



Year In Review:
Looking Back
On 2025

» Page 10



“Printer Claus” Delights
With 3D Creations On
The Broadneck
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» Page 44

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DECEMBER 2025

STATE CHAMPIONS

Photo by Fincham Photography

Photo by Dennis McGinley



Above: The Severna Park girls soccer team won their third straight state title.

Top Right: Broadneck High School's volleyball team earned the top prize after coming up one win short last year. **Right:** The Falcons girls cross country team secured first place for the fourth year in a row.

Not only did several Severna Park and Broadneck teams claim state titles this fall, but two of them also cemented their spots in the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association record books.

The Severna Park girls cross country team took first place at the state finals at Hereford High School for the fourth straight year on November 9. Their peers on the Severna Park girls soccer team accomplished a special feat, winning their third straight state title in stunning fashion: with a golden goal at University of Maryland, Baltimore County on November 15.

After coming up one win short of a championship

last season, the Broadneck volleyball squad earned the top prize in Class 4A this year. The Bruins beat Urbana in straight sets (28-26, 28-26, 25-22) at Harford Community College on November 15.

Broadneck's Ben Coe finished as the Class 4A/3A boys golf champion after three days of competition at the University of Maryland from October 27-29.

Fall will be remembered as a successful season for these teams and that is just the public schools. Several private school teams also finished their seasons as champions.

Read more about the state champions by flipping to pages 18, 21 and 24.

Severna Park Veteran Sets Three Guinness World Records

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

An improvised explosive device forever changed the life of Ryan Kules 20 years ago during a deployment to Iraq. The U.S. Army veteran lost his right arm and left leg, but he did not lose his life.

To mark his annual “alive day,” the Severna Park resident claimed three Guinness World Records inside the Baltimore Ravens locker room at M&T Bank Stadium this December 1. Records included the most meters covered in one hour by a double amputee on an indoor rowing machine (11.8 kilometers), fastest marathon by a double amputee on an indoor rowing machine (three hours, 41 minutes, seven seconds) and fastest ultramarathon by a double amputee on an indoor rowing machine (four hours, 22 minutes, 53 seconds).

Kules attempted the records not just for himself but also in memory of Sergeants Donald Hasse and Jerry Mills, whom he served with in the Army's First Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment.

“It's very much a bittersweet day for me, and for the past nearly 20 years, it has been an opportunity for me to do as much as I can for those guys and for those who came before me and gave the ultimate sacrifice,” Kules

» Continued on page 6

Photo courtesy of Fincham Photography

Ryan Kules trained extensively to attempt three Guinness World Records, which he broke in honor of his 20th alive day and the soldiers killed during his deployment to Iraq.



Inside

Community.....	1
Religion.....	13
Politics & Opinion.....	14
Sports.....	18
School & Youth.....	37
Health & Fitness.....	41
Arts & Entertainment.....	44
Business.....	47

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Board Of Education Adopts Phase 2 Redistricting Plan

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County gave final approval to a Phase 2 redistricting plan that will see approximately 750 Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) students shift schools, concluding a process that began in February.

At a November 19 meeting, board

members adopted revised recommendation three, which it created on November 5 and held public hearings on November 13 and 17. The plan will take effect in the 2026-2027 school year.

Under the new plan, 54 students will be redistricted from Folger McKInsey Elementary to Severna Park

Elementary, and 88 students will be redistricted from Belvedere Elementary to Arnold Elementary.

All redistricting changes can be found at www.aacps.org/news. Read more about the adopted redistricting plan in Board of Education District 5 member Dana Schallheim's column on page 14.



Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

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

The Margueritte Mills Volunteer of the Month is proudly sponsored by Affordable Outdoor Kitchens.



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Chris Chitterling Helps Bruins Celebrate Football With Clean Fun At Fifth Quarter

By Meredith Winter

The Bruins varsity football team prevailed over the Old Mill Patriots, 19-3, during a home game on October 17, and following the victory, hundreds of Broadneck High School students crossed College Parkway to enjoy a fun party in a safe environment at Broadneck Park.

For many years, a festival hosted by Arnold-based Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church (BEP) has drawn up to 600 high schoolers to the nearby park after home football games. Offering good, clean fun in the form of inflatables, games, food and more, the "Fifth Quarter" is an alternative to parties where kids might get into trouble.

BEP's website explains the mission of the after-party: "The goal of Fifth Quarter is to offer Broadneck High School students the truth of faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ as a positive alternative to combat the lies of drugs, sex and alcohol offered at after-game parties."

Longtime BEP member and current elder Chris Chitterling has volunteered with the Fifth Quarter for over two decades.

"We saw what BEP was doing, and it was to try to give a safe place for the kids to come after a home game, because it can get crazy," Chitterling said, adding, "We can share our faith with them if in fact they want to hear it. So, it was a perfect way to get involved, get my kids involved."

Chitterling's three kids, all Severna Park High School graduates, are now adults, but he and his wife, Tricia, continue to serve with Fifth Quarter.

The Shipley's Choice resident helps coordinate volunteers for the event, including people trained in security, and helps ensure everyone involved has had a background check. When the party winds down after 11:00pm, he assists with trash collection and teardown into the early morning hours.

In years past, Fifth Quarter took place after every home game, but as it grew so too did the need for volunteers, and it transitioned into one large annual event.

Students toss footballs, play frisbee, navigate inflatable obstacle courses and slides, nosh on donated food including Spizzico pizza and Chick-fil-A sandwiches, and have the opportunity to learn about Christianity.

Throughout Fifth Quarter, tents are set up for students to ask church representatives questions about faith if they want to. Chitterling shared that students ask about what they believe and some even challenge them. Kids stick around at the tents to hear the dialogues, and there are often long lines of students waiting

Photo by Meredith Winter

For two decades, Chris Chitterling has helped facilitate Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church's Fifth Quarter outreach to Broadneck High School students.



to ask questions. Tricia volunteers in the tents and loves conversing with the students, Chitterling shared.

"It's fun seeing everyone get together to help the youth ... to see all the kids together, and they're just having a blast together, they're really having fun," Chitterling said of what he loves about Fifth Quarter. "As well as the tents ... that kids really want to know, they really do ask, and some maybe already believe in God, (but) a lot do not. But they do ask and they have really good questions."

He shared that the after-party had humble beginnings in someone's basement many years ago while the church was meeting in an elementary school. When BEP purchased the property where the church now stands, they began hosting Fifth Quarter there prior to construction, and for much of the event's history, it has been held at Broadneck Park.

BEP Associate Pastor Jon Pickens oversees the church's youth programming, including Fifth Quarter, and is grateful for volunteers like Chitterling.

"Chris has been a humble and active leader and volunteer at Broadneck EP Church for many years," Pickens said. "As one of the volunteer leaders — in a variety of different roles over the years — of Fifth Quarter, he's been a great source of support and encouragement."

Chitterling was born and raised in Annapolis and works for a technology company. He and Tricia attended the University of Maryland and have been married just shy of 35 years. They enjoy boating and spending time with their three grandchildren.

Chitterling counts it a blessing to be a part of the Fifth Quarter and looks forward to serving with future events.

Second Annual Better Together Fundraiser Generates Over \$20,000 For Local Nonprofits



Hosted by David and Dawn Orso, the second annual Better Together fundraiser brought community members together to support the Severna Park Community Center, Bello Machre and Boomers Inc. Representatives from each nonprofit were given time to share their mission through a "pitch competition," and generous donors gave over \$20,000 to support the three organizations. The event took place in November at Chartwell Golf & Country Club.



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Proving Non-Economic Damages In Injury Cases

David V. Diggs, Esq. and
Lisa Bogan-Reohr, Esq.



When a client is injured due to another person's negligence or intentional act, one of their early questions is inevitably, "What's my case worth?" Early on, I tell them, "It's too soon to tell." We must investigate, gather documents and hope the client heals fully.

There are multiple components to the injured person's claim. Most people are familiar with the concept of economic damages in a personal injury case: lost time from work or medical expenses for treatment. Both lost wages and medical bills are readily quantifiable. More intangible and difficult to value are the non-economic damages for which you may be eligible to recover, such as pain and suffering.

According to Chapter 10:2 of the Maryland Civil Pattern Jury Instructions (MPJI-Cv) published by the Maryland State Bar Association, compensatory damages for bodily injury include the following:

1. The personal injuries sustained and their extent and duration
2. The effect such injuries have on the overall physical and mental health and wellbeing of the plaintiff
3. The physical pain and mental anguish suffered in the past and that with reasonable probability may be expected to be experienced in the future
4. The disfigurement and humiliation or embarrassment associated with such disfigurement
5. The medical and other expenses reasonably incurred in the past and that with reasonable probability may be expected in the future
6. The loss of earnings in the past and such earnings or reduction in earning capacity that with reasonable probability may be expected in the future

What exactly are those intangible elements of injury that are

non-economic? MPJI-Cv Chapter 10:2 defines non-economic damages as pain, suffering, pre-impact fright, inconvenience, physical impairment, disfigurement, loss of consortium, or other non-pecuniary injury, sustained in the past and reasonably probable in the future.

Further definitions of these elements are also in the MPJI-Civ. For example, pre-impact fright is recovery for the "emotional distress and mental anguish that the plaintiff suffered between the time the plaintiff realized that there would be an accident and the accident." But how does one place a monetary value on these intangibles?

Helping clients obtain compensation for non-economic damages is not science; it's more an art, informed by experience, realistic goals and common sense. Each injured client has a unique story to tell.

One of the keys to success is to make sure the client records their experiences from the moment of a collision, fall or other calamitous event through their course of recovery. They may miss time with children or grandchildren. Their social circle may diminish. They may be unable to work, exercise or sleep through the night. Depression often accompanies physical pain. Catastrophically injured clients may have to relearn how to eat, walk and function.

Of course, in a death case, we are sadly left with only the survivors to recount the loss of a loved one and the devastating effects their absence creates.

If you or a loved one experience a personal injury, you will have questions. You should consult with an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions.

David Diggs is an experienced and personal injury lawyer, recognized as a leader in the area. If you need further information regarding this subject, please contact the Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 302, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1189, visiting www.diggslaw.com, or emailing david@diggslaw.com.

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Round Bay Donates \$10,000 To EHVFC

The Round Bay Community Association's annual golf tournament raised \$10,000 for Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company this fall. On the rolling greens of Compass Pointe Golf Courses, 76 community golfers, including several firefighters, competed in the fundraiser. Golfers garnered the support of 21 local businesses to amplify their donation to the fire company.

"We're delighted to have such great support from the community," said Dave Crawford, volunteer chief

at Earleigh Heights. "Round Bay's very generous contribution will help us buy a new ambulance."

This fall's golf tournament marks the fifth year that Round Bay golfers have donated to the fire company. "We're proud to be able to give back to the community and our first responders," said Erin Gruver, community president and member of the golf committee. "Earleigh Heights has come to our aid many times over the years, and our annual golf fundraiser is a great way to show our appreciation."

Riverdale Reindeer: A Neighborhood Christmas Tradition



Photo courtesy of Nicole Adams

Thirteen middle and high school students joined Santa, Jamie McConville and Jennie Reed on December 7 to collect gifts and hand out candy canes to kids.

By Sharon Mager

What began more than two decades ago as a simple middle school service project has become a beloved Severna Park Christmas tradition — Riverdale Reindeer. On December 7, with Santa suited up, sleigh bells jingling and holiday music filling the streets, the young "reindeer" once again set out on their annual holiday journey through the Riverdale community.

The tradition traces back to 2004, when Tim George, then an eighth-grader living in the community, collected food and toys along his paper route on Riverdale Road for his St. John the Evangelist School service project. Expecting only a few donation boxes, he was astonished when he filled an entire truck with holiday generosity he donated to local charities. Encouraged by the overwhelming response, he asked friends to join him the next year — and a new tradition was born.

When George later went to college, he passed the leadership to his brother, Matt. Since then, the baton has continued moving through relatives, neighborhood teens and families who have lovingly kept the sleigh bells ringing.

Today, Jamie McConville carries the reins as the newest adult reindeer leader, a role her family is excited about. "My oldest son, Wesley, he's been looking forward to being part of the Riverdale Reindeer for years," she shared. "So, when we took it over just last year, he was pretty excited about it. He's in eighth grade now, so we took it over when he was in seventh grade."

Her younger son, Owen, eagerly joined in as well, and Jamie's husband, J.B., cheerfully dons the red suit (borrowed from the original Riverdale Reindeer Santa, Kevin Buckley) to play Santa.

The structure has stayed the same — middle- and high-school student volunteers in their classic red Riverdale Reindeer shirts distribute flyers, then return a week later with Santa to collect toys and nonperishable food left on porches. One longtime volunteer, Todd Zenker, loves the initiative and keeps helping even though his own children are grown.

The project is simple but significant. Last year, the cheerful young "reindeer" gathered 2,500 pounds of food for the Caring Cupboard in Pasadena and filled a van with toys for Walk the Walk Foundation in Millersville. Jamie, a self-described organizer, now tracks everything in spreadsheets so each future team can build on the legacy.

This year, 13 middle and high school students joined Santa, Jamie McConville and Jennie Reed (who designed the Riverdale Reindeer yard signs) on December 7 to collect the gifts as Christmas songs played from their decorated three-car caravan, handing out candy canes to kids. After their rounds, everyone returned to the McConville home for hot chocolate, pizza and a well-earned warm-up.

Jamie remembers reading her first Riverdale Reindeer flyer when her family moved into Riverdale Forest in 2017. "I just felt like, wow, this is home," she said. "This is the kind of community we moved into."

That spirit of connection is still alive today. Neighbors celebrate holidays together, host gatherings and show up for one another. In fact, at a community Thanksgiving breakfast this year, Jamie met Tim George. "It was pretty cool," she said. "I was like, 'Oh, you started Riverdale Reindeer!'"

Jamie shared, "The sense of community behind Riverdale and behind Riverdale Reindeer is just amazing. We love it here — absolutely love it."

George is now a husband, father and physician assistant in the intensive care unit at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center. His parents still live in Riverdale, so he keeps tabs on the tradition he started.

"I love seeing how much it has grown and never imagined it would take off the way that it has," George said. "I give all the credit to the local kids in the neighborhood, as well as our generous neighbors, to allow it to continue to be such a success. Even in a time where everything seems more expensive, it's incredible to see how giving our community is during the holiday season."

Veteran Sets Records

» Continued from page 1

said. "Those (men) and others from our deployment have stayed with me and it's a motivating factor ... to do this marathon for hours and set these records."

Hasse and Mills accompanied Kules on November 29, 2005, as they conducted an early morning raid on a house that was determined to have insurgent activity. Following the raid, they drove back to base in a Humvee, which struck an improvised explosive device buried in the road.

"It cut our vehicle in half and severed my right arm and my left leg above the knee," Kules previously told the Severna Park Voice. "I was found about 15 to 20 minutes after the explosion went off."

Kules was taken to a hospital in Germany and then to Walter Reed Medical Center, which used to be in Washington, D.C. He spent two weeks in a medically induced coma. Eighteen months of rehab later, he went home.

He received a Purple Heart medal and focused on being a husband, a father to his three kids and an advocate for other veterans. Kules currently serves as the director of Project Odyssey, a Wounded Warrior Project mental health program that uses curriculum

and adventure-based learning to increase psychological well-being and resiliency.

With his latest Guinness World Records, he can help even more survivors with his story of resilience.

The achievements were years in the making. Kules started rowing during the COVID-19 pandemic. To prepare for his record-breaking attempts, he trained five to six days per week, with a focus on distance over the last three or four months.

"If people are missing limbs or whatever the case may be, others might assume that people aren't able to do marathons, so being able to break the stigma is cool."

— RYAN KULES

A prosthetic arm allows for better balance when he pulls the bar to row, and it keeps his back straight. Training can be boring, so he often passed the time by watching "Band of Brothers" and "The Pacific," two shows that depict the real experiences of soldiers during World War II.

His training paid off with the multi-record-setting

performance, which is already being noticed.

"Ryan Kules is one of my heroes, and the fact that he even attempted this gives me inspiration to say, 'What's my Ryan Kules moment? What's my Guinness Book of World Records moment,'" said Wilton Williamson Jr., Wounded Warrior Project vice president of connection. "We at Wounded Warrior Project are so proud of him. Ryan is a shining example of what is possible when warriors do hard things. Hopefully, other warriors around the country can look to him as an inspiration to break out of their comfort zone, not be defined by their injuries, and explore ways to live healthier and fulfilling lives."

Kules said he could not do it alone. His wife and caregiver, Nancy, has been supportive, as have his fellow veterans.

"I'm very appreciative of Wounded Warrior Project and other organizations that have helped along the way," he said. "There are a lot of veterans still struggling, but we have also made a lot of progress."

This alive day, Kules had even more to celebrate.

"If people are missing limbs or whatever the case may be, others might assume that people aren't able to do marathons, so being able to break the stigma is cool," he said.

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Saturday - Brunch—10am - 3pm

Sunday - Brunch—10am - 3pm
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Why Do Agents Spread These Myths?

David Orso

Berkshire Hathaway
Home Services/
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The following are three myths that I have commonly come across.

Myth 1: “You Won’t Get Your Money Back On Repairs”

Sellers are commonly reluctant to put any money into making repairs or staging their homes and say things like, “The buyer will pick their own paint and flooring.” Good agents know that you will most likely need to make repairs and improve the condition of a home to sell it. It can be challenging to convince a homeowner to make the necessary improvements, and it is easier to just go along with the seller’s wishes and get the listing paperwork signed. But it is the job of the agent to provide accurate counsel and advice.

If an agent lets you dismiss stained carpets, water leaks, outdated paint colors, and other mechanical or cosmetic issues without a good reason then they should not be your representative. I strongly recommend all sellers visit a model home of a reputable local homebuilder before

calling me a whistleblower, but I cannot go along with “myths” (a gentler word than lies) spread by real estate agents. Fact and fiction should not be blurred. Your home is most likely your most valuable and expensive asset, so be careful with agents who play into common sales tactics to convince you to hire them.

listing their home for sale. The model homes are impeccably clean and free of debris and clutter. This is how your home should look, or you will be penalized in your price or risk salability.

Think about selling a car. Would you get it washed and detailed? Of course you would, and you should do the same for your home before you list it. I always tell my clients, “It is cheaper to make repairs than to reduce the price.”

All sellers are desperate to hear, “I have a buyer for your home!” Some agents will tell a seller just that, despite the truth. A common tactic by agents is to send a letter to a neighborhood stating they have buyers looking to buy in the area. Wow, that is an amazing proposition: Selling your home without the hassles or fees of an agent is a compelling pitch. But the reality is that the agent doesn’t have a buyer; the agent is fishing for a listing. Your response to the marketing letter identifies you as a seller to the agent. Before you know it, you are sitting through a listing presentation instead of being presented with a buyer.

