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PASADENA VOICE

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY

PASADENA, MD

MARCH 20, 2019

A1

Sound The Alarm: Volunteer Firefighter Alerts Public About Staffing Deficiency



Duane McKee Plans To Open Nonprofit Coffee Shop And Pub

By Zach Sparks
 zach@pasadenavoice.com

Most people drink coffee to help them wake up from a state of fatigue, but Duane McKee is selling coffee to patrons in hopes of waking them up to another problem: dwindling enrollment in the volunteer fire service. For roughly eight weeks, from March 4 through the end of April, McKee is renting



Photos by Zach Sparks
Duane McKee of the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company is using a coffee truck to raise money for Second Alarm Brewhouse.

a mobile coffee truck from Pouneh Coffee and parking it at 8510 Fort Smallwood Road, next to the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company. From that mobile station, McKee is

serving hot coffee, cold brew, hot tea, hot chocolate, spiced apple cider, lattes, juice and other beverages along with oatmeal, muffins, breakfast sandwiches, and fresh bagels.

Community Comes Together To Support "Miss Edna"

Public Invited To 96th Birthday Celebration On March 22

By Dylan Roche
 dylan@pasadenavoice.com

Her name is Edna Holsey, but everyone in Pasadena knows her simply as "Miss Edna." At 95 years old, the owner of The Brass Rail Pub works seven days a week and has left a vivid impression on countless members of the community. "Everyone age 21 to 85 treats her like a grandmother," explained Holsey's granddaughter Stacy Phares. "Some people have known her their whole lives."

In the wake of an awful assault and robbery in February, Holsey isn't slowing down. Many of her longtime patrons and supporters were shocked to hear how one night, upon returning home from work, she was approached by two unknown armed men who displayed handguns, entered her residence, and made off with cash and other valuables. Holsey was scared and shaken up, but she sustained no serious injuries. "She's a trooper," Phares said. "She was back at work the next day."

Though Holsey showed such resiliency, the news was distressing for her friends to hear. "I would just like her to know that we all are hoping and praying for her," said Patricia Tacka. "What happened to her was very terrible!"

Holsey has been a beloved figure in the community for decades. "I grew up with her granddaughter and have a fond memory of eating a Sunday dinner at her house with her crazy dog at my feet," said friend Shelley Davenport. "My favorite



Edna Holsey

memory of her, however, is that she told me I should date my husband. She said he was very handsome and I needed to snatch him up. She was, and is, a very smart lady!"

Holsey's strong work ethic and resiliency trace back to growing up poor in Baltimore. According to Phares, Holsey left school in third grade to get a job because her family needed money. When she grew up and eventually married, her husband was employed by Bethlehem Steel. He would work the night shift, grab a late drink at a bar, then return home to sleep during the day. It only made sense to Holsey that she should own a bar so that she could see her husband regularly.

Holsey owned a series of Pasadena bars before buying The Brass Rail about 30 years ago. There, many in the community have come to love the breast cancer survivor and animal lover who never drinks, smokes or swears but will always indulge in a dark chocolate vanilla buttercream from Rhee's Candies. "My great-grandmother is someone who inspires

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Hospice Of The Chesapeake To Host Welcome Home Event



Photo courtesy of Elyzabeth Marcussen

The honor guard stood at attention during last year's Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event.

By Maya Pottiger

Hospice of the Chesapeake will welcome home Vietnam veterans during its fifth annual event.

On March 29, Vietnam veterans, their guests and community members are invited to the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel in Linthicum. "It was so heartfelt," said Pat Curran, who spent 14 months in Vietnam between 1968 and 1970. "I never let anybody know I was a Vietnam veteran. Now I have my battle ribbon as my license plate."

Curran has attended the previous four events and plans to attend the fifth one. "I like meeting fellow veterans," Curran said. "I really enjoy the pomp and ceremony of it. They honor us. It feels good."

This year, the theme is "Transformation Through Service." Speakers include retired Sergeant Major Rodwell Forbes of Fort Meade, Hospice CEO Ben Marcantonio, Vietnam veteran and retired Senator John Astle, National Director of Hospice and Palliative Care for Veterans Affairs Dr. Scott Shreve and

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State Of The Magothy Shows Upswing

By Zach Sparks
 zach@pasadenavoice.com

Even when a batter has two strikes in baseball, he always has the chance — however unlikely — of battling back, and that's the same way Magothy River Association (MRA) President Paul Spadaro sees the watershed.

It's not dead. It's not forgotten. It's not beyond saving.

When Dr. Sally Hornor shared the annual State of the Magothy presentation at Anne Arundel Community College on March 15, she echoed that sentiment. This year's Magothy River Index, a water quality assessment compiled by the MRA, graded the Magothy at a 30 percent D. That mark is higher than last year's 22 and the previous year's 28.

Both Spadaro and Hornor attributed some of the improvement to an explosion of dark false mussels, which filter pollutants and sedi-

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Fundraiser Brings In More Than \$11,400 For PBA Scholarships



Decked out in their best '80s attire, more than 150 members of the Pasadena Business Association, their friends and supporters partied the night away at Kurtz's Beach for the annual scholarship fundraiser, this year with a throwback theme to the era of leg warmers, parachute pants and big hair. Returning this year was '80s cover band Guys In Thin Ties, and between ticket sales, sponsorships and auctions, the event garnered more than \$11,400. Those funds will cover the PBA's scholarships for graduating seniors, as well as mini scholarships for eighth-graders and fifth-graders.

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Margueritte Mills
Volunteer
Of The Month

Brian Conrad Carries Volunteer
Spirit Everywhere He Goes

By Zach Sparks

Having moved from Maryland to Washington to Missouri and back to Maryland, Brian Conrad has experienced plenty of lifestyle changes. But one constant has been his passion for volunteering.

After serving in the U.S. Army as a military policeman and becoming a Washington state trooper, Conrad volunteered as a reserve police officer in a St. Louis municipality, coached youth soccer, and worked with a German shepherd as a K-9 search and rescue handler.

While on a mission with Gateway Search Dogs in 2003 or 2004, Conrad and his German shepherd, Simba, were tasked with finding an elderly Alzheimer's patient who wandered away from her facility near Chesterfield, Missouri. "We started at her room, Simba got a scent from her bed sheets, and we started the track from there," Conrad recalled. "Simba was able to determine which exit the person took from the building as well as track her about a mile away where we found the patient laying down, asleep, in the woods. She was returned safely to her facility by local EMS crews."

A few years after moving to Pasadena in 2010, Conrad joined the Pasadena Business Association. Now serving his second term as vice



Brian Conrad received his Volunteer of the Month award from Voice inside sales assistant Heather Lancione.

Conrad was a member of the nearly 30-member moto safety crew, and for his last ride in 2017, he brought his wife, Christine, a fellow rider. "We would escort riders across the state, man intersections, patrol the route and provide first aid," he explained.

The AngelRide board of directors re-structured the event, so the new beneficiary is the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp for children with life-altering burn injuries. Conrad had hand surgery in 2018 and sold his bike, so the moto crew is no longer an option.

Conrad was also the lead moto crew member for the Face of America Ride from 2016 to 2018 and a moto crew member since 2011. Running from Washington, D.C. to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the April event encourages participation by both injured and able-bodied veterans.

While helping events that benefit sick kids and veterans were both gratifying experiences, Conrad is equally grateful that he gets to serve his hometown of Pasadena.

"You get out of it probably 10 times what you put into it," Conrad said of volunteering. "You make new friends and contacts and you help organizations meet their goals."

president on the board of directors, he enjoys helping with events like the annual crab feast and Veterans Day ceremony. He also attends ribbon cuttings, runs board meetings when needed, and offers his advice.

"In my opinion, the PBA is the closest-knit chamber or non-chamber organization," said Conrad, a financial adviser with Edward Jones. "The members genuinely care about the community."

For seven years, he also enjoyed getting out his motorcycle gear to support AngelRide. The Memorial Day weekend event spanned 135 miles from Norfolk to Mystic, Connecticut, while raising money for the hospital outreach program at Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

"The ride was focused on the outreach of bringing camps to kids in hospitals," Conrad said. "The camps let them just be a kid for a day and forget about the terminal disease or other illness they have."

Editor's Voice

Dylan Roche
Editor



As I write this, I'm looking out the window at snow-laden trees, slushy pavement and a misty gray sky. I guess it's true what they say about March coming in like a lion. Winter weather always has to have one last hurrah, especially here in the Chesapeake Bay region, or so it would seem. I don't know about all of you, but I'm ready for spring.

In fact, you'll probably notice that this March edition of the Voice is pretty spring-centric, most notably in the annual special editions that are included with it. In our spring Home & Garden Guide, you can read up on the latest tips and advice from local experts on how to get your property ready for warm weather. Then there's our Camp Guide, which might seem a little early, but summer will be here before you know it, and registration at some of these camps is filling up quickly. It's time for you to make your plans now!

Then there's the news from around the community. We've got the details on annual spring activities like the Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company's annual carnival or the State of the Magothy presentation; we've got an update on the state of

Brass Rail Pub owner Miss Edna, as she is affectionately called; we've even got feel-good stories from students who are undertaking service learning projects and scouts who are achieving Eagle status.

It's also a time when spring sports are starting up, nearly every school is mounting a theater production, and many nonprofit organizations are gearing up for their annual fundraiser galas. What a time to be a part of a community like this! I hope you'll enjoy reading all these stories as much as our team did covering them.

Don't forget that March also means we're halfway through our annual Best of Pasadena contest. The ballot is still live at www.pasadenavoice.com/bestof-pasadena through April 5, so if you haven't done so yet, log on and vote for your favorite businesses, services and organizations that deserve recognition. Remember that you can vote only once, so be sure to make it count.

As I sign off on this column for the month, it's with the hope that the next time I write to you, it will be with March heading out like a lamb — mild temperatures, sunny skies and blooming plants. Until then, help distract me from the last of the wintery weather by emailing me your feel-good news stories at dylan@pasadenavoice.com. I always enjoy hearing from you.

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P.O. Box 177
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Off-Duty EMT Springs Into Action, Saves Cardiac Arrest Victim

By Judy Tacyn

Nick Curran was taking a recently repaired vehicle for a test drive on February 5, which is routine practice for the Bob Bell Ford shop foreman. Heading east on Route 10, Curran left the highway via the Route 648 exit, and suddenly realized that this was no ordinary road test.

"What did I just see?" he asked himself a split-second after glancing at the side of the road. "I saw a couple people hovering over a man, while another man was administering CPR. The way the victim was positioned along a fence, I thought perhaps he had a cardiac incident while possibly doing yardwork."

Pasadena resident Christopher Singleton was on his way to Home Depot when he saw a man awkwardly leaning on a fence. "I could

tell by the way he was hurled against the fence that something was not right," said Singleton, who was first on the scene to start CPR and call 911.

Two other passersby, Andy Turner and Anne Stull, rushed over to help. Curran approached Singleton and let him know that he was a trained EMT and was going to take over with high-performance CPR (HP CPR). HP CPR uses faster compressions for a longer duration than general CPR. Singleton estimated he was doing CPR for about a minute before Curran jumped in, and another five minutes passed before the ambulance arrived.

The victim, 75-year-old Charlie Harrison, regained ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation) because of Curran's aggressive CPR just moments before the Mar-



Nick Curran administered CRP to Charlie Harrison, who was suffering from cardiac arrest. Curran and several other good Samaritans saved the man's life.

ley Station 18 ambulance arrived. Kevin Turner and Ken Bruce were part of the arriving medic team, and they immediately recognized Curran, a seven-year veteran and Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company lieutenant. "Kevin approached and

asked me what we had," said Curran. "I told him we needed a reading, which indicated the gentleman needed a shock to get his heart into the right rhythm."

If it had not been for his first responder and EMT training, Curran may have

driven by the scene and not taken notice.

"I just happened to be in the right place at the right time," said Curran. He's quick to add that if it hadn't been for the three random people who first took action, the outcome may have been different. "I think they were very happy I showed up."

Tommy Madkins, Harrison's stepson, was happy that Curran, Singleton, Turner and Stull were in position to help that day. Madkins said Harrison had four blocked arteries and needed open heart surgery about two weeks after the incident. Harrison is now in rehab.

"Right now, he still can't fully swallow because of the tubes and because he has to get the muscles working in his throat," Madkins said. "But [the doctors] have him walking and in physical

therapy about three times a day. His heart is doing well."

Though he's performed many life-saving actions in many similar situations while working as an EMT with Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company, Curran said this incident was the first time he had to draw on his training outside of his normal shift.

"It's such a rush when you can regain a pulse or hear a person start breathing again after a cardiac arrest and CPR," said Curran. "I'm super happy he's going to survive."

When Harrison is back to full health, Madkins expects to have a party celebrating that good deed that saved his stepfather's life. "Our family wants to personally thank them for being there at the right time," Madkins said. "If it weren't for them, he'd be six feet under."

Historic Hancock's Resolution Looks To Build On The Past

By Dave Topp

Historic Hancock's Resolution rests by the end of Bayside Beach Road, nearly bordering the base of the Patapsco River. A rustic 26-acre farm filled with a rich history dating back to the mid 1600s, this property has provided Pasadena with its own national treasure.

On April 7, history buffs, spectators and visitors alike can take part in opening day at Hancock's Resolution.

The farm, which is closed for the winter, presents a wide variety of fun and interactive events throughout its calendar year. Currently, the farm is open to visitors only on Sundays.

"We are heavily spring- and fall-oriented in our programming,"

said Jim Morrison, president of the Friends of Hancock's Resolution. "When you get into the real heat of the summer, it's hard to bring people out."

The Friends of Hancock's Resolution (FOHR) is a nonprofit organization created in 1997. In agreement with Anne Arundel County, the group is meant to preserve, promote and protect the farm's property.

The spring farm festival on April 22, Memorial Day musket firing demonstrations on May 26, and the remembrance of the War of 1812 on August 18 are just a few of the noteworthy events scheduled for Hancock's Resolution in 2019.

While there are several events visitors will anticipate, Morrison also noted the opportunity of visiting the farm on a non-event day.

"In truth, some of the best days are the days when there is no program," Morrison said. "Because if we have a big program going on, things are bustling, but if you come on a day when there is going to be less of a crowd, then you have more time to talk about the history. If you're really interested in the history of our part of the world, I would advise you to come when there is no program."

The most exciting thing about Hancock's Resolution this year may not be an event or uninterrupted conversation; it could be the beginning of construction on the farm.

"We have a farm with no barn," Morrison said. "Is there such a thing as a farm with no barn?"

Plans for this summer are now in place to start construction on an

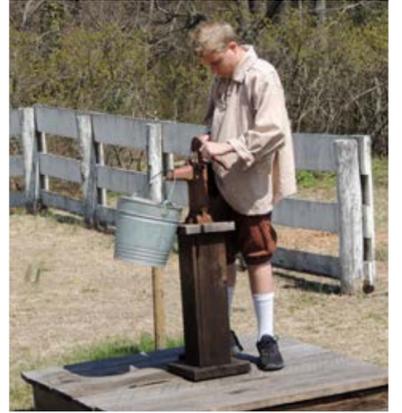
1840s-style post-and-beam barn. Current plans are for the barn to be 40-by-60 feet, which is slightly larger than most barns of this style.

The barn would serve a dual purpose, as it will house animals but also work as a visitor center to anyone who visits Hancock's Resolution. "That brings us completeness that we just didn't have before," Morrison added.

He is optimistic that when construction is complete, hopefully in one year, that the farm can open to the public more days over the course of the year.

"This is the biggest thing that has happened to us ever. This is quite sensational," Morrison said.

For more information on the Historic Hancock's Resolution, visit www.historichancocksresolution.org.



File Photo by Judy Tacyn

A rustic 26-acre farm filled with a rich history dating back to the mid 1600s, Hancock's Resolution has provided Pasadena with its own national treasure.

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State Of The Magothy Shows Upswing

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ment out of the Magothy, giving underwater grasses enough sunlight to grow.

"The mussels helped keep algal growth in check and that helped the grasses grow," Hornor said. "We not only had more grasses but a greater diversity of grasses this year."

She named wild celery and redhead as two grasses that were more common this year. Wild celery is a native grass, and redhead is good for habitat and water-fowl, Hornor noted.

Grasses provide dissolved oxygen and food for fish and crabs to thrive. Yet the acreage of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is just one component that factors into the river's overall grade. MRA volunteers also consider the clarity of the water and the dissolved oxygen level.

MRA compares its data with county findings and with SAV measurements that the Virginia Institute of Marine Science produces with aerial photography.

Even though the MRA is optimistic about the river's health, members see room for improvement. It's been more than a decade since the Magothy River Index exceeded a 41-grade C rating. Contrary to public perception, most of the pollution is coming not from the Chesapeake Bay but from the creeks and coves.

"Our opening to the [Chesapeake] Bay is only about a mile wide," Spadaro said. "A lot of the pollution, depending on the tide, bypasses the Magothy. And this isn't an industrial area, so most of the pollution we have is residential. Most of the issues we have relate to stormwater."

During the State of the Magothy, Chris Victoria, a water quality compliance specialist with the Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection and Restoration Program, talked about research on non-tidal streams that feed into the Magothy.

