came from, but I never wanted to do anything else," Sally said. "So much is involved in giving good care to people; nurses must be well trained to be able to do something that is right for people. Care cannot be just 'hit or miss.'"

Following Sally's graduation from college, a friend suggested they join the military. Sally chose the Navy and her friend chose Army.

"I asked her, why would you want to join the Army? You know, join the Navy, see the world!" exclaimed Sally, but she

soon learned that expression isn't exactly true. "I joined the Navy and all I saw was Boston, Massachusetts, and Key West, Florida! I didn't go to exotic places far away, but what I was doing was worthwhile and I was satisfied."

She may not have seen the world, but she did meet a handsome young sailor while stationed in Florida. On a blind date, Sally met Joseph Laing, who was in Key West working on his sea trials.

"My friend said, 'My boyfriend has a buddy who wants a date. Do you know anyone?'" Sally recalled. "That was a good pick because it was love at first sight."

The two married in 1952. Joseph passed away July 3, 2018, at the age of 92.

One year, they were at a piano bar in New York City and the piano player was trying to get someone to come onstage and play with him.

"No one would go up there, so I said to Joe, 'Do you mind if I go up there and play with him?'" Sally said. "I mean it was embarrassing for him! I don't know what was wrong with everyone."

Though she claims to only "dust the piano keys," Sally got onstage and played with none other than Liberace because she said she felt sorry for him!

Joe and Sally Laing moved to Howard County near Ellicott City in the early



Photo by Judy Tacyn

**Sally Dusinger Laing will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 24.**

1960s. It was then that she and a friend realized that there were no health rooms in public schools. The nurse in her kicked in and she initiated an effort to get health rooms in schools.

"Having a sick child sit in the principal's office and tell them to be quiet while they wait for a parent to pick them is no way to treat them," Sally said. "At first, the principal felt it was an 'unnecessary expense.' A couple of years of arguing and

presenting that it was best for the child to have a proper setting to wait for parents, we won. The principal wasn't happy, but he was sure glad to have the sick child out of his office."

Some of Sally's other adventures included working for Senator Jim Clark in the Maryland legislature, working at the nonprofit Partners In Care for many years, serving as a hospice volunteer for 30 years, being a garden volunteer at the William Paca House and a board member of the SPCA, including elected president.

As president, Sally was disturbed by the nature in which animals were destroyed at shelters. The animal lover then took up another important cause, the humane euthanasia of animals, which was signed into law by former Governor Harry Hughes.

Sally said that certain things were done during the process to do away with animals when they were sick — things she greatly disagreed with. She pushed for the legislation that required a humane euthanasia, which "made it much nicer for [animals]."

"If you care for animals, you want to be sure that they are handled gently and lovingly," Sally said. "They are helpless little creatures. They need people and should have people around who care for them."

She's sorry she can no longer care for animals in her home but is thrilled when visitors come to call with a pet in tow. Additionally, her home is nestled in a park-like setting where raccoons, deer, turkeys and many bird species come to her back door.

Despite a lifetime of caring deeply for people and animals and having the courage and strength to advocate for what she believed was right even when it wasn't always the most popular decision, Sally doesn't believe she's accomplished anything special.

"I don't think I had an unusual life," she said. "I lived a clean life, and I always did what I wanted to do."

As for her advice for young people, she implored, "Take care of yourself, eat well, and get an education! Education is so important."

"Don't endanger yourself, but don't miss out on anything because you're a ninny!" Sally said. "Now that I look back, I guess I did do a lot of things!"

Joe and Sally Laing have two daughters, Barbara in Chicago and Linda in Arnold.

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# Gardens Of Annapolis Unveils Veterans Honor Wall

On May 24, Gardens of Annapolis filled its new honor wall with photographs of residents and their family members who have served in the armed forces. The event featured spoken remarks, a performance by the United States Naval Academy Band, and it was a stirring tribute to the brave men and women whose military service protected their nation.

Denise Robinson, who honors soldiers through the Eastport/Annapolis Legacy of Honor, spoke about her grandfather, Lieutenant Colonel Marlin R. Kopp. Denise's mother, Dolores Robinson, is a Gardens of Annapolis resident.

Kopp was called to active duty on February 1, 1941, when Denise's mom was two weeks old.

"He served in the Pacific - Guadalcanal," Denise said. "He commanded the 525th Quartermaster Mobile Battalion - he had to make sure all the supplies made it to the battlefield. The success of the invasions in the Pacific relied on the Quartermasters getting munitions and supplies to the front. If he failed, the war would be lost."

"My grandfather was one of the 400,000-plus men who died while serving in World War II. My mom is a Gold Star daughter. A man who should have been a very integral part of my life, I never knew. I have said his name a thousand times but have never heard his voice say mine."

Another veteran recognized during

the event was Technical Sergeant Harry Tolson, who served in the 115th Infantry Regiment - 29th Infantry Division. He landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, at 10:45am as part of the second wave on D-Day.

The group photo above was on July 20, 1944, after 44 days of non-stop fighting. Tolson is in the first row on the far right. Fifteen days later, on August 4, 1944, Tolson was killed in action at Saint-Manvieu. France awarded him the French Croix de Guerre with a Silver Star for his valor.

Tolson was brought home in 1948 and laid to rest at the Annapolis National Cemetery. "This weekend as part of the Legacy of Honor project, we will be placing flowers on his grave and the 46 other men who died while serving in World War I and World War II that were brought home to Annapolis to be buried," Robinson said in early June.



**Above:** Lieutenant Colonel Marlin R. Kopp was photographed at his desk at Guadalcanal. **Below:** Gardens of Annapolis filled its honor wall with photographs of residents and their family members who served in the armed forces.



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# Burgers And Bands Strikes A Chord With Concert Attendees



Photos by Judy Tacyn

**Burger and Bands for Suicide Prevention returned to Severna Park Taphouse on May 15 with the goal of showing people in the community that they are not alone in their struggles with mental illness. Bands performed inside and outside the restaurant. Past funds have gone to peace walks, calming boxes, support groups, mental health training, mindfulness classes, and speakers for elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Anne Arundel County.**



## Challenger Baseball Forms Partnership Bigger Than Sports

By Judy Tacyn

A torrential downpour didn't dampen the Opening Day spirits of the Anne Arundel County Challenger Baseball players, their coaches, families and friends on Saturday, May 14.

The county's baseball program for athletes with special needs had to move their Opening Day festivities from Lake Waterford Park to Severna Park Middle School, but based on the smiles on their faces, the Challenger athletes hardly noticed they were indoors. And, for the 13th consecutive year, members of the Severna Park High School baseball program were there to assist their fellow ballplayers in the field, while batting and running the bases.

Anne Arundel County Challenger Baseball was created in 2007 to give adaptive athletes of any age the opportunity to learn baseball skills and teamwork and help build social skills in a sports environment.

"My son, Tyler, loved playing ball," said Terri Hamrick-Oeschger, Challenger Baseball coordinator and coach. "When he was 3, that was all he wanted to do. He played in a program for a few years, but I was not happy with the way the adaptive athletes were being treated."

"I approached the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks about the possibility of creating a baseball program in the fall of 2006. With their incredible support, we were able to start a program. The first year we had about 20 athletes and now there are almost 80! We expanded from Freedom Field at Lake Waterford Park to a South County program at Tyler Heights Elementary."

As for the Falcon baseball teams participating, Hamrick-Oeschger said the partnership with Challenger Baseball



**Challenger Baseball held Opening Day festivities on May 14 at Severna Park Middle School, and Severna Park junior varsity baseball players were there to support Challenger players.**

on Opening Day is a great way to create community ties. It helps adaptive athletes partner with high school players to work on skills, while giving high school players a different perspective on the field.

"My players start asking as soon as the season starts if the SPHS players are coming out for Opening Day," added Hamrick-Oeschger. "They absolutely love having the other teams join us throughout the season, whenever possible."

Severna Park junior varsity baseball head coach Dave Ferris has been involved in Challenger Baseball since it began working with the high school baseball program at its inception.

"This event is a season highlight for me and the players," Ferris said. "Challenger Baseball provides the chance to give back to kids in the community who don't have nearly the same opportunities as high school athletes. Seeing these athletes with physical and emotional challenges



Photos by Judy Tacyn

thrive and enjoy themselves while playing baseball allows us to truly keep things in perspective."

Matthew Smith, a sophomore on the Severna Park junior varsity baseball team, thinks it's important for the high school players to participate in this event because it gives the Challenger players a chance to meet new people and players who play the same game they play.

"I think it is important for the high school players to participate and hopefully serve as role models not only for the Challenger players but in our community," he said.

Smith had the honor of being the catcher for the ceremonial first pitch to start the festivities.

Sophomore Zach Lundfelt felt that he and his teammates may have benefited more from the event than the Challenger players.

"It was a true learning experience for

not just me but everyone attending the event," Lundfelt said. "To see some of the challenges these strong kids face, [it] put me in a state of reflection. I had fun hanging out with the Challenger players and I made a few new friends. I loved the event."

Hamrick-Oeschger said, "As a parent of a special needs athlete, it really means so much to know that other players are willing to give up their time to join a special needs program. They step up and do not see a difference. They are helping to make an impact in such a great way."

Ferris sees the event as a big success.

"Year in and year out, I'll have our players talk about how much they enjoyed working with these young athletes, including this year," Ferris added. "It is also apparent that the Challenger athletes and coaches enjoy the interaction as well. Hats off, too, to the Orioles Advocates for their involvement and support."

This year, the graduating seniors on the high school varsity team collected \$500 for Challenger Baseball. The varsity team couldn't attend Challenger's Opening Day this year due to a playoff game, however, Ferris accepted a plaque on behalf of the entire Severna Park baseball program in recognition of the school's years of partnership.

"Severna Park baseball considers it an honor and privilege to be involved with Challenger Baseball," Ferris said.

Hamrick-Oeschger gets emotional when talking about the SPHS baseball friendship of more than a decade.

"It's a great way to show that athletes of all abilities can play baseball," she said. "It's a great equalizer and helps the adaptive athletes know they belong to the elite group of athletes known as baseball players."





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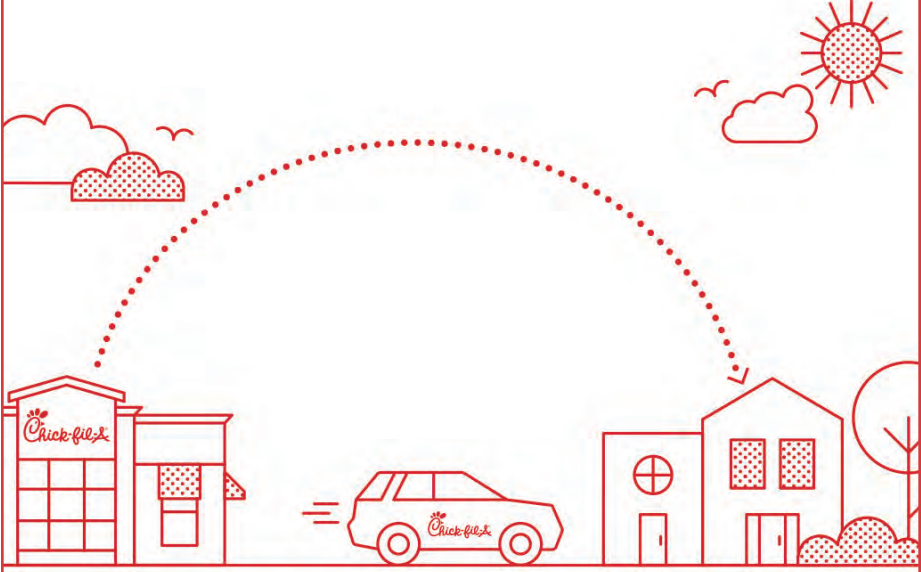


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## Millersville Racer Competes In Supercross Event



**E**ight-year-old Timmy Gately III of Millersville was one of 15 kids ages 7 to 8 selected by the KTM Junior Supercross program to participate in an exhibition race at Empower Field at Mile High in Denver, Colorado, on April 30. Timmy and the other racers each got to ride a new 2022 KTM SX-E 5.

The application process consisted of several videos of riding, racing, speaking, as well as recent report cards. Timmy had straight A's.

"These young racers were treated like factory racers for a day and raced on the same track the professionals raced on that day," said Timmy's mom, Deanna Goshorn-Gately. "They had an autograph session for fans, participated in the opening ceremonies, and were outfitted and gifted with all new gear. The event also aired on NBC and streamed on Peacock."

**Lauren Burke Meyer**



able for print.

"A child between the ages of 1 to 3 ... Pushing boundaries and throwing fits."

Yes, this is true. However, a key part left out from the definition is how toddlers say the darndest things.

Here are just a few toddlerisms of pure gold from my 3-year-old daughter, Charlotte.

"I took my slippers off because my feet were soggy." Soggy? What a creative and nauseating way to say "sweaty."

Another favorite of mine: "Can you turn the sun off?" Thank goodness for blinds.

"I had a fuzzy floor at my old house. Now I have a wood floor." Yes, carpet is fuzzy, so Charlotte's technically not wrong.

One that always brings a smile to my face is when Charlotte reinvents "Deck the Halls" lyrics as, "Tis the season to be Carol." My mom's name is Carol, and I just can't stop laughing when I think that it's the season to be her. Go mom!

Several of her absurd phrases happen during mealtime and involve food or drinks.

"My fingers are a little jammy. I have jam hands. Can I have a napkin?" Not quite jazz hands but sounds just as thrilling! And yes, take all the napkins Charlotte.

When I shared a sip of my chamo-

**C**onfession: I'll admit — for a brief moment — I thought I made up the word "toddlerism." Apparently, the Urban Dictionary was already ahead of me, and I'll share the parts that are accept-

mile tea for the first time, she called it coffee repeatedly. Then asked inquisitively, "Do lemons melt?"

Next up: "If you eat too much shrimp - you turn into a panda!" Clearly, we've watched the Disney animated film "Turning Red" way too much lately. My other toddler daughter, Riley, who is 19 months, is always singing the theme song, "oh my, oh my."

The other day at lunch, Charlotte loudly said, "I can hold my voice!" Did she mean "breath" instead of voice? Nope. She literally stopped talking on purpose for 10 seconds. I've never been more amazed and yes, I was holding my breath without realizing.

After this stream of consciousness from Charlotte, I hope you'll write down all the funny things the tiny people in your life say. Then email them to me at [lburke15@gmail.com](mailto:lburke15@gmail.com), so I can laugh along with you too. They just might end up in a future Lauren's Law column as well.

*Lauren Burke Meyer is a Severna Park native who was inspired to write Lauren's Law as a humorous play on the well-known Murphy's Law adage: "anything that can go wrong, will go wrong."*



**Three-year-old Charlotte Meyer (left) and 19-month-old Riley Meyer were pictured in all their toddler glory. Charlotte has many toddlerisms worth laughing over.**

## Elementary Students Partner With Businesses For Valuable Lessons



**Above:** Fourth-graders got their hands dirty while delivering impactful service learning to some of their favorite local businesses on June 3. **Left:** Students gathered for a mini lesson at Park Books with owner Melody Wukitch.

**By Zach Sparks**

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

**F**ourth-grade students at Severna Park Elementary School have been learning about the environmental and social impacts of supporting local businesses, and on June 3, they got to see the importance of that mission firsthand while gaining service-learning hours.

Students learned how local businesses operate, use natural ingredients, care for the environment and minimize their carbon footprint.

"It started with fuel in the environment in science class and looking at ways we can reduce our consumption, ways we can have a positive impact," said Bethany Adams Chekan, a fourth-grade teacher at Severna Park Elementary.

Teachers wanted to start in their "own backyard" by contacting Severna Park businesses, some of which were quick to respond.

"At The Blended Essentials, the kids made bath bombs, so learning about the reduction of plastics, and there was

no shipping involved," Chekan said.

Students cleaned the patio at The Big Bean, volunteered their time at Park Books and placed planters outside businesses. They raised \$250 to purchase supplies, and they had assistance from Diehl's Produce and A.A. Co. Farm, Lawn & Garden Center, which both provided plants.

Whether they were cleaning the patio or making bath bombs, they worked in 45-minute rotations.

"Our goal is to create engaged and active citizens," Chekan said. "We want to let them have some ownership and run with that. Kids were having a sense of gratitude."

Chekan said the students observed other areas that could use some attention and they don't plan to stop beautifying their hometown once the school year ends.

"They plan to plant more things to make their backyard of Severna Park Elementary School more beautiful and to give back," Chekan said. "We just want to ignite a spirit of community engagement."





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Jackie grew up on the Eastern Shore and graduated from Towson University with a degree in Spanish and Business Communication. She lived in San Diego for 3 years where she began in the mortgage business as a Loan Officer with Global Equity Finance. She recently relocated back to Maryland to work with the Severna Park team at First Home Mortgage and be closer to family and friends.



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# Roundtable Group Reminds Public That Maryland Was Pivotal State In Civil War

By Judy Tacyn

Maryland school children learn early on the important roles that Marylanders like Dorchester County resident Harriet Tubman, and Talbot County's Frederick Douglass, both powerful abolitionists and activists, played in American Civil War history. Perhaps less well known is just how unique Maryland was during the war from 1861-1865. The Chesapeake Civil War Roundtable hopes to change that.

According to its website, the roundtable was founded in May 1999, with the main purpose to support the preservation and education of the events that affected the United States during the 1860s. The group does this through guest speakers, panel discussions, and field trips to locations of interest. Currently meeting via Zoom, the roundtable expects to be meeting in person again at Anne Arundel Community College by the fall.

"Understanding history is important in order to understand why things are the way they are, and why people are the way they are," said Ray Miller, roundtable vice president. "How do we know where we are going as a country if we don't know where we've been? We need to preserve our history for future generations to be able to learn as well."

During the Civil War, Maryland marked the division between the Union to the north, and the Confederacy to the south. Though a slave-owning state,

*"Understanding history is important in order to understand why things are the way they are, and why people are the way they are."*

— **RAY MILLER**  
CHESAPEAKE CIVIL WAR  
ROUNDTABLE VICE PRESIDENT

Maryland never succeeded from the Union. This, along with its proximity to Washington, D.C., established Maryland as a significant state at that time.

