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Introducing The Shout, A Newsletter By The Severna Park Voice

Do you ever wish you did not have to wait so long to get your next copy of the *Severna Park Voice*? To keep our readers informed and entertained throughout the cycles between newspapers, we are launching The Shout, a free weekly newsletter filled with stories, event listings, exclusive offers and more. Our hope is that this newsletter provides you with additional coverage of community events, the arts, and school and sports happenings — news that may not appear in the newspaper.

The Shout newsletter launched May 24 with stories on spring sports and families that have lived in Severna Park for multiple generations. New newsletter editions will be emailed to inboxes every Wednesday morning.

To sign up for The Shout, find details at www.severnaparkvoice.com. None of your information will be shared with third parties.

We look forward to sharing more of the feel-good news that unifies the community.

All four varsity lacrosse teams from Severna Park and Broadneck high schools won state titles at the end of May. For the Severna Park boys and Broadneck girls, their wins continued a reign of dominance. The Broadneck boys and Severna Park girls both won state championships for the first time in several years. **Read more about their accomplishments on page 18.**

Kicks For Kindness

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Severna Park High School (SPHS) principal Lindsay Abruzzo has a well-known affinity for Vans, the iconic southern California-based company known for, among other things, its footwear.

Abruzzo, who is wrapping up her first year as princi-



pal at the school, has 26 pairs of Vans shoes in her closet. They're not just for show.

Just how often does the educator sport the iconic brand of kicks?

"Every single day," Abruzzo said with a pause between each word.

Vans, which was founded in 1966, has long been known for promoting creativity and individuality with its roots in skateboarding, arts, music and street culture.

Thanks to a recent Vans shoe design contest at SPHS, the brand is also being used to spread a message of kindness and inclusion.

In January, a video of a SPHS teenager bullying a student with special needs in the cafeteria went viral. In the video, the perpetrator, who no longer attends SPHS, used threatening, obscene and racist language toward the

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Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

Every month, the *Voice* recognizes the good work of a local volunteer to honor *Voice* founder and lifelong Severna Park resident Margueritte Mills.

The Margueritte Mills Volunteer of the Month is proudly sponsored by Heidler Plumbing.



Broadneck Parents Host Glowing Prom Breakfast

By Lauren Cowin

As children grow, so too do their clothing, shoes, appetites and a myriad of other items.

At the Broadneck High School prom breakfast, students were treated to a childhood game blown up to meet their big kid entertainment needs — an inflatable “Hungry Hungry Hippos.”

“I think they weren’t sure what it was at first, and then once they figured it out, it was just hilarious,” said Heather Kilpatrick, parent coordinator of the event.

This was Kilpatrick’s second prom breakfast to lead; her first was in 2018 when her son was a senior, and she led the charge again this year as her daughter is a senior.

“It’s such a big night for them and they don’t want it to end,” Kilpatrick said.

It was a household effort for the Kilpatricks. Along with Heather’s organizing, her husband, Scott, made the cornhole boards and “Ker-Plunk” game for the event, and their home served as a drop-off location and makeshift art studio — other parent volunteers gathered there to decorate sheets with glow-in-the-dark splatter paint to hang at the event.

“Being a mom has always been my most important job and my priority, so for me that means volunteering at their schools,” Kilpatrick said. “I’ve tried to make myself available to help out when I can and to do what I can. And I’m pretty good at planning things, so this kind of falls under my skill set.”

This particular event took months of planning and is designed to give students a safe place to continue celebrating after senior prom. Kilpatrick, her co-chair Lorrie Dameron,



Heather Kilpatrick was at the helm of this year’s Broadneck prom breakfast.

“I’ve tried to make myself available to help out when I can and to do what I can. And I’m pretty good at planning things, so this kind of falls under my skill set.”

— HEATHER KILPATRICK

and several more parents began their work January 2. The to-do list involved coordinating food, renting entertainment items, collecting door prizes and finding sponsors to supplement the parent donations.

The theme of this year’s prom breakfast was “glow,” and aptly featured glow-in-the-dark decor and games. The students entered a mostly dark atrium lit only by a black-light disco ball with neon light fixtures guiding them down a black

walkway to the main event.

Kilpatrick was pleased with the students’ reaction.

“I think they loved the glow theme,” Kilpatrick said. “I think when they walked in, they were surprised at the entry — that it was new and fun and exciting. My daughter said when she pulled up, she couldn’t believe that there was a line out the door of people to get in.”

More than 25 local businesses donated funds or gift cards to the effort, totaling more than \$5,000.

Some of this year’s hottest giveaways were Beats headphones, Apple AirPods, an iPad and a \$250 Visa gift card.

As for Kilpatrick, she’s offering her time to the school right up until her daughter crosses the stage in June.

“I’m glad that [prom breakfast] is over, and it was successful, and now I can focus on graduation,” she said.

Correction: Kinder Farmhouse Article

Several details were incorrect in a May article on the Kinder Farmhouse. The structure was built in 1926, not 1929 as the article stated. Henry and Hilda Kinder had eight children, not six. The Friends of Kinder Farm Park organization was established in 1999, and it took three and a half years to refurbish the farm-

house building.

The article said the farmhouse provided “sanctuary” for the Kinders. They were immigrants but followed all immigration rules upon arrival. The family worked hard and did not run to a house that was provided for them; they built it.

Lastly, the article incorrectly said

that Kinder’s historical society moved and reassembled the Tobacco Barn Museum. The Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks brought the museum to Kinder Farm Park; the Friends of Kinder Farm Park are now responsible for maintaining the museum. We apologize for the errors.

Raffle To Support Crash Victim

Severna Park resident Sybil DiMaggio and five other construction workers were killed in March when a vehicle crashed into their I-695 work site. To support the DiMaggio family, several businesses are partnering for a raffle that includes

\$800 of products.

Dawson’s Liquors, Goska’s Liquors, Corwell & Son Liquors, Fishpaws Marketplace, and the Annapolis location of Adam’s Taphouse and Grille are all selling \$50 raffle tickets through June 2.



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Donate Your Old Bike For A Good Cause



Unused bikes in your garage or basement can become valuable transportation for people in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and South Pacific through a simple donation to Bikes for the World.

Pedal Pushers bike shop in Severna Park will collect used bicycles on Saturday, June 24, from 10:00am-1:00pm. This year's bike collection is in memory of Ann Jackson, Jack Koczela and Larry Pratt, who were active volunteers with Bikes for the World for many years. In 2005, Jackson partnered with Pedal Pushers owner Rod Reddish to hold the first bike collection in Severna Park, establishing a long-running collaboration with biannual collection events, each gathering over 100 bicy-

cles and a total donation of 1,966 bikes from the community to the cause.

New donations can include any repairable bike, parts or cycling accessories. Portable sewing machines will also be accepted.

Volunteers hope to fill a large truck with bicycles from Severna Park with a planned destination of Madagascar.

Bikes for the World makes affordable, good quality, used bicycles available to low-income people in developing countries. These donated bikes provide better transport for work, education and health care. In addition, the donated bikes seed local bicycle repair and maintenance businesses, providing skilled employment in the communities.

SPHS Class Of 2003 Reunion

The 2003 class of Severna Park High School is slated to host a reunion October 6 at the Atreum at Soaring Timbers in Annapolis.

The 20-year reunion is scheduled for 7:00pm to 11:00pm and will feature appetizers, drinks

and dancing. Tickets with food and drinks included are \$75 each. A ticket that includes food and non-alcoholic drinks is \$55.

Email sphs2003@gmail.com with any questions about the event. Tickets can be purchased at tiny.cc/sphs2003reunion20.



Severna Park High School

CLASS OF 2003
20 YEAR REUNION

Police Plan Bike Safety Event

Anne Arundel County Police Eastern District's Police Accountability, Community, and Transparency (PACT) Unit will meet on the B&A Trail at Earleigh Heights Ranger Station, June 17 at 8:00am, to discuss ways to better educate members of the police department and the citizens of this county about

bike safety.

The discussion will cover the rules on the B&A Trail, equipment and safety tips. Bike AAA, the Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks trail rangers, and several other organizations will attend.

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Cool Pond Restoration Milestone Reached



Photos by Mark Patton

CSI Environmental recently completed part of a restoration project for Cool Pond in Severna Park where between 300 and 400 cubic yards of material were removed from the pond.

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

A milestone in a restoration project aimed at cleaning Cool Pond in Severna Park was reached in May as the dredging portion of the effort was completed.

Cool Pond is located alongside Thomas Way off Robinson Road on a branch of Cattail Creek directly behind Severna Park High School. Many point to a heavy rainfall almost nine years ago, combined with stormwater runoff from the construction site for what is now the high school, as culprits for the pond's increase in sediment, and reduction in depth and wildlife.

Lobbying efforts — including kids from the Cool Pond community holding signs with messages to fix their pond during a visit by Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman — and assistance from the Greater Severna Park Council helped to spur the awarding of a \$48,000 county grant to the Magothy River Association to oversee the dredging and restoration of Cool Pond.

"I heard of this project early in my first term, and I was very pleased to support it with grant funding from the county," Pittman said. "This project will not only restore Cool Pond but will have positive impacts on the watershed and the Cattail Creek Natural Area."

Dustin Ferris, an environmental scientist with Millersville-based CSI Environmental, serves as the Cool Pond project manager. Ferris said the recent hydraulic dredging increased the depth of the central portion of Cool Pond by 2 feet and removed between 300 and 400 cubic yards of material from the pond.

"Dustin Ferris deserves a lot of credit for his eight-plus years of advocacy to get this project off the ground," Pittman said. "I want to thank the Magothy River Association, the Greater Severna Park Council, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and all the other community partners for working

with Dustin to make this happen."

Ferris expressed gratitude to Pittman and his staff for working with them to get the grant. He also said Erik Michelsen in the county's Department of Public Works was a consistent help behind the scenes.

While the county grant covered about half the cost of the dredging, CSI Environmental owner Craig Stevens donated the labor, materials and other expenses that the grant didn't cover.

CSI Environmental utilized three-dimensional geotextile and advanced polymer systems, where a dredge sucked up sediments out of Cool Pond. The sediments were then pumped uphill into geotextile tubes. The polymer coagulated on the sediment and fine organic particles were separated out of the water column, leaving behind the sand and organic materials in the geotextile tubes. Fueled by gravity, clear and clean water was returned to Cool Pond.

Paul Spadaro, president of the Magothy River Association, pointed out the lack of disturbance the project caused — no truck traffic, no smell, no excessive noise and no major disturbance to ecology in the pond.

Ferris, who is also a resident of the Cool Pond community, said lots of people used to fish at the pond and bring their kids.

"We're hoping we get back there," Ferris said. "I'm working with the county now to try and get some fish stocked in the pond to improve the ecosystem."

Spadaro cited Cool Pond's restoration as a harbinger of things to come, such as dredging that he expects to happen at Lake Waterford in the next year or two.

He also hopes to have the county and state pull together for a two-and-a-half-mile restoration project of Cattail Creek, which is one of the largest fresh watersheds in the county. Spadaro said Cattail Creek is not in the best health, but he noted that projects like Cool

Pond also assist in improving that, as the pond water catches up with the main stem of Cattail Creek in an intermittent stream.

"Sometimes you have to go outside the tidal part," Spadaro said. "If the water is polluted coming in, it's going to stay polluted."

Spadaro said keeping up with change is another challenge.

"There's a lot of development in this area, in Severna Park, and they were all pretty poor arrangements, cluster developments, and we are paying the price," Spadaro said.

There are still some disagreements over aspects of who is to blame for the degradation of Cool Pond over the past years. County officials say Cool Pond was created as a stormwater management structure, but Spadaro said Cool Pond's history is as a natural pond and dates to the 1950s based on older maps of the area.

"It was definitely a result of when they moved the high school," Spadaro said of what happened to Cool Pond. "Their state-of-the-art stormwater control blew out."

Anne Arundel County Public Schools spokesman Bob Mosier said AACPS does not claim fault or liability in

the issue.

"In 2019, the Department of Public Works confirmed that the pond was designed and built as a flood control/stormwater management structure, in accordance with stormwater management/floodplain requirements in effect at the time," Mosier wrote in an email. "The department further confirmed that the sedimentation issue raised by the community was a product of the flood control/stormwater management design."

Ferris said the residual solids will remain in the geotextile tubes until early June, when they will be sufficiently dry to spread across the field. He added that after spreading and grading the material, grass seeds and straw will be applied. Once the grass is established enough, the filter socks can be removed from the edge of the field and the project will be complete.

"We do hope that this project will serve as a demonstration for similar projects in Anne Arundel County," Ferris said.

Spadaro praised the persistence and efforts of Cool Pond advocates over the years.

"Communities that push back, win back," Spadaro said.



CSI Environmental utilized three-dimensional geotextile and advanced polymer systems, where a dredge sucked sediments out of Cool Pond, from where the sediments were pumped uphill into geotextile tubes.

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Kicks For Kindness: Severna Park Students Design Vans

» Continued from page 1
other student.

In the subsequent days, the school hosted a community conversation centered around kindness and inclusion, which was led by Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent Mark Bedell. Abruzzo then spearheaded other initiatives, including grade-level assemblies stressing anti-bullying and open discussion. She also wanted to do something a bit different to get the message across, or "Off the Wall" in Vans parlance.

"I wanted to come up with something to kind of unite us as a community — school community and community," Abruzzo said.

Nuria Williams, the director of school performance for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, helped spur the idea. She suggested a Vans shoe design contest to the principal, knowing the students are aware of Abruzzo's fondness for the brand.

Abruzzo was sold on the idea and announced the contest on the last day of January. Each design was required to show anti-bullying or kindness themes on them in some way. Abruzzo pledged to have two pairs of the winning design made, on her own dime, once a winner was determined — one for the student designer and one for the principal. The sneaker design concepts were put on display at the school, where students could vote for their favorite.

Abruzzo ended up purchasing four pairs. Seventeen-year-old senior Nadia Azdolahi and 16-year-old sophomore Jameson Murray tied for the most votes.

"I just wanted to kind of be a part of something because I haven't really been a part of much in the schools," Nadia said. "I thought this was a really cool idea because I like to draw on my iPad, and I just wanted to be a part of it."

Nadia's design features bluebell flowers, which she said symbolize humility, kindness and warmth.

"I just love flowers and all different kinds, so I just looked up different flowers and different meanings and tried to find the one that I thought fit this cause best," Nadia said of her bluebell inspiration. "And they were just super beautiful, and I just thought they were perfect."

Jameson's choice to participate came down to personal reasons.

"Me and some of my friends have not had the kindest words said to us, so I feel like it was a good way to kind of talk about it," Jameson said. "This also makes me feel proud to go here because it's for such a good cause. It's not just like, 'Oh, design a pair of Vans just to design a pair of Vans,' so it's actual meaning behind it."

Jameson's design features a colorful combination of ribbons signifying awareness for topics such as autism, mental health, anti-bullying, suicide, Down syndrome and LGBTQ. He said the idea came about, in part, while he was doing homework on his couch and something relating to the late artist Keith Haring meshed with a recent awareness campaign at school.

"I've seen more people looking down at my shoes when passing in the hallway than usually do, so it definitely grabs their attention," Jameson said.

Both winning designs have "BE" on the rear of the left shoe and "KIND" on the back of the right one.

"If you're walking in front of someone, it grabs their attention and they're like, 'Wait a minute, your shoes say be kind,' and then you can start talking about them," Abruzzo said.

SPHS junior Eric Lin, who was recently chosen as the next Anne Arundel County Public Schools Student Member of the Board of Education, applauded the initiative.

"I think it was a creative idea, and I am glad the administration is taking steps to try new things and get the community together positively," Eric said.

Steve Van Doren, Vans vice president of promotions and events and the son of Vans co-founder Paul Van Doren, said his company has always remained dedicated to supporting local communities and people.

"It's humbling and makes me extremely proud to hear how our brand has touched the lives of others, especially youth," Van Doren said. "We lead with our hearts and a fearless compassion for others and aim to find value in our differences. Vans is on a mission to empower everyone to use creativity to discover themselves, and to create a world where everyone feels comfortable and safe being their unique self."

Abruzzo said the Vans her students designed are a conduit for a broader message.

"Yes, Vans are my thing, and yes, I love them, but what I really want is for the 'be kind' to catch your eye, or the ribbons to

catch your eye, and remind everybody that we're all in this together, we're all people," Abruzzo said.

Nadia, who is slated to attend Anne Arundel Community College on a scholarship where she aims to get a feel for college and see what sparks her interest, said she feels appreciated after winning the contest and seeing the interest in her design from others.

"People put a bad rep on the school because they think that we're just like spoiled and rich, but everyone here has their own problems, so just for this to be talked about is really nice," Nadia said.

Jameson agrees.

"I feel like it kind of helps with the reputation that you get for going to this school, and like if someone brings up something bad, you can say, 'Oh well, Ms. Abruzzo actually did this to help combat that,'" Jameson said.

As to bullying at SPHS, Abruzzo said, "It's not who we're going to be." She hopes the community rallies behind the simple message that is visible while walking behind the Vans designed by Nadia and Jameson.

Be kind.

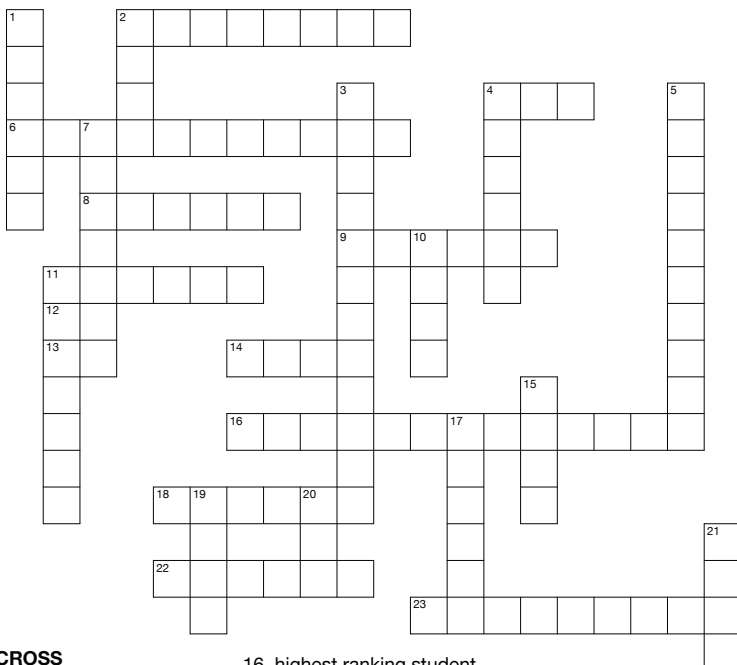
The contest-winning designs by Jameson and Nadia can be purchased, and further customized (to include different shoe styles), at these links:

Nadia's design — www.vans.com/en-us/customizer.slip-on-classic.html?recipe=3f6338dd4dd78deceb170a8c3e7062db

Jameson's design — www.vans.com/en-us/customizer.authentic-classic.html?recipe=10183d5a678d6a0867dd8coc8c35d5e2

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Michele Sabean
Director of
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On a recent morning, we had a mother waiting outside SPAN before we opened. She had come for help since her water had been turned off. The mother had walked here while pushing one of her children in a stroller. Our volunteer offered her water and food. She didn't want to take milk because of the walk home in the warm weather, and I realized her walk was not the 15 to 20 minutes I had assumed but more than an hour and a half in each direction. Thankfully, she was able to get a ride from a neighbor another day to be able to pick up more food. SPAN's motto is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Who are these neighbors?

