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NOVEMBER 2023

## Israel-Hamas War Hits Home

*From Arnold To Israel, Communities Unite To Show Solidarity*



Rabbi Ari Goldstein addressed a crowd at Temple Beth Shalom on October 15. "Some would say this is a rally, but it's not. Others would say it's a vigil, but it's not, because it's not about screaming from the rooftops and it's also not about kind of thinking about the sadness and just the sadness. It was more about a way of getting together."

**By Zach Sparks**

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

Jonah Helfman walked outside his skate shop in Tel Aviv, Israel, during an October day to find a delivery driver sobbing.

"Her nephew was at the nature party and he went missing, and she went online and saw a video of him being executed, and she recognized the tattoo behind his ear and she just broke down," Helfman

said. "When I understood what was going on, I went into the shop and started crying, and before I had a chance to collect myself, sirens [sounded]. We all ran down in the shelter together."

This has been the reality since October 7, when Hamas, a militant group that governs the Gaza Strip, infiltrated communities in Israel, massacring 1,400 Israelis and taking more than 200 hostages.

The killings became the latest chapter in a 75-year Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif announced that the assault was in response to Israel's 16-year blockade of Gaza, Israeli raids inside West Bank cities over the past year, increased attacks by settlers on Palestinians, and the expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied lands Palestinians claim for a future state.

The Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry has reported thousands of Palestinian deaths from Israeli counter-attacks. President Joe Biden has casted doubt on the accuracy of those numbers.

Civilians in Gaza also have limited access to electricity, food and water.

The conflict has affected people all over the world, including Helfman. A 2013 Broadneck High School graduate,

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## Former Sheriff Produces Capital Gazette Shooting Documentary



**By Mark Patton**

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

Ron Bateman was sitting in his office as the sheriff of Anne Arundel County on June 28, 2018. He was speaking to one of the K-9 officers when a tone came over the radio followed by a message — "Active shooter. 888 Bestgate."

That alert came as Jarrod Ramos was terrorizing the Capital Gazette newsroom at 888 Bestgate Road in Annapolis. Ramos shot and killed five staff members that day — Gerald Fischman, Robert Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith and Wendi Winters — in the largest mass shooting of journalists in the nation's history.

"Heroes of 888" is an upcoming documentary and Bateman's brainchild. The film chronicles the events of that day, and the circumstances leading up to it, utilizing surveillance videos, police body-cam footage, crime scene photos, family photos, 911 calls and on-camera inter-

views with survivors, family members of those lost, first responders and public officials.

"What helped to allow all these interviews to take place is they knew my name, and they knew who I was, so there's a built-in trust there," said Bateman of the more than 40 interviews conducted for the film.

Tom Marquardt, former editor and publisher of the Capital Gazette who now resides in Naples, Florida, said it's tough to see the images from the 2018 incident, but he applauded the respectful restraint Bateman and his crew displayed in selecting imagery for the film. He also said it's important to let the public view them because they've only read about the details of what happened and how it impacted survivors and families.

"You can read about something and sort of create an image in your mind, but it's something else when you actually see it," said Marquardt, who retired from the Capital Gazette at the end of

2012. "When you see the gunman shoot through the door, when you see the police approach, when you see the people in the newsroom who survived trying to escape through a blockaded door, only then do you really feel and sense the impact of what happened on that day."

Bateman served as sheriff for 12 years and has also spent time in his career in positions such as homicide detective, undercover narcotics detective and burglary detective. He's since penned a trilogy of crime novels and a children's book — knowledge that prompted a former detective that used to be under Bateman's charge to suggest the retired sheriff write a book about the Capital Gazette shooting.

Bateman's reaction to that advice surprised even himself. Despite having no experience in the filmmaking world, Bateman said he was going to produce a documentary about the events at 888 Bestgate. After he immersed himself into

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## Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

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

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

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## Couple Returns From Africa Committed More Than Ever

By Elizabeth Harwood

Severna Park residents Jim and Lisa Greenberg traveled to the African countries of Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania from September through October to visit field operations of Warm Heart, a sister organization of the nonprofit Biochar Life — a nonprofit for which the Greenbergs volunteer.

The couple saw firsthand how the topics of public health, greenhouse gasses, soil degradation, hunger, climate change and sustainable livelihoods intersect. Their purpose was to learn authentically from local leaders about the work so they can better support it.

Warm Heart was founded in Thailand by Evelind Schecter and Michael Shafer, a married couple who are friends and associates of the Greenbergs. Warm Heart's initiatives include programs for children, the elderly and people with disabilities. More recently, the Global Biochar Program (GBP), which has expanded into Africa, offers smallholder farmers an alternative to crop burning.

Intended to prepare fields for planting, crop burning emits smoke that contains the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, a known health and environmental adversary. The GBP introduced biochar, a charcoal-like product produced by carbonizing organic waste with no smoke, thereby thwarting carbon dioxide emissions. What charmed the Greenbergs during their visit was the remarkable difference made by biochar when used as a fertilizer.

"What a great difference [biochar] makes to fertilize soil," Jim Greenberg said. "It's also highly porous, which increases the water retention in drought prone areas."

Lisa Greenberg noted they weren't the only ones enthused.

"We went out into the field [to see] some people who were showing their



In October, Jim and Lisa Greenberg returned from Africa where they were conducting volunteer work.

"We're grateful for what we've been given ... there's no point in clutching it close; you can give it away."

— LISA GREENBERG

material — and they just started dancing," she said.

Warm Heart began teaching farmers how to make biochar with nothing more than a hoe — and its benefits spread like wildfire, particularly the benefit of feeding family members.

"Their next crops are [two or three] times as large and 50% to 60% more productive," Jim Greenberg said. "And neighbors say, 'Woah, what did you do?'"

As Warm Heart grew, the GBP was greeted by the complex world of the carbon offset market, an out-of-scope

topic. In response, the sister organization Biochar Life was launched in 2022 with Jim Greenberg serving as chairman. His focus of their volunteer work is to build the organization's foundation that supports the verification and accreditation process required to convert farming data to carbon credits.

"I was lucky enough to be involved in work [I did as a living] that I could transfer a lot of that learning into the social enterprise," Jim Greenberg said.

The sustainable livelihoods of farmers are interlocked with earning carbon credits. Although 75% of carbon credit sales are used to compensate local communities for manufacturing biochar, there's a twist.

"You can't just pay [communities] for the process of making the biochar," Lisa Greenberg explained. "You have to make sure it's sequestered [as fertilizer]. Part of the process of verifying is to verify that the biochar mix has been actually sequestered in the soil."

While fully committed to Biochar Life, Jim and Lisa Greenberg are no strangers to donating time and resources to organizations, nor to valuing life and purpose.

"I think we do it in part because we've been very blessed," Lisa Greenberg said. "We're grateful for what we've been given ... there's no point in clutching it close; you can give it away."

Jim Greenberg has reason to feel proud.

"It's a wonderful feeling of fulfillment," Jim said. "To know that you're doing something for the good of others and expecting nothing in return."

Together, Warm Heart and Biochar Life have trained an estimated 13,000 locals this year alone in Kenya and Malawi with plans to expand into Tanzania. To learn more, visit [www.biochar.life](http://www.biochar.life).



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## Shoptoberfest Celebrates Fall And Local Businesses



Music, trick-or-treating, shopping and other activities were part of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's Shoptoberfest event at Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness Club in Millersville on October 21.

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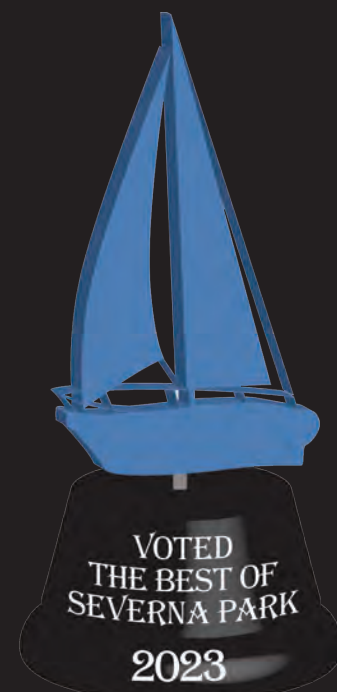
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## SPAN Update: A Season For Giving

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



This is a wonderful time of year. I notice the changing of the seasons not just with the falling leaves but also with the increase in community members reaching out to help their neighbors.

We have had amazing contributions from local schools over the last month. Severna Park Elementary School collected more than 400 boxes of macaroni and cheese for SPAN. This is their second year in a row of doing this. St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School had a wonderful drive for SPAN. And the Severn School spirit week food drive is always a huge success.

It is wonderful to have the school groups supporting us, and it is great when young people reach out with offers to help. A high school student recently put together birthday bags and collected toiletries from his friends and neighbors. We also appreciate the neighborhoods, such as Manhattan Beach and Shipley's Choice, that donate to SPAN. Thank you for including SPAN in your gatherings and celebrations.

On November 12 from 2:00pm-5:00pm, there will be a food drive at our SPAN location with s'mores and

hot chocolate. Come join us for this fun event and bring your favorite Thanksgiving side to donate. We will see what the most popular Thanksgiving side is — bread based (boxed muffins and breads), potato based (instant or canned potatoes and yams), vegetable based or desserts.

Food can always be donated to our bins in the Severna Park Community Center and Severna Park Library or directly at our building. Some focused food donations this month to match the cooling temperatures are items such as chili, soups and stews, beans, instant and canned potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, hot chocolate and marshmallows.

This is a season with an increased focus on giving. Many people go through difficult times or an unforeseen circumstance, such as a car accident, illness or job layoff, which can happen at any point and throw family budgets into crisis mode. In those situations, the additional expenses during the holidays are added stress.

We are in full swing organizing one of SPAN's wonderful traditions — our Holiday Caring program. It is a program where community members and groups sign up to provide clients with holiday meals and Christmas gifts for children. Please consider becoming a sponsor. Contact us at [spanhelps@yahoo.com](mailto:spanhelps@yahoo.com) or call 410-647-0889.

Thank you for helping us help others! Together we are making a difference!

## Lauren's Law: Leaf Raking

**Lauren Burke Meyer**



Fall is my favorite season. I love the "Goldilocks" weather — not too hot and not too cold. Plus, I can't get enough of apple cider everything, cozy flannel, pumpkins and the list goes on.

While I love seeing all the beautiful leaves in bright orange, yellow and red hues, once they fall in my yard, I shudder thinking of my never-ending leaf raking experience.

I was a junior in high school, hoping to save money for an upcoming school ski trip to Canada. A girlfriend of mine was also saving up. Her boyfriend at the time scored us a job raking leaves in his neighborhood.

My friend and I showed up to the job with a rake apiece. Nothing else.

Across the yard, my friend's boyfriend and his buddy had state-of-the-art yard equipment as they worked on another neighbor's yard. Beyond the typical rakes, they had tarps, leaf blowers and lawn mowers. They knocked out their yard quickly and moved on to their next job.

Our yard was a different story. Leaves fell on our ponytails while we raked throughout an entire afternoon. After several hours and many blisters on our

hands, we were still unfinished. We'd have to return the next weekend. Leaves would continue to fall and basically undo all our hard work.

What originally seemed like a high-paying job quickly seemed less attractive once we realized we'd be coming back again. Possibly even multiple times. A never-ending job.

Thankfully, the family took pity on us and only had us return one final time. Lesson learned. Make sure to have the proper equipment when raking leaves.

I quickly forgot that important lesson when I moved into a highly wooded neighborhood a few years ago. My oldest daughter was 2 years old, and her younger sister was only a few weeks old. Leaves were a lower priority until we learned that snow was coming.

With a baby strapped to my chest, our toddler picked up leaves individually and put them into big brown bags, which were larger than her in height. Our yard took as long to rake as you'd expect for a young family of four.

Later that year, my husband and I had two trees professionally cut down because one was dead and another was dangerously close to our oldest daughter's bedroom window. While not the leading reason, another benefit of cutting the trees has been less leaves.

If only that job in high school allowed my friend and I to cut their trees down, we could have knocked the job out real fast.

## The Rev. Terry Schoener Leaves Lasting Impact



*Terry Schoener passed away on October 9 from a rare lung disease at age 85. Schoener was a senior pastor at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church for 27 years.*

**By Lauren Burke Meyer**

The Rev. Terry Schoener, the senior pastor at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church from 1979 to 2006, passed away from a lung disease at the age of 85 on October 9.

Nancy Lincoln Reynolds, associate pastor at Woods Church and director of the Woods Counseling Center, shared how Schoener was her mentor, teaching her about parish ministry and the significance of embracing the community beyond the congregation in outreach.

"His approach to ministry has always been inclusive and caring," Lincoln Reynolds said.

Schoener's mentee said he consistently responded to people who complimented him on how well he wrote and preached his sermons that the focus should be on God and not him.

"He was well known for his inspired and faithful preaching, but he was equally well known for his sincere humility," Lincoln Reynolds said.

There isn't much on the church grounds that Schoener hasn't impacted.

### Sunrise of Severna Park

With input from the church's congregation, Schoener conducted a survey of the Severna Park community's needs and determined elderly housing was a critical need.

Efforts during the 1980s resulted in the selection of a property located next door to the church off West McKinsey Road and the establishment of the nonprofit Woodwise: The Severna Park Elderly Housing Corporation.

Plans for acquisition and rezoning of the property — owned by Anne Arundel County and designated as open space — were put in place. The county sold the land to Woodwise in 1995 for \$1, which Schoener paid from his own wallet. Sunrise Senior Living agreed to build and operate the facility.

Ground was broken in 1996, and the facility opened for occupancy a year later. Within a year, Sunrise of Severna Park was fully occupied and had a waiting list.

### Severna Park Community Center

The Severna Park Community Center was founded in 1995 as a gift to the community from Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church when it was purchased from the YMCA of Severna Park at the

corner of Cypress Creek Road and B&A Boulevard. Schoener gathered church and community members to form what was then called Woods Community Center.

Schoener, along with help from others, put together a program of community activities, including art, sewing, swimnas-tics, water aerobics and sign language.

Lincoln Reynolds noted how Schoener was responsible for the current presence and identity of the community center, which now boasts a fitness center, two pools, three dance studios, meeting spaces, and a gym with basketball and volleyball setups.

### Holy Grounds Youth Center

Simultaneously, the former St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, located adjacent to the community center, was converted into the now defunct Holy Grounds Youth Center. After two years of renovation, the center opened in 1997. The youth center was a safe place for teens to gather.

### Backpack Buddies

Inspired by a conversation with Faye Daniel, a friend and former principal at Tyler Heights Elementary School in Annapolis, Schoener, along with Brenda Schoener, his wife at the time, founded the Backpack Buddies of Anne Arundel County. The program identifies children at risk of having food insufficiency over the weekends. Volunteers sponsored a child, and a team went to Tyler Heights to pack food in backpacks for the weekend. The program continues at Annapolis Middle School.

### Civil Rights Leadership

Schoener was involved in 1964 voter registration efforts in Mississippi. He recalled one night when Ku Klux Klan members surrounded their small, rural church with burning torches and threatened to shoot anyone who came out.

"The church was torched with us inside," Schoener had previously said. "When the smoke and heat became unbearable, we held hands and staggered out into the night. By the mercy of God, the Klan was gone. I keep a melted piece of that church's window near me always to remember the power of evil and how it attacks churches."

Martin Luther King Jr. occasionally used Schoener's civil rights office in Cleveland for meetings and press events.

"I think Terry's greatest legacy is his faithfulness to God and the unfolding of that into actions of justice, peace and service," Lincoln Reynolds said.

Halle Schoener Randles said she treasures the life provided by her dad and her mom, who passed away in 2015.

"[He] taught my brothers and me such important lessons by word and action — peace, listening, standing up for the oppressed, honesty, hard work, focus on family, commitment in marriage, making memories and making a difference," Schoener Randles said. "All of these through faith."

Schoener is survived by his wife, Sally Schofield, along with three children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Former Sheriff Produces Capital Gazette Shooting Documentary

» Continued from page 1

scouring police reports, reviewing camera footage, viewing documentaries and taking online MasterClass filmmaking courses, he held true to his word.

Bateman has dedicated his hours since January to completing “Heroes of 888” while serving as executive producer, a producer and narrator on the film.

Bateman had discussed one day doing a project with friend Jim Goetz, the founder of Anne Arundel First Alert. When Bateman pitched the documentary idea to Goetz, it was an easy decision for the man with his own extensive public safety background to hop aboard.

“We felt our team was the best to tell the story,” said Goetz, who directed “Heroes of 888” along with serving as a producer, editor and writer. “We know the inside story, and we want that inside story told.”

Bateman stressed the duo did not want to make the film political.

“We didn’t really have an angle on our documentary, except for this, and that was to bring out all the goodness and the heroes that emerged that day, and that was my angle,” he said.

In the documentary, viewers get insight into details such as Wendi Winters charging the gunman with a pair of small plastic trash cans, shouting something to him that a witness remembers as, “Now you stop this; you put that down.” A close-up image from crime scene photography shows Winters’ clenched fist with narration citing it as evidence of her selfless efforts to fight the attacker.

“Ken Burns really showed me the pow-

er of how you can bring a still picture to life, which he was a master of,” Bateman said.

Another segment shows just how close photographer Paul Gillespie came to losing his life with a frame-by-frame breakdown showing his head in the same sequence as shotgun pellets appearing in the wall at the same spot. A model of the newsroom used in the trial, which Bateman said was made by the FBI for the state attorney’s office to the tune of around \$30,000, provides orientation to the cubicle-laced confines.

Maria Hiaasen, who was celebrating her birthday when her husband perished in the newsroom, spoke in the film about her struggle getting back into the water after the tragedy — swimming was always her summer go-to activity. She eventually got back into it and learned that she could cry underwater. She also learned that she could remember there.

John San Felice received a call at his Millersville home that 2018 day from his daughter, a survivor of the attack who was hiding from the gunman under a desk in the newsroom. She told him that a man was killing the editors and that she loved him.

“Can you imagine as a dad?” Bateman asked. “And then he turns the TV on, and he sees all hell breaking loose at her work, and then he doesn’t hear from her for like five hours. You have to assume your daughter is dead. That’s gut-wrenching.”

While most of the film is in chronological order, spanning the five years since the incident, the beginning of “Heroes of

888” takes viewers back to 2009, detailing online harassment conducted by Ramos. The behavior eventually reached a bizarre and criminal level and a Capital Gazette reporter, Eric Hartley, was in the courtroom during a hearing and penned an article detailing the harassment. That began a defamation lawsuit filed by Ramos against Hartley, Marquardt, the editor at the time, and the Capital Gazette. The case was dismissed and that led to a years-long festering of hate, plotting and online harassment by Ramos with references to Hartley and Marquardt suffering.