The law of agency in real estate states that an agent can only work for one party. If an agent has a buyer, they are the buyer’s agent, plain and simple. To achieve maximum value for your home, it is best to expose it to the largest number of potential buyers possible through the assistance of a listing agent. Remember: The buyer’s representative has been hired through a dedicated buyer broker agreement to help the buyer obtain the best price and terms, which means they are not on your side.

Myth 2: “I Have A Buyer For Your Home”

Myth 3: “A Comprehensive Marketing Plan”

Some agents do not have any marketing plan other than putting a sign in the yard and entering your listing into a multiple listing service. When pushed for a marketing plan, agents often scramble and suggest things like open houses, brokers’ open houses, print advertising and anything else you may want to hear.

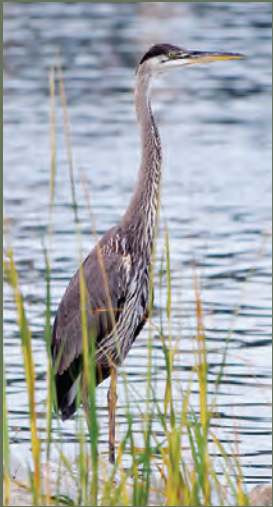
A true marketing plan incorporates the four P’s of marketing: pricing, promotion, product and placement:

- Pricing** is the most crucial part of your marketing plan in real estate, and a genuine professional will educate you about the complexity of a pricing strategy.
- Promotion** of your property is the activity an agent will do to generate interest among fellow agents and buyers.
- Product** is your home, and your agent should help you present it in the very best light to buyers.
- Placement** is the location of your home, highlighted by accentuating the features of your neighborhood, local schools, area amenities, local events and the other nuances of a specific location.

This article was, in part, an excerpt from David Orso’s book “Step Inside: The Unfiltered Truth About Listing and Selling Your Home.” If you would like a free copy of David’s bestselling book, contact him directly at 443-691-0838.

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2025 In Review: Wrapping Up The Year With A Bow

As 2025 concludes, we reflect on the past year of stories about what makes our community so great, from student-athletes to hometown heroes to the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to improve the lives of those around them.

Here is a look back at the highlights of the year.

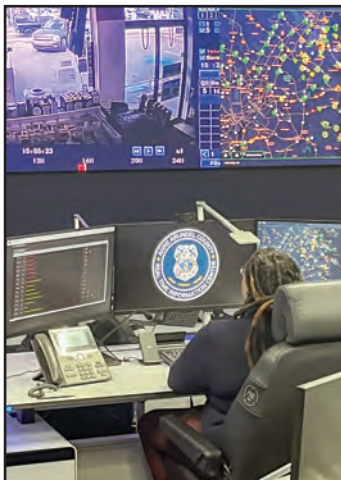
WINTER

2025 was shepherded in with a **snowstorm** on January 6, giving kids a chance to enjoy playing in snow before returning to the classroom.

At 22 years old, identical twins Katie and Christina Currie from Severna Park won \$88,248 on a **"Wheel of Fortune" episode** that aired on January 9. The sisters were featured during a special week of episodes celebrating the show's 50th anniversary.



Anne Arundel County Public Schools introduced a new program, **Middle School Athletics**, that launched during the second half of the 2024-2025 school year with soccer. New winter sports, unified bocce and flag football, were introduced recently for the 2025-2026 school year. "We've been extremely busy for the last two years designing this initiative," AACPS Coordinator of Athletics Clayton Culp said in the February edition of the Severna Park Voice.



The police department unveiled its new **Anne Arundel County Real-Time Information Center (RTIC)**. Anne Arundel County Chief of Police Amal Awad described the RTIC as essentially "a consolidated state-of-the-art data hub under one roof where detectives and analysts examine information from a variety of sources to enhance crime detection, help solve crimes and conduct predictive analysis to better position us to prevent crimes before they occur."

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) celebrated **35 years of serving the community**, inviting the public to a service showcasing the nonprofit's history and milestones. A few days later, people continued the celebration at SPAN's Birthday Fest, enjoying carnival games, live music, food trucks and the chance to "vote" for their favorite Major League Baseball team by donating canned goods.



Linx Lawless **won a Class 3A/4A wrestling state championship**, improving from the prior year's fourth-place finish to a first-place result during his final semester as a senior at Broadneck High School. "Winning the title meant a lot to me because it was my last match," Lawless said. "I was thinking, 'Why not just go out on a good note?' I am not going to be wrestling in college."

SPRING



Severna Park High School students came together for the school's 36th **"Rock 'N' Roll Revival"** performance in late March. This year marked the first time the school's Alternate Curriculum Classes (ACC) special education students took to the stage for the event. ACC students joined other SPHS performers for a rendition of "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" by Elton John and Kiki Dee.

Parkinson's disease took the life of Brian "Big B" Adam in 2023, but his son-in-law, Jeff Begin, his nephew Nick Manis, and Manis' childhood friend LJ Urie showed in April that Adam left a lasting impact. The three raised over \$256,000 for the Michael J. Fox Foundation through completing a **100-mile run**. "I also know that Brian will be watching over us, guiding us when the journey gets tough — which it inevitably will," Urie said before the race.



Two Severna Park residents witnessed history in the Vatican this year. Seminarians Ben Oursler of St. John the Evangelist Church and Andrew Chase of Our Lady of the Fields Church were present during **the election of the new pope**. Oursler was close to the front of the large crowd of people waiting for news when white smoke arose from the chimney, indicating that a new pope had been selected. "When the name Prevost was said, the seminarians and I were stunned, a pope from the United States of America!" Oursler said.



On Memorial Day, Severna Park Heroes of the Vietnam War Memorial LLC unveiled a **new memorial honoring five Severna Park men who were killed in action during the Vietnam War**: Major Ronald Britz, First Lieutenant Charles "Art" Bedsole, Chief Warrant Officer Edward "Louie" Mortimer Jr., and two men with the specialist fourth class rank, Danny Quaite and Richard Nitsche Jr.

The Severna Park High School boys lacrosse team won their ninth straight **state championship**, while the Broadneck High School girls lacrosse team won their fifth state title in a row. Tennis also offered state championship victories, including Broadneck's Olivia Mellynychuk claiming the 4A girls singles title for the third time in a row, the Broadneck tennis team winning their third straight championship, and Severna Park's Brynn Bilnoski clinching the win in the 3A girls singles tournament. The Bruins celebrated an additional win in the 4A East II regionals in baseball.

Kinder Farm Park also had reason to celebrate, as **Kinder Farmhouse reached its 100th birthday**. The farmhouse helps connect visitors with history by featuring relics from the 1900s, and the event held in honor of the anniversary emphasized that connection with history through games from the 1930s.

SUMMER

Nikhil Joshi, of Millersville, **competed on "Jeopardy!"** in early June, making it through three episodes and winning a total of \$20,199. "I realized no matter what happens, I'm proud of myself for making it on the show, and hoped for the best, but I wasn't expecting anything," Joshi said. "I definitely wasn't expecting to win, but I was obviously thrilled when I did."



July brought the beloved annual **Independence Day parade**, with Severna Park historian Scott Jay as grand marshal. Best Overall float this year went to Linstead on the Severn's Chessie the Sea Monster, which also won the Best Community category.



After the sudden tragic loss of 18-month-old Hugh Nie, his parents Edward and Jessica chose to honor their son's memory by raising money for **"Hugh's Corner,"** a refresh of the children's area in the Severna Park Library. By late July, they had already raised over \$163,000. Hugh's Corner is planned to come together before June 2026, coinciding with a broad refresh of the library.

Severna Park resident and cancer survivor Chris Peters became one of less than 1,200 people in the world to have joined the Seven Continents Club by completing a **marathon on every continent**. He completed his 20-year effort by running the Big Five Marathon on a game preserve in Africa. After a delay for rhinos entering the course and a second delay for cheetahs, the marathon got underway. "I run because I can and others can't," Peters said. "There are so many people with different challenges in life who would do anything to do this. It's a gift."

Broadneck High School Principal Patrick Gelinas left the school in July, and Katherine "Katie" Smith took over the role in August. Smith graduated from Broadneck in 1997, giving her familiarity with the Bruin community. "I plan on getting in classrooms and seeing the instruction, and just working with everyone to figure out — how can we make those little improvements to reach that better report card?" Smith said, referring to her goal of Broadneck reaching the status of a five-star school. "But I have a lot to learn first. I'm not coming in and just changing everything; clearly they function really well."



St. John the Evangelist Church renovations, which were decades in the making, were completed in August. The renovations cost millions of dollars, and were completely funded by donors. The updates included new interior design, asbestos removal, energy-efficient heating and cooling, and a new sanctuary.

FALL

For one Shipley's Choice resident, the beginning of autumn was accompanied by a reunion with a team who helped him and his family at a crucial moment. At just 12 years old, **Ethan Patty saved his grandmother's life with CPR** after she had a heart attack when they were the only two people home. About a month later, he went to the Anne Arundel Fire Department and met the fire communications operator who guided him over the phone and the engine and medic crews who came to his house to take over helping his grandmother.



The Walk the Walk Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary as a nonprofit organization in September with an event that allowed members of its community to tell stories of impact, honor the founders, recount memories and discuss the future. The foundation helps children through Christmas for Children, Backpacks for Kids and Diapers for Babies.



Severna Park High School field hockey players showed support for breast cancer patients and survivors by wearing pink hair bows, glitter and socks during varsity and JV games on October 9. For three sophomores, this was made more personal due to their mothers being breast cancer survivors.



Community members gathered to raise money for non-profit organization Bello Machre during **Art in the Park**, an event co-hosted by the Severna Park Voice and Cafe Mezzanotte. During the music and arts festival, attendees enjoyed live music, art demonstrations, vendor offerings, a gourmet picnic and a wine garden.

The Severna Park girls cross country team took first place at the **state finals** at Hereford High School for the fourth straight year on November 9. They weren't the only team to put their stamp on the state athletic record books. The Falcons girls soccer team won their third straight state title.

Broadneck's volleyball team knew they had a special squad last season when they came up one game short during the state finals. This fall, they got redemption and won the championship. Fellow Bruin Ben Coe finished as the Class 4A/3A boys golf champion. After Broadneck cheerleading made some changes to their routine, the squad captured their first title in program history.

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SPUMC Reflects On History, Ministry And Outreach During 60th Anniversary Celebration

By Meredith Winter

The congregation of Severna Park United Methodist Church (SPUMC) celebrated the church's 60th anniversary in grand fashion this fall, taking seven weeks to reflect on six decades of history, ministry, and service to the community and the nations.

Like most churches, SPUMC had humble beginnings. Its first worship service was held on August 8, 1965, with 94 people gathered in a blue house at the corner of Benfield and Holland roads. The Rev. Edgar Beckett served as the first lead pastor. In 1968, the growing congregation broke ground at 731 Benfield Road, and in 1969 they moved into what would become SPUMC's permanent home. The facility has since expanded to accommodate continued growth.

"Edgar Beckett was famous for riding around in his VW Bug and following any of the moving vans. There were so many moving vans of people moving into this area at the time. If he saw a moving van, it didn't matter what time of day or night it was, basically, he would stop, knock on the door, and invite people to come to this church," said the Rev. Ron Foster.

Foster has served as SPUMC's lead pastor since 2014. He joked that he might get arrested if he used that invitational approach today but noted that many in the congregation consider themselves "Edgar Beckett members."

In the early years, Foster said the church grew "dramatically and rapidly." Today, its membership is about 1,200.

SPUMC's simple mission statement — Love. Serve. Follow. — has taken



SPUMC's anniversary celebration culminated in a "Sweet 60th Birthday Party," a church potluck consisting entirely of birthday cakes.

many forms over the decades, from beginning an annual Appalachia youth mission trip in 1981, to being one of the six churches that founded SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) in 1990, to starting international mission trips for adults the same year, to hosting Winter Relief since 2012.

Throughout the seven-week anniversary celebration, SPUMC reflected on changing worship styles, world events that happened over the last six decades, early mission trips, and places the church has served including Zimbabwe, Russia and Guatemala. Wil Bailey, SPUMC's missionary partner from Costa Rica, preached on World Communion Sunday in October.

"We've tried to really sink our roots in locally to what we do missionally, but we also do stuff all over the country and all over the world. It was great to be able to celebrate that, not just as a past reality but as something this

church continues to do," Foster said.

A pillar of missions and ministry, the Rev. Lee Ferrell joined the SPUMC leadership 50 years ago and has devoted most of that time to serving the youth. Her impact has such longevity that students she ministered to have grown up and asked her to officiate their weddings and even baptize their children.

Ferrell shared several highlights she has witnessed during her five decades at SPUMC, including congregants making greater commitments to their faith through deeper Bible studies. She is also proud of how SPUMC serves all generations well. Though she is technically retired, she continues to serve with the youth and college ministries.

"For me personally, I see God at work in these teenagers when they hear it all, they know the stories, but when it all clicks — when it all dawns on them that this is really powerful, it's true, and it makes a difference

in their own lives — that's the most beautiful thing in my ministry that I ever see happen," Ferrell said.

Foster shared several recent milestones he is proud of as well. "Our church has become a much more inclusive place in terms of welcoming LGBTQ persons. We've been doing some work and reading and study on racial reconciliation over the last 10 years," he said. "So, I feel like we've branched out in some new directions alongside of the things we've been doing, and doing well, for 60 years."

He also emphasized the ongoing evolution he has witnessed within the worship ministry, noting that the music team continues to find fresh ways to praise God while honoring a wide spectrum of sacred music. He is also grateful for SPUMC's reinvigorated partnership with Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church. The two churches host joint events including a Thanksgiving service, and Foster and the Rev. Tori Butler have begun an annual pulpit exchange.

"I think a congregation always has to reinvent itself. Even if you're going to stay faithful to your past, you can't just live there," Foster said, adding, "What vibrant worship looked like 50 years ago probably has changed, so we have to keep evolving. So, we've talked about all the ways this church has tried to evolve with the times and yet stay really connected to these principles of service, and investing in children and youth, and having deep ties to our community, but also thinking well beyond ourselves. We talked about thinking locally and serving globally — that's been a double-focus of this church forever."

SPUMC's 60th anniversary culminated in a church potluck consisting entirely of birthday cakes. Foster noted the "Sweet 60th Birthday Party" was a great way to cap off the festivities.

Christmas And The Wonder Of God's Love

Stephen Mitchell



The Christmas season is here again. Lights on our homes. "Home Alone," "Elf" and other Christmas movies on the screen. Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, and I guess Mariah Carey, getting airplay. And the warmth of the holiday season filling our hearts as the wonder and awe surrounding this time of year capture our imaginations once again.

Whether we are younger or older, there is something magical that makes this, as Andy Williams sang, "The most wonderful time of year." But what is it? The answer is so simple and profound, yet it often gets lost amid all the stress, hurry, worry and distractions that come with this time of year. The answer is love, and not just any love, but the love of God for humanity exemplified by the gift he gave all of us 2,000 years ago.

My wife will tell you I'm usually the one who wells up with tears if I see a heartwarming scene in a movie or show, and I'm a sucker for many of the heartwarming Christmas commercials. One of my favorites is of a father who dances for his son as a toddler, and the commercial shows him doing this awkward dance routine through several Christmases until the dad gets a FaceTime call with his son, now a father himself, doing the dance with his son. Christmas is about

love, and giving and receiving gifts is meant to show that love, and the thought that we put into those gifts reflects how much our loved ones mean to us.

It is the same with God for us. Christmas is ultimately about God's love and the gift he offers that reflects how much we mean to him. We are told, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

History is ultimately God's story, and the climax of that story was God bringing his son into the world, and God sure put a lot of thought behind it. Before time began, God already planned to set in motion the entrance of his son in the person of Jesus Christ into our world at just the right time to offer us the greatest of gifts that many of us probably aren't even aware we need: forgiveness and redemption.

At the beginning of time, our ancestors chose to sing the Frank Sinatra song and do things their own way, sinning and rebelling against our creator, and this pattern is one we have all inherited from our parents. So, the biblical reality is that we have all sinned, we are all broken in different ways, and each of us is longing for unfailing love, true purpose and eternal life. Within our soul, we have a God-shaped vacuum that nothing under the Christmas tree can fill.

The irony of Christmas is that God offers each of us the ultimate gift that cannot be bought or earned but only believed and received, yet tragically his gift

and invitation are often ignored.

We need the child born in Bethlehem but often don't want him, yet he doesn't need us and still wants a relationship with us. He came into our world, lived among us, died for us, rose from the dead, and is ready to live in your heart if you will make room for him. He came to bring light over darkness, hope over fear, love over indifference, and peace over conflict and restlessness.

On Christmas night 2,000 years ago, the world heard good news that we still need in our cold, restless, broken and polarized world in 2025: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is Christ the lord" (Luke 2:10-11). If you have nothing to be joyful about this holiday season — maybe you lost a loved one, you're struggling in your health, you're hurting financially, emotionally or mentally, or you're dealing with a lot of stress — there is one reason you can have joy today. There is a God who loves you, wants a relationship with you, and was willing to send you a savior so that your heart could be filled with the warmth of his joy and with the gift of eternal life.

The wonder of Christmas is more than decorated trees, purchasing presents, or even time with our families. The wonder of Christmas is ultimately that God out of love sent his son to be our savior and lord. Have you received his gift?

Stephen Mitchell is the senior pastor of Trinity Bible Church in Severna Park. He also is the host of a podcast, "Real Christian Talk with Pastor Steve," available on all podcast platforms.

Digging Into The Details

Amanda Fiedler

*Councilwoman
District 5*



tion, and I thought it was important to share with you.

You may remember that proposed legislation in 2024 would have banned the use and sale of gas leaf blowers. No vote was ever taken. The bill was withdrawn by the sponsor after overwhelming opposition, a large portion of that coming from the landscaping industry.

At the time, industry professionals asked that the government take the lead and first impose the ban of gas leaf blowers on county government. They went on to share the enormous cost that would impact their small businesses and would undoubtedly get passed on to their customers. After the bill was withdrawn, the county executive issued an executive order to ban the use of gas power leaf blowers by county departments in a phase-out process, moving to an all-electric or battery-powered fleet by July 1, 2030.