The people who SPAN helps are all around us and we may not always be aware of it. Some of SPAN's clients are neighbors who have lived in this community for many decades. Some of our clients are living on fixed incomes and the food is helpful, especially with higher prices. Some clients are going through a temporary crisis, such as a loss of a job or health issue and need help to make it through a difficult transition. A couple of our clients in recent weeks were very active in their job search processes but have depleted their savings during rounds of interviews. We have helped several single parents, who were getting resituated after going through a divorce.

Sometimes we help clients who are facing a multitude of hurdles. We helped a single father with two young children who was going to be evicted. He had lost his job but was hoping to have another in the next week or so. He had joint custody but immediately took the children when he found out that their mother, who was battling addiction, had been living in a car with the children.

SPAN helped a woman who was five months behind on rent and facing eviction. She had a job but had been unable to work for several months because she had been in the hospital fighting cancer. While trying to make sure she didn't lose her home, she was awaiting test results. She was facing this battle alone with no family in the area.

It is a blessing to be able to relieve a portion of the burdens our clients carry.

I meet people going through difficult times and I consistently encounter people doing their best to help others. Whether it is our volunteers making things operate smoothly, clients giving a ride to their neighbors, or people dropping off donations — everyone can help.

We have a benefit concert on June 17. Laurette Hankins-O'Connell, 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 at the Severna Park Community Center. Tickets are \$25 each and should be purchased in advance with information on our website and social media. We will also have a silent auction.

Blue Angels Soar Over Annapolis



Photos courtesy of Kate Gahs

The Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron mesmerized crowds in Annapolis during a performance on May 24 as part of the Naval Academy's commissioning week.



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Beverly Triton Park Expands Water Access



Photo courtesy of Greg Welker
Beverly Triton Nature Park features a new interpretive sign and beach mat path.

By Zach Sparks

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The biggest public water access news in the last 10 years, maybe the last 38 years — that’s how the county’s Public Water Access Committee views the expansion of Beverly Triton Nature Park in Edgewater.

Severna Park and Arnold residents without community water access have been able to travel to Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis or Beachwood Park in Pasadena. Now, they have another option with Beverly Triton, located at 1202 Triton Beach Road.

The county held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May to recognize new improvements to the Mayo peninsula site: parking, a gatehouse, a pavilion, a playground, a fishing pier, restrooms and more.

Beverly Triton Nature Park includes 344 acres with a mile of beach abutting the Chesapeake Bay. Although the county purchased the land in 1985 for preservation and the intent to share it with the public, that was the case for only a small group of people. Roughly seven acres of that land was leased to the Beverly Beach Community Association, benefiting those who lived within walking distance.

The park opened to the rest of the public in 2013, 28 years later, but it lacked the features that make other local parks attractive. After the county scrapped plans in 2019 to add pavilions and a children’s play area, among other amenities, those upgrades are now complete.

Public Water Access Committee chair Lisa Arrasmith has spent 10 years spearheading the effort to open the park to all guests. She was on a quest to find places to put her kayak in the water when she found a locked gate and a sign saying “no trespassing” and “keep out.” In the distance, she glimpsed the blue bay.

“Since I couldn’t get into the park by land, I decided to get in by water,” Arrasmith said. “Keeping kayakers out of a waterfront park is like keeping squirrels out of your birdfeeder.”

Determined that everyone should be able to enjoy the park, Arrasmith attended a community engagement event held by then County Executive Laura Neuman.

“I’ll never forget the first time I was there, we walked a plank to the water, to a beach to see the Chesapeake Bay,” Neuman said. “It’s stunning. Living in Anne Arundel County for 20 years, I didn’t know it was there.

“We talked about taxes on stormwa-

ter. If we want people to understand the importance of that, we have to give them access to water.”

At that meeting, Arrasmith presented Neuman and Rick Anthony, the county’s recreation and parks director at the time, with photos and a four-point plan on how to open a rustic public park.

“That started 30 days of Rick Anthony visiting every county waterfront park, open to the public and not open to the public, and identifying what Rick called ‘low-hanging fruit’ — parks that could open with minor cost and significant benefit,” Arrasmith said. “By October 2013, the main gate to Beverly Triton was open.”

During the ceremony this May, the county recognized Anthony by naming a pavilion in his honor.

“As I was working through the process, I wasn’t thinking about legacy, but it was the whole team and my family, who stuck with me through late-night meetings and everything else,” said Anthony, noting he was overwhelmed by the honor.

He lived near the park and faced strong opposition from the community, which wanted to restrict access.

“I think there were some valid concerns regarding traffic ... but they also wanted it to remain private and preserved and not let outsiders have access,” Anthony said.

Letters arrived on Anthony’s doorstep, urging him to leave the park alone. Through several county administrations — from the one led by Neuman to those of Steve Schuh and Stuart Pittman — Anthony remained steadfast.

“I had to fight my own personal preference too of having a private community beach, and ultimately, it was about doing the right thing,” Anthony said. “A pretty significant population of our county did not have water access and these properties were bought with the intention that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy these parks.”

While the park is now a resource to be enjoyed by hikers, kayakers, anglers and all other Anne Arundel County residents, one hurdle remains. Water quality testing is needed for safe swimming.

The county has yet to provide an update on that issue. For now, advocates are savoring the park’s progress.

“Local government is about doing what’s best for the community,” Neuman said. “Thank you to the water access people. They have been diligent and persistent.”



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HM2 Buck For Hope Benefit Gala Supports Military Personnel

The HM2 Buck for Hope Foundation's upcoming benefit gala, starring David Carlin King and The Gold Diamond Band, is set for June 24 from 6:30pm-10:30pm at The Byzantium Event and Conference Center in Annapolis. This event will offer attendees a night of dinner and drinks, complete with a live performance of Neil Diamond's iconic hits, all in support of an important cause.

King is a vocalist, pianist, composer and arranger who has performed both in the United States and in 29 countries around the world as a solo artist and as a member of various performing tours. He has shared the stage with John Fogarty, Joe Perry, Winton Marsalis, Roberta Flack, Judy Collins and many other musicians. He has also performed for U.S. presidents and foreign dignitaries.

For the upcoming benefit gala, guests will enjoy favorites such as "Hello Again," "Love on the Rocks" and "Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show" as King takes a musical adventure through some of the biggest hits of our time.

"We are excited to host this event and unite our community in support of members of the military who have been affected by sexual assault and suicide," said Betty Buck, founder of HM2 Buck For Hope. "Our mission is to take any necessary steps to protect our brave servicemen and women, and this gala presents a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness."

By attending, guests will enjoy a night of celebration and hope, knowing that their contributions are making a meaningful difference.

To purchase tickets, or learn about available sponsorship opportunities, visit www.hm2buckforhope.com/gala.

Brightview Hosts Prom For Residents



Left: Noreen "the robot dancing queen" Lindsay showed off her moves as Paul Furlow assisted. **Right:** The Brightview Severna Park senior prom queens and kings included (l-r) Claire Vlastic, Preston Seely, Yvonne Taylor and Don Taylor.

By Mark Patton

mark@severnarparkvoice.com

For Claire Vlastic, the night was a long time coming. The lights, decor, red carpet, music, dancing, photo booth smiles and that perfect dress.

The 65-year-old widow, usually quiet and reserved, was ready for her first prom.

"Better late than never," Vlastic said.

Brightview Severna Park hosted a senior prom on May 11 at the senior living complex, complete with everything you'd expect from a high-school version, but with an added bonus of legally consuming some bubbly to get those dancing feet, or wheels, loose.

It was more than a drink that had Vlastic smiling and feeling good. She was also named a prom queen.

"It's such an unexpected honor," said Vlastic, adding that being a relatively recent widow, the prom, and honor of being named a prom queen, was "healing and therapeutic."

Emme Ray is a vibrant living assistant at Brightview Severna Park, where she's worked for almost six years. Ray led the planning for the senior prom.

"I encourage you all to dance and have fun and mingle, and act like it's prom,

but get a little wilder than you were at your prom," Ray told the Brightview residents before kicking off the event.

Shirley "Shu Shu" Landon, who was a prom queen in 1954 at her high school in Pennsylvania, attended the Brightview prom with her date, Daniel Connor.

"When I'm with her, I'm happy," Connor said.

It wasn't just seniors and staff enjoying the evening, though. A group of midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy were on hand to chat with the residents and dance. Some midshipmen even entertained the crowd with a karaoke rendition of Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'."

"It's really something mids pride themselves on, serving the community," said Brody Boggs, a first-year student, or plebe, at the U.S. Naval Academy. "It's really good to get out there and hear the stories of some really great people."

While Boggs must wait for his commissioning to travel the globe as a naval officer, one of the residents Boggs met at Brightview made him realize just how small the world can seem.

Boggs hails from Portsmouth, Ohio, a town near the border of Kentucky, with a population that hovers around 18,000.

Brightview Severna Park resident Bev Dahlman is from the same town. As the two started chatting during prom, they realized that Dahlman's best friend growing up was Boggs' grandmother.

"It was elaborate, it was fun," Dahlman said about the prom, still beaming after reminiscing about her hometown with Boggs.

Noreen Lindsay, a 92-year-old Brightview Severna Park resident, may have been seated in her wheelchair, but that didn't stop her from taking a spin on the red carpet, doing the robot dance or joining in the best way she could for the "Cupid Shuffle" line dance.

Lindsay — whose granddaughter, Hayley Scamurra, was a silver medalist in women's ice hockey at the 2022 Winter Olympics — was accompanied by her daughter, Beckie Lindsay, and her daughter's boyfriend, Paul Furlow.

Vlastic wasn't the only one sporting a sash by the end of the night. To accompany her as a prom queen, Brightview resident Preston Seely was named a prom king. Brightview couple Don and Yvonne Taylor were also named as a prom king and queen, respectively.

"We had a good time," Yvonne said. "It's a happy place here."

Environmental Advocacy Event To Take Place In June

By Emily Allgair

More than a dozen local environmental groups are slated to come together as part of a campaign, dubbed GreenGive, to raise funds for the greener good of Anne Arundel County for two days starting June 6.

Taking place at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, the GreenGive kickoff party will kickstart a 24-hour fundraising period for people in the area to donate to organizations that strive to assist local watershed and environmental areas throughout the county. Attendees of the kickoff event will have the opportunity to meet representatives from each organization who will offer information on what their respective goals are for the upcoming year.

The GreenGive 2023 partners include Annapolis Green, Arundel Rivers Federation, Crownsville Conservancy, Friends of Jug Bay, Good Neighbors Group, Maryland Reentry Resource Center, Scenic Rivers Land Trust, Severn River Association, Severn Riverkeeper, Spa Creek Conservancy, St. Luke's Restoration of Nature, the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy and Unity Gardens.

Unity Gardens is an organization that awards several \$1,000 grants annually to groups that want to grow native plants. The organization advocates for the growth



The Pines on the Severn project was funded by a grant from Unity Gardens. Unity Gardens is one of many groups participating in GreenGive.

of native plants in the area, recognizing the benefits that they bring to the environment.

Unity Gardens volunteer Karen Royer explained that once an interested group goes through the application process and is chosen by the Unity Gardens board, they are given a grant to plant native plants in their respective space. In turn, that will benefit the native birds, pollinators and butterflies in the area.

"The things that we need here are like coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, baptisia and the native honeysuckle," Royer said.

Another partner involved in GreenGive this year is the Good Neighbors Group. Started in 2006, the Good Neighbors Group aims to get people involved in opportunities with social and environmental impacts, to include gardening projects, cleaning up of local environments and ridding certain areas of invasive plants and vines.

Julie Shay is the founder and executive director of the Good Neighbors Group. Shay explained that GreenGive expanded this year to involve groups that are not solely environmentally focused. Because her group has some environmental projects, it qualified.

"I knew about GreenGive through Annapolis Green, one of the founding organizations, and so it's kind of cool to now be involved in it," Shay said.

A sense of unity isn't unique to just Shay's group.

"When you see the sum total of all that's been done for the green work in the county, it's a real morale booster," Royer said. "It does kind of balance out the negative things you see from overdevelopment when you see people putting a lot of heart and soul, and their money, to green organizations."

More information on the event, as well as donation information, is available at www.greengive.org/donate.

Elks Lodge Donates Stuffed Elks To Assist Police



Severna Park Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Terry Hicks (left), along with Elks members Jeanne Bathras and Beverly Horich, posed with police officers from the Anne Arundel County Police Department, after donating \$1,000 worth of stuffed elk animals to the department.

The Severna Park Elks Lodge purchased \$1,000 of stuffed elk animals to be used by the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

County police utilize stuffed animals to calm children through tough times, such as domestic violence cases.

The head of Severna Park Elks Lodge, Exalted Ruler Terry Hicks, said the lodge used a state grant to purchase the stuffed elks for the police department.

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together Gives Grants

Since its inception in 2006, Anne Arundel Women Giving Together (AAWGT) has provided more than \$1.7 million to nonprofits helping underserved women and families. This year, the organization awarded grant applicants \$164,305.

“May is always the highlight of our year as we fund a new group of very worthy nonprofits,” said Susan Cook, AAWGT president.

Severna Park-based nonprofit Rebuilding Together Anne Arundel County received \$25,000 in funding.

The organization’s mission is “repairing homes, revitalizing communities and rebuilding lives.”

Rebuilding Together Anne Arundel County board of directors president Annie Ruch said the funds will be used for business operations.

“We want to get the message out about who we are and the resources that are in the area,” Ruch said. “We are growing exponentially.”

To date, AAWGT has awarded 130 grants to 52 nonprofits in Anne Arundel County. Funded areas in-

clude the development and education of youth, treatment for victims of violence and abuse, mental health and family support, prevention of homelessness, affordable housing opportunities, the reduction of food insecurity, and promotion of child and adult literacy.

Congratulations to the following 2023 awardees and their causes:

- Anne Arundel County Literacy Council Inc. — \$6,000
- Child Resource Connect — \$25,000

- Community Alliance of South County — \$13,300
- Evolve KidsCare — \$15,000
- Harvest Resources in Anne Arundel County — \$25,000
- Maryland Latinos Unidos — \$25,000
- STAIR-Annapolis Inc. — \$25,000
- The Complete Player Charity and Sisters in Sync — \$5,005

Read the full story at www.severnaparkvoice.com and learn more about AAWGT at www.givingtogether.org.

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Hip-Hop Evangelist Returns Home To Follow Heart



Severna Park native Kevin Ferris recently released a pair of Christian rap songs that he provides vocals and lyrics for in advance of an album he plans to release by December.

By Judy Tacyn

It took crossing the country for Kevin Ferris to realize the happiness and fulfillment he thought he lacked was exactly where he left it — at home.

Ferris is now back, close to the Severna Park community of Chartwood where he grew up and his parents still live. He hopes to pursue his musical ambitions of being a gospel rapper. Ferris plans to have three new singles out by June and self-release an album later this year.

Although Ferris was described as a typical Severna Park kid, he never quite felt settled. After graduating from Severna Park High School, he did what he thought he was supposed to do and enrolled at the University of South Florida to study business. Not admitting it then, Ferris wasn't completely comfortable with his chosen educational track and found himself adrift.

During his first winter break, he returned to Severna Park and attended church services with his parents, like he had done hundreds of times before. This time, the

music hit different.

"For the first time in my life, I am singing the words of the worship songs and I had an overwhelming feeling, but I didn't know what was happening," Ferris recalled. "The way I heard music was different. Before I would listen to songs, but I wouldn't hear lyrics. Suddenly I was absorbing every word. And it wasn't just at church."

With his musical palette enhanced, Ferris felt drawn to hip-hop and rap music. He studied it. He wrote it. He performed it. Some early influences for him were the late rapper Tupac Shakur and Macklemore.

Ferris discovered the lyrical style of Christian rap resonated with him. Although he always had a seed of faith, Ferris said he was too vulnerable to peer pressure and felt he needed to follow in the footsteps of his siblings, a brother who was a jock and a popular sister.

Much to his parents' concern, Ferris changed his major from business to theater. He withdrew from his fraternity. He had a hunch he might be interested in acting,

so he took classes and entered talent shows. Eventually, he applied for enrollment at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles.

"His voice projects well and I could see that he had stage presence," said his mother, Sue Ferris. "He was a leader amongst his friends. I encouraged him to perform at a very early age."

He worked hard and his acting got better, his stage presence blossomed, and he self-released some songs in 2014 with a theme centered around the story of his journey to Los Angeles.

With no acting jobs on the horizon, the then 25-year-old Ferris said God made it clear to him what he needed to do.

"I was in a hurry, impatient, and trying to do too much," Ferris said. "My songs were too much about me. I heard God say, 'You've been running away from home for seven years. Go honor your mother and father.' I had never heard anything so clearly in 25 years."

Ferris packed up his bags to make his journey back east. He finished college. The pandemic offered the solitude to start working on an album with the support and encouragement of his wife, Tishia Dixon.

Ferris has dropped some singles from his self-released album, which is slated to be titled "Near-Sighted."

The current home loan officer and rapper, who has now completed advanced religious studies at Liberty University, hopes to one day have his own church where he can grace the congregation with his hip-hop evangelism.

"Whether he is preaching, rapping or leading groups, Kevin always honors God first," said Chris Beatty, lead pastor at the Baltimore-based Hope Springs Church.

Ferris' singles are available on most streaming platforms.

"I'm just trying to share God's message of love and mercy to people who may not have heard it before, or who may not have heard it through this type of music," Ferris said.

Read the full story at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

The Choices Christians Have To Make

Stephen Mitchell



A few years ago, a friend of mine from high school, who used to consider herself a Christian, encouraged me to check out a book that she thought I would like. The book was called "The Unlikely Disciple," and to this day, it is one of my favorite reads because it offers a unique

perspective, a perspective that recently came to mind in reflection with the times in which we live.

The book centers around a college student from Brown University who decides that instead of doing a semester abroad in a foreign country, he would instead do a semester in an environment that is just as foreign to him: Liberty University.

Kevin Roose, the author and central figure of the book, pretends to be a Christian, even though he is himself agnostic and politically and ideologically liberal, and he writes about the perception he has of evangelical Christians from spending a few months at one of the largest Christian colleges in America. The book was not an attack on Christianity at all, but the experience of reading the book was like looking in a mirror and seeing how outsiders to the faith see us. It was an honest look from his interactions with other students and seeing what we are really like, what we profess to believe in and how much our actual walk matches our talk.

