

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

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**School Phone Use Plan
Does Not Include Ban**

**Commissioner Decries
SMECO Rate Hike**

**Townhouse Project
Passes Appeals Board**

**MAKING SURE
GOLDEN BEACH
SHINES**



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“WITHOUT CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS, STUDENTS ARE ACHIEVING AT HIGHER LEVELS.”

ST. MARY'S COUNTY SCHOOLS CHIEF OF STAFF DR. DALE FARRELL



LOCAL 3
Restrictions proposed for cell phones in schools



LOCAL 11
Revised animal ordinance passed



ON THE COVER
The Golden Beach/Patuxent Knolls Civic Association works to make their community a better place

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 18	FRI, JUL 19	SAT, JUL 20	SUN, JUL 21
Scattered Storms Hi: 83° Lo: 70°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 70°	Showers Hi: 81° Lo: 71°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 72°
MON, JUL 22	TUE, JUL 23	WED, JUL 24	THU, JUL 25
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School Cell Phone Use Plan Stops Short of Ban

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A work group of parents and school staff as well as students have come up with a plan to manage student cell phone use during the school day and while the proposed plan comes short of a full ban on their use, there are restrictions.

The plan begins with administrators being allowed to use "system supported" cell phones for school-centered communication only, while system staff would refrain from using them while working with students.

High school students would be made to carry their cell phones in a deactivated and hidden state and could only access them during one lunch period, according to the proposed plan.

Middle school students would only be allowed to use their cell phones during the end of the school day.

Elementary students would have a "bell to bell ban" on cell phone use and their possession while at school would be discouraged.

The St. Mary's County Board of Education was briefed on the proposal at their July 17 meeting.

"Without cell phones in schools, students are achieving at higher levels," said Dr. Dale Farrell, schools chief of staff. "And their emotional wellbeing has improved greatly."

Virginia, Indiana, California and Florida have issued bans on cell phone use in schools.

"Some of our neighboring counties are going through the same processes that



we are," Farrell said. "Recently, Calvert County just issued a ban on their cell phones in schools."

Under current rules students can possess cell phones or other wireless devices but their use can be restricted or taken away if they disrupt normal operations.

Essentially, they must be turned off from the beginning through the end of the instructional day but there are some special circumstances under which a student could use them during class based on need.

A survey of staff, students and parents was issued to gauge their concerns on the issue; there have been more than 900 student responses and more than 2,500 responses

from parents.

"We are revisiting that regulation now and looking at revisions based on the findings of the work group," said Cheryl Long, director of Student Services. "People are interested in this hot topic and are still responding."

The survey showed that about one-third of middle school students use their cell phone in school every day, while almost 71 percent of high school students do the same.

Almost 70 percent of students were using their cell phones to send text messages, Farrell said, while 49.4 percent were using them for instructional applications.

About 40 percent reported browsing the internet on the phones while about 36 per-

cent admitted to using them to play games, the survey showed.

Almost 86 percent of parents and 69 percent of staff say students should not be allowed to use their cell phones during the instructional day, according to the survey, while 69 percent of students believed they should.

But even students admitted, Farrell said, that phones were a distraction from the school day and made social interactions harder.

"Students felt almost an emotional addiction or need for their cell phones," Long said of the work group's findings.

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School Resource Officer Funding Approved

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved this week a state grant funding package to continue the school resources officer program.

School resource officers are deputy sheriff's that are assigned to individual county public schools to office enhanced police protection against external threats as well as internal issues.

They also help foster good relations between students, staff and law enforcement.

The state grant program award is based on the number of schools in a county — 28 in total for St. Mary's — and the allocation from the state for fiscal 2025 is \$196,491, which requires a matching sum from the county of \$103,397.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt commented, when he heard the presentation from the sheriff's office chief finance officer Lottie

Bell and Capt. Shawn Moses, commented that the split between the state and county was about 60 percent to 40 percent.

"It's a good deal," Hewitt said.

There are six assigned, dedicated school resource officers, Moses told commissioners which allows the county's high schools and middle schools to be covered. Moses said there is one vacancy.

This leaves the protection of elementary schools to deputy sheriffs who take part in what is known as the "adopt a school" program, where they can volunteer to patrol elementary schools as part of their schedule.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said the county had already planned to match the state's grant funding amount to keep the program running.

"The money was already there [in the budget] to cover this grant," Colvin said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioner Calls for Public Outcry Over SMECO Rate Increase



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) wants to increase its electricity rates to customers by 11 percent and Commissioner Mike Alderson wants the community to push back on their request at a soon-to-be-held public hearing.

"11 percent can be a lot for a lot of people," Alderson said during commissioner time at their July 16 meeting in Leonardtown. "There's this huge push for electric everything; they don't want you gas [powered appliances], they want you to drive electric cars.

"But they're going to bump 11 percent to your average household."

That increase will hurt middle and upper-middle class residents but will most impact those with lower incomes.

"When you get down to the lower income levels, you're looking at a huge hardship," Alderson said. "Show up and make your voice heard."

Alderson said he hoped a public outcry against the proposed increase would cause SMECO to "dial it back a bit" on their request.

According to SMECO's application to the state's Public Service Commission (PSC),

the company proposes a rate increase of \$37.9 million.

SMECO serves approximately 176,000 residential, commercial and industrial customer-members in St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, July 23 at 7:00 p.m. at SMECO's Headquarters in Hughesville. The hearing will also have a virtual option for those unable to attend in person.

The commission will also accept written comments until August 2 which can be sent by mail or submitted electronically at <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>

Comments sent by mail should be addressed to: Jamie Bergin, Chief Clerk, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. So that they are noted in the proper case file, all comments should reference Case No. 9738.

To participate virtually, customers can sign up in advance to speak by sending an email to psc.pulj@gmail.com by noon on July 22.

To view the hearing remotely visit the Public Utility Law Judge's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/2X6wLiP>

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Association Watches Over Golden Beach Community



From left: Debbie Gunnell, Sherry and Dale Antosh, Carol Farle

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dale and Sherry Antosh, both in the mid-to-late-70s, are retired and live on a beautiful waterfront property in the Golden Beach/Patuxent Knolls community in north county.

They could choose to live out their golden years nestled away from most other people, but instead they have decided to be among the most civic-minded and active residents in their community.

Dale, 77, is president of the Golden Beach/Patuxent Knolls Civic Association and has been for about the past 10 years; Cheryl is a member of the board of directors.

Working with a core group of about 20 other executive committee and board members, their mission is a simple — but not easy — one.

“All we are is a group of concerned homeowners, all volunteers, who want to make this a better place to live,” Dale told The County Times.

It's a tall order considering the size of the community, approximately 1,200 homes with all kinds of issues coming to light throughout the year, whether they are neighbor disputes, residents misusing their property, complaints about speeding or the use of golf carts — which are now legal for such communities — by juveniles.

“People call us for everything,” Dale said. “If we can't help them, we try to point them

in the right direction.”

That usually is the county government or the sheriff's office, Dale said, but residents often feel more comfortable calling Dale and Sherry first because they know they will work to find a solution to the problem, even though they pay taxes for government services and no fees to be a member of the civic association.

There is a management company, BEMANCO, that charges \$28 a year for maintenance of the beach common areas and has done so since the community first started being developed in the 1960s.

At their age they still exhibit a lot of energy and enthusiasm for the work of keeping a community healthy and happy.

“It's because we care about this place,” Sherry said. “We try to get fun things for kids and families to do.”

This is where the duties of the civic association truly lay, Dale and Sherry said, in keeping the community connected.

The civic association sponsored activities include an annual kids' fishing tournament, an Easter egg hunt, an Independence Day fireworks show and parade, golf cart poker runs, a Christmas bazaar, ginger bread house contest, National Night Out and a community yard sale among others.

The events help raise funds for the civic association and provide enjoyment, and connection, for the community, they said.

The fireworks show costs upwards of



Fishing tournaments are among the many activities organized by the Civic Association each year.

\$10,000 each year alone and the success of the events often depends on the number of volunteers who come out to make it so, they said.

“We have a lot of people who do help,” Sherry said. “We're even getting younger people to help now, too.”

Dale taught public school for 35 years in Prince George's County before retiring, while Sherry worked for the General Service Administration, but both say they've never been busier.

The civic association can do little, Sherry said, to fix problems without contacting the county but she often finds herself being the one on the phone trying to find solutions to problems, whether its homes being used as vacation rentals and causing disturbances or, in one particular case, a resident who essentially tried to turn their property to an industrial use.

