

St. Mary's students provide backpacks to children in India's slums

BARBER

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comment on any proceedings.

The former judge pointed to the fact that a commission in D.C., which deals with the selection and tenure of judges like Barber, had a March 3 meeting where it discussed placing Barber on administrative leave, although he did not know the results.

The election is also overseen by the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee, a citizens' committee which does not have legal authority to invalidate a judge's candidacy, but does write sanctions documenting what they believe to be ethical violations.

One member of the committee said he had not heard of the case, while attempts to reach chairwoman Linda Pierson were unsuccessful.

As of Thursday, Barber was still a judge at the office and wrote in an email that her role does not constitute a violation of ethics because of the city's distinction on "partisan elections."

"(There is) no ethics matter at issue because judges are on two ballots in Maryland, both Democrat and Republican," Barber wrote. "Partisan is defined under (D.C.) law as one political party."

The complaint follows a series of increasingly heated rhetoric that has surrounded the race.

Earlier this month, Barber and fellow candidate Rickey Nelson Jones took issue with a Severna Park forum for judicial candidates, where only those judges who were registered Republicans were invited to attend.

Jones took it a step further and suggested that race played a factor, with Barber and Jones being the only African-American candidates in the race.

BANNER

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McLean said though she was waving an American flag in the area Thursday morning, she did not destroy the banner.

County police spokesman Lt. Ryan Frashure said anyone found destroying or removing the signs could face charges of destruction of property, theft or trespassing.

Frashure said he believes continued theft and vandalism of the signs stems from people who misunderstand their message.

Black Lives Matter is a national movement against racism and police violence. It began with the high-profile deaths of young black men, including Freddie Gray, who died while in Baltimore police custody.

"People truly don't understand what the Black Lives Matter message means," Frashure said. "Their message is not that only black lives matter. ... They do believe that all lives matter."

Despite continuous theft and damage to the signs, Callender is not upset.

"It's created a great conversation in the community," he said.

Callender will discuss with his members whether they would like to replace the sign, or if they will choose a different route to facilitate a discussion about racism. Church members have also considered holding programs on the topic of racism, he said.

Anyone with information about this incident or others is asked to contact the Anne Arundel County Police Southern District at 410-222-1960.

Park Service: Remains found during search for missing woman

Female remains were found in the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia on Thursday during the search for a paramedic-firefighter who disappeared a week ago, the National Park Service said.

The ground search for Nicole Mittendorf of Woodbridge, Virginia, was called off about 2 p.m. after the remains were found in a remote location more than a mile from the Whiteoak Canyon parking area, the Park Service and Virginia State Police said in a news release. The release did not definitively identify the remains as those of Mittendorf, however.

Associated Press



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AKASH MONDAL

The Indian children display their new backpacks donated by St. Mary's eighth-grade students.

On a hot afternoon, group of eager children squeeze into a tightly packed, rundown building they call school.

Their desks: mats on cement floors.

Their classroom: one room with a chalkboard. This day they are meeting a group of Americans, two of them are from the Annapolis area. They play, sing and listen to Indian native **Mahadeb Mondal** speak to them about Christianity.

After school the children return to their homes — ramshackle structures made from scraps of corrugated metal, splintered plywood and tarps. The configurations are stacked together on the pavement or dirt while skeletal cows, hens and goats roam nearby. No bigger than an average American bathroom, the slum houses in Kolkata, India, can sometimes house up to a dozen people.

"You can't even describe it," said **Shelley Hupp** about what she saw and experienced last summer in India's slums. The nurse anesthetist traveled to India with her daughter, Laura, a St. Mary's eighth-grader, eight family members led by her sister **Stacey McDonald** and **John DeYoung**, a mission leader and founder of Momentum Global.

"It changed her," said Hupp about her daughter's experience. "She came back wanting to help. So did I."

According to the 2011 census, there are more than 65 million people living in India's slums. By 2017, it's estimated the number will rise to 104 million.

Slums are defined as "residential areas where dwellings are unfit for human habitation." This is because they consist of cramped, poorly ventilated, dirty conditions that are "detrimental to the safety and health" of humans.

There is no medical care for people in the slums, Hupp said.

"They [the slum dwellers] are considered one level below the dogs. So, I'm trying to spin a little medical help into my next trip because a couple of other nurses are going. We are working with Mahadeb to set aside a few days for a clinic or just to screen kids."

The need for medical care was clear.

"We saw a teenage boy sitting with a towel over his head in the corner of one of the tiny slum homes," she said.

When the towel was lifted, the teen had a large parotid tumor, which is a benign growth and could have been easily removed. However, it was so huge that it had invaded his trachea and he couldn't eat.

Hupp called her husband, a surgeon, and said, "We have to help him." Unfortunately, it was too far gone, said her husband. "He was dying and he was 17"

Hupp and the group spent a few of their 20 days in the slums. They traveled to



St. Mary's eighth-grader Laura Hupp, right, and her cousin Molly McDonald take a moment to pose with some of the Kolkata students.

villages, to the Taj Mahal and Dubai, and worked with mentally handicapped children alongside the nuns of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta.

They visited Mondal's village where Hupp said the homes were a little larger.

"He [Mahadeb Mondal] showed us the house that he grew up in and that his dad built. It was like a mud or adobe house. It didn't have any electricity or running water and I watched his auntie outside the hut cooking over the floor — there was no kitchen," Hupp said. "They live like they did about 300 years ago — it was amazing"

Laura said the thing she remembers most about the trip is the beauty of the countryside and the people.

