

## Infant's illness baffles medical professionals

Community, Page C-1

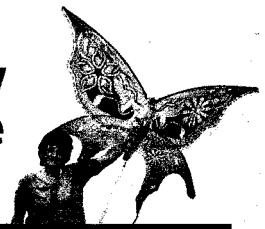


## Job Market

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Let's  
go fly  
a kite

Page A-3



# Maryland Independent

Established 1872

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 • 75¢

Charles County, Maryland

www.somdnews.com

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 Maryland Independent Page

## No ill wind for park visitors at kite festival

■ Chapman open house kicks off warm season

By NANCY BROMLEY  
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Staff writer

Alyssa Miller didn't have much time to talk Sunday afternoon during the Kite Festival and Open House at Chapman State Park in Bryans Road.

Despite all of the activity buzzing around her, the 10-year-old focused all of her attention on creating a rainbow-hued kite with crayons in preparation for running down the sloping lawn of the Mount Aventine manor house with her creation flying high above her head.

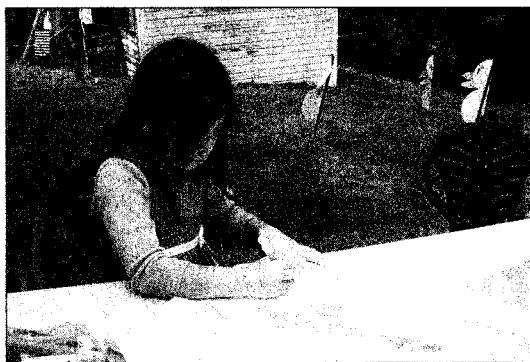
"It's fun making your own kite," she said while coloring. "I can be creative and make it the way that I really want it to look."

But kids weren't the only kite enthusiasts who turned up at the 860-acre park to enjoy the day.

Adults also enjoyed flying kites and taking tours of the manor house that was built around 1840. Many sat on the large back porch to enjoy the sweeping view of the lawn and the Potomac River in the distance and watch people fly brightly colored kites.

Wayne McBain, a volunteer park ranger and president of the Friends of Chapman State Park, said he was delighted when the Wings Over Washington Kite Club agreed to hold a festival at the park.

"We're always looking for



some kind of activity to anchor our monthly events," he said while gazing out toward the river. "This kite festival is great."

Margaret Schmid, a member of the Friends group, was dressed in a period costume to lead tours through the manor house.

"I started coming here because I like open houses and I'm a local history buff," said.

"And, this is such a gorgeous place."

Some visitors said that this was their first visit to the park, including Jessica Hower, who attended the

### Enjoy local history

Chapman State Park, 2,180 acres on both sides of Route 210 in Bryans Road, offers the public a place to enjoy nature and history. An 860-acre tract that sits off Chapman Landing Road holds the historic Mount Aventine manor house that is opened often for events and tours.

Two local nonprofit groups, the Friends of Chapman State Park and the Chapman Forest Foundation are seeking members and donations to be able to continue offering events and tours at the property.

For membership information, contact the Friends group FoC-SPinc@gmail.com and the foundation at 301-283-2948 or info@chapmanforest.org.

Learn more about the park at [www.chapmanforest.org](http://www.chapmanforest.org).

The Wings Over Washington Kite Club is always interested in new members. The club flies kites in different locations around the region every Sunday.

Go to the club's Web site at [www.wowkiteclub.com](http://www.wowkiteclub.com).

Clockwise from left, Charlotte Biles, 7, concentrates on creating a kite to fly during the Kite Festival and Open House at Chapman State Park in Bryans Road on Sunday. Waldorf resident Diane Jurney prepares to fly her brightly colored kite. Austin Du, 2, his dad, Bach, and little brother, Cody, take a break from flying kites.

Staff photos by NANCY BROMLEY McCONATY

event with her husband, Andrew, and 4-year-old son, Jon.

Brian said.

"It's something that can do with their fan. They can get out of house and away from living video games."

"This is a good activity," his mom said. "This gets me out with my kites have been in the basement for a time. It's fun."

Diane Jurney of Noy joined friends and friends to enjoy the day.

"I love it," she said. "It's a nice day, I'm out with family and friends, and enjoy being at a place that has a lot of history."

"It's awesome," said Wathen as she prepared to lift her kite into the air. "I'm delighted to be with my grandkids and it couldn't be a more perfect day."

Bach Du said that the festival is a perfect opportunity to spend time with his son on his day off from work.

"It's a great day all week," he said. "It's feeding his 4-month-old son, Cody."

Dave Soutar is one of the club's vice presidents of the club who helped artists make their own kites to fly in the festival.

"The view is fantastic," said, adding that the festival was established 10 years ago and is based in Germany.

"It's gorgeous. If it weren't so many trees, it would be absolutely perfect but the kids are having good time and that's what it's all about."

"I've never done anything like this before," she said as her son worked on creating a kite at a table near the back porch. "It's fun. And it's really pretty here."

Pomfret residents Susan Eckerle and her 9-year-old son, Brian, brought their dog Tana to the event.

"It's a pretty neat event,"

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