Bob Royer, a resident of Berrywood in Severna Park, highlighted a stream restoration and living shoreline project in his neighborhood. That Cattail Creek area and the North Cypress Branch portion of Cypress Creek are the two spots with the poorest water quality on the Magothy, Hornor said.

"North Cypress Branch serves as drainage for all the shopping centers, so it's the most impacted area in the watershed," Hornor said. "We can't expect one project to offset the many acres of impervious surface we see in that shopping district."

That won't deter the MRA. Yellow perch are producing at a low rate. Grasses are growing. Community efforts are making an impact. "The greatest way people

can help is to manage the stormwater — reducing impervious surface, planting native trees and shrubs, and using raingardens," Hornor said. "These are small things, but all of these have a big impact when put together."

As Spadaro explained, the Magothy still has life and the river's caretakers still have hope for its future.

"Nature has a tendency to come back," Spadaro said. "If you give it an opportunity to come back, things will start swinging the other way."

Firefighter Alerts Public About Staffing Deficiency

» Continued from A1

day, the space would expand by 2020, turning into a pub by night.

"I'm a lieutenant next door in the firehouse, so I was looking for a way to bring the community together, not have this as a bar but have it open during the day for the community and at the same time create some awareness for the volunteer fire service in our county because we are dying," said McKee, who has been a volunteer firefighter for 24 years.

"It is kind of ridiculous," he added. "We have firehouses that are closing; volunteer firehouses that have been there since the 1920s, 1910s are closing because they just don't have the people anymore."

» Continued from A1
me every single day," said great-granddaughter Kaitlyn Phares. "She is the most loving and caring woman. Although she is quite sassy and stubborn, it for sure is what makes her her. At 95, almost 96, she continues to amaze me every day by her drive to keep moving forward. She is loved by so many people. She is my best friend."

Holsey has also left an impression by being an advocate of others. "Miss Edna has always been a music fan of local bands and music," said local musician Jim Matteo. "A straight shooter with a work ethic many could never fathom, she has kept the doors of The Brass Rail open for decades. When our

chips were down, she always gave us a shot. We love performing at the beer garden where the vibe is unique to them only."

The public is invited to celebrate "Miss Edna" for her 96th birthday on Friday, March 22, beginning at 8:00pm at The Brass Rail. The party is open to the public and no reservations are required.

In the meantime, police and family are seeking any information on who assaulted Holsey. A GoFundMe page has been started to generate reward money for those who provide the information that leads to arresting the culprits. The page can be found at www.gofundme.com under the title "Help Raise Reward

For 95 Year Old Ms. Edna Today!" If no arrest has been made after a year, the money will be donated to local animal shelters.

"I hope someone comes forward," Phares said, who noted that those who provide information can do so anonymously and will not have to appear in court. "Every little bit of information helps. They just want to find who did this."

The crime raised up many emotions for Miss Edna's supporters and advocates — anger, shock, sadness — but it also raised up a lot of love. As Tacka put it, "I just want her to know that thankfully there are much more of us who love and are good compared to the few who hate and are bad."

According to the National Volunteer Fire Council, which distributed its most recent report in 2015, participation dropped from 897,750 volunteer firefighters in 1984 to 788,250 in 2014. While the number of volunteers has decreased, the number of annual calls has nearly tripled.

As enrollment has dipped, the average age of firefighters has spiked. The NVFC attributes both outcomes to recruitment challenges resulting from increased time demands and more rigorous training requirements.

"There's a generational gap," McKee said. "With our parents and our grandparents, there was a Kevin Bacon effect — my neighbor was a volunteer firefighter or my brother is a volunteer firefighter. Nowadays, there is none of that."

The Anne Arundel County Fire Department (AACoFD) recently submitted its 2018 report to the National Fire Protection Association. Captain Russ Davies, a spokesman for AACoFD, said the report counted 842 career personnel and 721 riding volunteer firefighters who staff Anne Arundel County's 31 fire stations. That number did not include volunteers who provide administrative du-

ties exclusively.

Anne Arundel County Volunteer Firefighters Association President Victor Henderson applauded McKee and the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company for their continued efforts to provide the community with effective volunteer fire service and emergency medical services. He said the organization has offered McKee a helping hand if needed.

"Unfortunately, volunteer fire and EMS companies across the country are experiencing lower membership numbers," Henderson said. "Anne Arundel County is not immune to this trend and therefore the Anne Arundel County Volunteer Firefighters Association's recruitment and retention committee is continuously looking for new ways to recruit fire and EMS personnel for all of its member companies."

McKee thinks he can make a dent in that problem by educating more people about Anne Arundel County's volunteer fire service, and by doing it in a fun way. But first, he has work to do. McKee wants to add windows and a fireplace to the building, clear space for a conference room that would host volunteer firefighters, and attach half a fire truck to the building.

"So when you come out, the kids can go in and all the switches work and everything but the sirens," he said. "The neighbors would hate the sirens. Again, it's all about the awareness of the volunteer fire service, so in here would look very similar to a Firehouse Subs or something like that."

McKee, who also spearheads a likeminded nonprofit called 77Rescue Inc., said it would be too lofty a goal to raise money for the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company.

For now, customers can find him in the coffee truck Monday through Friday from 6:00am to 1:00pm. They can also learn more by finding his page on GoFundMe or by visiting www.secondalarm-brewhouse.com.

McKee hopes his message and his morning beverages allow people to wake up from more than their sleepiness.

"We're not raising money for the firehouse," McKee said. "That would be impossible. You would never win. Maybe as a bar but not as a coffee shop. Our money goes toward advertising; it goes toward what the military does: the 'Be All You Can Be' ads and all that. It's specifically focusing on Anne Arundel County and their volunteer fire service."

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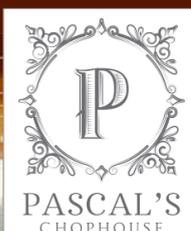





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Hospice To Host Event

» **Continued from A1**
many more.

In addition to the speakers, there are a variety of other activities: a performance by the Naval Academy Band, a pinning ceremony, the Vietnam War Memorial Traveling Wall and tables of veteran service organizations. Hot hors d'oeuvres will be provided in the banquet hall.

"There's a lot of camaraderie. Everybody is enjoying one another; they're enjoying the event," said Mary Jermann, the director of volunteer services and chair of the We Honor Veterans Committee at Hospice. "It's gratitude for one another. The camaraderie is huge. I love that piece of it."

Curran also noted the camaraderie between the veterans as one of his favorite aspects.

"Senior guys like myself, when they see another fellow wearing a Vietnam hat, we always look up and say, 'Welcome home,'" Curran said. "During our time, nobody

said that. They said rude things to us. It was not good, so we do it now to remind each other that we are, in fact, welcome home now."

This year, Hospice is hoping to live-stream the group honor salute on its Facebook page, which tentatively takes place around 6:15pm.

In January, Hospice of the Chesapeake announced that its We Honor Veterans program reached Level 5, the highest status in the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. It is one of only nine hospices in the country to achieve this status and the only hospice in the region to do so.

The fifth annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event is on Friday, March 29, at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel. Doors open at 4:00pm, and the program begins at 5:30pm. The Naval Academy Band will perform around 5:20pm. To purchase tickets, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org. Vietnam veterans are offered free admission.

Lake Shore VFC's Carnival Coming Soon

By Darrell Mak

Winter's doldrums will come to a screeching halt as the Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company's highly anticipated annual carnival starts April 18 on the Brumwell's Flea Market grounds off Mountain Road. A Pasadena community staple for the past 19 years, this year's event commemorates the fire company's 75th anniversary with a wide array of rides, games, food and fun.

"Nothing's changed from last year," said Roger Gordon, assistant fire chief and carnival co-chair, who noted the annual event typically attracts thousands of visitors. "Carnivals are our major fundraiser. We rely on them heavily. We still are a volunteer company and have operating costs, and our carnival and bingo events supplement those costs."

Proceeds from the carnival will also help fund new fire-fighting equipment for the community.

"We just purchased a new rescue engine," said Jerry White, president of the fire company and carnival co-chair. "We were hoping to have it on display at the carnival, but it's not built yet. It'll be delivered toward the end of April or early May."

Although White said he didn't have any particular fundraising goal in mind, "I'd like to do very well at the carnival," he said. "It is a major fundraiser."

The carnival boasts an assortment of carnival-style fare, including pit beef, hamburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy, funnel cake and pizza. Most of it, including the baked beans and cole-



Photo by Anna Scott Photography

This year's event commemorates Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company's 75th anniversary with a wide array of rides, games, food and fun.

slaw, is homemade. This year, volunteers will also serve a special fish dinner on Good Friday, April 19.

The work to prepare for the carnival usually starts in December and lasts through May. Organizers must obtain permits and licensing and contract the rides to Shaw Amusements. During the event, fire company volunteers help with the food tent, games, candy wheel and beer tent. Once again, beer servers will be TIPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) certified and will have taken specialized training on responsible alcohol serving practices and preventing illegal alcohol sales.

Although there is no charge to enter the carnival grounds, rides, food and games will be sold separately. Like last year, attendees can save by purchasing a ride wristband in advance. The wristbands are good for a full evening of unlimited rides

for any carnival day. Advance wristbands can be purchased for \$17 each by contacting Roger Gordon at 443-851-5015 or Donna Odendhal at 443-572-1588. Wristbands purchased at the carnival will be \$26.

Organizing a major event such as the annual carnival takes tremendous resources, and Gordon said the fire company is always looking for more volunteers to help.

"We would love to have

more people come up and join the fire company and have more people say they want to help," Gordon stressed. "You don't need to ride the equipment to volunteer; you can join the fire company auxiliary to volunteer and help the community."

More information on becoming a volunteer member can be found on the fire company's Facebook page at "Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company."

Polystyrene Bill Is Passed



When the Anne Arundel County Council waded into a debate about polystyrene in February, the conversation was about more than plastic used for food packaging. The bill passed by a 4-3 vote. Read more about this at www.pasadenavoice.com.

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April 21, 2019: Easter Sunday Closed

April 28, 2019: Spring Farm Festival(\$10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Farm Animals Typical of a Working Farm; Folk Music; crafts. Light lunch available. Honeybees—Up Close 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

May 5, 2019: Spring Plowing and Harrowing with Horse and Mule Teams. Spring Herb Sale.

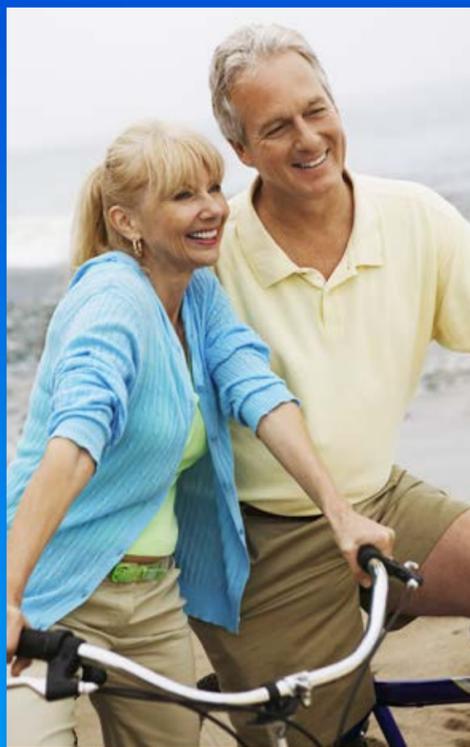
May 12, 2019: Mother's Day Tea: Stop by for a Taste of Tea, Gingerbread and Lavender. (Good weather required.) Interpreting Historic Womens' Clothing with Dawn Schneider.

May 19, 2019: Children's Programs: Do things Children did back then on the farm, both work and play. Honeybees—Up Close 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

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Ellen Kinsella
Director of Development
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While we always have a need for food, monetary donations are also helpful to aid with the aforementioned types of financial assistance we offer. And you can send money from your living room

without having to go out in the cold to the grocery store! You can donate through PayPal or through our website. No amount is too small. And, of course, each donation is tax-deductible.

Read the full version of this story at www.pasadenavoice.com.

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NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

Poplar Ridge

Neighborhood of the Month takes an in-depth look at the unique communities that make up Pasadena as a whole. Each has its own history, its own special amenities and its own people who are happy to call that place home. Want to share with our readers all about your neighborhood and what sets it apart from others? Email pvnews@pasadenavoice.com and let us know!



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Above: (L-R) Nathan Foster, Ed Barnhouser and Jeff Hughes like that Poplar Ridge is a diverse community, both in its mix of neighbors and its array of bars and restaurants.



Photos courtesy of Sue Chiasson
Left and right: The waterfront offers beautiful views of nature in Poplar Ridge.



A Peninsula With Community Pride

By Judy Tacyn

Residents of Poplar Ridge in Pasadena can boast about the amount of waterfront because the neighborhood is a peninsula situated on Bodkin Creek. The community is part of an oyster restoration project for the Chesapeake Bay and has been for more than 10 years. There is a great mix of waterfront and residential homes. The Cheshire Crab restaurant is in the neighborhood, as is Pleasure Cove Marina, Bodkin Yacht Club and two fishing charter boats that run out of Bodkin Creek.

The community hosts holiday parties, a white elephant gift exchange, Toys for Tots donation box, coat drive, and Earth Day party, paint nights, Coast Guard Auxiliary training, a chili cook-off, community yard sale, a craft and vendor fair, kayak parties, CPR classes, movie nights and a book club.

NATHAN FOSTER
RESIDENT FOR TWO YEARS

Nathan Foster has lived in Pasadena since he was 2 years old, and his wife is from Glen Burnie. A

friend recommended that he look at a house that was for sale in Poplar Ridge in the summer of 2017, and the rest is history.

"The house we found met the requirements we were looking for," Foster said. "Poplar Ridge feels like we have our own small town and people are beyond friendly."

The family also found a great school, Fort Smallwood Elementary. "And no we don't like it, we love it," Foster exclaimed.

Foster loves Pasadena for its small-town feel, abundant waterfront, the YMCA and friendly people.

"I have the best neighbors I ever have had," Foster continued. "They are friendly and giving. In just a year and a half, I have been able to develop some very real friendships."

Foster added that the Poplar Ridge Improvement Association sponsored children in need this past Christmas season.

He and his wife are members of the community association, their children are involved in local sport programs, and his wife is a volunteer at Fort Smallwood Elementary.

SUE CHIASSON
RESIDENT FOR TWO YEARS

Sue Chiasson's family moved to Pasadena in 1997 because they were looking for a community with an easy commute to both Washington, D.C., and Baltimore.

"I had been looking for several years to move to a home on the water. When I saw this listing, I knew I found my special place," Chiasson said. "It's a quiet neighborhood, but it comes alive in the summer. Boating and water sports are very popular. You can get out to the Chesapeake Bay in minutes."

Chiasson said Pasadena feels a little bit like the fictional bar Cheers, where everyone knows your name. "I find it a very welcoming community. I have made lifelong friendships here. I have never been happier."

JEFF HUGHES
RESIDENT FOR NINE YEARS

Jeff Hughes and his family were living in Severna Park when they felt the pull to the water, specifically the Magothy River.

"We loved the drive into the community with the mature trees,

nice houses and proximity to the water," Hughes said. "We drove all the way down where the road ends at the water. Great views and it seemed very quiet and peaceful, which it is."

Hughes appreciates the diversity of neighbors in Poplar Creek. "It's a community of diverse people: doctors, lawyers, crabbers, contractors, artists, construction workers, mechanics, IT professionals," he said. "Just a great mix of people who come together in support of the community."

He feels there is diversity, too, in the many locally owned restaurants, neighborhood bars, fruit and vegetable stands, horse ranches, and many waterways and parks.

"Our neighbors are very sociable and friendly. We frequently trade dinner invites to eat at each other's home," Hughes said. "We go out together to restaurants and clubs. There are many last-minute, spur-of-the-moment pop-up get-togethers."

Hughes is the past president of the Poplar Ridge Improvement Association. His wife, Tricia, is part of the community book club.

ED BARNHOUSER
LIFELONG RESIDENT

Ed Barnhouser's parents bought a vacant lot on Poplar Ridge Road near the end of the peninsula in 1956 when Ed was an infant. Though his family lived in Brooklyn Park, they traveled every summer weekend to Poplar Ridge to fish, crab and swim.

"I purchased my first home on Poplar Ridge Road in 1985," Ed said. "My two children spent their childhood here also enjoying playing, swimming, fishing and crabbing."

In 2003, Ed and his wife, Teresa, built their dream home with a view looking out at the Chesapeake Bay. Recently, his son and wife purchased Ed's parents' home. Their two children are now the fourth generation of Barnhousers to live in Poplar Ridge.

Ed likes living on a peninsula, with one way in and one way out. Because the land is narrow, there are water views in multiple directions. "It is off the beaten track, yet still close to civilization," Ed said. "The deep water makes it a haven for boaters. Living here is like a perpetual vacation."



