

**Blue Crabs lose at Somerset, win 2 of 3 vs. Bridgeport**

Sports, Page B1



**Library embarks on country's first public living room**

Community, Page B4



# Maryland Independent

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

www.somdnews.com

Charles County, Maryland ■ 75¢

Vol. 147, No. 51  
2 sections

Inside



**Hawthorne swim to victory over Kings Landing**

Sports, Page B1



**Longest day spent raising Alzheimer's awareness**

Inside, Page A3

Connect

Follow us on Twitter  
@indy\_editor\_rob  
@indy\_community  
@somd\_bizeditor  
@rightmeg  
@JamieACindyNews  
@PWSoMdSports  
@CharliIndyNews  
@Cerone\_IndyNews  
@MattKIndyNews

Like us on Facebook at  
bit.ly/MarylandIndependent

Index

Classified	B14
Community	B4
Editorial/Letters	A8
Obituaries	A9, 10
Sports	B1

**MARYLAND INDEPENDENT**  
Stay in touch with us

News and advertising  
443-231-3387  
Subscriber services  
301-645-8945  
Classified advertising  
1-800-220-1230  
Legals  
1-877-659-2190  
Obituaries  
1-877-242-1110

Copyright 2017  
APG Media of Chesapeake LLC



Local News Now

Download our app at  
somdnews.com/newsapp



Scan code for Maryland Independent Mobile

## School board approves contract with teachers' union

Eligible instructors, certificated employees get pay increase, additional prep time

By JAMIE ANFENSON-COMEAU  
janfenson-comeau@somdnews.com

The Charles County Board of Education unanimously voted to approve a new contract for teachers and other certificated employees at its Monday work session.

The contract, effective for upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, provides pay level increases for

all Unit I and Unit II employees covered by the Education Association of Charles County who are eligible to receive one.

Unit I refers to classroom teachers, counselors, media specialists, Junior ROTC teachers, resource teachers and

See **CONTRACT**  
Page A4

## Teens charged with marijuana distribution

Police reportedly find \$40k worth of product

By CERONE WHITE  
cwwhite@somdnews.com

A Charles County man and a Prince George's woman were arrested June 16 after police seized a large amount of marijuana after a search and seizure warrant was executed at their White Plains residence.

Breann Arlandra Harris-Washington, 19, and

Antonio Lamont Harper Jr., 19, have both been charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute, and with possession of marijuana weighing more than 10 grams.

According to court documents, when officers entered the residence of Harper and his girlfriend Harris-Washington, they both came downstairs from a bedroom. During

See **MARIJUANA**  
Page A5



STAFF PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KUBISIAK

Above, set up outside the entrance to Regency Furniture Stadium, Charles County Emergency Medical Services provide care to Teddy bears and stuffed animals of all kinds during the National EMS for Children Day on June 23. Children arriving at the Blue Crabs game either had their own toys repaired or receive a free Teddy bear from Charles County EMS. Below left, Gabriel Niklas, 4, smiles as he shows off his repaired stuffed bear. The boy watched with curiosity as paramedics sutured a tear on the bear and then returned it good as new. Below right, Callen Thompson practices giving bystander CPR on a manikin with Charles County Safety Officer Joane Gulvas. There are lights on the manikin that indicate whether the proper technique is being used.



## Fire safety, escape plans highlighted on EMS for Children Day

By MATTHEW KUBISIAK  
mkubisiak@somdnews.com

Baseball fans arriving for the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs game Friday evening may have noticed an ambulance in front of Regency Furni-

ture Stadium. Multiple emergency medical technicians were wrapping wounds, applying bandages and providing first response care.

The patients, thankfully, were not humans, but

adorable Teddy bears and other stuffed animals brought by children to receive repairs. Bears, tigers and Mickey Mouse

See **EMS**  
Page A4



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW KUBISIAK

Sara Haina and Dr. James Bridgers, both with the Charles County Department of Health, distribute Narcan kits to participants in the Narcan training that followed the screening of "Chasing the Dragon" at the Charles County government building on June 22.

## Dozens turn out for 'Chasing the Dragon' screening, Narcan training

By MATTHEW KUBISIAK  
mkubisiak@somdnews.com

Residents shuffled into the auditorium of the Charles County Government building last Wednesday evening —

not for a town hall or commissioners meeting, but a screening of "Chasing the Dragon," an FBI-produced documentary that sheds light on the damaging effects of opioid abuse.

