

Blue Angels
Take To
The Skies
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Shipley's Choice Students
Present "Mini Rock &
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JUNE 2024

STATE CHAMPIONS

Spring ended on a high note for two Severna Park lacrosse teams and one from Broadneck, as they claimed state titles. The Falcons set state records, with the boys winning the program's eighth straight championship, extending the state record for overall championships (13) while the girls took sole possession of the state record for overall championships with 16. Playing in a different class, 4A, the Bruins took home their fourth straight championship. **Flip to page 14 for recaps.**

Severna Park Girls Lacrosse

Photo by David Bashore
Severna Park celebrated scoring a goal in the first quarter of the 3A girls lacrosse championship game.



Broadneck Girls Lacrosse

Photo courtesy of Dennis McGinley
Avery Katzen fired in the eventual championship-winning goal.

Severna Park Boys Lacrosse

Photo by David Bashore
Severna Park's Jack Fish celebrated his second goal of the game.



Severna Park High School Principal Moving To Magothy River Middle *Lindsay Abruzzo Reflects On Her Time At The High School, Future Plans*

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

For 13 years, Severna Park High School has been a second home to Lindsay Abruzzo. She spent 12 years as an assistant principal at the school before becoming the principal in January 2023. Only 17 months later, she will transition to the same role at Mag-

othy River Middle School this June.

Abruzzo was informed of the decision during an Anne Arundel County Board of Education meeting in May. The move is one of nearly 30 reassignments or promotions for administrators across Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), a staggering number that the school system declined to explain.

A Severna Park High School successor has not been chosen yet.

The news was bittersweet for Abruzzo. She loves Severna Park but has two kids, an eighth-grader and a sixth-grader, at Magothy River.

"Every year about this time, we know that we can be moved," Abruzzo said. "It can be for a number of reasons: they know they need someone who is really good at scheduling and so they move a scheduler. They need someone who is

really good at (professional development, or PD) and so they move someone who is in charge of PD, or maybe they saw something in me that they need an increase (of) in middle school.

"So, it will hit me when I pack the boxes," she said. "This has been my home for a long time."

Abruzzo will return to the Broadneck feeder system where she started her career as a math teacher in 2004, but she will miss the students at Severna Park High School.

"I would say it's every year, the kids just get better and better," she said. "I told my seniors at graduation rehearsal the other day, it was probably their best prom we've ever had. They were well behaved, they were respectful. These kids are just amazing."

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Lindsay Abruzzo hugged a graduating senior during last year's Severna Park High School graduation ceremony at Live! Casino & Hotel in Hanover.

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Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

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

Jonathan Stewart Helps Green Hornets Teams

By Sharon Mager

Like many great dads, Severna Park resident and U.S. Air Force veteran Jonathan Stewart did his stint volunteering and coaching his kids in youth sports, particularly with the Greater Severna Park Athletic Association (GSPAA) — Green Hornets. His wife, Tracy, also volunteered. It was a fun family affair.

Aidan, now 19, played lacrosse, soccer and baseball; Ryan, 15, played soccer, basketball and baseball; and Brennan, 11, played soccer and baseball.

"I coached all of them in baseball as their head coach or assistant coach and helped in the other sports when needed," Stewart said.

Eventually, Aidan aged out, and Ryan and Brennan no longer played on teams. But Stewart kept going for over a decade and is still going. He now serves as assistant to the Green Hornets baseball commissioner, Michael Phillips.

"It's funny, Michael and I talk about this every year — all of our kids have aged out or are not playing," Stewart said. "He and I don't have 'skin in the game,' but we like the organization. I like doing the background stuff and keeping it or-



Left: Jonathan Stewart prepared a tee for his son, Brennan. **Right:** He has served Green Hornets for over a decade.

ganized. We want to keep it going."

In his role, Stewart manages 45 teams, from the 8-year-old "Rookies" down to the 3-year-old "Little Gloves." He "seeds" the teams, determines team counts, recruits volunteer coaches, schedules practices and games, assembles and distributes gear, and schedules umpires.

The GSPAA offers an assortment of youth sports opportunities, including flag football, rugby, track and field, a lacrosse clinic, select baseball, cheer, field hockey, football, select soccer, rec soccer, select lacrosse and select softball.

"The number of players continues to grow," Stewart said. "In our baseball program this season, we have swelled well past our pre-COVID years and have run out of field space. It's a good problem to have, but it makes scheduling very challenging."

He estimates his volunteer time is three to six hours a week in January as he and Phillips organize and evaluate the equipment, then two to three hours a night once everyone is registered. That commitment continues for several weeks before the season starts to wind down.

Stewart enjoys volunteering for the organization. He played sports as a kid, so that's

naturally a part of the appeal, but he also likes the relationships he's formed as he sees coaches, kids and other volunteers return each year.

It's not always easy recruiting volunteers, especially coaches, Stewart admitted. "Though once we get them in, they end up loving it," he said. "They stay and come back year after year."

Of course, so does Stewart.

Asked what he enjoys doing in his spare time, he responded, "I like to build stuff. I like DIY (do-it-yourself) projects, starting and finishing them. That's like baseball. I like to start the season, get them going, and then it ends."

Yet, for Stewart, Phillips, the coaches, volunteers and players, the memories of the camaraderie, accomplishments and fun will continue to live on.

The Arc Baltimore Honors Volunteer Erik Daly

Millersville resident Erik Daly, senior vice president and senior relationship manager with Fulton Bank's Healthcare Banking Group, is the recipient of The Arc Baltimore's Volunteer Service Award for 2024.

The Arc Baltimore supports people with developmental disabilities (autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability) to lead fulfilling lives with a sense of belonging, purpose and meaningful relationships. The Arc provides employment training and support, day and residential services, family support and education, treatment foster care, respite care, public policy advocacy, and information and referrals.

Presented during The Arc Baltimore's recent annual meeting and awards reception, the Volunteer Service Award recognizes an individual or group demonstrating commitment to The Arc's mission by providing voluntary support to both the organization and those it supports.

"Erik has shown exemplary leadership throughout his three years as



Erik Daly

president of The Arc Baltimore board of directors," said Kathleen McNally Durkin, the organization's chief executive officer. "His commitment has been unwavering, from overseeing the closure of a pension fund that saved The Arc thousands of dollars to navigating virtual meetings during COVID."

Durkin noted that since The Arc came

out of the pandemic shutdown and transitioned to in-person interactions, Daly has actively engaged in orientations, visited homes, and participated enthusiastically in events like The Arc's annual golf tournament and Art in the Round art exhibit and auction.

"Erik's dedication extends to advocacy, attending five developmental disability days in Annapolis," Durkin said. "His passion and understanding of our mission's impact on people with developmental disabilities and their families make him an invaluable asset. As he transitions to immediate past president, we're grateful for Erik's continued service and dedication."

The annual meeting and awards reception provides an opportunity for The Arc Baltimore to recognize those individuals who have gone the extra mile in their service to the organization and those people with developmental disabilities who are recipients of The Arc's programs and services. As in past years, the event featured numerous recognitions, as well as the election of The Arc Baltimore's new board of directors and officers.



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Blue Angels Take To The Skies



Photos by Meredith Winter

As part of the Naval Academy's Commissioning Week celebrations, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels soared over the Severn River on May 22 for their annual flight demonstration. Their elite team of pilots performed gravity-defying maneuvers and impressive formations — flying as close as 18 inches apart — in six F/A-18 Super Hornets and a C-130J transport.

AACC Student Entrepreneurs Win Funds In Business Pitch Competition

By Meredith Winter

On April 30, students at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) stood before a panel of judges and earnestly pitched why their businesses were worthy of being awarded funds to grow. In a scene similar to the popular TV show “Shark Tank,” the young entrepreneurs were given two minutes to creatively tell the story of their small business or business idea, followed by five minutes to field questions from the panel of eight outside leaders from the business and academia realms. A total of \$75,000 was awarded to this year's business pitch competition finalists.

With little public speaking experience under his belt, 21-year-old Gaetano Ailiff was nervous to make his case for the junk removal and moving business he owns and operates with his cousin. Yet, when it was his turn to lay out his business plans, Ailiff says he “got in the zone” and did well — so well that the judges ended up awarding him the top prize of \$25,000 to expand MD Junk and Moving.

“It was a great experience,” he said, noting that he is grateful for the financial investment as well as all of the intangible resources he gained during the experience. “I learned a lot. (The pitch) was something I was dreading and then I did it and it went super well, so it felt amazing afterward.”

Ailiff explained that he and his cousin plan to use the funds to purchase a box truck so they can eliminate their biggest business expense — renting trucks to complete moving jobs.

Less of a stranger to communicating before an audience, 22-year-old N’Kobe Turner was in his element when he pitched to the judges why they should consider making a financial investment in his business, Grandma’s Southern Pies.



Anne Arundel Community College students who participated in the school's 20th annual business pitch competition in April were awarded a total of \$75,000 in funds for their businesses.

He credits his mom for the confidence; a professional singer and speaker, she required Turner and his siblings to write and deliver speeches in front of their family when they were young.

Turner, who graduated from AACC with his associate's degree in business administration on May 22, painted a picture for the judges of childhood summers spent visiting his grandparents in Mississippi, where his grandmother would always serve her sweet potato pie. She has since passed away, but Turner keeps her memory alive by making and selling the delicious pies — and for a good cause. A portion of the proceeds from every scratch-made organic sweet potato or dessert pie are donated to an autism awareness organization. Turner explained that his older brother is autistic, and he has witnessed his brother experience discrimination and bullying and wanted to do something about it.

“I loved the (pitch) experience because

it was so special to be able to connect with people and have people understand and invest in me, and in my story and my mission,” he said. Turner took home the second-place prize of \$20,000, with which he plans to invest in needed equipment and access to a commercial kitchen space.

Other finalists who were awarded funds to expand their businesses were Amber Trainer, who presented The Arenda (\$10,000); Jeremiah Batucan, who presented Common Goal/Ball at the Mall (\$6,000); Tyler Loh, who presented Wvndr Studios (\$5,000); Patti Kuhlman, who presented Breaking Waves (\$3,000); Grady Cole and Matthew Wallace, who presented Mycelium Loving (\$3,000); and David Pollak, who presented Soundglide (\$3,000).

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the business pitch competition. Stephanie Goldenberg, AACC Entrepreneurial Studies Institute academic chair and associate professor, has facilitated

the competition since 2017. She explained that it is open to any AACC student, credit or noncredit, who is an aspiring business owner or has been in business less than three years.

Goldenberg shared that she was impressed with how much the student entrepreneurs improved their pitches leading up to their big moment, but she was even more proud of the camaraderie they developed while participating in the program. “It's a competition, but the students are encouraged to help each other be better, so they were giving each other advice,” she said. “No matter where they placed, they celebrated each other.”

The Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation provides the funds to make the business pitch competition possible. Nine students were also awarded \$12,000 scholarships at the event.

To learn more about AACC's Entrepreneurial Studies Institute or the business pitch competition, go to www.aacc.edu.

Pickleball Tournament Benefiting Casey Cares Raises Over \$25,000



Photos courtesy of Annie Wright/Casey Cares

The Casey Cares Paddle Up For A Purpose Pickleball Tournament was a success on May 11, raising over \$25,000 for programs that help critically ill children and their families. Held at The PutAway in Severna Park, the event started with a speech by a Casey Cares child fighting spinal astrocytoma and brain glioma. Then, the pickleball action got underway. Winners included the following teams: Really Big Dill Court (Alex Kukich and Ben Weckstein), Dinking Responsibly (Joe Deluzio and Ben Salsbury), Stay Out of the Kitchen (Adero Mandala and Lucas Randrianarivelo), Court Crushers (Michelle Salmon and Bria May), Drop Shot Divas (Sandra Deluzio and Rebecca Mackowiak) and Smash Squad (Melissa Wilson and Terry Jubb).



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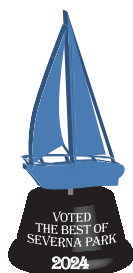
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Recently, I was talking with a client as we were loading food into her car. She was sharing how her family had started caring for her father-in-law, one of their kids had been sick, how she was looking for an additional job because she wasn't getting enough hours, and she was borrowing a car because hers had broken down. What I remember about the conversation is her mental exhaustion, so many things to

take care of and difficult decisions to make. Like this family, many of our clients fit into the category of earning too much to qualify for social services and not enough to afford all the basics. A trip to the hospital, a needed car repair or another unexpected expense is enough to throw them into a temporary crisis and make difficult decisions prioritizing bills. According to the United Way, 6% of households in Anne Arundel County live below the poverty line, and an additional 24% of households are below the ALICE threshold. ALICE (asset limited income constrained and employed) is a category of households whose occupants are employed and still have a difficult time paying for necessary expenses in a budget that doesn't include saving for emergencies (learn more at www.unitedforalice.org).

The local costs for these seven factors used to calculate the ALICE level for counties are the following: housing, groceries, child care, health care, transportation, technology and taxes. Shortcuts and decisions in these areas can have larger and long-term impacts. Having to make decisions between putting limited funds toward rent or fixing a car, an electric bill or a doctor visit, and food or a prescription bill, are not simple and are often intertwined. The car might be needed to get to work. Pushing off needed health care might be OK in the short term,

but then at some point, it affects the ability to work.

In the short term, it can be easy to skim on food, but the lack of access to enough food and a limited or uncertain availability of nutritious food affects performance at work and school and can cause long-term health issues.

Thankfully this is one area that this community does an amazing job helping with. SPAN's shelves are filled by donations from the community and enable us to help close to 50 households a month with needed food. So often we hear "thank you" and gratitude for the food. One of the biggest smiles I have seen, truly ear to ear, was from a child giddy with excitement and anticipation of what would be in the food boxes! Thank you - it was wonderful knowing that we were able to provide every kind of food he was hoping for!

And, thanks to this generous community, SPAN helped 75 families in April with a total of more than \$14,000 toward court-ordered evictions, utility turnoffs and medical prescriptions. It is not as easy to illustrate, but just like with the food, the financial donations from businesses, churches, community groups and individuals add up and make an impact on these community members who are exhausted and making tough decisions with limited income. Thank you!

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is an independent nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, medical/prescription bills and food since 1990. SPAN serves 15 zip codes in Anne Arundel County. SPAN is located behind Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 400 Benfield Road in Severna Park. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00am-1:30pm. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or visit www.spanhelps.org. Financial donations can be made through the website. Food donations can be dropped off anytime using the storage bin behind SPAN's building. Please "like" SPAN on Facebook!

Shop Local Celebrates The Community



Park Plaza played host to the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Spring Shop Local Fun Festival on May 11. Attendees were treated to face painting, music, gifts and more. Several businesses also used the occasion to donate checks to area nonprofits.



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Severna Park High School Principal Moving To Magothy River Middle

» Continued from page 1

Being the principal at a school with high academic, athletic and extracurricular standards was never easy, but it was a challenge Abruzzo embraced. She welcomed transparent conversations with students, encouraging them to find balance by focusing on their interests, whether that was math and science, English and social studies, sports or “Rock ‘N’ Roll Revival.”

“I feel like Severna Park, yes, it is super high-achieving, and yes, there is stress from the community and parents and the kids put a lot of pressure on themselves,” Abruzzo said. “But — I haven’t been at a ton of schools — but I haven’t been at a school that has 80-plus clubs where every single kid has a space to be who they want to be.”

Staci Cassarino worked alongside Abruzzo as an assistant principal for much of Abruzzo’s time at the school. Cassarino explained that Abruzzo is a visible figure and often the first person the kids see each morning when arriving at the school.

“She is very open to empowering students,” Cassarino said. “She is not an automatic no, so if the kids come to her with some crazy idea because they want to raise money for the Epilepsy Foundation or they want to raise money to get to nationals for SkillsUSA, she is not a ‘no’ principal. She’s a ‘alright, let’s talk about it and see what we can do.’ She really, really empowers the student leaders in the building and she has a big focus on kindness and positivity and that has, in the last year and a half, really spread.”

Rising senior Tori Wright shared a similar sentiment.

“She allowed students to become more comfortable by loosening the dress code, she respects the students, has great school spirit, is very aware of what is going on in the community, and really cares about the students, their success and their wellbeing,” Tori said. “She was also very open to trying new things and made sure to listen to the students and faculty.”

Inclusivity and kindness became an even greater emphasis for the staff following a January 2023 incident in which a Severna Park High School student was filmed while bullying a student with special needs. The disturbing exchange was shared by outlets in Maryland and nationwide. Abruzzo had just started as principal and had just been recognized as the AACPS Educator of the Month for December.

The incident prompted many people across the world to take jabs at Severna Park High School, both online and by calling the school. Abruzzo called it a “rock-bottom moment.” She responded by inviting youth motivational speaker David Flood to the school to talk to kids and by holding assemblies.