“I'm on the phone calling about the Airbnb's up the street,” Sherry said. “I'm the big mouth.”

Dale has also testified before the state government on the effects underwater oyster leases will have on residents' enjoyment of their own property and viewsheds.

“As far as our problems go, we just try to keep a close eye on things,” Dale said.

Carol Farley, the association's treasurer, said Dale's outgoing nature has helped him build networks that help the community better informed about what is going on around it, especially in dealing with encroaching

development and increasing traffic.

“He doesn't have to do some of the things he does,” Farley said. “But he tries to help [the community] as much as he can.”

“He used to teach school, so he knows how to talk to people.”

Perhaps the greatest challenge the civic association has, Farley said, is ensuring there are people willing to take the place of current members.

“Getting volunteers, we need plenty of help,” Farley said. “Especially since we're up in age.”

Debbie Gunnell, the association's vice president, praised Antosh's leadership.

“They are wonderful,” Gunnell said. “That's one of the reasons we moved here, because of the civic association and all the things it does.”

“They always put the community first; they're not hesitant to go find solutions.”

But their problems are outweighed, they said, by the beauty of living in Golden Beach with other people who feel the same way about their community.

“We stay busier now than we ever did when we were working,” Sherry said.

“What fills our life now is the civic association,” her husband said.

“And we love it,” she returned.

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Commissioners Pass Updated Animal Control Ordinance



DES Director Jennifer Aubert-Utz

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A controversial updated animal control ordinance introduced in the spring that had many local animal welfare advocates worried it would make finding homes for animals more difficult passed this week by unanimous vote of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Among the changes to the ordinance included an enhanced schedule of fines for those who violated the ordinance, a prohibition on feeding animals in county-owned park lands as well as the requirement for anyone owning more than five dogs to obtain a commercial kennel license.

Jennifer Aubert-Utz, director of the Department of Emergency Services (DES), which oversees the animal services division, said it was not the intention of animal control officers to patrol the county in search of violators to fine.

"It starts with education... and finding a pathway to come into compliance" with the new ordinance, Aubert-Utz told county commissioners.

The fines can reach a maximum of \$1,000 for repeated offenses, such as letting a dog run loose, but not for first-time offenses, Aubert-Utz attempted to reassure elected leaders.

A first offense is \$50, according to the ordinance.

"It's a deterrent," Commissioner Mike Hewitt said. "It helps to deter."

Aubert-Utz said the fine and fee schedule in the ordinance is based on the severity and frequency of violations.

Aubert-Utz said foster groups and regis-

tered rescue organizations would be exempt from the five-dog rule in the ordinance and military service people who give their dog or dogs to other people while they deploy would also receive special consideration.

"There is room for foster care," Aubert-Utz said. "There's room for us to work with these military families."

"We want them to come back home to that pet they adore."

But Commissioner Eric Colvin questioned what animal control officers would do with an owner who simply liked dogs and owned more than five.

Aside from obtaining a required license, Aubert-Utz said animal control officers would respond to such a home and help the owner find a way to rehome one or more of their dogs.

"Are we penalizing a pet owner to hold them to the same standard as a commercial kennel?" Colvin asked. "Those are two different things in my mind."

The DES director also said the prohibition against feeding animals — usually feral cats — on county park land was one of public safety.

"It comes down to health and sanitation concerns," she said. "It's another mess to clean up and it's a threat to our public health."

Aubert-Utz said the county would work with rescue organizations to still feed and care for such feral cat colonies — perhaps the best known is the one in Lexington Park. "We're not going to eradicate or chase these cats out," Aubert-Utz told commissioners.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

New Liquor License Approved Over Opposition

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county Alcohol Beverage Board approved a Class A beer, wine and liquor license for a new business that wants to start up in the First Colony Shopping Center in California.

This, despite some business owners protesting that the general area had enough liquor stores and did not need another.

The applicants argued on the behalf of their proposed business, First Colony Wine and Spirits, that the major shopping center had two anchor stores — a Target department store and a Giant grocery store — but no liquor store in the center itself.

Prakashkumar Patel and Milton Copsey, business partners in the First Colony venture, plan to make their business distinguished from other liquor stores by selling high-end, difficult-to-find-goods.

The proposed business would lie in the 8th election district and there are several liquor licenses still available to be had for that area of the county; the Alcohol Beverage Board strictly regulates the number of liquor licenses available in the county to prevent the proliferation of alcohol, especially to minors.

Eric Ford, a county resident who said he ran a liquor store, said the applicants “need to prove a need for them to be there.”

“I don’t think there is a need for one to be there,” Ford continued. “There are eight



Alcohol Beverage Board Member Richard Shin

liquor stores in a mile, most of them within a half mile.”

Ford said with the advent of legal cannabis, sales of alcohol were down throughout St. Mary’s.

“Bringing in another one [liquor store] is not going to help that,” Ford said.

About half-a-dozen liquor store owners rose in opposition to the new business; David Dent, president of the licensed beverage holders association for St. Mary’s, said

there was an “oversaturation of liquor stores in the area.”

“There’s approximately 12 liquor stores already,” Dent said, of the region between California to Lexington Park. “It’s an oversaturation of the market by adding a 13th liquor store to the area.”

Joe Johnson, a Mechanicsville resident, said the question before the beverage board was one of fairness.

“I’ve heard the word oversaturation used

with liquor stores,” Johnson said at the July 11 meeting in Leonardtown. “I’m sure none of these business owners would give up their operations due to oversaturation.”

“I’m not sure that would be fair to limit the opportunity for someone else.”

Board member Richard Shin said he understood that established businesses sometimes feared more competition, but it was not the place to the beverage board to stymie economic competition.

“I owned a coffee and alcohol shop and I didn’t want Starbucks coming in,” Shin said. “But that’s part of the competition.”

“It’s about entrepreneurship, it’s about capitalism... it’s part of what this nation is about.”

Board member George Anas was the only one of the four-member quorum to oppose the application for a license.

“My struggle is, we have a responsibility to the citizens of St. Mary’s County and to the business as a whole,” Anas said. “There are a lot of small businesses in the room and we should strive to protect those businesses.”

“I don’t think I’ve seen enough differentiation, so that I would support this application.”

The motion to approve the license passed 3-to-1.

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State's Attorney Secures Grant for Victims' Services



State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling. Photo by Ceandra Scott.

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling proudly announces the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) awarded the State's Attorney's Office for St. Mary's County a \$586,299 Victims of Crime Act grant for fiscal year 2025.

The grant funds will supplement the Victim Services Division of the State's Attorney's Office by funding eight positions within the Division for a seamless continuation of victim services. Specifically, the grant will enable the Office to preserve one Director, one Deputy Director, five Victim Witness Advocate Coordinators, and one Senior Legal Assistant. The grant will also provide opportunities for crime victims to receive mental health services and allow Victim/Witness Advocates to obtain training opportunities essential to their jobs.

Since the beginning of State's Attorney Sterling's administration, the Office has successfully secured a total of \$1,230,142 in grants dedicated to victim services for St. Mary's County. This, in combination with

other grants, brings the grand total of grant dollars received by the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office to \$1,428,692.

State's Attorney Sterling said, "These grants are vital to support the core functions, operations, and initiatives of our Office in providing critical programs and services to crime victims."

Sterling further emphasized the strategic utilization of external resources to enhance and expand crucial initiatives for crime victims in our County.

Jessika Hall, Grant Coordinator for the State's Attorney's Office, successfully wrote and prepared the competitive FY25 VOCA grant on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy funded this project under subaward number VOCA-2023-0023. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency.

NAS Patuxent River Sets Noise Advisory for Webster Field



Communities surrounding Webster Outlying Field Webster and Naval Air Station Patuxent River are advised of a scheduled increase in aircraft flight activities associated with the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School training from Aug. 1 to Aug. 16, 2024.

As with all operations, NAS Patuxent River takes precautions to lessen the impact of testing activities on the community. For more information, call 1-866-819-9028. To view all current NAS PAX noise advisories please click the following link: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/PaxRiverNoise>.

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Appeals Board Approves Hollywood Townhouse Project



Artist's rendering of the planned townhouses

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

An 18-townhouse project proposed for Hollywood and approved earlier by the county planning commission but needed a key variance from the zoning ordinance got it from the county zoning appeals board last week.

