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MAY 2023

Magothy River's Health Holds Steady

The Magothy River Association (MRA) held its annual State of the Magothy event March 31 at Anne Arundel Community College, and there was plenty of news to report.

Dr. Sally Hornor explained that the Magothy received a 30% or a D for 2022, a minor improvement over the previous year.

That grade comes from an index that includes three criteria. First is the coverage of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), which are rooted plants that grow in shallows and provide fish and shellfish habitat, waterfowl food and oxygen. The second criteria is water clarity — do grasses have what they need to grow? Five teams of monitors measure water quality at 30 stations from mid-April to mid-October using Secchi disks. Lastly, MRA looks for dissolved oxygen, just above the bottom of the river.

"That's where critters that can't move, like oysters for instance, you know, once they're settled on the bottom, they can't travel," Hornor said. "They can survive in less than five milligrams per liter, but five milligrams per liter or more is ideal for oysters and for fish, so this would be really good habitat if we could have that much oxygen in the deep water."

Hornor attributed the poor water quality to sediments washed into the water and the growth of algae.

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The Missing Collection

Severna Park Man Shows Off Trove Of Costumes And Props



By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Patrick "Chris" Hearty has several skeletons in his closet. But they are not the ones most people would expect to find.

Screen-used costumes and movie props adorn the basement of his Severna Park home. The body of the wood-

chipper college kid in "Tucker & Dale vs Evil." A prototype mask of the Green Goblin from Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man" starring Willem Dafoe. A police robot from the "Total Recall" remake. An animatronic Right Hand of Doom from the 2019 adaptation of "Hellboy." The mask, arms and body suit of the devil from "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey" and the



animatronic bunny from the same film. More than 300 relics of all sizes fill the space.

"I really have such an appreciation for it," Hearty said. "My wife says I never got out of action figures — it just got bigger — and that's kind of true."

Most of the items come from horror, » Continued on page 12

Best Of Severna Park Winners Recognized

Thanks to your votes, we shared the community's picks for the 2023 Best Of Severna Park awards in April. The Voice staff visited some of those businesses later that month to congratulate them and present their Best Of Severna Park decals. See more photos on page 12.



SEVERNA PARK TAPHOUSE



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Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

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Bicycling Advocate Brings Trishaw To The Trail



Sandy Bishop is working to acquire state funding to expand the Cycling Without Age program in Maryland.

By Lauren Cowin

Patrons of the B&A Trail could find themselves sharing the popular path with an unfamiliar set of wheels this year.

Local bicycling advocate Sandy Bishop recently established Cycling Without Age Anne Arundel, thus introducing the three-wheeled trishaw to our community.

Cycling Without Age began in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2012 as a way to give senior citizens who could no longer operate a bicycle themselves the opportunity to enjoy a ride. The trishaw setup allows for two passengers to take a leisurely outing with a “pilot” at the pedals. These vehicles have motor assist, so even novice cyclists are capable of driving them.

Thanks to Bishop, the residents at Sunrise Senior Living of Severna Park, with whom the program has partnered, now have the chance to experience nature and community aboard a trishaw.

“Reception has been exceptional,” said Bishop, who is also on the board of directors of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, or Bike AAA.

So far, Bishop has learned of only one complaint from the residents at Sunrise who have utilized this free service: they want more ride time.

Carol Jones, a Sunrise Severna Park resident who grew up in Severna Park, appreciates exploring her old stomping

ground in a new way.

“It was just great fun to get out there and see Severna Park. I lived in Severna Park when they built the bike trail, so I know the bike trail well and I love to get on it,” said Jones, who previously lived in Olde Severna Park and Linstead.

Bishop learned of Cycling Without Age by chance. After her biological children were grown and had moved on from their home, she and her husband adopted three pre-teen daughters, all with disabilities.

“We were empty nesters for two weeks,” Bishop quipped.

Now an adult herself, one of her younger daughters rides a motor assist tricycle to and from work, a route that requires her to ride along Benfield Road.

“It’s not the safest way to go, but it’s the only way,” Bishop explained.

Motivated to improve the safety infrastructure for her daughter and all transportation cyclists with disabilities, Bishop joined Bike AAA. While researching a safer product for her daughter to ride, she stumbled upon

Cycling Without Age.

“With the bike trail right here in Severna Park, this just seemed like the most obvious thing to do,” Bishop said.

Last November, Bishop was invited by Bike AAA president Jon Korin to present her plan for Cycling Without Age at the group’s annual meeting. Both Bishop and Korin recalled their surprise when another participant informed them of a grant through the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, the deadline for which was in 48 hours, and offered to help Bishop draft a proposal.

The project was awarded a grant for \$10,000, enough for a down payment on the \$15,000 vehicle.

The first Cycling Without Age trishaw made its debut at Sunrise Severna Park on April 1.

“Sandy really has the perfect blend of skills and personality to bring this to life so rapidly,” Korin said.

Bishop’s bevy of connections in the bicycling world have contributed to a long list of volunteers at her disposal for the project.

“I actually have a problem that a lot of organizations would love to have — I have too many people who have expressed interest and really not enough resources to be able to train everybody and actually utilize all of the people who’ve expressed interest at this point,” Bishop said of the roughly 20 volunteers already trained to pilot the trishaw and 20 more waiting in the wings.

Bishop’s larger vision involves a whole fleet of trishaws and other adaptive vehicles in Anne Arundel County and beyond. In the European model of Cycling Without Age, the rides are often done in groups and made into social outings for ice cream or coffee, she said. Achieving that goal would require more trishaws, and therefore more funding.

“There are so many possibilities,” Bishop said. “And I would like to explore all of them.”

Cycling Without Age Anne Arundel Kickoff Celebration

10:30am on May 20 at Sunrise Severna Park — Rain or shine!
To ask questions or RSVP, email cwa@bikeaaa.org

Put On Your Sailing Shoes

By Maggie Burri
MRSA

With apologies to Little Feat, Magothy River sailors will start to cheer when they put on their sailing shoes.

It’s that time of year when sailors are getting boats ready to launch, partic-

ipating in the first race of the season, and planning good times on the water with friends. If you’re someone who is also dusting off those sailing shoes, and want some company, consider checking out the Magothy River Sailing Association.

May activities start with the

sock-burning on May 13. The origins of this event are shrouded in mystery, but boaters (motor and sail alike) across the world set aside time to celebrate milder weather and welcome the boating season by burning old socks in a bonfire. We know we’re a bit late this year, but we hope you can join us. If you’d like more information, email newsletter@magothysailing.org.



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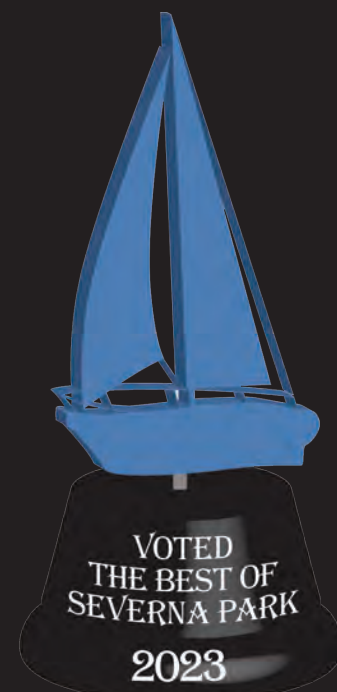




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Skippers' Meeting Kicks Off RBSA 2023 Sailing Season



Mary Marta
Round Bay Sailing
Association

The Round Bay Sailing Association, or RBSA, kicked off with the first Wednesday night race of the season on April 19.

On April 15, skippers and crew met to discuss changes

for this year. Many skippers — both seasoned and beginners — and crew were in attendance for what felt like opening day. Races will continue each Wednesday through September 27. More than 20 boats have signed up to race this season.

Race mark volunteers have been busy during the offseason and have replaced and moved the marks to deeper water. New mark locations will help skippers avoid unintentional grounding in low tides. Start times have also changed. Each of the three fleets will start earlier this year to accommodate requests for longer races.

As part of meeting skippers' requests

for longer races on Wednesday nights, the race committee chair and members have worked hard this year to develop race courses that permit longer time and distance racing. For each series of six races, skippers can choose which courses they intend to run, either standard or long courses.

The handicapping system for long-course racers is also new this year. Boats racing the long course will use the PHRF (performance handicap racing fleet) handicap, time on time. Boats in the Chesapeake fleet and those racing the standard course will continue to use the ORR-EZ (offshore racing rule — simplified measurement) handicapping system. All skippers were requested to use the free race software, as a tool to help the crew of each boat monitor their courses and performance.

To top off a full meeting agenda, RBSA members discussed special race events and socials. Finally, skippers elected a new slate of board members, including commodore, to implement changes and provide leadership for the 2023 sailing season.

See you on Round Bay! For more information, visit www.roundbay-sailing.com.

Magothy River's Health

» Continued from page 1

The Magothy has too many algae blooms because of too many nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus. Much of that comes from septic systems, Hornor said.

As MRA president Paul Spadaro explained, the organization is now using drones to spot stormwater discharges, which helps with construction monitoring, and to locate heron nests.

"Heron only nest in a certain kind of pine tree, and unfortunately or fortunately ... wherever they poop it stays on the nest and it's easy to see from the air."

The heron habitat qualifies an area for a 1,000-foot protective buffer, so that gives the MRA another method of controlling development.

With that in mind, Brad Knopf talked about keeping development from having a destructive environmental impact.

"I always like to mention the clay particles because they will actually coat fish eggs, and as Dr. Hornor mentioned, they will also clog the gills. And not only that, they go through silt fence, so clay particles are really trouble."

Knopf then showed a PowerPoint slide demonstrating, among other things, loads of nitrogen from construction, row crops and impervious surfaces. The statistics came from the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool.

"Everybody thinks about agriculture being the big culprit and it is, but look where construction sites rank with those nutrients, especially nitrogen — enormous impact," Knopf said. "What should be happening on those sites ... is stabilized perimeter, stabilized interior with the soils, with straws or vegetation, and if you don't have it set properly, you can see the damage that happens."

He then showed slides of the poor water quality of Deep Creek.

MRA monitors the county website for new grading permits and visits active sites to check for silt fencing and stabilized entryway stone, bare soils or piles of uncovered soil, and evidence of runoff leaving the premises.

In zip code 21409 — which includes portions of Arnold, Annapolis and Cape St. Claire — MRA surveyed 55 sites over the last year. Eight of those required corrective action, a significant decrease over the previous year. Knopf said MRA uses direct communication with supervisors of county inspectors and rapid response to address problems.

Lisa Crafton also addressed the audience at Anne Arundel Community College, sharing details of oyster reef balls that were placed in the Magothy River in March.

"These reef balls provide surfaces for oyster spat to attach and grow while creating valuable underwater habitat and protection for small fish, crabs and other marine life," she said. "Oysters help to filter the water and do some heavy lifting when it comes to keeping river and bay water clear."

Assist The MRA

The Magothy River Association is looking for volunteers in the following areas:

SAV monitoring by kayak

Contact - sally.hornor@gmail.com

Construction site monitoring or raising oysters at your pier

Contact - bdknopf@gmail.com

Living history stories

a3germain@gmail.com

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Nonprofit Founded By Severna Park Grad Provides Baby Essentials

By Lauren Meyer

Lindsay Gill is a 2002 graduate of Severna Park High School and the founder of a nonprofit that's designed to assist families with free and easy access to basic baby essentials.

The Napkin Network, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a social network of moms that spans across all 50 states and is spearheaded by Gill's specialization in social media, strategic communications, fundraising and identifying the natural inclination for moms to help other moms in need.

"When your child hurts, struggles, is in need, there is no greater pain," Gill said. "By tapping into the mom community, and collectively working together to support each other, we can make a difference in the life of a child."

Gill, a former Falcons field hockey and tennis player, has a personal connection to her mom-centric nonprofit. She and her husband, Fletcher, have three children all under the age of 7: Fletcher Jr., Gwyneth and Dane.

After graduating from the University of Maryland in 2006, Gill lived in the nation's capital for nearly 10 years and then moved to Bethesda once married.

Her first job out of college was at National Geographic. However, the more time she spent in television production and behind the camera, she realized her heart wasn't in it.

Starting in 2010, Gill worked with her husband on his nonprofit, Luke's Wings, for about a decade. There, she served as the executive director for the



SPHS graduate Lindsay Gill is the founder of The Napkin Network.

organization, which aims to support families of wounded servicemembers. She helped grow it from an all-volunteer organization to a staff of seven and raised \$2 million.

"But when the pandemic hit, and I had two little kids at the time, and soon a third on the way, I had to leave that position," Gill said.

It was only a few weeks later — and after seeing countless moms struggling to afford basic baby essentials like a clean diaper — that Gill decided to host a diaper drive.

"The diaper drive was wildly successful, and to be honest, a little anticlimactic after I donated them," Gill said. "I wanted more — more insight into what was needed, who we were helping, more of a community, more of an impact."

Gill had no doubt she could bring together moms. So, on December 31, 2020, she made a logo, secured an Instagram page, mocked up a mission statement and vowed that 2021 would be better than 2020 had been for her family and other families she knew they could help.

Gill was right. The Napkin Network quickly made an impact.

In its first two years, The Napkin Network donated more than 100,000 diapers, 500,000 wipes, thousands of formula cans and countless other baby essentials such as diaper rash creams, new clothing, strollers and car seats. Currently, The Napkin Network has eight drop-off locations around the District of Columbia area and is run by volunteer moms.

"There isn't anything a mom can't do," Gill said.

In less than three years, the organization has hosted hundreds of events promoting the well-being of moms in their communities. Every event has a dual purpose: to bring moms together and to collect unused baby items and repurpose them back into the community. The Napkin Network partners with underfunded, but well established, nonprofit organizations with deep roots in the community and donates items to those groups.

During the height of the formula shortage crisis that impacted moms around the country, The Napkin Network organized large-scale formula drives that garnered national attention. Gill has been invited to roundtable discussions with senators and members of Congress. She's also been interviewed by various sources on the highs and lows of the motherhood journey and built ongoing partnerships with businesses and people who not only support the mission to help mothers but also the desire to make the motherhood journey less isolated.

"With The Napkin Network, I want to be focused, but more importantly, I desire to be flexible," Gill said. "To listen and adapt and support where we are needed most. If it's formula today and medicine tomorrow and food next week, we will figure it out."

The Napkin Network strives to increase funding to assist moms who are not local to the capital region and desire a pantry or open storage area where moms can pick up items monthly as needed.

Visit www.thenapkinnetwork.com to learn more, donate or to get involved.

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With Your Help, SPAN Continues To Meet Growing Need For Assistance

Michele Sabean
 Director of
 Development
 SPAN Inc.



I spent time in April with a friend in the hospital. I see her village gathering around and I keep reflecting on how life is better with friends. I am reminded of the same thing when I am at work and am surrounded by both our dedicated volunteers and with community members who keep stepping up to contribute - keeping our shelves filled and SPAN fiscally able to continue to meet the need for emergency financial assistance.

It is wonderful to regularly see people doing things for others. I arrived at work after Easter, and was greeted by a pile

of toilet paper, diapers and other paper products. A local teen had organized an Easter "cottontail" themed drive in his neighborhood. Later that day, Girl Scout Troop 11414 delivered several boxes of condiments; the little extras such as these and basic spices make a big difference.

Thanks to members from four churches — Our Lady of the Fields, Trinity Bible Church, Asbury United Methodist and St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church — we were able to bless more than 70 families with food for an Easter meal and other fun treats.

Life is better when we are there for each other. I am reminded of this daily with the people who show up here to help their neighbors — whether dropping off food, showing up to volunteer or giving a neighbor a ride to get the needed assistance.

We are still busy with clients coming

for financial assistance to help them through an emergency — a utility turn-off, court-ordered eviction or the need for a medical prescription. Typically, SPAN provides about \$100,000 in emergency financial assistance per year. In just the first six months of Fiscal Year 2023, SPAN already helped with more than that amount. The trend continues with an increase in the number of clients for financial assistance each month. Before the fiscal year ends, SPAN will have provided more than double the amount of financial aid we typically do in a year.

Just as we have seen the need for emergency financial assistance at high levels, other organizations are seeing the same trends. We sometimes get inquiries about donating items other than food or toiletries. Hope for All is a great local organization that provides household items, clothing and furniture to those

without the means for their basic needs. They are especially in need of clean and in-good-condition sheets, towels, blankets and kitchen items such as utensils, flatware, pots, pans and bowls.

Let's celebrate the warmer weather and this great community of neighbors! Join us for a fun evening to benefit SPAN — on Saturday June 17, Laurette Hankins-O'Connell will perform a cabaret concert: "Musicals, Movies and Moxie — Oh My!" She and her pianist/duet singer Anita O'Connor are once again contributing their talents for SPAN and will perform a salute to Broadway musicals of the 20th century. They will showcase their talents at Boone Station Hall in the Severna Park Community Center. Tickets are \$25 each and should be purchased in advance; information can be found on our website and social media. We will also have a silent auction.



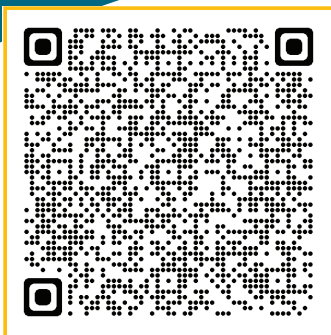
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Mission Trip To Provide Medical Supplies To Ukraine War Victims

By Lauren Burke Meyer

While most people are planning their vacations, Arnold resident James Screven is planning his mission trip to Ukraine. With the Ukrainian people in a fight for their lives and way of life, Screven knew he wanted to help.

"I saw the Ukrainians' fight to keep their democracy likened to our own fight to maintain our democracy," Screven said.

From June 26 until the end of July, Screven will visit Ukraine for the first time to provide medical assistance to war victims in partnership with the group Mission Kharkiv (MK).

Since the Russian invasion, the border city of Kharkiv in the northeast of Ukraine has come under constant attack from Russian forces. The victims of the ongoing conflict aren't solely those killed, injured or displaced by the shelling. They're those impacted by supply chain disruptions. One of the most threatening of interruptions is access to medications.

Since the war began, MK has delivered more than 140 tons of medication to the Kharkiv region, individually controlled and distributed it to more than 60,000 patients, supplied 31 hospitals and evacuated 45 cancer patients to other areas in Europe.

"As a winterization response, MK



Troy Brooks (left) has raised more than \$1,100 in medical supplies for James Screven's upcoming Ukraine mission trip.

supplied solid-fuel heaters to vulnerable families whose households suffered damage from the attacks," Mission Kharkiv founder Rostislav Filippenko said.

In addition, Filippenko noted how MK constructed a cold-chain warehouse to facilitate logistics for chemotherapy medication in the region of Kharkiv.

Currently, Screven is gathering medical supplies to aid civilian victims of landmines and bombs that are disguised to look like toys. During his trip, he will work with Filippenko, first assembling the 100 landmine response kits, and then delivering the kits to different parts of Ukraine. Screven will also provide training on the contents of the kits to new first responders.

"I knew I needed to do more than just gather supplies and ship them off to some address," Screven said.

For his upcoming trip, no medical background is needed.

Originally from New York, Screven is now an assistant principal at Chesapeake Math and IT (CMIT) Academy Middle School, a public charter school in Laurel. CMIT Academy is part of the Prince George's County Public School System.

"I began my teaching career 28 years ago in New York and moved to Maryland 10 years ago to work for the Department of Homeland Security after

my school in New York was closed due to funding," Screven said.

Following the Department of Homeland Security, he worked for the Maryland judiciary's education department. Afterward, Screven returned to public school teaching in 2015 at CMIT Academy.

Screven noted how the Prince George's County community answered warmly and generously.

He had one student — Troy Brooks — who raised more than \$1,100 worth of supplies by canvassing doctor's offices, local first responders and the Prince George's County 911 dispatchers, along with family and friends. However, more is needed. So, he is now turning to the Anne Arundel County community to begin the process of assembling the next group of kits.

A list of needed medical supplies, including the associated links to Amazon, can be found at www.assistanceukraine.org or by calling 410-320-1487.