"Baltimore mattered a lot. It was important to keep Maryland, even with slavery, in the Union, and Baltimore was its biggest city," said Gregory Nedved, Chesapeake Civil War Roundtable secretary and Severna Park resident. "In April 1861, federal troops transiting Baltimore were harassed by locals. This was the first bloodshed of the Civil War. Even earlier that year, Allan Pinkerton helped break up an assassination plot in Baltimore against President Abraham Lincoln, hatched by a man named Cypriano Ferrandini. Union troops occupied Baltimore early in the war."

Anne Arundel County is also rich in Civil War history.

"Mount Misery (Fort Grey on Carpenter's Hill in Severna Park) was very important because it was strategically



Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

Officers of Third Regiment of the Massachusetts Heavy Artillery are pictured.

located between Annapolis and Washington, D.C., to protect Washington D.C.," Nedved added. "It kept an eye on Confederate vessels near the Severn River. Camp Parole in Annapolis was used for prisoner exchange and release, and there were many medical facilities in the area."

Nedved added that the Civil War has many aspects to it and suggested, "Maryland in the Civil War," a photograph book with text by Mark and Dreama Swank, as a good, easy way to start learning about the local story.

"[It is said] that history repeats itself. That is not entirely true since it is never completely repeated," Nedved said.

"Still, there is enough there to prevent serious and fatal errors from happening if policymakers learn the right lessons."

To learn more about the Chesapeake Civil War Roundtable, to join, or to attend a session to dive into the depths of Maryland's history, visit [www.cccwr.net](http://www.cccwr.net).

James Pula, author of "Under the Crescent Moon with the XI Corps in the Civil War: Volume 1 - From the Defenses of Washington to Chancellorsville, 1862-1863," is the featured speaker for the June 9 session.

The Chesapeake Civil War Roundtable is open to the public and is actively seeking new members. Sessions take place on the second Thursday of the month.

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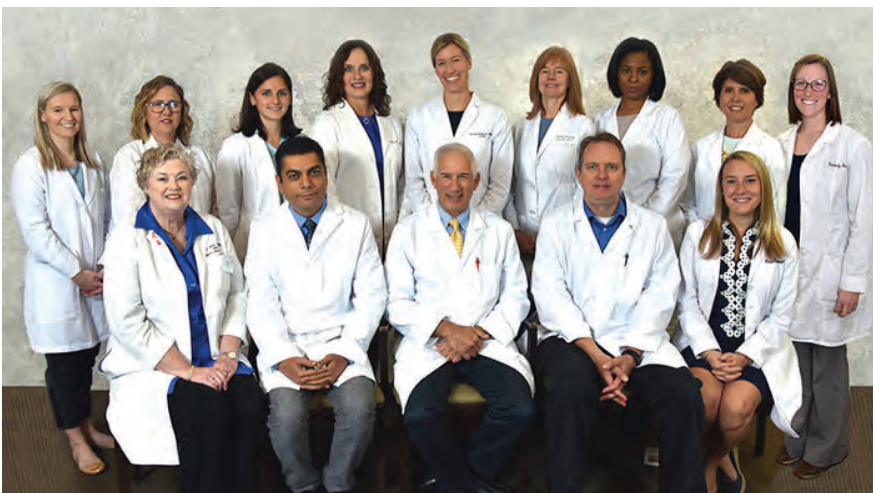
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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Kick Off The Summer By Celebrating Dairy!

In 1937, June was dubbed National Milk Month as a way to distribute extra milk during the hot summer. Since then, June has evolved into National Dairy Month. Though it may sound silly to dedicate an entire 30 days to this food group, National Dairy Month gives us a chance to reflect upon the vital work dairy farmers do for our community and the environment.

For starters, our farmers work 365 days a year to provide milk, an undeniably healthy beverage packed with 13 essential nutrients like calcium, potassium, zinc and Vitamin A, to neighborhoods far and near. These nutrients are linked to immune health, bone and muscle health, reduced inflammation, and reduced risk of chronic diseases like osteoporosis. From milk, we get some other delicious and incredibly nutritious products like yogurt and cheese, which are both excellent sources of calcium to keep our bones and teeth strong.

“

*Since practically all dairy farms are family farms, for farmers it is especially important to protect land, air and water for future generations.”*

In addition to providing our community nourishing foods, dairy farmers are also excellent environmental stewards. By incorporating buffer strips on their farmland to collect any manure or fertilizer-rich runoff before it enters waterways like Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, making use of robotic feed pushers to reduce the need for gas-powered equipment by maximizing feed, and utilizing equipment known as methane digesters which transform manure into a clean source of electricity to power their homes and farms, dairy farmers are truly dedicated when it comes to environmental stewardship. And given the fact that the U.S dairy industry's carbon footprint shrank 19% between 2007 and 2017, the future of environmental protection through dairy farming seems bright. Not to mention, since practically all dairy farms are family farms, for farmers it is especially important to protect land, air and water for future generations.

So there you have it: the next time you are enjoying a cool glass of milk, a warm grilled cheese, or a refreshing scoop of ice cream later this summer, think about the hardworking people who provided it.

**Elizabeth Karides**

2021-2022 Maryland Dairy Princess  
Severna Park High School graduate

## Register To Vote Online For July Primary

The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) is encouraging eligible voters interested in casting a ballot in July's primary election to register to vote online. SBE is also urging those who are already registered to confirm their latest district and polling place information using the online voter lookup tool.

The deadline to register to vote in the 2022 primary election is Tuesday, June 28. Those using the online registration system must submit their completed voter registration application by 11:59pm on that date. To ensure applications are completed and received by 11:59pm, SBE advises voters to access the online

system no later than 11:50pm on June 28. Those who prefer not to register to vote online may print the registration form and return it by mail or do so at the office of their local board of elections by 5:00pm on June 28.

Following the recent redistricting process, county district, state legislative district and congressional district information – as well as polling place information – for some registered voters has changed. For this reason, it is important that all registered voters confirm their current district and polling place information online or by calling or visiting the office of their local board of elections.



## Severna Park Boys Track And Field Claims Rare Achievement *Falcons Win Triple Crown With Three State Titles In One Year*

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Since Class 4A was established in 1988, no Maryland school had won the triple crown of boys cross country, boys indoor track, and boys track and field championships in the same academic year. Not until May 28 when the Severna Park boys won the track and field championship at Prince

George's Sports and Learning Complex, capping off that stunning feat.

**Jack DeBaugh** led the way with wins in the 400-meter dash (48.66

seconds) and 800-meter run (1:55.94), and he was part of the winning 4x800 meter relay team that included **Scott Engleman, James Glebocki** and

**Tyler Canaday.**

Canaday also finished first in the 1600-meter run (4:15.86), just ahead of teammate James Glebocki (4:17.78).

"It's interesting when you're aching. You're not thinking a lot," Canaday said of his mindset during the 1600-meter run. "You're trying to get your body to move. Halfway through, I felt

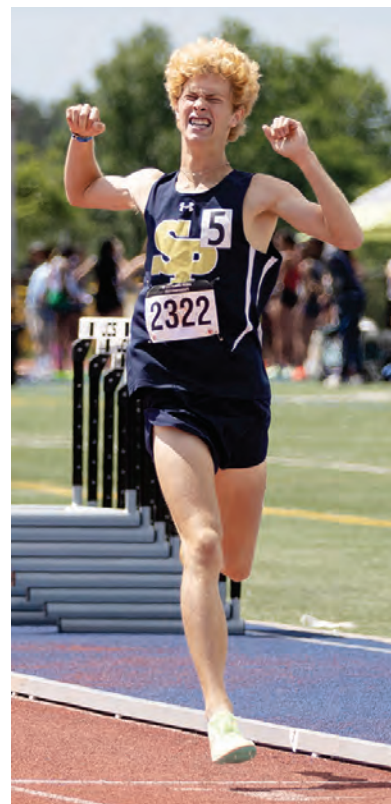
» Continued on page 27

"It's super meaningful to put our stamp on [the program] because that's the culminating thing."

— TYLER CANADAY



Left: Jack DeBaugh won the boys 800-meter run and 400-meter dash during the Class 4A track and field state championship on May 28. Center: A selfless team effort led the Severna Park boys to first place in the Class 4A track and field state championship. Right: Tyler Canaday showed his excitement after winning the 1600-meter run, just ahead of teammate James Glebocki.



Photos courtesy of Naptown Studios

## Falcon Boys Lacrosse Beats Mount Hebron 9-6 To Win Sixth Consecutive State Title

By Conor Doherty

The Severna Park boys lacrosse program is such a well-oiled machine that not even being dropped from Class 4A to Class 3A could stop them this year as they beat Mount Hebron 9-6 on May 25 at Loyola University's Ridley Athletic Complex to win the Maryland Class 3A state championship, the program's sixth consecutive state title and state-record 11th title overall.

Carried by **Ryan LaRocque's** hat trick and **Ashby Shepard's** great goaltending, the Falcons handed the Vikings just their second loss of the season while capping off an impressive run through the playoffs.

After losing to Broadneck for the first time in over five years, the

» Continued on page 22



Photo by Conor Doherty

Falcons players ran toward their fans to celebrate their victory in the Class 3A state championship.



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## Tennis Team At Severna Park Continues Stunning Streak With Undefeated Season



Photos courtesy of Emily Bear

*The Severna Park Falcons tennis team won the regional tournament.*

By Conor Doherty

Severna Park may have one dynasty with the boys lacrosse team having just won their sixth consecutive state title. But another impressive dynasty has been building on the tennis courts.

Coached by **Emily Bear, Mark Bieberich** and **Heather Herman**, the Falcons co-ed tennis team capped off an undefeated season by claiming their eighth consecutive county tournament title on May 18. While the team has now won eight straight county titles, this was the first year since 2019 that the county tournament was held due to the pandemic. The team then followed up their county title by winning their regional tournament and had five players finish in first place at regionals, allowing them to advance to states.

**Chris Preston** competed in boys

singles, **Lucas Fuhrmann** and **Charlie Herman** played in boys doubles, and **Lylah Mudd** and **Grace Warner** were in girls doubles at states. Sadly, all five were unable to advance out of the first round. Warner was one of three senior team captains who are graduating while Fuhrmann will return next year as the defending county boys singles champion. Preston and sophomore **Kiran Spencer** will be the defending county doubles champs heading into next year alongside Fuhrmann.

"They are a great group of kids who are excellent students and came together as a cohesive team this season," Bear said.

The Falcons finished the season with a 12-0 record and lost just six matches during the regular season. They will be led next year by Fuhrmann, Spencer, Preston, Mudd and other players as they look to continue their county dominance.

## Spalding, Severn Add Trophies

By Conor Doherty

Success on the sports field continues to be a local tradition, not just for public schools like Severna Park and Broadneck but for private schools as well. Archbishop Spalding and Severn School finished off excellent spring seasons, with each adding another trophy or two to their cases.

Spalding was dominant on the diamond as its baseball and softball teams each won their respective Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) conference title, beating John Carroll in the title game in both sports.

With its 7-2 win, the baseball team capped off an undefeated season against conference opponents, the first team since 2007 to do that, and won their fifth league title, their first since 2016 as the team finished 27-4 on the season. Not to be outdone, the softball team beat John Carroll 13-2 to win their third straight title and conference best 12th title overall as the team finished with a 17-3 record.

However, not everything was great

for Spalding. The boys lacrosse team lost in the MIAA quarterfinals. The Cavs, seeded third for the playoffs, suffered a 12-10 upset loss to eventual champs McDonogh, who were the six seed. The loss gave Spalding a 12-6 record on the season.

Like Spalding, Severn boys lacrosse faced a tough challenge in the quarterfinals, losing 12-9 to Calvert Hall, as they finished with a 10-8 record.

Despite that setback, the Admirals won a title in golf, adding to their remarkable title tally this year. The golf team easily beat Boys' Latin to win the MIAA conference title, wrapping up a season where the team lost just two matches. With that title, Severn took home 12 MIAA conference titles in the 2021-2022 school year, with all but one title being won by a varsity sport. According to athletic director Julian Domenech, that is the most titles won by the school in a calendar year.

While both schools had great years athletically, the offseason will be spent practicing and preparing for the challenges that next season will bring.





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# Utter Domination: Broadneck Girls Lacrosse Claims Second Consecutive State Title With 17-4 Win



Photo by Conor Doherty

*Bruins players celebrated with their hardware after winning their second consecutive Class 4A state title at Loyola University's Ridley Athletic Complex on May 26.*

## By Conor Doherty

It almost seems fit for a Hollywood sports drama: two previously injured players come back in the biggest game of their lives and they each score a goal. But unlike Hollywood, their goals didn't affect the outcome of the game. Instead, their goals were the cherries on top of a dominating performance by the Broadneck Lady Bruins as the team won their second consecutive Class 4A state title with a 17-4 win over Bethesda-Chevy Chase (BCC) on May 26 at Ridley Athletic Complex.

This was the first game back for **Sophia Facciponti** and **Molly Yeomans**, who were both returning from torn

ACLs. Yeomans had suffered her injury in the state semifinal game last year. As for Facciponti, she had been on a much longer recovery journey, having suffered three ACL tears in the previous three seasons. It only made sense then that the loudest cheers of the night from the Broadneck players and fans came when those two were able to find the back of the net.

The Bruins were in control almost from the start of the game. They scored first before BCC tied the game 1-1 around six minutes into the first half. From there, the Bruins turned the game into a clinic as **Lexi Dupcak** had a hat trick and **Sam Lavorini** had four

points (one goal and three assists) in the first half and the Bruins rattled off 11 unanswered goals to head into half-time up 12-1.

The first half was a continuation of the offensive juggernaut that the Bruins had become in the playoffs. While their offense had been good all year, they found another gear in the playoffs, as they outscored their opponents 67-23 in the games leading up to the title game. With the game well in hand midway through the second half, head coach **Katy Kelley** put a neat bow on another state title when Facciponti and Yeomans stepped onto the field.

"That was the highlight of the game for

all of us," Katy Kelley said. "Being in this for so long, you realize that winning a title is so few and far between and two in a row are really few and far between. I just feel privileged and blessed to have girls that play really good lacrosse, love each other, are unselfish players, work hard, fight, giggle and have fun together."

The Lady Bruins finished the season with a 17-3 record. While they will lose senior goalie **Chloe Rand**, three of their top offensive players will be back. **Lilly Kelley** and Dupcak will both be senior midfielders while attacker **Olivia Orso** will be a junior. With so much talent coming back, a third consecutive state title is possible for the Bruins next year.

## BHS Boys Endure Tough State Final Loss

### By Conor Doherty

As he made a pass behind his back to a teammate for an assist late in the game, Winston Churchill's **Eliot Dubick** looked like he was messing around in the backyard, not putting the nail in the coffin of Broadneck's comeback attempt. The Bruins had no answer for the Bulldogs' offense and especially the wunderkind that was Dubick in their 15-7 loss to Winston Churchill in the boys lacrosse Class 4A state championship at Ridley Athletic Complex on May 26.

Playing in their first state championship game in 25 years, the Bruins scored first. But Churchill returned the favor with a haymaker, scoring five unanswered goals. Even once the Bruins scored their second goal, the Bulldogs quickly responded, stealing any momentum the Bruins were trying to build up.

The Bulldogs were able to keep momentum on their side with numerous cross-goal cuts that the Bruins couldn't stop, leading to several goals. Meanwhile, the Bruins' offense was anemic as the team struggled to get into any rhythm, with many empty possessions cutting into their comeback attempt. Offensively, the Bruins were led by **Jackson Shaw**, who had two goals and an assist, while for Churchill, it was the Eliot Dubick show.

Dubick, a University of Maryland commit, had nine points (four goals, five assists) in the game and finished the season with a ridiculous 73 goals and 93 assists,

proving to be the main catalyst for a Winston Churchill team that finished the season 18-0 and became the first Montgomery County school to ever win a state lacrosse title, boys or girls.

For head coach **Jeff Fritz**, it is the culmination of decades of time and effort. "I got the Churchill job right out of college in '94," Fritz said. "A state championship didn't become a real dream until the early 2000s and the community really bought into that dream. It's honestly so surreal, something I've worked for a real, real long time."

With the loss, the Bruins finished the season with a 16-4 record, went undefeated in their conference and won their regional championship. "There is a lot for this Broadneck team to hang their hat on, even the hardware that we got tonight, being state finalists," said Bruins head coach **Jeff McGuire**. "We made a promise to our seniors just to be champions and we were that. We were the in-county champions, undefeated regular season record in conference, then we were the regional champion. So, these guys can hang their hat on something, and they brought three pieces of hardware back to Broadneck. So definitely a lot to be proud of with this group, really setting the standard for a lot of young guys watching that ceremony because they want to get right back next year. They're feeling the sting, but they're going to suck it up and get right back to work tomorrow because that is what our program is all about."



Photo by Conor Doherty

*Broadneck players celebrated a goal scored by Jackson Shaw (left).*



## Lady Falcons Suffer Heartbreak With 11-10 Loss In State Finals

By Conor Doherty

**S**tunned, heartbroken and unimaginable are just a few ways to describe what happened to the Severna Park girls lacrosse team during the Class 3A state championship game at Ridley Athletic Complex on May 25.

Leading 10-7 against the Marriotts Ridge Mustangs with less than five minutes left in the game, the Falcons allowed three unanswered goals, including the game-winner by **Sofie Bender** with less than a minute left, to lose 11-10. The win gave Marriotts Ridge back-to-back state titles and their fifth in program history.

The championship game outcome was far different from the contest these teams last played on March 29 when the Falcons won by 10 goals. Led by **Alyssa Chung**'s four goals, the Falcons looked to be headed toward their 15th state title. But some over-aggression on defense led to several Falcons players getting called for fouls, putting the Mustangs in a couple man-up advantages, including a two-player advantage on the free possession that Bender scored her game winning goal on.

Left to try and tie the game while down two players, the Falcons turned over the ball on their final possession, finishing off the collapse. While Bender had the finishing blow, the Mustangs were carried offensively by **Maisy Clevenger** and **Hayley Lettinga**, who scored four goals each.