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Anne Arundel County Budget Is Coming Up

Nathan Volke
Councilman
District 3



On March 12, I co-hosted a budget town hall meeting at Northeast High School with County Executive Stuart Pittman. Here are some of the budget priorities we heard from residents:

- Pay teachers fairly and equitably for their experience and hard work
- Increase the staffing and pay for professional firefighters, police and detention officers
- Build the new Riviera Beach Library and fund a temporary library during construction
- Support the budget and mission of Anne Arundel Community College
- Create more transportation options in Pasadena, including building more sidewalks

The good news: Many people are very happy with the services being provided by our county government and want to see more of those services. This speaks volumes to the tremendous quality and volume of work being done by county employees. They are doing a great job!

The bad news: Without raising taxes, we are projected to have around \$50 million in new revenue for the upcoming budget. To put that in perspective, the Board of Education is already asking for an additional \$92 million just for schools. That does not include any other county services, like police, fire, detention centers, public works and every other part of county government. You can see the math doesn't add up without raising taxes.

Special interest groups are already proposing the answer is to raise the income tax and

go around the property tax cap passed by the voters. One proposal I've seen to increase the income tax would cost the median county household — a household making \$100,000 — an additional \$400-\$700 per year. Going around the property tax, which can be done according to state law to fund education, will cost even more. It all adds up to a lot more money out of your pocket.

Personally, I am very frugal. Just ask my wife or anyone who knows me. We've lived in the same townhouse for the last seven years. We've made tough spending decisions to keep expenses down while saving for retirement. And we've sacrificed luxuries to pay off my student loans, which we did last year. I understand the delicate balance of making tough choices. And I realize how household budgets will be significantly affected by more taxes.

Low taxes has long been an issue we can all agree on in Anne Arundel County. It is why we have some of the lowest tax rates in the state of Maryland. Many of us chose to live and retire in Anne Arundel County, instead of Howard County or Montgomery County or Baltimore City, because this is one of the most tax-friendly counties in Maryland.

In my campaign, I told you my plan was to work to incrementally improve our county infrastructure, pay and services, while not introducing new taxes. You all elected me knowing that, and I intend to keep my pledge. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on the county council to craft a fiscally responsible, sustainable budget. I hope you will send me your input and thoughts on how we should do it.

What Do We Want From Government?

Steuart Pittman
County Executive



Information is empowering. I want county residents to be informed and engaged. And I'm not the only one.

We just released our transition report and one of the things woven through many of the recommendations is the desire among county residents for access to information, more opportunities for public participation and a chance to help shape decisions.

I think this is great news. I was elected on a promise to engage citizens and to listen. Putting communities first is more than a slogan — it's a framework for how this administration will approach governing. In fact, we organized our entire transition team around committees based on communities: safe communities, healthy communities, thriving communities, empowered communities, educated communities, sustainable communities and responsive government.

More than 200 volunteers invested more than 5,000 hours of time creating the report. There are 63 broad recommendations and 298 action items. Recommendations included adding some key management positions within county government, increasing staffing levels for teachers and public safety personnel, adopting new technologies to improve efficiency, increasing community engagement and instilling better collaboration among departments and partners.

You can find the 20-page summary report, and all of the subcommittee reports, on our county website at www.aacounty.org/departments/county-executive/transition/index.html.

I'll be considering these recommendations when I

put my first budget together, which will be introduced on May 1. I also want to hear from you. For the first time, the county is holding a series of town hall budget meetings to hear from citizens before budget decisions are made. These meetings represent your opportunity to tell me about your budget priorities and what's important to you.

The county budget is large — more than \$1.6 billion — and complex. To help citizens understand the components of the budget, we have created a webpage that gives you some tools to help you prepare your testimony. You can see the approximate costs of certain county personnel, like teachers, firefighters and zoning inspectors. The budget tool also shows you how much an ambulance, a senior center or

an elementary school costs.

Everything has a cost, and we have to figure out how to pay for it. To add something to the budget, do we make cuts elsewhere, or find reasonable ways to raise additional revenue? The tool gives you the ability to make these choices as well.

And we have some tough choices to make. Our county population has grown by 10 percent in each of the most recent decades, and our student population has grown even faster. Fire and EMS calls are growing by 5 percent each year. Despite years of promises to hire more police, we have the same number of sworn officers that we had four years ago.

In parts of our county, traffic is unbearable. We have road and infrastructure

needs far beyond what we have funding to support. In 2009, developer impact fees rates were set artificially low and we have since lost \$107 million of funding for road improvements. We can't afford to continue that.

Anne Arundel County is the best place, but to stay that way, we need the best schools and the best government services. As a community, we must decide what we want from our government and how we want to pay for it.

Please use our budget tool to consider our needs and then consider the revenue sources. Compare us with neighboring counties. And then tell us what you think. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming budget town hall meetings.

Constituent Representation

Bryan Simonaire
State Senator
District 31



Occasionally through these articles, I try to give you a peek into one or more aspects of being a senator in Annapolis. This time I will focus on the competing forces vying for our representation in Annapolis.

I wonder how many people feel as if their government is primarily focused on their best interest. I can tell you one of the reasons I entered the Senate was because I wanted to restore the voice of the people and give them confidence that their representative was there for them.

Sadly, most people probably feel that politicians look out for themselves first, then their political party, then their constituents. Honestly, during my time in Annapolis, I have found that most members of

the General Assembly are trying to represent their constituents. However, I have learned that when the interests of their political leadership collides with their constituents' interest, many politicians side with their party leadership.

I recall one senator who was a good friend and also the swing vote on an important issue. I approached the senator and said, "We could really use your vote on this issue, especially since this legislation hurts your constituents." The reality of politics became so evident to me that day when I heard the response: "I know, but leadership is pressuring me so much. I have to vote for the bill." I know it frustrates you, but can you imagine how frustrating it is for us as well?

I will share one more recent example that is both encouraging and disheartening at the same time. We were in committee voting this year when a new senator of the majority party questioned why things were done a particular way. He asked why county election boards would have a majority membership based on who won the governor's race. He suggested an amendment to base the board majority on each county's voter registration. For example, his district was overwhelmingly Democrat, but Republicans had control of his Board of Elections since Governor Hogan won. Also, places like Garrett County that always vote Republican had Democrats controlling the

elections board when Governor O'Malley won.

The new senator was told that Democrats normally win the governor's race, so it benefits Democrats the most. They further clarified that his idea would give up control in all the Republican areas of the state when a Democrat won governor again. He still said, "... But it's a matter of fairness" and pushed the amendment (known as a "rookie" mistake).

I supported his argument and suggested if we are looking for fairness, this amendment was a great idea for the people. However, if you were voting simply based on what's best for the majority party in Maryland, you would vote against it. Predictably, party won the day — no other Democrat voted for the amendment.

After the vote, I encouraged the new senator to guard his sense of fairness for the people, because leadership would work to squash such "independent thinking." It was a moment of kindred spirits between a Republican senator and a Democrat senator.

Trust me, numerous legislators in Annapolis fight for you independent of pressure from leadership. With your voice, we will continue to push to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

If I can be of any assistance or if you would like to comment on this article, contact me at bryan.simonaire@senate.state.md.us.

Problems: Are They Our Greatest Gift?

Brian Chisholm
Delegate
District 31



"I tell every one of you, if you're willing to hear me, what your biggest problem is. You think you shouldn't have them. Problems are what make us grow. Problems are what sculpt our soul. Problems are what make us become more. If we could realize that life is always happening for us, not to us. Game over, all the pain and suffering disappears. Your problem is your gift." — Tony Robbins

I have spent countless hours reflecting on this message and remembering the piercing impact it had on my heart the first moment I heard it. I have tried to leverage this in my own logic to overcome problems. It has echoed in my mind, more prevalent than ever over the past few weeks since getting a text from my high school son letting me know that yet another classmate had ended his own life prematurely. This optimistic mindset shared by Tony Robbins can be at odds with that organic, negative gut feeling we can't shake when wrestling with these devastating problems and trying to look for a better tomorrow, all while facing the unbelievable fear of losing loved ones.

In the 24 hours before writing this article, I met with concerned parents actively seeking solutions to problems in our schools, from bullying and racism to mental health. This was followed up pre-dawn the next morning by lining sidewalks with hundreds of other parents holding

signs and candles in a show of love and support for the affected students.

As I stood there, trying to absorb the enormity of the challenge facing these parents, students, my son, my family, friends, teachers, mental health professionals, critical response teams and community members, I tried to consider any possible solutions. Like others, I try to understand the reason this plague has infected our area in such high numbers. I am far from a mental health specialist, so I can offer only my thoughts as a dad, husband, son, state legislator and friend who is reaching for answers. I know this is an odd time to incorporate the belief that our problems can be our greatest gift, but here is my best attempt in hopes it helps. Furthermore, I fully recognize that the leading cause for teen suicides is mental health issues and that is well beyond my scope of knowledge. Regardless, I wanted to put forth my thoughts on this subject as well as the other problems facing our kids. I also realize this is a sensitive and delicate subject to comment on, with the real risk of offending many. That is far removed from my intent; this is simply the view of one person who hopes to start the conversation toward solutions.

I am deeply concerned that we have witnessed, and in many ways unintentionally fostered, an environment that teaches kids that they are entitled to a life without pain or problems. It is our human nature to do everything we can to protect our kids from negative situations or feelings. I believe this can rob them

from the gift of developing the skills absolutely necessary for overcoming adversity and problems. These skills are imperative to ensure our children can flourish and lead a happy life when they enter the "real world" as an adult. I worry that the more we shield our kids from the situations and problems they face every day, the greater the chance they will lack the skills needed to cope. They spend hours on social media sites with droves of staged photos of peers appearing to have the perfect life. I am dismayed that this false illusion of everyone around us having a problem-free, ideal life with an amazing future can play havoc on a young, impressionable mind. It can lead to the feelings of isolation because they do have legitimate problems. This is a serious issue and I know the mental health challenges of many are extremely complex. I do, however, think we would be well served if all kids and adults understood problems play a prevalent part in everyone's lives. I have immense optimism that rather than letting problems destroy us, they strengthen us to more effectively embrace the serious challenges in life.

It is impossible to help anyone too afraid to share with others their serious problems and thoughts because of their feelings of isolation and remoteness. I pray these terrible and tragic losses will result in more individuals understanding they are not alone and problems are widespread throughout society, but so are the people willing to help. We all need help now and then from those around us.

Most importantly, we must all recognize that problems exist within all of our lives and can be used to forge great progress if we educate the most vulnerable of the help that is available all around them.

Vital resources include www.aamentalhealth.org and the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline at 800-422-0009.

Judicial Transparency Is Needed

Nic Kipke
Delegate
District 31



One of the primary duties of government is to keep its citizens safe from criminals who would do them harm. The legislature passes laws with that intent, and the executive and judicial branches execute those laws. Three branches of government each act as an independent leg of a stool of justice. In a growing number of cases, it seems the failure of the judiciary has made this stool unsteady. In far too many cases, criminals with violent records are quickly released and light sentences are frequently given out. The continued plague of violent crime in Baltimore City can, in part, be attributed to a failure of some in judiciary to deliver adequate sentences to the worst offenders. According to the Baltimore Police Department, 60 percent of those convicted of gun crimes in Baltimore City do not serve serious time and are released back onto the streets. This is

unconscionable. This failure affects not only the citizens of the city but also every citizen in the state. This failure does not rest squarely on the shoulders of judges but also prosecutors who seek to "plea down" to lesser offenses.

Too often, the judiciary seems to have placed itself above the other branches of government. As a body, it does not like to be questioned. In our modern time of ever-growing government transparency, the judiciary operates behind an outdated cloak of institutional secrecy.

There are several bills this session designed to make the judiciary more open and transparent. Governor Larry Hogan has introduced and I am co-sponsoring the Judicial Transparency Act of 2019, which will require the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy to publish detailed information on the actual sentences handed down by judges for violent crimes across the state. Maryland is one of the few states that ban the video recording of criminal court cases. I am cosponsoring legislation that will allow the media to film

the sentencing portion of a criminal trial. The bill has protections for witnesses and victims. It is my hope that this transparency will help hold the judiciary accountable in exercising their duties.

While I would hope these measures would put an immediate end to the premature release of violent criminals, I know that institutional change can take time. This is why I have also introduced the Murder and Repeat Violent Offenders Registry Act. Like Maryland's sex offender registry, this bill requires anyone convicted of murder, or anyone who has received a second or subsequent conviction for a violent crime, to register upon the completion of their sentence. This will be a searchable database that citizens can make use of to know if a violent criminal has moved into their neighborhood.

There is no simple answer to the plague of violent crime in our state. But these measures are part of the solution. All levels of government must be held accountable in keeping our citizens safe. These legislative proposals are a positive step in that direction.

Tech Talk With Dr. Cranska

Jeffrey Cranska
Family Laser Dentistry



Modern dentistry is dynamic. Changes to improve patient comfort and quality of care are always being developed. The use of improved dental materials, modern delivery systems, lasers, computer-generated imaging, and computer management software systems are just some of the changes.

In this column, I will answer questions on high-technology dentistry. Please direct inquiries to my website at www.cranska.com or email me at familylaserdentistry@outlook.com.

Why Do I Need A Crown On My Tooth?

Modern technology has given dentists more materials that restore cracked, decayed, worn, discolored or broken teeth. Instead of using metal in the mouth, the trend is now to use tooth-colored ceramics.

Q: What is a crown?

A: A dental crown is a restoration that completely caps and covers a tooth. Crowns are used to improve the form, function, strength and appearance of a damaged tooth or to cover a dental implant. Crowns originally were made entirely of gold. Technology in the 1960s and 1970s gave us porcelain-covered gold crowns and all porcelain crowns. This improved cosmetics, but porcelain is not as durable as a natural tooth or solid metal.

Twenty-first century CAD/CAM (3D printer) technology has developed a chip-proof, solid, all-ceramic crown. Computers are used to design these

restorations, which are milled by a machine using a solid block of ceramic. These crowns meet the dentist's requirements for fit and high-strength, and are tooth colored. There is no metal sensitivity or allergies with these ceramics.

Q: How can I have a broken tooth repaired to look like my original tooth?

A: A dentist is responsible for a thorough examination and proper diagnosis to determine the best treatment for the patient. The dentist will evaluate the benefits versus the risk and determine what treatments are necessary. Fillings are designed to go inside a tooth. Worn, broken and cracked teeth, and weakened teeth with large restorations with excessive decay, may not leave enough healthy tooth structure to support a replacement filling. Root-canaled teeth need crown coverage to protect against tooth breakage. Crowns are needed to restore the tooth back to its original size and shape, so it can function. There are many choices using the new materials developed over the past two decades.

Q: How long will the tooth restored with a crown last?

A: With an indestructible crown covering the tooth, the expectation is for it to last many years. Proper maintenance is important to prevent decay around the crown. Like any tooth, the tissue around it can get gum disease.

Dental crowns are one of many items that can restore your teeth to proper function. The patient and dentist will determine how to restore teeth.

Anne Arundel County Releases 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment Report

The 2018 Anne Arundel County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was recently released. The comprehensive, data-driven report, which identifies the health needs of the community, is a collaboration between the Anne Arundel County Department of Health; Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC); University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC); Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency; Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County; Anne Arundel County YWCA; and Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families. The CHNA report can be viewed at www.aahc.org/CHNA2018.

As a mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the assessment presents data and key factors impacting the health of county residents and serves as the foundation for strategic planning for local hospitals and public health agencies.

"Improving the health and well-being of our communities is the driving force of every organization involved in this report," said acting Anne Arundel County Health Officer Billie Penley.

"The information from the CHNA helps us to guide our efforts to address the health needs and disparities in our county."

The CHNA examines a variety of health and behavioral indicators, including social determinants of health (such as poverty, housing and education), mortality rates, high-risk behaviors (alcohol and tobacco use), and chronic health conditions such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease. The 2018 report identified mental health, substance abuse, access to care, and chronic disease as health priorities for the county. The report also shares principal findings such as an increase in county residents classified as obese, the growth of the Hispanic population, the lack of public transportation, homelessness, and the impact of social media on mental health.

"The CHNA provides critical insight into the health needs and concerns of county residents," said Becky Paesch, vice president of physician services at UM BWMC. "Its findings have led to increased focus on areas of highest need in our community, such as mental health and the opioid use. We will continue to use the findings

identified through the CHNA to make sure we are moving in the right direction."

Deneen Richmond, vice president of population health and clinical improvement at Anne Arundel Medical Center, agreed that the assessment furthers the mission of enhancing the health of patients.

"The last assessment prompted us to solidify our palliative care program and work on better care coordination for patients," Richmond said. "This important assessment impacts real change to better health care in our community."

Heartworm Disease: Know The Facts!

Christine Calvert
Calvert Veterinary Center



Heartworm disease is serious and potentially fatal in pets. It is caused by heartworms that live in the heart, lungs and blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other body organs. Heartworm disease affects dogs, cats and ferrets, but heartworms also live in other animals. Because wild species such as foxes live in proximity to many urban areas, they are considered important carriers of the disease.

The dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults and can reproduce, thereby increasing the number of worms living in your dog. If left untreated, heartworms will increase. Dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries. This can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, heartworm prevention for dogs is by far the best option, and treatment — when needed — should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible. With the recent hurricanes affecting southern states such as Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, the incidence of heartworm disease has increased sharply in these areas.

