



Cody Winokur To Play His Last Army-Navy Game

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Severna Park Teams Share Joy Of Being State Champions



Photo by David Bashore



Photo by David Bashore



Photo by Zach Sparks

Top: A shutout over Towson gave the Severna Park girls soccer team their second straight championship. **Right:** Adding to the storied history of Severna Park field hockey, this year's team won the program's 26th title. **Bottom:** In the Class 3A cross-country championships, the Severna Park girls finished first with a score of 48, ahead of Towson with 101.

Friends, Family Pay Tribute To Longtime SPHS Band Director R. Thomas Powell

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Richard "Dick" Thomas Powell spent nearly 50 years as the band director at Severna Park High School from 1967 to 2014. Yet, it was not enough.

Before the 79-year-old Linthicum resident died on Thanksgiving, he made a confession to Howard Weinstein, a former student who later designed shows for Powell.

In an online post, Weinstein wrote, "I was fortunate enough to spend a good amount of time with him the evening before he passed, and this says everything: he looked at me and said, 'I should have waited another 10 years to retire.' That would have been this year, and when he did retire, he had completed (47) years in education.

"That says everything. Teaching was his life."

While student teaching at South Hagerstown High School, Powell realized that he wanted to build a music program for high school students. That is exactly what he did in Severna Park after he graduated from Frostburg State University in 1967.

Powell treasured every moment with students, not just as their band director but also as their mentor.

"There was not a time I didn't enjoy," Powell told the Voice in 2015. "The school. The kids. The staff. The people I worked with. Making music on a daily basis. All of it. All the time I spent at that school was a complete joy. I loved my job. I loved

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From 1967 until his retirement in 2014, Severna Park High School band director R. Thomas Powell changed the lives of countless students.

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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.

Beth Capps Coordinates Holiday Magic At Broadneck High School Craft Bazaar

By Meredith Winter

Beth Capps has volunteered in her kids' school activities since they were in elementary school, and she is a self-proclaimed "big craft show fan," so it was a natural fit for her to assume the role of craft bazaar chair on the volunteer-run Bruins Athletic Boosters Club at Broadneck High School in 2018.

"I was active in the boosters – my son played baseball, he was class of 2020, and my daughter was a soccer player, she was class of 2024," Capps shared. "My husband coached (travel) baseball for 13 years, so our family just likes to be involved in volunteering with the schools, school stuff, and community activities."

With the support of many fellow volunteers, Capps has managed the popular annual bazaar since then, even as her own children graduated and went on to college.

The Broadneck Holiday Craft Bazaar typically draws around 2,000 shoppers, Capps explained, who peruse the handmade-only goods of roughly 150 mostly local vendors in search of one-of-a-kind gifts, décor and more. An entrance fee of \$2 directly supports Broadneck athletics. The 40th annual bazaar took place this year on December 7.

Capps, an Arnold resident, juggles most of the planning and logistics, from vendor registration and communication, to creating master maps of where they will all set up throughout



Since 2018, Arnold resident Beth Capps has volunteered with the Bruins Athletic Boosters Club as the committee chair for the Broadneck Holiday Craft Bazaar.

the school, to coordinating spaces for clubs and concessions, to making sure things flow smoothly on the big day.

Though it is something she devotes time to all year long, Capps is quick to share credit for the bazaar's success.

"We also use our athletes to move the vendors in and out of the building," she said, noting the students deliver lunches to the vendors as well. "There's no way to pull off a show of this size and get the vendors moved in in the short timeframe that you have for these shows without someone to help because it's so much stuff ... so the kids are just absolutely invaluable and the coaches keep them moving."

"The kids are just so patient and so helpful," she emphasized, adding, "We get a lot of compliments on the kids."

For the last three years, Capps' friend Barb Chapman has rolled up her sleeves

to help with marketing, community outreach, signage and more. Capps described the bazaar as "all hands on deck" for the boosters committee chairs, and in addition to their help, many dedicated volunteers assist with concessions, parking and other logistics.

With her daughter studying at the University of Connecticut and her son being a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, Capps hopes to find a volunteer to take over her responsibilities with the craft bazaar soon.

"I certainly would be more than willing to have somebody shadow or help out – I'm not going to disappear," she said. "But I probably do need to pass it on to someone who still has (children) in the school system."

Capps works for the United States Census Bureau, and in her free time has set out to visit all of Maryland's state parks.

"I'm trying to turn hiking into a hobby, and I'm halfway through the list of state parks right now," she said. "There are over 50 state parks in Maryland and it's fantastic. Lots of variety, too, so there's some mountain hiking and then there are some that are more for kayaking and camping."

Once she has completed her tour of Maryland, Capps said her next venture will be visiting national parks. Her family also enjoys attending hockey games together. And, of course, when she reaches retirement, Capps expects she'll find new opportunities to volunteer.



Publishers

Dianna Lancione
Lonnie Lancione

V.P., Operations

Brian Lancione

V.P., Business

Development

Jonathan Katz

Account Executive

Larry Sells

Editor

Zach Sparks

Assistant Editor

Meredith Winter

Editorial Assistant

Lauren Cowin

Sports Reporter

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Margaret Bates
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Jaina Peveto
Judy Tacyn

Columnists

Liz League
Rachel Muñoz
Steuart Pittman
Audrey Ruppert
Dana Schallheim

Contributors

Brian Conrad
David Diggs
Jason Heavner
Jason LaBarge
David Orso

Photographer

Dennis McGinley

Tree Lighting Signals Christmas Is Almost Here

Photos by Meredith Winter

Santa, the Grinch and several hundred community members gathered on December 6 for a community tree-lighting ceremony hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. Local school and dance groups entertained crowds with holiday themed performances, and kids of all ages kept warm with hot cocoa and enjoyed treats ranging from cookies to ice cream.



Dasher and Dancer, Comet and Cupid, and many more of their friends from The Edge Dance Complex performed for the crowds.



Sarah (9) and Hannah (11) Taylor posed for a photo with the Grinch.

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Please send your news to:
spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com

P.O. Box 608
Severna Park, MD 21146

410-647-9400

SevernaParkVoice.com

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Documentary Chronicles History Of Asbury Town Neck UMC

By Margaret Bates

Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church has been profiled in the documentary "The History of Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church and Community," directed by Charles Germain and sponsored by the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County. This documentary is part of the Magothy River Association (MRA)'s Magothy Living History Project, which is preserving the history of Severna Park by creating films based around collected oral histories.

Asbury Town Neck was founded in 1888 when Thomas Sye purchased Old Stone House plantation land from the Tydings family to serve as the church's homestead. Since then, Asbury Town Neck has grown into its current footprint, which includes a food pantry, an expanded parsonage and a worship hall, which opened in 1990. Currently, the church has multiple worship choirs, maintains the Asbury Church Assistance Network (ACAN) that feeds about 1,800 families a week, and continues its growth under the direction of the Rev. Tori Butler.

Filmmaker Charles Germain graduated 10 years ago with his filmmaking degree from Boston University before moving to the Washington, D.C., area. Previously, he directed other documentaries for the Magothy River Association's Living History Project, including ones about the Beechwood community and Old Stone House plantation. For him, the beginning stage of crafting the Asbury documentary involved getting church members to sit down with him.

"First, we interviewed old-timers from the church ... so they could bring back to us stories from the 1940s, '50s and '60s," Germain said.

Obtaining these interviews was not a one-man effort, and Germain credited Asbury member Jolynn Winn for encouraging and organizing them. "She is really cohesive for the church and the film as she gathered together all 10 people we interviewed and found the original church documents," Germain said

of Winn, who was also interviewed in the film.

As the film traces history, especially from the 1940s through 1960s, it documents topics with historical implications today, ranging from environmental issues and impacts to integration. For example, during those decades, Cattail Creek was a staple for the community with its easily accessible drinking water and supply of seafood. One congregant, Theodore Pack, recalled how, as a boy, he drank from Cattail Creek's fresh water. However, he said, "When they sold Packtown, they took all the trees and foliage and just let it wash down in there," which ruined the potable water of the creek.

During integration, Anne Arundel County Black students could decide to attend either Bates High School, which served all Black students throughout the county, or the newly integrated Severna Park High School (SPHS). The parishioners made different choices based on their personal needs.

Congregant Raymond Smith chose Bates for two reasons. First, he noted, "The main thing for Bates was that it was a vocational school. So, I chose Bates because of the bricklaying."

With that skill, he even laid the foundation for his own house. Second, Smith avoided SPHS because some of the white students would start fights. Louis Pack concurred. He was one of the first students to integrate SPHS.

"We had to fight ... we had to fight every day," he said.

The documentary also provides examples of the Black and white communities coming together. In 1954, Hurricane Hazel devastated the mid-Atlantic, killing hundreds and knocking out power for days in Severna Park. Germain mentioned how local businesses, like Dawson's General Store, offered free refrigeration to the Town Neck families.



Above: Jolynn Winn gathered 10 people to be interviewed for the film. **Left:** Charles Germain directed "The History of Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church and Community."

"They were able to bring their food to a white-owned business to make sure they were not losing out. I found this quite remarkable," Germain said.

One constant is that Asbury Town Neck remains a family and a source of support for its members. When Linwood Jackson's mother died, he was not officially part of the community but, instead, had been frequenting Baltimore-based gambling halls. However, his mother's Asbury community embraced him. It was this kindness that stuck with Jackson.

"These Christians accepted me," he said. "Not only did they give my mother a good farewell; they fed my whole family."

Asbury Town Neck has served its congregants with that spirit of family and service since 1888 and will continue to do so. Additionally, Germain wants to make more Asbury-based documentaries and hopes that more people will tell their stories.

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Super Plunger Benefit To Be Held At Severna Park Taphouse December 19

By Judy Tacyn

For the last 28 years, Marylanders with ice in their veins have willingly and enthusiastically jumped into the Chesapeake Bay, usually in January, to raise money for the Special Olympics Maryland and the 19,000 special athletes in Maryland. A small but passionate group known as Super Plungers will plunge not once, but at least once per hour for 24 hours, each pledging a minimum of \$10,000, to help the Polar Bear Plunge 2025 reach its 2025 goal of \$4.75 million.

Numerous Severna Park residents are a part of this tremendous effort, including Andy Killen, who will be a Super Plunger for his second year.

Andy Killen

Killen has been plunging since 2009. Although he's not a Special Olympics athlete — he likes basketball but admits he's more of a “music kind of guy” — he has seen firsthand how the Special Olympics' year-round events help to keep everyone included, perform at the best of their ability, and to have fun.

“Everyone should be included, always compete, have fun and enjoy what they are doing!” exclaimed Killen, emphasizing fun over competition results. “If I can help put a smile on someone's face, no matter what I have to do, I am going to do it.”

The website seatemperature.info



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Super Plunger Andy Killen will brave the cold waters of the Chesapeake Bay in January as part of the Polar Bear Plunge in support of the Special Olympics Maryland.

lists the average water temperature in the Chesapeake Bay in January as 42.1 degrees Fahrenheit, and the website historically adds, “and therefore is not suitable for comfortable swimming.” Killen doesn't seem to mind when he plunges shirtless and dunks his head below the water's surface multiple times per hour while he's “freezing for a reason.”

“Yes, it's very cold, and it takes me two days to recover, but it's also a lot of fun and for a very deserving cause,” he said.

Killen is part of the Chesapeake

Chillers team. To help him and his teammates raise the \$30,000 they need, a special fundraising event will be held at the Severna Park Taphouse on December 19, from 5:00pm—11:00pm. There is no charge to enter, and a portion of the food and beverage tickets will be donated to Killen's team. Additionally, there will be 50/50 and basket raffles, and an open mic for anyone who wants to belt out a song or two. Killen is offering a unique gift to potential donors via his YouTube channel (Andy Killen @AndyKillen87).

Donate \$300 or more and Killen will rewrite the lyrics to a donor's favorite family-friendly song (he prefers classic rock) and record his cover of the “new” song, which will include the donor's name and a shoutout via the video-sharing platform for a truly one-of-a-kind thank you gift.

Abby and Owen Roberts

Of the hundreds of plungers, Severna Park residents Abby and Owen Roberts are Super Plungers in the making. Abby, a Severna Park High School junior, has been plunging for seven years after the opportunity was offered as a school field trip. She has since recruited her entire Severna Park Best Buddies chapter to join her in taking a dip into the frosty waters.

“I think it's important for people to get involved with Special Olympics because the organization is super fun and positive,” added Abby, a Falcon athlete.

“The activities everyone engages in together promotes inclusion and the chance to engage in sports.”

Owen is an eighth-grader at Severna Park Middle School whose first plunge was four years ago as a COVID home-plunge.

“Special Olympics is important to me because growing up, I would always watch my Uncle Kenny participate in them. I loved going to his practices and games to support him and his team,” Owen said about his uncle, Kenny Elgert, an ardent supporter of SPHS athletes who passed away in 2019. “I think it is very important for all athletes to know that anyone can thrive in the sport they love, no matter who they are. I love plunging into the water with everybody and know that I am doing this for a great cause.”

A Helping Hand

Volunteers and raffle donations for the December 19 Taphouse event are needed. Contact Killen at akillen777@yahoo.com if you can help. Donations to Killen's fundraising goal are also greatly appreciated.

Special categories of plungers include schools, police, first responders, military and corporations, each assigned to a specific date. If you or your organization are interested in learning more about plunging, sponsoring or donating to the Polar Bear Plunge, visit www.plungemd.com. To support Super Plunger Andy Killen or his team Chesapeake Chillers, or another individual plunger, visit bit.ly/superplungersmd.

Severna Park Taphouse is located at 58 West Earleigh Heights Road. The December 19 event is free to attend.

Chartwell Kids Build Bikes for Charity, Learn Life Skills

By Judy Tacyn

The Chartwell Golf & Country Club clubhouse was busier than Santa's workshop on November 24, when 80 members of the Chartwell Young Leaders (CYL) were busy assembling bikes to be donated to children in need.

CYL was established in 2016 for junior club members, ages 9–18, to promote leadership, charity, friendship, loyalty and lifelong memories through meetings, outings and events. The group's latest member community service endeavor was a Build-A-Bike event, sponsored by a national events company.

To participate, organizations like CYL must first fundraise enough money to purchase unassembled bikes, which they did through the sale of pickleball sets and logo cups. On the day of the event, teams must work together to solve puzzles, earn bike pieces, and together assemble bikes to be given away to local charities.

Eighty CYL members formed 10 eight-person teams. Each team came up with their team's name, logo and cheer, then was given eight puzzles to solve. Some puzzles required teams to seek input from other teams. When a team solved a puzzle, the answer was checked by a judge who determined if a bike component had been earned. When the eight bike pieces were earned by successfully solving the puzzles, the teams raced to build their bike.

The friendly competition required the all-kid teams to meet and work with new people, learn creative ways to solve problems, and to ask for help from those around them.

Three of the eight completed bikes were donated to Special Olympics Maryland, which had members on hand to talk to the kids about Special Olympics and how the bikes will help other kids



“Green” team members assembled a bike to be donated after earning bike pieces in a competition.

just like them. Two bikes will be donated to a toy drive for Springhill Lake Elementary School in Greenbelt, Maryland, while the remaining three bikes will be donated to organizations voted on and approved by the CYL.

Hunter Flynn, a 13-year-old board of directors member, is passionate about the Chartwell Young Leaders group and the charity work members are able to accomplish.

“We do several events a year, from small to large. Each one is fun, and I instantly feel pride and appreciation for making a difference in the world around me,” Flynn said. “This event brought me closer together with my teammates and friends and I learned a lot about Special Olympics Maryland. I hope to volunteer more with them.”

The Build-A-Bike event is just one of many events in which the CYL participates. Other events include the Rise Against Hunger food packing event, where 40 CYL volunteers packed more than 10,000 meals in two hours; Ronald McDonald dinners; color runs; and more. Events organized by the CYL this year included a college fair, run by the education committee, and a March Madness watch party run by the social committee. Looking ahead, the kids are excited about an upcoming cooking class run by their diversity and inclusion committee, where the children will learn how to make sushi and learn about Japanese culture.

Logan Jones, a 17-year-old who serves as board of directors president, encourages more kids to perform charity work and be more socially responsible.

“More kids should get involved in giving back because it teaches many important life skills such as teamwork and hard work, and it opens their eyes to see that not everyone is as fortunate as they are,” Jones said. “Giving back helps to improve the community and gives you a sense of pride and accomplishment.”

Ryleigh Connell, a 16-year-old board of directors member and co-vice president, added, “I think giving back is important, especially for our community, because using our time and resources to help those less fortunate can strengthen our community. More kids should get involved in giving back because it teaches great morals, leadership qualities, and gives you a sense of purpose and makes you extremely grateful.”



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Inaugural Better Together Fundraiser Generates Over \$30,000 For Local Nonprofits

By Meredith Winter

Three area nonprofits can put more dollars toward their missions heading into the holidays and new year, thanks to a community fundraiser hosted by David and Dawn Orso. Roughly 150 community members gathered and donated during the Orsos' inaugural "Better Together" event, held November 12 at Chartwell Golf & Country Club.

Over the last 21 years, David and Dawn Orso have helped more than 1,500 area families with their real estate needs and donated to more than 20 local charities.

Discouraged by the division he saw in the world but inspired by the unity he witnessed locally, David Orso hatched a vision to showcase area nonprofits and give back to his community in a fresh way earlier this year.

"What I have the luxury of seeing every day is how so many people in this county work hard together to make it a great place, so I just felt like it made the most sense to announce we're 'better together,'" Orso said, explaining how the name of the fundraiser was born.

He had just two objectives for the event: to give local nonprofits a platform to spread their message to a broad audience, and to raise funds for those nonprofits. Orso invited nonprofits to apply to be highlighted at Better Together and received nearly 50 submissions. To ensure fairness in selecting the nonprofits that would benefit from the event, he assembled a board of advisors from the community to review submissions and vote on the top three.

The Blue Ribbon Project, Anne Arundel County CASA Inc., and Katherine's Light Foundation rose to the top. The evening of Better Together, leaders from each shared about their organization's origin story, mission and vision in a five-minute speech. Then, attendees donated directly to one, two or all three using boxes labeled for each nonprofit.

There was no cost to attend the event; the Orsos provided the venue,



David (left) and Dawn (right) Orso hosted a "Better Together" community fundraiser in mid-November to support three local nonprofits: Anne Arundel County CASA Inc., represented by Executive Director Rebecca Tingle (middle left); Katherine's Light Foundation, represented by founders Larry (middle) and Robin Sells; and The Blue Ribbon Project, represented by founder Taylor Pyles (middle right).

food and beverages, all organized by Dawn. There was only one requirement: come prepared to donate a minimum of \$100 to at least one of the three highlighted organizations. Following the pitches, those in attendance opened their hearts and wallets, and together, the nonprofits left with over \$30,000.

"We're just extremely thankful for not just David but people in the community showing support like that," said Taylor Pyles, founder of The Blue Ribbon Project (TBRP), after presenting at Better Together.

Founded in 2013, TBRP exists to support area victims of child abuse and youth in foster care. Pyles is a survivor of physical abuse who was placed in foster care at a young age and served in the Annapolis Police Department as a detective in the violent crimes section of the criminal investigation division. When Pyles entered foster care, he did not have the opportunity to go home for clothing and necessities; his only possessions were what he wore to school that day. That was something he wanted to change for children going through an already difficult transition.

TBRP offers many programs for children and adult survivors of childhood trauma, including Backpacks of Love, which supports children entering the foster care system by providing them with a bag of essential items such as clothing, toiletries, school supplies and comfort items like blankets. The nonprofit also offers a small clothing "store" where youth in care can come shop for free.

Pyles shared that TBRP is currently running low on clothing, and that the funds from Better Together will help his team restock needed items.

Anne Arundel County CASA Inc., which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates, also supports children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Executive Director Rebecca Tingle, who gave a presentation at Better Together, explained that CASA's mission is to provide volunteers to advocate for and support abused and neglected children in the court system to ensure their right to a safe, stable and permanent home.

Tingle noted that all funds help the organization reach kids who do not have a court-appointed special advocate. "Our goal is to provide CASAs to 100% of the

children in care," she shared. "We're at about 75% so these funds will help us to train more CASAs and get more CASAs appointed, so that we can get closer to our goal — and it's a goal that is doable — of a CASA for every child in care in Anne Arundel County."

Katherine's Light Foundation (KLF) was founded in 2023 in honor of Katherine Mueller by her mom and stepfather, Robin and Larry Sells. Katherine died in December of 2021 at the age of 31 after a three-year battle with a rare form of cancer. Through their nonprofit, the Sells have raised funds for the Katherine Mueller Nursing Scholarship at Anne Arundel Community College, in honor of Katherine's desire to be a nurse; for the Wellness House of Annapolis; for the Baltimore Washington Medical Center's Patient Care and Comfort Fund; and for the Katherine Mueller NET Cancer Research Fund. The funds from Better Together will enable KLF to continue its mission of supporting cancer research and area nonprofits that advocate for and assist those living with a cancer diagnosis.

"We look forward to the next one, because we'll be a participant in the next one, as a donor," Larry said of Better Together on behalf of his family.

Reflecting on the event, Robin was touched that many of the guests thanked her and Larry for the work that they are doing for those affected by cancer, including several who shared that they too had suffered the loss of a child, or the loss of a loved one to cancer.

David Orso considers November's Better Together fundraiser to be the 1.0 version of an event he hopes to host annually, with the same format of three nonprofits being highlighted.

"It's a wonderful community," Orso emphasized. "I think people in their heart really want to give and they want to work together, and these are the kind of events that just reiterate that we live in a good place."

To learn more about or support The Blue Ribbon Project, Anne Arundel County CASA Inc., or Katherine's Light Foundation, go to www.blueribbonproject.org, www.aacasa.org or www.katherineslight.org.

Broadneck Pantry Serves Holiday Staples

By Alyson Kay

Since 2021, the food pantry at Broadneck High School (BHS) has been providing families with food, clothes, baby items, basic toiletries and a bit of festive cheer during the holiday season.

"It brings everyone together and helps people in need from one end of the peninsula to another," said Cheryl Griswold, parent to two Broadneck High School students, who has volunteered at the pantry for two years.

The pantry holds one giveaway event per month but can provide additional support if needed. "Families know they can contact me if they need anything in between," said Allison Mathews, director of the Broadneck peninsula food pantry.

Along with the dry goods the pantry gets, fresh food is a priority for volunteers each month as they shop for butter, milk, fruits, vegetables and meat. They also do a blanket and comforter drive each year to help keep families warm throughout the winter months. Volunteers are also available to help customers load their cars, especially for heavier items.

"We used to bring everything out of the pantry and set it up on the tables, and now we thought of a great idea of making our pantry almost like a little

mini grocery store," Mathews said. "We have all the shelves labeled, and they can just walk around and shop like they do at a normal grocery store."