Although the Falcons didn't come away with the title, head coach **Kaitlyn Hines** felt that her team should still come away proud of the season they had.

"I'm just so proud of them," Hines said. "We fought hard through a lot of adversity. A lot of people doubted us along the way, and we got here and



Photo by Conor Doherty

*Alyssa Chung looked to score one of her team-leading four goals on this shot during the state championship.*

other teams didn't, and so I'm very proud of what we were able to accomplish this year. Marriotts Ridge is a good team, great competition for us to play against. They have great players, and we knew that we would have to come in and play our best."

The Lady Falcons finished with a record of 16-3, scoring 293 goals on the season. Chung led the team in scoring with 47 goals, along with 15 assists while **Charlotte Diez**, who scored in the final, was third in scoring with 26 goals. Both girls will be back next year as Chung is a sophomore while Diez is a junior. For the Falcons, it will be a long offseason as they look to bounce back from this loss and add yet another state championship title to their trophy case next season.

## Indian Creek Girls Win IAAM Championship

**T**he Indian Creek girls lacrosse team defeated Beth Tfiloh 17-5 at Tierney Field at the USA Lacrosse headquarters in Sparks on May 15 to claim the program's second consecutive Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) C Conference championship. Senior attack **Mia Putzi** led the Eagles with five goals and four assists in the victory, while senior **Dani Engelfried** led a suffocating defensive effort, and sophomore goalie **Elia Alewine** made eight saves. Putzi, **Sophee Gomberg**, **Abby Bach**, **Avery Barnhill**, **Abbey Bunker**, **Molly Bunker** and **Anastasia Malamatis** all scored goals in the win.



Photos courtesy of Colin Murphy

*Sophomore goalie Elia Alewine made eight saves during Indian Creek's 17-5 victory over Beth Tfiloh in the IAAM C Conference championship.*



*Avery Barnhill found the net in Indian Creek's IAAM C Conference championship win on May 15.*

## Falcon Boys Lacrosse Beats Mount Hebron To Win State Title



Photo by Conor Doherty

*Nolan Zborai shushed the Mount Hebron crowd after scoring with under six minutes to play to curtail the Vikings' comeback attempt.*

» Continued from page 17

Falcons won their next eight games, including a rematch against the Bruins in the county championship. But while the offense carried the team for most of the season and especially during the winning streak, where five games were won by double-digit goals, it was Shepard and the defense that restrained Mount Hebron's attack, limiting the Vikings to just one goal through the first three quarters.

The Falcons were up 8-2 in the fourth quarter when Mount Hebron began to make it more of a game, scoring four goals in about six minutes. But **Nolan Zborai** responded with a goal, after which he shushed the Vikings' crowd, erasing any hopes of their team finishing a comeback.

"They worked their tails off all year," said Falcons head coach **Dave Earl**. "With what they've been through the last couple years, with COVID and then the shortened season last year, for them to come

out this season and just really give it their all. But really, they started to come together as a team probably two or three weeks ago and we started to see it click in the locker room and in practice and it really showed tonight."

For players like **Joaquin Villagomez** and **LaRocque**, who have added to and continued the dynasty that has been built at Severna Park, winning a championship has become the expectation.

"It's awesome just carrying the tradition all across these six years," said LaRocque, a midfielder. "Kids want to keep coming and playing for this program. That's what gives us fire and keeps us going every day in practice."

But like all dynasties, more success leads to high expectations. "You don't want to be the senior class that didn't win the championship," Villagomez said. "That's what it's become."

The Falcons finished with a 16-4 record and scored 272 goals with 146

assists while allowing just 108 goals, with opponents exceeding 10 goals only four times all season. Villagomez and Zborai led the team with 68 and 51 goals scored, respectively, along with 23 and 22 assists, while Shepard had 113 saves.

Looking ahead to next season, the Falcons will pass the challenge to many new players. The top four scorers from this season were all seniors with **Ganon Cope**, a sophomore, and LaRocque, a junior, the next top scorers with 18 and 16 goals scored, respectively. Shepard will return to man the goal.

Fourteen seniors will leave the program having never felt the sting of defeat in a state championship, a rare accomplishment for a program that continues to fire on all cylinders.

"You always want to end the season this way," Earl said. "Only one team gets to do that and I'm just really proud of these guys."



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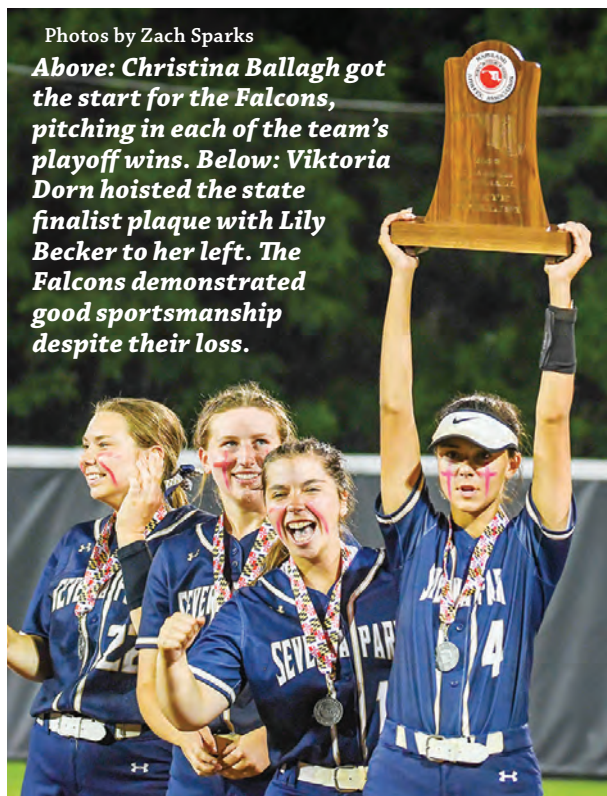


# Severna Park Softball Falls To Sherwood In State Championship, 21-5



Photos by Zach Sparks

**Above:** Christina Ballagh got the start for the Falcons, pitching in each of the team's playoff wins. **Below:** Viktoria Dorn hoisted the state finalist plaque with Lily Becker to her left. The Falcons demonstrated good sportsmanship despite their loss.



By Zach Sparks

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“Remember what this feels like” — that was one of the messages Severna Park varsity softball coach **Meredith McAlister** delivered to her team after they lost 21-5 to Sherwood in the 4A state championship game, which started May 28 and ended around midnight that Sunday morning at the University of Maryland – College Park.

McAlister was proud of her young team for outperforming expectations and making it to the state final, but she wants her players to use the tough loss as motivation for next year.

Severna Park came into the game after a 13-10 season and a Cinderella playoff run whereas Sherwood went 17-2, beating defending champion Catonsville in the state semifinals.

“We knew we were the underdog,” McAlister said. “We knew we had to put it all together perfectly and that definitely didn’t happen tonight. There were a lot of factors, like waiting until 9:30pm to play, but [Sherwood] had to do the same thing. So we’re not going to make excuses; we’re certainly going to learn from it.”

The way the game started, Severna Park looked ready to meet the monumental task. **Savannah Drummond** hit a leadoff single and advanced to second on a passed ball. **Viktoria Dorn** laid down a bunt single, and with a **Sally Trent** sacrifice fly to left field, the Falcons took

a 1-0 lead.

From there, the momentum shifted to Sherwood. **Brenya Schlutz** hit a leadoff single, **Keira Schlutz** bunted for a single, and after the Falcons erased the lead runner on a chopper to third base, **Alyssa Amond** singled to load the bases. **Summer Green** came to the plate and abruptly hit a double to score three runs for Sherwood.

**Hannah Friend** kept the inning going with a double, and a subsequent grounder to third gave the Warriors a 4-1 lead. The Falcons could not get the third out they desperately needed. **Julia Pfeffer** added an RBI single, **Ally Long** singled, and Brenya Schlutz came up to bat for the second time in the first inning, hitting a single to make the score 6-1. Keira Schlutz then crushed a pitch into the gap between left field and center to make the score 8-1. A few more hits and a few Severna Park errors followed before the Falcons got out of the first inning with a 13-1 deficit.

Down 19-1 in the top of the third, Severna Park attempted to rally. **Ally Weaver** drew a leadoff walk. After a flyball out, Dorn smacked a single over the Sherwood shortstop and Trent walked to load the bases with one out. With the Falcons down to two outs, **Addison Bianco** hit a ground ball through the infield to make the score 19-3.

The Falcons would get RBIs from Bianco and **Lily Becker** in the fifth inning. On what could have been a bleak night, the Falcons found a moment of joy and sportsmanship when the stadium power went out around midnight. Players from both teams embraced the moment, dancing on the field together with Journey songs blaring over the speaker and fans waving their cellphone lights in the stands.

“This is the second time the lights went out in one of our games and we just go out there and dance and have a good time,” Dorn said after the game. “We’re so close that no matter if there is a bump in the road, we know how to make it fun.”

When play resumed, Sherwood captured the final out as the 10-run mercy rule took effect and the Warriors hoisted the championship plaque.

Even though Severna Park starting pitcher **Christina Ballagh** had a rough night, her strong performances throughout the playoffs helped Severna Park reach the state final — a fact McAlister was mindful of after the game.

“She’s worked very hard to be where she is,” McAlister said. “If you looked at her pitching last year, she’s had a lot more poise [this season] on the mound. She was only a freshman last year, so she’s only a sophomore. She was only 100 pounds and now she’s maybe 120 pounds, so for her to put us in this situation is perseverance and continuing to work in the face of any adversity that came at her, and that’s what you want in a pitcher.”

Despite playing from behind, Severna Park players stayed positive throughout the game, encouraging one another after each at-bat and having fun.

“I think Sherwood is a great team,” Becker said. “They have a lot of fight and they have a really powerful offense. We just wanted to come out and have a great time. We weren’t looking to slaughter anybody. We were just looking to play our game and have a good time and that’s what we did, so I’m happy with it.”

“Coming into it, nobody expected us to make states and that’s why it’s so great because we proved everybody wrong,” she said. “We were all just happy that we made it as far as we did, and we worked hard every single game and we fought every single game. That’s all that matters.”

The state final marked the last game for Becker and for Dorn, a fellow senior.

Both players believe their younger teammates will heed their coach’s advice, remembering the loss and coming back strong next year.

“This program, no matter how good or how bad [we’re doing], it has so much heart,” Dorn said. “We put our soul and our energy into every game no matter the outcome. I’ve been on the team since freshman year, and every game that I’ve played, it’s been that way. Hopefully it continues.”

## Sherwood Blanks SPHS Baseball In State Final, 11-0



Photo by Zach Sparks

*Falcons outfielder Brooks Harris walked off the field as Sherwood players stormed the mound.*

By Zach Sparks

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For the second consecutive year, the Severna Park varsity baseball team made it to the 4A state championship game at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf, and for the second time, Sherwood ended their season, this time with a 11-0 shutout ended by mercy rule after five innings.

It was a stunning result for a Falcons team that won 10-0 over Dulaney in the state semifinals and 8-0 over Laurel in the state quarterfinals.

“These guys [Sherwood] have a lot of experience and we picked the wrong time to have our worst game of the year,” said Severna Park head coach **Eric Milton**. “Mistakes, errors, wild pitches. We had an opportunity in the first inning to get on the board. We didn’t take advantage of it and things snowballed and the ball bounced their way in the first inning, and they picked up four runs and we couldn’t scratch our way back.”

As Milton noted, Sherwood scored four times in the first inning. After surrendering a leadoff walk, the Falcons had a wild pitch, a passed ball, and allowed a double. Sherwood third baseman **Ryan Bouma** then hit a chopper over third base to make the score 2-0. **Amari Allen** singled on a 1-2 count, Bouma scored on another wild throw, and **Josh Hollowell** singled to left field, with another runner scoring on a ground ball to second.

Severna Park couldn’t close the gap, failing to reach base in the second inning before allowing three more runs in the bottom of the second. Their next chance came in the third. **James Henson III** drew a leadoff walk and reached third base after he stole second and the catcher’s throw sailed past the bag. The next batter struck out, but **Luke Herz** walked to put runners on the corners. But again, the Falcons could not capitalize.

“We’re a young team and it’s our first time being here [for some players], so we got nervous and couldn’t pull it back together,” Henson said.

Severna Park players were understandably upset after the game, but they still found positives.

“County champions, regional champions, 18-4 and we’re going to plan on being back here next year,” Milton said.

Several Falcons who had key hits during Severna Park’s playoff run are expected to return, including **Angel Santiago-Cruz**, **Seamus Patenaude** and **Kody Phillips**.

The state championship marked the last game for several players, including Henson.

“This program aims pretty high and has made a couple state championships,” he said. “We have made a lot of good memories together. I love this team.”



# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

## Jimmy Miller

Severna Park Baseball

By Conor Doherty

**F**or many players, all they ever hope for is a chance to play and show that they can contribute to their team. One such athlete who got that chance this season: Severna Park High School baseball player Jimmy Miller.

Having only had four at-bats during his junior season, Miller became a full-time starter as a senior this season. Miller was the starting left fielder and batted in the seventh hole for the Falcons. For Miller, it was great to finally be given the opportunity to play regularly.

"It was definitely a process to getting where I am today and being able to play every day," Miller said. "I was super excited to know that I was stepping into a starting role, but at the same time, you have to deal with the ups and downs. Baseball is one of those games where you can be on a total hot streak for 10 games and then you just fall off a cliff. You just have to get back to practice and work every day because obviously you're excited you're in a starter spot, but there's that sense of pressure where you've got to perform and you're responsible in helping your team succeed."

Despite how the past two seasons have ended for the Falcons, losing to Sherwood in the state championship twice, Miller said that the team and former Falcons players have set an example of what every player following them should strive to become.

"The whole team is supportive, even of the guys who are on the bench," Miller said. "Especially with Jackson (Merrill) last year, I was able to learn so much and



Photos by Zach Sparks

*Jimmy Miller batted seventh in the lineup and played left field for the Falcons this season.*

grow, not only as a player but as a leader. And I think that helped us a lot to have the success we had this year because we had a lot of guys who had never started before on varsity. We had all seen great examples of leaders and players come up before us, so we knew exactly what we needed to represent, how we needed

“

*It was definitely a process to getting where I am today and being able to play every day. I was super excited to know that I was stepping into a starting role.”*

— JIMMY MILLER

to play, and I think that was a huge contributor to our success.”

Miller will go to the University of Maryland where he plans on playing club level baseball. While he left high school without experiencing the joy of being a state champ, he feels that the Falcons can get over that hump.

"Obviously they saw what we can achieve this year," he said. "So, I've just been telling them to keep working hard, stay humble and don't get satisfied. Obviously, we hoped to bring that state championship home this year, but there's no doubt in my mind that they'll be able to get there next year, the year after that, the year after that."

"We're a great program," Miller said. "We got a lot of guys who care, and I just want them to know that I believe in them, all of Severna Park believes in them. They keep working hard. I know we'll get there one day."

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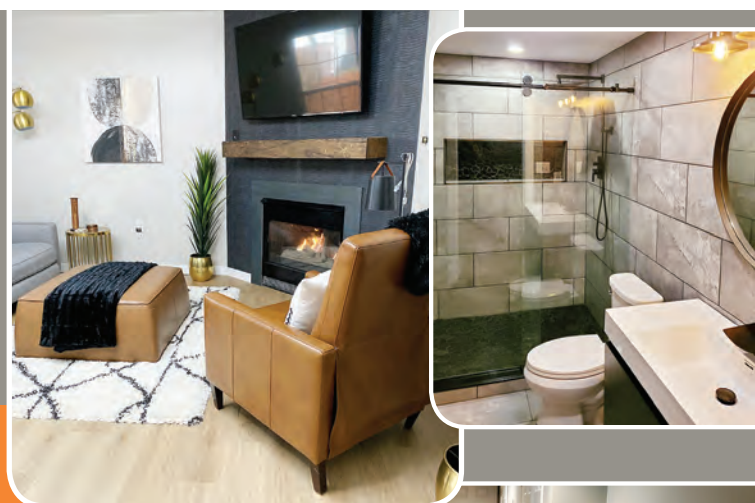
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# Severna Park Baseball Dominance Begins With JV

By Judy Tacyn

When a varsity program like Severna Park baseball has been to the state championship game eight times, and has won three of them, it rightly earns the headlines and accolades it receives. But the road to the championship doesn't start in the 11th grade; it starts the moment a player dreams of wearing a Falcons jersey.

Just outside of the spotlight but no less dominant, the Severna Park junior varsity baseball team, under the longtime leadership of head coach **Dave Ferris**, went 17-1 during the spring 2022 season. Their only loss came in the junior varsity county championship game against Arundel. The fact that four sophomores (**Angel Santiago-Cruz**, **Kody Phillips**, **Sean Williams** and **Nathan Murphy**) were pulled up to bolster the varsity roster before their season even began had little effect on the heavy hitting and strong defensive junior varsity team.

Additionally, sophomores **Liam Cleary** and **Matt Dove** were called up to varsity during that team's playoff run to the state championship game on May 28.

Under Ferris, the junior varsity team dominated its Anne Arundel opponents. In 18 games, the junior Falcons outscored their opponents 205 to 69. Half of their games ended by slaughter rule — when a team is winning by 10 or more runs by the fifth inning, the game is ended. The team batting average was .347, and their on-base percentage was .487. When a team collectively will get a clean hit 35 percent of the time and will put a runner on base nearly 50 percent of the time, they are going to be dangerous.

"I dare to say no other high school

program in the county has the JV and varsity success we've had at Severna Park," Ferris said.

In Ferris' 23 years as head coach of the junior varsity team, his teams have never finished under .500 on a season. His overall JV win-loss record is a staggering 317-70.

For the sophomores playing their second season under Ferris this year, the loss to Arundel in the county championship game was the first time they experienced a loss in two seasons.

Under the exceptional leadership of its captains, sophomores **Cleary**, **Nick DiNunzio** and **Jackson O'Brien**, the team played smart and aggressive baseball at the plate, on the bases and in the field. Dove led all hitters with a .543 batting average, safely making it on base 63 percent of the time he took to the plate. Cleary's batting average was .500 and Ferris believes him to be one of the better center fielders in the county. The team's fielding percentage was an exceptional .939.