The Villages at Clarks Mill is proposed for construction on Mervell Dean Road as a relatively high-density project that could only go forward if it met a requirement of 50 percent of its total area was reserved for open space.

The project would be built on 3.7 acres.

The developer of the project, FDR Holdings LLC, though, requested a variance to allow for just 20 percent of the project being dedicated to open space.

The appeals board also granted a vari-

ance to the developer that would reduce the required buffer yard on the south side of the property from 65-feet to just 32.5 feet.

The project is envisioned to be an addition to the limited stock of more affordable housing stock for young professionals and their families.

Several county residents sent letters to the Board of Appeals supporting the project.

But others sent in comments that the project would over-crowding the property, and the number of homes should be reduced from 18.

The five members of the appeals board who heard the case at their July 11 hearing all voted in favor of the variances.

The planning commission approved the concept site plan for the project in May.

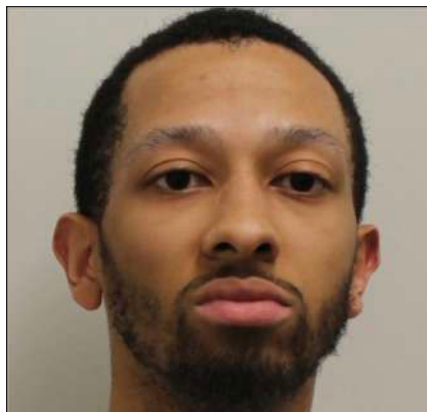
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Sex Assault Suspect Arrested

On July 10, 2024, Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office began investigating the report of an assault on two women in Lexington Park by an unknown male who also purportedly exposed himself during the incident.

On July 11, new video evidence and information obtained by Deputies indicated that the original allegations were factually inaccurate. Deputies established that at approximately 8:15 p.m., on July 10, while walking near FDR Boulevard and South Shangri-La Drive, a single female victim was assaulted by a male suspect who made nonconsensual sexual contact with her. The victim pushed the suspect away, and he then displayed an edged weapon in a threatening manner. The victim was able to leave the area without further interaction with the suspect. Video surveillance showed no other victims and no exposure of genitals by the suspect, as was alleged.

Malik Antwann Price, 21, of Lexington Park, was identified as a suspect, located, and



Malik Antwann Price

arrested on July 11. Price was transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with First-Degree Assault, Second-Degree Assault, and 4th Degree Sex Offense.

The investigation into the disparities of the original statements given by the two females is ongoing.

Mechanicsville Man Convicted of First-Degree Murder

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that following a four-day trial, a St. Mary's County jury convicted Marvin Orlando Johnson, 39, of Mechanicsville, Maryland of first-degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence for the premeditated shooting and killing of his stepfather.

On May 24, 2023, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence on Three Notch Road in Mechanicsville, Maryland for a report of a male victim suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. The victim was immediately pronounced deceased by responding law enforcement officers who observed the victim appeared to have been shot in the head while he was sleeping.

The Defendant will be held without bond pending a sentencing hearing where he faces a maximum penalty of Life plus twenty years in prison.

"My hope is the verdict provides peace and a sense of justice for this family who are living with the unimaginable nightmare of a beloved family member murdered at the hands of another family member," said State's Attorney Sterling. "I would like to thank the members of the law enforcement



Marvin Orlando Johnson

and prosecutorial team who worked diligently in the successful investigation and prosecution of this tragic homicide."

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Jeff Maylor and Assistant State's Attorney Zach Varda prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Andrew Burgess of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Amy Lorenzini presided over the case.

Registration Opens for 2024 Citizens Academy

Free Program Offers Inside Look at County Government Operations

St. Mary's County Government is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2024 session of Citizens Academy!

Citizens Academy provides participants with the opportunity to learn more about county government programs and services. The 2024 academy will run from September 3, 2024, to November 5, 2024. Classes will be held for the first 8 weeks on Tuesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. Participants are required to attend at minimum 7 of the 8 class sessions. Week 9 offers optional attendance (in-person or virtual) to the Commissioner's quarterly public forum. The program will culminate with a recognition ceremony during the Commissioner's meeting on November 5.

"At St. Mary's County Government, we strive for transparency and community engagement in everything we do," said David Weiskopf, County Administrator. "This program gives our residents a chance to learn more about our county government programs and services, and how to get involved. The academy class fills every year, so don't hesitate to register!"

Citizens Academy is open to St. Mary's County residents, 18 years of age and older and limited to 25 participants. This program is free, but advance registration is required to participate; the deadline to register is 5 p.m. on Friday, August 23, 2024.

To register, or for more information, including the full list of 2024 session topics, dates, and locations, please visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/ca.

Topics covered in Citizens Academy include County Administration, Economic Development, Recreation & Parks, Land Use & Growth Management, Public Works & Transportation, Emergency Services, as well as information from our partners at the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, St. Mary's County Health Department, St. Mary's County Library, the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, and the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission (MetCom).

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1340.

Striped Bass Fishing Closed Through July 31



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reminds recreational anglers that targeting striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries is prohibited from July 16 through July 31.

This closure is necessary to protect the species, because when water and air temperatures rise in the hottest part of summer, fish are more vulnerable to dying after being caught and released.

While recent research has suggested that environmental factors, such as warm winters and low water flows are significant factors influencing spawning success, the summer closure of the recreational striped bass fishery is one of several management measures the department implemented to protect the resident stock of striped bass and decrease overall mortality in Chesapeake Bay.

Recent heat waves in Maryland have already triggered nearly a dozen "red flag" advisory days when anglers are encouraged not to fish for striped bass after 10 a.m. The Striped Bass Summer Fishing Advisory Forecast is an awareness campaign aimed at reducing striped bass mortality during the summer fishing season when catch-and-

release fishing is allowed.

A midseason closure was introduced in 2020 and aims to protect fish during the weeks when weather conditions cause stress on striped bass and the chance of death from catch and release is high. Recreational dead discards, when a fish dies after being caught and returned to the water, accounted for 21% of total fishing-related striped bass deaths in the Bay in the most recent stock assessment data published in 2022.

During the closure, DNR officials encourage anglers to pursue other fish instead of striped bass, such as invasive blue catfish and Chesapeake Channa, also known as snakehead, by using different fishing methods than those used for striped bass. These invasive species have no bag or size limits and their harvest contributes to a healthier ecosystem in the Bay. Tips and methods for fishing blue catfish can be found on the DNR website.

The Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery will reopen from August 1 through December 10, at which time anglers may keep one striped bass per person, per day, with a minimum length of 19 inches and a maximum length of 24 inches.

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Letters to the Editor

'Immature and unprofessional'

I've seen a good amount of support for Brandie Edelen, a candidate running for the At-Large position on the St. Mary's County Board of Education. Edelen talks about her background and experience in education so I was really considering her as a candidate. I always try to vote for the right person in the right position. After last week, I'm rethinking my decision.

The local teachers union, EASMC, released their endorsements. I wasn't aware until Edelen posted on Facebook that EASMC "voted against endorsing" her. Later, she shared a meme suggesting education unions are causing "rot" in the school system.

EASMC "does not care about the students... Who on earth in their right mind would be proud to endorse a 21-year-old kid who lives with his parents and has no children?? God help our county," Edelen

wrote.

Needless to say, I was surprised to see this response from a candidate touting her experience, knowledge, and wisdom. Edelen's temperament over losing an endorsement is immature and unprofessional. EASMC members vote on endorsements. So not only is she insulting her opponent, she's also insulting educators who are constituents she may represent.

If elected, will Edelen act this way if other board members disagree with her? Can she manage a respectful relationship with necessary partners, like the Commissioners and EASMC? Endorsements are nice, but voters don't rely on them. I look for the candidate who earns my vote, not the one who feels entitled to it.

*Phillip Wentz
California, MD*

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your name & town of residence.

Email: aldailey@countytimes.net | P.O. Box 250 Hollywood, MD 20636



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Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Ordinance No. 224

The Leonardtown Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 12, 2024 at 4:15 pm at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD to hear comments on Ordinance No. 224 Amendment to Zoning Map-to incorporate properties recently annexed into municipal boundaries.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. on August 12, 2024 to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN Treasurer/Assistant Town Administrator Position Available

The Town of Leonardtown is accepting resumes for a full-time Treasurer/Assistant Town Administrator position. Leonardtown is a fast-growing and active Town with great opportunity for potential professional growth for this position. Responsibilities involve complex professional, administrative and management duties in providing daily oversight of ongoing town activities. The Treasurer/Assistant Administrator will work directly with the Mayor and Town Administrator overseeing the day-to-day operations of Town Government. The Treasurer/Assistant Administrator is the chief financial officer for the Town.