The truth of the book echoes in my heart for what has been burdening me for the church in America. This is the simple yet profound truth: the world is watching us.

Ronald Reagan once said, "You and I have a rendezvous

with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth or we will sentence them to take the last step into a thousand years of darkness."

Reagan was talking about America and the Cold War, but the essence of that message speaks to the crossroads moment that I believe evangelical Christianity faces here in America in 2023. America is divided and teetering, Judeo-Christian influence seems to be eroding, and while it is certainly perilous times in which we find ourselves, it is also the opportunity of a lifetime for every believer in Jesus and for the church at large. The question is, how will we respond to this moment?

Christians can stand out or blend in, we can speak up or shut up, we can live out and reach out to others with an authentic faith in Jesus or we can damage the name of Jesus. We can either hold to compromise our convictions or stand by them, we can either show others compassion or we can give into the undercurrent of anger and lack of civility that increasingly seems to be dominating our culture. Jesus called Christians to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. The question facing us is whether we will rub off on the world or whether the world will rub off on us.

Some say that America is more divided than at any time since before the Civil War, so is the church rising to this moment with displaying Christian unity or will the church itself and Christians become as divided with each other over secondary issues and over politics to an extent to where we look as divided to the world as our country is? Will we speak the truth in love, or will we in the name of love omit biblical truth or in the name of proclaiming truth, leave out love?

Our society seems as if it's becoming increasingly

polarizing. This has been seen with the mass shootings plaguing our nation, the cyclical debates over the causes of them and over continued injustices in our society. Are we going to be "kind and tenderhearted" (Ephesians 4:32) or will we be just as hateful, nasty and tribal?

With the cultural crescendo we are amid, which COVID seemed to accelerate, and with the 2024 presidential election cycle upon us, America and the church in America have arrived at an inflection point where it needs to be asked: What is our mission? What do we want to be known for?

The truth is the church, and the Christian, should not be able to fit entirely with any political or ideological camp because the gospel is above all that and both liberals and conservatives need Jesus Christ.

Christians should be careful to remember Jonah, who was so caught up in demonizing the other side and so filled with anger and vitriol to the oppressive people of Nineveh that he ran from carrying out his mission to proclaim God's message of compassion and warning of judgment because, truth be told, he hated them too much and wanted them to perish. Christians, Jesus said, should be known for their genuine love for each other and for the outsider to the faith.

For anyone watching, it seems to be clear not only that we are in for difficult times ahead as a country and world, but that our politics are ugly. We must stand out by not allowing the toxicity of our cultural and political climate to rub off on us; we need to rub off on it. And while Christians should participate in the political process and vote our conscience, may we be careful not to betray our values and beliefs in the name of advancing them.

Stephen Mitchell is the senior pastor of Trinity Bible Church.

Budget Session

Amanda Fiedler

Councilwoman
District 5



- Increased property tax (increase range of \$117,50 to \$423)
- Increased income tax for single filers with an income over \$400,000
- Increased income tax for joint filers with an income over \$480,000
- New ride share fee
- Increased recordation and transfer tax on the full value of homes sales over \$1 million, from 1% to 1.5% (for a home purchased for \$1.3 million, the transfer tax would go from \$13,000 to \$19,500 or an increase of \$6,500)

Investment highlights as presented by the administration:

- \$45 million above state required funding for Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- Additional police and fire personnel
- Increased funding for eviction prevention, food programs, crisis response
- 72 new county positions
- At least a 5% cost of living (COLA) increase for county employees
- Merit/step pay for all county employees
- 5% COLA for all contract workers

The Anne Arundel County Council concluded departmental budget hearings and public budget hearings at the end of May. This was an opportunity to hear from each department on why they have increased funding or requests for their department. It was also an opportunity to hear directly from residents.

There are a few more steps in the budget process before the council votes on the proposed budget on June 14.

On May 30, the council heard from the county auditor. The county auditor and the audit staff comb through the entire budget to identify errors, excessive spending requests based on historical data, or other potential areas where there is not sufficient support for increased funding. The auditor presented recommended amendments to the budget. After a brief recess, the council heard the administration's rebuttal to the auditor's recommendations.

The county council will convene again for the budget on June 6, amendment day. This small break is for each council member to consider the auditors' recommendations and the administration's rebuttal. The council historically amends the budget based on auditor recommendations that the administration agrees with. For the recommendations that the administration disagrees with, it is up to individual council members to decide if they would like to pursue those recom-

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget is under discussion by the Anne Arundel County Council.

Revenue highlights, as presented by the administration, are as follows:

- Raising revenue reserve fund

mendations with additional proposed amendments.

I have historically supported most, if not all, of the auditors' recommendations that the administration disagrees with, because I have found the support to be solid and fiscally responsible.

Councilmembers will also have an opportunity to present amendments to the budget that were not in the auditors' recommendations. In the past, I have proposed cuts that I have felt could either wait for a future year or were not the best use of taxpayer dollars. I think of this budget not as a large pot of money to do whatever I wish with, but rather as the money that every family in our county has worked hard for.

It is important to note that the county council can *only cut* the budget. We cannot add to what has been proposed by the county executive — with one exception. The county council does have the authority to add to the Board of Education budget, but we may not add any funding that was not requested in the school system's proposed budget.

At the conclusion of amendment day, there will be cuts to the budget that can be handled in three ways. If there are enough spending cuts to reduce the tax rate or eliminate fees, the administration can work with the council to propose such a change. Another option is that proposed cuts can be reallocated to other areas of the budget through a supplemental budget, brought forward by the administration. These are areas that are usually of interest to council members but were not funded in the original budget proposal. This tends to be the historical approach.

The final option would be a combination of the two — but highly unlikely.

The council is scheduled to consider a supplementary budget on June 7.

Your thoughts on the proposed budget are still welcome. On June 14, the county council will meet to vote on the entire budget, both capital and operating. The new fiscal year will begin on July 1.

If you would like to stay in the know and receive my newsletter related to county legislation and pertinent events, or have a constituent matter, you can reach me at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

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District 5



Service Award.

The Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award was established in 2021 to honor the military and civic service of my friend and fellow board member, Candace Antwine. She was a Navy veteran and a committed and passionate voice for military families and children in need throughout Anne Arundel County. Candace served our nation in active duty, reserve and civil servant capacities. She was a member of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County from 2018 until her unexpected death in 2021.

Given each spring, the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award is open to Anne Arundel County Public Schools students who have made a similar commitment by enlisting to serve in the United States military upon graduation. It assists awardees with initial expenses related to enlisting, including basic training supplies, and aims to remove financial barriers to military service.

The positive impact this award has on its recipients is priceless. The board recently heard from a couple of last year's recipients, the winners of the first ever Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award. Chandler Dearborn, now Private First Class Dearborn, stated that the award helped him buy bedding, supplies and a scooter to get around, and toward the purchase of a laptop, which he has used to take college classes online. Private First Class Dearborn is now stationed at Camp Humphreys in South Korea.

Jemuel Bombay, now Airman First Class Bombay, is stationed in Guam. The Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service

During its May 24 meeting, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County honored three students who are enlisting in the military after graduation with the Candace C.W. Military

Award allowed Airman First Class Bombay to purchase lighter-weight uniforms and boots, protective equipment and hydration packets.

This year's three recipients stood out among many applicants. The applicants, awardees, and the scores of others in the AACPS family who will serve via enlistment deserve the highest praise for this commitment to our nation. It is because of all who serve or have served that all of us continue to have the rights and freedoms we all enjoy. Far too often the commitment these students make to our country goes unnoticed or is undervalued amongst the paths seniors choose after graduation. This must stop.

Each of our three remarkable students received a \$2,000 cash award.

Lindsay Bailey, a senior from Northeast High School, has enlisted in the Air Force. Lindsay has talked about joining the Air Force her entire life, and she is following through on her dreams on becoming an airman.

Carlos Henderson, a senior from South River High School, enlisted in the Navy. Following in the footsteps of his father, Carlos seeks to travel the world while protecting the freedoms all Americans hold dear.

Also a senior at South River High School, Christian Pearce has enlisted in the Navy. Believing that joining the military is the most courageous thing a person can do, Christian looks forward to serving his country while growing as an individual.

Congratulations to Christian, Carlos and Lindsay! The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County looks forward to seeing where your military careers will take you and how this award has impacted your initial training.

The Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award is supported by the generosity of the community and not with taxpayer dollars. To learn more about the award and to donate, please visit www.aacps.org/serviceaward. Without the community's support, honoring these students would not be possible. Please consider donating. As always, I can be reached at dschallheim@aacps.org or by phone at 443-534-25660.

Letter To The Editor

I would like to bring to your attention a special interest I have: climate change.

Climate change is happening faster than we previously thought, with global sea levels rising by 20 centimeters over the past couple years, heat waves and heavy rains affecting 90% of the world's regions. A total of 196 nations predicted that goals set in the Paris Agreement, to restrict the rise in temperature to 35.6 degrees Fahrenheit, could soon be out of reach.

Heat waves, wildfires, drought, floods, tornados and hurricanes are becoming more common. Our standard seasons are changing with much unpredictability caused by climate change.

The industrial revolution of the 1800s was driven by fossil fuels, leading to extreme weather conditions. To stop the world from heating further, we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

To do this, we must find the root cause. Humans are the biggest contributors because of the lifestyle they choose to keep. Climate change is caused by increasing consumption of fossil fuels, deforestation, agriculture and rising standards of living. It can lead to chaos and destruction of civilizations, so we must fight it together by focusing on long-term, sustainable growth.

What can we do? Here are some suggestions:

1. Don't litter. Use aluminum bottles instead of plastic bottles that don't always get recycled property. Dispose of items properly; don't just toss them out the window or toss while out walking.

2. Use clean or renewable energy, instead of depending so much on fossil fuels. Walk or ride a bike instead of using a car to go just a few blocks.

3. Be smart with electronics. Don't just drop electronics in the trash when broken. Always recycle them.

I really care about climate change, and we must protect what we have or perish with the killing of our earth.

Abigail Dugenske
Severna Park Middle Student



Photos by David Bashore

Severna Park claimed the program's first championship since 2019 after beating Towson 12-8 at Stevenson University for the 3A girls lacrosse title on May 25.

Severna Park Girls Lacrosse Ties State Record With 15th Title

By David Bashore

For Severna Park lacrosse, four years without a state championship feels like a long time.

The 2023 Falcons girls lacrosse team was determined to put that spell to an end, and though they experienced an almighty scare along the way, the "drought" is over.

Severna Park cruised through the

region tournament and survived a major speed bump in the state semifinals to claim the program's 15th state championship and first since 2019, beating Towson 12-8 at Stevenson University for the 3A girls lacrosse title on May 25.

With the win, the Falcons (17-3) tied Mount Hebron for the most girls lacrosse championships in Maryland public school history.

The three-headed attack monster of **Charlotte Diez**, **Alyssa Chung** and **Regan McDonnell** paced the Falcons offense down the stretch, while **Lilly Spilker** anchored a tenacious Severna Park defense that was good when it needed to be in the state semifinals, and then locked things down in the final.

In the championship game, Severna Park built a big first-half lead, only to see

it being whittled away early in the second half. That was familiar for two reasons: the 2022 final, which the Falcons lost after building a big first-half lead, and the 2023 semifinal where they rallied from their own huge first-half deficit.

That familiarity, however, didn't instill panic, but the necessary composure to right the ship and sail to the end.

» Continued on page 30

Undefeated: Bruins Boys Lacrosse Team Wins First Title Since 1997

BHS Completes Perfect Season With 16-6 Win Over Sherwood

By David Bashore

In the final moments of the 2023 Class 4A state boys lacrosse championship game on May 24, Broadneck goalie **Colin Gray** urged his defensive teammates to soak in the moment.

Erasing the heartache of losing last year's state championship game? Check.

Completing a perfect season? Check. Capturing the program's first championship since 1997? Check.

For the seniors, ending their careers with the ultimate high? Check.

"This year we kind of had a revenge season," Gray said. "Check off every single game, one at a time, until we get here again and then check this one off."

It was no wonder, then, when the scoreboard read triple-zero and Broadneck had finished their 16-6 victory over Sherwood, that the emotion flowed as the Bruins raced from the bench — and the field — to celebrate directly in front of their family, friends, and fans who made the trek from the peninsu-

la to Stevenson University in Owings Mills. Twenty-six years of waiting was finally over.

"This is a win for the community, not just Broadneck lacrosse, not just the school, it's a win for the community," said Broadneck coach **Jeff McGuire**, who was 7 years old the last time the program won a state title. "There's a lot of people backing our program. There's a lot of love at the school, there's a lot of love from the athletic community ... our town itself, the peninsula, and really just the amount of love that reached out to us this week wanting to see Broadneck do big things. That's what these guys did."

In the championship game, **Jackson Shaw** and **Ryan Salazar** each had three goals to pace the Bruins, who closed on a 9-1 scoring run to see off Sherwood.

All season long, the players savored the big moments, none grander than the state final stage. When it was over,

» Continued on page 30



Photos by David Bashore

During BHS' state championship run, Brooks Chatlos (above left), Ryan Salazar (above right), and Jackson Shaw (below) paced the Bruins' offensive attack.





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Seven Straight: Falcons Set State Records With Another Boys Lacrosse Title



The free-scoring Falcons withstood a surge from Mount Hebron in the state championship game's final minute to win 9-8.

By David Bashore

Every championship team has a defining moment at some point in the season. Often, it's early, but usually never later than around the midpoint.

For the Severna Park boys lacrosse team, though, that moment may have come in the final minute of the season.

The free-scoring Falcons found themselves defending tooth and nail to retain their status as state champions, withstanding a surge from Mount Hebron in the game's final minute to win 9-8 and earn a seventh successive state title.

Sophomore attacker **Jack Fish** led Severna Park with four goals, while **Tim Sullivan** scored twice. **Alex Stroble** had a goal and two assists. **Tucker Moran** had a goal and an assist, while **John Burkhardt** also found the net. **Nolan Grizzle** assisted on one of Fish's goals.

Senior goalie **Ashby Shepherd** made two saves in the final minute, both with the shaft of his stick, to preserve Severna Park's win over the same team the Falcons beat in the

2022 final.

"You know when it's 20 seconds left, and you're up by one, it's all on you; you're the one standing between him and the goal," Shepherd said. "You don't hear the crowd. You don't see anything else. It's just you and him, and I locked eyes with him. I knew I had to save that one."

Emblematic of the defensive effort it took to outlast Mount Hebron, **Talan Livingston's** diving flick to keep a ball in play and bleed precious seconds off the clock allowed Severna Park to regroup defensively and stymie Mount Hebron's last desperate attempts at a shot on goal.

"We played them before (in the 2022 title game and earlier this season), and they're a great team," said junior **John Burkhardt**. "We knew it was going to be a tough battle, and that makes it that much more of an achievement to win. ... I think we'll definitely see them again (at some point next year)."

The championship cemented Severna Park as the most successful boys lacrosse program in Maryland public high school history. It was the

Falcons' seventh in a row, which is a new state record, and it brought their overall state record title count to 12.

But it did not come easily. Though the Falcons rolled in the region tournament against Crofton and Chesapeake and in the semifinals over Chopticon, they struggled in their opening-round tournament game against Towson, needing five fourth-quarter goals to advance.

One last test awaited in the championship before Severna Park could celebrate yet another title, but arguably one of its most rewarding.

"Every group's special in their own way ... to me they're all the same," said Severna Park coach **Dave Earl**. "I think this group is a little bit extra special just because of how much revamping we had to do."

Severna Park graduated almost all of their attack from 2022, and Earl moved Fish to attack during the stretch run of 2023. It paid dividends, as Fish netted 21 goals in five games of region and tournament play, spearheading a youthful attack backed up by a senior-heavy defensive unit.

"Every group's special in their own way ... to me they're all the same. I think this group is a little bit extra special just because of how much revamping we had to do."

— **DAVE EARL**
HEAD COACH, SPHS BOYS LAX

That combination proved to be enough, and the Falcons celebrated their seventh straight title as if it were their first. Such is the tradition handed down from the outgoing seniors to the underclassmen every year: enjoy it, and next year it's your turn.

"Emotions are definitely (running), and this is when everything comes full circle; the final horn sounds, and you know you did your job," Shepherd said. "The first thing I'm thinking about is all the younger guys having a ball of a time. They earned the right to be on the team. They've worked hard all year. Next year's their time to step up, and they're going to want that feeling again, that amazing feeling when all their hard work pays off."

The championship game starters included Shepherd, Livingston, Fish, Stroble, Sullivan, **Evan Stroble**, **Jack Gunther**, **Brett Hussey**, **Daniel Stack** and **Camden Webb**. Other key contributors in the playoff run included Burkhardt, Grizzle, Tucker Moran, **Andrew Myers** and **Duke Sealey**.

Other players on the championship roster were **Jake Daniels**, **Benjamin Ruppert**, **Nick Whitacre**, **Quinn Romo**, **Matthew Dryer**, **Jackson Elms**, **Jon Mazzola**, **Upton Young**, **Kenny Brazil**, **Hayden Fox**, **Kevin Bredeck**, **Dillon McConnell**, **Zach Chowanetz**, **Hunter Reed**, **Masson Keegan**, **Landon Zawartka**, **Davis Bates**, **Marric Warren**, **Hastings Fava**, **Joey Viskocil**, **William Mazcko**, **Tyler Lawhorne**, **Calvin Winship** and **Sam Salis**.

Green Hornets Get Past GORC To Take County Crown

The seventh/eighth grade boys Severna Park Green Hornets lacrosse team defeated GORC 9-2 in the county championship game on May 22. They were led by coach Evan Howard and went 11-1 on the year. Members of the team included Brayden Babcock, Chace Cinelli, Brayden Cox, Cristian Donaldson, Gavin Earle, Michael Ensor, Lachlan Ewing, Connor Hill, Brady Howard, Brooks Jones, Ian Langston, Brayden Larkin, Luke Lester, Thomas Lynn, Mason Madison, Gregory Mahoney, Colin McDonald, Benjamin Morgan, Samuel Ortiz, Parker Rabinovitz, Jonny Reneau, Nathan Riggins, Peyton Serpa, Jack Sweeney and Noah Turner.



Broadneck Three-Peats As Girls Lacrosse Champions



Photo by Dennis McGinley

With a 9-8 win over Dulaney, the Broadneck Lady Bruins secured their third successive state championship on May 24.

Bruins Survive Late Rally From Dulaney To Win Program's Sixth State Title

By David Bashore

As the time started to tick down in the Class 4A girls lacrosse championship game on May 24 at Stevenson University in Owings Mills, and the Broadneck lead began to dwindle, there was plenty of cause for alarm.

But the team's old heads — **Lexi Dupcak**, **Lilly Kelley** and **Mary Moore** — didn't panic.

"Well, I was freaking out," Broadneck coach **Katy Kelley** quipped.