“What’s interesting about the case at the Capital Gazette is that the First Amendment that protects newspapers also protected the killer,” Marquardt said.

Marquardt, who started with The Capital in 1977 before departing in 2012, took concerns to the police.

“They came back and said, ‘He’s not a threat. He’s just ranting,’” Marquardt said. “We sort of let it go, and then he went silent for two years, and then, of course, he was plotting all that time. Only now do we realize that that was classic for mass killings.”

Marquardt and Hartley had both departed the Capital Gazette by 2018.

“He said to a psychiatrist that was hired by the state before his trial that his only regret is not killing me and Eric Hartley, so there’s no question had we been in the newsroom that day, we wouldn’t be here talking about this right now,” said Marquardt, who was named an honorary deputy sheriff when he

retired from The Capital.

During the film, the gunman’s first name is shared only once — that is deliberate.

“Because the article was titled ‘Jarrod wants to be your friend,’ we already had the name Jarrod committed to the public, so we never said his last name, we didn’t show his face,” Bateman said about the decision of what not to include in the documentary, one he acknowledged also helped garner more support from survivors and families of the fallen.

Bateman said most of the reaction to the film’s trailer from those close to the victims has been positive.

Summerleigh Geimer, the daughter of Wendi Winters, was on board with the documentary because she didn’t want the events of that day, or the efforts of her mom to thwart the attack, to be forgotten. Geimer told Bateman she hopes the film will serve as a legacy for the heroes from that June day five years ago, along with the Guardians of the First Amendment memorial in Annapolis.

“With all the other shootings around the world, she feels like it’s just drowning and going away,” Bateman said.

Bateman said the 51-minute documentary is planned to be initially screened on WUNV, The CW Baltimore, with an air date pending.

“Even though Jim and I made this film, every single time we watched it from start to finish, we cried,” Bateman said. “Every single time.”

The trailer for “Heroes of 888” can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmmaxtrruoe](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmmaxtrruoe).

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## Woods Church To Present “Opus 2 — An Evening Of Debuts”



**W**oods Memorial Presbyterian Church will present “Opus 2” on November 11 at 7:00pm. The evening will feature newly composed works and performances by classical guitarist Alec Green, musical theater composer Drew Sharpe, pianists Jung-hoon Park and the Rev.

Randy Bush, and the Taproot Soul duo of Sarah Kent and Alan Becknell. This is a free concert with all donations going to support the Woods Church music department. For more information, email [dmerrill@woodschurch.org](mailto:dmerrill@woodschurch.org). This event will be live-streamed.

## Earleigh Heights To Hold Bull And Oyster Roast

**F**or its next fundraiser, Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company will host a bull and oyster roast on November 11. Doors open at 5:00pm, and food will be served from 5:30pm-8:00pm.

The menu will include pit beef, ham and turkey, along with sausage, raw oysters, oyster stew, oyster fritters, macaroni and cheese, mashed pota-

toes, green beans, cole slaw, assorted appetizers, desserts, soda and beer.

In addition to food, the event will include music provided by a DJ, 50/50 boards, a Big Six wheel, showdown poker, pull tabs and a lottery board. Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$55 at the door, or \$340 for a table of eight. For more information, call 410-647-1990 or visit [www.ehvfc.org](http://www.ehvfc.org).

## Learn About AACCC’s Peer Learning Partnership

**J**oin a group that loves learning just for fun. Anne Arundel Community College’s (AACCC) 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 winter 2024 courses and upcoming activities at a winter-term open house in room 219 of the Cade Center for Fine Arts on the Arnold campus from 10:00am to 11:30am on November 6. The open house will be simulcast through Zoom. Non-members who would like to

attend in-person or via Zoom should register by November 5 at [www.aacc.edu/plp](http://www.aacc.edu/plp).

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.

Email [plp@aacc.edu](mailto:plp@aacc.edu) with any questions.

## A Call For Coats

**E**ach year, Admiral Cleaners hopes to collect, clean and distribute thousands of coats to needy people in the community with the help of national and local charities throughout October and November.

Admiral Cleaners is asking local families to donate their seldom used or outgrown coats by bringing them to any of Admiral’s four locations to warm up someone’s winter.

The Severna Park location is at 40 West McKinsey Road. Pick-up and delivery customers may leave their coats in a separately marked bag for their driver.

Admiral Cleaners has been coordinating a “Call for Coats” campaign for more than 30 years. The business has collected and distributed more than 100,000 coats for area families in need.

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# PRO-Vision Memorial Run Honors Overton, Raises \$10,000 For Orphan Grain Train

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Almost 150 racers were on hand October 14 for the PRO-Vision Memorial Run, the first occurrence of what organizers plan to be an annual event.

The PRO-Vision Memorial Foundation was established this year in memory and honor of Paul Robert Overton, a longtime Severna Park resident. The race not only honored Overton, but it also raised \$10,000 for Orphan Grain Train (OGT), a non-profit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with folks of need, both stateside and abroad.

“The energy and the enthusiasm that was present were just contagious,” said Elfie Eberle, founder of the Maryland branch of OGT and current OGT ambassador, about the race. “It was very exciting.”

Overton was an avid athlete and physical fitness buff with a passion for helping others navigate their own wellness. Severe head and neck injuries suffered during a motorcycle training course in the lot of Marley Station Mall in Glen Burnie, just months after he completed his first full marathon, left the 29-year-old Overton in and out of shock trauma centers, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities until he was eventually brought home by his parents, Steve and Paula Overton, in 2019.

“Gradually, he just kept getting stronger and improving, so it was that whole process of us caring for him at home that made us so aware of how just incredible it can be for a family to bring a person home if they’re able to do it,” Paula Overton said.

Paul Overton passed away on March 29, 2021, with his parents noting that their oldest son maintained a positive and calm peace despite the adversity of his final years.



Paul Overton ran in the 2017 Baltimore Running Festival.

Paul Overton’s journey played a part in the decision to choose Orphan Grain Train as the beneficiary of the funds raised during the 10K run and 5K run/walk events, plus the additional 89 donations that came in. The Overton family discovered OGT while seeking a place to donate their late son’s medical inventory.

Steve Overton noted that Paul had solid medical insurance, but the family still had to purchase thousands of dollars of medical equipment for their son.

“That’s why we kind of felt so strongly about supporting the

Orphan Grain Train because we see what support they can give a family who might have a similar situation,” Paula Overton said. “If you’re in that predicament, you have a loved one who needs something, and it’s out of pocket. It’s astronomical.”

The week after the race, Eberle and other OGT volunteers were loading a container destined for Ghana with medical equipment, bicycles, clothing and school supplies. The organization recently raised \$96,000 to ship 11,000 Luci solar lights to Ukraine after Russian targeting of the country’s power systems. Eberle cited a recent

example of a nearby resident needing a hospital bed for her father’s recovery, but it would take weeks to deliver — OGT had one in the warehouse for her.

“That warehouse and this ministry is a miracle,” said Eberle about the Millersville-based facility where OGT now ships about 12 containers out a year compared to the two a year just eight years ago. “It amazes me again and again how generous people are.”

The concept of a race in Paul’s honor was something first initiated by his friends.

“Every parent thinks their child is great, but we had no idea what an impact he had on so many people,” said Steve Overton about the outpouring of support from those who knew Paul following the accident.

Paula Overton said the family wanted the race to create something positive out of her son’s tragedy.

The top three finishers in the 10K men’s event were Michael Johnson, Evan Hockel and Brian Rutland while the women’s top three were Sydney McClain, Samantha Knickerbocker and Brittan Logan. The 5K women’s top placers were Lily Williamson, Jill Cornett and Jennifer Goins while the men’s top three were Jeff McGuire, Chris Hunt and Mason Mundell.

Steve and Paula Overton praised the foundation’s board members, who are all Severna Park High School graduates. The board includes Paul Overton’s parents plus his younger siblings, Drew and Kara Overton. Other members are Hockel, Brooks Chalmers, Pat Mercer, Casey LiPira, Ryan Knickerbocker and Shane DeWind.

Her husband acknowledged that the good also comes from the community.

“I can only stress how beloved this community is, how faithful they’ve been to us,” Steve Overton said about Severna Park. “This event proved it again.”

## What To Know About Fall Planting

By Janet AlJunaidi

Fall is an ideal time to plant native plants, including trees, shrubs and perennials. Native plants are more climate resilient than non-native varieties.

In fall, roots can grow because the soil is still warm and the weather is cool. In this environment, plants don’t have to struggle under high temperatures, and fall temperatures mean less watering. Plants also endure fewer pests and diseases in autumn than in spring or summer. Some nurseries even offer fall clearance sales on plants.

Consider offering winter food for your area’s habitat by including hollies, sumac, beautyberry and bayberry in your fall planting. Some tree species to consider

are pawpaw, loblolly pine, eastern redbud, American hornbeam/musclewood, and willow oak.

There may still be free trees available to Anne Arundel County residents via the Groves of Gratitude program sponsored by the county’s Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA). Learn more about the program here: [www.aawsa.org/about-gog](http://www.aawsa.org/about-gog).

WSA has also provided a list of 26 climate-resistant trees classified by height (understory and canopy), so a tree can be planned according to what your planting area requires. That list is available at [www.aawsa.org/resilient-species](http://www.aawsa.org/resilient-species).



### Seeds, Stalks and Leaves

Stalks and seeds offer shelter and food, respectively, for pollinators and other valuable insects during cold months, so don’t prune them until late winter.

Mowing fallen leaves into the grass adds shredded leaf material that will decompose and apply its natural nutrients to the lawn.

Where possible, consider leaving leaves to be part of the necessary life cycle of beneficial insects.

According to the Farmers’ Almanac, based on climate data from 1991-2020, our area’s first early frost is predicted to be around November 7 this year, and it may be even later, so there is still time to get some natives in the ground.

Janet AlJunaidi is a Watershed Steward candidate with the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy.



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# Israel-Hamas War Hits Home: Communities Unite To Show Solidarity

» Continued from page 1

Helfman addressed a crowd that gathered at Temple Beth Shalom in Arnold on October 15. The gathering included music, prayers, reflection and comments from guest speakers, along with Rabbi Ari Goldstein of Temple Beth Shalom.

Goldstein called the Hamas attack different yet familiar, comparing the feeling to that of several historical crimes against Jewish people.

“Or the Kishinev pogrom in Moldova, when hundreds of people stormed into the city and massacred innocent Jews on Easter because it was believed that a Jew killed a boy to use his blood to make matzah,” Goldstein said. “... It feels like Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, in early November 1938 when Nazis and their collaborators stormed Jewish neighborhoods, destroyed everything in sight. That’s what this feels like.”

“The attacks eight days ago on Simchat Torah, a festival of joy, 50 years after the Yom Kippur War, the attacks eight days ago were barbaric, and they have shaken us to our core,” he said. “And those attacks should be denounced without any qualification.”

## From Fear To Hope

Nearly 6,000 miles from the attacks in Israel, at Temple Beth Shalom, police cars are stationed outside. More than 60% of children in the temple’s day school — which includes students of other religions — did not attend class on October 13 because a Hamas leader declared a Global Day of Jihad, asking Muslims to flood the streets and deliver a message of anger.

Helfman feels physically safe and does not want to leave Israel. Sometimes he feels OK, but his anxiety attacks have increased.

Fear has been a constant presence for people on both sides of the conflict.

An Illinois landlord accused of fatally stabbing a 6-year-old Muslim boy was charged with a hate crime.

In the hours of darkness, some communities have become more united.

Arnold resident Lisa Dickstein and her husband viewed the Temple Beth Shalom gathering via Zoom. Dickstein grew up in Miami and attended Alexander Muss High School in Israel, a study abroad program. After the Hamas attack, students packed 1,500 bags with food, toiletries, and notes for families and soldiers.

Although Dickstein believes “you can’t be at ease when you’re at war,” she is grateful for the support she has received.

“I feel like many people have reached out, Jewish and not Jewish, saying, ‘We are praying for you,’” she said.



*Sarah Meisenberg (second from left) has been delivering meals to Israeli soldiers and families who have been displaced from their homes.*

Severna Park resident Barry Meisenberg was pleased to see the “broad support” of elected officials at the gathering. He is concerned for the safety of his daughter, who lives in Israel, and all civilians.

“They did a good job of explaining that this is not just about a territorial dispute. This is about genocide,” he said of the Temple Beth Shalom event. “The low-scale events in Europe, even the shooting at the synagogue in Pittsburgh and Fort Worth — this is an attempt to remove the Jewish population, wiping them out.”

Barry’s daughter, Sarah Meisenberg, is pondering that thought in Israel. A lacrosse and basketball standout at Franklin & Marshall College, she has played in six major championships for women’s lacrosse and five for the Israeli national flag football team.

Her women’s lacrosse coach at Franklin & Marshall, Lauren Paul, nominated Meisenberg for a spot on the team.

“I found something I didn’t know I was missing,” Sarah Meisenberg said. “Growing up, we were Reform. I knew three prayers we said on Shabbat. I didn’t go to Jewish day school. Being on the team, I found a group of people I really connected with.”

She finished nursing school in May 2015, spent five months in Israel, got a job at a hospital in the U.S. and then decided to move to Israel.

“We all use sports to get to know one another a little bit better and reidentify with our Jewish history we hadn’t explored,” she said, explaining that the athletes attempted to learn Hebrew together, coached lacrosse to Israeli children, and

enjoyed cooking and celebrating Shabbat dinners together.

For a year, she has lived in Tel Aviv, which is roughly 44 miles from Gaza. Before that, she spent four years in Ashkelon, which is eight miles north of the Gaza Strip border.

While living in Ashkelon, she witnessed several attacks. Her brother was visiting in 2019 when rockets woke him the morning after the siblings had Shabbat dinner.

The October 7 attack was on another level.

“It has never been this long,” she said. “This is the first time I have seen a very organized, purposeful attack.”

Now, people are scared, but they are also united.

“It feels like the entire county is fighting,” Sarah Meisenberg said. “Those who aren’t are mobilizing [to the army], we’re cooking for soldiers and families.”

She has been cooking for her friend’s company, Citrus & Salt, which transformed its cooking class studio into a wartime meal operation named Citizen’s Kitchen. In need of a larger space, Citrus & Salt partnered with Hamashbir Bar in Tel Aviv. As of October 25, they have delivered more than 5,000 meals to soldiers across the country and families who have been displaced from their homes.

“We might have 10 people cutting chicken, 10 cutting vegetables and others writing messages on lids,” Meisenberg said. “We have drivers all over the country.”

While this is happening, some of Meisenberg’s work is on hold. She works for the Israel ParaSport Center, a campus

for the physically disabled, “whether they are disabled from birth, an accident or terrorism,” she said.

The center is now closed, hosting some activities by Zoom. Currently, she is writing material for fundraising documents and to “show what’s going on here.”

“I understand how the Holocaust happened now because of the propaganda that was made toward Jews,” Sarah Meisenberg said. “I think something similar is happening now. You can care about the rights of Palestinians and still condemn the acts of Hamas.”

## An Escalating Conflict

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government continue to fight Hamas, with innocent Palestinians caught in the crossfire, the United Nations has asked for a ceasefire.

During a Council on American Islamic Relations meeting in October, Zainab Chaudry, a Maryland director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, emphasized that both sides are suffering. She denounced the Hamas attacks and asked people not to forget about the long-time oppression of Palestinians.

“Innocent life everywhere always deserves to be protected,” Chaudry said. “We mourn for those who have been unjustly killed and who are suffering. The violence of the past weekend did not occur in a vacuum.”

Helfman believes the decades-long conflict cannot be summarized by good vs. evil.

“To view this situation through such a western view, it doesn’t work without educating yourself and learning the history and denouncing antisemitism and Islamophobia,” Helfman said. “There’s multiple truths at play here and there are two sides here and such immense pain ... that it’s hard to see the other side and vice versa.”

Goldstein and the Meisenbergs believe Israel has a right to defend itself and rescue its hostages.

Not all Palestinians support Hamas.

As death tolls rise, there is also a glimmer of humanity in the way people are supporting one another.

As Helfman said, the war does not affect only civilians in Israel.

“I think this is not Israel and Hamas’ war anymore,” Helfman said. “We are some chess pieces and this is between the states and Iran and China and Russia and France and this is the gameboard that these players are using now. I really do think this is a war that is just not two players anymore. This affects everybody.”

## The Israel-Palestinian Conflict: How We Got Here

In 1947, the United Nations designated Israel land for a Jewish state and land for an Arab state. The Arab people declined.

According to the Middle East Policy Council, “What they said no to was the idea that the Jews’ humanitarian plight granted them special political and national rights in Palestine, and that those Jewish rights should trump Arab rights.”

The state was recognized by the United States and admitted to the United Nations. Israel was then attacked by neigh-

boring Arab countries, a war won by Israel. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in what would become Israel fled or were forcibly expelled and settled in refugee camps in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Since then, a two-state solution has been offered several times, but peace talks have stalled.

With an area of about 140 square miles, the Gaza Strip is home to 2.2 million people at the border of Israel and Egypt. Palestinians aspire to create a future state

from Gaza, along with the West Bank and east Jerusalem — all areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war.

Israel withdrew its troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005. Hamas won legislative elections held in the West Bank and Gaza in 2006, and seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority in 2007.

Since Hamas took control, Israel and Egypt have severely restricted the flow of goods into the territory and the movement of people in and out, in what Israel says is a security measure.

The U.S. State Department designated Hamas a terrorist group in 1997.

Hamas has carried out suicide bombings and over the years fired thousands of rockets from Gaza into Israel. It also established tunnels running from Gaza to Egypt to smuggle in weapons.

Saudi Arabia was making relations with Israel, causing Hamas to lose influence in the region. With no economic opportunities and no education, political scientist Ian Bremmer said, the more desperate Palestinians get.

# POLITICS & OPINION

## To Abstain Or Not Abstain — It Is Rarely The Question

**Amanda Fiedler**  
Councilwoman  
District 5



Voting on legislation is fairly cut and dry. In most votes on the Anne Arundel County Council, votes are either aye (yes) or nay (no). The third voting option is an abstention. I have cast a vote of abstention in specific circumstances, and I will tell you why.