"Any medical supplies they can provide will go directly to help save the lives of innocent civilian men, women and children who are simply looking to survive this unprovoked invasion of their country and assault on the right to sovereignty," Screven said.

Tax-deductible donations to Mission Kharkiv can also be made at donorsee.com/missionkharkiv.

Kinder Farmhouse Invites Guests To A Bygone Era

By Charlie Vigne

From Easter egg hunting in April to hay-bale rides in October, Kinder Farm Park offers a full slate of family activities throughout the year.

The park is also home to the Kinder Farmhouse, built in 1929. This building provided sanctuary for the Kinder family, which immigrated from Germany in 1898. Henry and Hilda Kinder and their six children used their farmland to grow vegetables to sell in Baltimore. In

the 1940s, Henry and his four sons began raising farm animals, such as cattle, to make a profit. In 1979, the Kinder sons sold the remaining farm, about 288 acres, to Anne Arundel County.

Now, the farmhouse functions as a museum for the park, providing insight into life during the 1920s and 1930s.

Michael Lowman, a board member of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park Historical Society, spoke about the importance of preserving the history of

Kinder with the farmhouse.

"The whole thing with the park is to promote the agricultural history knowledge of the county," Lowman said. "Kinder Farm Park is still a working farm."

The Friends of Kinder Farm Park, established in 2010, decided to refurbish the farmhouse building in 2010. By 2011, the process was underway, and even though the full project took five years to complete, the farmhouse

opened to the public in May 2014.

Volunteers and donations made the project possible.

"We renovated the first floor and put some insulation in the walls," Lowman said. "The upstairs was originally going to be a work area, but with all the donations of furniture and dishware, we would open up the upstairs also [for park goers]."

Kinder Farm Park also houses Exhibit Hall, which is a museum and visitors center. The building provides historical, educational information and artifacts about agricultural life in the area.

"Some of those items relate to the farm," Lowman said. "One of the big things in there is a large tobacco press with a tobacco barrel. People don't see that often."

The other facility is Tobacco Barn Museum. Kinder's historical society moved and reassembled the barn that came from another farm. It showcases other farm artifacts with placards about what each item was used for during its time period.

Kinder Farm Park is open to the public seven days a week. The Kinder farmhouse is also open to the public on the second Saturday of each month from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

Kinder Farm recently added self-guided park tours online. Guests can also use self-guided booklets for in-person tours of Kinder. The booklet features pictures and historical anecdotes of the farm while visitors walk around, Lowman said.

To get involved at Kinder Farm Park, email contact@kinderfarmpark.org about upcoming clubs, events and activities.



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Leave your footprint on the local landscape of mental health by participating in the 2023 NAMIWalks Maryland on May 20 from 9:00am to noon at Rash Field, located at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

The event serves as an annual fundraiser for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Anne Arundel County (NAMI AAC).

Participants walk to raise aware-

ness, to have fun, to support Anne Arundel County communities, to increase mental health outreach efforts, to show recovery is possible, to reduce stigma, and to bring hope and help to all.

To become a team captain or start a new team, visit www.namiwalks.org/maryland. For more information, call 443-569-3498, email info@namiaac.org or visit www.namiaac.org.

The Missing Collection



Left: This screen-used Hellboy was upgraded in April with uber horns. **Above:** One of Chris Hearty's most valuable pieces is this prototype mask of the Green Goblin from Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man" starring Willem Dafoe.

» Continued from page 1

science fiction and superhero films and television shows.

"It started with comics, like for most kids," Hearty said of his hobby. "I went to art school and had an appreciation for that part of it. I started doing replicas for myself ... and I realized that for what I was putting into a replica, I could have the real thing, so I started buying the real thing, and now it has gotten crazy."

How crazy?

"Everything here has gotten to the point of being a treasure trove," he said. "It's worth more than my house."

Some of his most valuable items are worth more than \$25,000, he said. Others may be worth a few hundred.

He buys from producers, actors and directors — receiving not only the items but also memories.

"This is a remnant from my previous days of chasing autographs from conventions," he said. "You're chasing these autographs down and it's a much more personal interaction with these people because you're buying something from them than, 'Hey, I'm giving you a couple bucks and I'm moving through this line and I'm getting your autograph.' You end up becoming friends in some cases."

One of his favorite encounters was meeting Greg Nicotero, a special makeup effects artist known for his work on "The Walking Dead."

"Mind like a steel trap," Hearty said of Nicotero. "Remembers everything he has made over the years. And that is a lot."

Hearty has acquired a lot of his props and costumes through online auctions and by scouring social media pages. He makes an offer only if something is production- or screen-used.

"There is only one devil, there is only

one bunny and there is only one goblin," he said, referring to some of his valuables. "Some of these things are made in multiples, but not a lot of them."

One of those rare purchases is a suit worn by Vincent D'Onofrio when he played Kingpin in Netflix's "Daredevil" show. Hearty screen-matched the suit to a scene where Kingpin was covered in blood spatter.

The props and costumes that he currently covets the most are complete sets.

"I don't want just the helmet anymore," he said. "I want head to toe, and I chase a lot of that."

To add to his collection, he must subtract.

"It changes so quick," he said. "If I want something better, I have to sell a couple things to build a war chest basically."

The hobby was more affordable when he started. That does not mean people cannot get into it now. Whether someone wants a weapon prop from a science fiction flick or a fake limb from a horror film, not everything costs an arm and a leg.

"If you're getting in at a low level and want to buy the ear from 'Killjoys,' it's like \$25 to \$50 — not very much money," he said. "But you want to start talking [the cowl of] Big Daddy, \$6,000 or \$8,000. You buy a bajillion of these things so you can buy that. It's like a game of upgrades."

Hearty dubbed his supply "the Missing Collection" because he sent photos to an expert for a review and the guy never responded, hence it was "missing."

He gets excited when showing the collection to someone for the first time.

"You get all this stuff, you feel so miserably to keep it to yourself," Hearty said. "To me, they're genuine treasures."

County Weed Warriors Help Residents Combat Invasives

By Judy Tacyn

“You can’t unsee it,” said Andrea Weir, a Millersville resident in the Park Retreat community. “Once we knew what it looked like, we couldn’t go anywhere without seeing it.”

The “it” Weir spoke of are the vast number of plants that have taken over parts of her community and nearly everywhere she looked.

Weir was working toward her Master Gardener certification when she volunteered for weed eradication events sponsored by Anne Arundel County. These volunteer events are set up by the Anne Arundel Weed Resistance (AAWR) team, an organization dedicated to controlling invasive species that endanger the health of natural areas. It was there that she met Loretta Jorden, volunteer coordinator for AAWR, and learned of the seriousness the problem of invasive plants pose in the county.

Weir moved into the Park Retreat community in 2014 while it was being developed. The small community of 16 homes backs up against the B&A Trail. To access the trail, residents pass by a piece of undeveloped land earmarked as reforestation land. A 1991 act requires developers to leave a portion of property undeveloped and designated forestation, conservation or reforestation.

“Just because something is green and has flowers doesn’t make it good,” Weir said. “I walked past this mess for years without giving much thought about it.”

A sure sign of spring in Maryland are the flowering trees and vines. But the clusters of small white flowers (Bradford pear) and lavender vines of Chinese and Japanese wisteria are not native to Maryland or even North America. English ivy and oriental bittersweet vines eventually take over trees large and small, wrapping themselves around native trees so tightly that the tree tissues bend and contort, causing girdling and adding hundreds of pounds of weight on fledgling trees.

“We need our native trees,” Weir said. “There are delicate relationships between native insects and mammals that have developed over years and years. When this overgrowth happens, it doesn’t provide any nutritional or survival benefits for the species that are supposed to be here.”



Photo by Judy Tacyn
Millersville resident Andrea Weir stood by a mature tree after vine removal.

County forester Earl Reaves said overpopulation and inundation of invasive plants in Anne Arundel County is a huge problem for plant, animal and human life with no simple solution.

“When our ecosystems become out of balance, the ripple effect is tremendous,” Reaves said. “Invasive plants tend to drop harsh pollens that humans are more allergic to, they produce berries or fruit that do not contain the nutritional content migrating birds and small animals need, and some don’t need pollinators for reproduction but overtake the plants that

do, which can affect our honeybees, gardens and farming. The number of ways invasive plants disrupt our environment is seemingly infinite.”

English ivy seeds have a 100% germination rate, making it difficult to eradicate. Plants and trees like oriental bittersweet and Japanese honeysuckle were introduced as landscape plants dating back to the late 1800s. From there, they got into woods, parks and farms.

“The thing about invasives is that they don’t have any natural competitors and totally take over,” Weir said. “Excellent examples can be found all along the B&A trail, or along routes 100 and 32. When these plants cover natural vegetation, it is impossible for the native trees to get light needed for photosynthesis.”

Weir and her husband, Bob, began the task of cleaning up their common area using hand nippers. The process was slow, but results could be seen almost immediately. Weir contacted county arborists to determine which trees were invasive and which native trees could be saved, and then contacted Jorden for assistance in removing invasives. She also applied for grants to help cover the costs of professional cleanup.

Jorden said the top ways residents can help to mitigate the further infestation of invasive plants are not buying or planting invasive species, educating the public and removing invasive plants from personal

property and shared community spaces, and reaching out to the Anne Arundel County Weed Resistance Program for help on identifying and removing unwanted plants.

Neighborhood resident Lynda Wittig is part of the volunteer group working to clean up the common area.

“The area was so overgrown and the need to address it was obvious and very important,” Wittig said. “We are thankful that Andrea brought the issue to the attention of the HOA (homeowners association). At first, it seemed like an impossible task, but it’s amazing what’s already been done.”

To learn more or for assistance, visit www.anne-arundel-weed-resistance.org or contact 410-424-8294 or annearundelwr@gmail.com.

Good Fences And Contracts Make Good Neighbors

By Lisa M. Bogan-Reohr and David V. Diggs

It is amazing how many fences surround people’s yards in Severna Park. Sometimes the fences are there to keep dogs from roaming or little children from running into a busy street. Sometimes the fence is there due to a law, such as those requiring pools to be surrounded by a fence to protect children from entering a pool without adult supervision and accidentally drowning. Sometimes people just want privacy. So long to the happy days of cutting through backyards when one is late for school.

The saying “Good fences make good neighbors” is an expression dating from at least 1640, meaning that having a clear and respected boundary between one’s yard and a neighbor’s yard helps to keep the peace between the neighbors. I picture a low stone wall or fence preventing one person’s pigs from strolling over and ravaging the neighbor’s crops, thereby keeping the neighbors happy. Hopefully, our Severna Park fences are low enough to encour-

age, rather than prohibit, neighborly meetings and chatting over the fence.

A good contract is like a good fence. We don’t tend to consider them until necessary. A good contract helps keep the peace between the contracting parties by specifying the terms of their agreement so that the parties get exactly what they want and there is no misunderstanding. A valid contract results from a “meeting of the minds,” as my contracts professor used to say. A good contract is enforceable when one party breaches.

Maryland law defines a contract as “a promise or set of promises for breach of which the law gives a remedy, or the performance of which the law in some way recognizes as a duty.” The requirements for a contract are that there is an offer (one party promises to do or refrain from doing something), an acceptance (words or actions of the other party indicating his or her assent to the terms of the offer), and consideration (the value given or received in the exchange). A simple example is payment in exchange for goods or services.

Whether a contract is oral or written, mutual assent between the parties is necessary. And in every contract, the law implies a duty of good faith and fair dealing.

Contract law is complicated, despite this oversimplified description. A breach of contract occurs when a party fails to perform a contractual obligation in whole or in part. In a lawsuit for breach of contract, the damages awarded are the amount necessary to make the non-breaching party whole, which would mean in the same position as if the contract had been performed as agreed upon. Sometimes the award is “specific performance,” in which the court compels a party to follow through on the action he or she promised.

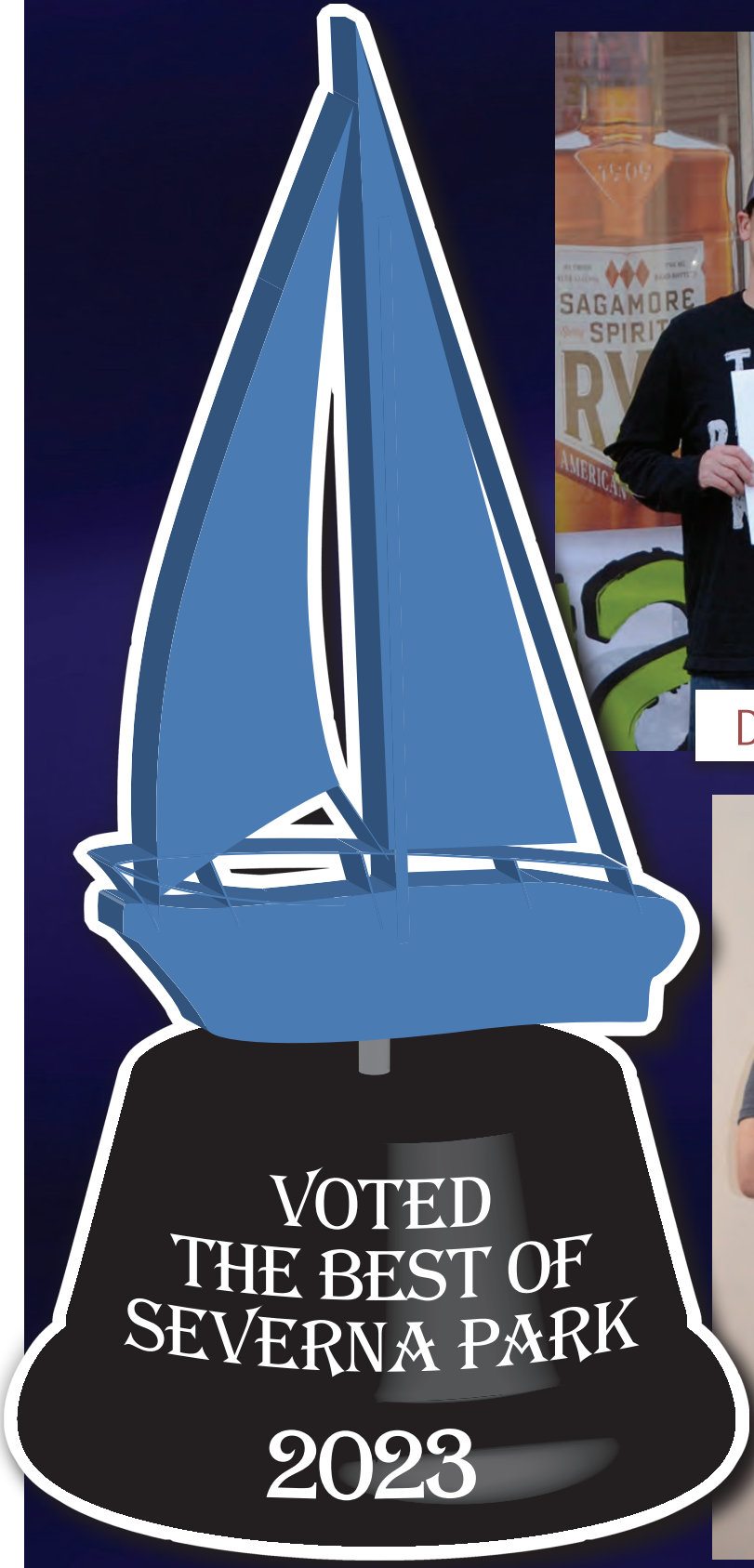
Another remedy is one found in equity, called *quantum meruit*. In these cases, one party sues the other to recover the reasonable value of the services he or she performed but for which he or she was not paid. Usually, *quantum meruit* is applicable when there is no written contract, and one party is “unjustly enriched” by the performance of

the other party.

Contracts, if written, should have unambiguously drafted language so that should a breach occur, the promises and obligations of the parties are clear. Clearly drafted language can prevent a misunderstanding between the parties and will allow a court to objectively interpret a contract in dispute. Many pitfalls can be avoided by an attorney who is able to “express with definiteness and certainty the nature and extent of the parties’ obligations.”

If you need a well-drafted contract or you are concerned that a contract to which you are a party has been breached, you should consult an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions. David Diggs is experienced in drafting contracts and finding resolutions when a breach of contract has occurred. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1171 or emailing david@diggsllaw.com.

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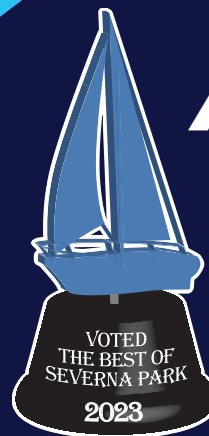


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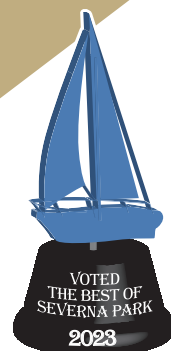
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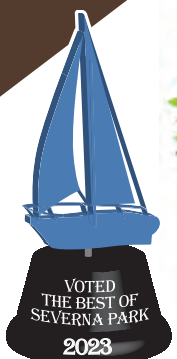
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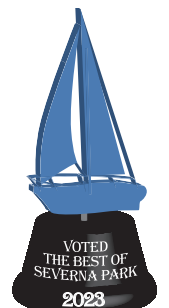
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Bags, Budgets And Other Bills

Amanda Fielder
Councilwoman
District 5



Editor's Note:
This article went to print before the council meeting on May 1.

The Anne Arundel County Council has been discussing a bill that would ban most plastic bags at the point of sale in our county. Complete bag bans, fees on plastic bags, or hybrids of both, have been initiated in jurisdictions and states across the country. In Maryland, there is no statewide ban or fee structure for plastic bags.

Bill 19-23 is a hybrid model, banning most plastic bags, and requiring a 10-cent fee for each paper bag be charged to the consumer, in most situations. The bill has been amended several times since its original introduction, based on testimony from the public and industry input. Bag ban rollouts have been far from perfect in other jurisdictions. New Jersey implemented the most aggressive bag ban, neglecting to consider various circumstances like grocery delivery or curbside pickup, where the consumer is not present with a reusable bag or bags. California implemented legislation that banned plastic bags that are considered too thin for reuse and break easily. Those are bags that are less than 2.25 mils thick and cannot withstand 125 uses. Which begs this question: are all plastic bags “one use?”

Will a plastic bag ban eliminate plastic bags from our landfills and processing centers? In the numerous scenarios in which a plastic bag is reused, the answer is “no.” Consumers who use these bags

for pet waste cleanup, liners for small trash cans, transporting of items, etc. will likely replace these with other plastic bags packaged and available in most retailers. Bill 19-23, as amended, does not ban plastic bags for food services within Anne Arundel County Public Schools, bags used for bakery goods, raw meat, seafood, newspapers, flowers, hanging garments or dry-cleaned clothes. Restaurants are exempt from the 10-cent paper bag fee.

The council continues to deliberate the plastic bag ban and special events permitting bill, which has also received a considerable amount of input from the public and stakeholders. Bill 13-23 will require any special event (athletic event, parade, concert, etc.) with 500 or more attendees — that is not regularly occurring, uses county roads, or right of ways, or uses county services and personnel — to go through a permitting process with the county. Detailed information from the event organizer will be required in advance of the special event and reviewed by the county for approval.

The county will be required to communicate, in a timely fashion, any matters that may be cause for a permit denial, but the county will have the final decision in allowing or prohibiting these types of events. The Anne Arundel County Fair, Maryland Renaissance Festival, special events held indoors, events at county parks, agritourism events and funeral processions have been exempted from the legislation.

Also in discussion by the council is Bill 24-23, which I introduced in early April. This is a follow-up piece of legislation, based on the overwhelming approval by county voters, to allow Anne Arundel County Council members to serve three

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Victories In Economic Prosperity, Health Care And More

Dawn Gile
Senator
District 33



As your state senator, I am pleased to report on the legislative victories and historic progress we made for Maryland during the 445th legislative session, concluded in April.

Despite increased economic uncertainty and difficult budgetary decisions, we made historic investments in public education, created a path to economic prosperity for working families, improved health care delivery, and invested in Maryland values through a responsible and balanced budget. Every decision we made this year was from a lens of expanding opportunity for as many residents as possible, and I am proud to say we accomplished our objectives.