"We had a ton of pitching," said Ferris, noting that 11 of his 19 players were pitchers in either their primary or secondary position. Led by freshman **Dylan Grice** and sophomore **Joey Tomar**, the team's earned run average (ERA) was 2.45.

"Dylan Grice was an outstanding freshman pitcher who threw a complete [game] no-hitter against Broadneck, which was his very first high school game," Ferris said. "Sophomore **Zach Lundfelt** was also solid on the mound."

Ferris added that **Charlie Hartman** was an outstanding freshman who batted .404 and was a solid shortstop and pitcher. Freshman **Benji Beisler** earned a spot in the starting lineup and batted over .300.

Sophomore **Brendan Vaught** was a consistent .280 hitter.

"Our middle infield was outstanding with **Charlie Hartman** at shortstop and **Nick DiNunzio** at second," Ferris said. "Matt Dove was a solid catcher and a powerful, reliable hitter. We had depth at every position and confident hitters up and down the lineup."

Not all the team's games were easy. In a regular season meeting against Arundel, the Falcons found themselves down 1-5, battled back to tie the game late, and ultimately won the game with aggressive baserunning.

"Both teams were making plays, back and forth," Ferris said. "We had to do something aggressive, something different, to earn the win. I was proud of the boys for how they never let up."

Other season highlights were in the annual Easter tournament hosted by Severna Park. First, the Falcons defeated a strong Northeast team with a couple instrumental pick-off plays, sending them into the championship game against an always strong Archbishop Spalding team. In that tournament championship, the Falcons were leading the Cavaliers 5-2 when poor weather forced the cancellation of the game.

Make no mistake, the JV team is important to keep the talent pipeline open and successfully moving forward to varsity.

"I really enjoy the kids at this level. I can still teach. I can still instruct. And that's very important," Ferris said. "The big picture at the JV level is to develop kids for varsity. My satisfaction comes in not only being competitive at the JV level but seeing these same kids mature and develop into integral parts of eight state appearances in eight state championship

teams, three of which we won, and two included my own son, Andrew."

Ferris, a county All-Star center fielder at Northeast High School, was a part of that school's 1975 state championship team. After an outstanding high school career, Ferris played for University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) for four years. With his playing days behind him, Ferris continues to umpire baseball games in the county and to train umpires. But his greatest satisfaction is coaching.

Ferris said he loved his time coaching at the 11- and 12-year-old-level, a time when kids really learn the game. He believes the Green Hornets' (Greater Severna Park Athletic Association) coaches continue to prepare players for high school.

"Green Hornets is a tremendous feeder program. As that league's travel director, I pay attention to the teams coming up, try to attend many of the games of seventh- and eighth-graders, assist in some practices and their tryouts, give feedback and instruction," Ferris said. "When players enter high school, I don't have to reinvent the wheel. They come to tryouts with skills needed to make contributions and ensure Severna Park's future success."

Severna Park JV baseball's 19-player roster included sophomores Dove, Cleary, O'Brien, DiNunzio, **Matthew Smith**, Vaught, Tomar, **Daniel Lynn**, and **Chase Raino**. Freshmen included **Kasey Turnock**, Hartman, **Vince Nuygen**, **Adam Clark**, **Beisler**, **Ethan Dillon**, Grice, **Ryan Jamison** and **Ryder Halloran**.

**Cam Stevenson**, who played for Ferris and was part of Severna Park's 2009 state championship team, was a first-year assistant coach. Freshman **Jake Allen** served as team manager.

## Severna Park Boys Track And Field Claims Rare Achievement

» Continued from page 17

pretty good and then James passed me with a pretty decisive move. We're all competitive, so if your teammate passes you, you want to beat him."

Severna Park also got 10 points from **Brandon Kiefer**, who took first place in pole vault clearing 13 feet, 6 inches.

With rain postponing Friday's portion of the competition to Saturday, athletes from all schools had to be strategic in how they spent their energy because they had less rest between events.

As the anchor for Severna Park's 4x800 relay team, DeBaugh thanked his teammates for putting him in a favorable position to clinch the race while still preserving energy for his other races. For the 400-meter dash, he gave it his all.

"The conditions were pretty windy, so I waited until the back stretch to go harder with the wind," he said.

By the time the 800-meter dash started, he was exhausted, but he stuck to his game plan.

"When I run the 800, I like to set myself a couple places behind," he said. "The second lap, I started to move up a little more and I made up the

distance."

DeBaugh earned or contributed to 35 of Severna Park's 87 points. Canaday also propelled Severna Park atop the leaderboard, contributing to 21 of the team's points.

"I always have that strongest mentality," Canaday said. "I might not be the fastest [on that day], but I train the smartest and hardest."

Many other Falcons fared well during the meet. **John Tyler** finished fourth in high jump, **Keith Cingel** was fifth in the 100-meter dash, **Edward Sullivan** took fifth in the 1600-meter run behind Canaday and Glebocki, and **Liam Hagerty** and **Mason Siebenhaar** finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 3200-meter run.

The team of Cingel, DeBaugh, **Michael Singleton** and **Declan Gentile** claimed fourth in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 1:30.01.

"We obviously had a very talented group of kids, but the difference with this group is that they have the talent and they are willing to do the work," **Josh Alcombright**, who coaches cross country and track and field for Severna Park. "After they won the

indoor title, the whole group was all in on doing whatever it took and contributing however it worked out best for the team.

"The selflessness of the entire group is what makes them special."

Canaday said being a part of that culture is empowering.

"You don't see it as a freshman and you think. 'These seniors are weird,'" Canaday said. "But then you understand. I'm part of something bigger than myself."

DeBaugh was a 6-foot, 160-pound swimmer when he started running competitively for Severna Park last year. His swimming background has helped with his endurance.

"Swimming practices are more tiring than track because you're meeting that resistance from the water," he said.

Canaday trains seven days a week. He starts at 55 to 60 miles a week and tapers — lowering his mileage but running faster — by the end of spring.

"A big thing is being able to trust your coach and being able to trust your training," he said.

As for the accomplishments, sweeping the three state competitions and

winning their first indoor title in 50 years and their first outdoor title, the boys are proud of the collective sacrifices they made.

"A lot of credit goes to the distance kids," DeBaugh said. "Most of them have been on the team since they were freshmen, all three seasons, so they have put in a lot of work. This year, the sprinters piqued, and it all came together."

"The coaches are very supportive. They push you to take initiative yourself," DeBaugh said. "A lot of the motivation and prompting comes from the athletes, and the desire to win comes from that prompting. There is definitely a lot of talent leaving the team, but hopefully they can continue the legacy we started."

Canaday also emphasized that all the hard work was worth the effort.

"It's super meaningful to put our stamp on [the program] because that's the culminating thing," Canaday said. "It's senior year, it's the last chance to run in high school. It's the closest thing to running in the Olympics or playing in a Super Bowl. It's the best sendoff."



# Freshman Finishes Second At Choptank River Open Swim

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park freshman **Leo Havens** finished second in the Maryland Freedom Swim in Dorchester County on May 15. Leo navigated the two-mile swim in 40:43.

Leo is a member of Severna Park High School's swim and cross-country teams and what makes the accomplishment so impressive is that Havens had never donned a wet suit before participating in this event.

"I expected that swimming in open waters would be more difficult than a pool," Leo said. "I discovered that it was easier to float and swim with the wet suit and you kind of glide through the water."

Leo likes new adventures and he wanted to do this with his friend Shep Kegley, but Kegley became ill and couldn't participate in the swim.

"It was funny because when I got to the event and looked at the river and asked myself, 'What did I get myself into?'" Leo said.

According to Leo, a two-mile swim is the equivalent of swimming 132 laps in a pool.

Leo's swimming interest was formed like it is for so many Severna Park children: by simply swimming for his neighborhood swim team. For Leo, it was St. Andrews Swim Club and he began swimming at age 9.

"Leo's personality is always to



give it everything he has, and he liked swimming right away," said Leo's mom, Amie Jo Havens.

He likes swimming so much that he escalated to swimming throughout the year. His best event is

freestyle. Leo also enjoys running and recently finished third in the General Smallwood Triathlon — and first in his age group — in Indian Head, Maryland. According to Leo, this triathlon featured a 1.5-mile swim, 16-mile bike ride and 5K run. He completed those three events in 1:25.15. The event had 500 entrants and Leo received his prize on the podium with the other top two finishers.

freestyle.

Leo admitted that the 90-degree heat took its toll on him that day but finishing third and with that outstanding time, he qualified for the national triathlon in Ohio later this summer.

Leo will continue to swim and run but has not made up his mind on which sport he will continue with in college.

"Hopefully I can do both!" he said.

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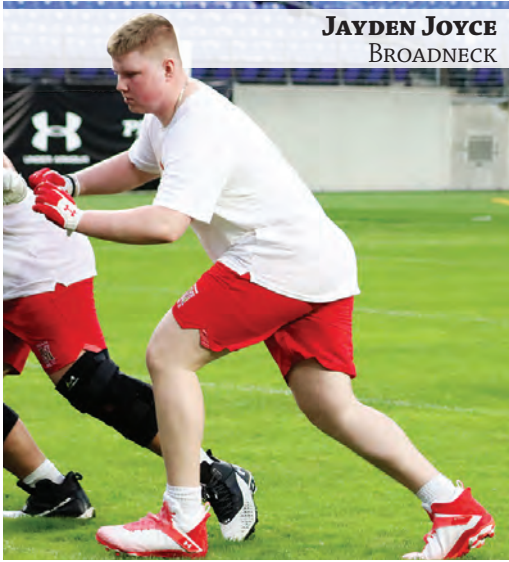


Photos courtesy of Dennis McGinley

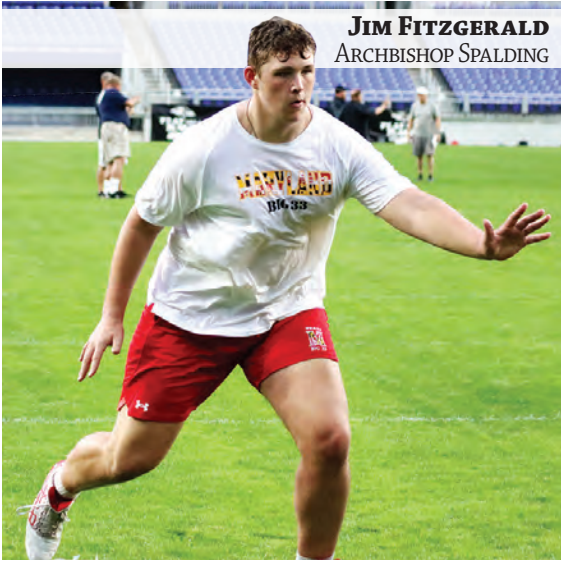
Five Anne Arundel County athletes, including three from Broadneck High School, were selected to compete for the Maryland team in the Big 33 football classic versus Pennsylvania on Memorial Day weekend. Prior to the game in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Maryland players practiced at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore on May 22.



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# Student Band Performs In International Blues Challenge

By Alyson Kay

Severna Park High School junior Parijita Bastola is already making a name for herself as a blues singer.

The International Women in Blues organization reached out to Parijita, vocalist for Severna Park-based band Bastola, to perform at its showcase in the International Blues Challenge. The event was held on Beale Street, the iconic home of blues in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 7.

The blues challenge represents the worldwide search for blues bands and performers ready for the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break.

"It was just an honor to be able to be with people that I love, doing the thing that I love at an amazing musical place with other musicians who also feel the same way about music that we do," said Parijita, whose band had collaborated with the organization twice before.

Bastola had regular performances at Mother's Peninsula Grille, Copper Creek Pub & Ale House and other local venues prior to the Memphis show. The warmer weather was a boon and contributed to the lively party atmosphere in the event's many club venues, as well as outdoors on Beale Street.

Bassist Jack Slote was "excited and a bit nervous" to play in front of such a large crowd of well-known blues musicians and seasoned fans, but he and the band

not only pulled off a flawless performance but also received one of the few standing ovations of the evening.

After their set, the band enjoyed the rest of the Blues Challenge performances. Because it was an international competition, Jack — who is part Korean — was happily surprised to see a band representing the Blues Society of Korea (they made it to the finals, but a French band walked away with the grand prize).

Bastola band members have spent their childhoods as budding musicians.

Jack started studying electric bass when he was 11, first at School of Rock in Arnold

and for the past three years at the Priddy Music Academy in Millersville.

Parijita grew up surrounded by music thanks to an entertainment company her father used to own.

"Bands from Nepal would come to the United States and do USA tours and he would always have musicians over and they're singing all night and they always encouraged me to," Parijita said.

Growing up, Parijita learned to play several instruments. A piano teacher from her early childhood set her on the path toward becoming a singer.

"It was the performance, the energy of a crowd of



Photo courtesy of Adam Slote

*The band Bastola performed in the International Blues Challenge on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 7.*

other people that really motivated me," Parijita said.

In seventh grade, Parijita sang at her first school performance. In the audience was the family of Zane Brennan, a fellow student who reached out to her about forming a blues band. Although she wasn't familiar with blues specifically and wasn't sure how interesting it would be to perform music in that genre, Parijita was interested in practicing with the people Zane had already gathered.

» Continued on page 38

## Art Blossoms In Annual Spring AACPS Exhibit

By Judy Tacyn

Student artwork was in full bloom during May at Westfield Annapolis mall where shoppers had the chance to be inspired by the amazing artwork of more than 4,000 Anne Arundel County Public Schools students.

A project of AACPS's visual arts office, the display included drawings, paintings, mixed media, and digital images from students in all grades and schools across the county.

"Exhibiting artwork is an essential part of the visual arts program experience," Eleni Dykstra, AACPS's coordi-

nator of visual arts, said in a press release. "By displaying artwork, students are shown the value placed on their hard work and effort in the production of quality artwork."

The Severna Park Voice caught up with five students who were thrilled to talk about their art.

» More artwork on page 35

### Dori Thierry

**Broadneck High School, Junior**  
Self-portrait — Alcohol-based marker

"I love working with pencil for more realistic drawings because I feel I can bring more life and depth to the piece," explained Dori Thierry. "I also enjoy using alcohol-based markers for more cartoonish drawings to make them pop."

For this assignment, students were asked to choose a photo of themselves where proportions were skewed. Dori reasoned that self-portraits should be easy since we see ourselves every day, but the truth is that drawing a self-portrait is difficult.

"It requires lots of skill to capture the true essence of yourself," she said. "Through this piece, I wanted to show the true me, the more relaxed version of myself, not just what I portray to people. I wanted to choose a picture that represented my goofier side."

Choosing the right background was equally challenging. Ultimately, Dori chose a space setting.

"I don't know why I chose space, but that's the awesome thing about art: you don't have to have reason," she mused. "When I see my artwork displayed, I feel proud of myself."



*For her self-portrait, Dori Thierry wanted to showcase her goofier side.*

### Parker Gilligan

**Jones Elementary School, First Grade**  
"Cherry Blossom" — Chalk Pastels

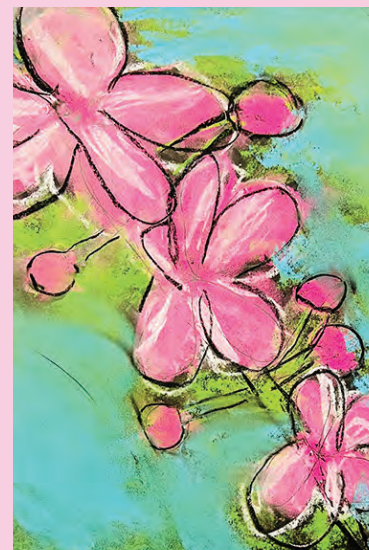
Before entering the first grade, Parker Gilligan used crayons at home to create art. But now she gets to use lots of different mediums to create one-of-a-kind art that her mother happily displays.

For this project, the class used chalk pastels, which are wonderful for young artists because they can create gorgeous layers of colors using just their fingers, and pastels don't require water.

"Chalk pastels are good because I can do blending, and that is fun," said the budding artist. "My favorite color is purple, but pink cherry blossoms are good, too."

The class learned to draw a diagonal on the paper and build upon that line to draw the outline of cherry blossoms before using pastels and blending to come up with just the right colors.

Parker loved showing her artwork to her entire family, including her four siblings. Parker is one of a set of triplets.



*Parker Gilligan learned to draw the outline of cherry blossoms before using pastels and blending to come up with the right colors.*



# Chick-fil-A, Coca Cola Empower SPSHS Stewardship With Grants

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

A world without waste — that's the goal of Severna Park High School students who just got a boost from the Coca-Cola Company and Chick-fil-A in the form of \$10,750 in grants.

The school has a Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, a national program and 30-member extracurricular club. Theirs is sponsored by the Severna Park restaurant and owner Chris Schenck, and it's supported by the school's Business, Innovation and Leadership Signature program.

Severna Park's Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy created a capstone Make Impact project that won \$750 from Chick-fil-A, which then encouraged the students to compete in Coca-Cola Company's Sustainability Innovation Challenge. Severna Park was one of two schools nationwide to win the challenge and \$10,000 for their project.

"Every December, the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy students do a Do Good December project, which changes every December based on what the students want to do, and then they do their Make Impact project in the spring," said Heather Barnstead, Signature lead teacher. "It's built up throughout the year."

This year, their Make Impact project will involve using K-Cups as fertilizer, creating a community makerspace with recycled materials, expanding the school's butterfly garden and more. But before the plan was presented, the project was a seed of a concept. Students started by sharing ideas using Google Docs and researching the cost for items they wanted to purchase.

After club member Aidan Darling

wrote the first application to the Chick-fil-A Foundation, students promoted and attended a cleanup day organized by the Magothy River Association on March 6.

Student Spencer Martin contacted Homestead Gardens and asked about ordering tree saplings. The Homestead staff recommended pollinators and donated 60 pollinator plants for the club to pass out at the Earth Day Festival, organized by Good Neighbors Group.