A degree in accounting or public administration or related field or any equivalent combination of experience and training is required. Individuals with knowledge of governmental fund accounting and financial audit statements and reporting, municipal management and municipal government programs will be given priority. The minimum annual starting salary is \$95,000 based on experience.

Send resume and three professional references to:

Laschelle McKay, Commissioners of Leonardtown,
POB 1, 22670 Washington Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Or email Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov.

Deadline to apply is August 9, 2024.

Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has been abandoned for more than 180 days on the property of: Janet Teeple Muller, 143 Peach Grove Lane, Clear Brook, VA 22624. Her phone number is 540 974-4024. The vessel is described as:

Boat Registration Number: MD1968 CB
Hull Identification Number: MDZ50389J773
Vessel Name: Graf Spee
Builder: O'Day, Dragonfly Sailboats
Length: 17'
Color: Green

Application for title will be made in accordance with Sections 8-722 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article if this vessel is not claimed and removed from the above property within 30 days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Address: 45840 Highway to Heaven Ln., Great Mills, MD 20634

Time: 11:00 AM Local Time

By virtue of default by Silk Route Transportation, LLC (Individually and collectively "Client"), under a Negotiable Promissory Note and Security Agreement(s), Security Agreement(s) Promissory Note(s), Lease Agreement(s) and related documents dated March 8, 2022, payable to Commercial Credit Group Inc. ("CCG"), which obligation is secured by the property described below (the "Equipment"), CCG will sell at Public Auction, to the highest bidder, AS-IS, WHERE-IS, WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR ANY WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, all of its right, title and interest to the following Equipment:

One (1) 2018 Volvo VNL64T860 Sleeper Tractor VIN: 4V4NC9EH0JN899970

Terms: Successful bidder must pay 25% of purchase price at time of sale via cash, certified or acceptable bank check, with the balance payable in good funds on the next business day, unless:

1. The bidder has pre-qualified by presenting CCG with a written non-contingent, lending commitment from a source and in a form acceptable to CCG in its sole discretion, in which case we will entertain bids up to the amount of such written commitment; or
2. The bidder has obtained from CCG written credit approval in advance of the scheduled public sale.

CCG reserves the right to bid at the sale. Contact Adam Clough at (716) 353-7537 for additional information or to arrange an inspection of the Equipment.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Ghost Wolves of UX-24 Change Command

Cmdr. Michael Mabrey was relieved by Cmdr. Tyler Hurst as commanding officer of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (UX) 24 during a change of command ceremony on Jul. 11 at Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

Naval Test Wing Atlantic Commodore Capt. Elizabeth Somerville presided over the ceremony.

"When you talk to Cmdr. Mabrey about this command, it is immediately apparent just how proud he is to be a part of this Wolf Pack," said Somerville. "UX-24 has set the example for a strong culture of military and civilian collaboration, which is the very foundation of what makes Naval developmental flight test second to none in this business. Cmdr. Hurst is absolutely the right commanding officer to continue this legacy, and I am very much looking forward to seeing the Ghost Wolf team continue to thrive under his leadership."

Hurst, a native of Bakersfield, California, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) in 2004 and was designated a naval aviator in 2006. He flew the F/A-18E Super Hornet operationally and conducted developmental flight test on the F/A-18A-F and EA-18G in the Airborne Electronic Attack and Carrier Suitability Departments at VX-23. Hurst reported to UX-24 as the chief test pilot in February of 2023. He has flown more than 2,500 hours in 34 different aircraft and has over 600 carrier arrested landings.

"I am incredibly excited for this opportunity," said Hurst. "We have our work cut out for us as we advance UAS capabilities and continue breaking down barriers to fully integrate UAS with manned platforms in Naval Aviation."

UX-24 also welcomed Lt. Col. Jason Noll as the squadron's next chief test pilot. Noll flew the MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor in the fleet with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadrons (VMM) 561, 265, 262, and 161, and as a developmental test pilot at HX-21.

The ceremony was attended by more than 200 family, friends, aviators, and engineers who have served or followed alongside Mabrey and Hurst during their careers. An MQ-8 Fire Scout, MQ-9 Reaper, and several smaller unmanned aerial vehicles were on



Cmdr. Michael Mabrey addresses the audience at the change of command ceremony.

display in the hangar.

Mabrey welcomed his wife, children, and parents to celebrate his three years of service at UX-24.

"It's been a sincere privilege to be a part of the Ghost Wolf Pack for nearly three years—there is no finer team of UAS testers in the naval service," said Mabrey. "They are all in on getting winning UAS and counter-UAS capability to the fleet, and their work will only get more important in the years ahead as unmanned and autonomous systems blanket the battlespace providing overwatch, and supporting fires for the fleet."

Mabrey, a native of Missouri, graduated from the USNA in 2005 and earned his wings of gold in October 2009. He flew the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet operationally, instructed in the F/A-18A-F, and conducted developmental test in the F/A-18A-F, EA-18G, and T-45C. He has flown over 1,900 hours in 30 different types of fixed and rotary wing manned and unmanned aircraft.

During his time serving at UX-24, Mabrey led the squadron in numerous accomplishments to advance unmanned aviation and support fleet operators.

For the MQ-8 Fire Scout, UX-24 supported the fleet through safety pauses to expedite investigations for return to flight, stood up the first Fire Scout detachment in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility, conducted high risk ship suitability testing to expand operating envelopes, and tested optically based passive shipboard recovery systems.

Blackjack and supporting initial prototyping for the Medium Aerial Resupply Vehicle - Expeditionary Logistics program.

The Counter UAS department conducted simultaneous test of five systems while also supporting a host of external customers.


The squadron's RQ-23 Tigershark UAS served as a flexible payload asset allowing testing of a variety of sensor suites and providing an invaluable training tool for the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School systems syllabus.

UX-24 also stood up a Collaborative Combat Aircraft program in coordination with the U.S. Air Force and Australian allies to develop unmanned assets for the Air Wing of the Future.

Mabrey moves on to the Navy's F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) at the Naval Air Systems Command.


UX-24 is a component of Naval Test Wing Atlantic, under Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division. With facilities in Patuxent River, Maryland; Lakehurst, New Jersey; and Orlando, Florida NAWCAD advances capability and operational readiness for naval aviation and our warfighters.




For more information about NAWCAD, please go to www.navair.navy.mil or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MyNAWCAD/>.



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Leonardtown Music Festival Presents Cover Your Six

A Military Appreciation Concert



Calling all veterans and service members! Join us for an evening of honor, music, and gratitude at our Military Appreciation Concert at the Leonardtown Wharf on Sunday, July 21st from 5 pm – 7 pm. It's time to celebrate YOU and all that you've done for our country. The On the Water's Edge Concert features Cover Your Six, a band composed of military veterans. This event is generously sponsored by Jimmy Hayden, Realtor of RE/MAX 100 and Homes for Heroes.

In addition to live music, attendees can participate in raffles & giveaways, purchase and enjoy tasty eats from the Ye Olde Towne Cafe, award-winning wine from the Port of Leonardtown Winery, beer from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, sweet treats from the Frog Town Ice Cream Shop and participate in yard activities and games.

Attendees will be able to join in the fun by land or water – catch FREE shuttle rides on the Leonardtown Trolley provided by Patuxent Transportation courtesy of the Commissioners of Leonardtown from the Leonardtown Square down to the Wharf (the trolley is scheduled to run from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.) or pull up to the Town's new slips and enjoy the music with friends right from your boat. Land lovers, please bring your own lawn chair or blanket for your comfort.

Join us for an amazing evening of music On the Water's Edge at the Leonardtown Wharf this Sunday. Find other exciting concerts around Town from now until October and be sure to join us for a fabulous summer of music in Leonardtown!

For more information about this and other exciting concerts in Leonardtown visit: VisitLeonardtownMD.com/LeonardtownMusicFest.

Farmers Feeding St. Mary's Events Announced

From local farmers to your plate! The third annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community.