“I did grade-level assemblies where I said, ‘This is very elementary, but look to your left, look to your right and say something nice to the people around you,’” Abruzzo said. “‘Like how hard was that?’

“It probably is harder to dream up something mean than to just say something nice that probably came like that,” she said with a snap of her fingers. “And

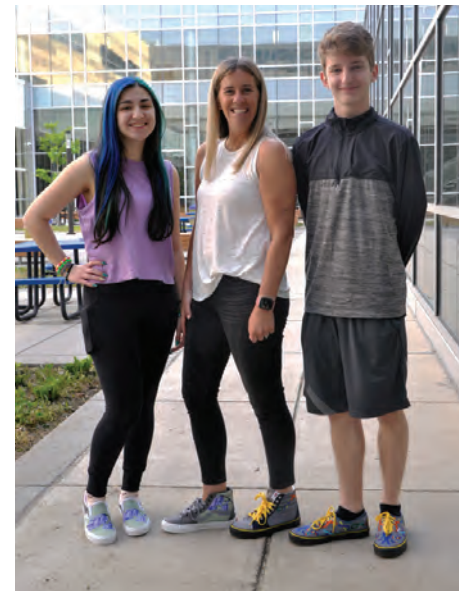


Photo by Mark Patton

Lindsay Abruzzo launched a Vans shoe design contest last spring to get students excited about kindness.

Innocent Until Proven Guilty

Artificial Intelligence Muddying The Evidentiary Waters

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

You may have heard about the allegations that began in January 2024 against the principal of Pikesville High School in Baltimore County: an audio recording had caught him making racist and antisemitic comments about students, teachers and parents. News flash from late April 2024: it was a “deepfake” artificial intelligence (AI)-generated recording.

As the principal had maintained all along, he never made the comments and the voice in the recording was not his. Baltimore County Police vindicated the principal after detectives determined that the school’s former athletic director, who had been under investigation for theft of school funds and for firing a coach without approval, made the recording in retaliation against the principal. The athletic director was suspended, arrested and criminally charged.

In the intervening three months, however, as the audio recording spread via social media, defamation and threats of violence assailed the principal, discord and distrust profoundly impacted the school community, and police beefed up security at the high school. The principal had to take an administrative leave of absence.

What is a “deepfake” you might ask. They are artificially created audio files, videos and photos of people and events that look and sound real, but which never happened. As AI technology evolves, the ability of experts to detect deepfakes will become more challenging and deepfake detection technology will also have to improve.

Laws aimed at catching deepfakes and punishing those who made them will have to be enacted, and some states have begun doing so. For example, Tennessee just passed the “Elvis Act,” which makes it a crime to use someone’s voice in a deepfake for commercial purposes. It also provides both for a civil right of action against

the perpetrator and for an action against any AI entity that “distributes, transmits, or otherwise makes available an algorithm, software, tool, or other technology, service, or device” that is used in creating the deepfake. Maryland had a few bills that were introduced in the legislature but did not make it across the governor’s desk before the end of the legislative session.

The authenticity of evidence in legal proceedings is paramount. To establish facts in a case, the parties may rely on photos, video or audio recordings. For these items to be admissible in a court of law, their veracity needs to be proven. Attorneys will have to be careful to make sure that the evidence their client presents is real. Experts may need to be retained to determine the veracity of legal exhibits.

Another area of the law in which AI is affecting cases is the drafting of legal papers. Some lawyers who have used AI in generating briefs and other court documents have been sanctioned for including fake case citations that the AI platform has generated. These attorneys should have checked the case citations to be sure that they were real cases. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. discussed technology and the use of AI in his 2023 year-end report on the federal judiciary. From typewriters to computers to AI, technology has changed the way law is practiced. He acknowledged that “AI can help ... (but) any use of AI requires caution and humility.”

*Call David Diggs for actual intelligence, not artificial intelligence. If you find yourself the victim of a deepfake, you will have questions about what redress is available to you and other issues. You should consult with an attorney who will assist you in making informed decisions. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact the **Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 302, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1189 or by emailing david@diggsllc.com.***

so, I think just showing them that outside of these four walls, the perception, based on that video, was really negative and that’s not who we want to be. We don’t want to be that video that (provoked) people to call me from Australia. We want to be the state champion lacrosse team. We want to be the sci-fi club that has fun at soirees. We want to be the people who are kind when they don’t have to be.”

Abruzzo’s affinity for Vans footwear sparked another idea: a schoolwide Vans shoe design contest to promote anti-bullying and kindness. Teens at the school voted for their favorites and the result was a two-way tie between Nadia Abdolahi and Jameson Murray.

That initiative is one of the first additions Abruzzo plans to bring to Magothy River Middle School.

“I have to order my custom marlin Vans and get ready,” she said, referring to the school mascot.

Abruzzo has never worked at a middle school. The curriculum will be new, but she has an idea of what she hopes to accomplish.

“I think really teaching the kids there that these are your bridge years,” she said. “These are the years that you get to be not like elementary and you don’t have to really worry about college credits yet, but the rigor and the responsibility is big, like you’re a big mind in a little tiny body still. So I think just showing them that my experience of what they’re going to need for high school, I feel like my Magothy River kids will be super prepared for what Broadneck wants them to be, and I’m excited to vertical-team with their admin and their departments at Broadneck because a lot of my people are still there.”

With the last day of school for students approaching on June 11, Abruzzo had a few thoughts to share with Severna Park residents.

“Even though I’m gone, this will always be my community,” she said. “This community, as much as I feel like I shaped them, they shaped me. I’ve learned so much from this community in 13 years, and so I feel like while they have given me all the thank you’s, I want to thank this community for loving me as long as they have.”

Top Five Tips To Succeed At Negotiation



David Orso
Real Estate Broker

Negotiation. The word itself evokes a range of emotions. Embedded in the term is the reality that the outcome is variable, and depending on the stakes, it could be incredibly costly or rewarding. Having negotiated thousands of contracts and studied the topic of negotiation extensively, I have found five fundamental traits of elite negotiators. These traits can be learned and trained to help gain a competitive edge. Whether negotiating a salary increase, the purchase of a new car or home, or even negotiating household chores with a teenager, the difference in preferred outcomes is negotiation.

Tip 1: Prepare and then prepare some more

Never enter a negotiation without exhaustive preparation. Think through the other parties' positions and likely "wins" for them. Develop a list of questions to gain understanding of all elements of the negotiated item. Have your research, your questions, your projected objections, and your prepared offer scenarios printed or written. The most prepared party (almost) always wins!

Tip 2: Negotiate options, not positions

Negotiations commonly break down when it becomes positional. There is a feeling of being stuck and too far apart. A skilled professional will always unwind the positional trap by offering multiple options. This strategy displays the deal points aren't singular and in relation to other variables. It also keeps the negotiation on a collaborative tone as opposed to a win/lose positional vibe.

Tip 3: Words matter

Hollywood has made negotiation appear to be a strong-man competition when, in fact, the most skilled negotiators are extremely controlled and use words wisely to their advantage. Being polite in a negotiation is a strategy because the other party is more likely to concede to a nice person than a threatening jerk. The first set of phrases are simply "please, thank you and I apologize." The second phrase is "fair." The F word (fair) acts as a ground wire to neutralize an imbalanced situation. The last phrase that is helpful when positions are becoming anchored is "what if?" This phrase creates opportunity and possibility.

Tip 4: Never fall in love

I started my career in real estate as an investor and lost a deal, which I admittedly wanted very badly. As I told the story to a wise mentor, he said something to me that I will never forget: "David, the deal of the century comes along about once a week." It wasn't that I needed that deal; I had fallen in love and lost my power to walk away. Always keep walking away as an option. The best way to do this is to create additional options as a backup plan if the negotiation is not aligning to your desired terms.

Tip 5: Give the other party the last word

It sounds counterintuitive to a competitive negotiator, but the best of the best know that negotiations are rarely actually final. It is good business to leave another party feeling like they got a win too. It is important to know where you can concede and what is important to the other party. There is definitely a personality type that needs to get the last word, so learn how to give it to them while protecting your interest.

David Orso is a local real estate broker who has been the top agent in Anne Arundel County in total sales since 2013 with well over \$1 billion and thousands of homes sold. He has a Master of Business Administration degree from Loyola College of Baltimore and honed his negotiation skills at the program on negotiation at Harvard Law School. Orso's real estate office is in the heart of Severna Park at the corner of Riggs Avenue and Evergreen Road.



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Letter To The Editor: House Bill 496



Sponsored by Delegate Emily Shetty, House Bill 496 was signed into law on May 16. The legislation recognizes that the absence of consent is enough to validate a sexual assault survivor's experience in court.

Did you know that until recently in Maryland, simply stating “no” wasn’t enough to prove rape under the law? Survivors had to demonstrate that force was used or threatened, which overlooked those who “freeze” in response to an assault — a common and natural reaction. Unfortunately, many sexual assault cases have slipped through the cracks as a result of this loophole in Maryland’s second-degree rape statute.

I and other survivors shared our stories with Maryland lawmakers, expressing how crucial it is for our state to establish clear statutory language that recognizes non-consent as a fundamental element of sexual crimes. House Bill 496 (HB496), sponsored by Delegate Emily Shetty, was signed on May 16, 2024, and recognizes that the absence of consent is enough to validate a survivor’s experience in court.

Sexual assault does not discriminate. It can happen to anyone, at any time, and is often committed by someone you know and trust. At 16, I chose not to report my assault, because I needed to acknowledge my own experience as valid on my own terms. Nationally, about two out of every three sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement. According to Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA), Maryland had a total of 2,318 reported

rapes in 2021 and 1,891 in 2020. With HB496, Maryland sets an example by affirming that consent must be a clear and voluntary agreement and allows for victims to revoke consent to sexual activity via their conduct — not only by explicitly saying “no,” enabling more survivors to speak out and seek justice.

With the 10th anniversary of my own assault passing this year, I now feel a sense of pride and joy knowing others will have their experiences validated, recognized and supported by statute. I am deeply thankful for the unwavering support of my friends; my partner; my boss, Delegate Brian Chisholm; Delegate Emily Shetty; and MCASA. Their support empowered me to share my most vulnerable and personal story.

This year marked my fourth legislative session at the Maryland General Assembly, each year more rewarding than the last. I’ve cherished my role in educating others about the legislative process and encouraging active participation. It’s empowering to realize that the advice I’ve often given — to speak out and share your perspective — would become a mantra for my own healing journey. Sharing this deeply

personal story within my professional setting wasn’t easy. However, I’m grateful to have used my position in public office to shed light on the reality of sexual assault experienced by many Marylanders. This moment of vulnerability spurred legislative changes and raised awareness about the issue. To anyone who hasn’t testified on a bill or spoken up about a personal issue, know that your voice can have a profound impact.

As we continue to discuss consent in schools, among friends, and at home, it’s crucial to ensure everyone understands and respects boundaries. If you think you are mature enough to engage in sexual activity, you are also responsible for ensuring clear, mutual consent. If you or someone you know is seeking support, please reach out to your local rape crisis and recovery center. For those in Anne Arundel County, the number is 410-626-7800. Your experience matters, and your voice can lead to meaningful change.

Aysia Rodriguez
Chief of Staff to Delegate Brian Chisholm (District 31)

Letter To The Editor: Carcinogens

With cancer rates on the rise, notably among young people, it is time to examine possible causes. Many cancers are caused by substances called carcinogens. Substances that could potentially cause cancer are known as class 1 or class 2 carcinogens, and substances known with certainty to cause cancer are called class 1 carcinogens. Processed meats, such as deli meats and hot dogs, contain class 1 carcinogens, putting them in the same class as cigarettes. Cigarettes require

a warning label making people aware of the risks associated with exposure. Processed meats do not. I propose regulation to spread awareness through labeling.

As stated in federal law Title 15 Chapter 36, titled the Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, cigarette packaging is required to contain a warning label informing consumers of the risks they pose to health, notably the increased risk of cancer. This simple legislation could be applied to processed meats, raising awareness among consumers who may otherwise be unaware of their risks. I believe that regulation is urgently needed to help consumers make more informed decisions because of rising national and worldwide cancer rates.

Evangeline Roath
Archbishop Spalding Student

Unofficial Primary Election Results For Anne Arundel

Maryland’s primary election was held in May. Voters were asked to choose their preferred representatives for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, U.S. Senate, Congress, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, and other offices.

Here are the unofficial results as of May 23. Winners, listed in bold, will move onto the general election, with early voting starting on October 24 and Election Day set for November 5. The top runners-up are listed below the winners.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (DISTRICT 5) — NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES

Dana Schallheim (63.37%)
LaToya Nkongolo (25.71%)
Tareque Farruk (10.92%)

U.S. SENATOR — DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

Angela Alsobrooks (49.82%)
David Trone (45.31%)

U.S. SENATOR — REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE

Larry Hogan (70.85%)
Robin Ficker (21.88%)

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (DISTRICT 3) — DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

Sarah Elfreth (44.99%)
Harry Anthony Dunn (24.74%)

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (DISTRICT 3) — REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE

Robert Steinberger (25.30%)
Arthur Radford Baker Jr. (18.06%)

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT CIRCUIT 5 — DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Christine Marie Celeste (34.34%)
Gina Jackson-Stevenson (30.31%)
Christina Bayne (18.60%)

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT CIRCUIT 5 — REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

Christine Marie Celeste (27.41%)
Thomas Casey (25.92%)
Christina Bayne (17.84%)

Got An Opinion? Share It With Us!

We want to hear your thoughts regarding what’s happening in the neighborhood. Is there a current issue that you feel strongly about? We know our readers are passionate about their neighborhoods, schools, community and more — and the Voice would love for you to tell us about it.

Letters to the editor can be emailed to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com and may be edited for space, clarity, grammar, spelling, etc. We encourage you to express yourself, but please be brief — letters should be limited to 350 words, though we do on occasion run longer letters. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sweet 16: Falcon Girls Lacrosse Nets Record State Title



Photos by David Bashore

Left: Maria Bragg dodged the Dulaney ride in Severna Park's 12-6 championship win on May 21 at Stevenson University. **Above:** Avery Saviano cleared the ball for the Severna Park defense.

By David Bashore

Getting to the state playoffs in any sport is difficult. Winning a championship is even tougher. In girls lacrosse, nobody has done it more often than Severna Park.

Behind a miserly defense and an attack content to score in bunches, the Falcons muscled their way past Dulaney 12-6 on May 21 at Stevenson University in Owings Mills, claiming their second successive 3A girls lacrosse championship.

It was also the program's 16th overall championship, which broke a tie with Mount Hebron for the most girls lacrosse titles in Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) history.

The 2024 Falcons stand on the shoulders of their predecessors, but they also recognized their own talent in breaking a longstanding state record.

"I think it's generational," said senior defender **Ryn Feemster**. "The classes prior are working for us to give us that reputation that we have right now, and we need to give credit to them that we can play at such a high level."

That confidence and respect for history bleeds deep into the Severna Park program, and it pays dividends even in ways they might not anticipate.

When U.S. Naval Academy-bound senior attacker **Alyssa Gore-Chung** was shut down after an injury against Broadneck on April 12 and they had to play the remaining 12 games without her, the Falcons were forced to

» Continued on page 24

The Streak Continues: SP Boys Win Eighth Straight Lax Championship

By David Bashore

When you win as often as Severna Park does, the pressure starts to mount. And not just from the outside: everyone else wants to beat you, but you also have history staring over your shoulders.

But with the Falcons' 8-6 win over Towson in the Class 3A boys lacrosse championship game on May 21, which extended the team's records for most consecutive wins (eight) and most overall wins (13), there was plenty of jubilation mixed with a healthy measure of relief.

"As you grow up, you watch those older guys play, and we're friends with all their younger siblings, and they're telling us, 'You'd better not lose the streak,'" said **Nolan Grizzle**, one of the team's seniors. "It's kind of a relief because it's expected for you to get there. ... It's great to come full circle. This is exactly how I wanted it to end."

» Continued on page 22



Photos by David Bashore

Above: Timmy Sullivan ran behind the cage with the ball during Severna Park's 8-6 win over Towson in the Class 3A boys lacrosse final. Sullivan scored three goals in the game. **Left:** John Burkhardt dodged the Towson defense.



Fab Four: Bruin Girls Win Fourth Straight State Crown

By David Bashore

Early in the fourth period of the nip-and-tuck 4A girls lacrosse state championship game against Urbana on May 23, Broadneck senior **Olivia Orso** drove to the net and got rocked by two Urbana defenders.

The whistle went, and a yellow card was shown. Broadneck had a one-goal lead, now a one-player advantage for two minutes, and Orso had a free shot from 8 meters out. They knew this was the opportunity to make one final, decisive push for a fourth straight championship.