Working alongside my colleagues in the House of Delegates, I secured more than \$1 million in capital funding for the communities in District 33. Among the projects that received funding were the restoration of the historic Severna Park train station building, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds. These investments were made possible by bipartisan cooperation and a balanced budget of \$63.1 billion, which allocated resources to critical areas such as tax relief, public safety,

health care coverage, education, and initiatives related to addressing climate change, while still putting money in the rainy day fund.

At the outset, I want to highlight the seven bills I sponsored and passed with bipartisan support:

1. Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023 (SB534): This bill extends the flexibilities for telehealth that were put into state law during the pandemic, allowing health care providers to continue delivering safe, reliable care via telehealth at the right place, right time and the right modality for patients.

2. Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions (SB280/HB292): This bill eases unnecessary licensing burdens for military spouses who provide in-home child care and expands child care options for military families.

3. Income Tax Checkoff - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (SB354/HB316): This bill offers Maryland taxpayers the option to contribute to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) on their annual state tax returns, providing the MVTF with additional funding to expand the important work it is already providing in the state.

4. Public Health - Parkinson's Disease - Advisory Committee and Website (SB584/HB703): This bill requires the Maryland Parkinson's Disease Registry Advisory Committee to establish a website that includes information on Parkinson's disease incidences in the state and provides recommendations on creating a registry that researchers can use to learn more about the disease.

5. Maryland Audiology, Hearing Aid Dispensing, Speech-Language Pathology, and Music Therapy Act - Definitions and Application (SB449/SB401): This bill updates the ability for certain providers to prescribe hearing aids, so Marylanders get to reap the intended benefits of the expanded access to devices.

6. Alcoholic Beverages - Manufacturer's Licenses and Off-Site Permits (SB448/SB595): This bill extends flexibilities to Maryland distilleries, wineries, and breweries that allows them to deliver and directly ship the products they produce to Marylanders as well as sell their products to Marylanders off the manufacturers' premise without a restrictive volume cap.

7. Real Property - Limitations on Summoning Law Enforcement or Emergency Services - Prohibition (SB450/HB215): This bill would bar local

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Saving The BOOST Program

Rachel Muñoz
Delegate
District 31



The 2023 Maryland legislative session has ended. For me, one of the most important actions that was taken was the preservation of the Broadening Options and Opportunities

for Students Today (BOOST) program. School choice in Maryland is available for those who can afford it. BOOST is a small part of Maryland's budget that provides the same opportunities to those who would otherwise not have that same choice.

Since 2016, Maryland has offered families with limited incomes access to scholarships through the BOOST scholarship program. BOOST gives families of kindergarten students through high school seniors the opportunity to select a non-public school for their children if that is the

best educational fit for their children's needs. The program puts more options within reach for Maryland families and children, particularly those who are most in need. These scholarships have helped about 20,000 students since 2016.

Despite the life-changing success stories, BOOST was slated for the chopping block this year. Governor Wes Moore's budget proposal cut funding for BOOST by 20% — from \$10 million to \$8 million — and included language that would phase out the program entirely. To me, this made no sense as it would hurt the poorest, most vulnerable children in Maryland.

We heard countless stories of children who were trapped in failing schools, violent schools, and just trying to escape an environment of bullying. BOOST gives families the opportunity to send their children to a school that will maximize their potential.

A group of House and Senate Republicans and Democrats came together to call for the full funding of

the BOOST program and press for the removal of the phase-out language. In the end, the BOOST program received \$11.5 million in Fiscal Year 2024, with \$9 million going to scholarships and \$2.5 million available to participating schools for safety, textbooks, nurses and other school health expenses. This reflects another \$1.5 million in funding for the program. Additionally, language that would have phased out the BOOST program was removed. In 2024, I will again work to make sure BOOST is funded and becomes permanent.

Saving BOOST this legislative session was, without question, one of the most important and critical actions taken. Saving this program and restoring funding will have an impact far beyond 2023 for Maryland. Each child who receives an education through BOOST will be an enduring reminder of the importance of this vital program. I am proud to have contributed to saving this program for the citizens of the 31st district and all of Maryland.

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» **Continued from page 19**

nuisance laws that threaten the ability of a resident to get help during an emergency for fear of losing their home.

Let's now explore the key matters that were tackled during the session. The 2023 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly saw significant progress made in addressing several pressing challenges that are confronting the state, specifically:

Expanding Opportunity for Working Families. One of the most noteworthy changes implemented was the acceleration of the minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour. This change aims to enhance the financial stability of working families and boost the economy by increasing the disposable income of low-wage earners who are likely to spend it within their local communities.

In addition to this, the General Assembly expanded the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits, providing additional support to those who require it the most. Another positive change made was in the policies on paid family and medical leave, aimed at providing greater economic security for working families.

Improving the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services. Another priority for the General Assembly was improving and modernizing behavioral health care in Maryland. The Senate advanced a bipartisan behavioral health care package, which included fully funding the 988 crisis hotline, extending collaborative care between primary and behavioral health care providers, expanding wraparound services for children and youth most at-risk, creating systems for comprehensive community behavioral health clinics, preserving affordable access to telehealth services, allowing for creative health care for Maryland's highest-need patients, and planning for a 21st century behavioral care delivery system.

Safeguarding Reproductive Freedom. Significant emphasis was placed on health care and reproductive rights, resulting in the passage of several bills aimed at safeguarding access to care and enshrining reproductive freedom in the state's laws. Notably, one of these bills proposed a constitutional amendment that would ensure Maryland continues to lead the way in protecting the rights of women and families so they can make their own health care decisions. It is important to note that the constitutional amendment must be approved by voters in the 2024 election and will appear on the ballot as a referendum measure.

Enhancing Public Safety Through Gun Safety. To address the issue of gun violence, the General Assembly passed several bills to promote responsible firearm ownership. These measures included prohibiting carrying firearms in sensitive public locations (such as schools and day cares), promoting proper storage of firearms, and tracking surrendered firearms.

Protecting the Environment. Maryland took commendable steps toward addressing climate change by making strategic investments in renewable ener-

gy and actively reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The state allocated substantial funds toward various clean energy programs, including the Maryland Solar Grant Program and the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative.

Maryland also became a leader in offshore wind energy with the passage of the POWER Act, which aimed to generate billions of dollars in investments and create thousands of jobs. This was a significant step in achieving a resilient and affordable energy future. Additionally, the General Assembly made long overdue updates to Maryland's Forest Conservation Act.

Establishing a Framework for Legalized Recreational Cannabis. With the legalization of recreational cannabis approved by voters in the 2022 elections, Maryland created a framework to regulate, license and tax the recreational cannabis market in an equitable way, which will promote economic growth and job creation in the state, while also ensuring that cannabis is regulated in a responsible and safe manner.

Demanding Justice for Victims of Child Sex Abuse. The Child Victims Act, which eliminates the statute of limitations for civil lawsuits associated with child sexual abuse and establishes additional avenues for justice for survivors, is a much-needed reform that has been long overdue. This historic legislation will finally enable survivors to seek justice and reparations for the trauma they have endured.

Reforming the 529 College Saving Plans. In addition to these measures, the General Assembly also reformed the Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust, creating a claims process for impacted account holders and incentivizing the phase-out of the Prepaid College Trust in favor of other Maryland 529 plans that have consistently performed without issue.

Standing with Those Who Served. The legislature took steps to provide better support to veterans and the National Guard, including increasing tax exemptions for military retirement income and establishing a voluntary contribution program to support the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund. The Health Care for Heroes Act of 2023 provides monthly grants to subsidize health insurance for Maryland National Guard members, which is a much-needed benefit for those who have served their country. The General Assembly also enacted emergency legislation to address disturbing widespread reports of abuse and mistreatment of veterans at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me in the future for any concerns or suggestions you may have.

During the interim, I will continue to hold office hours to meet with constituents, and I am also available to speak at community association meetings or other local gatherings. You can contact my office directly at dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us or 410-841-3568.

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Making Strides With Behavioral Health

Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33C



With so much happening this session, it's hard to know where to focus, as a legislative wrap-up would require far more than a few paragraphs, so given the constraints of limiting my thoughts to a single subject, I'll begin when I last ended, with the issue of behavioral health.

As anyone who follows my contributions is aware, I have a particular passion for the expansion of behavioral health resources, particularly for our adolescent population. However, with the fever pitch of the session, you may have missed something significant that occurred about halfway through. With the shuffling of legislators joining the administration of Governor Wes Moore, I was honored to be appointed as the new chair of the Public Health and Minority Health Disparities subcommittee, and I am thrilled to say

that behavioral health was a big winner at this session.

Even before the new appointment, I had established an aggressive legislative agenda for behavioral health, building on the advocacy work I had done last year. It was clear, even from the campaign trail, that there was a new energy in support of mental health investment, having seen an increase in need following the pandemic, and a significant workforce shortage exacerbated by burnout, licensing delays, low reimbursement rates, and the continued issues with Optum, which had put many of our providers in financial jeopardy.

This session marked a significant commitment, not only from the General Assembly, but also the Moore administration, to build a world-class behavioral health system based on best practices. If this sounds familiar, it's because I had a bill last year that did not make it across the finish line. However, every element of last year's Behavioral Health System Modernization Act passed this year, and then we did even more. So, what did we do?

We invested \$12 million into the 988 system to create grants for local call centers to ensure that calls from Mary-

land will be answered by call centers in Maryland. I was the cosponsor and championed the House bill across the chamber when the bill sponsor was appointed to the Senate. We passed a Mental Health Workforce Fund, modeled after other states, which establishes a commission to make recommendations to develop our mental health workforce, and a fund to address training, recruitment and retention of providers.

Last month, I wrote about the Collaborative Care Model, which establishes behavioral health providers in primary care settings — it passed. I've previously written about the need to expand our home- and community-based high fidelity wraparound services for adolescents with complex behavioral health needs. We passed that bill as well. Last year, I attempted to pass a bill to streamline the process for psychologists whose doctorates were in a non-clinical field to re-specialize to be clinicians and address the workforce shortage. The governor signed that bill into law the day after Sine Die.

In 2021, I put in a bill to give the Maryland Insurance Administration enforcement authority after Optum repeatedly

failed to pay clean claims. Because it was a corrective measure, it was meant to sunset this year, but because Optum has a contract until 2024, I put in an emergency bill to extend the sunset to protect and stabilize our provider network.

Dawn Gile, our new District 33 senator, was also integral in passing the Preserve Telehealth Act, which was also encompassed in House Bill 1148, the Behavioral Health Model for Maryland, which creates a four-year commission to look at every aspect of the behavioral health system.

We also worked with the new secretary of health, who is undertaking a massive audit of our behavioral health resources to update the crisis bed registry and create better care coordination across our behavioral health spectrum.

We had other efforts that did not make it across the finish line, but this session represents the largest investment in behavioral health in a generation and a commitment from this body and this administration. It's the completion of a promise I made to our district five years ago. It is my great honor to do this work, and I'm grateful to be your delegate.

Bags, Budgets And Other Bills

» Continued from page 19

terms. Prior to the 2022 ballot question, council members were limited to two terms, or eight consecutive years. Along with those two terms was a pension vesting requirement of 10 years, meaning a councilmember could not vest for pension benefits based on their elected time in office. With the potential of three terms, council members can now serve up to 12 consecutive years.

Bill 24-23 changes the vesting period for councilmembers from 10 years to 14 years, continuing the inability for councilmembers to receive a pension based on years in elected office. There is a fiscal impact for every employee in our pension system, and a pension system is important for our employees. A term-limited elected role is one of service to the community and should be structured in a way that has limited impacts on the taxpayer.

Taxes, fees and county spending will be at the forefront of council discussions for May. On May 1, County Executive Stuart Pittman presented his Fiscal Year 2024 budget, and it then moved to the council for a busy 45 days of discussion. Once the budget is introduced as a formal bill, the council will hear from each county department and residents as we work through the details of what is proposed.

The county council cannot add to the budget but is strictly limited to cutting the budget. If proposed cuts are adopted by a majority of the council, the budget will either be reduced by the proposed amount or the administration will reinvest the dollars into another area, with council approval, in a supplemental budget. The county council is set to "strike the budget" on June 14.

You can always reach out to me on these bills and any other piece of legislation or constituent needs at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

End Of Session: An Open Letter

Dana Jones
Delegate
District 30A



Dear neighbor, It is an amazing privilege to represent Maryland's District 30A in the legislature, and this year, we have accomplished so much for the district and our state. As

I serve you in the General Assembly, my promise to you continues to be driven by my steadfast commitment to promoting, fighting and advocating for the needs of our community.

I'm proud to say that the speaker's office and my fellow colleagues have entrusted me with several new leadership positions. This session, I was appointed to the Appropriations Committee, and to vice chair the subcommittee on Health and Social Services. Additionally, my colleagues in Anne Arundel County voted me vice chair of the county delegation, my fellow women legislatures elected me first vice president of the women's caucus, and the speaker appointed me to the joint committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review. These positions will allow me to continue to serve the district more effectively, as you will see in the report below on this 445th legislative session.

I want to review this session's highlights and accomplishments — including the eight of 14 bills I sponsored that passed the House, and some of the 60 bills I co-sponsored. In addition, I will break down the \$27 million in funding that I and our senator, in coordination with the governor, have secured for projects to better the infrastructure and economy of this district.

This session was a huge step in safeguarding rights, our safety and economic

security. I was proud to partner and co-sponsor the following 10 critical pieces of legislation with Governor Wes Moore to deliver for our state:

- The SERVE Act will create a first-in-the-nation service year option to boost volunteering among young people to give back to our communities.
- The Family Prosperity Act tackles child poverty by permanently extending the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- With the Fair Wage Act, Maryland will raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, benefiting 160,000 workers.
- The Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act will provide grants to entrepreneurs to break into new modern industries to help boost the economy.
- Through the Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023, Maryland will help train, recruit and retain highly trained educators for our schools and child care facilities as well as help provide better behavioral health services to students
- Office of Statewide Broadband — Study of Broadband Expansion Incentives will be essential to developing data-driven policies to ensure that we close the digital divide in all communities.
- The Access to Banking Act will expand access to capital and financial services for individuals and small businesses in low-income communities across the state.
- The Clean Transportation and Energy Act takes on one of the largest contributors to climate change and transportation-related emissions that have a disproportionate impact on our most vulnerable residents.
- The Healthcare for Heroes Act and Keep our Heroes Home Act provide veterans under 55 with the largest state tax cut in a generation and will cut health care costs for members of the Maryland National Guard.

We crafted and passed a balanced budget that includes \$122 million to aid local police departments; \$40 million will go toward state support for crime victim services of domestic violence, rape and other crimes; \$160 million toward supporting state parks and forests; \$60 million toward Chesapeake Bay restoration; and almost \$200 million reserved for tax relief including funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and new tax cuts for veterans.

Looking Forward

With the 445th legislative session behind us, I am looking forward to spending time again engaging directly with you in our community. As I have said many times, I don't take this responsibility lightly or casually. As I carry out my work for you every day, my motivation and mission are always the same — how can we continue to strengthen the amazing community we all live in. I pledge to continue working in the best interests of the entire district, as I have for the last three years.

I will be attending community events throughout the interim, and I hope to see you around the district soon. You can see our ever-changing schedule of events by going to www.danajones30a.com or my social media (that you can find via my website) where I will be adding events regularly.

To stay up to date on the happenings here in the district, sign up for my newsletter via my website and please stay in touch with me throughout the year. If you need constituent assistance, call or email the office at 410-841-3211 or dana.jones@house.state.md.us.

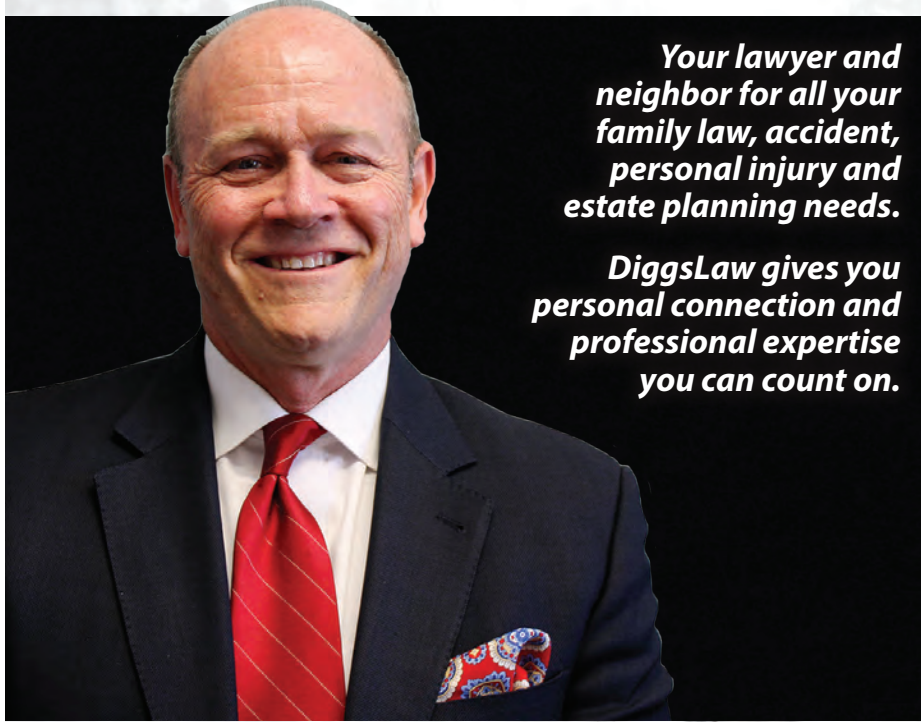
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More than half of this column was removed because of space limitations. Find the full letter by visiting the online sources listed above.



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Bruins Boys Lacrosse Topples Rival Falcons

By Tom Worgo

Music was blaring in the locker room, and there wasn't a Broadneck boys lacrosse player who hadn't been hugged or high-fived as they walked off the field. The Bruins didn't win a championship, but it sure seemed that way.

Broadneck rallied from a three-goal second-half deficit to post a 9-6 victory over six-time defending Class 4A state champion and rival Severna Park.

The host Bruins scored six unanswered goals and received a pair from both senior **Ryan Salazar** and junior attacker **Tanner Boone** as they stayed a perfect 12-0.

Junior faceoff specialist **Graham Hartman** won 14 of 18 to play a key role in the win.

"It was a pretty important win and something to feel really good about," Broadneck coach **Jeff McGuire** said.