A team of Broadneck High School faculty members, including librarian Leslie Watson, assistant principal Melissa Pfisterer, financial secretary Jess Banachoski, special education department chair Jennifer Trout, English teacher Tara Segree and Broadneck High School social worker Lindsay Roszell, serve as the "pantry committee." Once a month, they meet to make sure they're prepared for each month's event.

Anywhere from 30 to 40 people show up to these events. The only information that the pantry asks about its customers is their name, what school their children go to, and the number of people they are getting food for during their visit. According to that data, the pantry serves about 100 to 130 people per month from its events.

Each holiday season, the pantry holds two additional events to provide support to community members through a festive but difficult time of year.

"I think a lot of people just get by in large part throughout the rest of the year," Griswold said. "But there's something about the holidays where it just makes life a bit tougher financially and the holidays

can be really hard emotionally for a lot of people. So, it's good to wrap your arms around those that need it."

For Thanksgiving, the pantry got 35 turkeys, including 25 turkeys from Green Valley Marketplace. Along with the turkeys, volunteers packaged other Thanksgiving staples, including pie and sweet potatoes to put into turkey boxes to give out just before Thanksgiving. Some teachers also made homemade desserts.

This year, the pantry received help from captains of the BHS athletic teams. "They came and they packaged all the boxes for us with all the foods that needed to be in every box," Mathews said. "Then they made cards that we put in every box and said, 'Happy Thanksgiving.'"

Volunteers also hold an event for Christmas. At the regular October and November events, customers filled out paper mittens with gift ideas for their kids. They set up a tree in the BHS library with the mittens. Anyone in the school can sponsor a family.

Watson takes charge of organizing the gifts and puts them in boxes. Just before Christmas, the pantry will hold a pickup date for Christmas dinners and gifts.

Preparation for the extra holiday events starts months in advance and can be difficult but rewarding. "It doubles our work for those months, but it's worth it to make sure that everyone gets a nice Thanksgiving dinner and the kids get gifts at Christmas," Mathews said. "It's worth it to us."

Community Meeting About Arnold Chick-fil-A

Last April, the Severna Park Voice reported that preliminary plans were submitted for a 2,656-square-foot drive-thru-only Chick-fil-A to be constructed along Route 2 just south of the intersection with Arnold Road, past the CVS and Sunoco gas station. If approved, the one-story store would serve guests through two drive-thru lanes at 1500 Ritchie Highway.

In March, roughly 100 community members turned out for a meeting — a county-required prerequisite to the development plan approval process — to express their concerns about traffic issues, environmental impacts and other implications of the proposed location for the Chick-fil-A.

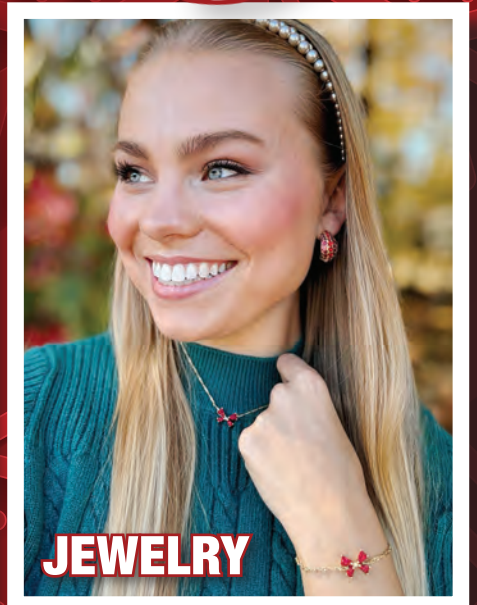
Arnold Preservation Council is hosting a Zoom meeting on December 18 at 7:30pm regarding the proposed Chick-fil-A in Arnold. Participate in or listen to the Zoom meeting by visiting www.arnoldpreservationcouncil.org.

Second Annual PRO Vision Memorial Run Generates \$20,000 For Nonprofits



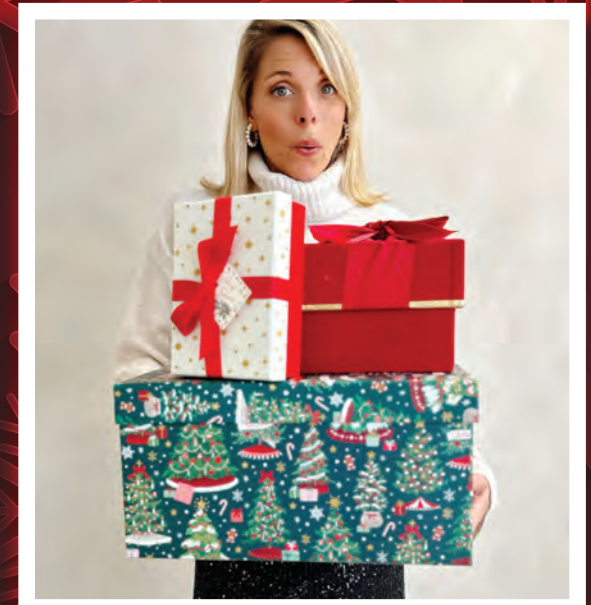
The PRO Vision Memorial Foundation held its second annual 5K/10K run in memory of Severna Park resident Paul Overton in late September. The event raised funds to benefit Orphan Grain Train and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County. In November, event organizers presented the two nonprofits with \$10,000 each, due to the support and generosity of over 250 race participants. To learn more about PRO Vision, go to www.paulrovertonvision.org.

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Deep Creek Communities Kick Off Holidays With Boat Parade

By Meredith Winter

Blustering morning winds died down on November 16 just in time for 35 boat captains and their small crews of family and friends to set sail for the second annual Deep Creek Lighted Boat Parade off of the Magothy River.

The small craft, mostly owned by Arnold, Annapolis and Pasadena residents, sported festive décor depicting themes ranging from classic film favorites such as “Minions” and “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” to more iconic Christmas characters including Santa, Rudolph and the Grinch.

Arnold resident Jack Bahen first organized the event three years ago — though that initial boat parade was canceled due to weather — with the simple vision of bringing neighbors together across a small local waterway. Bahen, who lives along the mouth of Deep Creek, shared that he loves going to downtown Annapolis each year for the Eastport Yacht Club’s lights parade and thought, “Why don’t we do this on our creek?”

He and his family are boaters and have gotten to know many of their Arnold neighbors while out on their dock. But, he shared, he didn’t know many of their neighbors just across the creek in the Annapolis community of Atlantis. A few years back, Bahen threw together a party at Donnelly’s Dockside, an Arnold restaurant situated on Deep Creek, for neighbors on both sides. He called the party #UniteTheCreek, and that became the spirit of the boat parade as well.

The weather cooperated for the parade in 2023, and more than 20 boaters participated. Donnelly’s and neighborhood piers were swamped with



Above: “Caribbean Christmas” themed décor won catamaran owners and Atlantis residents Matt and Suzanne Orendorff the winning prize and the opportunity to support a charity of their choice during the second annual Deep Creek Lighted Boat Parade.



Photos by Meredith Winter

Waterways lit up as 35 festively decorated boats paraded up and down Deep Creek on November 16, kicking off the holiday season for neighbors in Arnold and Atlantis.



spectators, and both Bahen and friend and restaurant owner Dan Donnelly resolved to ramp up preparations for an even bigger 2024 parade.

Local streets were again jammed with parked cars, but Donnelly’s was ready to host the crowds with increased staffing, live music, and outdoor food and beverage options.

This year, boaters paid a \$35 entry fee and boat slips at Donnelly’s were auctioned off.

Bahen explained that half of the money went toward a cash prize for the captain of the boat deemed to have the best décor, and the other half was donated to a charity selected by that winner. During a captains’ meeting at Donnelly’s prior to the event, Tri-State Steel & Erectors owner Ron Umlandt, a regular at the restaurant, said his company would match the charitable donation.

Boats paraded up and down

the chilly moonlit creek early in the mid-November evening, with the winners determined by audience applause and Donnelly’s staff who served as judges. Atlantis residents Matt and Suzanne Orendorff won the \$800 cash prize for their 44-foot catamaran “Sweet & Salty,” a charter that spends winters in the Caribbean.

Fittingly, their theme was “Caribbean Christmas,” and their boat was decked out

with lights, inflatable palm trees and more, playing reggae music for all to enjoy.

The Orendorffs designated Blue Skies Ministries as their charity of choice to receive a \$1,600 donation. The faith-based organization serves families of children with cancer by offering them respite at no-cost beach camps and mountain getaways.

“We lost our nephew last year to brain cancer and this is a wonderful organization that helped my family — my extended family — through not only when he was suffering, but also after he passed,” Matt Orendorff shared.

Reflecting on this year’s boat parade, Bahen shared that one highlight was four Broadneck High School students decorating a boat and joining the procession. “I was really surprised they were in the parade — you know, they’re young,” he said. “I loved the way they did their boat, but I just really loved the idea that we captured the attention of seniors in high school that wanted to participate.”

Bahen and Donnelly are already thinking ahead to next year’s lighted boat parade, contemplating parking logistics and ways to raise more funds for charity.

“We have so much fun doing it and it’s all about the community,” Donnelly said, underscoring just how many people gathered not only at his restaurant but all up and down Deep Creek.

Looking ahead, Bahen said, “My goal is I want it bigger than the Eastport parade of lights ... and I want to raise more money, which is going to be really hard — so it’s a stretch goal — but I want to raise as much money as we can for local charities and get the community together. That’s all I want.”

Real Estate After A Presidential Election

By David Orso

Berkshire Hathaway
Home Services/
PenFed Realty



The election is behind us and there is normal speculation as a new president takes office. I have been a real estate broker for six presidential elections and one thing is for sure as it relates to the impact on real estate: the fear of a new president is not worth the hype.

The first thing that happens is a slowdown leading up to the election. This year, 23% of buyers reported they were waiting until after the election to make a purchase, according to Redfin. The pause is acute in our area, which has a concentration of government employees and contractors.

It is interesting to see the trepidation among buy-

ers because the data does not support a fear-based posture. I am going to present two key metrics for housing in the first year post presidential elections. The data supports an optimistic outlook for 2025.

The first metric is how home sales performed in the year following a presidential election. Home sales went up nine of the last 11 elections. Sales dipped for President Ronald Reagan in 1981 and then dipped again in 1989 after President George Bush’s election. Considering the pullback in sales the last two years due to rising interest rates and a housing shortage, it is a safe bet to predict sales will increase in 2025.

My prediction: Sales will increase in 2025 in Anne Arundel County.

The next metric, which is an obvious concern for homeowners, would be the value of their home. In the year following an election, values rose seven of the last eight elections. The only year values dipped was in 2009 after President

Barack Obama’s victory, which was amidst a real estate collapse. Such an acute situation does not exist currently, which supports a belief that values will rise in 2025.

My prediction: Sales prices will rise in 2025 in Anne Arundel County.

Furthermore, four leading financial institutions and the National Association of Realtors released predictions on October 11 for values in 2025:

- Goldman Sachs: 4.4%
- Wells Fargo: 4.3%
- Fannie Mae: 3%
- Morgan Stanley: 3%
- National Association of Realtors: 1.8%

The wild card in this analysis will be the residential mortgage rates. The stagnation of sellers due to clutching onto their low interest rates continues to cause scarcity of new listings. Buyers remain ready, willing and able on the sidelines. My prediction is if rates make it to 6% or less then buckle up because sales will hit new records.

My overall prediction for local real estate in 2025 is extraordinarily positive.

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Friends, Family Pay Tribute To Band Director R. Thomas Powell

» Continued from page 1

everything about it, and especially working with kids to make music.”

Former Severna Park band member Meg Viviano graduated in 2003. She said Powell’s impact on kids throughout the years is hard to convey.

“The way he created a hierarchy among students, so that freshmen had role models to emulate, upperclassmen had great leadership experience, and all students were taught a sense of responsibility,” Viviano said when explaining what made Powell so special. “He also just genuinely cared about his students. The band room was like a haven for kids who maybe didn’t feel like they fit in elsewhere.”

Powell’s wife, Joan, agreed that her husband welcomed everyone to the music program.

“If you couldn’t play an instrument, he would find someone to teach you,” she said. “He wanted everyone to be involved.”

Joan described her husband as wonderful and caring. A kindergarten teacher who worked in Howard County, Joan understood her husband’s passion for sharing life lessons with his students.

“I couldn’t ask for a better person,” she said. “My life was full of band (experiences), with the students and parents. We made lifelong friends with all of those people.

“He had incredible amounts of energy,” she added. “He had a dream, and he got to live his dream.”

Powell kept in touch with other band directors, including two of his former students who followed in his footsteps: Ed Nagel at Northeast High School and Mike Harrison at Urbana.

Joan recalls three alumni celebrations held throughout the years, and Powell was eagerly waiting for the next one.

One alumnus, Karen Garczynski-Brizzie, joined the Severna Park band in 1991 and was in the color guard until she graduated in 1994. During college, she returned to Severna Park High School to be a color guard instructor, and after she graduated from college, she was the director of Powell’s color guard and indoor guard.

“Mr. Powell was more than just a teacher. He was a friend, mentor and, for many of us, like a second father,” Garczynski-Brizzie said. “He not only taught us how to be a musician and performer; he taught us manners, time management, self-discipline and organizational skills. How to be a leader, how to be respectful, responsible, how to work as a team, how to solve problems and how to be a good friend to others. He also taught us strength, resilience and persistence.

“Some people saw him as a tyrant, but he was a kind, caring man full of stories, knowledge and who loved all of his students,” she said. “He only wanted us to perform at our highest potential because he knew what we were all capable of doing and held high expectations for us.”

Powell and the program he built were so loved and admired that after graduating, many students returned to be band camp counselors, and some were employed on Powell’s staff as in-

structors and field show coordinators.

“Many parents continued to chaperone on trips well after their children graduated from high school,” Garczynski-Brizzie said. “Mr. Powell even had former parents return to help chaperone their grandchildren. We all did this because we loved being a part of this family, the joy of being around Mr. Powell, his students, chaperones and staff. How amazing that one person created this camaraderie.”

Several former alumni shared thoughts online. In addition to revealing his last conversation with Powell, Weinstein said, “He was an incredible friend, and for his time and period, was the best in the state of Maryland. I truly understood his gruff exterior as that was his way of motivating and pushing with his style of passion.”

A 1993 graduate, Rob Weiss said, “I had never touched a trombone before, but he believed in me, even putting me in the jazz band as someone who had never played the instrument. That faith spoke volumes, as I still play the same horn today, playing in the church orchestra.”

John Manley called Powell the most impactful teacher and leader that Manley and many of his peers have known.

“It’s fitting I saw this post (about Powell) while sitting in a jazz club in Stuttgart waiting for a big band to play,” Manley wrote. “My love for big, brassy sound comes directly from my time getting yelled at in swing band for missing the syncopation. RIP RTP. You are a legend.”

Powell is survived by Joan; two brothers-in-law; his nieces; great-nieces; a great-nephew; and two former students who considered Powell to be an adoptive father.

A private funeral service will be held in Frostburg. Powell’s family and friends will celebrate his life and receive visitors at Singleton Funeral & Cremation Services, P.A., in Glen Burnie on December 14 from 4:00pm-7:00pm.

Joan does not want the day to be sad. She wants it to be a day of stories and fond recollections for the larger-than-life figure who would have spent every day of his life working with Severna Park High School students if he could.

“He’ll be looking down because that’s what he wanted: another reunion,” Joan said.

Mr. Powellisms

These are some of Powell’s favorite sayings that former students recalled:

Cover your mouth when you yawn.

Always put a napkin on your lap.

Where were you in 19__?

No PDA (public displays of affection).

Roll your feet.

Way to go, Grace.

Take your hat off in a building.

The door swings both ways.



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Closing The Door On 2024: A Look Back At The Year

The last chapter of 2024 will soon come to a close. As we reflect on the past year here at home, our pages were filled with stories of growth, giving, and when it comes to our local athletes – gold. Here is a look back at stories that shaped the year, and the individuals and organizations who made an impact in our community and beyond.

WINTER

Firefighter **Mark Muckelbauer** retired from the Anne Arundel County Fire Department after a storied career and nearly 40 years of service. He responded to approximately 15,000 emergencies during that time.

“Looking back, I see days when we made a difference in someone’s life, either in an emergency or just taking time with someone who needs help,” Muckelbauer said.



A widespread **check-washing scheme** hit home, and several res-

idents had personal checks stolen from the mail. The Anne Arundel County Police Department estimated 20 cases of check-washing in Severna Park and Arnold over the course of six months. They recommended paying bills online. The United States Postal Inspector suggested using a gel pen when mailing checks, as that ink is more difficult to manipulate.

Maryland-based coffee chain **Rise Up Coffee Roasters** opened a café at a prominent Severna Park location: the corner of Ritchie Highway and Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, adjacent to Homestead Gardens. This is its largest location west of the Chesapeake Bay, and it boasts a drive-through for customers on the go.

“I feel like being involved in the community is going to be an easy thing for us to do,” said Brandon Bartlett, operator of the Annapolis-area stores.

Rock ‘N’ Roll Revival wowed

packed auditoriums at Severna Park High School once again. This was the 35th rendition of the production, themed “Greatest Hits.” The show kicked off with an energetic Michael Jackson medley and continued with heartfelt ballads, rock anthems, pop favorites and more.

“It’s very creative this year, very involved musically,” said director Karah Parks, who noted that in addition to the performers and tech crew, it takes a village of volunteers to put on “RNR” each year.



Broadneck and Severna Park **indoor track athletes** added some hardware to their collections from the 4A and 3A state championship meets. Carson Boteler brought home the gold for Broadneck in the pole vault, clearing 11 feet, 9 inches. Her teammate Casey Gish collected a matching medal in the high jump with her jump of 5 feet, 3 inches.

Kian Williams of Severna Park won the 3A boys high jump with a winning jump of 6 feet, 6 inches. Broadneck wrestler Austin Combs won a state title in the 165-pound division.

Pop group **JAGMAC**, comprised of six Arnold siblings, celebrated their 10th year of making music with a new album entitled “Ends of the Earth.”

“One of our missions is to spread love, to spread joy, to spread our talents to the ends of the Earth,” said band member Alyssa Patalinghug.

SPRING

Severna Park High School alumnus **Jackson Merrill** made his Major League Baseball debut far from home in Seoul, South Korea, starting on Opening Day after an impressive showing at spring training. The former Falcon had quite the rookie season as the San Diego Padres’ center fielder – Merrill was selected as an All-Star and had key hits in the Padres playoff run. He was a finalist for Rookie of the Year.

“He goes right out and wants to win. He’s doing what he loves every day,” said his mom, Jennie Merrill.



The memory of another Severna Park High School graduate, who battled a rare form of neuroendocrine cancer, is being kept alive through the formation of **Katherine’s Light Foundation**. Katherine Mueller passed away in December 2021, three years after her diagnosis.

Katherine’s Light Foundation (KLF) works to fund research for NET cancer research and support for current patients and their families. The Foundation has also established a nursing

scholarship in Katherine’s honor at Anne Arundel Community College.

“The foundation has helped to repurpose sadness into a positive movement,” said Robin Sells, Katherine’s mom and co-founder of KLF.

Parris Underground, an all-ages, alcohol-free music venue opened in Severna Park. Owner Laura MacKay, who has been active in the local music scene since she was a teen, endeavors to provide a safe space to gather, form community and allow music to ease their mental burdens.

“I’m hoping that we can be that place where people are like, ‘OK, well I’m not having a good day, but let me go hear some music,’” MacKay said.

Severna Park’s **Michael Costa** served up delightful dishes as the concept chef at Mediterranean-themed Zaytinya, a Washington, D.C., mainstay. His work can be enjoyed at home, too, as Costa collaborated with renowned chef and restaurateur José Andrés on a new cookbook, “Zaytinya: Delicious Mediterranean Dishes from Greece, Turkey, and Lebanon,” which features some restaurant favorites.

“I think that everything that is now traditional was once new at some point, and if you want to participate in the evolution of any kind of cooking style of food, you have to understand where the food comes from and why,” Costa said.

Three **lacrosse state championship** trophies landed at local schools. The Severna Park boys team, under the direction of a new head coach Bob Zichelli, defeated Towson 8-6 for a record-setting eighth consecutive title on May 21. The Severna Park girls set a record of their own – their 12-6 walloping of Dulaney on May 21 marked state title number 16 for the Falcons program, the most in Maryland Public Second-

ary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) history. In the 4A division, the Broadneck girls won their fourth straight championship, besting Urbana 10-9 on May 23.



Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Superintendent of Schools Mark Bedell orchestrated a significant **principal shuffle** across the district, including at Severna Park High School. Head Principal Lindsay Abruzzo, who had only been in the role for 17 months following 12 years as an assistant principal, was moved to Magothy River Middle school. Nathan Johnson took over at SPSHS.



SUMMER

The sky was blue and the sun scorching hot for the annual **Fourth of July parade**, marshaled by Anne Arundel Community College president Dawn Lindsay. The theme of this year's parade was "Stars and Stripes Forever." Best Overall Float went to the Linstead on the Severn neighborhood, whose residents hauled an enormous patriotic whale, created entirely with recycled materials, through the streets of Severna Park.



"The last two evenings (before the parade), the entire community came together to assemble the float, and much to the chagrin of their parents, the kids painted their hands to leave handprints all over the float," said John Velasco, Linstead community member.

A new sign was installed along the Baltimore-Annapolis Trail at the **Jones Station Crossroads**. The sign offers direction to both local and national routes, and it was dedicated to cyclist Arthur Carter Jr., who was tragically killed in a cycling accident in 2020 along East College Parkway.



County officials and local cyclists who were friends of Carter were present for the dedication.

The Anne Arundel County Council **passed a budget** 4-3 along party lines. The budget included funding for training 70 new firefighters, fully funded the AACPS budget request, including a stair-stepped wage increase for teachers, and supported the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Opponents of the budget decried further tax hikes for residents; proponents called those increases modest and worth the investment.



Severna Park's **Mark Viviano** bid adieu to his 40-year career in sports broadcasting. Viviano intends to shift his focus to his family and his faith.

"This is going to give me the time that I need to be with my family at home, and time to devote to God's calling to all of us to help those in need in our community and to help lead and mentor our young people," Viviano said.

Half a century after the Vietnam War, a new nonprofit was established to honor the five Severna Park and Arnold soldiers killed in action. **Severna Park Heroes of the Vietnam War Memorial LLC** strives to honor those soldiers - Major Ronald Britz, First Lieutenant Charles "Art" Bedsole, Chief Warrant Officer Edward "Louie" Mortimer Jr., and two men with the specialist fourth class rank, Danny Quaitte and Richard Nitsche Jr. - and give them the respect not given from the public during the war.