Even when a six-goal lead over Dulaney

was whittled to a margin of one in the space of five minutes, the Bruin seniors remained unfazed, and for good reason. Two years prior, they had endured almost an identical situation, on the same field, in the same setting in the 2021 championship against Arundel, which they won by a single goal. That experience told them that, somehow, things were going to be OK.

"We've been in that position before, like two years ago in states, so we kind of handle the pressure well," Moore said. "We just had to stay calm."

Even in a frantic final minute, including a shot ringing off the pipe of **Megan Shields'** goal with just seconds left, the calm prevailed. So too did Broadneck, 9-8,

to win their third successive state championship and the sixth in program history.

Moore had three goals and an assist for the Bruins, while **Sienna Miller** scored twice. Dupcak had a goal and an assist, while Kelley, **Nora Lopes** and **Olivia Orso** also scored.

Unlike previous entries into the state tournament, this time the Bruins had to play road warriors — at least for one round. They were seeded sixth and had to beat Urbana on the road, but then were actually the better-seeded team in both of their subsequent matchups, in the semifinals against No. 7 North County, and in the championship against No. 8 Dulaney.

It was a different path, and a different kind of championship, but the Bruins

proved they were still the team to beat, even if the gap wasn't nearly as wide as the previous season, when they beat Bethesda-Chevy Chase 17-4 in the final.

"It was exciting; that's what we want to have in a states game," Dupcak said. "Last year was a fun game, everyone got to score, and it was a lot of fun, but I like the close games. It's fun to go out with a one-goal game."

The Bruins played a slew of close games during the regular season, but going into the title tilt, their closest contest in region or state tournament play was a 12-6 quarterfinal win over Urbana.

A close game in the final might not have been what everyone expected from a Broadneck "juggernaut," but it made the tournament championship feel that much more rewarding in the eyes of the players.

"I feel like there was a little more pressure this year, because we hear three-peat a lot, and that adds a dimension of pressure," Katy Kelley said. "You feel like you're expected, and that's not always a great way to feel. So I think they had to handle not only a season where we had a lot of ups and downs, but also that expectation that we were just going to come out here and be fine. We knew it wasn't going to be like that. ... I'm proud of them for handling that, and for accomplishing it, which was pretty cool."

Starting in the championship game for Broadneck were Dupcak, Moore, Kelley, Shields, Miller, Orso, **Nya Williams**, **Faith Everett**, **Nevaeh Dowell**, **Carlie Gownley**, **Lily Trout**, and **Susanna Moore**.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



ELICIA APONTE

BROADNECK HIGH SCHOOL
TENNIS

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Elicia Aponte's high school athletics career began unlike most. Her freshman year, she attended the Canadian International School of Beijing in Beijing, China, where she played soccer, volleyball and basketball. Aponte's family was in China for her mom's work as a Department of Defense civilian.

Aponte is now a senior captain for the Broadneck

High School tennis team and wrapping up her third season for the Bruins.

"From an athletics standpoint, the move was not difficult because the sports there weren't that intense, and I didn't make as close of bonds as I did in my three years at Broadneck," Aponte said.

While she didn't play tennis her freshman year, Aponte credits her return to Maryland for getting her back to the sport that she has now played for 12 years.

"I had been playing tennis since I was five, but when I went to China, I stopped playing because I wasn't very fond of the coaching," Aponte added.

Thankfully, Aponte and Kathy Perrotta, head coach of Broadneck High School's varsity tennis team, have a great rapport. Perrotta shared how the Bruins captain has always been a positive leader and a hard worker — not just during the season, but also in the offseason.

"[Aponte is] always running warm-ups at the beginning of the practice and stretches at the end," Perrotta said. "She will take the ball and follow through on whatever I ask her to do ... without complaining!"

Aponte plays girls doubles and mixed doubles, which is her favorite part of tennis, along with cheering on her team.

In 2022, along with Rebecca Terry, she won the county doubles championship. Aponte was also part of a duo with Charlie Ernst that captured a regional title in mixed doubles.

The duo dynamic works best for Aponte as she feels that she's a better doubles player overall.

"I've become extremely more comfortable in the movement of it, and my awareness of myself on the

court is a lot better as well," Aponte said.

Further, the doubles' track helps the mental part of her game.

"Doubles also encourages me to stay out of my own head, as I have someone to back me up," Aponte added.

One of Aponte's goals for her senior season was to help beat her team's rival, Severna Park High School.

"Although I was injured and out for most of the season, we did end up beating them in the season," Aponte said.

The Falcons eventually won the county championship with the Bruins coming in second place.

Aponte didn't let it get her down. She rallied, and, along with Ernst, captured another regional title in mixed doubles. Aponte and Ernst's match was also the deciding match in the Bruins' overall regional title win. Broadneck beat Annapolis in the semifinals, then played Severna Park and won in the third set tiebreaker.

In the state tournament, Aponte and Ernst advanced to the finals, finishing as runners-up to Sky Carter and Brady MacBride of Walter Johnson High School.

After high school, Aponte is slated to attend Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, to study biology on the pre-med route. She will continue her passion and aims to play collegiate tennis. Aponte hopes to eventually attend medical school with the goal of becoming a pediatrician.

"I'm not sure what exactly I want to do in the pediatric world, but I do know that I want to work with children, and I want to be a doctor working in the medical field," Aponte said.

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BHS Softball Makes Surprise Run To State Semifinals

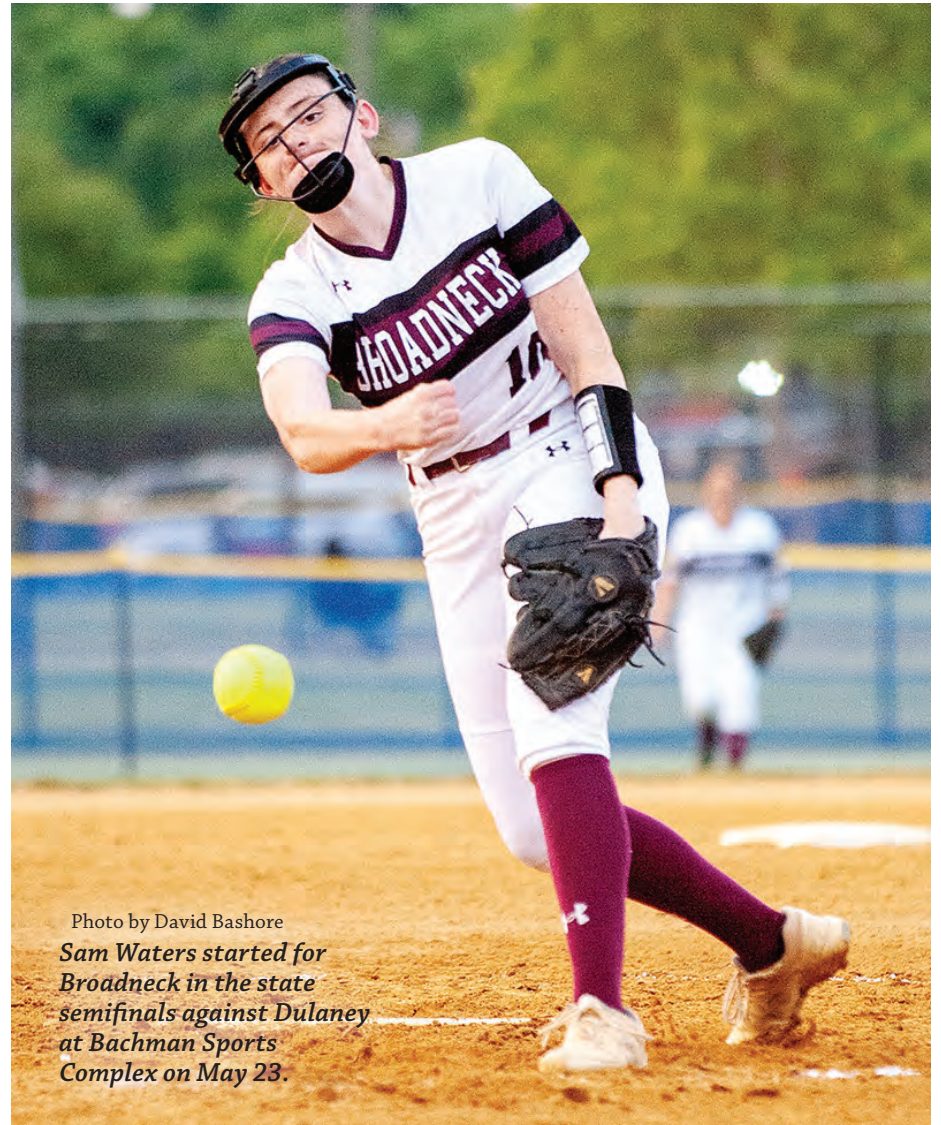


Photo by David Bashore
Sam Waters started for Broadneck in the state semifinals against Dulaney at Bachman Sports Complex on May 23.



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By David Bashore

After the conclusion of the 2023 4A softball season, it's safe to say Broadneck softball is back on the map.

The young Bruins flew under the radar for much of the season but made a deep run through postseason play, advancing all the way to the state semifinals before bowing out 7-2 to Dulaney.

Their playoff run was full of thrilling highs, potentially deflating lows, and a series of "almost" moments. Still, for a squad with just three seniors on the roster, and **Addison Hurst** the lone senior starter, the season goes down as a success in the program's development.

"It was very important for them to get this experience," Broadneck coach **Beth Mackell** said. "This is the first time for most of them to be here. They're competitors, and they want to win. They're young, and they'll be back."

It took five innings for Broadneck to solve the Dulaney pitching attack, and when the Bruins did, they hit it hard. But being down five runs, they had to be ultra-aggressive on the basepaths, and they ran out of outs in part by running into a couple, denying them a truly magical appearance in the state championship game against eventual champions Urbana.

Whereas other teams in the competition may have boasted shut-down pitchers, the Bruins played complementary softball to keep advancing. Whether the one-two pitching punch of **Sam Waters** and **Hailey Adamson**, the top-of-the-order energy from **Addie Cornelius** and

Bella Herrera, up-the-middle defense from Waters, Adamson and **Mara Gilkey**, or middle-of-the-order pop from Hurst and **Abby Favazza**, virtually all the Bruins made their mark on the run to the semifinals.

That was not more evident than when they all had to pick each other up in a wild region championship game against Leonardtown, during which the Bruins saw a five-run sixth-inning lead evaporate after a spate of uncharacteristic fielding errors.

Instead of crumbling further, they just got back to work. Waters took to the circle and turned the Leonardtown batters away. The offense grinded out one run. Freshman JV call-up **Diana Owens**, making her first varsity appearance as a pinch runner in extra innings, scampered home with the winning run on Adamson's bunt single in the bottom of the eighth to claim the region championship.

"I was so nervous ... my first time playing for varsity," Owens said. "No matter what, I knew I had to get home. As soon as I saw the girl bobble the ball, I was off. This is so big to win for the seniors. They deserve this win."

The semifinal round marked the end of the road for Broadneck in 2023, and for seniors **Adrianna Compofelice**, **Samantha Sprouse** and Hurst. Mackell recognized them after the Dulaney game, noting their impact on a young team that has a lot of growth potential ahead of it.

Also playing for Broadneck in the state tournament were **Aliceanna Weibley**, **Malayna Owens**, **Lily Kisling** and **Grace Purdum**.

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Despite Semifinal Loss, SPHS Baseball Team Has Fond Memories

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

In each of the last two seasons, two things have been true for the Severna Park varsity baseball team. They reached the state finals both times. And both times, Sherwood ended the Falcons' season.

Something had to give in the Class 4A state semifinal between No. 2 Sherwood and No. 3 Severna Park on May 23 at Shirley Povich Field in Rockville. One of those streaks had to end.

Unfortunately for Severna Park, the Warriors continued to win, this time by a 9-2 margin as the Falcons made a flurry of uncharacteristic mistakes.

"We have not faced many lefties this year and [Sherwood pitcher **Ben Berger**] was pretty tough," said Severna Park varsity baseball head coach **Eric Milton**. "We made mistakes. You can't do it in a game like this against a real good team. We made mistakes on the bases and defensively and they took advantage."

Seamus Patenaude's RBI double in the first inning gave the Falcons a 1-0 lead and hope that this year would be different. But several miscues followed, including a runner being picked off third base with the bases loaded in the second inning. **Matt Fleisher** mashed a pitch over the right-field fence for a solo home run in the fourth inning, the last Severna Park run to score.

"Baseball is one of the most tough sports to be in because you fail 70% of the time and sometimes it doesn't fly your way," Patenaude said. "Baseball sucks like that, but you play the game for when those moments go your way, and it just didn't go our way today."



Photo by Zach Sparks
Sean Williams started for the Falcons in the state semifinal matchup against Sherwood.

Several Severna Park players said after the game that Sherwood did not have a psychological advantage from winning the last two head-to-head matchups; the Falcons just didn't execute.

"Whether we're playing Vanderbilt or we're playing a Little League team, it's just another game," said Patenaude, who pitched and played third base for the Falcons most of the year. "Those guys on the other side of the field have to make the same plays we do. You go into it expecting to come out on top. Sometimes it doesn't."

The loss was upsetting for Patenaude, a

senior, and his teammates. They did not wallow after the game, though.

"Throughout the season, when we faced challenges, we kept going and kept pushing," said junior shortstop **Angel Santiago-Cruz**. "This group of boys, it was an amazing year for us. I'm going to look back on this and have all good memories."

Known as "Moose" to his teammates, Patenaude said practice was "always a blast," and even when the weather heated up, the boys still jumped around and had a good time.

"They're just a great group of guys," he

said. "I couldn't have asked for better people to be around and play baseball with for four years."

He and some of the other players on the 2022 Falcons squad even dyed their hair blonde as an exercise in team bonding. Patenaude revived his look midway through the 2023 season.

"I'll do anything if it means the team has a little laugh," he said. "And I'll take it even if they call me the Lorax. As long as they laugh at it and have a good time with it, I'm happy."

It may be hard to find reasons for happiness after a state playoff loss, but the team has much to savor. They won a thriller against South River, 4-3, to secure a region championship on May 16. **Kody Phillips** and **Ethan Rodriguez** had two hits each, and **Nick DiNunzio** drove in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the sixth inning. **Nathan Murphy** pitched seven innings while allowing three runs, and **Nathan Clarke** hurled two scoreless innings.

Severna Park kept that momentum going with another nail-biter on May 19. The Falcons broke through ties of 2-2 and 4-4 to beat Walt Whitman 6-4 in the state quarterfinals.

Phillips, Santiago-Cruz, DiNunzio, Murphy and pitcher **Sean Williams** are among the players eligible to return next year for the Falcons.

"It will start over in October, working in the weight room, and [we will] look forward to next year and try to get it done," Milton said about winning a state championship. "We've been right there almost every year. We're right there, we're right there. We just need to go over the hump and all we can do is look forward."

Track And Field Athletes Compete At States

During the Class 4A track and field state championships from May 26-27, the Severna Park boys tied for third place and the Broadneck boys finished 20th. On the girls side, Broadneck placed fifth and Severna Park finished seventh.



Photos courtesy of Naptown Studios

Left: Broadneck's Carson Boteler finished first in pole vault, clearing 11 feet.
Right: Falcon Kian Williams took second place in the triple jump competition.

Once A Bruin, Nick Gatton Returns Home To Face Navy



Photos courtesy of University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Former Broadneck and current University of Maryland Eastern Shore pitcher **Nick Gatton** recently hurled three shutout innings against the Naval Academy at a see-saw battle in Annapolis. Gatton came in the eighth inning with the score tied at 7 and kept the Midshipmen at bay, allowing just two hits. The Hawks scored twice in the 12th inning for a thrilling 9-7 victory. It was a special homecoming for the Arnold resident, who had a litany of friends and family cheering for him at Bishop Stadium. "It was a gutsy performance from him, pitching three innings of shutout ball," said interim head coach **Shawn Phillips**.

Softball Sensation Campbell Kline Closes Out College Career

By Kevin Murnane

Campbell Kline will be remembered as an important softball player in Severna Park High School's history, and she has left her mark at the University of Maryland as well.

During her high school career, Kline was named the Maryland Gatorade Player of the Year as she batted a meteoric .750 and led the Falcons to their first softball state title in 15 years. She was also named the *Baltimore Sun's* 2018 All-Metro Player of the Year and was a two-time *Capital Gazette* Softball Player of the Year. Kline finished her high school career with 185 hits, the most in Maryland public school history.

One of her other crowning achievements was being named the Infielder of the Decade by Varsity Sports Network as she was the Falcons shortstop and leadoff hitter and the catalyst of the team's high-powered offense.

"I'm still best friends with the girls who were on the state championship team and I'm still very close to coach Mere," said Kline, referencing former Severna Park head coach **Meredith McAlister**.

After her stellar career for the Falcons, Kline chose to attend the University of Maryland, but she had offers from East Carolina, Duke, Delaware and Kentucky.

"Maryland has been a great experience," Kline said. "I'm glad I chose Maryland because my family could see me play and my parents and grandparents have attended every home game."

This year, Maryland has beaten several top 20 teams including Oklahoma State,



Photo courtesy of the University of Maryland Department of Athletics
Campbell Kline enjoyed interacting with fans as a member of the University of Maryland softball team.

ranked No. 3 at the time, and Oregon, which was ranked No. 22. After these victories, the Terps were ranked in the top 25 for the early part of the season. Maryland ended up with a 36-16 regular season record and narrowly missed being selected for the NCAA tournament.

The team was selected as the top seed for the National Invitational Softball Tournament (NISC) in Fort Col-

lins, Colorado.

Kline has played in 42 of those games and has started 20. The former Millersville resident had a two-RBI walk-off single against Fairfield and three multi-RBI games.

But it is the outstanding team chemistry that Kline will remember the most.

"My teammates are phenomenal," Kline said. "We have so much fun off of

the field with the games we play on the bus rides to riding ATVs in the mountains of Mexico."

During the senior tribute video, her teammates praised her "heart of gold" and her "selflessness."

"In all my time coaching, Campbell is the one player I have seen who demonstrates what an ideal teammate looks like every single day," said University of Maryland volunteer assistant coach **John Garris**. "She's a highly skilled and talented player. What makes Campbell so special is that she truly puts others before herself in every way, every day."

Kline has learned many skills outside of the diamond such as time management, organization and the value of hard work. Her days begin with a 7:20am weightlifting session, then classes, afternoon practice, study halls, and completing papers and studying for exams.

"I've learned not to waste a second and that hard work pays off, on and off the diamond," Kline said.

Kline will graduate with a degree in criminology and has already landed a position at Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, Virginia. Kline had an internship with the firm last summer, which led to the employment offer.

Kline said she will miss her teammates' laughter and the camaraderie and spirited competition that is a special aspect of playing sports at the highest collegiate level.

"Everyone who is around Campbell knows that she is the best teammate any of us have ever seen," Garris said.



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Severn And Spalding Represent At National Sailing Championships

By Tom Worgo

It was a long grind for the Severn School and Archbishop Spalding sailing teams to achieve their success and goals.

