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SEVERNA PARK, MD

JULY 2023

Gerst Honored With Grand Marshal Billing

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Wayne Gerst sat in one of his many garages at his Severna Park home, pausing from his measured words to mimic his best attempt at a wave in British royalty fashion.

Gerst, owner of Gerst Towing Service, was named grand marshal of the 2023 Severna Park Independence Day Parade, where he'll have the opportunity to showcase his greeting to the crowd from a 1973 Oldsmobile Delta 88 convertible.

The theme of this year's annual Fourth of July parade is "Broad Stripes, Bright Stars and Big Hearts." Event organizers might have had the last two words of the theme in mind when tabbing Gerst to be this year's parade grand marshal.

"Because of his integrity, generosity and lifelong commitment to our community, Wayne was a natural choice for this year's grand marshal," said Liz League, CEO of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. "Plus, he is a really great guy."

Faith, hard work, partner, family, friends, cars and philanthropy are all things that one could associate with Gerst's priorities. Ingrained in the community is a phrase that could also be used, although it might be an understatement to describe the man who was once referred to as "Mr. Severna Park" in an article headline in this publication.

The Millersville native, and resident



of his current home in Severna Park for 37 years, is also a Severna Park High School graduate, Anne Arundel County Community College alum and local businessman for 57 years.

"I've got to know a lot of people, made a lot of friends," Gerst said in a distinctive voice that once you hear it, you'll likely always recognize it. "It's a quiet area around here, no ruffraff. You always feel safe."

Although this will be the first year that Gerst serves as parade grand marshal, he's had a hand in the beloved community event for more than 20 years, whether it's donating or pro-

viding time, land for prep, equipment such as rollback trucks for an emcee platform or vintage vehicles.

"The people and the kids are what keep me coming back," Gerst said. "People give you thumbs up, holler and just have a good time."

Since 2001, when Gerst first participated in the parade by just driving through, his involvement has steadily grown, to include lining up the fleet of vintage cars for the parade, volunteering well before sunrise and hosting after-parade cookouts at his spacious property with guest lists in the hundreds and garage doors

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Photos by Mark Patton

Above: Photos of a young Wayne Gerst adorn the walls of one garage. A photo of Gerst from his Sunoco days sits beside one of the many accolades on display. Below: He has more than 55 vintage cars in the garages of his Severna Park home.



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A Pioneer In The Ice Cream Industry

Remembering Hendler's, "The Velvet Kind"

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

This story is in honor of National Ice Cream Month.

A Severna Park road bears the name of a man who revolutionized the ice cream industry.

The son of a dairy operator, Lionel Manuel Hendler was born in 1885. He worked for his father, Isaac,

and threw out about half the milk produced each day. Before long, the 19-year-old had an idea: instead of wasting milk, he could use it to make ice cream.

In "Stories of Severna Park with Scott Jay," produced by Charles Germain of Chesapeake Clear Videos and Films, Jay recalled how Hendler started a business. Hendler's work began in the basement of Louis Miller's home before Hendler took full control of the company and expanded to a large factory at 1100 East Baltimore Street by the time he was 24. » Continued on page 5



Photo from the Jewish Museum of Maryland. Lionel Manuel Hendler marketed his ice cream as "the velvet kind" because he believed it was smooth.



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.

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Commissioner Keeps Green Hornets On Track

By Zach Sparks

When Elizabeth Nabors moved to Maryland from Michigan and joined the Green Hornets as a coach in 2017, the track and field program had 203 kids. This summer, 489 young athletes registered.

She credits her predecessors for creating the foundation for a successful program.

"You have to talk me out of this," she remembers saying to former commissioners Bill Bamford and Lori Glebocki when a new commissioner was needed. "Am I crazy?" They said, "We both loved it."

Now in her second summer as commissioner of track and field, the mother of two kids — ages 6 and 11 — has made her own mark. She altered the schedule to shift from one practice per week to two. Nabors also added dedicated coaches for the field events.

"We had a head coach, Cheddy Matthews, who knew all there was to know about track and field," Nabors said. "It's hard to replace someone with that knowledge. You could be a sprinter, but that doesn't mean you know long jump. We have dedicated coaches with the expertise to teach the right form and technique."

The coaches vary in age and experience. One is a high school student. Another is a college athlete who has a younger sister who is a Green Hornet. Several are parents, including Quinton, who was married to Nabors when the couple moved to Maryland.

"We have people with a lot of different skills," Nabors said, adding that the program also needs volunteers for timing athletes and recording data. "We'll find a place for you. If you've got a thumb, you can time it."

Kids have excelled with that instruction. Nabors encourages



A mother of two kids, Elizabeth Nabors is enjoying her second summer as Green Hornets track and field commissioner.

them to try all events, and compete in three, so they get to find the one that best suits their interests.

"When they are older, kids might get intimidated by trying new events," Nabors said. "Here, we are able to help kids get that experience when they are younger. What does it mean to throw shot put? What is high jump?"

The most popular events are long jump and, for younger kids, the 50-meter dash. Older kids enjoy the 100-meter dash.

Success of the track and field program takes a lot of work behind the scenes. Nabors spends about three hours a night, three times a week, in person. Add to that several administrative responsibilities.

"It's a lot of organization, a lot of emails," Nabors said. "I set up everything and then tear it down."

Registration opens May 1, and all slots are usually filled in about

one week. Nabors must coordinate permits and make shirt and ribbon orders. Meets are held on the last four Fridays of the season, which continues through the end of July.

In addition to her role with Green Hornets, she is a certified running coach and a member of the Annapolis Striders running club.

Glebocki said Nabors' enthusiasm makes her a great fit for the Green Hornets track and field program.

"Myself, Bill Bamford before me and coach Lloyd Spence before him put a lot of blood, sweat, tears and time into that program to make it what it is today," Glebocki said. "It's a thankless job that results in more criticism than compliments, but if you're passionate about the program, you walk away feeling good about the end result. She clearly has passion for the program and its athletes, and any recognition is well deserved."

Kids Meet Former O's During Challenger Baseball



Orioles Advocates sponsored a Challenger Baseball event Saturday at Lake Waterford Park in Pasadena. The program provides children with mental and physical challenges an opportunity to enjoy the experience of playing baseball. Kids from three counties, including Anne Arundel, got to engage with the Oriole bird and meet two former players, pitcher Rick Krivda and outfielder Larry Bigbie.



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Former Arnold Resident Appears On “Jeopardy!”

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

Answer: The Anne Arundel County resident who was most recently a contestant on the game show “Jeopardy!” Question: Who is David Ford?

Ford, a lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County, appeared on the June 8 show of “Jeopardy!”

Appearing on “Jeopardy!” was a dream come true for Ford, a self-professed game show fanatic since he was a young child.

“I learned my letters from watching ‘Wheel of Fortune,’ not from ‘Sesame Street,’” Ford said.

By coincidence, his family attended the same church as “Wheel of Fortune” host and part-time Severna Park resident Pat Sajak. Ford and his dad got to see Sajak during Sajak’s wedding rehearsal when Ford was just 6 years old. The young Ford was already a fan of Sajak and “Wheel of Fortune.”

Ford began taking the contestant qualifying tests for “Jeopardy!” when he was in college in the early 2000s. However, it was not until a couple years ago that he took the online test.

The online test consisted of 50 general knowledge questions in 50 categories. After he passed the first round of testing, Ford was randomly selected for the second qualifying round, which consisted of a video call with a game show coordinator, where he was again given 50 questions to answer.

Ford completed his final round of auditions in Washington, D.C., last September. They were in-person auditions where potential contestants played a mock game. Ford said the game show evaluated how potential contestants played the game, such as how well their voice projects, and not



necessarily on how many answers they got correct. Other factors included charisma and how well they could tell stories.

After the auditions, Ford did not hear from “Jeopardy!” until February of this year when the show called to ask if he would like to come in April for tapings. His wife, Ashley, and two sisters flew to Los Angeles with him for the taping.

Ford explained that a week’s worth of shows are taped in one day, and the contestants who appear on what day are randomly selected about 15 minutes before the tapings begin. Although Ford did not win, he said that the experience lived up to his dreams. Ford said he knew about 50% of

“I competed at the highest level of trivia competition. I would not have traded the experience for the world.”

— DAVID FORD
GAME SHOW CONTESTANT

the questions in his game but could answer only about 45% because another contestant was consistently quicker with the buzzer.

Ford shared one of the unexpected experiences from his time on “Jeopardy!” was the camaraderie among contestants. He is still in touch with the winner of his game.

Although Ford would have liked to have won a game or two, he still relishes the experience.

“I competed at the highest level of trivia competition,” Ford said. “I would not have traded the experience for the world.”

Photos courtesy of Jeopardy Productions Inc.
David Ford appeared on “Jeopardy!” in June.

This was not Ford’s first time as a contestant, nor at the same studio. Ford had fulfilled part of his life’s dream 10 years prior when he appeared on “Wheel Fortune” in 2013. “Jeopardy!” and “Wheel of Fortune” share the same studio in Los Angeles.

There had been in-person auditions for “Wheel of Fortune” in Hunt Valley, Maryland, and Ford made it through all the rounds, which he said included some luck. His name was initially drawn to play a mock game, and because he did well, he received an invitation to come on the show a couple of months later.

However, Ford said luck was not on his side during the show. He had been in the lead but hit a bankrupt space toward the end of the game; another contestant hit a high-dollar space right after and solved one of the last puzzles. Like the “Jeopardy!” experience, Ford was grateful for the opportunity.

“‘Wheel of Fortune’ was phenomenal, and I got a trip to Las Vegas, which was like a second honeymoon,” Ford said.

Game shows seem to find Ford. In addition to the “Wheel of Fortune” appearance in Los Angeles, Ford also appeared on and won a traveling “Wheel of Fortune” game at Live! Casino in Hanover last year. His winnings included a trip to Paris.

Ford lives in Pasadena with his family, which includes a pair of children. He works in his family’s steel business in Arnold, the town where he spent four years of his childhood.

What’s next for this game show fanatic and perennial contestant? The “Price is Right.” He plans to attend the traveling “Price is Right” show later this year at National Harbor.

Hendler’s: A Pioneer In The Ice Cream Industry

» Continued from page 1

“He then went to all the drug-gists that were on the corner drug stores and said to them, ‘I will be happy to put a soda foundation in your drug store as long as when people are waiting for their prescription that you would sell them my ice cream,’” Jay said. “And so that’s what he did.”

Marylanders began to recognize Hendler’s blue and yellow signs promoting its ice cream as “the velvet kind,” its “brick” packaging size, and advertisements featuring the cherubic Kewpie character created by artist Rose O’Neill.

Hendler Creamery Company continued expanding until it had 120 delivery trucks supplying ice cream to more than 400 stores.

The business offered vanilla, chocolate and strawberry, along with many other flavors. Peach was a summertime staple. Peppermint, licorice and spiced apple were among the other offerings.

Gilbert Sandler’s book “Jewish Baltimore: A Family Album,” published in 2000, got the scoop on other treats. One of Hendler’s four

children, Albert, discussed the flavors, including one that gave customers something to buzz about.

“But the best flavor was tomato aspic, which we made as a specialty for the Southern Hotel,” Albert mentioned in the book. “It was served as a staple with the main course at dinner. Eggnog ice cream was one of our bestsellers. It was flavored with pure rum, which we put in bonded warehouses for three years. To my knowledge, we were the only ice cream company in the nation to have a liquor or rectifier’s license for the blending of whiskey for other than drinking purposes.”

That was not Hendler’s only innovative idea. He and his son had 32 patents related to ice-cream making.

According to the Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers, Hendler was the first to install the fast frozen method, allowing ice cream to be frozen with a texture comparable to liquid cream instead of a consistency of ice crystals that most products of the era had. Ice cream had to be hand-packed

into cans until Hendler designed an automatic ice cream can filling machine.

In the early 20th century, companies made deliveries by horse-drawn carriage, mostly to nearby neighborhoods that could enjoy the treats before they melted. Hendler Creamery started using an all-motor fleet of refrigerated trucks to cover a larger delivery area.

Hendler established himself as a shrewd businessman and a community advocate who served on the board of directors for the Red Cross, Boy Scouts and other organizations. Every Christmas season, Hendler’s also donated ice cream to orphanages and hospital wards.

In the 1920s, he also became involved in the growth of Severna Park. Because he was Jewish, Hendler was barred from playing golf at facilities in Baltimore, where he lived and worked.

“So he went to Oscar Hatton, who was the developer of Severna Park, and there was a nine-hole golf course there,” Jay said. “He

volunteered to put in another nine holes and to build a clubhouse.”

Located in the Harlequin community, the clubhouse had a card room upstairs, a bar, a lady’s room and a men’s room, along with a kitchen. Hendler invited guests for swimming, golfing, singalongs, and crab feasts while making his guests feel at home.

“A lot of the women or the druggist’s wives didn’t want to come down to the county and have to ride on the train, so Mr. Hendler tried to make this look like the city as much as he could,” Jay said of the clubhouse area. “So he put in a brick sidewalk and he had cobblestone streets here for them, along with gas lights that were put in.”

Following the parties, the guests walked to Robinson Road to hail the train back to Baltimore.

As for his business, it remained locally owned until it was bought by Borden’s in 1929. The Hendler family continued to manage the company until the 1960s. Hendler died in 1961 after a short illness.

Although Hendler’s is no longer active, the family left a sweet legacy behind.

Gerst Honored With Grand Marshal Billing For July 4 Parade

» Continued from page 1

open for visitors to enjoy Gerst's personal collection of vintage vehicles — currently numbering 55.

This year, Gerst is focusing on taking in the grand marshal honor, but he'll still assist with some floats and vehicles.

"It'll be easier," quipped Faye Eberhardt, Gerst's partner and best friend for the past 36 years.

Gerst was raised on a 24-acre farm in Millersville that his parents purchased in the early 1940s and is still there. The value of hard work and honest living were lessons imparted early to him.

He put his first motor in a car before the age of 16 and ran a Sunoco station on Route 3 with his dad, Fred.

"The Gerst gas station was a favorite of my father for a fill-up or car repairs," League recalled. "During the summer, he would come home after visiting the Gersts and have bags of home-grown corn and veggies."

But the man now known for his business acumen and fair dealings in the gas, towing and repair realm didn't always have his eyes on that business.

"What I really wanted to be was a professional ballplayer or a state trooper," Gerst said.

A hernia at the age of 16, which almost cost Gerst his life, assisted in altering those plans. It also factored into what transpired during a visit of his to Fort Holabird, a now-defunct Army post in Baltimore, for his physical before heading to Vietnam.

"I was packed, ready to go," Gerst recalled. "Crew-cut, the whole nine yards.

I wasn't going to let them cut my hair off. I cut it before I went."

Gerst's hernia prevented him from serving in Vietnam, and he was granted an honorable discharge.

While the hernia kept him from serving his country overseas, it hasn't slowed him down in serving his community.