"Once we were told about the Chick-fil-A Foundation grant of \$750, we began to make plans, only to have one of the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy representatives encourage us to go a step farther and apply for the Coca-Cola sustainability grant for \$10,000," Barnstead said. "So Aidan and the crew got to work and scaled up the original plan, and Amanda von Diezelski and Isabella Barr created a video about the project."

Severna Park High School's Chick-fil-A Leader Academy posted their video on

Instagram and submitted the final grant application.

"I think it's good for them to do the grant writing," Barnstead said. "The whole idea of planning a budget, that goes with the financial literacy piece of it and to understand that it takes money to do things."

In April, students were called to a club meeting, joined by several Zoom participants including guests from the Coca-Cola Company, Chick-fil-A and ADDO Worldwide, which makes the Leadership Academy curriculum. The guests asked students about the plan and how they were going to proceed.

Then Schenck and Chick-fil-A Severna Park marketing director Teresa Bennett walked in, along with the school's Signature facilitator, JoAnne Brack, to present a large check for \$10,000.

"The students were shocked, thrilled and at a loss for words!" Barnstead said.

The moment was just as exciting for Schenck and Bennett.

Severna Park Chick-fil-A Leader Academy students were called to a meeting in April and surprised with a \$10,000 check from the Coca-Cola Company. Severna Park Chick-fil-A owner Chris Schenck was among the mentors who attended the meeting.

"It's very important to us to go out in our community and give back," Bennett said. "That's who we are. We are a company that sells chicken sandwiches but does so much more."

"To help people, that's in our soul. We want to spread good news and make people smile."

The students weren't done. They secured a table for the Earth Day Festival and Isabella Suhar created an informational poster to grab the attention of attendees.

"We then set out to create awareness for the project as well as pass out pollinators, seed bombs (made by service learning students at Broadneck High School) and to collect K-Cups and aluminum cans," Barnstead said.

They have collected more than 200 K-Cups from neighbors, faculty and students.

"We will be ordering a recycling box to send out 175 of them to be 100 percent recycled, and the next set that we collect will be turned into fertilizer for our butterfly garden," Barnstead said.

The project is not only getting the leadership students involved but also other clubs.

"The Impact project for Chick-fil-A is as many people as you can get involved with it," Barnstead said. "That's their vision. There's a lot of people who are excited and getting involved."



## Severna Park Middle School Sells Out All Matilda Shows

By the Spartan Lyrical Society

After a two-year hiatus of no drama or musicals at school, it was clear how not only the children and the teachers missed it but the audience too. The Spartan Lyrical Society and SPMS closed their year with the musical "Matilda" and all shows sold out, some even with standing ovations. It was clear how much everyone has appreciated enjoying a bit of entertainment and normalcy this year.

Not only was having a musical this year unusual but greatly appreciated, but also, sisters played two of the key characters cast in "Matilda." Sixth-grader Elle LaBrier played the role of Matilda while her older sister, eighth-grader Brooklyn LaBrier, played Miss Honey.

We asked the girls what it was like working with each other and a little about their experience. Here is what they shared with us.

**What is it like to co-star, with leading roles, in the "Matilda" musical with your sister?**

**Brooklyn:** Co-starring as sisters is so amazing! I feel like that because she's my sister and I have so much love

for her, it really helps me to portray how much love Miss Honey has for Matilda.

**Elle:** I love being in the show with my sister. It's so fun to share singing, dancing and acting with her!

**What made you interested in doing musicals?**

**Brooklyn:** I've always loved music since I was little, and when I perform, it just makes me happy.

**Elle:** I have always loved music and have always had an ear for it. I also just love being onstage and getting to perform with my friends.

**Do you take any extra training to help prepare you for your role?**

**Brooklyn:** I have been doing dance but have recently taken a pause, because of "Matilda" rehearsals. All throughout COVID, I did acting lessons and singing lessons with Stage & Screen Studios.

**Elle:** Yes, Brooklyn and I both do singing and have done dancing too.

**Is this the first musical you performed in?**

**Brooklyn:** Nope! I have performed in "The Little Mermaid," "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," "The Lion King"

and "The Sound of Music."

**Elle:** No, the first musical I was in was "The Lion King," and then "Aladdin."

**How do you relate to the character you are portraying?**

**Brooklyn:** I feel that in some ways, Miss Honey and I are very similar and in other aspects we are very different. Miss Honey is a very sweet woman who believes she is strong when she is alone but has a hard time being strong around others. I relate to this, because I definitely am strong in many ways, but of course, like every human, I have my weaknesses.

**Elle:** I think that Matilda and I have a lot in common. We both love books, singing, school, but we don't have the same kind of family. My family is kind, loving, and lets me be who I want to be.

Not only did Brooke and Elle's performances amaze the audience but so did the entire cast, crew, artistic team and production committees. At the end of the last show, the cast and crew showed gratitude for director David Merrill, producer Sarah Thompson, musical director Sara Metcalfe and choreographer Elysia Merrill.



The performance of the cast, crew, artistic team and production committees of "Matilda" astounded audiences.



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## BRYAN SIMONAIRE

Bryan Simonaire has been honored to serve as a state senator in District 31, which now includes most of Severna Park. He has been married for more than 30 years to his college sweetheart and has seven beautiful children. He and his son started the annual Young Heroes Essay Contest that highlights positive activities of local youth. Legislatively, Simonaire has focused on restoring the voice of the people in Annapolis. He has successfully passed more than 60 bills focused on helping seniors, veterans and everyday Marylanders while working to reduce taxes, crime and the size of government, and clean our bay. People want solutions, not partisan bickering. His objective is to ensure the people have a strong representative who stands up for them independent of party, politics or power plays. Learn more at <http://www.simonaire.com>.

## NIC KIPKE

A lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County, Nic Kipke lives in Pasadena with his wife and three children, who all attend St. Jane Frances Catholic Church. Kipke is a businessman, working as a manufacturer representative for the last 23 years, and he and his wife own a small business in Millersville. Delegate Kipke is known for dedicated constituent services and is always responsive and active in the community. He is a caring and conservative legislator who is opposed to illegal immigration, fights for tax cuts, supports first responders, votes for tougher penalties for violent criminals, and received an A+ rating from the National Rifle Association for his support of the Second Amendment. This session, he authored legislation to expand school choice, expand charter schools, provide a tax credit to homeschooled students for educational expenses, and he is staunchly against the political agenda currently corrupting our public-school system. Some of his legislative accomplishments on record include cutting the cost of the Anne Arundel County permit fee for replacement wells by 50 percent, eliminating the statewide soda fountain tax, prohibiting welfare cards from being accepted at Maryland casinos, many pharmaceutical reform initiatives to support community pharmacies, reciprocity with other states in offering complimentary hunting licenses for former prisoners of war or disabled veterans, a law that will assist the prosecution of election fraud, as well as a law expanding access to oral health care in long-term care facilities, and this year he passed legislation to expand access to substance abuse treatment for adolescents. He was recently awarded the Maryland Military Coalition's Legislator of the Year award for his work to support active duty and veterans. He will continue to be a respected conservative leader who cares about the community and works to solve problems in our community and state. **Learn more at [www.kipke.com](http://www.kipke.com).**

## BRIAN CHISHOLM

Brian Chisholm is a lifelong Anne Arundel County resident who has entrenched himself into the fabric of the community as a steadfast and reliable friend, family member, neighbor, small-business owner and trusted leader. He is seeking re-election for his second term as a Maryland Republican delegate representing Severna Park, Pasadena, Millersville, Gambrills and Glen Burnie. Chisholm attended Folger McKinsey Elementary, Severna Park Middle and Severna Park High School prior to attending Clemson University. He excelled on the athletic fields in both baseball and football, retaining those immeasurable bonds built with teammates, coaches and friends that were forged in his young adult years. He takes tremendous pride in the friendships, connections and involvement he has bolstered within the community spanning several decades. He has consistently proven to be a faithful and reliable leader in supporting charities, small businesses, community members and colleagues without fail. He currently serves on the Health and Government Operations Committee and was at the forefront of analyzing and disseminating a deluge of data throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He worked relentlessly to help countless Marylanders who needed quick assistance with supplies, resources, unemployment insurance help and information. He stood strong to keep restaurants and small businesses open prior to the 2020 holidays by garnering national media attention. He was a key component of successfully keeping many of these indispensable members of our community employed and businesses operating during these difficult and confusing times. Chisholm has earned immense respect from his friends, family, community members and colleagues in Annapolis for his passionate dedication to serve his community and all Marylanders. He is often referred to as "Braveheart" by his colleagues for his fierce defense of individual freedom and liberty. He is unapologetic about his unwavering love of God, country and American citizen. Delegate Chisholm would be honored and respectfully asks for your support in his 2022 re-election campaign to serve you and your family. **For more information, go to [www.chisholmformaryland.com](http://www.chisholmformaryland.com).**

## RACHEL MUÑOZ

Rachel Muñoz is a devoted wife, mother, and hard-working and caring legislator. Muñoz was raised in Severna Park, where she and her husband, Andrew Muñoz, are blessed to be raising their five children with her fifth due any day. After graduating from Severna Park High School, she attended the University of Maryland, College Park, majoring in psychology with a minor in philosophy. Afterward, while studying counseling at Loyola University and working with the Anne Arundel County Crisis Response Team, Muñoz learned firsthand of the diverse issues that affect our residents. Inspired by the need for advocacy in the community, Muñoz studied at the University of Maryland School of Law, where she explored, in depth, the issues Maryland is facing today. Muñoz had the opportunity, in her first year of law school, to work at the Anne Arundel Circuit Court with Judge Cathy Vitale. Muñoz has been active in her children's school, on her community homeowners association board, and as a board member of the Severna Park Republican Women's Club. As a new delegate, Muñoz has more than proven to be an effective leader with helping hundreds of constituents, speaking out on the important issues and working to pass legislation. She is not someone to ever rest on her accomplishments. Her plans for the next session include holding the line against tax increases, repealing taxes that drive businesses out of Maryland, lowering the cost of living, helping small businesses that create so many local jobs, improving the environment, supporting constitutional rights, strengthening public safety, and protecting parental rights and the education of our children. Delegate Muñoz would be honored to have your vote in the Republican primary on Tuesday, July 19, and in the general election on November 8. **For more information, visit [www.voterachelmunoz.com](http://www.voterachelmunoz.com).**

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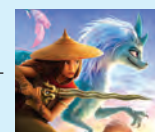
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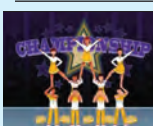


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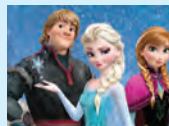
**Week 2 June 27 - July 1**  
**Cheer/Tumble**



Future Cheerleaders will be introduced to beginner to advanced level cheers, jumps, tumbling, stunts, dances, and chants. Join us for an exciting week and lots of fun Arts and Crafts.

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# SP Army Enlistee Earns Inaugural Military Service Scholarship

By Judy Tacyn

When searching for scholarship opportunities, Severna Park High School senior Chandler Dearborn learned of a new award from the Anne Arundel County Board of Education for students entering the military: the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award.

He was inspired to apply for the award after learning about Antwine, an AACPS board member who died unexpectedly in July 2021, and the ways that she served her country and extensively gave back to her community. On May 23, Dearborn, along with two students from Meade High School, each received \$2,000 when they were honored at the inaugural Candace C.W. Antwine Military Awards reception.

Dearborn chose to enter military service because he looked up to his two grandfathers and brother, all of whom served in the military. He saw the military as a way to give back and serve our country.

"I chose Army over other branches because my brother was in the Army, and I saw all the benefits offered to him. I want to follow in his footsteps," Dearborn said. "My goal in the Army is to finish my four years and transition into becoming a pilot, whether in the military or as a civilian commercial airline pilot."

Board of Education member Dana Schallheim, who represents District 5, said each awardee is "amazingly selfless and deserving."



(L-R) Board of Education member Dana Schallheim congratulated scholarship winners Chandler Dearborn, Luis Ramirez and Gemel Bombay.

"What stood out about Chandler's application was his maturity. He saw that by going to college, he would have six figures of debt at the end," Schallheim said. "Instead, he elected to pursue a path in the U.S. Army as an aviation operations specialist, which will provide him with a challenging and financially secure future."

Dearborn believes more students should consider a military career because of the many benefits available, including traveling the world, meeting people, and most importantly, serving his nation and its citizens.

"Elevating our students who elect to enlist to serve our country in the military after graduation is just as important as recognizing our students who choose college or a trade school, yet the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award [may be] the only award of its type in the country," Schallheim added.

The Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award assists awardees with initial expenses related to enlisting, including basic training supplies, and aims to remove financial barriers to military service.

"Ms. Antwine was a committed voice for children in need and for military families throughout Anne Arundel County. She also concentrated her efforts on eradicating bullying and racial tension in schools and expanding specialized accommodations to assist students with disabilities," Schallheim said. "Ms. Antwine tirelessly advocat-

ed for students, veterans and animals through various nonprofits, such as the Meade High School PTSA and the Maryland State Boys Choir, as well as faith-based organizations. The Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award is a fitting and lasting tribute, continuing her lifetime of service to her country and community."

Donations can be made at [www.antwine.givesmart.com](http://www.antwine.givesmart.com).

Meade students Gemel Bombay, who has enlisted in the Air Force, and Luis Ramirez, who has enlisted in the Army, also received this inaugural award.

## Aidan Darling

Severna Park High School, Junior  
"Euphoria" — Permanent Marker

"I like how tangible and hands-on making art is," Aidan Darling said. "When creating a piece, you can stand or move around and really get creative. Making art also has helped me to overthink less; sometimes it's important to just start a piece and see where it goes."

For this project, students were exploring micrography (using letters and numbers to create a design) and they chose their own subject. "The whole point was to work on conveying the realistic appearance of a person with an unusual technique," Aidan said. "It pushed us to be more observant about the shadows in our reference pictures."

Using only a fine-tip Sharpie, Aidan created Zendaya's Rue Bennett character from the television show "Euphoria." The portrait of the character is made completely with script lines from the show. The image Aidan chose is from a scene where Rue is facing the depths of her depression and other mental health struggles. Aidan wanted to convey the emotion in her face.

"Creating this piece took a long time. Since it was done using a fine-tip Sharpie, I built up a lot of layers to make the dark points stand out," Aidan said.



Using only a fine-tip Sharpie, Aidan Darling created Zendaya's Rue Bennett character from the television show "Euphoria."

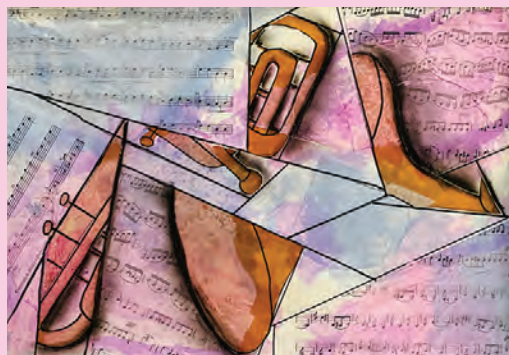
## Alexa Saavedra

Magothy River Middle School, Sixth Grade  
"Cubist Trumpet" — Mixed Media Collage

Alex Saavedra's favorite medium to work with is clay, however, her "Cubist Trumpet" collage suggests her talents are diverse. First, she glued ripped pieces of music sheets to a poster paper. She then drew the trumpet and cut that up. From there, she glued the cut pieces of trumpet on the poster and drew lines across the edges, added tissue paper by putting watered-down paint to attach it, and then added color. Finally, she outlined and shaded the cut-up trumpet pieces. The result is a subtly beautiful collage.

"Normally, I don't do many collages, but it was a cool experience to be able to make this," said Alexa, whose artwork has been chosen in previous years for the annual AACPS exhibit. "I like making art about things I enjoy. For example, I sculpt stuff, like gnomes and strawberries, out of clay in my free time."

Alexa likes that her art teacher continues to assign interesting projects the entire class enjoys.



For her "Cubist Trumpet" collage, Alexa Saavedra glued cut pieces of a trumpet on a poster and drew lines across the edges, added tissue paper and then added color.

## Emma Hartman

Severna Park High School, Senior  
"Matisse Study" — Acrylics

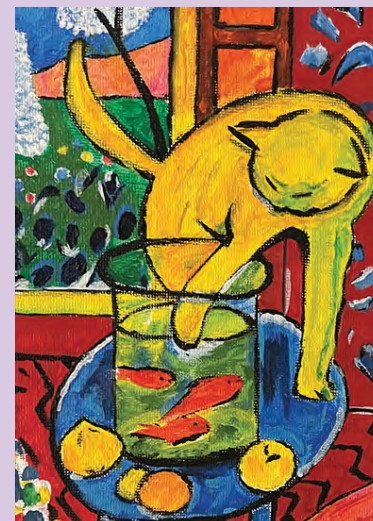
"My favorite part of creating art is that it is and always will be imperfect, yet that only makes it more beautiful," said Emma Hartman. "In a world revolving around perfection, I find it comforting that art is created with the intention of imperfection."

When she learned that her work was going to be part of the county-wide exhibit, she was thrilled.

"I did not expect it at all, but I was happy to share my artwork," Emma said. "It's really special to create art and have people see and appreciate it. I felt very fortunate."

Emma is not afraid to use color in her work. She will attend Hofstra University on Long Island in the fall and is excited to be near the vibrant and creative New York City to explore her artistic goals.

"I really enjoy creating art with a lot of color. If it doesn't have more than 20 colors in it, I probably did not paint it," Emma exclaimed. "I really enjoy painting shoes and clothing, things that I can wear, kind of making myself feel like a canvas. I like when art is something you can use on a day-to-day basis."



Emma Hartman enjoys creating art with more than 20 colors.



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# Educator Of The Month

Karen Simpson  
*Jones Elementary  
School*



“

*She is the pillar of Jones. We talk about the R's: respect, responsibility and relationships. She really promotes all three of those, especially relationships. She is a great role model.."*

— JIM WHISMAN

PRINCIPAL, JONES  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ting to know their hobbies.

"I build connections by finding out what their interests are," Simpson said. "I ask, 'What did you do this weekend?' or 'What did you do after school?'"

"Kids need a teacher for a safe haven, a role model," she said, adding that college can only prepare a teacher so much for the job. "The part about being a caring human being has to be innate."