There will be two food distribution dates/locations for this program:

- **Thursday, August 15, 2024**
1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
46900 S. Shangri-La Dr
Lexington Park
- **Saturday, September 7, 2024**
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
U-Haul Moving & Storage parking lot
46041 Signature Lane
Lexington Park

A variety of fresh produce, such as corn, tomatoes, squash, and more will be avail-

able at each event! In addition to produce, frozen meat will be available at the event on September 7.

Family units will be limited to one box of produce per event. Food distribution will continue until the event's end time or until produce runs out.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, Feed St. Mary's, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture & Natural Resources are pleased to offer this valuable community event!

For more information, call (301) 475-4200, ext. 1073, or visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/FFSM.

Historic Drayden Schoolhouse to Offer More Open Houses

St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, in partnership with the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC), will be offering even more free open houses for visitors and the community at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse. In addition to the first Saturday of each month, the site will also be open the third Saturday of each month through October, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open house dates for the remainder of 2024 include July 20; August 3 and 17; September 7 and 21; and October 5 and 19.

The Drayden African American Schoolhouse is one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses, and its story represents a significant part of St. Mary's County's African American history. Visitors are invited to learn more about the restored schoolhouse, its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Hear the real stories about how African American students learned in this school up until the mid-20th century.

Volunteers will be available on site during the open houses to share stories about the schoolhouse's history with visitors. All ages are welcome, and admission is free.

The St. Mary's County Museum Division also offers special programs



for school, bus, and other tour groups who would like to schedule a visit to the Drayden site. Individual visitors who would like to see the schoolhouse during times outside open house hours can contact the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum at (301) 994-1471. For more information about the Drayden African American Schoolhouse open houses, programs, and more, visit the Drayden African American Schoolhouse Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/DraydenSchool.

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How strong is your emergency fund?

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To do that, you can build an emergency fund to pay for unexpected expenses, some of which may be sizable. Without one, you might be forced to dip into your investments, possibly including your retirement accounts, such as your IRA or 401(k). If this happens, you might have to pay taxes and penalties, and you'd be withdrawing dollars that could otherwise be growing over time to help pay for your retirement.

In thinking about such a fund, consider these questions:

- *How much should I save?* The size of your emergency fund should be based on several factors, including your income, your spouse's income and your cost of living. However, for most people in their working years, three to six months of total expenses is adequate. Once you're retired, though, you may want to keep up to a year's worth of expenses in your emergency fund — because you don't want to be forced to cash out investments when their price may be down, and you may not be replenishing these accounts any longer.
- *How can I build an emergency fund?* Given all your normal expenses — mortgage, utilities, food, transportation and others — you might find it challenging to set aside some extra money in an emergency fund. But you do have opportunities. If you're working, you could set up a direct deposit so that part of your paycheck goes directly into your emergency fund. You could also save a portion of any extra income you receive, such as bonuses and tax refunds.
- *Where should I keep the money?* An emergency fund has two key requirements: You need to be able to access the money immediately and you need to count on a certain amount being available. So, it's a good idea to keep your emergency fund in a liquid, low-risk account that offers protection of principal. For this fund, you're less interested in growth than you are in stability. But because interest rates have recently changed, you may be able to get a reasonable return without sacrificing liquidity or safety.
- *What types of emergencies should I prepare for?* Your emergency fund could be needed for any number of events: a job loss or early retirement, housing or auto repairs, unreimbursed medical bills, unexpected travel, and so on. But this fund may also be needed to help you cope with other threats. Consider this: In 2023, the U.S. saw a record 28 weather and climate disasters, each of which resulted in at least \$1 billion in damages — and often many times this amount — according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Depending on where you live, your home or business may be susceptible to tornadoes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes and extreme heat and cold waves. These events can, and do, result in property repair and relocation costs, higher insurance premiums and even price increases for basic goods, such as groceries and prescription medications.

One final word about an emergency fund: It takes discipline to maintain it and to avoid tapping into it for everyday expenses or impulse purchases. The name says it all — this is a fund that should only be used for emergencies. By keeping it intact until it's truly needed, you can help yourself weather many of the storms that may come your way.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Nothing Like a Good Cozy



I've never been an expert in anything, not even close, but recently I received a message from the administrator of our cozy mystery book Facebook group of about 2,600 people that I had been made, along with eight others, a group expert. I was so excited! At 63 I am finally an expert in something, even if it is just for discussing cozy mysteries. We have our own little "Group Expert" messenger group which is fun. My life must have changed a lot from really exciting days to now being thrilled by being important in a social media group.

The pressure will be on during my middle of the night Facebook forays to say something that might be construed as brilliant or coherent for the group's page. I just realized that is not likely to happen. I do need to catch up on writing author's book reviews which many members try to do weekly or monthly.

There are wonderful author interviews with video or just questions and answers, and I love the book giveaways. I've been lucky a few times to receive an author's book. Yes, this may not be exciting to some, but to a complete book lover and chain reader (one book right after another) this is nirvana. The giveaways are fun ways for an author to entice you to buy and read the rest of the series.

We also have a separate group within the group called "The Book Angels". When someone is ill or doesn't have a way to get books for a while then the book angels go into action sending book care packages usually with some goodies as well. I was a recipient of one of those care packages when my husband and I had a long bout of Covid a couple of years ago. Now, I have books boxed and ready to go out to someone else.

There are also book-related bingo cards where you win things, bookmark swaps, and Christmas card swaps, and so many other things. It is one of those rare Facebook pages where there haven't been any incidents of meanness. I leave those groups quickly. Facebook definitely has many problems and bad scammers, but there are also some wonderful things like the book groups and keeping up with family and friends.

I am a member of several mystery book groups, and they have all been wonderful. Another cozy mystery page I really enjoy also has the recipes from the authors put in the back pages of their books...no not the recipe that killed people in their book. Over the years, I have tried many of these recipes. Last night I made two Facebook recipes which were really good. Unfortunately, or maybe not, many of the recipes are amazing desserts since quite a lot of cozy series are set in bakeries, restaurants, or chocolate stores. You can gain a lot of extra pounds just reading the books and more if you actually make the desserts.

Classic mysteries, suspense, police/FBI procedurals, and psychological thrillers are other favorites of mine, though sometimes they are a few, like in the psychological thrillers that are too much for me in the graphic nature of the crimes. These types of books are the "once in a while in between the cozy mystery" books. One novel by Jeffrey Deaver (which I cannot remember exactly which one because I've read so many) was so graphic in one chapter that I had to stop reading it for a few weeks, and even then when I re-started it had to quickly skim the chapter to get on with the story. Jeffrey Deaver also wrote The Bone Collector which was made into a major movie. There are a few other novels that have stopped me for a bit, like Verity by Colleen Hoover. I almost stopped breathing in many parts, but finally did finish it.

Books can make you think, question, open you up to new ideas, horrify you, or calm and soothe you. I read from all those categories, but I always come back to my cozies which have been bringing me comfort since the 1960s from authors such as Dorothy Gilman with her Mrs. Pollifax series and Lillian Jackson Braun who wrote The Cat Who...books. As soon as my father was done with a book or any genre or age level he handed it off to me. I am forever grateful.

To each new day's reading adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to aldailey@countytimes.net by noon on Tuesdays for publication on Thursdays. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

In Remembrance

Dick Waul, 79



Walter Waul Jr., aka Dick, was born on February 2, 1945, in Calvert County, Maryland to the late Thelma and Walter Wall Sr. He was the second oldest of nine children. On June

26, 2024, at the age of 79, surrounded by his family at his bedside, he was called home.

Dick received his education from the Calvert County Public School system. On June 5, 1965, he married Octavia Gantt, and they had four children: April Fenwick, Amanda Price, Walter and Wayne Waul. After their divorce, they continued to have a great and lovely friendship. Dick then became a lifelong partner to the late Gail Waters and was a bonus father to her children, Monique Hutchins, and Anthony and Andre Butler.

Dick worked as a construction worker, an underground electrician and a pipe worker for several companies including Thomas Hance, Joe Mosey, Marty-Cow and for his brother Tim Waul Sr. At the age of 62, he decided it was time to give up his hardworking skills and retire. Dick was a member of the American Legion Gray Ray Post 220 and Sons of the Legion.