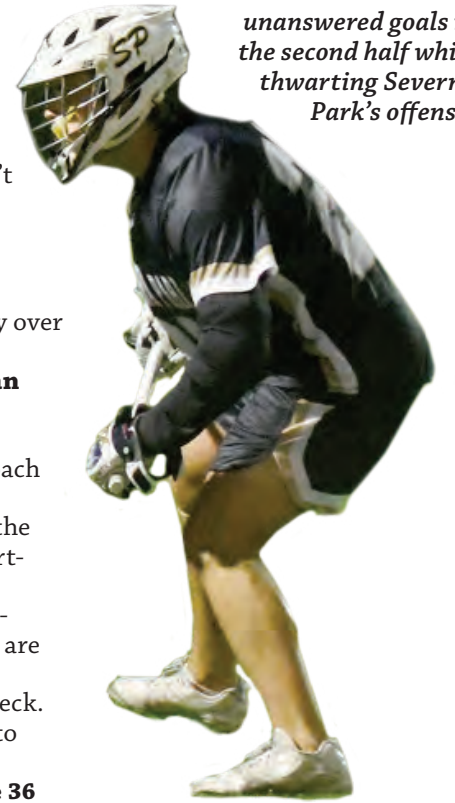
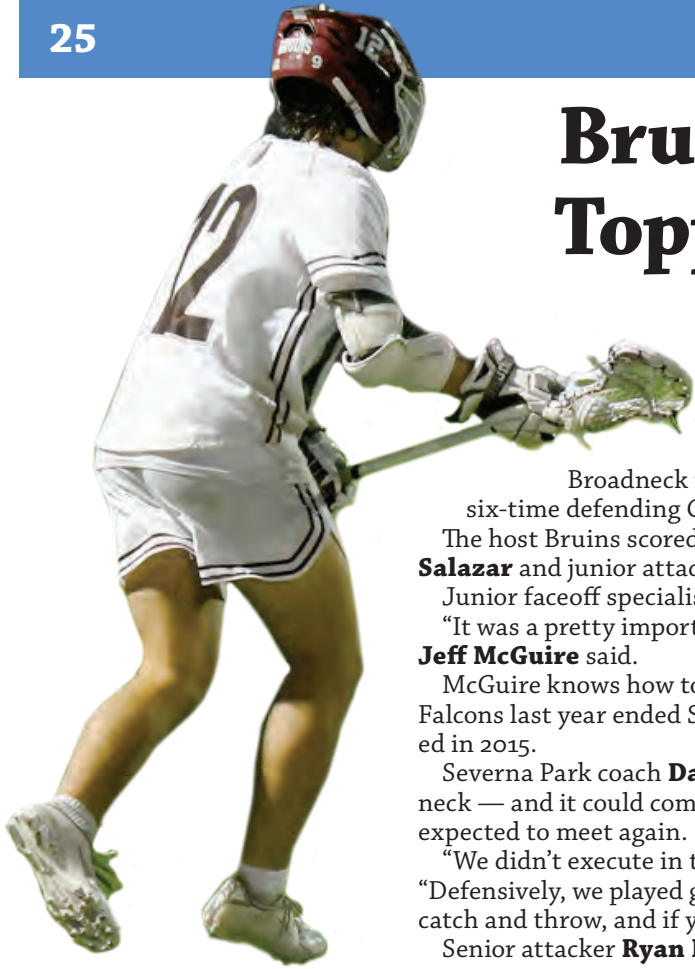
McGuire knows how tough it can be to beat Severna Park (9-3). Broadneck's win over the Falcons last year ended Severna Park's 12-game winning streak over the Bruins that started in 2015.

Severna Park coach **Dave Earl** and his players would love to get another shot at Broadneck — and it could come in the county championship game on May 8 when both teams are expected to meet again.

"We didn't execute in the second half," said Earl, referring to his team's loss to Broadneck. "Defensively, we played great in the first half, but got away from some things. You have to catch and throw, and if you don't, you are not going to win games."

Senior attacker **Ryan LaRocque** led Severna Park

» Continued on page 36



Photos by Victor Raspa
Broadneck notched six unanswered goals in the second half while thwarting Severna Park's offense.

Severna Park Girls Lacrosse Edges Broadneck

By Tom Worgo

Never get comfortable with a lead on defending Class 4A state champion Broadneck.

That's the lesson Severna Park coach **Annie Houghton** learned on April 28 after the Bruins rallied from a four-goal deficit in the fourth quarter.

But Houghton had an answer to slow down Broadneck's momentum: play keep away.

Severna Park (9-3) held the ball for the last three minutes on the perimeter deep in Bruins' territory and ran that time off the clock to hold on for an 8-7 victory over the squad's neighborhood rival.

"We are up by one. Some people think, 'Oh, score another one,'" Houghton said. "But it brings you to another draw. It's better to hold on to it until the buzzer goes off."

Alyssa Chung led Severna Park with four goals and two assists, teammate **Charlotte Diez** totaled three goals and two assists, **Maria Bragg** had a goal and **Stella Bordone** added an assist.

Olivia Orso paced Broadneck (8-4) with three goals. Her classmate, **Lilly Kelley**, scored two and **Lexi Dupcak** and **Lily Trout** finished with a goal apiece.

Severna Park goalie **Allison Schiavone** made 11 saves.

Severna Park led 8-4 with 13:30 remaining before the Bruins connected for three goals over the next 8:21. But neither team scored in the last five minutes.

After the Falcons close their regular season with games against Chesapeake and Arundel, they will turn their attention to the playoffs. The same goes for Broadneck, which will finish the regular season with matches against Old Mill and Southern.



Photos by Victor Raspa

Severna Park held off a fourth quarter surge by rival Broadneck to earn an 8-7 victory on April 28. The defending state champion Bruins erased a four-goal deficit but fell short as the Falcons held the ball for the final three minutes to run down the clock.



Park Invite Showcases Track And Field Athletes

Photos courtesy of Naptown Studios

Below Left: Audrey Denton won the girls 5000-meter run. **Below Center:** Kylee Jenish, Cameron Glebocki, Sarah Kelly and Lexi Ensor all smiled after winning the girls 4x800 meter relay. **Below Right:** The boys won their 4x800 meter relay, with a team comprised of Liam Hagerty, Christopher Nunn, Cody Smith and Brooks Steppe.



Severna Park had a strong showing at the Park Invite from April 14-15. Although day two was cut short due to lightning, several of the Falcons athletes enjoyed competing against kids from more than 50 schools on their home track.

On day one, **Kathryn Murphy** took first in the 1600-meter run for freshmen and sophomores (5:31.52), followed by teammate **Natalie Bowman** (5:32.67). **Jocelyn DiAngelo** (5:47.25) and **Lila Sandel** (5:47.44) came in fourth and fifth, respect-

fully. **Audrey Denton** won the girls 5000-meter run (19:02.65).

Christopher Nunn earned second place in the boys 5000-meter run (15:31.34). **Lexi Ensor** took second in the girls one-mile run (5:08.08) and the girls 1600-meter run (5:06.53).

The team of **Alaina Kiefer, Andrew Glesmann, Kasey Thompson** and **Alexander Abboud** came in third place for mixed shuttle hurdle varsity (1:15.21).

Day two was also full of stellar moments for

Severna Park.

The team of **Sarah Kelly, Kylee Jenish, Lexi Ensor** and **Cameron Glebocki** won the girls 4x800 meter relay for varsity (9:36.45). The boys won their 4x800 meter relay too, with a team comprised of **Liam Hagerty, Christopher Nunn, Cody Smith** and **Brooks Steppe** (8:08.07).

In the boys 1600-meter run, **Sean Sullivan** came in third place (4:27.17). **Aaron Morris** earned third place in triple jump.



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Bruins, Falcons Jockey For Position Atop County Baseball Standings

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Broadneck, Severna Park and North County are in a three-way race for two spots in this year's baseball county championship game and only a few games remain to decide which two will earn a chance for bragging rights heading into the playoffs.

The Bruins made a statement April 19 by beating the Falcons 8-7. With that, they avenged an 11-3 loss to the Falcons earlier in the season and snapped Severna Park's 12-game win streak.

With clutch hits and loud support from fans of both teams, the rivalry game was chock full of playoff-like moments.

After Severna Park's **Nathan Clarke** smashed a two-run home run in the bottom of the seventh inning to tie the game at 7-7, Broadneck answered in the eighth inning as **Zach Palmer** hit an RBI single up the middle to score the go-ahead run.

Broadneck varsity baseball head coach **Matt Skrenchuk** said his team, full of younger players, was nervous in the first game between the teams but did not back down this time.

"Yes, Severna Park is a great team, and when they claw back in, you can obviously lose confidence in yourself," he said, "but those guys didn't. They believed that they could still win, and they found a way to win."

Sophomore **Noah Forman** had a timely hit in that game with a three-run home run, and **Nick Cicale** added a two-run bomb.

Despite being a young team, the Bruins have learned to stay poised.

"I think the team has been so successful this year because we have had a lot of people step up and take charge after losing almost a full lineup of seniors last year," Forman said. "We also have great resilience."



Photo by Zach Sparks

Nick Cicale crossed home plate after hitting a two-run home run for Broadneck in the sixth inning against Severna Park.

gatherings after every practice, and it has paid off on the field.

His team continued their dominance with a 5-2 win over Old Mill, a 19-1 victory against Meade and a 2-0 shutout over Southern.

Forman pitched a complete game against Old Mill and got support from the offense, led by Cicale's three hits and two RBIs. Senior **Sean Murphy** and junior **Devin McGowan** each added a hit and one RBI.

Against Meade, eight of the team's runs were driven in by McGowan (five RBIs) and senior **Jack Barber** (three RBIs).

Broadneck shut out Southern behind a complete game from Murphy, who notched the 17th win of his career, a school record. He also contributed to his cause with two hits.

The Bruins then suffered a minor setback with a 10-4 loss to North County.

"We may have lost last night, but it humbled us in a way and the fire to win is stronger than ever," Cicale said after the loss. "We never give up. We're never out of a game."

The Bruins entered May with a 13-2 record and are confident they can regain their form as long as they stay focused.

"We've had a lot of success and we can't let that distract us from the final goal," Murphy said. "My job is to just continue to perform and keep the rest of the guys working day in and day out."

Read the full story online.

Baseball Team Commemorates Anniversary Of School's First State Championship

By Judy Tacyn

Joe Cannon Stadium, the longtime site for Maryland's high school boys baseball playoffs, is less than 10 miles from Severna Park High School, but for the 2002 Severna Park varsity baseball team that had just lost a tight 2-1 contest to South Carroll High School in the state semifinals, the ride home must have felt like an eternity. Even the hum of the bus engine and tires rumbling along the highway didn't break the silence the players had in their heads. No one spoke. No one had to. This one hurt. Bad.

Junior pitcher **Ryan Doot** was on the mound. South Carroll scored twice in the first inning; Severna Park scored once. The rest of the game was a pitcher's duel with neither team wanting to flinch. Neither did and South Carroll went to the championship game. South Carroll was ultimately crowned a state champion in 2002.

First baseman **Alex Vitale**, who was a junior, recalls the final gathering of that team.

"We had our final team meeting, put our equipment away and turned in our jerseys," Vitale said. "I think all of the juniors felt really bad for the seniors, but we (the juniors) huddled together and collectively said, 'We are not going to do this again.' We knew we'd be back."

The core of the team immediately went

into the summer playing together on the American Legion Post 175 senior team.

Jim McCandless was the head coach of both the varsity Falcons and the American Legion team. He made sure the team channeled the frustration of the close loss into tenaciousness on the field and fueled the players' "team first" mentality.

The 2003 spring season went almost to plan. The 15-3 Falcons came up short to the 13-3 Old Mill Patriots in the Anne Arundel County championship on May 8, 2003, losing 2-1. Another close loss for the Falcons, who were more focused than ever to bring home the state championship.

The Falcons cruised through regionals by beating Wilde Lake and Mount Hebron before a pivotal play against River Hill by a sophomore starter kept their playoff hopes alive on May 17, 2003. The Falcons were up 1-0 in the top of the seventh inning when River Hill first baseman roped a bullet over **Andrew Ferris'** head in left field. Though he had practiced using a cutoff man hundreds of times, Ferris barehanded the ball that one-hopped off the fence and fired a missile perfectly into the glove of **Greg Drenning**, covering second. The River Hill player had expected a standup double, but instead was met with an easy tag. The Falcons got two more outs to earn the 3A East region championship.

"It was one of those do-or-die situa-



The 2003 state champion Falcons (L-R): (standing) assistant coach **Charlie Becker**, assistant coach **Scott Rager**, **Nate Hall**, **Ryan Doot**, **Matt Wyble**, **Alex Vitale** and head coach **Jim McCandless**, (sitting) bat boy **Corey Jensen**, **Andrew Jensen**, **Dan Schmuck**, **Tommy Howell**, **Greg Drenning** and **Mike Zimmerman**.

tions," Ferris remembered. "There was no time for the cutoff, so I fired it as hard as I could and luckily it was right on."

To get to the state championship, Severna Park would have to face a familiar opponent — South Carroll. After the season's daily reminders that South Carroll beat them just a year before and won the state championship, the Falcons were ready for the rematch. This year, the ride home from Joe Cannon would be different. The Falcons unloaded on South Carroll with six runs in the first two innings, totaling 11 hits and five doubles in a 9-3 rout.

The 20-4 Falcons squared off against the 10-12 Patuxent on May 28, 2003, and came up on top 7-1 to capture the school's first state championship. In a feat that can only be tied, never broken, Doot (two) and Howell (three) pitched five complete

playoff games for the Falcons.

After the season, pitcher **Tom Howell** and first baseman Vitale earned All-County honors, while Wyble, and outfielders **Andrew Ferris** and **Andrew Jensen** earned second team All-County honors. Vitale would ultimately be named Player of the Year, McCandless Coach of the Year, and Howell first team. Ferris and Doot earned second team. Vitale ended his senior season with a staggering .574 batting average, the third-highest in the state.

"[The coaches] knew that team was special," said former assistant coach **Charlie Becker**. "They were good in 2002, but that loss to South Carroll made them mentally stronger, and that's what took them to the next level. They wanted it for each other."

The Falcons captured their second state championship in 2005.

Read the full story online.

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Bruins Beat Severna Park For Second Time This Season

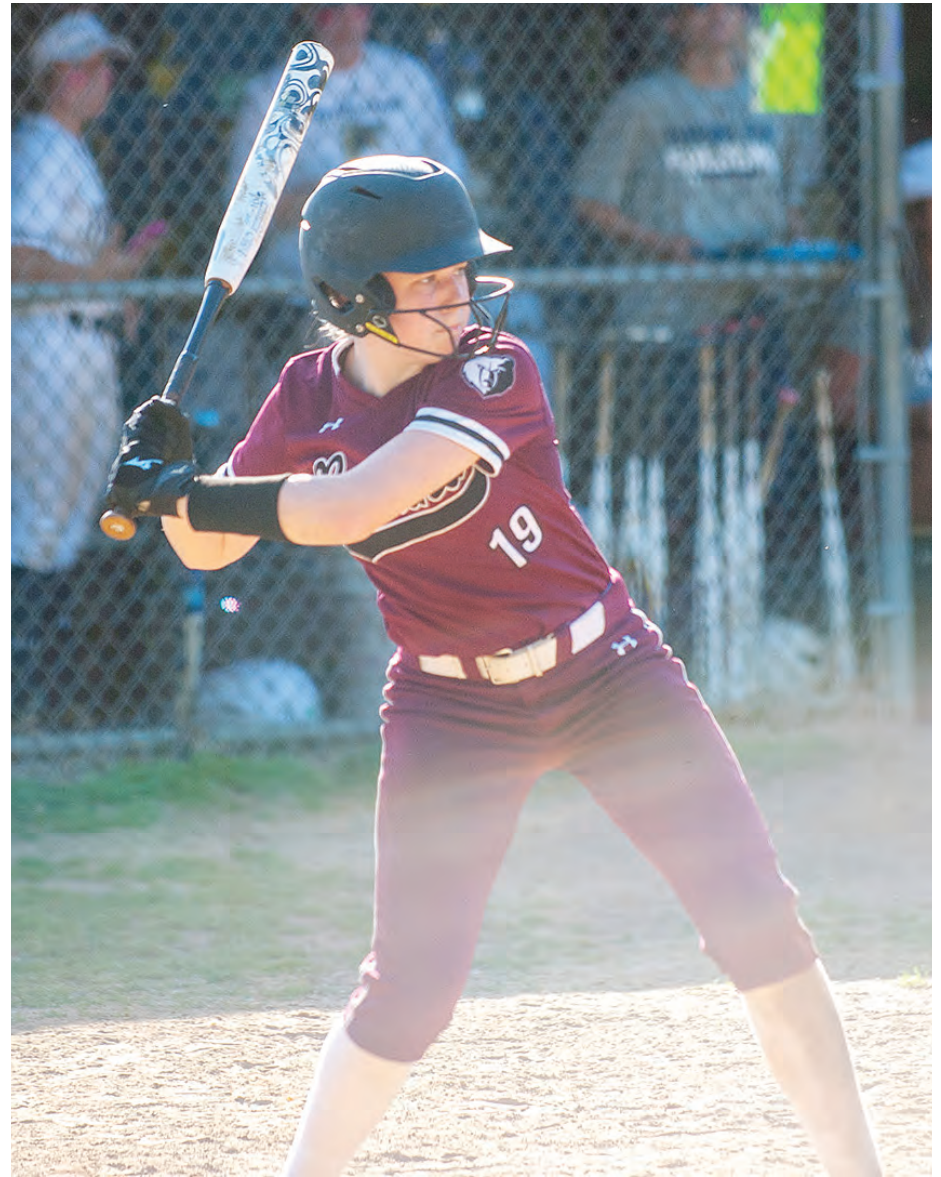


Photo by Zach Sparks

Abby Favazza had a double and a run scored in Broadneck's win over Severna Park.

Both Teams Add To Win Total Prior To Playoffs

In a back-and-forth game, Broadneck's softball squad was able to pull away from rival Severna Park to win on the road, 5-3, April 19.

Senior **Addi Hurst** led the Bruins with four RBIs, including a two-run home run. **Allie Weibley** hit two doubles, and **Abby Favazza** and **Sam Waters** each hit one as well.

Bella Herrera got the Bruins on the board with a RBI in the second inning, driving Favazza home. **Malayna Owens** made two great plays in right field. In the first inning, she made a diving catch, and then in the sixth inning, she made a putout at first base on a line drive, thwarting a potential Severna Park rally.

Favazza, the team's catcher, and shortstop **Mara Gilkey** combined for yet another out at second as a runner tried to steal in the third inning.

In the fourth inning, Herrera snagged a line drive and doubled off the runner at second with a throw to Waters at second base.

Pitcher **Hailey Adamson** went four innings with five strikeouts and three runs scored. Waters relieved her in the fifth inning, striking out

three and allowing no runs.

Following that game, the Bruins continued their strong play during a five-game win streak. They enjoyed a 10-2 win over Old Mill, a 26-7 victory over Meade, a 12-2 win over Southern and a 6-2 victory over North County to bring their record to 10-8 as of late April.

The Old Mill game came on senior night. **Julia Kouhi** walked three times and had a single. Hurst walked twice, singled and doubled to finish with three RBIs. **Adrianna Compofelice** had three hits. **Sam Sprouse** walked four times and had three stolen bases. Weibley hit a three-run inside-the-park home run. **Lily Kisling** led the team with six RBIs.

Severna Park won their next matchup, 19-5 over South River, before losing 4-1 to Crofton and 10-0 to Northeast. The Falcons dropped to 8-7 as of late April.

Savannah Drummond's five hits led Severna Park during the win over South River, and the team exploded in the seventh inning with eight runs. Drummond, **Alexa Jimeno**, **Addison Bianco**, **Austyn Lundfelt** and **Skyla Hailey** all had multiple hits.

Both teams look to finish the regular season strong from now through May 5.

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



MICHAEL CARPARELLI

SEVERNA PARK HIGH SCHOOL
BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

After moving to Severna Park in the fourth grade, **Michael Carparelli** learned that his former league was representing Rhode Island in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

While he may have missed out on that opportunity, he's making memories this year with the

“Playing baseball allows me to build great friendships and make memories, which last a lifetime. I also enjoy how it makes me feel mentally. It’s a simple game with a lot of strategy involved, and you really need to stay focused at all times because anything can happen. I’m very grateful to be part of such a winning program, and the teammates I have on this team are very supportive of each other.”

— MICHAEL CARPARELLI

Falcons baseball team.

The senior outfielder has provided a spark for the Severna Park offense this year. Through his first 10 games, he batted .414 with three home runs, 11 RBIs, a .433 on-base percentage and only three strikeouts in 31 plate appearances. He emerged early in the season, driving in eight runs against Mount St. Joseph during a game in March.

When he’s not on the field, he is in the dugout, supporting his teammates and leading by example.

“He just comes to work every day and does everything on and off the field,” said **Eric Milton**, head coach of Severna Park’s varsity baseball team. “I had a conversation with him today [before the Broadneck game in April] because he was playing the field but didn’t get to hit. I DH’d for him. And he’s like, ‘Whatever you need, coach.’ That’s the kind of kid he is. Just a great teammate and great kid.”

Not only is he selfless, but he exudes confidence and instills that in others.

“I tend to be very vocal on the field when it comes to helping my teammates make plays, as well as

uplifting them after mistakes,” Carparelli said. “My brother, [Nick], who also played on the team, was also very vocal and always shared his opinions with teammates. I liked that, and sort of adopted it.”

Carparelli also spent four years playing basketball, with the last two as a guard on the varsity team.