Many rescue groups have helped relocate pets that were stranded after severe flooding led to evacuations. Many of the pets from the flooded areas contracted heartworm disease due to the presence of standing water. Often, these pets were transported to other states, including Maryland, unfortunately bringing heartworm disease with

them to their new home.

How is heartworm disease transmitted from one pet to another?

The mosquito plays an essential role in the heartworm life cycle. Adult female heartworms living in an infected dog or fox produce microscopic baby worms called microfilaria that circulate in the bloodstream. When a mosquito bites an infected animal, it picks up these baby worms from the infected pet's blood. These baby worms will mature inside the mosquito; then, when the infected mosquito bites another dog, cat, or susceptible wild animal, the infective larvae are transferred through the skin. Once mature, heartworms can live for five to seven years in dogs and up to two or three years in cats. Because of the longevity of these worms, each mosquito season can lead to an increasing number of worms in an infected pet. With Pasadena's close proximity to water, it is not surprising that we see heartworm disease in our area. Even small amounts of standing water, such as in empty flower pots or other containers and objects that collect rainwater, can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitos.

What are the signs of heartworm disease in dogs?

Many dogs show few symptoms or no symptoms at all. The longer the infec-

tion persists, the more likely symptoms will develop. Active dogs, dogs heavily infected with heartworms, or those with other health problems often show pronounced signs:

- Mild, persistent cough

- Exercise intolerance or fatigue after moderate activity

- Decreased appetite and weight loss

- Advanced cases leading to heart failure and the appearance of a swollen belly due to excess fluid

- Sudden onset of labored breathing, pale gums, death

Do cats get heartworm disease?

Heartworm disease in cats is different from heartworm disease in dogs. The cat is an atypical host for heartworms, and most worms in cats do not survive to the adult stage. Cats with adult heartworms typically have just one or a few worms and many cats affected by heartworms have no adult worms. While this means heartworm disease often goes undiagnosed in cats, it's important to understand that even immature worms cause real damage in the form of a condition known as heartworm-associated respiratory disease (HARD).

Signs of heartworm disease in cats can be subtle or dramatic. Symptoms may include coughing, asthma-like attacks, periodic vomiting, lack of appetite, or weight loss. Occasionally, an affected cat may have difficulty walking, experience fainting or seizures, or suffer from fluid accumulation in the abdomen. Unfortunately, the first sign in some cases is sudden collapse or sudden death.

Moreover, the medication used to treat heartworm infections in dogs cannot be used in cats, so heartworm prevention is the only means of protecting cats from the effects of heartworm disease.

Because of Pasadena's proximity to water, it is especially important to protect your pets from this deadly disease in our community. Several medications prevent heartworm disease, including monthly oral chews, topical applications, and an injectable form that lasts for six months. Ask your veterinarian which preventative is best for your pet!

For more information on heartworm disease, visit www.heartwormsociety.org.

Calvert Veterinary Center has been serving Pasadena and surrounding communities for 15 years. The office is conveniently located at 4100 Mountain Road in Pasadena. Call 410-360-7297 or visit www.calvertvet.com to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Calvert Among Hogan's 124 "Green Bag" Appointments

Governor Larry Hogan recently submitted 124 appointments to the Maryland State Senate. Secretary of Appointments Chris Cavey presented Senate President Thomas V. Miller with the names of the "Green Bag" nominees.

"Marylanders deserve the most capable and dedicated representatives for these critically important positions, and we are extremely proud of the qualified individuals being submitted today," Hogan said. "These appointments reflect the diversity of our state, and I am confident that these appointees will help us continue to change Maryland for the better."

Highlighting the governor's top priority of education, Hogan has nominated former Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents. The governor also nominated Clarence Crawford and former state senator and delegate Gail Bates to the Maryland State Board of Education.

Other nominees include: Geneau M. Thames, Esquire, who is the chief legal adviser and counselor for Harford Mutual Insurance Company, has been nominated to the State Ethics Commission.

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio,



Dr. Christine Calvert

who served as a former deputy chief of staff to the governor and former delegate representing the Eastern Shore, has been nominated as the secretary of natural resources.

Eileen M. Levitt, who is the founder and president of The HR Team in Howard County providing human resource expertise to domestic and international companies, has been nominated to the Commission on Civil Rights.

This year's "Green Bag" includes appointment nominations for more than 63 boards and commissions across the state. A sample of the nominations includes:

- Christine Calvert, Anne Arundel County, State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
- Carlton Brown, Baltimore County, Maryland Food Center Authority
- Glenn Fishack, Washington County, Amusement Ride Safety Ad-

- visory Board
- Stephanie Hopkins, Baltimore City, State Board of Architects
- Andrea Fulton Rhodes, Queen Anne's County, Commission on Judicial Disabilities
- Benny Russell, Harford County, Maryland State Arts Council

As constitutionally required by law, Maryland Insurance Commissioner Al Redmer was renominated (his term expires on June 30) and Secretary of State John Wobensmith has been renominated per statute as a constitutional officer.

"I am extremely proud of the process allowing Governor Hogan to fill important leadership positions in every region of the state," Cavey said. "These qualified appointees come from diverse ethnic and professional backgrounds, and we are confident that these men and women will work hard to serve our citizens."

Dating back to 17th-century England, the term "Green Bag" refers to the green satchel that is used once every year to bring the gubernatorial nominations to the Senate. It is a longstanding tradition for a member of the governor's staff to deliver the bag once a year to the Maryland State Senate.

Heartbeat For Health Celebrates The Benefits Of Wellness



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Heartbeat for Health, sponsored by University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical (UM BWMC), kept attendees at The Y in Arnold engaged with their bodies and minds on February 23. Families enjoyed free smoothie samples; an obstacle course for kids; dance and exercise demonstrations by the Kangaroo Kids, Old Mill Middle School South, and Dancer's Dreams Dance Studio; educational displays; and blood pressure, chiropractic spinal, and posture screenings.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Angel's Nears 100 Years Of Service In Pasadena

By Maya Pottiger

Back when Mountain Road was a dirt path, members of the Angel family sold drinks and snacks out of their farmhouse.

"It started as a little farmhouse in the '20s and gradually grew a little bit to where it was a small grocery store," said Walt Clocker, who now runs Angel's Food Market.

The Clocker family took over the business in 1960 when Walt's grandfather purchased the property. "He brought a little more professionalism to it," Clocker said.

"My grandfather, having come from business, made



Walt Clocker, whose family purchased Angel's Food Market in 1960, takes pride in the strong ties his business has to the community.

it a more true grocery store operation."

Since 1960, Angel's has gone through many changes, both physical and operational. After a fire in 1976,

Angel's was rebuilt. The initial rebuild put Angel's at 120 feet wide and 80 feet deep, Clocker said. Now, in 2019, Angel's is at 27,000 square feet. The store has roughly tripled in size.

"Over all that time, we've evolved with the grocery industry in general," Clocker said.

Angel's now incorporates technology, social media and prepared meals into its daily operation. Customers can now visit Angel's Facebook page to check out daily specials and the day's hot food offerings. But no matter how much the operation changes with the times, one thing remains consistent: Angel's famous homemade salads.

"Those go back to my grandmother, probably even great-grandmother," Clocker said. "Old German recipes for potato salad, coleslaw, macaroni. Those are the big three."

The fried chicken is now popular among Angel's customers, Clocker said. Also known for its well-stocked beer, wine and liquor selection, Angel's serves as a "one stop-shop," Clocker said.

Another way Angel's has expanded is by providing catering services. Customers have a variety of catering options, starting with picking up a platter at the store to full-service, black tie wedding catering. A popular option is Drop, Set and Go, in which someone from Angel's will deliver and set up the food for customers, and then leave.

"By growing the way we did, we've always been able

» Continued on A11

PBA Update

Sandi Parrish
Executive Director



Our annual scholarship fundraiser was held on March 2 with 150 people rocking to the '80s music of Guys in Thin Ties. Many attendees dressed in '80s attire and danced the night away. Although attendance was down, we still managed to raise \$11,400 for scholarships. It was a little off from last year's \$15,400, but we still had a good night. We also have funds coming from our scholarship dining day at Primo Pasta Kitchen and the Greene Turtle, so we will be able to add to the \$11,400.

We will host a ribbon cutting on March 29 for Wicked Beauty Salon, located at 8111 Fort Smallwood Road (in the shopping center with The Pit Stop Pub and Pasa-

dena Seafood), at 4:00pm. Wicked Beauty Salon is celebrating its anniversary.

We had our first scavenger hunt to promote shopping local. The grand prize drawing was held at the PBA membership meeting on Wednesday, March 6. The grand prize is a beautiful outdoor fire pit donated by Ace Hardware & Hearth/Lakeshore Plaza and will be filled with a variety of gift cards and goodies donated by local restaurants and other members of the Pasadena Business Association. The second-place winner will receive a Ravens portable grill donated by M&T Bank/Riviera Beach and a third-place winner will receive a treasure chest/gift card/rum combo donated by Mutiny Pirate Bar & Island Grille. All winners will be invited to the next meeting on April 3 to be awarded their prizes.

Our Legislative Day in

» Continued on A11

Five Years In, Coterie Still Tailors Its Approach To The Customer



Coterie, a Boutique employees celebrated the shop's fifth anniversary on March 8 with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by customers and members of the business community.

By Zach Sparks

Retail therapy — that's how Coterie, a Boutique owner and fashion curator Bess Clark refers to the process of shopping at her store. Since opening her business five years ago, Clark has steered women away from the impulse buy and instead swayed their attention to clothing that fits their lifestyle and shape.

"As women, we have to do hair, makeup, get the kids ready or feed the dog," Clark said. "Getting dressed, you want to look good, but it should take only five minutes."

For five years, she has brought contemporary women's clothing to Anne Arundel County, a market that was noticeably lacking when com-

pared with Los Angeles, where she spent eight years working for a corporate law firm.

"The cool part is that older women are realizing what contemporary clothing is," Clark said. "Our 50-and-over client base is expanding. Our clothes fit all ages, but it's young and fresh. And it's not missy."

After celebrating Coterie's fifth anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 8, Clark reflected on her journey. She opened her first shop on Mountain Road in March 2014 and moved to the Magothy Gateway shopping center in June 2017, welcoming more foot traffic.

While business has grown, so have the challenges, such as the expanding presence of online retailers.

"I'm able to do what an

algorithm doesn't," Clark said. "What fits their body? What will look good on them? I can find something they wouldn't pick, something outside their comfort zone that looks great on them."

Coterie, a Boutique is now offering what Clark calls Prime Styling, a mix of services like wardrobe assessment, portrait sessions and a body changes consultation.

"I'm bringing fashion to people's front door," she said. "I'm not just going to show up with a box and say, 'Maybe you like it, maybe you don't.'"

Clark travels to marketplaces across the nation to handpick clothing and accessories that fit her clients' tastes. Her goal is to keep her store stocked with high-quality items that are affordable and stylish without being overly trendy.

Looking toward the future of her business, Clark said it will keep evolving but with the same core mission of offering contemporary clothing and a shopping experience that is personalized, comfortable and fair for the customer.

"We'll never back down from having honesty and integrity and being the antithesis of retail," Clark said. "I'm not here to rip people off."

Her greatest success over the last five years is thriving in the age of online sales and

» Continued on A11

ClearShark H2O's Fifth Annual Brunch Exceeds Fundraising Goals

By Dylan Roche

You might say that ClearShark H2O has made a splash in the community. The nonprofit organization — which is dedicated to educating youth on environmental issues by connecting them with local waterways — recently held its fifth annual fundraiser brunch, and the milestone year for the event proved that businesses and individuals throughout Pasadena and beyond strongly support the ClearShark H2O mission.

In fact, this was the biggest year yet, according to Nichole Bentz, co-founder and executive director, who noted that the brunch brought in 300 guests and exceeded its goal of topping last year's fundraising of \$16,000. "The growth of the brunch helps sustain the growth of the company," she said. "I feel like our mission is being fulfilled: to save, preserve and educate."

The funds raised from this year's brunch will further the growth of ClearShark H2O, which last year reached about 5,000 children and invested about \$100,000 in the community. The event, which annually sells out in record time and even generates a wait list, took place at Two Rivers Steak & Fish House, which provided a spread of food and bottomless drinks for all the guests.



ClearShark H2O founders Nichole and Martin Bentz were thrilled that the fifth annual brunch drew a crowd of 300 to Two Rivers Steak & Fish House for a morning of socializing and fundraising.

The brunch had a record number of more than 20 corporate sponsors, the biggest of which were Harbor Advisory Group, immixGroup and Prophasys. Irresistible items up for claim in the live raffle included a drone, a Chesapeake Bay charter trip, a framed oyster print by Kim Hovell and a Vera Bradley gift set.

Money from ticket sales and the raffle will help ClearShark H2O continue to reach more youth in the area and build on its success from last year. In 2018 alone, the company hired an education coordinator, Bryan Comes; doubled its reach of schools from 11

to 22; received a BGE Green Grant for \$4,000; participated in Global Giving Tuesday and raised \$3,500; sponsored the installation of the Blue Heron Gallery at Arlington Echo Education Center, allowing students to use art to express their connections to the environment; provided drought-proofing scholarships to 70 fifth-grade students in Anne Arundel County so students from financially challenged families can interact and enjoy the waterways around them; helped launch the first Environmental Literacy Film Festival in partnership with the Eco Action Club and Environmental Literacy Program at Broadneck High School, featuring student-made short films related to the environment; provided two \$1,000 scholarships to two SPECIES (Sparrows Point Educational Center in Environmental Studies) students to continue their environmental education in college and beyond; and sponsored the kids activity at PYY Marine's open house, allowing kids and even some adults to enjoy painting oyster shells.

Bentz expects that the success of the brunch will mean ClearShark H2O will have even more success in the coming year. "The more people who are aware, the more people are fulfilling our mission in the community," she said.

I'd Love To Retire, But What About Health Insurance?

Jason LaBarge
Managing Partner
Premier
Planning Group



As a retirement planner, I frequently talk to clients about their dreams and their retirement goals. A fair amount of those clients would love to retire early. If you're one of those people who love your job, you're fortunate, but many people would like to retire tomorrow! Several of my clients keep an accurate countdown to retirement and have started a meeting with me by announcing, "Only 465 days to go!"

When considering early retirement, there are numerous factors to consider, and one of those factors is health insurance. This is not something to sweep under the rug. You need to carefully consider all of your options and choose what makes the most sense for your

situation.

Medicare coverage starts at age 65 and is composed of four parts: A, B, C and D.

MEDICARE PARTS A, B, C AND D EXPLAINED

Medicare Part A (hospitals) is **required** when you turn 65 years old. It covers hospital admittance and skilled nursing facilities, among other things. There is no cost, because, in essence, you have been paying for Medicare Part A when you were paying your FICA tax your entire working life. This covers 80 percent of expenses.

Medicare Part B (medical) is **optional** and covers everything outside of hospital admittance, such as physician services and tests. Like Part A, it covers 80 percent of expenses. The Part B premium used to be \$104 per month, but as of 2016, your premium is now based on your income.

Medicare Part C (advantage plans) is **optional**. These

plans are "all in one plan" and an alternative to the original Medicare plans. It includes the Part C drug coverage and has lower out-of-pocket costs than original Medicare but does not eliminate cost and are not supplemental plans or Medigap. They are generally HMO or PPO plans with network restrictions.

Medicare Part D (prescription drugs) is your prescription drug plan and is **optional**; however, if you choose not to enroll and need coverage later, there is a late enrollment penalty. The premium you'll pay is determined by the plan you choose and your income.

MEDICARE IS REQUIRED FOR AMERICANS 65 YEARS OLD OR OLDER NOT COVERED BY AN EMPLOYER-BASED PLAN

If you are 65 years or older, you most likely have Medicare as your health insurance. In fact, more employers are

requiring their employees who are age 65 or older to go on Medicare, instead of their employer-based health insurance plan. This, in effect, makes Medicare your primary insurance covering hospitals and prescription drugs, and your employer-based plan becomes your supplemental insurance, usually covering your doctor appointments and the 20 percent not covered by Medicare.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS AND RETIREMENT PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Once you're 65, it's an easy decision to retire, because you know you have health insurance through Medicare. If your employer provides health insurance through retirement, you're fortunate, because your options open up. If you're not 65 yet and you don't have an employer-based insurance plan that will carry into retire-

ment, but you want to retire early, what are your options?

The easy answer is that you buy it. Most people don't realize that health insurance is a commodity that you can pay for. Individual plans are offered by all health insurance providers for purchase. Your age and sex will determine what your premiums will be. Go to an insurance provider's website, put in your basic information, and you'll get a premium quote; buying health insurance is as easy as buying a stick of gum or a bottle of wine.

Another option is COBRA. If you retire or leave your job, you can elect COBRA and continue to have your same health insurance plan under your employer; the only catch is that you're now paying the full cost of that plan, which includes both your and your employer's premium payments. This can be a great option, as it allows you to

keep your same coverage and doctors, and it is available for two years. The downside to this option is that COBRA is expensive. Nevertheless, in some cases, it's the best option and will allow someone to retire at 63 with health insurance until they can sign up for Medicare at 65.