Before his illness, you could find him fishing, playing cards and talking the breeze with family and friends. If the television was on, you better bet he was watching Western TV shows, his Baltimore Orioles baseball team and the Washington Commanders football team.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Mother Thelma and District Elder Walter Wall; grandparents, Rosey Harrod and George Wall, and Hattie Commodore and John Wallace; great granddaughter, Naomi Wills; special friends, Octavia "Tay" Gantt, Margaret "Gail" Waters, and Kim Briscoe; bonus daughter, Monique "Nicky" Hutchins; brother, Malcom Waul; sister, Lilly Commodore; Aunts, Vertie Wall, Ruth, Blanche, Susie, Hattie. Carrie and Annie; Uncles, John Commodore, John and Joe Wall, Woodrow Wallace Sr., Winsco "Dickie", Cephas Wallace, and Clarence "Big Jim" Johnson.

Dick leaves to cherish his memories and love to his children, April "Lisa" Fenwick (Mark), Amanda Price (James), Walter "Mojoe" Waul (Kathy), and Wayne Waul; bonus children, Anthony "Tony" Butler (Debbie) and Andre "Blue" Butler; 17 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 9 great-great grandchildren; 8 bonus grandchildren and 3 bonus great-grandchildren; goddaughter, Eureka "Reka" Bourne; siblings, Alberta Gross (Lorenzo), Jeannette Chew (Marvin), Christine Waul, Timothy Waul (Ruth), Marcia Harris (Leonard), and Lisa Waul; sister-in-law, Myra Waul; brother-in-law, Dorsey Commodore; Aunts, Helen Harrod, Rosemary Johnson, Bertha Wallace and Selestia Wall; uncles, Calvin "Sunny" Wallace, and Louis and Edward Wall; special friends, The Hutchins Family; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends on Saturday,

July 13, 2024 from 11:00 to 12:00 noon with a funeral service at 12:00 noon, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Alfred Wood, 85



Alfred Eugene Wood, 85, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully on July 14, 2024 in his home on the farm that his great grandmother bought in 1916.

He was the son to the late Sidney M. Wood Sr. and Mildred Ann Pilkerton Wood. As a child, he grew up on Forest Hall Farm in an 18th century Georgian Colonial house helping the family to grow tobacco.

At an early age, Alfred honed the skills needed to raise and produce an oversized garden that created a produce stand called "Plantation Produce" in the 1970's and 1980's. He then moved on to planting apple trees and ran "Plantation Apples" from 1985 to 2001. He continued his oversized garden well into his eighties, generously giving extra produce to his family and friends, as well as to the Mt. Zion Food Pantry where he often volunteered his time.

In April of 1960, he married Mary Jean Grove at Immaculate Conception Church in Mechanicsville. Together they raised six children as Alfred worked fifty-two years as a meat cutter with Safeway and McKay's Grocery Stores. They were married for 47 years until Jean's passing. Alfred married Barbara Jean Swartz in 2009.

Alfred is survived by his wife, Barbara Jean Wood of 15 years; his children Thomas Wood (Cheryl) of California, MD; Joe Wood (Vicki) of Troutdale, VA; Robert Wood (Lisa) of West Orville, MD; Jason Wood (Sandra) of Mechanicsville, MD; Loretta Moats (Walter) of Cheraw, SC; 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his children's mother, Mary Jean Wood; daughter, Brenda L. Manzie; and grandchildren, Christopher and Taylor.

The family will receive friends for Alfred's Life Celebration on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with prayers celebrated at 7:00 p.m. at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A funeral service will be celebrated by Rev. Corey Sharpe on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 27108 Mt. Zion Church Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. Interment will follow at Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers will be Alfred's sons Robert Wood, Joe Wood, Jason Wood, Tommy Wood, and grandsons James Wood and Mike Wood.

Memorial contributions may be made in Alfred's name to Hospice of St. Mary's, PO Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or

Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, PO Box 15, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

Condolences to the family may be made to www.mgfh.com.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

John Sothoron, 74



John B. Sothoron, 74, a long-time resident of Lexington Park, MD and Keuka Lake, NY passed away on June 28, 2024, after spending his last day surrounded

by his loving family. John was born in Leonardtown, November 22, 1949. He was the third of four children. His parents were Jane Bennett Sothoron and Norwood Spencer Sothoron. He grew up in the tiny village of Charlotte Hall, MD and attended Charlotte Hall Military Academy, a school that he loved and often told stories about in his later years. He then went on to Towson State College where he earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration. He also played lacrosse and was the team's goalie. He earned All-American honors with the Tigers, and established friendships there that have

lasted over 50 years. While in college John met Mary (Keller) in 1969. They were married in 1973 and shared an amazing love for one another that lasted for over 50 years.

Following college they returned to live in southern Maryland. John coached lacrosse at St. Mary's College of Maryland from 1975-1981 and during that time, won two Tri-State Conference championships. He was named coach of the year for that league in 1979. In 1981 he left St. Mary's to be an assistant coach at the University of Pennsylvania. He loved the job but disliked the city and returned to St. Mary's. They raised three sons, Jay (Kate) of Dallas, Reed (Liz) of Baltimore and Tyler, of New Orleans. In the following years he owned a restaurant on Solomons Island and after selling Harbor Lights, he started his own a custom home business, Sothoron Homes, Inc. It had been his dream for a long time to do that. He built custom homes for people all over St. Mary's and Calvert County for 30 years.

After he left the University of Pennsylvania, he thought he was finished with coaching. However, that was not to be. In 1989 two boys from St. Mary's Ryken called him and asked him if he would help them start a lacrosse program at the school. He said yes, he would help them get it started

Continued on page 18

MATTINGLEY ~
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and CREMATION SERVICES, P.A.

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Leonardtown, MD 20650

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Independent
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MEMBER
Cremation Association of North America

Continued from page 17

but once established he would turn it over to someone else. He launched the lacrosse program at SMR in 1989 as coach, and was still there in 2015 when he retired. He brought that program to prominence in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference. The team was well respected in the conference, and they won the WCAC championship in 2007. John received many accolades in the lacrosse world but the most important thing to him was the young men he coached and teaching them to "Be the Best".

After retirement from building and lacrosse the Sothorons enjoyed their grandchildren, traveled, enjoyed their many friends and spent the summers at their second home on Keuka Lake, one of the Finger Lakes in upstate New York. John enjoyed his prize winning, antique 1954 Cris Craft wooden boat.

John was diagnosed with a rare type of blood cancer in August of 2023. He enjoyed the time left with his family, traveled to visit his sons, went to lacrosse games, and went to Keuka Lake, his heaven on earth.

In addition to his wife, and sons, John is survived by three siblings, Cokie Sothoron, of Youngsville, NC, Peggy Wormwood, of Davidsonville, MD and Kenny Sothoron, of Mechanicsville, MD; and two grandchildren with a third on the way.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for August 25th at 12:00pm in the Donnie Williams Athletic Center at St. Mary's Ryken, 22600 Camp Calvert Rd. in Leonardtown.

Betsy Lee, 81



Bessie Ann "Betsy" Lee, 81, of St. Mary's County, MD, formerly of Easley, SC, passed away on June 13, 2024, at her home. Born on November 20, 1942, in Salem, SC, she was the daughter of the late Inez Frona Cannon Ramey and Steven Elisha Ramey. Betsy is survived by her daughter, Judy Reabe (Bart) of Hollywood, MD, two grandchildren Ashley White (Matthew), Megan Foster (Tyler), and one great grandchild, Lilliann. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Bonnie Waddell, Willie Ramey, Willis Ramey, and Essie Dale Ramey.

Betsy moved to from Easley, SC to St. Mary's County, MD in 2019, and was a customer service representative for Walmart, retiring after 25 years of service. She enjoyed a fulfilling career at Walmart for 25 years; her hard work and dedication were evident in her many awards and accomplishments. Outside of work she cherished her friends at Victory Woods and looked forward to Wii bowling every week and enjoyed sewing.

Betsy was deeply loved by her family, including her grandchildren, great grandchild, and her beloved four-legged grandchildren, Shadow and Charlie.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM at Victory Woods Apartments, Lexington Park, MD. A Graveside Service will be held on July 19, 2024, at 3:00 PM in Greenlawn Memorial Park, Easley, SC.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be

made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Kay Aud, 76



Katherine "Kay" Mattingly Aud, 76, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away June 21, 2024, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital with her loving family at her side.

She was born Oct. 10, 1947, in Leonardtown, the daughter of George A. Mattingly Sr. and Elizabeth "Betty Wise" Duke Mattingly.