Severn coach **Tom Sitzmann** started the school's program in 2005 by buying their own boats and finding a place to practice at Magothy Marina in Severna Park.

Over at Spalding, the Cavaliers began a club team around the same time and elevated it to varsity status this spring after all those years.

It all came together for both sailing teams at the 2023 Interscholastic Sailing Association Baker Team Racing National Championships on Lake Minnetonka in Deephaven, Minnesota, May 20-21.

Severn won the title for the first time ever after finishing second in 2021 and 2022.

Spalding coach **Travis Carlisle** said he considered it quite an achievement to even qualify for the event.

But Severn's national championship brought Sitzmann, a Severna Park resident, and the Admirals, a measure of relief. It's that big a deal with hundreds of sailing teams across the country.

"I think most teams go through life without winning a championship," Sitzmann said. "It is that difficult. High school sailing has never been more competitive. It's as rare as a national championship as in any other sport. We have been at it for a long time, and we have come close many times and we have had great teams."

Senior skippers **Kyle Reinecke**, **Robby Meek**, and Sitzmann's son **Tommy** guided Severn to two wins each over Mater Dei High School of California (silver),



Photo courtesy of Rachel Bartel Photography
Senior skippers **Kyle Reinecke**, **Robby Meek**, and **Tommy Sitzmann** guided Severn to two wins each over Mater Dei High School of California (silver), The Hotchkiss School and the Brunswick School, both of Connecticut, to claim the Baker Team Racing National Championship.

college. That shows the type of talent the Admirals contained on the roster.

"Annapolis obviously is a sailing hub," coach Sitzmann said, "and one of the biggest ones on

the East Coast. A lot of kids come to the program with a lot of sailing experience."

Severn's sailors use about a 14-foot boat called the Club 420 and the races last 10 to 12 minutes, according to coach Sitzmann

"It's a course where you go around four marks," he said. "There's up winds, down winds and up winds again."

Meek added, "The boats are not very fast. It's all about technique and tactics."

The Spalding sailors are brimming with pride after earning a berth in the national championships.

Skippers **Hugh Carty** (committed to Naval Academy), **Owen Williams**, and **Parker Herman** and crew **Maddie Washburn**, **Taylor Collison** and **Christina Pierce** led Spalding.

"Going to the Baker Nationals is a big deal," coach Carlisle said. "Only 12 teams get to go there. There are over 600 high schools in the country that are racing."

The Hotchkiss School and the Brunswick School, both of Connecticut, to claim the championship.

Those Admiral seniors received support from crew members and juniors **Reese Corckran**, **Helena English** and **Scarlett Harris** as the Admirals finished a perfect 11-0 overall in a 12-team regatta that also featured teams from San Diego, Chicago, the Virgin Islands, Miami, Seattle and Texas.

Seniors **Lilly Baker** and **Jed Lory** were put in for the last race.

"It was so exciting to win it," Meek said. "This past couple of years we have been right there, and we felt we could have done it. It was our last year to do it [before graduation] and it was very rewarding because we put in a lot of hard work and really fought for it."

Severn's five seniors — Sitzmann (Stanford University), Lory (Roger Williams University), Meek (Harvard University), Baker (Dartmouth University) and Reinecke (Naval Academy) — will continue sailing in

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With Overtime Victory, Broadneck Juniors Become Champs



The Broadneck Juniors A team brought home the girls lacrosse county championship with a 10-9 overtime win over a Kent Island team on May 21. They were coached by Jen Trout, Mark Frye and Lou Facciponti and led by a strong group of eighth-graders including Hadley Booker, Mackenzie Burrows, Samantha Collins, Cecilia Facciponti, Catrin Flynn, Avery Katzen, Noelle Salamandra, Molly Robison and Ella Trout. Other team members included Morgan Boyer, Madelyn Collins, Harper Frye, Lily Habashi, Ava Horstkamp, Samantha Johns and Ella Marquardt.

Undefeated: Bruins Boys Lacrosse Team Wins First Title Since 1997

» Continued from page 18

they shared their moments together as a lifetime of work came together in 48 clinical minutes.

Whether it was Shaw and **Ryan Della**, two of many who have been lacrosse teammates since entering the BAYS program “from when we could walk,” Shaw said, or Gray and **Jed Pellicano**, one of Gray’s first connections when he moved here, hugging it out while waiting for the trophy presentation, the deep emotional attachment within the team was obvious.

“Just thinking about Cole and that whole family,” said Gray, referencing Pellicano’s older brother, who played at Broadneck and briefly coached Gray in club ball. “We connected instantly, and the whole family was so good to me when I got here. For Jed to come into Broadneck this year, it’s just special. It’s just awesome to be able to share that with their family.”

Though Broadneck finished undefeated, it took every one of the contributors to get there. Gray, whom McGuire called one of the best goalies in the state, made countless important saves along the way. Della scored four goals in a 9-8 state semifinal win over Urbana, including the game-winner in overtime, every athlete’s dream. Shaw, virtually penciled in for a hat trick most games and who scored more goals this season than any Broadneck player in history, delivered the physical play required to get past South River 10-8 in the region championship game. Salazar, **Tyler Hicks**, **Tanner Boone** and **Brooks Chatlos** popped up in the team’s playoff run to score timely and impactful goals, **Braden McCassie** anchored the defense, and **Jake Chambers** delivered solid two-way play in the midfield.

The “secret formula” for this championship team, as it were, was not so secret after all: stepping up and doing what was necessary both for the name on the front of the shirt, and their teammates’ numbers on the back.

“We just like winning lacrosse games

with our friends,” Shaw said.

Della added, “Our chemistry brought so much to the team this year. You should have fun no matter what while playing this game.”

This Broadneck team was a historic group in more ways than one: they broke 26-year state championship and 22-year county championship droughts, set a program record for single-season wins and completed what is believed to be the program’s only undefeated season.

Players and coaches are quick to say they weren’t miracle workers, though, but were simply finding themselves in position to leap to new heights from the shoulders of those who came before.

“It’s not like we came into a bad team

and turned it all around,” Shaw said.

“Broadneck’s always been good; there’s a strong culture here. ... We have faith in the program, and we just kept going.”

Sometimes the past reached into the present as well, preserving the deep connections within the program. Legendary Broadneck coach **Clay White** texted regularly with McGuire, if for no other reason than to encourage the current players to push on.

“It’s as simple as, after the county championship, something like, ‘Great game, good team, really good goalie, go win it,’” McGuire said. “We know that he’s watching, and he’s very proud to see this team do well again.”

By the end of the season, Broadneck

had a solid rotation, including championship game starters Della, Shaw, Pellicano, Gray, Boone, Chambers, McCassie, **Max DeMella**, **Nick White** and **Graham Hartman**.

Also featuring on the Bruins state championship roster: Salazar, Hicks, Chatlos, **Matthew Tetteimer**, **Eli Harris**, **Tyler Stewart**, **Logan McGill**, **Austin Combs**, **DaQuann Woodall**, **Albie Palsa**, **Robert Ready**, **Blake Levicki**, **Noah Yoder**, **Harlan Welsh**, **Max Lambden**, **Brayden Schmidt**, **James Smack**, **Jack Meehan**, **Liam Komlosy**, **James Dean**, **Carter Telep**, **Keaton Walker**, **Dom Ascione**, **Tommy Anglim**, **Wyatt Shaw**, **Aiden Gillette**, **Donovan Boyer** and **Bennett Chatlos**.

SP Girls Lacrosse Ties State Record With 15th Title

» Continued from page 18

“Last year we had a similar situation where we got up early very fast, and then they dropped a bunch of goals and came back,” Chung said. “I think over and over again, we weren’t thinking we were up so much. First off, last year, we lost on a very similar comeback, and second off, Westminster, we came back from the same deficit. In the middle of the game, we were just saying, ‘If we could come back then, they could come back now.’ We just figuratively ran like somebody was chasing us and tried to keep scoring goals.”

Despite Towson rallying somewhat to put pressure on Severna Park in the championship game, the margin never got closer than three goals because the attack kept scoring, and Spilker and the defense were at their disruptive best to thwart Towson’s momentum.

“She’s just the most frustrating person to pass around,” Chung said about Spilker. “Charlotte and I would be looking for passes (in practice) and you go, ‘Oh, this girl looks like she’s wide open.’ Boom. Lilly has it and she’s down the middle. By the time you realize she has the ball, she’s at the 50. It’s frustrating defense.”

That frustrating defense did the job

both in the final and in the second half of a semifinal classic, where Severna Park rallied from five goals down to stun Westminster 13-12 in overtime. Diez scored the last three goals of the game, including two in the final 27 seconds of regulation, to snatch the win and advance to the final.

On a team laden with seniors, Diez was not about to let the dream of a state title end even if things looked bleak.

“You have to keep positive; there’s nothing else you can do,” Diez said. “I lost my freshman year to COVID. Sophomore year we lost to (state champion) Broadneck when we were 4A. Last year we lost a heartbreaker (in the championship game). It wasn’t ending like this.”

That every player had an opportunity to step up and contribute in a meaningful way was a testament to the “we not me” mentality drilled into the players.

“The depth of our team was such that if you shut down one player, another would step up and make the difference,” said Severna Park coach **Annie Houghton**.

That willingness to step into the moment — and the ability to shed the spotlight willfully when needed — demonstrated the sisterhood on this squad.

Even if the Falcons were retooling, they wanted that 15th title for each other almost as much as they did for themselves.

“With such an awesome team, we really couldn’t go through all four years of high school without winning a state championship, because we have such great team chemistry, and we want to win it for each other,” Spilker said. “I think we came out really strong this season knowing that we had lost people (to graduation), but we wanted to come back and win it for the seniors that we lost and for the seniors this year.”

The Falcons’ championship game starters were Diez, McDonnell, Chung, Spilker, **Sara Kreis**, **Stella Bordone**, **Liv Tramontana**, **Sophia Miller**, **Maria Bragg**, **Maggie Mullervy**, **Avery Saviano** and **Allison Schiavone**.

Also featured on Severna Park’s state tournament roster were **Quinn Allison**, **Erin Hussey**, **Bella Van Gieson**, **Maddy Goger**, **Sam Koppe**, **Kate Evens**, **Karli Kirchenheiter**, **Sarah Stefancik**, **Kate Griner**, **Berit Isenberg**, **Sophia Bordone**, **Payton Jeffers**, **Ryn Feemster**, **Francesca Dunoyer**, **Abby Kavanaugh**, **Molly Goeller**, **Ada Mutch** and **Kaylee Gerber**.



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Developing Men: Paul Pellicani Reflects On Coaching Career



Paul Pellicani was a fiery coach, but he deeply cared about his players.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Three NBA players. Six McDonald's All-Americans. Twenty-nine years. By the numbers, **Paul Pellicani** had a successful career as a high school basketball head coach.

More important to Pellicani, though, is the development of those players into young men — sharing values that later prepared them to become good husbands, fathers and, in some cases, coaches.

Pellicani said goodbye to his job as Severna Park High School varsity head coach prior to the basketball season last winter. But his influence is still resonating with former players.

Fast Break Formula

Before he joined Severna Park High School, Pellicani coached Maine Central Institute. From 1982 to 1989, he went 135-18 at the Division I junior varsity level, according to a *Baltimore Sun* article penned when Pellicani was later hired to coach Severna Park.

Derrick Brevard was on one of those teams.

"We played full court, all game, fast and hard," he said. "You can't take any plays off. You can't take any days off."

When **Tony Lucas** joined Maine Central Institute in 1988, he witnessed Pellicani coming to the players' dorms for over two hours per night. A curfew was set.

"He was not only a good coach, but he was our father figure there," Lucas said.

Pellicani had the program rolling. But even the good things in life end.

"The last headmaster called me in and said it was his intention to change the [school's] image," Pellicani recalled. "He said, 'We're not going to be a basketball school. We're going to be a music and drama school.'"

A Consistent Winner

Pellicani moved to Olde Severna Park in 2004. When the head coaching job was available, Pellicani's wife offered advice.

"She said, 'Do you know your sons are going to Severna Park? And who do you want to coach them?'" Pellicani said.

He came to the Falcons after the program had losing seasons seven of the 12

prior years. It did not take him long to get acclimated to Severna Park. He instilled a culture immediately. **Norman Gee** started on varsity almost four full years from 2000 to 2004 and was on Pellicani's first Severna Park squad.

"When you're playing for him, sometimes you don't understand his rhyme or reason, but he is masterful at being able to identify what motivates a player and get the most out of them," Gee said.

Sam Jones, who played for the Falcons from 2006 to 2009, remembers Pellicani setting expectations so that his players had accountability.

"It's hard to get kids at that age to understand what hard work is and to actually do it," Jones said. "His teams played hard, worked hard, and were disciplined."

Pellicani also taught accountability in other ways. On Saturday mornings, he read "Principles My Father Taught Me," a passage penned by Major Doug Zembiec.

A challenge coin in honor of Zembiec was given to former Severna Park High School JV basketball coach and retired Marine **Dave Bethel**, and from there, Pellicani presented it to players who demonstrated leadership.

"With the coin, it showed how he prioritized turning us into responsible young men instead of being good at shooting and rebounding," said former Falcon **Taylor Kitzmiller**.

The Falcons were county champions in 2003-2004 and 2013-2014. During that 2013-2014 season, his team set a school record with 23 wins.

"Coach P would have every single day planned down to the minute," said **Jake Hallet**, who said Pellicani was like a father figure to him and several teammates around 2017. "For seven minutes, we start jogging ... six minutes after that, we are going to stretch."

Former Severna Park High School athletic director **Dave Lanham** remembers Pellicani for being meticulous and asking Lanham how his family was doing.

"The thing with Paul, his teams were always competitive regardless of what the roster looked like or the size and height of the players, or the depth," Lanham said.

Brevard, who now coaches a girls basketball team, still hears from Pellicani.

"Even to this day, he still coaches me on life stuff," Brevard said. "He watches my games on a computer. I appreciate that always."

Pellicani was in attendance for one of Jones' biggest milestones.

"He was at my wedding 12 years after I graduated," Jones said. "I was always a better lacrosse and football player, but some of the most impactful lessons I learned were through Severna Park basketball: toughness, resiliency, accountability — he will still drop me a note. 'Sam, I'm proud of you.'"

Pellicani is proud that some of his players showed that athletic and academic success can coexist.

"If you played basketball, that was his way of getting through to kids," Brevard said. "Through basketball, he got them to look down the line and prepare for other things in life."

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Reviving The Severna Park Athletic Hall Of Fame

Committee Members Need Nominations



In the past, the skills and spirit of these athletes, coaches and supporters have been recognized by community residents providing nominations for the Severna Park Booster Club Hall of Fame.

By Kevin Murnane

Many great athletes, coaches and supporters at Severna Park High School have contributed to state championship teams and college opportunities for students.

In the past, the skills and spirit of these athletes, coaches and supporters have been recognized by community residents providing nominations for the Severna Park Booster Club Hall of Fame.

Because of the construction of the new high school and COVID-19, the Hall of Fame has not solicited nominations for several years.

Hall of Fame Chairman Larry Sells has assembled a nominations committee of past recipients and boosters club members to resurrect the school's Hall of Fame and to recognize everyone who has made Severna Park sports a highly recognized athletic program in Maryland.

The first induction class for the Hall of Fame was in 2003. Since then, more than 100 players, coaches and community members have been selected for the hall.

"I started the Hall of Fame because of the amount of amazing athletes who have played at Severna Park and have never been recognized for their outstanding achievements," said committee member Bill Willey. "It was long overdue and could not have come to fruition without Andy Borland. He's the true historian of Severna Park athletics."

Anyone who has been involved in the Severna Park athletic program can be nominated if they meet a few qualifications. Athletes who graduated from Severna Park a minimum of five years ago are eligible, and coaches who have left the Severna Park coaching ranks at least two years ago are able to be nominated. Also, players, coaches or supporters must exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character, as well as making a significant or long-term contribution to Severna Park athletics.

"There have been so many great athletes coming out of Severna Park

every year; this is an avenue to recognize them for their contributions to Severna Park," said committee member Jamie Bragg.

Bragg was inducted in the 2004 class and had a stellar football career in the late 1980s with the Falcons, which led him to play at the University of Maryland. Bragg is still active with the Terps as he is involved with the Best is Ahead project. The program enables players to speak to elementary and middle school students on current educational topics.

"It's pretty special to be nominated and chosen for the boosters' Hall of Fame," Bragg said. "Any time you get honored for your past accomplishments, it's a great feeling."

Also in the past, nominations were often reconsidered the following year if a person was not selected. Unfortunately, those records were lost during the transition from the old to the new high school.

"It's important that the community knows that they can nominate anyone from the start of the school in 1960 to when the athlete graduated five years ago," Sells said.

Sells is also working with the high school administration and local companies to build a Hall of Fame wall in the lobby outside the high school's gymnasium.

"Hopefully it will be finished by the end of summer," Sells said.

Also, the committee will plan a Hall of Fame dinner to celebrate the inductees' selection as well as past Hall of Fame recipients.

To nominate a player, coach or community member, residents can go to www.spboosters.org and select the page titled "Hall of Fame." Print out the form and mail or email it to Sells. For more information, email larrysells@verizon.net.

"I know the new principal, Lindsay Abruzzo, is supportive of the committees' strategies of revitalizing the Hall of Fame," Bragg said. "We'll begin using social media platforms, like Facebook, to create more interest for all the athletes' accomplishments."

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Severn School Senior Serves Sweet Surprise



Photo by Lauren Cowin

Brandon Taub partnered with Bruster's Ice Cream to surprise the senior class with milkshakes in April to make right on a campaign promise.

“How much fun can we have with this? We definitely wanted to participate in something that shows drive, it shows responsibility, it shows fun.”

— GARY FELDMAN, OWNER, BRUSTER'S ICE CREAM

By Lauren Cowin

Campaign promises don't always come to fruition, but Brandon Taub was determined not to be that kind of politician.

Taub was so committed that he managed a surprise delivery of 130 milkshakes to his classmates this spring.

The Severn School senior ran for sixth-grade class president in 2016 on a platform of being a good leader, listening to the people and obtaining a milkshake machine for the school.

He soon learned that lofty goals are sometimes easier to express than obtain.

“Everyone was like, ‘Yeah, I voted for you. I can't wait to see that milkshake machine,’” Taub recalled. “I got elected and I was so happy, and after many failed attempts of talking to the principal and talking to other student council members, they're like, ‘Yeah, this isn't going to happen,’ and I was very upset.”

Taub's constituents didn't go easy on him, either.

“There were people in their presidency speeches up until high school [who] would say, ‘And I'm not going to make any fake campaign promises unlike some people’ and then they'd look at me,” Taub said.

While the missing milkshake machine served as a running joke for many of his friends over the course of their years at Severn, Taub nev-

er let himself off the hook for his campaign vow.

“I've got to get everybody milkshakes before I leave this school,” Taub thought.

As the clock ticked on his senior year, Taub got serious about his planning. With some help from his parents and financial backing from his school, he connected with Gary Feldman, who owns the Bruster's Ice Cream shops in Severna Park and Glen Burnie.