If you are considering this option, you should compare the premiums for COBRA with the premiums for a new plan through www.marylandhealthconnection.gov. This is the health insurance exchange for Maryland, created in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The marketplace is offered to individuals and families who are not covered through their employers, and it lists several health insurance companies and their available plans along with their associated premiums.

» Continued on A11

Angel's Nears 100 Years

» **Continued from A10**
to basically have the full supply of grocery items that any supermarket would have," Clocker said.

Angel's is also known in the community for its philanthropic activities, donating to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, civic groups, sports teams and more.

"We couldn't see operating any other way," Clocker said. "It's in our DNA. That's the way I was raised. That's how we operate within the community."

Though Angel's has been in the Clocker family for nearly 60 years, Clocker said the key

elements of Pasadena have remained the same. "We see all the time where people bump into each other in the aisles here like, 'Oh, I haven't seen you in so long,'" Clocker said. "They'll wind up standing in the aisle talking for half an hour. Angel's is the meeting place in that regard."

Coming up, Angel's is hosting Spring Fling, a community flea market, on Saturday, March 23, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. To learn more about Angel's Food Market, stop by the store at 4681 Mountain Road in Pasadena, call 410-255-6800 or visit www.angelsfoodmarket.com.

I'd Love To Retire, But...

» **Continued from A10**
HEALTH INSURANCE IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

Health insurance is expensive — that's a fact — but it's also a necessary and essential element in your retirement plan. Weighing its expense and how it affects your retirement budget will play a big part in deciding when you retire. A properly built financial plan can mitigate these expenses and help you decide how you'll pay for the premiums until you turn 65 and can transition to Medicare. The last thing you want is for

health insurance to derail your retirement before it's even really gotten started.

Premier Planning Group is an independent firm with securities offered through Summit Brokerage Services Inc., Member FINRA, SIPC. 115 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401 443-837-2520.

Coterie

» **Continued from A10**
keeping up with the ever-changing retail landscape.

"To keep brick and mortar alive and well is important for communities," Clark said. "Successful businesses build stronger communities. I'm proud to see more clothing boutiques opening in the area," she added. "That means that we've all decided we are worth having these types of businesses in our area. Five years ago, that seemed crazy to so many people. That evolution of thought is probably what I'm most proud of."

Ribbon Cutting



The Anne Arundel Home Services Company Builds Its Base In Pasadena



Jeff Tucker, the founder and president of The Anne Arundel Home Services Company, was joined by members of the Pasadena Business Association during a ribbon cutting for his new business at 8371 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard. The Anne Arundel Home Services Company does work inside and outside the home, spanning electrical and plumbing work to deck installation and property management.

Pasadena Business Association Update

» **Continued from A10**
Annapolis was fun and educational. We had a delicious breakfast thanks to Delegate Kipke's aide, Emily. We attended a session and were introduced, then we toured the Maryland State House, then we went to the gov-

ernor's mansion for a tour. Some of the group climbed the many steps to the dome. We concluded our day with lunch in Annapolis. Atlantic Coast Charters graciously provided a bus for the trip so we did not have to drive. We will host a ribbon cut-

ting on April 26 for Chelsea Michele Hair Studios at 8611 Fort Smallwood Road (shopping center with Pizza Ravens) at 4:00pm. This is a new business in the community and a new member of the Pasadena Business Association.

Are your retirement accounts a mess?



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Tuna Salad

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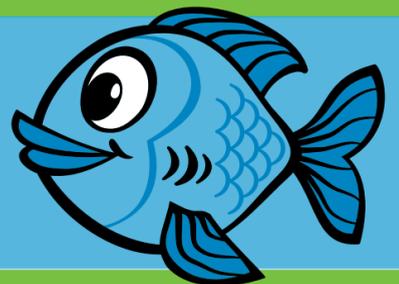
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Northeast Dancing With The Stars
 Student-teacher pairs compete for a good cause.
 >> Page B7



Chesapeake Evolve
 A cappella group heads to semifinals.
 >> Page B10



PASADENA SPORTS

PASADENA, MD

MARCH 20, 2019

B1

Lake Shore 12U's Rally For Title Win



The Lake Shore 12U's rallied from 8 points down to beat Generals Highway 26-24 and finish the season undefeated.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Lake Shore 12U girls basketball team was in a good position to win the county league with a 9-0 record going into its final game.

Naturally, their last match was against second-place Generals Highway, which came into the game at 8-1 and could have forced a three-way tie for the title with a season-ending victory.

Fortunately for Lake Shore, the 12U girls battled back from a 24-16 deficit with five minutes to play to win 26-24 on a last-second basket by Rori Campbell and claim the league championship.

The team of Rori Campbell, Lyla Clayville, Julia Fox, Fiona Panzer, Jayla Booher, Kristen DeCarli and Corinne Trakas finished 10-0 on the season.

Trakas and Booher pressed hard in the closing minutes of the final game, both making critical steals. Clayville made a game-tying basket with a minute remaining that set up

Campbell's game-winner and allowed Lake Shore to finish the game on a 10-0 run.

Coached by Sam Campbell and Glenn Clayville, the team won the county's Volunteer Division and held the opposition to 106 total points in 10 wins. Against three top teams in the league — Green Hornets, South County and Cape — Lake Shore won by a combined seven points, with all the victories being secured in the final minute.

Trakas led the team in offense, while Fox led the defense with her shot-blocking ability. DeCarli and Panzer also contributed mightily to Lake Shore's defensive efforts this year. Lyla Clayville is now a three-time county champion in A, B and C leagues with Lake Shore teams.

Coach Clayville said the determination of Lake Shore powered their comeback win and ultimately their championship.

"Our girls said before the game they did not want to share the title," said coach Clayville. "They never gave up."

Northeast Boys Slay On Eastern Shore, Fall In Region Final



Photos by Colin Murphy

Northeast seniors (l-r) Brennen Volkman, Brandon LeBarron and Keishon Thomas helped power Northeast into the 3A East region final against Reservoir on March 8. The Eagles fell to the Gators, but not before captivating Pasadena and the Northeast community with a pair of wins over higher seeds Stephen Decatur and J.M. Bennett.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

One of the beautiful things about high school sports is how much a team can improve in the course of just a few months. A slow start or a midseason lull is not a death sentence. Hit your stride at the right time, and you can rise to meet the big moments on the postseason stage.

Northeast boys basketball lived it this winter. The Eagles' season came to an end against a superb Reservoir High School team in the 3A East region final on March 8, as the host Gators ultimately scored a 70-56 win, but Northeast's 12-13 overall record tells the story of a team that fought through a loaded regular season and came out ready to bust the tournament bracket.

"We got here this year, and I hope they don't settle for

that," said Northeast coach Roger O'Dea. "I hope they remember this feeling and buy in next year throughout the season and the offseason, and I think they will. I know they will."

Getting to the region final — the statewide Elite Eight — was an outcome no one would have predicted when the playoffs began. Northeast entered the postseason two games under .500 at just 10-12, having endured a few struggles and a few more close losses.

Therein was a hidden strength: Northeast had played well even in defeats, including a 56-55 loss to 4A East finalist Meade. The 4A opposition slate of Meade, Old Mill, Glen Burnie, Broadneck, Annapolis and others — what O'Dea termed "the gauntlet" — hardened the Eagles into fearless competitors.

"It gets you battle-tested,"

said O'Dea. "We were in a lot of our games all year."

Once the playoffs began, all the 3-seed Eagles did was take the bracket and set it on fire. Northeast traveled all the way to Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, outside Ocean City — a 240-mile round trip — on March 4, and eviscerated the No. 2 Seahawks in a 65-46 rout. Jaleel Petty connected on four 3-pointers in the win and led all scorers with 16 points. Senior Brandon LeBarron scored 12 points, and junior Jaylin Albury finished with 11 points, 10 assists and 4 steals.

Brennen Volkman also had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Keishon Thomas scored 8 points and had 4 rebounds, while Trent McNeill played sensational defense and finished the game with 2 points, 4 steals and 4 assists. Darrell Sheppard,

Olimade Ajayi and Stephen Haley all finished the game with 2 points each as Northeast executed their game plan mercilessly and played excellent team basketball.

The Seahawks were playing at home and had a twin-towers pairing of 6-foot-10-inch big men and a 6-foot-5-inch point guard; Northeast's comparatively diminutive roster largely relies on speed, passing, shooting and strong guard play.

"To come out there and do what we did to Stephen Decatur? I mean we just booted them off the court right from the start," said O'Dea. "We just really pressured them, beat them by 20."

To keep the season alive, the Eagles had to cross back over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge less than 48 hours later for a tilt with

>> Continued on B5

Panthers Wrestlers Shine At Counties, States



Panthers wrestlers accumulated a slew of top placements and awards this season. Collin Lewis (left) won a pair of state championships to go with his 12U county championship. Isaac Cicchetti (center left) was A league county champion at 60 lbs and the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. Makenzie Cardenas (center right) is the Panthers' first-ever female state champion. Landon Szymanski (right) was runner up at 55 lbs at the A league county championships. The Panthers' B team (far right) won the B league team county championship.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Panthers wrestling program assembled its biggest team ever and turned in another strong season this winter complete with an array of team and individual accomplishments.

Almost 70 kids wrestled for the Panthers this season as the organization capitalized on its free mat nights it holds throughout the year to build interest

in the program and give wrestlers ample practice time.

Split across two squads, the A and the B team, the Panthers enjoyed extensive success at the county and state level in multiple large wrestling meets. The B team won the team county crown, placing first at the B League Anne Arundel County Championship on February 17 at Arundel High School. The A team placed ninth out of 88 teams in the straight weight category at the

Maryland State Wrestling Association Age/Weight State Championships at Showplace Arena over February 23-24, and 12th as a team in age/weight.

Leading the way for the Panthers was the unprecedented title trifecta achieved by Collin Lewis. Lewis, 12, a five-year wrestler with the Panthers, became the first Panthers wrestler to become a straight weight state champion, which he did at 105 lbs. He also

won the age/weight state championship as a 12U/105-pounder and was likewise the Anne Arundel County champion at 105 lbs, becoming the first Panther wrestler to achieve those three mantles in a single season. Lewis was 61-2 overall on the season.

Fellow A-teamer Isaac Cicchetti, 8, won the county championship at 60 lbs in the A League Anne Arundel County Championships at South River on March 3, where

the Panthers took fifth as a team. Cicchetti also won the Most Outstanding Wrestler award for the tournament — the latter is a first such award for a Panther wrestler. Cicchetti was runner-up in straight weight at states and placed third in age/weight.

Makenzie Cardenas, 8, placed first at states as an 8U/75-lbs wrestler to achieve the distinction of becoming the Panthers' first-ever female state champion. Cardenas

was one of three female wrestlers for the Panthers this season along with Summer Mutschler and Emily Schreiber. Mutschler was third at the county B championships and third at 10U/60 lbs at age-weight states. Cardenas and Mutschler also were able to meet and get a picture with Helen Maroulis, the American wrestler who has won gold medals at both the Olympics and world >> Continued on B4

Lake Shore 12U's Win Pair Of Titles



The Lake Shore 12U boys basketball team won the Northeast Eagles Classic and their county division.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

Chalk up another successful season for the Lake Shore 12U boys basketball team.

Coached by **Bill Reil, Mike Bieda** and **Obed Moreau**, the team of **Daniel Monroe, Aaron Rhodes, Jack Rivera, Caleb Moreau, Jack Bieda, Chase Bivens, Joshua Reil, Liam McCone, Sam Barrett** and **Jake Blanch**

punctuated its season with a pair of championships. The first came over Presidents Day weekend, when the Lake Shore boys went 3-1 overall and

defeated Crofton 23-8 in the championship game of the Northeast Eagles Classic.

Lake Shore finished its season by going 12-3 in county play, taking first in their division. The win column included memorable victories over Broadneck, Glen Burnie, Harundale, PAL and Crofton.

Coach Reil was pleased with the progress and success of the group.

"A few of these kids have been on this team since 8U, and by the end of the season everybody knew their role on the court and we started to gel at the right time," he said.

Lake Shore Basketball Honors U9 All-Star Girls



The next generation of girls hoopers in Pasadena convened for an All-Star game as Lake Shore Basketball staged an exhibition of the top U9 girls basketball players at Bodkin Elementary School on February 23. The White team of Kendel Groves, Kayle Grunder, Abbey Keller, Kara Disney, Mollieigh Downey, Sierra Stecher, Bryn Callicoat, Elly Jackson and Ember Bontranger, coached by Steve Stecher and Joe Downey, played the Blue team of Carly Strevig, Sara Forman, Morgan Kiniry, Leah Williams, Annabelle Davis, Brooke Permisohn, Hailey Adams, Kennedy Lare, Savanna Strevig and Corinne Brandts, coached by Kim Lare and Ian Kiniry.

PSC U9 Prime, U11 Bayern Boys Win Spring Tourney



The Pasadena Soccer Club U9 Prime went 4-0 to win the championship of the Amanda Post Tournament's top-tier Gold bracket. PSC Prime outscored the opposition 31-4 in four wins, defeating Pipeline, Freedom, Soccer Association of Columbia and Pipeline in the final. The PSC U11 Bayern boys similarly had an impressive performance at the Amanda Post tournament, going 4-0 and defeating Evolution 4-2 in the championship game.



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Chesapeake Football Named Team Of The Year By Annapolis TD Club

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Chesapeake football team experienced a season for the ages this past fall, and for their successful year they were awarded the prestigious Jerry Mears Memorial Trophy by the Annapolis Touchdown Club on February 22.

The Mears Trophy recognizes the team of the year from Anne Arundel County and has been awarded every year since 1978.

Chesapeake's region championship, appearance in the state tournament and 9-4 overall record in 2018 show a program that has risen to new heights in the past decade. The Cougars posted only two winning seasons between 1977 and 2010, once in 1985 and once in 2003, but since **Rob Elliott** took over as head coach in 2011, the Cougars have posted four winning seasons and two



Members of the Chesapeake football team accepted the Mears Trophy from the Annapolis Touchdown Club on February 22 as the Anne Arundel County Team of the Year.

more 5-5 years. Following a subpar 2-8 season in 2016, the Cougars rebounded in 2017 to go 7-4 and make the playoffs before rising even higher with a 9-4 year and two playoff wins, the first playoff wins in program history, in 2018.

Winning the Mears Trophy is a first for Chesapeake. "We are extremely proud

of the fact that the Jerry Mears Memorial Trophy will spend the next year in the display case at Chesapeake," said coach Elliott. "We have worked very hard to make Chesapeake football something that the school and community can be proud of. Winning this award shows that the hard work is paying off."

Top Dawgs: Lake Shore 11U Boys Win Northeast Eagles Classic



Photo courtesy of Robin Herzberger

The Lake Shore 11U B team defeated their Lake Shore 11U A team counterparts in the championship game of the Northeast Eagles Classic on February 17.

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Lake Shore 11U B Dawgs boys basketball team secured all-important neighborhood bragging rights with three wins over local competition to win the championship of the Northeast Eagles Classic over Presidents Day weekend.

The team of **Keller Herzberger, Ashton Martin, Brody Reeves, Luke Sitorius, Christian Spooner, Dylan Adams,**

Jimmy Selig, Aidan Richter and Connor McAndrew, coached by **Keir Richter, Ryan Herzberger and Doug Sisson,** went 3-1 at the tournament, with all three wins coming against local competition.

The Dawgs lost their opening game on Saturday against **Wiley Baker's** Lake Shore 11U A team, 25-21. From there, the Dawgs played in their regularly scheduled county game before coming back to tournament to play against

the 11U Bucs, who they defeated 37-30.

The following day, they defeated another Bucs 11U team 36-20, putting them into the championship for a rematch with Baker's Lake Shore 11U's. This time, the Dawgs grabbed an early lead and held on through the end, winning 18-11.

"The boys never gave up this weekend and fought through some tough situations," said coach Richter. "I couldn't be more proud of how they came together as a team."

Bucs 8U Boys Go Undefeated

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

Smiles and fresh white T-shirts covered a collection of Bucs 8U boys this winter as the Bucs 8U Warriors earned a county championship with a 10-0 county record.

Playing together for a third season, the Bucs 8U team of **Austin Quick, Alex Rivera, Brooks Burris, Kaden Whittington, Corey Malloy, Cash Beck, Brandon Bessling, Justin Turner, Eli Ferguson and Tyler Smith** put in hard work to go unbeaten throughout the county season.

"The kids put in a lot of hard work, practicing two days a week for two hours at a time, then playing games on Saturday morning," said head coach **Wayne**



The Bucs went 10-0 in county play to win the league title.

Bessling, who coached the team with assistant coaches **Adam Smith, Josh Larkin and Tony Harley.** "They kids became good friends and hang out together outside of the gym. My perspective of the kids, I've never seen or been around a group of

kids with such heart and determination to succeed. All the kids left everything on the court and scrapped and clawed for every loose ball and every shot and rebound. We played together as a team and succeed as a team."