In an introduction to the film, FBI Special Agent Shane Dana spoke of his 13 years as a street agent

See **NARCAN**  
Page A10

## Library promotes acceptance through community event

Speakers discuss healthy relationships and coping strategies

By CHARLIE WRIGHT  
cwright@somdnews.com

The Charles County Public Library held its LGBTQ Day of Understanding Saturday, an event focused on developing healthy relationships of all kinds.

A handful of intrigued citizens gathered at the Waldorf West Branch for a pair of presentations, one by licensed therapist Becca Pinckney and another by Charity Paul of the Center for Abused Persons (CAP). The gath-

ering marked the third iteration of the event, held this year during LGBT Pride Month.

Pinckney opened the proceedings with a dialogue about building emotional strength and overcoming social pressures in today's climate. The therapist from BLOOM Wellness LLC utilized a PowerPoint slide-show which featured a graphic titled "The

See **EVENT**  
Page A5

This is what **CONFIDENCE** looks like!

**Huntington**  
Your Tutoring Solution

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS  
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SINCE 1977

**301-705-7100**

**\$75 Off**  
An Academic Evaluation!\*

Call 301-705-7100

**HuntingtonHelps.com**



**EVENT**

From Page A1

Genderbread Person,” a pictorial representation of gender qualities. The chart included sliding scales for attraction, expression, identity and sex, with arrows pointing to the corresponding areas of a cartoon gingerbread cookie.

“This is a helpful tool to use when you’re trying to understand the differences between all of these things, and also within yourself, because it is a process for people to go through,” Pinckney said.

After detailing each aspect of the gender analysis, Pinckney explained the process is fluid. The characteristics of one’s self can shift and change depending on a variety of variables, and there is no right answer.

“Ideas and norms about everything are really socially constructed,” Pinckney said. “It’s something that we as a society construct ourselves.”

Near the end of her allotted

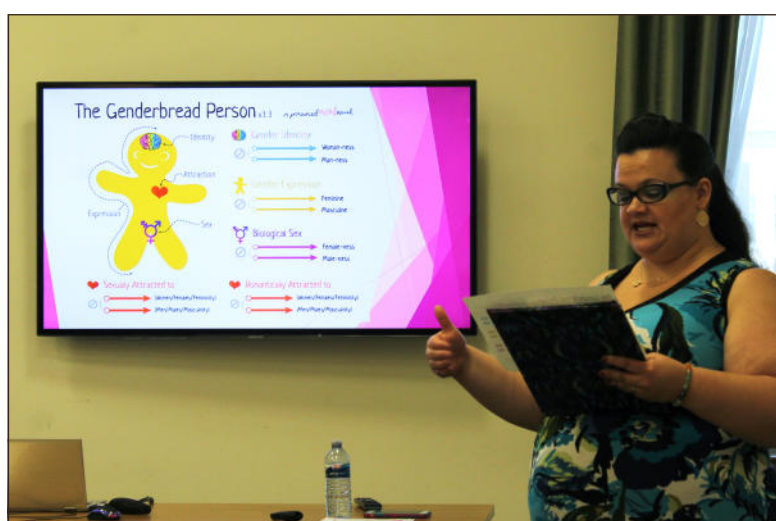
hour, Pinckney initiated a group discussion about acceptance regarding gender and sexuality.

“Some people incorrectly refer to it as a choice, and it’s not a choice. It’s something that is there, and it’s there early on,” Pinckney said. “Where we identify is there early on, even though it can shift in one direction or the other.”

Elliot Giordano of Laurel opened up about his experiences as a transgender man. The 29-year-old praised his family for their support and described the best way to approach someone sharing their sexuality.

“I was really happy when I finally did come out, because nobody I knew felt the need to make a big deal about it,” Giordano said. “That was such a huge relief to me ... The only thing that I wanted from my family and friends was a change in pronouns and name; I’m the same person I’ve always been.”

Paul followed Pinckney with a dialogue about different forms of abuse. While many perceive abuse to be purely physical, Paul explained it can be men-



Licensed therapist Becca Pinckney of BLOOM Wellness LLC discusses “The Genderbread Person,” an informational graphic about gender and sexuality.



Charity Paul of the Center for Abused Persons explains healthy relationships and combatting sexual abuse.

tal, sexual or even spiritual. She added a lack of acceptance can also fall under abuse and those affected should reach out to CAP personnel.

“It can also be that someone refuses to accept your sexuality and who you are,” Paul said. “If they don’t and they bully you about it, it’s an abuse.”