“How much fun can we have with this?” was Feldman's reaction when he learned of the project. “We definitely wanted to participate in something that shows drive, it shows responsibility, it shows fun.”

The logistics of transporting 130 milkshakes took some creativity. It was decided that Bruster's would pre-scoop the ice cream into individual cups, hard freeze them and Taub would later pour the milk and blend them onsite, using one of Bruster's machines. To solve the issue of storage, Chartwell Golf & Country Club stepped up and allowed Bruster's to deliver the ice cream to its freezers, which Taub later picked up and transported to the school.

All of this happened unbeknownst to Taub's classmates.

“It was so difficult to keep this thing a secret,” Taub said.

On the appointed day, the senior

» Continued on page 44

Students Show Appreciation For Teachers

By Sarah Sternhagen

Student Intern

From making and implementing lesson plans to grading papers, a lot goes into a teacher's everyday work. They do so much for their students and schools, so once a year, a week is dedicated to them. This year, May 8-12 was national Teacher Appreciation Week, and Severna Park High School celebrated wholeheartedly.

“I think teachers really need to be recognized for all the hard work that they do inside of school and outside of school,” senior Lauren Kirchner said. “I also think that certain teachers can also have a big impact on students' personal lives as well and be a good friend to talk to and very approachable.”

Students were given blue slips of paper to write thank you notes to teachers the week before. Many students wrote about how much they enjoyed their classes, appreciated what a teacher had done for them and thanked other staff members. When the notes were delivered a week later, the small blue papers were visible on many teachers' desks.

“They spend a lot of their time, even out of class, like over the weekends, lesson planning and stuff,” sophomore Gavin Morris said. “I think it's just nice that they get the appreciation they deserve.”

The school also put together a special lunch as a thank you to teachers. Families signed up to bring food, snacks and beverages. As the job can be stressful with planning activities, keeping grades updated and worrying over big AP exams, the thank yous may seem small, but they were well earned.

“They're doing one of the most important jobs,” junior Samuel Cook said, “which is education.”

When asked about teachers that impacted them, many students rattled off almost an entire list. Those teachers spanned across many departments, grade levels and subjects.

“Freshman year, I was going through a lot and Ms. [Roxanne] Angerer kind of was there for me if I needed anything,” Mylia Phipps said. “It just showed me that teachers really do care.”

Lauren wanted to recognize teacher Yaneth Posada. “I haven't had her since sophomore year, but she was my Spanish teacher, and every single morning,

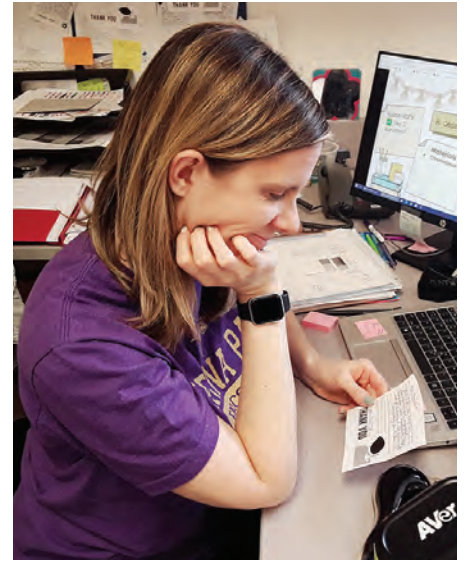


Photo by Sarah Sternhagen

Math teacher Elizabeth Meadows read a thank you note after Teacher Appreciation Week.

she still greets me and says good morning and asks me how my day is when I walk in the school,” Lauren said. “So, I think that's really awesome.”

Students said they appreciate it when teachers love the subject they're teaching. The enthusiasm translates and gets students more engaged with their classes because they can tell their teachers want them to enjoy the learning process. It creates natural motivation.

“AP Government was the class that impacted me the most because of the enthusiasm from the teacher, who's Mrs. [Sarah] Poole,” junior Galen Richardson said. “She really helped me see just how much I liked politics and Model UN too because she runs that club. And that has really been something that's affected me in my life now.”

There may only be one week in the year for teachers, but it's clear the appreciation for their hard work is there the entire school year. Students spend roughly 35 hours at school a week, not including sports and extracurriculars, and it's hard to keep coming back day after day with motivation. Good teachers and a healthy environment keep the students going.

“I think it's really important that they get that day of recognition,” Lauren said, “We should give them that appreciation every single day.”

Students Name Their Favorite Teachers

“My English class right now, [with] Mrs. [Katie] Chapman, she goes around and goes to our tables and talks with us and makes it more interesting.”

Sophomore Gavin Morris

“Mrs. [Andrea] Alcombright [is great]. She's always super sweet and super caring and she just always pushes you to do your best.”

Sophomore Brianna Barco

“Mrs. [Kristen] Ritz is another teacher that comes to mind. She's really nice and I have a club that I started with one of my friends, The Coding Club. She sponsors that and she's really nice and cool about it.”

Junior Samuel Cook

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. Fickinger's class at Jones Elementary School answered the question:

If you could make one rule that everyone in the world would have to follow, what rule would you make?

Everyone would have to love themselves just the way they are.

Ainsley L.

To have school from 8:00-11:00. Then you can do whatever you want after school.

Andy G.

If I could make one rule, it would be that everyone in the world would have to not smoke at all, because smoking can lead to lung cancer, disease and addiction.

Blake Y.

My rule would be to have peace in the world. I would want all of the countries to become one whole continent

so there would be peace in the world and not always have violence. That is the rule I would make!

Charlie L.

No pollution so the environment is clean, and animals won't be endangered, and so habitats will be saved.

Dylan T.

I believe that everyone should be treated equally. Because now most people are treated the same. Everybody is different but differences are great and should be celebrated.

Eden M.

I think the best rule would be not littering. I feel like if everybody stopped littering, it would make our world look like a beautiful place and help the environment.

Frederick M.

Use electric-powered vehicles or ride a bike to save the planet from global warming.

Harry H.

I would make a rule that everyone would have to do what I say. I would make that rule because then I can do whatever I want, whenever I want.

Jack D.

Everyone would be nice to each other.

Jackson H.

If I could choose one rule for everyone to follow, I would choose for people to play more games and have fun.

Jacob S.

Everyone would have to be nice and help out. I decided to choose this rule because I think it would lead to world peace.

Jonathan E.

I think one rule should be that school shouldn't be 8:45 to 4:20, because what if you have sports and you only have 30 minutes to get ready and do

Jones Elementary School



your homework.

Kameron D.

I think that the new rule should be no school because no school would be amazing.

Levi M.

If I could make one rule in the world for everyone to follow it would be to clean up after yourself.

London J.

If I could make one rule, I would make everyone be kind.

Luke R.

For everything to be under the price of \$1,000. Because everything is too expensive now.

Mari M.

I would make the rule that if you have more than \$2 million you have to donate some of it to animal or homeless shelters.

Natalie B.

That there would be no wars.

Pedro M.

A rule I would want the world to follow is to show more respect to teachers, because they help you get where you are today.

Sophia G.

If I could make one rule, it would be to treat all animals with kindness.

I would want this to be my rule because I love animals and I never want an animal to be hurt.

Sophie M.

All races get treated the same. Just because someone is a different race from someone else doesn't mean they should be treated differently.

Tanner M.

If I could make a rule that everyone would follow, it would be no littering and only use Teslas. I say that because we only have one world, and we are not treating it like it's our only home. Also, SAVE THE MANATEES!

Taylor G.

If I could make one rule that everyone has to follow, it would be that people can't do homework.

William M.

Troop 1907 Beautifies Asbury Church Memorial Garden

Members of Girl Scout Junior Troop 1907 earned their Take Action badge in May by renovating the memorial garden at Asbury United Methodist Church in Arnold. The garden is a reflection space at the rear of the cemetery. The project was a month-long culmination of hands-on work, research and community outreach.

First, the girls removed overgrown shrubs, weeds and a plastic garden border to prepare the space.

Under the guidance of landscape architect and Anne Arundel Community College professor **Anne Gleeson**, the Girl Scouts learned about invasive

species and plants native to Anne Arundel County. The girls then researched the plants that would grow best in the shaded garden and were indigenous to the county.

From there, the girls reached out to local garden centers to find the plants and solicit discounts and donations. Butterfly milkweed, fringed bleeding heart, columbine, foam flower and phlox were some of the plants discounted and donated by Arnold Farms, Gary's Gardens and Windwood Gardens.

The troop also purchased and assembled a new garden bench for the space. Daisy and Brownie Troop 4189



The Girl Scouts of Troop 1907 completed their months-long project in May. The girls removed overgrown shrubs, weeds and a plastic garden border to prepare the space. Then, they added native plants and landscape rocks.

provided planters with annuals for the paver space on either side of the bench. Girl Scout Junior Troop 1862 members pitched in by planting and providing landscape rocks that the girls painted for a personal touch.

The project was funded by troop dollars earned through cookie sales as well as a donation from Asbury United Methodist Church.

Troop members included (bottom row, l-r) **Erin Quigley, Sophia Josephs, Sydney Jamison, Lili-ana Bogley, Addie Coleman** and (top row, l-r) **Nicole Morella, Harley Trainer, Juliette White, Olivia Chesley and Alaina White.**





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Challenger Baseball Kicks Off 18th Season



Severna Park High School baseball players assisted Challenger athletes with catching, batting and running the bases during Opening Day.

By Judy Tacyn

One of the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks' longest-running programs kicked off its 18th season with Opening Day on May 13 at Severna Park Middle School.

For a second consecutive year, the weather forced the Challenger Baseball festivities to move from Freedom Field at Lake Waterford Park to indoors at the school.

As they have for more than a decade of seasons, Severna Park High School (SPHS) baseball players were there to assist Challenger athletes with catching, batting and running the bases.

Anne Arundel County Challenger Baseball was created in 2006 to give adaptive athletes, of any age, the opportunity to learn baseball skills and teamwork as well as help them build social skills in a sports environment.

Terri Hamrick-Oeschger brought Challenger Baseball to the county. She's also the program coordinator and coach.

Hamrick-Oeschger's emotions are evident from the moment she sees the first Challenger athlete slip a bright-colored team T-shirt over his or her head. She said the joy and excitement shown on the faces of the players is what keeps her coming back year after year.

Hamrick-Oeschger also has a personal

connection. Her son, Tyler, was also an adaptive baseball player until his death at the age of 15 in 2011.

"I get emotional because every time I see these players I think of Tyler and of the joy that Challenger Baseball brought him," Hamrick-Oeschger said. "These kids are so excited to start playing. I feel that I am honoring his memory and that feels very good. They are all my children now."

The program has grown to 80 adaptive athletes on five teams across the county. Games are played on fields in Pasadena and Annapolis.

Michelle Green is the grandparent of a Challenger athlete. Green said she's seen her grandchild's confidence, activity and willingness to socialize improve.

"We just love this program because the leaders really attend to the children, meet them where they are, and are very good with players of all levels," Green said.

SPHS junior varsity baseball coach Dave Ferris, and his teams, have participated in Opening Day since the program's inception.

"I know I get a lot out of it, and so do our guys," Ferris said. "I want our players to understand they have a lot of advantages in life that some of these kids don't have, and they should count their blessings every day."

SPHS sophomore Miller Ricker was participating in his first Challenger Baseball Opening Day.

"Seeing these athletes playing baseball proves that anyone can do anything they want and anything they love," Miller said. "It's a good feeling to help them and see how they look up to us."

The friendships formed through base-



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Kyle Lowry (left) and his best friend, Parker Hall, enjoyed Opening Day festivities for Challenger Baseball.

ball are exactly what Hamrick-Oeschger envisions for the broader community.

"Challenger Baseball helps to build friendships for life," Hamrick-Oeschger said. "I hope I have helped create a way for our adaptive athletes to have a feeling that they are no different and they belong to something special."

Amber Hayden is an adaptive athlete who uses a wheelchair.

"I love baseball, mostly being up to bat," Amber said.

SPHS freshman Kyle Witte was participating for the first time.

"My cousin has special needs, too, and it's really fun to see how happy [the Challenger players] are," Kyle said.

Kyle Lowry is an adaptive athlete who has been doing Challenger Baseball for the past seven years.

"Challenger Baseball means love and friendship to me," he said.

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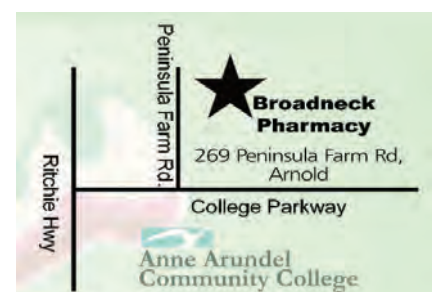
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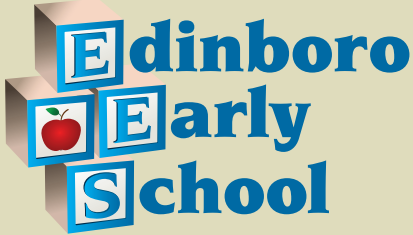
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Educator Of The Month

Michael Kahn
Folger McKinsey
Elementary School



By Lauren Burke Meyer

While May was Mental Health Awareness Month across the U.S., Folger McKinsey Elementary School's Michael Kahn prioritizes it all year in his role as a counselor at the Severna Park-based school.

"Mr. Kahn is one of the most kind, caring and hardworking individuals I have ever seen working in any position, at any school," said Folger McKinsey Elementary Principal Jason Otte.

Kahn, who is wrapping up his 10th year as a school counselor, has been on Folger's staff for four years. He spent his first six years as a counselor at Corkran Middle School in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Before that, Kahn taught elementary school for 10 years at a pair of Maryland schools.

When Kahn became a teacher, he began to see the possibilities of how a school counselor could affect the entire school culture.

"I started to learn that the school counseling profession had become a career where you could focus on the emotional and academic well-being of children," Kahn said.

Kahn remembers his experiences with school counselors in high school.

"I often saw them in the old guidance counselor model, where all they did was give you an interest survey and tell you if you should go to college or get a job," he said.

Fast forward to two years ago, when Kahn began work on helping Folger become a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school. Not his first time utilizing PBIS, but first time as a lead and seeing the system built, rather than joining an already established culture.

One of the first goals of a PBIS team is to develop a set of three to five

schoolwide expectations that all students and staff can reference. Kahn's team came up with HOOT — a nod to their Owls mascot. Kahn explained the letters stand for honor, other people matter, own it and take action.

"Our team believes that if students can demonstrate these expectations, they are going to be successful socially, emotionally and academically," Kahn said.

The benefits of PBIS are two-fold. For one, it puts a schoolwide focus on recognizing and celebrating students for their achievements. Additionally, the system allows students who are struggling with those expectations to be identified and supported to work toward making improvements.

Kahn knew introducing an entirely new system after a year of virtual and hybrid instruction wouldn't be easy. So, his team agreed they would focus on HOOT expectations becoming well known and part of the school vernacular from the start.

"I was afforded the opportunity to make daily videos for students to teach them how to 'HOOT,'" Kahn shared. "It started as an introduction to the expectations and eventually took on a life of its own."

In a short two years — with Kahn's leadership — they have created a schoolwide recognition system, a quarterly HOOTing Hall of Fame ceremony, schoolwide HOOTing celebrations, and according to Kahn, "enough student HOOTing artwork to fill up the Smithsonian."

When Kahn isn't in the throes of his HOOT work, he finds time to act as coordinator for the Harvest for the Hungry campaign, an annual food and money drive that benefits the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Folger has been in the top 10 of all public county schools each year in combined food/money donations.

It's clear Kahn loves his job not only for his passion for student mental health but also by how fast the school day flies by.

Kahn starts his day by greeting as many students as he can. Then, he joins a class for a morning wellness block, so he can participate in a community building circle to get to know students better or a Second Step lesson. Second Step lessons are chances for teachers to introduce and review skills including growth mindset, goal setting, empathy, kindness and problem solving. Every day then becomes a blur of classroom lessons, student support, high-fives, reflections, meetings, lunch bunches and more.

"I feel like I blink, and it's time to get ready for dismissal," Kahn said.

Otte noted how much Kahn gives to the students, families and staff at Folger.

"He is a difference maker!" Otte said.



C A F E M E Z Z A N O T T E

The Educator of the Month is proudly sponsored by Cafe Mezzanotte.

SPHS Band And Orchestra Members Cherish Music Experiences

With the school year ending, some Severna Park High School graduates reflected on their favorite memories from band and orchestra, along with their upcoming plans.



Caroline Bresson
Percussion

Favorite memory: My favorite memory was the Arundel competition during my junior year. It

was pouring rain and the waterway was splashing on the keys, making zero sound!

Favorite band: The Beatles

Future plans: I will be attending James Madison University and majoring in engineering.



Corey Fleming
Violin

Favorite memory: My favorite memory was our "Rienzi" performance at Universal Orlando with the music blowing

around; it was hilarious.

Favorite band: Can't think of a specific band, but Ava Max is my favorite artist.

Future plans: I will be majoring in computer science at Virginia Tech.



Page Judge
Euphonium,
bass guitar

Favorite memory: Playing our show under the stadium lights at the senior night football game.

Favorite band: Lake Street Dive

Future plans: I will be attending the University of Michigan to study music education and performance.



Mitchell Mardiros
Trombone

Favorite memory: Probably the Orlando trip. I had a lot of fun hanging out with my friends.

It was a memory I'll never forget.

Favorite band: My favorite band is Led Zeppelin. They are simply the greatest of all time.

Future plans: I plan on going to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. I want to go for motor-sport engineering.



Elliot Newton
Euphonium,
bass trombone

Favorite memory: My favorite memory was the home show of freshman year. It was my first home

show, and I was able to see so many of my friends from other schools.

Favorite band: I don't really have a favorite band, but my favorite artists that I love listening to include Rihanna,

Vansire, SZA, and Day Wave. I also love drum corps, especially Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps.

Future plans: I plan to go to the University of Virginia to study nursing. I want to ultimately become a nurse anesthetist.



Raeanne Rendulic
Bass clarinet
and piano

Favorite memory: My favorite memory from SPHS band is concert nights

just because we all come together to perform wonderful pieces of music that sound great. During marching band season, though, is the best time. It's full of chaos and seriousness, but they balance each other out, which is helpful when trying to put a show together.

Favorite band: I love the Zac Brown Band, but for classical music, I love the composer Samuel Hazo.

Future plans: I plan to major in criminology in college and play in Penn State University's symphonic band, jazz band and their marching band.



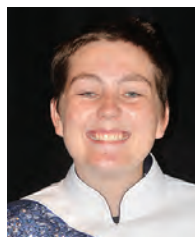
John Riganati
Violin

Favorite memory: My favorite memory was getting to participate in the All-County orchestra when it was a full

symphonic orchestra. Getting to play alongside brass and woodwind instruments was a really fun experience, and the music was awesome!