A council member can abstain and decline to vote either for or against a motion, amendment or bill. The council does a significant amount of work on legislation through work sessions and discussions with stakeholders. Although rare, abstentions have been used during the final vote of a bill or resolution. In rarer cases, abstentions take place during the amendment process or during a motion.

There is one scenario that I have and will likely continue to abstain from. Resolutions calling on Congress to take action. Why? Because I believe in the three levels of government, and the enormous level of responsibility that comes with the discussions, deliberations and decisions that each legislative branch, at the local, state and federal level, is tasked with.

While there have been others before,

Resolution 43-23 is the most recent example of an area from which I have consistently abstained. This resolution supported House of Representatives 3421 — Medicare for All Act, a 131-page bill before Congress. It was discussed and voted on by the county council at the October 2 council meeting. The resolution called for “supporting Medicare for All and urging federal and state legislators representing Anne Arundel County to work toward enactment of Medicare for All.”

For background, HR 3421, like all congressional bills, follows a different process than the Anne Arundel County Council. A bill in Congress must first be heard by the assigned committee, with testimony invited by the chair of the congressional committee. There is no opportunity for open public comment during the hearing. Bills must first make it out of committee, then pass favorably in both houses before moving to the president for signing. Bills are often grouped as a “package.”

The county council operates differently. There is no committee deliberation. There is no vote in the House and/or Senate. The largest bill we have considered was under 30 pages in length. There is ample time for online, in person or written testimony from the public for all county council bills.

At the time of the hearing and vote on Resolution 43-23, the hearing date for the congressional committee to discuss

HR 3421 had not been determined. Given these details, I could have halted my consideration of the resolution at this point, but I decided to dig a little further. I want to give every bill and resolution the same consideration, which means full review. In reviewing the bill before Congress, I had 25 questions prepared by page 30 of the bill. My review took three days.

During our October 2 council meeting where we discussed Resolution 43-23, only one of the eight questions I was able to ask was answered. No one had a deep understanding of the language and details of a bill we were asking Congress to pass in the resolution before us. I do not fault any of my colleagues. How should members of the county council answer questions on bills we have not drafted, heard, or discussed with one another, stakeholders or our constituents? This is the basis for my abstentions on resolutions calling on Congress for a specific legislative action, of which we have no part of.

The time I could have devoted to a deeper dive on congressional HR 3421 was best spent on the commitments I made to our district — reviewing and discussing legislation before the county council. Bill 78-23 is one such bill.

Bill 78-23 would establish a moderately priced dwelling unit (MPDU) program as the required way of developing new communities in the county and was introduced at the request of the county executive. The goal is to increase the number of affordable housing units for the county workforce, but I question if it would have the opposite impact. The bill  
» Continued on page 13

## So Many Educators To Be Thankful For

**Dana Schallheim**  
Board of Education  
District 5



Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) is truly an incredible school district. While we are still on the path of moving from good to great, there is much to celebrate this year. Not only

have our transportation woes dissipated for the most part and our #BePresent campaign is underway, but we're also making progress on the new strategic plan, which will be a gamechanger for our students.

Most notably, our amazing educators and administrators have reached new heights this year, sweeping a myriad of national recognitions highlighted below. As AACPS Superintendent Mark Bedell stated during the October 18 meeting of the Board of Education, it is rare for a school system to be home to so many national recognitions simultaneously.

Bedell is the recipient of the National Alliance of Black School Educators 2023 Joseph E. Hill Superintendent of the Year Award. The award is presented annually to a sitting superintendent who has demonstrated a quality of leadership that resulted in significant positive outcomes for students of African descent. During his first school year with AACPS, Bedell led initiatives that resulted in increases in scores in seven of eight Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program tests and improved the educational environment and achievement of Black and multiracial students in many categories. The improved scores in the 2022-2023 school year as compared to the 2021-2022 school year include the following: referral and suspension rates decreased; kindergarten readiness assessment scores increased; Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program English language arts, math, high school biology and fifth-grade science scores increased; scores of 3 or higher on AP tests increased; PEAT participation increased; end-of-year kindergarten DIBELS scores, which measure early literacy skills, increased.

On October 13, Mary Kay Connerton, educator at Annapolis High School, was named Maryland State Teacher of the Year and finalist for National Teacher of the Year at the Maryland Teacher of the Year gala in Baltimore. Connerton, who has taught in AACPS for nearly 14 years and at Annapolis High School for the last nine years, serves as Annapolis High School's wellness coordinator and is known as an advocate for student and staff well-being. Amongst her  
» Continued on page 13

## Month Of The Military Family: Legislative Initiatives For Veterans And Their Families

**Dawn Gile**  
Senator  
District 33



As Veterans Day approaches, it's a time for our nation to come together and honor the men and women who have selflessly served in the United States armed forces. We should recognize their sacrifices, dedication and bravery.

November is also National Veterans and Military Families Month, a time to reflect on how we can better support the families who serve on the home front. As a state senator, military family advocate, spouse of a retired Army soldier and the mom of military kids, I've sponsored and supported legislation to provide essential assistance to our veterans and military families. My district is close to Fort Meade, the Naval Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay, as well as other military installations, so I'm privileged to represent many veterans and military families. However, my commitment to these initiatives transcends mere policy; it is a deeply personal dedication to those

who have served our nation and to their loved ones who stand steadfastly by their side and a reflection of my family's own experiences.

One of the key bills I sponsored and passed last session provides more funding for the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, which helps veterans and widows/widowers with non-emergency, temporary financial challenges. This increased funding for the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund ensures that our veterans and their surviving spouses receive the crucial support they deserve during difficult times.

Another bill that I was proud to sponsor expanded child care options for military families and created more job opportunities for military spouses. This legislation not only provides more accessible child care solutions for military service members but also strengthens the economic stability of military families by promoting career growth for spouses, ultimately enhancing the well-being of our military community.

In the upcoming legislative session, I'm dedicated to sponsoring new bills aimed at enhancing support for veterans and their families. I've collaborated with Maryland's Veterans Affairs secretary, Anthony Woods, to develop these initia-

tives. One important change is renaming the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families to better represent its mission. With this name change, we aim to foster a more comprehensive approach to supporting our veterans and military families who have contributed to our nation's defense.

I am also in the process of crafting a bill to address the pressing issue of veteran suicides. This issue is a critical concern, with statistics revealing that the suicide rate among veterans is significantly higher than the general population, as evident in the data showing that an estimated 17 veterans die by suicide each day in the United States. This alarming reality underscores the imperative for targeted mental health initiatives and support programs specifically designed to address the pressing issue of veteran suicide. The legislation I intend to advance will prioritize the need for local mental health commissions to specifically consider the unique challenges faced by veterans, with the overarching goal of reducing suicide rates within this community.

Additionally, many veterans, service members and military spouses have  
» Continued on page 13

## Month Of The Military Family

» Continued from page 12

reported discrimination in employment and housing. Military spouses struggle to find employment, as some employers are reluctant to hire them due to their transient nature. Service members also face difficulties in renting homes due to concerns about abrupt departures. Therefore, I am sponsoring a bill to address these issues and reinforce the legal framework to protect military members and their families from housing and employment discrimination.

I'm also focused on tackling challenges for military spouses in professions that require a license. Many military spouses encounter obstacles when they move, needing to secure new licenses. I'm working on legislation to ease these licensing barriers to ultimately provide more career opportunities for military spouses in Maryland while also filling critical employment vacancies.

As a state senator and military spouse, I'm deeply honored to sponsor legislation that reflects our commitment to honoring the service of veterans and military families. As we commemorate Veterans Day and National Veterans and Military Families Month, let's not just pay tribute to our heroes but actively work to support them. The bills I've sponsored are part of a broader effort to ensure that veterans and military families get the recognition, assistance and support they need. Together, as a grateful nation, we can show our appreciation for those who have served and continue to serve our country.

» Continued from page 12

would make necessary additional staff to run and manage the housing program.

Bill 78-23 would require all community developments of 20 homes or more to set aside a portion of MPDUs in the development that would be offered as rental units or ownership units at 75% of the median income adjusted for household size of the Baltimore metropolitan statistical area (BMSA); and that the income does not exceed 100% of the median income adjusted for household size for the BMSA.

The bill would allow for exemptions in certain circumstances, like size of the proposed community and opportunities to pay the county in lieu of offering MPDUs. While an owner or renter can breach the income threshold and remain in their

## To Abstain Or Not Abstain

unit, the community manager must make another unit available to an applicant who meets the income threshold, or else the community is out of compliance with the program. These communities can be single family, townhome, or multifamily developments. Unit owners cannot resell their unit for a price above the restrictions of the MPDU program.

This is a high-level review of an impactful bill — one that I still have a lot of questions about. There are other jurisdictions in Maryland that have MPDU programs. Most of them have not yielded the affordable units intended, if any at all, and some have resulted in the increased price of housing in the area.

We are in a housing crisis. This is not just an Anne Arundel County issue, but

a national issue. I recently attended the grand opening of a senior living facility in Severna Park. When I asked about the demographics of residents moving in, the answer was "Severna Park and Pasadena residents." I heard from another resident in Severna Park that they are on multiple waitlists for available housing for their aging mother who wants to stay close to family in Severna Park.

Every generation is struggling with the housing dilemma. The housing market, in general, is not moving. That is a problem for everyone.

Is Bill 78-23 the answer? I am not so sure.

Please share your thoughts with me on these and other matters at [amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org](mailto:amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org).

## So Many Educators To Be Thankful For

» Continued from page 12

accomplishments, Connerton created and leads the school's trauma-informed leadership team and utilizes a holistic approach to connect with teachers, administration, school counselors, social workers and community partners.

Kimberly Winterbottom is the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals 2024 Principal of the Year and is one of three finalists for National Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Winterbottom began her AACPS career in 2009 as an assistant principal at Southern Middle School and subsequently led the school as principal

for two years. She is in her ninth year as principal at Marley Middle School.

Rodney Walker, principal at Brooklyn Park Elementary School, is the 2023 Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) National Distinguished Principal. The award, given in collaboration with the National Association of Elementary School Principals, recognizes principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for students, families and staffs in their learning communities.

Melissa Quigley is the 2023 National Health Educator of the Year by Shape America. The award recognizes out-

standing teachers who demonstrate exceptional teaching skills and provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Quigley has been teaching for 22 years. She has spent her entire teaching career at Broadneck High School and has taught various courses in health, physical education and dance.

Congratulations to these fabulous educators and school administrators. I am thankful for you and all of our teachers and staff.

As always, I can be reached at [dshallheim@aacps.org](mailto:dshallheim@aacps.org) or by phone at 443-534-2660.

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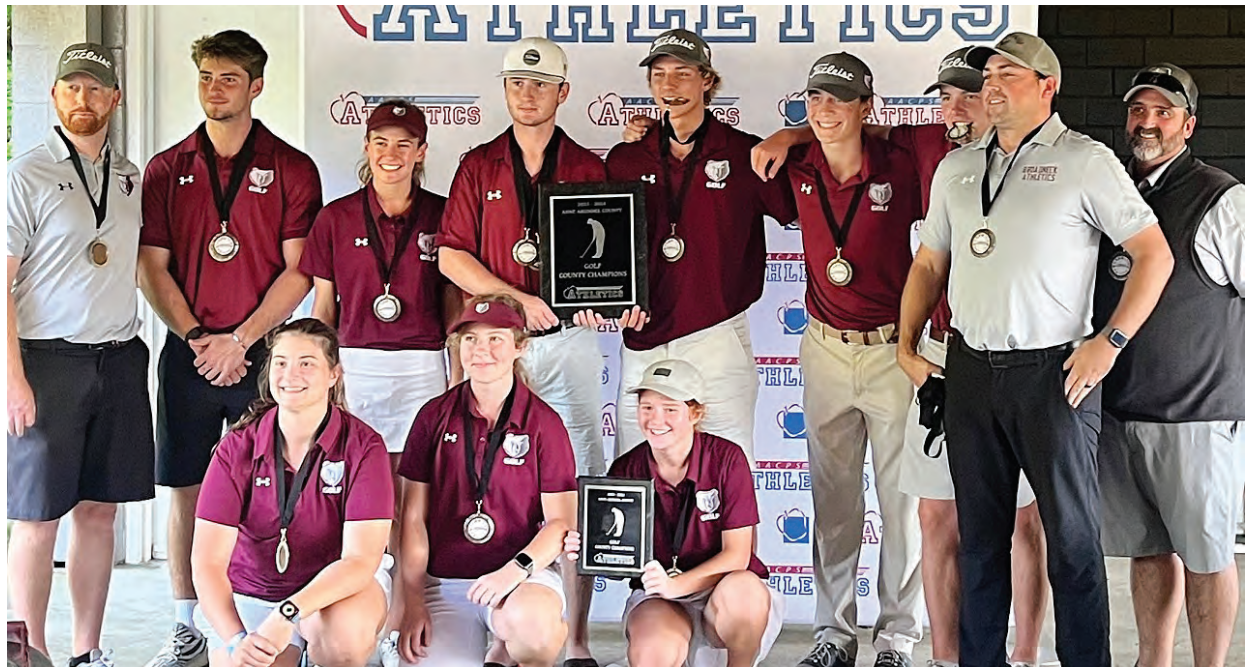
## Broadneck, Severna Park Conclude Successful Golf Seasons

**Below:** Broadneck's Ben Coe (left) tied for third at the District V championships with 76 strokes, while James Smack (right) finished tied for ninth with 78. **Right:** Bruins golfers posed with their medals after winning the Anne Arundel County golf championship.



**By Mauricio Palmar**  
Student Intern

In his fourth season as Broadneck golf coach, **Devin Gardner** led the Bruins to a 30-4 record, good enough to win the Anne Arundel County A Division regular season title this fall. But during the Anne Arundel County golf championships on



October 2 at the Eisenhower Golf Course in Crownsville, all he could do was wait. His team was locked in a tight contest with Crofton.

It wasn't an unfamiliar position for the Cardinals from Crofton, who had won the county championship the last two seasons, edging out Severna Park by a single stroke in 2021 and defeating Broadneck by five strokes in 2022. Led by junior **Owen Newberry**, Crofton had been going shot for shot with

the Bruins all morning, desperately trying to extend their two-year reign as county champions. Newberry would ultimately take home the boys individual championship, finishing with 72 strokes on the day.

In the end, after a remarkable team performance, and a girls individual county championship courtesy of **Summer Stroop**, Gardner's Broadneck squad took home the gold. Broadneck finished with 319

» **Continued on page 26**

## Bruins Best Cardinals For Field Hockey County Championship



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Mcgrail Imber

**Broadneck won the county championship against Crofton, 3-2, on October 21.**

Before Broadneck field hockey began its title defense, the girls won the county championship 3-2 over Crofton on October 21 at Annapolis High School. **Cayman Holmes** put the Bruins on the board in the second half with an assist by **Katelyn Kearns**. Crofton's **Mary Cate Parks** responded with the equalizer assisted by **Olivia McFeeley** to enter the fourth quarter tied at 1-1. Kearns then converted a penalty stroke and **Mady Quigley** added a third goal on a penalty corner

pick-up to increase Broadneck's lead.

**Mia Moody** made nine saves for the Bruins. **Zoe Bjelac** made two defensive saves for the Bruins and helped to lead a composed defensive effort along with Quigley, **Chloe Page**, **Grace Figueroa**, **Clare Imber**, **Anna Balcer** and **Gabby King**.

Broadneck opened the playoffs with an 8-0 shutout of Annapolis. The Bruins were scheduled to play at Leonardtown on October 31, after the Severna Park Voice went to print.

## SPHS Girls Win First Soccer County Title Since 2018

**By David Bashore**

For a soccer program like those at Severna Park, five years without a county championship feels like a long time.

The wait on October 21 as the Falcons saw off South River 3-0 to win their first girls soccer county championship since 2018.

Goals from **Ava Scott**, **Emma Lawrence** and **Kasey Thompson** in a 21-minute stretch gave Severna Park more than enough lead to work with as a consistently staunch defensive rearguard preserved the team's 10th clean sheet in 12 games played.

"Our back line just really works well together, and we know what each other is going to do," said senior defender **Ryn Feemster**. "We stay compact, we move up together. The chemistry on our team is just phenomenal."

With the stingy defense in support, the Falcons worked methodically to pick South River open, finally breaking the deadlock with Scott's goal just past the midway point of the first half. After pinballing around just inside the penalty area, the ball fell to Scott and she rolled it into the far corner of the goal, just past the diving Seahawks goalkeeper.

"That helped alleviate some of the pressure, which helps us play our game and not stress out about being in a tied game," said Scott, a soph-



Photo by David Bashore

**During the Falcons' 3-0 victory over South River in the the county championship, Severna Park players celebrated Kasey Thompson's goal.**

omore midfielder. "We have a lot of seniors at their last (county championship), so it was important to us to win it for them."

Severna Park's experienced defensive back line did the rest, denying South River any genuine scoring opportunities while the Falcon attack kept testing for weaknesses in the

» **Continued on page 18**



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# Broadneck Boys Soccer Rallies Past Bowie In Region Semifinal

By Tom Worgo

As inspirational talks go, this one doesn't rate as a classic. But it was effective nonetheless.

With his team trailing visiting and defending Class 3A state champion Bowie 1-0 at halftime, Broadneck boys soccer coach **Sean Tetterer** offered some simple, yet pointed, instructions to his players.

Score some goals.

"I told them, 'I thought we were playing well. Let's keep it up,'" Tetterer said. "In the second half, we changed our formation and added an attacking player. We took our center back and put him at forward. We went with four midfielders."

It resulted in more offensive chances and the Bruins (11-4) dominating play.

More importantly, Broadneck rallied for a 2-1 victory over the Bulldogs (9-3-1) in a Class 4A region semifinal by getting goals from seniors **Patrick Robillard** and **Ethan Colon** in the last five minutes.

Broadneck moves on to play Leonardtown of St. Mary's County in the regional championship game.

"We knew it was win or go home," Robillard said. "We had to leave it all on the field and that's what we did. We worked as hard as we could to get the goals."

Robillard scored the game-winner in the final minute. Sophomore **TJ Remson** started the sequence with a corner kick into the box and the ball deflected off of Colon and to Robillard.

Robillard, a forward, then headed to the lower last corner past goalie **Carlos**



**Monzon**, who finished with six saves.

"It meant the world to me, scoring that goal, because all I wanted was for my team to succeed," Robillard said. "There was no better feeling to rally as a team and finish them."

Broadneck — which also beat Bowie, 2-1, in double-overtime in September — came out in the second half with intensity after a lackluster first half.

"It's a much-deserved win for them," Bowie coach **Frantz Deetjen** said.

