

50¢

YEAR 141 NO. 24

# THE RECORD

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008

HAVRE DE GRACE • ABERDEEN • PERRYVILLE • PORT DEPOSIT

## Kick-starting Bainbridge 6

After years of being stalled

## Panthers Class of 08

## on scene 16

"We grew into the people we are today."



## HdG an artists colony? 2

The city government secures state status as an arts community

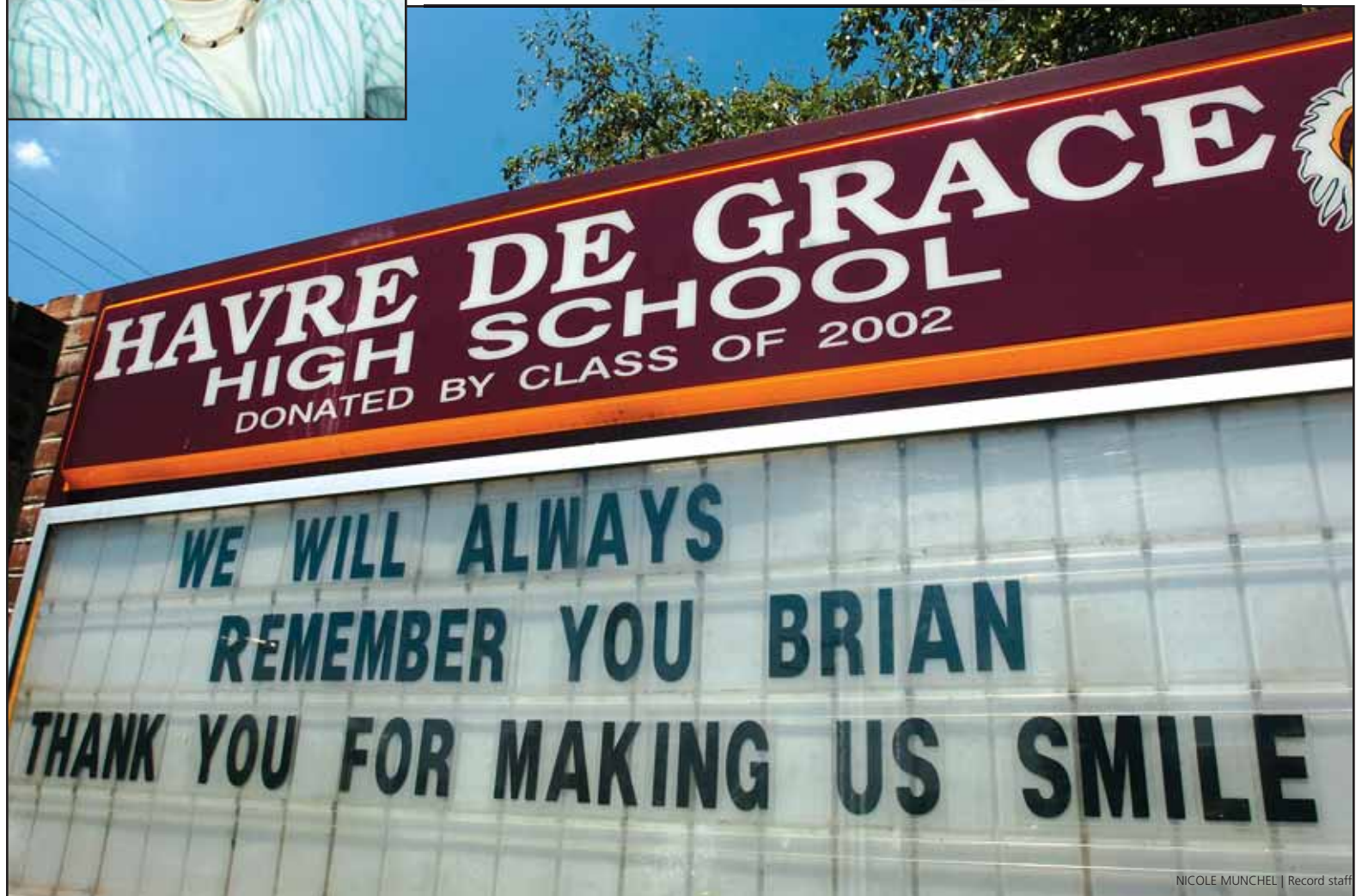
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



# HHS mourns loss of grad

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NICOLE MUNCHEL | Record staff

# IronBirds return to Aberdeen

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# FROM THE FRONT PAGE:

# Tragic

## United by grief, trying to cope

By Kristen Melamed, Rachel Konopacki and Rose DiPaula | Record staff

United in grief, Brian Wilson's friends watched his favorite movie this week, "Blazing Saddles."