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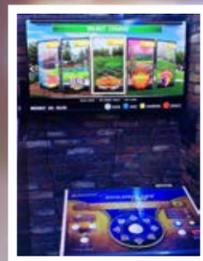
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"HONEY I'LL BE STAYING LATE AT THE OFFICE TONIGHT!"

CHS Wrestlers Finish Strong Season

By Colin Murphy
colin@pasadenavoice.com

The Chesapeake wrestling team excelled throughout its schedule this year and capped an impressive all-around season with strong performances at the county, region and state level.

Chesapeake posted an 11-3 regular season region record that included an 8-3 county record and wins over Northeast, Glen Burnie, Annapolis, Severna Park, Patterson Mill, Arundel, North County, Broadneck, Meade, Rockville and Patuxent. A few of the wins came after long droughts; the victory over Patterson Mill was the first ever for Chesapeake against that school, while the win over North County was the first for Chesapeake since 2008 and the win over Broadneck was the first for Chesapeake since 2012.

Overall, Chesapeake went an impressive 27-5 as a team. This mark included an 8-0 performance at the Frederick Clash at the Coliseum Tournament and an 8-1 record at the Rockville Rumble. In Frederick, **Victor Listorti** and **Chase Listorti** both went 8-0; while **DJ Hoover**, **AJ Richardson**, **Bryce Carleton** and **Jacob Rosenbloom** went 7-1. Chase

Listorti was the Outstanding Light Weight Wrestler, and Victor Listorti got the fastest pin (7 seconds). At the Rockville Rumble Dual Tournament, the Cougars placed second at 8-1, with **Reese Russell**, **Bryce Carleton**, **Hunter Beck** and **Aiden Yost** all going 8-1; Rosenbloom going 7-1; and Hoover, Chandler Booker and Richardson all going 7-2.

At the Hammon Dual Meet Tournament, the team went 5-0 and placed second. Chase Listorti took first place; Hoover and Richardson both took second place; and Victor Listorti took third place.

The Cougars' overall record qualified the team for the regional duals for the first time since 2004, where they advanced to the semifinals before falling to Atholton.

At the county championships at Arundel in February, the team scored 150.5 points to place fifth, the highest point total since 2007 and highest county placing since 2008.

Victor Listorti, a sophomore, led the way for Chesapeake, winning the county championship at 145 lbs and making it through the



Chesapeake's Victor Listorti

county tournament with a 36-7 overall record. Freshman Chase Listorti was the county's runner up at 113 lbs, having compiled a 35-3 overall record through counties. Hoover placed third at 160, while **Dion Ambrose** placed fourth at 152.

Chase Listorti achieved the fastest fall of the county tournament, winning his quarterfinal match in 10 seconds. Victor Listorti, in winning the 145 title, won all three of his county matches by fall and tied for the most team points scored by anyone in the tournament.

As a team, Chesapeake combined for the most pins and tech falls with 20 total. Beck placed fifth at 170. Yost placed fifth at 120. **Adam Taifouri** placed seventh at 107.

Having qualified for the region meet, Victor Listorti and Chase Listorti went on to finish third and fourth, respectively, at regions to qualify for states, and they were the only two Cougars to advance to the state meet. Both underclassmen, neither placed at states, but both won two matches at the state meet.

Panthers Shine At Counties, States

» Continued from B1 championships and who is originally from Rockville.

Gavin Lewis, 10, was runner-up at age/weight states at 10U/90-lbs, and he also placed eighth at the county championships. A five-year Panthers wrestler, Lewis went 50-13 on the season.

Bently Schmidt placed third at 8U/65 lbs at age/weight states, and **Beau Schmidt** was fifth at 10U/85 lbs. Beau Schmidt was also fourth at A team counties and seventh at the straight weight state meet.

Blake Jarmer, 13, placed second at the Cougar Challenge at 115 lbs, fourth at A team counties, sixth at 14U/110 lbs at age/weight states, second at age/weight state qualifiers, and was a straight weight states qualifier. **Hunter Wargo** went undefeated in county matches throughout the season, was runner-up at counties at 50 lbs and runner-up at straight weight states.

Landon Szymanski, 9, was runner-up at 55 lbs at A counties and seventh place at the Maryland State Junior League wrestling championship on March 10 at Mount Saint Joseph's.

Wyatt Thompson was fifth at counties at 55 lbs and eighth in the straight weight state competition. **Quin Greenstreet** (55 lbs), **Dylan Ritter** (90 lbs) and **Cameron Cannaday** (96 lbs) all placed sixth at counties. **Braddox Pisano** (70 lbs) and **Logan Harris** (100 lbs) placed seventh at counties. **River Thompson** placed eighth in the A league county championships.



(L-R) Charlie Mutschler, Kyle Moran and Dalton Mitchell were among several Panthers wrestlers to win county titles at the B league county championship meet.

Charlie Mutschler, 9, was county champion at the B county championships, helping the Panthers to the team title. **Kyle Moran**, 7, placed first in the 8U/70 lbs bracket at the B county championships and finished the season 24-5 overall and atop the podium as county champ. **Hunter Singer**, 6, was county champion at 57 pounds and also placed first at the Camp Barnes Tournament in Delaware.

Dominic Crocetti, 8, was county champion at 8U/60 lbs at the B county tournament. **Nathan Ray** was also a champion for the Panthers at the B county championships. **Dalton Mitchell** placed first at counties. **Scotty Githens**, 14, was county champion as a first-year wrestler in the B county championships' 14U/107-lbs bracket. **Jackson Blauciak**, 6, placed first in the 6U/65 lbs bracket at B counties. **Trevor Webb** progressed steadily throughout the season and got extra practices with the A team before sweeping the competition at B counties to place first in the 80 lbs bracket. **Devin**

Weatherstein, 7, was MSWA Future Champions (Novice) in his first year of wrestling.

David Beatty, 6, won in overtime in the 45 lbs semifinals at the B county championships and finished as the county's runner-up in helping his team to the championship. **Jaksyn Elliott** placed second at B counties, and **Bryce Schmidt** also placed second at B counties. **Brooks Singer**, 4, placed third in the Matt Morrow Tournament at Northeast in his first year of competitive wrestling. **Lucas Barchanowicz** placed first at the Bel Air Brawl. **Karson Rebstock** placed fourth at counties.

Coach **Carl Cicchetti** spoke proudly of the Panthers' most successful season so far and said the program continues to grow in strength and number. "We keep moving in the right direction and getting better and better every year," said Cicchetti. "I am very proud of my boys and girls for the effort they continue to put forth and can't wait to see what the future holds for our program."

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Northeast Boys Slay On Eastern Shore, Fall In Region Final

» **Continued from B1**
the region's No. 1 seed, J.M. Bennett, on March 6. Against the Clippers, Northeast rebounded from a slow start and overcame a late deficit to win on a last-second basket by Albury, who drove the lane, put up a floater that missed, grabbed his own rebound and laid it back in for a momentous and thrilling 61-59 win.

"We come out down 6-0 to Bennett, and then we turn around and go on an 8-0 run, didn't lose the lead until the last minute, battled through some adversity with some calls down there and came out on top," said O'Dea. "It shows it takes a lot of effort."

LeBarron scored 11 points in the first quarter, 17 in the first half and finished with a team-high 21. Thomas "put the team on his back," in the second half, said O'Dea, scoring 11 of his 13 points after halftime, including two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Albury's 12 points included the game-winning basket and came with 6 assists. Volkman scored 10 points to go with 7 rebounds. McNeill, a sophomore starter, played strong defense again and contributed four assists, while Sheppard and Ajayi both came off the bench to contribute 2 points apiece.

Having traveled 368 total miles to achieve two wins, the Eagles were running on fumes by the time they were going for their third win of the week at Reservoir on March 8. The Gators were a complete team and, frankly, superior. Athletic forward **Josh Odunowo** had a career night with 29 points, 23 rebounds and 5 blocks, while sophomore sharpshooter **Aria Ameli** hit five 3-pointers



Photos by Colin Murphy

Starters Trent McNeill (left) and Jaylin Albury return along with swingman Jaleel Petty for Northeast next season. "We've got a bright future, and we're going to continue the culture," said Albury.

in the first half and **Kaden Toler** hit another two.

The thing is, Northeast still was right there to win it. The Eagles hung in the game much to the annoyance of the Gators, making a nuisance of themselves at every turn and refusing to go down. Twice they battled back from double-digit deficits to claw to within eight or seven points in the third and fourth quarters. Petty sparked the team with two triples in the fourth quarter that cut the lead to eight points, while LeBarron scored a team-high 14 points on an array of nifty drives and floaters. Albury (10 points), Thomas (10) and Volkman (8) shared a balanced scoring load, and McNeill scored 4 points on two dazzling layups in the fourth quarter.

Reservoir eventually closed it out — the atmosphere of the home gym was positively lit throughout the night, and the Gator crowd spilled gleefully onto

the court at the final buzzer, the region title theirs for the first time since 2013.

"This game shows them the intensity on defense they need to play with," said O'Dea. "We need to play a little bit harder every possession. We can't take any possession off. They had too many weapons, and they hit their shots, so you've got to give credit where credit is due."

Northeast's story was cut a little short, but the Eagles' accomplishments are in the books.

LeBarron, who finished tied with **Will Clark** (NHS '16) for the school's single-season record for 3-pointers with 63, said the well-worn tale of Pasadena teams going to the Eastern Shore to die was a point of pride for this year's Eagles.

"I think that every year Northeast or Chesapeake team goes down to Stephen Decatur or Bennett, and they always lose," said LeBarron. "[Decatur and Bennett]

always think they're going to beat us. For us to go down there and get two wins on the Eastern Shore shows a lot about how we came together at the end of the season, because it seems every year one of the Pasadena teams is going down there and losing, so to change that feels nice."

Albury said the team was unbored by high expectations.

"We weren't supposed to be here. Nobody expected us to be here," Albury said. "I don't even think our school expected us to be here. After every game we won, they were surprised that we got that far."

Thomas said the team had the resiliency to overcome a subpar season last year and trials throughout this year to band together.

"Last season we really did not have a good season," he said. "My senior year now and how we played now, I really love it, because everybody started to become a family. We all bought in. We had some loose bolts, but we definitely tightened them up during playoffs. That really carried us to win those two games. We've got good teammates, and we all help each other bring good energy to the games, and that's what helped us get this far."

With starters Albury and McNeill returning and the pipeline of Northeast basketball continuing to strengthen, the Eagles have confidence they could be celebrating a trip to the state's Final Four one of these years coming up.

"For the seniors, I'm going to miss them a lot," said Albury. "We've got a bright future, and we're going to continue the culture."

NHS Wrestlers Compete At States



Three Eagle wrestlers excelled throughout the county season and at the county tournament to qualify for the region tournament and eventually make it through to the state tournament. (L-R) Northeast's Billy Katzenberger, Jayden Mason and Thomas Gargano all went on to compete at the state championship meet.

Next Gen: Football Youths Get Head Start Through Pasadena Football



Over the past several seasons, Pasadena Football Club has merged the interests of the Panthers, Bucs and Chargers to create a fuller and stronger youth football experience for Pasadena's kids.

That effort extends to the youngest levels, in which kids as young as 3 play touch football, which has been well-received with local parents. To meet demand and interest, this winter Pasadena Football put together a Fundamentals of Football camp over three separate weekends spanning February and March at All Seasons Gym in Millersville. Three more sessions will be held this spring. Interested parties can contact **Chris Katzenberger** at ck13ck@aol.com and/or visit the Pasadena Chargers Facebook page for updates on the next series of football sessions.



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Local Schools Present “Snow White” With BTM

By Maya Pottiger

Through the Ballet Theatre of Maryland’s art integration project, five Anne Arundel County public elementary schools are working with the ballet company to present condensed performances of “Snow White.”

Of the five schools, two are Pasadena and Riviera Beach elementary schools. Each school has 20 students participating in the program.

“It’s nice because it’s a different level of professionalism and discipline,” said Dan Patrylak, an EEE (Enhancing Elementary Excellence) teacher at Pasadena Elementary, who is part of the school’s dance company this year. “Sometimes, when you just have it in-house, it’s a little more comfortable for the students, a little bit more laid back. When you start bringing professionals in, they start to see themselves in a different light, as well. It ups the stakes a little bit and adds that next level.”

BTM has been doing the arts integration program since 2013. Each participating school writes a seven-minute version of the ballet, and then a BTM choreographer helps the students create the dance. Suzanne Luoma is helping both Pasadena and Riviera Beach choreograph their renditions this year.

“They’ve shown so much that dance does for you: discipline, the music and math,” Luoma said. “The physical activity, especially, is great before school. They’re not tired, >> Continued on B9



Students at Pasadena Elementary work with Ballet Theatre of Maryland’s Suzanne Luoma, who helped choreograph the dance.

Glenna Blessing Hopes To Bring Good Fortune To GFMS

“While we think school and we think academics, it’s important to think about the holistic aspect of a child and letting them shine by showing off their passions.”

— GLENNA BLESSING
GEORGE FOX MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

An educator never knows if an incoming call or email is going to be good or bad: a child needs to be disciplined, a coveted guest has agreed to headline an assembly, a fox is hopping atop cars in the parking lot (yes, that last incident happened at George Fox last fall).

When Glen Burnie High School Assistant Principal Glenna Blessing learned that her application and interview landed her the promotion to principal of George Fox Middle School, it was a good message.

“Stranger things have happened, but I was definitely surprised,” Blessing said. “I’m honored to be here and it’s a great opportunity.”

Now in her 17th year in education, Blessing is grateful for the many opportunities she’s received. She worked her way up



During a parent-teacher conference day, new George Fox Middle School Principal Glenna Blessing spent time with members of the school’s Student Government Association.

the administrative ladder after starting her career as an assistant professor at Goucher College and dance department chair at George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, both in Baltimore County. She then became chair of the Performing and Visual Arts program at Annapolis High School before joining Glen Burnie High School as an assistant principal in 2014.

Glen Burnie High School Principal Scott McGuire spent only six months working with Blessing, but that time was enough for her to leave a lasting impression.

“Glenna is a collaborative leader,” McGuire said. “She really built strong relationships with the students, the parents and the kids. She was also innovative and created solutions to problems.”

Since starting her new position on February 1, Blessing has already noticed a difference in her everyday experience. “I’m used to

looking up at a lot at the high school boys, and now I can see my students at eye level,” she said with a laugh.

Yet some goals are the same. “There’s a shift in curriculum,” she said. “It’s still about growth in academics ... and for [the children] to be college and career ready, it’s about making the robustness and rigor aligned to what they’re going to face in high school.”

Blessing said she is still having discussions with her leadership team but they are focused on math skills and leveraging the AVID program, which is designed to provide academic support to students, preparing them for four-year colleges and universities.

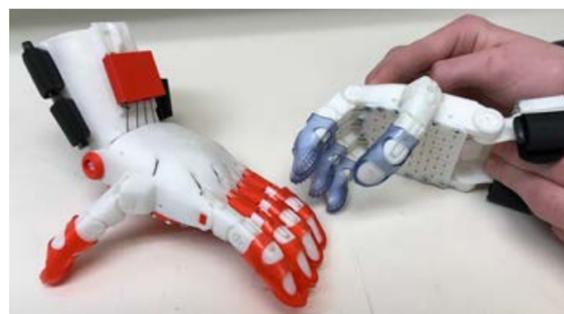
That doesn’t mean academics will be the sole focus. The staff at George Fox Middle School will continue to support the creative endeavors of students.

“While we think school >> Continued on B8

CHS Robotics Team Begins 12th Competition Season



Above: There are currently 31 student members of Chesapeake High School’s FIRST Robotics team. Top Right: The CHS FIRST Robotics team built a robot that weighs roughly 125 pounds. Bottom Right: A few students from the FIRST Robotics team are involved with a project printing 3D prosthetic hands for children.



By Maya Pottiger

Since January, Chesapeake High School’s robotics team has been gearing up for this year’s FIRST Robotics competition season.

Leading up to the competitions is an intense six-week period of researching, designing, building and testing the robot.

This year, the theme is “Destination: Deep Space.” The playing field features two rockets, a cargo ship and a habitat. The objective is for teams to place hatch panels on the rockets and cargo ship, load cargo into both and then return to the habitat.

“We should do very well,” said the team’s general manager, Rodney Milley.

CHS’ robotics team has qualified for the district championship for seven consecutive years. The team has also made it eight times to the FIRST championship, where teams from around the world compete.

There are two rounds of district competitions, which are March 16-17 and March 23-24. After that, teams compete in the playoffs where they

must win in both the quarterfinals and semifinals to make it to the finals, which take place at the end of April.

The competitions are streamed online, and the full schedule is available at www.thebluealliance.com/event/2019mdowi.

Now in its 12th season, the robotics club has >> Continued on B7

Area Scouts Complete Projects To Earn Prestigious Eagle Rank



Tim Keller (center, right) was joined by sister Hope, mom Kerri and father Hans during his Court of Honor ceremony.

Tim Keller
- Troop 855

By Judy Tacyn

Tim Keller started scouting in first grade at Monsignor Slade Catholic School in Glen Burnie. Seven years later, the Pasadena resident is the latest scout to earn the prestigious Eagle rank from Troop 855, based out of St. Martin’s-in-the-Field in Severna Park.