"It was like this is the last moment," Orso said. "We don't have practice tomorrow, (May 23) was our last day of school, so we don't have anything. We can give all we have for eight minutes

» Continued on page 24



Photo by Dennis McGinley

The Broadneck girls gathered on the Stevenson University turf to celebrate their fourth successive state championship.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

UPTON YOUNG

Severna Park Lacrosse, Basketball

By David Bashore

At Severna Park High School, Upton Young is known as a guy who keeps things light. Once he crosses that line, though, it's a different proposition.

Whether in basketball, where he was one of the Falcons' leading players, or in lacrosse, where he anchored a defense that helped Severna Park win an eighth successive state championship, Young gives opponents headaches every second he's in the game.

In basketball, he's a bulldog, fighting through traffic and putting himself in positions to be successful. In lacrosse, he's more of a steady hand that leads his teammates and harasses opposing attackers.

And he leaves a little bit of humor still mixed in. "Practice can be hard or intense, so I like to bring a little humor — even in games I'll try to make the opponent laugh, maybe throw them off a little bit," Young said. "I've always told myself to work hard, play hard, have fun when it comes to sports, but keep things in perspective. Be competitive but don't be overly competitive."

The only returning defender with significant playing experience for Severna Park, Young turned that magnetism into a leadership role for a team that had plenty of attacking firepower but needed calm, capable play in the rearguard.

It was a different thing for Young compared to basketball, where he was one of the team's leading scorers and playmakers. But different is just fine in his book.



In fact, it's being in a variety of situations that causes Young to thrive.

A 4.6 GPA student, Young played two sports in his senior year, loaded up on STEM classes, and completed his dual-enrollment pathway at Anne Arundel Community College.

"I've always been busy even growing up. I played three sports on five different teams, two different sports on the same day on the weekends. I've always given it my all in everything, so balancing school and

Photo courtesy of Fincham Photography

A 4.6 GPA student, Upton Young played two sports in his senior year and completed his dual-enrollment pathway at Anne Arundel Community College.

sports is something I've always had to do," Young said. "For basketball, I'd finish up the game and I'm in the locker room, the guys will be wanting to go get some food, and I've got to finish my homework. But when I step into the gym or on the field, that's what I'm locked in on, but it requires a lot of outside focus when I'm not on the field. Busy is normal for me. When I'm not busy, I feel like I did something wrong."

Outside of all of that, Young is involved in his community by mowing lawns and keeping yards beautified, hanging out in nature with his friends, and training local kids in basketball. At the school, he participates in leading basketball camps, as well as supporting the entrepreneurship and environmental clubs in their respective missions.

Though his varsity career may be over, Young hopes to stay busy with club basketball or lacrosse at Cornell University, where he plans to study mechanical engineering.

"It's the best engineering program in the Ivy League, with lots of great people and great professors," he said. "I hope to have a good well-rounded experience, but to get that degree at such a well-established institute, their networking is one of the best, so I can meet some great people and put me on a successful path. Engineering is a big commitment, so club's great, and it's a little more lenient. It'd be fun just playing the sport I love so much during college and being able to play at a semi-competitive level."

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After Winning Playoff Opener, Falcons Fall In Region Finals

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

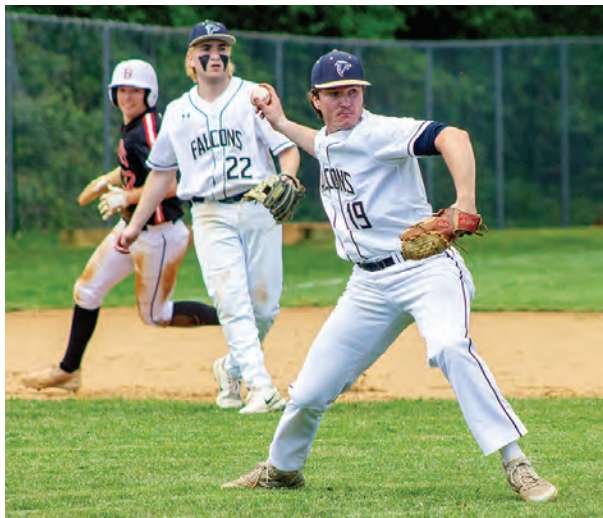
It was a moment befitting a deep playoff run. Facing a two-run deficit and down to their final three outs in the Class 3A East region final baseball game on May 11, No. 2 seed Severna Park scrapped back against No. 1 seed Stephen Decatur.

Two Falcons got on base and **Benji Beisler** laid down a perfect bunt. A wild throw sailed into the outfield, allowing two Severna Park runners to score, tying the game 3-3.

But that effort did not pay off with a win. In the eighth inning, a Stephen Decatur batter reached base on an error, stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch. **Eric Braica** came up to bat and promptly delivered a single to right field for a walk-off hit, giving his team a 4-3 win and ending Severna Park's season.

Severna Park pitchers **Angel Santiago-Cruz** and **Eric Benner** combined for a solid effort, but it was tough to match the dominance of Seahawks pitcher **Nate Berzonski**, who allowed only one hit through the first six innings. He struck out 11 batters by working both halves of the plate with his fastball and mixing in a curveball and changeup. The Falcons' lone hit through six innings was a **Kody Phillips** blast to left center field.

The loss ended a season in which the Falcons were county champions, having beaten Arundel 9-0, and region semifinals winners. Three days prior, Severna Park looked formidable against James Bennett. **Jackson O'Brien** hit a grand slam, pitcher **Sean Williams** tossed a shutout, and the Falcons beat the visiting



Clippers in five innings, 10-0.

With that result, Severna Park had plenty of reasons to feel confident about their state title chances, but they also knew that championship prize would not come easy.

"Once you get to the state playoffs, it's single elimination and you just got to give it your all every time," Santiago-Cruz said after the win over James Bennett.

It was a disappointing end for a program that made the state semifinals last year and the state finals in 2021 and 2022. Yet, players enjoyed the ride and their camaraderie.

Before his team's last game, O'Brien reflected on his bond with his teammates and their pursuit of a title.

"I've been playing with these boys my whole life and we already talked about my senior year and the juniors'

junior year, and this is what we've been working for all year," he said, referencing the teammates' years playing with Green Hornets and API.

Phillips said it was a special group.

"We bring a lot of energy every day," he said. "It's always fun being with these guys and playing loose, always bringing the energy."

Photos by Zach Sparks

Top Left: Severna Park's Adam Clark went 3-3 against James Bennett High School in the region semifinals. **Top Right:** The Falcons celebrated after Jackson O'Brien's third-inning grand slam put the team ahead 8-0 against the Clippers on May 11.

Bottom: Sean Williams fielded a grounder in Severna Park's 10-0 playoff opening win, during which Williams tossed a complete game shutout.



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Falcons Edged Out In Softball Region Semifinal

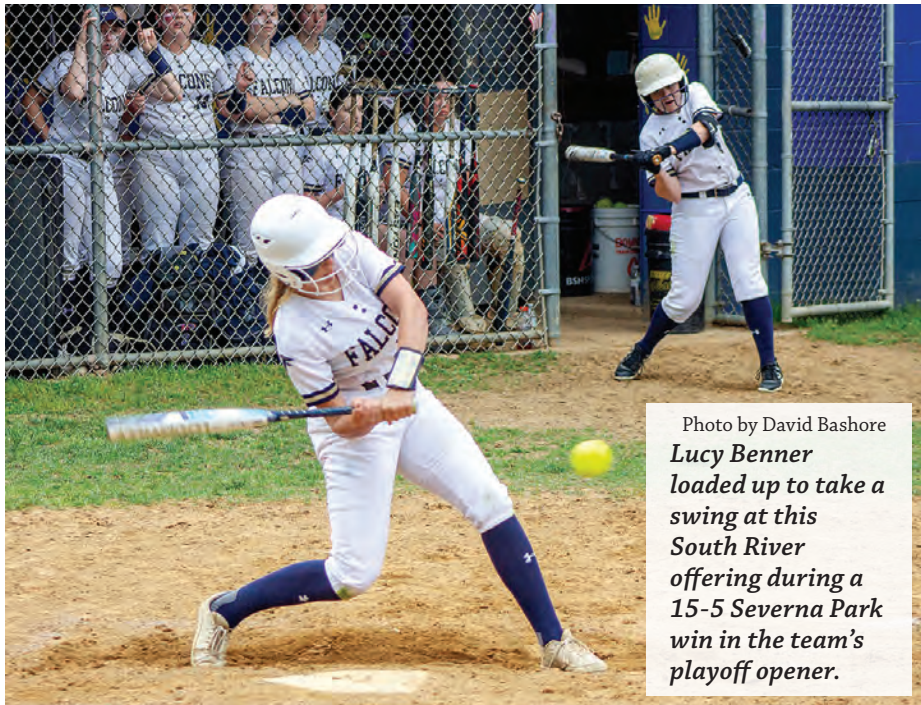


Photo by David Bashore
Lucy Benner loaded up to take a swing at this South River offering during a 15-5 Severna Park win in the team's playoff opener.

Players on the young Severna Park softball team proved they had grown up, and they were three smooth innings away from scoring a huge upset in the region semifinals. But one rough inning undid the hard work of the first four, and with it the season. Chesapeake plated three unearned runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to beat Severna Park 3-2 on May 13. **Isabelle Tello** and **Addison Bianco** each hit home runs for the Falcons, while **Quinlyn Bary** struck out seven in

six innings of work in the circle. The Falcons got to the region semifinal after they cruised in their tournament opener, a 15-5 win over South River. In that game, **Bianco** homered twice and drove in four runs, while **Sally Trent** also homered and drove in three runs. **Bary** also plated three in the win. Severna Park ended the season at 13-8. The Falcons will graduate five seniors: catcher **Trent**, center fielder **Christina Ballagh**, running specialist **Kasey Thompson** and **Katherine Boord**, and **Ellen Blain**.

Extra-Innings Loss Ousts Bruins Softball In Region Semis

The Broadneck softball team fell in a region semifinal game at Leonardtown 1-0 in extra innings on May 13, ending their season. The teams combined for no runs and five hits in the initial seven innings, before two sacrifice bunts got the job done for the Raiders in the bottom of the eighth inning, advancing the tiebreaker runner in from second base to end the game. **Rylan Crisafulli** struck out 14 batters and issued no walks in the game. Defensively, the Bruins committed four errors, while Leonardtown was error-free. Broadneck beat Annapolis 10-0 in the first round of the region playoffs to set up the Leonardtown matchup. **Aliceanna Weibley** tripled twice and drove in four runs, while **Lily Kisling** and **Bella Herrera** both drove in two runs. Pitcher **Samantha Waters** struck out eight to pick up the win. Broadneck ended the season with a record of 11-8. The Bruins will graduate three seniors: **Waters**, shortstop **Mara Gilkey** and infielder **Hailey Adamson**.



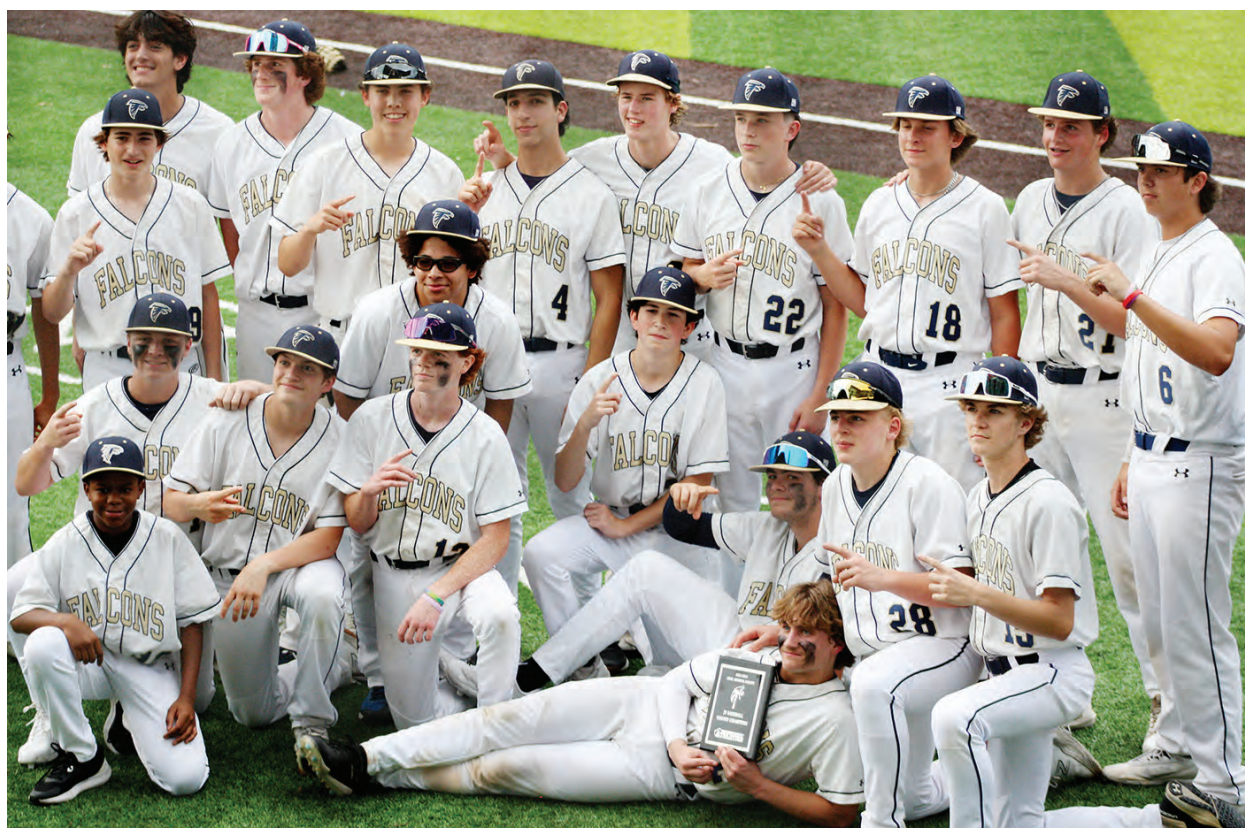
Photos courtesy of Jennifer Purdum

Top: Aliceanna Weibley made an over-the-shoulder catch during a 1-0 Broadneck loss to Leonardtown in the region semifinal. Bottom: Rylan Crisafulli struck out 14 batters and issued no walks against the Raiders.

Severna Park JV Baseball Caps Perfect Season With County Title

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

A six-run third inning put Broadneck ahead of Severna Park in the JV baseball county championship on May 7, yet the Falcons did not blink. They scored two runs in each of the next three innings and held the Bruins to only one more run as Severna Park won the JV county championship, 8-7. The grit they displayed was not surprising to anyone. They played hard their entire season, which ended with an 18-0 record. Severna Park JV baseball coach **Pat Carr** said an earlier game against Broadneck set the stage for the championship comeback. "I told them they were going to have ups and downs and there was going to be adversity, and if we could overcome that, we win the day," Carr said. They did win the day, as they had all season. Throughout the spring, the Falcons got stellar pitching from **Reece Davis** (7-0, 2.0 ERA) and **Evan Boucher** (4-0, 0.87 ERA). "They just throw strikes," Carr said of his top two pitchers. "They're both hard throwers, but they are able to locate. They also work quickly and that keeps the defense awake." **Teddy Uy** (2-0, 2.0 ERA) and **Tyler Bowerman** (1-0, no runs allowed) also held opposing offenses in check.



The Falcons overcame a four-run deficit to beat the Bruins in the JV baseball county championship May 7.

Offensively, the entire team produced and got on base. **Boucher** had a team-high 21 hits and drove in 17 runs, and **Kyle Witte** was just behind with 16 RBI. **Davis** hit .448 and tied **Timothy Nguyen** with the team lead with three home runs. **Brett Hudson** led the team in doubles with six and had 16 hits. **Dylan Phillips** also contributed 16 hits, and **Jacob Burns** and **Jonah Downey** each had 15. Out of players with

30 or more plate appearances, **Burns** had the highest average (0.536) and on-base percentage (0.618). All that production led to the team's 18 wins, but Carr noted that his job is not about wins and losses. "I saw a lot of growth and maturity from them by the time we played Broadneck in the county

championship," Carr said. "It's about, 'Are you going to put in the work and have the right attitude?' This was my first year with Severna Park baseball after being at Glen Burnie the last eight years, and this is the most talent I've ever coached. They're going to do big things."



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Fifteen-Win Season Ends In Regionals For Bruins Baseball

A promising season for the Broadneck baseball team ended abruptly as they lost 7-5 at home to Leonardtown in the regional semifinals on May 11.