"I still love to get in the tow truck and go down the road," said Gerst, noting that he currently has three

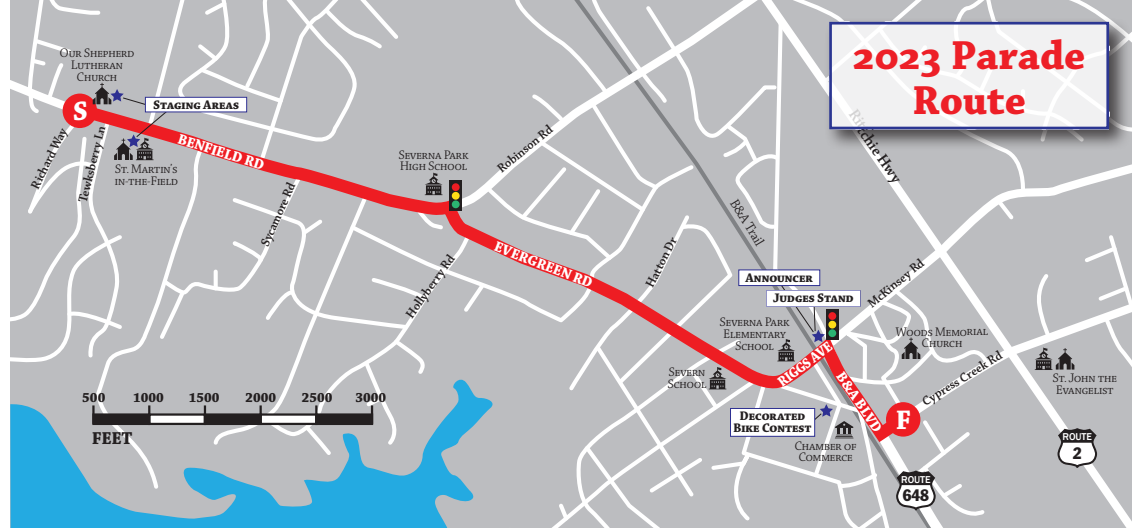
generations of the same family — the eldest being a friend that he went to school with — working for him.

It hasn't stalled Gerst's penchant for giving back to the community that he cares about, either.

Gerst Towing Service operates out of the farm and property that sits on East West Boulevard in Millersville, just shy of Veterans Highway. In 2016, Gerst donated the back of his farm to Orphan Grain Train, a nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with folks of need, both stateside and abroad.

"Orphan Grain Train is a thriving hub because of the space gifted by Wayne," League said.

Gerst said the rest of his farm will go to St. Paul's Lutheran Church at the time of his death, or perhaps before, where he's



hoping St. Paul's can build a new school and church.

"The good lord has been good to me, so I've been blessed," Gerst said. "Made some money over the years, saved it, invested some of it, and I'm OK."

If there's any doubt to Gerst's last statement, the skepticism is lifted once his seemingly stuck smile becomes visible as he starts drifting through his labyrinth of garages, each holding vintage cars and other memorabilia, including original seats from Memorial Stadium, the Orioles former home. There are also newspaper clippings, enough car trophies to fill an apartment, citations from local and state government entities, a beer and soda vending machine from the old gas station, political signs from campaigns past and a whole lot more.

Each garage has its own feel to it, its

own peek into Gerst's passions — whether that's the sheen of the '57 Chevy that's his newest build, with an underside that's as remarkably impressive and clean as the blue shine of the hood, or the hand-painted mural of the old Sunoco station from so many years ago.

While plenty of memories from the Severna Park Fourth of July parades of years past are prominent in Gerst's garage displays, he said, with a sly grin, that this year's grand marshal honor may put 2023 as the one to top them all in his mental scrapbook of parade memories.

"We've been to the other parades — Ferndale, Glen Burnie, Linthicum — and Severna Park is the biggest parade of any of them," Gerst said. "You have people who know how to really organize this. It takes a lot of volunteers and a lot of work."

boydarc's breakroom

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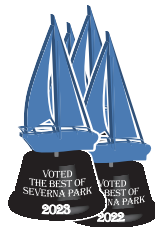
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Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company Set To Kick Off Carnival

By Lauren Cowin

Today marks the official start of summer. In Severna Park, the longer, warmer days also mean the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company (EHVFC) carnival will soon come to town.

This year's carnival begins Thursday, June 29, and lasts through Saturday, July 8. It will be closed on Sunday, July 2.

According to Andy Price, carnival chairman and board member for EHVFC, a \$30 wristband serves as an all-inclusive ticket to all the rides.

"You can have fun all night long and ride as much as you want," Price said.

In addition to the rides, operated by Jolly Shows, patrons can enjoy an array of games and food. Options will range from standard carnival fare such as funnel cakes, to fresh pit beef,



Photo courtesy of Jolly Shows

In addition to the rides, patrons can enjoy an array of games and food.

ham and turkey grilled by the EHVFC. Price said the fire company will also serve snowballs to help guests keep cool.

This annual event has been a tradition in the Severna Park community for more than seven decades. The carnival is more than simply a fun way

What To Know

Dates: June 29-July 8 (closed July 2)
Times: 6:00pm-11:00pm most nights

to spend a summer night — it serves as one of the fire company's major fundraisers each year.

"All our proceeds that we make go toward new equipment, so the idea is to make everything better for the community," said Price, adding that last year EHVFC made two significant purchases — a new rescue squad and a new fire engine.

The carnival will run from 6:00pm-11:00pm each night, except for July 4. On Independence Day, the hours are 3:00pm-9:00pm to allow for a full day of fun before guests may head out to watch fireworks.



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Tax Increases, Pay Bump For Employees Are Highlights Of County Budget

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

When the Anne Arundel County Council passed the Fiscal Year 2024 budget on June 14, by a vote of 6-1, the councilmembers agreed that despite their differences, the process was more collaborative than in past years.

The outcome was a budget that will raise pay for educators, make investments in public safety and parks, and fund other priorities.

Some of that money will come from increasing the income tax rate for about 2% of county residents. Single filers who earn above \$400,000 and joint filers making over \$480,000 will now pay a rate close to 3% instead of the current rate, which is 2.7% for the first \$50,000 of income and 2.8% for the rest. Also, the property tax rate for all homeowners will increase by 4.7 cents per \$100 of value. Other tax hikes include the hotel tax (7% to 8%) and a new rideshare fee (25 cents per trip originating in Anne Arundel County).

With the additional revenue, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) employees will see an 8% pay increase, with substitutes getting a raise of \$5 per day, and special educators receiving a \$2,000 bonus. Contracted bus drivers are set to earn a 10% cost-of-living-adjustment increase. Starting teacher salaries will jump to \$58,161 to entice new employees to fill vacancies.

District 7 councilmember Shannon Leadbetter, the only person to vote against the budget, praised the work of everyone involved in the budget process who worked to find common ground, but she expressed her belief that the county could raise employee pay without increasing taxes.

"The fact is, when you're paying 30 to 40% more for your groceries than you did two years ago and now facing a 47-cent-per-gallon gas tax that's going to be hitting in July, quite honestly it hurts," she said. "And that really weighs heavily how this increased cost of living is going to come to bear."

As Leadbetter and others noted, educators are not the only beneficiaries of the budget. The funds will jumpstart several

capital projects including a joint 911 operations center, new Cape St. Claire and Jessup fire stations, and a police special operations facility and real-time fusion center. Several public safety departments will get new positions, with the budget allocating funds for 18 new firefighters, 23 additional police officers and a new captain for the Sheriff's Office of Professional Standards.

As for local projects, Arnold Senior Center will get \$4.1 million for additional classrooms, a fitness area, and a building expansion to meet the needs of growing membership and programming offered at the center. A \$4.5 million investment in Millersville Park will go toward new ball fields and other amenities.

Amanda Fiedler, who represents Severna Park and the Broadneck peninsula as a councilwoman for District 5, voted for the budget but against tax increases. She explained her reasoning in a column for the Severna Park Voice (read the full article in the politics section of this edition).

"In this budget process, I supported amendments that could have lowered the tax rate but still allowed the county to increase pay packages for county employees, and hire more teachers, firefighters and police officers," she said.

She later added, "After serious thought and consideration, I supported the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, while rejecting increased tax burdens on families, because I believe that I could not throw out the baby with the bathwater."

Many other upgrades for the environment, transportation, housing, and human services are also on the books with the budget being adopted.

"The process that led to passage of this budget was collaborative, non-partisan and driven by shared values," Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman wrote in a statement. "The final product sets our county up for future economic challenges, while investing in our children, our families, our environment and the local institutions that deliver essential services. I want to thank the council, the auditor and my budget team for a job well done."

For more details on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, visit www.aacounty.org/fy24budget.

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AACC's Peer Learning Partnership

Join a group that loves learning. Anne Arundel Community College's (AACC) Peer Learning Partnership (PLP) is a community of lifelong learners that meets year-round for noncredit classes, discussion groups, and cultural and social events.

PLP will preview its fall 2023 courses and upcoming activities at a fall-term open house from 10:00am to noon on July 17 in Cade Center for Fine Arts room 219 on the Arnold campus and Zoom simultaneously. Non-members who would like to attend in person or via Zoom should register by July 16 at

bit.ly/plpguest.

PLP allows members to share learning experiences with peers in a college setting. The members manage the educational program and volunteer their time and talents to share knowledge on a variety of subjects. Open to ages 16 and up, the PLP program has no academic requirements for membership, but participants attend weekly discussion groups, monthly social and cultural events, and PLP classes. More info can be found at www.aacc.edu/plp.

Email plp@aacc.edu with any questions.

Mediation And Divorce: A Better Way

David V. Diggs



Divorce can be a heart-wrenching experience. There are steps you can take to minimize the emotional trauma to you, your spouse and,

most importantly, your children.

Mediation is a process in which impartial persons, the mediators, facilitate communication between the parties to promote resolution of all or some issues. Mediators encourage the open exchange of suggestions and ideas. They do not impose their judgment upon divorcing couples. Mediators do not decide cases. They assist parties in coming to an agreement.

Most noteworthy, the mediator does not provide legal advice. That's what lawyers do. Attorneys, with their unique experience, may serve as qualified mediators. However, attorney-mediators must be particularly careful not to mix roles. Mediation works best when each party is represented by an attorney. It is essential to the mediation process that legal questions be addressed only by counsel.

The mediation process is private and confidential. Interpersonal disputes are best resolved in a private setting. Most divorcing couples are particularly sensitive about "open courtrooms." The office of the mediator is often seen as a much less daunting forum than the courtroom. The mediator and those attending at the request of the mediator (appraisers, health care professionals and other experts) must maintain confidentiality and are never appropriate witnesses in a subsequent legal proceeding. Of course, any agreement resulting from mediation is not confidential and may provide the basis for proceeding with uncontested divorce and getting on with life.

With apologies to David Letterman, there are 10 reasons (at least) why mediation is preferable to

litigation:

1. You may pick your mediator. Courts frown upon "judge shopping."
2. You may pick your location. Some mediators will travel to the parties; courts and judges require that you come to them.
3. You can pick your date. Court clerks will assign you a trial date and require written postponement requests when the third trial date is reset for your first real vacation in three years.
4. The date is guaranteed; postponements of court cases for lack of judges are still all too frequent occurrences.
5. Mediation is cheaper. Litigation is more expensive.
6. Mediation is faster. Litigation is inevitably slower.
7. Mediation is participatory. Litigation is adversarial.
8. Mediation is private. The court is open to the public.
9. In mediation, the parties may participate in writing the rules. In court, they are bound by the rules of evidence and procedure.
10. In mediation, the parties fashion their own agreement. At the conclusion of litigation, an order is issued by the court, which if done properly, displeases the parties equally.

Mediation is usually relatively inexpensive, convenient and helpful in fostering cordial and productive relationships between divorcing couples. Preparation and a willingness to keep an open mind during the process are keys to success. Obviously, if you find yourself contemplating separation or divorce, you will have many questions.

Mediators (and attorneys) with specific training in family law can assist you in making informed decisions. David Diggs is experienced in family law mediation and litigation. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville. Call 410-244-1171 or email at david@diggslaw.com.

Civilian Ride-Along Program

Want to see what a typical day is like for a police officer?

The Anne Arundel County Police Department offers a ride-along program that encourages community involvement in law enforcement, opens lines of communications between police and citizens, and educates the public. This program is designed to allow residents the opportunity to accompany an officer during his or her tour of duty and gives a better understanding of police operations.

To participate in the program, complete a form on the police department website at www.aacounty.org/departments/police-department.

Completing this request does not guarantee that your ride-along will be approved. Individuals will receive an email within 10 business days to follow up on their request. If approved, bring the following when you show up for your scheduled ride along:

1. Print out, complete, and bring the police ride-along waiver.
2. A valid government ID
3. Proof of a vaccination
4. A mask (must be worn during ride-along)

No weapons will be allowed on the ride-along. Please wear appropriate attire; no baggy clothing or clothing with inappropriate wording or slogans will be allowed.

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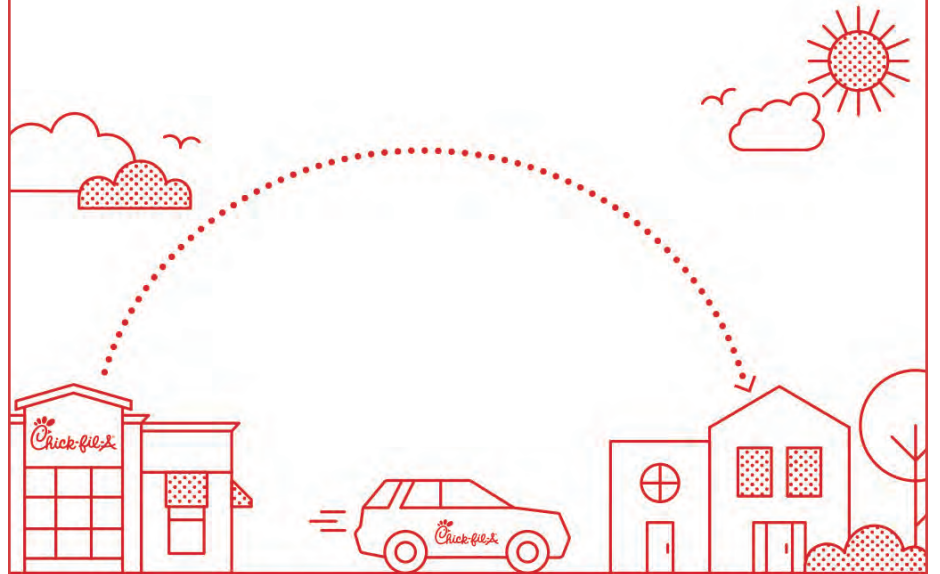
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MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

SPHS Grad Serving In Navy Medical Field

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

The young Michelle Mandeville used to attend military-themed camps at the United States Naval Academy, close to her childhood home in Severna Park.

"I always wanted to join the Navy when I was little," Mandeville said.

The 2013 graduate of her hometown high school has since fulfilled that desire to serve, all the while adding a combination of medical and military alphabet soup around her name that together signify one thing — success.

Mandeville now answers to both doctor and lieutenant, and she recently added another title — mom. The naval doctor and officer, along with her physician husband, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Lance Charlton, welcomed their son, Scotty, earlier this year.

Lieutenant Michelle Mandeville is currently part of the U.S. Navy's medical corps and serves as a medical officer at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, which sits across the Elizabeth River from Norfolk, Virginia.

After high school, Mandeville had her sights set on attending a service academy, but she had also developed another lofty goal. She wanted to pursue her interest in the medical field.

"When you're graduating from the Naval Academy, you're put into different billets, and so I wasn't sure if that would be a possibility if I went to the Naval Academy, so I ended up applying to Hopkins instead," Mandeville said.

She settled in just fine as a Blue Jay. Not only did Mandeville study pre-med and history as an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University, but she also earned a master's degree in public health.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Michelle Mandeville
U.S. Navy Lieutenant Michelle Mandeville posed with her husband, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Lance Charlton.

Although she studied in a civilian academic world initially, Mandeville never let her Navy ambitions stray too far.

"The whole time, I knew I wanted to do Navy medicine," Mandeville said.

She next attended the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, a prestigious medical education and research center for the military located on the grounds of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

With the decision came a naval commitment,

and another goal reached.

From there, Mandeville started a pediatric internship, where thanks in part to the birth of her son, she has sought to grasp her medical roots.

Mandeville was slated to attend a six-month flight school in Pensacola, Florida, as part of her plan to be a flight surgeon, but the birth of her son redirected Mandeville's career. But there are no regrets from the Lower Magothy Beach native. Not only did she get promoted to mom, but it complemented her passion for pediatrics, a field she hopes to get back into as early as next year.