The county owns 124 leaf blowers across several departments; 115 of them are the larger capacity backpack type. To date, the county has not had to replace or purchase a non-gas-powered blower, but officials estimate that

The devil is in the details" is a common saying and one that applies often when I vote on a bill. This scenario has happened several times in recent months across three pieces of legisla-

it will cost approximately \$380,000 to purchase new leaf blowers and charging equipment. Cost of electricity was not included in the analysis.

This was the fiscal information given for Bill 85-25, a bill introduced by the District 6 councilmember that codifies the executive order, making it county law. When the council discussed the proposal, I had several questions for the administration. Although I fully understood that Bill 85-25 was not a bill introduced by the county executive, it did propose to codify the executive order already underway.

My questions focused on the estimated cost of electricity to charge multiple batteries per unit for 124 units. I asked how much the county is currently spending on gas and maintenance of the existing fleet. The administration didn't know. I asked what type of non-gas blower the county was preparing to purchase. They said they hadn't determined that yet. I asked how many batteries they will need for each of the 124 units. The county was unsure. A lot of important details were missing.

Ironically, the same evening the council discussed and voted on this bill, we also voted on Resolution 32-25, which requests a study group to address the need for electrical grid impact review, and stated concerns about electricity demand versus electricity generation and the increasing costs to keep up with the demand and the strain on the grid at the local, state and federal levels. All things considered, and unknown, I voted against Bill 85-25. I prefer it to remain an executive order that can be adjusted at

any time, especially if it becomes unsustainable as we continue to discuss the cost of electricity and strain on the grid. The bill passed 4-3.

Leaves, snow and ice have one thing in common: they cover sidewalks and should be cleared for safe passage. I have written about Bill 76-25 in the past. The bill, now in its amended form, proposes an increased fine and penalty of up to \$50 for residential properties and up to \$125 for any other type of property that doesn't clear snow/ice of three inches or less in 24 hours, or more than three inches within 48 hours.

It is a complaint-driven law, but if the county is inspecting one property for a snow and ice sidewalk violation, county officials can penalize any other property in the area that they see, even if there was no complaint (per testimony at the November 17 council hearing).

If the county has to take action to clear the sidewalk using county contractors, they will bill the property owner. If the fine is not paid, the county will take action for payment through a tax lien on the property.

The administration has said that the current fine of \$10 doesn't incentivize anyone to clear the sidewalks that abut their property. County representatives have also acknowledged that there hasn't actually been any enforcement of the existing law. If something is not being enforced, how can the county say it is not working?

There is the potential the county could waive the penalty for any reason, but it's entirely at the discretion of the county. I continue to have concerns about the consequences of this bill; while it may be well intentioned, it could penalize residents who aren't aware or have good reason for why they can't clear the county sidewalk in front of their property in the required timeframe.

Pedestrians have come up in another bill before the council, Bill 81-25, which seeks to update the transportation Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO). The APFO sets standards and metrics that must be evaluated or tested for a proposed development (residential, commercial, etc.) to be approved, and an associated fee structure. The county executive formed a work group five years ago to study the current APFO and propose an updated APFO that would include calculations for multi-modal transportation (cars, bikers, pedestrians etc.).

The much-anticipated bill has had a rough start. There was no accompanying report with the bill that reviewed the five years of work that went into the proposed law change. The administration asked for the bill to be held at its first hearing in order to discuss concerns with "stakeholders," but the administration was not able to clearly articulate the concerns before removing a large section of the bill related to biker and pedestrian infrastructure.

There have been more questions and concerns raised than answers, and frustration has spread among

» Continued on page 17

Phase 2 Redistricting Plan Adopted

Dana Schallheim

*AACPS Board
of Education
District 5*



A final redistricting plan for the Annapolis, Arundel, Broadneck, Crofton, Severna Park, South River and Southern clusters was adopted by the board

during its November 19 meeting. I will attempt to explain what this plan means for District 5 residents.

Students residing in the Cypress Creek area of Severna Park have been redistricted from Folger McKinsey Elementary School to Severna Park Elementary School. Students residing in College Station, Allenville, Creston Park, Harting Estates, Magothy Estates, Twin Harbors, Divinity Cove, Campus Green, as well as all neighborhoods on Dividing Creek Road and Jones Station Road will be redistricted from Belvedere Elementary School to Arnold Elementary School.

No other areas within District 5 were impacted by this redistricting exercise. All redistricting will occur starting with the 2026-2027 school year and will include bus transportation.

I understand that the above changes will impact District 5 students and families differently depending on individual circumstances. All four schools involved are among the best that AACPS offers, and after a period of adjustment, students will feel that they belong in their new environment. I am also aware that change is very difficult, and I both sympathize and empathize with your situation.

Regulation JAB-RA, which can be found under the Board of Education portion of the AACPS website under "Policies & Regulations," outlines the out-of-area transfer process. Item number 10, Special Circumstances, states in part that, "When a student who has completed grades four, seven or 11 changes residence to another AACPS school attendance area, said student may continue in the original elementary, middle, or high school until completion of the terminal grade of that school level, subject to the terms and conditions of redistricting by the board or the superintendent's transfer of groups of students to other school facilities."

Practically, this means that in addition to the other acceptable criteria for seeking an out-of-area transfer,

» Continued on page 16

Severna Park And Pasadena Residents Gather To Discuss Proposed Cannabis Dispensary

LaToya Nkongolo

*Delegate
District 31*



a community meeting about a retail cannabis dispensary proposed to open in 2026 at 91 Ritchie Highway — the former Maryland Monogram property. The event was organized by a nearby homeowner whose property backs up to the site, prompting broader community interest due to the location's proximity to the church and its preschool, both approximately 500 feet away.

On November 17, I attended a meeting hosted by local residents. Severna Park and Pasadena residents filled the hall of Pasadena United Methodist Church for

Neighbors discussed questions related to safety, traffic, zoning and the impact the dispensary could have on families who rely on the church's preschool and youth programs. Several attendees expressed a desire for greater transparency and a clearer understanding of the regulatory process before the project moves forward.

Residents were encouraged to submit feedback to the Maryland Cannabis Administration, which is currently reviewing public input as part of the licensing and approval process.

Community members who wish to learn more or share their views about the proposed dispensary may contact Allison Butler, deputy chief of the Maryland Cannabis Administration, at mca.policy@maryland.gov. Public comments will be accepted through December 14.

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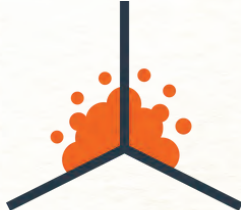
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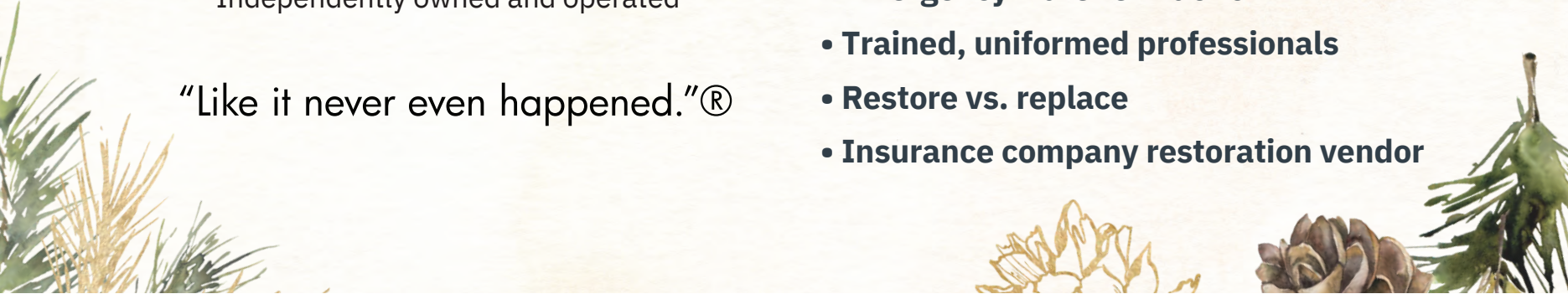
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The Problem: Maryland Is Running Out of Power

Brian Chisholm
Delegate
District 31



Full disclosure: the following solution was presented to me by Dr. Thomas Day, a constituent with far greater expertise in the energy sector than I could ever claim.

That said, I find his proposal both intriguing and highly achievable if only the green extremists would pause their war on anything that isn't wind or solar.

Maryland's electricity supply is stretched thin and shrinking. Without action, Maryland will face:

- Rolling blackouts by summer 2026
- Loss of new businesses and data centers to other states
- Higher energy bills for families and businesses
- Reduced reliability and economic risk

Renewable sources like solar and wind alone cannot power our state. Even if every rooftop in Maryland had solar panels, it still wouldn't produce enough electricity. And there's one big problem: solar doesn't work at night, and wind doesn't work without wind.

Nuclear energy is clean and reliable, but building new nuclear plants takes many years, and Maryland needs solutions *now*.

A Better Path Forward

The smart, fast, and financially responsible solution that Maryland can implement today:

Build Natural Gas Power Stations at Anne Arundel County Landfills

Landfills naturally produce gas from decomposing waste. Right now, that gas is just being burned off or sold cheaply. Instead, Maryland can use it to generate electricity.

What makes this smart?

- Uses existing state-owned land (no need to buy property)
- Uses landfill gas-free fuel and supplements with natural gas (Anne Arundel County does this now)
- Power plants can be built quickly, in less than a year, if one has the appetite
- Generates over \$190 million per year in electricity revenue
- Can pay for itself in about three years

These plants would be small, clean, efficient and highly reliable, capable of producing power 24/7.

The costs incurred to perform this are

as follows for a single power station:

- Quantity 2 General Electric (GE) H-Class 7HA.03 turbine generators at a 430-megawatt max: \$250 million installed with accessories
- There is always the issue of wait times. These turbines are in high demand. If GE cannot deliver in a 24-week asset retirement obligation (ARO) window, there are alternatives.
- Building/structure to house turbines \$200,000
- Federal permitting: \$250,000
- Site engineering: \$500,000
- Local permitting: Should be waived as it is state/county property
- Interconnects to the grid: \$250,000
- Control/monitoring systems: \$1.25 million
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning: \$1 million
- Office/facilities: \$1 million
- Contingency \$100 million

The cost profile looks like this for a single location:

Expected revenue from a single year of continuous service:

- Hourly expected raw generating revenue (375,000 times .06 equals \$22,500 per hour)
- 24 hours-per-day generating capabilities (\$22,500 times 24 equals \$540,000)
- Assume 360 days of operation with a five-day buffer (\$540,000 times 360 equals \$194.4 million)
- Return on investment: (\$606 million divided by \$194.4 million equals \$3.11 million per year)

What Maryland Must Do Now

- Approve natural gas power station construction at two Anne Arundel County landfills.
- Use revenue from electricity sales, not taxpayers, to fund these projects.

This solution is practical, affordable and proven. More than 2,000 towns across America already operate their own power stations.

Phase 2 Redistricting Plan Adopted

» Continued from page 14

rising fifth- and eighth-grade students and families may seek potential relief via the out-of-area transfer process.

Phase 2 of the comprehensive redistricting process was my fourth redistricting exercise and is the least favorite part of my job. I have heard from hundreds of families over the past nine months and thank each

one of you for reaching out, sharing your concerns, and advocating for what you believe is right. I am especially grateful to the students who have written to me or have provided in-person testimony during this process.

Ultimately, I voted "no" because I disagreed with parts of the plan, specifically around the split articulation and

not providing a legacy provision for fifth-, eighth- and 11th-grade students. Now that the board has acted, I am bound by board policy to support all actions the board takes, and I will do so.

As always, I can be reached at 443-534-2660 and dschallheim@aacps.org, or hit me up on the socials. Happy holidays to you and your family!



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Revisiting H.R. 1



Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33C

This past month, we celebrated Thanksgiving, and like so many families, we have a tradition of going around the table and saying something for which we are thankful. It's been a difficult year and the weeks leading up to our celebration of the abundance of the harvest and the original American immigrant story were plagued with uncertainty.

I had intended to write a follow-up to my October article about the impacts of H.R. 1 on our state budget but missed the November deadline as we scrambled to fight for and backfill the SNAP benefits that expired with the government shutdown on October 1. In the end, the additional time proved fruitful, allowing for the benefit of real

dollar projections from the Spending Affordability Committee and the departments of health and human services.

Anyone who read my article in October probably anticipated that the outlook would not be rosy. Anyone with a small business or a household budget has already been feeling the pinch. During the 2026 session, the General Assembly did extensive, necessary, and yes, unpopular work to address the looming structural deficit so that we would continue to meet the needs of our constituents and our state budget without cutting services and programs to our constituency.

Unsurprisingly, our state has been hit especially hard by the cutting of federal agencies and federal contracts, cuts in H.R. 1 to fund additional tax cuts for large corporations and the wealthiest among us, cost shifting from the federal government to the states, and increased costs resulting from uncertainty about tariffs and the future of several federal programs.

Additionally, costs for essential programs such as Medicaid, the Developmental Disabilities Administration and child care, which support our most vulnerable Marylanders, came in higher than expected after the 2025 session. We know that those costs only increase with the delayed SNAP cuts that went into effect November 1 with one day's guidance, Medicaid funding cuts that go into effect in 2027, additional administrative burden and cost shifts from H.R. 1.

To give you a snapshot of the impact, SNAP serves over 680,000 Marylanders, including approximately 262,000 children, 128,000 people with disabilities and 122,000 seniors. Before H.R.1, SNAP benefits were 100% federally funded and administrative costs were split 50% between federal and states. However, as of November 1, benefits for many SNAP recipients were reduced and Marylanders — including refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking with legal right to remain — were removed from eligibility. Over the next three years, Maryland will increase SNAP spending from \$115 million per year to \$172.5 million per year in general funds as more of the financial and administrative burden is shifted to

the states and does not include needed investments in technology and staffing to comply with the new requirements.

Changes to Medicaid are also significant, and though we have yet to receive final guidance from the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, early projections show that about 175,000 Marylanders could lose coverage once H.R. 1 is fully implemented and Maryland will lose \$2.7 billion of federal funds annually, about 20% of our total Medicaid budget.

As I always say, "with challenges come opportunities," though I will confess, I wish we didn't have such an abundance of said opportunities. This year we are going to have to be creative and strategic, and I'm going to be asking you a lot of questions about what you want me to do and support. As you know, I have always been honest and transparent and I have tried to lean in on the values of our district, especially when it comes to health care, education and transportation, our three biggest-ticket items.

This year, the governor is going to present us with a balanced budget, not a budget down \$1.5 billion, and just as we did last year and every year before, we are going to review it and weigh in to ensure our shared priorities are realized and we keep our state strong. Given the work of last year and the continuing affordability crisis, the governor has committed to holding revenues as they are, something on which I think we all agree.

As the Old Line State, Maryland has a theme to hold the line, through strategic use of reserve funds, possible pausing or slowing of certain program expansion, and a continued review of our regulatory processes for any inefficiencies. We could not have anticipated the severity of the Trump administration revenue collapse, and the ripples continue to be felt, but we did a lot to protect our state and give ourselves time, and for that, I am thankful; thankful that we have time to figure things out, to keep improving and moving forward, and that we have dedicated public servants and community leaders willing to do the work.

Digging Into The Details

» Continued from page 14
the council body and members of the public who have closely followed the topic. I know this may be a subject where your eyes get a bit glazed over, so I will summarize and end with my point on this piece of legislation. Just because a proposed bill claims to fix a problem, that doesn't mean it actually does so.

After five years of work, I expected to see an overwhelming amount of supportive evidence and details - there is not. The outcome of this legislation is very much up in the air - because the devil is in the details, or lack thereof.

I wish you and your family a happy holiday season. As always, you can reach me at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

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Golden Goal: Falcon Girls Soccer Scores Third-Straight State Title With Overtime Stunner

By David Bashore

To win one state championship, you need a lot of skill and a little bit of luck. To win two in a row takes a bit more good fortune and just as much skill. Three straight? Skill, luck, and experience in spades.

All three played their part in the 2025 Severna Park girls soccer season, but Lady Luck had the final word.

Fresh off a throw-in early in the second half of overtime of the 3A state championship game, **Harper Wallace** floated in a cross from the right wing that beat everyone — including the Oakdale keeper. It bounced once and nestled into the side netting just inside the far post, and the far sideline quickly became a mosh pit.

Wallace's mishit cross proved decisive as Severna Park survived Oakdale 4-3 in overtime, winning the program's third consecutive state championship on November 13 at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

"It was supposed to be a cross in, but I just curved it into the goal instead," Wallace said. "I don't even know who I was trying to cross it to. It felt amazing because we were working so hard, and it paid off in the end."

Wallace assisted **Maria Bragg** for the
» Continued on page 24

Goalie Megan Young and the Severna Park defense kept the contest close and Harper Wallace played hero for the Falcons by netting in overtime to beat Oakdale 4-3.



Photos by Fincham Photography



Bruins Volleyball Breaks Through For State Crown

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Although the Broadneck volleyball team knew they had a special group last year when they reached the state finals, head coach **Tracey Regalbuto** always had 2025 as her target for

the girls to take the big leap.

Call it a hunch. Call it destiny. For Regalbuto, the prediction came from her conviction that she had a talented roster full of selfless players. And she was right.

Broadneck beat Urbana in straight sets (28-26, 28-26, 25-22) to win the Class 4A

state championship at Harford Community College on November 15.

Every set played out in nail-biting fashion, especially the last one. The Bruins capped a furious rally in the third set, which saw seven ties and three lead changes.

"I feel like even though we won in three, that was a really good game," Regalbuto said. "I feel like Urbana fought in every single set and that was not easy for us. ... I feel like tonight there was nobody in

» Continued on page 28



Photo by Zach Sparks

Broadneck beat Urbana in straight sets to win the 4A state championship at Harford Community College on November 15.

Tour De Force: Severna Park Girls Cross Country Captures Another Title

Coach Alcombright Reflects On Championship

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Four is a special number for Severna Park High School's girls cross country program. The team captured their fourth straight state championship at Hereford High School on November 9. Four Falcons finished in the top 10. No school had more than one runner with a top 10 finish.

With a score of 35, Severna Park overcame the three-mile course with a dominant showing, well ahead of the runner-up, Centennial, with a score of 105.

"We had five championships in a row with the boys (from 2017-2022), so to get the girls to that level, it is a great feeling as well," said **Josh Alcombright**, Severna Park's cross country coach.

With a time of 19:09.53, junior **Josie Kamas** placed third for the second consecutive year to lead the pack for Severna Park. The overall girls winner, Sherwood's **Madeline Quirion**, was the only runner to finish in under 19 minutes. Sophomore **Lexi Fitzsimmons** (19:38.70) was close behind as she finished fifth, two spots ahead of her 2024 placement.