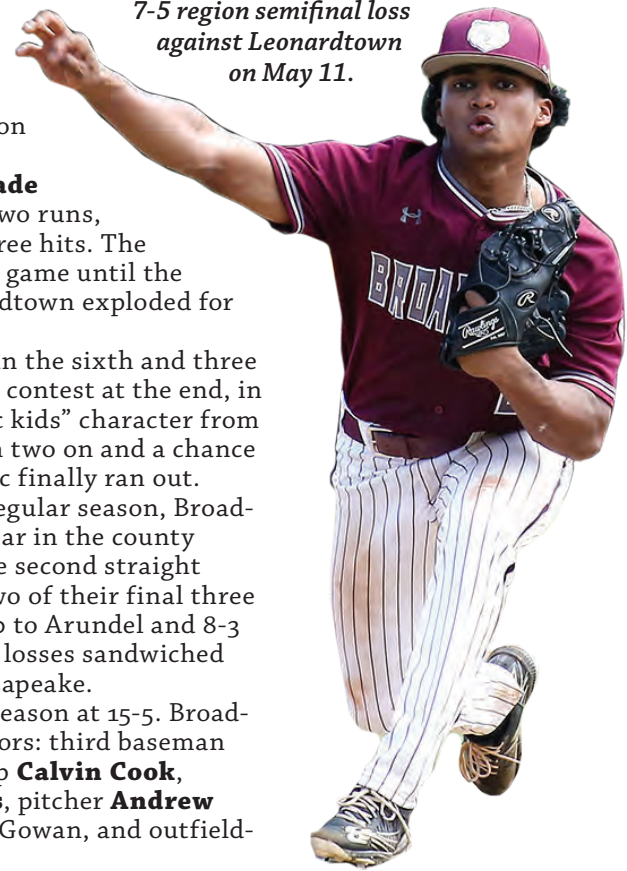
Devin McGowan and **Cade Schuetter** both drove in two runs, while **Avik Cherry** had three hits. The Bruins were locked in a 1-1 game until the sixth inning, when Leonardtown exploded for six runs to pull away.

Broadneck got one back in the sixth and three in the seventh to make it a contest at the end, in keeping with their "cardiac kids" character from the entire season. But with two on and a chance to tie the game, their magic finally ran out.

With a week left in the regular season, Broadneck looked poised to appear in the county championship game for the second straight year, but the Bruins lost two of their final three county games, falling 11-10 to Arundel and 8-3 to Glen Burnie, with those losses sandwiched around a 5-1 win over Chesapeake.

The Bruins ended their season at 15-5. Broadneck will graduate six seniors: third baseman **Peyton Cassidy**, shortstop **Calvin Cook**, outfielder **Ethan Hopkins**, pitcher **Andrew Katzen**, first baseman McGowan, and outfielder **Nate Schilling**.

Avik Cherry pitched the last two innings and had three hits during Broadneck's 7-5 region semifinal loss against Leonardtown on May 11.



Photos by Dennis McGinley

Above: Peyton Cassidy connected with a pitch during the region semifinal game at Leonardtown. **Below:** Devin McGowan leaned into the dugout to make a sensational catch to retire a Raiders batter.



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Make It A Double: Bruins Tennis Wins Second Straight Title

In the Class 4A state championships, Broadneck won the state championship for the second consecutive season. This year's competition was held at Wilde Lake Tennis Club from May 23-25.

Olivia Mellynychuk defeated Eleanor Roosevelt's **Ivanna Canessa** in the finals, earning her second consecutive state championship in girls singles and capping off another unbeaten campaign. Throughout her high school career, Mellynychuk suffered only one loss, in the state final during the 2022 season.

After a nail-biting quarterfinal matchup that saw them defeat Walt Whitman via tiebreak, the tandem of **Charlie Ernst** and **Anissa Jean-Claude** enjoyed smooth sailing for the rest of the mixed doubles bracket. Their finals win over Northwest's duo of **Eileen Dai** and **Magnus Smith-Peters** marked the first state championship for both, as Ernst's run to the finals last year was cut short by Walter Johnson.

In the 3A championships, Severna Park finished third in the team standings. **Gavin Gerard** and **Carys Preston** took second place in mixed doubles, and **Charlie Herman** finished as the runner-up in boys singles.

For the full story on the winners, check www.severnaparkvoice.com.

SP Boys Win Eighth Straight Lax Championship

» Continued from page 14

The Falcons were battle-tested, though not in the way one would think. They played four games against state championship participants — Glenelg, Broadneck (twice), and Towson — plus two more against 3A semifinalist Marriotts Ridge and another three against South River, who the Falcons said were a top-four team in 3A but for residing in the same region as Severna Park.

Their rematches against Broadneck, in the county championship, and Marriotts Ridge, in the state semifinals, were much tighter than their blowout wins earlier in the season. Their wins over South River in the county and regional playoffs were both blowouts after the Seahawks thumped them earlier in the season for their only loss.

That mettle grew into an overwhelming firepower over the course of the season that saw Severna Park win their last nine games. They scored for fun in most games, and the defense was there to back them up when they didn't.

Game to game, one never quite knew who was going to be the one to hurt the opponent.

"Everyone's got so much skill that if someone gets hot early, you just give it to them and go," said attackman **Timmy Sullivan**, who scored the first three goals of the state championship game.

Whether it was Sullivan or **Jack Fish** piling up goals in attack, **John Burkhardt** or **Tucker Moran** dictating offense and tempo in the midfield, **Upton Young** leading a lesser-experienced defensive corps, or **Calvin Winship**

rising into the position of goalie to win his team some games, countless individual Falcons felt free to be themselves and take over games when needed.

And they had a head coach who almost felt like he simply needed just to stir the drink.

When **Dave Earl** stepped down as head coach after seven straight state titles, **Bob Zichelli** — well-established in the Severna Park lacrosse community — was encouraged to put his name forward. Zichelli was initially reluctant, not because he wasn't interested, but at his age — 66 this June — and having a life full of children and grandchildren, it's hard not to just kick back and enjoy life.

But the Severna Park community kept coming back to him, and a prime coaching staff was waiting.

"Coach Earl had done such a great job. But to get Merrick Wood and **Jack (Thomas)** and **Randy (Vaugh)** involved — once I got them on board, I knew we were going to do well, and then it's about the players," Zichelli said. "These guys know lacrosse. They're great lacrosse players, they've played for great lacrosse clubs, and they've played since they were this high. So in that way, it was just a matter of letting them do their thing."

Zichelli also had help from assistant coaches **Colin Pastrana** and **J.P. Gourley**.

Despite the initial hesitancy, Zichelli was all-in on the Falcons. And the Falcons have loved him back.

His first season in the head role at

Severna Park was dedicated to his son Kevin, who died after a freak accident in May 2022. The Falcons wore "KZ" on their shooting shirts all season long, and the weekend before the state finals, the team presented Zichelli with a tree, two years to the date of Kevin's passing.

"It blooms every year around this time," Fish said.

If such a thing were possible, the lacrosse factory that is Severna Park grew even closer over the course of the season. And that blossomed into yet another state championship: one more year living with, and up to, the expectations for being a member of this program.

That they did it was a testament to the quality of depth in the program, both in youth and in leadership experience.

The Falcons will come loaded for bear in the quest for title number nine, but first they will bid goodbye to 10 seniors: attackmen **Grizzle** and **Hunter Reed**; midfielders **Burkhardt**, **Moran**, **Carter Crivella** and **Sam Salas**; defenders **Young** and **Jonathan Mazzola**; goalies **Winship** and **Price Connor**.

"We're a lacrosse community. We're a lacrosse town. I give a lot of credit to moms and dads and families," Zichelli said. "They've driven thousands and thousands of miles to get the kids here, practices, tournaments. A lot of the dads coach and some help with scouting. We get a lot of support, and the parents are raising great kids and great lacrosse players."

Said Grizzle: "We're just going out and playing for each other, because we know how much it means to each other."

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Broadneck Boys Come Just Short Of Repeating As Lacrosse State Champs



Photos courtesy of Karen McCassie

Midfielder Eli Harris did a lot of transition work, also drawing several penalties against Urbana, during the Class 4A boys lacrosse state championship on May 23.

By David Bashore

The story of Broadneck's boys lacrosse season is not that they fell in the Class 4A state championship game to Urbana, 7-5.

After losing so much talent from an undefeated 2023 team, getting back to the state title game was far from a given. But the Bruins worked their way through a tough regular season, breezed through the region and state playoffs, and were back at Stevenson University on May 23, contesting a state championship for the third year running.

But for a break here or there, they

might well be two-time champs. That was highlighted by an extra-man opportunity in the final minute, with the Bruins trailing by one. Urbana made the saves, then scored the clincher at the other end with Broadneck having committed men forward to force a turnover.

"When you're playing the best in the state, it's a battle the whole way," said Broadneck coach **Jeff McGuire**. "It comes down to the way the ball rolls. Not our best shooting, and the goalie had his best day. For a championship game, I don't think you could ask for a better game."

That the season ended in a state championship appearance was a product of heavy player-coach collaboration. There was early frustration after a few losses mounted, compounded by being blown out by Severna Park in their regular-season matchup. It was a reminder that last season really was in the past, and 2024 was a completely different group.

But there was significant senior leadership dedicated to correcting course. It was leadership most strongly evidenced by a seniors-only meeting in the basement of a player's house. There, they came up with a document that would change the course of the season.

"It's a piece of paper I'll probably save forever, but pretty much like a manifesto," McGuire said. "I read that thing, and it wasn't like, 'We want this, we want that.' It was, 'We appreciate when you do this. What do you need from us?' And so on. With 17 seniors, sometimes you look around, I'm sitting in a chair and they're driving the boat."

Though the season ended one win shy of a state title repeat, the Bruins learned a lot about themselves and one another over the course of the season.

The 17 seniors will be tough to replace on the field, in addition to their leadership.

There's Division I-bound talent, including midfielder **Braden McCassie**, who is off to Jacksonville, All-American faceoff specialist **Graham Hartman**, who is going to Mercer, attack man **Logan McGill**, who is headed to Hampton, and speedy defensive-minded midfielder **Eli Harris**, who will attend plebe summer ahead of a football career at the U.S. Naval Academy.

There's scoring firepower, starting with **Tyler Stewart**, the team's leading goal-scorer, **Tyler Hicks**, **Liam Komlosy** and **Tanner Boone**. There's the steady

defense of **Harlan Welsh** and **Austin Combs**, along with heavy hitters **Albie Palsa** and **Jed Pellicano**.

Other seniors, including **James Smack**, **Jack Meehan**, **DaQuann Woodall** and **Carter Telep** also made their marks at times this season.

Contributions came from all over the roster, with many of those seniors poised to continue playing lacrosse at some level next year.

The biggest impact may have come from **Matt Tettmer**, who came into the program as an attack man but switched to goalie his sophomore year, sensing a need. That meant little playing time until this season, but he grew into the position and played his best ball in the final game of the season.

"The story of this senior class, ton of stars but also a ton of journeymen," McGuire said. "Coming into this year, (goalie) was the biggest question mark on our team. I don't know if he could have filled it any better. Played out of his mind in the championship game, maybe the biggest game of his life. He did a great job and we're proud of his composure."

The willingness to switch positions, to do what the team needed — what their friends needed — was emblematic of the team all season long. Not only were the seniors getting together to problem-solve and game-plan the rest of the season; they genuinely wanted to be around one another, no matter what.

"These guys are for each other. They are hard to pull away from each other," McGuire said. "That's why they're having a meeting in the basement. I wouldn't doubt that there were impromptu team dinners when we didn't have a team dinner. Pool parties at so-and-so's house after practice. This is a tight-knit group ... fantastic group to be around."

Green Hornets Capture Pee wee A Division Lax Title

The Green Hornets third/fourth-grade team wrapped up an undefeated season with the county championship on May 19. Championship weekend started with a win over Kent Island in the semifinals. In the championship game against the Davidsonville Gators, the Green Hornets defense was the deciding factor. **Joey Blanchet**, along with goalkeeper **Sawyer Hasson**, anchored the defense. **James Gales**, **Thomas Lazak** and **Owen Bergman** held the Gators to just two goals. The midfield unit also helped contain and clear the ball. Scoring in the championship was led by **Clyde Baker** with a goal and assist. **Patrick Turner** converted Baker's fast-break pass to add a second goal. Midfielder **JP Burluson** netted the game-winner with less than a minute to play in regulation. The team was coached by **Keith Baker**, **Joel Wotell** and **Arnold Turner**, and managed by **Mitchell Baker**.



Green Hornets Junior Girls Are County Champions

The Green Hornets Junior B girls lacrosse team captured the county title with an 8-6 win over the Arden Attackers on May 19. The win capped an 8-2 season for the girls, who were led by head coach **Ed Davis** and assistant coaches **Bob Evans** and **Maddie Brady**. Players included **Avery Davis**, **Ashlyn Ensor**, **Millie Evans**, **Claire Farley**, **Lexi Fitzsimmons**, **Molly Koistinen**, **Rilynn Kusiak**, **Elle LaBrier**, **Kaleena Listman**, **Sage McGuire**, **Anna Mello**, **Selin Merfeld**, **Tessa Norris**, **Ryleigh Quill**, **Colleen Ridley**, **Shayna Tobin**, **Emma Watt** and **Starrla Willingham**.

Fab Four: Bruin Girls Win Fourth Straight State Crown

» Continued from page 14

and then we're done, there's no more after that. Nobody wanted to leave with a silver medal."

Orso scored her free shot, her second goal of the game, and the Bruins added one on the player advantage to get some cushion.

But it wasn't the seniors who got Broadneck home in the 10-9 victory.

The game's most crucial interventions came from three freshmen: **Ceci Facciponti**, **Molly Robison** and **Avery Katzen**. Facciponti scored last-second scrambled goals in the first and third periods, Robison made eight saves in goal, and Katzen netted the decisive goal with three minutes to play.

The Bruins ultimately survived for their fourth straight championship, and their third victory by a single goal. They know better than anyone how hard it is to win, but they also know perhaps better than anyone how to close it out.

"Every year, we've prepared and we worked so hard. This week leading up to the game, we've been really focusing on, this isn't something that's given to you, it's earned," said senior attacker **Lily Trout**, who scored three goals in the game. "We've focused on that all four years: we have to earn this and give everything we have because it's not going to just be given to us."

A three-goal lead left the game in the hands of the defensive unit, and Robison, **Nya Williams**, **Faith Everett**, **Susanna Moore** and **Katelyn Kearns** delivered. Katzen provided the final margin, and the Bruins were once again celebrating on the Stevenson University turf.

This one felt different, in part because of the four-peat, in part because of the visible changing of the guard, and in part because for this one, the seniors were able to own both having lost a glut of talent from 2023 and bringing along the next generation of Bruins lacrosse players.

"We had amazing leaders that put their confidence in the younger kids, and that's where that comes from," Broadneck coach **Katy Kelley** said. "If the older kids believe in the younger kids, the younger kids know what they can do, and they're very capable younger kids. I feel like our leaders have done that for them."

"They had to carry it this year and I think that's a different feeling. The pride shines through when we know, 'Oh, we just led this team to a state championship' is a really good feeling, and they did a great job."

The culture Broadneck has generated over the last four years is one of "we over me," Kelley said, and that has turned into players hyper-focused on each other's successes.

Case in point: the eventual championship-winning goal came not courtesy of seniors Orso or Trout, underclassmen attackers **Sienna Miller** or **Nora Lopes**, and not even freshman Facciponti. It was the lesser-utilized freshman Katzen who found herself one-on-one and stuffed in Broadneck's 10th and final goal of the game.

"Avery is the feistiest person on our team, so as soon as she had the ball, I was just like, 'Go!'" Orso said.

Miller said, "I knew she would get it." And Facciponti added, "We all know



Photos by Dennis McGinley

Left: Olivia Orso scored one of her two fourth-period goals in Broadneck's state championship win over Urbana on May 23. **Right:** Freshman goalie Molly Robison made eight saves to help the Bruins capture the state crown.

how hard (Katzen) works, and I think that's what made us all believe in her in that moment."

This team genuinely did not care who got the credit for their success. And though it was the fourth time for the seniors, and there's a selfish inclination to garner the mantle of four-time champion, they wanted this one for the newer players just as much for themselves.

"I think Lily and I, coming off of three, and even Sienna coming off of

two before, we know what it feels like to win the state championship," Orso said. "For the younger girls who don't know, that's something we wanted them to feel so badly, and that carried over through practice every day, knowing that was what we wanted to get to."

In addition to Orso, Trout and Moore, the Bruins will also graduate two other seniors: defender **Jordan Vineyard** and attacker **Ella Lopes**. Their Broadneck race is run, and now it's on to the others

to continue the tradition. That attitude is baked into the culture of Broadneck lacrosse, win or lose.