"I'd like to follow that route a little more," Mandeville said. "There's a lot of really great opportunities in the Navy for pediatrics."

Mandeville sees her trajectory as a naval officer leaning to humanitarian medicine, citing recent efforts naval pediatricians helped spearhead in Afghanistan.

"Afghan refugees or evacuees, over half of them are children, right, and so there's a really big need for Navy pediatrics, and a lot of humanitarian missions," Mandeville said.

Mandeville also relishes the thought of working with the children of servicemembers, ideally somewhere along the Chesapeake Bay. Mandeville aims to make a career of her service.

"I think something that really surprised me with joining the Navy is how many opportunities you get that you're not looking for," Mandeville said.

One of those opportunities was attending a six-week course focusing on aquatic skills like dive medicine and underwater search and rescue.

"[It's] just such a blessing, such a very amazing surprise," Mandeville said. "Since I've joined the Navy, I've been able to travel all over the country."

Earleigh Heights VFC Puts New Truck In Service

The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company recently received a 1986 six-wheel-drive former military all-terrain truck. Volunteers are working to get the truck ready to be part of the response fleet.

"It's a high-profile truck with very high clearance underneath and is capable of operating in deep snow or on flooded roadways," said Captain Craig Blake, the project coordinator. "The motor sends power to all six wheels, so this thing can go places other trucks can't go. This will give us access before roads are plowed or floodwaters recede."

Blake said the fire company added important upgrades to the truck.

"It was Army green when we got it," Blake said. "In addition to repainting it and installing brand-new tires, we've fitted it with emergency lights and access stairs so people can easily climb up into the back. We're in the process of adding radios and refurbishing the 10-ton winch located in the front. It's been a lot of work, but we're really proud of it."

Inspired by high-water flood response programs in Texas, where similar former-military trucks are deployed across the state, the new Earleigh Heights truck



The truck can ford through floodwater 36 inches deep and operate in deep snow.

is designed to ford through floodwater up to 36 inches deep.

Earleigh Heights Chief Dave Crawford, who witnessed flooding in Texas firsthand while living there, highlighted the

truck's uniqueness.

"It gives Earleigh Heights, Anne Arundel County, and the state of Maryland a valuable resource when there are extreme weather events," Crawford explained.

"The motor sends power to all six wheels, so this thing can go places other trucks can't go."

— CAPTAIN CRAIG BLAKE

"The Maryland Department of Emergency Management added our truck to the state response plan for severe weather events. It can be called to support emergency teams across Maryland and on a regional and national level as well. It's the first of its kind for the state of Maryland."

Crawford appreciates serving such a supportive community.

"We couldn't respond to the more than 250 emergency calls a month without wide support," he said. "The donation of this vehicle is inspiring and helps us help the entire community. Everyone can support the important Earleigh Heights mission. Join us for bingo Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Bring your family to our carnival. Or send a donation in honor of a loved one."

Visit www.ehvfc.org for more information about the new truck and volunteer opportunities.

The 2024 County Budget

Amanda Fiedler

Councilwoman
District 5



spend your tax dollars.

The Anne Arundel County Council voted on the appropriations bill and each individual tax bill that respectively makes up the spending and revenue of the annual budget on June 14. Like most legislation that comes to the council, four of seven favorable votes are required to pass the budget. Should the budget not get the support of four councilmembers, the county executive's proposed budget is adopted, without changes. The Anne Arundel County Fiscal Year 2024 budget session has concluded. It was a whirlwind 45 days of meetings, hearings and discussions on priorities within the county, competing needs and how to spend your tax dollars.

The Anne Arundel County Council voted on the appropriations bill and each individual tax bill that respectively makes up the spending and revenue of the annual budget on June 14. Like most legislation that comes to the council, four of seven favorable votes are required to pass the budget. Should the budget not get the support of four councilmembers, the county executive's proposed budget is adopted, without changes.

This year's budget included property tax increases, income tax increases for certain households, recordation and transfer tax increases for home sales over \$1 million, increased waste and water fees, and new ride share fees.

Highlights for the operational budget

The Anne Arundel County Fiscal Year 2024 budget session has concluded. It was a whirlwind 45 days of meetings, hearings and discussions on priorities within the county, competing needs and how to

added nearly two dozen additional police and firefighters to keep pace with the public safety needs of the county, and adjusted compensations for teachers in advance of the Maryland Blueprint for Education requirements.

The annual budget historically passes with council approval, and this budget passed with bipartisan support, 6-1.

I voted for the budget, but against the tax increases, and here is why.

I am always looking out for the best interests and safety of the people I represent and advocate for their needs. We all want safe communities, and I know how hard our police work to address criminal activities from petty to violent crimes, traffic safety issues and more. They also invest time to build relationships with the public. Our firefighters need to have the staff to adequately run an apparatus to an emergency call. Properly staffing our public safety agencies, and having the ability to retain the people in these important positions, is critical to the safety of our neighborhoods.

My priority has been to fight for lower taxes on behalf of our families and local businesses. In this budget process, I supported amendments that could have lowered the tax rate but still allowed the county to increase pay packages for county employees, and hire more teachers, firefighters and police officers. Because the county council can only cut the budget, this process would have meant the adoption of one of the proposed tax reduction amendments, followed by support from a majority of councilmembers, through discussions with the administration, to reduce the proposed tax rate.

This would have been followed by amendments that would have adjusted areas of the spending bill to account for the reduction. What those reductions could have been would have depended on the priorities agreed upon by a majority of councilmembers and the administration. Most of the council rejected this proposal,

thus ending the discussion to make any adjustments.

My vote against each bill that raises taxes reflects my commitment to the families in our district and the need to demand fiscal responsibility from our county government.

At the same time, I have spent hundreds of hours over the past year meeting with community members who have requested support from county government for our collective needs.

One mother who spoke at a budget town hall really stuck with me. She shared how her young elementary school child hasn't had one consistent teacher all year due to staffing challenges. In fact, her young daughter has had more than three teachers, instead of one. As a mom of three kids in our school system, I know how important consistency in the classroom is for successful learning.

This budget is not perfect, but there are positive elements that I wanted to support in the interest of our district. In addition to increasing the number of police officers and firefighters, and taking steps to hire and retain teachers, this budget is also investing in our school nurses and critical funding for infrastructure improvements. These are positions and programs that are necessary for essential government functions, safety, and education of our children.

After serious thought and consideration, I supported the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, while rejecting increased tax burdens on families, because I believe that I could not throw out the baby with the bathwater. This was not a hasty decision.

As a public servant, I believe I must be pragmatic in my decisions and weigh every detail.

I hope in future budgets, the county council can work together in the same way to prevent further tax increases on the residents of Anne Arundel County.

You can reach me at amanda.fiedler@accounty.org.

Preventing Gun Violence

Steuart Pittman

Anne Arundel
County Executive



Editor's note:

The original column first appeared in the county executive's weekly email on June 22.

Dear neighbor, I went off script this week.

I was speaking at a press conference with Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley, Senator Sarah Elfreth, Delegate Shanka Henson, Health Officer Tonii Gedin and others about what we are doing to prevent gun violence.

I started by recounting Sunday's Father's Day vigil with the Mireles and Segovia families. Then I shared my recollection of the *Capital Gazette* editorial board calling on all candidates in the election five years ago to explain what they'd do to prevent the next mass shooting. That was after the one that took place in their newsroom, killing five of their beloved staff.

I then dutifully described our work: our declaration of gun violence as a public health issue, our creation of the Gun Violence Intervention Team, the 1,468 gun locks we've distributed at libraries since April through our pilot program, the safety literature we require gun retailers to distribute, the promotion and successful use of extreme risk protective orders (red flag), and the violence interruption programs in our budget. The other speakers described the important work they are doing to save lives at the city and state levels and in our Department of Health.

Then Mayor Buckley called for ques-
» **Continued on page 16**

Moore Shares Vision To Address Public Safety In Maryland

Governor Wes Moore laid out the administration's new vision to address public safety in Maryland. The strategy focuses on supporting law enforcement; building stronger, more vibrant communities; coordinating across all aspects of government; and investing in Maryland's youth through the Safe Summer initiative.

"An all-of-the-above approach to improving public safety in Maryland requires preventing crime, holding criminals accountable and addressing the root causes of crime," Moore said. "Good government is about making strong choices. And we are going to make the choice to act on public safety - in a way that is robust, strategic and moves with an urgency that the issue demands, in a way that doesn't just react to crime, but actually prevents crime."

Through the Maryland Department of State Police, the administration is bolster-



Governor Wes Moore

Maryland's public safety agencies and provides critical data, analysis and insight into criminal activity.

Since the beginning of this year, MCAC has worked with federal, state and local agencies in Maryland and around the country on a wide range of issues, from homicides to robberies to fraud to retail theft.

"No single police department has all

ing coordination with local and federal law enforcement agencies through the Maryland Co-ordination and Analysis Center, known as MCAC. MCAC is the focal point between

the necessary resources and intelligence to combat the diverse range of criminal activities that we are seeing today — that's why collaborative enforcement initiatives across every sector of law enforcement are more important than ever before," said Maryland Department of State Police Superintendent Colonel Roland Butler.

As a model for the governor's approach to public safety, the Department of Juvenile Services is launching its Safe Summer initiative, which prioritizes early intervention to build a more effective, less expensive, and better long-term approach to improving public safety and bolstering opportunity for youth involved in Maryland's juvenile justice system.

To set the stage for Maryland's Safe Summer initiative, the department defined three priorities:

- To direct more resources to Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Montgom-

ery and Baltimore counties, and Baltimore City — the five jurisdictions that account for 75% of youth violence referrals in Maryland.

- To launch an initiative focused on 25 youth under state supervision who are at the highest risk of shooting someone or being shot, based on the Group Violence Reduction Strategy in West Baltimore.
- To create new partnerships across state government and in our communities that will build upon our young people's strengths rather than focusing on extinguishing their deficits.

In partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of the Environment, the agencies are implementing youth development projects that will provide young people with the tools they need to thrive in communities across the state.



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State Leaders Launch Council On Interfaith Outreach



Governor Wes Moore and Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller launched the Governor's Council on Interfaith Outreach with an inaugural meeting with faith leaders across Maryland in June.

Chaired by Miller, the group will convene faith leaders for shared discussion on issues facing their communities and develop action items Maryland can take on to foster religious tolerance across faiths, and root out faith-based hatred, violence and persecution.

"Growing up in an interfaith household taught me that at its

core, faith is about empathy, respect, and promoting a more equitable world," Miller said. "I am honored to chair the Council on Interfaith Outreach to create space at the highest level of state government to foster shared discussion between faith groups. There is so much more that unites us than divides us, and by coming together in unity, we can create a more inclusive, compassionate and understanding Maryland."

The group will meet every other month to further strategies the state can take.

Preventing Gun Violence

» Continued from page 14

tions from the reporters in the room, and there was silence. That's when I stepped back to the podium.

"I have something else to say," I said. "I'm going off script here."

I said we couldn't succeed at just the local level.

Maryland lost 72 children to gun violence in 2021, and we lost 45 to automobile accidents. Those were the top two causes of childhood death.

"Maryland lost 72 children to gun violence in 2021."

Cars are dangerous, but less than they used to be. They're regulated. We have road safety standards, car safety standards, driver's licenses, and traffic laws to prevent cars from killing us. Those regulations save thousands of lives, despite the fact that not everyone complies with them.

Guns are also dangerous, but state and federal law preempts counties from regulating them. Maryland's standard for getting a permit to carry was ruled unconstitutional by an out-of-touch Supreme Court last year, and now more people are carrying their firearms in public places. Shootings are up in our county this year.

Our country had an assault weapons ban in place and it worked. When Congress repealed it, mass shootings increased.

We have more guns than people in this country, and you don't need to read the studies to understand that suicide attempts and personal conflicts are far

more likely to end in death when there is a gun around.

The *Capital Gazette* killer was known to be a threat and should not have been able to purchase a gun legally, but he did. The man who shot six neighbors at the Mireles birthday party and killed three had a history that should have disqualified him from firearm ownership, but

he had both a semi-automatic handgun and a long gun.

We do our gun violence prevention work at the local level

because our neighbors are dying, but we're up against an industry that profits from convincing people that they need more guns, and deadlier guns. Their campaigns are working, and more people are dying.

Failure by lawmakers to regulate firearms is a failure of leadership and an act of cowardice, regardless of party affiliation. Public safety is the most sacred obligation of government, and they are failing us.

I say these things as a gun owner who knows the power of these weapons. I got a pellet gun for Christmas as a child and cherished it, I shot clay pigeons with my grandfather, and I inherited my father's 22-caliber revolver, which I've used to euthanize injured deer, a goat, and horses whose suffering was terminal. I keep that gun in a safe and will never carry it in a public place because its very presence on my body puts me and the people around me at risk.

We need to get guns off our streets.

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After beating Milwaukee Scylla 39-24 in the Division 2 national semifinals, the Severna Park-based Severn River Women's Rugby team advanced to the finals in June, losing to Knoxville Minx in a contest in St. Louis. While the team fell one game short of their goal, they enjoyed a series of euphoric moments, including hoisting the Atlantic regional championship trophy (pictured). They followed with a win in the national sweet 16 round against New Haven on April 29 and a national elite 8 victory versus Whitehorse on April 30.



Severn River Women's Rugby Takes Second At Nationals



College Commitments

Athletes Prepare For The Next Stage

By David Bashore

As Severna Park resident **Cody Sharman**

walked off the mound for the last time wearing Archbishop Spalding colors, the moment got to him. Spalding held the lead in the MIAA "A" Division semifinals against Calvert Hall, and he had done all he could to put the Cavaliers in position to defend their championship.

"It was kind of hard knowing it was over, but I knew I had given my guys the best chance to win that game and finish up the season strong," Sharman said. "It was sad for me, but I tried my hardest and think I left a good impression."

His teammates picked him up, as they had done for each other all season, as Spalding closed out the semifinal and then held Calvert Hall off again in the finals a few days later to win the title for

the second year running.

This year was much more of a grind, Sharman said, compared to the previous season. Sharman helped a standout pitching staff lead the way, as he went 7-2 in his 10 starts, with a 0.85 ERA and a 0.80 WHIP. He struck out 60 batters while allowing just eight walks and tossed four complete games.

The balance of power pitcher and pitching to contact is a tough balance for anyone to muster, but the Cavalier defense freed Sharman up to be himself — which helped him manage all the pressure that comes with expectations of a state championship and performances from a NCAA Division I-caliber athlete.

"I was trying to pound the strike zone and trying to find ways to get guys out," Sharman said. "I had confidence in the guys behind me, which allowed me to throw more creative pitches. That helped get my strikeout numbers up, and it gave us a good balance. I just tried to do my work every day and keep tunnel vision. Just trying to have fun while playing the game, because that's the most important thing."

For his standout performance in his senior season, Sharman was named to the South team's roster for the Brooks Robinson High School All-Star Game, played at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on June 25.

Sharman was one of two local ath-

letes named to the game. Broadneck pitcher **Sean Murphy** was also selected, while Bruins coach **Matt Skrenchuk** was named to the South team's coaching staff. Sharman also had his batterymate, Spalding catcher **Ethan McNally**, participating in the game.

"Really excited to be able to walk onto the hill at Camden Yards," Sharman said. "It's a place I've always wanted to play since I was a little kid."

While pitching at Oriole Park fulfilled a lifelong dream, it is by no means the end for Sharman, who has signed on to pitch at Seton Hall University. He committed to the Pirates early in the process, locking down his recruitment in the summer of 2021, just before beginning his junior year at Spalding.