"Both are really consistent and talented," Alcombright said of Kamas and Fitzsimmons. "They're just doing the work they're asked to do, each year and each day."

Alcombright praised sophomore **Mari Matthews**, who came in seventh (20:01.49), for doing so well on a course she had never run before. **Kate Murphy** (10th, 20:12.89) accomplished an individual feat to go along with her team's success.

"Kate is the first athlete I've ever coached to be on four state championship teams and to have competed in all of those races," Alcombright said. "She was really consistent and improved from being 11th last year."

Seniors **Lila Sandel** (17th, 20:42.08) and **Sydney Davis** (22nd, 20:47.78) rounded out the top 30 for Severna Park.

Hereford's course is known for its sharp turns and a punishing dip. Alcombright and his coaches felt like they had the right approach and skill to conquer those challenges.

"You have to be a strong aerobic runner and have a smart game plan," he said. "You can't go out too fast, but you can't go out too slow. You have to be patient for the first lap and then get aggressive."

Alcombright noted that his program

» Continued on page 28

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Broadneck's Ben Coe Wins Maryland's Golf Crown

By Kevin Murnane

Broadneck High School's **Ben Coe** was crowned the boys state champion in the 4A/3A Maryland high school golf tournament played at the University of Maryland Golf Course from October 27-29.

Coe shot two under par (140) over the two-day tournament. His score beat his nearest opponent by nine strokes.

"On the second day of the tournament, I knew I had the lead, and around the 12th hole I started to get extremely nervous," Coe said. "But I just focused on those last six holes. It was a great feeling to win."

Coe began playing golf at 12 years old and went with his dad to the U.S. Naval Academy Golf Course to hone his skills.

"My grandfather was a member of the Navy course and my dad plays a lot. Over the years, I learned a great deal about



golf from them," Coe said. "My dad and I were the winners of the recent father/son tournament at Navy."

Coe has been part of the Bruins golf team since he was a freshman and has been elected team captain for the last two years.

"Ben is extremely important to the team," said boys golf coach **Devin Gardner**. "He's a great leader and is always prepared and displays a calm demeanor when he's on the course, which helps his teammates stay relaxed and positive."

Coe's game has improved since his freshman year as he gained physical strength and elevated his mental

preparation.

"Just by enhancing my core strength, I've added 10-15 yards on my drive," said Coe, who can hit tee shots 300 yards. "But my strength is my short game as well as my putting. I have confidence in my putter."

Coe is Broadneck's first state champion in golf and hopes to continue playing golf in college.

Broadneck's golf team finished third overall in the tournament with a foursome that included Coe, **James Jonker**, **Michael Peterson** and **Matt Harada**. Jonker placed fifth individually in the contest.

Broadneck's Ben Coe (right) displayed his state championship medal he won at the 4A/3A boys golf tournament, played at the University of Maryland Golf Course. Coe beat his nearest competitor by nine strokes. Broadneck boys golf head coach Devin Gardner congratulated Coe after the competition.

Severna Park's Nicol Chovenec Finishes Second In Girls Golf Championship

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park's **Nicol Chovanec** finished second in the girls' 4A/3A division during the championship.

Chovanec was also captain of her team and her teammates counted on her leadership skills and positive energy during matches.

"Nobody works harder than Nicol," said the Falcons' girls head coach, **Josh Dean**. "She's very passionate about her game and she is one of the better golfers in the coun-



Nicol Chovanec

ty, and that includes boys and girls."

Chovanec was four over par on the first day of the tournament but came back sizzling on the second day to play par golf and recorded a 146 for the tournament.

"The conditions of those two days were cold and windy," Chovanec said. "I was placed in the first foursome of girls, so I was competing against the best female high school golfers in the state. I was nervous at first but settled down and became very consistent the second day."

Chovanec made the state tournament all four years of her high school career and is strong in all

phases of her game.

"Her toolbox is full," said Dean, referring to Chovanec's all-around skill set. "Nicol believes in herself, and I never had to worry about her during matches because of her mental approach to the game."

Chovanec also works at the Severna Park Golf Center and will hopefully play golf in college. She would like to major in physical therapy.

"I try to be very positive when I'm competing," Chovanec said. "I try to break down the 18 holes into three holes at a time. If I have a bad hole, I refocus and improve on the next hole or the next group of three holes."

Bruins Tumble Into Winning Cheerleading State Championship

By Jaina Peveto

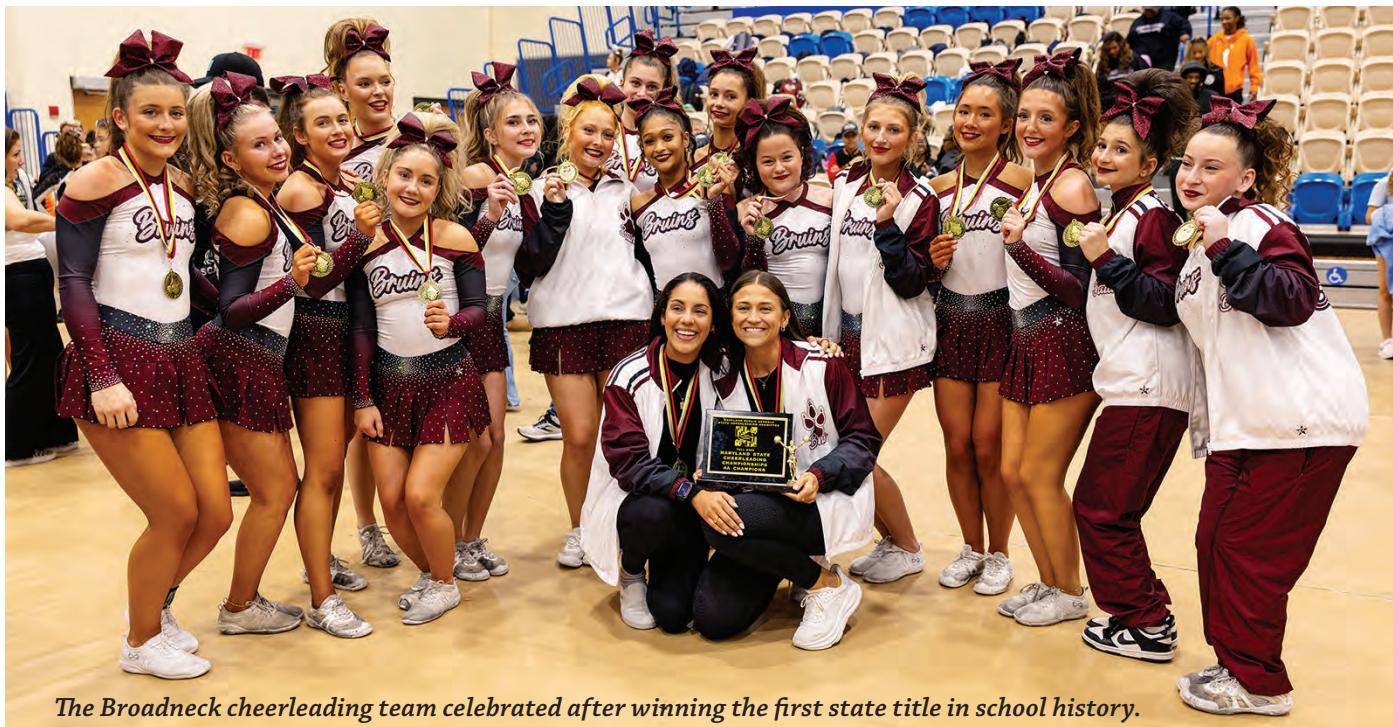
In November, **Summer Kiser**, **Ella Thompson**, **Olivia Valentine**, **Alyssa Albright**, **Taylor Hannon**, **Brianna Pumphrey**, **Avery Jansen**, **Cassidy Trew** and **Janae Woodward** took to the mat and became the first team in Broadneck High School (BHS) cheerleading history to win a state championship.

"This year's attitude and our athletes' buy-in was the biggest difference," said head coach **Dakota Richardson-Lau**, who has coached at Broadneck since graduating college in 2019.

While she's brought the cheerleading team to regionals every year and they've made it to states for the past three years, they have always felt like underdogs. This year, Richardson-Lau and fellow coaches **Danica Oak** and **Tierra Price** set the goal of being state champions from day one. The athletes were each given a journal, where they reflected each week and then shared at practice. "That really contributed to each athlete individually visualizing themselves as a champion, but also collectively as a team," Richardson-Lau said.

However, even while striving for such a high goal, the team maintained their underdog status throughout this year. They scraped their way into regionals, just making it into the last spot. They fought their way into the state championship. Until the moment Broadneck was awarded first place, no one around them was expecting that result.

"Even the cameraman was shooting



The Broadneck cheerleading team celebrated after winning the first state title in school history.

this other team, waiting for their reaction video," Richardson-Lau said. "And I just continued to encourage my team. 'Keep your heads down. We got there. We're that number one spot. ... Don't even look over at what other people are doing.'"

Broadneck's routine shifted this year. The rubric was slightly different than previous years, so for the first time, the team dropped cheer elements such as signs. Rather than ending with stunts or a pyramid like usual, this year's routine began with baskets and stunting and ended with dance. The coaches drew inspiration

from what had worked for previous state champions to try to play to the judges' objective and subjective scoring.

Richardson-Lau also credited the senior class for playing a large role in the team's accomplishment. **Sydney Sample**, **Hannon** and **Pumphrey** were all cheer captains this year, and they stepped up to the plate. "Their leadership and their trust in us as coaches truly made a difference," Richardson-Lau said.

All three seniors had been with the team for their entire time at Broadneck, as had many of the juniors, giving the

coaches and the athletes a lot of time to grow together as a team. That time together also helped them bring their stunting skills up a notch.

The athletes' hard work wasn't the only type of cheering to help the team achieve victory. "This win couldn't have happened without our village of Broadneck," Richardson-Lau said. "Our athletes, our coaching staff, our families, even our Broadneck community. Everyone was just so encouraging, and really believing in us as a team really made all of the difference this year."

Terps Field Hockey Team Features Two Former Broadneck Stars

Everett Sisters Bring Talent, Knowledge, Speed To Maryland

By Kevin Murnane

Last year, Broadneck's **Faith Everett** was being heavily recruited by an array of colleges that recognized her stellar field hockey skills. Originally, she did not want to follow the path of her older sister, **Maya Everett**, currently a junior at the University of Maryland. But the thought of battling opponents on the same team outweighed the other offers, so Faith joined her sister and became a Terp.

"We're very close and we've been teammates since we were 4 or 5 years old," said Faith, a freshman. "I really wanted to play on the same team as Maya again, so the final decision was pretty easy."

The Everett sisters were paramount in the recent success of the Bruins' field hockey program, which won the 4A state title in 2022.

The Everett sisters achieved high praise during their playing days at Broadneck with both being named first-team All-Metro by the Baltimore Sun and All-County by The Capital Gazette. Maya was named Maryland Field Hockey Player of the Year in 2022 by MaxPreps.

"Both Maya and Faith had an immense impact on our program," said Broadneck field hockey coach **Shannon Hanratty**. "We were lucky to have six years of the Everett sisters overlapping our program and both are phenomenal players."

Hanratty emphasized that the Everett



Maya Everett



Faith Everett

sisters' year-round commitment to field hockey, as well as their leadership abilities, enabled them to become four-year varsity players and team captains.

"Speed is their big asset," Hanratty said. "They are both very fast, and because of their speed and stick-handling skills, they shut down the middle part of the field for our opponents."

Those skills and their tireless work ethic were just a few of the reasons why both sisters were highly recruited by numerous colleges.

"They are two of the three fastest players on our squad," said University of Maryland field hockey head coach and Severna Park resident **Missy Meharg**. "The Everett sisters are disciplined in physical and mental preparations and that is a testament to their coaching they received at Broadneck and Freedom Hockey, which is why they were ready to play at Maryland and the Big Ten conference."

Freedom Hockey is a club field hockey team located in the Crownsville area. Maryland's associate field hockey coach, **Kasey Tapman Asper**, was the Everett sisters' coach for those club teams.

The Everett sisters were heavily recruited by numerous colleges for their field hockey skills but chose Maryland because of its national reputation in field hockey, academics and proximity to home.

"I have had the opportunity to coach the Everett sisters throughout their youth field hockey careers," Tapman Asper said. "It is exciting to have them here at Maryland as each brings a unique outlook on the game. They are Marylanders at heart and bring a sense of loyalty, hard work and commitment to the field every day."

Faith and Maya's parents, Caroline and Trent, were highly involved when their girls began playing field hockey with Broadneck Area Youth Sports (BAYS). Caroline played field hockey at the University of New Hampshire and coached in the BAYS organization.

The sisters are family-oriented and one of the reasons why both players chose Maryland was to enable their parents to drive a mere 45 minutes to watch them play.

"We love being close to home and having our parents seeing us play," Faith said. "Because of field hockey and being on so many teams together, we are very close and we always have encouraged each other."

Both sisters remarked that the college game is so much more intense than high school and the pace of the game is quicker.

"When I first arrived at Maryland, there was so much to learn," Maya said. "You really had to prepare for the mental aspect of the game as well as different strategies."

Also, the daily and weekly preparation

of the season is more demanding than high school athletics.

A typical week for the Everett sisters is either morning or afternoon practice, followed by strength and conditioning throughout the week as well as film study on their opponent. Their remaining time is consumed with classes, papers and exams.

"Our circle of friends is really our teammates because that is who we spend the most time with," Maya said.

The Terps' season ended with a 2-1 loss to No. 7 Ohio State in the Big Ten tournament in November. Prior to that, Maryland hovered around the top 10 in ESPN's national field hockey rankings. The team beat the No. 17 team, Rutgers, 1-0 in overtime on October 24. They also beat Iowa, which was ranked in the top 10, 2-1 on October 10. Maya started that game for the Terps and played vital minutes for Maryland all season. Faith spent most of the fall recovering from an injury she sustained early this season.

"The Everett sisters are physically gifted with speed and consistent energy," Tapman Asper said. "They are a true representation of the state, and Maryland is thrilled to have this dynamic duo on our squad."

Given that speed is one of their greatest assets, which sister is faster?

"I'm faster in shorter distances but Faith is faster in longer distances," Maya said.

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Falcon Field Hockey Title Run Falls In State Final

Photos by Fincham Photography
Severna Park's Cinderella season came to an end in November, but the girls enjoyed the experience of playing in the state championship.

By David Bashore

In the aftermath of Severna Park's 3-1 defeat by Leonardtown in the 4A field hockey state championship game on November 8, it was hard to tell by the Falcons' demeanor that they had lost the game.

As disappointing as it is to get so close and come up short, the team arrived back at the state championship match perhaps a year off schedule, and for a large chunk of the game, it looked like they might just pull off the upset.

When **Sophia Weber's** redirect went in to give Severna Park the lead, things appeared to be on for the Falcons to repeat as state champions despite graduating the entire rotation from 2024. But, as they did time after time this season, Leonardtown kept banging on the door and eventually it caved in.

Severna Park was only one of four teams to score on the Raiders all season.

"I'm just so proud of them," said Severna Park coach **Shannon Garden**. "I can't ask for more from a young group like that. I thought they came out phenomenally — they're young, and they're not experienced in this big kind of arena. I thought they played hard and they did everything they could. I could not be more proud of them."

"I hate losing more than anybody, but I'm so proud of them. They played so well; I don't have any complaints. They gave everything we have to give."

The Falcons returned to the state championship game



courtesy of an overtime semifinal victory over Winston Churchill. Moments after seeing her penalty stroke saved in overtime, Weber bounced back and cashed in a rebound from a corner set piece to send Severna Park back to the final with a 2-1 win.

"I was just thinking that I needed to get it back because that was our chance to win. I made a mistake, so I had to get back and recover from it," Weber said. "I needed to take the shot and see if it goes in, and if I don't get it, one of my teammates will hit it in. I was just glad that I could help."

Though the bulk of the team will return next year, the Falcons will say goodbye to two of their senior forwards: **Kate Edwards** and **Megan Krause**.



Above: Defensive pressure from Leonardtown limited the Severna Park offense during a 3-1 loss in the 4A title match. Below: Sophia Weber played a pivotal role in the Falcons' playoff push, sending her team to the final and scoring again in the championship.



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Severn School State Champions

Three Severn School teams finished their seasons with Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) state titles while two others enjoyed regular-season accolades.



Severn School beat Park School 3-1 to claim the IAAM volleyball title.

VOLLEYBALL

With an 11-1 regular season, the Cavaliers volleyball squad carried momentum into the playoffs. They posted straight-set wins over Concordia Prep School and St. Timothy's in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively. During the IAAM C Conference finals at Stevenson University on October 26, they scored a convincing 3-1 win over Park School.

Four Teams Bow Out In Region Finals

By David Bashore

For four local sports teams, their fall seasons ended in the region semifinals. Three of those teams were eliminated by the eventual state champions in their competition, while the fourth capped a promising season filled with improvement both from beginning to end and from year to year.

4A East II Boys Soccer

Leonardtown 5, Broadneck 1

The Broadneck boys soccer team fell on the road to Leonardtown in the region final, after falling behind in the game's first seven minutes. They got within 2-1 in the second half but surrendered three late goals while chasing the equalizer. It's the third straight year the Bruins' season has ended at the hands of the team who would later win it all.

Braeden Kelly ended the season with 17 goals in 2025 and 35 for his varsity career. Kelly is one of 10 seniors departing the Broadneck program: **Joe Brenner, Ascanio Satta, Quinto Barrett, Brady Miller, T.J. Remson, Mason Kaline, Wyatt Shaw, Abdul Kebbeh** and **Lewis Tippin** also will graduate.

"(The seniors) are responsible for the level of success we've had for four years. They all got our culture from day one almost and improved it," Broadneck boys soccer head coach **Sean Tettermer** said. "They've left behind good players that understand the expectations and what it means to play for Broadneck."

3A East II Boys Soccer

Stephen Decatur 1, Severna Park 0 (4-3 SO)

The Falcons' run ended at the hands of the Seahawks in a dramatic penalty shootout after the regional final ended goalless.

Severna Park was the only team to hold Decatur goalless in the playoffs, as they went on to win the 3A championship.

The Falcons graduate 11 seniors from this year's squad: **Gavin Gerard, Charlie Samples, Garrett Moden, Townsend Neher, Jacob Broadwater, Zach Simpkins, Aiden Min, Braxton Barr, Zach Campbell, Stephen Bacho** and **Jack Watkins**.