"I feel indebted to them," said Doug Nichols, a Vietnam veteran, Severna Park High School graduate and co-founder of the group. In collaboration with the county, the nonprofit plans to construct and dedicate a memorial site at Hatton Register Green in 2025.

Students returned to school for the 2024-2025 school year, and schools in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system were met with a few policy changes. Superintendent of Schools Mark Bedell rolled out a new grading policy aimed at increasing student responsibility. The most notable changes are coming at a high school level where students will have fewer opportunities to redo their work, and late work will be subject to a penalty structure.

Additionally, all AACPS schools have implemented a new cellphone policy in an effort to maximize focus in the classroom and improve mental health.

FALL

Asbury Church Assistance Network (ACAN) marked 20 years of service to the community. What started as a modest effort to combat local food insecurity has now grown into one of the largest food pantries in Anne Arundel County. They expected to serve more than 20,000 individuals in need this year.

"We have the best volunteers who are doing this out of compassion," said Andre Smith, ACAN president and board member.

The fourth annual **Art in the Park**, held at Cafe Mezzanotte, featured The Grilled Lincolns, artist demonstrations and fantastic food.

Hurricanes Helene and Milton slammed into the southeastern United States, and locals stepped up to help. Pediatrician **Andre Gvozden** served on a volunteer medical mission through Heart to Heart International, offering free medical care to storm victims in North Carolina.

"I would like to help people remain mindful that people are

hurting. Even if it didn't affect us, we are all in this world together," Gvozden said.



Longtime Severna Park resident **Tim Stevens** set out on an epic cycling journey in honor of Jimmy Buffett and his own retirement. Stevens rode 1,900 miles from Ocean View, Delaware, to Key West, Florida, stopping in the Tampa Bay area to assist with the post-hurricane cleanup effort.

"The amount of destruction here is more than I have ever personally seen. Most everyone's yard is piled

with the ruined contents of their home," Stevens wrote on his blog.



Donald Trump was elected president in November. Former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan was defeated by former Prince George's County Executive **Angela Alsobrooks** in his bid for the United States Senate. Severna Park's **Dana Schallheim** was re-elected to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

Beloved former Severna Park High School band director **Richard "Dick" Thomas Powell** died at the age of 79 in late November. For

nearly 50 years from 1967 to 2014, Powell was a mainstay at SPSHS, where he taught teens about music, but he also taught them life lessons.

He told the Voice in 2015 that he had one favorite memory from his time as band director, and it was the entire time he was at the school.

The Lady Falcons won a trifecta of **state championships** to close out the year, with cross country, field hockey and soccer all bringing home Maryland 3A titles to Severna Park High School.

The girls cross country team left their competition in the dust, finishing with a total score of 48 at the state meet, held at Hereford High School. This is the program's third state championship in a row, and ninth overall.

Severna Park girls soccer won their second consecutive state title, dominating Towson in a 4-0 win.

The Severna Park field hockey team reclaimed their crown with the same score — 4-0 — over Westminster in the final. Their 2024 title marks the Falcons' 26th in program history.

Model Railroad Club Announces December Open House Events

By Judy Tacyn

Railway trains have been fascinating children of all ages since being introduced in the 1820s. One of those trains was the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the first major chartered railroad in the United States. So, whether it was a giant steam engine that roared through the countryside, a plastic musical toy found under the Christmas tree, or a wooden talking train named Thomas, almost everyone has their own “my first train” story.

For the Severna Park Model Railroad Club, the impassioned members have been recreating their favorite train memories and making new ones since 1964. This month, the club will host four open house events to invite everyone into the world of train modeling in hopes of unleashing their inner train conductor dreams.

Located inside the tiny former train station at 3 Riggs Avenue, along the B&A Trail at the intersection of Holly Avenue, this unassuming building is likely passed by many people who either don't see it or do not know it is in use. But come inside and they will find a magical world of complex HO scale (0.87 of the scale of actual trains) train engines and cars, area building replicas almost entirely made by hand and to perfect scale, detailed landscaping, and tiny people waiting to catch a ride at every station.

Visitors can even take the controls and engineer their train through the multi-track setup and imagine they are cruising through the tranquil Island of Sodor, racing to see Santa via the Polar Express, or to simply relive their own “my first train” story.

Pasadena resident Tyler Nolan is the club's lead engineer and jack-of-all-trades, otherwise known as president. He has been part of the Severna Park Model Railroad Club since he was 12 years old. Sixteen years later, his passion for model railroading has only grown.

“I am just infatuated with modeling, and I think that fascination is ageless,” Nolan said. “My favorite part of railroad modeling is the creativity. You can de-



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Tyler Nolan (right) and John Reed welcome the public to visit the Severna Park Model Railroad Club display, which features train engines and cars, area building replicas, detailed landscaping, and tiny people waiting to catch a ride at every station.

sign, build, paint and model whatever you want. You can see something in real life or in a documentary or film and know that you can model it, make it yours.”

While the train modeling possibilities are endless, so are the costs. For the last two years, the club has been accepting donations to upgrade the original 1964 wiring, lighting and controls.

“The original control panels to power the trains are a complex system of leap-frogging pins around the panel, which was difficult to learn,” Nolan said. “We are slowly upgrading to a new high-tech remote system.”

Nolan added that the original lighting systems

are also being replaced with more efficient, easier-to-find components. With a limited budget, prioritizing what part of the massive train model table to tackle next has been the club's biggest challenge.

“You can have a great layout, but you cannot use it without good electrical,” added Nolan, noting that much of the mechanical aspects are tucked away under the model and out of sight.

John Reed has been a club member since 2018. His love of all things model railway began as a child when his grandfather gifted him an O scale train that he found around his Christmas tree when he was just 7 years old. Since then, he's learned tremendously from other club members around wiring, soldering, landscaping and much more, all of which has only bolstered his love of modeling.

“The craftsmanship in modeling is just tremendous,” Reed said. “Tuesdays are big workdays for us, and we are open to the public. Any home modelers with questions or anyone who wants to learn ‘while doing’ are welcome to join us. You will enjoy being here!”

The Severna Park Model Railroad Club is the only HO scale club from Vienna, Virginia, to Pennsylvania and west to Cumberland.

“We want to keep the model train traditions alive! Bring your kids and know we are here for everyone to experience our trains and tracks,” Nolan said. “You never know, they might just take their love of trains straight into a career,” he explained, noting that he is a professional rail and transit engineering consultant, which sprang from his early love of trains.

The Severna Park Model Railroad Club will be open on the following weekends: December 14-15 and December 21-22 from noon-3:00pm. Doors open at 7:30pm for Tuesday evening workdays. Admission is always free, and donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, visit the Severna Park Model Railroad Club Facebook page, which has a link to the club's GoFundMe page to help pay for the electrical upgrades currently underway.



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Christmas Eve Worship Services Around Town

Churches across the greater Severna Park area will host Christmas Eve worship services to celebrate the birth of Jesus. All services below are scheduled for December 24 unless otherwise noted.

Anchor Baptist Church

7:00pm – Christmas Eve service

Antioch, The Apostolic Church

Sunday, December 15

2:00pm – Christmas worship service

Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 22

9:00am – Christmas musical cantata

Asbam United Methodist Church

4:30pm – Children’s interactive service

8:00pm – Family candlelight Christmas Eve service

Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church

6:30pm – Family Christmas Eve candlelight service

CrossPointe Church

6:00pm – Christmas Eve candlelight service

Elvation Baptist Church

7:00pm – Christmas Eve candlelight service

Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church

4:00pm – Family worship service

8:00pm – Candlelight worship service

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

4:00pm – Christmas Eve worship service

7:00pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service

Saints Baptist Church

5:00pm – Family candlelight service

Severna Park Baptist Church

6:30pm – Christmas Eve candlelight service

Severna Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church

6:00pm – Christmas Eve service

8:00pm – Christmas Eve candlelight service

Severna Park United Methodist Church

3:00pm – Children’s service

5:00pm – Family service and pageant

7:00pm – Festival service

9:00pm – Festival service

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church

3:30pm – Mass, Severna Park High School auditorium

4:00pm – Children’s Mass, parish activities center

6:00pm – Mass, parish activities center

8:00pm – Mass, parish activities center

Midnight – Mass, parish activities center

St. Martin’s-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

4:00pm – Christmas Eve service and pageant

9:00pm – Christmas Eve service

The Potter’s House Christian Fellowship Church

6:30pm – Candlelight service

Trinity Bible Church

6:00pm – Christmas Eve party

7:00pm – Christmas Eve candlelight service

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

4:00pm – Family Christmas Eve pageant

6:00pm – Contemporary service

8:00pm – Traditional Christmas Eve service

10:00pm – Communion and candlelight service

Trail Life USA Troop 0152 Led The Way In Helping Hurricane Helene Victims



Photo courtesy of Stacey Benning
Severna Park Baptist Trail Life USA Troop 0152, with the help of the church, American Heritage Girls Troop 0152 and the community, filled a 14-foot truck with supplies for Hurricane Helene victims in Tennessee during November.

By Sharon Mager

The Severna Park Baptist Church-sponsored Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls (AHG), two separate but Troop 0152-affiliated groups, are always looking to serve. A big opportunity presented itself in November.

A church member and Trail Life leader had connections to families in Elizabethton, Tennessee, who were still reeling from Hurricane Helene, with many displaced due to the flooding. Trail Life, with the American Heritage Girls youth assisting, led the church in partnering with the community to gather supplies for the Elizabethton, Roan Mountain and Hunter communities. They got the word out through the church and community, and so many donations arrived that they filled a truck.

“The opportunity just dropped in our laps,” said Stacey Benning, a charter member and church liaison for American Heritage Girls. Her husband, Darrin, serves in the same positions for Trail Life. “We thought, ‘What do we do? We know there’s a need, but how do we meet it?’ But it all fell together. Of course, we know God was part of it.”

The connection to Tennessee came from Mary Susan Roorda, the wife of a Trail Life leader, Chris Roorda. Mary Susan has been a longtime friend of Tammy Harosky, an English and Spanish teacher at Unaka High School in the Carter County Public Schools system in Elizabethton, who shared about the needs of students whose families had been affected by the flooding. Mary Susan, Chris and their son, Thomas, wanted to assist and knew the Trail Life group could help.

Working with the school’s principal, Mike Ensor, who shared a list of needs, Trail Life leaders set a collection date. Severna Park Baptist Church allocated a room for storage, and American Heritage Girls spread the word and collected donations. As the message spread through the community, people responded. They really wanted to help — more than anyone expected.

Stacey said, “We were shocked. We filled up a 14-foot truck. People brought all kinds of stuff — from diapers, wipes, clothing, blankets, and sheets to a kerosene heater. They brought everything needed.”

Darrin said, “The kids had a great time loading the truck, but there was so much more to it than that.”

Following a conference call, where Trail Life members learned of the devastating effects of the flooding, Darrin said the boys’ eyes were opened to human suffering. “They began to understand that people can really be without a home and nice

things and need help,” he said.

Once the truck was loaded, Chris and Thomas Roorda drove the truck to Tennessee, where football players from Unaka High School unloaded the donations.

“The community was very grateful,” Mary Susan said. “The football coach said they already had volunteers lined up to distribute the items to those in need.”

The Severna Park Baptist-sponsored American Heritage Girls and Trail Life groups kicked off their seventh year this fall. They’re averaging about 67 boys and girls from kindergarten through 12th grade.

“We started in 2017,” said Stacey, who, with Darrin, brought the idea to the Rev. Dave Brown at Severna Park Baptist Church. He was immediately on board. His four girls made up half of the American Heritage Girls troop that first year, said Stacey with a laugh. Brown’s wife, Danielle, is the American

“They began to understand that people can really be without a home and nice things and need help.”

— DARRIN BENNING
CHARTER MEMBER,
CHURCH LIAISON
TRAIL LIFE

Heritage Girls troop leader. Eric Hudgens is the troop leader for Trail Life USA.

On Tuesdays, the girls meet upstairs and the boys meet downstairs for opening ceremonies for the two groups before they go to their age-appropriate small groups.

American Heritage Girls and Trail Life are separate faith-based scouting alternatives,

emphasizing biblical principles as students earn badges, serve their communities, and develop leadership skills as they take on increasing leadership responsibilities.

St. John the Evangelist Church in Severna Park also sponsors an American Heritage Girls troop, and Divine Mercy Academy in Millersville sponsors a Trail Life group.

Severna Park Baptist Church will host an area-wide training on January 18 sponsored by the American Heritage Girls D.C. Metro area for American Heritage Girls leaders or anyone interested in starting a program. Those interested in starting a Trail Life group can visit the troop’s Facebook page or contact the church.

Find an American Heritage Girls troop by visiting www.americanheritagegirls.org. To learn about a Trail Life troop, visit www.trailifeusa.com.



Strategic Plan Scorecard

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve you for a second term on the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County and am grateful for your trust. I fully commit to continue serving as I have, putting

Future Readiness and Transitional Preparedness

Ensuring that all Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) students are prepared to grow and prosper as they move through the system and successfully transition from the school system to adulthood.

Goal A — Increase the percent of students ready to transition to kindergarten for all student groups measured by the kindergarten readiness assessment.

Goal B — Increase the percentage of students who access and demonstrate success in career and technical education (CTE), cultural arts, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or dual enrollment programs (as defined by MSDE) for all student groups.

Goal C — Increase the percentage of students who graduate from high school in four years for all student groups.

Investing in Our Staff

Ensuring a diverse and highly effective staff at all levels and positions.

Goal A — Increase the retention of instructional and non-instructional staff.

Goal B — Increase the number of diverse employees to reflect the diversity of students in the district.

Goal C — Increase the percentage of Nationally board-certified teachers and ensure an equitable distribution across all schools.

Supporting the Whole Child

Ensuring the social, emotional, mental, physical and behavioral health and well-being of all students.

Goal A — Increase student and family awareness of, access to, and use of available social, emotional, behavioral and mental health supports.

Goal B — Increase the percentage of students not chronically absent for all student groups.

Goal C — Increase behavioral health supports in schools by reducing the staff-to-student services ratios.

Building and Sustaining Our Future

Ensuring the safety, security and upkeep of all district facilities and the efficient and equitable management/allocation of district resources.

Goal A — Ensure that all AACPS facilities are secure and are fully equipped with modern infrastructure and maintenance practices to create a clean, safe environment for students and staff.

Goal B — Equip all AACPS students with learning spaces that are appropriate to the needs of the students and that have the technology and other resources necessary to support modern learning environments.

Goal C — Ensure equitable and transparent funding and resource distribution that meets the needs of each student. Measured by the percent funded in each blueprint category.

As always, I can be reached at dschallheim@aacps.org and 443-534-2660.

students first and foremost in all decisions and working to ensure that all students belong so that they can grow and succeed regardless of how they show up.

I am also delighted to resume my monthly column and am grateful to the Severna Park Voice for the opportunity to connect with constituents in this way. This month, I want to spotlight the new 2024-2029 strategic plan scorecard that was first showcased during a board workshop in November.

What will soon become the gold standard in school system transparency, the strategic plan scorecard was designed in alignment with both the Every Student Succeeds Act (federal) and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (state) laws, which will allow stakeholders to track the school system's progress toward the goals of the strategic plan. The scorecard contains items corresponding to goals in each of the five priority areas.

I will provide a brief overview of each section of the scorecard below. Where applicable, goals are disaggregated by the following classifications of students — Black/African American, Hispanic, multiracial, white, special education, multilingual learners, and economically disadvantaged. More information and the scorecard itself can be found at www.aacps.org/strategicplan.

Achieving Academic Excellence

Ensuring that all students are exposed to high academic expectations, rigorous curriculum, and an engaging learning environment to meet individual needs and continue to grow.

Goal A — Increase the percentage of students reading on or above grade level by the end of second grade for all student groups as measured by DIBELS diagnostic assessment.

Goal B — Increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding proficiency on the national/state standards in English language arts (ELA), math, science and social studies for all student groups as measured by MCAP state assessments.

Goal C — Increase the percentage of multilingual learners making progress toward attaining English language proficiency as measured by the WIDA ACCESS Assessment.

An Update From Delegate Muñoz

Rachel Muñoz
Delegate, District 31



Dear friends and neighbors,

This November, my family was blessed with the arrival of our sixth child, a baby boy named Leo. With six little ones at home, I have made the heartfelt

decision to step away from my role as your delegate, effective January 1, to focus on this special time with my young family.

Serving you has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me. I pray the Maryland legislature will continue to pass laws that keep our families safe and prosperous for years to come.

As we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season, I wish you all peace, joy, and time surrounded by loved ones. May your holiday season be filled with warmth and blessings.

Merry Christmas and thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Warm regards.

Choosing The Next Delegate

In accordance with the Maryland constitution, the Republican State Central Committee of Anne Arundel County (RSCCAAC) is charged with selecting a replacement for Muñoz. The RSCCAAC is accepting applications until December 23. Following a 10-day review period, the committee will hold a public hearing. For more information about the process, visit www.aagop.org/legislative-vacancy-documents.

E.B. "Pat" Furgurson III

Editor's note: This letter originally appeared in the county executive's weekly email newsletter on December 5.

Steuart Pittman
Anne Arundel
County Executive



Dear neighbor, I need to sit down with a guy named Pat Furgurson, but I can't because he died last week.

Pat spent a couple of decades writing for The Capital, as E.B. Furgurson

III, until he reluctantly took the buyout offer from Alden Global Capital in 2020.

He's most famous for his heroism on June 28, 2018, when five of his colleagues were murdered in their newsroom. He and a very small team of survivors worked out of the bed of his pickup truck to put out the next day's paper.

What happened that day changed our county's relationship with its local paper forever. We rallied around it, we embraced it, and we pledged to protect it.

I personally had always had a sense of reverence for The Capital as an institution. I'd worked there in the summer after my first year of college selling subscriptions by telephone, and one of my older half-sisters had been a reporter there for a short while.

I grew up in a family that read and respected newspapers. The stepfather of my four older half-siblings was Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee.

From the start of my campaign for county executive, I was obsessed with how The Capital would cover us. I was disappointed when they endorsed my opponent, but I understood that I could never have won had they not covered both of our campaigns fairly and thoroughly.

But the shooting, the vigils, the

organization of the Sun/Capital Guild, the acquisitions by Alden Global Capital and then Sinclair Broadcasting's David Smith, and the decimation of the workforce at The Capital, now called the Capital Gazette, have elevated my reverence.

It's a now-dispersed family of heroes. Former editor Rick Hutzell is like the father. A stream of young, very underpaid, very talented reporters, who somehow manage to learn what they need to know to produce the essential stories that hold leaders like me accountable, are the brothers and sisters. And then there is Uncle Pat.

I first met Pat when he was interviewing my father about local history many years ago. He was mostly assigned to South County, the rural areas, and he told the stories of the hardworking farmers and watermen. He really knew and understood them.

When my father died in 2013, Pat wrote his obituary. He nailed it, and from that moment on, I felt connected to him. That happens when reporters do their jobs well.

The last time I saw Pat, he looked directly into my eyes — my soul actually — and told me that my dad would be proud of me. He saw my eyes welling up and my lips trembling. And then he wrapped his arms around me for a good hug, just like he'd done for his colleagues so many times after the shooting.

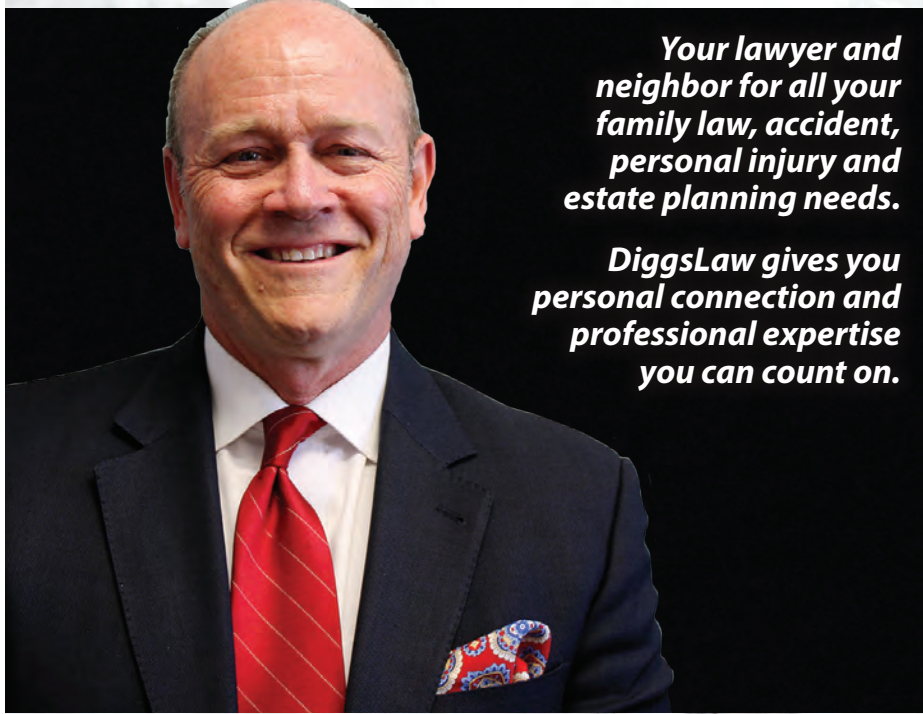
I need to talk to Pat because so much has happened, so many hard and even bad things — and he's so good. I want to hear his stories about how we got where we are. I want his political insights. I want him to tell me what to do next. I want him to confirm that it's OK to not have all the answers.

I'll just have to hope instead that he's with my dad, that they're sharing their wisdom, and that if we listen carefully enough, some of it will drift down and guide us in the right direction.



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Letter To The Editor: School Bathrooms

I am writing about the bathrooms at Severn River Middle School. I believe that they are in poor condition and that they could be improved.

First, the floor of the bathrooms are dirty. They are full of trash, grime and insects. I think if the floor was cleaned more often, that would greatly improve this problem. Second, the soap dispensers are usually out of soap. I believe if they were refilled daily, it would help fix that problem. Finally, the walls are often filled with graffiti. If there were bathroom monitors outside of the bathrooms, that would encourage kids not to write on the walls because there is someone close by who could catch them in the process.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Ben Whitty

Severn River Middle School student

Letter To The Editor: Ellie's Bus



Dear Severna Park community:

Ellie's Bus would like to thank the Severna Park High School drama club for its donation to our organization. The drama club chose Ellie's Bus for last year's charity and we received a sizable donation. Ellie's Bus uses the money to fund a part-time teaching position at the Luminis Health J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center in Annapolis for kids with acute mental health problems.

Larry Leikin

Co-founder of Ellie's Bus
Severna Park resident

Have An Opinion? Share It With Us!