"It's about way more than these championships," Kelley said. "It's about them growing up and teaching ... it's really about giving yourself to others. Them giving themselves to the younger girls and teaching them the Broadneck way. As they buy in and believe in that, it creates a culture of growth, a culture of success, a culture of grit."

“It's about way more than these championships. It's about them growing up and teaching ... it's really about giving yourself to others. Them giving themselves to the younger girls and teaching them the Broadneck way.”

— KATY KELLEY, HEAD COACH, BROADNECK GIRLS LACROSSE

Sweet 16: Falcon Girls Lacrosse Nets Record Title

» Continued from page 14

address the question of life without their go-to player sooner than they would have liked.

But the cavalry came and rose to the occasion, even though some were thrust into the forefront a little earlier than expected.

"Our attack really developed, and we moved the ball a lot quicker," said junior **Erin Hussey**, one of many who helped pick up the slack and saw her game blossom as a result. "Of course, Alyssa going out was a struggle at first, but our attack is adaptive. We realized there were shoes to be filled, and we all pursued that."

Hussey, **Maria Bragg** and **Bella Van Gieson** carried the bulk of the scoring, and the attack was filled out by contributions from **Kate Evans**, **Peyton Jeffers**, **Sara Kreis** and **Francesca Dunoyer**.

Severna Park won 11 of those 12 games, and they finished 19-1 overall, giving up an average of just under seven goals per contest behind tough defense anchored by Feemster, **Avery Saviano**, **Bella Mazzola** and goalie **Allison Schiavone**.

The Falcons' only setback came in a 14-11 loss to Archbishop Spalding on April 19, in which they took a spate of yellow cards to give Spalding momentum the Cavaliers would never relinquish.

The lesson?

"We play very aggressive, but we have to be poised aggressive," Severna Park coach **Annie Houghton** said.

For the most part, the Falcons did that and stayed out of trouble the rest of the way. They cruised to titles both in the county (13-9 over Broadneck) and region (12-6 over Crofton) and were only really tested in the first quarter of two state-level games: Liganore in the state quarterfinals (an 11-8 win), and Dulaney in the championship. But in both cases the Falcons leveraged their experience and adaptivity, and they used their defense prowess to keep themselves just ahead of the chasing pack, as they've been for years.

Against Liganore, the Falcons had yellow card issues and did not score in the second half but conceded just three times and saw a six-goal halftime lead hold up. Against Dulaney, they allowed just two second-half goals and blanked

the Lions in the fourth quarter.

That experience and ability to adjust is part of what now has Severna Park standing alone atop Maryland's public school girls lacrosse mountain.

"We've stayed consistent through the years. That's a testament to our community, parents who are super involved, girls who put in the work," Houghton said. "Severna Park is lacrosse, it's a hotbed, and with that comes pressure. But the girls step up to that pressure."

The Falcons will graduate eight seniors — Feemster, Dunoyer, Evans, Kreis, Gore-Chung, Schiavone, **Berit Isenberg** and **Sarah Stefancik**.

Those graduating seniors have lived up to Feemster's statement and now pass that "title town" reputation on to the next class.

It's safe to say they've gotten the message: it's your turn now, so keep it going.

"It's a little bit overwhelming when you come on. You don't expect to win it every year just because you've won it in the past," said Bragg, a sophomore. "You have to work just as hard as you did to win those other ones. You can't take it for granted."

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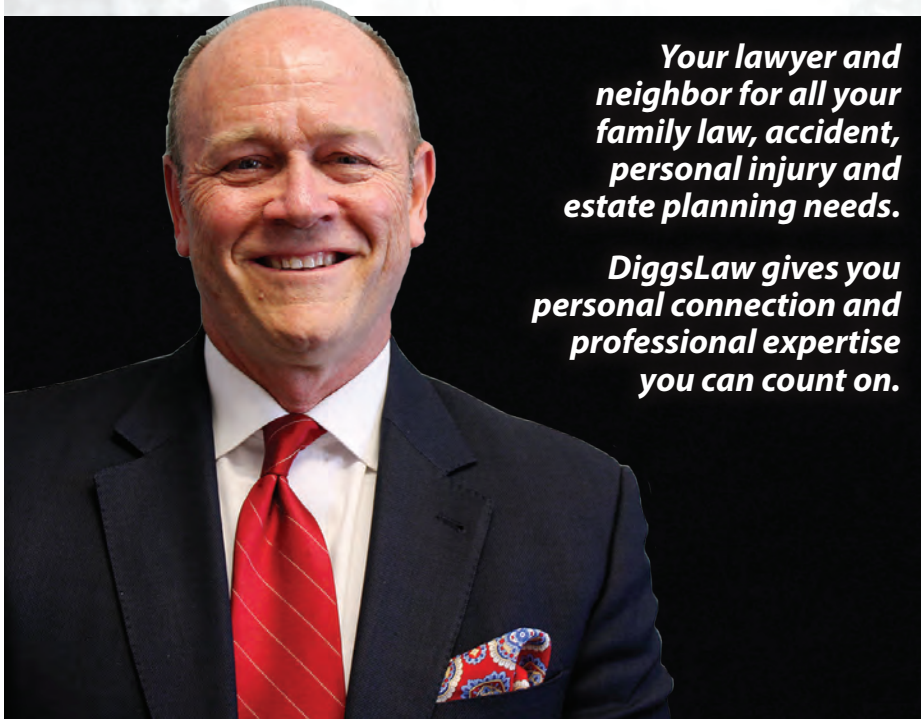
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Athletes Compete In Track And Field State Finals



Track and field athletes from schools across Maryland gathered for state championships at Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover from May 21-23. Although they may not have experienced the team success they were hoping for, several athletes came away with individual accolades.

On the Class 3A side, Severna Park's **Kian Williams** took first in long jump, and **Ty Miller** placed fourth in high jump. The team of **Kaylee Jenish, Siena Pegues, Ava Zimmerman** and **Harper Wallace** finished third in the 4x800-meter relay.

Broadneck competed in the Class 4A finals. **Casey Gish** finished first in high jump and third in triple jump. **Ciara Haney** was second in high jump, and **Carson Boteler** earned third place in pole vault. For the boys, the team of **Jack Loomis, Braeden Kelly, Ben Sterner** and **Fox Larson** took fifth in the 4x800-meter relay. **Cole Friedman** earned fourth place in the 100-meter finals.



Photos courtesy of Naptown Studios

Left: Severna Park's team of Kaylee Jenish, Siena Pegues, Ava Zimmerman and Harper Wallace finished third in the 4x800-meter relay during the Class 3A track and field state championships in Landover in May. **Right:** Broadneck's Cole Friedman earned fourth in the 100-meter finals during the Class 4A state finals.

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Folger McKinsey Elementary Students Prepare To Show Off Underwater Robots



Photo courtesy of Jessica Meredith

Folger McKinsey students Aidyn, Lucia and Maggie posed with their SeaPerch vessel, the U.V. Minnow, at Severna Park Fitness and Racquetball Club, where the teams prepared to test their robots.

By Alyson Kay

At the end of May, the Naval Academy hosted a showcase for nine Folger McKinsey Elementary School students to display their underwater SeaPerch robots.

The international educational program introduces students to engineering concepts by providing parts and guides for building remotely operated vehicles out of materials including PVC and pool noodles.

The SeaPerch program is available to any Anne Arundel County public school that chooses to participate. Fourth-grade teacher Jen Lee restarted the program at Folger after the teacher who brought it to the school, Sue Grieve, moved to Texas. Lee's kids, now in their 20s, built SeaPerch robots when they went to Folger.

Lee believes that SeaPerch cultivates students' interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

"I wanted to go ahead and revitalize this program because I think STEM is such an engaging way to teach some real-world skills to kids," Lee said.

The students signed up or messaged Lee to join. Parents of the selected students needed to volunteer to assist the kids as they built the robots.

The pieces are not premade, so students needed to use tools to build each component, guided by the kit's manual.

"I really liked the soldering because we melted the metal onto the circuit board," Folger McKinsey student Christian Milbury said.

Despite the robots' simple design, there was room for creativity and personalization.

"Our team's SeaPerch was named the Salty Sea Monster, and it had many different colors and designs on it," student Annabel Lay said.

» Continued on page 33

Shipley's Choice Students Take Audiences On "A Musical Road Trip"

By Meredith Winter

Fourth- and fifth-graders sang their hearts out and danced the night away before a packed-out audience at opening night of Shipley's Choice Elementary School's (SCES) "Mini Rock & Roll Revival" on May 4. The show, which offered an encore presentation on May 5, featured nearly 100 talented young students in the cast and crew.

Themed "A Musical Road Trip," the 13th-annual SCES production took audiences on a journey through time with popular hits from the 1930s through early 2000s. Students sang and danced to 20 classics including "ABC" by The Jackson 5, "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper, "Complicated" by Avril Lavigne, "Final Countdown" by Europe, "Surfin' U.S.A." by The Beach Boys and "Rocket Man" by Elton John.

SCES general music teacher and chorus director Caitlan Peachey has served as director for "Rock & Roll" for six years. She shared that students had rehearsed monthly for the big spring production since November.

"My favorite part of helping students was watching them grow and be able to be successful from the moment we started to (the) performance," Peachey said of preparations for the big weekend. "Every number improved from our first rehearsal to the last performance, and I think the growth is such a cool thing to see."

Among the young performers was fifth-grader Caroline Kingston, who sang in two songs and danced in three others. She shared that she was no stranger to performing onstage, as she has participated in the Chesapeake Ballet Company's "The Nutcracker" and spring shows. She enjoyed being a part of "Rock & Roll" because almost all of her friends were in it, too.

Fourth-grader Nico Durastanti shined in the spotlight as well, as one of the lead singers for two songs and a background dancer for a few other numbers. He shared that he had enjoyed the dress rehearsals because they helped him get ready and they were a lot of fun.

"I'm most proud of the students for being flexible and creative with their numbers. A lot of the numbers had student input, so many of the things seen on the stage were student-driven," Peachey said, praising the young cast and crew.

Behind the scenes, fourth- and fifth-graders also worked hard as crew members helping run technical aspects of the production such as lighting, sound, props and mics.

» Continued on page 33



Photos by Meredith Winter

Fourth- and fifth-graders sang their hearts out and danced the night away at opening night of Shipley's Choice Elementary School's 13th annual "Mini Rock & Roll Revival" on May 4. Themed "A Musical Road Trip," the show featured scores of students performing 20 hits new and old, ranging from The Jackson 5's "ABC" to Avril Lavigne's "Complicated."

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Educator Of The Month

Stephanie Andrisse St. Martin's -in-the-Field Episcopal School



Stephanie Andrisse has taught third grade at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School for the past seven years.

By Lauren Burke Meyer

“Literacy and Justice for All.” So reads the T-shirt of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School teacher Stephanie Andrisse. The saying is perfect for Andrisse's teaching philosophy. One of her colleagues gifted her the shirt for Christmas. Her students asked the meaning of the phrase.

“I explained to them that to me, it means that literacy is justice,” Andrisse said. “Knowing how to read and write is freedom, and in a just world, every child would be literate.”

That's what the third-grade educator — who has taught at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School for seven years — is working toward every day. Before St. Martin's, Andrisse taught English language arts for two years with Baltimore City Public Schools. Prior to that, she taught for three years in the Ferguson-Florissant School District near St. Louis, Missouri. At some point in her career, she has taught every grade from first to fifth.

After morning announcements, her class starts reading. Lately, Andrisse's class has been reading and analyzing poetry, which is one of her favorite things to teach.

“I love watching children read a poem once and not ‘get it,’ but then we read it again, discuss it, and their eyes get big and they say,

‘Oh! I get it now! It's saying...,’” Andrisse said.

Students aren't only reading and analyzing poetry; they're writing their own. Each student has written several poems for their own poetry anthology. They've practiced using similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, alliteration and rhymes in their poems. Her class also studies spelling patterns. They discuss root words, affixes, ways to spell different sounds and which sound-spelling correspondence is the most common.

Andrisse also loves teaching science.

“We learn how to predict the weather based on the clouds we see in the sky, why animal and plant babies look like their parents, and all the fun experiments you can do with magnets,” Andrisse said.

Heather Bosanko, lower school coordinator and Andrisse's supervisor, explained how Andrisse is the kind of teacher who truly engages her students.

“She makes the art of teaching look easy, and her warm personality allows her to make a connection with her students that helps them to demonstrate confidence, compassion and character,” Bosanko said.

For the third-grade teacher, her work extends outside the classroom. She's co-coordinator of the diversity/equity committee, which began in 2017 based on staff members and Andrisse's passion for diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and belonging (DEIJJB).

Andrisse explained how the committee presents professional development and provides resources to staff on diversity, equity and inclusion.

“We believe that every child, family and staff member that comes to St. Martin's Episcopal School should not only feel accepted but loved and celebrated for who they are and the unique perspective they bring,” she said.

Additionally, Andrisse is on the school's admissions team. She helps determine if their school is the right fit for families and students.

“It is so important to ensure that we can meet the needs of prospective students and families,” Andrisse shared.

Andrisse has been in the same classroom for all seven years, which is somewhat unheard of for teachers.

“I came and stayed because I loved the close-knit community,” she said. “I love being in a small school that values both teachers and children as individuals.”



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Week 3 July 1-5 (Closed Thursday, July 4)
Animal Adventures

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Week 2 June 24-28
Lion King Mufasa



Simba, having become king of the Pride Lands, is determined for his cub to follow in his paw prints while his late father Mufasa are explored. The rise of one of the greatest kings of the Pride Lands goes back to Africa to tell the story.

Week 4 July 8-12
Despicable Me

The mischievous Minions hope that Gru will return to a life of crime after the new boss of the League fires him. Gru decides to remain retired and travel the world. The siblings soon find themselves in a crazy ad-venture against the world.



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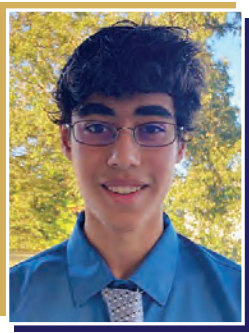
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SPHS Band And Orchestra Students Reflect On Memories

The end of high school is bittersweet for many students who will leave behind an important chapter in their lives while looking ahead to the future. These band and orchestra members at Severna Park High School shared highlights about their time as musicians, along with their favorite bands and upcoming goals.



Alejandro Almodovar-Vives

Baritone Saxophone

Highlights: I participated in marching band and symphonic band all four years of high school, with three years in the jazz band and percussion ensembles. I performed in the "Rock 'N' Roll Revival" band the last two years and in all

musical pit/band one year ("Footloose"). I earned superior rating at all-county solo and ensemble, three years, with the percussion ensemble, and I was all-county jazz band 2024. I am the student president of the band and this year's recipient of the Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award.

Favorite memory: My favorite memory is always the home show as it feels so nice to host so many schools at home and it helps take away work from me as there is nothing I need to load into a truck.

Plans: I plan on heading to West Virginia University, and I will pursue a major in aerospace engineering.



Jack Clayton

Alto Saxophone

Highlights: I was the 2023-2024 senior drum major for the Falcon marching band. I participated in marching band, symphonic band and jazz band all four years of high school and the percussion ensemble one year. I am this year's recipient of the National School Marching Award.

Favorite memory: Everything. There hasn't been a single moment of my time in this program that I haven't considered to be special.

Favorite band: Foo Fighters

Plans: I will attend Penn State, majoring in electrical engineering. I plan to continue to find opportunities to practice and make music along the way!



Liam Cooney

Keyboard, Double Bass, Violin, Percussion, Bassoon, Piano

Highlights: I played keyboard in marching band four years and was front ensemble captain and president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society senior year. I played classical double bass and violin in

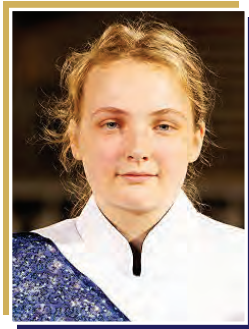
orchestra, percussion and bassoon in concert band and

symphony, and piano in the jazz band. I got to perform in all-county orchestra, all-county jazz ensemble and two epic "Rock 'N' Roll Revival" shows. I am this year's recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Musicianship Award and the John Philip Sousa Award.

Favorite memory: I really enjoyed performing with the jazz band at Dollywood.

Favorite band: Nirvana

Plans: I plan to participate musically at University of Maryland, College Park while majoring in biological sciences (physiology and neurobiology) on my path to becoming a doctor.



Josephine Kilby

Percussion

Highlights: I have performed in the percussion ensemble since transferring high schools in the middle of my junior year, performing in both the marching band and symphonic band.

Favorite memory: It was during band camp, and it was tech day and anyone in the pit would know why.

Favorite band: Jagwar Twin

Plans: I am attending Penn State for biomedical and veterinary sciences. I plan to become an exotic veterinarian.