3A East II Volleyball

Arundel 3, Severna Park 0

After finishing the regular season strong and earning a first-round playoff bye, the Falcons dispatched Stephen Decatur in straight sets in the region semis before falling at Arundel in the final.

The Falcons will say goodbye to seven seniors: **Genevieve Willis, Lizzie Ranaghan, Abby Roberts, Kathryn Rojek, Gabi Villagas, Viviana Willis** and **Stella Kidney**.

4A East II Field hockey

Leonardtown 5, Broadneck 0

The Bruins came up short in the region final, breaking a string of three straight region titles. Broadneck faced pressure early and often, struggling to keep pace with a Raiders team that went on to win their first state title in 30 years.

Trish Maloney made an eye-popping 38 saves in goal for Broadneck.

The Bruins will graduate six seniors from this year's squad: **Alyssa Lewis, Abbie Mahoney, Charlotte Robertson, Norah Ulsh, Layla Nicholas** and **Olivia Weaver**.



The Admirals girls soccer team avenged an earlier loss against Mount de Sales and won the state championship.

GIRLS SOCCER

The girls soccer team entered the postseason with a 6-4-2 record. After beating Concordia Prep School 6-0 in the IAAM semifinals on October 29, Severn School advanced to the championship to play Mount de Sales, which had just defeated the Admirals two weeks prior. The Admirals were ready for redemption, winning 3-2 at Calvert Hall College's Paul Angelo Russo Soccer Stadium on November 2.

TENNIS

The tennis team capped an undefeated season by winning the IAAM C Conference state championship.

REGULAR SEASON CHAMPS

Though they were dealt a 1-0 defeat in the finals against John Carroll, Severn School's field hockey team still had plenty to celebrate as regular season champions after going 7-0 in the IAAM C Conference. The school's girls cross country team also finished as regular season champs and came in second place during the IAAM playoff.

Falcon Girls Soccer Scores Third-Straight Title

» Continued from page 18

Falcons' third goal, while **Izzy Burleson** and **Addison Murphy** also netted. They conceded first but ripped off three straight goals, only to see Oakdale score twice in five minutes late in the second half to tie the game.

They survived an onslaught in the first half of overtime, then bagged yet another title with their first foray of the second half.

"We know our game, we've been taught our game, and in those moments, we think about each other and how much we work for each other, and that pushes us," said senior **Emerson Scott**. "We've had those moments where it gets to the nitty-gritty, but we have had those golden-goal moments and been able to get it done."

Much has been made of the senior class, and for good reason. Over three years, they went 52-1, scored 191 goals and conceded just 16. But in the title game, younger players rose to the occasion and let the seniors know that the dynasty need not end just because they're gone.

Wallace and Burleson each had a goal and an assist, and there was tenacious defending from **Taylor Edwards** to help keep Oakdale at bay long enough for the offense to take hold of the game. **Ella McLaughlin** helped Burleson anchor the midfield.

They made it to the final courtesy of a 1-0 win over Towson in the semis, a rematch of the 2024 final. **Ava Scott** got the game's only goal, and **Megan Young** made four key

early saves to keep the game goalless while staring into a tough sun.

There were standout moments, but it really took all hands on deck to make it happen, which is how the team prefers it.

"The whole year we've stressed focusing on ourselves and only how we play, because we know that if we play to the best of our ability, we can do great things," Bragg said. "It's not even a team, it's a second family for all of us, and for a lot of the seniors it's our last time playing soccer ever. This team means so much to us."

Joining Murphy, Bragg, and the Scott sisters in departing are fellow seniors **Ella Baxter, Emma Lawrence, Bella Mazzola**, and **Mackenzey Luoto**. Many of them have been with the team for all three of the team's state championships, while the Scotts were four-year varsity players.

"It's no surprise that the success we've had has corresponded to the time they've been in the program. They've been great leaders and great teammates and helped to establish the culture even as freshmen," said Severna Park coach **Rick Stimpson**. "I think looking back at the whole season, the way they performed week in and week out was tremendous. The final will stick in the mind for a long time, very dramatic and one we had to work really hard for. The things that we're going to remember are the performances, but it's the friendships and relationships that are built at the team events over the year that we will remember the most."



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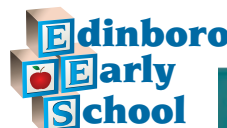
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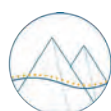
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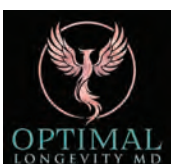
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Bruins Volleyball Breaks Through For State Crown

» Continued from page 18

this building but us. They were just so focused, and I feel like the outcome was well earned and deserved, and I'm really proud to be their coach."

Broadneck started off with a 4-0 lead in the first set behind the serves of **Barrett Bolter**, who finished the night with five aces. The Bruins jumped out to an 18-9 advantage after **Anna Graves** spiked one over the net and **Kennedy Smith** added another point, but the Hawks battled. **Camryn Bedell** stuffed a hit to slow the Urbana attack, yet they continued their scoring run to a 25-25 tie. With the score at 26-26, a service error gave Broadneck a chance to finish the set, which they did as Bedell sent a dink through the Hawks' defense.

The second set remained back and forth throughout, with Broadneck making several stellar plays. Graves dove and flung an arm behind her back to secure a dig, which went to Bedell, who slammed it home. **Sydney Lawrence** denied an Urbana kill at the net to set up a Smith score. Smith floated a shot off the fingertips of a Hawks defender. And Bedell smacked a perfectly placed shot just inside the left baseline. With 12 ties and five lead changes, the set gave hope to both teams until the Bruins pulled ahead 28-26.

As impressive as those sets were, Broadneck saved their finest moment for the third set. An 8-7 lead quickly morphed into deficits of 11-18 and 14-22. One serve hit the net. Several Urbana hits were placed just out of Broadneck's reach. Momentum swung to the Hawks,

but the Bruins did not panic.

Smith spiked the ball through a gap and went airborne to block a shot and send it back for another kill. Graves pushed one through a bevy of hands that met her at the net. Eleven unanswered points later, the Bruins rushed the court and collapsed with arms around one another as they took the set 25-22.

"The other coaches were like, 'You guys got to fight' and I just said, 'I don't know. Call me crazy. I have a really good feeling that we're going to win this set,'" Regalbuto said. "I said, 'Their best players are now out of the game, they're on the sidelines, and they're going to tip and roll everything and you guys need to go out slugging,' and we did that and it was just chipping away at the score."

Setters Lawrence (28 assists, four digs) and Bolter (four assists, nine digs) were key to the victory as they facilitated the offense and set the tone on defense. During the season, they were leading serve scorers for the team.

"Our serving was a main focus going into this game because we knew their big middles were going to be a problem," Regalbuto said. "And so how we prepared for this game was serving accurately, aggressively and attacking their setters so that they couldn't set their middles."

The Bruins returned 11 of 14 players for 2025, but the freshmen played important roles too. Bedell had six kills and 13 digs, and she received the most serves.

"We knew going in tonight that Camryn was going to be the serving target because Urbana watched our Churchill

game and Camryn was the serving target, and so we knew what tonight was going to be, and I feel like mentally she was very focused all day today and was ready to pass balls," Regalbuto said.

The selfless play became a theme. Smith, a two-year co-captain who had a team-high 15 kills in the championship, emphasized that a special bond kept the team close all year as they went 17-3 leading up to the state final.

"I feel like the fact that we had two freshmen starting and the fact that nobody on our team made it like, 'Oh, they are playing over us and they're freshmen,'" she said when asked how the team grew during the fall season. "We all stuck together to stay as an actual family like we say at the beginning of every year."

Players were jubilant after the game, grateful to be on the other side after last year's 3-0 championship game loss to Richard Montgomery. Their confidence never wavered and neither did their coach's because, after all, she knew the outcome.

"I really did not have any doubt in my mind that we were going to win tonight," Regalbuto said. "With that deficit, I still knew we were going to win."

The team will graduate **Addison Britton**, Graves, Smith, Lawrence and **Chloe Richie**. Several players are expected to return next year: juniors Bolter, **Marley Evans**, **Chloe Hays**, **Molly Robison**; sophomores **Lexi Britton** and **Julie Wagner**; and freshmen Bedell, **Alexis Luscomb**, **Ella Luscomb** and **Neely Olish**.

Severna Park Girls Cross Country Captures Another Title

» Continued from page 18

has a "strong grasp of what it takes to be successful," which helped the runners claim another championship, the 10th overall for the Falcon girls.

"Since I took over (the girls team) around 2017, it's been a slow build," said Alcombright, who has coached the Severna Park boys for almost 20 years. "They have acclimated to the training increase ... and the girls don't know any different. Success breeds success. The girls are buying into the program."

Park Boys Finish Fourth

Although they did not win, the Severna Park boys impressed by coming in fourth out of 20 schools. Senior **Ty Maddox** paced the Severna Park boys, coming in sixth place with a time of 16:43.22. His teammate **Brenden Woods**, a junior, earned 13th in 17:03.92.

"Ty had a great race, probably the best race of his career," Alcombright said. "He really came through for the team and had a great season, so it was great to see him do so well on the biggest stage."

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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

DASH HAVENS

Severna Park High School
Football, Basketball, Lacrosse

By David Bashore

By day, **Dash Havens** is a model student with a perfect 4.0 unweighted GPA (4.53 weighted) who participates in Severna Park’s student-athlete leadership council.

By “night,” he’s a three-sport stand-out (football, basketball, lacrosse) for the Falcons, an intern at a local golf course, and an SAT tutor.

But where he’s happiest, perhaps, is on the water.

“During COVID, my brother Leo and I were looking for stuff to do, so we saved up a bunch of money mowing lawns and stuff like that, and we bought a little maybe 14-foot skiff with a 15-horsepower motor so we could go fishing,” Havens said. “We go out on the Severn a lot, and I really enjoy being on the water.”

The water is peaceful amid a hectic high school life, though when he’s in the throes of it, Havens is all-in.

Last summer, he tutored students in the SAT through a platform called Schoolhouse World. It helped him sharpen his own study skills for the test, but it also unlocked a new perspective that he hopes to carry



Photo courtesy of Fincham Photography

forward with him.

“Everyone views (the SAT) as a national test, but there are people from all around the world,” he said. “I had students from Japan and Canada, so that was a really cool experience for me. I felt like I had some success with the SAT and I wanted to share that. If you teach something, you also master it a little bit more. To be able to explain problems and break them down into simpler terms for people to understand was really rewarding.”

“My goal is to go to the best academic school possible. Even though I’ve played sports my whole life, it’s been academics first, and sports will come with it. If I can use a sport to get into the best school possible, that’d be great, and if that doesn’t work out and I’m just going to a great school, then that’s the option for me.”

— DASH HAVENS

Between tutoring, fishing, working his golf internship and taking the typical senior half schedule, Havens has worked out how best to manage the finite number of hours in his day.

But the athletic field was a real sanctuary during his junior year, where a full schedule is required but the accelerated rigor can chew up a ton of precious time and energy.

“It’s my brain break. Junior year was probably a little heavier with a lot of work, but for a couple of hours I can have a little mental break playing my sports,” he said. “I think it started when I was 3. Everyone signs up for a couple of sports, and my parents signed me up for a lot. I played everything from soccer to tennis to baseball and lacrosse, and I didn’t play football until my freshman year. I think they just wanted me to experience a lot and find what I really enjoyed, and I was able to narrow it down to three before

high school.”

While he plays all three at a high level, Havens accepts that lacrosse is probably his best bet if he wants to continue playing in college, where he is thinking about studying business and finance. Because of Severna Park’s lacrosse history, the depth of talent in the area, and the relative difficulty in being recruited for football or basketball locally, he’ll keep the stick and gloves if it works out.

But he’s at peace with whatever happens, regardless.

“My goal is to go to the best academic school possible. Even though I’ve played sports my whole life, it’s been academics first, and sports will come with it,” Havens said. “If I can use a sport to get into the best school possible, that’d be great, and if that doesn’t work out and I’m just going to a great school, then that’s the option for me.”



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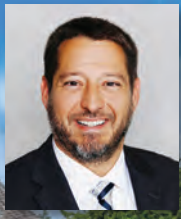
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BHS Football Ends Season In State Semis

By David Bashore

The end of Broadneck's football season on November 28 at Quince Orchard came with equal measures sadness, frustration and perspective.

Sadness at the finality of a special season. Frustration at the way the game unfolded. Perspective as they looked back on where they came from to get to this point at all.

The Bruins' 35-0 loss at Quince Orchard in the 4A state semifinals marked the second straight season they've lost in this round to the Cougars. Unlike last year where they were dominated, the margin this time was largely self-inflicted: four turnovers (two interceptions and two muffed punts) gave Quince Orchard short fields and three touchdowns, and the Bruins mustered just 54 yards of offense.

The first turnover came on the first series of the game, after Broadneck had forced a punt, but swirling wind and a shorter kick resulted in a muff that the Cougars recovered and later cashed into the end zone.

"It's definitely deflating, but you're not defined by that one play. We had an opportunity to step up and make some plays, but it's tough," said Broadneck coach **Rob Harris**. "It's a testament to the kids that they put the work in and believed in the coaches. Our ability to keep putting that work in got us to this point. It didn't go our way today. We had opportunities early on, but that says a lot about these kids. That's a great group of kids."

The perspective comes in realizing that the start to the season was Broadneck's worst in decades, and yet it ended in a fifth straight trip to the state playoffs and a fourth straight run of reaching the semifinals or further.

The loss snapped an eight-game win streak that got the Bruins to the postseason, having started the season 0-3.



Photo by Dennis McGinley

Carson Pierce returned an interception for a touchdown during the Bruins' region playoff game against Annapolis.

They handled local rival Severna Park in the final game of the regular season and did likewise to Annapolis in the region playoffs. Then, Broadneck became the only road team to win in the quarterfinal round courtesy of a 37-22 win over Paint Branch that was more one-sided than the final score suggested.

"Starting 0-3, we were definitely questioning ourselves but we had to come together, work through those difficulties, and we were able to improve it," said Broadneck senior **Caydin Evans**, who had two sacks and two more tackles for loss in the first half of the Paint Branch game, where the Bruins allowed just 23 yards and one first down in the first 24 minutes.

On the season, the Bruins were balanced on offense, with **Nathan Kropkowski** throwing for 1,811 yards and 14 touchdowns, and the team piling up 1,520 rushing yards and 14 scores. The two-headed rushing monster of **Gabe Denius** and **Aaron Foote** combined for 1,316 of those yards and 12 TDs. **Aidan Tupper** hauled in 43 catches for 739 yards and five scores.

Defensively, the Bruins grew stouter as the season went on. They had 10 senior starters on defense and 13 in the rotation. **Kemarri Collison** was a difference-maker at defensive lineman, while linebacker **Alijah Hawkins** had four interceptions and five sacks. Teams stopped throwing **Jonah Brown's** way, as he proved himself to be a true lockdown corner.

In total the Bruins graduate 20 seniors from this squad: Aaron Foote, Brown, Hawkins, Collison, Evans, **Carson Pierce**, **Kendall Jones**, **Cordaro Foote**, **Myles Bryan**, **Cam Jones**, **Carter Gondak**, **Marlo Brown**, **Brad Bynum**, **Jacob Chick**, **Keaton Walker**, **Nehemiah Robinson**, **Brian Gomez Valle**, **Tyreus Brown**, **Cameron Provan** and **Maison Bryan**.

Falcons Football Reaches Last 16

By David Bashore

As the Severna Park football team gathered one final time after their 27-6 loss to Old Mill in the 4A/3A East region playoffs, there were mixed emotions.

The Falcons had just ended their season against a team they beat during the regular season, but just to get to the game at all required something that hadn't been done since before some of those Falcons were born.

After starting the season 0-2, they ripped off six straight wins to put themselves within shouting distance of the No. 1 playoff seed. Despite a loss to Broadneck in the regular season finale, they rebounded with a hard-fought playoff win over Crofton to secure their first postseason advancement since 2008.

Even though the offense was stymied in the Old Mill rematch, settling for a pair of **Gavin Fetty** field goals, the team could look back on the season with satisfaction: seven wins, including that long-awaited playoff victory.

"It's been a great season. Six-game winning streak, first playoff win in 17 years, and we're going to take that and hopefully build from it," said Severna Park coach **Nick Marks**. "It's tough for that to happen (in the rematch), but that's football. There's going to be things that happen and you have to keep fighting, and they did. I'm proud of the team, and part of the guys."

Severna Park built its resume on a stingy, opportunistic defense. They had 33 takeaways, led by four interceptions each from **Tyler Lawhorne** and **Charlie Cavanaugh**, and 27 sacks, headlined by **Noah Croghan's** 18. Croghan, Lawhorne, and **Landon Williams** each had two fumble recoveries, while Croghan forced a further five fumbles.

On offense, **Blake Howell** threw for 11 touchdowns and ran for 10, while **Jonathan Wark** added 678 yards on the ground and six scores. The team's two leading receivers, **Dash Havens** and **Cole Cavanaugh**, combined for 728 yards and seven touchdowns.

Twenty-one seniors capped their careers on a high with the Falcons reaching Class 4A/3A's last 16 teams standing: Williams, Lawhorne, Fetty, Howell, Wark, Cavanaugh, **Joey Viskocil**, **Michael Queen**, **Cameron Wallace**, **Reid Bergstrom**, **Kamari Brown**, **Hayden Fox**, **Blake Howell**, **Isaac Graves**, **Dash Havens**, **Jackson Anders**, **Roy Bowerman**, **Asher Knickerbocker**, **Kameron Chapman**, **Matthew Murphy** and **Andrew Webster**.

"We've been together for three years. A lot of these guys were sophomores on varsity during my first year," Marks said. "They've done a lot of special things for Severna Park and put some building blocks in place, and now we have to build on it."

Carry On: Severna Park Running Back Overcomes Injuries To Lead Falcons Backfield

By Tom Worgo

Severna Park High senior **Jonathan Wark** is no stranger to overcoming adversity.

For 11 months between 2023 and 2025, he rehabbed and worked out with the goal to play football again. He dislocated his elbow during his sophomore season and suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee the following year.

The recovery became Wark's obsession for two reasons: playing his last year of high school football and getting on a path to competing in the sport in college.

"I really did as much work as I could," said Wark, who had surgery on his knee but not his elbow.

If it wasn't for the injuries, the 5-foot-10, 180-pound Wark might have picked a college by now. Wark said he is in the best shape of his life after adding 25 pounds since his sophomore year. All the weightlifting and work with a physical therapist rehab — including two-hour weightlifting sessions and one and half hours with a physical therapist on some days — has made him quicker and stronger.