"Broadneck really played great in the second half to come back. They threw numbers of players forward at key loca-

tions and made sure the ball got there. That's what gave them prime scoring opportunities."

Broadneck pressured Bowie right away in the second half. The Bruins had five shots in the first 10 minutes.

Monzon, a junior, did his best to keep his team's lead. He saved Robillard's shot to the left corner with 33:12 remaining, and 32 seconds later, Monzon stopped **Wilson Banwell's** point-blank shot.

The Bruins continued to pressure Bowie in the second half with a couple of shots, corner kicks and throw-ins.

The first half was a different story as



Photos courtesy of Dennis McGinley

**Left: Ethan Colon (23)** was active on defense, and he also scored a goal.

**Above: Matt Tetterer** made a save during the Bruins' 2-1 win over Bowie.

the Bulldogs had the better part of the play.

Bowie went ahead 1-0 with 12:20 left when **Jan Hernandez** booted a ball to the right corner of the goal past Bruin senior keeper **Matt Tetterer**.

Broadneck's defense of **Luke Schroll**, **Brady Miller**, **Sam Petz**, Colon and **Axel Cartagena-Quillen** did their part to help keep Bowie off the scoreboard the rest of the way.

"Once we were able to shake the nerves, I guess you call it," Tetterer said, "we were able to play much better in the second half."

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# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



## ELENI PUZAS

Severna Park Girls Soccer  
By David Bashore

Severna Park senior forward **Eleni Puzas** isn't a one-person show. Nor does she want to be, nor does anyone expect her to be.

Instead, Puzas thrives in collaboration, utilizing her skills where they're helpful and including others to accentuate their strengths as well. That applies both on and off the soccer field.

On the pitch, Puzas has embraced her role as a target forward — a striker who is the object of long passes and plays with her back to the goal, her role one of possessor and distributor more than scorer of a glut of goals.

"The coaches have put me in a position to exploit the things that I do well on the field," Puzas said. "I just want to contribute any way I can, whether cheering on the sidelines or communicating on the field. I just try my best because that's the only thing you can control."

That has led to a handful of goals and even more assists for the Falcons, who cruised to an undefeated regular season.

"She works really hard in practice and the game, and you see it in the way she plays," said Severna Park coach **Rick Stimpson**. "She thinks her way through the game as well; she's not someone who just runs around on the field."

Off the field, Puzas is a respected student with a 4.4 GPA, an ambassador in student government, and a volunteer with multiple organizations, including the Maryland Food Bank.

"We value both character and ability in this team, and thankfully she has an abundance of both," Stimpson said.

It's a lot of work, especially in season, but for someone who prides herself on her compartmentalization skills, the chaos almost makes her

"I don't think school is an individual thing. Going at it from a collaborative standpoint, always looking to help others, and not hesitating to ask for help yourself is really important. I try to look at everything as a team job. When there's more minds at it, it's easier."

— ELENI PUZAS

thrive even more.

Puzas' collaborative mindset has also helped, to be sure. She doesn't view this period of life as something to be experienced in isolation, which she attributes to a life in sports. That attitude is one she hopes to carry forward into college, as she plans to play club soccer and study biomedical engineering.

"I don't think school is an individual thing," she said. "Going at it from a collaborative standpoint, always looking to help others, and not hesitating to ask for help yourself is really important. I try to look at everything as a team job. When there's more minds at it, it's easier."



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# SPHS Girls Win First Soccer County Title Since 2018



Photo by Naptown Studios  
*The Falcons gathered as a team after beating South River 3-0 to win the girls soccer county championship.*

» Continued from page 14  
Seahawks defense. They struck two minutes within either side of half-time for the final margin.  
After Thompson's goal put Severna

Park up 3-0, the game settled into more of a scrimmage feel, with both teams emptying their benches and getting the full squad plenty of playing time.

The three goals put Severna Park's tally at 48 through 12 games, all wins. The Falcons have conceded just twice.  
"They do a great job. We work

hard on finding each other around the box, and nobody's greedy," said Severna Park coach **Rick Stimpson**. "It's the team atmosphere we've built where they work hard for each other and when they get a chance, they're sharp in front of goal."

Next up in the postseason, Severna Park had a first-round bye and then defeated South River 2-1 in a rematch during the region semifinals on October 28. Following that win, the Falcons played James M. Bennett High School on October 31, after the Severna Park Voice went to print, for a chance to advance to the state quarterfinals.

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# Wins Over Annapolis, Leonardtown Propel Bruin Girls To Soccer Region Finals



Photos by David Bashore

**Left:** Grace Gartrell (6) and Mia Orso celebrated Orso's free kick goal that opened the scoring against Annapolis on October 25. **Right:** Olivia Orso dribbled down the touchline past an Admiral defender.

By David Bashore

If not for the last five minutes of Broadneck's 2-1 girls soccer victory over Annapolis on October 25, one might have thought it was a fully controlled, composed victory for the Bruins.

For 75 minutes, they were indeed comfortable. But it took a last-minute save from **Kyleigh Bland** and some resilient defending for Broadneck to finally see off the Panthers and advance to the 4A East Region II semifinal match-

up at Leonardtown on October 27.

"I think we've been in these types of situations before, so we know what to do and are able to stay calm about it," said Broadneck senior **Olivia Orso**, who scored what proved to be the game-winning goal just before halftime. "We have to give props to Annapolis, though; they gave it a great fight (until the end)."

Orso scored the second of Broadneck's goals on a breakaway, while **Mia Orso** netted the opener on a 30-yard

free kick that snuck just under the crossbar.

From there, Broadneck carried possession but didn't create many clearcut opportunities. Similarly, long shot after long shot flew well wide from Annapolis, until five minutes were left in the game, when **Ellie Portillo** fired a snapshot from the top of the penalty area that caught the entire defense by surprise and nestled just inside Bland's far post.

From there, the Panthers pressed for the equalizer, and Portillo had a chance

to square the match shortly thereafter. But Bland got to the ball first, the two players tangled in the aftermath, and Broadneck's lead was finally secure.

"I saw it was the same girl who had just scored on me, and I knew she had a chance to score again, so it was now or never," Bland said of smothering the ball before Portillo could get a shot off. "We were a little shocked (by the sudden turn of events), but we were able to stay focused and hold on."

The Bruins had one chance to ice the match, but Olivia Orso was denied a second goal on another breakaway just before the final whistle.

Broadneck once again faced Leonardtown in the region tournament, but the Bruins were in somewhat unfamiliar territory in last Friday's showdown: on the road, as the underdog. But the Bruins relied on building momentum from the game against Annapolis and took that against Leonardtown, which had a bye.

That outlook came true as the Bruins advanced past the semifinal round with a 1-0 win over Leonardtown. **Maddie Capps** scored the game's only goal.

Bruins coach **John Camm** was proud of his team's effort in both games.

"If we play the way we can, anything's possible," he said.

**Editor's note:** The Bruins played North Point in the region finals on October 31 after the Severna Park Voice went to print. Follow the Voice online for updates on the playoff results.

# Campbell Stunner Fires Falcons To County Championship

Season Ends After Rematch With South River

By David Bashore

Down a man in overtime and battling to keep a dominant South River squad off the score sheet, Severna Park held on for dear life in search of one — just one — chance at the other end.

Early in the second extra period, the Falcons got that chance, and with it came the most golden of goals and the most raucous of celebrations.

After the Falcons won a free kick on a rare foray forward, senior winger **Andrew Campbell** tucked a 25-yard curling shot just inside the junction of the crossbar and right post, ending the game in the 93rd minute of play and handing Severna Park a 3-2 win to claim the county boys soccer championship on October 21.

As the ball nestled into the top-right corner of the goal, Campbell ripped his jersey off and twirled it in the air, sprinting to the Severna Park fans along with the rest of his teammates.

"My last county championship, it really feels so important," Campbell said. "We knew it was going to be tough, and we were trying to get that chance because we knew that, down a man, you have to finish the chances you get. You have to have confidence in that situation, and I was able to hit it just the way I wanted to."

Until that point, not a lot went the way Severna Park wanted to. South River frustrated the Falcons, and the Seahawks actually took the lead on a well-worked



Photo by Naptown Studios

Severna Park celebrated after securing a 3-2 win over South River to claim the county boys soccer championship. Later, in the state regional playoffs, the Falcons season ended with a 1-0 loss to the Seahawks.

goal from **Hunter Marsden**. Even when the Falcons took the lead back, they still looked vulnerable. **Nolan Grizzle** intervened to deny a goal after South River forward **Sean Ciminelli** rounded Severna Park goalkeeper **Matt Schisler** late in the first half.

Things got more precarious when Grizzle was shown a red card for a bad challenge early in the second half, forcing Severna Park to defend the last 35 minutes of regulation with one fewer player. Initially the defense was stellar, denying South River anything but long-range shot attempts that were either wide or easily saved. But midway through the second half one of those shots hit a stray defending arm, resulting in a penalty kick that put the game back on level terms.

From there, it was largely one-way

traffic with Severna Park keeping the score level with a combination of solid defending, stellar goalkeeping from Schisler, and a healthy dose of good fortune.

"Those kinds of games are so wild, and you know it's going to happen to you eventually (as a goalkeeper)," said Schisler, who had 15 saves in net. "Once we got to the end of the second half, we just kept encouraging, that we had to give it everything. Yelling at the defense (over breakdowns) isn't going to do anything in that situation; we all just had to stay positive and keep locked in."

Despite having to absorb significant pressure for long stretches of the game, it was Severna Park that was locked in in the decisive moments.

South River failed to capitalize on five

point-blank opportunities — one saved and four fired wide — any one of which would have ended the game prior to Campbell's golden goal.

All three of the Falcons' goals came from set pieces. **Nate Parkison** scored on a goalmouth scramble from a corner kick to level the match two minutes after South River had opened the scoring. Campbell struck shortly thereafter by being first to a long free kick that landed in the South River penalty area, then punctuated it with his free-kick screamer in extra time.

The jubilation did not last long. After securing a first-round bye, Severna Park opened postseason play against South River on October 28. The Seahawks got the best of the Falcons this time, winning 1-0.



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# JV Falcons Win Girls Soccer County Title



Photo courtesy of Karen Zaniker  
*The Severna Park girls celebrated their county championship on October 21.*

Severna Park's JV girls soccer team celebrated a county championship win over Crofton at Annapolis High School on October 21. The Cardinals led 1-0 with seven minutes remaining in regulation when **Victoria Gargano** placed an upper-right corner

shot from 20 yards out to equalize. Two 10-minute overtime periods ensued without a goal scored. With the game going to best-of-five penalty kicks, Severna Park goalkeeper **Quynlyn Bary** saved three shots while Crofton stopped two, giving the Falcons the win.

The Falcons finished with a 13-1-2 record, scoring 66 goals and conceding only eight. Offensively, **Ella Baxter** led the Falcons with 17 goals and 14 assists. **Mackenzey Luoto** had 15 goals and three assists, **Gargano** added 11 goals and 10 assists, **Taylor Edwards** scored 11 goals with eight assists, and **Harper Wallace** had eight goals and three assists. Keepers were Bary, **Andrea Rom** and **Jaiden Zaniker**.

Season highlights included a 1-0 loss to Archbishop Spalding, and comebacks to tie Broadneck and Chesapeake.

"The team rallied to score twice in the second half of both games to end both games in a tie, 2-2," said Severna Park JV girls soccer head coach **James Joyner**.

"These games were back to back, so it's sort of crazy it happened."

Coach Joyner led the team along with assistants **Kendall Kosman** and **Patrick Joyner**. Sophomores **Luoto** and **Lizzy Thompson** served as team captains.

## Severna Park Teams Square Off In Columbus Day Classic

The Severna Park boys 2012 green and white teams advanced to the final round of the River Soccer Club Columbus Day Classic in Delaware in October. The green team took first place, beating the white team 5-1.



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## Severna Park Girls Win Arundel Cup



A Severna Park Green Hornets girls U10 select team won the Arundel Cup, a county soccer tournament, at Davidsonville Park Field in early October. With a 1-0 win over the ASA Blues in the championship, the girls sealed the tournament victory. The wins came in the team's first tournament as a team after playing only one previous game together. Players included (l-r, back row) Claire Kinslow, Audry Wijetunga, Vera Bailey, Jillian Jones, Kailynn Weibe, Mackenzie Morris, Hadley Fava, Allie Balish, Mona Evans and (l-r, front row) Robin Mosquera, Morgan Miller (center) and Isabella Tribble. Stella Lewis is not pictured.

## Broadneck Goalie Is A Big Part Of Her Team's Success

By Tom Worgo

**K**yleigh Bland needed a lot of patience during her first two years as a member of the Broadneck girls soccer team.

Bland, a goalie, played behind a senior as both a freshman and sophomore, but she clearly had the skills to be a starter.

And Bland probably would have been a starter for some teams around the county as a freshman. For Broadneck, she appeared in a few games that year. In 2021, Broadneck coach **John Camm** gave her more playing time.

"My sophomore year, we scored a lot of goals," Bland said. "And I played for most of the second halves."

Finally, in her junior year, she became a starter. Bland quickly proved her mettle and had a stellar season.

Bland finished with a whopping 12 shutouts for a 14-1-4 team while earning Baltimore Sun first-team All-Metro honors and second-team All-State by the Maryland Association of Coaches of Soccer.

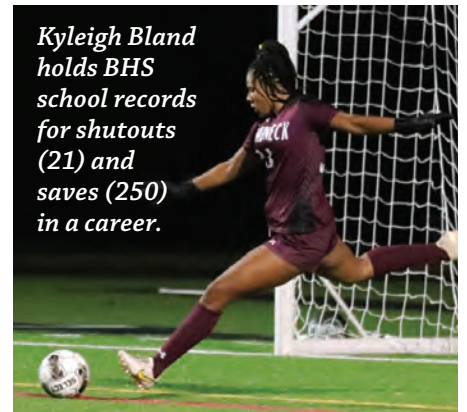
Her top performance came in a 0-0 tie with Notre Dame Prep of the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland A Conference. She recorded 17 saves.

Bland holds the school record for shutouts (21) and saves (250) in a career.

"She is the best goalie we have had," Camm said. "We had a really tough schedule last year, and she played well in every one of those games. She is unflappable and makes great saves at big moments."

Bland looks forward to playing soccer in college. She has been recruited by several schools, including Longwood University and Bridgewater College of Virginia, and Howard University in Washington, D.C. Bland carries a 3.88 grade-point average, and she could end up with a soccer scholarship.

"I am still deciding where I want to go," Bland said. "Location is a big thing for



**Kyleigh Bland** holds BHS school records for shutouts (21) and saves (250) in a career.

me. I am not trying to go too far away — like three to five hours."

Bland said a big part of her development came from playing for the Crofton-based Maryland United Football Club the past three years. Her ability to analyze the game, her technique and her soccer IQ are among the things she improved.

"She has gotten excellent training from that group," Camm said. "She made a big jump once she joined Maryland United. She has learned to study the game, read the game and watch film."

Bland, now a senior, possesses all the skills that coaches covet: size (5-foot-9), instincts, outstanding hands and excellent communication skills.

Bland has helped Broadneck to another excellent season, registering nine shutouts for the 9-2-1 Bruins, who want to make a deep postseason run.

"Regardless of who we are playing, we feel we have a good chance of winning," Broadneck assistant girls soccer coach **Mike Malone** said. "She just makes the team more confident in front of her, which is the biggest thing."

Bland understands more individual honors will be coming after this season.

"I think it shows my dedication and that I have put in a lot of work," Bland said of the recognition she has received.



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# Bruins Volleyball Shows Grit In County Championship Loss To Arundel

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Broadneck's volleyball squad looked to avenge their only loss of the season when they played the Arundel Wildcats in the county championship at Annapolis High School on October 21. Instead of getting even, the Bruins met a similar fate during the rematch.

Arundel won in straight sets, 25-21, 25-19, 25-21.

"Tonight, they didn't make a lot of mistakes," Broadneck coach **Tracey Regalbuto** said, reflecting on Arundel's win. "I can't remember them missing many serves, maybe one or two, and even hitting, they did not make a lot of errors. When you don't mess up, you tend to win."

Arundel made few mistakes in the teams' September 26 game, which resulted in a 3-2 Arundel win. They made even fewer errors in the county championship.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 4-1 start in the first set before Broadneck rallied. The teams battled to a tie five times before Arundel pulled away with four straight points, compiling a 20-16 lead and eventually taking the set 25-21.

Broadneck reversed that start in the second set, going ahead 7-4.

"When you play a good team, it makes your energy better," said outside hitter and opposite hitter **Kennedy Smith**, a sophomore. "Even when you're down by a couple points ... when the competition is more aggressive and faster, it makes you faster, so it's fun playing those teams."

Arundel slowed Broadneck's surge, tying the second set at 12. The Wildcats then took a 15-14 lead and built on that advantage to win the second set 25-19.

With momentum on their side, Arundel opened the third set up 6-1 and led by nine at one point, but the resilient

Bruins continued scrapping, pulling within three at 23-20 before Arundel closed out their victory by winning the third set 25-21.

Despite the loss, Broadneck players felt like they matched their opponents' intensity.

"Since the last time we played Arundel and knowing in past seasons that it's always going to be a fight, it's just an instinct to not give up," said outside hitter **Brin Chesnut**, a senior. "I think, in general, our team has a lot of grit, and we were really fighting."

Chesnut finished with 10 service points, 13 kills and 14 digs. **Sydney Lawrence** added 10 service points, one ace, two kills, four blocks, 33 assists and nine digs. **Addison Britton** accrued six blocks. **Kennedy Smith** had eight kills and one block.

The Wildcats were led by strong games from outside hitter **Taylor Johnson**, libero **Bailey Swinton** and others.

The county championship served as a worthy test for Broadneck, which has an eye on Leonardtown in a potential match of the top two teams in the 4A East region playoffs.

"Arundel serves really hard," Regalbuto said. "That's one reason we wanted to play them because we will face, hopefully, eventually, Leonardtown and they also serve it hard, so we wanted to see that exposure early."

With that outlook, the Bruins are excited to compete in the playoffs. Regional quarterfinals are scheduled for November 2-3, followed by regional semifinals on November 6.

"We were looking forward to this game because it is going to prepare us for playoffs," Chesnut said, "and we're really going to take what we learned from this to see what we can get better on because this is a really strong team and we're going to be seeing teams just as good throughout playoffs."



Photos by Zach Sparks

**Above:** Brin Chesnut (center) and her teammates huddled and celebrated after scoring a point. **Below:** Sydney Lawrence knocked the ball through the outstretched arms of an Arundel player.