Justin Kirkendall

Violin, Bass Guitar

Highlights: I was a member of the SPHS instrumental music program for four years, playing violin in the SPHS orchestra for all four years and bass guitar in the SPHS jazz band and "Rock 'N' Roll Revival" productions for three years, starting in the 10th grade. I

was a member of the AACPS all-county orchestra in 10th, 11th and 12th grades, and a member of the Maryland 2022-2023 All-State orchestra in 11th grade. I was a recipient of the National School Orchestra Award the last two years and served as the concertmaster of the SPHS orchestra. Additionally, I led a string quartet with several friends, performing at various events, including the AACPS and Maryland State Solo and Ensemble.

Favorite memory: My favorite memory participating in SPHS instrumental music is the spring trip we take every year. This year we went to Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, and it was a lot of fun being able to perform with my friends and explore the attractions in Pigeon Forge.

Favorite band: Whitney Houston

Plans: I plan on majoring in cell biology and genetics on a pre-med track at the University of Maryland and plan to go on to medical school after college.



Dylan Kline

Tenor Drums, Bass Drum

Highlights: I performed in the SPHS marching band, playing the tenor drums (quads) and bass drum, as well as percussion in the jazz band, percussion ensemble and pep band. In my freshman and sophomore years, I participated in the percussion and wind

ensembles at my previous high school.

Favorite memory: My favorite memory is spending the fall seasons with the marching band.

Favorite band: Tool

Plans: I plan to major in mechanical engineering at Penn State University. While in college, I plan to participate in the marching band. "We Are!"

Sylvia Steppe

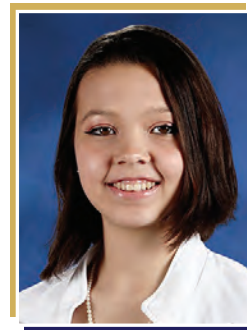
Percussion

Highlights: I participated in the marching band the last two years, jazz band in 2022-2023 and the Keystone Indoor Drill Association (KIDA) in 2024.

Favorite memory: Breaking 80 at the Linganore High School marching band competition.

Favorite band: Japanese Breakfast

Plans: I will study art and communications at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).



Maya Wolfe

Cello

Highlights: I performed with the SPHS orchestra for four years and have been a cellist for nine years. In my senior year, I was assistant section leader for the cello section. I have participated in the Anne Arundel County all-county orchestra four times; 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022.

Favorite memory: My favorite memory participating in the SPHS orchestra was playing for the school at the in-school winter concert. I enjoyed being able to bring joy to the students right before everyone went on break.

Favorite band: AJR

Plans: My future plan is to go to the University of Rhode Island for a chemical engineering degree. I hope to continue playing my cello throughout my college years.



SPHS MUSIC

Students Show Off Underwater Robots

» Continued from page 28

The other two teams' vessels were named The Elemental and U.V. (Uncrewed Vessel) Minnow.

The teams were scheduled to visit the Naval Academy to show their robots to midshipmen, test them in a pool and participate in other STEM activities on May 31. To prepare, they took the robots to the pool at the Severna Park Fitness and Racquetball Club.

"It was kind of hard to see how it worked because it didn't really work up and down, and you had to figure out how the controls worked," Lucia Demi said.

The kids also learned troubleshooting skills. When Edison Kondo's team cut some wires incorrectly, they learned to try different methods to fix it.

"We eventually learned that we could solder two wires together to make it work again," Edison said.

Working in teams taught the students how to compromise.

"When we did drawing, we added the features we all wanted," Harry Graham said. "But sometimes that didn't work out and we would have to eliminate one of the features. We would just talk and talk until we figured it out."

It also gave them a different outlook on mechanical projects.

"Usually, if I saw that something was broken, I'd think 'Oh, that's a problem,'" said Maggie Meredith. "Now, I look at it and find out what the problem actually is."

"A Musical Road Trip"

» Continued from page 28

Peachey shared that about 20 volunteers and parents were integral to the show's success, aiding with choreography, costumes and production elements such as tickets and T-shirts. Other SCES staff who were heavily involved in bringing the production to life included fourth-grade teacher Rachel Hall, who did much of the choreography and helped with rehearsals, and art teacher Maggie Merow and media specialist Katie Ventrudo, who helped with the stage backdrops.

Proceeds from ticket and concession sales will benefit the school's music department and will help "Rock & Roll" keep running year after year, Peachey said.

Q

Question of the month

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

What is your favorite hobby, and why do you enjoy it?

My favorite hobby is playing soccer because it's so much fun to play, and it's something my family and I enjoy. I have been playing it since I was little.

Aaron G.

My favorite hobby is gymnastics because I have done it since I was a kid and I love it.

Ainsley A.

I enjoy playing basketball or anything outside. I enjoy doing it because number one, it is outside, and number two, it is very peaceful hearing and seeing everything outside.

Ali J.

I like to read or box my brother, because I like to hang out with my brother.

Allan B.



My favorite hobby is swimming.

Audrey T.

My favorite hobby is reading, because when you read you can go anywhere you want, see anything you want and meet anyone you want.

Avery B.

My favorite hobby is soccer because there are positions like striker, wing, defense, goalie and midfield. I also like swimming, tennis and taekwondo, and I am really good at BMX even though I didn't really like it. But I truly love soccer for life.

Beni B.

I love making paper crafts to express my creativity. I love origami and folding paper for different uses.

Camden R.

My favorite hobby is swimming. This is because it is the most fun sport and there are many ways to do it.

Chase R.

My favorite hobby is playing soccer in my backyard. I enjoy it because I have a big goal and my friends play with me.

Connor D.

My favorite hobby is going to my neighbor's house to play lacrosse.

Corbin F.

I like going outside, it makes me happy and it feels like home. I also love going outside because it is more fun than video games. Lastly, you can play with your friends outside when they come over.

Devyn A.

Basketball because I like playing and watching it.

Dylan B.

My favorite hobby is playing soccer. I like playing soccer because it's fun and entertaining.

Elena P.

My favorite hobby is coloring. It is very fun to see the pictures

come to life.

Julia K.

My favorite hobby is soccer. I enjoy it because it was the only thing that would keep me active when I was young, and my dad used to play it.

Killian K.

My favorite hobby is practicing volleyball because I love volleyball and I want to be a professional player in college.

Leah C.

My favorite hobbies are drawing or playing games because both help me have time to think to myself.

Matilda A.

My favorite hobby is playing outside in the woods. I enjoy it because nature is beautiful, and people take it for granted. I love to sit, climb trees and see the animals. Nature is so pretty and is my favorite.

Memphis S.

My favorite hobby is swimming. I enjoy swimming because I love water and doing underwater acrobatics.

Rose B.

I like playing sports because they give you exercise and they are so fun.

Sam H.

Crocheting because I get cute stuff out of it.

Willa B.

My favorite hobby is tennis because it is fun and I can win against high schoolers.

Zachary R.

My favorite hobbies are cooking and baking. I love experimenting with spices and flavors!

Ms. Walker



The Question of the Month is proudly sponsored by **Just-in-Time Renovations**
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BHS Student Heads To Bootcamp With Candice Antwine Award

By Judy Tacyn

Ana Rosas, a graduating senior from Broadneck High School, is going on the adventure of a lifetime and she couldn't be happier.

She is the cadet chief petty officer in her Junior Navy ROTC unit at Annapolis High School as part of a magnet program that accepts students from other schools across the county. Rosas also serves as head unit translator, supply lead officer, and recruiting officer, and she will soon enter 10 weeks of Army training bootcamp, followed by up to another 10 weeks of personal training.

To help ease the burden of personal expenses during this time, Rosas will have a \$1,500 scholarship from the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award.

"I was at work when I received the call that I had won the scholarship. I was so excited, but I had to keep it together," Rosas recalled. "During my break, it really hit me, and I just started uncontrollably crying. I think the award was acknowledgement that (going into the Army) was really happening and that I was on the right path."

The caller delivering the good news was Board of Education (BOE) member Dana Schallheim, who represents District 5. Schallheim was a friend and col-



Ana Rosas

league of Antwine, who died in 2021.

"Ana's commitment to serving others is truly inspiring," said Schallheim, noting that Rosas is the eldest child of Mexican emigrants and the first in her family to graduate from high school. "The honor she learned from her parents and her courageousness to enter military services will set her up wonderfully for a lifetime of service to others and her country."

The Army will provide Rosas a bootcamp stipend, but the military does not cover all expenses. The Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award, established in 2022, assists awardees with initial expenses related to enlisting, including basic training supplies, and aims to remove financial barriers to military service.

Schallheim remembers Antwine as a deeply committed voice for children in need and for military families throughout Anne Arundel County. The BOE established the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award to continue her lifetime of service to her country and

community.

"Elevating our students who elect to enlist to serve our country in the military after graduation is just as important as recognizing our students who choose college or a trade school, yet the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award (may be) the only award of its type in the country," Schallheim said when the inaugural award was announced in 2022. "Our job is to set our students up for success no matter the path they select after graduation."

Military service has been a goal of Rosas since she was a young girl. She vividly remembers seeing her Marine cousin, Polo Cariño, in uniform for the first time and experiencing with the entire family the sheer joy and pride of his military service career choice.

For the last three years Rosas has been part of an ROTC unit at Annapolis High School. She feels the guidance and support she received there only solidified her desire to serve in the U.S. military.

"I love my unit, and I am going to miss them so much," Rosas added. "I've grown so much personally, (and) learned morals, ethics and camaraderie. This is something I want for the rest of my life in the Army."

Rosas learned of the Candice Antwine award through Commander Eddie Lu-

sane. She relied on his guidance, along with Chief Eric Watson and Pamela Fica, a Broadneck High School guidance counselor, because as the eldest child, neither she nor her parents knew about the recruitment or scholarship processes.

She is not afraid of hard work and has learned determination from her parents, who started their own masonry construction company. It's probably not a coincidence that her ASVAB score (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, a standardized test that reveals areas of strength or ability in language, science and math) determined her top strengths would be as a horizontal construction engineer, mechanic or medical logistic specialist.

"I love this country and appreciate having the opportunities that I had and will have with the option to take risks," Rosas said. "I don't take that for granted because I know a lot of children don't have what I do."

Rosas is the oldest of Ana Alberto and Guillermo Rosas' four children. They reside in Arnold.

The Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award is made possible solely by the generosity of the community. Donations of any amount can be made at www.antwine.givesmart.com.

Oak Hill Student Wins Zachary's Jewelers Design Contest

Sloane DeCosmo gave her mom a special gift this Mother's Day, courtesy of Zachary's Jewelers. The Oak Hill Elementary fifth-grader was one of three finalists in the store's jewelry design contest.

She made it past the semifinal round, which included 28 fifth-graders. Zachary's not only made the winning designs into jewelry, but the store also donated \$500 to the art programs at the finalists' schools.

Participating students across Anne Arundel County were asked to sketch a piece of jewelry on paper for their mom or caretaker. They had to use color and label the parts and materials (for example, sterling silver, rose gold, white gold, yellow gold). Then, they included a few sentences explaining how their jewelry design represented the special mom in their life.

In a letter to Zachary's Jewelers, Sloane wrote, "As you can see, there is my mom's birthstone, ruby, on the outer heart, then in the inside heart it has my dad's, brother's and my birthstone in the middle heart. This shows my family's love for my mom and how we will always be in her heart and love her forever. Lastly, my mom would absolutely love this piece of jewelry and wear it all the time. So it will always remind her of how much we love her."

Three winning designs were made into a real piece of jewelry, presented to the winners' moms or caregivers just in time for Mother's Day. Zachary's judges notified finalists with an invitation to brunch at its downtown Annapolis location on May 5.

The other two finalists represented Windsor Farms Elementary School and St. Mary's.

Sloane DeCosmo presented her winning jewelry design to her mom, Christy, in time for Mother's Day in May.

Sloane's mom, Christy, was proud of her daughter. She shared a Facebook post that read, "Sloane's artistic talent continues to amaze us! I'll never forget this very special day with my very special girl! She poured so much love into her design and I can feel every drop of it in my heart! I'm so very proud of her and I'm one very lucky mom!"

"Sloane's artistic talent continues to amaze us! I'll never forget this very special day with my very special girl!"

— CHRISTY DECOSMO



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Six Tips To Help You Avoid Sports Injury This Summer

Lauren Newnam

University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center



With summer sports and camp season on the horizon, it's important to know how you or your child can avoid sports injuries this summer. While it's impossible to prevent every injury, there are some steps you can take to help make injury less likely. Start now to be prepared for when the season gets underway.

Proper equipment, including footwear, is a must. Wearing running sneakers for tennis, pickleball and other court sports puts you

at high risk for injury. Court shoes are a must for these activities, and like any other protective gear, they must fit well, be in good condition and be sized appropriately.

Steps To Help Avoid Sports Injury

While injuries are common during any type of physical activity, it is possible to prevent them in many cases with some basic precautions.

- 1 Undergo a sports physical before the season to check for underlying health conditions.
- 2 Gradually increase time spent performing physical activity to reacclimate the body for practices, games and camps.
- 3 Ensure you have sport-specific protective equipment, including the correct cleats, helmet and pads, as needed.



4 Drink plenty of water before, during and after physical activity to maintain proper hydration and avoid overheating.

5 Warm up before games and practices and cool down afterward.

6 Stop participating in physical activities when hurt.

If A Sports Injury Occurs

Even when you take every precaution, you may still experience a sports injury. When this occurs, remove yourself or your child from the game or practice until the injury can be evaluated.

Minor injuries, like muscle aches, can sometimes be treated effectively using basic at-home care. You can try the RICE — rest, ice, compress, elevate — protocol. If the pain doesn't subside after a day or two, or if you develop any bruising, call your doctor and be evaluated by a specialist. Remember that negative X-rays do not mean there is no injury. Despite common thinking, foot and ankle sprains can be serious problems that must be handled appropriately to prevent long-term consequences.

To schedule an appointment with a specialist at UM BWMC, call 410-553-8170 or visit www.umbwmc.org/orthopedics.

Lauren Newnam, DPM, is the chair of podiatry for the Department of Orthopedics at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center.

Maryland Department Of Health Urges Marylanders To Guard Against Tick-Borne Diseases

TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID TICKS AND TICK-BORNE DISEASE



With May being Tick-borne Disease Awareness Month, the Maryland Department of Health has launched a tick-borne disease prevention campaign encouraging Marylanders to take simple precautions to prevent illness caused by infected ticks in time for warmer weather and increased outdoor activity.

"We want Marylanders to explore the beautiful nature found in our great state," said Maryland Department of Health Secretary Dr. Laura Herrera Scott. "But we want them

to safeguard their health and be mindful of ticks and the diseases they spread."

In an effort to reduce the spread of disease, the tick-borne disease prevention campaign will provide Marylanders with weekly tips on what to do before, during and after outdoor activities to prevent tick exposure and recognize the symptoms of tick-borne diseases.

Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in Maryland. In 2022, more than 2,000 cases were reported in the

state. Symptoms include rash, fever, headache, joint pain and fatigue. Lyme disease can spread to a person's joints and nervous system if left untreated. Contact a health care provider or local health department if any of these symptoms develop. Most cases of Lyme disease can be cured with antibiotics.

The best way to avoid tick-borne diseases is to avoid ticks and their habitat. Ticks prefer humid environments and can be found outdoors in leaf litter, weeds, tall grasses, shrubs and woods.

To prevent tick exposure and bites:

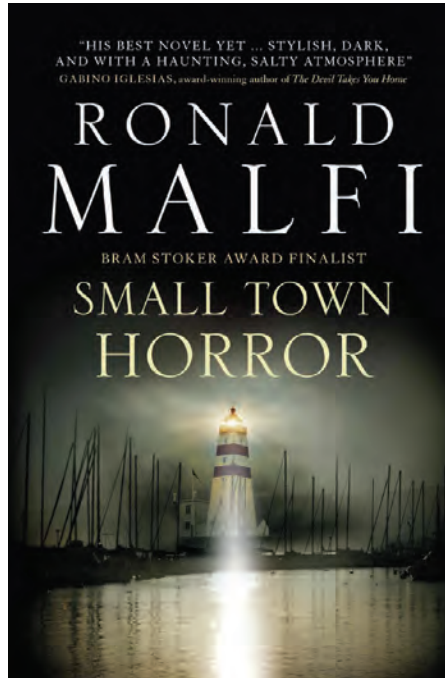
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved insect repellents such as DEET, picaridin or IR3535
- Wear light-colored clothing to help spot ticks more easily
- Wear long pants and sleeves and tuck your pants into your socks or boots
- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin

- Consider purchasing permethrin-treated clothing and gear
- Stick to marked paths when hiking and avoid brushy areas and tall grass
- Shower as soon as possible after returning indoors
- Dry your clothes on high heat for 10 minutes once you get home to kill any ticks on clothing
- Perform a tick check on yourself, children and pets after being outside in a tick habitat
- Talk to your veterinarian about ways to protect your pets

While Lyme disease is the most prevalent tick-borne disease in Maryland, ticks can also transmit babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia. Spring is the start of tick season, but Marylanders should continue to check for ticks after outdoor activities through the fall.