They also donated money toward a scholarship in his name and today (June 13), his fellow musicians and singers at Havre de Grace High School will play at his memorial service.

Two weeks ago, Brian accepted his diploma with honors and had a half-scholarship at a Pennsylvania college awaiting him in the fall. But Brian's trip home from Senior Week in Ocean City ended tragically Saturday. He died early Sunday at Christiana Hospital in Newark, Del. hours after the car he was riding in on Route 1 near Dover was smashed in the back by a car driven by an alleged drunk driver.

Brian's funeral today (June 13) will be at 10 a.m. in the HHS auditorium.

Brian was a passenger in a Mazda driven by Nathan Flanery, 18, one of his HHS classmates. Brian was 17.

Bobby Wloczewski was one of many new Havre de Grace High School graduates in Ocean City last week. He was also one of the first people on the scene of the accident that claimed the life of his good friend.

"We were there as soon as it happened," Bobby said Tuesday. Bobby said he and two other 2008 HHS graduates helped put a neck brace on Nate, as Nathan Flanery is known, and helped him

onto a stretcher. He saw someone giving CPR to Brian.

Brian was transported to Kent General Hospital and then transferred to Christiana, according to Sgt. Joshua A. Bushweller, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police. Nate was flown to Christiana for non-life threatening injuries, according to police.

Bobby said at least 40 people, including friends, teachers and family members gathered at the hospital. They knew Brian was in grave condition.

At about 1 or 2 a.m. Sunday, Bobby said they learned Brian had passed away.

Family and friends remember Brian as a young man who made people laugh. He was an accomplished musician, playing the trumpet in the Havre de Grace High School band and the school's jazz band, and an accomplished athlete, playing soccer in the fall, swimming in the winter and lacrosse in the spring for the Warriors. Brian was also a good citizen and an excellent student, which earned him induction into the HHS chapter of the National Honor Society. He was one of only three boys in the school's Class of 2008 in the National Honor Society.

The school opened the choral room to its students and its recent graduates Monday afternoon.

"We cried together, laughed together, watched



Nicole Munchel / Record staff

**Members of the Havre de** Grace High School Jazz Band play Wednesday afternoon in the school's auditorium remembering their friend and bandmate Brian Wilson.

cell phone videos of Brian," Hauf said. "What's helped everyone was how together his friends and the community have been. We're getting through it together."

Brian's love for music extended far beyond his trumpet-playing as many of his friends have recalled

### Rick Hauf

**'What made him unique was that he worked hard and was committed, but he made it fun.'**

his dancing talent.

Dancing was a part of everyday life for Brian. Senior Zach Crouch said everyday after lunch, Brian would have a dance battle without any music or beat, just dance moves. Crouch said Brian loved challenging random people and was not opposed to challenging strangers.

"He's a good dancer, that's all I have to say,"

Megan Appold, one of Brian's HHS friends, said.

### More than a dancer

A scholarship fund has been created in Brian's name and students at the high school collected \$560 during several lunch periods on Wednesday, according to Becca Antonoplos,

who was in the band with Brian, and was valedictorian of the HHS Class of 2008. She said she's known him since eighth grade.

"He's really funny," she said, adding he was a really good person who was talented in everything.

Drew Monath, Brian's best friend, said he always had a smile and something to cheer you up.

Nicole Guzman, who

also graduated with Brian, went out with him for two years in high school.

"I'm more than proud I could call him my first love," Guzman said, adding she couldn't think of one bad time they had together. Jacob Quimby, who graduated with Brian, said Brian spent every moment of his life like it was his last.

Denise Wilson, Brian's mother, said he had played the trumpet since elementary school and that he was especially close with his older brother, Daniel, 21, another Havre de Grace High School graduate.

In addition to his parents, William "Bill" and Denise Wilson and older brother Daniel, Brian is also survived by two other siblings, Zachary, 9, and Christina, 6.

### ... having a good time

"Most likely to make you smile" was Brian's senior superlative and that is exactly what he did when people recollected their

fondest memories of him.

Family and friends somberly walked to the door of Tarring-Cargo Funeral Home in Aberdeen with blank expressions on their faces to attend Brian's viewing Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and evenings.

Many of those closest to Brian were unable to bring themselves to talk about their fondest memories of him, while others were more than willing to share funny anecdotes or memorable events that were a part of their relationship with him.

Zach Crouch, friends with Brian since eighth grade, recollected their afternoon ritual.

Every day, a group of people would go to Brian's house to play soccer or swim, but the best thing the group did, Zach said, was play a game Brian's older brother, Dan, created.

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# HHS community grieves the loss of one of its finest

FROM PAGE 13

The game was described as volleyball, but with your feet. Zach said there were two stakes in the ground

with a string tied to it for the group to kick a soccer ball back and forth over.

"It was an every day thing," he said.