## Green Hornets Boys Win Trilogy Lacrosse Chesapeake Fall Classic

Fresh off an undefeated season with a 10-0 record in the Anne Arundel County peewee (third/fourth-grade) Gators Division, the Severna Park Green Hornets 2032 boys lacrosse team won the Trilogy Lacrosse Chesapeake Fall Classic at Calvert Regional Park in North East, Maryland, on October 15.

Coached by **Brad Reppert**, **Derek Howells**, **Kim Bloomfield** and **Eric Wedemeyer**, the team swept all four games en route to the trophy. The Green Hornets team — the Repsnakes — beat Duke's Elite 2032 Trotter 9-0, Legends 2032 11-1, and BLC 2032 Blue 7-1 to advance to the championship game where they defeated FCA MS 2032 by a score of 12-3.

Throughout the tournament, Severna Park was paced offensively by **Caden Howells** (nine games, one assist, 12 ground balls), **Liam Cooke** (eight games, one assist, 10 ground balls), **River Baker** (six games, one assist, 15 ground balls), **Braxton Reppert** (three games, three



*The Repsnakes defeated FCA MS 2032 12-3 to bring home the tourney crown.*

assists, four ground balls) and **Nathan Feldman** (one game, three assists, five ground balls). **Bryce Arnold** (three games, nine ground balls), **Ryan Berger** (two

games, one assist, eight ground balls), **Lawton Bloomfield** (two games, one ground ball), **Brian Staples** (one game, one assist, seven ground balls), **Connor Wild** (one game, three ground balls), **Joey Potocek** (one game, 13 ground balls), **Mark Wedemeyer** (one game, one ground ball) and **Aiden Cooke** (one assist, seven ground balls) also contributed to the scoring.

Defensively, goaltenders **Sammy Coleman** and Bryce Arnold allowed only 1.25 goals per game. The stout defensive effort was led by Aiden Cooke (six caused turnovers), Joey Potocek (five caused turnovers), **Hunter Slater** (four caused turnovers, three ground balls), **Graeme McDowell** (three caused turnovers, eight ground balls), **Henry Smith** (two caused turnovers, six ground balls) and **Carter Wasserman** (two caused turnovers, two ground balls). **Grady Shadowens** (six ground balls) and **George Fewster** (four ground balls) also helped control possession and were instrumental in the championship run.

# Spalding Succumbs To Nationally Ranked Gridiron Squad From Philly



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Archbishop Spalding's football players from Severna Park and Arnold are (front row, l-r) wide receiver Robert Hopper, tight end Jameson Coffman, nose guard Tyler McVicker and (back row, l-r) quarterback Blake Howell, defensive back Sean Johnson and defensive tackle Peter Jerdal. Not pictured is offensive tackle Liam Lynch.

## By Kevin Murnane

Archbishop Spalding's football team had to be close to perfect in all three phases — offense, defense and special teams — if they wanted to beat the Philadelphia-based St. Joseph's Preparatory School, USA Today's eighth-ranked team in the nation, on October 20.

The Cavaliers from Spalding were plagued with penalties, three turnovers and missed opportunities to put points on the scoreboard at crucial times in the game, and Spalding ultimately fell to the visitors, 24-6.

On a rain-soaked night in Severn, St. Joseph's Prep used their massive offensive line to create holes for big gains and used the legs of quarterback **Samaj Jones** to control the clock and keep the high-powered offense of the Cavaliers on the sidelines. The Hawks from St. Joseph's tallied 335 rushing yards on the night.

From St. Joseph's first possession, the Hawks established their potent rushing attack by using a variety of sweeps and quarterback option plays to move the ball down the field in front of the capacity crowd, which featured several college coaches in attendance. St. Joseph scored twice in the first quarter and added a field goal in the second quarter to lead at halftime 17-0.

Spalding's defense was led by its defensive backfield, which includes sophomore **Sean Johnson** of Severna Park as well as **Trent Gillis** and **Jayden Shipps**. Free safety **Tyler Brown** sustained a concussion in the first quarter and was done for the game.

"Losing Tyler in the first quarter really hurt our secondary, but Johnson, Shipps and Gillis had exceptional games and made some great one-on-one tackles and prevented some long runs," said Spalding head coach **Kyle Schmitt**.

The third quarter was a battle of titans, and the ferocious and pad-popping tackles could be heard throughout the stadium.

The Cavaliers defense made several stops and Spalding's offense gathered momentum. Spalding quarterback **Malik Washington** connected with receivers **RJ Newton**, **Aaron Igwebe** and **David Ledbetter** with quick passing routes and moved the ball into Hawks territory. The drive stalled, and Spalding had to settle for a **Cooper Welsh** field goal attempt that sailed wide right.

Spalding's only score came in the fourth quarter as

Washington scrambled out of the pocket and sprinted 58 yards. The two-point conversion failed, making the score 24-6.

"St. Joe is a really good football team, and they took advantage of some of our undersized positions," Schmitt said. "I couldn't be prouder of my team, and we have made massive jumps since the beginning of the season."

Archbishop Spalding is still undefeated in Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) league play and wants to continue to improve with the league playoffs on November 10 and November 19.

"We needed to run the ball better tonight and we stalled in the red zone," Schmitt said. "This experience will make us better for the playoffs."

Schmitt and Spalding's athletic department selects regional high school football powerhouses to complete their schedule each year. This year, the Cavaliers have also played Don Bosco Prep in New Jersey and Imhotep Charter from Philadelphia. Schmitt's philosophy is to battle top teams to see how his Cavaliers stack up against regional competition.

Schmitt also enjoys the crowds his team attracts for every home game and uses that to sway players from the region's youth football leagues to attend Spalding.

Johnson, a Severna Park resident, was one of those players from the Green Hornets program who got to be on the sideline for a Spalding game and wanted to play at Spalding because of the bright lights and spirit of the fans.

"It was so loud, and the students really supported the team as well as they had this big band playing music throughout the game," Johnson said.

Severna Park's **Jameson Coffman**, whose coach calls him the ultimate competitor, has scored 12 touchdowns this season.

"I love the spirit at Spalding; I mean the entire school community is excited about the football program, from the administration to the teachers, to the students," Coffman said.

Seven players from the Severna Park and Arnold area are on the Cavaliers squad.

When asked about their greatest memory with Spalding football they have experienced so far, the unanimous response was winning the MIAA championship game last year in Annapolis. It's a feat this year's squad hopes to duplicate.

# Broadneck, Severna Park Conclude Successful Golf Seasons

» Continued from page 14

strokes as a team, with Crofton settling for second at 322 strokes. It was Gardner's first county championship as the Broadneck coach and the school's first county championship in golf since 2015.

"I think our leadership was a key differentiator this year," Gardner said. "The captains and seniors on this team have set the bar for what a Broadneck golfer should look like. This, I believe, led to the younger players on the team trying to work harder to become better players."

**Pete Buck**'s Severna Park Falcons finished third at the Eisenhower course, checking in with a team total of 338 strokes. At the conclusion of the match, Severna Park was also named the regular season champion of the girls division, capturing the award with an 18-0 record.

It was an impressive performance, although one that resulted in less hardware than the Falcons' 2022 season, which saw **David Regala** and **Nicol Chovanec** win the individual county championships. Chovanec was forced to settle for second this time, losing a back-and-forth affair with Stroop that ended with a one-shot difference on the final playoff hole.

Both teams were back in action on October 10 for the District V championships at Crofton Country Club. Broadneck hoped to keep their positive momentum rolling, with a win at districts possibly setting the stage for a potential first state title on October 23 at the University of Maryland. As for Severna Park, they wanted to qualify for a chance to win their first state championship, as well as an opportunity to best their rivals.

Despite top 10 individual finishes from **James Smack**, **Ben Coe** and Stroop, Broadneck finished below Severna Park at the district championships, with the Falcons accruing 343 strokes as a team, finishing fifth and qualifying for the state championship.

Chovanec was the only member of the Falcons to finish in the top 10, tying for fourth with 77 strokes. As a team, Broadneck failed to meet the 350-stroke threshold necessary to qualify, although several of Broadneck's golfers met the threshold to qualify for the individual state championships.

On October 23, the Falcons brought a four-man team to the University of Maryland, with the group consisting of **Brett Layne**, **Nick Priest**, Nicol Chovanec and **Noah Fernandez**. **Lily Wells** also qualified individually, rounding out the five golfers on Severna Park's squad for the state semifinals.

By October 25, Chovanec was the only one of the five left standing, managing to qualify for the finals and finishing 26th among girls in the division.

It was a learning experience for the team, which finished 15th overall in their division, but an undeterred Buck remained confident in the team's ability to make it back to states next year.

"My most significant takeaway is that we should qualify as a team again next year, which would be eight times in nine years if that happens," Buck stated. "Nicol, Lily and Nick all return, and playing at states gives them valuable experience for them to build on next year."

As for Gardner's Bruins, three golfers qualified for the state championships individually, with Summer Stroop finishing tied for 18th among girls in her division, Ben Coe finishing tied for 26th among boys in his division, and James Smack finishing tied for 33rd.

When asked to describe the Bruins' season, the coach succinctly summarized it with a single adjective: spectacular.

"We accomplished a lot of feats this season," Gardner said. "All season long, Broadneck golf showed excellence, and I am proud of the players this season."

# St. Martin's Girls Runners Take Third At Co-Op Meet



The St. Martin's-in-the-field girls took third place in the Chesapeake Co-Op middle school cross country championship meet at the Severna Park school on October 24. Waverly Alexander earned sixth place with a time of 14:14. Sarah Murphy took seventh place (14:16). Lake Alexander finished 17th (15:00), followed by Ella Mecone in 24th (15:42), Finlay Dickson in 27th (15:45), Vivian Wright in 53rd (17:38) and Amaya Henderson in 84th (22:43).



## Community Invited To Dave Ferris Retirement Party

After 23 years as the head coach of the Severna Park High School junior varsity baseball team, Dave Ferris has decided to call it a career. His family welcomes the community to a retirement open house on November 11 at American Legion Post 175, located at 832 Manhattan Beach Road in Severna Park. Drop in anytime between 4:00pm-8:00pm to share baseball memories, have a few laughs, and thank Ferris for all he's done for the community. All are welcome. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Learn more at [bit.ly/ferrisfarewell](http://bit.ly/ferrisfarewell).



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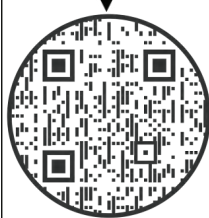
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## “The Addams Family” Coming To SPHS



*Above: The cast of “The Addams Family” practiced their moves at a dance rehearsal. Below: Director Karah Parks worked on a scene with cast members.*

**By Alyson Kay**

**T**hey’re creepy and they’re kooky, mysterious and spooky, and they’re coming to the Severna Park High School (SPHS) stage for the school’s fall production of “The Addams Family” this November.

The play will follow the plot of “The Addams Family” musical, a comedy set a few years after the movies. Wednesday Addams

brings her “normal” boyfriend and his parents to dinner to meet her family. The Addams clan struggles with appearing ordinary for the night, interacting with a family that is very different from them and pondering the idea of change as Wednesday grows up.

“This is a really fun backdrop to have the camp level of ‘The Addams Family’ put into a more  
» **Continued on page 38**



## SPES Earns National Health Recognition



Photo by Judy Tacyn  
*Rich Wiles, a physical education teacher at Severna Park Elementary School, posed in front of an America’s Healthiest Schools banner at the school’s entrance with third-grade student Bode Wiles and school counselor Katie McCord.*

the school’s nomination. Schools of all grade levels were evaluated in the following areas: Strengthening social-emotional health and learning; cultivating staff well-being; increasing family and community engagement; improving nutrition and food access; implementing local school wellness policies; bolstering physical education and activity; enriching health education; promoting tobacco-free schools; and supporting school health services.

The categories highlight that fostering a healthy school environment goes beyond students’ test scores and achievements to include the greater community of faculty, staff, and parental well-being and collaboration.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation said its signature recognition program honors schools’ efforts in advancing achievement in health equity for students, staff and families, while grappling with pandemic-related learning loss, high rates of vaping and nicotine addiction, a youth mental health crisis and other challenges. Or  
» **Continued on page 30**

**By Judy Tacyn**

**D**uring its national summit in Washington, D.C. during October, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation recognized schools around the country that earned top designations in nine health categories.

Among the award winners announced at the two-day summit was Severna Park Elementary School, or SPES, which earned the highest distinction in eight out of the nine categories, according to Rich Wiles, physical education teacher at the school. Wiles was instrumental in preparing

## Benny The Bulldog Watches Over Benfield Playground



Photo by Zach Sparks  
*Kids surrounded the new playground statue of Benny the Bulldog during an ice cream social and celebration on October 11. Mark Acton, who carved the statue out of oak, wanted Benfield Elementary’s mascot to look whimsical.*

**By Zach Sparks**

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

**P**lenty of children have occupied Benfield Elementary’s outdoor nature space since it was completed five years ago. But now, the area is home to another creature — the school’s mascot, Benny the Bulldog.

Benfield’s parent-teacher organization held an ice cream social in October to commemorate the playground’s fifth anniversary and to unveil a seven-foot wooden statue of Benny, created by Chartwood resident Mark Acton. Benny joined other new additions to the space: a mud kitchen and an expanded magnet wall.

“You never know what a piece of wood is going to give you.”

— **MARK ACTON**

With the addition of the statue, the playground features a stage; a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) area; the Monarch Waystation, which is a bird and butterfly garden made possible by a grant from Unity Gardens; and music instruments.

The playground area is now appropriately called Benny’s Backyard.  
» **Continued on page 38**

# Severn School Food Drive Topples Donation Records



As part of spirit week, Severn School students held a food drive, which benefitted SPAN. **Left:** (l-r) Clara Anderson, Madelyn McKinty and Mae Hayman helped deliver food donations to the nonprofit. **Right:** Will Friedell (left) and Ben Veiel unloaded cars full of nonperishable items.



## By Doug Schwartz

Student Intern

Like most schools, Severn School regards spirit week as a highly anticipated time of year. Students decorate the hallways, paint class banners and meticulously plan out their themed dress-up days. For many students, the most important part of the week is the food drive.

Severn partners annually with the food pantry Serving People Across Neighborhoods, or SPAN, to help the nonprofit fulfill its mission of providing food to families in need, primarily in Severna Park, Millersville and Arnold.

While the pantry relies on donations to help surrounding communities, it has had trouble keeping its shelves stocked the past couple years. SPAN's director of development, Michele Sabean, attributes the difficulties to the changes in habits that people have formed since the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only have prices gone up, but as more people switch to online shopping, it is less likely that they will throw items in

the cart for SPAN since the cost is more glaring online.

According to Sabean, the pantry receives its fewest number of donations during the late summer months. That is where Severn's food drive comes in.

"Wait until you see Severn School spirit week" — Sabean recalled hearing when she started with SPAN about three years ago. The school's week-long food drive has become a reliable source of relief for the organization as it gears up for the winter, which is its busiest season. Each October, Severn's drive helps to fill SPAN's shelves with items ranging from toiletries to breakfast items.

Andrew Otero, the faculty advisor of the Severn Service Society (SSS), said the food drive is successful because it's "a prideful moment for a lot of the students." Members of the SSS spend club periods planning themed donation days that provide guidelines for students on what they can and cannot bring in before presenting the themes to the school.

After that, students spend the week fundraising and rallying support from

their respective grades before heading out to stores.

"We went to Costco for bulk purchases and Aldi for canned goods to supplement," senior Jagan Som said. "Overall, we tried to get a good variety of items for the drive."

Seniors, especially, go all out to beat the previous year's record. This year, the senior class donated more than 19,000 items — a record — to bring the year's total to 28,000.

During spirit week, members of SSS stand outside on the school grounds each morning collecting items, sorting through donations and tallying totals to ensure an accurate inventory. During the school day, the items are driven to SPAN where students unload them. This year, Severn had so many items that the students formed a chain to unload them more efficiently, tossing items from person to person, from the cars all the way up to the second-floor shelves.

With donations from Severn School and other groups, SPAN provides relief for more than 585 local families each year.



A pantry at SPAN was filled after Severn School delivered items.

## SPES Earns National Health Recognition

### » Continued from page 29

ganizers of the program said honored schools reinforce the central role each faces as agents of impact and change for its community.

"Student health overall is a giant puzzle," said Wiles, speaking of many areas including student education, extracurricular activities, physical and mental health, and healthy food options. "We are all working together to make a generation that is ready to move, be active and healthy for life."

Meghann Boosinger's children, Cole and Lillie, are fourth- and second-grade students, respectively, at SPES. She was thrilled to learn of the America's Healthiest Schools designation and noted that a holistically healthy school environment is needed to promote growth and learning for

children.

"Severna Park Elementary School is a wonderful school for my children," Boosinger said. "I love the small class size. Our teachers are incredible and do so much to get kids academically, mentally and physically prepared for middle school."

Wiles, currently in his 19th year at SPES, feels Severna Park and Anne Arundel County residents are luckier than many in other states.

"We are very fortunate to have the quality of educational standards that we have here in Anne Arundel County and in Maryland," Wiles said. "Not every state or school system has the same support. Severna Park is a special place."

Lillie Boosinger said her teacher makes learning fun — even math. In

physical education class, Lillie appreciates the different games, activities and equipment, like balls and noodles, her teacher utilizes in instruction.

Lillie's brother said a board in the gym shares each day's schedule, along with information on how those activities benefit students.

"If we were doing the same thing all the time, we'd get bored and tired, but if we do lots of different things then it's more and more fun," Cole said, adding the multitude of options for recess, such as kickball, soccer, basketball, tag and Four Square.

Wiles added that SPES is unique in its small size and extraordinary support of the PTA and principal, Kyle Butler.

"Here, we have the ability to try different things, create and learn,"

Wiles said. "Our goal is to make sure every student has the opportunity to be successful."

Butler is proud of how the staff at the school strives to build relationships with students and community members to meet the needs of all students.

"At Severna Park Elementary, we strive to make each student feel safe and develop a sense of belonging," Butler said. "This is accomplished through several strategies. For example, we begin each morning with a community circle. This provides students with a safe space to get to know their teachers and peers to build lasting relationships."

To learn more about the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, the America's Healthiest Schools designation, or to find out how a school can apply, visit [www.healthiergeneration.org](http://www.healthiergeneration.org).