The primary scope of Paul’s presentation centered on the 15 signs of a healthy relationship,

which were illustrated on a card each participant received in their CAP goodie bags. She had members of the audience read each sign aloud before the group discussed potential examples of how those in relationships can struggle to live by the advice.

Envy and selfishness were primary points of concern among the responses to the list, as many of the signs described respecting your partner’s wish-

es and being attentive to their needs. Paul went on to describe the importance of understanding one another and how that fosters a strong relationship.

“We are so different — no matter what — as individuals, and we come from different backgrounds,” Paul said. “If you’re not ready to accept that to start with, you’re definitely not going to have a successful relationship.”

Twitter: @CharlieIndyNews

**MARIJUANA**

From Page A1

the search, Harper acknowledged the bedroom as one he shared with Washington.

Police allegedly found two large bags containing 1,040 grams of suspected marijuana, which were found on the top shelf of

the bedroom closet. The street value of the marijuana was \$20,000, according to court documents. Additionally, documents noted that a small duffel bag and a large plastic bag containing approximately 220 grams of marijuana (a street value of \$3,400) were discovered.

The June 16 search was conducted by members of an Alcohol To-

bacco and Firearms task force including Det. A. Thompson of the Prince George’s County Police Department and Det. Sgt. J.A. Burroughs with the Charles County Sheriff’s Office. The warrant was served at a home in the 7900 block of Heatherleigh Place in White Plains.

The signed and issued seizure warrant was is-

sued to Thompson, who was conducting an investigation into suspected criminal activity involving Harper.

A K-9 scan was conducted on a 2011 Chevrolet Camaro by Pfc. Kunz of the Charles County Sheriff’s Office. During the scan of the car — which, accord-

ing to court documents, bore the name of both Harper and Washington — the K9 alerted and the police allegedly found more marijuana in the vehicle. A Pelican-style case was found in the trunk of the suspects’ vehicle which contained two large bags of suspected

marijuana which approximately amounted to 1,030 grams with a street value of \$20,000.

According to court documents, more than 2,000 grams of marijuana were found — a street value believed to exceed more than \$40,000.

Twitter: @Cerone\_IndyNews



**Strissel Law, LLC**  
SANDRA L. STRISSEL  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

30537 Potomac Way, Suite 104  
Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622  
301-290-1400 • 301-274-5700  
www.Strissel.com

♦ FAMILY ♦ ADOPTIONS ♦ BUSINESS  
♦ REAL ESTATE ♦ WILLS & TRUSTS  
♦ HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

**The Humane Society of Charles County**  
Industrial Park Drive, Waldorf MD • 301-645-8181 • www.humanesocietycc.org



**Shelter Pet of the Week**

Terri is a very sweet black and white kitty who loves to play and cuddle. She is gentle and friendly with children, but has never been around dogs. She enjoys sleeping in her cat bed, playing with toys, using her litter box, and rolling in catnip. Her previous family was allergic to her and unable to keep her, but she is a great family pet who would love a forever home!

Terri is spayed, microchipped, healthy, parasite-free, and current on all vaccinations. Come take Terri home today!

# UNLIMITED

# CAR WASHES

Interior & Exterior Specialists



UNLIMITED  
CAR WASHES  
*In and Out*  
**\$39.95**  
PER MONTH

GET YOUR NEXT OIL CHANGE AT SPIRIT of AMERICA!



\$20.00 OFF

All Fluid Exchanges

Power Steering,  
Transmission and  
Coolant

\$15.00 OFF

Valvoline Synthetic  
Blend Or Valvoline  
Full Synthetic Oil  
Change

Offer includes up to 5 quarts  
Valvoline motor oil.  
offer expires 6/30/17

\$10.00 OFF

Valvoline  
Conventional Oil  
Change

Offer includes up to 5 quarts  
Valvoline motor oil.  
offer expires 6/30/17

NEW  
CUSTOMER BONUS  
ADDITIONAL

\$7.00 OFF

Any oil change

New customer bonus must be  
a new addition to our database  
Offer includes up to 5 quarts  
Valvoline motor oil.  
offer expires 6/30/17



www.spiritofamericacarwash.com

Gateway Plaza

3921 St. Charles Parkway Waldorf, MD 20602

Next to Nick's of Clinton in Waldorf

Mon.-Sat. 8am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm

301-638-WASH (9274)



DRIVE THRU OIL  
CHANGE  
NO APPOINTMENT  
NECESSARY!

Charles County's **ONLY** Locally Owned and Operated Conveyor Carwash