"They really jumped toward me and showed a lot of interest in me, which made me feel good," Sharman said. "It feels like a good place for me, and I feel like I'll be able to do well there. It's a completely different staff other than the head coach, but I'm thankful that the new guys are just as amazing as the other guys (who did the recruiting). I'm going to give it my all up there and see where the game takes me."

While the dream of playing college, and maybe pro, ball is alive and well, Sharman credited his family — par-

» Continued on page 26



Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Burke/ Archbishop Spalding Cavalier Club

Cody Sharman went 7-2 in his 10 starts for Archbishop Spalding, with a 0.85 ERA and a 0.80 WHIP. He struck out 60 batters while allowing just eight walks and tossed four complete games.

Rising SPHS Senior Casting Name For Himself In Kayak Fishing

By Tom Worgo

Jordan Lovejoy wanted to take up kayaking and fishing — the latter being something he had spent years doing at the time.

A rising senior at Severna Park High School, Lovejoy decided not to take kayaking lessons, nor venture into the water, or try to figure it out on his own. But he found a different way to learn all about kayaking: YouTube.

Lovejoy watched videos when he was in middle school for nearly two years before he decided to go out on the Severn River for kayak fishing.

The younger Lovejoy, then a student at Severna Park Middle School, watched the videos and waited to hit the water because of his age at the time.

But once he eventually hit the water, and he noted the amount of others out on the river, he got excited.

“I just fell in love with it,” Lovejoy said. “I learned how to function in a small space and how to have things sorted and where to put everything. I wasn’t very good when I first started. It took a lot of work and effort to improve.”

Lovejoy just did it for fun in the beginning, but he never imagined he would be so good at it to become a professional kayak fisherman. Two years after first getting in the water with a 10-foot kayak, he is now traveling up and down the East Coast to national tournaments. He’s fished in 16 overall.

His prize catches over the past two years are a 35-inch rockfish, 26-inch pickerel and a 23-inch small-mouth bass. Lovejoy plans to do the sport in college and is strongly considering Carson-Newman University in Tennessee.

“I would love to compete in a kayak fishing series in college,” Lovejoy said.

“I want to look at some schools in Florida, including Florida State. They have kayak fishing teams. There are ways of getting scholarships through placing in tournaments.”

This year has been Lovejoy’s busiest as he has signed up for events that cost about \$300 each. He has already participated in the Harris Chain of Lakes tournament near Orlando, Florida, as well as the Potomac River Kayak Bass Fishing Tournament, the Kayak Bass Fishing Tournament on Lake George in New York and the Hobie Bass Fishing tournament on the New River in southern West Virginia. He is going up against older men.

The 17-year-old finished 10th in the Potomac River Tournament among more than 100 competitors. His top five catches added up to 83 inches.

“They are all part of a bass fishing series,” explained Lovejoy, who played

soccer at Severna Park High School for the past three years. “I am usually the youngest competitor. The ages run from 17 to 75. It’s been big learning from others and adapting changes on the fly.”

Lovejoy’s close friend, Ethan Cabucana, a rising junior at Severna Park who also kayak fishes, admires him for his accomplishments and passion for the sport. Cabucana frequently goes to national tournaments with Lovejoy.

“We go fishing every single day we have free,” Cabucana said. “Beyond family, this is the biggest part of his life. He has a lot of knowledge and just knows so much. He just has gotten so much better. He always knows how to catch the big fish.”

Lovejoy’s family bought him a new kayak last year because he is 6-foot-7 and needed a bigger kayak. The 14-foot kayak cost about \$15,000 after adding special lighting and technical equipment.

Lovejoy’s mother, Jennifer, loves to tell the story about how her son got introduced to fishing.

“Since he was super young, he really has taken to fishing,” Jennifer recalled. “My dad (Ronald Shullaw) loved fishing and introduced him to it. We would go to Nebraska, where I grew up, and my dad would just show him how to fish.”

Jordan Lovejoy is a rising senior at Severna Park High School. Lovejoy, who is making a name for himself in the kayak fishing world, has traveled up and down the East Coast to compete in national kayak fishing tournaments.



New Coaches Join Severn School

By Tom Worgo

If fans watching the Severn girls basketball team last winter were asked to suggest a new mascot, they might have chosen a Camel.

Severn ran a slow, half-court offense.

Under recently hired new coach **Sharna Hunt**, the Admirals will be a few steps faster and will employ an up-tempo offense in 2023-2024.

You might even call the pace hectic.

“We are going to play a different kind of game than the players are used to,” said Hunt, who replaced **Jim Stromberg**. “We played a slow-paced game the past few years, and I am really looking to pick it up with the players we have returning and coming up from the JV.”

The 35-year-old Hunt served as an assistant coach under Stromberg last season and also worked as director of the Old Mill Youth Association girls basketball program for four years while also coaching in the organization. She played high school basketball at St. Mary’s High School and later at East Tennessee State University.

“She fit in really well with our

kids, and related to them very well,” Severn Athletic Director **Julian Domenech** said of last year.

The Admirals appear to be getting better every year. They went 2-22 in 2022, 9-15 last year and hopefully produce a few more wins this winter.

If Severn goes .500 in 2024, it might feel like a championship to Hunt and her players.

“We really want to grow the program,” Hunt said. “I feel we are on an upward trajectory. I want all my returning players to develop an all-around game. We want to compete with the better teams on the schedule.”

Hunt likes the group of players she has coming back. Six-foot senior combo guard **Nyela Djossou**, a tenacious defender, highlights the returnees.

The coach also likes the potential of three sophomores: **Layla Epps**, **Valerie Waugh** and **Mary Wellschlager**.

“I am looking for them to be the driving force on the team — especially with us playing a different kind of game,” Hunt explained.

It’s difficult to match the resume



Denison Cabral, the new Severn School girls soccer coach, played professionally for 18 years in his native Brazil and for the indoor Baltimore Blast of the Major Arena Soccer League.

of the new Severn girls soccer coach, **Denison Cabral**.

The 49-year-old Cabral played professionally for 18 years in his native Brazil and for the indoor Baltimore Blast of the Major Arena Soccer League.

On top of that, Cabral has coached soccer for 25 years, including stints as coach of the professional Harrisburg Heat of the Major Arena Soccer League, DC United’s U14 boys academy team, Johns Hopkins women’s team and the St. Mary’s High School boys varsity squad.

“When the position opened, I had several people contact me from our Severn soccer community,” Domenech said of recommendations. “We just [thought] he was a really good fit for our program. We knew more about him than our other candidates.”

Cabral is walking into a nice situation with the Severn girls soccer program.

The Admirals won the Interscholastic Athletic Association B Conference championship in 2021 while going 15-4. Last fall, Severn went 8-1 in conference play and 11-6 overall.

Severn returns a good nucleus of players from last year’s team.

“I love the winning and competitive reputation of the girls program,” Cabral said. “I want to maintain that. I just didn’t want to jump into any job. I knew the former coach (Albert Oni), so that helps.”



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



ABBY JEFFERS

Severna Park High School
Golf and Unified Sports

By David Bashore

When **Abby Jeffers** came to Severna Park High School, her aims of sporting competition lay on the golf links. Then she discovered a new facet of sports that played right into her personality.

The rising junior's most rewarding athletic moments came not in the more individual game of golf, but in a discovered love of unified

“I hate to see people treated poorly, because I believe everybody should have mutual respect for other people. I like seeing other people happy, and having an impact on someone's life really means something to me. I get excited about doing Polar Bear Plunge, and knocking on doors and raising money, but doing these unified things, I feel like I have a direct impact and it's a lot more than just raising money.”

— **ABBY JEFFERS**

sports, where Jeffers was able to combine her love of competition with a desire to be a positive force in the Severna Park community.

According to the Special Olympics of Maryland, in unified sports, “teams are composed of a proportional number of students with intellectual disabilities, with other types of disabilities, and without disabilities who train and compete together on the same team.”

Jeffers was one of the partners on the team, helping build both internal and external community and camaraderie through sports. She serves as a guide, as a friend, and as a sounding board to the participating students with special needs.

Whether in golf, her primary competitive sport, or unified athletics, Jeffers takes the same approach: be her best self for the benefit of others.

“It's me trying to be my best,” she said. “With golf, it's me trying to be my best to help the team, but with unified, it's me showing others how they can be their best too and help-

ing them to the point where they can reach their best.”

Jeffers' first experience with unified sports was with the unified bowling team last winter. She loved it so much that she continued into the spring on the unified bocce team, which won the state championship this spring.

Combining three sports with a job at a kids gym, volunteer work, and annually raising money for Special Olympics through the Polar Bear Plunge, can be a lot. But Jeffers prefers to keep it simple: be kind to people and make an impact.

“I hate to see people treated poorly, because I believe everybody should have mutual respect for other people,” Jeffers said. “I like seeing other people happy, and having an impact on someone's life really means something to me. I get excited about doing Polar Bear Plunge, and knocking on doors and raising money, but doing these unified things, I feel like I have a direct impact and it's a lot more than just raising money.”



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Week 3 July 3 - July 7 (Closed Monday, July 4) Animal Adventure

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All-Stars Represent Green Hornets



The Green Hornets green and gold all-star teams played in front of family and friends, with the green team winning 24-15.

The Green Hornets rec baseball 10U division held its annual All-Star game in June. The green and gold teams played in front of family and friends, with the green team winning 24-15.

The Green Hornets gold team was coached by **Ray Sauser, Jim Zapf** and **Jim Kantowski**. The gold team included **Jacob Grimshaw, Jack Zapf, JP Kantowski, Caleb Keimig, Declan Sullivan, Coleston Sauser, Braiden Startt, Luciano Bianco, Joel Intlekofer, Jamison Rice, Brooks Reineck, and Baron Lehrer**.

The Green Hornets green team was coached by **Chris Sperry, Matt Thanner, Scott Sturgeon, and Justin Truluck**. The green team included **Oliver Daccarett, Luca Thanner, Craig Robinett, Teddy Demi, Harrison Le, Watson Klenner, Aidan Burke, Thomas a'Becket, Will Breslin, James Sturgeon, Nick Gonzalez and Will Sturgeon**.

The 10U Green Hornets Win NCCGSL Championship

With an undefeated regular and playoff season of 10U softball, the Green Hornets team secured their place as the 10U champions of the North County Community Girls Softball League.

The 10U Green Griffins 3.0 finished the season 17-0 with a roster including **Evelyn DeLuca, Moira Hines, Annabelle Marshall, Mary Marshall, Elise Mitzel, Elle Neubauer, Emma Ramsey, Taylor Rex, Gianna Stavrevski, Grace Strzegowski, Lawson Terhune** and **Layla Williamson**.

With the leadership of head coach **Mike Terhune** and assistant coach **Dan Ramsey**, the team demonstrated incredible determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the season.

The Green Griffins' playoff run began with a 15-5 win over the Broadneck Lady Bruins Black, and the team followed with a 16-5 defeat of the Bowie Lady Bulldogs.

Coach Terhune's Severna Park team followed with a 13-2 win over fellow Green Hornets-Miller team to emerge as champions of the winners' bracket in the double-elimination tournament.

On June 13, the Green Griffins won the final championship game under the lights at Kinder Farm Park over SRYA Seahawks Blue 11-5.

The Green Griffins won several tournament games including the final championship, 11-5, over SRYA Seahawks Blue at Kinder Farm Park on June 13.



Green Hornets 12U Softball Captures Championship



With timely hitting, the Green Hornets team overcame Crofton during a back-and-forth contest on June 9.

After rallying from behind, one of the Green Hornets 12U rec softball teams beat Crofton, 19-18, on June 9 to capture the team's first-ever championship.

The Green Hornets got off to a hot start with five runs after their first at-bat. Crofton matched that offensive outburst and took the lead, setting the stage for **Adrianna Bell's** clutch home run, one of two she hit during the game.

"From then on, our girls had a new fire in them, and it was neck and neck till our shortstop caught a ground ball and threw to first, making the game-winning out," said one of the Green Hornets coaches, **Kristin Tufo**. "We played this team in the regular season and lost 15-10, so winning the championship against them was so incredible for our team."

Lacy Nelson closed out the game, which ended with a catch by **Lucy Losh**. **Isabella Chittum** pitched one inning to keep her team in the match.

The Green Hornets team included **Adrianna Bell, Aubrey Longmore, Audrey Stroud, Caroline Stroud, Hayden Griffith, Isabella Chittum, Karly Tufo, Lacy Nelson, Lucy Losh, Sadie Kellenberger, Sophia Lebowitz and Violet Fowkes**.

Paul Losh and **Brian Tufo** coached the team alongside **Kristin Tufo**.

AACC Women's Lacrosse Team Wins National Championship

Two Former Broadneck Players Were Instrumental In Undefeated Season

By Kevin Murnane

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) historically has had competitive women's lacrosse teams for the last few decades as they have won three national championships since 2006.

This year, head coach **Jim Griffiths** hoped that this talented team of newcomers would jell into a formative and savvy squad. Griffiths recognized that the Riverhawks had special qualities, gave great effort in practice and had talented players, especially at midfield.

"We had four midfielders make Junior College (JUCO) All-Americans and that was our core of the team," Griffiths said.

Those four All-Americans were midfielders **Nelli Gownley, Lindsey Miller, Savanna Reitz** and **Julia Sokolowski**. Goalie **Kaitlyn Evans** also earned the All-American honor.

Both Sokolowski and Gownley were on Broadneck's state championship teams, which gave the Riverhawks playoff experience — a key factor in the JUCO national title chase.

During their undefeated regular season, the Riverhawks offense dominated their opponents and averaged nearly 20 goals a game. Sokolowski was named National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 20 Player of the Month in April and twice-named NJCAA Player of the Week.

"Julia is a wizard with a stick," Griffiths said. "She transferred in from Florida Southern at mid-year and immediately raised the talent level of our midfield with her outstanding skills."

Broadneck girls varsity lacrosse head coach **Katy Kelley** knew how much talent Sokolowski would add to the Riverhawks.

"Julia is the epitome of skill, speed and eye for the cage," Kelley said. "She combines precision with grit to be a threat offensively. She was a huge asset to the success



of our program and helped win two state championships during her tenure."

Gownley also enrolled in January after spending a year-and-a-half at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.

"Being a new player on the team, I didn't want to be the vocal leader at first, but I'm just that way," Gownley said. "I love to be positive and make everyone feel good about their efforts."

Kelley also knew what Gownley would bring to the Riverhawks, stating, "Nellie is a player who exudes hard work, toughness and a willingness to do anything to help the team succeed," Kelley said. "Her quiet humility

Photo courtesy of Meg Bartolick/NJCAA

According to coach **Jim Griffiths**, **Nelli Gownley** is the "consummate team player" and became the team's vocal leader in practice and games.

combined with her raw athleticism makes her a fearless defender who causes turnovers and wreaks havoc on opponents. She defined our 'we over me' mentality."

The leadership that Sokolowski and Gownley brought was tested in the national tournament in May. They were challenged in the semifinals by a pesky Harford Community College team, finally prevailing 19-16.

Although physically drained from playing two games on consecutive days, AACC beat Onondaga Community College of New York 14-11 in the national championship game to the delight of Griffiths and his players.

"It was a back-and-forth game in the first half, but we were determined not to lose," Sokolowski said. "It was a seven-hour ride to New York, and we didn't come all this way to lose."

Sokolowski will transfer to the University of South Carolina in the fall and study business and sports management while possibly playing club lacrosse. Gownley will transfer to the University of Maryland and study economics and play club lacrosse.

Both players have had the fortune of playing on a state championship and a national championship lacrosse team.

"I'm so thankful for all of the really good friends I have made playing lacrosse and played for great coaches like coach Kelley and coach Griffiths," Sokolowski said.