We want to hear your thoughts regarding what's happening in the neighborhood. Is there a current issue at hand that you feel strongly about? We know our readers are passionate about their neighborhoods,

schools, community and so much more — and the Voice would love for you to tell us about it.

Letters 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!**

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Falcons Field Hockey Nets 26th State Title

By David Bashore

The queens have their crown back.

Behind relentless pressure across all 100 yards of field, Severna Park smothered Westminster 4-0 in the 2024 3A state championship field hockey game, as the Falcons reclaimed their perch atop Maryland's field hockey mountain on November 9.

Severna Park got goals from four players: **Sydney Day** opened the scoring, followed quickly by **Grace Redmond**. Then **Ava Zimmerman** scored a penalty stroke to give the Falcons a 3-0 lead before the first quarter was up. A fourth-quarter goal from **Hannah Pope** rounded out the scoring.

The Falcons are normally a defense-first team, but their preferred tactic this season has been to put the opponents under pressure from the opening whistle, get ahead early, and then squeeze the life out of a game like a boa constrictor.

"At the beginning of each game,

» Continued on page 29



Photo by David Bashore

The Falcons field hockey team celebrated the 26th state championship in program history with a 4-0 win over Westminster.

Double Time: Falcon Girls Soccer Repeats As State Champs

By David Bashore

Severna Park's girls soccer season was a lot of knowing exactly what they needed: long stretches of settling into the game, and then seizing the moment at the right time to chalk up another win and keep the season rolling along.

On the final night of their season, under the bright lights at Loyola University and on the big stage of the state championship game on November 14, the Falcons knew it was time to flip the script.

Two goals in the game's first 10 minutes gave Severna Park one proverbial hand on the championship trophy, and the defending champs were never going to let it slip away as they delivered a dominant perfor-

» Continued on page 36



Photo by David Bashore

Severna Park defeated Towson 4-0 on November 14 at Loyola University to repeat as the girls soccer 3A state champions.



Photo by Zach Sparks

Five Severna Park runners finished in the top 25 of the Class 3A girls cross-country championships at Hereford High School on November 9 to lead their team to first place.

Three-Peat: Park Girls Win Another Cross-Country State Crown

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

"We > Me"

That motto marks the T-shirts of Severna Park High School athletes, who emphasize team success over individual accolades. That mindset also helped the Falcon girls finish first and the Falcon boys take second during the Class 3A cross-country state championships at Hereford High School on November 9.

To win their third straight title, the girls had to overcome Hereford High School's three-mile course with sharp turns, trails and the infamous "dip." Their score of 48 placed them ahead of Towson with 101 and Thomas S. Wootton with 142. Severna Park's girls cross-country program now has nine championships in the record books.

Three weeks after finishing as the » Continued on page 38

Broadneck Basketball Sweeps Severna Park To Start Season

The Broadneck boys and girls basketball teams picked up victories at Severna Park on December 6, as the teams kicked off their seasons on opening weekend. *Photos by David Bashore*

Boys Basketball

In the boys game, Broadneck took the lead early in a defensive struggle, outlasting the Falcons 45-34. The Bruins led 18-12 at halftime, before both teams found more attacking success in the second half.

Kamari Williams scored 12 for the Bruins, while **Ashton Sellman** added 11. **Keaghan Gorski** led all scorers with 13 for Severna Park.

The games were the first of the season for all but the Broadneck girls, who beat Friends 70-21 on December 5. McNece led all scorers with 20 points.

Left: The Falcons' Keaghan Gorski led all scorers with 13 points in the boys' game against Broadneck at Severna Park on December 6. Center: Broadneck's Ashton Sellman (1) drove against Severna Park's Blake Coard (11) during the rivalry game. Right: The Bruins' Kamari Williams (3) dribbled around the defense of the Falcons' Blake Coard (11).



Girls Basketball

Behind 29 points from senior transfer **Macie McNece**, the Bruins outlasted Severna Park 46-40. Broadneck led for most of the game before the Falcons took the lead midway through the fourth quarter. But Broadneck closed the game on an 11-0 run.

McNece had 14 points in the quarter. **London Best** had 11 points for the Bruins, while **Katelyn Kearns** added 13 rebounds.

Charley Coward led Severna Park with 13 points.

Left: Broadneck's Macie McNece (11) eluded pressure from Severna Park's Abby Cover during the season opener on December 6 at Severna Park High School. Center: Severna Park's Payton Jeffers (right) looked to escape the pressure of Broadneck's Katelyn Kearns. Right: Severna Park's Gabi Villegas went up for a basket against Broadneck.





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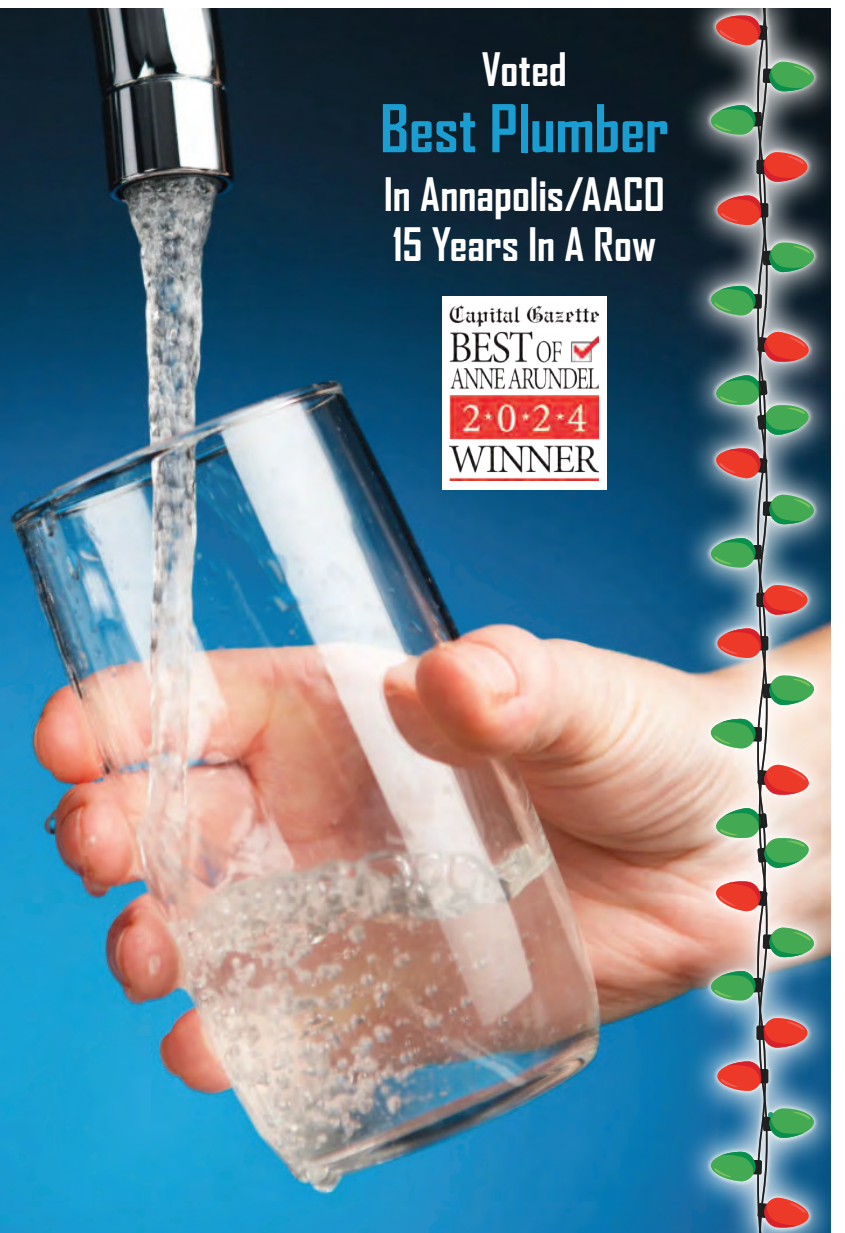
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Bruins Settle For Second In Volleyball State Final

By David Bashore

All season, the Broadneck volleyball team sported T-shirts with a line from the movie “Rocky V” — “I didn’t hear no bell.”

The mantra and ethos behind the quote served them well all season, getting to the Class 4A state final on November 16.

Once there, however, the bell finally tolled for the Bruins. Richard Montgomery, undefeated and the defending state title winner returning three key players, simply had too much firepower as the Rockets repeated as champs with a 25-19, 25-9, 25-17 victory at Harford Community College in Bel Air.

“We knew what they could do and what they had coming back. They were the better team,” said Broadneck coach **Tracey Regalbuto**. “We knew that we were going to have to play amazing to have a chance, and we didn’t.”

Montgomery had plenty to do with that, with four quality attackers, including both Rockets setters. But the Bruins committed an uncharacteristic number of errors as well, particularly in the first set.

The Bruins manufactured some momentum at the end of the first set on a five-point run behind the serving of sophomore **Marley Evans**, but that head of steam was squelched early in the second.

Broadneck’s normal attack duo of **Kennedy Smith** and **Anna Graves** both logged kills when the opportunity presented, but Montgomery’s attacking power kept the Bruins defense under pressure and limited their quality attacking opportunities in response.

Still, with a final record of 17-4, county and regional championships, a state championship match appearance, and a great deal of experience for a junior-heavy



Photos by David Bashore

Above: The Bruins celebrated a point in their state championship matchup with Richard Montgomery. **Right:** Broadneck senior Julia Rubino (11) served during the state championship match.

roster, the Bruins exited the stage as upbeat as could be expected for coming so close to winning it all.

“You’re playing for a state championship, and only one team gets to finish with a smile on their face,” Regalbuto said. “A state championship is always the goal, but we really wanted to just go as far as we could this season because we know what we have, but we also know what we have coming back.”

That firepower helped lead Broadneck to a banner season, despite the loss. The Bruins won the county championship for the first time in five years, and their sights were truly set on getting past Leonardtown and moving on to the state playoffs, which they did by beating the Raiders in straight sets on their home floor. Anything past that was a bonus to a younger but experienced team.

And they did that with aplomb: they went 17-4 and finished the season by

winning 13 of 15 matches, including five in a row heading into the title game. In those 17 victories, the Bruins won 51 of 52 sets — the only one they lost was against Arundel in the county championship. They beat Crofton in straight sets in the state quarterfinals and similarly dispatched Perry Hall in the semis.

“We really knew how we could play. We knew that coming into this game we had to leave it all out there on the court because we were only one step away,” Graves said after the win over Perry Hall. “It feels amazing knowing that we’ve made it this far. We’ve done everything we can at this point, and now just knowing that we are where we are now, we just have to play our best and leave it all on the court. I’m proud of how far we’ve come and grown together.”

Having got to the finals on the back of a talented junior class, Broadneck will hope to reload and make another run in



2025. But the sophomores and juniors “wanted it like they were seniors,” this season, Regalbuto said, in part for themselves but also in part for those who will leave the program.

The Bruins say goodbye to three seniors, each of whom contributed in less-heralded ways to the team’s success: middle blockers **Addison Sladky** and **Amanda Protzman**, who provided defensive presence in the middle and occupied blocks to make life easier for Graves and Smith on the pins, and defensive/serving specialist **Julia Rubino**.

Broadneck Golf Caps Stellar Season At State Championship

By Judy Tacyn

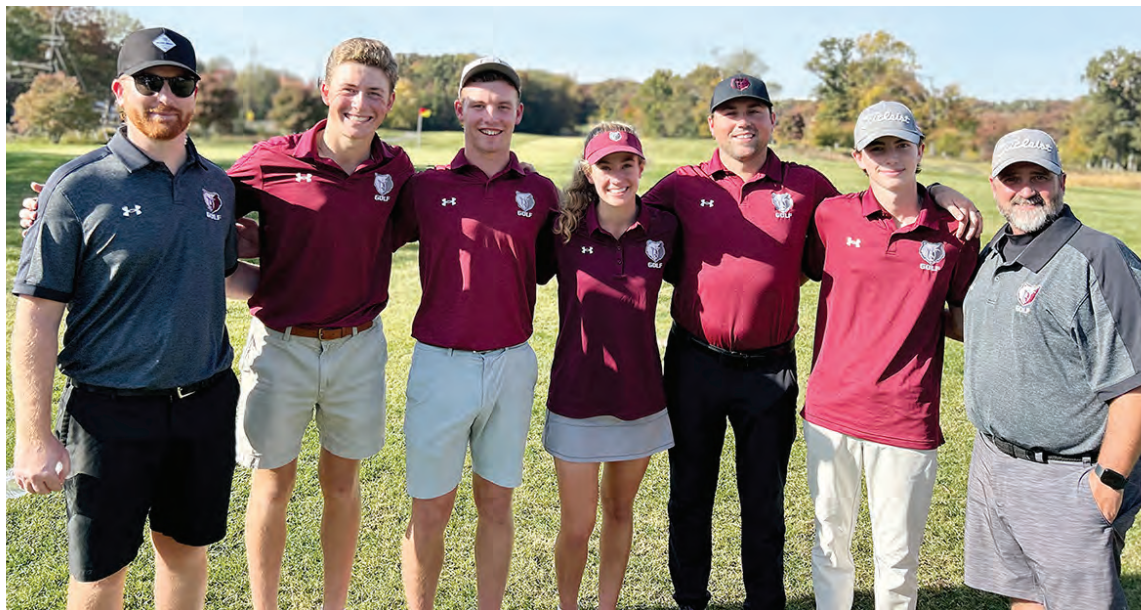
For **Devin Gardner**, Broadneck High School head golf coach, high expectations for 2024 were formed at the end of last season.

“The young players we had in 2023 showed a lot of potential, and with the hard work the team put in during the off-season, I knew this season was going to be something special,” he said.

The coach’s preseason intuition proved correct.

As members of his team exited the course at the University of Maryland from October 28–30 following the Class 4A/3A state championship, Broadneck players saw their school’s name on the final leaderboard, landing in fifth place in Maryland. Furthermore, junior **Ben Coe** earned second-place honors for the boys, and senior **Summer Stroop** earned 10th-place honors for the girls.

“I was shooting 69 on the second day of the state tournament and making a run at the state title. I was tied with the leader throughout the 15th hole, when I chipped in my 16th hole, (which) put me in the lead by one,” Coe said. “My opponent birdied his 17th hole to put us tied for the lead, but I bogeyed my last hole to lose by one. I didn’t know it at the time, but I had just had the best finish by a Broadneck player ever in the state tournament.”



The Broadneck golf team, including assistant coach **Kevin Peterson**, **James Jonker**, **Ben Coe**, **Summer Stroop**, head coach **Devin Gardner**, **Michael Peterson**, and assistant coach **Thom Stimaker**, celebrated state titles for their school, **Coe** and **Stroop** on the **University of Maryland** course in October.

earned and didn’t take lightly.

“Summer and Ben were leaders on the course and in the classroom,” Gardner said. “They showed the young players what it means to be a Broadneck Bruin; they took every opportunity to help the

team improve and become better players. In the coaches’ eyes, we could not have asked any more of the two of them as captains.”

Broadneck’s team will graduate six seniors next June — a loss that could cripple a team without Broadneck’s depth. But Gardner said his young team is ready to get back on the course and shoot for the title.

“The future is very bright for Broadneck. Ben will return as a senior, and **James Jonker** and **Michael Peterson**, who both competed in the state championships, are returning,” Gardner added. “There are several golfers ready to take a starting spot next season and all the coaches cannot wait for the successes of the 2025 team.”

Stroop had qualified for the state championship for four straight seasons; however, she hadn’t been able to break 80 in the tournament during her first three attempts. This year, she broke through, shooting 79-76 over the two days.

“Being able to perform well in my last high school tournament was very rewarding,” said Stroop, who began playing golf with her father, a University of Georgia golf team standout, when she was just 7 years old. “It was truly a testament to all the work I have put in these past few years to get better.”

Coe and Stroop were named team captains at the beginning of the season, an honor Gardner said they

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

AVA ZIMMERMAN

Severna Park High School
Field Hockey, Track

By David Bashore

Ava Zimmerman is a two-time state champion in field hockey. She's an accomplished middle-distance track runner. She's a perfect 4.0 student and a member of three separate honor societies — National Honor Society (NHS), Spanish NHS and Science NHS.

But all of that is a vehicle to get Zimmerman where she wanted to go: Johns Hopkins University, where she plans to continue her athletic career in both sports.

Her relationship with Hopkins, though, has been something years in the making, both on the athletic field and off of it.

"Hopkins was pretty much always my top choice. I just wanted a school that would be good for mechanical engineering," Zimmerman said. "I went to a lot of (field hockey) camps and clinics at Hopkins, got watched by them a lot, kept in a lot of communication."

Keeping tabs on Hopkins not only led to a roster spot for two sports with the Blue Jays; it also gave Zimmerman the opportunity to work on something more ambitious; her engineering program participation at Hopkins has gone in an unexpected direction.

Hoping to focus generally on mechanical engineering because of her interest and the field's versatility, Zimmerman signed up for the Aspire Internship summer program with the university's Applied Physics Laboratory. Upon students' acceptance, Hopkins keeps the participants' roles secret until they



arrive at the program.

Zimmerman's role? The space sector. Specifically, Hopkins' Dragonfly team, which collaborates with NASA and is currently working on what Dragonfly calls "a car-sized, nuclear-powered octocopter" they hope to send to Titan, one of Saturn's moons, for sampling and analysis to better understand the universe. Having just been partnered by NASA with SpaceX, Dragonfly plans to launch in July 2028.

"I heard about it through the school counselor. I didn't know much about what it was — you apply for what you kind of want to major in, but they don't tell you what you're going to do until you show up on day one," Zimmerman said. "I initially only did it in the

summer but decided to continue doing it because my group is so amazing, and I love what I'm working on. I'm just excited for when Dragonfly launches and I can say, 'Hey, I really worked on that.'"

For now, though, there is a lot of internship work, multiple AP classes, track and field, club field hockey, and community service. It's a lot, but Zimmerman wouldn't have it any other way.

In addition to all the training, she works with the Maryland Book Bank to help the less fortunate get books into their hands, and hopefully increase the overall literacy rate in the area. It's part of her leadership project for Severna Park High School, but it's also a cause dear to her own heart.

As Zimmerman's time at Severna Park draws to a close, she reflected on the memories of being a state champ as a freshman and as a senior, the way things came full circle, and how she can now look on the next generation of Falcons athletes like those before her looked on at her class.

"I remember the bus ride up (from the state championship against Westminster), and we read letters from previous years' seniors that were saved for us, which got us fired up, and the locker room before the game got us set up to go," Zimmerman said. "I remember freshman year, when my coach just told me to go on the field and run. I developed from someone that you just sent on to run to someone you rely on, and that happened to all of the seniors on the team.

"Every year, there was more trust built, and as you go on, it feels great to be relied on because you can help develop the next generation. You know the little girls (in the community) and the freshmen are looking up to you."

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Falcons Field Hockey Nets 26th State Title



Photo by Dennis McGinley

Ava Zimmerman (8) helped anchor the midfield and scored a penalty stroke goal, giving the Falcons a 3-0 lead.

» Continued from page 23

coach says you have two minutes to get an outcome, whether it's a goal or it's a corner. That's what we focus on, and we start out going really hard," Day said. "If we are able to let back, we can, but we always have to start ahead."

The tactic worked to ruthless precision: the Falcons racked up 20 corners, and they scored on three of them plus Zimmerman's stroke.

Once ahead, the Falcons got back to their calling card: defend and deny the opponent a meaningful scoring opportunity. **Camryn Lowman** was barely tested in the Severna Park goal, logging one save late in the contest when the outcome was already decided.

"We broke it down in 15-minute increments, so as to not get overwhelmed with the whole game," said

Severna Park coach **Shannon Garden**. "What can we do well this 15 minutes? We have goals on the white board, and we were able to check them all off the list in the first quarter, which was really good."

Pope, **Kelsey Rowe** and **Grace Moran** assisted the three goals Severna Park scored in open play.

The victory, Severna Park's first state title since 2021, was the 26th in the program's history and the Falcons' 31st championship game appearance, out of 39 years the sport has been contested under the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association's governance.

The Falcons came in perhaps less fancied on account of having four losses in the regular season, but those all came by one goal, and three came against the two 4A finalists, Broadneck and Crofton.

Against 3A competition, Severna Park breezed

through, and it was a similar *modus operandi* as the rest of the season: get an early lead and smother the other team into submission.

And though Garden's love is for defense-first, it was a combination of everything that allowed the team to be so successful: defense, offense, skill, tenacity, and an unrelenting dedication to the game even when players weren't feeling at their best in competition, or just physically.

"It was not easy to beat Severna Park this year. Once we started believing in ourselves that we are a hard team to beat, that we could actually go do this, then we did," Garden said. "I'm so happy for them because I know how hard (they worked) – they dragged their sick bodies out to practice. They wouldn't leave. They stayed and they worked. I can't ask for more than that (attitude) as a coach."

After falling in the county semifinals to Crofton, the Falcons routed Old Mill 7-1 in the region semifinals and topped South River 4-0 in the region final. They outscored their opponents 12-0 in the state tournament rounds (5-0 over Reservoir in the quarters, 3-0 over Long Reach in the semifinals).

"When we really focus on our discipline in the circles is when we start seeing our outcomes and getting our goals," Zimmerman said. "It's been really nice to see us going from a defensive game to an offensive game and really convert to score. I'm really proud of this team. I love this senior class and this team, and I'm excited to finish it out with these girls."

Severna Park will graduate 10 seniors, each of whom contributed to the team's success this season and laid the groundwork for future Falcon teams to come: Zimmerman, Day, Pope, Rowe, Lowman, Moran, **Emma Weber**, **Kiera Abere**, **Siena Turner** and **Avery Saviano**.

"This team's special, very, very special. One of the very few teams I've coached where I've been comfortable with putting all my seniors on the field, and that's how good they are," Garden said. "I'm going to be down these queens next year, but I've got princesses, and they're ready to come and do the same thing."

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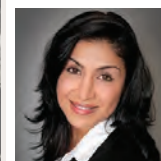
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Broadneck Falls In Field Hockey State Final

By David Bashore

Broadneck's field hockey team suffered two shutouts and three public school losses in the last three seasons combined. All three came against the same foe.

Once again, Crofton proved to be kryptonite for the Bruins, as the Cardinals blanked Broadneck 2-0 to repeat as Class 4A state champions on November 9.

Two goals, both from corners, in the middle periods gave Crofton the breathing space they needed to clog passing lanes and make life difficult for Broadneck. The Bruins still had plenty of chances to score, including two point-blank open-goal chances where they just couldn't get a stick on the ball.