Kay was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. She attended St. Mary's Academy. After raising her four children with then-husband Charles E. Aud Sr., she began working at The Cabbage Patch children's store in St. Mary's Square in Lexington Park. She later opened Great Mills Video and the Odds & Ends gift shop in Great Mills.

She then opened the Christmas Shop on the Square in Leonardtown with her mother. They enjoyed trips several times a year to Williamsburg, VA, to purchase inventory for the store, which carried gift items that changed with the seasons and the holidays. She loved decorating at home as well -- decorations, knick-knacks, door wreaths and outdoor flags for every occasion.

Kay also worked as a receptionist at Century 21 New Millennium in Lexington Park.

She stepped up to take care of family members throughout her life. After retirement, Kay devoted all of her time to doing just that, often caring for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They loved their "Nina." She will be remembered for her kind and caring nature.

Kay most enjoyed time spent at the family's beach house at Cornfield Harbor -- her "happy place." Being at the cottage along the Potomac River put her at peace and brought her so much joy. Family could always count on gatherings there from Memorial Day until Labor Day and even later in the year, weather permitting. But she enjoyed being there regardless of the weather.

She is survived by her children Charles Edward Aud Jr. and his wife Jody of Mount Airy, MD, George Matthew Aud of Great Mills, Lisa Marie Aud of Ormond by the Sea, FL, and Amy Michelle Aud of Great Mills; grandchildren Ryan Duke Aud of San Francisco, CA, Morgan Emily Aud of Baltimore, and Madison Aud and Hannah Aud of Mount Airy, MD; great-grandchildren Alyiah Russell of Prince Frederick and Marley Aud of Piney Point; sister Angela Mattingly Breck and her partner Andrew J. Scott of La Plata; and nephews Andrew Mattingly of Charlotte Hall and Chris Breck of Mount Airy.

She was predeceased by her parents. Her brother George A. Mattingly Jr. of Leonardtown passed away two weeks after his sister.

Family will receive friends on Monday, July 15, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a Memorial Service celebrated by Reverend Joe Orlando at 5 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road,

Leonardtown, MD, 20650.

Memorial contributions in Kay's name may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, 44724 Hospice Lane, Callaway, MD 20620.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

George Mattingly, 73



George Aloysius Mattingly Jr., 73, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away July 5, 2024, at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., of complications

from lung cancer.

He was born Dec. 6, 1950, in Washington, D.C., the son of George A. Mattingly Sr. and Elizabeth "Betty Wise" Duke Mattingly.

George graduated from Chopticon High School in 1969.

He served in the National Guard and the Army in the early 1970s. After the service, he moved to Garrett County where he worked at the Wisp ski resort and the Coca Cola Bottling Plant. He returned to Southern Maryland in 1978.

George was an auto body technician for more than 40 years. He worked at several car dealerships and body shops in Leonardtown and Lexington Park before operating his own business in Great Mills.

He had a love of cars that began when he was a child. He watched his father and his uncle Nace Mattingly race cars and spent lots of time hanging around garages learning all he could about cars. He joined some of his cousins as they took up drag racing as a hobby and raced their own cars at local tracks such as Aquasco Speedway and Maryland International Raceway. He raced on and off for 20-plus years. Later in life, he enjoyed being a spectator and watching his son Andrew race. George attended events at MIR up until the last 2 1/2 years of his life.

He was a collector of old bottles, always looking for sites where he could dig. He also enjoyed making abstract art with auto paint, at one time having a piece accepted in a community art show at the North End Gallery in Leonardtown. He loved to paint rocks with his initials "G.A.M." and "Leonardtown" on the back. He would place them at the Wharf and around town.

George is survived by his son Andrew of Charlotte Hall; ex-wife Linda Groves Talton of Charlotte Hall; sister, Angela Mattingly Breck (Andrew Scott) of La Plata; six half-siblings; and many nieces and nephews. George was predeceased in death by his parents and his sister, Katherine "Kay" Mattingly Aud of Leonardtown.

Family will receive friends on Monday, July 15, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a Memorial Service celebrated by Reverend Joe Orlando at 5 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD, 20650.

Memorial contributions in George's name may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, 44724 Hospice Lane, Callaway, MD 20620.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

George Jones, 59



George Richard Jones, 59, of Hollywood, MD passed away on Monday, June 24, 2024 at Hospice of St. Mary's in Callaway, MD.

He is survived by his siblings: Jimmy Bowles (Debi) of Hollywood, MD; Frank Jones (Candy) of Martin, GA; Becky Dixon of Mechanicsville, MD; Timmy Jones (Dana) of Mechanicsville, MD; Susan Palmer (Charles) of Mechanicsville, MD; and Judy Smith (Billy) of Hollywood, MD.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hoover James Jones and Anne Theresa Jones of Hollywood, MD.

George was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and was loved by all who knew him. He enjoyed anything to do with the water (fishing, crabbing and oystering). He enjoyed working with his hands and had an eye for detail. He enjoyed painting cars, working with fiberglass and was a talented tile installer. He was also a great storyteller who always knew how to make you laugh. But most of all, he loved spending time with his family and friends, especially his nieces and nephews.

As per George's wishes, there will not be any formal services. A gathering is being planned for the end of September. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's in Callaway, MD in George's name.

Frank Jones, 64



Franklin (Frank) Gregory Jones, 64, of Martin, GA passed away on July 12, 2024.

Frank is survived by his wife of 24 years, Candice (Candy) Malcom

Jones of Martin, GA; his daughter, Chrystal L. Harris; 8 grandchildren; his siblings Jimmy Bowles, Becky Dixon, Timmy Jones, Susan Palmer and Judy Smith, all of St. Mary's County, Maryland.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hoover James Jones and Anne Theresa Jones, as well as his youngest brother, George Jones, all of Hollywood, MD.

Frank and Candy enjoyed traveling in their RV and exploring his heritage at the Cherokee Reservation in the North Carolina mountains. He enjoyed racing and restoring race cars. He spent many happy hours on his Harley, cruising the back roads of the beautiful Georgia countryside.

Frank was a cherished member of his community, known for his unwavering dedication to helping others. He spent a number of years volunteering his time and talents to help others in need.

Per his wishes, there will not be any formal services. A gathering to celebrate the life of Frank and his brother George is being planned for the end of September.

BRADFORDS

NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET

— Create Memorable —

SUMMER MEALS



USDA Inspected
Boneless Center Cut
Pork Chops

3.48 Lb.

Jumbo Pack, Fresh
Boneless Skinless
Chicken Breast

1.98 Lb.



80% Lean, Fresh
Ground
Chuck Chuck

3.98 Lb.

4.98 Lb.
80% Lean, Fresh
Ground
Chuck Patties



23860 Hollywood Road, Hollywood, MD 20636
301-475-2531



1.98 Lb.

USDA Inspected
Whole Boneless
Pork Loin



5.98 Lb.

Certified Angus
Boneless Beef
Shoulder Roast



2.98 Lb.

Tender
Boneless
Country Style Ribs



4.98

12 To 16-Oz., Selected
Oscar Mayer
Sliced Bacon



2.98

13 To 14-Oz., Turkey, Polska
Kielbasa Or
Hillshire Farm
Smoked Sausage



2.48

16-Oz. Roll, Hot Or Mild
Jamestown
Pork Sausage



4.98



16-Oz., Regular Or Spicy
Curly's Pulled
Pork BBQ



2.98

8-Oz.
Sugardale
Sliced Pepperoni



3.98



15 To 16-Oz., Selected
Oscar Mayer
Beef Franks



2/\$7

1-Lb., Selected
Pier 33
Mussels



9.99 Lb.

16 To 20 Ct.
Texas Gulf
Shrimp



4.99 Lb.
Great with Green
Beans
Fresh
Fillets



2.98
7 To 14-Oz. Dip Or
Salads Of The
Sea
Salads



8.99 Lb.
Delicious
Haddock
Fillets



12-Oz. Cans, Selected
12-Pack Faygo
Soft Drinks
3.98



8.5 To 12.5-Oz., Selected
Keebler
Cookies
2/\$7



10.4 To 10.7-Oz., Selected
General Mill's
Cereal
2.98



9.6 To 11.5-Oz., Selected
Folgers
Coffee
4.98



5.5 To 7.25-Oz., Selected
Kraft
Macaroni & Cheese
4/\$5



11.5 To 12.86-Oz., Selected
Kraft Velveeta Skillets
2/\$6



64-Oz.
Food Club
Apple Juice
2/\$4

aluminum foil

aluminum foil

aluminum foil

aluminum foil

FREE ITEM Friday

COUPON REDEEMABLE
7/19/24 - 7/21/24
LIMIT ONE FREE ITEM PER HOUSEHOLD
NO RAINCHECKS AVAILABLE
TAXES WHERE APPLICABLE

1 FREE 25-Sq. Ft. Simply Done Aluminum Foil



8.8 To 13.7-Oz., Selected
Ritz
Crackers
2/\$8



8.13 To 15.25-Oz., Selected
Lay's Party
Size Chips
\$5



12-Oz. Cans,
12-Pack
Coke Products
3/\$15



20-Oz.
Hellmann's Mayonnaise
4.98



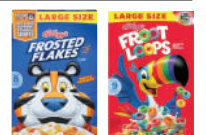
18-Oz., Selected
Sweet Baby Ray's
Sauce
2/\$5