Favorite band: Pink Floyd

Future plans: Attending the University of Maryland and planning to major in computer science.



Elisabeth Stoudt
Oboe, English
horn, trumpet,
mellophone

Favorite memory: I think jazz band rehearsals are my

favorite part about band in general. It's fun to learn a different genre of music and it's all about just feeling the music.

Favorite band: Sly and the Family Stone

Future plans: Towson! I'm majoring in information systems and I'm going to audition for the marching band.



Claudia Woodbury
Violin

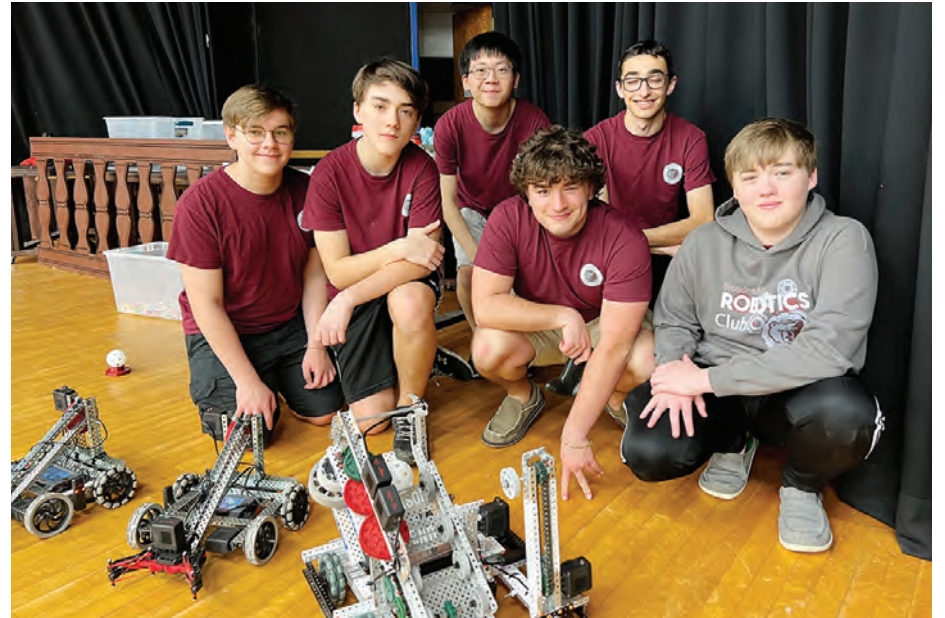
Favorite memory: My favorite memory was getting a one at Festival after not being able to

compete for a while.

Favorite band: Will Wood and the Tapeworms

Future plans: St. Mary's College of Maryland this fall, hopefully leading to a master's degree in library science.

STEM Night Builds Student And Community Involvement



Members of the Broadneck High School robotics club demonstrated the capabilities of the competition robots they built.

By Judy Tacyn

Magothy River Middle School's annual STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) night was the place to be on May 12 for a hands-on, family-friendly event for all ages. Twenty-four stations in the cafeteria and outside allowed participants to mine gemstones, create elephant toothpaste, create chromatography, do experiments, dissect owl pellets, learn how to code and use 3D printers, and so much more.

Christy McCallister, the school's STEM department chair, said she began the event eight years ago when she joined Magothy Middle School. Since then, the event has continued to grow and gain more interest.

"What started as a school event has now become a whole peninsula event," McCallister said. "Elementary school parents bring their children and ask to bring friends or neighbors."

Sheri Berberian's children had so much fun, she wasn't sure she would get them home.

"The girls had a blast at STEM night," she said about Sara, a fifth-grader, and Hannah, a second-grader, who both attend Broadneck Elementary School. "They made slime, and stomp and straw rockets. They learned about and held different animals, used coding robots, ate nitrogen ice cream, watched different experiments, and grew their love of science."

Glen Burnie High School's BioMedical Allied Health Club was in attendance, as was the Broadneck High School robotics club. James Beard, a member of the Broadneck High School robotics club, was demonstrating the team's competition robot (built to shoot foams discs for points), a pet project (which lifted items) and clawbots (built to move objects).

"We are here to recruit eighth-graders coming into Broadneck High School but also to show off the cool skills you learn in robotics and some of the things you can create," he said.

Seventh-grader Maddison Padotta and her partner, eighth-grader Maggie Spinks, built a giant floor-board Maryland trivia game. To advance, players must answer questions about Maryland and its inhabitants, rivers, geography and history.

"The goal of the game is for players to



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Maggie Spinks and Maddison Padotta created a Maryland trivia game.

acquire a greater appreciation of Maryland and the people and creatures that live here," Maddison said.

For those who like to fly, Drew Gish and his partner Eli Pereira, both seventh-graders, taught participants to build catapults out of craft sticks to shoot cotton balls at a target.

"I really like STEM because we share ideas, and hopefully, we can inspire the younger people to get involved in engineering or robotics in high school," Drew said.

Drew plans to join the robotics club when he gets to Broadneck High School.

Representatives of the United States Naval Academy Sea Perch team showed participants how robotic submarines take a deep dive in engineering technology. Outside, SRMS students also showed off their underwater diving robots, albeit in a giant garbage can and not the ocean.

By the end of the evening, Berberian echoed a familiar parent sentiment.

"Thanks to Christy McCallister for planning such a fantastic night!" she said. "I literally had to drag my daughters out of the building to go home."

McCallister could not be more thrilled with the continued popularity and growth of the event. Although MRMS students received a coveted science homework pass for attending, students of all ages came for the STEM opportunities.

"It's really great to see kids get excited and interested in STEM, technology and engineering," McCallister said.

Severna Park High School Students Get Decked Out For Prom

Prior to senior prom on May 13, several Severna Park High School students took a moment to enjoy the moment and show off their dazzling dresses and tuxedos.

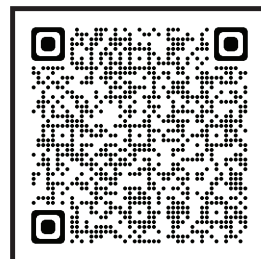


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Artist Earns Best In Show Honors



Photo courtesy of Julie Antinucci

Sara Antinucci earned Best in Show recognition at the Severna Park High School AP art show in May. Best in Show was voted on by the people who attended the show, and students as well. Sara's theme for exploration for the year was "what gives us nightmares." Some of the drawings are from this collection.

Teacher Marks 41 Years As Severna Park Prom Chaperone

Severna Park High School math teacher Elaine Robertson started chaperoning the school's prom long before the current graduating class was born.

This year's festivities at BWI Airport Marriott on May 13 marked her 41st prom. She has also chaperoned 40 homecoming dances.

A 2008 Anne Arundel County Public Schools Educator of the Month, Robertson said she is often the first person students see when they enter the prom venue.

"I love seeing the tuxedos and dresses," she said. "The students look so elegant."

While student behavior has not



Elaine Robertson

changed much over 40 years, some things have changed.

"Line dancing is more common," she said. "In the '80s and '90s, we didn't have that."

More importantly, the prom has become a more inclusive event.

"Over the years when you did prom, kids would worry about having a date or they didn't come to prom," she said. "Now, students are willing to get bus limos and come with their friends. The stigma is gone." Photo by Noel Castillo

Senior Serves Sweet Surprise

» Continued from page 35

class held a class meeting, during which Taub requested to make an announcement, he said.

With a milkshake in hand, Taub took to the podium and proclaimed that later that day, he would fulfill a promise he made years ago.

"Everyone was, like, freaking out," Taub said.

Despite a deluge of rain causing the event to be held inside, the milkshakes were delivered without a hitch, and the Severn School class of 2023 can enter

the next chapter of their lives with their faith in elected officials restored.

Taub formerly owned Flying Cow Organics, a dairy delivery service. His background in the field offered some self-assurance for this project.

"If anyone can deliver 130 milkshakes, I think I'm the guy to do it," Taub said. "I thought I was done with dairy until this project."

Taub intends to attend the University of Delaware beginning this fall, and his current plans involve neither politics nor dairy, but a degree in engineering.

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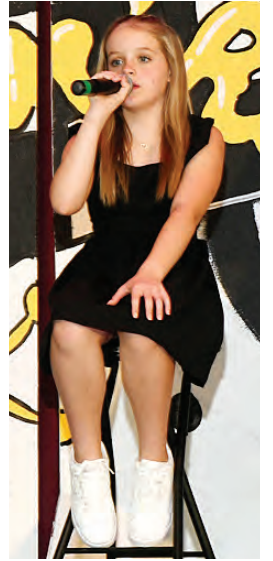
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Stars Come Alive At Shipley's Mini Rock 'N' Roll Revival



Photos by Victor Raspa

Music by Ray Charles, The Beatles, The Go-Go's, Mötley Crüe and other acts was reimagined through the performances of Shipley's Choice Elementary students during the school's Mini Rock 'N' Roll Revival held in early May.



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Is Someone You Care About Facing Mental Health Challenges?



Aliya Jones
Luminis Health

Life can be tough. There are the daily stresses, unexpected events and relentless responsibilities that can all be challenging. At times, we can feel

overwhelmed and may need a little extra support. It may surprise you to hear that one in five people experience a diagnosed mental health condition each year. How can you help a loved one, friend, coworker or family member who may be going through a hard time? Since May is Mental Health Awareness Month, let's give you a mental health first-aid kit of sorts.

Recognizing the Signs

One way to provide support is to acknowledge when someone is going through a difficult time. Here are some common signs of mental illness:

- Excessive worrying or fear
- Feeling extremely sad or low
- Confused thinking or problems concentrating and learning
- Severe mood changes, including

- uncontrollable "highs"
- Persistent or strong feelings of irritability or anger
- Avoiding friends and social activities
- Changes in sleeping habits or feeling tired and low energy
- Changes in eating habits such as increased hunger or lack of appetite
- Overuse of alcohol or drugs
- Vague and ongoing "aches and pains" without an obvious cause
- Inability to carry out daily activities or handle daily problems and stress

How to Approach Difficult Conversations

If you suspect that a friend or loved one might be going through a rough patch, trust your gut. Speak to them one-on-one. Start by saying how much you care, followed by your observations. You might say, "I care about you, and I've noticed you haven't been yourself lately. You seem more frustrated than you've been in a while and I'm wondering how you're doing."

Tell the person you understand and it's normal to ask for help. If it's a child or teenager, ask them who you should talk to because you should never handle someone else's mental health crisis on your own. If granted

permission, enlist help from someone they trust, such as a parent, caregivers, older siblings, other relatives or a teacher, even a coach.

Is Your Loved One in Danger?

Some behaviors may indicate that a person is at immediate risk for suicide. Here are some warning signs:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or getting a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live

If someone you care about shows these behaviors, you should call or text 988 right away or call a mental health professional. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides free, confidential, 24/7 support for anyone who is thinking about suicide, concerned about a loved one or needing emotional support.

Helpful Resources

The National Alliance of Mental Illness is a nationwide grassroots organization that offers support for those with mental illness and for their friends and loved ones. It has numerous helpful support groups, including some in Anne Arundel County.

Maryland Coalition of Families supports families who have loved ones with behavioral health conditions.

In addition, Luminis Health offers **Pathways Family Wellness Workshop**, a program in Annapolis that brings together family members (such as parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, or anyone else who is considered family) for an educational session, group therapy and personal growth. The program equips family members with communication skills, relapse prevention strategies and coping mechanisms for ongoing recovery. To register for an upcoming workshop, call 443-481-5449.

Take Care of Yourself, Too

If someone you are close to is working through mental health challenges, both you and the person in crisis are not alone. Reach out for support for yourself if you need it. Remember that it's important to maintain boundaries between someone else's experience and your own. You can empathize with what someone else is going through without owning responsibility for their experience.

Aliya Jones is the executive medical director of behavioral health for Luminis Health.

Reptiles At The Vet — Know Before You Go

Dr. Dani White

VCA Calvert Veterinary Center

Reptiles are ectotherms, which means that they maintain their body temperature using their environment. At home, we utilize tools like heating pads, ultraviolet bulbs and heat lamps. In the hospital setting, we use incubators, warm water soaks and Bair hugger warming pads.

Why is heat support so important?

External or environmental temperatures have influence over the reptile immune system and can



even affect the way they metabolize medications or absorb fluid therapy. This can make a big difference in the care of sick patients — a cold reptile is an immune-compromised reptile and being too cold can mask illness in most species. Often, our

first step in assessing these patients involves warming them to an appropriate temperature, to see if we notice any changes to their clinical appearance and to aid in supportive care.

Out of the Box Thinking: Transport and Play Time

Reptiles should never be out of a controlled environment for longer than 30 minutes at a time, allowing them to maintain an appropriate body temperature. We do not recommend reptiles be kept "free range" in the home, as their overall health could suffer if the home is not

warm enough.

When taking reptiles to the veterinary office, there are several creative ways you can keep your reptile warm for the commute:

- Put them on the seat and turn on the seat warmer if you have one.
- Utilize your heat vents in the car for the drive.
- Use "warm hands" — rubber gloves or balloons filled with warm water with a towel over top.
- Use a warm water bottle — be careful this does not get too hot.
- Do not take them from their environment until you are ready to leave, to minimize time out of warmth

Agency Partners With App To Improve Mental Health

A new partnership between the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency (AACMHA), the Anne Arundel County Department of Health (AACDOH) and the Prosper app focuses on connecting young people to support and services. Prosper provides self-care and community connections. The goal is to improve health outcomes with Anne Arundel County residents.

The Prosper app comes at a critical time. A new study from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) shows over one-third of middle and high school students are either sad, hopeless or lonely. "We are facing an unprecedented

demand for mental health services," Adrienne Mickler, executive director of the Mental Health Agency said. "We need to connect people to services and support. This app is an opportunity to let young people know that they are not alone and help is available."

Platform users can record feelings, receive support from friends, and receive personalized wellness recommendations. It provides residents with self-care tools, community connections, improves access to mental health resources and addresses social determinants of health.

The Prosper app is launched by Uneo Health, a digital health company that

partners with regional health organizations to drive community wellness engagement. To download the Prosper app, go to www.prosperselfcare.com.

"Uneo Health is committed to improving health equity and access through the power of technology," said Eric Sullivan, CEO of Uneo Health. "This partnership is an exciting opportunity to advance access to health, especially for our youth."

The app will enable county health leaders to promote their mental health services and programs, providing personalized recommendations to users and population-level insights on county residents' wellness needs.

Things you can do at home to keep your reptile warm and healthy:

A large part of reptile care starts with husbandry at home. This includes keeping your scaly friend at an appropriate temperature range for their species.

If you have any questions about this article, are about to bring a new reptile into your home and need guidance, or are concerned your reptile may be sick, contact your local veterinarian. VCA Calvert Veterinary Center has been serving Pasadena and nearby communities for over 19 years. The staff members are "your other family doctor." To make an appointment, call 410-360-PAWS.

Musicians Band Together For Suicide Awareness



Above Left: George Evans performed on the acoustic stage inside Severna Park Taphouse during Burgers and Bands. **Above Right:** (L-R) Burgers and Bands organizers Anastassia Vangraefschep, Ann Brennan, Blaise Brennan and Michael Caimona make the event possible. **Right:** Fifteen-year-old Bella Holmes sang for Walk-Ins Welcome.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Paul Martinez was onstage at the Annapolis Rising benefit concert for *Capital Gazette* shooting survivors and their families in 2018 when he noticed Zane Brennan in the crowd.

A drummer for The Great Heights Band, Martinez had recently lost his friend Rob to suicide.

"I was thinking how very fortunate I am to still be making music, but I was melancholic that Rob is not with us anymore," Martinez said. "Zane had a Burgers and Bands sign that said, 'You are not alone.' It caught my eye. It's a couple simple words that sum up a lot."

Martinez and Zane, the child of Burgers and Bands founder Ann Brennan, connected after the performance. With that encounter, the Great Heights Band became a

lineup addition to the annual Burgers and Bands for Suicide Prevention concert at Severna Park Taphouse.

"It was a no-brainer to get involved because I am very passionate about mental health," Martinez said. "I've had too many people leave the world by those means."

The Great Heights Band was one of 27 acts to perform at this year's event on May 21. All musicians, whether young or old, participate as volunteers.

Big acts took the main stage, next to the Priddy Music Academy stage. Inside Severna Park Taphouse, George Evans coordinated acts on the acoustic stage.

His goal for the event each year is to remove the stigma surrounding mental health.

"A diabetic is going to get insulin and the help they need. Someone with mental health shouldn't be judged," he said.

» **Continued on page 50**



"The Little Mermaid" Remake Feels Like A Fish Out Of Water



Photo courtesy of Disney

There is chemistry between Ariel (Halle Bailey) and Eric (Jonah Hauer-King) despite the fact that Ariel cannot speak.

By Audrey Ruppert

"The Little Mermaid" is a mixed bag, and unfortunately, the mix is more negative than positive. It's a shame because I can see what the creators were trying to do, but they missed the mark a bit. It starts out particularly rough and gets easier as the film progresses.

One of the challenges of adapting cartoons to live action is striking the balance between realism and the whimsical nature of cartoons — "Sonic the Hedgehog" managed to do this (after getting it wrong in the first attempt and facing massive backlash from fans). That film had CGI characters that looked realistic but maintained the exaggerated expressiveness of their animated counterparts. "The Little Mermaid" gets it right with Scuttle, the bird, but flops with Flounder the fish (who is too realistic) and Sebastian the crab (who just looks odd). I suppose it's better than going full-on realism, like they did with "The Lion King," but Disney still has not got it right yet.

The underwater world is strikingly beautiful, particularly the colorful mermaid tails and coral reefs, but we lose a lot of the suspension of disbelief that is easier to maintain in the cartoon. There are so many moments where you go, "How is the bird talking underwater? How are these paper pages not disintegrating underwater? Scuttle just ate a fish; is there a hierarchy of seafood? Ariel is blasting a song right in view of the sailors. How do they not hear her?"

And the more annoying among us who are particularly attentive to plot holes (like myself) will notice, how does Ariel not get the bends swimming that far with » **Continued on page 50**

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“The Little Mermaid”

» Continued from page 48

air in her lungs? Why is there a coral reef in the deep ocean under this massive Gal- leon ship? Where is this even located and why is there bamboo next to palm trees?

The elephant in the room is, of course, the massive discourse around “woke is broke” and Ariel being Black. This is nei- ther here nor there to me — I can see the beauty of Black children having a heroine like themselves to look up to, but I can also understand the argument that the Black community should have their own, original stories or stories that make more sense to co-opt (as was skillfully done in “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse”).

What bothered me more was the haphazard way race was handled. Eric’s mother in this rendition is Black, and this is explained — Eric is adopted. Triton, however, is Spanish I assume (since he’s played by Javier Bardem), and all his daughters are different races and this is not explained.

The film also suffers from some obvious miscasting and mixed-to-bad acting. Melissa McCarthy was an awful choice for Ursula. If you really wanted diversity, Disney, you would have casted Eddie Izzard (if she’d have agreed to it) or a drag queen and showed some solidarity toward the community. This would be more canon — the original Ursula was based on the drag queen Divine, and is very camp, where McCarthy was giving pantomime (and badly).