"It's disappointing to see it end that way, because we worked so hard, but I'm proud of everyone. We tried to connect, and it just didn't go our way today," said Broadneck senior midfielder **Faith Everett**. "It was a competitive game and it could have gone either way."

Meanwhile, Crofton had opportunities of their own, scoring on two corners and nearly netting on two others, only for **Clare Imber** to clear off the line in both instances.

The Bruins racked up five corners in the first quarter and had nine in the game overall, but they couldn't solve Crofton goalie **Ryleigh Osborne**.

It was a rematch of the 2023 Class 4A semifinal, which Crofton won by an identical score. This time, the battle was for all the marbles.

"I'm proud of my team; they have one heck of a



Photos by Dennis McGinley
Top: Katelyn Kearns wound up for a big shot during the Bruins' 2-0 loss against Crofton in the 4A state final.

Bottom: Broadneck's Mia Moody went to the ground to make a save in the championship game versus the Cardinals.



goalie," said Broadneck coach **Shannon Hanratty**.

The Bruins were used to playing from behind this season, routinely coming back with a late rally, or a timely burst, to seize control of their games and see them out to the end. It worked against Crofton

in the regular season and against several other opponents.

In the playoffs, things were a little easier, except for the regional final against Leonardtown. Broadneck beat Annapolis 7-0 before edging the Raiders 1-0 on their home field, courtesy of a second-half **Raleigh Kerst** goal. **Mia Moody** made that stand up with five saves to get the Bruins back into the state playoffs.

From there, they clinched a third successive state semifinal berth with a 10-0 dispatching of Montgomery Blair, followed by a narrow 3-2 win over Winston Churchill in which the Bruins scored the first three goals. The first came 20 seconds in from **Cayman Holmes**, while freshman **Cate Imber** added the other two, before Churchill rallied.

But the Bruins had just enough to see the Bulldogs off, leaning on a trust built up over several years for one another to get the job done and not panic, even if things didn't look great at the time.

"This group, and the experience they have, if this season has taught us anything, it's how resilient this group is," Hanratty said. "This season's been different than the rest, so I'm really proud of this group for earning as many days as possible. ... It's just trust. Nobody who misses something has someone glare at them; it's encouragement. We have a lot of trust and support within each other. It's a matter of supporting each other, and we did a good job of that."

The Bruins graduate a dozen seniors, 10 of whom contributed to the team on-field this season: Imber, Everett, Kerst, Holmes, Moody, **Katelyn Kearns**, **Grace Figueroa**, **Allie Grieb**, **Izzy Lunay**, and **Abbie Morris**. They also will bid farewell to **Chloe Page** and **Gabby King**, both of whom missed this season due to injury.

Severna Park Grad Earns All-ACC Field Hockey Honors

Following a competitive and exciting regular season, the Atlantic Coast Conference unveiled its 2024 field hockey season honors and All-ACC Team in November. The league's nine head coaches voted on the honors and selected Boston College sophomore and former Severna Park Falcon Charley Kramer as Goalkeeper of the Year.

In her first season of collegiate action, Kramer posted an 11-5 record in the cage and helped Boston College earn the No. 3 seed in the 2024 ACC field hockey championship. Kramer has had a hand in five shutouts for the Eagles, logging 56 saves throughout the season. The Severna Park native stopped 74.7% of shots during the regular season, logging 3.47 saves per game.

Kramer feels "really honored" to be named ACC Goalkeeper of the Year.

"This tremendous honor would not have been possible without the constant support from my teammates and coaches," she said. "They push me every day to get better, and this recognition is just as much about their support and hard work as it is about mine. Specifically, I owe a lot of my success to my goalie coach, Mark, whose persistent and detailed training has led me to develop into the goalie I am today. I am eternally grateful to be a part of the Boston College field hockey team, and I look forward to getting back to work in the spring."

Photo courtesy of Boston College

Severna Park native and SPHS graduate Charley Kramer was named Goalkeeper of the Year in the Atlantic Coast Conference for the 2024 season.





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BHS Student-Athletes Celebrate Signing Day

Nearly two dozen Broadneck athletes celebrated their future commitment to athletics and academics in November.

In total, 24 Bruin seniors celebrated their pledges to continue as college athletes. The commitments covered 10 sports at 17 institutions spanning all three divisions of NCAA competition.

November 8 marked the beginning of the early signing period for most college sports, in which seniors who have committed to play for a specific NCAA Division I or II college may sign their official financial aid agreements or commitment letters. NCAA Division III institutions cannot provide athletic scholarships, per NCAA rules, but may participate in signing ceremonies with celebratory letters.

Broadneck High School Athletic Commitments/Signings

Nick Cicale – Baseball—*United States Military Academy (West Point)*

Faith Everett – Field Hockey
Maryland

Abby Favazza – Softball
Franklin and Marshall

Grace Figueroa – Field Hockey
York

Grace Gartrell – Women's Soccer
Salisbury

Isabella Herrera – Softball
Eastern

Cayman Holmes – Women's Lacrosse
Flagler (Florida)

Katelyn Kearns – Field Hockey
Massachusetts-Amherst

Raleigh Kerst – Field Hockey—*Ohio State*

Blake Levicki – Men's Lacrosse
Christopher Newport

Savannah Libby – Women's Lacrosse
Salisbury

Olivia Mellynchuk – Tennis—*United States Military Academy (West Point)*

Mia Moody – Field Hockey
Salisbury

Malayna Owens – Softball—*Hood*

Chloe Page – Field Hockey
Syracuse

Donovan Probst – Men's Lacrosse
Wingate

Amanda Protzman – Volleyball
Millersville

Grace Purdum – Softball
Wilson

Charlotte Ritchey – Gymnastics
Maryland

Brayden Schmidt – Men's Lacrosse
Salisbury

Cade Schuetter – Baseball
Colorado State-Pueblo

Joey Smargissi – Football
Washington and Lee

Mike Swick – Baseball
Frostburg State

Noah Yoder – Men's Lacrosse
St. Mary's (Maryland)

SPHS Has 26 Student-Athletes Sign To College Level

In a packed gymnasium full of parents, coaches, administrators and well-wishers, more than two dozen Severna Park High School senior student-athletes participated in a signing ceremony in November.

Twenty-six Falcon seniors celebrated their pledges to continue as college athletes. The commitments covered all three divisions of NCAA competition and spanned nine sports.

November 8 marked the beginning of the early signing period for most college sports, in which seniors who have committed to play for a specific college may sign their official financial aid agreements or commitment letters (Ivy League and NCAA Division III institutions cannot provide athletic scholarships).

The early signing period ran through November 13.

Severna Park High School Athletic Commitments/Signings

Kiera Abere – Women's Lacrosse
Rollins

Benji Beisler – Baseball—*Albright*

Addison Bianco – Softball
East Stroudsburg

Patrick Ciorna – Swimming and Diving
Loyola (Maryland)

Adam Clark – Baseball—*Beloit*

Abby Cover – Women's Soccer
North Carolina-Greensboro

Sydney Day – Field Hockey—*Vassar*

Teddy Evans – Men's Lacrosse
Randolph-Macon

Hastings Fava – Men's Lacrosse
Hampden-Sydney

Jack Fish – Men's Lacrosse
Maryland-Baltimore County

Dylan Grice – Baseball
Lebanon Valley

Charlie Hartman – Baseball—*Salisbury*

Erin Hussey – Women's Lacrosse
Delaware

Payton Jeffers – Women's Lacrosse
Frostburg State

Camryn Lowman – Field Hockey
Catholic

Sammy Madarang – Rowing—*Drexel*

Jessica Ricci – Women's Lacrosse
Dickinson

Kelsey Rowe – Field Hockey—*La Salle*

Avery Saviano – Women's Lacrosse
Yale

Tim Sullivan – Men's Lacrosse—*Salisbury*

Isabella Van Gieson – Women's Lacrosse
William & Mary

Merric Warren – Men's Lacrosse
Randolph-Macon

Emma Weber – Field Hockey
Christopher Newport

Jacob Williams – Baseball
Lebanon Valley

Ava Zimmerman – Field Hockey & Women's Track and Field
Johns Hopkins

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AACC Women's Soccer Team Wins Region 20, East District Championships



Photos courtesy of Anne Arundel Community College
Left: Severna Park's Tina Tinelli cleared the ball from her center back position. Tinelli made the All-Region 20 team as well as the Region 20 all-tournament team.
Right: Severna Park's Evan Bathras advanced the ball during a game at AACC's Siegert Stadium. Bathras had a goal in the Region 20 championship game against the College of Southern Maryland.



By Kevin Murnane

Anne Arundel Community College's (AACC) women's soccer team finished with a 14-3-1 record, which was the most wins for the program since 2011.

After winning the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II East District's match against New Jersey's Mercer College, 4-3, the Riverhawks advanced to the national NJCAA in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Riverhawks were victorious against Illinois' Rock Valley Community College in the first round of their pool, 4-3, on November 18. The next day, the Riverhawks were beaten by second-seeded Johnson County Commu-

nity College, 2-0, to mark the end of their season.

"We played our tails off against Johnson County," said **Jim Griffiths**, head coach for AACC women's soccer. "It was a really competitive game, and in my opinion, Johnson Community College was the best team in the tournament. They were that good."

AACC was on a 10-game winning streak before that loss and their defense only allowed 22 goals over an 18-game season. They also recorded six shutouts during that time.

The defense was led by freshmen **Eden Abey** and **Megan Strevig**, along with sophomore and Severna Park resident **Tina Tinelli**.

"Tina is one of the best defenders that I've had in my

18 years of coaching," Griffiths said. "She's a tremendous athlete and has a cannon for a leg."

Tinelli was named first-team All-Region 20 as well as Region 20 all-tournament team.

"We added 11 new players this year and we were miles ahead of last year's team in regard to talent," Tinelli said. "We were more athletic and had a hungrier offense."

Part of that added offensive firepower was the addition of Severna Park's **Evan Bathras**. She played club soccer with the Baltimore Celtics through middle school but did not play in high school.

"It was a last-minute decision to join the team in the fall, and I was looking to get fit and have a positive experience with starting college," Bathras said. "We have great team chemistry; everyone encouraged one another in practice and games."

Bathras scored a goal in the Region 20 game against the College of Southern Maryland but sustained an injury later in that game. Bathras started five games and had two goals and two assists prior to her injury.

"I'm really proud of this team, and we didn't lose a game for two months," Griffiths said. "Everyone bought into our culture coming from so many county high schools and they worked very hard all year."

Tinelli, who played her last collegiate game, reflected on her experience during the long bus ride home from Alabama.

"I'll miss it," said Tinelli, who will get her associate of arts degree in cybersecurity. "I've been playing since I was 3, and playing at Anne Arundel was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It worked out better than I ever thought."

AACC is losing only five sophomores, and Griffiths is excited to bring back his talented freshman class including goalkeeper **Péla Saunders**, forward **Emma Miga** and midfielder **Holly Wall**, as well as Abey and Strevig.

"We should begin next season being ranked in the top 15 junior college teams in the nation," Griffiths said. "We began last September with so many new faces, and we blended our individual talent and became regional champs and went to the national championships. This will be one of my favorite groups I've had."

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Bruin Boys Finish Strong, Win Region Title

Photo by Dennis McGinley

Although Broadneck's boys soccer team did not finish as state champions, the Bruins won the 4A East Region II championship by beating Annapolis 3-0 on October 29.

By David Bashore

The ideal scenario for any sports team is to be playing at its best in the final stages of a given season. What happens after that is left in almost equal measures to skill and to chance.

The Broadneck boys soccer team achieved the first objective and left everything on the table in a memorable postseason run that got to the state quarterfinals.

The season reached its highest point on October 29: **Wilson Banwell** scored twice, **Braeden Kelly** added a goal and an assist, and Broadneck blanked Annapolis 3-0 to win the 4A East II region championship, the Bruins' first region title in six years.

"This year was the ultimate goal of a coach. You want your team playing their best at the end of the season," said Broadneck coach **Sean Tettermer**. "I'm happy for that and for the players to be able to experience getting the reward for the work that they put in."

Broadneck's most recent region title came in 2018, which was before the regional splits and granted entry to the state semifinal round.

After beating Leonardtown on a goal in the game's final minute in the region semifinals, the Bruins expected to have to travel to Bowie for the championship. But



the Bulldogs were upset in the semifinal round, handing Broadneck a home date with Annapolis for the region title.

Though the game ended with a comfortable win, that was down to the Bruins playing one of their best games of the campaign rather than a gulf in quality between the two teams.

"Annapolis went through something similar to us; they were playing their best at the end of the season and went on a run," Tettermer said. "It's difficult playing a team that's so familiar with you — that was worrisome playing a team you know so well and that's playing at a very high level. But we came out and played one of our most complete games of the season."

The road would end one game later for the Bruins, though, as they fell 4-2 at Montgomery Blair in the state quarterfinals. Twice they fell behind, and twice they equalized, but Blair struck twice in the last 10 minutes of the game to advance.

It marked the second straight season Broadneck (11-7) was eliminated by the eventual state champion, a mark both of parity at the top of the 4A classification and Broadneck's seat at that table.

That loss marked the end of the high school careers for five Broadneck seniors: starting midfielder **Jed Meehan** and defender **Eli DeWalle**, rotation winger **Will Epley**, reserve midfielder **Cooper**

Thompson and defender **Beau Leigh**, who was injured in late September against Severna Park and missed the rest of the season.

"Our seniors were tremendous," Tettermer said. "That's another gratification you get from coaching, when you see players develop continually over the four years."

For their efforts on the season, five Bruins were honored at the county or state level. Meehan was named first-team all-county and second team all-state, while Kelly was named second-team all-county and honorable mention all-state. Banwell and **T.J. Remson** also received second-team all-county honors, while DeWalle was an honorable mention honoree.

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Falcon Girls Repeats As State Champs

» Continued from page 23

mance to defeat Towson 4-0 and repeat as the queens of Maryland 3A soccer.

Erin Hussey scored seven minutes in and **Abby Cover** netted from the penalty spot two minutes later to send the Falcons on their way. **Maria Bragg** added two second-half goals to provide the final margin as Severna Park won the state championship for the eighth time in program history.

Towson started out more brightly, looking to attack from the opening kick. But Cover, whose overtime goal won the semifinal matchup against Chesapeake, intercepted a pass on the Severna Park 18-yard line, played a quick one-two and found Hussey streaking into wide open space in on the keeper, and the forward made no mistake with her shot.

“From the start of the game in our huddle, we said let’s get one right from the start, get one really early just to set the tone,” Hussey said. “They were on our defensive side for a while, Abby got the ball, and I screamed (for the ball). I saw the open goal, I saw two girls crashing, and I had to just shoot it.”

Moments later, **Ava Scott** — scorer of Severna Park’s second goal in the 2023 championship — was tripped in the Towson penalty area and the referee pointed to the spot.

Cover casually rolled the ball into the bottom-right corner to double the lead and put the Falcons in control, even if they didn’t act like it.

“We had the momentum, but we just kept saying, o-o,” Cover said. “We can’t think we have the momentum, because the game can change at any moment if they put one in.”

That o-o mentality came from a lot of games where the contest remained scoreless for lengthy periods of time, only for one of the Falcons to pop up in the big moment. Hussey scored against J.M. Bennett in the regional final game, only for the Falcons to be pegged back and the game to go to overtime. Hussey netted again to propel Severna Park into the state quarterfinals.

After a tense, yet comparatively comfortable game against Bel Air in the quarters, which they won 3-1, Severna Park found themselves against a too familiar foe: Chesapeake, who the Falcons had twice beaten 2-0 earlier in the season.

The semifinal would go to overtime scoreless, but an instinctive adjustment by Cover, Severna Park’s best player, bound for NCAA Division I North Carolina-Greensboro next fall, made the telling difference. Acting as one of half of Severna Park’s double-pivot defensive midfield, Cover asked the other, **Bella Van Gieson**, to expect to go further forward.

“I told Bella, ‘I think I need to push up a little bit,’ and asked her to slide over and cover when I go forward,” Cover said.

Less than six minutes later, the instinct proved prophetic. A cross-field pass put Cover into space, which she happily took. She laid the ball off for Scott and kept running into the penalty area, anticipating the return pass that soon came.

With the defense closing and her shooting angle growing tighter, Cover let fly with a dipping shot that bounced past the diving Chesapeake goalkeeper and rippled the net just inside the far post for the game’s only goal.

For all of the plaudits of the 2023 Severna Park team, the 2024 squad made their own stamp on the program’s history. Just three goals beat Severna Park in 2023, and despite retooling the entire defense, goalkeeper **Lily Diedrich** only had to pick the ball out of her own net six times in 19 games. They didn’t go undefeated — a narrow loss to Notre Dame Prep is their only blemish in the last two seasons — and they had to work harder for goals in certain contests. But this team had composure, experience, and the will to keep up the standard.

“We graduated 12 but we had a really strong core coming back, especially at the attacking end of the field, so the gaps we had to plug, I was really excited with the players not only returning, but the ones that were coming into the program,” said Severna Park coach **Rick Stimpson**. “They made it a seamless transition; they stepped in and carried on right where we left off last year. That made it fun for us just being out there every day.”

That transition was aided in large part by talented attack returning: twin sisters Ava and **Emerson Scott** helped drive the attack, even if they didn’t score regularly; **Maria Bragg** demonstrated soccer ability and superior athleticism on her way to a team-high 13 goals, two of them in the championship game; Hussey scored in double figures and plenty of timely ones at that; **Ella Baxter** came in and netted nine times.

But a lot came back to the senior midfield duo of Cover and Van Gieson, who truly made the whole thing go.

“You’d hope to have one on your team at some point during your career, and I’ve got two of them right now that just impact the game from start to finish,” Stimpson said. “The way they read the game is amazing. They make everyone around them so much better, and they fill in the gaps. ... That’s not anything I’ve said to them. They’re just very instinctive players. They know the game well. Good players impact the game, great players make everyone around them better, and that’s what those two are.”

Last year at this time, the Falcons said goodbye to a dozen seniors. This year, they’ll bid farewell to just five: Diedrich, Hussey, Van Gieson, Cover and **Ellie Ballard**. Those pieces, as were the ones from 2023, will prove a challenge to replace. But they left their mark on the Falcons soccer program and hope to have left more than two titles as a legacy.

“You know the state final could be there, but it’s on the table for any team. To get there, you have to play one game at a time and not get too far ahead of yourself,” Hussey said.

Said Cover: “They should value the experience. Four years flies by and it’s an amazing experience. You don’t want to take every second for granted. Just play every game with your heart out. If you just keep playing for your team and yourselves every single game, you’ll go far.”



Photos by David Bashore

Top: During the Falcons’ 4-0 state final victory, Izzy Burleson (14) jostled with Towson defenders to keep possession of the ball. **Bottom Left:** Ava Scott (13) controlled the ball down the right attacking sideline. Scott won a penalty kick in the ninth minute. **Bottom Right:** Abby Cover (4) made a vital interception that led to an assist on the first goal of the state championship. Cover later scored the Falcons’ second goal from the penalty spot.

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Park Girls Win Cross-Country Crown



Photos by Zach Sparks

Josie Kamas led the pack for the Falcons as she took third place in the Class 3A girls championship with a time of 19:02.84.

ed to do better than I did last year, so every single step I took, I thought, 'This is one step closer to the goal that you want,' and I just made sure that my actions in the race, passing people or speeding up, reflected how I wanted it to go."

Kamas finished one spot higher and roughly 25 seconds better than she did in the 2023 state championship race.

Lexi Fitzsimmons was not far behind Kamas. Her time of 19:23.03 was good for seventh. She tried to stay with her teammates for the first mile and then she broke away.

"The second mile started to get a little tougher, so I made sure I was doing this for my team," she said. "I tried to keep my head up and just worked with the people around me, kind of used them as motivation."

The Falcons also got great performances from **Kathryn Murphy** (11th place, 19:39.63) and **Jocelyn DiAngelo** (12th place, 19:41.12). **Sydney Davis** (24th place, 20:26.95), **Valeria Saenz** (30th place, 20:37.75) and **Natalie Bowman** (37th place, 21:05.93) rounded out the top 40.

Severna Park cross-country coach **Josh Alcombright** was thrilled with his team's effort.

"I think Lexi had a fantastic race today. She really stepped up," he said. "They all ran really strong. Josie, that's what we were looking for. She started out in probably ninth place after the mile and she moved up, and all the girls attacked in the second half of the race and they all moved up, and that is exactly what we were asking them to do."

For Severna Park's top two girls runners, the moment came down to the motto preached by their coach: "we is greater than me," or as their T-shirts say, "We > Me."

"I think when you work hard with each other, it helps motivate each other so that even if you're having a hard time, you know you don't want to let the rest of your team down," Fitzsimmons said.

Kamas agreed, saying, "I'm honestly really happy and really proud, and honestly a little surprised, seeing everything pay off and everything we worked for come to us."

» Continued from page 23

top girls runner in the Anne Arundel County championships, **Josie Kamas** led the pack for the Falcons as she took third place in the state finals with a time of 19:02.84. "Stick with people" was her goal during the first mile. When she saw the lead pack "just absolutely flying," she adjusted her strategy.

"And then the timing it down the dip, it really started hurting, so I told myself just to run for the other six girls on my team, not running for myself but running for them," Kamas said. "I just told myself, 'How bad do you want it? How badly do you want to cross that line?' I really want-

Falcon Boys Finish Second

Severna Park's boys team took second place with a team score of 95, trailing only Thomas S. Wootton with 75. The Falcons had three top 25 runners: **Caden Lazzor** (sixth place, 16:16.72), **Cooper Alahverdian** (14th place, 16:32.24) and **Stephen Nunn** (19th place, 16:43.73).

Several other runners contributed to the second-place finish including **Ty Maddox** (29th place, 16:54.23), **Brenden Woods** (32nd place, 17:02.45) and **Dylan Newhard** (34th place, 17:04.99).

"The top three boys had a great day, earning all-state honors, and the boys got on the podium again for the 14th straight year," Alcombright said. "That speaks volumes about the tradition of the program, and that is one thing that we stress each and every season."



The Falcon boys had three runners in the top 25. Caden Lazzor, their top finisher, came in sixth place.

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Bruins Football Makes Another Deep Playoff Run



Photo by David Bashore
Ian Mauldin (2) had 28 total touches for 136 yards and a touchdown in Broadneck's 24-14 quarterfinal win against Northwest.

By David Bashore

Broadneck's wait for their first state football championship will continue for another year, but the 2024 Bruins left no doubt as to their place in the upper echelons of Maryland public school football.

A return to the 4A state championship wasn't in the cards for the Bruins, as they lost 48-13 to Quince Orchard on November 29, but Broadneck reached their third consecutive state semifinal and racked up yet another region championship.

Having received a first-round bye in the region playoffs, the Bruins beat Glen Burnie 54-28 on November 15 to secure their region championship and advance to the state quarterfinals.