"He is really a workout guy and a lifter," Severna Park football head



Jonathan Wark

coach **Nick Marks** explained. "He is really very strong."

Picture this: Wark also wrestles and has the physique of a championship-caliber grappler. "I really want to play football in

college," Wark said. "It's really important to me. I told coach Marks, 'I want to play college football.' And he has helped me with the process."

The 17-year-old Wark spent a lot of time in October putting together a video of his highlights to send to college coaches. He's had some great clips to use from this season.

Wark led Severna Park in rushing (678 yards) and touchdowns (six) this fall as

the team reached the postseason and beat Crofton to win the program's first playoff game since 2008. He carried the ball 146 times. With that type of production, he may be making up for lost time.

"We missed him last year, and it did lead to a void," Marks said of Wark missing nine games. "We had to bring up some younger kids (from JV) who weren't ready yet. This year, we have more rushing yards than passing yards. That's what we want to do, and we couldn't do it last year."

Wark had some memorable games this season. He led the Falcons to their first victory over Old Mill since 2018 by rushing for 98 yards and a touchdown. He showed he can carry a heavy workload by rushing for 135 yards on 29 carries in a loss to Northeast.

"He is really good at reading the defense, finding the hole and using the cutback lanes," Marks said. "He also likes contact. He won't shy away from anybody. He likes to lower his shoulder and run over people."

Marks raved about Wark's leadership skills. The two-year co-captain is an emotional leader and makes it a priority to help underclassmen on and off the field. Marks also has an impact inside the weight room, setting examples in many ways for his teammates.

"He took over as captain as a junior," Marks said. "I have been coaching high school football for a long time (20 years), and I have not seen that many juniors voted team captain. He is so valuable to the team."



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Undefeated Season Ends With Football Title For 10U Hornets



On November 9, Severna Park's 10U Green Hornets football team beat the Pasadena Panthers 24-0 to cap off an 11-0 season and win the county championship.

The Severna Park Green Hornets 10U football team went 11-0 for an undefeated season and won the county championship in the 10U American Tier 2 Anne Arundel County league. They beat the Pasadena Panthers 24-0 on November 9 in the championship game.

Leading the team was head coach **Dave Stokes**, along with assistants **Damion Buterbaugh**, **Drew Ward**, **Steve Ward**, **Matt Payne** and **Jeff Rothenbecker**.

Players included **Brendan Hoder**, **Penn Shaklee**, **Ezra Buterbaugh**, **Holden Rothenbecker**,

Brady Stokes, **Everett Cook**, **Jeremy Kamas**, **Nick Hoover**, **Spencer Allen**, **Oliver Farr**, **Caleb Wolf**, **Sylas Savaliski**, **Dylan Deegan**, **Tucker Fazio**, **Cameron Ledsome**, **Theo Ward**, **Jack Lynch**, **Matthew Orlove**, **Beau Bruffey**, **Tripp Olienyk**, **Sawyer Perry**, **Ryan Payne**, **Owen Baxter** and **Joey Ram**.

Hornets Football Team Three-Time County Champs

The 12U Green Hornets team won the Anne Arundel County Youth Football Association B championship in dominant fashion against the Pasadena Panthers on November 9. The 39-16 victory marked the third consecutive year this team has won the county championship.

Defensive coach **Blake Fockler** set the tone for the game with a fiery huddle speech after the Panthers chose to receive the ball to start the game.

"It is championship Sunday," he told the team. "This is what we do every year. This defense is dominating this series and all day. Let's go win another trophy!"

The Hornets' defense stopped the Panthers in quick fashion, forcing them to turn over the ball on downs. The Hornets offense went to work. Three plays later, quarterback **Wyatt Priem** threw a 25-yard pass to tight end **Jameson Brown**, who ran into the end zone for the Hornets' first touchdown. Severna Park continued the offensive attack and dominated defense and special teams plays en route to another title.

"The boys worked hard all season and battled



The 12U Green Hornets team won the Anne Arundel County Youth Football Association B championship, 39-16, against the Pasadena Panthers in November.

be prouder of their development and success on the field," he said. "This team has set a high bar of excellence for our football program not only on the field, but also, the parent support during games is the golden standard for all of our teams.

through a number of injuries to become three-peat champions," said head coach **Ryan Priem**. "Next man up' became our saying during practice. I am so proud of them; they deserve this honor. When we put this team together with a core group in the third grade, I said we are building something special. Every year, we added more talent to win championships."

Green Hornets football commissioner **Sean Killduff** had high praise for the team.

"Coach Priem's team won their first championship three years ago when I became commissioner. The entire Green Hornets organization couldn't

The Green Hornets 12U team includes **Wyatt Priem**, **Corbin Fockler**, **Dylan Moore**, **Blake Miller**, **Kia Husman**, **Connor Mellinger**, **RJ Broseker**, **Jack Somerset**, **Tighe O'Brien**, **Palmer Stansbury**, **Jameson Brown**, **Brodie Kalberer**, **Bryce Emmerich**, **Wrox Vetter**, **Charlie Cinosky**, **Jack Hepting**, **Leo Clary**, **Nick Wells**, **Silas Sprinkel**, **Ben Wieland**, **Grayson Darmofal**, **Crew Blanchet**, **Matt O'Hare**, **Hardy Cole**, **Jonah Hepp**, **Malakai Stauffer** and **Chase Collier**.

The team is coached by **Ryan Priem** (head coach), **Blake Fockler**, **Joe Moore**, **Jayson Mellinger**, **Matt Husman** and **Brad Wray**.

2035 Boys Win Consecutive Tournaments To Conclude Fall Ball



The Severna Park Green Hornets 2035 boys lacrosse team closed out the fall season with consecutive tournament victories at the Aloha Cup on November 9 and the Laxgiving Shootout on November 16. Coaches **Garrett Wells**, **Brent Hardie**, **Keith Baker** and **Gary Clipp** led the team to a 3-0 record in the Aloha Cup, besting Harvest Lacrosse Club from upstate New York in the championship 7-3. The following Sunday, the team posted a 4-0 record, beating the Maryland Blue Claws in the championship game 9-3.

The offense was paced by **Mitchell Baker**, **James Hardie**, **Logan Van**

Dyke, **Julian LaBarge** and **Lucian Hogan** on attack. The midfield consistently controlled the games with faceoff play and a strong transition game from **Grant Locher**, **James Wells**, **Patrick Cassily**, **Rhodes Metzger**, **Luke Obringer**, **Jack Logue**, **Gavin Wong**, **Max Reineck** and **Von Plikuhn**. **Ham Ostrosky** contributed as the shutdown long-stick midfielder. The defense was anchored by **Tucker Nichols**, **Jaxson Rites**, **Grayson Rex** and **Francis Cassily**. **Maverick Moorhouse** and **Jameson Chalmers** shared goalkeeping duties in the undefeated fall effort.

Consecutive victories in the Aloha Cup and Laxgiving Shootout closed out a successful season for the Green Hornets 2035 boys lacrosse team.

Park Boys Capture Third Straight Undeclared Soccer Season

A group of boys from Shipley's Choice who first teamed up as second-graders have just wrapped up their third consecutive undefeated soccer season, a testament to their hard work, teamwork and love for the game.

The team began playing together in the Green Hornets program, in which they went undefeated in both second and third grades and won the league titles each season. Last fall, they captured the combined third/fourth-grade division, often competing against older teams and still finishing on top.

This year, wanting to keep the entire group together, the boys moved to the Arden soccer program. They also decided to take on a bigger challenge by playing up in the 11U division. They rose to the moment once again, going undefeated and winning the league.

This group of boys has learned to trust each other, focus on developing their own

skills, and move the ball with quick passing and unselfish play. They are known as a hardworking, coachable group.

The team is coached by **Pat Deitz** and **Adam Twigg**, who have guided the group through all three undefeated seasons while teaching the boys that effort, teamwork and sportsmanship matter far more than any record.

The boys plan to continue playing together this winter in a local futsal league, taking on a new challenge with the same energy, commitment and love for the game that has defined them since they started playing together.

The team includes **Charlie Deitz, Hudson Twigg, Carter Baranowsky, Beckett Milligan, Royce Sboray, Griffin Burke, Shane Jackson, Max Bullough, Loch Warren, Will Etter, Colin Law, Brayden Freiss, Kieran McHale, Turner Mundorf** and **Landon Edwards**.



Photo courtesy of Kate Twigg

Playing above their age group in the 11U division, this Arden boys soccer team went undefeated for the third year after transitioning from Green Hornets.

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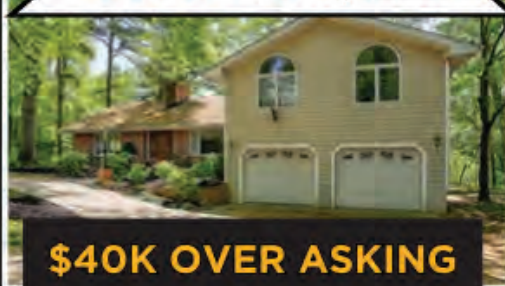
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Green Hornets Celebrates 2025 Soccer Champions

Throughout the fall season, the Green Hornets boys and girls soccer teams played hard, racking up wins across the county. With the 2025 season behind them, the Green Hornets are celebrating the athletes' accomplishments including league and division championship titles. Congratulations to all on a successful season!



REC SOCCER THIRD & FOURTH GRADE BOYS

Coached by **Matt McGuire** and **Jeremy Mitzel**, the Smurfs were a lively crew who enjoyed a fun regular season. **Michael Viviano**, **Fitz Murphy**, **Wesley Johnson** and **Isaac Mitzel** rounded out a stellar defensive unit. Strikers **Duke Keydash** and **Mac Bartgis** were always ready to shoot when called upon. Goalkeepers **Carter McGuire** and **Toby Judkins** were the last line of defense, holding teams in check during games. Midfielders **Paul Dianno**, **Brendan Muelhauser** and **Andres Haag** relished the ability to play tight defense as well as set up offensive attacks to put the ball into the net. The Smurfs had a 6-1 regular season, playing with strong resiliency and a never-give-up-attitude that ultimately manifested in a 3-2 come-from-behind championship victory.

REC SOCCER SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS

The Green Hornets had only two seventh- and eighth-grade girls teams in 2025. Both competed in the Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association spring league. The SP Orange team played a challenging schedule, facing tough competition around the county and beyond. They won the intra-Green Hornets seventh- and eighth-grade championship game against the other Green Hornets team behind strong play from goalkeeper **Reagan Panuska**, with excellent outside speed from **Lucy Distin**, **Emma Greenwood** and **Emmerson Hall**. The aggressive strikers were anchored by **Riley Thomasson**, **Lilly Smith** and **Annslea Phipps**. **Ella Mecone**, **Hadley Koloski** and **Ashley Yeatman** controlled the flow of the game from the center midfield position while **Olivia Smith**, **Harper Bass**, **Lulia Abushi** and **Flor Vianen** prevented the other team from scoring. Emmerson and Riley were recognized as players of the game. The team was rounded out by **Grace Fithyan**, **Abby Fritz**, **Esmee Vianen** and **Allie Wheelless**, and coached by **Ian Kelly** and **Scott Ayers**.



REC SOCCER SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE BOYS

Playing in the most balanced league that Green Hornets coaches can recall in recent years, the SP Green learned a powerful lesson in perseverance as they finished third in the regular season. Their main challenge was the White team, a rival they had lost to by just one goal in all three regular-season matchups (3-4, 0-1, 1-2).

The semifinal was their moment of truth. The boys supported and cheered for one another, yet they went down 0-1 early in the second half, threatening a fourth painful one-goal loss.

But the boys refused to quit. They doubled down, went into overdrive, and dominated the rest of the game. They won the semifinal 3-1 and finally beat their nemesis.

Coached by **Nate Mudd** and **Alex Pletnev**, the team included **James Allman**, **Noah Nunnally**, **Maxx Atienza**, **Nick Augelli**, **Scott Briczinski**, **Kason Ghajarnia**, **Edward Gillespie**, **Landon Jung**, **David Lucas**, **Henry MacLaughlin**, **Parker Mudd**, **Bryce Mueller**, **Philip Norton**, **Josiah Nunnally**, **Peter Pletnev** and **Bradley Rostad**.

AAYSA GIRLS U8 BLUE DIVISION

During their final match, the lady Hornets closed out a perfect season with a commanding win over Maryland United, highlighted by hat tricks from **Catherine Smith** and **Maren Watley** and goals from **Maddie Sperry** and **Meara Shea**. Their defensive third held strong all game, with **Ellie Kate Camponeschi** and **Aubrey Copper** anchoring the goal and defenders **Sophie Bratten** and **Maddie McCarthy** shutting down opportunities. Up front, the relentless speed and tenacity of **Coco Lee** and **Grace Nowotnick** kept constant pressure on Maryland United's defense, ultimately sealing the victory. **Piper Waugh** and **Sophia Majoros** rounded out the tenacious team, coached by **Lauren Watley** and **Jessica Bratten**.



AAYSA Boys U08 ORANGE DIVISION

Most of the first- and second-grade boys on this team had never played together before, so their camaraderie and teamwork snapping into place quickly was special. Heading into the final match against Maryland United, both teams had suffered just one loss, setting the stage for a tough showdown that would determine the division champion. True to form, the Green Hornets showed up and played their hearts out, earning a decisive 4-1 victory. **Luke Stresing**, **Ryan McCluskey** and **Connor Logue** stepped up all fall as dependable, rotating goalies. **Jack Nichols**, **Josh Wright** and **Wheeler Roberts** anchored the defense. In the midfield, **Brody Gustowarow** and **Beau Dayton** led with confidence and control when it mattered most. And up front, **Oscar Almgren**, **Stevie Cassilly** and **Smith Cassilly** kept opposing goalies on their toes with relentless offensive pressure. The team was coached by **Mike Gustowarow**, **Patrick Cassilly** and **Adam Dayton**.



AAYSA GIRLS 2015 U11 BLUE DIVISION



From the first practice to the final match, the Black Panthers demonstrated outstanding growth, determination and teamwork. The girls showed up with heart, grit and focus. Beyond the wins and losses, what stood out most was how they supported one another and stayed positive through challenges. Every season tells a story, and this one was written with hard work, laughter and a love for the game. The team included **Amaya Zamot-Vazquez**, **Autumn Wiles**, **Avery Miller**, **Brooklyn Antlitz**, **Caitlyn Brown**, **Grace Tudhope**, **Izzy Wartell**, **Josephine Alarcon**, **Madeleine Warzoha**, **Madelyn Frandson**, **Maren Kerley**, **Olivia Hackmann**, **Sarah Taylor** and **Shalece Crockett**. The girls were coached by **Daniel Wartell**, **Danijela Hackmann**, **Nolan Wiles**, **Todd Kerley** and **Mike Antlitz**.

GREEN HORNETS ALSO HAD AN ANNE ARUNDEL YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION BOYS U18 BLUE DIVISION WINNER.

2025 Soccer Champions

REC SOCCER THIRD & FOURTH GRADE GIRLS

The Pink Cheese Puffs had an energetic season culminating in a hard-fought win in the final. The most rewarding part of their season, however, was building trust among teammates. In the final, they trailed three times but came back to finish regulation 3-3, thanks to goals from **Lorelei Rock**, **Olivia Tingler** and **Alice Varney**. **Ava White**, **Ava Rahman-Rouf**, **Samantha Berthelotte** and Alice marshalled the defense. **Colbie Seidl** and Olivia connected the team in the midfield. **Brooke Hilton**, **Mattison McLaren** and **Isabelle Tallerico-Zilke** relentlessly pressed from wide positions to recover the ball. Lorelei, **Louisa Truelove** and **Abigail Bella** took turns playing striker. In extra time and in the tiebreaker, Abigail brought the trophy home with brave saves. The team was rounded out by **Brooke Perrone** and coached by **Concetta White**, **Joe Zilke**, **Shaun Truelove** and **Ishtiaq Rouf**.



REC SOCCER FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE BOYS

The Green Machine capped off a fun and exciting year with a 1-0 win in the championship game. On a brisk November evening, two teams played 60 scoreless minutes, setting the stage for a dramatic overtime. Shortly into overtime the Green Machine earned a penalty kick opportunity. **Nathan Feldman** calmly stepped into the box to deliver a strike to earn the victory. Key players of the game included **Brayden Horrell**, who anchored the defense from the goalie position, and **Dylan O'Dell**, who never stopped running from the midfield position. On defense, **Mack Glynn**, **Ashton Gustowarow**, **Connor Karsner** and **Wes Kamas** proved to be an impenetrable wall with goalies **Jaxon Blakenship** and Brayden. The midfield unit of Nathan, Dylan, **Drew Dougherty** and **Jacob Majoros** never stopped working. The offensive unit of **Ben Carlin**, **Cooper Terhune**, **Nicolas Martel-Chase** and **Tyson Sipe** provided constant offensive pressure. The team was coached by **Marshall Feldman**, **Rebecca Glynn** and **Jaxon Blakenship**.



REC SOCCER FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE GIRLS

In a display of determination and teamwork, the Warthogs won the Green Hornets division championship in a tough matchup against Team Goan. Coached by **Kenny Watt** and **Eric Distin**, the Warthogs had a record of 4-1-2 in the regular season. Defense was key to the team's success as they allowed just five goals leading into the final game. The championship game was no different with the Warthogs winning 1-0 in a thriller driven by key defensive performances from goalie **Tessa Parsons**, sweeper **Caroline Distin** and midfielder **Michaela Wells**. Forward **Lexi Watt** scored the only goal of the contest. **Ella Marshall**, **Quinn Wisner** and **Jovie Shinnamon** contributed to the Warthogs' strong defensive unit. **Artemis Harkins**, **Ava Bell** and **Maggie Grimes** supported an offense that showed consistent improvement all season. **Charlie West**, **Phoebe Borcz** and **Hadley Larsen** used their speed to support the Warthogs, with each playing several positions.



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Girl Scout Troop 4258 Donates Stuffed Animals To Police To Help Kids In Need

By Jaina Peveto

No kid likes being told they need to get rid of stuffed animals. But when Beth Thierer told her daughter Mackenzie those dreaded words, rather than sparking complaints, it sparked an idea.

"I had said to Mackenzie about encouraging her to clean her room, and I had told her something I had heard in a local neighborhood chat is that local law enforcement will collect them sometimes," Beth said.

Police officers keep gently used stuffed animals in their cruisers to give to children in difficult situations to provide comfort.