As for Griffiths, it starts again next fall when he gets a new cast of players and tries to orchestrate them into a team that competes for another national championship.

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College Commitments

» Continued from page 17

ticularly his mother — with keeping him both grounded and motivated to continue kicking on.

“I wouldn’t be who I am without her support,” he said.

Sharman is one of 57 local class of 2023 athletes who have committed to play collegiately, as reported to the *Severna Park Voice*. Here are the others:

2023 Local College Sports Commitments

As reported to the *Severna Park Voice*

BASEBALL

Nathan Clarke — *Severna Park*

Lebanon Valley College

Sean Murphy — *Broadneck*

Catholic University

Zach Palmer — *Broadneck*

CCBC-Catonsville

Cody Sharman — *Archbishop Spalding*

Seton Hall University

FIELD HOCKEY

Maya Everett — *Broadneck*

University of Maryland

Arden Huntzman — *Broadneck*

Salisbury University

Jess Kopernick — *Broadneck*

Stevens Institute of Technology

Safiya Stimely — *Broadneck*

St. Mary’s College (Maryland)

FOOTBALL

Cam Catterton — *Broadneck*

Salisbury University

Machi Evans — *Broadneck*

Washington and Jefferson University

Anthony Hawkins — *Broadneck*

Villanova University

Jake Wanner — *Broadneck*

Wilkes University

MEN’S LACROSSE

Kevin Bredeck — *Severna Park*

UMBC

Jake Chambers — *Broadneck*

Coast Guard Academy

Brooks Chatlos — *Broadneck*

Virginia Military Institute

Ryan Della — *Broadneck*

Salisbury University

Matthew Dryer — *Severna Park*

Aurora College

Jackson Elms — *Severna Park*

Limestone College

Colin Gray — *Broadneck*

Washington College

Brett Hussey — *Severna Park*

St. Mary’s College (Maryland)

Talan Livingston — *Severna Park*

Salisbury University

Ryan Salazar — *Broadneck*

Randolph Macon College

Jackson Shaw — *Broadneck*

Christopher Newport University

Ashby Shepherd — *Severna Park*

Towson University

Evan Stroble — *Severna Park*

Mercer University

Camden Webb — *Severna Park*

Washington College

Nick White — *Broadneck*

Randolph Macon College

MEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Andrew Byrne — *Broadneck*

Juniata College

Michael Schwob — *Broadneck*

Penn State University

SOFTBALL

Skyla Hailey — *Severna Park*

Washington College

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Dean Doubek — *Broadneck*

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Jack Harada — *Broadneck*

University of Maryland

Matthew Tilghman — *Broadneck*

Franklin and Marshall College

TENNIS

Elicia Aponte — *Broadneck*

Albright College

TRACK AND FIELD

Safiya Stimely — *Broadneck*

St. Mary’s College (Maryland)

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Sophia Bordone — *Severna Park*

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Stella Bordone — *Severna Park*

Lafayette College

Emma Boyle — *Severna Park*

University of Alabama-Huntsville

Charlotte Diez — *Severna Park*

Villanova University

Lexi Dupcak — *Broadneck*

University of Maryland

Maddy Goger, *Severna Park*

Columbia University

Molly Goeller — *Severna Park*

York College

Carlie Gownley — *Broadneck*

Christopher Newport University

Lilly Kelley — *Broadneck*

James Madison University

Karli Kirchenheiter — *Severna Park*

University of Louisville

Sam Koppe — *Severna Park*

Salisbury University

Regan McDonnell — *Severna Park*

Salisbury University

Sophia Miller — *Severna Park*

San Diego State University

Mary Moore — *Broadneck*

Villanova University

Lilly Spilker — *Severna Park*

Penn State University

Olivia Tramontana — *Severna Park*

San Diego State University

Delany Turner — *Broadneck*

McDaniel College

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Sydney Holmes — *Severna Park*

University of Rochester

Sadie Wilkinson — *Broadneck*

Lipscomb University

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Bella Rubino — *Broadneck*

Salisbury University

Madeline Stewart — *Broadneck*

American University

Hanna Waters — *Broadneck*

McDaniel College

WRESTLING

Liam DeBaugh — *Broadneck*

Frostburg State University

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College Report

Several athletes from Severna Park and the Broadneck peninsula made their mark at the college level this spring.

Baseball

Ethan Grieb (Arnold)

Mount Saint Joseph —
Anne Arundel Community College

A sophomore infielder and relief pitcher, Grieb was a second-team All-Region 20 selection for the Riverhawks. He batted .327 on the season and led the team in all extra-base hit categories (14 doubles, four triples and five home runs), as well as in RBIs (40). On the mound, he tossed 23 ⅓ innings, striking out 26 batters and posting a 5.01 ERA, fourth-best on the staff.

Men's Lacrosse

Taylor Bohanon (Arnold)

St. Mary's — UMBC

A fifth-year senior midfielder, Bohanon started eight of the Retrievers' 13 games, scoring 16 goals, third-best on the squad.

Chase Cope

Severna Park — Maryland

A senior midfielder for the Terrapins, Cope played in five games for Maryland, which reached the NCAA Tournament.

Joshua Coffman

Severna Park — Maryland

A fifth-year senior midfielder for the Terrapins, Coffman sat out the entire season due to injury.

Vinny Facciponti

Broadneck — York College

A senior midfielder and faceoff man for the Spartans, Facciponti played in 21 games. He scored 14 goals, grabbed 205 ground balls, and won 306 of his 481 faceoffs (63.6% win rate) to help York to the third round of the NCAA Division III tournament. Facciponti was an honorable mention USILA All-American.

Davis Fisher

Broadneck — York College

A freshman midfielder for the Spartans, Fisher played in 21 games, starting once, and scoring 10 goals.

Keegan Houser

Broadneck — Navy

A junior midfielder, Houser played in 12 games for the Midshipmen, scoring once and tracking down five ground balls.

Paul Isenberg

Severna Park — Hampden Sydney College

A freshman defender, Isenberg played in three games, grabbed three ground balls and caused two turnovers.

Brendan Kennedy

Broadneck — UMBC

A junior attacker, Kennedy played in 10 games for the Retrievers, logging one assist.

Ryan McDaniel (Severna Park)

Archbishop Spalding — Marist College

A senior defender for the Red Foxes, McDaniel played in 17 games, picking

up 26 ground balls and forcing 16 turnovers.

Russell Melendez (Severna Park)

Archbishop Spalding — Johns Hopkins

After transferring from Marquette, Melendez was one of the statistical leaders in the Blue Jays' run to the national quarterfinals, where they lost to eventual champions Notre Dame. The junior scored 37 goals for Hopkins, including 20 in his last six games, and he broke the school's postseason single-game points record with a nine-point haul (five goals, four assists) against Bryant in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Melendez was an honorable mention honoree for the 2023 Blatant Lacrosse USILA All-America Team.

Jackson Roberts (Arnold)

Archbishop Spalding — Navy

A freshman defender, Roberts did not record any statistics for the Midshipmen this season.

Colin Shadowens

Severna Park — Navy

A freshman faceoff specialist, Shadowens played in nine games for the Midshipmen, winning 16 of his 26 faceoffs (61.5% win rate).

Dan Shea

Broadneck — York College

A junior midfielder for the Spartans, Shea played in 15 games, securing four ground balls.

Will Sherwood (Severna Park)

Archbishop Spalding — Loyola (Md.)

A senior short-stick defender, Sherwood played in 17 games for the Greyhounds, picking up four ground balls and causing three turnovers. He scored his second career goal in a Patriot League game at Navy in May.

Bryce Stevenson

Severna Park — Salisbury University

A freshman defender, Stevenson played in nine games for the Seagulls, grabbing one ground ball and forcing two turnovers as Salisbury won the NCAA Division III championship for the 13th time.

Rory Sullivan

Severna Park — UMBC

A sophomore defender, Sullivan played in two games for the Retrievers.

Women's Lacrosse

Alexis Abe

Broadneck — UMBC

A sophomore attacker for the Retrievers, Abe did not record any statistics this season.

Olivia Abe

Broadneck — Wofford University

A senior attacker for the Terriers, Abe helped lead the sixth-year program to a program-record seven wins. Abe's 31 assists and 49 points are both program single-season records, and her 69 career assists is also a program record.

Camryn Chew

Severna Park - Loyola (Md.)

A junior defender for the Greyhounds, Chew played in 10 games as Loyola reached the national quarterfinals.

Sammy Dupcak

Broadneck - Penn State

A junior defender for the Nittany Lions, Dupcak played in 18 games, starting 17 of them. She won 54 ground balls and caused 29 turnovers, and also scored her first collegiate goal in a February game against Drexel as Penn State made the NCAA tournament.

Nellie Gownley

Broadneck — Anne Arundel Community College

A sophomore two-way midfielder on AACC's championship-winning squad, Gownley earned NJCAA All-American honors. Gownley was a force on draw controls and on defense for the Riverhawks, who were the nation's second-most prolific team in turnovers forced. She upped her offensive game down the stretch, scoring eight goals in the national playoffs.

Ella Killian

Broadneck — UMBC

A freshman defender for the Retrievers, Killian played in eight games, starting twice.

Mallory Martel

Severna Park — Clemson

Upon graduating from Arizona State, Martel transferred to Clemson for her final season. The defender was named as a team captain and played in all 18 games for the Tigers. Martel was named to the 2023 IWLC Senior All-Star Team.

Ela Simpson

Broadneck — Anne Arundel Community College

A freshman attacker on AACC's championship-winning squad, Simpson started five games and scored once.

Julia Sokolowski

Broadneck — Anne Arundel Community College

A freshman midfielder on AACC's championship-winning squad, Sokolowski earned NJCAA All-American honors. She was second nationally in both goals (60) and points (83), while anchoring the team's draw control. Over the course of the season, Sokolowski scooped up two NJCAA Player of the Week nods and the Player of the Month award for April.

Rachel Spilker

Severna Park - Penn State

A senior defender for the Nittany Lions, Spilker started all 18 games this season, picking up 23 ground balls and causing 18 turnovers. Spilker closed out her Penn State career by starting in 44 straight games.

Softball

Marissa Heuer

Severna Park — Stevenson University

A graduate player, Heuer pitched and played first base for the Mustangs. In the circle, she went 11-8 in her 24 appearances, pitching 122 ⅓ innings, striking out 133, and posting a 2.69 ERA. The highlight of her season was pitching a five-inning no-hitter against Notre Dame (Maryland) on March 8. At the plate, Heuer batted .338 with a team-best four home runs and 24 RBIs. Heuer was a third-team All-Region player, as named by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, and was named Stevenson's female athlete of the year. The first-team All-MAC Commonwealth honoree leaves Stevenson owning seven of the program's pitching records.

Campbell Kline

Severna Park — Maryland

A senior outfielder for the Terrapins, Kline played in 52 games, starting 23 of them. She batted .200 with two doubles and nine RBIs and posted a .973 fielding percentage.

Tennis

Finn Garner

Broadneck — Navy

A senior, Garner went 10-2 in doubles matches during spring dual play.

Luke Garner

Broadneck — Navy

A sophomore, Garner went 13-10 in singles and 25-1 in doubles during spring dual play.

Track and Field

Garrison Clark

Severna Park — Navy

A senior distance runner for the Midshipmen, Clark ran the 5,000 and 10,000 meters. His top result came in the Virginia Grand Prix, where he finished fifth in the 5,000.

Carson Sloat

Severna Park — Navy

A sophomore distance runner, Sloat ran the 800 and 1,500 meters, also participating in the 4x800 and distance medley relays. He helped the 4x800 relay team finish second at the Patriot League championship meet in early May.

Sophia Zell

Severna Park — Maryland

A junior distance runner for the Terrapins, Zell qualified for the Big Ten Championships in the 1,500 meters, finishing 32nd.

Sailing

Ryan Wahba (Severna Park)

Severn School — Navy

A sophomore intercollegiate sailor, Wahba helped Navy finish 18th in at the ICSA Fleet Race Nationals and ninth at the ICSA Team Race Nationals. Wahba was named first-team All-MAISA Crew and honorable mention All-America Crew.

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Broadneck Cross Country Coach Steps Down

Brianna Bostic has stepped down as Broadneck's head cross country coach, the school announced in early June.

Bostic spent 17 years as a coach in the Broadneck program and was head coach for the last 14 seasons. She was also previously the head coach for indoor and outdoor track and also served as a distance running assistant after stepping down from the head position.

During her time as cross country coach, the Bruins won five region championships and placed second in the 2021 4A girls state meet.

"Broadneck athletics would like to thank coach Bostic for all that she has done for the cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track and field program, as well as all of her contributions to the entire athletic department," Broadneck athletic director Kevin Necessary said in a school statement.

Bostic will remain the commissioner for cross country and indoor/outdoor track and field with AACPS, the school said.

Vahlberg Earns AAYSA Merit Scholarship



Charlie Vahlberg, who has played the last four years with a U19 Green Hornets rec squad, was awarded one of five Arundel Cup Scholarships.

By Mark Patton
mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Severna Park resident Charlie Vahlberg was awarded one of five Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association (AAYSA) Arundel Cup Scholarships.

According to AAYSA scholarship director Alex Knoll, applicants were tasked with writing an essay in response to a choice of questions with topics ranging from sportsmanship to how youth soccer has made the applicant a better person.

AAYSA received 15 entries to this year's scholarship essay contest and awarded five \$2,000 scholarships. The award can be used to help with tuition, books or other school-re-

"Charlie has been a leader on our teams, both on and off the field. He always has a positive attitude that brings out the best in those around him."

— DOUG MULES, GREEN HORNETS BOYS SOCCER COACH

lated fees. Seniors in high school who are slated to graduate with a GPA of 2.75 or higher and have played on an AAYSA soccer team for at least one season are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Each year, AAYSA awards up to \$15,000 in scholarships to high school seniors who plan to continue their education through an undergraduate degree program or certification from an accredited college, university or technology school. The scholarships are funded by the entry fees of the Arundel Cup soccer tournament.

Vahlberg, who has played the last four years with a U19 Green Hornets rec squad, is on track to attend the Pennsylvania-based Grove City College to study design and innovation with a minor in computer science.

The rising college freshman and current Chartridge resident said he plans to play intramural soccer in the fall with a goal to make the college's team in the spring.

"Charlie has been a leader on our teams, both on and off the field," said Doug Mules, Vahlberg's coach for his most recent Green Hornets team. "He always has a positive attitude that brings out the best in those around him."

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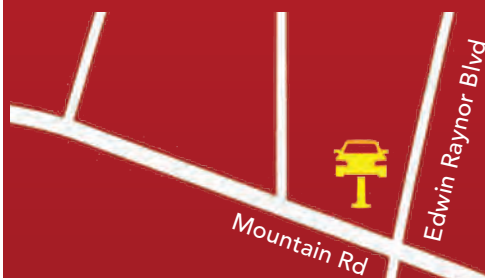
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Valedictorians, Salutatorians And Class Presidents

The Climb Atop The Class Of 2023



By Sarah Sternhagen

After dozens of classes and one last ceremony, the class of 2023 for Broadneck and Severna Park high schools has officially graduated. With the toss of their caps and their diplomas in hand, the Bruins and Falcons are set to take their next steps in life.

Along with the graduation ceremonies came recognition of students with outstanding academic achievements. Valedictorians included Severna Park High School's Elliot Gerig and Broadneck High School's Douglas McCarren, who was also class president. The salutatorians were Heather Doyen and Margot Stott from Broadneck and Dennis Malikov from Severna Park. Other notable students included SPHS class president Annabelle "Tatum" Sale and this past year's Anne Arundel County Public Schools student member of the Board

» Continued on page 34



Photos by Zach Sparks
Top Left: Severna Park High School class president Annabelle "Tatum" Sale spoke at graduation.
Top Right: Elliot Gerig was Severna Park High School's class of 2023 valedictorian.