To learn more about tick-borne diseases and ways to protect family members and pets, visit www.health.maryland.gov/tick.

Author Ronald Malfi Brings “Small Town Horror” To Severna Park



Ronald Malfi has received two Independent Publisher Book Awards, the Beverly Hills Book Award, the Vincent Preis Horror Award, the Benjamin Franklin Award for Popular Fiction, and he is a Bram Stoker Award nominee.

Park Books Event Scheduled For June 6

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Maybe this is a ghost story... So begins “Small Town Horror,” the newest novel by Ronald Malfi, a 1995 graduate of Severna Park High School and a Cape St. Claire resident.

“Small Town Horror” is the 19th novel by Malfi, who has also penned eight novellas. This book hits shelves June 4, and Malfi is inviting the community to celebrate with him during an author talk and book signing at Park Books on June 6.

The visit is part of what he called

Book Signing Details

Park Books will host Malfi for a conversation and book signing on June 6 from 7:00pm-9:00pm. He will be joined by contemporary and paranormal romance author Sarah Blue. Anyone who has preordered Malfi’s novel from Park Books can choose a “seat ticket.” Anyone who wants a copy of the book, a seat and entry into the signing line should reserve a “book ticket.” More details are available at www.parkbooksmd.com/events/37986.

“Whether you like fast-moving fiction, whether you like something thoughtful, whether you want something with a little edge to it, this book will hit the mark,” said Melody Wukitch, owner of Park Books.

“‘Small Town Horror’ Supports Small Town Bookstores,” promoting indie bookstores around the country that have supported his career.

In his newest twisted tale, five childhood friends are forced to confront their own dark past as well as a curse placed upon them.

“‘Small Town Horror’ is sort of a sister novel to my book ‘Black Mouth,’ so where Black Mouth focuses on a group of kids who are coerced into doing something that has tragic results and they’re essentially innocent in that novel, ‘Small Town Horror’ focuses on a group of kids who are guilty of doing something tragic,” Malfi said. “I wanted to explore the ying and the yang of both of those elements to look at the difference in the story where kids who coerced into doing something beyond their control versus kids who are proactive in doing something terrible and what the repercussions of those actions are.”

Those friends are Andrew Larimer, who is settling into a new life in New York, far from his hometown; Eric, now the town’s deputy sheriff; Dale, a real-estate mogul living in the shadow of a failed career; Andrew’s childhood sweetheart, Tig, who never could escape town; and Meach, whose ravings about a curse upon the group have driven him to madness.

Readers may not like every character, but Malfi hopes readers understand their motivations.

“I think if characters are relatable, whether they are likable or not, as long as they are relatable, and you give their story justice and you understand where they are coming from
» Continued on page 44

“IF” Imagines A Storyline With Little Substance

By James Buxton

If there’s one thing worth praising about “IF,” it’s the ambition. Lacking the safety net of a pre-existing franchise and borrowing no thematic continuity from actor-director John Krasinski’s previous work, “IF” is almost entirely reliant on its own merits. Fans of “A Quiet Place” will find little to entice them into this new venture, but it has no shame about that fact. This is a movie for kids through-and-through, and unlike the irony-laden likes of “Marvel” or the recent output from Walt Disney Animation Studios, it’s not afraid to be proud of that.

The issue comes with the fact that this movie has few merits to speak of, and it has absolutely no respect for children as an intelligent audience. While the content of the story feels geared toward kids of around 7 or 8 years old, the script and structure seem obligated to spell out every plot detail and joke to the point of exhaustion.

It hampers its own success by dumbing itself down for an audience that would already have no trouble understanding what it’s trying to say, resulting in a movie that flip-flops between condescending and incomprehensible with every scene change. The whiplash of Blue, a character ripped straight from a more toddler-friendly version of “Monsters Inc.,” being inserted into a hackneyed exploration of childhood pain and anxiety renders the more emotional moments null and void. The movie insists it’s about a range of things — the recapturing of youth, the heartbreak of grief, and the importance of retaining one’s youth — but stopping to think about what it’s actually delivering reveals that it doesn’t seem to possess any kind of substance at all.

“IF” is a mess of stratospheric proportions. Behind some fun voice-work and some admittedly inspired character designs, there’s nothing holding it together. Even the core

concept of imaginary friends needing to find new homes is promptly abandoned around halfway through and never resolved.

Cailey Fleming’s Bea, the hero of this story, pivots between pre-teen bemusement, grief-stricken ennui, and total commitment with little reason for each change, with her motivations never clear in any regard. Her relationship to Cal, Ryan Reynolds’ character, is established as vaguely friendly, but there are moments where Krasinski’s horror tendencies take root and Bea decides to borderline terrorize Cal with the power of her own imagination, which is never used again after that scene. Their connection is unclear but easy to surmise, but the movie makes the mistake of confusing a mystery with just withholding information.

When the twist lands, it feels less like a grand reveal and more like an obvious plot point that was gutted by scene cuts and studio mandates. It’s structured almost like a straight-to-DVD Disney sequel, stitched together from three unrelated episodes of a failed TV show. One moment, it’s about Bea distracting herself from the real world, and the next, it’s about rehome forgotten imaginary friends. After that, it’s about rekindling the joy of childhood in adults who have left it behind. No rhyme, no reason, just a tedious march from plot to plot.

It doesn’t help that most of the movie hinges on the kind of non-sense dialogue that wouldn’t sound unfamiliar when spewed from an AI language model. There’s a moment around two-thirds of the way through where Bea, momentarily rudderless while the movie shifts into a new story, is sat next to Lewis, the 90-something-year-old teddy bear patriarch of the “IF” family. Unsure of what to do next, Lewis offers some advice that dances around themes like the power of memory and childhood that, even

» Continued on page 44



Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

In John Krasinski’s film “IF,” a girl embarks on a magical adventure to reconnect forgotten imaginary friends (IFs) with their kids.



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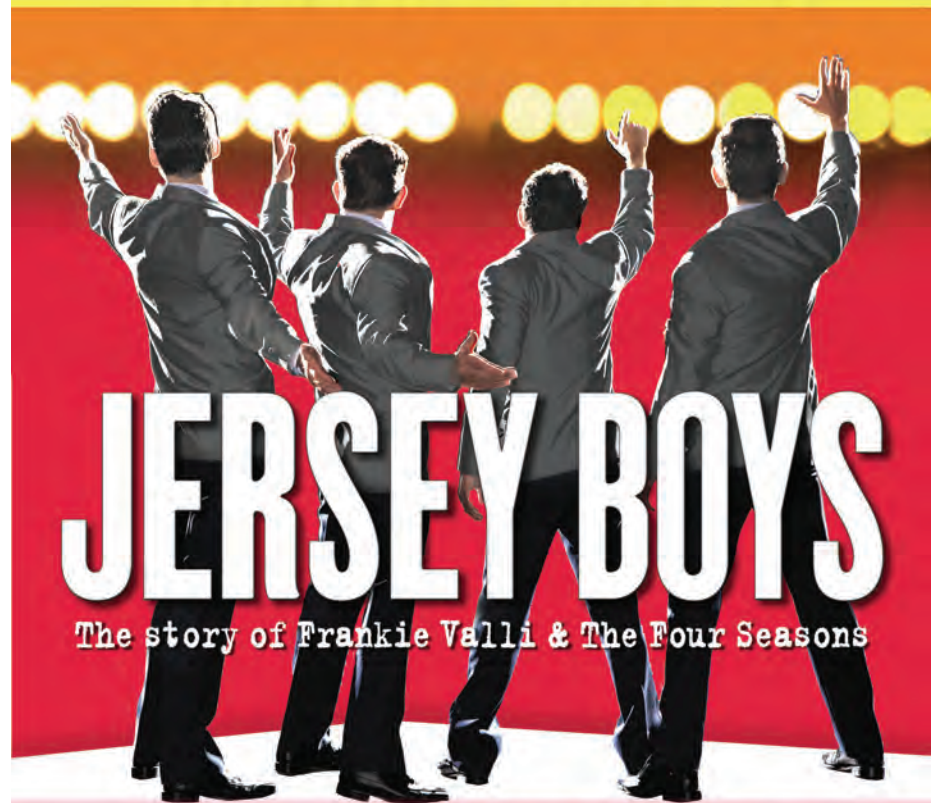
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Severna Park Grad Josee Molavi Releases 12-Track Album

*June Show Scheduled
At Vibe In Annapolis*

By Judy Tacyn

In 2019, Josee Molavi had gathered with a group of friends from Severna Park High School when she learned several of those friends were either studying music in college or had varying degrees of musical involvement in their lives. They talked about their shared passion for music and their hopes to one day make, play and record their own material.

It wasn't until the summer of 2023 that the friends would come together to form a cover band of The Cure to perform at a backyard music festival at the home of another friend. The group of friends enjoyed the one-time experience so much that they joined Molavi's band, played their first gig in a sold-out show in Washington, D.C., and have continued to play together ever since.

"There is a great amount of trust when, onstage, I look back at the band and I see friends I've known since Severna Park Middle School or even Shipley's Choice Elementary," said Molavi, a 2017



Josee Molavi's band headlined a three-act evening at Songbyrd in Washington, D.C., on March 25.

Photo courtesy of Nate Groves

graduate of Severna Park High School. "I think back to our elementary school friendships, and I never would have guessed we'd be making music together today."

Those friends and band members are bass player Alex Hagopian (class of 2017), who also produced and mixed the album; drummer Sam Hickman (2017); guitarist Jack Yearwood (2019); and auxiliary percus-

sionist Evan Molavi (2021).

Josee Molavi is the lead vocalist, songwriter and producer, and she plays piano and guitar. After graduation in 2020 from American University in Washington, D.C., Molavi started traveling and working in the communications field. Journaling and saving mementos along the way, she found the new experiences fueled her creativity for music.

"I tried to work and make music a side hustle, but I ultimately realized I needed to focus on my music full-time," Molavi said. "It takes a long time to make a path for yourself as an independent artist. I dove into music and now play venues, open for bands, or we are headliners and others open for us."

On March 24, the band released a 12-track album

titled "Break Your Heart Til It Opens." On March 25, the band headlined a three-act evening at Songbyrd in Washington, D.C. The long-time friends had the packed house enthralled while they played their signature blues, soul, rock and jazz-influenced original material.

"It was a truly amazing night!" exclaimed Molavi, noting the active participation of the packed crowd. "We rocked it and played the entire album."

Molavi said she and her bandmates all have other jobs, as it's not sustainable to be an independent artist, and they do not receive a financial return from Spotify.

"When you go to local shows or buy merchandise, you're supporting artists doing what they love," she added. "It's expensive to play. It's expensive to tour."

Molavi is already working on a new album. "It's hard not to be in a constant state of creativity when you're surrounded with such incredible musicians and friends," she said.

To catch Josee Molavi's June 29 show at Club Vibe in Annapolis, visit www.clubvibe.com, and follow the band on Instagram @jmolav.

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Annapolis Arts Week Expands To Anne Arundel Arts Month

This June, Anne Arundel County is celebrating Arts Month. Local artists and arts organizations from across the county are opening their doors and inviting the public to participate in this month-long showcase of Anne Arundel County's vibrant arts scene. AND Creative Studio and the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County are heading up Arts Month, which will feature events, exhibits, workshops, live music, galleries, festivals, performances and more.

Annapolis Arts Week, led by Alison Harbaugh and Darin Gilliam from AND Creative, is back this year from June 1-7, including Maryland Federation of Arts' plein air event, Paint Annapolis. Next up will be South County Arts Week, led by the Arts Lab of South County, from June 8-14. This will be followed by North County Arts Week, led by the Chesapeake Arts Center, from June 15-21. Wrapping up the month will be Artist's Week from June 24-30, which will highlight activities that celebrate and support artists, including art talks, workshops, seminars, parties, and networking events.

Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County will promote Arts Month through a focused marketing campaign that folds in Annapolis Pride and Juneteenth events, declaring June Arts and Heritage Month in Anne Arundel County.



Above: Anne Arundel Arts Month will include workshops and hands-on activities. **Right:** Ballet came to West Street during a previous Annapolis Arts Week.

"With Annapolis Arts Week gaining momentum over the last few years, we noticed more and more conversation about how the arts create an impact throughout the entire county," Gilliam said. "This sparked larger ideas and collaborations that ultimately birthed Anne Arundel County Arts Month. Our goal is to



Lissa Abrams enjoyed plein air painting during an arts event in 2022.



Arts Hub by going to the Arts Month website.

"Having a central location for the community to gather, take in free art events, and meet up with other creatives is so important," Harbaugh said. "We hope this new addition will help to grow

showcase the arts in our county and also support local artists, arts organizations and businesses."

The AND Creative team will manage an Arts Hub during Annapolis Arts Week. Located at Lightbox Studio at 209 West Street, the Arts Hub will serve as an information center, pop-up gallery, event space, merch station, and much more. Arts organizations and businesses, as well as individual artists, can apply to be a part of the

the arts scene, introduce the community to what's happening around the county during June, and give artists a place to present their work."

For a full calendar of events, suggested itineraries, gallery directories, and more, guests can visit the new website for Anne Arundel Arts (www.annearundelarts.com). Many activities will be outdoors and free to the public, while others will require tickets or reservations.

Folk Duo Travels From England To Annapolis For June Show



Ray Hughes and Sian Chandler are The Black Feathers.

Irish- and English-born singer-songwriters Ray Hughes and Sian Chandler are The Black Feathers, a duo who have cultivated an international following with their haunting lyricism and mesmerizing harmonies. They will showcase their unique sound at 49 West Coffeehouse in Annapolis on June 17 at 7:30pm.

Hughes and Chandler have been married to the stage — and to each other — since 2012, and they have spent the last few years spreading their wings across the U.S. and western Canada. Americana, folk and acoustic indie rock sensibilities coexist comfortably in their musical world, with Hughes' guitar

work buoying the kind of harmonies often only heard in family bands. Their music quickly draws the interest of listeners, but it is the stage chemistry that will keep them riveted.

The duo recently released two new albums, "Angel Dust & Cyanide" in 2022 and "Where We Are" in 2023, and will tour the U.S. throughout summer 2024. They recently performed on a live radio show, NPR's "Mountain Stage" with Kathy Mattea, and will play several festivals during this tour, including Falcon Ridge Folk Festival in July and Mile of Music, Wisconsin, in August.

For tickets to the Annapolis show, visit theblackfeathers.bpt.me.

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"Georgia on (your) mind"
But you were on ours
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You kept that old-school class,
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“IF” Imagines A Storyline With Little Substance

» Continued from page 38

when delivered in the smooth tones of Louis Gossett Jr., makes absolutely no sense. It's not the only time the movie employs this kind of emotive gibberish, and as the film drags on, it becomes increasingly more manipulative.

In addition to being ripped wholesale from a Pixar movie, the idea that imaginary friends can disappear if they're forgotten is used exclusively to tug on the heartstrings of the audience. At no point is it even hinted at as a point of conflict in the film. Similarly, the script finds a way to shoehorn in an implied final moment between Bea and her father, framed like a final goodbye on his deathbed. Except at no point does the film imply that he's going to die. Bea's dad is asleep, recovering from a surgery that everyone agrees went fine, and it's treated with the same reverence as Tony Stark

in “Avengers: Endgame.” It's hacky and manipulative, and above all, not compelling.

During the press tour for “IF,” Krasinski described the film as “a live-action Pixar movie.” It's easy to see why he held that thought. “IF” is the brainchild of someone who perhaps had a Pixar movie explained to them once in a loud restaurant, without ever having seen one themselves. On that line of thought, said person has likely never spoken to a real child before, sourcing all their information on what they like from YouTube brain-rot videos designed to keep kids quiet and listless in front of a tablet for as long as possible. It possesses none of the soul of a Pixar flick and only stands a chance of appealing to the youngest cohort of cinemagoers. Sure, it's just a children's movie, but children deserve better than this.

Author Ronald Malfi Brings “Small Town Horror” To Severna Park

» Continued from page 38

then that makes for an interesting character and for a story that kind of propels itself based on those characters,” Malfi said.

“There are plenty of unlikable characters,” he said. “You can read Bret Easton Ellis’ ‘American Psycho.’ Nobody's sitting there rooting for Patrick Bateman, but you can understand the logic of where this person is coming from, even if you don't agree with it, and that makes it compulsive for you to read it and to follow his story.”