Simpson has brought that empathy to Jones and embodies everything Whisman wants the school to symbolize.

Whisman said. "We talk about the R's: respect, responsibility and relationships. She really promotes all three of those, especially relationships. She is a great role model."

Simpson credits the Jones community for supporting her in everything she does.

"Jones is such a small community," she said. "The staff and parents are wonderful. They are involved."

"It can be as simple as an email to say their child came home excited about something in the classroom. The PTA has brought a food truck throughout the year as a surprise."

Simpson was recognized by the Anne Arundel County Board of Education as its Educator of the Month in March 2018, and Whisman believes Simpson has what it takes to be a great assistant principal. She had this advice to share with her fellow teachers.

"We sometimes worry about what we are teaching. That's important, but before that, get to know the children who are in front of you," she said. "The teaching will come easier because they trust you. Don't be afraid to ask for help."



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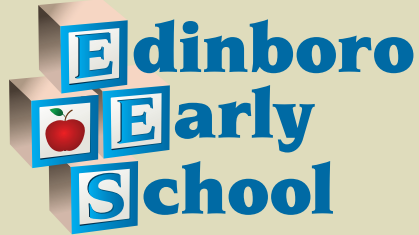
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Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Mr. Haley's class at Folger McKinsey Elementary School answered the question:

### What has been your favorite memory from fifth grade and why?

My favorite memory from fifth grade was moving to Severna Park, Maryland, and making new friends and meeting new teachers.  
**Abi R.B.**

Seeing my friends again at the start of the year because I missed them.  
**Addison B.**

My favorite memory of fifth grade was meeting the people that I sit with at lunch and doing all of the fun things that we have done together.  
**Adelaide B.**

My favorite part of fifth grade was all the kind teachers and all the friends that I have made.  
**Aidan Z.**

Not wearing masks because I don't like them.  
**Brody P.**

## Folger McKinsey Elementary School



Making new friends and playing rugby on the third day of school. Also, all of the drama that makes no sense, and being the "mom" of a friend group and listening to other people tell me what's wrong.  
**Charlotte S.**

My favorite memory was meeting my friends. I did not have many friends at all. Now I have friends, and my teachers are really nice. My favorite teacher is Mr. Haley. He is nice to everybody and he is funny. This has been my favorite year.  
**Chris W.**

My favorite memory of fifth grade is when I got to sit next to all my friends in math class.  
**Ethan B.**

Making new friends, seeing my friends that I hadn't seen since COVID-19 and playing games with my friends.  
**Ethan M.**

Meeting new people or strengthening relationships with friends I've been friends with for a while.  
**Gavin C.**

My favorite memory from fifth grade is playing games outside with my friends, like soccer. It is my favorite because I really like playing with my friends at soccer, and it is competitive because my teacher plays too.  
**Gavin E.**

My favorite memory in fifth grade was making all my friends.  
**Gavin P.**

My favorite memory from Folger McKinsey during fifth grade has definitely been when I found out my art was being shown in the Annapolis Mall for an art show. This was important to me because I've always wanted to be an artist, so this was an accomplishment that I will always remember and be proud of.  
**Hannah P.**

My favorite memory of fifth grade is when the whole fifth grade was picking up the soccer ball and running with it while other people were trying to get the ball and tackling them down to the ground. That is my favorite memory because we got to be our

crazy selves!  
**Heather S.**

Making tons of new friends. Also seeing my old friends.  
**Jack S.**

My favorite memory was when I met all of my best friends in the world! I would not be who I am or where I am today without them. Thank you so much to my amazing best friends! They have helped me go through so much and I am so grateful to have them. If it was not for Folger, I would have never met them and I don't even want to think about life without them. I love you guys so much and hope we will live and get old as best friends!  
**Jessy B.**

I think mine is meeting friends because they are always there for me when I am sad, happy, or even very emotional. I love my best friends and they will always be there for me and will always be my best memory.  
**Keisha E.**

My favorite memory was in the morning. We always start the day

with a Wordle. It can be pretty hard, but I guess our class was having a good day, so we got two letters on our first guess. Second guess, we get another letter right, so we're all hyped up and one kid takes our third guess and gets it. We probably disrupted the other class because we went crazy.

**Leo E.**

Getting to have a chance to have fun with all of these people I haven't seen in a long time because of COVID, and people I have never met. I also love to learn all of the crazy things in fifth grade.

**Maddox M.**

My favorite part of fifth grade was learning about fractions and decimals in math. Also, I liked writing essays in language arts. Most importantly, I made new friends that are very nice! Learning new things this year helped me grow as a person and now I know more than I did last year!

**Mary P.**

Seeing the teachers, being a bus safety and seeing my friends since kindergarten.

**Megan L.**

Many things in fifth grade have been really fun, but one of the most fun was the drownproofing field trip. It was really fun and I hope I do something like it again.

**Niko G.**

My favorite part of fifth grade this year was hanging out with my friends and doing fun things like laughing in the middle of class for no reason at all. Also standing up in front of the whole grade and saying "chicken nugget" because why not?

**Padraig D.**

My favorite memory from fifth grade was probably one day when we had indoor recess and got to play Blooket. In my opinion, this was really fun because we got to take a break from schoolwork. Everyone had more freedom.

**Scarlett J.**

## Lily Saunders Will Attend Prestigious Journalism Conference

Lily Saunders, a student at Broadneck High School, has been selected to represent Annapolis as a national youth correspondent to the 2022 Washington Journalism and



**Lily Saunders**

Media Conference at George Mason University.

Saunders joins a select group of students from all over the country for an intensive study of journalism and media. Saunders was chosen based

on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in journalism and media studies.

National youth correspondents participate in hands-on, experiential learning through decision-making simulations that challenge them to solve problems and explore the creative, practical, and ethical tensions inherent in journalism and media. The experiential portion of

the program is complemented by speakers who are well-known leaders in the media community. Presenters include prominent journalists, CEOs of major media outlets, researchers, and recent college graduates successfully entering the field. Past speakers have included Hoda Kotb from NBC, Brian Lamb from C-SPAN, Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Carol Guzy, and Susan Goldberg from *National Geographic*.

With distinguished faculty, guest speakers, and direct access to elite D.C. practitioners, the Washington Journalism and Media Conference offers aspiring journalists and student leaders an unparalleled experience. The week-long program, held at George Mason University's state-of-the-art campus, will encourage and inspire young leaders from across the country who desire a unique experience focused on successful careers in this dynamic industry.

The Washington Journalism and Media Conference will be held July 17 to July 22.

## Student Band Performs

» Continued from page 31

"I went in for practice with this band that he already had, and it was so much fun," Parijita said.

For a few years, the band lineup changed until the current Bastola band formed in early 2020 with the goal of performing more professionally. Along with Parijita as the vocalist and Jack on bass, the current lineup includes guitarists Jesse Kegley and Bennett Terhune, and drummer Dylan Hood. Jesse and Bennett are Severna Park High School juniors and Jack is a freshman.

When it came to naming the band, all of the members agreed they wanted to use a last name and settled on Bastola's.

"They told me that it would make a lot more sense for the singer of the band to use their last name, and if things go well with the band, having my name in it would be beneficial for all of us," Parijita said.

Bastola Band mostly performs covers of artists such as Adam James, Aretha Franklin, Amy Winehouse and Rhianna, who aren't strictly blues artists but have a bluesy, soulful sound.

ists but have a bluesy, soulful sound.

"It's in order to refresh and incorporate blues into the next generation," Parijita said. "We wanted to make enjoyable for other people what blues can sound like and what blues can look like."

The show in Memphis was a great opportunity to share their love for blues music. It was an experience that Jack said he won't soon forget.

Playing the blues with Parijita, Jesse, Bennett and Dylan on Beale Street with such talented musicians "has really inspired me to keep practicing and start doing some composing," he said.

Parijita intends to study music in college. While her school of choice and exact career path are yet to be determined, she knows that she wants to be in the music industry.

"I know that it's going to be music for me," Parijita said. "I'm just excited to see what happens."

### Web Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3rkW6kMiqo>



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# FILMSTERS Academy Film Camp Sets The Stage For Bright Futures

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Celebrating its 20-year anniversary this summer, FILMSTERS Academy is a film camp for kids and inspired by kids. During the hands-on camp that's run like a small film studio, kids learn to pitch an idea, write a short script, produce and edit while also learning about cinematography, lighting and sound, acting, props and costumes, production design, stunts, special effects and music for film.

FILMSTERS Academy co-founders Patti White and Lee Anderson — who are also co-founders of the Annapolis Film Festival (AFF) — began the camp when White's youngest son, Trevor White, was bitten by the filmmaking bug as an 11-year-old when he got his first movie camera for Christmas. By the time he was a 16-year-old Key School student, Trevor White was filming everyone and telling stories.

"He and his friends spent a lot of their free time making short movies, so Lee and I kept hearing from friends' parents asking if we would ever do a film program for kids," Patti said. "We started to think about it and realized how impactful this had been for Trevor and his friends and thought it could really add something to the 'arts for kids' landscape in Annapolis."

According to Trevor, FILMSTERS was his "first taste of collaboration and his foundation for storytelling."

He started as a teacher for the advanced group and taught for 12 years. Later and as his schedule became busier with roles as a writer, director and producer, he'd



Ben Trevey (left) learned from Bobby Burton during a FILMSTERS camp.

come back for the advanced film shoot weekend and became the supervising director of the class for a few years, even if he was working on a movie.

After graduating from the liberal arts program at Cornell University, Trevor joined his brother Tim White — a graduate of Williams College undergrad and University of Southern California (USC) film school's graduate program — to start a production company, Star Thrower Entertainment. They have made several feature films including "King Richard," "Ingrid Goes West," "Wind River" and "The Post" to name a few.

Patti White and Lee Anderson have

seen all types of kids — "the creatives, the athletes, the theater kids, the math/science experts and the all-around film lovers" — learn at FILMSTERS Academy.

"Whether these kids want to have a career in the film, TV or entertainment industry or just want to have fun experiencing it, they are being impacted by such an experiential program," Anderson said.

Many of the FILMSTER teaching staff have industry jobs in New York City or Los Angeles and many campers follow in their footsteps. Jobs range from production design and set dressers to animation writers and producers, from cinematographers to film editors, from aspiring writ-

ers and directors to industry executives.

One of these campers is Severna Park native Ben Trevey, who started attending camp when he was 14 years old. He continued as a camper through high school and returned as a cinematography instructor during his college years.

His mom, Nikki Trevey, recalled taking her son to the Annapolis Film Festival when he was in eighth grade.

"Through the invaluable connections he made at FILMSTERS, Ben worked in Los Angeles for three summers during college where he held various camera department roles on several short films, feature films, commercials and music videos," said Nikki Trevey. "FILMSTERS definitely had an integral part of Ben's decision to go to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts to study cinematography."

Ben graduated this past May with a bachelor's degree in fine arts and will move to Los Angeles in July to pursue a career focused on film.

"FILMSTERS has had a massive impact on me and has greatly influenced the route my career has taken so far," said Ben Trevey. "A large majority of the industry contacts I have and those that I've worked with can all be traced back to FILMSTERS in one way or another."

FILMSTERS Academy will take place at Key School in Annapolis on these dates:

**Beginners 1:** July 25 - July 29

**Beginners 2:** August 1 - August 5

**Intermediates:** July 25 - August 5

**Advanced:** July 23 - August 5

Learn more or sign up at [www.filmstersacademy.com](http://www.filmstersacademy.com).

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## The Mind-Body Connection

*How Much Does Your Mental Health Impact Your Physical Health And Vice Versa?*



**Eshe Montague**  
Luminis Health



**B**utterflies in the stomach. Sweaty palms. A racing heartbeat. A shaky voice.

These are just a few well-documented cases of how stress or anxiety (your mental health)

can bring on real physical symptoms. After all, we've all experienced these kinds of nerves before a big presentation or an important date. But what happens to the body when these "nerves" turn into longer bouts of anxiety and depression?

The short answer: It can have a serious impact on your health.

And what if you struggle with a chronic illness, like diabetes, high blood pressure or even cancer? That can impact your mental health.

The good news — understanding this mind-body connection can help you take charge of your *whole* health — mental, physical and emotional. Even better, there are steps you can take to reduce your stress and improve your health.

Let's dive in.

### How mental and physical health influence each other

Researchers have been studying the connection between mental and physical health for years. They've asked the big questions, like "How does our mental health affect our health?" and "Does a chronic condition put you at higher risk of a mental illness?"

Here are just a few interesting findings:

- **Depression** may cause a wide range of physical symptoms and health conditions, including memory trouble, an increased risk of heart attack and heart disease, and weight gain and loss.
- **Anxiety** can bring physical symptoms like dizziness and sweating and also lead to long-term health issues, such as gastrointestinal trouble, high blood pressure, eczema and other skin conditions.
- Mental health can also impact the **immune system**. Researchers found that individuals who express prolonged periods of stress may have a weaker immune system, ultimately making it easier to come down with illnesses like the common cold or strep throat.
- Individuals with **chronic conditions** are also at higher risk of developing depression or anxiety, according to research from the National Institute of

Mental Health.

### Boost your mental and physical health

When it comes to staying mentally and physically strong, it comes down to the basics. Most of these tips won't surprise you, but they are great ways to keep your body in tiptop shape and your mind (and emotions) feeling sharp.

- **Get moving.** Exercise has countless physical and mental health benefits. A 30-minute walk (or even less) around the neighborhood can help strengthen your heart, lungs and muscles; and boost your mood with a rush of "feel-good" chemicals like endorphins.
- **Rest up.** A good night's sleep connects to a stronger immune system and reduced stress — among many other benefits. Adults should aim for seven or more hours of sleep.
- **Focus on friendships.** Your social health is an important part of your physical and mental health. Spending time with friends and loved ones can influence health behaviors and even mortality risk. What better excuse to call up a friend and meet them for a cup of coffee or (even better) a walk around a nearby park?
- **Eat right.** Sure, it can be tempting to reach for that delicious (but not-so-nutritious) snack of potato chips or candy bar. But, noshing on some fresh fruit and veggies will help your body and brain feel stronger than ever. Vitamins and minerals, like B vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin D and probiotics, may help manage symptoms of depression and anxiety and support important body functions like the immune system, brain function and bone strength.

Ask for help when you need it

It can be hard to admit you're struggling with your mental health. Just remember — you are not alone. The National Alliance on Mental Health Institute (NAMI) estimates that one in five adults in the U.S. experience mental illness. Another organization (Mental Health America) found that more than 24% of adults living with mental illness, including anxiety or depression, don't seek treatment.

There's no shame in getting help to better manage your mood, emotions and mental health. There are proven approaches to help you cope with feelings of anxiety, depression and fear, including therapy, medication and more.

If you've been struggling with your mental or physical health — or both, your primary care doctor or a mental health professional can help. Schedule an appointment and, together, find ways to improve your overall health and wellness so you can feel your best.

*Eshe Montague is the director of the behavioral health program at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center. To learn more about its services, visit [www.luminis.health/behavioralhealth](http://www.luminis.health/behavioralhealth).*

## UM BWMC Physician Serves County Residents In Many Ways



*The Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MD ACEP) honored Dr. Jonathan Wendell (left) as its EMS Physician of the Year in April at the BWI Airport Marriott in Linthicum. He was joined here by Dr. Timothy Chizmar, state EMS medical director.*

**By Zach Sparks**

**I**t's not uncommon for University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) physician Dr. Jonathan Wendell to respond to high-level calls from his Severna Park home, offering his assistance when it can make the difference for a patient in urgent need of care.

That dedication is just one reason why Wendell was honored by the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MD ACEP) as its EMS Physician of the Year at its annual meeting on April 21 at the BWI Airport Marriott in Linthicum.

Wendell is an emergency room physician at UM BWMC, where he will celebrate his 10-year work anniversary in August, and he also serves as the medical director of emergency medical services (EMS) for the Anne Arundel County Fire Department.

There is not one event that inspired him to become a physician, but he is glad he pursued that path, starting with medical school in Arizona.

"While in med school, I explored a lot of areas including surgery and pediatrics and OB-GYN," he said, "and then it turned out with emergency medicine, I get to do all of those things."

While working in his trauma surgery rotation in medical school, he developed an appreciation for fixing people during their sickest moments.

"Unfortunately, you don't always get to see the improvement right away," he said. "You can do your best to save the person and the improvement comes days, weeks, months later. But seeing the beginning aspects of it — making the diagnosis, stabilizing people and getting them to my colleagues who are experts in continued care — it's a fun experience seeing things at the front end."

Wendell completed a residency at the University of Maryland School of Emergency Medicine, and at Duke University in North Carolina, he was selected for the university's EMS of Pre-Hospital and Global Disaster Medicine Fellowship. The fellowship at Duke trained him to be a medical director, so when he moved to Maryland in 2012, it was a natural partnership to serve the Anne Arundel County Fire Department.

"I'm very fortunate. I get to work with clinicians on all levels," Wendell said. "It is amazing to me to get to work with EMS clinicians at the beginning of their career when they are paramedic students at the college and onto when they're becoming a paramedic through the fire department to becoming supervisors and even beyond that. I love teaching at all levels."

"EMS was recognized as a subspecialty of emergency medicine a

» Continued on page 42



## Corks For A Cause Promises An Evening Of Fun And Philanthropy



*Fishpaws Marketplace owner Kim Lawson (center) is partnering with Homestead Gardens again this year to support Corks for a Cause, a fundraiser for the Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation.*

Corks for a Cause will return to Homestead Gardens in Severna Park on June 15 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, inviting guests to try more than 90 point wines, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, food from local restaurants and more.

Participating restaurants include Two Rivers Steak & Fish House, Smashing Grapes, Carrol's Creek Café, La Posta Pizzeria, Vida Taco Bar, Maggianno's, Byzantium, Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub, Café Mezzanotte and Squire's Pizza.

Hosted by Homestead Gardens and Fish-

paws Marketplace, the event raises funds for the Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation, and more specifically, emergency department renovations, the Infant Safe Sleep program, and the healing garden.