Mackenzie immediately became interested in the idea of donating to that cause, recruiting two of her friends and fellow members of Severna Park Elementary School (SPES)'s Girl Scout Troop 4258 to help. They went through Mackenzie's closet, but they didn't stop there. Later that day, they set up a neighborhood lemonade stand to raise money for more stuffed animals to give to the police department.

» Continued on page 37

"I think it was only \$30 that they made, but you would have thought it was a million," Beth said of the lemonade stand.

Soon after, the idea expanded even further as more people became involved. The entire Girl Scout troop came together to be a part of the drive. They discovered that the Annapolis Police Department would take the stuffed animals and began working out the details with Sergeant Kristoffer Becker, community outreach supervisor and wellness program coordinator. News of the project spread to community members through Facebook pages and to others at SPES.

"I would think that everyone would say no to that, but everyone said, 'Oh! Yeah! I would help!'" Mackenzie said.

For Mackenzie's friend Katie Bauer, the project had special meaning. Katie instantly wanted to assist when Mackenzie mentioned the idea, as the cause felt close to her heart. She helped Mackenzie go through her closet and then with the



Girl Scout Troop 4258 collected over 1,000 stuffed animals to donate to the Annapolis Police Department. Officers keep them in their cruisers to give to kids going through tough times.

Q.
Question of the month

SEVERNA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

"What is the most special gift you ever received?"



- The most special gift I ever received was my family's love.

Benny B.
- The most special gift I ever received was my cat, because it was adorable and just a kitten.

Cameron K.
- The most special gifts I ever received were my kittens, because they are adorable and playful.

Charlotte M.
- The most special gift I ever received was my cat, Guy.

Elle R.
- The most special gift I ever received was getting to see Taylor Swift for the first time, because it was an amazing experience.

Elly D.
- The most special gift I ever received was my Nintendo Switch, because I play it all the time.

Emerson G.
- The most special gift I ever received was front-row seats at a Diamondbacks game.

Jackson G.
- The most special gift I ever received was my family, because they are always there for me.

Jake B.
- The most special gift I ever received was my cat, Sawyer.

Josie A.
- My most special gift was two puppies.

Justin P.
- The most special gift I ever received was my cat.

Izzy W.
- The most special gift I ever received was my Xbox.

Lily P.
- The most special gift I ever received was getting to spend time with all my family and friends, because it brings me so much joy.

Mackenzie T.
- The most special gift I ever received was my laptop because it was the first laptop I had, and I could code on it.

Noah T.
- The most special gift I ever received was my dog.

Preston C.
- The most special gifts I ever received were my bunnies.

Sophia D.
- The most special gift I ever received was my dog.

Thomas P.
- The most special gifts I ever received were my cats, because they are fun.

William C.
- The most special gift I ever received was a trip to New York.

Zoe G.

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Jones Elementary Students "Bake For Good" To Support Light House Shelter



Fifth-graders Desmond Marshall (left) and Mila Kling (right) participated in a demonstration with Bake for Good Program Manager Amy Driscoll.

In early November, the fourth- and fifth-grade classes at Jones Elementary School got their hands messy for a good cause.

Students participated in King Arthur Baking Company's Bake for Good program through an event organized by Principal John Panitz. During a baking demonstration led by a Bake for Good representative, students discovered the program's three goals — learn, bake and share — and were then sent home with baking kits.

Each child was able to make two loaves of bread, one to enjoy with family, and another to donate to Light

House, a homeless prevention support center in Annapolis.

"This experience supported the application of math and science in a meaningful, hands-on way, giving students the opportunity to learn by doing and see real-world connections to their classroom learning," Panitz shared. "It is also our hope that this experience helps instill the value that our effort and care can make a real and tangible difference in the lives of others."

On November 10, students delivered more than 70 loaves of freshly baked bread to Light House as the finale to the school's Harvest for the Hungry initiative.

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Girl Scout Troop 4258 Donates

» Continued from page 37

lemonade stand, before diving deeper into the project as it grew bigger.

"I lost my dad a couple years ago, and I like to help people like they helped me," Katie said.

Over the course of the project, Katie collected over 600 stuffed animals from various people, overloading her family's house and car. Fifty of those came from SPES kindergarten teacher Lindy Stansbury, who had seen a post on Facebook made by Katie's mom, Shelly.

"For my friend's 50th birthday, a book was put together by her family to share acts of kindness," Stansbury said. "She is a dog lover, and I felt that this would be the perfect way to celebrate her by providing 'cuddles' for kids in need during traumatic situations. I donated 50 little puppies; my hope is that every time a child gets one of the puppies, they feel comfort."

The troop got so many donations that they had to stop taking them because they ran out of space. The girls gathered to sort through and package the stuffed animals, a step usually done by the police department. With their moms, they pulled up with cars full of the stuffed animals they'd been storing. The process took a little under two hours, with all 11 girls and their two troop leaders bagging the stuffed animals, zipping them, and putting them in trash bags

to take to the police department.

"I have to give Bridget a shoutout with the smell test," Mackenzie said, explaining that her troopmate Bridget Gunia smelled each stuffed animal to judge whether it was fit to be donated.

They lost count around 700 stuffed animals, ending up with over 1,000, according to Mackenzie and her classmate Elly Duncan. Any stuffed animals that weren't fit to be donated to the police department were instead taken to the textile bin at Oak Hill Elementary School, which helps the school raise funds through recycling.

After they finished bagging the stuffed animals, the troop and their parents hopped in their cars and drove them to the Annapolis Police Department. As thanks, the girls were given a tour of the department.

"They're going to car accidents and kids who have to face that, kids who have to face house fires, or maybe have to see their parents having a medical emergency in front of their eyes, maybe parents fighting," Mackenzie said. "Everyone cared about this one cause. They wanted to fix it."

Troop 4258 plans to collect stuffed animals to donate again in the spring.

"None of this was really pre-planned; it just happened!" Beth said. "I was just really trying to get rid of stuffed animals."

Educators Of The Month

Christopher Kohl
Severn School



By Zach Sparks

Christopher Kohl has traveled the world, but he found a home at Severn School in Severna Park.

“Severn School’s philosophy and mission fit well with who I am as a teacher and as a person,” he said. “The school’s values — leadership, lifelong learning, character, community — are values that I share.”

Kohl currently teaches two subjects: AP Comparative Politics and AP U.S. Government and Politics. Those are informed by his unique life experiences.

He caught the travel bug early and did international consulting in college. Kohl spent one year in the Caribbean, writing business legislation and doing other tasks related to government. In 2005, he took a break from the corporate world and got his English teaching certificate, which he put to use in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

While he enjoyed his time in Buenos Aires, Kohl returned to the corporate world and continued to teach part-time until 2010 when he moved to Brazil, where he attended graduate school, earned a Brazilian secondary teaching certification, and subsequently taught at an International Baccalaureate (IB) school in São Paulo.

When his family decided to come back to the U.S., he learned of an opportunity in the upper school history department at Severn School. His wife had lived in the Washington, D.C. area, but he had little familiarity with Maryland.

“I had never been to Severna Park or anywhere in Maryland other than airports,” he said. “I joke that I arrived with 10 suitcases, a wife and two kids,” he said, adding that the decision instantly felt like the right choice.

For both of his classroom subjects, he likes to go beyond the course material and empower students to develop as thinkers and civic-minded citizens.

“I’m here to provide, as unbiased as I can, material to help their understanding of politics and government,” Kohl said. “If we’re looking at some (directorate), whether it is a prior or current administration, we look at it from a political scientist standpoint or strategist standpoint. We take out the party standpoint.”

“We recently looked at the history of executive orders,” he said. “I had students look at previous executive orders and evaluate the constitutionality and what’s the impact and what are the branches of government. We looked at how the Supreme Court affects the direction of the country long-term.”

He described AP Comparative Politics as an international politics class.

“I’m looking to challenge some ideas or assumptions but in a way that is not singling out students but providing context,” he said. “It’s about understanding that sometimes there are more than two or three sides ... so it’s looking at surrounding countries and globally as well, at all the stakeholders.”

In the classroom, Kohl helps students grow and feel confident. He has that same mission in mind as an assistant coach for the varsity swimming team.

“Severn is a special place because of having the support and great sense of collegiality here,” he said. “The school gives us a lot of opportunities and encourages teachers to attend sporting events and other school events,” he said, citing the school’s November production of Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” as an example.

“When you show an interest in their interest, it translates to a more positive class environment.”

With the nature, amenities and people in the Severna Park-Annapolis area, Kohl feels fortunate to have settled here. He has two kids enrolled at Severn School as well.

Teaching is his passion, and he’s grateful for a career that allows him to encourage students to set high goals and to pursue them with their full potential.

“We invest a lot in kids, and we see that our support and guidance helps lead the students to success,” Kohl said. “It’s them doing the work, but you contribute to being part of that process and you don’t get that in many workplaces.”



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UM BWMC Celebrates 60 Years Of Care At Annual Gala



To commemorate six decades of caring and innovation, the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) held its annual fundraising gala at The Hall at Live! in Hanover on November 8. The black-tie-optional evening included a cocktail reception, dinner, unique and fun raffles, and silent and live auctions. Several generous attendees made large donations, investing in the health of their community.



Left: LaBarge Financial owner Jason LaBarge and his wife, Lacey, donated \$150,000 to the BWMC Foundation. **Center:** KMA Law Office owner Karen Authement (center) and her husband, Doug Eichelberger, were thrilled to participate in the live auction and donate to UM BWMC's cause. **Right:** Kathy Burk is vice president and executive director of the Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation, which focuses on philanthropic and community awareness efforts to support the medical center's mission. **Inset:** UW BWMC President Kathleen McCollum talked about community support for the foundation.

When Is It Time For A Joint Replacement?

Dr. Andrey Zuskov

Luminis Health



time to consider surgery.

Is There A Best Time For Surgery?

There's no perfect time for joint replacement surgery. The best time is based on your convenience.

Some may reach a point where the pain becomes unbearable, and mobility issues disrupt daily life. In that case, they may opt for surgery right away. Others can plan ahead and schedule surgery at a time that fits them. If you have flexibility, there are some factors

» Continued on page 42

Protecting Your Heart During The Holidays: A Guide For A Healthy Season

Abid Fakhri, MD
Cardiologist
and Director of
Cardiac CT
UM BWMC Heart
Associates



The holiday season is meant to bring joy, but for many people, it also brings disruptions in routine, added stress and, too often, delayed medical care. As a cardiologist, I see the consequences every year. Studies from

the American Heart Association show a clear spike in heart attacks around December 25 and January 1. The reasons vary, but one constant is that people often ignore or minimize symptoms during the holidays — a decision that can turn dangerous quickly.

Heart attack symptoms can appear differently in men and women, but in all cases, timely action saves lives.

For men, the most common warning signs include chest pressure or discomfort; pain that spreads to the arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach; shortness of breath; and sudden sweating, nausea, unusual fatigue or lightheadedness. These symptoms



may come and go, but they should never be dismissed.

Women often experience additional symptoms that are sometimes mistaken for anxiety, indigestion or exhaustion. These may include shortness of breath, nausea or vomiting, upper-back or shoulder pain, stomach upset and overwhelming fatigue or weakness. Because these symptoms can seem vague, many women wait to seek help — but they should

call 911 immediately if they occur.

Unlike a heart attack, cardiac arrest is sudden and dramatic. When the heart's electrical system malfunctions, a person will collapse, lose consciousness and stop breathing. In this situation, call 911 immediately and begin CPR. Do not attempt to drive the individual to the hospital — rapid CPR is the intervention that can keep someone alive until emer-

» Continued on page 42

When Is It Time For A Joint Replacement?

» Continued from page 41
worth considering:

- If you usually have a busy holiday season, you may want to schedule surgery in the fall. This timing allows for recovery before large family gatherings and activities.
- On the other hand, if you participate in spring or summer sports, it could be best to schedule surgery in winter. That way, you'll be healed and ready to make the most of the warmer months.

Signs It's Time For A Joint Replacement

You may be tempted to postpone surgery until your pain is unbearable. Delaying could lead to more joint damage and a longer recovery. Consider

discussing joint replacement with your provider if you have these problems:

- You need help with tasks like using stairs, getting dressed or standing up
- Joint pain keeps you awake even after you've taken medication
- Other treatment options like anti-inflammatory medications, cortisone injections and physical therapy have failed
- You make decisions based on how far you must walk or if you must use stairs
- You have advanced joint damage or osteoarthritis

Recovery Is Important

Surgical advancements have trans-

formed joint replacement procedures. Operations take less time, incisions are smaller, pain is reduced, and recovery is faster. Hip and knee replacement surgery can now often be performed on an outpatient basis. Still, it's important to remember that healing takes time. Your body needs time to adjust, strengthen, and help you return safely to your usual routine.

Here's what to expect during recovery:

Pain Management Begins Immediately

Even with a minimally invasive procedure, you're going to feel some discomfort. Your provider may suggest medications for pain, inflammation, or nerve pain.

You'll Be Up And Moving Within Hours

Most patients start with a walker

shortly after surgery, then transition to a cane as they gain strength.

Physical Therapy Is Essential

Rehabilitation starts as soon as you can get out of bed to improve motion and rebuild strength.

You'll Return To A Fully Active Life

Typically, patients are back to their usual routines within two to three months, although a full recovery can take up to a year.

If you have questions about joint replacement surgery or want to schedule a procedure, make an appointment with Luminis Health Orthopedics at www.luminis.health/jointpain. Dr. Andrey Zuskov is a Luminis Health hip and knee replacement surgeon.

This branded content is brought to you by an expert in his or her respective field.

Surgical advancements have transformed joint replacement procedures. Operations take less time, incisions are smaller, pain is reduced, and recovery is faster. Hip and knee replacement surgery can now often be performed on an outpatient basis.

Protecting Your Heart During The Holidays

» Continued from page 41
gency responders arrive.

Several well-known risk factors increase the likelihood of a heart attack: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, obesity, inactivity, family history, chronic stress and poor sleep. The encouraging news is that many of these risks are manageable with consistent care and healthy habits.

As you move through the holiday season, a few simple steps can help protect your heart. Try to maintain your normal routines for sleep, activity and meals. Be mindful of salt and alcohol, which can elevate blood pressure and contribute to fluid retention. Continue taking prescribed medications, even when traveling or juggling holiday obligations. Manage stress by pacing

yourself, taking breaks and seeking support when needed. And if you have conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes or heart failure, continue monitoring your numbers as recommended.

The holidays should be a time of connection and celebration — not a time to ignore your health. Listening to your body, responding quickly to warning signs, and prioritizing your

well-being are the greatest gifts you can give both yourself and those who love you.

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Printer Claus Spreads 3D Cheer To Neighbors On Broadneck Peninsula



An anonymous gift-giver has 3D printed thousands of small plastic treasures for neighbors to find and enjoy, ranging from animals to holiday-themed creations and more.

By Meredith Winter

Since early 2022, an anonymous Broadneck Peninsula resident has been sparking joy with whimsical 3D plastic toys left secretly around Cape St. Claire and nearby parts of Arnold and Annapolis.

Neighbors in the “I Live in Cape St. Claire” Facebook page have named the generous toymaker “Printer Claus,” while others call the stealthy giver “Summer Santa.” But very few know the individual’s true identity, and the Severna Park Voice is committed to keeping it that way so that the mystery and magic are not spoiled for anyone — including Claus, as we will call them.

In early 2022, before gaining any notoriety or nicknames, Claus decided to take up a new hobby and purchased a 3D printer. The hometown Kris Kringle discovered that there are people online who share their 3D designs to be downloaded, and as Easter approached, one design in particular struck the hobbyist’s fancy.

“One day I found this model called ‘Easter cats,’ and somebody had created a set of egg-shaped cats with little tails and different facial expressions, and I got this idea where I thought it would be cool just to go ahead and make a few and hide them around the neighborhood, and just leave them for people to find,” Claus said.

Fifty-five Easter cats were printed and distributed, and people started posting their discoveries on Facebook. “They seemed so excited, and so happy and thrilled to find these little plastic surprises, that I went ahead and I kept doing it,” Claus shared of the inception of a massive, years-long 3D printing endeavor.

Over the years, Printer Claus has discreetly gifted 3D prints made from downloaded designs that range from a recent batch of “sploot” dogs to cats, sloths, chickens, sea turtles and countless holiday-themed decorations.

Claus hasn’t kept count of how many have been sprinkled across town, though the estimated total is between 2,000 and 4,000. Production has slowed, but there are still about 30-50 treasures to be found each month.

Despite the popularity of the captivating creations, Claus desires to remain anonymous

for a simple, wholesome reason: “Because it’s not about me. I have no interest whatsoever in any kind of recognition. It comes under the category of ‘random acts of kindness,’ and random acts of kindness are best done anonymously in my experience,” Claus said.

As Christmas approaches, Claus is working on this year’s holiday 3D prints. More sploot dogs are on the way, along with Christmas trees and perhaps a reprise of snowmen, Santas or wreaths.

Some of Claus’ creations have found their way into local businesses including Rise Up Coffee in Arnold and The Big Bean in Annapolis. Because it’s iconic to the area, Claus’ favorite creation to date is a happy crab with eyes on stalks and little legs that move.

The location of the workshop where the magic happens remains a mystery, but Claus did share a behind-the-scenes peek at how the 3D prints are made. The printers — Claus now has two, since demand soared in years past — use spools of plastic about the diameter of spaghetti noodles. The machines melt the plastic to just the right temperature and deposit it onto the build surface in layers until the 3D creation is complete.

Claus primarily uses a plastic called PLA, which is made from corn starch or sugarcane. Unlike a petroleum-based plastic, it is a renewable material that won’t last forever.

Over the years, community members have expressed elation at finding Claus’ unexpected gifts. Neighbors have posted sentiments on Facebook including, “My boys were over the moon excited to find not one, but TWO of Printer Claus’ gifts today on our walk!” “Made my day Printer Claus!!! Thank you for spreading magic!!!” “Even old people like us enjoy a present from Printer Claus, thank you!” and “Oh Printer Claus, you are such a lovely soul!”

Not surprisingly, several have even commented how their video doorbells failed to capture footage of treasures being left on their property — but like Santa Claus, Printer Claus does their work stealthily and sometimes under the cover of darkness.

While many people in the community have expressed joy in discovering the treasures, the

» Continued on page 46

“Wicked: For Good” Strays Down Too Many Paths

By Audrey Ruppert

Film Critic

I enjoyed the first installment of “Wicked.” Despite all the drama surrounding the production and the inevitability of upsetting musical fans, I generally found it to be a visually delightful experience with catchy songs and fairly decent casting for a film with a general audience. The production has to balance Broadway vocal chops with ticket-selling celebrity names, and it does well despite a couple of misses — it’s reminiscent of “Les Misérables” (2012). I didn’t even have an issue with the pacing because I was quite invested in the story, though I can understand it would be tedious to some people.