Photos by Sarah Sternhagen
Bottom Left: Heather Doyen was one of two salutatorians from Broadneck High School.
Bottom Right: Margot Stott earned the honor of Broadneck High School salutatorian.



Pen Pals

Students Write Books
With Encouragement From
Published Author

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Fifth-graders at Severna Park Elementary took a page out of their role model's book in June, creating their own published stories about animals.

Following a visit from children's book author Jennifer Keats Curtis earlier in the school year, the kids began crafting their own narratives to share with the storyteller.

Keats Curtis has published 25 books, including her most recent release called "Pooper Snooper," which describes how dogs use their "sniffers" to aid scientists in learning about endan-

» Continued on page 34



Through Studentreasures Publishing, fifth-graders created a book with stories about animals. Addison Pearson combined elements of reality and fiction for her tale about dogs.

BHS Principal Rachel Kennelly To Head Old Mill West High School

By Alyson Kay

Rachel Kennelly is leaving Broadneck High School after seven years leading the school, including three years as principal, to embark on a new adventure as head of the new Old Mill West High School in July.

The Severn-based Old Mill West High School is slated to open in fall 2024.

Kennelly began her career teaching dance at Old Mill High School. While she loved teaching, she soon wanted to expand her role.

"I just found myself really loving the high school experience as a whole and I wanted to be part of the whole school experience outside of my classroom," Kennelly said. "So, I figured the best way to do that was to seek some leadership positions and try my hand at administration."

After two years in administration at Old Mill High School, an opportunity presented itself at Broadneck to take a larger leadership role as assistant principal.

The staff at Broadneck welcomed Kennelly and helped her learn how to lead a school.

"The staff at Broadneck is just such a wonderful, wonderfully talented group



Rachel Kennelly

of people," Kennelly said. "It was really nice to be able to arrive at Broadneck as a first-year assistant principal with all of this knowledge around me. What I didn't know, I leaned on people that were there that I could ask questions of and really kind of get used to the role and find my own way."

In 2020, Kennelly became the principal of Broadneck High School and helped to lead staff and students

» Continued on page 33



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Educator Of The Month

Tim Dunbar
Severna Park High School



By Lauren Burke Meyer

For Tim Dunbar, a teacher at Severna Park High School (SPHS) for the past four decades, connection is a central theme for his career. A key member of the social studies department and head coach of the school's girls volleyball squad, Dunbar has taught multiple generations of families and coached a few mother-daughter duos.

"It can be humbling knowing that I have taught both parents and every child in a family," Dunbar said. "That's a big responsibility knowing I may have had an impact on an entire family tree."

The Regala family is one such example of Dunbar's impact on multiple generations. Pete and Jennifer Regala, now married, both had Dunbar as a teacher. Two of their sons have also been instructed by Dunbar.

"Mr. Dunbar was the type of teacher you showed up for, just like he showed up for us," Jennifer said.

During his 40-year tenure, Dunbar has taught a multitude of courses such as U.S. and European history, government, geography and street law.

"My boys always say Mr. Dunbar is the GOAT," Jennifer said. "But, really, how cool is that he stuck around all these years and made an impact on my life and Pete's but then also our boys' lives?"

Their oldest son, Peter, had Dunbar in 2020 during the virtual classroom environment that occurred due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Mr. Dunbar was a ray of sunshine during that dark time," Jennifer said.

Then, as virtual school continued, the Regala family had another son, David — or "D.A." — who ended up with Dunbar as a teacher.

"He spoke to them all individually, made them feel valued, got them

laughing, plus taught them something," Jennifer said.

Sarah Poole serves as the social studies department chair at SPHS and feels lucky to teach next door to Dunbar where she can observe the way he uses humor and knowledge to build teacher-student relationships.

"These relationships drive our enrollment in AP economics and AP human geography, as many students sign up for the courses specifically to have Mr. Dunbar as a teacher," Poole said.

According to Dunbar, geography is all about understanding the world and the people in it.

"If people don't understand the world around them, they won't be informed enough to make it a better place," Dunbar said.

Making a connection with students, getting them to be passionate about learning and helping them find their voice are important to Dunbar.

"If your students know that you care about them, they tend to respond in a positive way, grow as people and learn far more than they think they are learning," Dunbar said.

Since his beginning in 1983, Dunbar has worked for seven principals and five athletic directors.

Lindsay Abruzzo, principal at SPHS, noted that Dunbar is a fixture at the school and an asset to SPHS.

"From the volleyball court to the classroom, students enjoy having Mr. Dunbar teach them something new," Abruzzo said.

For Dunbar, this fall will be his 37th year as a head coach of volleyball, including three junior varsity and 24 varsity seasons at SPHS, plus nine seasons for his daughter's team at the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore.

"You change the world, even a small corner of it, one person at a time," Dunbar said.



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Broadneck Seniors Bid Farewell To High School



Photos by Sarah Sternhagen

Broadneck's class of 2023 enthusiastically accepted their diplomas during a graduation ceremony at Maryland Live! Event Center in Hanover on June 6.

Caps Off: SPHS Students Graduate High School



Photos by Zach Sparks

Severna Park High School seniors were all smiles as they closed the chapter on a significant phase of their lives during a graduation ceremony at Maryland Live! Event Center in Hanover on June 5.

BHS Principal Rachel Kennelly To Head Old Mill West High School

» Continued from page 30
through the pandemic. During the first day of hybrid learning, Kennelly went to greet students as they arrived on their first day back.

"I said hello to a group of kids that were walking in, and one of them said to me, 'Ms. Kennelly, we're home,'" Kennelly recalled. "And it just warms my heart that they were so excited to be back at school and felt so at home at Broadneck."

Broadneck High School graduate Corinne Kilpatrick is one student who will miss those greetings.

"We had a very personal relationship," Kilpatrick said. "She would always smile at me and always ask me how

my day was going, and she'd just be very genuine."

In her time at Broadneck High School, Kennelly enjoyed seeing the students' passion for learning.

"You can't turn a corner without somebody doing something really fantastic, whether it's something for one of their classes — there's always kids in the hallway testing projects and making different things for their various classes," Kennelly said. "Or after school, there's so much going on. There's so many club opportunities and different things that there's always something to support kids with, something to cheer them on, something to go and celebrate."

Over the years, Kennelly has also

helped bring in new teachers and coaches who helped continue to foster a friendly, supportive learning environment.

"The people that we've brought in and the people that work with our kids every day are just absolutely spectacular," Kennelly said.

Although Kennelly will miss the staff and students at Broadneck High School, she looks forward to having the chance to help create Old Mill West High School.

"I'm really excited to get to hire staff and create traditions and all of the structures and programs and various facets of high school that my team and I get to do together," Kennelly said.

Kilpatrick said her fellow Broadneck students were surprised by the move but happy for Kennelly, who was well-liked in the building.

"She's definitely capable of being a new principal," Kilpatrick said. "She's really blessed to be able to do that and I think she'll be able to fit the role perfectly, and she'll go and be a great leader to the teachers. She'll be respected by the students."

At the new school, Kennelly hopes to foster the same sense of school pride that she witnessed at Broadneck.

"There's such a storied history about Broadneck, and I hope to be able to lay the foundation and begin that culture at Old Mill West," Kennelly said.

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The Climb Atop The Class Of 2023

» Continued from page 30
of Education, Zachary McGrath
from SPHS.

"I got to meet and know a lot of the administrators and teachers," Sale said. "I was able to feel proud about all the things we accomplished and meet so many new people."

Gerig and McCarren both achieved the highest GPA in their respective class, a notable feat considering both classes had near or more than 500 students. Nonetheless, the AP classes they took, grades they earned and their persistence determined their final standing. However, as McCarren explained, becoming valedictorian by the end of senior year felt like a distant goal when he was a younger student.

"The problem was I wasn't going to be able to promote," McCarren said in his graduation speech. "Two days before the school year was over, I had a 32 in English and was facing either summer school or to repeat eighth grade as a whole."

He came into school for an extra day and made up enough assignments to move onto high school.

"And that's when I vowed to myself to never be in a situation like this again," he said. "When high school began, things changed, and I became an A student and accomplished so much in these last four years due to the environment and opportunities Broadneck High School has provided."

For Gerig, the drive to learn ultimately set him up as valedictorian.

"I think I've run my high school dry for courses over the past four years because there is nothing I won't hesitate to learn and discover," Gerig said. "I am blessed to know several friends that are deep-

ly passionate about their specific interests, but I seek knowledge in all fields."

He plans to attend the University of Maryland to study mechanical engineering.

Broadneck's salutatorians, Doyen and Stott, as well as Malikov for Severna Park, felt like they acquired many skills in the pursuit of academic success.

"I worked hard to achieve this honor and used many important skills such as managing time, balancing due dates and working hard," Malikov said. "Although it may seem intimidating and scary at first, there are so many great new opportunities and activities to take advantage of, and [you should] try to branch yourself out as much as possible. Don't be afraid to make a mistake!"

Malikov will attend the University of Maryland to study mathematics.

Combined, the schools have had numerous accomplishments during the class of 2023's time. With multiple state championships under their belts, impressive theater performances, dozens of fundraisers and getting through a pandemic, the class has many things to be proud of from their time in high school.

"It has been an amazing four years," Malikov said.

In his graduation speech, he gave a few words of advice to his fellow classmates for the future.

"As long as you don't give up and continue with valiant effort to better yourself, you will find results," he told his peers. "Remember, your journey is unique, and your potential knows no limit. Keep pushing forward, believe in yourself and watch as you surpass even your own expectations just as I did."

Pen Pals

» Continued from page 30
gered animals.

Through Studentreasures Publishing, students designed their own tales, which were brought to life and combined into one book with help from Severna Park Elementary teacher Kathryn Hayes. On June 8, Keats Curtis visited several classes to hear their stories firsthand.

Addison Pearson combined elements of reality and fiction for her tale about dogs. Her inspiration came from a few dogs, including her own, which she believes is a Bernese and golden retriever mix that her parents brought home from Indiana.

"I got to learn more about dogs with [my story] because this was a whole journey about how dogs act," she said. "Because when we got Nala, she wasn't skittish at all — she was very playful — but Holly, she acted quite differently, and taught me more about behaviors of dogs and how to take care of them differently."

Olivia Smith was excited that her story can help people learn more

about animals.

"I just loved learning about JKC and her story and all the animals she saved," Olivia said, referencing the author's initials. "I loved that she read one of her books and that was really interesting. I also really like helping animals. I helped a little bunny, I've helped frogs. I've helped so many things."

Keats Curtis signed copies of the books for students, and she was allowed to keep a few stories as gifts.

"It's an honor and a pleasure to use animals to encourage kids to care, to write, and to find their voices about our shared passion for taking care of wildlife," she said. "I was delighted to be part of the sharing experience, and incredibly honored to receive my own signed copies of their stories. I will treasure them always."

The writing experience and the visit from Keats Curtis made a strong impression on several students, including Olivia.

"Like it's so wonderful that could be a job and I really look up to her and I want to do that when I'm older," Olivia said.



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Q

Question of the month

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

Now that you're headed to middle school, what advice do you have for students beginning their time at Severna Park Elementary?

Never give up, even if things get hard, don't give up! All of the teachers and subs are so nice, so I think you will love it at SPES!

Abby F.
SPES is fun and has really good teachers. Kindergarten is fun and exciting.

Addie D.
Be nice to everyone and don't give up. Try your best and good will

come. You will learn to love school!
Ashley M.

Use your brain, and you will do it.
August O.

You may think it's going to be hard, but once you go on you will realize it's easy.
Axel C.

It's not scary at all, and the teachers are super kind as well as the kids.
Carly K.

Try your hardest. Believe you are going to do great this year. Have fun; the teachers are nice. Good luck.
Cassie B.

Try to be smart and follow the rules. Make good friend choices.
Charlie P.

Try your best and it will pay off, and don't get into drama!
Charlotte P.

Don't try to fit in. Be yourself.
Christine L.

Just enjoy it! There will be ups and downs, but you have to get through them.
Dheeraj T.

School in fifth grade may be hard, but that is how it teaches you.
Grayson B.

School gets harder and harder the higher the grades go. Listen to the teachers, and you will do great!
Guy M.

All of the teachers are amazing, so don't be scared. You will love SPES.
Isabelle Q.

Have a great time, because fifth grade is fun but doesn't last long!
Jake P.

Severna Park Elementary School



Be kind. Also work hard, and if you don't understand something, ask for help. You'll do great!

Kennedy W.
Even if it gets hard, persevere and be yourself! Don't let people push you around; even if they're friends, remember you don't need to change to fit in. You are and always will be amazing!

Madeline B

School gets harder the older you get.

Mia L.
Don't use fidgets because all of the teachers don't like them. Don't call out and be disciplined and you should be good.


Nate B.
Be friendly to new kids and always follow the rules. Be kind.

Susanna W.

Have a big lunch and breakfast so that you don't starve. Also, persevere because there are lots of challenges.

Vivian G.
If you're having trouble on things, if you listen to your teachers, it will really help out. And make friends to support you because fifth grade is the beginning of a tough road. Good luck!

Zoe Z.



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Broadneck High School Hosts A Night At The Movies



Students from the Broadneck peninsula got to toot their own horn in June during a second annual concert called A Night at the Movies. With music and food, the event brought together the community for a night of camaraderie.

The concert invites all Broadneck feeder schools to perform songs from beloved films. This year's event included tunes from "The Lion King," "Harry Potter," "The Avengers," "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," "The Incredibles" and "How to Train Your Dragon."

Although the event was free, donations helped offset the costs associated with planning the event.

Matt Heist, Broadneck High School's di-

rector of bands, credited North County High School band and orchestra director Theresa Bange with creating the concept for A Night at the Movies.

"We do it with the band and orchestra students from our middle school feeders," Heist said. "By doing so, we bring in more of the community, bring them to BHS for an evening, and it allows for parents and students to meet people from other schools and see some possibilities of what exists within the high school music programs."

The event is meant to be fun and beneficial for all involved.

"We also have a dinner for all of the students and time where they can socialize with their friends and meet new friends," Heist said.



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Poor Air Quality: What To Know

UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center Doctors Discuss Health Risks

As Canada wildfires raged in early June, Maryland residents saw and smelt the impact. The air was hazy. A burning scent filled the air.

Across several Maryland counties, air quality index (AQI) levels reached 151, far exceeding a “good” AQI level between 0 and 50, or even a moderate AQI level between 51 and 100.

All outdoor programs offered at Anne Arundel County parks and facilities were canceled June 7 and June 8.

Wildfire smoke is a mix of gasses and fine particles from burning vegetation, building materials, and other materials. That smoke can make anyone sick.

Although the haze has dissipated from skies above the East Coast, the air quality threat posed by wildfires has not been extinguished.

What are the health risks? Two doctors from the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) shared their thoughts.

“The air quality has taken a dramatic turn to the unhealthy side, particularly



with the fires in Canada, and it produces a lot of small particles that can get carried in the air and those small particles can be inhaled and cause lots of issues,” emergency room physician Jonathan Wendell said on June 9.

Those small particles, also called fine particulate matter or PM_{2.5}, can irritate the eyes and respiratory tract, cause reduced lung function and tax the heart. People living with chronic lung conditions that make it difficult to breathe — such as asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease —

are particularly vulnerable to the adverse health effects of wildfire smoke.

The risks are worse for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and those who have underlying heart conditions. Common symptoms for anyone include itchy eyes and nose, and throat scratching.

“The smaller particles can get deeper into the lungs as you inhale, and when they get deep into the lungs, they cause the same irritation process,” Wendell said. “When you get into the irritation process in the lungs, it leads to a bronchitis-type picture with difficulty breathing, often wheezing. Much like [with] asthma patients, it can cause bronchoconstriction and wheezing, and cause a lot of respiratory concerns, even in healthy people as the levels get too high.”