Tickets are \$60 in advance or \$65 at the door. Business casual attire is recommended. Homestead Gardens is located at 522 Ritchie Highway.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.umms.org/bwmc/giving/corks-for-a-cause](http://www.umms.org/bwmc/giving/corks-for-a-cause).

## UM BWMC Physician Serves County Residents In Many Ways

» Continued from page 41

number of years back, and when it became a subspecialty of emergency medicine, it's basically recognizing EMS is hospital medicine, just outside of a hospital," he said. "It is the provision of emergency medical care and a more difficult environment. Bringing a higher level of emergency care that I learn, practice, bringing that out into the community and the citizens of Anne Arundel County, is a great experience and watching the clinicians put it all together and really advance their ability to care for the citizens is just so fun to watch and be a part of. When my clinicians bring in a case and I hit all the points and make a difficult diagnosis in the field, it's great to see."

Pre-hospital, he enjoys teaching paramedics and BWMC staff.

"I just did some sessions teaching EKGs to nurses, and one of my favorite places to teach is clinical, so any time that something comes up in the clinical environment when I'm working in the emergency department teaching the students there, teaching the nurses there, teaching the paramedics as they come in," he said. "Let them put together how the patient was in the field and how they end up in the hospital and their treatment course and how diseases progress and things to look for. It's all about advancing pre-hospital care by pushing the hospital level

of medicine."

Wendell said he is also fortunate that the fire department brings a large portion of its EMS patients to him at UM BWMC so he can see his clinicians in action.

"At least two of my paramedics are physicians' assistants now at BWMC," he said. "I have previous paramedic students who are nurses and have gone into critical care transport. So it's really cool to watch them grow and advance their careers."

It's also cool, he said, that his family lives in Severna Park and he has three young boys ages 4, 6 and 8.

"I assistant coach for my son's Green Hornets 8-year-old Nationals team — go Nats — so it's fun being in the community," he said. "Working and living in the community is fun because I get to be involved in more. It's easy to have all work and no play, but my family keeps me grounded."

It's also nice to be recognized, even though he never sought attention.

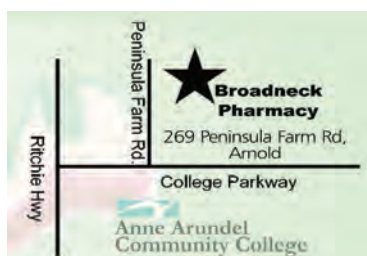
"It's humbling," he said when asked about the EMS Physician of the Year award. "I didn't go into this for awards, and this was my emergency medicine colleagues in Maryland recognizing my contributions to pre-hospital medicine and, in turn, to emergency medicine. I am very happy to get it and am very proud to work with the people I have the privilege of working with, both pre-hospital and hospital."

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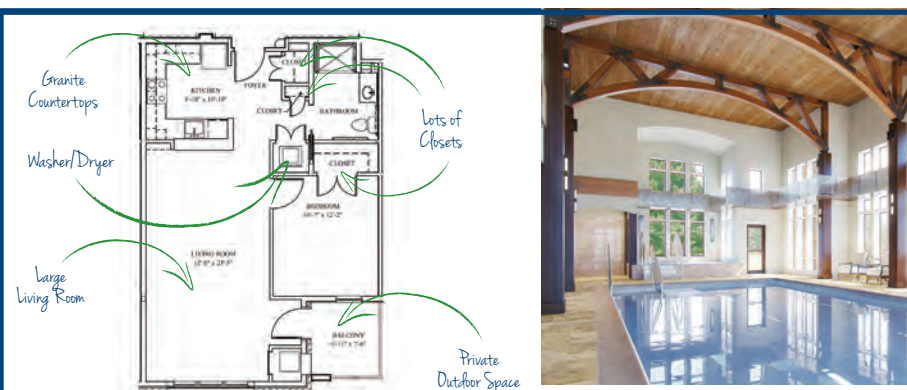
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## Former Falcon Brings King Lear To Life In College Park



Photo by  
Judy Tacyn

*At Severna Park High School, Jack Benedict was a powerful and animated performer in Rock 'N' Roll Revival. Now a University of Maryland student, he enjoyed playing Lear because of the character's range. King Lear goes through polarizing emotions throughout the play, emphasizing the fact that he is indeed going mad.*



Photo by Stephanie  
Mennell Photography

By Judy Tacyn

Before his 2019 graduation from Severna Park High School, Jack Benedict was a four-year cast member of the beloved Rock 'N' Roll Revival. With his theatrical virtuoso flair and high-energy percussion from the bandstand, Benedict pumped up the cast and audience with his musical talents. Add in pitch-perfect vocals in onstage solos, Benedict was a powerful and animated performer in every facet of the annual ensemble performance.

Benedict took his passion, exuberance and tremendous talents to the University of Maryland after graduation. To finish his junior year in College Park, Benedict recently dazzled audiences in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center with his portrayal of the protagonist in the Maryland Shakespeare Players production of "King Lear."

"Our awesome directors decided to set our play at a carnival, emphasizing the madness of the plot and characters," Benedict said. "Between the wonderful language, amazing actors, lighting, stage fighting and drama, I know that any audience member will be thoroughly entertained."

Benedict enjoyed playing Lear because of the character's range. King Lear goes through polarizing emotions throughout the play, emphasizing the fact that he is indeed going mad.

"I think he is great in that I could play him in different ways. It was my choice to figure out how sympathetic I wanted to make him or how malicious I wanted him to be," Benedict said. "He has such incredible and visceral language, and I thank Shakespeare for making his character so interesting."

Benedict chose to expose Lear's weaknesses, however, showing that the king has and is atoning for his mistakes. With a slight hunch and sharp, deliberate, almost flailing arm movements, Benedict

» Continued on page 48

## Enjoy Jazz And World Music Concerts At Cafe Mezzanotte

Jazz at the Mezz shows sponsored by Jazz Beyond Borders and Cafe Mezzanotte have moved outdoors for the summer (concerts will be moved indoors in the event of rain). As always, they feature world-class jazz and world music performers and recording artists paired with fresh and delicious Mediterranean cuisine served in the garden courtyard. Here's the summer lineup:

**June 19: Renée Georges**



*Vocalist Renée Georges has toured internationally and previously worked with MC Hammer and Ray Charles.*

Celebrate Father's Day and Juneteenth with this upbeat dinner performance featuring vocalist Renée Georges. A Los Angeles native, Georges has toured internationally,

working with MC Hammer and Ray Charles. She crossed four continents as one of the last Raelettes to hit the road with Ray Charles in a backing vocal career that spanned from 1994 until Charles' final show in 2003 and now fronts her own group.

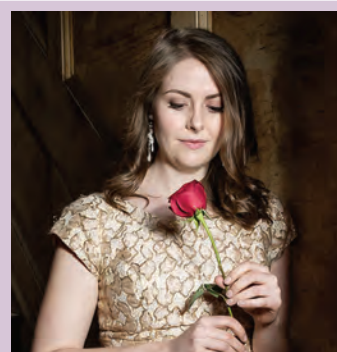
**July 17: Sue Matthews**



*Sue Matthews will bring her exquisite phrasing and smokey voice to Cafe Mezzanotte on July 17.*

Few Maryland vocalists have maintained the level of popularity held by Sue Matthews. With decades of sold-out shows to her credit, she is celebrated on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and far beyond. Anyone who has enjoyed her exquisite phrasing and smokey voice can tell you why. Enjoy her trio's fresh interpretations of the Great American Songbook.

**August 21: Hot Club Of Baltimore featuring Alexis Tantau**



*Alexis Tantau will perform August 21 at Cafe Mezz.*

Baltimore's far-touring and critically acclaimed recording group returns to the Mezz. Rooted in the gypsy jazz of the legendary Django Reinhardt, the music is given new life in the novel arrangements and zesty compositions of bandleader and guitarist Michael Joseph Harris. Featured vocalist Alexis Tantau is a talented charmer with chops to spare.

**September 18: Art in the Park**

Launched last fall, Art in the Park will be held from 1:00pm until 5:00pm on September 18 (rain date

September 25). The Severna Park Voice, Cafe Mezzanotte and Jazz Beyond Borders team up to produce a community event with U Empower of Maryland. The festival brings top-shelf world music and jazz groups, fine art and international cuisine to the garden courtyard at 760 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. Fine art is on display and on sale, including sculpture, oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal and pastels. Enjoy work and select demonstrations from dozens of artists represented by the region's finest galleries.

Numerous trees and flowers create a lovely setting. and tables are placed to enable social distancing. People dine from afternoon to evening, listening and dancing to music and visiting displays, information booths, and craft tables manned by youth from U Empower of Maryland.

The entertainment lineup includes:

**The Alex Lacquement Trio** -

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**Brazilian Jazz Ensemble** - Led

by Brazilian bassist Leonard Lucini, the band brings the captivating sounds of choro, forró and samba to the park.

**Ravita Jazz** - Enjoy straight-ahead and Latin-influenced jazz from a leading regional ensemble.

Photos courtesy of Jazz Beyond Borders





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# AACC Professor's Photography Gains Nationwide Notoriety

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Joseph Stalin and Vladimir Lenin no longer live to torment the European people, but their likeness still exists in the form of monuments erected in their honor. Photographer and Anne Arundel Community College professor Matthew Moore embarked on a eight-year journey to find the places where those statues once stood, and in some cases, continue to stand.

He compiled 40 photographs for "Post-Socialist Landscapes," an exhibit featured at Blue Sky Gallery in Portland, Oregon, during May 2022. His photos were previously part of a solo exhibition at the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland, in 2019.

The concept came after Moore learned about a man who set himself on fire in front of a Lenin statue in Lithuania in 1989.

"At the time, people perceived it as a fairly ineffective protest because he did it months before the Berlin Wall came down," Moore said. "So I think people saw it as a tragic event but one that was ineffective. I was fascinated by it."

Moore wanted to find the space that statue once occupied, along with other monument sites. Before he could



**Left:** Matthew Moore took this photograph of a Stalin statue. The photo is titled "Air Park, Pilsen, Czech Republic, 2021." **Right:** Moore visited a communist bar in Slovakia in 2018.



a Lenin head was dumped behind the Estonian History Museum.

Lithuania's Grutas Park, called Stalin World by locals, repurposed statues and busts of Stalin, Lenin, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and others. There, they attract the attention of visitors who also come for rides and to see animals.

Not only did communities remove or abandon the statues, but some sought a third option: replacing it with another statue. Budapest replaced a Stalin statue with another that symbolizes overcoming communism.

Moore found a few surprises while searching for locations. His wife was on a retreat in the Czech coun-

try and heard about a maze with a Stalin statue, so the couple brought their two girls.

tryside and heard about a maze with a Stalin statue, so the couple brought their two girls.

"It's almost like a tourist attraction in this proper European maze with bushes," Moore said. "A lady at the ticket booth warned us, 'Be careful. There's a monster in the center of the labyrinth.'"

Now that his exhibit at Blue Sky Gallery is done, he is looking forward to August and his next stop: The Wende Museum, a Los Angeles art museum devoted to the Cold War.

Moore is not eager to return to places with "fresh wounds," like where the Confederate statues were dismantled. Through "Post-Socialist Landscapes," by visiting European countries roughly three decades after the fall of communism, he has learned more about how people and countries reflect on their legacies.

"The goal is always to provoke important questions," Moore said. "It's sort of like having a conversation with viewers. I'm not interested in telling people what to think, but I'm interested in provoking questions. Why did folks in Eastern Europe eradicate these statues so soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall?"

"The Czech people blew up a Stalin monument in Prague and the town of Kolín destroyed another statue. A Berlin monument of Lenin was broken into 192 pieces and buried.

"I call that group scars because they are in various states of healing," Moore said of the places where the monuments no longer stand. "Some people just want to completely erase the things and others leave them. It might be because of the cost to redesign a space, but you can tell how much trauma it has caused by learning whether they went to great lengths to remove it or allowed it to rot."

Some towns abandoned their monuments. In the capital town of Tallinn,

Learn more about "Post-Socialist Landscapes" at [www.moorephotographs.com](http://www.moorephotographs.com).

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Here are some of the musicians scheduled to perform in June.

**June 10:** Bryan & Meg  
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**June 15:** Larry Lay  
**June 16:** Ciaran Quinn  
**June 17:** Park Life  
**June 18:** Loose Cannons

**June 22:** Larry Lay  
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## Former Falcon Brings King Lear To Life In College Park

» Continued from page 44

also chose to give his character the hint of some physical ailments, as well as showing that Lear's mind is deteriorating.

Now performing in his fourth Shakespeare production (he's also been part of a "Midsummer Night's Dream" as Lysander, "Hamlet" as Laertes and "Much Ado About Nothing" as Don John), Benedict said his appreciation for Shakespeare has grown considerably over the past three years.

"Originally I didn't particularly like Shakespeare at all, but after joining the Maryland Shakespeare Players, it sparked my 'dormant' love for the Bard I think," Benedict added.

Shakespeare's writing was prolific in the early 1600s, yet his plays continue to be favorites with worldwide performance companies.

"I think that because his language is so adaptable, and his stories are so timeless, it is very easy for people to relate to all of his characters at least in some way," Benedict said. "I think within our educational institutions, Shakespeare has been built up over the course of hundreds of years to be this genius writer — which he is, and I think that his plays are so dense and his language can be interpreted in so many ways, it is impossible not to come back and reread and re-watch his work.

"I think it is incredibly fascinating

that his plays have been able to be translated into the 21st century, but that says a lot about the strength of his writing," Benedict continued. "His plays have themes that are still relatable today: love, jealousy, miscommunication, trauma, angst, perseverance, family, honor and so many more."

The rising Terp senior is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in economics with a minor in Japanese language. In addition to honing his acting skills as part of the Maryland Shakespeare Players club, he plays piano and spends much of his free time improving his Japanese speaking and literacy skills.

After graduation, Benedict hopes to land in Japan. "One thing I am interested in right now is going to Japan to study the effects of radiation from nuclear energy production and the horrific Fukushima disaster on places outside of Tokyo, and the economic and agricultural impact it has on farms and small businesses," he said.

To see the production, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEY24dzSVoQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEY24dzSVoQ).

"Acting against other actors of such caliber makes acting so much more fun and easy, and time goes by so much faster onstage," Benedict said. "I think the Maryland Shakespeare Players have created an amazing community of positivity and I think that is what I love to get out most of performing."

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# “Top Gun: Maverick” Takes Viewers On A Better Ride Than Its Predecessor

By Audrey Ruppert

I really wanted to hate “Top Gun: Maverick.” As preparation, I recently watched the original “Top Gun” and was in utter disbelief that it was considered “culturally, historically or aesthetically significant” by the Library of Congress. It felt like a dated, misogynist, boys-will-be-boys, homoerotic hot mess with cringe dialogue that was occasionally interrupted by admittedly cool (if not totally unrealistic) plane scenes.

Narcissism and bad behavior was consistently rewarded throughout, and the impact of serious trauma on Cruise’s character was minimized and swept under the rug by the Navy and all of his friends. My biggest takeaway was feeling grateful we no longer live in the ‘80s. I therefore had low expectations for what felt like a long belated, cash grab of a sequel from the world’s most overrated film star.

To my complete surprise, “Top Gun: Maverick” was not only vastly superior to the original — it was honestly a solid standalone film with three-dimensional characters, riveting action scenes and compelling dialogue.

Before I sing its praises, however, I want to make one thing clear: this film is partly propaganda. The military actively pays Hollywood producers to show military excursions in a positive light. I have to admit that seeing Lockheed Martin’s logo visibly printed and advertised on the fighter planes throughout the film left a bad taste in my mouth. The enemies are notably faceless — the American fighters all have their names emblazoned on their helmets and planes, and we are meant to relate to them and humanize them, while the enemy wears a complete face mask to keep you from considering their humanity. The mission to bomb the other side is explained clearly, but the audience is just supposed to accept that the intelligence prompting that mission is accurate — when this has not always been the case historically. The planes are cool and the story is good, but that does not mean the military industrial complex, which partly sponsored this film, is to be



Photo courtesy of Scott Garfield

*In the “Top Gun” sequel, Maverick (Tom Cruise) has been working as a test pilot but is facing the extinction of his role as unmanned planes and drones are phased in.*

necessary for a pilot (“do, don’t think” is his mantra), but he no longer seems to value risky behavior for the sake of risk. He doesn’t reward the cocky “Hangman” for his bad behavior, despite Hangman’s similarity to the younger Maverick.

The original Maverick was expected to immediately forget about the death of his friend Goose and move on mere days after the accident — he was to “let it go” and seemed to buy into this idea later on, throwing Goose’s dog tags into the sea at the end of the film. This Maverick is still clearly haunted by Goose’s death, displays pictures of him everywhere, and is trying to do the right thing by his son — but is not always successful.

Maverick’s daddy issues felt ham-fisted in the first film and didn’t add much to the story — but Rooster and Maverick’s collective daddy issues are clearly painful in the second film and explored in a sensitive and powerful way. Maverick turns to Ice for advice, and we see a chain of imperfect but impactful mentorship and mentee-ship. Everyone is a lot more human this time around.

Maverick even seems to be improving romantically; no mention is made of the original love interest, Charlotte Blackwood. She likely joined the queue of broken-hearted women the playboy Maverick used, then left behind. The love interest in this film is an old flame, with a daughter (by another man) who admonishes Maverick not to break her mother’s heart again. We see two imperfect people trying to do better later in life, with a lot more emotional intelligence and maturity than they had in their younger years.

The plane aspects are also much more riveting for a lay audience. Cruise explains flight plans in some detail, but not so much detail he loses us. It’s clear to us why the planes must be flown a certain way, the dangers associated with flying the planes this way, and why the pilots keep missing their marks. We are kept on the edge of our seats, and their mission feels dangerous to watch — it doesn’t seem guaranteed the pilots will succeed.

Overall, “Top Gun: Maverick” is a fun yet touching blockbuster to bring in the summer, and is well worth watching — if you never saw the original “Top Gun,” I wouldn’t bother. Enough context and flashbacks are given in the second film for you to understand the story even if you have not seen the first installment.

commended. It would be unethical to review this film without pointing that out.