“Playing basketball was what I did most of the time outside of school, although I have become more passionate about baseball this year because of the success we are having as a team,” he said.

That passion is not just evident by wins and losses. He wants to cherish the experiences along the way.

“Playing baseball allows me to build great friendships and make memories, which last a lifetime,” Carparelli said. “I also enjoy how it makes me feel mentally. It’s a simple game with a lot of strategy involved, and you really need to stay focused at all times because anything can happen. I’m very grateful to be part of such a winning program, and the teammates I have on this team are very supportive of each other.”

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Coaches Creatively Communicate With Student-Athletes Regarding Mental Health

Use Array Of Methods To “Check-In” With Athletes

By Kevin Murnane

Today’s student-athletes have a full-schedule, more pressure, and the effects of social media compared to athletes of previous generations.

To begin to assist with coping with those mental health issues, high school coaches are now using an array of communication skills to help athletes handle the rigors of juggling school and sport aside from physically preparing them for practice and games.

“At Broadneck, we use a multitude of methods to stay in touch with our players,” said head girls lacrosse coach **Katy Kelley**. “We have the players use ‘journaling’ as a method to write down their feelings and fears throughout the week and they share those feelings with other players and coaches.”

One of the new methods that Broadneck has utilized is forming a Morgan’s Message club at the Cape St. Claire campus. Morgan’s Message Foundation was formed after a Duke lacrosse player, Morgan Rodgers, committed suicide in 2019. After a horrific knee injury sidelined her from playing, Rodgers felt that she had lost touch with her teammates and felt she was not contributing to the team, which led to severe depression. The foundation wants to expand dialogue for those who suffer in silence and support those

who feel alone.

“We had 81 students attend our recent Morgan Message meeting and it’s one of the ways we are listening to the concerns and anxieties of today’s athletes,” said coach Kelley.

At Severn School, head girls lacrosse coach **Kathy Rudkin** uses a multitude of approaches to ensure her players have an outlet for any mental health concerns.

“I’m a big mental health advocate, and all of my coaches continuously talk to the players regarding the pressures they are facing and provide advice on how to handle those pressures that come with being a student-athlete and teenager,” Rudkin said.

Severn School’s athletes also use journaling to reflect on their feelings and concerns throughout the week as well as after games.

“We like to use instant positive reaction (IPRs) throughout practice, games and the day after the games,” Rudkin said. “We also use many team-building methods so the players have a support group within the team.”

Rudkin, who had a notable collegiate career at Syracuse and Maryland, knows the values of team chemistry and making sure the players have fun on and off the field.

The lady Admirals enjoy a bevy of fun-

themed events to keep the team close-knit and make sure everyone is included. Some of those activities are team dinners, dance parties, going to universities to watch college lacrosse games, as well as adopting a community service project to do together.

“The girls love music and honestly enjoy each other’s company no matter what we are doing,” Rudkin said.

Music also strikes a note with the Broadneck team as they use music before and after practice and games to reduce stress and keep the excitement of being in a competitive environment.

“We try to have fun, but we know there’s a serious side of practice and games,” said senior midfielder **Lilly Kelley**.

Junior **Susanna Moore** likes to lead her teammates on a walk before the game and pray.

“You don’t have to be religious, but it’s another way to build camaraderie and support your teammates before a game,” Moore said.

Also, the coaches and senior players know that the junior year of high school is the most challenging and that is also the year that college recruiters begin their communication with top athletes.

“There’s a lot of expectations of students getting into a university and main-

taining a high grade point average (GPA), but it’s so good to have senior players give you advice as well as the coaches and how to handle recruiting on top of school and sports,” Moore said.

The Maryland legislature developed House Bill 375 this year to have the Maryland Higher Education Commission establish guidelines to train coaches and to recognize indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in athletes.

The bill was passed by the House chambers but was in Senate hearings before this legislative session expired.

“One of the great aspects of my coaching staff is that we all are Broadneck alumni and know how important it is to have an in-house support system,” said coach Kelley. “We have really helped our athletes who may have had concerns with low self-esteem, anxiety and depression issues.”

Severna Park High School’s varsity softball squad competed in April at the Harwood, Maryland-based Southern High School in a game that aimed to raise mental health awareness for female athletes.

Just last year, headlines of female college athletes taking their own lives scrolled across news tickers, including James Madison University softball player Lauren Bennett.

The Severna Park and Southern players said the goal of their April game was not just to compete but to also share the bond of softball and their support for each other. The squads wore matching shirts with green ribbons. Players gave each other gifts to remind them that they’re not alone.

Read the full story online.

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High School Tennis Season Gets Underway

By Tom Worgo

SEVERNA PARK

The Severna Park varsity tennis team does the same thing over and over each season: win championships.

The Falcons are just so hard to beat. They've lost only one county match over the past decade.

More importantly, Severna Park has captured 10 straight county team titles and four of the past five regional crowns.

The caliber of this year's squad appears to be on par or even better than all the previous championship teams.

And good luck finding a weakness on the 2023 Falcons. They feature nine seniors along with a slew of blossoming underclassmen.

"What sets this team apart is the mix of outstanding seniors and a talented group of freshmen," Severna Park coach **Mark Bieberich** said.

Falcons assistant coach **Emily Bear** said a feeder system and the players' work ethic help make Severna Park a powerhouse.

"Chartwell [Golf & Country Club] and Sport Fit Bowie really turn out some good players for us," Bear explained. "We have a really good feeder community. And there's a great camaraderie among our players. They want to get better. They work together in the offseason, and we really encourage that all year round."

It's not every year that Severna Park gets such a talented trio of players like seniors **Lucas Fuhrmann**, **Chris Preston** and **Charlie Herman**.

Preston won the No. 1 regional singles

title last year and Fuhrman beat Herman for the county No. 1 singles championship.

They're good in doubles, too. Fuhrmann and Herman own the last two No. 1 regional doubles crowns.

The trio is eager to continue its success in the county tournament, which starts May 9.

"They are great leaders and set the example for the rest of the team," Bieberich said.

Bieberich is particularly impressed with Fuhrmann.

"You look at all the tennis players in the county," the coach explained. "I can't think of any that love tennis as much as Lucas or who works as hard as he does at his game."

Junior **Kiran Spencer** is another standout doubles player.

Freshmen **Gavin Gerard** and **Ty Maddox** and seniors **Nick Patrick** and **Max Rossmark** offer excellent depth.

Sophomore **Carys Preston** leads the girls team. She finished as county runner-up last year and is poised for county and regional success this spring.

"She is the only girl who plays year-round on our team," Bear said. "Her improvement from year to year has shown because of that."

Sophomore **Kaiya Norton** and senior **Lylah Mudd** support Preston in the lineup.

BROADNECK

For the Bruins, there's sophomore **Olivia Mellynychuk** and the rest of the team.

The 5-foot-2 Mellynychuk just dominat-

ed last year. She didn't lose a game or set on her way to No. 1 singles county and regional titles.

She finished the season with her only loss coming in the Class 4A state championship match.

Mellynychuk, whose sister Vanessa, a South River graduate, plays at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is primed to return to the state tournament and win it this time. She's 24-1 over the past two seasons.

"She will definitely be playing Division I in college," Broadneck tennis coach **Kathy Perrotta** said of a player ranked 125th in the country in her age group. "She has a powerful serve, is very focused and can get a player moving side to side with shots in each corner."

Clearly, the girls team is Broadneck's strength. Seniors **Elicia Aponte** and **Rebecca Terry** prevailed in the county doubles championship match in 2022.

Other standouts include No. 2 singles player **Natalie Hosie** and two freshmen doubles players, **Anissa Jean-Claude** and **Hadley Crooks**.

Two foreign exchange players, senior **Zoe Pierriuse** and junior **Malaika Latif**, gave the team a boost.

Broadneck is also good in mixed doubles with Aponte and junior **Charlie Ernst** capturing a regional title last season.

On the boys side, senior **Gustav Kemp** (No. 1 singles), Ernst (No. 2 singles) and the freshmen No. 1 doubles team of **Ryan Sar** and **Koa Hamilton** highlight the squad.

Falcons Girls Lax Team Hosts Green Hornets



Photo courtesy of Allyson Wagner

About 50 Green Hornets girls lacrosse players attended a Severna Park High School varsity game against Crofton on April 19 during Wish Week. The first 12 Green Hornets who registered were able to join the Severna Park team on the field to have their names announced with the starting lineup. "Nights like these have such a powerful impact on the community and really encourage a healthy relationship between our high school and the Green Hornets organization," said Severna Park varsity girls lacrosse head coach **Annie Houghton**. "It was a positive experience for our players and the younger players alike."

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College Football Recruiters Have Discovered Anne Arundel County

By Kevin Murnane

Anne Arundel County has always been known as a hotbed for collegiate lacrosse recruiters.

Now, in addition to lacrosse recruiters, national collegiate football powerhouses have discovered future football stars in Anne Arundel.

In the last few football seasons, Archbishop Spalding has sent many football players to major colleges including Maryland, Penn State and Virginia Tech.

Currently, the Cavaliers boast of having two rising players who have attracted prestigious perennial powerhouses in senior linebacker **Keyshawn Flowers** and junior quarterback **Malik Washington**.

Spalding is coming off winning the MIAA A Division championship. Additionally, playing a competitive regional schedule has placed the spotlight on their program with national recruiters. Programs from the Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and Big Ten have all contacted head coach **Kyle Schmitt** since that championship game.

It was in the MIAA championship game that Flowers became a revelation to recruiters as he repeatedly was in Calvert Hall's backfield and disrupted any offensive rhythm that the Cardinals were trying to establish.

Since then, Flowers has been inundated with messages from colleges

including the University of Miami, Notre Dame, USC, Virginia, Virginia Tech and Maryland.

"It's a blessing and humbling to be recruited by so many great schools," Flowers said. "But I know I have plenty of work to do."

Flowers also said he's his own biggest critic and is out to prove something this season.

"My defensive coordinator, **Tyrone Forby**, hopes I choose a college before the season and that will be a big weight off my shoulders," Flowers said.

Washington, Flowers' teammate and rising junior quarterback prospect, has heard from numerous football powerhouses, but Washington's official recruiting doesn't start until September 1.

"Our first game is August 25, so I'll get one game under my belt before the colleges really begin the recruiting process," Washington said.

That process, according to many local coaches and players, is an intense one.

"September 1 is a stressful day, and for the coaches, it's one of the toughest days as you begin to have an avalanche of emails and texts," said Broadneck High School girls lacrosse coach **Katy Kelley**. "I've received over 50 emails in a week regarding my players. As a coach, you really need to sit down with the players and provide realistic expectations of this rigorous process."

Severn School's lacrosse coach

Kathy Rudkin described it as "pretty crazy."

"I was recruited as a three-sport athlete, so I can provide my players some insight and guidance on how to handle the outpouring of information."

Most coaches will inform their players to choose a college that the player would be comfortable at without athletics, as well as be at ease with the size of the campus, location, and if the school's academics are aligned with the player's future goals.

Recruiting for lacrosse and other sports are different from football due to the exposure of club teams during the summer. College coaches have more time to recruit during that time and invite players to their camps and visit their club teams.

"Football is probably the only sport that the college coaches still have to go through the high school coaches to set up visits and gain valuable information on the player," Schmitt said. "The weeks and days prior to December's National Signing Day, I'll have 16 or 17 coaches per day come in and want to speak with my players."

Schmitt, who was recruited by colleges as an offensive lineman before he chose Maryland, acts as a guide to his players and guards against overexposure from college coaches.

Schmitt will also evaluate the college recruiters when they come onto Spalding's campus and make sure they

are honest, trustworthy and respectful of his player's time.

Also new to college recruiting is the Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) practices. NIL is where college athletes can receive compensation when their name, image and likeness are used in marketing and outreach efforts.

"I think NIL will play a role in recruiting, but it is evolving on a daily basis," Schmitt said. "I advise my players to choose a college that meets you and your family's criteria. I still believe that location is one of the main drivers in many of those decisions."

Schmitt and his assistant coaches have dramatically improved Spalding's football program to one that has received national exposure, and Washington aims to receive a multitude of offers.

Washington is an athletic 6-foot-4-inch quarterback with a rocket arm. He is also a standout basketball player.

"We as coaches make sure the players have all the information they need," Schmitt said. "It's not my college experience, and I had my recruiting process 23 years ago. Recruiting has dramatically changed in that time period."

Washington and Flowers will continue to visit campuses in the next few months.

As to Washington's plans on September 1, "I think I will turn off my phone and just get back to everyone the next day," Washington said.

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Hot Streak Has Severn Boys Lacrosse Poised For Playoffs

By Tom Worgo

There are two records of significance to Severn School boys lacrosse **Joe Christie** concerning his team.

For one, Christie loves the Admirals' sizzling 8-0 start, which included blowouts over Collegiate School of Richmond, Catholic High School of Virginia Beach and Crofton High School.

It's Severn's best start since 2012.

"We have huge expectations for this team," Christie said. "We are deeper than we have ever been. We have a big senior class with 21 and some other players that have been on the varsity since they were freshman. They're super focused on this season."

The other record that encourages Christie: Severn's 3-3 mark in the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland A Conference.

It's considered one of the best leagues in the country, if not the best.

USA Lacrosse Magazine ranks five teams from the conference in its national boys lacrosse poll, including McDonogh, Loyola Blakefield, Boys' Latin, Calvert Hall and St. Mary's.

A winning record in the league would mean a lot to Christie, a seventh-year coach, and his players. It would probably be enough to get the Admirals into the playoffs.

"Depending on who you talk to, it's either number one or two in the country," said Christie, whose team is 12-4 overall. "If you look at the Division I college commitments coming out of these programs, it's pretty ridiculous."

One league game looks large for the Severn players. The Admirals host heated rival St. Mary's on May 7 at 4:00pm.

Christie has a 4-2 record versus the Saints during his coaching tenure, including a one-goal loss last year and an overtime win in 2021.

"This is a game I have been dreaming about since I came to Severn in the sixth grade," Severn senior attacker **Trey Dring** recalled. "There's a possibility the St. Mary's game could decide

if we go to play in the playoffs or not. It's been building to a climax over the past few years."

Severn had success against another rival, visiting Severna Park, and beat the defending Class 4A state champions, 8-5, in early April. Admirals' senior **Jacob Todd**, who is headed to Princeton to play lacrosse, totaled a goal and three assists and teammate **William Perez** made 15 saves.

Perez, who will play at the Naval Academy next season, is one of Severn's best players. He is a three-year starter.

"He is so good at stopping the ball and has really good vision," Christie said. "He is probably the best goalie I've had here in seven years."

Perez gets plenty of support when he's on the field. As of late April, Severn was averaging 13 goals a game with leading scorer Dring (45 goals, five assists) and Todd (34 goals) spearheading the offense.

Christie is especially impressed with Dring. He had 28 goals and 10 assists last year.

"His offseason and transformation physically from junior to senior year was a testament to his work ethic," the coach said of Dring, who is committed to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. "He came back bigger and faster."

The scorers are getting fed by a midfield that includes seniors **Chase Hallam**, **Nick Sotiropoulos** (Hobart) and **Andrew Beard** (Penn State) and sophomore **Tanner Huber**.

The Admirals hope the high scoring keeps up — especially with Calvert Hall and Loyola Blakefield on the schedule ahead of St. Mary's.

"We have a chemistry that has really been unmatched and coach Christie has mentioned that to us," Dring said. "It seems to be a case where all eyes are on us. I think we have extra pressure. Everybody has been talking about how this is Severn's year to possibly take it all."

Spalding, Severn Reach Midpoint Of Girls Lax Season

By Tom Worgo

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Warning to the rest of the Baltimore-area girls lacrosse teams: Archbishop Spalding is Archbishop Spalding again.

For those who might have doubted how soon the Cavaliers could be legitimate contenders in the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) A Conference, coach **Tara Shea** has a three-word answer: eight returning starters.

Most of those will be playing Division I college lacrosse.

"We have had a lot of great teams at Spalding over the years," said Shea, who is in her 10th season as head coach. "This team went into the season as high as they could nationally as far as Spalding teams. We were number six in the country."

The Cavaliers got off to a respectable 11-4 start, having lost to powerhouse McDonogh School, two-time defending league champion St. Paul's School for girls, Glenelg and Maryvale Preparatory School.

"We came out of those losses learning a lot about ourselves," Shea explained. "That will definitely help us for the rest of the year."

Spalding's midfield of senior **Allyson Keith** (Cincinnati), sophomore **Maeve Cavanaugh** and junior **Gabrielle Greene** (Florida) and the defense of juniors **Claire McGuire**, **Carolyn Ross** (New Hampshire) and **Madison Wrenn** (Clemson) can compete evenly with any league team. Each unit returned three starters.

Cavanaugh takes most of the draws with support coming from Greene. They rank as the team's leading scorers.

"We have a lot of depth there," Shea said of her midfield.

The Cavaliers are also getting strong play from senior goalie **Colleen Bernardino** (Temple), a two-year starter who is one of four netminders

on the roster, and junior attacker **Lily Mullen** (Cornell).

Shea is particularly impressed with Bernardino.

"She is the anchor of our defense and consistently making great saves for us," the coach said.

Spalding lost in the league quarterfinals last year. That wasn't acceptable for the Cavaliers, and they are motivated to do much more in the postseason, which starts in early May.

"Last year's team laid the groundwork to gain some national recognition for this team," said Shea, whose team went 12-4 last year. "They put the team back on the map. We have all the tools we need."

SEVERN SCHOOL

Severn coach **Kathy Rudkin** gets excited when talking about her team's five wins — and a little about their loss to nationally-ranked and heated rival Spalding.

The Admirals opened the season with a thrilling 12-10 victory over Holton-Arms School of Bethesda in mid-March.

Severn — which has nine seniors on the roster — staged a dramatic rally to prevail.

"We had a gritty comeback, and it really showed we have that strength and ability to do that," Rudkin said.

In late March, Severn opened IAAM A Conference play with a 10-5 triumph over Mount de Sales of Catonsville.

The Admirals lost a 10-7 decision to the Cavaliers in Severna Park in late March. Rudkin sees the positives in the outcome.

"We only lost by three," the coach pointed out. "They are regarded as one of the better teams in our conference. They are the best team in the county."

Now for the bad news. Severn lost games to McDonogh, Bryn Mawr, John Carroll, Roland Park and other schools to make their record 5-10 heading into May.

Bruins Boys Lacrosse Topples Rival

» Continued from page 25

with two goals, and teammates **Tucker Moran**, **Jack Fish**, **Nolan Grizzle** and **Andrew Myers** scored a goal apiece.

The Falcons jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first quarter.

LaRocque got Severna Park rolling when he beat Bruins' senior **Colin Grey** (14 saves) with a low shot four minutes into play.

Grizzle capped the Falcons' flurry of goals by scoring on another low shot with 1:23 remaining on a man-up situation.

"We were running the offense well," Earl said. "We were taking advantage of the proper matchups. We were shooting well and flying around and shooting the ball well. When you do that, things open up for you."

Broadneck managed to cut the

lead to 5-2 — the halftime score — late in the second quarter as **Austin Combs** fired a shot past Grey as he fell to the ground.

The Bruins owned the second half, outscoring the visitors 7-1.

Broadneck notched six unanswered goals in the half and Boone made it 6-6 late in the third quarter, scoring on a back-handed shot.

Salazar recorded the game-winning goal midway through the final quarter to make it 7-6 on a feed from **Landon Zawartka**.

Boone and **Ryan Della** added insurance goals in the closing minutes to help Broadneck prevail.

"All the games that we have played leading up to this have prepared us for this game," McGuire said. "We were down to Catonsville by three goals at halftime and we came back to win. That helped us in that game."





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Oak Hill Students Showcase Pride Onstage



Above Right: During Oak Hill Elementary School's April production of "The Lion King JR." Kolbie Phillips, who played Simba, shined bright in her starring role. **Above Left:** Timon, played by Emerson Elliott, and Pumbaa, played by Matthew Little, had the audience smiling.

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

For two nights in April, "Hakuna Matata" echoed through the hallways at Oak Hill Elementary School in Severna Park.