Broadneck got two rushing touchdowns from **Ian Mauldin** and a rushing touchdown and two passing scores from **C.J. Watkins**, who connected with **Joey Smargissi** and **Mari Hayes** on the aerial scores. **Aaron Foote** also scored on the ground.

But the defense and special teams were really where Broadneck made a mark on the game.

There was a recovered kickoff that Glen Burnie never touched, when kicker **Dylan Jordan** pooched a kickoff short. The ball bounced at the Gophers' 20-yard line and kicked back toward Broadneck's **Kobe Owen**, who fell on it to give Broadneck a second straight possession.

The defense made its mark when **Tyrin Chinn-Thompson** twice stepped in front of Glen Burnie passes and raced the other way for a touchdown. His first pick-six preceded the recovered kickoff, and his second was the final score of the game.

"It felt just like St. Mary's," said Chinn-Thompson, referring to the season opener in which he returned an interception for a touchdown. "All the way down to getting two picks in practice (the day before the game). We had film and we were ready for what we needed to do."

It was the momentum Broadneck

sorely needed to push through on yet another deep run. After they beat Glen Burnie, they dominated Northwest on a windy, cold night at Broadneck High. The Bruins won 24-14 in a game where the margin of victory could have been greater in better conditions.

Mauldin ran for 119 yards and a touchdown, and the Bruins also got a running and passing touchdown from Watkins, the passing score coming on a pinpoint 20-yard pass to **Aidan Tupper** in the corner of the end zone.

The defense did the rest, as they harassed Northwest's quarterback and running backs all night, to the tune of four sacks — two by senior lineman **Tommy Anglim**.

Though they came up short in a bid for two straight championship game appearances, the Bruins — and most notably an outstanding senior class — were able to leave their mark on the program and set a benchmark for years to come.

In the three years since the first of Broadneck's current seniors played on varsity, they went undefeated at home, winning all 18 home contests in those three years and stretching the team's win streak at The Den to 24.

"For me, it's been coming up since Cape," Mauldin said. "I used to come to the games wishing I could play here (one day), and winning every single game I've played on this field is the best thing ever."

Two seniors etched their names in the history books at Broadneck as well: in addition to three pick-sixes on the season, Chinn-Thompson set a new school single-season mark with 80 solo tackles (100 total), and Mauldin graduates as one of the program's all-time great players, having broken several records including single-season total touchdowns (27), career total touchdowns (62) and career rushing touchdowns (52).

Broadneck also reached the state semifinals all three years and made their first state championship appearance in 20 years last year.

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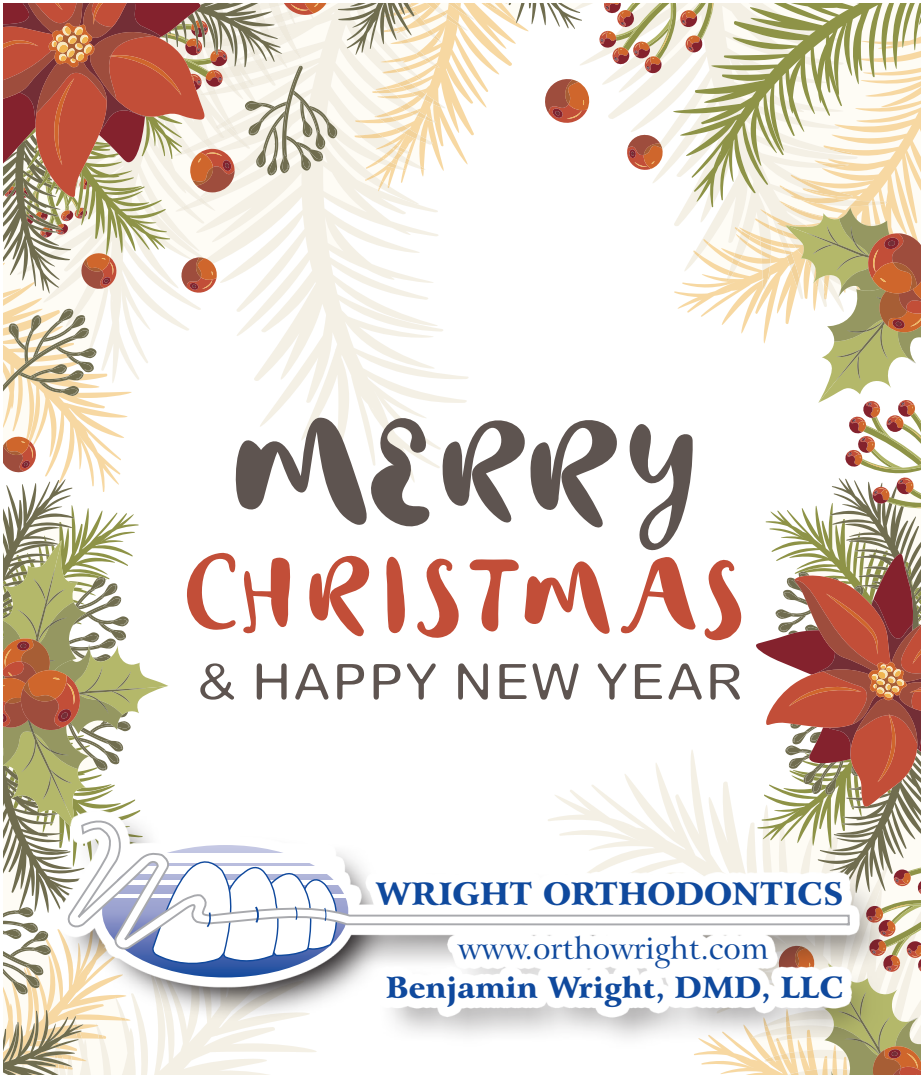
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Spalding Football Beats McDonogh 31-7 For Third-Straight Conference Championship

"Dream Team" Goes Undefeated And Finishes As One Of The Top Football Teams In The Nation



Photo by Kevin Murnane

The Spalding football team raised three fingers to represent their three-peat victory following a 31-7 victory over McDonogh in the MIAA A Conference final. The Cavaliers won their third consecutive conference title and outscored their opponents 487-34 during the season.

By Kevin Murnane

Archbishop Spalding hadn't allowed a touchdown since August. When rival McDonogh quickly maneuvered down the field and scored a touchdown early in the first quarter of the MIAA A Conference championship on November 15, it stunned the Cavaliers.

Spalding's senior leaders and coaches began to communicate, telling one another to stick to the principles of Spalding football and to refocus their efforts and be the more physical team.

The Cavaliers used offense, defense and special teams to reel off 31 unanswered points to become the first football team in Spalding's history to go undefeated and win three consecutive conference titles.

"We knew we had to put the brakes on McDonogh's offense," said former Green Hornets and current Spalding senior linebacker **Angelo Scalese**. "We met on the sidelines and the coaches wanted the linebackers and defensive backs to change our eye discipline and refocus on their

quick passes in the flats."

With those adjustments, the Cavaliers' dominant defense began to slow down the McDonogh West-Coast offense and had numerous defensive stops leading up to halftime.

Momentum swung when the Cavaliers got the ball with 40 seconds left in the first half. Quarterback **Malik Washington** found a soft spot in McDonogh's secondary and hit sophomore wide receiver **Myles McAfee** on a 26-yard slant route to make the score 14-7 at halftime.

"That score right before halftime was the momentum swing we needed and was probably the key to winning the game," said Spalding football head coach **Kyle Schmitt**.

That score lifted the Cavaliers' confidence heading to the locker room as they made changes for the second half.

"We played more man coverage on defense and ultimately got off blocks and kept them in second and third downs and long," Schmitt said after the raucous

postgame celebration. "Offensively, we found an inside run with a read option that we liked and allowed our offensive line to come off the ball regardless of McDonogh's front."

Spalding received the second-half kickoff and freshman wide receiver **Kam Miller** returned the kick 60 yards to McDonogh's 40-yard line. After punishing runs by senior running back **Chase Gorman**, the Cavaliers had to settle for a 29-yard field goal by senior and Navy commit **Cooper Welch** to make the score 17-7 at the 10-minute mark of the third quarter.

Spalding's defense, which had given up 27 points all year, placed their hard-hitting skills on display as senior defensive back and Navy commit **Trent Gillis** distributed volatile hits throughout the game.

At 7:04 left in the third quarter, McDonogh turned the ball over on downs and Schmitt used his battery-ram halfback Gorman to run over the Eagles defense down the field. That drive ended with an eight-yard pitch pass to Miller to increase

Spalding's lead to 24-7.

Spalding's ferocious defense stiffened again, and the Eagles turned the ball over on downs again.

Spalding then used their hard-nosed running attack led by a young and determined offensive line and repeatedly opened holes for Gorman. That drive lasted over seven minutes and ultimately ended with junior running back **Antonio Ledbetter** scoring from eight yards out, making the score 31-7.

"We used the Army-Navy attack scheme and used ball control to eat the clock and keep McDonogh off of the field," Schmitt said.

McDonogh fumbled on their next procession and Spalding failed on a fourth-down conversion.

With 1:54 left in the game, Spalding junior defensive tackle **Zack Philpott** sacked Eagles quarterback **Braeden Palazzo** and hundreds of Cavaliers fans erupted in joy and cheers as the Cavaliers were about to win their third consecutive Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) A Conference title.

The Cavaliers sprinted to the 50-yard line and danced, jumped and screamed as the Mike Whittles Trophy was presented to Schmitt. Whittles, who was from Severna Park, coached Spalding for over 10 years and died of pancreatic cancer in 2012.

After the presentation, Schmitt gathered his team and told them how much he would miss the senior class and didn't know what he was going to do on Monday at 3:00pm without any practice.

The player who has developed the most over those four years was Washington. He had numerous major Division I scholarship offers but eventually chose Maryland to be closer to his family and because he had a relationship with head coach **Mike Locksley**.

Washington will enter Maryland in January as an early enrollee. He will also compete in the nationally televised All-American Bowl on January 11 on NBC and Peacock. The game showcases the best high school football players in the nation.

Read the full story at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

10U Green Hornets Win Championship



The Green Hornets 10U team capped an 8-3 season by avenging their regular-season loss to Cape St. Claire with an 8-6 victory to capture the 2024 AAYFA American Blue Championship.

The Severna Park Green Hornets 10U tackle football team won the 2024 AAYFA American Blue Championship at Severn Run High School by beating the Cape St. Claire Cougars 8-6 on November 10.

Coached by **Ron Quarto, Trey Quarto, Chad Deavers, Austin Simpson** and **Chris Deluca**, the team capped an 8-3 season by avenging their regular season loss to the Cougars, and consequently, ending Cape St. Claire's bid for an undefeated season.

The slugfest came down to a last-minute goal-line stand when linebacker **Aiden Cooke** and defensive tackle **Mark Wedemeyer** tackled the Cougars' tailback at the two-yard line on fourth-and-goal, sealing the victory. The Hornets scored their only touchdown in the second quarter, when quarterback **Chase Martin** hit running back **Blake Tomago** on a fourth-and-goal dart.

Kicker **Wesley Anderson** connected on the two-point conversion. That was enough for the hard-hitting defense led by linebacker **Liam Cooke**, defensive tackle **Marco Deluca**, and defensive ends **Tucker Tyzack** and **Henry Smith**. The secondary of cornerbacks **Nico Rice** and **Ryan Berger**, along with safety **Joey Potocek**, shut down the Cougars' passing attack all afternoon. Cornerback **Michael Duffy**, defensive tackles **Caleb Missimore** and **Grady O'Donnell**, and defensive back **Arjan Bal** also contributed to the team's victory.

Tough, Tenacious And Talented

Severna Park's Cody Winokur Prepares To Play In His Last Army-Navy Game

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park's **Cody Winokur** will play in his last Army-Navy game on December 14 at the Northwest Stadium in Landover, home of the Washington Commanders.

Winokur is a senior defensive lineman for the Army Black Knights and looks forward to battling the Navy Midshipmen for the prestigious Commander-in-Chief's Trophy this year. The trophy is annually awarded to the service academy with the best record against the other service academies.

"It's the most important game of the year," Winokur said. "By game time, we know their offensive and defensive schemes very well as we study, practice and focus on Navy for two intense weeks. You need to be perfect that game and execute every play to the best of your ability."

Winokur will have numerous family members and friends at that game and will enjoy the electric atmosphere of what is traditionally the last regular college football game of the season.

"I'm really looking forward to the Navy game," Winokur said. "It's so hard to put in words the feeling you have when you take the field. Every player on both sides pours everything he has into this game."

Army will rely on Winokur's experience



Photo courtesy of West Point

Severna Park's Cody Winokur, a senior defensive lineman for the Army Black Knights, came off the field after a defensive stop during a game against Florida Atlantic in September. Army is nationally ranked this year with an 11-1 record heading into the much anticipated showdown against Navy on December 14.

and leadership skills during practices in preparing for this vital game, as he also has the respect from his teammates and coaches. Winokur was voted one of Army's four captains for the game versus Rice in September.

"Cody embodies everything Army football is about," said Army defensive line coach **Sean Cronin**. "He's tough and self-

less. The team's success is more important to him than any individual goal. Everyone looks up to Cody and his resolve is elite."

Winokur's spirit, toughness and determination were ingrained into his early playing days as he went through Green Hornets youth football leagues before joining the Archbishop Spalding football program in 2014.

"Spalding's head football coach, **Kyle Schmitt**, came around to the Green Hornets practices and was looking for players to join his new program," Winokur said. "I liked the idea that I could be part of a rising program, and I liked coach Schmitt's leadership style."

Spalding was experiencing growing pains in the competitive Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and finished 3-8 in Winokur's freshman year. After that year, Spalding went 8-3, 9-2 and 5-5 in the next three years.

"Cody is one of the most impactful players in the rise of the Spalding football program," Schmitt said. "Cody chose our program over multiple other state football powers when it was not yet popular to do that. He displays an uncommon toughness that resonated throughout our football program. He's a natural leader and has a tremendous future in front of him."

While playing both offensive and defensive lines at Spalding, Winokur received all-state, all-county and all-conference accolades, and he played in the Big 33 Football Classic after his senior year. The Big 33 game showcases the best graduating seniors from Maryland and Pennsylvania as they compete for regional bragging rights.

"Cody changed the football culture at Spalding," said Spalding defensive coordi-

nator **Tyrone Forby**. "He has great spirit and attacks life. He definitely made the right choice when he selected Army for his football and college future."

Winokur started his Army college career at the United States Academy Preparatory School for one year before entering West Point.

Winokur was recruited by Army to be their "triple action center" on the offensive line, but he was switched to defensive line early in his college career.

"I was ready to get after it when I entered prep school and I liked the culture of a military university," Winokur said. "There's a learning curve when you begin your military training, but you quickly adjust."

Winokur's days at West Point begin at 6:10am to prepare his room and get into his uniform. Formation is at 7:00am, followed by breakfast and classes until lunch. From 2:30pm to 7:00pm, the team lifts weights, practices and has meetings. After dinner, he does homework until 11:00pm.

"You quickly learn time management and problem-solving skills," Winokur said. "But I'm with the most talented students in the world and it's truly a brotherhood with my teammates."

After graduation this spring, Winokur will have his first assignment coaching the defensive line at West Point's prep school. He hopes to stay involved in football and coach in the future.

Winokur's toughness and tenacity can be traced to his upbringing in Severna Park and his leadership qualities from Schmitt. He still tries to attend Spalding football games during Army's bye weeks and always gives a bear hug to Schmitt before and after games.

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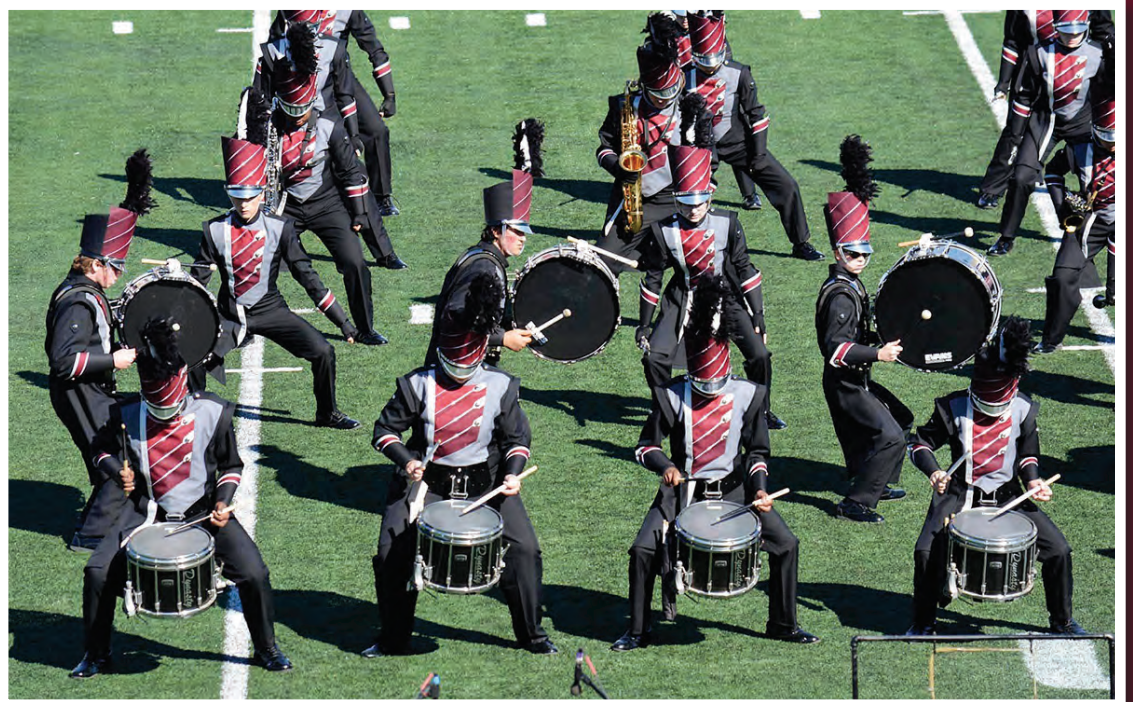
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Broadneck Marching Band Wins 4A State Championship

Early in November, the Broadneck High School marching band took first place in the Maryland Marching Band Association 4A state championship held at Towson University. With an overall score of 88.5, the Bruins landed on top of second-place winner Arundel High School. The Severna Park High School marching band came in third, with the Falcons earning a score of 83.46. Broadneck students also swept the categories of percussion, visual performance, music performance and overall effect.



Scouts At SP United Methodist Church Earn Eagle Rank

Four Eagle Scout recipients from Troop 993 received their new rank during a ceremony on November 23. Based at Severna Park United Methodist Church (SPUMC), the group of Garrett Carpenter, Martin Edell, Robert Haufe Jr. and Wyatt Hirsch enjoyed their milestone during the event, for which former WJZ-TV sports director Mark Viviano served as the keynote speaker.

Get to know the Eagle Scouts.

Robert Haufe Jr. of Severna Park

Robert Haufe Jr. is a senior at Severna Park High School (SPHS). As an active participant in the school's leadership program, he managed a community-wide fundraising event for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and is leading a fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Annapolis.

Haufe helped to establish the Severna Park chapter of the National Technical Honors Society and serves as a club officer. He is a member of the National Honors Society and principal's honor roll and is a four-year member of the honors engineering design and development program (EDD), Project Lead the Way, for which he is serving as project manager for the class of 2025 EDD capstone project.

Haufe's extracurricular activities include serving as a member of the SPHS varsity swim team, member of the Naval Academy Aquatics Club and the Boy Scouts of America, for which he was nominated to the Order of the Arrow and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.



Robert Haufe Jr.

His Eagle Scout project focused on constructing a platform, cross and lectern for the prayer garden of Severna Park United Methodist Church. SPUMC is Haufe's home church that he grew up in, from baptism to confirmation, and it has instilled a deep sense of personal commitment, faith and comfort in him.

Wyatt Hirsch of Crownsville

Wyatt Hirsch started his scouting journey in first grade, determined to become an Eagle Scout. For his project, Hirsch led the building of a wood storage shed at Bacon Ridge Natural Area. He mountain-biked on the trails of Bacon Ridge for many years and saw this project as a way to give back. The woodshed is located at a recently created fire pit and meeting area that will

Wyatt Hirsch



host scout groups. Hirsch is a senior at Chesapeake Science Point.

Martin Edell of Severna Park

Martin Edell began scouting as a Tiger Scout with Pack 1100 in Springfield, Virginia. He completed his Webelos and Arrow of Light years at Pack 127 at School of the Incarnation in Gambrills. For his Eagle Scout project, Edell built bat boxes for the Kinder Farm Park youth campground. Edell is a senior at Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore.

Garrett Carpenter of Severna

Garrett Carpenter graduated magna cum laude from Old Mill High School and is currently a freshman at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). He has been a scout



Martin Edell

since he was in first grade, with a passion for camping, including a six-night, 60-mile backcountry canoeing trip in Minnesota.

For his Eagle Scout project, Carpenter designed and constructed an elevated handicapped-accessible garden box for the residents of Lyla Haven, an elder-care assisted living facility in Severna Park. This project aimed to enhance the quality of life for residents by providing them with a space to enjoy gardening despite mobility challenges.

Carpenter is studying chemical engineering with a focus on biomedical technologies with the goal of helping develop novel medical treatments. An accomplished violinist and member of the all-county orchestra, Carpenter is also involved in UMBC's ChemE Car team.

Garrett Carpenter



Pack 918 Surpasses Fundraising Goal

Cub Scout Pack 918 in Severna Park had a fundraising goal to achieve \$7,500 in popcorn sales during the months of September and October this year. The Scouts not only met but surpassed that goal, selling a total of \$8,502. They sold popcorn online, around their neighborhoods, and set up tables in front of local grocery stores to hit their goal. Scouts celebrated the accomplishment with their parents in December.



St. John Students Show Holiday Spirit During Festival Of Trees



St. John the Evangelist's student council participated in the Festival of Trees, held November 29 through December 1 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in support of the Kennedy Krieger Institute. The school purchased a tree to decorate, with its theme titled "Blessings from a Blue Ribbon School." This theme was a celebration of St. John's achievements and a way to inspire gratitude in others.