Keller, a freshman at Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore, planned to carry a heavy class schedule. “I >> Continued on B8



Photo by Judy Tacyn

For their Eagle projects, Aaron Nguyen (right) built and installed a wheelchair-accessible table for the Cisco Center, and Dominick Duncan installed benches outside Magothy UMC.

Dominick Duncan
Aaron Nguyen
- Troop 857

By Judy Tacyn

Dominick Duncan and Aaron Nguyen first met at Oak Hill Elementary School in Severna Park and were both first-graders when they joined the school’s Boy Scout troop. Now freshmen at Northeast and Severna Park high schools, respectively, the longtime friends stood together to receive their Eagle Scout pins at Our >> Continued on B8

Northeast High School Students, Teachers Dance For A Cause

By Maya Pottiger

Northeast High School students, teachers and administrators came together on March 7 for the second annual Dancing with the Stars: Teacher Edition. Ten student-teacher pairs competed in front of a panel of student judges to be crowned the winner.

"These types of events are important to both the school and community because it builds a tight relationship between the community and the school," said Northeast Principal Jason Williams. "I think that this event, in particular, is significant because it was the study and performance of an art form done



At Northeast High School's third annual Dancing with the Stars: Teacher Edition, 10 student-teacher pairs performed to raise funds that will benefit Ellie's Bus.

by a student and a teacher." Nearly 250 people gathered to watch the competition,

which raised roughly \$1,800, half of which will be donated to Ellie's Bus with the

other half supporting the dance company.

"I wanted to pick an organization that could directly affect our community," said Meredith Sibley, director of the school's dance company. "I think [Ellie's Bus] was something our high school students could relate to, so it mattered to them to give back."

Ellie's Bus is an organization that spreads positive mental health education and suicide awareness. Larry and Sherry Leikin, who started



Holly Holman, assistant principal, and senior Logan Farmer won both the judge's choice and audience choice votes.

who wants to get involved with Ellie's Bus and what we stand for."

There are three dance companies at NHS — senior, junior and boys — and they all contributed. In addition to the 10 students who volunteered to be the experts, the other 23 members of the dance company organized the event.

"I really try to make it a student-led type of concert," Sibley said. "I think it's important for them because that's really the idea of the benefit concert is that we're doing something that impacts our community that really gives back. I really try to have them do the entire thing so they really learn the value of that."

Next year, Sibley hopes to amp up the competition between the teachers and continue benefiting new organizations.

"The students know it's a lot of hard work, but I can tell that at the end of it they're pleased with their hard work, because of the feedback we receive, that the teachers had fun, the community had fun," Sibley said.

CHS Robotics Begins Competition Season

CHS Robotics Students 3D Print Prosthetic Hand

At Chesapeake High School, a handful of students on the robotics team have been involved with a project that is 3D printing prosthetic hands for children.

The school is currently looking to partner with e-NABLE, a global volunteer networking looking to "give the world a helping hand."

"We have printed out two prosthetic hands for children, and now we're going through the process of getting the organization to approve them so we can get these hands to the children that need them," said Rodney Milley, general manager of the school's robotics team.

The students working on this project are inspired seeing how they are able to help a child who doesn't have a hand be able to function, Milley said.

"They took a lot of pride, and they're very happy and excited to be able to do this," Milley said.

» Continued from B6 grown from 13 students to its current 31 members. Chesapeake's team allows students from other schools to join, so this year's team includes two students from North County High School.

"Their dedication to the team, their dedication to the game; they are all-in," Milley said. "Their dedication is very inspiring and keeps bringing us mentors back."

Kate O'Sullivan, a senior, said she considers the robotics team to be her second family because of the amount of time members spend together. By the end of the season, Milley estimates the team logs collective 12,000 hours between the 31 teammates.

"We work together hundreds of hours during the season, and the fact that we are all still so close after a highly stressful season is a miracle," O'Sullivan said. "It shows the strength of the bond people create on this team, and how much we all care about both each other and the engineering cause."

Trent Long, a junior, said he enjoys robotics because it allows him to learn things "a typical high schooler" wouldn't learn.

"This team is helping me prepare for the future by teaching me how to work with others and better understand the engineering process it takes to create something from just an

idea," Long said.

Though only in his first year as a freshman on the team, Evan Hilder said he appreciates the commitment from everyone involved and can already apply this knowledge toward his future.

"Being on robotics is preparing me for my future by providing a hands-on experience that will help me achieve my goal of graduating college and becoming an engineer," Hilder said.

FIRST Robotics currently has \$80 million in scholarship money available to students.

"They get real-world experience in the industry they want to go into," Milley said. "It looks good on a resume to be a FIRST Robotics student and helps you get to the next level."

Dancing With The Stars: Teacher Edition

FIRST PLACE

- Holly Holman, assistant principal
- Logan Farmer, senior — *Cardi B Mix*

SECOND PLACE (Tie)

- Matthew Friesen, AP psychology and

government teacher

- Delaney Hatfield, senior — *"Nutcracker" and "Sicko Mode" Mix*

- Theresa Gatlin, criminal justice and government teacher
- Kayla Kroneberger,

sophomore

- *'90s Hip-Hop Mix*

THIRD PLACE

- Jeremy Milligan, chemistry and astronomy teacher
- Deven Fuller, senior — *"Down" by Marian Hill*



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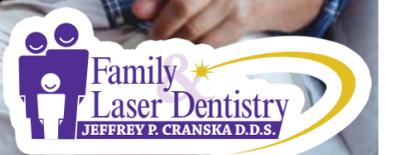
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Area Scouts Complete Projects To Earn Prestigious Eagle Rank

Keller

» Continued from B6
wanted to complete my Eagle project before I started high school," he said, "so I started planning mid-June of 2018."

For his Eagle project, Keller combined his faith and his family to come up with a plan to build a fire pit at his parish, Our Lady of the Chesapeake Catholic Church in Pasadena.

Tim Janiszewski, pastoral associate for youth ministry at Our Lady of the Chesapeake, said the youth group will huddle around the fire pit for cookouts and

small group gatherings in the evenings.

"The parish will also use it for our Easter vigil mass as we begin our most sacred celebration outdoors around the fire pit," he said.

Keller collected donations to purchase gravel, landscape tarps and concrete for the job. After two months of planning and gathering supplies, 20 scouts completed the project over two days last August. Janiszewski said the fire pit has already been put to good use.

"There's something special about sitting around a fire that encourages people to

open up and share," Janiszewski said. "We are looking forward to having many faith talks around our new fire pit, thanks to Tim and his Boy Scout troop."

At Keller's Court of Honor ceremony, Scoutmaster Jim Brooks praised Keller for his dedication to scouting and growth from Cub to Eagle.

"I've had a lot of fun watching Tim grow from a kid who was happy to follow, to a confident scout who took up the leadership mantle really well," Brooks said. "He's taken on every challenge and requirement with zest. He has a person-

ality that will always bring the moment up, and we can always count on him for a smile. The younger scouts really look up to him."

Keller is patrol leader of the Bulldogs patrol. Brooks called Keller "an inspiration to the younger members of his patrol, especially related to STEM and merit badge activities. He has taken the initiative on several occasions to create opportunities for him and his peers to earn advancement."

Keller also serves as the troop webmaster responsible for maintaining the website, and he's in charge of creating and editing a weekly electronic troop newsletter.

"Leadership in the troop got me out of my comfort zone; being a leader in scouting is fun and hard at the same time," Keller said. "Sometimes it's hard to corral the younger scouts, but I also enjoy the role of mentor or helper. I like to help them work their way through scouting."

Keller's leadership is also recognized by his faith community.

"Tim is new to our youth ministry this year as a freshman, but he is already a leader in his small group and often is a guiding force in our discussions," Janiszewski said. "He has an outstanding character. He is not afraid to speak his mind but always does so with respect. He's a great benefit to our youth group and evangelizes naturally."

Keller said he hopes that a future Eagle project will include building benches around the new fire pit.

Duncan and Nguyen

» Continued from B6
Shepherd Lutheran Church in Severna Park in February as the newest members of Boy Scout Troop 857 to earn the coveted Eagle Rank.

Scoutmaster Schelly Taylor announced the call to order before more than 100 friends, family members and fellow scouts gathered to honor the teens.

When Duncan came to the podium, he shared a story of seeing an elderly man at his church — Magothy United Methodist on Mountain Road in Pasadena — who had difficulty walking the campus grounds. For his Eagle project, Duncan chose to build and install two sitting benches along a pathway to the church's chapel.

"I thought it would be helpful for people who couldn't walk as easily as I can to have a place to sit, relax, and just kind of enjoy the outdoors," Duncan said. "With the help of my troop, we were able to build the benches in one day and carry them to their installation spot the next day."

The Rev. Martin T. Brooks, pastor of Magothy United Methodist Church, praised Duncan for the creation of the benches, but added that Duncan provides leadership in other areas of his church.

"Dominick is already a leader in our community," Brooks said. "He assists in Sunday school, he's active in youth group, he's spoken before the worship

congregation on occasion, and he's just a blessing to be around. Members of our church greatly respect him and his ministry despite the fact that he is just 14 years old and growing into manhood."

Sitting in the front row, Dominick's great-grandparents dabbed tear-filled eyes. "I am the first person in my family to achieve this honor," Duncan said, "so it's pretty special."

For Renee Burton, Dominick's great-grandmother, the recognition followed years of supporting Dominick's scouting goals. "I am just so proud of him," Burton said. "He's overcome so much."

For his Eagle project, Nguyen chose to build and install a wheelchair-accessible outdoor table for the Cisco Center, which specializes in working with students diagnosed with autism, developmental disabilities, speech or language disorders, and learning disabilities in Severna Park.

Cisco Nochera, executive director and founder of the Cisco Center Foundation, met Nguyen as a 3-year-old. "He was always a very sweet and caring child who always looked out for others," Nochera said. "This characteristic has continued to this day. He reached out to me on his own and offered to give back in the form of a wheelchair-accessible picnic table. The table is wonderful and will be put to good use throughout the year, especially in the warmer months."

Blessing Hopes To Bring Good Fortune

» Continued from B6

and we think academics, it's important to think about the holistic aspect of a child and letting them shine by showing off their passions," Blessing said.

To enable student success, Blessing said she wants to be transparent and give teachers the tools and support they need.

"I value that I can leave my door open to communication," she said. "If there's something good [a teacher] wants me to see or if there's a problem, I want to help because we want to make each

person the best instructor they can be."

For students to get the most out of their learning experience, Blessing said George Fox will emphasize meeting their "diverse learning styles and preferences." But school needs to be fun too, she said.

Blessing enjoyed seeing kids decked out in semiformal attire for the Valentine's dance, and she eagerly awaits the eighth-grade promotion ceremony and the Fox Fair, which is held in June.

"That's probably the biggest event at George Fox," she

said of the fair. "We have everything from snow cone machines to three-legged races. It's like a carnival affair."

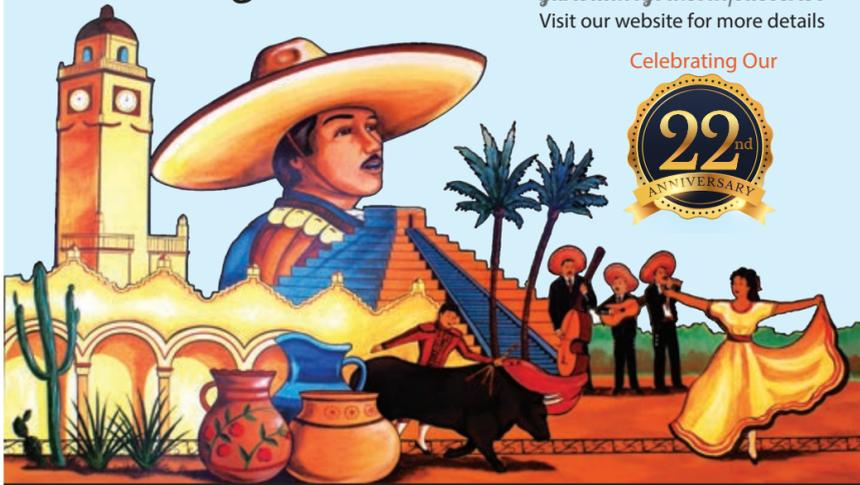
With all of those elements, Blessing believes George Fox will be a welcoming place where students want to learn.

"We have to allow our students to guide our focus," Blessing said. "They are our due north, our compass, which is something [former principal] Russ Austin started. We want there to be a joy in teaching and a joy in learning. We want everyone to enjoy coming to school."

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Q.

Question of the month

Each month, the *Pasadena Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Mr. Bellarin's class at Riviera Beach Elementary School answered the question:

If you could make up a new holiday, what would it be?

I would create Game Day because I love to play games. People could play video games and other types of games all day.
Bryce R.

Wildlife Day, because every person should go outside and play or be active for 60 minutes. Also, it is healthy and good for the body. The holiday will be on April 20.
Camden S.

If I could make a holiday, it would be School Appreciation Day. I think teachers don't get enough appreciation for what they do. They spend roughly



For the month of March, we asked Mr. Bellarin's class, "If you could make up a new holiday, what would it be?"

Riviera Beach Elementary School

six to seven hours every day for five days teaching kids instead of spending time with their families.
Cameron H.

I would make a Lego holiday called the World of Lego. On that day, you build anything and give it to anyone you want. If you do, you get a free Lego set.
Chase F.

National Meme Day to celebrate how memes power the world. I would pick this holiday because everyone loves memes.
Chase L.

Creative Day is a day when you

are able to express yourself through art and creativity. Because people don't really celebrate art.
Claire T.

I would make a holiday where everybody would go on an obstacle course and have fun. I would call it Obstacle Course Day, and we would be off school. All the people would have fun.
David R.

The holiday I would make is Helping Homeless Day. Everyone would come together to give to the poor and homeless, so there would be no more poor or homeless.

Dominic S.

If there is any holiday I would want to have, it would be Franklin D. Roosevelt Day. He led America to victory in World War II while handicapped, which is very impressive.

James S.

I would make Parent Appreciation Day because some kids take their parents for granted or are not grateful for them. On this holiday, everybody will be very nice to their parents.

Jeffrey B.

I think a new holiday should be National Friends Day because it would be a day to respect your friends and love them.

Jessalyn E.

Children's Day. We have Mother's Day and Father's Day and we also have Grandparent's Day. In Brazil, there is Children's Day, but not here, so why can't we have a special day for children?

Jessica H.

My idea for a national holiday is Retirement Day. On Retirement Day, you could or would visit a retirement home and help the people that live there. I also think that it would make them happy because people come to visit them there.

Kyleigh H.

If I could make a holiday, it would be Adopt A Pet Day. Having a pet would make the people and pets happy.

Lucy M.

If I could make a new holiday, it would be Parents Day because I want to celebrate both parents in the same day. Instead of a Mother's Day and Father's Day, there can be a day where we can spread the love between both parents on the same day.

Mahliya M.

I would make up Dog-O-Ween, where you take your dogs, dress them up, and take them out to every house and the people will give them treats so they can have a good time.

Marissa K.

If I could make a holiday, it would be where everybody celebrates all the state troopers and police and what they did for our country by saving people from shootings and helping little kids and adults.

Sam T.

I would make Best Friends Day. Most people really don't know the value of a best friend. After a while, a best friend starts to become like a sister or brother. That's how much they mean to you.

Sariah W.

If I could make a holiday, I would make a Be Kind holiday because I feel like people need to be a little nicer to each other and you can give gifts to a random person to make their day.

Sydney S.

I would make a day to save trees. The day would be Save A Tree Day. I think that should be a day because trees help us live and we continue to cut them down.

Vincent W.

Local Schools Present "Snow White"

» Continued from B6 and it gets their blood moving so they get more blood [and] oxygen to their brain at the start of the day."

Students meet before school once a week for an hour-long rehearsal. Now eight rehearsals in, Patrylak said he notices a difference in the students.

"Sometimes with the ballet, it's about slowing down, calming down, thinking before you start your actions, being in control of what you're doing," Patrylak said. "I think that does translate to the classroom."

At Riviera Beach Elementary, fourth-grade students were paired with first-grade students for the program. During the writing process, the students worked with teachers Kelli Johnson and

Kaitlin Vezina, and they called themselves the Seven Word Wonders.

Each school is tasked with putting a twist on the classic story. At Riviera Beach, Snow White is a dancer who journeys into the woods and finds the Seven Wonders Dance Studio, which is where the dwarves live. They teach Snow White to be a better dancer, where the Evil Queen used to be the favored dancer.

In Riviera Beach's production, the Evil Queen asks the mirror, "Mirror, mirror in my studio, who's the best dancer that you know?" Johnson said. "The mirror replies: Princess Snow can dab, and she's got that glow, she's the best dancer that I know."

At Pasadena, the seven dwarves are now seven pup-

pies; the poisoned apple is a bad lottery ticket; and the Evil Queen travels by jetpack, just to name a few twists.

Before each school performs, students are invited to read a two-minute version of the story to help the audience follow along with the ballet.

Between the school performances, professional dancers from BTM will perform excerpts of their production of "Snow White," which they performed in February as part of their 40th anniversary celebration.

