

Maryland Gazette

A CAPITAL-GAZETTE NEWSPAPER ®

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

FOUNDED 1727

\$2.00

Ex-sheriff signals he'll sue schools

Lawman's name was used hypothetically in online exercise

By NAOMI HARRIS

An attorney representing former Anne Arundel County Sheriff Ron Bateman has notified the county school system that he intends to sue for libel and slander.

Attorney T. Joseph Touhey sent the school system the letter, addressed to Superintendent George Arlotto, describing an online government lesson used by teachers at Arundel High School as a document that embarrassed Bateman.

"The publication of this document by Department of Education employees, and the distribution of this statement in the Anne Arundel County community, has caused grave embarrassment and damage to the reputation of Ron Bateman in the Maryland community," according to a copy of the letter dated Oct. 1 obtained by The Capital.



Bateman

The school system did not respond to a request for comment.

In September, U.S. government teachers asked students to select an answer after a prompt outlined a hypothetical scenario in which police pulled over three separate people with illegal drugs in their cars. Bateman was on the list as was NBA star LeBron James.

Touhey said he has not yet heard a response from the school system, but he is concerned the government lesson had initially been approved and used, despite using the name of a former public figure.

"He's now a private citizen trying to make

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Reports of hate up for county

New report shows Anne Arundel second in the state for bias incidents

By OLIVIA SANCHEZ

Reports of hate crimes and bias incidents in Anne Arundel County increased slightly in 2019. However, Montgomery County surpassed Anne Arundel as the jurisdiction with the highest instance of reports in the state, according to a new report from the Maryland State Police.

The State of Maryland 2019 Hate Bias Report shows 81 reports of hate crimes or bias incidents in 2019, up from 78 in 2018, continuing the trend of increases beginning in 2014. Many of the incidents were reported in the northern part of Anne Arundel County, with a heat map showing each zip code by color based on the range of incidents reported. Between 12 and 19 incidents reported in Pasadena ZIP code 21122; and between six and 11 incidents reported in each of Glen Burnie ZIP codes 21060 and 21061 and in Millersville ZIP code 21108.

These numbers include both hate crimes — or a crime motivated by prejudice — and hate bias incidents, which do not rise to the level of criminal charges.

The report distinguishes incidents as verified, meaning an "investigation leads a reasonable and prudent person to conclude that the offender's actions were motivated, See **HATE**, page A5



BRIAN KRISTA/CAPITAL GAZETTE PHOTOS

Joanna Bache Tobin, left, running for Anne Arundel Board of Education District 6, is joined by Sara Schomig and her 5-year-old daughter, Melodie, on Oct. 3 as they wave to motorists passing by on the corner of Bestgate Road and Generals Highway.

Party politics divide school board hopefuls

Candidates' ties on display as race enters final weeks

By NAOMI HARRIS

Politics has entered the nonpartisan chat.

Joanna Bache Tobin, an Annapolis candidate for Anne Arundel County school board, is telling voters she's a proud Democrat.

In Pasadena, Corine Frank is running while working as the executive director of the Maryland Republican Party and has received an endorsement from the county Republican party committee.

Robert Silkworth said he is running a nonpartisan election in Glen Burnie but attended a door-knocking event featuring "Trump 2020" signs and a visit by a Republican national committeewoman.

As Anne Arundel County moves to complete the transition to an elected school board this fall, candidates for three seats are running in what the law describes as a nonpartisan election. But party politics are on display and not everyone is happy about it.

Laura Day of Hanover filed a complaint Sept. 27 with the Anne Arundel Board of Elections against Tobin after comments made at a meeting of Annapolis area Democrats.



School board candidate Corine Frank, kneeling at center, and Robert Silkworth, right, gather Oct. 3 outside Marley Station mall before door-to-door campaigning.

County Board of Elections Director Joe Torre said the idea that a nonpartisan election bans party politics is wrong. There is no rule barring school board candidates from campaigning with political parties.

"(Tobin) can declare she's a Democrat and campaign as a Democrat, there's no law against that," he said.

Absentee balloting is underway, with early voting in-person set to start Oct. 26. Election day is Nov. 3. In the final weeks of the election, partisan politics have become part of the campaign in District 6.

India Ochs, Tobin's opponent, repeated Day's complaint in a recent See **POLITICS**, page A5

ELECTION 2020 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

Retired Lt. Col. Charles Anthony challenges 13-year incumbent Rep. John Sarbanes

By OLIVIA SANCHEZ

Marylanders in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard and Montgomery counties and Baltimore City will have the choice to reelect Rep. John Sarbanes, D-Towson, who has served in Congress for 13 years, or to put forth retired Lt. Col. Charles Anthony, a Silver Spring Republican, to represent the third district.

It's a steep hill to climb for Anthony, who has faced Sarbanes before. Sarbanes won in 2018 with more than 202,000 votes, or 69% of the vote when the same pair faced off. Anthony received about 82,000 votes or 28% of the vote.

Anthony spent several years in the Army Reserves as a lieutenant colonel, retired in 1998, and then worked as an administrator at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

He is 67 and lives in Silver Spring. Sarbanes has represented Maryland in Washington since 2007 and previously worked with the Maryland State Department of Education and as an attorney within the health care industry. Sarbanes is 58 and lives in Towson.

Census data shows the district includes

about 779,500 residents, and the Maryland State Board of Elections shows that nearly 500,000 were registered to vote as of 2018.

Voter registration data in the district as of 2018 shows that about 56% are registered Democrats, and about 24% are registered Republicans. About 97,000 voters identified as unaffiliated, and roughly 7,000 identified as Green Party, Libertarian or other.

In this year's primary, Sarbanes received 82% of the Democratic vote, beating his two Democratic challengers. Anthony rose above four other Republican candidates. He had 41% of the vote.

The Capital spoke to both Anthony and Sarbanes about their stances on some key issues. Here's what they said:

COVID-19 Response

Anthony supports a relief package that supports Americans whose employment has been impacted by COVID-19, and to local governments, said campaign manager Alexandra Levine.

He generally aligns himself with President Donald Trump, and he supports reopening under public health guidelines to get as many people back to work as possible.



Sarbanes



Anthony

Levine said Anthony thinks reopening and getting Americans back to work can be done safely without causing more COVID-19 infections, so long as public health guidelines are in place.

Sarbanes has been working with his Congressional colleagues on a second relief package entitled Heroes 2.0, which would provide relief to state and local governments, extend unemployment insurance, and support education and child care providers. The legislation would also include what Sarbanes said is a robust plan for testing, contact tracing and vaccine efforts.

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