



# Carroll County Times

Weather 63/52 Cloudy, rain likely /A2

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Thursday, May 29, 2014



Jennifer Malagari, right, reacts as Dr. Bernard Sadusky delivers the commencement address during Carroll Community College's graduation ceremony at McDaniel College in Westminster Wednesday.

DAVE MUNCH/STAFF PHOTO

## Board of Education clarifies budget language

Budget surplus, fund balance two very different terms, top official says

By RACHEL ROUBEIN  
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

In the world of budget speak, two very different terms are getting confused in the political arena, according to Carroll County Public Schools Superintendent Steve Guthrie.

At Wednesday's Board of Education meeting, he attempted to set the record straight between budget surpluses and the schools' fund balance — and how both impact future budgets.

Carroll County Public Schools spends at least 99 percent of the money in its budget, comprised of state and county funds. The leftover money is called a budget surplus, which typically hovers around \$3 million as a fiscal year ends.

But this year, the remaining money will likely be even less, Chris Hartlove, the school system's chief financial officer, told the board Wednesday.

"At this point, as we've said multiple times — and it's coming true — as we tighten down on our budget there's less and less extra dollars remaining," he said.

Since 2008, the school system has had a memorandum of understanding with the county allowing it to keep this leftover money and funnel it into a fund balance. The fund balance consisted of more than \$15.5 million as of June 30, 2013.

That's where the confusion sets in, Hartlove said, as some believe the school system has \$15.5 million it doesn't use in its budget at the end of every fiscal year. In reality, it has \$3 million or less, and that's called a budget surplus.

When Fiscal Year 2014 ends June 30, it's anticipated that \$9.3 million will be left in the fund balance, according to FY15 budget documents.

By the end of FY15, there will likely be \$4.2 million left. The FY15 budget, passed by the Board of Education earlier this month, and by the county commissioners Tuesday, includes dipping into the fund balance for two purposes: \$2.6 million will go toward employee bonuses, and another \$2.5 million will preserve crisis counselors, keep Outdoor School a five-day program and balance the budget.

"We also have some pretty significant plans at this point for our fund balance," Hartlove said.

Guthrie said he already has an idea of proposals to come in the FY16 budget: A 2.5 percent increase in salaries to adjust for cost of living increases and a 1 percent teacher bonus for the 2015 to 2016 school year.

Please see **Schools, A7**

## Looking to the future

709 Carroll Community College graduates tip their tassels in 2014

By ERICKA DIXON  
 TIMES CORRESPONDENT

Friends and family cheered and applauded as the 709 graduates of Carroll Community College's Class of 2014 walked across the stage.

College President Faye Pappalardo, who will retire at the end of June, gave an opening address to the students, faculty, family, friends and special guests

<p><b>Inside</b></p> <p>■ What's next for Carroll Community College graduates? /A7</p>	<p><b>Online</b></p> <p>■ Graduation gallery: <a href="http://www.carrollcountytimes.com">www.carrollcountytimes.com</a></p>
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at Carroll's 21st Commencement ceremony Wednesday. "Today is a rich celebration of the past, the present and whatever you choose to do in the future,"

Pappalardo said to students at Wednesday's ceremony, which honored students who completed their degrees in August and December 2013 and this May.

"I encourage you to live in the future."

"Here at Carroll Community, we believe that we have the most dedicated staff in the state," Pappalardo continued. "The passion the faculty has makes Carroll Community a great place to learn."

Before giving his speech,

Please see **Graduation, A7**

## Lang wins excellence award

\$600 personal check from outgoing Pappalardo will be the last

By RACHEL ROUBEIN  
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

At the end of April, Elisabeth Lang picked up her cellphone to find Carroll Community College's president on the other end with some news.

Lang was selected to be this year's recipient of the

President's Academic Excellence Award, a scholarship Faye Pappalardo created when she began her tenure as president 15 years ago. The prize: a \$600 personal check from Pappalardo, the last one the outgoing president will write to an exceptional student with a 4.0

GPA and a resume chock-full of extracurricular activities. "[Lang] was delighted and thrilled and very honored," Pappalardo said. "She's really a very charming student, and she also has the personality to go with all these qualities."

During Lang's two years

at the college, she joined the STEM Club; the school's chapter of the American Chemical Society; Psi Beta, a psychology honor society; Phi Beta Kappa, an honor society; and the Hill Scholars Program. Outside

Please see **Lang, A7**

## County seeks farmer advice on solar facilities

Commissioners hoping for answers Thursday

By CHRISTIAN ALEXANDERSEN  
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

Is allowing large-scale solar conversion facilities on Carroll County farms a good idea? That's the question the Carroll County Board of Commissioners hopes to get answered at a staff meeting Thursday.

The board was prepared Tuesday to move forward with a proposed ordinance that sets regulations for large- and small-scale solar conversion facilities in the county. But before voting to move the ordinance to public hearing, Joanne Weant, an agricultural

development specialist for the county, expressed concern that the farming community had not had a chance to weigh in on it.

"We don't want this out there until we know what we're dealing with," Weant said. County staff has

**Online**

■ County's definition of solar conversion facilities: [www.carrollcountytimes.com](http://www.carrollcountytimes.com)

developed an ordinance that places size, height and location restrictions on solar conversion facilities in Carroll. The ordinance defines and regulates two

types of solar conversion facilities: small- and large-scale.

A "small-scale accessory use" refers to the installation of small amounts of

solar panels, most often seen on homes, businesses and farming properties, to generate electricity for the property owner's use. A "large-scale solar conversion facility" means that solar panels have been installed on a property for the sole purpose of generating

Please see **Solar, A5**

### District 5

## Candidates discuss rain tax, environmental mandates

By RACHEL ROUBEIN  
 AND TIMOTHY SANDOVAL  
 TIMES STAFF WRITERS

Whether it be in the form of stormwater projects or farming regulations, Carroll County residents and politicians have consistently shown disdain for state-mandated environmental efforts meant to protect the Chesapeake Bay. Recently, the county was able to work out a deal with the state to

2014 Maryland Elections



essentially dodge implementing the "rain tax."

However, further regulations are planned by the state in the years to come, which could cost millions of dollars more for local governments,

### PART FIVE OF A SEVEN-PART SERIES

Throughout the week, District 5 candidates for the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate will answer questions on the following topics:

- Thursday:** Stormwater management
  - Friday:** Gaming bill
  - Saturday:** Fracturing of House and Senate
- Read the candidates' responses online at [www.carrollcountytimes.com](http://www.carrollcountytimes.com)

and a lot of money for business owners and residents. Seven Republicans for the

District 5 House of Delegates are seeking to advance to November's general

election. Voters can select up to three candidates in the June 24 primary election, who will then move on to the general election.

The two House Democrat candidates will automatically advance to the general election. In the District 5 Senate race, both the Republican and Democrat candidates are running unopposed.

We asked the candidates:

Carroll County government, the county's eight municipalities, farmers and businesses have faced — or are expected to face — numerous environmental mandates from the state. Many of the requirements are meant to protect the Chesapeake Bay. What is your view of these mandates? Do you agree with

Please see **District 5, A5**



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Westminster, Maryland