All five schools and BTM members will perform their renditions of "Snow White" on April 16 at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. Performances begin at 6:30pm, and the event is free and open to the public.

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REAL ESTATE

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April 17, 2019

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David Messenger Plays All Over The Radio Dial

By Maya Pottiger

Back when Chesapeake Bay Middle School was Bayview Middle School, David Messenger was in the eighth-grade putting together his first band.

Now, Messenger still performs at locations around Pasadena with his band Radio Graffiti.

"You still see a lot of those same faces you saw when you were a kid. We

have a lot of people who come out to see the band just because they know I'm from Pasadena," Messenger said. "It's a big community, but you still run into and see all those people that you saw years ago."

On March 22, Radio Graffiti will play its 2018 show at Twain's Tavern. Messenger remembers playing at the venue when it was Bamboo Bernie's.

"They were full-on
» Continued on B11



Photo courtesy of Joe Messenger

Not Worth The Chase: "Cold Pursuit"



Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment

"Cold Pursuit" felt overly ambitious, attempting to make social commentary with a rather scatter-gun approach.

By Audrey Ruppert

"Cold Pursuit," Liam Neeson's newest blockbuster, has been met with controversy due to his comments while promoting the film. The central theme of the movie is revenge, and Neeson infamously commented that he related to his character because he once wished for revenge after a black man sexually assaulted a friend of his (he later realized he had made a stupid mistake). Intrigued, I decided to watch "Cold Pursuit" and see if the weight of such a statement was backed by an equally weighty film. Unfortunately, I was rather disappointed.

"Cold Pursuit" had so much potential. It follows Nels Coxman (Liam Neeson), a snow plow driver who recently won

an award as Citizen of the Year. Coxman lives a rather mundane, everyday existence plowing the streets of Kehoe, a snowy ski town, until his son is caught up in a drug deal and is killed. Driven mad with revenge, Coxman embarks on a one-man mission to kill those responsible, but he accidentally sparks a war between two rival drug gangs, one white and one Native American, and inadvertently causes the deaths of several dozen people.

The film is an adaptation of the Scandinavian film "In Order of Disappearance," and is directed by the original Norwegian director. Scandinavian media is famous for being dark, crime-oriented and punctuated with black comedy (think "Girl with the Dragon
» Continued on B12

Seventh Annual Annapolis Film Festival: Truth In Storytelling

By Elizabeth Harwood

The star-studded slate of 70-plus films at the 2019 Annapolis Film Festival (AFF) runs March 21-24 and includes world premieres, emerging artists, industry guests, and the work of multiple awards. Standing on the shoulders of their esteemed careers in the storytelling industry, festival co-founders Patti White and Lee Anderson inaugurated AFF in 2013 with the intention of offering a diversity of films from around the world that inspire a diversity of conversations. While the festival's popularity and respect continue to increase, so does its ability to bring the community together, a momentum Anderson has mindfully observed the past seven years.

"At a time when the world sometimes seems very divisive and divided, we believe that [the festival] has actually helped bring people together in a really positive way," shared Anderson, a Pasadena resident.

This year's theme, "Truth in Story-

telling," brings forward the voices of truth seekers across multiple industries, including filmmaking.

"We're living in a time where truth

our friends at the *Capital Gazette*," she added.

"Truth in Storytelling" is integrated into every aspect of this year's festival, beginning with the selection of films. Eighteen narratives, 20 documentaries, and 46 shorts are divided into eight genres: LGBTQ, military, boating, youth audience (high school), African-American interest, Jewish interest, women/#MeToo/#TimesUp, and foreign — and every one of them is brimming with transparency. The participation of moderators, emerging students, filmmakers, actors and directors, as well as interactive panel discussion, is also interwoven into the creative programming. However, the interesting and mind-opening dialogue independent films often catalyze remains to be

an audience favorite throughout the four-day festival weekend.

"Independent cinema is a whole different thing," explained Anderson, referring to how there are important stories that are not being told and independent film festivals offer the opportunity of visibility. "And we really need that more than ever."
» Continued on B12



Based on the real-life story that happened on and off the historically cold streets of Cincinnati, "The Public" — written, directed by and starring Emilio Estevez — kicks off the seventh annual Annapolis Film Festival on opening night.

needs to be paramount because it's a very hard time

for people to decipher what is the truth," Anderson said. "We have to rely on the journalists and the storytellers to actually show us and tell us where the truth lies. For that reason, we wanted to value the contributions of storytellers this year in honor of

Student Talent Stands Out At Mountain Road Library's Art Exhibit

By Maya Pottiger

The event space at the Mountain Road Library is full of color this month. Art teachers at four local elementary schools — Bodkin, Lake Shore, Pasadena and Jacobsville — chose student work, divided up wall space and are displaying a variety of artwork.

Heather Roddy, an art teacher at Jacobsville Elementary, chose work from all grade levels, but she tried to highlight students who hadn't been spotlighted before. She also chose work from students who demonstrate the school's ROAR values: responsible, organized, achieving and respectful.

"It gives them a feeling of accomplishment to have their work on display in a public place," said Roddy, who coordinated Art in our Schools. "It gives them

that feeling of really being a true artist and having their work out where many people can see it."

that reflect the concepts and skills students learned in her class.

"It's important to show

displayed at different venues instead of just being hung up at school," O'Boyle said. "It shows the community what our students are learning about and creating in art classes across the county."

At Lake Shore Elementary, art teacher Gigi King-Haan searches through piles from her 15 art classes to see what catches her eye. King-Haan said the art show allows the community to see students' art the way they see it.

"It is important to display artwork out in the com-

munity to help the students feel like part of the
» Continued on B12



Karen O'Boyle, an art teacher at Pasadena Elementary, chooses pieces

student work in the community because they need to see their artwork

Chesapeake's Evolve Headed To ICHSA Semifinal

By Maya Pottiger

Think "High School Musical" meets "Pitch Perfect."

Evolve, Chesapeake High School's a cappella group, is heading to the International Championship for High School A Cappella (ICHSA) semifinals on March 23.

The ICHSA, made popular by "Pitch Perfect," includes groups from the United States and the United Kingdom. After placing first in the quarterfinals, Evolve will compete against seven other groups in the semifinals.

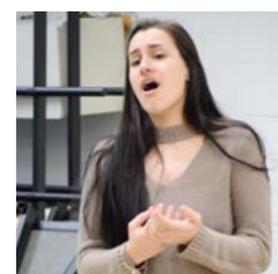
"I've never had a group of kids that works as hard as these 15 kids do," said Michael Brisentine, the choral director at CHS. "They want



Clockwise from top left: Junior Lia Bagley, sophomore Alex Brown and senior Abby Shakan are among the 15 members of the a cappella group Evolve.

to succeed."

Now in its third year as a program, this is Evolve's first year competing.



"These kids are musically talented, and they really, really care about each other and what they do,"

Brisentine said. "It felt like this year that it was time because I knew they could handle it, and I knew they wanted to handle it."

Evolve will perform three songs at the semifinals: "What About Us" by P!nk, "Grown" by Little Mix and "Remember" by Seinabo Sey.

Brisentine arranged the songs himself. When choosing what to perform, he sought input from the Evolve members to make sure they were onboard and in a majority.

"[The music] has to be fun and in your face and people have to be able to dance to it," Brisentine said.

In addition to coming in first place, Evolve also won Best Choreography at
» Continued on B11

Dining Out

Classic Menu, New Interior Design At Romilo's

By Mary Cobbler

Feeling hungry and in the mood for something *delizioso*? Check out the newly renovated Romilo's Restaurant & Bar — located in the Robinson Crossing shopping center — for scrumptious Greek, Italian, American and seafood cuisine.

I was intrigued when I heard that the new owner had renovated the facility. When my family and I showed up for a dinner around 7:00pm on Monday night, I immediately noticed the modern beiges and light grays on the walls and seating, the brighter lighting, and the updated window treatments designed to allow natural light to flood into the restaurant. My kids happily settled into the clean, roomy booths and began coloring. Our waiter, Alex, showed up almost immediately to

take our drink orders.

The restaurant specializes in several types of food, so I'd determined that I wanted to try something Greek, something Italian, and some kind of seafood when I arrived. I asked Alex for some recommendations and he offered a few fan favorites for us to choose from, including a crab pretzel. I'm a sucker for a good crab pretzel, so I went with that. The crab pretzel was thick and warm, chewy on the outside and soft on the inside, smothered in a thick layer of creamy crab dip, jam-packed with crab meat, topped with melted cheeses and dusted with Old Bay. What a delicious start to the meal.

It can be hard to find a good gyro sandwich in Severna Park, so my husband was excited to order the gyro platter. I remembered having some great pizza here in the past, so



Photo by Mary Cobbler

Romilo's Restaurant & Bar in Severna Park has an extensive list of pizza choices.

I ordered a pizza to share. It was hard to choose our entrees, however, because there were so many to choose from!

The gyro was the real star of the show. Thick slices of tender, savory meat lay nestled inside a thick, toasty pita, drizzled with a cool cucumber-

yogurt sauce. The sweetness and chill of the sauce mingled with the warm, spiced meat like a flavor-packed work of art. This was technically my husband's meal, but I couldn't resist sneaking bites off his plate.

I was thrilled when I tasted the pizza and

realized it was just as I remembered from years ago — a thick, chewy crust and a gooey layer of melded cheeses. Romilo's really nailed the crispiness of the crust edges along with the thicker, softer interior of the pizza overall. The only real criticism I could

offer would be on the sauce — there wasn't a lot of it, and it could have used more flavor. More seasoning and more sauce would have gone a long way. The freshness of the dough, however, along with the hearty toppings, still allowed me to give this pizza a solid A and enjoy it for dinner and breakfast again the next morning.

We wrapped up the meal by enjoying a large cannoli filled with a delectable, fresh cream filling and chocolate chips.

You may have already tried Romilo's, but with the variety of dishes it offers, I bet you can find something new and delicious to have for dinner this week. Check out the new interior, and take a trip to Greece, Italy, or just stay here in Severna Park. Whatever you choose, you won't be disappointed.

Messenger Plays All Over The Radio Dial

» Continued from B10
rock shows there," Messenger said. "Not necessarily people dancing but just in front of the stage having a good time."

Through his music career, Messenger has played in a variety of bands at venues all over Maryland. Some of his favorite performances were at Hammerjacks in Baltimore and The Bayou in Washington, D.C.

"I saw a career in it," Messenger said. "I put a lot of things on hold and chased that allusive record contract until I was about 25."

After graduating from Chesapeake High School, Messenger went to trade school and got a license to cut hair. While attempting to make a career out of music, Messenger worked at several places including Rumors Salon and Giant.

However, music wasn't

paying the bills. Messenger briefly moved to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 2005 where he was a music director for a church. Messenger was also battling Crohn's disease, which "really got me out of pursuing that music dream and put me into a career of finance."

"I had kind of gotten away from myself. I wasn't performing or anything," Messenger said. "I transitioned back here to Maryland and ran into a couple of my old buddies and decided to put Radio Graffiti together."

Radio Graffiti played its first show in 2011. Since then, it has seen members rotate in and out, but the current lineup features Rick Fleischmann on drums and vocals, Eric Forste on bass, and Tambo on vocals and percussion.

Considered a "high-energy dance band," Radio Graffiti

performs a variety of music ranging from current artists like Lady Gaga and Thomas Rhett to '80s artists like Prince and Tom Petty.

"The premise behind Radio Graffiti: If you look at the logo, there's a radio dial at the bottom. We're all over the radio dial," Messenger said.

Now Messenger works for Douglas Realty in Pasadena. He plays 25 to 30 shows with Radio Graffiti throughout the year.

"It's very well-rounded at this point with the versatility of the music that we can do," Messenger said. "We really like one another and enjoy playing. Music has kept me grounded and out of trouble."

Radio Graffiti plays at Twain's Tavern on Friday, March 22, at 10:00pm. It will be the band's 201st performance. For future dates, visit www.radiograffitiband.com.

Evolve Headed To ICHSA Semifinal

» Continued from B10
quarterfinals.

"It has to be clean," Brisentine said. "Most of the time, everyone in the back is acting like one entity, and then the soloist is in front of them doing their own thing."

Students are challenged through Evolve, which is a draw for many.

"I wanted to try something harder," said junior Chris Shappell, who joined Evolve in August. "I have people I can enjoy myself with and have fun and be able to do harder music."

Senior Valerie Casey, who joined Evolve in its inaugural year, echoed Shappell's desire to become a better musician.

"Everybody in this group works really hard," Casey said. "Everybody is really kind. Everybody is willing to put in effort."

The students are "very aware that this is an aggregate" effort, Brisentine said. Their hard work through Evolve transcends out of rehearsal: they hang out "all the time," Casey said, and support one another in many aspects.

"We're always there for each other. We all have each other's backs," Shappell said. "If there's a problem, if someone has

something else going on, we make sure they're OK and that everybody gets what they need so they can perform better."

Evolve will perform in the International Championship for High School A Cappella semifinals on March 23 in Allendale, New Jersey. If the group places first, the singers will move on to the finals in New York.



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Talent Stands Out At Library's Art Exhibit

» **Continued from B10** community," King-Haan said. "It also brings the community together, and they see students from all the different schools displayed together, which shows that we as teachers, even though our work is different, come together as one community."

Bodkin art teacher Jaclyn Cockcroft sets aside pieces throughout the year to have them on hand when it's time to select artwork for a showcase. Cockcroft said she likes to

make a big deal about student work being collected so they feel special and understand how important it is.

"Having art displayed in the community helps others get an inside view into our classrooms," Cockcroft said. "Having the chance to have one's art on display at a public event is like the soccer player going to a playoff game. It's an opportunity to show off the many great artists we have at the elementary level

and share it with their families."

Roughly 15 to 25 pieces are on display from each school. A large variety of media are on display, including collages, paintings, pastel work, marker and colored pencil.

"They see that their work is not necessarily just for doing a project that we're doing at school, but it is used for sometimes a bigger purpose," Roddy said. "It gives them a sense of what comes after your work is finished."

Not Worth The Chase: "Cold Pursuit"

» **Continued from B10** Tattoo"). " Fargo" proved that some American media can capture this aesthetic, but "Cold Pursuit" felt like a clumsy translation. At times, the dialogue was stilted and underdeveloped, particularly that of Kehoe's two (utterly useless) police officers; I found myself wondering if the nuances of the original didn't quite make it into English. The landscape and scenery was certainly cold but not quite as chilling as last year's Native American crime drama, "Wind River." The "funny" notes just don't land and often come off as bizarre rather than humorous. The film, while dark, doesn't nearly reach the depravity of other drug dramas like "Breaking Bad." We're left with wish-wash that falls somewhere between black and comedy while missing both marks.

"Cold Pursuit" felt overly ambitious, attempting to make social commentary with a rather scatter-gun

approach. We are presented with one drug gang of Native Americans who feel wronged by the white ski-travelers and businessmen who have taken over the town, but their plight doesn't receive enough focus to leave a lasting impression. We have one bumbling, clueless old cop and another ambitious millennial cop who (in a rather non-millennial fashion) wants to arrest everyone who uses drugs — was this supposed to be some sort of commentary on the war on drugs? If so, it wasn't clear.

Heavy-handed metaphors continually slap us in the face and feel forced and contrived rather than powerful. Worst of all is the fact that this film had serious potential to show the true devastation of hatred, revenge and bigotry, and vindicate Neeson for his comments. So many people die unnecessarily due to hate and prejudice, but the deaths in "Cold Pursuit" don't leave enough of an impact for a modern, desensitized audi-

ence to care. We are presented with the opportunity to learn something, or at least walk away with some kind of resolved message at the end of the movie, but are instead left with a directionless mess.

It wasn't all bad, though. Tom Bateman, who plays "Viking," the white drug lord, is compelling and hate-worthy, the living embodiment of entitled, misogynistic, racist smarminess. Brock Coxman (William Forsythe), Nels' brother, is married to a small angry Asian woman with a pink suitcase who positively channels my mother and is probably the only funny part of the film. The relationship between Viking's son and Nels is oddly satisfying to watch. The problem with "Cold Pursuit" was not the acting; it was the direction.

Despite my criticisms, the film is a thoroughly entertaining watch, even if it isn't memorable. This is definitely worth watching once the Netflix release comes out.

Seventh Annual Annapolis Film Festival

» **Continued from B10**

After 27 years in the business, Anderson is convinced that storytelling is what connects communities, because each of us has our own story. "It's the communal thing that puts us around the proverbial campfire and warms us up," she elaborated. "It soft-

ens us because we're not just a face."

Carefully curated and culturally aware, the 2019 AFF should deliver another experience where viewers are able to respectfully hear new and diverse perspectives for the purpose of collective growth.

"We bring strong voices

with different points of view," Anderson summarized, "but we hope everybody will come with an open mind and an open heart."

To fully appreciate the variety of happenings, view film trailers and purchase tickets, visit www.annapolisfilmfestival.com.



SEMINAR SPEAKER



Stuart Jacobs, MD

Pulmonologist,

University of Maryland Baltimore
Washington Medical Center

BWELL SEMINAR SERIES:

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