“I think if characters are relatable, whether they are likable or not, as long as they are relatable, and you give their story justice and you understand where they are coming from then that makes for an interesting character and for a story that kind of propels itself based on those characters.”

— RONALD MALFI

A fan of authors Peter Straub and Ernest Hemingway, Malfi has been honing his craft for more than 20 years. He follows the common writing advice, to “write what you know,” by setting Maryland as the backdrop for many of his stories. “Small Town Horror” is no different, as it is set in the fictional town of Kingsport.

“I write the people. I write the locales,” Malfi said of his affinity for Maryland. “The foods in my books are dressed in Old Bay seasoning. That's where I come from. This book is no different there, and I think it kind

of stands as a centerpiece to everything I've done to this point to say, ‘Look, hey, here's the showcase. Here's everything that I feel I do well or that my readership feels I do well, which is presenting kind of down-home characters in a small-town environment, that veil of that quasi-supernatural element that runs through my stuff that enhances the dark element of my fiction, and it's all based here locally in Maryland. This book in particular is on the Eastern Shore, where I am really at home. So to write a book called ‘Small Town Horror’ that focuses on what I feel is my own small town, where I live and grew up, kind of enhances that for me.”

“Small Town Horror” has received praise from several of Malfi's peers including Gabino Iglesias, the Bram Stoker and Shirley Jackson award-winning author of “The Devil Takes You Home.”

“Malfi is horror's (William) Faulkner, and ‘Small Town Horror’ might be his best novel yet,” Iglesias wrote in a promotion for the book. “Stylish, dark, and with a haunting, salty atmosphere, this is a superb novel about how the ghosts of the past always dance with those of the present.”

Even though the novel is classified as horror, a descriptor that even appears in its title, Malfi wants his book to transcend genre. Some of his stories are mysteries or thrillers as much as they are horror tales, but they have one thing in common: they “bend dark.”

“I think at their core, everything I write is about people and it's about, regardless of genre, what it is that those elements do to resonate with the readership at large,” Malfi said.

Whether they are drawn to the plight of the characters, the Maryland-inspired details or mystery, readers of varying interests can find something interesting in Malfi's new novel.

Is “Small Town Horror” a ghost story? Read to find out.

Local Businesses Win SBA Awards

By Lauren Cowin

Two Severna Park-area businesses are winners of 2024 Maryland Small Business Week Awards.

The Baltimore district of the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) named Christie and Greg Coster, owners of The Big Bean, Small Business Persons of the Year, and chose Ian Chaput, owner of TruSeal Asphalt and Concrete, for the Young Entrepreneur award.

The Costers described winning this award as a full-circle moment, because a loan from the SBA helped to facilitate their purchase of The Big Bean back in 2019.

"It was more of a dream than it was possible, and [the SBA] helped us work through all the hurdles to get us funding for this original shop," Greg said. "I kind of felt like we made them proud."

Since then, Greg and Christie have expanded the business to include an



Left to Right: Ian Chaput won the Young Entrepreneur award from the Baltimore District of the U.S. Small Business Administration and Greg and Christie Coster won Small Business Persons of the Year.

Annapolis location, and they will soon open a third shop in Millersville.

Sitting at a table along the B&A Trail just outside their Severna Park coffee shop, the Costers greeted friends and customers by name as they passed. The original Big Bean is a central part of not only their business but also their love

story — they met there: Christie was one of the original baristas and Greg was a frequent customer.

"He would just come in, make everybody laugh, and walk out," Christie recalled.

While the Severna Park location is their cornerstone, Greg focused on The

Big Bean Annapolis in the materials he provided for the SBA award. Their Annapolis shop is at 888 Bestgate Road — in what used to be a portion of the Capital Gazette newsroom.

Not long after they acquired The Big Bean, the Costers were approached
» **Continued on page 49**



Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members and enjoy reading about all the small businesses that make our community the best place to live! Find them in our directory at www.gspacc.com.

Mi'Chelle Premier Salon – Ready for your dream hair? Look no further! Through Mi'Chelle's advanced online application process, talented stylists analyze your preferences, enabling them to create a personalized experience for your upcoming appointment. Salon services include a silk press process that will straighten and smooth your hair, leaving it soft and shiny. The stylists also work with you for hair piece and wig applications, tailored to make you look your best. (www.michellepremiersuites.com)

Alyssa Buclous, Certified CPR Trainer and LPN – You never know when you will need to save a life. With quality CPR and first aid training, you are prepared for real-life situations. Alyssa will conduct CPR training for community and health care professionals. (abuclous@outlook.com)

All the Buzz Gardens – Did you know that approximately three-fourths of all flowering plants rely on insect pollination, including many crops that provide a significant portion of the world's food supply? Without pollinators, we would face challenges in growing fruits, vegetables and nuts. Now, imagine a

garden that is pollinator friendly, native, drought-resistant, mosquito repellent, easy to maintain and beautiful. You can have this and more through the expertise of All the Buzz Gardens! (www.allthebuzzgardens.com)

Long & Foster Real Estate - Ruth McGovern – As your real estate agent, Ruth wants you to think of her as your trusted advisor, your practiced negotiator, your skilled house-hunter and your neighborhood expert. Whether you are buying, selling, renting or just looking, she will diligently work for you every step of the way. (www.longandfoster.com/ruthmcgovern)

Tangled Balloons – Based in Millersville, Tangled Balloons transforms ordinary air into candy-colored creations that are the life, sparkle and pop of any party. From soft pastels for baby showers to vibrant hues for birthdays, the passionately crafted and expertly designed balloon arrangements are not just decorations but also heartfelt. The team also works with Alpha-Lit Annapolis for lighted graphics to complement the gorgeous balloon creations. (www.tangledballoons.com)

Heart and Home Organizing LLC – Owner Janice Lentz has the distinction of being one of the few NAPO (National Association of Professional Organizers) members to have received residential, household and workplace productivity organizing certificates. She started Heart and Home Organizing LLC because she is passionate about helping others. Using her gift of organization, her keen intuition for the limits and possibilities of space, and her love of people, she is
» **Continued on page 50**

To Roth Or Not To Roth, That Is The Question

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



of \$1.1 million. "How do I even save that much money?" is a common question I hear. Saving in IRAs is one way, but what is the right IRA?

Traditional IRA Vs. Roth IRA

A Roth IRA is an account where you contribute post-tax dollars toward your retirement. You pay taxes upfront, and funds can be withdrawn tax-free after age 59 and a half. Conversely, a traditional IRA allows you to contribute pre-tax funds that grow tax-deferred, but you must pay taxes upon withdrawing that money in retirement. "Do I want to pay taxes now or later?" That's just one of the many questions you need to ask yourself.

Should You Do A Roth Conversion?

If you have a traditional IRA, you can do what's called a Roth conversion where

The average American worker feels they need almost \$1.5 million to retire comfortably, according to a survey by Northwestern Mutual, and at least one study says that here in Maryland, you need a minimum

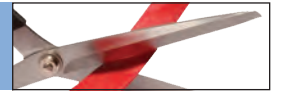
you move assets from your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. The consequence for doing that is the amount converted is taxable at your income-tax rate. If you know you'll be in a higher tax bracket later in life, consider a Roth conversion now to avoid paying higher taxes later. Work with a tax professional who can help accurately project your tax situation in retirement. One common mistake is people thinking they'll fall into a lower tax bracket in retirement.

Tax Changes Are Coming

The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act (TCJA) is set to expire at the end of 2025. When this happens, individual income tax rates will return to pre-TJCA levels, which were higher than they are now. Single tax filers who currently sit in the 24% bracket will get bumped up to the 28% bracket. A potential opportunity here is to take advantage of the TCJA before it expires and convert as much of your traditional IRA into a Roth as makes sense for you and your tax return. The goal doesn't necessarily need to be converting every dollar of your traditional IRA. It's a good idea to keep some money in a traditional IRA for income purposes. Determining the proper amount needed for income is best achieved working with a financial professional in determining your budget.

When the average American is thinking about needing \$1.5 million to retire, what is hard to determine is what
» **Continued on page 50**

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Play Street Museum Marks Official Opening In Park Plaza

Toddlers and children up to age 8 have a new place to explore, learn and have fun — at Play Street Museum — which celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month. Owned by pediatrician Nicky Donnal, the indoor venue provides kids opportunities to do crafts, enjoy themed events and — of course — play in the town square and other spaces. The museum is located at 560 Ritchie Highway, Suite F.



Coastal Kitchen & Bath Specializes In Home Improvement Needs

Dedicated to helping customers make their homes both beautiful and functional, Coastal Kitchen & Bath recently celebrated the grand opening of a new location in Severna Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The business specializes in kitchen and bath products and services including cabinets, countertops, flooring, tile and more, and is located at 504 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Unit 3.

TGA Of Greater Annapolis Tees Off

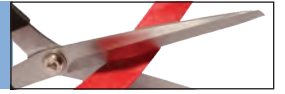
The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce gathered at Bay Hills Golf Club in Arnold for a ribbon-cutting celebrating the grand opening of TGA of Greater Annapolis on April 29. Coach Matthew “Heff” Heffernan shared TGA’s unique approach to coaching and how it promotes individual growth and development on and off the field, course or court.



Peake Speech Therapy & Consulting Opens In Severna Park

On May 15, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new location of Peake Speech Therapy & Consulting in Severna Park. Owner and speech-language pathologist Michael Molinaro has over a decade of experience providing speech and language intervention for children and adolescents. The office is located at 645 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Suite 216.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



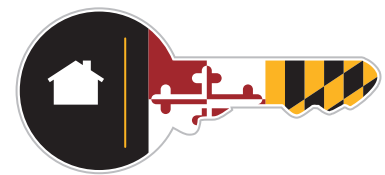
Punk & Boone Offers Boutique Experience For Brides To Be

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Punk & Boone Bridal in Severna Park on May 4. The salon offers brides a selection from a curated collection of exclusive gowns by appointment only at 572E Ritchie Highway.



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Local Businesses Win SBA Awards

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about opening at Bestgate, part of an effort to bring positivity and community to a space that represented the exact opposite since the deadly shooting that claimed the lives of five Gazette employees in 2018.

Greg remembers vividly the day in April 2020 when they first visited 888 Bestgate — the dreary weather, meeting in the cold, empty office building and standing six feet apart per pandemic protocol.

“It’s like everything telling you ‘do not do this,’ but that one voice in the back of your head saying, ‘There’s a purpose,’” he said.

Christie added, “We felt very led.” She explained that part of their process was meeting with the families of victims before moving forward with the project. “It was really an honor that some of them would even meet with us and talk to us about how they felt about it, and what they went through,” she said.

They officially opened that shop in June 2021 and have witnessed a revival of the building as it has filled with other businesses, as well.

The Costers’ intention with all of their locations is to create an inviting, non-preentious space, where people can come as they are, and order their coffee however they’d like.

“If they want 20 pumps of raspberry syrup in their coffee, we’ll do it gladly,” Greg said.

Ian Chaput, the Baltimore SBA district’s Young Entrepreneur of the Year, considers the award to be a reflection of the community’s support for his and

other small businesses.

A 2014 graduate of Severna Park High School and owner and president of TruSeal Asphalt and Concrete, Chaput had an entrepreneurial spirit from a young age — from walking dogs in his neighborhood as a kid, to running his own landscaping business during his time at the University of Delaware.

After gradually growing a client base while working a sales job full time, Chaput shifted his focus to TruSeal Asphalt and Concrete in March 2022.

“One day my hands are covered in asphalt sealer and I’m dirty, and the next day I’m meeting with commercial clients,” said Chaput, who considers the lack of monotony a perk of the job.

TruSeal provides a range of asphalt and concrete services for both commercial and residential clients, including sealcoating, parking lot striping, curb and speed bump installation, sport court resurfacing and driveway sealcoating.

Chaput credits his “old school” upbringing and his personal and professional mentors along the way with teaching him the skills and character traits necessary to run his business. His advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to find their own trusted mentor, keep learning and, most importantly, to never quit.

“There’s going to be really hard times, it’s going to be difficult, especially in the beginning ... but you don’t quit,” Chaput said.

Chaput hopes to grow his business in a way that allows him to give back to the community, but not so big that it loses its local feel.

“The better our community can do, the more we will all thrive together, and the better our lives will be together,” Chaput said. “It makes it a better place for us to all live and prosper at the end of the day, for our future kids to live and prosper, and I think the core of that is local businesses.”

The Costers and Chaput were both nominated by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. They will be honored, along with the other district winners, at the Maryland Small Business Week Awards Luncheon on June 6 at Martin’s West in Woodlawn, Maryland.

Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce Nominees

Home Based Business

Tommy Sommers, LogoZone Promotions (Winner)

Financial Services Champion

Beau Breedon, Delmarva Financial Group

Attorney Advocate

Karen Authement, KMA Law

Minority Owned Small Business

Bixia Pan, Smart Fit Kids Academy

Woman Owned Small Business

Danielle Bowen, The Blended Essentials

Veteran Owned Small Business

Robert Wade, Maid Healthy

Family-Owned Small Business

Winsome Brown, Lean on Dee, Senior Home Care

Accomplished Naval Academy Baseball Coach To Join API

API Baseball Academy has hired coach Paul Kostacopoulos as high school director and college placement coordinator. Coach “Kosty” comes to API with over 30 years of Division I experience, including the last 18 seasons as head coach at the United States Naval Academy (USNA). While at USNA, Kostacopoulos became the then-19th active head coach and 92nd all-time across all divisions to reach the 1,000-win plateau. Through his 30-plus years as a head coach, Kostacopoulos had a record of 1,027-705-7 (.593).

He won 30-plus games 18 times during his career and boasted a winning percentage of .500 or better 26 times as he guided the Midshipmen to three consecutive 30-win seasons from 2006-2008.

In his new role as high school director, coach Kosty is tasked with overseeing the day-to-day operations of API Academy’s high school program including coaching staff recruitment and development, player recruitment and development, and team formation, practice and tournament schedules.

To learn more about API Baseball Academy, visit www.apibaseballacademy.com.



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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 45

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help you reach your organizing goals and start living a simpler life. They service homes and busy families and professionals in the greater Annapolis area. "Let's get organized!" (www.simplyorganizedannapolis.com)

Maryland Masonry LLC – With 25 years of masonry experience between them, Travis Smith and Kevin Thompson decided they wanted to own their own masonry business, so they officially opened Maryland Masonry in July 2023. They are expert craftsmen providing full-service work including block foundations, brick, chimney, concrete, stonework and more in their family-operated business. (www.mdasonry23.com)

Keep Our Judges 2024 – The Keep Our Judges 2024 team mission is to maintain integrity and impartiality on the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court bench. Together, Christine Celeste and Ginina Jackson-Stevenson bring over 40 years

of combined legal experience and have been rigorously vetted by the judicial nominating commission, Maryland Bar Association and Anne Arundel County Bar Association, among others. (www.keepourjudges2024.com)

We held six ribbon-cutting celebrations this month. The first was the season opening of the **Severna Park Farmers Market**. They offer the freshest breads, jams, fruits and vegetables, and so much more. Make sure to visit and support these wonderful small-business owners!

Next, we held a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of **Punk & Boone Bridal** in Park Plaza. Over 100 people celebrated this new, full-service wedding business. International wedding dress designers flew in for the elegant occasion! This business is owned by Logan "Punk" Burnett and her father, Boone.

We also celebrated the one-year anniversary of **In My Defense LLC**. This

business provides an array of classes on self-defense and gun safety training, and features simulators to practice defense tactics. Owner Vinny Maida is a Marine veteran and black belt and brings decades of experience to his business.

Yet another grand opening took place in Severna Park, this one for **Peake Speech Therapy and Consulting**, owned by Michael Molinaro. Peake provides a broad spectrum of services for speech and autism challenges.

Play Street Museum officially opened its doors in Park Plaza with a chamber ribbon-cutting. This already popular venue is owned by pediatrician Nicky Donnal, and features everything under the sun for small children. Guests can do crafts, play in separate playrooms, enjoy science projects, and so much more. There is a retail section and a large party room as well.

Finally, we celebrated the launch of **Your Pool Swim School**, owned by Caitlin Kemmet. Her business provides Red Cross trained instructors to teach you and your children in your own pool, community pool or river. Caitlin's team also launched the "Great Summer Giveaway" with prizes all summer long. Visit www.yourpoolswimschool.com for more information.

Registration is open for our **Independence Day parade**, to be held on Thursday, July 4, from 10:00–noon in Severna Park. We will again be offering a \$500 prize in three categories: Best Overall, Best Theme and Most Patriotic. We encourage communities to gather their teams and start building their floats!

Go to www.gspacc.com for more information.

To Roth Or Not To Roth, That Is The Question

» Continued from page 45

impact taxes are going to have on that figure. What we know for sure is it would be wonderful if that \$1.5 million was a Roth and tax-free!

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