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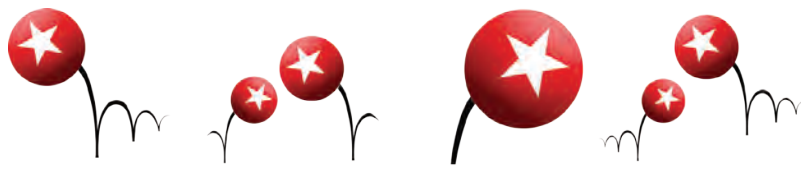
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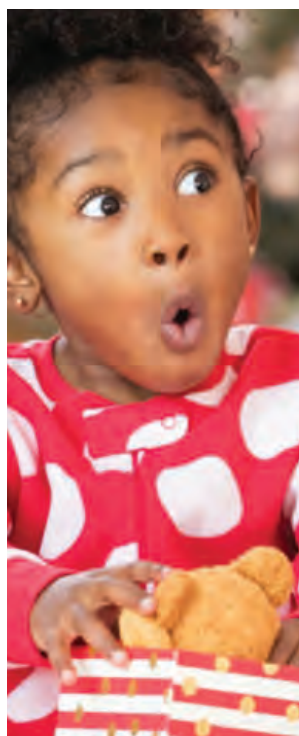
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Educator Of The Month

Kathy Swartz

Oak Hill Elementary School



Kathy Swartz has been a special educator at Oak Hill Elementary School since 2014.

these students can make.

“Great teachers, caring teams made all the difference in the world,” Swartz said of her family’s experience with special education. “I want to be able to do that for other children.”

Swartz admits that her approach to students with special needs has evolved since earlier in her career. Now, she brings to the table her own personal experiences in an effort to elevate special education.

She explained that, especially with students who lack the ability to communicate verbally, oftentimes there’s a mistaken tendency to discount their ability.

“That doesn’t mean that they don’t think and feel and have the same thoughts and emotions that their peers do; they just can’t communicate it, and how frustrating is that, not to be able to communicate it?” Swartz said.

In these situations, she’s able to lean on her unique perspective as a mother who has been through the special education system with her own children and share the view from her lens with her colleagues.

“We don’t know this total child yet,” Swartz said. “We just have to put ourselves into it and see where we can take these kids because the potential is there.”

Oak Hill head principal Deneen Houghton and assistant principal Christine Cheesman lauded Swartz as an invaluable member of their team who “works tirelessly” on behalf of her students and their families, as well as her collaborating staff.

The special education team at Oak Hill works with students based on the grade level in which they specialize. For Swartz, that means fourth and fifth graders, so she has the ability to get to know them as they grow from kindergarten on.

Swartz encourages parents of students receiving special education to always be the squeaky wheel when it comes to advocating for their children. “I know it from both sides,” she said. “Go with your instinct. When you are asking for what you believe is best for your child, you can’t go wrong.”

Swartz was one of 75 public educators nominated for AACPS Teacher of the Year. Although she was not named one of the semifinalists, she and the other nominees will be honored at an event on April 25.

“I’m teaching somebody’s world. When you look at it that way, then it becomes much more personal.”

By Lauren Cowin

“Presuming competence.” This is what drives Kathy Swartz’s approach to her students at Oak Hill Elementary, where she has been a special educator since 2014.

She was the school’s 2025 nominee for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Teacher of the Year.

Swartz began her career 31 years ago as a general education elementary school teacher in Baltimore County before her family settled in Severna Park. A mother of four adult children, she said parenthood changed her entire approach to teaching.

“I’m teaching somebody’s world,” Swartz said. “When you look at it that way, then it becomes much more personal.”

Her move from general to special education was also personal, and it was spurred by her own experiences as a parent. Her two younger children have special needs, and though she put her career on pause during their early childhood, she shifted gears when the time was right, realizing the impact the team around



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Q

Question of the month

Each month, the Severna Park Voice poses a question to students. This month, we asked Mrs. Geoghegan's fifth-grade class at Belvedere Elementary:

What is your favorite holiday tradition?

My favorite tradition is on Christmas. When my siblings and I wake up, we go and look at the tree. We then go and jump on my mom's bed. Next, we open our presents. Finally, we go outside and make a snowman. Christmas is amazing.

Addison S.

My favorite holiday is Christmas. My favorite tradition is opening presents on Christmas day.

Alex F.

My favorite tradition is Christmas and my favorite part about it is decorating the tree.

Alice M.

My favorite holiday tradition is the getting candy part of Halloween, because I'm not really a big fan of

BELVEDERE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



the scary part.

Cecilia C.

My favorite holiday tradition is at Thanksgiving when my grandmom brings a butter turkey and when all my family comes over and we just have a party with all that delicious food. This is my favorite tradition because I don't see these family members a lot.

Christopher L.

My favorite tradition is Christmas. My favorite tradition is to open presents on Christmas morning.

Connor K.

My favorite holiday is Christmas because we have a week off school.

Earvin J-V.

My favorite holiday tradition is going to my grandparents' house on Christmas Eve and opening presents and eating the seven fishes dish, because we are always so happy.

Eleanor P.

My favorite holiday tradition is Hanukkah because when we light the Menorah, we sing a prayer that says that we are together again.

Hannah J.

My favorite holiday tradition is Halloween because our neighborhood has pizza before we trick-or-treat.

Lochlan B.

My favorite holiday is Halloween. My favorite tradition is going trick-or-treating after dinner.

Logan C.

My favorite tradition is when we wake up at one in the morning and we go downstairs. We eat breakfast and I run to open gifts. There will be paper all over the place and toys!

Maisie P.

My favorite holiday is Christmas because you get a lot of presents and food! Overall, it's just really fun.

Mason H.

My favorite holiday is Christmas because there is a lot of snow and presents to open.

Maverick S.

My favorite holiday tradition is the Day of the Dead because it's a day when your family that has died comes back to see you on November 1 and 2. We learned about it in Mexico. When it's the Day of the Dead, we go to the grave and put flowers, food and some gifts to give them. On October 28, pets that passed away come see you in spirit.

Sinai G.

On Christmas Eve, we like to open one present, and we play and play and say bye to our elves and set cookies out for Santa.

Sloane N.

My favorite holiday tradition is having my grandparents come over for breakfast on Christmas day.

Stella L.

My favorite holiday tradition is Christmas because you open gifts for Christmas, and you get to hang out with family and friends! I love to build a snowman with my brother and get gifts from family.

Sydney J.

Halloween is the best day.

Talen H.

My favorite holiday tradition is on Christmas when my family has a party at my house.

Thomas B.

Girl STEM-Powerment Event Opens World Of Opportunities For Students

In what may become an annual event, Severna Park High School's signature program teamed up with the Maryland STEM Festival to co-host the Girl STEM-Powerment event on November 13. Fifteen presenters from a variety of fields and approximately 150 people attended the event.

Girl STEM-Powerment was designed to encourage young girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Hosted as part of the broader Maryland STEM Festival, the event focused on showcasing the possibilities available in STEM fields through hands-on activities. Attendees were able to connect with female STEM professionals, educators and entrepreneurs who shared their personal stories, challenges they have overcome, and the exciting opportunities they have encountered in their careers.

"Personally, I loved seeing how the girls were given the chance to participate in coding challenges, engineering design projects, and experiments, all aimed at building their confidence and skills," said Annie Houghton, Severna Park High School signature site facilitator. "They also learned about educational pathways, career opportunities and internships in the STEM fields. It is so important to introduce our students to these opportunities at a younger age. Overall, the event helped foster a sense of belonging and empowered girls to pursue their passions in STEM, reinforcing the message that they can succeed in any field they choose."

Students came away from the event with a positive experience.

"I liked learning about the books that the women wrote about STEM," said Tim Greaves,



Severna Park High School's signature program teamed up with the Maryland STEM Festival to co-host the Girl STEM-Powerment event on November 13.

a fourth-grader at Oak Hill Elementary. "It was interesting how the girl in the story made a time machine to go back and meet Leonardo da Vinci to find out how he did it all."

Fellow Oak Hill fourth-grader Lola Alahverdian loved learning about the "Army and military stuff

and how to stay safe," while Folger McKinsey Elementary School first-grader Tori Meredith enjoyed making her own song.

"The marker experiment was fun," added Folger McKinsey first-grader Poppy Spohn. "The ink would go up and showed if it was water soluble."

Kaycie Quinones brought her daughters and their friends, four girls total, from Benfield Elementary.

"It is a great opportunity to show how important women are in the workforce, from science labs to aviation to making music, and it was a very hands-on exciting opportunity," Quinones said. "I hope this becomes an annual event."

Shalannah Smalls, operations manager at Andrews Air Traffic Control Tower, represented the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees and its Washington suburban chapter.

"I am the ERT (education, recruitment and training chairperson)," she said. "We talk to students about scholarships and opportunities that are available. We tell students what air traffic is and everything that supports it, including engineers, doctors, lawyers, finance, IT and the FAA technical operations."

Diana Hugue, a fire protection engineer for Jensen Hughes, loves outreach opportunities like Girl STEM-Powerment. She used the opportunity to educate students about her career.

"Fire protection engineering department is around 20% female, and I'd love to get that number to rise," Hugue said. "Being able to get the word out and show how cool engineering can be is exciting!"

Another participant, Michelle Dina of Unmanned Safety Institute, explained how drones are the next evolution of aviation.

"They are being used in every industry," Dina said, "and the opportunity for young ladies to get involved and have great, rewarding, high-paying, skilled jobs is tremendous."



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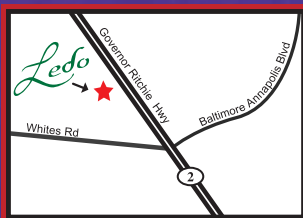
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COPD Holiday Tips: Avoiding Health Risks To Enjoy The Season

Jason Heavner, MD, FCCP
University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center



The holiday season brings joy and celebration, but for those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), it can also pose unique challenges. Here are five essential tips to help you enjoy the festivities while prioritizing your respiratory health.

Don't eat large quantities of food at one time.

Oxygen and food are the main ingredients in metabolism, which creates energy and carbon dioxide. Eating the right mix of nutrients can help you breathe easier. Over-eating may add pressure on your diaphragm, making it harder to breathe. Talk to your doctor or a dietitian about a diet that will help support easier breathing.

Limit salty foods.

Consuming too much sodium can increase blood pressure by causing edema, or swelling, in the body. Instead of using salt to season foods, try herbs and spices. Watch for hidden salts in processed foods and those cooked with fatback, shortening and frying oils.

Keep alcohol consumption to a minimum.

Studies have shown that drinking excessive alcohol can reduce lung function in those with lung disease and can reduce the body's ability to clear mucus from the airways. Alcohol also interferes with the effectiveness of many medications, including steroids and antibiotics.



Stay away from people who are smoking, including e-cigarettes.

Cigarette and e-cigarette smoke and vaping are very harmful to people with COPD. Avoid any situations where you might be exposed.

Be up to date with your vaccinations.

Viruses, such as flu, RSV and COVID, and bacteria that cause pneumonia, can be serious for people with COPD. In addition to washing your hands frequently

and disinfecting high-touch surfaces, schedule your vaccination appointments before you visit with large groups of people. Vaccinations to schedule include:

- **Flu vaccine.** If the flu (influenza) virus gets to the lungs, it can be serious, especially for older adults who are at higher risk for developing serious complications like pneumonia. It is also easy to pass from person to person.
- **Pneumococcal vaccine.** All adults 50 years or older and adults 18 through 49 with certain risk conditions should get the pneumococcal vaccine. This is especially important if older adults will be around children who may unknowingly carry and pass along the illness.
- **RSV vaccine.** Older adults and adults with a chronic disease and/or a weakened immune system are at a higher risk of severe RSV symptoms and are more likely to need to be hospitalized. Adults 60 years and older should talk with their health care provider about the RSV vaccine.
- **COVID vaccine.** While not as broadly spoken of as it was a few years ago, COVID is still around. Research has shown that the COVID vaccine not only reduces the risk of getting the disease but also reduces the severity of the symptoms and helps keep people out of the hospital if they do get it.

If you are living with COPD or need help managing your lung health, connect with the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center. Schedule an appointment with the pulmonary experts today at 410-553-8240 or visit www.umbwmc.org/lung-health.

Jason Heavner is the senior vice president and chief medical officer of University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center, where he is also a pulmonary medicine physician.

"Reimagining Hope" Podcast Shines A Light On The Conversation Of Serious Illness



Photo courtesy of Sandra Dillon/Hospice of the Chesapeake

Host of the podcast "Reimagining Hope," Rachel Jordan (left) prepared to interview Dr. Sonja Richmond for the new podcast's first episode.

As families struggle with serious progressive illnesses among themselves or their loved ones, finding information, resources and support is critical. In response, Hospice of the Chesapeake and Chesapeake Supportive Care are introducing a new informative podcast series, "Reimagining Hope."

Hosted by Rachel Jordan, Hospice of the Chesapeake's director of advocacy and legislative affairs, the series will book guests who can provide valuable insight and help listeners reimagine the hope they may be missing. The podcast will provide quick, easy-to-understand information while providing the critical skills and real-time tools needed to navigate advanced illness.

As a nurse practitioner, Jordan sees patients and their families struggling every day to figure out what resources and services are available to them to care for themselves or a loved one. People are living with serious illnesses longer today than ever before in history and whether they are at diagnosis, months into curative treatment or nearing the end of life, each has their own unique experience.

"I love my role at Hospice of the Chesapeake, but most importantly, I'm a daughter, a mom, a caregiver, an Army veteran and a community

advocate," Jordan said. "I have a passion for raising awareness about care available for those living with serious illness and that's what I hope to share with you."

Discussions will include important topics like sustaining comfort, grief during the holidays, how to manage the overwhelming number of medications that are prescribed and many more. "We hope these talks will bring you some comfort, skills and peace," Jordan said.

The podcast debuted on December 4. The first three episodes are as follows:

- "When is it too much? Managing Mom and Dad's Medications" with guest Dr. Sonja Richmond, Hospice of the Chesapeake's vice president of medical affairs and hospice medical director.
- "Navigating Grief During the Holidays," with guest Jennifer Ward, a Chesapeake Life Center bereavement counselor.
- "Sustaining Comfort: Hydration and Nutrition at the End of Life" with Richmond as the guest.

The podcast, which can be found at sites.libsyn.com/556806/site, is part of the nonprofit's community outreach and education programming, which is made possible by the generous support of the John and Cathy Belcher Institute.

Much More Than Meets The Eye

Arnold Artist Showcases Work In Two Exhibitions

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Jim Hollan has an affinity for the odd and the eccentric.

That fondness has transferred to his paintings and mixed media works, which have appeared in 50 juried exhibitions over the last nine years. This winter, his work will be on display at two Annapolis exhibitions, one at the Circle Gallery and one at the Arundel Center.

The 80-year-old Arnold resident turned his passion for art into more than a hobby 12 years ago after selling his consulting and management company. Before that, he served as the president and chief executive officer of several national and international trade associations. From Singapore to Lisbon to his native New York, he collected keepsakes everywhere he traveled.

"I still have those boxes of stuff," Hollan said. "It is very nice as a springboard."

That springboard of ideas empowered him to mess with mixed media. Though he could not draw well, he had a sense of color and texture, so collage worked well for him as an art form.

He also joined the Maryland Federation of Art, which has a tagline: "Much More Than Meets The Eye." The phrase is a perfect complement to Hollan's work, which often pieces to-

gether items of seemingly no relation to tell a narrative.

"I had a story, but it's your story now," Hollan said. "It may be about your weird Uncle Burt (and your memory of something he did) when you were 14."

Hollan has a piece in Maryland Federation of Art's "Small Wonders" exhibit, which opened November 27 and runs through December 21. Art enthusiasts are welcome to visit the Circle Gallery to check out the work, which celebrates little things that can have a big impact.

Entries are limited to under 11 inches in all directions, but there is no limit on creativity or media.

Set in a box that is three inches deep, Hollan's piece "Dream #7" combines a black-and-white image with graffiti-covered buildings and a bicycle. Layered onto that image, a shirtless man covers his face with his hands and a miniature skeleton groom looks upward.

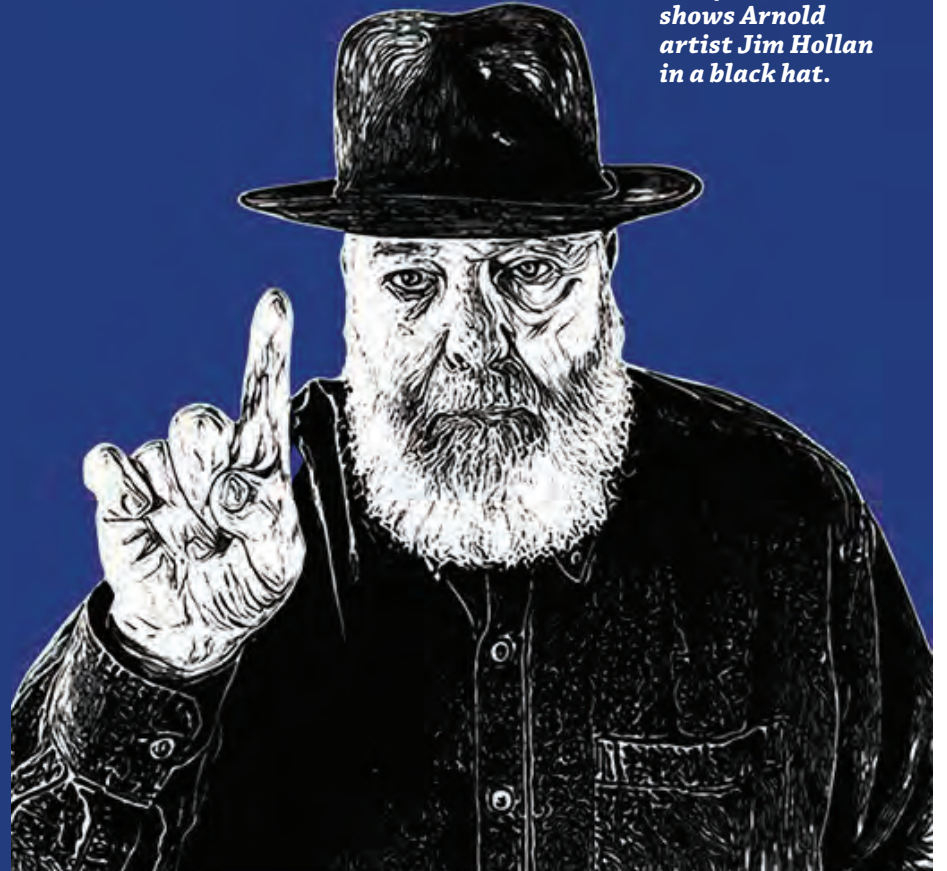
"You see a photograph and that is a combination of three photographs, so you keep adding layers," Hollan said of mixed media. "The hardest part is knowing when to stop adding layers."

Hollan was also selected for a solo exhibition by the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County in the Front Gallery of the Arundel Center. That

» Continued on page 53



This portrait shows Arnold artist Jim Hollan in a black hat.



Ivy League Releases Second Album, "Interstate Dreams"

By Jaina Peveto

High school is full of change for many people, and two years after recording their first album, members of the high school band Ivy League have experienced many changes. Those changes inspired them to write an album.

Ivy League is made up of Severna Park High School students and jazz musicians Cam Blackburn, Keith Ivey and Nick Stohler. The band began writing material for their second album immediately after finishing their first, "Homecoming," and two years later, it's finally finished. The new album, "Interstate Dreams," is made up of 10 songs.

Band members have different opinions about the best track on the album and the experiences that encouraged those songs.

"I went to Subway, and I saw that they renovated it," said Stohler, the band's lead singer and guitarist, as he described the inspiration behind "Chill Song (When You Left)," his favorite track on the album. "I was like, 'Wow, things are changing, so I've got to write a song.' That song is kind of about all the changes I've seen living in Severna Park my entire life. A little bit



(L-R) Nick Stohler, Cam Blackburn and Keith Ivey are not sure what the future holds for their band Ivy League, but they are enjoying the ride.

of fear of change, but also acceptance."

Drummer Blackburn and keyboardist and bassist Ivey enjoy their respective favorite songs mostly for musical reasons. Blackburn appreciates the simplicity of the drums on "Your Friend," while Ivey enjoys the chord progressions of "Fist Fight" and "Lethality."

Community support has played a large role in the band's progression, both within Severna Park High School and the broader local music community. The band was invited to record

"Middle Ground" at a Johns Hopkins University Peabody Institute recording studio. They got together during a study hall to create a demo, and the following day, they were recording in a multimillion-dollar studio.

They have also grown closer as friends over the course of recording the album. Writing songs has become a more collaborative experience. "As we get closer to each other, we also play better together, and it's more fun to play together," Ivey said.

All three members agree that their

favorite recent gig was their Back to School Bash at Parris Underground, where they performed as the band Loded Diper from "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" to a crowd of 130 people.

"The Back to School Bash was definitely more personal," Blackburn said. "We had all of our friends there, a lot of classmates."

Stohler said, "Our friends brought their friends; their friends brought their friends. We reached a lot of people that night. There were a ton of people I'd never seen before. And they were singing our lyrics! That's the thing I took away the most."

Ivy League's members aren't sure where the future will take them. Graduation might someday pull them in separate directions, but for now, they're focusing on the promotion of "Interstate Dreams." They hope to hold an album release party at some point, and they're looking forward to creating music videos and their first physical release of CDs.

"I feel like we've been getting an equal amount of love into what we've been putting in," Ivey said.

"Interstate Dreams" is available on music streaming services and can be purchased on iTunes.

Toby's Revives A Classic Story With "The Sound Of Music"



Left: Maria and the von Trapp children sang "Do-Re-Mi." **Right:** Rachel Cahoon plays Maria in "The Sound of Music."

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnarparkvoice.com

The hills are alive with the sound of music at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia.

A beloved musical, "The Sound of Music" is being performed by a talented cast of actors and singers in-the-round now through January 12.

With music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, this iteration of the story came before the 1965 film. Both the Broadway show and the film were inspired by the 1949 memoir "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp.

Set during 1938 in Austria, the musical follows a young, free-spirited postulant named Maria, who is sent to serve as a

governess to the seven children of Captain Georg von Trapp. Maria is reluctant to go — her sense of duty compels her to plead her case for staying at the abbey — but once she meets the von Trapp children, she falls in love.

Maria teaches the children about music, all to the backdrop of several memorable songs: "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "My Favorite Things," "Do-Re-Mi" and others. Yet, it's not only musical skills the kids acquire. They begin to emulate their fun-loving governess and shed the tense demeanor they demonstrated in front of their father, who commands them by blowing on a whistle. Even Georg von Trapp becomes more easygoing.

The story does not end there, as Maria becomes confused about her feelings

for Georg, who is then confronted with a moral dilemma that could affect the safety of his family.

In the Toby's musical, Rachel Cahoon is well cast as Maria. She captures the kind and gentle spirit of the character while showcasing an impressive vocal range. As Georg von Trapp, Jeffrey Shankle has no trouble transitioning from a stern father to a more understanding parent.