Krista Tookhan works as a pediatric hospitalist at UM BWMC. She said families and caregivers should be aware of these key signs a child might be experiencing respiratory distress:

- **Breathing rate.** An increase in the number of breaths per minute may indicate that a person is having trouble breathing or not getting enough oxygen.
- **Increased heart rate.** Low oxygen lev-

» Continued on page 40

Life Coaching, What Is It?

By Debbie McTammany

I think of coaching as a key to unlocking your full potential while creating different results in your life.

Do you have the thoughts of feeling stuck, not making progress toward your goals, not living up to your full potential, in a constant state of being overwhelmed or unsure? These are just a few of the reasons why people hire a life coach.

Life coaching is a powerful tool that can help you create different results in your life.

Here are some ways life coaching can help you:

1. **Gain clarity on your goals** — One of the first steps in creating different results in your life is to gain clarity on what you want to achieve. A life coach can help you identify your goals and develop a plan to achieve them.
2. **Identify limiting beliefs** — The biggest obstacle to achieving your goals is often self-limiting beliefs. A life coach can help you identify these beliefs and develop strategies to overcome them.
3. **Develop a plan of action** — Once you have clarity on your goals and have identified the obstacles that are holding you back, a life coach can help you develop a plan of action to achieve your goals.
4. **Stay accountable** — One of the key benefits of working with a life coach is the accountability they provide. A coach can help you stay on track and make progress toward your goals, even when you encounter obstacles or setbacks, such as this thing called life.
5. **Celebrate your successes** — Finally, a life coach can help you celebrate your successes along the way. By acknowledging your process and celebrating your achievements, you can stay motivated and continue to make progress toward your goals.

The “I don’t know syndrome” is one of the biggest challenges many of my clients present to me. We all have it to varying degrees throughout our days depending on what we are thinking. Our thoughts are designed to keep us safe. Our brains love and thrive on poisoning us with confusing thoughts, so we feel like we are incapable of making a decision. When you hear yourself say “I don’t know,” immediately ask yourself, “what do I know?” Just the smallest shift in perspective empowers you and removes some of your self-limiting thoughts. Life coaching helps you to see things from a different perspective. This shift will elevate you and your life. Use this simple tool next time you face uncertainty.

Coaching can provide you with tools
» Continued on page 40



Corks For A Cause Supports UM BWMC Healing Garden

Photos by Jonathan Katz

Friends and business colleagues convened at Homestead Gardens in Severna Park on June 14 to sample 75 wines from around the world while raising funds for the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) healing garden. The Next Generation of UM BWMC, Homestead Gardens and Fishpaws Marketplace team up each year to organize the annual fundraiser, called Corks for a Cause. This year’s funds will support the garden in providing a convenient place for patients and their families to relax, meditate or take a break from treatment.

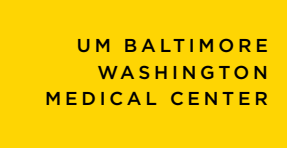


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Poor Air Quality: What To Know

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- Grunting or any other abnormal sounds, like wheezing.
- **Belly breathing.** Using the abdomen muscles to help draw breath.
- **Nose flaring.** The openings of the nose spreading open while breathing may indicate that a person is having to work harder to breathe.
- **Retractions.** The chest appears to sink in just below the neck and/or under the breastbone and/or in between the ribs with each breath — one way of trying to bring more air into the lungs.
- **Sweating.** There may be increased sweat on the head, but the skin does not feel warm to the touch. More often, the skin may feel cool or clammy. This may happen when the breathing rate is fast.
- **Stridor.** A sound heard in the upper airway when the child breathes in.

• **Accessory muscle use.** The muscles of the neck appear to be moving or your child's head is bobbing up and down when breathing in.

• **Changes in alertness.** Low oxygen levels may cause your child to act more tired and may indicate respiratory fatigue.

Tookhan said it is important for caregivers and parents to know their child's history so that they can recognize subtle changes in children with chronic respiratory illnesses like asthma and chronic lung disease.

If they are unsure if their children are showing signs of respiratory illness, or if the symptoms are mild, they can call their child's pediatrician to discuss next steps, or they can visit the nearest emergency room.

"Children who come into the emergency department experiencing signs of respiratory distress may receive breathing

treatments, nasal suctioning for infants and imaging, such as a chest X-ray, to help us see what's happening in the lungs," Tookhan said. "Here at UM BWMC, we recently implemented an innovative high flow nasal cannula treatment that quickly improves breathing and oxygen levels in children."

If adults are having a severe respiratory irritation because of the air pollutants, doctors will often treat it with medications similar to those that are used to treat asthma.

"We treat it with nebulized albuterol, and often corticosteroids like Prednisone, to help decrease the inflammation and

open the airways again," Wendell said.

Anyone with concerning symptoms should call their primary doctor. If the symptoms are severe, call 911. The major medical systems, and some insurance carriers, have nurse triage lines to guide people in the right direction.

Wendell's advice: listen to the experts and avoid being outside when the air quality is poor.

"If you have to go outside, the masks actually give you pretty good protection from these small particles, so it would be a good time to put on a mask outside when the levels get too high if you have to be out there," Wendell said.

Life Coaching, What Is It?

» Continued from page 38

to help you thrive and grow, but it is not a magic bullet. It requires effort and commitment on the part of the client, and it may take time to see results.

However, for those who are willing to put in the work, coaching can be transformative. You get to decide how you want your life to be. Own that empowerment energy throughout your days.

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ASO Launches 2023-24 Season



The ASO performs some shows at The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda.

This September, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (ASO), a non-profit organization, will launch its 62nd season of producing symphonic music and community concerts.

Artistic director, conductor and Arnold resident José-Luis Novo designed the season with a distinct mix of classical and contemporary music.

Season 62 will feature inspiring works. With concerts at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts and at Strathmore, at Quiet Waters Park and Downs Park, at museums, medical centers, schools and churches, the ASO will continue to impact music lovers across the county.

The 2023-2024 Season Inspiration

Novo, who enters his 19th season as artistic director of the ASO, focused on a repertoire of six masterworks, digging deep into the music to explore themes of memory, community and connection to homeland.

“The visceral power of music impacts the lives of everyone,” he said. “It puts us in touch with our better selves, enriches the soul and frees the imagination.”

Novo has made a distinct effort to stand behind the themes of his musical choices by presenting emerging composers who represent a new diversity in symphonic music. Carlos Simon, Anna Clyne, Boris Pigovat, Narong Prangcharoen and Nicky Sohn are virtuosic examples of new artists assuming the mantle of engaging the full power of music to speak to culture, art and society.

Guest artists include pianist Gabriela Montero, cellist Steven Isserlis, classical guitarist Pepe Romero, violinist Elissa Lee Koljonen, pianist Awadagin Pratt and violist Peter Minkler.

Of his artistic vision, Novo said,

This year’s Annapolis Symphony Orchestra concert schedule features emerging composers who represent diversity in symphonic music.

“*The visceral power of music impacts the lives of everyone. It puts us in touch with our better selves, enriches the soul and frees the imagination.*”

— **JOSÉ-LUIS NOVO**
ASO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

“There will be time for some ambitious projects, but also for pure symphonic enjoyment with Ravel’s ‘Mother Goose,’ Respighi’s ‘Roman Festivals,’ Elgar’s ‘Enigma Variations’ and Berlioz’s ‘Roman Carnival.’”

Interim executive director Barbara Randolph noted the eloquence and expressiveness inherent to symphonic music and to Novo’s artistic choices for Season 62.

“The season opening concert boldly explores the powerful connection of humans to native places and promotes reflection on the concept of home,” Randolph said. “Over the course of six masterworks performances, we’ll move toward music that defines a national identity, performances that celebrate Mediterranean culture and flair, arriving at the juxtaposition of creation and destruction. We’ll explore a three-part portrayal of genius and end the season by circling back to themes of identity, freedom and connection.”

Tickets

Subscriptions are available for purchase online at www.annapolissymphony.org/subscribe or by phone at 410-263-0907. Single tickets to the masterworks, chamber, and pops concerts will be on sale starting August 1. Learn more about the individual concerts by visiting the ASO website.

Dining Out Around The Park

Luna Blu Brings Southern Italian Flair To Annapolis

By Mark Patton
mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Luna Blu Ristorante Italiano is tucked away on West Street in the uptown arts district of Annapolis. While the blue and yellow facade of Luna Blu’s exterior draws your eyes to the restaurant and provides an immediate hit of character, it is what’s created inside that makes the biggest impression.

A pair of cozy tables maintain residence in front of Luna Blu, offering a perfect spot to take in the sights and passersby as well as providing a good vantage point to gaze at murals on nearby buildings.

Once you step inside, that’s where the charm of the southern Italian coast overtakes you. The blue and cream interior, along with painted murals depicting scenery typical of the Amalfi Coast, are complemented by modern lamps hanging overhead that add the silver and sparkling touches that southern Italians are so fond of. Archways, candles and blue-glass accents add to the authentic vibe.

Luna Blu also pulls off something that’s hard to do in the restaurant business — it offers an experience, for most adults, that fits practically any occasion. Date night, check. Business meal, check. Casual stop to grab some great food, check. Sit outside and dine under the stars while a band plays nearby, check.

Although Luna Blu sits on a street and is easily visible, its atmosphere of hip classiness is one that might prompt the question from others — “Where did you find out about this place?”

“This is the feel I want the restaurant to have — small, intimate,” said Luna Blu owner Erin Dryden.

Dryden began working at the restaurant as it was opening in late 2001 and eventually became business partners with the owner and chef at the time, who was a native of Naples, Italy. Dryden bought him out about 16 years ago and has been at the helm since.

“Many of the dishes are traditional, but I have created quite a few of my own, and I put my own twist on a few”

» Continued on page 44



Photos by Mark Patton

Above: Scallops con Polenta is an appetizer at Luna Blu that features pan-seared scallops served over a creamy polenta, drizzled with a red pepper puree. **Right:** The blue and yellow highlights of Luna Blu Ristorante Italiano provide diners an authentic southern Italian ambience in Annapolis.



“Asteroid City,” An Oddly Entertaining Film

Seemingly, a '50s-style TV show about the making of a play, and the play itself, all at the same time.

By Audrey Ruppert

It seems with every subsequent film, Wes Anderson gets more ... Wes Anderson. He has completely bought into his own hype, and the end result — “Asteroid City” — is as pretentious as ever, and absolutely delightful. Roman Coppola collaborated on the project.

Wes pulls out all his usual stops on a grander scale than we’ve ever seen before — with his signature kodak pastel colors, deadpan delivery, odd camera angles, use of multiple framing devices, stage-like low budget props, and his biggest ensemble cast yet (Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks, Tilda Swinton, Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Margot Robbie, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum and Steve Carell to name a few). “Asteroid City” is, seemingly, a

‘50s-style TV show about the making of a play, and the play itself, all at the same time.

The play — also named “Asteroid City” — is set in a classic ‘50s motel town — also called “Asteroid City” (Wes never expects you to fully keep up, or for everything to make complete sense, I believe). This town is placed in the Southwestern United States and run by a mustachioed Steve Carell near a research facility. Nuclear bombs are frequently tested in the background, while denizens treat themselves to 25-cent apple pie in the local diner. The military, some cowboys, young schoolchildren, and a group of astronomers are present.

The plot follows several bright young people and their parents. The young

savants have been brought to Asteroid City to be presented with awards for their inventions and discoveries by the army — but halfway through the proceedings, the town is disrupted by an extraterrestrial.

While the plot isn’t always easy to follow, I don’t think it’s entirely meant to be. The play is broken down into multiple acts, with the act numbers shown on the screen (the interlude is optional). Indeed, the film often feels like a series of small plots that don’t all relate to one another, with many non sequiturs. We’re presented with different aspects of what it means to be human, but delivered in a deadpan way, and detached from the very human things going on.

There’s a plot about grieving the loss of a loved one, and all that comes with it

(denial and bargaining, primarily). There’s the loneliness of the children, smarter than all their peers but unable to connect with or act like normal children. There’s the romantic tension between a suicidal, unstable actress and a war photographer. There’s the juxtaposition of wholesome, ‘50s Americana against the paranoia, xenophobia and militarism of the Cold War.

“Asteroid City” is a bizarre sequence of aesthetically pleasing, carefully arranged scenes that speak to the human and the inhuman, the earthly and the extraterrestrial. If you aren’t a fan of Wes Anderson already, maybe start with something a bit easier to get your head around — like “The Grand Budapest Hotel” — but if you’re already a fan of Wes, you’ll certainly be a fan of “Asteroid City.”



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Steep Canyon Rangers To Play Rams Head On Stage

By Lauren Meyer

Steep Canyon Rangers, an Asheville, North Carolina-based bluegrass group, is coming to Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis on July 14.

The band formed in 1999 at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where banjo player Graham Sharp and bassist Barrett Smith graduated. Thanks in part to actor Steve Martin, the now Grammy winning band, and regulars atop the Billboard charts, rose to fame. Martin, who has been a frequent collaborator with Steep Canyon Rangers as a banjo player, has helped the group expand its fanbase and increase television exposure. Steep Canyon Rangers are now one of the most recognizable modern names in bluegrass music.

Mike Guggino, mandolin player for Steep Canyon Rangers, shared how the band has learned from Martin about putting together a good show every night.

"He is a consummate professional who really emphasizes the details," Guggino said. "Every note, every spoken line, has a purpose and the way you deliver it can change that meaning for the audience."

Steep Canyon Rangers continue to tour without Martin, and the members expanded their genre into country, jam and Americana. They have received comparisons to 1960s-formed



rock bands like Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and The Band, as well as more recent groups, such as Zac Brown Band and The Infamous Stringdusters.

According to Guggino, the band loves playing at Rams Head On Stage, an intimate location they have played at several times over the years.

"The great thing about our band and our sound is that we can rock a big outdoor stage or charm a small listening room audience," Guggino said.

While Steep Canyon Rangers is a bluegrass band at the core, the group also has drums, electric instrument sounds and harmonica in some songs.

"This might put us more in the Americana/folk category for some," Guggino said.

The Grammy-nominated "North Carolina Songbook" is a recording of their live 2019 performance at Merlefest in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, featuring tunes from songwriters hailing from the Tarheel state, such as Thelonious Monk, Doc Watson and Ben E. King.

Guggino noted that the song from "North Carolina Songbook" the band plays the most live is "Sweet Baby James" by James Taylor.

"I'm sure that would play nicely in that room," Guggino said, adding that

Steep Canyon Rangers — a bluegrass band — will play at Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis this July. The group includes (l-r) Mike Guggino, Aaron Burdett, Mike Ashworth, Nicky Sanders, Graham Sharp and Barrett Smith.

Steep Canyon Rangers will also perform songs from the group's new album, scheduled to be released this fall.

Additionally, Steep Canyon Rangers always have portions of the show where they play around one microphone, old-timey style. "These moments always fit really nicely in these settings like the Rams Head," Guggino said.

"We also aren't afraid to rock it in a small room."

Joining Guggino, Sharp and Smith are Mike Ashworth on drums, Nicky Sanders on fiddle and newest band member Aaron Burdett on the guitar.

This will be the first time Burdett will play at Rams Head On Stage.

Guggino is fired up for the audience to see Burdett perform, citing his energy onstage.

Tickets to the July 14 show are available for \$46.50 each at www.steepcanyon.com/tour. Ages 21 and up are welcome. The show kicks off at 8:00pm, and doors open an hour earlier.

Luna Blu Brings Italian Flair

» Continued from page 41 as well," Dryden said.