I didn’t think Javier Bardem was capa- ble of bad acting, but it seems I was wrong (though he improves as the film goes on, as does Sebastian). The script really

suffers from mixing new, more realistic dialogue and novel subtext with the old, cartoony dialogue. The result is that parts of the acting feel like a high school play, while other parts of it are very serious.

The most consistent actor is Jonah Hauer-King, who plays Eric. Halle Bailey (Ariel) struggles due to the mixed script, but she is quite convincing for most of her time on land.

The one part of the film that was done well was Eric and Ariel’s romance, and the subtle rehabbing of the biggest complaint against the original — that this is a story that teaches little girls to abandon their families for men they just met, even at the cost of their own voice. Eric is a cardboard character in the original, with little to no personality. In this rendition, he has a backstory, which makes him relatable to Ariel — he is royalty, but adopted, and does not feel fully at peace in his own world. He prefers to explore and see the seas, leave the castle, and he is resentful of his race’s bias against merfolk.

The story becomes one of two people fighting ignorant parents with outdated views and wanting to explore each other’s worlds, kick the nest so to speak, rather than one of a young naive girl chasing an older boy she just met.

In the end, “The Little Mermaid” is a bit of a disappointment, because I feel with a more cohesive script, better casting choices, a little more attention to detail with animation, and more substantive thought about racial discourse, this could have been a good remake. If you are a romantic, though, this version is worth watching for the romance alone.

Musicians Band Together

» Continued from page 48

“Burgers and Bands is more than this event. It’s a year-long thing and a message we need to get out there.”

Fifteen-year-old Bella Holmes at- tributed the message as the reason she got involved. She sang tunes from Jet, Paramore and other bands as the vocalist for a Priddy Music Academy band, Walk- Ins Welcome.

“I’m here to perform and I hope you guys like the music,” she said, “but at the end of the day, it doesn’t matter how well I do because the end goal is that you should be contributing to this cause and knowing that you are helping people out there. It’s just something beyond yourself.”

One of her bandmates, 13-year-old bassist Alex Eloff, chatted with The Great Heights Band after taking the stage. Not only does Burgers and Bands emphasize the importance of mental health aware- ness but it also provides young musicians with a chance to meet role models.

“Playing in the same area as [The Great Heights Band], it definitely makes me feel better about myself,” Alex said. “And get- ting to talk to them, like the bassist told me he didn’t start playing until he was 16, so I already had a few years on him. That whole band is super nice.”

Alex has played bass for about five years and his influences have grown, start- ing with Green Day and now including Queens of the Stone Age.

“I have started listening more to R&B and hip-hop,” he said. “It has definitely driven my playing to a funkier kind of mannerism. I’m also listening to much heavier music.”

The bond between musicians has been fun to witness for Evans, who recalled his introduction to the music scene 10 to 15 years ago.

“People gave me tips and pointers, but it was tough to break into,” Evans said. “As I got acclimated ... I wanted to be part of a scene where we support one another. It’s competitive, but I’ve seen it grow where bands are coming to see other acts perform and that is really cool. It’s turned into a fraternal sort of thing where mu- sicians are hanging out and supporting one another.”

Even with that in mind, the musicians did not lose sight of their purpose for attending Burgers and Bands.

For Martinez, the cause is personal. He attempted suicide 22 years ago. Peers saw him as the captain of his school’s wres- tling and lacrosse teams, a member of a punk band, and a skateboarder. He had many talents, but inside he was hurting.

“At 16 years old, you’re trying to figure yourself out but also be independent,” he said. “You’re taught to stuff your feelings down as a man.”

Now, he does not feel that burden.

“My band is my emotional support group,” he said. “We are four guys who are there for each other.”

Ann Brennan is proud to have assem- bled an event with so many people, like Martinez, who are dedicated to the cause of suicide awareness and prevention.

“Burgers and Bands is an event that represents hope,” Brennan said. “It’s a celebration of survival. You can make it through depression without ending your life. There is hope for a better life.”

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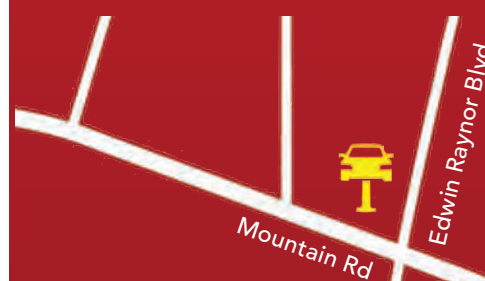
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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

W.R. Flater Specializes In Renovations And Remodeling



Rick Flater started W.R. Flater General Contractor to help people transform their homes into a personal place they love.



are integral to customer service.”

He wants every customer to walk away feeling like the job was done right the first time and in a timely fashion. “I’ve always been meticulous and had attention to detail,” he said, crediting his mom and dad for ingraining the importance of a strong work ethic. “The guys who work here are stellar. You can have the best craftsmen, but it is also important that they are courteous, kind and respectful of your house and family. People don’t want to come home to paint in the sink or a pile of sawdust on the floor.”

From John, who manages projects, to a few of the company’s interior specialists, like Walter and Michael, to its exterior lead professional, Lizandro, and all of the rest of its crews, the team feels fortunate to work together and get things done.

“We are truly lucky to have such great and talented individuals and just great all-around people,” Flater said.

For Flater, being kind is also important as a Severna Park business owner and as a local resident. W.R. Flater General Contractor has supported shelters, missions, outreach programs, civic organizations and kids sports programs over the years.

“You have to give back to the community you live in,” Flater said. “You live here, work here. You make relationships with people. And having five kids, how can you not be involved?”

The community seems to agree that Flater and his business are a valuable part of the community. W.R. Flater General Contractor was voted the runner-up for Best Fence/Deck Contractor, Best Home Improvement Contractor and Best Kitchen and Bath Remodeling Service in the 2023 Best of Severna Park survey. That kind of reputation has helped his business thrive for almost 25 years. But, an even bigger and more important milestone is being together with his wife, Kim, for about 36 years. Kim handles many of the administrative responsibilities for the company and keeps the behind-the-scenes operations running smoothly. Together, and with the help of their talented team, they hope to keep the business running for many years to come.

W.R. Flater General Contractor is located at 836 Ritchie Highway, suite 23B, in Severna Park. For more information, call 410-544-9117 or visit www.wrflater.com.

Since early childhood, Rick Flater has been fascinated with fixing things, which eventually led to a home remodeling career. In 1998, he started W.R. Flater General Contractor to help people transform their homes into a personal place they love.

W.R. Flater performs residential and light commercial renovations and remodeling projects. For interiors, his business specializes in custom kitchens, updated bathrooms, basements, additions and four-season rooms. On the exterior, W.R. Flater can customize decks or patios and build beautiful outdoor scapes. With pencil and paper, the team draws projects by hand and utilizes designers, architects and structural engineers to bring each homeowner’s vision to reality.

“If needed, we can walk the customer through every step of the process from A to Z,” Flater said. “We assist the customer with their own personal framework so that together we can create a completely new concept or enhance their existing features. This process takes time and allows for customer input and customization.

“Every customer has their own dream, and we are here to help with our team of experts to guide you along the way,” Flater added.

At W.R. Flater, the team values craftsmanship. The company is a member of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, which is an organization of contractors held to a higher standard of practice, ensuring that every project is done right the first time.

“The association’s motto is ‘remodeling done right,’” Flater said. “That’s what we do here and that’s what we believe. We are capable of planning and managing complex remodeling projects to our client’s satisfaction.”

Flater said, “Dependability and trust

Exploring A Looming Commercial Real Estate Crisis

Jason LaBarge
LaBarge
Financial



Commercial real estate seems to have been negatively impacted by three things over the last 10 or so years, one being the online retail effect.

Large online retailers have started to replace many “ma and pa” operations. Because of this, those operations no longer need to rent real estate. The second factor was remote work due to COVID-19. Employers sent employees home for work and then determined that they could be just as effective, and perhaps even more profitable, by having employees work from home instead of returning to the office.

As a result, some employers didn’t renew leases and some even out-

right sold their properties. Even large cities like San Francisco are reporting around 30% office vacancies. The last factor is rising interest rates in 2022. Rising interest rates further intensified employers not renewing leases and created a significant decrease in new building purchases.

In contrast to 2008, when the banking crisis was focused directly on big banks, this potential crisis is focusing on small to mid-sized banks. Small banks are more susceptible to these problems because they have simpler business models than large conglomerate banks, making the dependence on commercial real estate more magnified.

According to Federal Reserve data, small and regional U.S. banks collectively hold around 67% of commercial real estate loans. This eye-catching figure is not only relevant to office space, but it also includes apartment complexes,

» Continued on page 54

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members, and please support them. Find them in our directory at www.gspacc.com.

Ruby Cares LLC

In operation for three years, the business provides compassionate home health care for the elderly and disabled.

Meredith Minor Photography LLC

— Services include family photography of newborns, couples, families, maternity and boudoir sessions.

Modern Mind Connections

— Modern Mind Connections will teach you techniques and strategies to help you become a better businessperson.

RE/MAX Concierge Realty — Ken Chamberlain and his team provide exceptional marketing strategies to help you sell your home quickly, and they offer the latest technology to make the process of finding a home easier than ever.

The Sheridan at Severna Park — Its assisted living communities provide a variety of personalized care plans, innovative programming, convenient amenities, and more for their residents, in addition to a caring and professional team.

Wells Fargo/Tanjaneka Jones — Wells Fargo provides banking, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance through more

than 7,300 locations, 12,000 ATMs, the internet and mobile banking, and has offices in over 40 countries and territories.

Checkmark Power Washing

— Checkmark does residential and commercial soft washing for siding, decks, vinyl fences and roofs. The business also does residential and commercial pressure washing for surfaces such as pavers, stones, brick, asphalt and concrete. Hot water is available for tough stains such as graffiti removal, gum removal and dumpster pads. Checkmark also does window washing.

Turner World Travel — The business was founded in 2016 with the goal of establishing an exceptional travel agency in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia area to specialize in group travel.

Sugar, Butter Love — Sugar, Butter Love creates gorgeous hand-decorated custom cookies, cupcakes, cakes and cake pops. The business’ team offers a creative oasis of customized desserts and treats.

Organic Facial Experience Medical Day Spa — Organic Facial Experience Medical Day Spa + Products is on a mission to naturally transform individuals by restoring the skin’s natural beauty, relaxing the mind and body, and preserving, protecting, and nourishing the skin. Owner Towanda Moses brings decades of experience to the business.

Reilly Insurance Agency — Since 1974, the Reilly Insurance Agency has been dedicated to the protection of its clients’ physical and financial assets
» Continued on page 54

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AACC Awards \$75,000 To Student Businesses

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) awarded student business owner Peter Papanicolaou \$25,000 in funds for his business, Unity Electric, during the annual Business Pitch Competition held April 25.

The other seven finalists received amounts between \$1,000 and \$20,000 for their businesses.

Unity Electric - \$25,000

presented by Peter Papanicolaou

Mogel's Amusements - \$20,000

presented by McLain Mogel

Save the Day Escape Rooms - \$18,000

presented by Sandie Horne

Dumpstars of Maryland - \$5,000

presented by Zachary Waller

Soundglide - \$3,000

presented by David Pollak

Cocoa & Pearl Bakery - \$2,000

presented by Hannah Gribbin

FreshLeap Coaching and Consulting - \$1,000

presented by Chris DeGuzman

Mindful Movements - \$1,000

presented by Daniel Levy, Jacob Rosenblatt and Jacob Rosenbloom

For information about AACC's Entrepreneurial Studies Institute, visit www.aacc.edu/about/schools-of-study/business-and-law/entrepreneurial-studies-institute.

Severna Park Student Wins Rising Star Business Award

By Kevin Murnane

What started out as an aspiration of an eighth-grader at Severna Park Middle School has evolved into being nominated and selected for a regional award by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Baltimore District.

Zachary Yeatman, now a senior at Severna Park High School, was recently named the 2023 Maryland Rising Star Student Entrepreneur.

"When I was in eighth grade, I asked my friend Julian Murphy if he wanted to start a power-washing business," Yeatman said. "We even came up with a name for the company, JZ Power Washing, because of our two first initials."

Murphy is now Yeatman's full-time assistant.

"As a kid, I constantly needed something to do," Yeatman said. "I love to keep busy, and this company is keeping me very busy."

Yeatman's ambition caught the attention of the high school staff, and he received encouragement from faculty members to apply for the award.

"Mrs. [Heather] Barnstead and Mrs. [Annie] Houghton spoke with me and wanted to nominate me for the award," Yeatman said. "Also, my homeroom teacher, Mrs. [Kimberly] Hunter, was very supportive and she was a very nice teacher."

Yeatman completed the applications, and after a few months, he received an email stating that he was invited to a ceremony at the Windsor Mill, Maryland-based Martin's West in June.

During his last year of high school,



Zachary Yeatman started JZ Power Washing with his friend Julian Murphy (not pictured). Yeatman's teachers nominated him for the 2023 Maryland Rising Star Student Entrepreneur.

new equipment and marketing efforts. Last winter, he added a service of hanging holiday lights for area residents.

"It's ironic, but I'm terrified of heights, but I just focus on the job at hand and we had almost 20 gigs last winter hanging lights," Yeatman said.

In addition to graduation and receiving the business award, Yeatman will be honored by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon.

"Since 1985, the chamber has nominated small businesses for this award and we've had great success with our nominees," said Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz League. "It's really a big deal and it's great that Zach is being recognized for his accomplishments at such a young age. Our mission is to promote our small businesses and help them pursue their passion."

Yeatman plans on taking a gap year between high school and college to concentrate on his business and then possibly attend Catholic University of America.

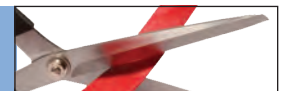
His upcoming weeks will be busy with high school graduation, the chamber luncheon and receiving the regional small-business award. At just 18 years old, Yeatman aims to keep rising in the Severna Park community.

Yeatman has balanced his schoolwork with growing his business. His daily schedule involves going to school until 1:30pm and then hustling to his appointments. Yeatman is usually booked about a week out with new clients. He looks forward to the summer as he believes his business will skyrocket through next year. Some of the anticipated growth will result from marketing efforts, including social media platforms, signs and flyers.

"It's crazy to think back when I was a sophomore, I had a small engine repair business and one of my clients named Kenny Christian asked me if I wanted to help with his power-washing business," Yeatman said. "I helped for three months and then went on my own."

Yeatman has reinvested his profits into

RIBBON CUTTINGS



BD Provisions Brings Bulk Goods To The Park

A new retail store joined the community in May. BD Provisions sells bulk foods by the pound and roasts coffee onsite. Owner Debra Saltz enjoyed a grand opening and ribbon-cutting with the Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce, welcoming guests to the store at 844 Ritchie Highway, Suite 101.

Creative Spaces Remodeling Opens New Showroom



Photo by Nana Sue Photography

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce joined Creative Spaces Remodeling on May 18 to celebrate the business' new showroom at 818 East College Parkway in Annapolis. Creative Spaces Remodeling specializes in waterfront and custom home building along the Chesapeake Bay.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 51

through superior products, education and flawless customer service.

Access Wellness Healthcare/Rachel Nelson — Access Wellness Healthcare makes house calls. Services provided by the veteran-owned business include lab work, treatment of conditions, prescribing medications, care management, counseling and telemedicine.

Friends of Christine Marie Celeste — Christine Celeste is running to remain a circuit court judge in Anne Arundel County. She spent 20 years as a trial attorney and believes that an effective judge knows the law and applies it fairly.

Bradford Counseling Services LLC — This business provides counseling to adults, adolescents, families, couples and children, ages 5 and up, throughout Anne Arundel, Howard and Montgomery counties. Bradford Counseling's clinicians see clients for an array of mental health struggles.

Seriously Sari Interiors — With more than 10 years in the industry, owner Megan Reiley is knowledgeable in all forms of interior design. She has worked on construction projects from the ground up, renovations of kitchens and baths, as well as furnishing entire homes and spaces.

AcARRE — Founder, CEO, and chief chemist Tracey Hicks-Kearse is an esteemed chemical engineer who has worked in product development and marketing for more than 18 years. Her products leave your skin and scalp transformed within days to feel healthier, smoother, and appear more luminous.

The Dink of Severna Park — Open-

ing in the fall, The Dink will be the largest pickleball facility in the county. Its 23,900-square-foot facility features amenities to properly host all skill levels, with professional-grade courts and premium finishes. The Dink of Severna Park also has a dedicated event space and several lounge alcoves for connecting with fellow pickleballers.

Structure & Spirit; Therapeutic Massage — Therapeutic massage is used to treat various medical conditions including chronic pain, headaches, muscle tension and stress. It can also help to reduce inflammation, improve circulation and promote relaxation.

We kicked off May with our spring Shop Local Fun Fiesta at Park Plaza. It was a sold-out event with more than 70 exhibitors and featured entertainment, food and fun. We had six gold sponsors who donated 50% of sponsorships to charities. They were **Landmark Roofing, Dodgebow Annapolis, SERVPRO of Severna Park/Arnold, the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, Kogen Dojo, and Image Creators Salon and Spa**. Silver sponsors were **Kwon's Taekwondo, the Lash Lounge Annapolis, Human Interest and Advance Auto Parts**. Bronze sponsors were **CertaPro Painters of Severna Park, Mosquito Squad, Neat Wall TV, Delegate Heather Bagnall, Griswold Home Care, The Blended Essentials and Edward Jones/Brian Conrad**.

We held two ribbon cuttings in May. The first was for **BD Provisions in Severna Park**. BD Provisions is

a new retail store concept offering a carefully curated collection of bulk foods sold by the pound in sustainable containers, plus coffee roasting onsite.

The second was in celebration of **Creative Spaces Remodeling's** new showroom on College Parkway. Creative Spaces is a design and build firm specializing in waterfront properties.

In May, we also launched our new Young Professionals Networking Group with attendees meeting at **Vida Taco** for cocktails and conversation. This new and fun initiative will build peer-to-peer relationships and provide opportunities for mentorship and volunteerism. The June event will be at the **Providence Center's pottery studio** and will feature food, drinks and pottery making. This event is free and open to all.

The Successful Women in Business First Cup Club was held at **BD Provisions in Severna Park**. Members of the club enjoyed freshly roasted and brewed coffee, and owner Debra Saltz generously invited the attendees to fill bags with their favorite snacks and candies for free.

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

Exploring A Looming Crisis

» Continued from page 51

retail space, construction loans, loans backing farmland and more. Morgan Stanley estimates that about \$1.5 trillion in commercial real estate debt will mature over the next two years.

My message here is not one of getting your money out of your small local bank. I do not know the specific finances of any of our local banks, so this message is intended more broadly. Rather, this is a message of making sure your overall investment strategy includes protection and conservative options.

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