With her mannerisms and her memorable vocal performance, Emily Signor is dynamic in her Toby's debut as Liesl von Trapp, the eldest child. She is a nurturing older sister to her siblings and a lovestruck teen who develops a fondness for a telegram delivery boy named Rolf, played by Jackson Miller, who does a nice

job of balancing the sweet suitor with the colder young man turned Nazi soldier.

A rotating cast of actors portray the other von Trapp children: Friedrich, Louisa, Kurt, Brigitta, Marta and Gretl. The kids compliment Maria as the heartbeat of the show. All of the actors possess professional acting chops, and on this particular evening, Bryn Hummel was an adorable addition as the young Gretl.

As Mother Abbess, Adrienne Athanas solicits the advice of the sisters in guiding Maria. Played by Melynda Burdette, MaryKate Brouillet and Jane Boye, the nuns show concern for Maria, but they also provide sage wisdom and support, along with enchanting vocals.

"The Sound of Music" has no shortage of music. Other songs include "Sixteen Going on Seventeen," "Edelweiss" and the title number, "The Sound of Music."

The Toby's show is made possible with direction and choreography by Mark Minnick, music direction by Ross Scott Rawlings, scenic design by David Hopkins, lighting design by Lynn Joslin, sound design by Mark Smedley, costume design by Janine Sunday and Sarah King, wig and hair design by Jayson Kueberth and production stage management by Cheryl Stansfield. The Toby's band was also on point throughout the musical.

"The Sound of Music" treated fans to a beautiful story about love, family and finding purpose. Visit Toby's for its next show, the Dolly Parton-inspired "9 to 5" musical playing January 5 - March 16. More information is available at www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

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Much More Than Meets The Eye

» Continued from page 51 space will feature 12 of Hollan’s pieces from December 18 through February 25.

Two of those pieces are juxtaposing versions of “Regret in Blue,” an image made with archival inks and acrylic on canvas. The exhibition includes a 40-by-30-inch version of the image and a smaller one at 11-by-14 inches.

Hollan also incorporates his other hobbies into his work. A former participant in poetry readings at The Dove, before it became Rams

Head On Stage in Annapolis, Hollan is inspired by the prose of William Butler Yeats, John Donne and other poets. A singer, guitarist and multi-instrumentalist, Hollan is also drawn to music. Overall, he is a fan of thought-provoking material and looks to capture that concept in his work, whether his muse on a certain day is a poem or a song. In that sense, he can create art that is more than meets the eye.

“If there is a way for me to put a soundtrack on the art, I probably do,” Hollan said.



Hollan’s piece “Dream #7” combines a black-and-white image with graffiti-covered buildings and a bicycle. Layered onto that image, a man covers his face with his hands and a miniature skeleton looks upward.

“Wicked” Film Review

Read the full story online

By Audrey Ruppert

Part one of “Wicked” is a film adaptation of the Broadway musical of a book called “Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West.” This is a spinoff of another film, “The Wizard of Oz,” which is an adaptation of a novel, “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.” Universeception achieved. I was curious to see the film, having never seen any of these iterations other than the classic “Wizard of Oz” film from the 1930s. A story had to have staying power, something meaningful to say, to be adapted that many times, and I wanted to know why.

The story is powerful. It provides far more context to the traditional story of Oz that most of us have heard, the story of fairytale-like good against fairytale-like bad.

The “Wicked” franchise asks us to question whether narratives we have been told or even acted out a thousand times are true, or whether they have elements of propaganda and spin. It gives the Wicked Witch her name — Elphaba — and tells her story.



Photo courtesy of Giles Keyte/Universal Pictures



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Trump Re-Elected: What It Means For Your Wallet

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



With a decisive electoral victory, Donald Trump will return to the White House in January, bolstered by Republican control of both houses of Congress.

Credit expansion and the increased standard deduction, both of which Democrats largely support.

However, other provisions may be on shakier ground. Unless Senate Republicans can convince enough Democrats to turn away from their stance against lowered tax rates and higher bracket income limits, those stand a good chance of expiring at the end of next year.

Looking farther into the future, it's likely taxes will go up at some point. The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center found that the TCJA will add anywhere from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion to the national debt over a decade. That's a significant percentage of the overall debt, which currently stands at over \$36 trillion.

In many ways, handling debt is like dieting. If you exercise a little more when you notice you're 10 pounds overweight, you can slim down with little trouble. If you wait until you're 100 pounds overweight, it's considerably harder and requires more extreme measures. Similarly, the high national debt means it will take more extreme measures to get it under control — these will almost certainly require increasing income regardless of how much the govern-
» **Continued on page 56**

This election will have an impact on our finances and, as with most things in life, there are pros and cons. One huge potential impact is on our tax rates.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) is due to expire at the end of 2025. Should that happen, most Americans will see an increase in their tax rates. With the Republican victory, the chances have increased for at least some of the provisions of the TCJA to be renewed. However, because Republicans did not secure a filibuster-proof 60-seat majority in the Senate, they will have to get at least some buy-in from Democrats to do so.

Provisions more likely to be renewed include the Child Tax

Entrepreneur Builds Vegetable Stand Into Abundant Business



Photo courtesy of Branden Camp
Chartridge resident and University of Maryland alum Evan Lutz received the college's Outstanding Young Alumnus Award for his work with Hungry Harvest, a company that recovers and sells imperfect fresh fruits, vegetables and pantry items from Maryland farmers and suppliers.

looks like that. One of our goals is to re-educate consumers about what food really looks like."

In 2016, Lutz took his growing business to "Shark Tank," a television show for budding entrepreneurs who get the chance to pitch their business plan or product to five business "sharks" in the hopes of receiving investment capital and using the show as a platform to advertise to 8 million potential customers.

Venture capitalist and "shark" Robert Herjavec offered Lutz a deal, significantly increasing Hungry Harvest's business valuation; and it went from 500 customers to 3,000 active customers virtually overnight.

Today, Hungry Harvest employs 70 people, serves six states from a 60,000-square-foot building in Lando-ver, Maryland, and delivers tens of thousands of boxes of food directly to consumers' homes up and down the East Coast.

In addition to reducing waste, upcycling imperfect food has many benefits. First, food tastes better because the time it takes to get a product from farm to table is much faster. Lutz estimates up to 10 touch points and several days or even weeks pass before a perishable product gets to the grocery store, but through companies like Hungry Harvest, consumers are buying almost directly from the farmer.

Secondly, farmers are being compensated for their products, which would have been a total loss or write-off. From farm to consumer, farmers are making money and consumers are getting great, fresh food by paying less than retail prices.

But the biggest winner is the environment.

"If food waste was a country, it would be the world's third largest producer of greenhouse gases behind the U.S. and China," Lutz said. "It's absolutely horrible that perfectly good food is wasted and goes into a landfill, or even composted, when it should have been eaten. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and food insecurity are completely preventable issues."

During the growing season, 70% of the food sourced comes from a 200-mile radius around Hungry Harvest's base in Lando-ver. During the off-season, food is sourced from warmer climates like the southeast and California. The company also procures goods like granola, yogurt, honey and milk from Maryland produc-
» **Continued on page 59**

By Judy Tacyn

Ten years ago, Evan Lutz's entrepreneurship class assignment to start a sustainable business resulted in a single folding table in front of the University of Maryland student union and selling a couple of ugly cucumbers.

On November 1, back on the College Park campus, the former Terp received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award for building that vegetable stand into Hungry Harvest, a company that recovers and sells imperfect fresh fruits, vegetables and pantry items from Maryland farmers and suppliers and distributes them to customers throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Lutz, a Severna Park resident, said the class project idea came from talking to a farmer about straight cucumbers and symmetrical peppers at the College Park Farmers Market.

"I became fascinated with reducing food waste for a singular farm," said Lutz, noting that only "perfect" food is accepted by grocery stores and farmers markets, and the rest would go to waste. "The farmer agreed to sell his imperfect produce to me for 30 cents on the dollar. I then sold that food at less than retail prices to students and faculty. The food was delicious because it was only a day or two away from the farm, so it didn't matter what it looked like!"

Lutz's stand started with 10 to 20 customers, but by the end of the semester, he had grown his business to 500 customers a week, requiring two paid employees and 10 volunteers.

"There is so much waste behind the farm curtain that consumers never see or even think about," said Lutz, adding that approximately 40% of all grown food in the United States goes to waste. "Consumers just see perfect food in the grocery store, but anyone who's ever gone apple picking knows that apples grow in all shapes, sizes and colors and do not come off the tree shiny. We only see the 'perfect' stuff and assume it all

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
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our directory at www.gspacc.com.

The Edge Dance Complex

www.the edgedancecomplexmd.com

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Contact the business at jpbalcer@verizon.net.

Diane Lebedeff, DPM

Dr. Lebedeff is a podiatry specialist in Arnold and has over 33 years of experience in the medical field. She graduated from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in 1990 and is affiliated with Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center. She specializes in podiatric surgery, heel endoscopy, ankle arthroscopy, podiatric laser surgery, and vascular examination of lower extremities. She is now accepting new patients. Contact the office at arnoldftdoc1@outlook.com.

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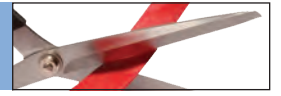
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Google LLC (new gold member)

Google LLC (Google), a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc., is a provider of search
» **Continued on page 58**

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Peak Potential Chiropractic Gets New Ownership

Peak Potential Chiropractic and Physical Therapy celebrated new ownership during an open house in November. Formerly Kennard Chiropractic, the practice was purchased by Dr. Patricia Beall, who has expanded its offerings to keep people in "peak" shape. The business is located at 650 Ritchie Highway, Suite 106, in Severna Park.



Crepes In The Park Specializes In Sweet And Savory Treats

Entrepreneur Abby Larkin celebrated the grand opening of Crepes in the Park alongside her husband, Eric Mickey; daughters Callie and Elsie Mickey; and the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce this fall. The business is located at 560 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, the former location of Sofi's Crepes.

Bach To Rock Brings Music Education To The Forefront

Bach to Rock is trying to redefine music education by blending classical finesse with contemporary cool. That mission now includes Severna Park, as husband-and-wife team John and Janice Hariadi started their journey at the helm of the new location and celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 14. Bach to Rock offers private lessons and group classes for all ages and skill levels. Find the new business in the Robinson Crossing shopping center at 454-C Ritchie Highway in Severna Park.



Trump Re-Elected: What It Means For Your Wallet

» Continued from page 55
ment decreases expenditures.

The prudent saver could position themselves to absorb the nearly inevitable tax increases with minimal harm to their finances, if right for them. Over the years, you may have read or heard about Roth conversions. This method converts your traditional tax-deferred retirement accounts to their Roth equivalents. You pay taxes on those conversions now, at the lower TCJA rates, but the money will grow and may be withdrawn tax-free when taxes are likely to be higher.

An important consideration when converting money to a Roth account is what it will do to your taxes this year. Because a Roth conversion is considered income, converting

too much at once can surprise the unwary investor by catapulting them into a higher tax bracket. That can be an unpleasant reality to discover when you're preparing your tax returns! That's why this time of year is often considered "Roth season." Because you now have a good idea of what your tax picture will look like, you may more easily avoid those bracket-jumping surprises from your Roth conversion.

Roth conversions and other tax-efficient strategies are complicated and require a deep understanding of your unique financial situation to know which ones are right for you. It's important to sit down with a financial advisor to form a plan that's suited to your needs and that of your plan.

Risk Disclosure: Investing involves risk including the potential loss of principal. No investment strategy can guarantee a profit or protect against loss in periods of declining values. Past performance does not guarantee future results. This material is for information purposes only and is not intended as an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of any security. Please remember that converting an employer plan account to a Roth IRA is a taxable event. Increased taxable income from the Roth IRA conversion may have several consequences. Be sure to consult with a qualified tax advisor before making any decisions regarding your IRA.

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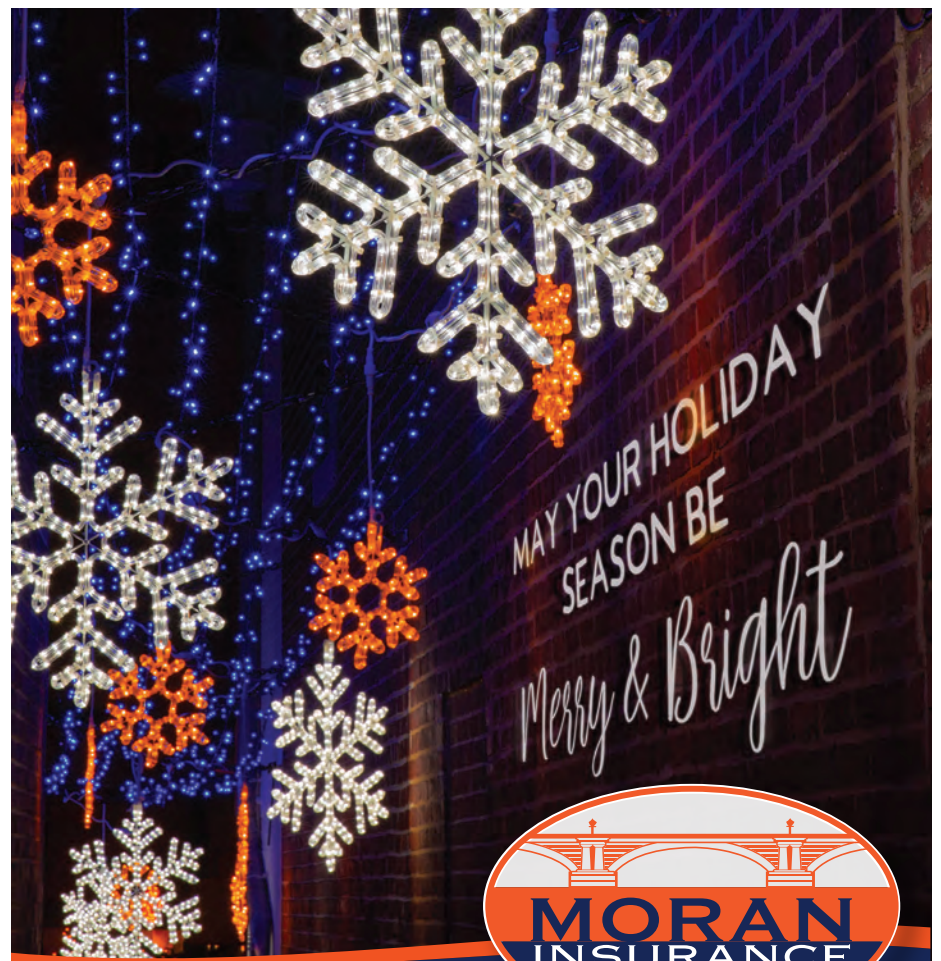
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Modera Wealth Management Acquires Bay Point Wealth

Modera Wealth Management LLC (Modera), a fee-only, comprehensive financial planning firm with roughly \$12.5 billion in assets under management, has acquired Bay Point Wealth, a registered investment adviser firm with offices in Annapolis and Stevensville, Maryland, and roughly \$467 million in assets under management.

For over 25 years, Bay Point Wealth has provided personalized, objective advice, fee-only financial planning, and investment management services to high-net-worth clients. The firm currently has eight employees, including four advisors who specialize in working with successful families, business owners, corporate executives, medical professionals, surviving spouses and individuals with special needs. As the firm's operations increased and client requirements evolved in recent years, Bay Point recognized the need to find a strategic partner to support its existing clients while providing opportunities for an enhanced service offering.

"I am confident that this new chapter will enhance our capabilities and offer our talented team even greater opportunities for development and career advancement," said Bay Point Wealth founder and principal Bill Hufnell. "This is a truly transformative step for us, promising continued innovation and improved services for our clients."

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 55

and advertising services on the internet. The company focuses on business areas such as advertising, search engines, platforms and operating systems, and enterprise and hardware products. Its portfolio of products and services include Google Search, Google Chrome, Google Docs, Google Calendar, Google Photos, Google Meet, Google Drive, Google Finance, Google Play Books, Google News, Google Earth, Google Ad Manager, Google Play, AdMob, Google Maps, AdSense, Gmail, Google Groups, and YouTube among others. The company has a business presence across the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. Google is headquartered in Mountain View, California.

OEO.com

OEO Energy Solutions offers LED warehouse and outdoor lights at no additional cost to replace your current fluorescents, made possible through BGE and Delmarva's Smart Energy Savers program. These normally retail for \$250 or more, and they are available at \$0 (discounted four LED tubes available for discounted \$5 as well). The long-lasting tubes and fixtures save over 50% on energy, offer 50,000 hours of usage, come with five-year warranties and are 100% covered for you.

Bayside CPR & AED Training Center

www.baysidecpr.com

Led by firefighters and paramedics, Bayside CPR & AED Training Center equips individuals and organizations with the critical skills to respond

confidently in emergencies. They offer comprehensive, hands-on training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic life support (BLS), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), pediatric advanced life support (PALS), first aid and other essential health care disciplines. For more information, contact michelle@baysidecpr.com.

We held two ribbon-cutting celebrations in November. The first was the grand opening under new ownership of **Peak Potential Chiropractic and Physical Therapy**, formerly Kennard Chiropractic. Dr. Patty Beall worked with Dr. Kennard for several years before taking over the practice and expanding the service offerings.

The second was the grand opening of **Bach to Rock Music School** in Severna Park. This business offers music lessons, camps and parties, and its programs are open to students of all ages and skill levels. You can even learn how to be a DJ. Bach to Rock is veteran-owned. The store is in a beautifully renovated space and is open for business.

Many thanks to the **Chesapeake Holistic Health Center** for hosting our monthly Wellness Business Connections. Owner Jennifer Salos is a pioneer in the field of natural healing, opening her business decades before the field became popular. They offer many modalities for improving wellness, including supplements, cranial sacral therapy, massage and more.

Our annual fall general membership luncheon was held at **Romilo's Restaurant & Bar** in Severna Park.

It was a lively gathering, and we enjoyed a presentation from Rod Borne, project director of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses. The program is a \$500 million initiative that helps thousands of entrepreneurs grow their businesses and create jobs in their communities.

Our Successful Women in Business group held a "giving thanks" luncheon at the **Severna Park Community Center**. It was a wonderful event with 10 vendors to give attendees an early jump on shopping for the holidays. Our sponsor was **Himmel's Landscaping and Garden Center**, and the caterer was **Main & Market Restaurant and Catering**.

This year's **annual tree-lighting celebration** was held at the chamber on December 6 to great fanfare. We had entertainment from the **Severna Park High School cheerleaders, the Severna Park High School jazz band, Creative Force Dance Center, the Severna Park Elementary School chorus, and The Edge Dance Complex**. Sponsors were **Severna Park Automotive, Lean on Dee Senior Home Care, Snyder/Bradshaw Group of Monument Sotheby's International Realty, The Big Bean, Sweet Satisfaction Ice Cream, Nothing Bundt Cakes, and Maryland Lighting and Sprinklers**. Many thanks to our reserve officers for helping with the huge turnout.

Please remember to shop local this holiday season and support our small businesses. For more information about the chamber, visit www.gspacc.com.

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Financial Focus: Consider These Year-End Financial Moves

Brian Conrad
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones



As we enter the holiday season, your life may become busier. Still, you might want to take the time to consider some financial moves before we turn the calendar to 2025.

Here are a few suggestions:

Review your investment portfolio

As you look at your portfolio, ask these questions: Has its performance met my expectations this year? Does it still reflect my goals, risk tolerance and time horizon? Do I need to rebalance?

You might find that working with a financial professional can help you answer these and other questions you may have about your investments.

Add to your 401(k) and HSA

If you can afford it, and your employer allows it, consider putting more money into your 401(k) before the year ends — including “catch-up” contributions if you’re 50 or older. You might also want to add to your health savings account (HSA) by the tax-filing deadline in April.

Use your FSA dollars

Unlike an HSA, a flexible spending account (FSA) works on a “use-it-or-lose-it” basis, meaning you lose any unspent funds at the end of the year. So, if you still have funds left in your account, try to use them in 2024 (employers may grant a two-and-a-half-month exten-

sion, so check with your human resources area to see if this is the case where you work).

Contribute to a 529 plan

If you haven’t opened a 529 education savings plan for your children, think about doing so this year. With a 529 plan, your earnings can grow tax deferred, and your withdrawals are federally tax free when used for qualified education expenses — tuition, fees, books and so on. And if you invest in your own state’s 529 plan, you might be able to deduct your contributions from your state income tax or receive a state tax credit.

Build your emergency fund

It’s generally a good idea to keep up to six months’ worth of living expenses in an emergency fund, with the money held in a liquid, low-risk account. Without

such a fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your retirement funds to pay for short-term needs, such as a major car or home repair.

Review your estate plans

If you’ve experienced any changes in your family situation this year, such as marriage, remarriage or the birth of a child, you may want to update your estate-planning documents to reflect your new situation. It’s also important to look at the beneficiary designations on your investment accounts, retirement plans, IRAs and insurance policies, as these designations can sometimes even supersede the instructions you left in your will. And if you haven’t started estate planning, there’s no time like the present.

Take your RMDs

If you’re 73 or older, you will likely need to take withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA. If you don’t take these withdrawals each year, you could be subject to penalties.

These aren’t the only moves you can make, but they may prove helpful not only for 2024 but in the years to come.

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

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Entrepreneur Builds Vegetable Stand

» Continued from page 55

ers when these items are less than perfect, have a misprinted label, have been discontinued or have expiration dates shorter than those accepted by grocery stores. All perfectly good food that would have otherwise been discarded.

HarvestRx, a newer business of Hungry Harvest, is focusing on partnering with hospitals and medical professionals to deliver fresh food to patients.

“One of the most cost-effective ways to treat chronic disease is a healthy diet, but not everyone has access to fresh food,” Lutz said. “We are helping the health care system look at food as medicine. Fresh food can be less expensive than drugs

or other treatments that hospitals can provide.”

As a young entrepreneur, Lutz initially wanted Hungry Harvest to have a global impact, but he is now focused on making a deeper impact in a smaller area. He said that several similar companies across the country, and even the world, are popping up and he couldn’t be happier.

“I don’t see other companies as competitors in the traditional sense. We all want to reduce waste, reduce food insecurity, and help the environment,” he said. “Other companies are not taking away business. They are helping to educate consumers with the same mission.”

A Chartridge resident and 19th Terp

graduate in his family, Lutz joins an illustrious list of University of Maryland Young Entrepreneur Award winners including Kevin Plank, founder of Under Armour (2004); Sergey Brin, founder of Google (2003); and E.J. Henderson, NFL linebacker, National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame member, and founder of the E.J. Henderson Youth Foundation in Minnesota (2006), just to name a few.

To learn more about Hungry Harvest, visit www.hungryharvest.net.

To learn more about University of Maryland alumni awards or to nominate a Terp, visit www.alumni.umd.edu and search for “Alumni Awards.”

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