As far as the food is concerned, I'm going to be one of those people who insists on dessert first, even though that wasn't the order of consumption on my recent visit.

Before arriving, I had glanced at the menu and had my heart set on the familiar tiramisu, or the restaurant's house specialty, zabaglione, which is an egg custard creamed with marsala wine and served in a glass with strawberries. But, after the rest of my courses, I was in the mood, as was my date, for something light and refreshing.

What we settled on made us both miss southern Italy — limoncello sorbet. Limoncello is an aromatic Italian liqueur usually crafted from lemons originating in the Campania region of the country.

"This tastes like Amalfi, Sorrento and Capri," said my date, taking the first sample.

I had to agree, and I'm not usually a dessert person. The lemon trees that you see in most every yard along the southern Italian coastal region came rushing through my mind as I neared the bottom of the sorbet, as did memories of wandering the streets of Positano with a beautiful limoncello-fueled buzz filling my head while gazing down at the Mediterranean Sea as Vespas scoot past.

I'm not one where food brings back memories like that — usually music does that for me — but I hope that Luna Blu's limoncello sorbet comes back

into my life, sooner rather than later.

Our server, Kerri, was knowledgeable, friendly and well-versed on each offering and its flavor profile.

I took advantage of Luna Blu's four-course dinner special, which was an appetizer, salad, entree and dessert. If you have the appetite to handle it (portions are more American sized than European), the value is hard to beat at \$45. These aren't certain offerings, either. Your choices can be from anything available on the menu.

The salad's house Italian dressing has a unique flavor profile with a tartness to it that I couldn't place but enjoyed.

Both my appetizer and main course were chosen based on my love of seafood and to mimic the diet preferences of southern Italy. My appetizer was a meal of scallops served over a creamy polenta with a red pepper puree drizzling. The scallops were large and fresh, and the colors of the dish popped from the plate.

My entree — a pan-seared Australian sea bass served over asparagus and sauteed with basil, tomatoes and fresh buffalo mozzarella all over a garlic and olive oil base — was an example of less is more, a practice common in Mediterranean cooking where the fresh ingredients and the chef's knowledge and creativity provide the full flavor. Minimal, if any, spices and other flavor enhancers are needed when the ingredients and sourcing are right. That was the case here and my Pinot Noir — Kerri had good advice here as well, picking one that wouldn't be obtrusive

to my meal selection — went perfect with the fish.

Dryden said Luna Blu's bread and desserts are made in house, along with the various sauces. Dryden uses local farms as much as she can, but in some months, she'll seek assistance from smaller specialty distributors for seafood or small Italian importers.

Although the atmosphere inside Luna Blu can get loud with the intimate surroundings, the seating is arranged where it's not a distraction to your experience. In fact, the laughing and joyful sounds we heard during our recent visit just enhanced our nostalgia for "bella Napoli." We also appreciated not feeling rushed, as the pace of presentation of our various courses felt just right.

Luna Blu also joins forces with some other West Street establishments to offer Dinner Under the Stars on Wednesday and Saturday nights during the warmer months. More seating is moved outside, and the street becomes one large dining area, complete with live music. As a bonus, wine bottles are 50% off on Wednesdays.

Dryden also prides herself on Luna Blu's wine dinners, both in-house and virtual, with many of them directly benefiting various charities. The virtual wine dinners spawned as a way for Luna Blu to survive the pandemic. With Zoom becoming standard lexicon across households and businesses during COVID-19, Dryden thought about her in-house wine dinners and how Zoom could fit into that world.

"We could do a wine dinner like this," recalled Dryden about bringing one of her restaurant's popular events into

folks' homes.

Even after the pandemic, virtual wine dinners have evolved into a sustained, and popular, option. Diners can pick up food and wine, where they'll get a QR code that allows them to watch a video presented by the wine maker or farm associated with what they're drinking.

Unlike many restaurants in southern Italy, where dinner service doesn't begin until 9:00pm, diners at Luna Blu, located at 36 West Street, don't have to wait that long. Dinner hours are Sunday and Tuesday-Thursday from 5:00pm-9:30pm. Friday and Saturday dinner hours are 5:00pm-11:00pm. Lunch is offered Tuesday-Friday from 11:00am-2:30pm. Carryout pizza is available anytime Luna Blu is open.

"I really love being the local neighborhood restaurant," Dryden said. "On most nights, I know most faces in the dining room and always love new ones too."

Reservations are recommended and can be done on Luna Blu's website at www.lunablufannapolis.com. More information on wine dinners and other special events is also available at the site.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Heidler Siblings Grow Successful Business



Siblings Steve Heidler, Judi Speaks and Mickey Heidler have continued and expanded the plumbing business started by their father in 1947.

HEIDLER, INC.

Serving the community since 1947

By Lauren Cowin

When it comes to the Heidler sibling trio, three's not a crowd, but a successful company.

Situated in Annapolis on Taylor Avenue between Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium and the Annapolis Police Department, Heidler Inc. has been servicing the community since 1947. Brothers Mickey and Steve Heidler took over the business for their father, Harry Heidler, in 1967. Their sister, Judi Speaks, later joined the team as business manager.

"We take good care of people, and they remember that," Speaks said of their loyal customer base.

While their father maintained a modest workforce of roughly five employees, Heidler Inc. has grown to a staff of more than 20, including 10 plumbers.

"We're known to not always be the least expensive, but we're not the most expensive," said co-owner Steve Heidler. "Whatever we undertake, we complete it, and it's usually done nearly perfectly."

Steve is the youngest of the Heidler siblings and leads the company's remodeling efforts. Over the years, he has been involved with various industry organizations, such as the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association, for which he served on the national board. He is currently chairman of the Anne Arundel County Plumbing Commission.

"Annapolis is made up of a lot of really old houses that have radiators, so we kind of specialize in that type of heating system, which is still really, really popular," Steve said.

Heidler Inc. offers a range of services — day-to-day plumbing issues, utility work, commercial drain cleaning, gas fireplaces, remodeling projects and new construction to name a few.

One of the company's most noteworthy jobs was a bathroom renovation in the West Wing of the White House during George W. Bush's administration.

"They had a thank you where the president flew in on his helicopter," Steve recalled. "Then he came over, shook everybody's hand [and] said, 'You guys did such a good job.'"

Along with a dedication to customer service, Heidler Inc. prides itself on offering highly skilled plumbers. The majority of the company's technicians have reached master plumber status — a designation that requires six years of experience in the field, as well as written exams.

"We've always had some of the best guys, I can put my two best plumbers against any plumber around here confidently," said Mike Heidler, service manager and Mickey Heidler's son. He and his cousin Steven, a senior technician for the company and Steve's son, comprise the third generation of Heidlers in the family business.

Mike spent 12 years as a plumber after college. He was onsite for the White House renovation and decided to tap into an old trademark of his grandfather's.

"We'll pull an old cast iron, real vintage kitchen sink off a wall in downtown Annapolis and my grandad had written his name on the wall," said Mike, who took out a Sharpie and left his own name within the walls of the West Wing.

"Maybe in 100 years when something happens, they'll be like, 'Who was this guy?'" he said.

Speaking of the future, Mike sees po-
» **Continued on page 50**

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.

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The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company LLC (bronze member) — The Johnson family first arrived in Anne Arundel County in 1902 in Kingston on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore, incorporating the J.F. Johnson Lumber Company in 1921. From residential developments in Maryland to supporting government contracts for the U.S. Naval Academy, the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Ford Tank Works and even the U.S. Capitol Building, this company is here to serve you with locations in Millersville and Edgewater.

Data Network Solutions LLC — With more than 15 years of experience, DNS offers a one-stop shop for all your telecom needs. The company specializes in Cat5e, Cat6, fiber installation and repair. The team also installs speakers, cameras, POS and many other types of wiring as well as related equipment.

BeBalanced Hormone Weight Loss

Centers of Annapolis — Every aspect of metabolism is regulated by hormones. When it comes to weight, if your hormones are out of balance, losing weight will be a struggle even with traditional diet plans and exercise. BeBalanced works with your body to balance your hormones naturally, helping to improve metabolism function and overall health.

Coventry Services LLC — Coventry Services is a fire and water remediation company for residential and commercial properties. It specializes in all kinds of services, from water remediation to professional floor cleaning. Coventry provides exceptional service to help customers get their homes and businesses back in working order again, 24/7, every day.

Navy Federal Credit Union (new silver member) — Since 1933, Navy Federal Credit Union has grown from seven members to more than 12 million members. And since that time, its vision statement has remained the same, which is to "Be the most preferred and trusted financial institution serving the military and their families." Do you own a small business? Once you are a Navy Federal member, you can become a business member to get access to a suite of products and services designed especially for you.

Gott Pest Control — Gott Pest Control offers synthetic barrier treatments as well as green all-natural barrier treatments in commercial and residential areas to eliminate pests of all kinds, even rodents. Gott Pest Control also provides termite inspections and carries the best available products such as Bora-Care, Trelona advanced termite bait stations, and Termidor HE, a powerful liquid termiticide.

» **Continued on page 50**

Change In Perspective

Jason LaBarge
LaBarge
Financial



In the medical profession, we've seen the growth of specialists replacing general practitioners.

The term financial advisor is analogous to the general practitioner, but I focus my practice on retirement planning. As a result, I spend a lot of my time focusing on the end of someone's career. We focus a lot of energy on ending our careers, but sometimes we need to remind ourselves how it all started. Kyleigh is a 12-year-old girl who is just beginning her working life, and I find her eagerness to work fascinating. I wanted to compare her perspective with those of you who are looking at retirement as hopefully a reminder of the excitement we all once felt.

"Thinking about starting to work is really exciting for me," Kyleigh said. "I mainly want to start working because I get to make my own money, but I also want to start working because it gives me

more independence and responsibility. I can have something separate from home that is beneficial financially. Making my own money makes me feel more mature and independent because I can handle my own activities outside of home and sports. Earning my own money allows me to spend money on things I want without having to depend on my parents or ask permission.

"This summer, I am starting to babysit and one of the reasons I get excited is because I love being with little kids," she continued. "I also like the fact that I can give back to the community and help people. I am excited about babysitting because I get to be the one in charge and that makes me feel more important and independent."

I remember my first job. I worked at Graffiti's Car Wash where my shift was 4:00pm-6:00pm. My dad would pick me up from school and drive me for my shift. That was the longest two hours of my life! Here I am 25 years later — I love what I do, and I can't imagine retiring.

Nearly 10,000 Baby Boomers turn 65 each day. By 2030, all Baby Boomers will be at retirement age. Many of these folks
» **Continued on page 50**

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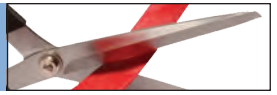


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RIBBON CUTTINGS



Great Oak Roofing Creates A Home In Severna Park

Lifelong Severna Park resident Ben Pascal invited the community to join him in June for the grand opening of his business, Great Oak Roofing, which he started earlier this year. The business offers full roof replacement, roof repair, gutter installation and gutter guard installation.



DodgeBow Annapolis Ceremony Hits The Target

A new entertainment venue came to Millersville around the start of 2023, and to celebrate, owner Louben Repke hosted the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 23. Guests tested their target-shooting skills and networked while learning about everything the business offers.

Smart Fit Kids Academy Hits 10-Year Milestone

With food, games and family activities, Smart Fit Kids Academy celebrated its 10-year anniversary during a ribbon-cutting and open house June 24. The business is located at 780 Ritchie Highway, Suites 26-28, in Severna Park.



Bulldog Bikes And Floats Finds A New Home

Bulldog Bikes and Floats is now located in the Mercado Building at 504 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park. To celebrate, owner Mike Prager held a community event on June 24, while showing off his selection of bikes, kayaks, standup paddleboards and gear.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 47

cide. The company provides water testing in partnership with Water Testing Labs of Maryland. No contracts ever!

Magothy Therapy and Wellness

— Magothy Therapy & Wellness was established in late 2021 to put patients' needs first, getting them on the road to recovery faster and back to living their best lives. This business specializes in occupational therapy for neurological conditions, oncology related conditions and lymphedema/lipedema.

Pedal Pushers Bicycle Shop — Established in 1989, Pedal Pushers is located right on the five-mile marker on the Baltimore and Annapolis Trail. This shop can do anything from putting air in your tires to adjusting gears to giving advice on riding at any time. Pedal Pushers special-

izes in any form of cycling from "MTB" cross country, street, or downhill racing, "road" riding for fun or racing, and BMX street, park, and racing. The staff can even have you "sized" for a unicycle!

We held four ribbon-cutting celebrations in June. The first was the grand opening of **Great Oak Roofing LLC** in Severna Park. Owned by Ben Pascal, the company is family-owned and provides expert services in roof replacement and gutter installation.

Next, we celebrated the grand opening of **DodgeBow Annapolis Games & Events**, owned by Louben Repke. Located in Millersville, this fun sports center is "like dodgeball with arrows." Dodgebow is wonderful entertainment for birthday parties of all ages, corporate team building and more.

Bulldog Bikes and Floats in Severna Park celebrated the grand opening of its new location in the Mercado Building with a ribbon-cutting and all-day open

house with great deals on bikes and kayaks. Owner Mike Prager is excited to be in the new location near the bike trail.

Smart Fit Kids Academy Before and After School Academics and Martial Arts in Severna Park celebrated 10 years of business success. Owner Bixia Pan has created a wonderful learning environment, and the celebration included performances, food trucks and more.

Our new Young Professionals Networking Group held its event at the **Providence Center's pottery studio** where members enjoyed great networking while trying their hands at pottery artistry. The group meets monthly, and you can check the chamber website for details about the next event.

The Successful Women in Business First Cup Club was held at **The Big Bean, Annapolis**. It is a beautiful location with a spacious porch. Many thanks to owners Greg and Christie Coster for hosting this fun event, and the coffee was fantastic.

Our Wellness Business Connections

group held its monthly meeting at **The Social**, where business owners in the health industry met to get to know each other and discuss ways to collaborate. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 4:30pm-6:00pm and all are welcome to join.

The chamber held a going-away party for Lisa and Glen Schneiderman, owners of **Lisa's Cakepops**. They are relocating to sunny Florida but will still be operating their business, especially providing cake pop kits. Lisa joined the chamber when she started her business and has hosted and sponsored many events. It has been wonderful to see how the business evolved over the years to include branded and themed cake pops, and the creation of kits during the pandemic. They will be missed!

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

Change In Perspective

» Continued from page 47

are considering retiring and are having the direct opposite conversation with themselves that Kyleigh is having. We are going to see a shift in our workforce from one that is experienced and approaching retirement to a workforce of trainees and those just out of training. In fact, one in three Americans in the workforce are Millennials. I will let you make your own determination on whether that is a good thing or a bad thing.

The other factor impacting our workforce is artificial intelligence. What jobs are going to be impacted is yet to be determined. Analysts point toward

white-collar jobs being most impacted. Kyleigh is going to have to face competition not only from other students, both in the United States and abroad, but also from robots who in some cases are perfectly skilled at what they do. Let's hope that Kyleigh's eagerness is maintained before she hits the proverbial real world. As the old saying goes, if you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life.

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Jason LaBarge, financial advisor and president of LaBarge Financial. 7 Riggs Avenue, Severna Park, MD 21146 443-647-4321.

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Kyleigh Ringle is not affiliated with Cetera Advisor Networks LLC.

Heidler Siblings

» Continued from page 47

tential for a fourth generation of Heidler Inc. in his 7-year-old twins.

"My daughter is a CEO for sure," Mike said without hesitation, adding that her twin brother is a more technical mind who excels at math.

Time will tell what's in store for the next generation of Heidler Inc. and beyond, but just like the satisfaction that drove Harry Heidler to affix his name to his jobs many years ago, there is no questioning how this family feels about their business.

"We're very, very proud of our company," Speaks said.

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