Almost 70 fourth- and fifth-grade students, a slew of parental volunteers and an artistic team of Oak Hill educators put on a production of Disney's "The Lion King JR." on April 18 and 19.

Oak Hill's gym was complete with decor to resemble the plains of Africa, and the youngest audience members added to the effect by sporting animal-themed headbands that were sold at the concession stand.

From the opening "Circle of Life" tune to the final bows, the performers put on a show that the school staff hopes will linger in the students' minds far beyond the two nights.

"The magic you created onstage was created by your confidence and creativity," said Deneen Houghton, principal at Oak Hill, to the cast after the final show. "I can say, without hesitation, that this performance is going to be a memory for everyone when they think about Oak Hill, and I'm very, very proud of that."

One of many standout performances was delivered by 11-year-old Brenna Main, who portrayed Scar. Brenna's ability to present Scar's friendly façade, which masks evil intentions, showcased a talent and emotional depth that exceeds what one might expect from a fifth-grader.

"I love performing so much, it's so much fun," Brenna said.

The elementary school children also took on roles such as spotlight operators, set engineers, musical staff, prop and scene managers, and ensemble coordinators.

"We made the show happen, you know, and I just feel really happy being a part of that," said fifth-grade student and stage manager Jack Gorski.

Laila Bivens, a fifth-grade student

at Oak Hill, played Nala. It was Laila's first time being onstage — she hopes it isn't her last.

"I just like the costumes and the fun," Laila said. "I like watching other people perform also. It's so interesting being backstage."

Amanda Gorski, a first-grade teacher at Oak Hill, made her debut as a stage director for "The Lion King JR." Gorski said work on rehearsals, creating props and other production essentials began in January.

"Musicals offer an opportunity to work with students in a different element," Gorski said. "Seeing a student that is shy in class dance across the stage, or the student that is always doodling on paper create beautifully detailed masks and props is rewarding. We are very fortunate to have an administration and PTO that supports school musicals."

Nathan Peachey, a kid favorite around the school, served as the production's musical director. His last name gives a clue about how he felt following the two-night production run.

"This year was really remarkable," Peachey said. "They really put their hearts and souls into it."

Emerson Elliott, a fourth-grade student at Oak Hill, played Timon.

"It made me feel like happy, excited and important," said Emerson, while still sporting the perpetual smile that mirrored the grin she donned onstage.

Timon's best friend, Pumbaa, was played by fourth-grader Matthew Little. Matthew's first appearance in the production occurred when Simba, played by Kolbie Phillips, collapsed and Matthew's character was occupied with shooing away the birds.

While Peachey said next year's production is still being decided, there likely won't be a shortage of eager performers.

"I'm definitely doing this next year," Matthew said. "It doesn't matter what the play is."

Zhou And Falcon Chess Club Soaring

By Mark Patton

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Severna Park High School sophomore Matthew Zhou started his journey with chess at Folger McKinsey Elementary School. It was there that the 8-year-old Matthew got connected with the school's chess club.

The young Matthew's parents registered him for a chess tournament soon after.

"It was my first chess tournament, so I was pretty nervous," Matthew said. "I didn't perform that well, but then after seeing my results, I was like, 'OK, I'm not going to stop until I win one of these.'"

At the age of 12, he fulfilled that pledge with a tournament win. That victory cemented his love of chess.

Fast forward to the 16-year-old version of Matthew and there's more hardware on his mantle now. In April, Matthew was crowned champion of the inaugural Anne Arundel County Public Schools Chess Championship, where he held off Crofton High School's Dylan Snow in a hard-fought finals. Shortly after, he notched a 10th place finish — out of nearly 400 entries — in the Maryland State Scholastic Tournament, held in Damascus.

"I did think I would perform pretty well knowing that I've been playing chess for so long," Matthew said.

Although Matthew prioritizes school and homework, he said whatever free time he has, he likes to spend with the game.

"I do hope to see chess become more popular," Matthew said. "I believe with more mainstream media about chess such as "The Queen's Gambit," there will be another chess boom in the world, and hopefully further on. I believe chess is very beneficial to the mind and is one of many strategy games that improves a person's decision-making skills."

Matthew cites the hit-Netflix show, along with the timing of the pandemic, as sources of a renewed, and passionate, interest in chess.

One place Matthew likes seeing it become more popular is within his own school's hallways. The Chess Club at Severna Park High School meets during a period of time marked off for elective pursuits.

Chess Club sponsor and Severna Park High School educator Melissa Bertinatti oversees the eclectic mix of regulars and newbies who make up the club that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"I had a student who expressed an interest in organizing a club for chess — and I was happy to help," Bertinatti said. "Especially after COVID, I think we are all enthusiastic about promoting and supporting real-time, face-to-face interaction."

The benefits of utilizing chess in the classroom isn't a modern concept. In his 1786 article, titled "The Morals of Chess," Benjamin Franklin wrote that "life is a kind of chess" and touted the game's

» Continued on page 46



Severna Park High School sophomore Matthew Zhou studied the board during a Chess Club meeting.



SPHS freshman Kimora Turner enjoyed a game during a Chess Club meeting at the school April 20.



Joshua Felder, a junior at SPHS, contemplated his next move.

Student Work On Display



Anne Arundel County Public Schools, in partnership with Westfield Annapolis, is showcasing art from more than 3,000 emerging student visual artists from every school in the county.

The All-County Student Art Exhibit is slated to run through May 8. Artwork from high school and middle school students is displayed in the corridor between Macy's and Lush. Art from middle-schoolers is set up between the Container Store and JC Penny. High school and elementary student artwork is displayed in the corridor between Macy's and Lush.

The artwork is available for viewing from 10:00am-9:00pm daily.

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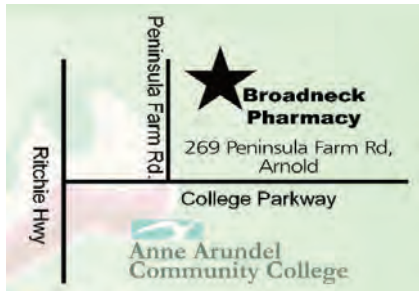


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Educator Of The Month

Crystal Loetz Broadneck High School



by two years at Severn River Middle School. She has taught at Broadneck High School since 2010, her alma mater where she graduated in 2000.

"Crystal Loetz is a dynamic and engaging educator who builds a home for students in her classroom," said Rachel Kennelly, principal at Broadneck High School. "She blends creativity with rigor and provides students with authentic experiences that enhance their knowledge of Spanish language."

When asked what her favorite part of teaching is, Loetz shared that it's the kids.

"They always have different adventures and successes that they share with me, from sports to music to drama and beyond," Loetz said. "I love being a part of their lives and watching them grow into wonderful young adults."

She said she always wants students to see how important knowing and using Spanish is in real life.

"I oftentimes use the example of my best friend who is a nurse in the hospital and how she needs [Spanish] on a daily basis," Loetz said. "I then ask my students to raise their hand if they have a relative in the medical field and you can see the shift in their minds of seeing this as 'just a class' to an important life skill that can be used in a future career."

Shelby Ledger, world languages department chair at Broadneck High School, shared how Loetz's positive energy and rapport with students is unparalleled.

"On a typical morning at Broadneck High School, it's common to find waves of students stopping by Mrs. Loetz's room to say 'hola' and chat about their lives," Ledger said.

Ledger also noted often hearing laughter and opportunities for friendly competition in Loetz's lessons.

Teaching isn't her only contribution to Broadneck High School. She's also the Japan Club advisor, traveling with students to Japan three times and Spain once.

Her students tell her these trips were some of the best memories they had in high school.

For Loetz, honesty isn't the only thing she prioritizes.

"To learn anything, you need to want to learn it, and you need to find the beauty in it as well," Loetz said.

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Crystal Loetz has a refreshing approach to teaching and relating to her students. Honesty.

For the Spanish teacher at Broadneck High School, foreign language didn't always come easy.

"In high school, many of my students are surprised to find out that I did not do well in Spanish," Loetz said.

The longtime educator — 17 years to be exact — tells her students that she struggled in much the same way they do and how everyone doesn't understand a foreign language right away.

"The reason I went into education with a foreign language focus is because I wanted to be the teacher that could tell my students, 'Yes, I know this is hard, but it was hard for me too at your age, and here is what worked for me,'" Loetz said.

It wasn't until Loetz went to college and truly understood the diverse cultures of the Spanish speakers that she was truly successful.

Loetz graduated from Mount St. Mary's University with an undergraduate degree in rhetoric and communications with a Spanish minor. Once she saw how much she loved teaching Spanish, she earned her Master of Arts degree in leadership in teaching at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Loetz began her career teaching at Magothy River Middle School for three years, followed

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Oak Hill Student Recognized For Patriotism Essay



Alice Nagle won an award for her essay that linked patriotism to family.

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Alice Nagle is a typical third-grader who enjoys playing with friends, jumping on the trampoline, swimming and perfecting ninja fighting techniques. Or, as her father, Tom Nagle, describes her — a kid of all kids.

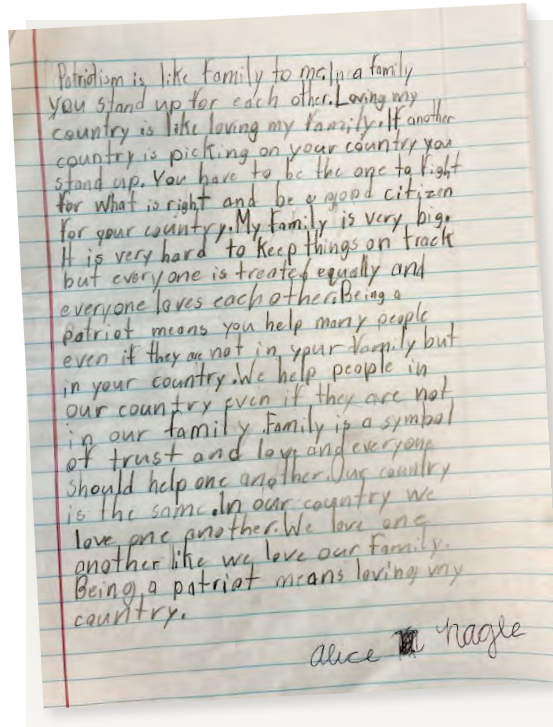
She also likes to write. Her mother, Jean Nagle, said ever since Alice could pick up a pencil, she had something interesting to compose. Those years of putting thoughts to paper paid off.

Alice was honored in April by the Department of Maryland American Legion Auxiliary, District 5, for her essay on patriotism. The Americanism Essay Contest was created to teach students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Students from third grade to seniors in high school can participate in the contest, which features a different theme each year. The theme of this year's contest was "What does patriotism mean to you?"

Paige Thumel is Alice's teacher at the Severna Park-based Oak Hill Elementary School. Thumel noted that Alice isn't a student to back away from a challenge.

"From the day I passed out information for the essay contest, I knew Alice's essay would stand out because of the time, effort and passion Alice pours into everything she does," Thumel said.

One could argue that it was only natural for Alice to have an award-winning essay on patriotism. She will



Alice Nagle's Essay

"What does patriotism mean to you?"

Patriotism is like family to me. In a family you stand up for each other. Loving my country is like loving my family. If another country is picking on your country you stand up. You have to be the one to fight for what is right and be a good citizen for your country. My family is very big. It is very hard to keep things on track but everyone is treated equally and everyone loves each other. Being a patriot means you help many people even if they are not in your family but in your country. We help people in our country even if they are not in our family. Family is a symbol of trust and love and everyone should help one another. Our country is the same. In our country we love one another. We love one another like we love our family. Being a patriot means loving my country.

Alice Nagle

turn 9 this year on July 4, a birthday she shares not only with the U.S., but with a pair of cousins.

"A little patriot, right from the beginning," Jean Nagle said.

Alice's essay centered around equating a love of country to a love of family. Themes of equality, love, trust and standing up for what is right are sprinkled throughout her piece.

"Linking her values of family to her understanding of patriotism shows how much she values these concepts in her home, community and world, and it confirms her commitment to setting a positive example and being a role model in her school and community," said Pat Anderson, who taught Alice last year at Oak Hill.

Alice's teachers, along with her family, have taken notice of Alice's recent transformation, as she's come out of her shell — taking calculated risks in the classroom and growing in confidence.

"In her essay, she shows maturity when she acknowledges how hard it is to keep everyone in a family, and country, on track and treat everyone equally," said Lori Pere, Oak Hill third-grade social studies teacher and Green School lead. "But she states

we should do so because we are a family. We should stand up and fight for what is right and be a good citizen. She is absolutely correct, and she is only in third grade!"

Alice, who loves meatballs, math, archaeology and the color yellow, said the lessons she's learned about equality from her family have carried over into her peer interactions.

"Even if there's people that I don't really want to play with, and then I just include them and see where it goes," Alice said. "And then I end up being really good friends with them."

Jean Nagle said she was proud of her youngest daughter for taking on the project, win or lose.

"It was all about making sure Alice was proud of the product she put forth," Jean Nagle said.

Alice's dad was taken aback with Alice's concept and associations for her essay.

"I was impressed with how technical she was with assembling it," Tom Nagle said.

For an elementary school student who prioritizes treating others the way she would want to be treated, a bit of pride surfaced when discussing her \$25 award.

"It makes me feel good about myself," Alice said.

Severn School Juniors Turn An Inconvenience Into A Celebration

Doug Schwartz

Student Intern

At Severn School, there is a parking shortage. Faculty and seniors are given priority spots on campus, leaving half the junior class without a place to park. To deal with this situation, students are given parking passes, either yellow or green, which designate the weeks when they can park on campus. On the weeks when they can't, juniors have to park in the Cypress Creek lot, a half-mile away from school.

"Cypress sucks, especially during the winter," said junior Sean Ward.

Because of the inconvenience the morning trek posed, Sean, along with his classmate Hunter Beall, decided to change their mentality.

"Hunter and I kind of just built off each other's energy in the morning to make it a positive thing," Sean said. "Then gradually, as more people got their licenses and learned how to overcome that mountain in the morning, we just began making the most out of the walk."

Before long, Hunter and Sean created



Severn Cypress Society leaders (l-r) Jack Shenk, Sean Ward, Spencer Gibbons-Neff, Jagan Som, Dan Gardiner, James von Rosenvinge and Hunter Beall held a cookout earlier this school year.

a club, the Severn Cypress Society (SCS), as a way to turn their morning trip into something more exciting. On the last day before Thanksgiving break, members of the society woke up early, drove to Cypress, and fired up two small grills. When

students arrived at Cypress that morning, they were greeted with a mini breakfast tailgate of eggs, bacon, pancakes and hot chocolate. Afterward, everyone pitched in to pack up and leave the parking lot as they found it.

The event was a smashing success, and it set the standard for the group moving forward.

Since then, the SCS has not slowed down, with their efforts culminating in an Easter egg hunt on April 7.

"We have meals served, we have games, and we have prizes," said member Jack Shenk. "We just really up the ante every single time ... we've done everything from a normal breakfast burrito cookout to a full-fledged egg hunt."

Throughout the process, SCS members have formed a unique comradery. Unfortunately — or fortunately, depending on who you ask — the current group of juniors have only a few more weeks left at Cypress. Once the seniors finish their classes, all juniors will be able to park on campus every day. Luckily, the SCS doesn't plan to let the new Cypress tradition end this year. The juniors have started to teach current sophomores the ropes so that next year they can experience the same bonding and joy that the juniors did.

[Read the full story online.](#)



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Special Guests Kick Off Heritage Month At Jones Elementary

By Judy Tacyn

Members of the U.S. Naval Academy's Filipino-American Midshipman Club visited Jones Elementary School on April 20 to kick off Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, which is celebrated in May.

Jones Elementary is one of 16 Anne Arundel County public schools designated for the Mids for Kids program.

Midshipmen Max Bueno, Aubrey Patawaran, Charmaine Posis and Alexander Saber spoke before kindergarten and second-grade students to share the Tagalog language, discuss heritage foods, culture and geography. Posis shared personal photographs of herself growing up in the Philippines, and students were captivated by the picturesque beaches of the country made up of 7,000 islands. The children all wanted to visit the Philippines until they learned that the flight there was 18 hours. AAPI Heritage Month celebrates the historical and cultural contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander people — an umbrella group that includes those with heritage or ancestry from East, Southeast, South, Central, and West Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Midshipmen visit Jones Elementary School three days per week and assist teachers in classrooms. The college students get to assist in the community and spread awareness of the

academy and military service.

Because of its proximity to the Naval Academy coupled with the fact that many Severna Park families are midshipman host families, the Mids for Kids program at Jones Elementary School is a relationship that participants say benefits both the students from the Naval Academy and the school community.

When asked what's more intimidating, instructors at the academy or kindergartners, Bueno joked, "We are about to find out!"

The Mids for Kids program, part of the Midshipman Action Group, is a community outreach program with academy volunteers who visit local elementary and middle schools throughout the week to assist teachers. They might run a physical education class, instruct in band or orchestra class, help with homework or bring engineering experience to clubs. It was estimated that more than 3,000 hours were spent in county school classrooms each year prior to the pandemic shutdown. With the re-emergence of outreach programs in schools, the midshipmen who visited Jones Elementary said they are excited to return to Anne Arundel County schools once again.

Judging by the enthusiasm of the Jones students, the children are happy to have the midshipmen return, too.



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Above: Midshipmen Max Bueno, Aubrey Patawaran, and Charmaine Posis talked to Jones Elementary School kindergartners about Filipino culture and food. **Below:** The visiting Middies showed Jones Elementary School second-graders where the Philippine Islands are located.



Why Younger Adults Need an Estate Plan

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By Erica Redmond, Esq.



Most young adults are rushed for time, but it's important to take time to consider what would happen if you were incapacitated by an accident or sudden illness. How would your loved ones take care of your financial responsibilities, children or a spouse, if something unexpected happened to you? Here are a few reasons why younger adults benefit from an estate plan.

Medical Emergency Planning

What happens if you suffer a sudden, unexpected accident, medical emergency, or serious illness? An estate plan can establish a durable power of attorney or advance health care directive to give family members direction in the event that you become incapacitated. In addition, it can provide access to finances that may need to be accessed to pay bills while you're incapacitated.

Creating a Will or Trust

A will is the most basic and essential aspect of an estate plan because it details your last wishes,

burial and funeral plans, and names beneficiaries. But, there are significant advantages to establishing a trust too! Should you have a will or trust? An estate planning attorney can provide needed guidance and help ensure you have the legal instruments you need.

Who Will Care For Your Children?

In the tragic event that you or your child's other parent pass away, an estate plan identifies the person or people who will become guardians of your children. If you do not designate this ahead of time, the state will make all of the decisions. Ideally, this party has not only the desire to care for your children but the emotional and financial wherewithal. Your estate plan will consider these scenarios and outline who has access to your bank accounts and other assets, to care for your children's current and future needs.

College Kids Need Directives Too

Although it's the furthest thing from anyone's mind, if you are heading off to college, you're going to need to designate a loved one to make legal or healthcare decisions on your behalf, if an unexpected crisis happens. Not only will that person need to be able to handle this responsibility, they must ensure that they have the proper legal documents to do so. This is a quick and easy pro-

cess that can save everyone from even more stress during a difficult time.

Free Legal Guides

It's extremely important to reassess your estate plan every time that a child or grandchild is born, when a family member gets married, divorced, or passes away. These life events can have dramatic and unintended consequences on your wishes and your beneficiaries. Download the *Free Guide to Wills, Trusts & Probate* or schedule a consultation with an experienced estate planning attorney at FrameAndFrame.com



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Young Authors Contest Recognizes Severna Park Youth



Photo courtesy of Gretchen Madden

Audrey Tong-Holcomb, Jack Zapf and Delaney Johnston won either first or second place for their respective grades in the Anne Arundel County Young Authors Contest.

The Anne Arundel County Young Authors Contest chooses one short story and one poem from each grade level as winners every year. The 2023 contest included four winners or runners-up from Severna Park.

With her story “Bunny Business,” Benfield Elementary third-grader Audrey Tong-Holcomb took first in the third-grade contest and second in the Maryland competition.