"A lot of people might see the bad stuff, but when I picture India, I picture more of the countryside and the green; the people are so beautiful," she said.

"It definitely changed my perspective on things," she added. "It made me take nothing for granted because we are so lucky for what we have. And, the kids are so happy all the time."

Laura said her favorite part of the trip was spending time with the children at the slum school.

"I wish I could have stayed longer," she said.

After returning home, Laura and her mother hatched a plan. They noticed the children had very little in the way of school supplies — any supplies. Laura talked to her teachers at St. Mary's in Annapolis and made a presentation and a plea to her eighth-grade classmates about buying and filling backpacks for the slum school children.

Hupp and her daughter coordinated the effort through the Mondal family, who sent the St. Mary's students 70 profiles of the Indian children. Most of the children were 5 to 7 years old.

"They were long profiles, telling each child's story — most of them had dads who were alcoholics and moms who were prostitutes," Laura said.

The two eighth-grade teachers, **Ellie Geisen** and **Janice Hubbard**, and 105 students collected and filled 70 backpacks with paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, vitamins, pencils, pens, markers and other school supplies. In addition, the students wrote letters or cards to each child, made them bracelets and got them little gifts.

"For instance, one of the students knew that her little girl wanted to be a doctor when she grew up so she put a toy doctor kit in the backpack," Laura said.

"The eighth-graders just stepped up, and Laura did a phenomenal job," Geisen said.

Hubbard agreed, "This was such a rewarding experience as I was able to watch my wonderful eighth-graders realize that they can truly make a difference not only in our community but in the world."

Mondal's son, Akash, videotaped the Indian children receiving the backpacks.

"The smiling faces of those children — the faces on the video and how excited they were to get those backpacks is something I won't forget," Hupp said. "Mahadeb told me that they'd never gotten anything like that before. It's like they won the lottery."

It made Laura think.

"Getting a new backpack is like something we may get for school every year; it's just normal for us, but for them to get a backpack — it's like Christmas. They were so overjoyed with it; it makes you take a step back and realize that you are so lucky for what you have."

Hupp is leading a trip this summer, taking three of her four children, including Laura, and a group of others from Annapolis and the Denver area. This year, Hupp is going with a new attitude.

"Last year, I was not looking forward to going. I dreaded it, actually. And, now I can't wait to go back."

View the Akash Mondal's video of the Kolkata children receiving the backpacks at <https://vimeo.com/156802388>.

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CONGRESS

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Anthony Brown, the former lieutenant governor under Gov. Martin O'Malley, who was upset by Republican Larry Hogan in the 2014 gubernatorial race.

But the campaign is tight, with former Prince George's County State's Attorney Glenn Ivey, Del. Joseline Peña-Melnyk, retired U.S. Marshal Matthew Fogg, retired Army Colonel Warren Christopher and former U.S. Census Bureau worker Terence Strait also gunning for the nomination.

Throughout the race, many of the candidates have aligned themselves with the policies of President Barack Obama, who sees high favorability numbers in Prince George's County.

With all of the candidates touting progressive ideals and accomplishments, there has been a focus on who will best represent their constituency as an individual rather than a legislator.

Peña-Melnyk has made it a point to highlight her efforts to connect with voters on the ground, regularly handing out her

cellphone number.

Ivey has said that he would fight for reducing violent crime and combating domestic violence, while Strait and Christopher have made hard pushes that their policies would support middle-class families.

Fogg has touted himself as someone who would "stand up" for the district, regularly referring to his successful lawsuit against the Department of Justice for racial discrimination.

Brown, on the other hand, has made his campaign about being more personable, setting out a specific plan for constituent services in Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties.

On the Republican side, Naval Academy graduate Robert Broadus, construction company owner George McDermott and former U.S. Marine David Therrien will compete for the nomination. But in a district where Democrats overwhelmingly win, they'll have a tough road ahead.

2nd District

Incumbent Democrat Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Ruppberger, D-Baltimore, comes in as

the heavy favorite, with no primary challenger and double-digit wins over Republicans in the past two general elections.

However, it's a crowded field for the GOP in this district.

There's Pat McDonough, a delegate representing District 7 who hosts a conservative talk radio show and was one of the leading voices against granting in-county tuition rates to undocumented immigrants at Montgomery College.

There's also Yuripzy Morgan, a Baltimore County attorney who was recently endorsed by state Sen. Nancy Jacobs.

To round out the field are Bill Heine, a former member of the Army National Guard, and Carl Magee, who touts policies against "Islamization of America" and "Pro Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients" on his campaign's Facebook page.

3rd District

Incumbent Rep. John Sarbanes will battle against John Rea in the Democratic primary. Sarbanes has held the seat since 2007.

For Republicans, Thomas E. "Pinkston" Harris and Mark Plaster will vie for the

nomination. However, they will face a tough road ahead, as Sarbanes has won every general election race since 2006 with double-digit leads.

5th District

This is Rep. Steny Hoyer's territory. He has held the seat for nearly 35 years, since he narrowly won a special election to fill former Rep. Gladys Spellman's seat in 1981.

He has two challengers in the Democratic primary race.

There's Charles County resident Debbie Wilson and Kristin Beck, a former Navy SEAL who gained national attention for coming out as a transgender woman in 2013.

On the Republican side, which last held the office when Larry Hogan Sr., father of the current governor, was in the House of Representatives in the 1970s, Mark Arness and Charles Sam Faddis are running for the nomination.

Arness is a former military medic whose campaign site calls to "Revoke the IRS," while Faddis is a retired CIA operations officer whose father served in the House of Representatives representing Pennsylvania's 25th District from 1933 to 1942.