**A mother's loss**  
Denise Wilson said one of the most memorable quotes she's heard about her son is that he could walk into the

high school cafeteria and sit and fit in anywhere.

"Brian is an all-around active guy," his mother said, adding he was not only in the National Honor Society, but also received several awards, including sportsmanship awards.

She said Brian received a half-scholarship to Lebanon Valley College, where he was going to study medical technology. He wanted to work in a hospital lab. He also wanted to continue with jazz band and soccer at college.

Larry Bialek, a coach in Havre de Grace parks and rec soccer, coached Brian on the 16U boys soccer team that won the league championship in 2005.

The coach remembered Brian as a quiet player on the field, who never talked much. Bialek asked why he didn't talk more.

"He said he wasn't there to talk, he was there to play soccer," Bialek said. "Short and to the point, that's Brian."

Havre de Grace's band director, Richard Hauf, knew Brian extremely well from his time spent in the music department.

"He [Brian] was extremely talented, but he worked really hard, set high goals, expected a lot," Hauf said. "What made him unique was that he worked hard and was committed, but he made it fun. As a teacher, I appreciated that."

After playing three years in the school's pit orchestra for musicals, Brian took a different approach this past year and tried out for a part in the school's production of "The Music Man."

Dave Tramontana, the school's choral director who directed Brian in "The Music Man," said he earned a lead in the show as part of a singing quartet.

"At the same time [as the musical], he was in swimming season, but he found a way to remain dedicated to both. He didn't let anything

slip," Tramontana said.

**Mohawks ...**

Zach Crouch, in honor of his friend, said he shaved his hair into mohawk Tuesday night with some of Brian's other closest guy friends. Numerous students at the viewing could be seen with mohawks in memory of their friend. Zach said with a smile, if Brian would have seen him with a mohawk he would probably have made fun of him for it.

**... and memories**

Some of Brian's friends recalled their last experiences with him.

Senior Livia Fender recalled a funny story about Brian during the senior prank. Livia said some seniors got together to write, in window chalk, on the school's windows. Brian was one of the only students to get caught.

"He ran right out of his shoes," she said.

"It was the best nights I ever had," senior Jacob Quimby said.

Once they finished school, the graduation celebration continued during Senior Week in Ocean City.

Brian's friends could never have dreamed it would be the last time they were with him, but they certainly soaked up the memories that week.

Brian and some friends were on the beach, when he reached for a beach towel in his bag and pulled it out. Livia said the picture on the towel caught her eye - it was Franklin the turtle, a cartoon character from a children's television series.

"I asked Brian if that was Franklin on his towel and he said, 'yep,'" she said. "There was no question about it; he just said 'yep.'"

Aside from Brian's talents, people remembered him for his fun personality.

On '80s Day before Homecoming, Livia distinctly remembers Brian taking her friend's four-inch hot pink high heels.

"He was a good walker," Livia said, laughing.

Those four-inch heels would make their way back onto Brian's feet for another occasion - Havre de Grace High School's Homelycoming Court.

This takes place at a pep rally, where the girls dress as boys and the boys dress as girls. Brian's friends recalled him dressed in a black dress wearing a wig, and - you guessed it, pink high heels.

Sadly, Brian's fun-loving, joyous and talented life ended in a crash that was the fault of a driver police said was drunk.

**Man to be charged**

State troopers responded to the accident on Route 1 in the area of exit 95 at 7:06 p.m. Saturday. Melissa Winn, 31, of Bear, Del., was driving a 1992 Chevy Caprice station wagon north when the hood came off. She pulled into the center median and tried to retrieve the hood from the road. As she was standing to the side waiting to do so, Nate's 1997 Mazda approached the hood and slowed down.

His car was then rear-ended by a 2003 Mercedes C-24 driven by Andrew Rankin, 28, of New Castle, Del.

Rankin was transported to Kent General Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. State police have issued a warrant for Rankin's arrest, charging him with vehicular homicide, two counts of vehicular second-degree assault and driving under the influence, according to police.

Bushweller, the Delaware State Police spokesman, said Rankin was convicted of a DUI in 2005. Rankin received two years probation in that case.

Bushweller said Thursday Rankin remained in the hospital and will be charged upon his release.



Nicole Munchel / Record staff

Friends Zach Crouch, left, Livia Fender, right, and Sergei Brown share a few stories and fond memories of their friend and Havre de Grace High school graduate Brian Wilson outside the Tarring-Cargo Funeral Home Wednesday afternoon.

## Thank You!

The McDonald's LPGA Championship Presented by Coca-Cola would like to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers, spectators and the many people who contributed to help make 2008 a success!

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From left to right: Mayor Wayne H. Dougherty, Clark Turner, 2008 Champion Yani Tseng, Ronald McDonald, David R. Craig, County Executive



See you next June at Bull's Rock