She chose her story because she is fond of books about talking animals. “I love writing for fun because there are no restrictions,” Audrey said. “You can just release your imagination and be creative!”

Also from Benfield Elementary, Jack Zapf took second place in the

county contest for fourth-grade short story with “The Avalanche.” Benfield’s Delaney Johnston earned second place for fifth-grade poetry with “Prayers for Ukraine.”

Broadneck Elementary first-grader Henry Custis Lynch took second place for his grade’s Anne Arundel County short story contest. His story was titled “The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Piggy.”

Audrey feels like the competition was a great way for young writers to work on their craft.

“Reading helps me get inspired from my favorite authors,” she said. “It also helps to develop a new vocabulary and see the story from the reader’s perspective.”

Falcon Chess Club Soaring

» Continued from page 39

virtues in teaching important skills.

“I am very hopeful to see chess start to be considered an actual sport rather than just a casual board game in the near future,” Matthew said. “Sure, it isn’t a physical game, but it is very indeed a mental one. There is research that shows that a chess player could burn up to 132 calories per hour. I am also hoping that it gets to a point where chess is not associated with a game that ‘nerds’ play.”

An article and innovative mind aren’t the only things tying Matthew’s chess journey to the iconic inventor and founding father. Matthew’s brother, Jeffrey, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania — the same school Franklin founded. The young Matthew currently holds familial bragging rights with chess. He got his older brother into the game, and now, the Severna Park High School student can boast that he can beat an Ivy League graduate.

“It’s definitely a good feeling to see a lot of people getting into the game,” Matthew said as he looked around the full room of students gathered for the club that promotes the game — or is it sport? — he loves.

That’s good news for the education front, according to the results of a survey of New York schools in a 2017 report cited

by the International Chess Federation. According to the report, 91% of teachers reported that practicing chess enhanced students’ cooperation skills. The same report cited that 89% of teachers said chess enriched their students’ social skills.

Severna Park High School junior Joshua Felder helped revive the Chess Club last year. For him, it’s the ability to meet with others with similar mindsets to his own that draws him in week after week.

“What I enjoy most about having a chess club at SPSHS is the ability to meet others with similar mindsets,” Joshua wrote in an email. “I have Asperger’s, so socializing can be quite a challenge for me. When I go to the chess club, I find it calming, as the game itself, for me, is relaxing and entertaining.”

As for Matthew, his sights are set for earning a high enough rating to place him amongst the professional elite of chess one day. His backup plan isn’t too shabby, either. Matthew has an interest in computer science.

“My goal for next year is to reach a rating of 1800,” Matthew said. “A rating is a number that determines the strength of a player. The higher the number, the stronger the player. For example, Magnus Carlsen, the number one ranked player in the world has a rating of 2852. My rating is 1531.”

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Q

Question of the month

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

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

I would want to have the power to stop and rewind time. If a disaster happens and you saw it on the news later then I could have the ability to rewind and warn people or stop it from happening. Another reason I would want this power is because if you make a mistake then you can go back and fix it.

Alana S.

I would want to have the power to transform into Kirby, a video game character. One of the powers is that Kirby can consume any object and absorb the most useful strength. I could use this part of the power in different ways, such as eating a calculator and gaining the strength of instant calculation.

Anna H.

My superpower would be to talk to cats. I would want this superpower because I have a cat named Snowflake and I understand him a lot, but I've never really got to speak to my cat and fully understand him.

Austin M.

If I could have a superpower, it would be telekinesis because I could do so many things at the same time, and I could prank the

Arnold Elementary School



people that prank me on April Fools' even though they already know I hate being pranked.

Bea M.

If I could have a superpower, it would be omni-precognition, in other terms, seeing the future. This would help me and other people because I could see all the new things in the new world to help our present world in a positive way, and I would see all the lottery winning numbers so that I could help people (including myself) be super rich.

Beau G.

If I had a superpower, it would be life. If I had the power to create life (plants, animals, decomposers, cleaning pollution), it could help save our dying Earth. I could help/ save the planet.

Bradley K.

If I could have a superpower, it would be teleportation. With the power of teleportation, I would never be late to things. I could also teleport to the ball in a soccer game. I could even throw a basketball off the backboard, then teleport up and dunk it in.

Bradley R.

My superpower would be to run at the speed of light at any time. I think this would be useful because when I play tag or fun running games, I would always win.

Brixton B.

I would choose pheromonal persuasion. This superpower enables me to control a person through the use of pheromones, which puts them in a near-mindless state, so whatever I tell them to do, they will do without question. With this superpower, I could get away with anything.

Elliana B.

I would have the power to shape-shift into animals. One reason is because then I could fly, climb, breathe underwater and do lots of other cool things in animal form. Another reason is because I could talk to animals.

Ellie F.

If I had any superpower in the world, I would have invisibility. I would pick invisibility because there are lots of ways I can protect people. If I had a superpower, I would only use it for good.

Ethan C.

I would want earth bending because I can make the earth a more beautiful place. I could create beautiful rock statues. I could even make stuff out of bushes.

Gabe H.

I would have the ability to teleport because it would mean extremely quick travel. Teleportation could save you car trips and plane flights and you would never be late to school. Teleportation could also save you in an emergency like a fire.

Hannah C.

If I could have a superpower, it would be telekinesis. I could grab a candy bar from 30 feet away and have no one notice! I also chose telekinesis because I can always win against my sister!

Kate H.

I would like to be able to stay up all night and not get tired. I want this because I could do more work, have more free time and have more time to study for upcoming tests. This superpower would also remedy everyday stresses such as not being able to do schoolwork because I have no time.

Lillian H.

If I could have a superpower, it would be the superpower to have any superpower because you could just do whatever you want whenever you want. For example, if you lived in Maryland and you wanted to go to California, you could just teleport, fly, run super fast, walk on water or E.C.T. Or if you were starving in the middle of social studies, math or science you could just make a Chipotle bowl appear out of thin air.

Lucas H.

Teleportation. By far. Teleportation would mean: No more plane flights or driving ever again. Believe me, this could save days of your life. Also, no more being late for school, no more mad dashes upstairs after turning off the basement lights and no more struggling to climb that one infuriating rock wall.

Nolan C.

If I had a superpower, it would be unlimited stamina. This superpower is cool because you can literally do anything and not get tired; that would give me a huge edge in soccer! Unlimited stamina would make me 1,000 times better at sports, P.E. and my whole life!

Oliver L.

I would choose a superpower that could help change the world that could make the environment better. The superpower that fits is talking to animals. If I could talk to animals, I would be able to understand how they felt about the environment.

Reese P.

I would want the power of time-traveling because I could fix my mistakes, and it could also make schoolwork easier.

Samantha H.

Flying is my choice, because it is very cool, and you don't have to walk everywhere. Another reason why flying is my superpower I choose, because you can do anything you want.

Sanger R.

Ring Down The Curtain: Severna Park Caps A Year Of Drama

By Sarah Sternhagen

Student Intern

As the school year draws to a close, the Severna Park High School drama department is finishing its catalog of productions. On April 14, students attended Theater Fest, and on May 19, one acts will perform, wrapping up the year of drama for SPHS.

One acts are short plays consisting of only one act. In past years, the winning one act performed at Theater Fest, the countywide showcase of high school productions. However, one acts were still rehearsing when Theater Fest was held this year, and so the SPHS improv troupe, Jeff, performed on behalf of the school. The comedy group had everyone rolling in laughter and their last show will be on May 12, the week before one acts debuts. Though Theater Fest has already passed, the school will still crown a winning one act.

"My favorite part of one acts is meeting new people and being able to work with the director to make the show better," junior and actor Caleb Rassofsky said.

The performing shows are "Boise, Idaho," "I Don't Want to Talk About It," "Our Place" and "The Three Armies." Any student can apply to be a director with the screenplay they've chosen or submit one they've written. This year,



"The Three Armies" is student written by Sabrina Richter.

"It makes it feel like the show is really *our* show because the director is just another student like us," Caleb said.

After the directors are chosen, auditions are held and rehearsals begin, completely in the students' hands. And so far, at least one onstage swordfight is confirmed.

"Being a student director means that I am fully responsible for my one act. I cast my own characters, schedule and run my own rehearsals, pick out costumes and decide

Students rehearsed for one acts, set for May 19. At least one onstage swordfight is confirmed.

on my own props," senior and director Amanda Knaus said. "My cast have been super flexible and supportive as I figure out how to direct something and put on a show for the first time."

Each one act lasts between 20 to 30 minutes and is followed by a critique from one of the judges. They tell the students what went well and how they could improve both their skills and the production itself. By the end, the winner will be crowned.

"I was an actor in one acts last year and it was my favorite school production to be in," sophomore and co-director Maggie Moran said. "It was so much fun, and I loved everyone I met there. And I think this year will be no different. Our actors are all so talented and nice and I'm sure this year's one act productions will be amazing!"

The last production of the year will be bittersweet. It will be the seniors' last high school production and for many students, it will be their last performance until the fall. More information about one acts and all other SPHS drama items can be found at www.sphsdrama.com.



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Can Nutrition And Lifestyle Behaviors Increase Immunity?

Deborah Badro
The Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club



Remember the old saying “you are what you eat?” Can we control and prevent diseases with our diet?

In the United States, adults with COVID-19 with underlying lifestyle-related chronic

diseases, including obesity, were more likely to be hospitalized and die from the disease.

A lot of research has been done on this subject: the immune system is essential for our health and well-being. An optimally functioning immune system is the body’s defense against pathogens.

There are many risk factors for an impaired immune system such as chronic stress, sedentary lifestyle, alcohol consumption, obesity, sub-optimal nutrition, tobacco use and sleep deprivation. These risk factors decrease immune function, increase inflammation and increase risk of infectious disease.

There are six lifestyle behaviors to enhance immunity: adopt a healthy eating style, decrease stress, increase physical activity, avoid alcohol, sleep enough and treat tobacco use. I will talk about a few of these in the following paragraphs and leave you with some questions to ponder.

There are many dietary immune suppressors. Inflammation is directly linked to the immune system and is the root cause of many conditions. Processed sugar is an immune system suppressor and increases inflammation. High-fat meats and processed foods are also pro-inflammatory. There are several ways to adopt a healthy eating plan. Start by adding essential nutrients for the immune system, to include protein, vitamins, folic acid, iron, selenium, zinc, omega-3 fatty acids and dietary fiber. Protein is the building block of immune cells, while vitamin D and vitamin C can reduce inflammation. Greens, beans, onions, mushrooms, berries, turmeric, ginger and garlic are all good sources of these nutrients. Talk to your dietitian or nutritionist about how to include some of these power foods in your diet.

Who among us has stress? If you answered yes to this question, you are not alone. Chronic stress leads to an increase in cortisol, which is pro-inflammatory. Increased cortisol increases your appetite, which may lead to increased sugar and fat intake, decreased exercise, insomnia and alcohol use. Some ways to combat stress are to practice gratitude, form healthy relationships, take time for exercise

and meditation, adopt healthy eating habits and get enough sleep. Foods that may reduce stress are those high in magnesium, like avocados, bananas, broccoli, pumpkin seeds, spinach, and my favorite, dark chocolate.

How much physical activity are you participating in per week? Physical inactivity impairs immune function and leads to inflammation and increases risk of mortality, viral and bacterial infection, cognitive decline, frailty and decreased vaccine response. Sedentary behavior is associated with an increase in cardiovascular disease; cardiovascular mortality; Type 2 diabetes; and colon, endometrial or lung cancer.

The ways to combat inactivity are simply to get up and move. Studies have shown that exercise increases antibody production. Benefits from exercise are obtained with at least 150 to 300 minutes of moderate physical activity.

Grab a friend, start a walking group. Participate in a physical activity if you are able. Join a gym if you are not already a member. Consult with a personal trainer. Dance. Swim, bike ride, learn to play pickleball with a friend. Pickleball can be a fun way to spend time with friends and get exercise too, and there are many places to learn and play at any age.

Alcohol misuse impairs immunity and significantly weakens our defenses. Alcohol reduces the body’s natural defenses, which in turn can increase inflammation. According to the World Health Organization, alcohol should be avoided.

How many hours of sleep are you getting per night? Poor sleep habits decrease the immune system’s ability to detect infectious agents and can promote low-grade inflammation. Studies show less than five to six hours of sleep per night can negatively impact immune function. Ways to combat sleeping problems are to establish a relaxing bedtime routine, and keep your bedroom dark, quiet and relaxing. Shut off electronic devices at least 30 minutes before bedtime. Exercise regularly and maintain a healthy diet. Avoid large meals and alcohol before bedtime.

Still smoking? Help is available to quit. Smoking influences immunity negatively. Nicotine is pro-inflammatory and immunosuppressive.

We can create health and happiness by how we live our lives. What do these six areas look like in your life? Are there any areas that could use some improvement? The time is now. If you need help in any of these areas, contact your health care provider or a professional who specializes in any area you may be struggling with. We are not an island. Reach out to friends, family, professionals, and help yourself create joy.

BHS Hosts Wellness Fair



Photos by Victor Raspa

Broadneck High School’s third annual wellness fair on April 26 included yoga demonstrations, giveaways, games and information provided by health professionals. The school also collected nonperishable food and hygiene products for the Broadneck Peninsula Food Pantry.



Cafe Mezzanotte, Park Books To Host Bestselling Authors

Park Books will welcome Liv Constantine to Severna Park and celebrate the release of "The Senator's Wife" on June 8 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Cafe Mezzanotte.

Liv Constantine is the pen name of sisters Lynne Constantine and Valerie Constantine. Lynne and Valerie are
» Continued on page 56

Photo courtesy of Bill Miles

Liv Constantine is the pen name of sisters Lynne and Valerie Constantine. In May they released "The Senator's Wife," a psychological suspense tale about a philanthropist who suspects that her seemingly perfect employee is secretly plotting to steal her husband, her reputation and even her life.



Let's Go! Music Festival To Return



A three-day Maryland music festival is about to return for its third year at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds in Crownsville. Let's Go! Music Festival, set for June 2-4, offers a rocking lineup of both national and local acts.

Artists like LIVE, 311, Collective Soul, Cold War Kids, and Silversun Pickups will grace the main stage for the first two days, providing non-stop performances for any age. Closing out the festival will be an all-country lineup on June 4. Chris Young, Kip Moore, Larry Fleet and Pricilla Block will share their down-home country root anthems to the thousands of country lovers in Maryland.

New this year is the addition of a second stage featuring local Maryland bands showcasing their talents between acts on the main stage. Artists such as Johnny Poulos, Honey Sol, Soundwaves, Daphne Eckman, and Jovon Newman are already confirmed.

"We are thrilled to bring this lineup of amazing artists to the fairgrounds," said Let's Go! brother-and-sister founders Liz Rawlings and Chris Hartman. "Growing up, we spent our days chasing music festivals around the country. Our love
» Continued on page 56



The event features non-stop performances for all ages.

Dining Out Around The Park

Señor Chile Combines Authentic Oaxacan Cuisine With American Alternatives



Top: Chilaquiles are fried corn tortillas sautéed with grilled steak, onions, either salsa verde or salsa roja, and topped with queso fresco. They are served with two eggs and a side of black beans. **Middle:** The huevos rancheros meal comes with two eggs, topped with salsa, beans, avocado, queso fresco and tortillas. **Left:** The cortado, espresso mixed with steamed milk, is not overly sweet.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Originally from Mexico, the Salmoran family is now living the American dream.

After opening three Mexican-inspired restaurants in Anne Arundel County, they opened their fourth, Señor Chile Cafe, in Severna Park at the end of 2022.

In Maryland, they became familiar with the Tex-Mex concept. Meals that are often less spicy and include ingredients not heavily used in Mexican

cooking: yellow cheese, sour cream, canned vegetables, hard shells.

Patrons might find a few of those Tex-Mex dishes at Señor Chile, but the menu complements those options with an array of authentic cuisine from the southwestern Mexican state of Oaxaca, the Salmoran family's homeland.

Inside the restaurant, guests can choose a table or one of the booths overlooked by a mural of a woman sporting skeletal face paint, drink in

» Continued on page 56



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“Renfield” Takes An Interesting Turn With Dracula

By Audrey Ruppert

I walked in to see “Renfield” expecting a camp, silly rendition of a classic vampiric tale — what else can you expect from Nick Cage? I walked out having witnessed exactly that, in addition to a surprisingly touching story about codependency, narcissism and breaking away from abusive relationships.

Nicholas Hoult plays Renfield. In the original novel, Renfield is in an asylum, driven mad by Dracula’s influence — he consumes insects instead of blood, to have even a sliver of Dracula’s power. At the end of his life, he begs others to break free of Dracula, and attempts to fight him — but dies in the process.

In this rendition, Renfield still consumes insects and is curiously a “real estate lawyer” — he seems to be a mashup between the original Renfield character and the original protagonist of “Dracula,” Jonathan Harker (who is a conveyancing solicitor, a unique and boring type of English real estate lawyer). Renfield met Dracula more than 100 years ago, and much like Harker, is an unassuming, good natured and meek man. He has served as a servant and familiar of Dracula (Nicholas Cage) for all this time, having abandoned his wife and child. The pair now live in 21st century New Orleans, and Renfield is still tasked with bringing Dracula the blood of good and innocent people. Plagued with guilt, self-doubt and misery at



his codependent and abusive relationship with Dracula, Renfield goes to a local support group for those in toxic relationships.

Slowly, Renfield begins to reclaim agency over his life. He gets his own place, and begins to fall for a local police officer, Evelyn, who is dealing with her own toxic relationship with her employer. Her father was killed at

the hands of the local mafia, and she cannot seem to arrest those responsible because the police department is in bed with organized crime. Together, Renfield and Evelyn begin to make their own identities, apart from the abusers who have dominated their lives.

But as is so often the case, Renfield’s abuser becomes the most vi-

Photo courtesy of Michele K. Short/Universal Pictures

Dracula (Nicholas Cage) and Renfield (Nicholas Hoult) make director Chris McKay’s film an entertaining watch. Chris (Adrian Martinez) and Rebecca (Awkwafina) play supporting roles in the film.

cious and dangerous right as Renfield attempts to break free and start his own life. Dracula targets Renfield’s loved ones, breaks him down, tells him he’s worthless without Dracula, tells him all he has suffered is his own fault. Together, Renfield and Evelyn finally find their voices and fight back.

Camp, witty, touching and utterly hilarious, “Renfield” is a surprisingly engaging watch. The fight scenes are well choreographed and about as bloody as you’d expect from a vampire slasher. Nicholas Cage is in his element, delivering an over-the-top Dracula who is surprisingly convincing as a narcissistic abuser (while still being funny). Nicholas Hoult plays the affable, sad-boy, sympathetic Englishman well (down to the colorful “jumper” — which is what English people call sweaters). His chemistry with Evelyn is heartwarming. A feel-good film about taking back your life and standing up for yourself, “Renfield” is well worth the watch. You might find yourself laughing and crying at the same time.

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The Sky Isn't Falling — I Am



By Ben Schwalb

Humor Columnist

Eleven years ago, I went skydiving and I didn't die.

When my then-girlfriend and I arrived, we were immediately given a stack of papers to read, initial and sign. Evidently, skydiving carries certain risks to your health, with death being the main one.

These papers contained a lot of made-up words such as "absolution" and "exculpate." Obviously, they were written by a lawyer who got a thesaurus for Christmas. I found it odd that the company that owned this place of business was called Uninsured United Parachute Technologies LLC. Wouldn't it be great if all businesses were named so honestly? For example, the Motor Vehicle Administration could be called "Slow, Apathetic Bureaucracy Inc." So could Congress.

We then received special skydiving training. Since we were doing "tandem," which is when you are strapped to an instructor who basically does all the work, our training consisted of a few deep knee bends, some hip thrusts, and making sure that we spoke English. This is very important because when you're ready to jump and the instructor tells you to bend your knees and you don't understand him, he has to knock you unconscious with a tire iron, which makes you miss most of the fun.

Before we knew it, we were walking toward a plane that looked much like the one shown at the end of "Casablanca," only not as modern. To start the engine, they had to hook a bunch of car batteries to it. Apparently, it is standard operating procedure for skydivers to bet their lives on a flying contraption that Amelia Ear-

hart wouldn't get in.