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# Educator Of The Month

## Malia Johnston Magothy River Middle School



By Zach Sparks

Malia Johnston was living in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina when she found a spark that would later lead her to teaching.

She had been helping people with substance abuse disorders and with HIV/AIDS when she recognized another need in the community.

"In New Orleans, a lot of people were lonely, coming from other countries," Johnston said. "I wanted to interact with my neighbors and help Americans who are non-Spanish to connect."

At age 30, she switched careers and became a Spanish teacher. Although she was not a native Spanish speaker, she had "a heart for the people." Johnston had a foundation with the language from high school and started attending a church with a Spanish-speaking congregation.

During the 2009-2010 school year, she worked at Crescent City Christian in Louisiana.

A Chesapeake High School graduate, Johnston returned home to Maryland and continued that effort. In 2015, she spent a year at Brooklyn Park Middle before joining Magothy River Middle School.

Now, she is the school's nominee for Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. She was "floored" to learn of the recognition.

Her teaching style was on display for the entire school this fall in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 through October 15. Using Google Meet, she engaged students in a game called la lotería.

"It's kind of like bingo but with pictures instead of numbers," Johnston explained. "... once [students] got them all, they would yell it out and say the word in Spanish. I also gave them the history behind it."

Regardless of the activity, Johnston tries to connect with every student, according to fellow Magothy River Middle School Spanish teacher Beth Gephart.

"Malia goes above and beyond to make sure that everyone is included. That is her gift," Gephart said. "She seems to have a sixth sense: knowing where the people who need a bit of extra TLC are."

Johnston also has had that effect on Gephart, serving as a "wonderful mentor and invaluable team member."

After a teaching hiatus, where she worked as a social worker and then managed virtual kindergarten with her son from 2020-2021, Gephart began teaching again. This was her first time educating middle school students and her first time teaching in Maryland since she is from Illinois.

"She not only helped me navigate teaching the Anne Arundel County curriculum, but also helped me learn new software, shared lesson plans, and even offered to babysit my son when I caught the flu and needed to rest," Gephart said of Johnston. "It is no exaggeration to say that she was what got me through my transition back into teaching, nor is it an exaggeration to say that I could not have done it without her. Everyone should be so fortunate to have a team leader like her."

Not only is Magothy River Middle School fortunate to have Johnston. She has volunteered in Honduras since 2017, writing curriculum for summer programs for 10 rural schools, training American volunteers, organizing a book drive to install classroom libraries and more.

Johnston is a leader at Light-house Church in Glen Burnie, and she assists two groups — The Well and its employment program, Hon's Honey — fostering community among the women of Curtis Bay in Baltimore, supporting women who are survivors of trauma, and planning an annual Christmas dinner for women.

All this work makes her proud of how far she has come since 2005, and grateful for everyone who encouraged her as both a volunteer and as an educator.

"Regardless of the strategies, the games and interaction, the most important thing is showing kids that you care," she said. "Many of the students I had in New Orleans have reached out and said thank you, and I didn't do anything special at that time. I cared about them. I'm thankful to Anne Arundel County Public Schools for the opportunity and to my colleagues. It takes a village."

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# Students Benefit From Scholarships Offered By AARSPA

## Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association Accepting Applications

Lorissa Honarvar is pursuing a career in speech pathology with a minor in special education. Through her work at the Cisco Center in Severna Park, she helped kids learn and socialize.



By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Broadneck High School graduate Lorissa Honarvar thought she wanted to be an engineer, until her work at the Cisco Center in Severna Park altered her plans.

"It changed my life, working with these kids," she said. "All of them have their own stories."

At the Cisco Center, she worked with kids ages 2 to 18, many of whom had autism, developmental disabilities, speech/language disorders, or learning disabilities.

That work gave her new skills that she was able to use in her personal life.

"I have a little cousin with autism," she said. "He has been nonverbal his whole life, and I was able to communicate with him."

Honarvar decided to pursue a career in speech pathology with a minor in special education. A \$5,000 scholarship from the Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association (AARSPA) is going toward her first semester of tuition this fall.

She was one of four 2023 AARSPA scholarship recipients, along with students from Crofton, Chesapeake and South River high schools.

"I have to get a master's degree, which is six years of school," she said. "... I think [the scholarship] is a great opportunity for people going into education."

AARSPA partners with Scholarships for Scholars each year to make the

funds available.

Scholarship applications for 2024 recipients are now being accepted. To be considered, students must plan to pursue a career in education and write an essay. The AARSPA committee considers volunteer activities, participation in honor societies and other clubs, and sports.

AARSPA started its scholarship initiative in 1998. Matilda Barckley has been the chair since 2013. She taught for 39 years: three in Delaware and 36 at Rippling Woods Elementary School in Glen Burnie.

Of the scholarship committee members, one was a principal, one was a counselor and Barckley was a classroom teacher, so the former educators feel they each bring a different background to the decision-making process when choosing who should earn scholarships.

"We all have different ideas, perspectives and things we look for," Barckley said.

The educators enjoy giving back to the next generation whether those students become counselors, classroom teachers, administrators or speech therapists.

"Once they get a taste of high school and have a desire to teach, I feel it's only right to help them pursue their dreams," Barckley said.

*The deadline to apply for a scholarship is February 6. For more information, visit [www.scholarshipsforscholars.org](http://www.scholarshipsforscholars.org).*

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# SPMS Teachers And Students Square Off During Soccer Match

Photos by Zach Sparks  
Students and teachers had a ball during a friendly soccer match between the two sides at Severna Park Middle School on October 23. With nearly the entire student body and staff watching, the student team earned an 8-0 win and bragging rights over their elders. During halftime, students played another game. In pairs, they listened to the announcer's instructions, waiting for a command to see which player could snatch the soccer ball first.



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# Q.

**Question of the month**

## BELVEDERE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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

### If you could choose a new dish to be served at Thanksgiving, what would it be?

My new dish would be fried turkey chips. I would cut the turkey meat into triangles, and then fry them so I can eat them like chips.

**Alaric M.**

I would serve hot, salty French fries.

**Alexandros I.**

I would serve crepes; you could fill them with whipped cream and sweet strawberries.

**Alexis S.**

My dish would be soft-shell chicken tacos topped with salsa.

**Bertin G.**

My dish would be fried crab cakes.

**Bodhi L.**

I would serve sloppy Joes made of hamburger meat with spicy tomato sauce.

**Brielle H.**

My new dish would be noodles covered in melted butter and parmesan cheese.

**Carter S.**

My new dish would be home-made chips with the potato skins still on that I can dip in ketchup.

**Eker R.B.**

My new dish would be delicious chips and salsa. The salsa would be a little spicy with cilantro, onions and tomatoes.

**Finleigh L.**

My new dish would be spicy beef tacos with lettuce, tomatoes and some melted cheddar cheese.

**Gabby B.**

My new dish would be Oreos; it has creamy Cool Whip in the middle with a crunchy Oreo base and sweet Oreo cookie

crumble on top.

**Grace T.**

My dish would be chicken nuggets and French fries from Chick-fil-A.

**Gunner S.**

I would serve hot French fries topped with a little cinnamon, sugar and some salt.

**Jackson G.**

I would serve spaghetti and meatballs.

**Jacob G.**

My new dish would be lobster claws that can be dipped in melted butter and vinegar; seafood should

be enjoyed year-round!

**Julia R.**

My new dish would be a chocolate graham-cracker pudding pie topped with whipped cream. The crust would be crunchy graham crackers filled with milk chocolate pudding and topped with whipped cream.

**Lailynn S.**

My new dish would be a bowl of ramen; thick, spicy noodles with eggs and mushrooms.

**Maddie P.**

My dish would be cookie dough ice cream topped with hot fudge, caramel and crunchy M&M's.

**Nathan W.**

I would serve grilled chicken for Thanksgiving with black beans and fluffy coconut rice.

**Nico S.**

My new dish would be crabs that you can dip in melted butter or vinegar and Old Bay.

**Rowan K.**

I would serve ice cream pie; it would be vanilla, caramel and pumpkin flavored with caramel syrup, rainbow sprinkles, cotton candy and marshmallows on top.

**Salma S.**

My new dish would be spicy pepperoni pizza with a stretchy cheese stuffed crust.

**Will N.**

I would serve a deep-dish pepperoni pizza with garlic sauce.

**Zachary W.**



**The Question of the Month is proudly sponsored by Just-in-Time Renovations**  
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## A Week Of Festivities For Broadneck High School's Homecoming

**By Lily Saunders**

Student Intern

Broadneck High School's homecoming celebration kicked off October 9 and included a week full of festivities in preparation for the annual homecoming football game and dance. Each day of the week featured a theme that encouraged students to dress up. Monday was Twin Day, Tuesday was Holiday Day, Wednesday was Decades Day, Thursday was Neon Day, and Friday was Toga Day for seniors and Bruin Pride Day for underclassmen. Students in all grades, as well as teachers and staff, participated in spirit week. Each grade also created a homecoming wall based on a Hollywood film as part of a Broadneck tradition. Seniors had a "Star Wars" themed wall, juniors had "Jurassic Park," sophomores had "La La Land" and freshmen had "Nightmare Before Christmas."



**Left:** During the weeklong homecoming celebration, seniors Julia Cronkite (left) and Sara Dreibelbis enjoyed Toga Day.



**Right:** Lauren MacFadden (left) and Allison Davis celebrated Twin Day.

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## “The Addams Family” Coming To SPHS

» Continued from page 29

modern lens,” said SPHS English and theater teacher Karah Parks, director of the school’s “The Addams Family” play.

Parks and her creative team chose “The Addams Family” for the SPHS fall production.

“I want to do something that is fun and contemporary for the kids, so they could get that experience doing something really fun,” Parks said.

The story involves a large ensemble of characters, several storylines and many songs.

“It’s complicated, but it’s good,” said SPHS junior Kaelin Tufo, who will play Pugsley Addams in the musical. “The dancing and the blocking of the movement is just gorgeous and aesthetically beautiful.”

Along with practicing her lines and blocking for scenes, Kaelin has been using some of the media adaptations of the characters to help her prepare to play Pugsley.

“I’ve watched some of ‘The Addams Family’ films just to get a feel of how he is as a character,” Kaelin said.

Because the show is a musical, rehearsals tend to involve a lot of practice for singing and dancing. SPHS junior Maggie Moran serves as the production’s student music director. She helps the cast prepare for their parts and get caught up on music when they’ve been absent, even as she prepares for her own role as an ancestor.

Both Kaelin and Maggie have

performed in other SPHS productions, including “Footloose,” which was more dance focused and “Freaky Friday,” which was more song heavy. This play incorporates some of both.

“It’s been a challenge for getting both down,” Maggie said.

Student producer Ronnie McIntyre is also using research to prepare for her role as Morticia Addams. The SPHS senior has participated in a variety of shows, including another production of “The Addams Family” for Children’s Theatre of Annapolis.

Ronnie enjoys the camaraderie of working alongside fellow students on SPHS productions.

“At school, we all live in the same area,” Ronnie said. “We know the same things about school, so it’s much easier and quicker to connect with them, which is really important to become a whole unit.”

Figuring out how to portray her character’s unique kind of passion has been difficult.

“The thing about Morticia is that she still has emotions,” Ronnie said. “She still feels things, but she doesn’t really show it in the same way. It is difficult to find that balance of maintaining the classic character while also conveying the things that you need to.”

Kaelin’s mother, Kristin Tufo, works as president of the Falcon Drama Boosters, which coordinates the volunteers and runs the ticketing, ushering and concessions. She and another parent, Kirin Sand-

hu-Leon, also make some of the costumes, along with designing and fitting the outfits based on what Parks wants.

During tech week, which is also the week before shows for this production, parent volunteers and chaperones start coming in to help with final preparations for sets, costumes and rehearsals.

“It really comes to be a big team effort between the cast and the parents at that point,” said Kristin Tufo.

Closer to the show, Ronnie will also focus more on her producing duties with Sara Metcalfe, producer and SPHS music teacher.

This year, cast members are more involved in the process of preparing for the show than in previous productions.

“We’re doing a little more of helping figure out what blocking is going to be and how the show is going to work,” Kaelin said. “We have a more creative role in production.”

As the production team gears up for its performances, the crew has utilized the time to bond.

“I feel like the directors are really sweet and all of the cast members know what they’re doing, and it’s fun to hang out with them,” Maggie said.

“The Addams Family” will have five total performances from November 10-12 and November 17-18. Most shows start at 7:00pm, but the show on November 12 is slated to begin at 2:00pm. Tickets are available at [gofan.co/app/school/MD9637\\_1](http://gofan.co/app/school/MD9637_1).

## Benny The Bulldog

» Continued from page 29

This was not Acton’s first project. He used a chainsaw to sculpt druid faces out of tree stumps at Druid Hill Park in Baltimore more than 10 years ago.

The woodworker spent 16 hours, across multiple sittings, carving the Benny statue out of oak.

“I had a vision of a full dog — not just a head — that was cartoonish but with realism to capture that mascot feel,” Acton said. “I wanted to keep it whimsical.”

Acton’s son, Keith, attended Benfield Elementary starting in 1996, and so the artist was thrilled to accept the gig.

Now a grandfather of three, Acton said woodworking is a hobby that he eventually wants to transition into full-time.

“I’d love to do it again for another school,” he said, referring to the new statue.

After the statue was unveiled, parents, students and staff members marveled at the finished work.

“It adds a unique character because it’s individualized to our school,” said Principal Sue Myers.

Benfield PTO co-president Beth Karsner and PTO volunteer Allison Holcomb helped to make the new playground additions possible.

“We’re so excited to commemorate this space with this piece of art,” Holcomb said. “From the parents to the administration and staff at Benfield, it shows how much we value the support for our school community.”



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# Falcons Land At Jones Elementary

Jones Elementary students received a surprise when they arrived at school in October — members of the Severna Park High School boys and girls soccer teams were waiting by the entrance to greet the younger kids. The boys athletes visited on a Wednesday and the girls arrived on a Thursday. Both visits prompted lots of high-fives and cheers.



## Students Participate In World Wildlife Fund's Education Program

Benfield Elementary and homeschooled students engaged in a live-streamed question-and-answer session with Stephanie Roe, the lead climate and energy scientist at the World Wildlife Fund, on October 12.

This virtual distance learning class, called "How Climate Change Affects Us and Nature, and What We Can Do About It," is part of WWF's Conservation in the Classroom initiative. It allows students to explore the field of environmental studies from the comfort of their backyard.

These students are part of the Livestock Education Program led by ranger Jessica Furr at Kinder Farm Park in Millersville, under the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. Since 2010, this program has expanded to house and accommodate more than 70 animals and livestock at the park year-round.

"We are thrilled to participate in this virtual distance learning class as part of our commitment to environmental education and empowering youth," Furr said. "By actively engaging with these subjects, we hope to inspire and cultivate a lifelong passion for nature and conservation."

Students from other participating groups across the country also joined the discussion.

*"We are thrilled to participate in this virtual distance learning class as part of our commitment to environmental education and empowering youth. By actively engaging with these subjects, we hope to inspire and cultivate a lifelong passion for nature and conservation."* — JESSICA FURR, RANGER AT KINDER FARM PARK



Participating students are part of the Livestock Education Program led by ranger Jessica Furr at Kinder Farm Park in Millersville.



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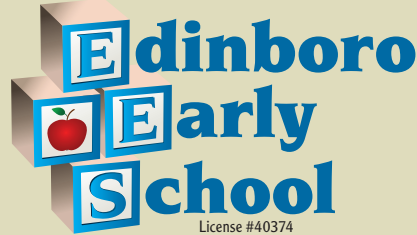
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## Ray Terry's Book Series Emphasizes Form For Maximum Function

By Judy Tacyn

According to a recent Mayo Clinic study of youth sports injuries by the Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Department, more than 3.5 million youth and teen sports injuries occur every year, and specialists believe most of those injuries could be avoidable.

A leading culprit? Technique, or how we move, is a major contributor in youth sports injuries. Furthermore, repeating those improper techniques often has long-term ramifications for bodies well into adulthood.

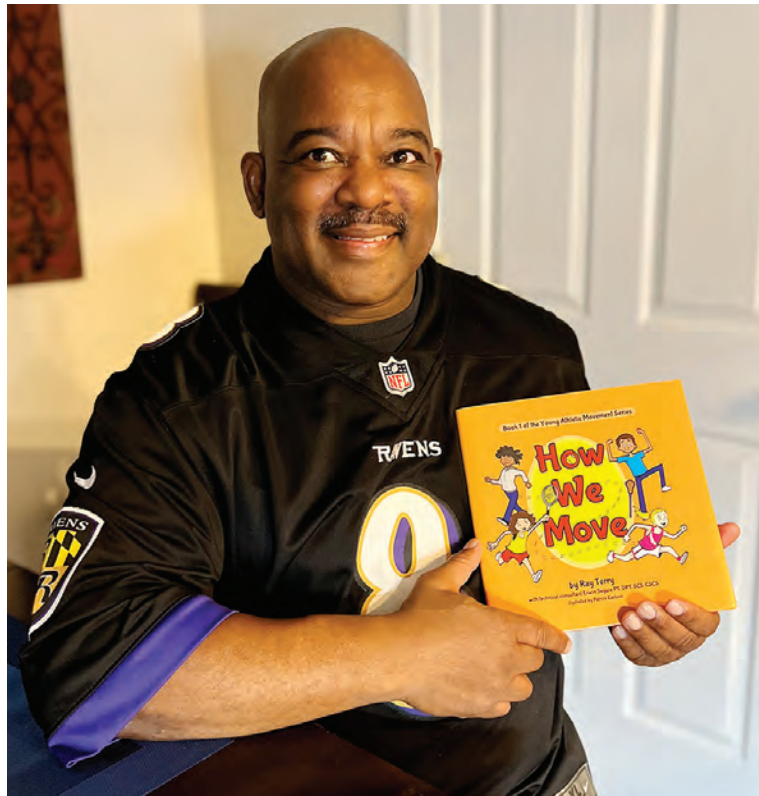
"It is important to have proper sport technique and sports movement patterns to help prevent injury and to optimize rehabilitation from an injury," said Dr. Edward Laskowski, co-director of Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine and Mayo Clinic study researcher. "It is not practice that makes perfect but perfect practice makes perfect. If we practice the same bad movement pattern over and over again, a suboptimal motor program is trained into our system, and that can raise the risk of injury and decrease sports performance."

Severna Park resident Ray Terry, a small business and nonprofit development consultant, authored a series of five books aimed at teaching kids, and their parents, the importance of movement in sports and in life. "How We Move," the first in the series of five, will be available in December.