“Wicked” is a bit of a challenge to critique — it’s a film adapted from a musical adapted from a book adapted from another book — but it’s been fascinating to watch a modern interpretation of a story that has had so much staying power over the decades.

Unfortunately, “Wicked: For Good” isn’t as cohesive, for one simple reason: It tries to combine the extreme darkness of its subject matter with the whimsy of a musical and the color palette of Dr. Seuss, which doesn’t quite work. It makes an attempt; the second act is meant to juxtapose the hollow reality of Oz against the magical facade shown in the first act, so it makes sense for the lighting to be flat and gloomy.

But it doesn’t fully commit, and perhaps this is a limitation of the genre — the original musical writers chose not to kill the villain because the story had to be child friendly, for example. It’s certainly possible to mix campiness with intensity in a tasteful but entertaining way (see “Death of Stalin” from 2017) but not when you’re trying to create a marketable product for kids that sells pink Glinda collector cups.

Underneath the childish outfits, colorful fields and flashy yellow brick road, this is a dark story and one that is surprisingly relevant in 2025. The Wizard of Oz retains power despite his fraudulent nature because he scapegoats and blames others and literally takes away their voice.

Elphaba questions why Oz won’t reveal the wizard’s fakery, and he replies that the populace wouldn’t believe him even if he did. They will believe what they want to believe, no matter how hateful or misguided they are, and he’s probably right about that. At times, the film can get woefully close to home; Elphaba laments her love for a place that has never loved her. She loves the idea of Oz and wants to make that ideal come true, because there is no place like home and home is worth defending. That familiar and weary sentiment, in musical form, brought me to tears.

In the end, “Wicked: For Good” gives us a rather pessimistic but perhaps realistic conclusion: Elphaba feels that nobody will ever accept her as the voice of truth, no

» Continued on page 46



Photo courtesy of Giles Keyte/Universal Pictures

Cynthia Erivo (left) and Ariana Grande reprise their roles in “Wicked: For Good.”

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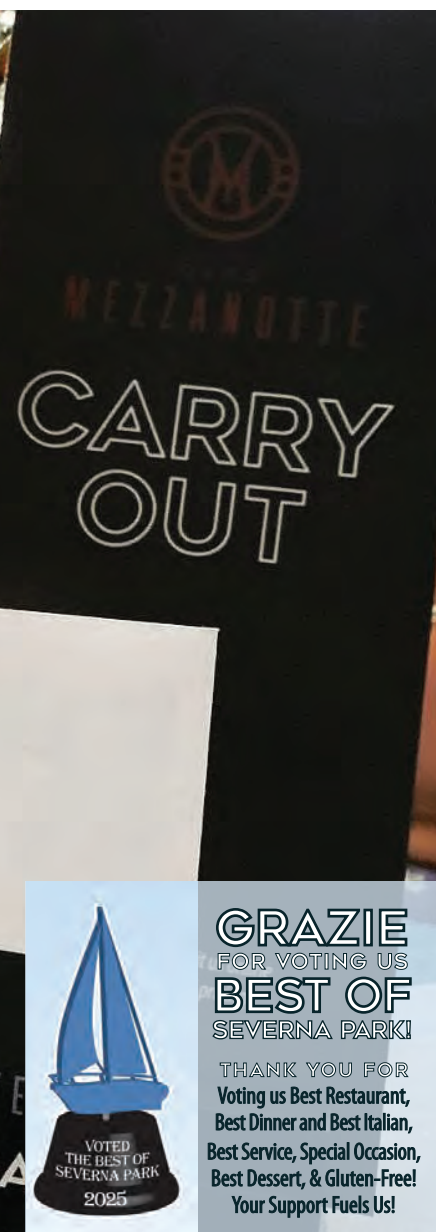
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Printer Claus Spreads 3D Cheer

» Continued from page 44

ongoing project has brought Claus great joy, too. The gift-giver is grateful for everyone who has looked for the toys, shared them with others, and distributed them when demand was high or when Claus sustained a foot injury.

“The reason I do it is actually a little bit selfish because it makes me feel good. And one of my favorite prayers, which I think a lot of people know, is the prayer of Saint

Francis of Assisi ... there is a line in there that says, ‘For it is in giving that we receive.’ And I’ve experienced directly how that works,” Claus shared from the heart. “I con-

sider it to be kind of like a law of the universe. Whatever I put out into the universe, I’m going to get back. If I put out love, I’m going to get love back. If I put out blessings, I’m going to be blessed. ... So there’s an aspect of this that’s connected to my spiri-

tual practice. And it’s really cool just to be able to do something like this and see how people react on Facebook and how happy it makes them.”

“It’s not about me. I have no interest whatsoever in any kind of recognition. It comes under the category of ‘random acts of kindness.’”

— PRINTER CLAUS

Claus will be busy in the days ahead printing small plastic objects of delight, and if you’re on the Broadneck Peninsula, you might just be in the right place at the right time to discover one for yourself.

“Wicked: For Good”

» Continued from page 44

matter how sincere she is, because people prefer “alternative facts,” and she has to hand over the torch to a pretty face who will be better received. She decides she has earned her peace and the right to walk away from a land that never treated with her respect. I’m not sure how I feel about that message.

Ultimately, the threads don’t come together in “Wicked: For Good.” The film is too afraid to truly reckon with its own darkness; it sets the tone as a whimsical musical for children, then walks itself into a corner. It’s frustrating because parts of it are so well executed — Glinda’s realization she has been maintaining the status quo by pretending to be happy, Fiyero’s love for Elphaba’s sincerity, the chemistry between the two witches — but other parts just fall completely flat.

The writers make sensible changes to underscore realism: Madame Morrible

is changed to be more human, a figure whose true power is appearing benign and manipulating gullible figureheads from the shadows, rather than being the face of power herself. Michelle Yeoh is a good choice for that sort of character. Nobody can contest her acting abilities in more nuanced stories, but once her villainous nature is revealed, she has to revert to the campy, one-note evil of the musical’s Morrible, and Yeoh just isn’t good at that. The resolution for her character feels unsatisfactory, much like the conclusion of the film in general. Fascism just disappears because Glinda says so? The happy ending feels too easy, and too muddled, given its earlier moral complexity.

Like so many stories of its ilk (think “Arcane”), the “Wicked” franchise successfully retrofits a politically and socially aware story from simplistic source material, gets the audience hooked, and then has no idea how to resolve those problems in a satisfying or sensical way. I left the theater contemplative but unsatisfied.

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Understanding Cryptocurrency: Things To Consider For Your Portfolio

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



I'm a father of five children, and I'm in charge of guiding them to explore the world for the first time in their lives, with new experiences every day. While that can be exciting, it can also be scary.

For example, when I took each of my older kids swimming at Severna River Swim Club for the first time, they were scared to jump in.

As a financial advisor, I feel that same hesitancy when considering new investment options. There are thousands of options to invest in, and when cryptocurrency rose to prominence just over a decade ago, I was admittedly skeptical. Many investors viewed it as too risky. For example, Bitcoin fell 53% in one week in May 2021.

However, Bitcoin value has since come back and currently, one Bitcoin is worth about \$100,000, emerging as a possible investment option investors may consider. Just this year, Bitcoin reached a high of over \$120,000 and a low of \$75,000. If you are considering investing in cryptocurrency, here's what you should consider.

Risk And Volatility

Cryptocurrency is a digital currency that, unlike traditional money, isn't created or backed by a government. The cryptocurrency world is rapidly evolving, with new Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) guidance anticipated under a more crypto-friendly administration regarding crypto-based investment options. For example, in August 2025, President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to lay the groundwork for expanding investment choices in retirement plans to include alternatives like cryptocurrency for employer-sponsored 401(k)s.

Even with the long-term growth of cryptocurrency, especially in the last year, it's impossible to ignore the risk. Investors in their 20s or 30s may have years to recover from large losses. Those approaching or in retirement typically are less interested in higher-risk products for their investments.

There may be benefits to crypto investments for some clients, but investing too heavily in any one asset class

» Continued on page 50

Chamber Update

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Dr. Sean Duffy is a graduate of Boston University, Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He has been practicing medicine for over 15 years and started his career as a U.S. Army physician. His direct care business will allow him to practice medicine the way it was intended — investing wholeheartedly in patient care and developing a relationship rooted in trust, confidence and compassion.

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» Continued on page 48

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Optimal Longevity MD Sets Patients Up For Success Through Longevity Medicine

By Jaina Peveto

After years spent moving around for her husband's military career, Dr. Lucy Guevara has settled back into her home state of Maryland with her family, armed with knowledge of the medical industry gained through time as a doctor, a student and a patient. Her experiences have led her to open Optimal Longevity MD, an integrative functional medicine practice that focuses on elevating patients' overall health.

"I don't do it conventionally," Guevara said. "I want to take everything (into account) and not just the Band-Aid approach. So why is this happening? Well, how's your sleep? How's your diet? How's your exercise? How's your stress? What is going on and how can we maximally impact that so that you can feel your best without having to go through just having a prescription medication? It's lifestyle modifications that are also added to it. It's patient-centered analysis combined with lifestyle modifications that result in a personalized plan for long-term wellness."

Guevara completed her residency in preventive medicine and public health and pursued a fellowship in addiction medicine. Her journey into exploring longevity and a less conventional approach began after her residency, when



Dr. Lucy Guevara

terms of being the healthiest ...

she and her husband suffered a series of losses in pregnancy.

When Guevara discovered that part of the cause might have been hormones and where she was in terms of her overall health, it inspired her to dive deeper into how imbalances in one area can contribute to issues elsewhere.

Between her own experiences in pregnancy and the wear and tear that her husband had been through while in the military, Guevara became inspired to look more deeply into how to make the biggest impact, emphasizing longevity, with a focus on functional and regenerative medicine.

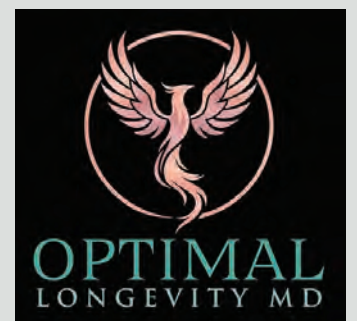
"I'm trying to discover my journey in

and then it's just opened up everything for me," Guevara said.

She previously worked in a pain management clinic in Columbus, Ohio, and worked as a medical director in New Jersey for three years. Her background in conventional medicine allows her to combine that knowledge with approaches that many doctors wouldn't have the opportunity to explore for their patients.

"I want to focus on the longevity and optimize that," Guevara said. "Not just, you're living until you're 90 or 100 but you're in a wheelchair not doing anything, right? I want to be able to go and throw my grandkids up in the air, and go hiking, and walk my dogs, and lift weights and do all of that."

» Continued on page 48



Optimal Longevity MD

» Continued from page 47

Optimal Longevity MD exists to help anyone improve their baseline health, but Guevara puts special focus on hormones and alleviating pain through a regenerative approach. "It makes a huge difference without having to do a lot of crazy things," she said.

One aspect of Optimal Longevity MD that Guevara is excited about is being able to really focus on the patients. Doctors in a conventional office don't always have time to listen the way that she does. Through looking for the root cause of issues rather than just the symptoms, and through integrating different types of medicine, she helps patients explore not only what works but why it

works. "Education is empowerment," she said.

Guevara encourages patients to focus on prevention, rather than reacting to existing issues. She compared it to investing, noting that it can be difficult to see the impact in the beginning, but that it has a much larger impact over time. "Prevention is the most important, I think," she said. "It's the greatest tool we have."

She practices this idea in her own life. She tries to make sure she and her family members sleep well, exercise, and eat as healthy as possible, but she also puts an emphasis on finding joy. "It's not changing your whole life; you can still enjoy things," Guevara said.

In her free time, she enjoys baking and cooking from scratch, watching football with her husband, and spending time with their two kids and two dogs.

Guevara offers 15-minute free consultations because she wants patients to be sure that Optimal Longevity MD is a good fit for their needs.

She wants to help patients optimize their health journey, whether they want to get a head start on staying in good health, or they are already suffering from specific issues.

"At the end of the day, I think a lot of the times I see the majority of patients is when they've unfortunately run the full gamut," Guevara said. "And they're being told, 'Well, your labs are normal. This is just part of aging.' And it's like, 'But I don't feel normal. I don't feel good.'"

Optimal Longevity MD will open its doors at Perilla Wellness on December 15. Guevara is just launching the practice, but she's excited for its future. To learn more, go to www.optimallongevitymd.com.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 47

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Lauren Smith, a Realtor with Keller Williams, serving Maryland and Delaware, is a lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County and secondary at the Maryland and Delaware beaches. Married

to Gary with three children, she loves spending time with family, boating on the Chesapeake, crabbing and vacationing at the beach. Real estate is an exciting adventure for all involved, and she will assist you so your dreams come true. Lauren specializes in luxury properties.

Our Successful Women in Business "Giving Thanks" Luncheon was held at the

Alcove Event Studio in Severna Park.

The studio is right by Severna Park Lanes. Catered by **Be My Guest Catering**, the luncheon treated more than 50 ladies to a delicious lunch topped off by free Thanksgiving pies gifted to us by **The Sheridan at Severna Park**.

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Chamber Announces Winkelmeyer Award Winners

Since 1987, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce (GSPACC) has nominated several members annually for the U.S. Small Business Administration's Baltimore district Small Business Week Awards. Although the national organization made changes to its program this year, the GSPACC expanded its awards ceremony and named it after chamber founder Walter Winkelmeyer.

During a luncheon at the Severna Park Elks Lodge in November, Walter's daughter, Betty Winkelmeyer-Wells, shared her view on the importance of small businesses that help their local communities. Her friend, keynote speaker and Severna Park historian Scott Jay, regaled the crowd with stories of growing up in the town and how it has changed.



Here are the 2025 winners of the inaugural Winkelmeyer Awards:

- Young Entrepreneur of the Year:**
Christian Buchleitner, Mad Soaps Inc.
- Family-Owned Small Business:**
Cornett Heating & Cooling
Financial Services Champion: Mark Yarbrough, Shore United Bank
- Home-Based Business:**
CheckMark Power Washing, owned by Deanna and Alex Prevezianos
- Minority-Owned Business:**
Taichi Bubble Tea, owned by Amy Chen
- Veteran-Owned Business:**
Maid Healthy, owned by Robert Wade
- Woman-Owned Business:**
Image Creators Salon and Spa, owned by Silvia Campana
- Accountant Advocate:**
Ed Herold, CPA
- Attorney Advocate:**
Raymond Brown, PA
- Insurance Advocate:**
Reilly Insurance, owned by Ed Reilly
- Small Businessperson of the Year:**
Dr. Allan Rutzen, Rutzen Eye Specialists & Laser Center
- Entrepreneurial Success:**
The FaceBar Aesthetic Medicine

(L-R) GSPACC CEO Liz League, Winkelmeyer Plaza owner Betty Winkelmeyer-Wells, Severna Park historian Scott Jay and GSPACC board member Tammie Neall expressed gratitude for a successful awards ceremony.

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Things To Consider For Your Portfolio

» Continued from page 47

leaves investors susceptible to large market swings and potential. Diversifying investments typically will balance growth while helping to protect money from market risk.

Investing In Cryptocurrency

Cryptocurrency is not like it was when Bitcoin was first established in 2009. The market has grown to include numerous options like Ethereum, Tether and Binance Coin, which makes entering the market daunting.

There are alternative options available for crypto investing. For example, some people may choose to invest in companies that focus on cryptocurrency, or crypto-focused index funds that follow the growth of cryptocurrency, similar to the S&P 500 index fund that tracks the growth of the top 500 leading companies. Others may choose to invest directly using a third-party cryptocurrency platform.

If you are saving for retirement, a Roth IRA may be an option to consider for the tax benefits afforded in a retirement plan. These plans offer a variety of investment options and can be a central place to hold investments that could include some crypto-based options if appropriate based on your specific circumstances.

Consult A Professional

My kids eventually jumped into the pool and love swimming now, and I have taken a lesson from them at LaBarge Financial. While I remain skeptical, the growth has made cryptocurrency impossible to ignore.

Each investment option carries its positives and negatives. Do extensive research before investing your hard-earned money in these products. Consult with a financial professional who can help you understand investment options based on your specific risk tolerance and investment objectives.

Jason LaBarge, financial advisor
and president of LaBarge Financial
7 Riggs Avenue, Severna Park, MD 21146
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*Investing in any securities, including crypto, comes with risk and potential to lose principal value. This is for educational purposes only and not a recommendation to buy or sell cryptocurrency or investment alternatives. **As of October 6, 2025.*

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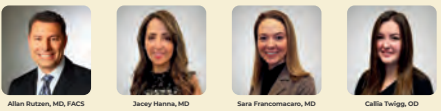
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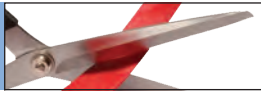
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Jing Ying Marks A Quarter-Century In The Community

In November, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi owners Billy and Nancy Greer celebrated the business' 25th anniversary with an open house and a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. Highly active in the community, the Greers are known for generously supporting nonprofits. Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi is located at 1195 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Arnold. Learn more at www.jingying.org.



Prime IV Hydration & Wellness Celebrates Grand Opening In Severna Park



Kitchen Tune-Up owners Pegah and Chris Scotti marked the official opening of their new business, Prime IV Hydration & Wellness, with an open house in mid-November. The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the occasion. Offering IV therapy, the practice helps people look, feel and perform better. Prime IV Hydration & Wellness is located in the Park Plaza shopping center; discover a full list of IV treatments by searching for Severna Park on the locations page at www.primeivhydration.com.

Orthodontic Associates In Severna Park Hits Three-Decade Milestone

November marked the 30-year anniversary of the Severna Park location of Orthodontic Associates helping people achieve beautiful smiles. The practice treats both children and adults and is a certified provider of Invisalign, Incognito, SureSmile, and tooth-colored non-staining ceramic braces. The doctors at Orthodontic Associates celebrated the major milestone with an open house and a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. The office is located at 537 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Suite F. Learn more at www.orthodonticassoc.com.



Sanders Diamond Jewelers Celebrates 70 Years

Sanders Diamond Jewelers recognized an occasion worth treasuring on December 6 as family members, friends and community representatives gathered to mark the Pasadena business' 70th anniversary. Owner Larry Sanders shared how his family business grew from a small store to a multiple-brand jewelry retailer focused on trust, high ethical standards, knowledge of our jewelry products and services, and fair pricing and value to customers.

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