We got up to altitude. My girlfriend and her instructor jumped first, which made me realize that either this was no big deal, since if she could do it, so could I, or she was just as dense as I was, which would explain why she agreed to go out with me in the first place.

When I got to the death portal, or whatever they call that big opening where you jump out, the view was just as huge and ominous as I'd imagined. I bent my knees as I'd been instructed in my seven minutes of training, grabbed my harness straps and wheeeeeeeeeeee!

We fell at approximately 56,000 miles per hour for about a minute. Then my instructor pulled the cord to open the chute. It felt as though I were being lifted upward — in reality, my descent was being greatly slowed. Suddenly, it was quiet. No wind rushing past. Just serenity. The view was magnificent.

My instructor gave me the parachute controls and had me do some turns, which felt great except for the dizziness and nausea. I gave back the controls and enjoyed the rest of the descent. It was so beautiful, so peaceful.

We came to the ground at an angle and had a smooth landing. My instructor disconnected his harness from mine and we stood up. My videographer later gave me a disc with lots of photos and a five-minute video in which he thoughtfully edited out my screaming.

If you've never skydived, add it to your bucket list. It is wonderful to leap into the abyss, with no need to hold onto anything, and enjoy freedom and beauty unfettered by the problems of this world. This is one life experience that I will never forget — at least until Alzheimer's kicks in.

Señor Chile Offers Authentic Cuisine

» Continued from page 52

hand. The image conjures Día de Muertos, Day of the Dead, which celebrates life and death. Sugar skulls and other trinkets line the shelves above the bar, which seats six people.

It's a small, intimate space, where Señor Chile staff members want people to enjoy food that has delighted their families for generations.

Manager Harry Salmoran — whose father, Fredy, started the family business — acknowledged that sentiment when asked about infusing the menu with Oaxacan cuisine.

"Growing up, we ate the food that my mom would make with her mom in Mexico: soups, mole, frijoles, guisados," he said, later adding, "Luckily, we also have a lot of our family, that being uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers, working in the restaurants. It also is like our very own quality control team. Most of us ate the same food growing up. We know how it's supposed to taste, so this helps us maintain our flavors in line with the real deal."

From breakfast to lunch and dinner, Señor Chile has no shortage of flavors.

For breakfast, the restaurant has meals consisting of flour tortillas pressed on a grill, with different combinations of eggs, beans, avocado, pico de gallo, cherry tomatoes, bacon, lettuce and salsa.

A few Mexican staples headline the breakfast menu. Chilaquiles are fried corn tortillas sauteed with grilled steak, onions, either salsa verde or salsa roja, and topped with queso fresco. Think nachos, but softer, with the salsa serving as the main star of the dish instead of cheese. Chilaquiles are served with two eggs and a side of black beans. The huevos rancheros come with two eggs, topped with salsa ranchero, and beans, avocado, queso fresco and tortillas.

The breakfast options include something for the whole family whether they are craving pancakes (chocolate chip, blueberry, strawberry, cinnamon or plain), French toast, omelets or avocado toast.

Señor Chile partners with Rise Up Coffee Roasters and sells coffee, lattes, cortados, cappuccino, espresso, macchiatos, frozen smoothies and other drinks. The drinks are not overly sugary.

Equally impressive is the lunch and dinner menu with tacos, burritos, mariscos (seafood), fuertes (entrees) and combinations.

Order cheese and sour cream on a taco in Mexico and you may receive a look of consternation. More often, Mexico

tacos include cilantro and onions, with a healthy squeeze of lime juice. Señor Chile offers the best of both worlds: the street taco, for those wanting authentic tacos, and Tex-Mex tacos.

Choose your protein: carne asada (grilled beef), pollo (chicken), carnitas (similar to pulled pork), al pastor (spit-roasted pork), barbacoa, shrimp, Mexican chorizo, lengua (beef tongue), tinga (pulled chicken), ground beef or grilled vegetables.

For salivating tacos, quesadillas, gorditas or mulinas, try the birria meat. The Señor Chile variety features slow-roasted barbacoa, onion, cilantro and cheese stuffed into a tortilla. Those ingredients, combined with the barbacoa juices, pack a flavorful punch.

Señor Chile has plenty of other street food. Gorditas are made using fried corn dough stuffed with black beans, protein, lettuce, onion, cilantro and queso fresco. Mulitas are a mix between a taco and a quesadilla, with Oaxacan cheese. A torta is a sandwich filled with meat, lettuce, tomato, onions and jalapenos.

The "combinations" portion of the menu has mixtures of mole, tacos, tamales, sopas, gorditas, enchiladas and other dishes. Feeling adventurous? El Macho contains cactus, which is slightly bitter and has a crunchy texture.

Vegetarian options include fajitas, portobello tacos and enchiladas.

Señor Chile offers mezcal and tequila flights, margaritas, mojitos, coffee with liquor, and signature cocktails.

At Señor Chile Café, there is always a celebration of food and culture. For Salmoran, it keeps him close to home.

"Oaxaca is also known as the flavor capital of Mexico [with] mole, barbacoa, and al pastor being some of our specialties," Salmoran said. "Sauces are still made by our mom every week for all our restaurants. It's been nice being able to see our parents live the American dream, being able to come here with nothing to work multiple jobs/hours every day, to owning four restaurants, opening a couple more this year and doing it as a family, together."

Where To Find SEÑOR CHILE CAFÉ

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Summer Concert Series Coming To Annapolis

Annapolis Town Center is bringing back free outdoor music with its summer concert series, every Friday from 5:00pm-8:00pm starting June 2.

The summer's roster features performances by Red Dirt Revolution, The Covers, Crushing Day, Weird Science and more.

Summer concerts will be held at the newly developed East Village. The Boat-house Pavilion will transform into a stage to create an outdoor music venue and community gathering spot for all ages.

See the full schedule at www.annapolistowncenter.com/event-detail/summer-concerts.

Cafe Mezzanotte, Park Books

» Continued from page 52

national and international bestselling authors with more than 1 million copies sold worldwide. Their books have been translated into 28 languages, published in 33 countries, optioned for development in both television and film, and praised by *USA Today*, *The Sunday Times*, *People* and "Good Morning America," among many others. Their debut novel, "The Last Mrs. Parrish," was a Reese's Book Club selection.

Tickets can be purchased for \$36. This includes the book, a charcuterie grazing station and soft drinks. There are limited guest tickets for \$8. A cash bar will be available. For more information, visit www.parkbooksmd.com.

Let's Go! Music Festival To Return

» Continued from page 52

for eclectic sounds, live performances, and Maryland made it an easy choice to bring this one-of-a-kind experience to our hometown."

Focused on the full attendee experience, Let's Go! will also feature yard games presented by Peake Social. Festival goers can try their hand at ping pong, cornhole, bocce ball and more. Take a break and explore Vendor Village, where local merchants will sell a variety of handmade clothing, arts, gifts and more. Businesses such as Magothy Tie Dyes and Wicked Gypsy Bohemian Boutique will be onsite.

Sprinkled throughout the festival grounds will also be Instagram-worthy photo opportunities for event-going documentation: a storage container with a mural by world-renowned artist Jeff "Jahru" Huntington, a step and repeat experience, and nautical-themed decorations. When hunger calls, head to Food Truck Alley and nosh on the region's best food trucks featuring quesabirria tacos to sliced brisket barbecue platters and everything in between.

Tickets are available for purchase on the Let's Go! Music Festival website. Children 12 and under are free. For more information, visit www.letsfest.com.

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Chamber Update

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Alcove Event Studio — (new bronze member) Alcove Event Studio is an intimate and charming private

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» **Continued on page 60**

The Great Responsibility

Jason LaBarge
LaBarge
Financial



was speechless. He watched in awe at AI creating moving poetry. Watching the same piece had me confused, concerned and intrigued. Inspired by our current AI explosion, I am going to outline my concerns and my opinion on this incredible technology.

In a 2022 AI Impacts survey of 738 million AI researchers, 50% said they believe that there's a 10% or greater chance that humans go extinct from our inability to control AI. In the same survey, AI researchers were asked their thoughts on how likely it is that in 30 years, AI will be vastly better than humans at all professions — 60% was the median survey answer. There's a lot to

unpack there, and as a human, that is a troubling thing to swallow. With this subject in mind, I consulted a popular AI chat bot to get its insight. I asked how AI could harm humans and society. It, unfortunately, listed many ways it could do so.

The AI chat bot listed "job displacement" as a major threat to society. As stated in the survey statistic, it may seem as though humans having jobs would be redundant and a thing of the past. That might sound intriguing at first glance, but what would we do for money? How would we be able to support our daily lives? What would human existence even mean?

It is frightening to think that our exponential advancement of technology likely has a positive correlation for the chance of having a serious existential dilemma on our hands.

"With great power comes great responsibility" — as the famous "Spider-Man" quote goes. Some researchers are comparing AI to be as influential as the invention of fire. So, how can we be responsible with this high intelligence behemoth to foster a healthy relation-
» **Continued on page 60**

Image Creators Celebrates 35 Years In Severna Park

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

In the 35 years Image Creators has been in business in Severna Park, owner Silvia Campana has seen many changes in the salon industry, but her business' core values have not changed.

"Coaching, mentoring and building team members' skills for them to become successful has been our mindset," Campana said. "On day one, I ask new team members what their goals and dreams are and how we can help achieve them."

Campana emphasized that education is an important aspect of her business model. Referring to Image Creators as a "teaching salon," Campana said Image Creators prefers to hire service providers as soon as they become licensed. She credits this hiring approach to one of the reasons they have been successful.

Image Creators provides continuing education, depending on the service area, to keep current on the latest trends and products. Staff members at Image Creators continually bring education to their salon and spa.

Other areas important to Campana are the trust and loyalty staff members create with customers.

"Building relationships is what it is all about," she said. "It's a family feel."

Campana said she's had some of the same customers since 1982, six years before she opened Image Creators.

One area that has changed in Campana's years of business, though, has

been the advent of social media.

"It has been a big shift because people are so visual now," Campana said.

The biggest challenge Image Creators has faced in its years of business was the COVID-19 pandemic. Campana's doors, like other small businesses, were closed for more than 60 days.

Image Creators' first location was in what is now the Robinson Crossing shopping center. Outgrowing that space, it moved to its current location in Park Plaza in 2001, tripling the business' square footage.

Campana's business has undergone several renovations in its current location. The latest renovation was completed about a year ago, and the salon was closed for a short time while the work was completed.

Image Creators employs team members that provide services which include hair, nails, facials and massages.

Image Creators will celebrate its 35th anniversary in early fall with a grand reopening.

"I am blessed to be a part of this community for 35 years," Campana said. "I never dreamt in a million years we would be in business this long. It was all part of the process of taking one step, then another step, in growing."

To find out more information on services that Image Creators provides, or to make appointments, call 410-544-8852 or visit www.imagecreatorssalonandspa.com.



Silvia Campana's business, Image Creators Salon and Spa has undergone several renovations in its current location.



Business Cleans Up Community Center



CheckMark Power Washing owner and Park resident Alex Prevezianos donated a power wash to the Severna Park Community Center on April 24.

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Eco Adventures Celebrates 10 Years With Earth Day Extravaganza



Millersville-based Eco Adventures chose to honor Mother Earth on its 10-year business anniversary April 15. Along with co-host Macaroni KID Pasadena-Severna Park-Glen Burnie, Eco Adventures invited families for a day of face painting and pony rides, conservation, vendors, performances by Priddy Music Academy and Theater in the Park, and more. The Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi sponsored the event.

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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 58

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Chris Gives Foundation — A non-profit formed to help those who are struggling by providing low cost or free auto repair. The founder is the owner of the Midas franchises in Anne Arundel County.

We were honored to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of **Eco Ad-**

ventures in Millersville during its Earth Day celebration. Hundreds came out for the pony rides, a magician, music, food and, of course, animals. Eco Adventures is an education, enrichment and conservation organization that offers hands-on environmental education to people of all ages.

It has been three years since the founding of the **Horse and People Project**, and we enjoyed a celebration with owner Maria Alessandri at her beautiful farm in Davidsonville. She has created a unique self-development program for adults that builds leadership and problem-solving skills using horses.

Our Multi-Chamber Business Builder Breakfast was held at **Helias Restaurant & Lounge**, with more than 130 registrations. The sponsor was **Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation**, and it was an energetic and productive event where people could meet and find ways to work together.

The Successful Women in Business Group held its First Cup Club at the gorgeous **Bryki Gallery** in Millersville. Owner Sara Bryki is an international expert on all things crystals and has opened a beautiful showroom with home décor, jewelry and more. If you are looking for something unique for the home or office, you will find it at the Bryki Gallery.

Our Wellness Business Connections Group held its monthly meet-

ing at **The Social** in Severna Park. Practitioners enjoyed in-depth networking and some good food.

Don't miss our **Shop Local Fun Fiesta**, to be held in Park Plaza on May 6 from 11:00am-3:00pm. We will have exhibitors, entertainment, a DJ, food and more! Our gold sponsors will donate 50% of their sponsorships to charities. Gold sponsors are **Landmark Roofing, Dodgebow Annapolis, SERVPRO of Severna Park/Arnold, the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi** and **Kogen Dojo**. Silver sponsors are **Kwon's Taekwondo, the Lash Lounge Annapolis** and **Advance Auto Parts**. Bronze sponsors are **CertaPro Painters of Severna Park, Mosquito Squad, Neat Wall TV, Delegate Heather Bagnall, Griswold Home Care, The Blended Essentials** and **Edward Jones/Brian Conrad**.

Registration is open for our **Independence Day Parade**. The parade will be held in Severna Park on Tuesday, July 4, from 10:00am to noon. The theme of our parade is "Broad Stripes, Bright Stars and Big Hearts." The grand marshal is Wayne Gerst, a lifelong resident and philanthropist.

We love to see floats and have created a special contest to award \$500 in three categories: Best Overall, Most Patriotic and Most Original.

For more information about the parade, events or membership, please visit www.gspacc.com.

The Great Responsibility

» Continued from page 58

ship between it and mankind?

Fear is OK, but adaptation and embracing are what is required because AI isn't going anywhere. From an investment perspective, AI seems to provide immense opportunity that we should be following today. I don't claim to be smart enough to be able to answer the above existential threats that AI poses, nor can I create a political framework that regulates this technology, but I know a promising investment when I see one, and artificial intelligence seems to fill that category.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Brad Kappel Leads The Way In Luxury Listings

Annapolis Touts Staying Power As Vacation Home Destination

By Lauren Cowin

Quaint, but not isolated, is how Realtor Brad Kappel describes his hometown of Annapolis — and he's made a career of selling it.

Real estate wasn't Kappel's first venture. Upon graduating from college, he found himself as the chef at his family's restaurant. Next, he was the sales manager for local radio station WRNR. During that time, he purchased his own waterfront home and the agent with whom he worked suggested he try real estate.

Kappel took the advice, and after a decade in the business, he branched out on his own in 2020. Today, he is executive vice president for TTR Sotheby's International Realty and a leading waterfront Realtor in Maryland.

"I thought the real estate market was going to grind to a halt," Kappel recalled of the early pandemic era.

Instead, since his clients are mostly second homeowners from the Washington, D.C., region, the rise of COVID-19 sent them out of the city and into vacation homes on the water in nearby Annapolis.

"I was kind of in the right place at the right time in my career," Kappel said. "I'd just launched my solo practice and then the market became a sellers' market, and I was right there to service the rising tide as the market went up."

The coronavirus era ushered in a heightened level of interest in Annapolis as potential buyers wanted to stay



Brad Kappel brings his passion for life on the water to his real estate practice.

within driving distance of their primary homes.

"They wanted somewhere they could go for 24 hours and go back to the city if they needed to. So our market has stayed extremely strong," Kappel explained, adding that currently he's seeing listings sell in 10 days to two weeks.

An avid boater himself, Kappel enjoys sharing his passion for the Chesapeake Bay.

"[It's] a unique body of water because it's big enough



and broad enough that you can go out on adventures and you don't feel like you ever really understand or learn the entire bay — there's so many

day trips," Kappel said. "It's the perfect boating lifestyle type town."

Another reason why Kappel said the luxury waterfront home market in Annapolis has continued to hold strong beyond the pandemic buying panic is that, compared to other popular vacation home hotspots, Annapolis offers tremendous value.

"You can get a complete lifestyle and a nice home on a nice property for \$2 [million] to \$3 million versus the other markets that we compete with ... you'd have to be in the \$10-20 million range to get a similar property," Kappel said.

Given the low inventory of waterfront homes in the area and steady demand, Kappel advises potential buyers to work with an agent who specializes in the type of listings they are looking to buy.

"You really want to work with an agent that represents and lists a lot of waterfront property because you have a better chance of getting access to something before the general public knows about it," Kappel said. "We connect the dots, like a matchmaker, often off market with people."

Great Oak Roofing Helps Homeowners Protect Their Investment

By Zach Sparks

Some people have horror stories when it comes to contractors. Jobs not done right. Homeowners overcharged.

Ben Pascal got into the roofing business because he wanted to offer a different experience, one that prioritized quality and reliability.

"My main focus is helping people with their problems," Ben said. "I'm not trying to run a multi-million-dollar advertising company that happens to sell roofing and siding."

Ben is focused on offering the best-quality products and installation at the best price, while attending to each customer's personal needs.

He opened Great Oak Roofing and assembled a team of licensed, insured and bonded professionals with more than 40 years of experience in the roofing industry. What's more, they are all GAF installers, meaning they have specialized training from one of the leading roofing materials manufacturers in North America.

Now, he is tasked with handling one of the most important assets a family can own: a roof.

"It's not an expense. It's an investment," he said. "A house with a new roof [can] sell twice as fast."

How does someone know if they need a new roof? Cracked or missing shingles are one giveaway, as is moss growth or discoloration. But short-term fixes are usually not the best way to resolve the problem.

"[A homeowner] can get one leak and they patch it, and then they get another leak and they patch it," Ben said. "Then their drywall is damaged, and it destroys the floor."

When customers call Great Oak Roofing, the company will order a three-dimensional model of the house — that day or the next day — using drone photography paired with EagleView or Hover software. That way, the Great Oak team can design the homeowner's ideal roof while staying within a budget.

"From shingles to slate to cedar, we can do any kind



Ben Pascal is focused on offering the best-quality products and installation at the best price, while attending to each customer's personal needs.

of roof," Ben said, adding that supplies can match the homeowner's color preference.

Ben said the process is low-pressure. He does not push his staff to meet a sales quota and instead wants them to make sure they are doing what is best for each customer.

"The customer doesn't pay anything until we do the drone flyover and they are 100% happy," Ben said.

Not only does the company offer roofing products, but it also offers six-inch gutters with gutter guards at cost. Great Oak also provides CertainTeed and James Hardie siding.

"Siding is your most dramatic aesthetic feature," Ben said. "It's the most important thing you can do to improve the look of your house."

Ben takes great pride in his work and giving back to



his community. He takes "wounded warriors," or veterans, hunting on his family's farm on the Eastern Shore. He also donates to

Universal Aid for Children, which is dedicated to fulfilling the medical, educational and emotional needs of orphans, orphanage graduates, displaced children and young people with disabilities in the Odessa region of Ukraine.

Ben is the grandson of former Anne Arundel County Executive Robert "Bob" Pascal, who was known for his philanthropy. He opened Robert A. Pascal Youth and Family Services Inc. and the Pascal Crisis Stabilization Center to help people with behavioral and mental health struggles.

"He was a pillar in the community," Ben said. "I just want to keep the tradition going and follow in his footsteps."

Great Oak Roofing offers a 5% discount to seniors, veterans and active-duty military members, and previous customers.

Financing is available, with 0% and low-payment options.

Great Oak Roofing serves homeowners within a 40-mile radius of Severna Park. For more information, call 443-346-4790, email bpascal@greatoakroofing.com or visit www.greatoakroofing.com.

Members of the community can also meet Ben during Great Oak Roofing's ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, located at 1 Holly Avenue, June 3 at 11:30am.

"I just want people to have a good experience, a smooth experience," Ben said. "I'm willing to do whatever they need."

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