Terry began writing his books in 2018 when he was with Foot Doctor Sports, a group of professionals and trainers that worked with young athletes to improve speed, agility and overall sports performance. Terry worked with world-renowned experts to write the training materials used by the Foot Doctor trainers.

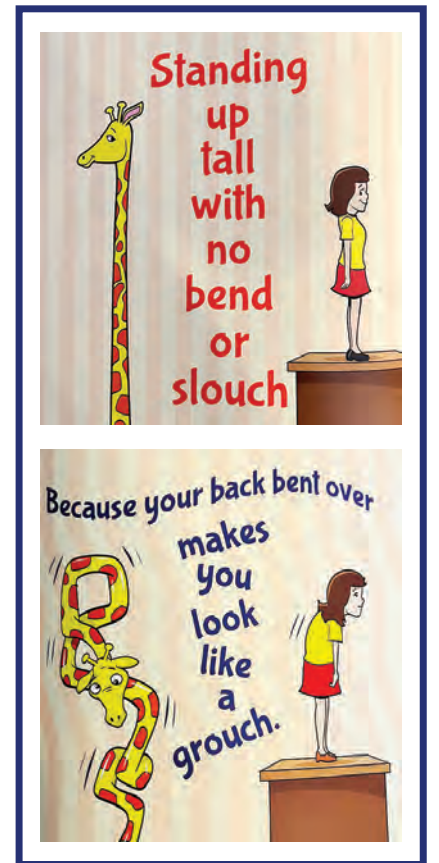
"You can retrain subconscious with the conscious, but the best way to train a good subconscious is from the beginning," said Terry, whose book is written for children ages 2 to 6. "We can help athletes get better from repeat injuries or rehabbing from injuries, but it's much better to prehab."

Terry, a former competitive weightlifter who competed at nationals while at Severna Park High School, currently walks with a rollator walker with a seat. He struggles with spine and muscle issues after years of misuse and skeletal compensations for poor and



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Ray Terry's new book series strives to improve children's strides.



improper techniques. He said chronic diseases — including muscular-skeletal abnormalities and obesity — are devastating Americans, and those complications start with posture and movement.

Terry said he's suffering through it right now.

"If someone had taught me how to move properly or how to lift properly, I might not be in the position I am now," said Terry, who is in physical therapy to retrain his muscles. "Over time, moving dysfunctionally has made my movement worse. My muscles don't work properly, but they can be retrained."

Terry is passionate about teaching kids proper technique from a young age, and to help them, and their parents, understand that every movement they make is training; it's important to make sure that

movement is done properly.

"How We Move" is available for preorder through Kickstarter at [bit.ly/howwemove](http://bit.ly/howwemove) and for purchase on Amazon in December. The book will also be at the Severna Park Library, where it will be read to children during story time. The second book in the series, "Squat, Jump and Build Your Rump," will be released in January.

Terry said there are four additional books in the series, which will be released through his publishing company, Young Athletic Movement, in a staggered schedule throughout 2024. In addition to "How We Move" and "Squat, Jump and Build Your Rump," Terry has written "It's Fun to Run," "How We Recover" and "What We Know About H<sub>2</sub>O."

## Maryland Department Of Health Announces Grant To Support Service Members, Veterans

Applications Are Due  
By November 6

The Maryland Department of Health is offering a new funding opportunity for Maryland nonprofits to establish and expand community behavioral health programs for service members, veterans and family members.

Selected applicants will be eligible to receive approximately \$100,000 through the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans.

"Expanding behavioral health services to our military-connected communities is of vital importance to me," said Maryland Department of Health Secretary Laura Herrera Scott. "Many service members and veterans are trained to be resilient and may be

less likely to ask for help, so it is our responsibility to offer providers the information and tools to reach and provide care to these individuals and families."

More than 389,000 military veterans and 53,000 currently serving on active duty, reserve and National Guard call Maryland home. According to the American Psychological Association, veterans are 1.5 times more likely to die by suicide than nonveteran adults. Veterans also experience higher rates of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts compared to their civilian counterparts.

"While Maryland's suicide rate for veterans is lower when compared to national figures — thanks in part to our community outreach efforts, crisis support and the Trained Military Assistance Provider program — there is still much more we can and should do," said Maryland Depart-

ment of Health Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health Alyssa Lord. "This funding is an opportunity to build upon existing initiatives and to help our healthcare providers better support our service members and veteran communities through culturally informed and enhanced services."

The services to be provided by awardees include:

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dination services

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The total available funding is \$2.4 million from January 1 to June 30, 2024.

The Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans was established in 2021 via Senate Bill 550 as a competitive matching annualized grant program. This program is being administered by Maryland's Commitment to Veterans, a unit within the Behavioral Health Administration.

Applications must be submitted by November 6. Apply through eMaryland Marketplace Advantage, or eMMA, and learn more at [www.health.maryland.gov/bha/veterans](http://www.health.maryland.gov/bha/veterans).

## The Bards Take Listeners On A Journey With “Tales From The Swindling Serpent”

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

A group of progressive folk rock musicians is releasing new songs from their album “Tales From the Swindling Serpent,” and no, they are not selling snake oil.

Known as The Bards, the trio is John Bachkosky on violin, Greg Mazur on keys and Kevin Strasser on guitar, with all three members contributing vocals.

Their 14-song record is a follow-up to their self-titled debut that was released in November 2021. They also recorded “The Bards Crawl,” a five-song EP of Irish folk tunes that dropped last March.

Severna Park High School graduates, Bachkosky and Strasser performed together in Rock ‘N’ Roll Revival and formed a band, DeD Walrus. After college, they partnered with fellow University of Maryland student Greg Mazur to form a new band, The Bards.

For the second album, they start with a story of swashbuckling characters from an army.

“They come to the pub and they’re totally downtrodden about a loss they just had in battle, and then we kind of play these characters and our job is to cheer them on,” Strasser said. “So, in that record, you are going to hear a lot of fantasy influences, video game music, Irish folk, and then, of course, we can’t help but let a little prog rock slip in there.”

Every song relates to the tavern in some way.

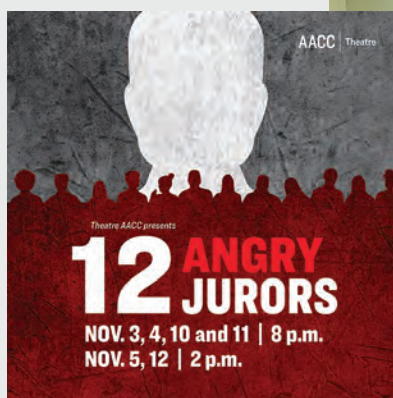
“It’s got vibes of a concept record, but there are a few songs that pull back from the action and then explore people drinking at the bar and all that stuff,” Mazur said. “It’s sort of a compilation of random pub stories, a lot of which are comedic, uplifting. Whenever we explore some darker themes, there is some sort of punch line usually.”

The Bards released the album’s first single — “A Bottle of Whiskey, A Bottle of Rum” — in October, with a companion music video depicting scenes from their perform-  
» Continued on page 44

The Bards is (l-r) John Bachkosky on violin, Kevin Strasser on guitar and Greg Mazur on keys, with all three members contributing vocals.



## Court Is In Session: “12 Angry Jurors” Opens At AACC



By Judy Tacyn

The Anne Arundel Community College theater department is currently presenting “12 Angry Jurors” at the Pascal Center for Performing Arts.

The original screenplay was written in 1955 by Reginald Rose, based on the writer’s own experience as a juror.

Seventy years after its original release, “12 Angry Jurors” is as relevant today as it was when written “because we are human,” said Madeline Austin, director and theater department faculty member. The AACC adaptation is set in 1967.



Photo by Judy Tacyn

The cast of “12 Angry Jurors,” an Anne Arundel Community College production, are performing from November 3-12 at the Pascal Center for Performing Arts.

The drama takes place in a jurors’ room where 12 people with diverse backgrounds and experiences must decide the fate of a 19-year-old boy accused of murdering his abusive father. It is a lens into the justice system, how difficult it is to stand alone and how hard it is to change people’s minds, especially those with deep-seated beliefs.

Austin said she’s grateful the justice system presumes inno-

“I love Voltaire’s line, ‘History never repeats itself. Man always does,’” Austin said. “One of the best things about Rose’s original screenplay is that the jurors begin to acknowledge their prejudices and are changed for the better by their experiences in the jury room.”

cence and that to render a guilty verdict, there must be no reasonable doubt, and the verdict must be unanimous.

“Theater reflects us, or as Shakespeare so eloquently wrote, the ‘purpose of playing’ is  
» Continued on page 44



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# Mural Depicts Severna Park's Past And Present



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Andrew Muñoz (left), pharmacy manager at Park Pharmacy, and artist Joe Barsin displayed a digital map of Severna Park and nearby neighborhoods.

By Judy Tacyn

Customers walking into Park Pharmacy are being greeted by a panoramic digital view of Severna Park and nearby neighborhoods above the rows of pills and medical supplies.

Park Pharmacy owner Neil McGarvey called upon graphic design artist Joe Barsin, and his wife, Eva, to create a decor rebrand perfect for a local business. McGarvey had worked with the Barsin team on the rebrand of his Arnold and Annapolis pharmacies but didn't know what he wanted for the Severna Park store, which he took ownership of last year.

"At this point, I trust Joe and Eva implicitly, so I simply asked, 'What do you think?'" McGarvey said. "What he came up with was really quite ingenious."

Working with a 640-by-172-by-24-inch space, Joe Barsin felt it represented Severna Park, a long and narrow piece of land caught between two rivers, which would be represented on either long wall. The store's south wall would be the Severn River, the store's north wall would be the Magothy, and the far short wall would be anchored by central Severna Park.

"Severna Park is unique in that it's a peninsula between two rivers," Joe said. "I couldn't recall ever seeing one piece of artwork that captured points of both rivers, each of which are important to understanding Severna Park."

Joe researched and studied maps of Severna Park and surrounding neighborhoods and compiled a list of Maryland symbolism he wanted to work into the uniquely shaped mural. He started by creating pencil sketches of elements to be included, and when they were drawn to scale, he used maps to determine the placement of beaches, structures, landmarks and other points of interest.

Once he had the components and sketches exactly how he wanted them, Joe

went to his computer to digitally create a mural.

"Having all of the elements drawn to scale before starting the composition was critical because if I went right to the computer, it would be very easy to get lost in the space," said the graphic design artist in reference to working on a 1,455-inch mural on a 24-inch computer monitor. "The very different perspectives would have presented challenges if I hadn't first filled the space with sketches."

Along the Severn River, Joe added Round Bay, Sullivan Cove and Yantz Creek markers, as well as others, and added images of sailboats, black-eyed Susans, Adirondack chairs and even a characterization of the pharmacy's prior owner, Steve Wells, relaxing on the beach. Against the furthestmost wall, Joe added the old Dawson's Store and train station stop. The Magothy River wall incorporates Old Man Creek and Cattail Creek, and it includes imagery of boats, a retriever, osprey and stand-up paddleboarders. A crabbing boat named Gannett is a reference to McGarvey's craft.

A smaller map was made to show the entire area and was hung just inside the door at the register. Andrew Muñoz, pharmacy manager at Park Pharmacy, said customers enjoy pointing out on the map where they live and striking up conversations with others.

Joe used an Odenton company to print the mural on high-quality vinyl and installation was completed in a few days.

The Barsins are owners of the Arnold-based JEB Designs. They created the logo for Park Hardware and were the design team behind the blue Chesapeake Bay license plate.

"What an honor it has been for Eva and I to work with Neal McGarvey again. He loves our community, and he has shown it throughout the years," Joe Barsin said.



Park Pharmacy's mural on the western wall is just 14 feet and anchors Severna Park at the old Dawson's Store.

## The Bards

» Continued from page 42

mances at the Maryland Renaissance Festival.

They enjoyed that experience and playing Irish tunes in Annapolis.

"Two years ago, we started with a lot of Irish tunes because they are simple and easy to learn, and they're a lot of fun and upbeat," Bachkosky said. "A lot of people know them, especially in the Annapolis area. We did things like 'The Wellerman' and 'Drunken Sailor,' and things like that you didn't have to change too much to do live and that ushered in our original stuff pretty well to a new crowd."

So far, crowds have enjoyed "The Spark," which is often used as The Bards new opener during live performances. The bandmates struggled to pick a favorite song from "Tales From the Swindling Serpent," but they are excited for music lovers to enjoy the album in its entirety. Two songs exceed the 10-minute mark.

"There's a 10-minute-long epic on this record called 'The Pirate,' very loosely based on a historical figure called Grace O'Malley and that's where we started to stretch out a little bit," Strasser said. "The folk element, it's there, but the rock-metal-symphonic elements are starting to come through more on that one."

After "A Bottle of Whiskey, A Bottle of Rum," the next single to be released is "The Swindling Serpent"

on December 2. That song details how the tavern was created.

Another single will follow in early January and the entire album will be available for streaming in late January.

Fans who attend live shows can get a copy of the lyrics, along with artwork and short stories that give context to the characters featured on the album.

"So, you've got a small short story and you have the record, and the last song on the album is going to finish the story of both the record and the short story," Strasser said.

The band said it will take more than a surface listen for people to pick up on all the narrative pieces. They are excited for people to hear the album, a culmination of a journey that took ample time and effort.

"We're excited to engage people with this music and the short story Kevin mentioned too, and there's two songs on here that are over 10 minutes long," Bachkosky said. "We just want this to be an experience for people. We want people to enjoy all the pieces of it as it moves through this story we are telling."

New music will stream on all major platforms: Apple, Spotify and Amazon, YouTube. Learn more about the band at [www.thebardsband.com](http://www.thebardsband.com), find their content at [www.youtube.com/@thebardsbandofficial](http://www.youtube.com/@thebardsbandofficial) or follow them on Instagram @TheBardsBand or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thebardsbandofficial](http://www.facebook.com/thebardsbandofficial).

## "12 Angry Jurors" Opens At AACC

» Continued from page 42

'to hold as 'twere the mirror up to nature.' The stories we tell are not always pretty, but that is our job as artists," Austin added. "Artists are transgressive, and our job as storytellers is to speak the words truthfully. Even in older works, the stories told through theater can seem just as relevant and current as to what is happening today."

Audiences can expect a fast ride with an exceptional cast. The entire show is just 90 minutes with one scene and no breaks, a fact that posed unique challenges.

"As a director, I have to watch all of the actors at the same time," Austin said. "Everyone is onstage together. When the curtain goes up, we've got one shot."

Why are the jurors angry? The actors have opinions.

"It's hot, it's middle summer in New York City," said Chris Waurdo, who plays juror nine. "There is a bit of racial tension going on. We've just sat through three days of confusing testimony. We all have opinions, some more deeply rooted than others based on their own conditions in life, so we just really want to get out of here."

Juror seven, played by Jackson Darrow, has Yankees tickets and it's getting close to gametime. A swift guilty verdict will get him out of the courtroom faster so he can get to the game.

"A baseball game is more important

to this juror than getting the verdict right," Darrow said. "He's willing to throw out a life just to get to see the Yankees play."

Eliza Geib noted that juror 10 has many issues — she's bigoted, she's hot, she has a house full of kids at home, and she is sure her husband isn't taking care of them properly.

"She's positive someone from a slum background is capable of this kind of violence," Geib said. "She just wants to get out of there."

Jana Naylor, juror 11, raved about her cast and director.

"Madeline is an amazing director and a fantastic professor," Naylor said. "It's awesome to watch her direct and see how the show is formed as she helps us figure out our characters. She lets us try different things and is very open to the actors providing ideas and input."

Juror six, portrayed by Erik Binix, is acting in his third play under Austin.

"Madeline allows and encourages actors to take control and make big, bold choices for their characters," Binix said. "Of course, she has a vision of what she wants the show to be, and she's incredible at guiding actors to define their characters, define their actions and make the show theirs, but use her knowledge and expertise to guide actors in the right direction."

Tickets to "12 Angry Jurors" can be purchased at [www.aacc.edu/campus-life/attend-a-performance](http://www.aacc.edu/campus-life/attend-a-performance).

# Jim Patton And Sherry Brokus Return to Anne Arundel County

Jim Patton and Sherry Brokus of Austin, Texas, are returning to 49 West in Annapolis for their annual post-Thanksgiving show on November 24 at 7:30pm.

The Severna Park natives will play songs from across their career including from their new "Big Red Gibson" album.

"Big Red Gibson" represents a return to the rock side of Patton and Brokus' folk-rock origins for the first time since 2005, when they put their band Edge City on hiatus. The band on "Big Red Gibson" plays with a Tom Petty and The Byrds influence, led by Cordy Lavery's electric 12-string guitar.

Patton brought a batch of 20 songs to longtime producer Ron Flynt that called for a harder edge than the mostly acoustic sounds of "Going the Distance," their 2022 CD that spent 20 weeks on the Americana chart. The characters in Patton's new songs feel an urgency: toward



Severna Park natives Jim Patton and Sherry Brokus are promoting their "Big Red Gibson" album, which features a Tom Petty and The Byrds influence.

time friend BettySoo again fills in on the high parts that used to be Brokus' while Brokus concentrates on her lower range.

Brokus' voice, ravaged in 2019 by allergies, is recovering. She has no damage to her vocal cords, but it may take another year and a half for her to sing fully again. She has already cut her first lead vocal in four years for the next album, which the duo has already begun to record.

Patton and Brokus met at the Oxbow Inn on Ritchie Highway, and Patton's songs are filled with references to Anne Arundel County and the Baltimore area. Their last two albums went to No. 12 and No. 17, respectively, on the folk charts.

Patton was the longtime cross country

and track coach at Severna Park High School. Brokus is a mental health therapist.

They listened to a lot of Richard and Linda Thompson, The Byrds, Jefferson Airplane, the Everly Brothers, and Emmylou Harris singing with Bob Dylan when they started, but from the beginning, they developed their own style.

As for lyrical inspiration, Patton cites the sources as 20th century American fiction and the various lives of the friends he grew up with.

"I knew doctors and lawyers and waitresses and teachers and water rats and gravediggers and the guy who drove the truck that emptied the port-o-pots all over the state," he said.

Patton said he learned to play acoustic guitar through Bob Dylan songs and electric in a band playing Rolling Stones songs, and "that was pretty much it for covers."

getting away from their city, their past, a way of life that Patton and producer Flynt felt needed to be represented in the music.

