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EVENTS CALENDAR

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- Jan 21 - Good Food for Good Health Weekend in Pasadena
- Jan 21 - Single Dance
- Jan 23 - Chantyman Geoff Kaufman in concert
- Jan 24 - Foerth Monday At Crush
- Feb 01 - Maryland Small Business Day at the Capitol

SHARE IDEAS

Around Broadneck: Grin and bear it: Bayhawks taking the plunge

by WENDI WINTERS, For The Capital
Published 01/17/11

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Kyle Dixon and P.T. Ricci are taking the plunge Jan. 29 at Sandy Point State Park.

AP VIDEO

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The waterfront park is the site - and it's an eye-popping sight - for thousands of swimsuit-clad folks of all ages to take a quick dip in the bone-chilling waters of the Chesapeake Bay for a good cause.

It's the 15th Annual MSP Polar Bear Plunge, begun by Maryland State Police

to raise funds for Maryland Special Olympics.

Kyle, a 2002 Archbishop Spalding graduate who hails from Millersville, and P.T. of Wayne, Pa., are Chesapeake Bayhawks players.

The Polar Bear Plunge will have a slightly different look this year. There will be six zones offering something for just about everyone, including one hosted by the Bayhawks: Carnival FunFest, Rams Head Ice Lodge, Pure Boardshop's X-Games Adventure Tent, Mickey Harris Monster Garage, Robert Andrew Tuscan Spa Retreat and the Chesapeake Bayhawks Arctic Lacrosse Zone.

In the Bayhawks' tent, Polar Plungers will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with the Bayhawks and Joe Flacco, quarterback for the Baltimore Ravens.

Souvenir sweatshirts are guaranteed on Plunge Day to pre-registered participants who pay the minimum \$50 before Jan. 22.

The Cool Schools Challenge high school groups plunge is Jan. 28.

For all the details, visit www.plunge.md.com.

"We're reaching out to all our friends, to get them to plunge with us," said Kyle.

He's doing the plunge in honor of the twin daughters of the men's lacrosse coach, Dominic Starsia, at his alma mater, the University of Virginia.

"Maggie and Emma are in their late 20s," he said. "They have minor mental disabilities, but they come to every game to cheer on the players."

For P.T., his plunge is for a youth he grew up with who has Down syndrome. The young man enjoyed watching all the field sports at their high school.

"His parents would drop him off before the game and 500 kids would look after him," PT said.

The plunge means a lot for other area folks, too.

Chris Brown of Annapolis didn't know anyone with a "disability," until her daughter Laila was born in 2002. Plunge Day is a party day for Laila, who is a Special Olympian in swimming, track and soccer. But her family members know "the funds raised allow Special Olympics to provide year round athletic programs, camps, and Olympic games for anyone with an interest, free of charge, all over the world."

"Free of charge is a big thing for families that can be overwhelmed by therapy and medical bills," she said.

Kyle and PT headed to Sandy Point Park Tuesday to test the water. The air was 27

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degrees and the water was 31 degrees.

"How far do the plungers have to go in?" Kyle inquired anxiously. (Plungers only have to get a hand or toe wet, although thousands do the full body dip.)

Within moments, both Bayhawks had shucked their shoes and rolled up their pants legs to test the water.

"Aaaieeee!!!!" they yelled in unison. It was a bit cold.

If you like beef and baseball, mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual BBSC Bull Roast at 7 p.m. April 30 at the Severna Park Elks Club, 160 Truck House Road in Severna Park. For pricing and details, contact Jeff Mahler at VPBaseball@broadneckbaseballsoftball.org.

SHARE IDEAS

No need to be a starving artist! For the second year, The Friends of the Arts of Annapolis is offering two art scholarships of \$2,500 each. Scholarship applicants must be permanent residents of Anne Arundel County and attend a Maryland college.

The scholarship is for the 2011-12 school years. The deadline to apply is midnight March 31. Applicants have to provide portfolio samples on a CD, a statement and two letters of recommendation. To receive an application form and for more information, contact FOTAscholar@yahoo.com.

If you have news or story ideas, send an e-mail to Wendi at BroadneckNews@quantumstep.com.

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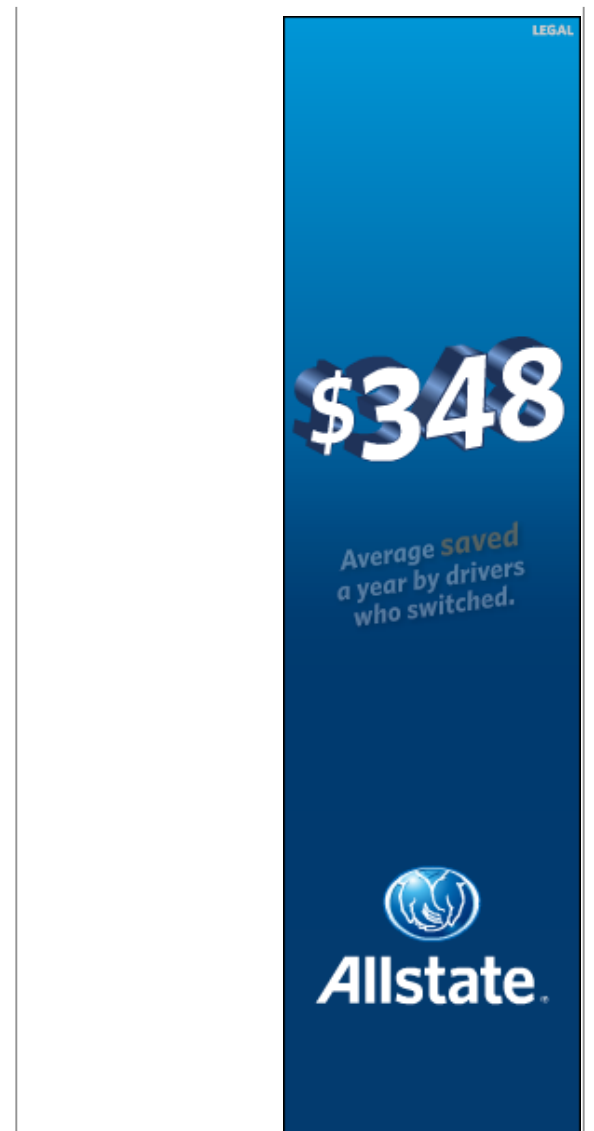
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