That being said, the film really is worth watching if you can divorce yourself from the political aspects of it. Maverick (Tom Cruise) has been working as a test pilot for the last several years but is facing the extinction of his role as unmanned planes and drones are phased in. He has avoided climbing the ranks in order to stay in the cockpit, where he feels he truly belongs. Nearing the end of his career, he is called back to Top Gun by “Ice” Kazansky (Val Kilmer) who wants him to train a group of top graduates at Top Gun to complete a difficult mission. One of these graduates is “Rooster” (Miles Teller), the son of Maverick’s old flying partner, Goose, who died in the original film.

Maverick is much more three-dimensional in this installment. In the original, he was arrogant and put his team at risk — something Ice took pains to point out to him — but he was still rewarded for this bad behavior. In this iteration, Maverick has become less sure of himself. He still acts in the instinctive way that is

## Independent Film “Shadows Of America” To Premiere

“Shadows of America” will premiere at Horizon Sun Valley Cinemas at 7:00pm on Tuesday, June 28. Tickets are \$4.50.

The independent film is based on a true story and the kind of behavior that happens every day in African immigrant communities. Society must address the cycle of abuse that immigrant African women suffer at the hands of exploitative domestic partners, said director Obed Joe, an advocate who utilizes his films to rebuke abuse and violence against immigrant women in America.

Joe’s latest full-length feature film boasts an all-African cast except for Timothy Lloyd Tilghman and Gary Smith, who passed away on January 16. A brief remembrance for Smith is planned in the theater before the film commences.

Tony Ezekwesili returns to Africa in search of an obedient wife and marries Chinello. His plan is to marry a professional woman who works as a nurse to pay his household bills while he and his mother enjoy the fruits of her labor.

Chinello is unaware that she has entered an abusive relationship and soon finds herself overworked, isolated and the target of recurring abusive outbursts and assaults.

Genevieve Ifeanyichukwu stars in her first film production as Chinello Ezekwesili opposite Ejike Okoye as her abusive husband, Tony Ezekwesili. Timothy Lloyd Tilghman co-stars as Brian Robinson, an assisted living facility administrator, along with Lolo Loretta Chinwe Eze as Tony’s mother, Lolo Ezekwesili. Additionally, Pamela Ebere plays three minor roles in “Shadows of America.”

Obed Joe and Genevieve Ifeanyichukwu are executive producers of this film and Joe is the producer and director. Joe is the current chairman of the Directors Guild of Nigeria Diaspora and was awarded Best Nollywood Director from the World Movie International Film Festival in 2020.

“Shadows of America” will be screened for one night only. Horizon Sun Valley Cinemas is located at 7959 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Glen Burnie.



Director Obed Joe utilizes his films, including “Shadows of America,” to rebuke abuse and violence against immigrant women.



## Chamber Update

**Liz League**  
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mechanical contracting services for the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas. As a service-disabled veteran-owned business (SDVOSB) founded in 2016, Bernward builds its reputation on integrity, quality, safety and value.

**Severna Park Taphouse** – This is a local bar and grill specializing in craft beers, culinary excellence, and an impressive wine list. There are lots of TVs with your favorite sports teams playing. An enclosed outside area is great for outdoor dining year-round. It's family friendly as well! The restaurant features 32 rotating drafts and over 75 bottled beers.

**Jammin' Together** – The mission is to simplify local live music. By helping local venues book local musicians and promoting those shows, Jammin' Together makes live music more accessible.

**Kheloney Inc.** – Founded by pediatrician Miral Khalil, Kheloney helps you find an array of wooden toys at this inclusive play space in Glen Burnie. In addition, it is opening a studio in Pasadena along with camps and bilingual classes.

**Grove Heating and Cooling** – Grove specializes in designing, engineering, and installing complete comfort systems for homes and buildings just like yours. The team takes special pride in the craftsmen they train and employ, and they offer emergency service 24 hours every day.

**Canvas on the MOVE** – Penny Carroll is a balloon twister and face painter extraordinaire. Her company, Canvas on the MOVE, is a virtual/mobile paint studio and face painting and balloon twisting business for any occasion.

**Effortless Organizing** – This business is dedicated to helping others create organizing solutions that serve a purpose in their space to make daily life easier. Organizing brings clarity to the mind and ease to your everyday living.

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**My ADHD Mom Brain** – Gloria Starr is an ADHD productivity coach. After years of searching for ways to manage her ADHD, she created a system that worked  
» Continued on page 55

## Using History To Decipher The Market

**Jason LaBarge**  
Financial Advisor  
and President  
LaBarge Financial



**T**here is an old expression on Wall Street that goes, "The stock market is a device for transferring money from the impatient to the patient." It seems recently that a lot of money has been transferring lately.

Markets are down considerably since the beginning of the year with the S&P, Dow Jones and Nasdaq at record lows. Many people have been asking for my opinion on why this is the case, and to keep it simple, the world is adjusting to interest rates doubling since February.

The average person thinks the market is in turmoil due to the war in Ukraine, inflation and even lingering COVID concerns. While these are certainly factors, the market always has something external it could point to as a negative. We have had wars before, we have had inflation before, we have experienced this type of economy before – but it has been

several years since we have seen interest rates climb this much this fast.

Instead of looking into a crystal ball to try and determine where the market is going, let's look at history. The stock market has never fallen more than eight weeks in a row. The record for most consecutive losing weeks is eight weeks, and that was set back in 1970 and 2001. The S&P performance in 1970 closely correlated with what is happening so far this year. In fact, the two years are acting similarly.

So far, 2022 is about an 80% match to 1970. What happened in 1970 at the mid-year point? The market fell another 10% before ultimately hitting its low. How did 1970 end? It fully recovered back to its January 1, 1970 levels. What makes this even more interesting is 1970 was also a midterm election year. No markets are identical, but this would be the optimistic way to view this current market.

Another thing to think about is the number of days it's taken markets historically to rebound. The longest bear market was 694 days in 1973-1974, and that was a 45% decline in the S&P. The shortest was in 2020 with 33 days for a 44% market  
» Continued on page 51

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### The Cottage Celebrates Milestone Anniversary



Photo courtesy of Amanda Paige Photography  
**Sue Gauthier and Sarah Bender, co-owners of The Cottage, see each other as family instead of just business partners.**

**By Lauren Cowin**

**D**oubling and reinventing her store has become something of a habit for The Cottage owner Sue Gauthier.

"We haven't had much time to reflect because we keep moving forward," Gauthier said.

It has been 35 years since Gauthier took over the business, which was then called Dawson's Country Cottage. She moved the store, doubled its size and renamed it Country Cottage. Several years later, she moved again to her current location in Park Plaza, changing the name and concept to today's "The Cottage" and, you guessed it, doubled the size for a second time.

Her most recent expansion of the trendy women's clothing and accessory boutique was of a different variety. She opened a second store on Main Street in Annapolis and added a business partner, longtime manager turned COO Sarah Bender.

"Sue and I both have very strong faiths and we're like, 'You know what, if God opens every door, fine, we'll do it,' thinking it will never happen. And then everything automatically aligns and the rent is right and the team is right and it just falls perfectly in our laps and we're like, 'OK, here we go,'" Bender said.

Gauthier and Bender have deeper roots than the nearly 10 years Bender has managed The Cottage. Bender is the best friend of Gauthier's oldest daughter and Gauthier has known Bender since she was 5 years old, and considers her family.



Any span of 35 years is sure to present its own unique experiences and challenges, but the last two years were unlike any other with the rise of the coronavirus pandemic. When businesses were forced to shut their doors to customers, The Cottage went full steam ahead into e-commerce.

"We had been trying for years to get our website up, and we never had time because we were growing," Gauthier recounted. "We were just always a month behind in what we were trying to accomplish, and when [the shutdown] happened, we just buckled down and Sarah stayed and we were able to keep some top people — they worked all the time, they worked full-time during the whole thing and got the website up."

For several months, Bender and operations manager Marsha Fowler, whose hard work and determination they credit for the success of the website, manned the empty store.

Adding to their success during this unforeseen circumstance was that their employees who had been sent home insisted on helping by making deliveries and sewing masks, even when they weren't being paid.

"It's just a testament to our whole team. The only reason Sue and I are successful is because of our team and because of the community," Bender said.

That team has grown from a handful of employees, when Gauthier bought the business, to more than 30. Between the two locations there are eight full-time employees, including Severna Park manager Courtney Caughy and Annapolis manager Ruthie McGuire.

"A total testament to the way that Sue's built this company is our team is unbelievable, and when people come, it's like a family. We have people that have worked here for over 20 years," Bender said.

As for what hasn't changed in the past three and a half decades, the answer is not much. And that's the point.

"The change is the trends and that's the fun of it," Gauthier said. "It has survived and grown and it's just a blessing in my life."

Well, change and the support of the Severna Park community.

"We try and give back to as many causes and donations and everything, but we could never begin to give back to Severna Park as much as they've given to us," Bender said.



## SBA Winners Include Local Nominees

In recognition of the Maryland small business community's contributions to the American economy and society, one week each year is designated as National Small Business Week. This year, National Small Business Week was May 3 through May 9.

This year, the U.S. Small Business Administration accepted nominations for 15 categories. Three of this year's Small Business Awards nominees have ties to the greater Severna Park area.

### Award: Entrepreneurial Success

#### John Graham III

##### — Sullivan Cove Consultants

John Graham is an experienced lawyer and businessman who has practiced law and alternative dispute resolution in Maryland, Virginia, New York, and the District of Columbia for more than 40 years.

As an equity partner in small and large national law firms, including two American Lawyers 100 firms, Graham has represented governmental bodies, as well as large, publicly held entities and has extensive experience with entrepreneurial enterprises, particularly in the technology sector. He has also been an officer and director of business firms in the United States and abroad, including service as managing director and general counsel of an international telecommunications company. A Hispanic American, he is a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, and a service-disabled veteran. In addition, Graham serves as a senior attorney or project manager for select federal contracts and commercial services.

### Family Owned Small Business of the Year

#### Anna and Charles Radle

##### — Fieldstone Animal Inn Family Owned Small Business of the Year

Fieldstone Animal Inn in Millersville is owned and operated by the Radle family, which has been part of the community for over 45 years. Own-

er Anna Torres-Radle was recognized as Maryland's Small Business Person of the Year in 2012. She is an active member of the industry's leading organizations and a founding board member of the Pet Care Certification Council (PACCC), the first independent organization in the pet care industry to offer a certification for pet care professionals.

Anna serves as the current chair of PACCC and is certified in all three PACCC levels: certified professional animal care provider (CPACP), manager (CPACM) and operator (CPACO). In addition, she has led her local chamber's Successful Women in Business group and has taught marketing, incorporating technology, and entrepreneurship. Members of the Radle family are puppy raisers for Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) and are active volunteers in the Chesapeake chapter.

### Veteran Owned Small Business

#### Carl Neimeyer

##### — Bernward Mechanical & Construction Services

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The Bernward team brings with it a history of over \$170 million of projects under management as construction managers and owner's representatives during the last 12 years.



U.S. Small Business Administration

## Using History To Decipher The Market

### » Continued from page 50

decline. As of this writing, we are 289 days into this bear market, and it's yet to be determined how long it will last.

One of the things that I watch closely are tech companies. Because of their size and strength, tech companies lead where the market goes. They also perform better than the overall market when the market is up, and they perform worse when the market is down. Most people are familiar with the economic rule that as interest rates go up, bond values go down. What people aren't as familiar with, as interest rates go up, tech companies go down. Like I mentioned earlier, interest rates have doubled since February, and tech companies are particularly down dramatically. That is not a surprise. When this market recovers, tech will lead the way; it's just a matter of how many days it's going to take until it does.

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# Market Decline Offers Buying Opportunities

**Brian M. Conrad**  
CFP  
Financial Advisor



The financial markets have gotten off to a rocky start this year. What's caused this volatility? And does it present opportunities for patient investors?

First of all, several factors are behind the market volatility, including the war in Ukraine, higher inflation, rising interest rates and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, while these factors may be specific to the recent market decline, volatility itself is a common feature of the investment environment. In fact, history shows that corrections of 10% or more happen about every year, and declines of 15% or more have happened every other year, on average. Furthermore, while 2022 has thus far been challenging for investors, it was preceded by a long period of strong markets, with the S&P 500 averaging more than a 20% return over the past

three years.

Knowing the typical frequency of market volatility and reviewing the results of the past few years may make the current situation seem less shocking. But you don't have to simply "ride out" the downturn – because a down market may give you the opportunity to buy more investment shares at good prices. Specifically, you can expand your holdings in companies that have good growth prospects due to strong management and products or services that provide sustainable competitive advantages. And this type of opportunity is important, because one of the keys to building wealth is to increase the number of shares you own in your various investments and hold them for the long term. While the market will always fluctuate, the long-term trend has been positive, particularly for well-diversified portfolios built with quality investments.

Of course, while it is a good idea to boost your share ownership at favorable prices, you still want to be strategic about it, rather than just buying whatever seems to be the biggest bargain. In reviewing your existing portfolio, can you

identify any gaps that could be filled with new investments? Are there opportunities to further diversify your holdings? By owning different types of stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments, you can help reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio (keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or prevent losses in declining markets).

Or, if your portfolio has become "unbalanced" in some way, you could also use this time to rebalance it back to its original long-term targets. You might also consider setting up a systematic investing program in which you invest the same amounts in the same investments on a regular basis, such as monthly. When prices go down, you'll automatically buy more shares, and when prices rise, you'll buy fewer shares (however, systematic investing does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss and you'll need to keep investing when share prices are declining).

Before this year, average annual returns have been solid for about a decade, which makes it somewhat easy to forget about normal market volatility and may

have led to overly optimistic performance expectations. So, it would not be surprising if your initial reaction to the current downturn is one of concern. But by viewing the current investment environment as a chance to add quality investments at attractive prices, you can help yourself develop a behavior that can serve you well throughout your life as an investor.

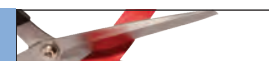
*Brian Conrad is a certificated financial planner and financial advisor with Edward Jones. His office is located at 479 Jumpers Hole Road, Suite 202, in Severna Park. To learn more, call 410-544-8970, email [brian.conrad@edwardjones.com](mailto:brian.conrad@edwardjones.com) or visit [www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad](http://www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad).*

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.*

*Past performance of the markets is not a guarantee of how they will perform in the future. Investors should understand the risks involved in owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates, and investors can lose some or all of their principal. Edward Jones. Member SIPC.*

## RIBBON CUTTINGS

Photos by Petra Roche



### Turning 30: Karen Renee Interior Design Celebrates Milestone



Karen Renee Interior Design owner Karen Osborne was joined by her staff, community representatives, and Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz League for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 23 to mark the business' 30th anniversary. With more than 80 years of collective interior design experience, the designers ensure that their work reflects the individual taste and personalities of the clients they work with.

### SFG Wealth Management Enriches Its New Hometown



On May 6, SFG Wealth Management held a grand opening for its new Millersville location. Established in 2004, SFG Wealth Management is a complete financial services firm that assists clients in building personal wealth and creating financial independence. The business is located at 8530 Veterans Highway, Suite 100, in Millersville.



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## Chamber Update

### » Continued from page 50

with her brain and kept her priorities in mind. She has developed a system complete with a unique hard-copy planning pad and a group coaching program called "Find Your Magic Now."

We held four ribbon-cuttings this month. The first was in celebration of the grand opening of **SFG Wealth Management's** new office in Millersville. Established in 2004, SFG Wealth Management is a complete financial services firm that assists our clients in building personal wealth and creating financial independence.

Next, we went over to the **Severna Park Farmers' Market** for a quick ribbon-cutting, as the place was bustling with customers. Fresh fruit, flowers, veggies, pie and more are available every Saturday from 8:00am to noon at the

Jones Station Park and Ride.

**Macaroni KID Pasadena – Severna Park – Glen Burnie** held a Family Fun Day at the **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi**. We performed a ribbon-cutting celebrating the new publisher, Laura Colquhoun. More than 20 vendors were there with wonderful "kid oriented" displays.

Finally, we were honored to participate in **Karen Renee Interior Design's** open house to mark 30 years of business success. Karen Osborne has created a thriving business over the years with six staff members working in and out of the state. The catered event brought out many community members and elected officials.

**Providence Center's Greenhouse and Gardens** in Arnold was the beautiful location for this month's Successful Women in Business First Cup Club networking

event. Not only does the center provide horticulture training to intellectually and developmentally disabled people, but its work contributes to environmental restoration projects, including the rebuilding of Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay.

We were able to purchase plants and also see some of the gorgeous pottery produced in their pottery studio in Arnold, which is open to the public for use!

The Wellness Coalition's monthly meeting was held at the **Severna Park Community Center** with keynote speaker **Mike Bochniewicz, owner of Mike's Pharmacy**. It was interesting to learn about what a local pharmacy does, including compounding and sorting medications for those in assisted living facilities and offering expedited home delivery. You can even bring your prescriptions, and the staff will "audit" what you are taking

to ensure there are no contraindications. Mike's Pharmacy (three locations) is a great example of what sets a small business apart from a large retailer through personalized service and contributions to the community.

**Vida Taco Bar in Severna Park** was the hot spot for our monthly chamber mixer.

Registration opened for the 2022 Independence Day parade, to be held in Severna Park on Monday, July 4, from 10:00am to noon. We hope to have a "battle of the communities" for the best floats. Start planning now and get your volunteers together for this beloved community event.

Please check out our website calendar ([www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com)) for upcoming events and visit our Facebook page. You can reach me at [ceo@gspacc.com](mailto:ceo@gspacc.com) or 410-647-3900. Thank you for buying local!

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for **COUNTY EXECUTIVE** ★ **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

Republican Primary ★ July 19, 2022

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### TAXES & COST OF LIVING

As a civil engineer, I learned how to solve problems with the resources I have, and that's exactly what I'll do as your County Executive. **I'll cut taxes and get Anne Arundel County back on the right track by making it a more affordable place to live and do business.**

### EDUCATION

As a mom, I understand the need to keep our children safe. I also understand childrens' need to play, explore, interact, and learn in an environment free of fear. **As County Executive, I'll work to keep schools open, support students and parents, and improve educational outcomes.**

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