Flynt has played bass and keyboards, sung harmonies and produced Patton and Brokus since 2008. Drummer Steve McCarthy and Patton bonded over their love of old records by The Kinks. Long-

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» Continued on page 54

## How Do Global And Domestic Issues Affect The Market?

**Jason LaBarge**  
LaBarge  
Financial



This year is turning out to be a historical one for many reasons. Who would have thought at the beginning of the year we would be worried about a Middle East conflict given what was happening in Ukraine? I pray for the people in that region, hoping that they can enjoy peace in the future. Other issues impacting the end of 2023 include a government shutdown, change in interest rates and next year's presidential election. All these issues can affect the market.

Congress narrowly escaped a government shutdown by passing a temporary bill keeping agencies open until November 17. This is a temporary measure that was necessary to avoid larger problems that would have happened if they had shut down. The market may have responded negatively to a shutdown. It still may if they don't get a long-term solution passed.

The Federal Reserve increased rates four times in 2023, holding steady this past September. The purpose of increasing rates for the past year and a half is to combat inflation, and by all measures, they have been successful in doing that. The Federal Reserve's goal is to see inflation around 2% and it is currently around 3.7% (the inflation rate started 2023 at 7.5%). Most economists are predicting a rough landing in terms of interest rates stabilizing early next year and are hopeful that rates can start to decrease later next year.

We are experiencing an inverted yield curve where short-term rates are higher than long-term rates and, historically, that is the beginning of a recession. Does that mean a recession is forthcoming? Not necessarily.

The Israeli conflict is problematic for several reasons, but, in particular, the number of conflicts compounding on each other can be a concern. We just sent another \$6 billion in aid to Ukraine, and now we will need to come to the aid of Israel, and at what point does this put strain on our markets? What if other conflicts were to happen? War can be a good thing for markets in terms of the economic boom it creates, so increased military conflicts could expand market growth beyond the growth we were already seeing with artificial intelligence.

The elephant in the room is the upcoming presidential election. It appears we might have a repeat of the last election. Is the country ready for the divisiveness and battles that will take place on top of everything else that is happening? Can one of the other candidates gather enough momentum to take their party's nomination? How will the market respond to whoever is running and whoever wins? These are questions that are yet to be answered.

Hopefully, 2024 will bring clarity to many of these questions, but in the meantime, it's important to keep in mind that a diversified portfolio can withstand many of these potential problems. Allocating across several asset classes and areas protects you from overall market risk. Market risk can never be truly diversified away, so there will always be some level of market risk to work through. Deter-

» Continued on page 54

## Side Street Framers & Gift Gallery Expands To Pasadena

By Lauren Burke Meyer

After 34 years as a family business in Severna Park, Side Street Framers & gift gallery has added a new location in Pasadena. Doors opened on October 12.

The business' first store opened in Severna Park on the opposite side of Ritchie Highway in 1989.

"We are a real family affair," said Dawn Wilson, managing partner of Side Street Framers & gift gallery.

Wilson noted how three generations of women run both shops, including her mother, Barbara Daniels, as well as sisters Sandy Monck and Donna Phillips. Monck is now vice president at United Way of Central Maryland but continues to help with special store events.

"Our staff is filled with sisters, daughters and nieces," said Wilson, noting that the store also has other staff members who are not technically family members, but they feel like they are to the team.



Side Street Framers & gift gallery is a custom picture framer that has built its reputation on an ability to frame virtually anything: diplomas, children's artwork, needlework, shadow-

boxes, sports memorabilia, canvases and more.

"You name it, we will frame it," Wilson said.

While the business offers traditional

Side Street Framers & gift gallery has three generations of women running both the Severna Park and Pasadena businesses. That includes (front row) Jessica Chroniger, Blake Chroniger, Barbara Daniels, Gabrielle Williams, Dawn Wilson and (back row) Ted Graves, Jessica Graves, Stephanie Lavis, Kris Crimm and Emily Radle.

two-dimensional framing, it often takes on challenging three-dimensional projects. Thus, Side Street Framers & gift gallery is known as a specialist in the fine art of shadowbox framing, a type of display that has a fixed space between the glass and artwork.

The shop also offers conservation framing, as well as ultraviolet-protected glass to make sure customers' meaningful items last for generations to come.

"We have expanded our services over  
» Continued on page 51

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



### Chesapeake Hearing Centers Has A New Home

*Chesapeake Hearing Centers opened in July 1975 under the leadership of Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Hutto and his wife, Kate Hutto. Now, their two daughters, Julie Petruzzi and Mariya Hutto, are following in their parents' footsteps. They celebrated their new location on October 18 at 650 Ritchie Highway, suite 104, in Severna Park.*



### The Sheridan Serves Senior Population



*A new retirement and assisted living community, The Sheridan at Severna Park, has joined the community. The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 12, and the Sheridan staff gave tours following the ceremony. Three levels of care are offered at the facility: assisted living, embrace Memory Care and short-term care. The Sheridan at Severna Park is located at 134 Ritchie Highway in Pasadena.*

### Park Pharmacy Has Prescription For Success

*To celebrate its new ownership, Park Pharmacy partnered with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 5. To learn more about the independent pharmacy, read the Severna Park Voice's October story titled "Park Pharmacy Fills Needs For Neighbors."*



### With A Party, Priddy Music Academy Introduces New Space

*Priddy Music Academy has a new home, and it was officially introduced to the community during a grand reopening on October 15. Past, current and prospective students performed live tunes. Swede-Art provided face painting, and Fun-O-Kake and Fuego Picante offered food. Guests also enjoyed raffles and cornhole. The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce organized the ribbon cutting. The new location is at 1514 Jabez Run, suite 101, in Millersville.*







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# Fence & Deck Connection Receives 2023 BBB Torch Award For Ethics



At a breakfast and awards ceremony, hosted by the BBB of Greater Maryland, Fence & Deck Connection received the 2023 Torch Award for Ethics. The company's mission statement is "building lifelong customers through our commitment to excellence."

By Nicole Bailey

Fence & Deck Connection

Fence & Deck Connection is a proud recipient of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Greater Maryland's 2023 Torch Award for Ethics. The award recognizes organizations that exemplify outstanding ethical practices and demonstrate a commitment to integrity in their operations.

We are honored that Fence & Deck Connection is one of five businesses in Maryland to receive this year's award. In addition, the business was featured as a Hall of Fame business for 28 years as a member of the BBB of Greater Maryland.

The BBB of Greater Maryland hosted a breakfast and awards ceremony on October 12 to honor the Maryland businesses. Jeffrey Wall, managing partner and vice president of sales and marketing at Fence & Deck Connection, touted the four Cs of the award's criteria — character, culture, customers and community.

Fence & Deck Connection's mission statement is "building lifelong customers through our commitment to excellence," and our leadership stresses that staff are challenged to live and stand by those words, not only in the office but also in their neighborhoods and communities.

To our team, this award is a testament to our commitment to building lifelong relationships by providing the absolute best experience possible with every client, both in quality and customer service. It's been a joy and an honor bringing families together, outside, so they can create memories that will last a lifetime. We are so thankful to our customers, as well as the BBB of Greater Maryland, for their continued support throughout the years!

For more than 30 years, Fence & Deck Connection has designed and installed high-quality fences, decks, and screened porches year-round for families in Anne Arundel County and Maryland. Contact Fence & Deck Connection at 410-757-5511 to learn more about its many fence and deck options customizable to your needs or visit [www.fenceanddeckconnection.com](http://www.fenceanddeckconnection.com) for project inspiration.

## Farm Store Relocates

A Co. Farm, Lawn & Garden Center is moving five miles from its current location on Jumpers Hole Road in Severna Park to a new space at 224 B Mountain Road in Pasadena. The business will

close November 30 and reopen in Pasadena on December 4. Another Pasadena business, Himmel's Landscape & Garden Center, is thrilled to welcome the family-owned store to the area.

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## RIBBON CUTTINGS



### Image Creators Reaches A Milestone

To celebrate 35 years of business, Image Creators Salon and Spa owner Silvia Campana and her staff gathered for a ribbon-cutting event with members of the community in October. Campana has grown the business from a small group to more than 50 employees.



### Severna Park Automotive Turns 25

Twenty-five years ago, Mike McNealey and two business partners took over the local Shell station and turned it into the operation that became Severna Park Automotive. Today, McNealey is the sole owner of Severna Park Automotive, and he celebrated his anniversary with his staff and the community during a ribbon-cutting on October 26.

### Partners In Care Continues To Serve The Community

For three decades, Partners In Care has helped older adults live independently in their homes and get the services they need. The nonprofit recognized its 30th anniversary in October during an event held in partnership with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce on October 27.



### Side Street Framers & Gift Gallery Expands To Pasadena

» Continued from page 47

the years by offering photo restoration and canvas repairs," Wilson said.

In addition to its framing business, the store has a gallery filled with art, candles, jewelry, pottery, handmade soaps and lotions, plus other types of gifts made locally and throughout the U.S.

"We believe that things made with hands are made from the heart and are more special for that reason, so we keep it all handcrafted," Wilson said.

The store showcases a roster of local

artists such as Kim Hovell, Terri Heckler, Cathy Slyer, Bert Mooney, Patricia Aquilina, Jon Brown, Christina Emde and Ron Orlando.

"We care very much about the community and love supporting local artisans," Wilson said.

Wilson shared that many of their artists — local ones in particular — have a following.

Jane Ferguson's oil paintings are highly collected. Jessica Graves is a jewelry maker whose customers come in regularly to see her latest lines. Sea

glass artist Cathy Kelly makes snowflakes and jewelry. Graves and Kelly have a secondary role on the Side Street Framers & gift gallery team, helping with framing and other projects.

The Pasadena location will carry some of the same artists, but much of the inventory will be different.

"We are thinking of this store as an extension of our original store, so if you like what we carry in Severna Park, you will really enjoy the new gift items and art that we have in Pasadena," Wilson said.

Opening the new location drills down to one key theme — more.

"We wanted to be able to offer more ... more framing, more gifts and the ability to offer more services," Wilson said. "We needed more room, and now we can service other areas a little better."

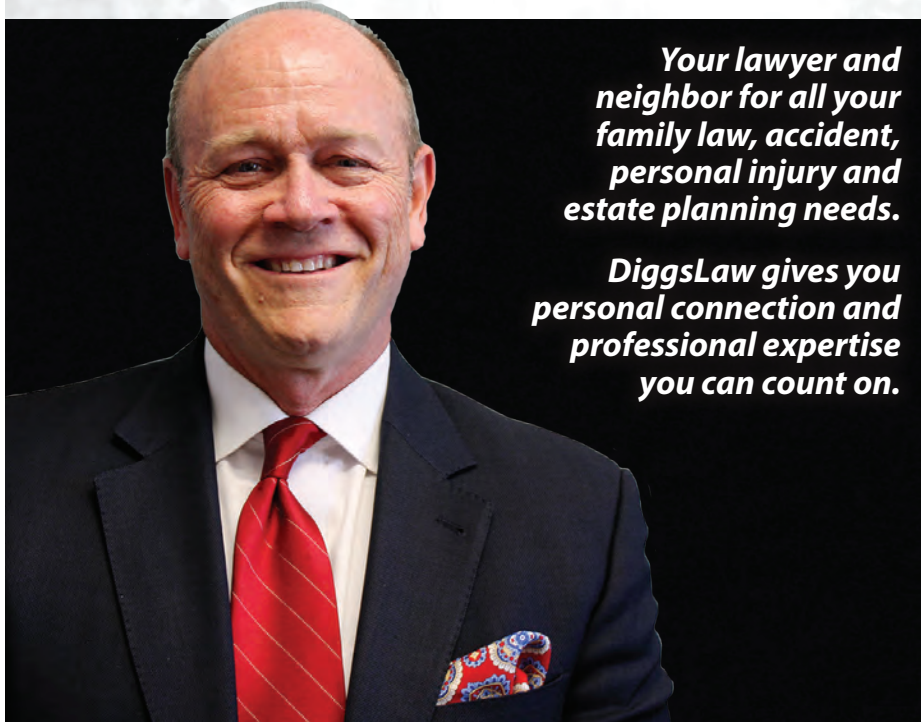
The stores are close enough that customers can do holiday shopping at both locations. Side Street Framers & gift gallery's new location in Pasadena is located at 8220 Ritchie Highway, suite 6.



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# What Should You Do With Side Gig Money?



**Brian Conrad**  
Edward Jones



The gig economy has been booming over the past several years. If you're thinking of using your skills to take on a side job, what should you do with the money you'll make?

There's no one right answer for everyone, and the decisions you make should be based on your individual situation. And, of course, you may simply need the extra income to support your lifestyle and pay the bills. But if you already have your cash flow in good shape, and you have some freedom with your gig money, consider these suggestions:

**Contribute more to your IRA.** If you couldn't afford to contribute the maximum amount to your IRA, you may find it easier to do so when you have additional money coming in from a side gig. For the 2023 tax year, you can contribute up to \$6,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$7,500 if you're 50 or older — starting in 2024, this extra \$1,000 catch-up contribution amount may be indexed for inflation. The amount you can contribute to a Roth IRA is reduced, and eventually eliminated, at certain income levels.

**Look for new investment opportunities.** If you're already maxing out your IRA, you might be able to find other investment possibilities for your side gig money. For example, if you have young children, perhaps you could use some of the money to invest in a 529 education savings plan. A 529 plan offers potential tax advantages and can be used for college, qualified trade school programs and possibly some kindergarten-through-grade-12 expenses. Keep in mind that potential tax advantages will vary from state to state.

**Build an emergency fund.** Life is full of unexpected events and some can be quite expensive. What if you needed a major car repair or required a medical procedure that wasn't totally covered by your health insurance? Would you have the cash available to pay these bills? If not, would you be forced to dip into your IRA or 401(k)?

This might not be a good move, as it could incur taxes and penalties, and deprive you of resources you might eventually need for retirement. That's why you might want to use your gig earnings to help fund an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. To avoid being tempted to dip into your emergency fund, you may want to keep it separate from your daily spending accounts.

**Pay down debts.** Most of us will always carry some debts, but we can usually find ways to include the bigger ones — mortgage, car payments and so on — into our monthly budgets. It's often the smaller debt payments, frequently associated with credit card debt, that cause us the most trouble, in terms of affecting our cash flow. If you can use some of your side gig money to pay down these types of debts, you could possibly ease some of the financial stress you might be feeling. And instead of directing money to pay for things you purchased in the past, you could use the funds to invest for your future.

As we've seen, your side gig money could open several promising windows of opportunity — so take a look through all of them.

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

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## Chamber Update

» Continued from page 47

removal. They also provide light demolition, flooring and landscaping services. This is a veteran-owned business.

**Katherine's Light Foundation LLC** — In honoring their daughter Katherine Mueller, who passed away from NET cancer, Larry and Robin Sells started Katherine's Light Foundation to shine her light and perpetuate goodness as they look for funding from their activities, the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation and other local area nonprofits that deal with education, awareness, treatments and support that will lead to potential cures for cancer patients.

**Priddy Music Academy** — Since 2000, Priddy Music Academy in Millersville has been more than just any ordinary music school. It has taken students beyond fundamentals, while gaining wisdom from working with efficient and attentive teachers that encourage confidence in being part of a musical community. Priddy has gone from the place for guitar to the place for bands, and now, the place for guitar, bass, piano and voice.

**S.H.E.P Legacy Solutions LLC** — This business' mission is to provide youth with essential life skills, strengthen family bonds and build resilience during challenging times. The staff offers coaching sessions that feel like chatting with a wise friend, group workshops that are more like cool hangouts than classes, and relationship-building activities

that make dealing with life's challenges a bit easier.

**Inspire Integrative Medicine** — The team provides services in internal medicine, primary care medicine, women's health, and preventive medicine aimed to improve overall health and prevent disease. Inspire utilizes the latest technologies, including advanced laboratory testing, telemedicine, care coordination and remote monitoring, to track health outcomes and ensure optimal results delivered to you effectively and conveniently. In addition to their education, training and certification in conventional medicine disciplines, the staff members at Inspire have developed special interests in many non-conventional disciplines.

**Isom Global Strategies** — For more than 15 years, Isom Global Strategies (IGS) has been a trusted firm in marketing and communication services. Through impactful management strategies and innovative campaigns, IGS makes it possible for clients to introduce new techniques, reach new audiences and create new opportunities. These are experts in traditional, digital and experiential marketing; public relations; and advertising.

**K.L. Hardy Trucking LLC** — Whether you are getting rid of junk, buying new furniture, moving across town, or relocating across the country, this team of experienced professionals is dedicated to providing you with exceptional service and care for your belongings.

We held seven ribbon-cutting celebrations in the past month. Three of the events were grand reopenings

in new locations and included **Park Pharmacy** in Severna Park, **Chesapeake Hearing Centers** in Severna Park and **Priddy Music Academy** in Millersville.

A grand opening was also held for **The Sheridan at Severna Park**, an upscale assisted living facility.

And there were three anniversary celebrations as follows: **Image Creators Salon and Spa** (35 years), **Severna Park Automotive** (25 years) and **Partners In Care** (30 years).

Our Shoptoberfest shop local event was held in the parking lot of the **Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club** in October, and it was great fun. We had music, entertainment, shopping, trick-or-treating, a costume contest and much more! Many thanks to our sponsors - Gold: **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, Kitchen Tune-Up** and **Ally 4 Pets LLC**; Silver: **Absolute Design Studio, Neat Wall TV** and **LaToya Nkongolo for Board of Education**; and our Bronze: **Fairwinds Travel, Delegate Heather Bagnall, Whale Works Design & Illustration, Committed Change Health and Wellness, Atlantic Blue Water Services, The Goddard School in Millersville** and **The Voice Media**. Many thanks to our wonderful host, Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club.

Our annual tree-lighting festival will be held on December 1 at the chamber, so mark your calendars and join in the fun. Our annual Taste and Sip event will be held on December 5 at **Chartwell Golf and Country Club**. The main sponsor is **Matt Wyble of Next Step Realty**. Registration is open.

For more information about the chamber and our events, visit [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com).

## How Do Global And Domestic Issues Affect The Market?

» Continued from page 47

mining the amount of risk you want is key. How you allocate the balance of your portfolio not in stocks and other equities becomes very important.

Luckily, we have seen interest rates rise, making fixed investments like bonds, annuities and certificates of deposit attractive. Many people are advised to have monthly income derived from fixed investments as much as possible. That way, your income is fixed and not determined by the market. When you combine these fixed payments with your Social Security payments and pensions, you are guaranteed a certain amount each month. With all the uncertainty in the world, knowing your monthly income is a powerful feeling.

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