14-Oz.
Chef
Boyardee
4/\$5



128-Oz., Selected
Arizona
Tea
3.28



12 To 13.2-Oz., Selected
Kellogg's
Large Size
3.98



WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

PRICES GOOD FROM
July 17 THRU July 23, 2024

WE ACCEPT:



STORE HOURS:

Monday - Saturday 7am to 9 pm
SUNDAY 8 am to 7 pm

St. Mary's Community Calendar

To submit your event listing to go in our Community Calendar, please email timescalendar@countytimes.net with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

Thu, Jul 18

Coffee with the Sheriff

Loffler Senior Activity Center
21905 Chancellors Run Rd., Great Mills
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Talk to Sheriff Steve Hall about your concerns and learn more about the community during Coffee with the Sheriff!

Teacher Appreciation Week

Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Current educators and one guest receive free admission. Requires official school identification. Enjoy interpreted historic sites (representing both colonial & native populations), beautiful walking paths, visitor center, gift shop and more! And don't miss

St. John's Site Museum (located on the campus of St. Mary's College), which includes a full view & interpretation of the actual archaeological remains of this important 1638 building. See actual artifacts from the site and learn about the cultural & political issues of 17th century America.

Fri, Jul 19

Summerstock—R+H's Cinderella

Great Mills High School
21130 Great Mills Rd., Great Mills
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

This year's St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks Summerstock production is *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Broadway Version). The whole family will enjoy this fresh take on the classic Cinderella story. Featuring the classic R+H songs "Impossible," "In My Own Little Corner,"

"Ten Minutes Ago," "A Lovely Night," "The Stepsisters' Lament," and many more.

Tickets will go on sale in June at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate/Summerstock

Sat, Jul 20

Kids Day at Summerseat Farm

Summerseat Farm
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event may be called Kids Day but it's fun for the whole family!

Lawn games and water activities on the manor grounds for all ages. Did someone say slip-n-slide?! What about a sprinkler for the smaller kids? Swimsuits and towels are recommended. Need an energy boost to keep up with the kiddos? We will have food available for purchase. Don't forget to go

walk down to the barn area and visit with our pasture pals.

No fee at the gate. Donations are always welcomed and appreciated.

Sun, Jul 21

Designer Purse Bingo

Mechanicsville VFD
28165 Hills Club Rd., Mechanicsville
12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Come join us for an afternoon of bingo fun filled with chances to win designer purses, raffles, door prizes and more!

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. We will play 10 games for handbag prizes, 9 games for cash prizes and the Jackpot will be a handbag and cash.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



K-Pop Party

Are you an ARMY? Carat? Blink or multi-stan? Come show off your love of K-pop at our K-pop Party at Charlotte Hall Library on Friday, July 19 from 3 - 4 p.m.! Make bias buttons, try some popular Korean snacks, dance to K-pop music, and learn some intro Korean! Intended for Tweens and Teens. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Lexington Park Chess Day

An all-ages chess social hang-out at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, July 20 from 1 - 3 p.m.! Drop in and out to play as needed, no experience required. Staff will be available to assist those who haven't played before. Small chess guides will be available to players for reference. Chess boards will be provided by the library, but feel free to bring your favorite set. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Managing Family Finances: Lunch & Learn Series

Learn how to best support your family on a budget! Pack a lunch and join Dr. Troy Anthony Anderson, financial wellness expert, as he reviews decisions and resources related to managing a household on a low income. We will explore the costs and benefits of DIY,

and attendees will have the opportunity to evaluate the effects of their value clarification. We will also discuss the cost and benefits of the art of choosing. This interactive workshop is packed with practical, family-oriented exercises that will help you be the master of your own financial wellness. The Lunch & Learn series is a hybrid event at Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, July 16 from 12 - 1 p.m. If you are planning to attend virtually, be sure to register for the event on www.stmalib.org to receive a link to the online session. In-person walk-ins welcome. All registrants will receive a Zoom link the day before the session.

How to Buy Your First Home

Looking to buy your first home, but don't know where to start? Join Amy Scott, Broker/Owner with OE Realty, to learn more about the buying process: what to expect, how to prepare, and first-time buyer loan options that can stretch your dollar. Come ask us the hard questions! Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, July 16 from 6 - 7 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org to receive a reminder email. Walk-ins welcome.

For King or for Country?: Tales of Maryland Before & During the American Revolution

Karen Stone, Division Manager of the St.

Mary's County Museums, will give a special seminar on our local history at Leonardtown Library to Tuesday, July 23 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Like at so many other times in its history, Maryland was deeply divided in the early 1770s, as can be seen first by the local reaction to the Boston Tea Party, then in the behavior of its leaders, and finally by the acts of its soldiers. During this talk you will hear tales from both sides, some of bravery and some of trickery, and some that are just plain funny. This event is part of the Southern Maryland 250th Semiquincentennial, Maryland 250th, and America 250th celebration, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding. Register on www.stmalib.org.

I've Got a Feeling: Summer Professional Performance

Join Wolf Trap teaching artist Elias Schutzman for an interactive musical storytelling experience. Learn to use rhythm, melody, tempo, and movement to explore emotions and bring storybooks to life. Most seating will be on the floor- feel free to bring a blanket! Space may be limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Two sessions: Lexington Park Library on Monday, July 29, at 10:30 a.m., and Leonardtown Library on Monday, July 29 at 2 p.m. No registration.

Food Safety from the Garden to the Kitchen

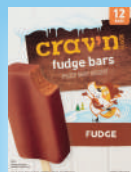
Have a great garden harvest in store? Learn the best practices to keep your food safe and fresh for longer at Lexington Park Library on Sunday, July 28 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Learn the ins and outs of food safety for home and community gardens. From the harvest itself to washing techniques and storage, food safety is essential to staying healthy. Learn it all from the experts at the University of Maryland Extension! Take home some fresh produce from the LMPP Community Garden, harvested using the techniques taught in class! Register on www.stmalib.org.

How To Use LinkedIn Learning

Did you know you can access everything available on LinkedIn Learning (previously Lynda.com) for FREE with your library card? This class at Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, July 30 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. will show you how to access the different categories of the LinkedIn Learning platform from soft skill development for professionals, or technical skills like programming and web development, and creative skills like photography, design, and video editing. Register on www.stmalib.org.

BRADFORDS

NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET



12-Ct., Selected
Crav'n Flavor
Ice Cream Novelties

3.48



21-Oz., Selected
Birds Eye Viola
Skillet Meals

4.98



24.6 To 24.7-Oz., Selected
DiGiorno
Pizza

SALE PRICE **4.98**
DIGITAL COUPON
OFF ONE
3.98



25 To 28-Oz., Selected
Banquet
Family Size Entrees

2/\$6



Honey, Smoked Or Original
Kretschmar
Virginia Ham

5.99^{lb.}



Kretschmar
Genoa Or
Hard Salami

6.99^{lb.}

Bakery & Deli Fresh



Hickory Smoked
Cornershop
Premium Turkey

7.99^{lb.}



Kretschmar
Colby Jack
Cheese

5.99^{lb.}



Kretschmar
American Cheese
White Or Yellow

6.99^{lb.}



9-Ct., Selected
Flavored
Mini Donuts

4.98



10.5-Oz.
Angel Food
Cake

3.48



8-In., Bakery Fresh Apple Or
All-American
Apple Pie

4.98



50-Oz.
Cookies N'
Creme Cake

11.98

Liquor, Beer, and Wine



10-Oz. Cans
24-Pack
Bud Light

19.89



12-Oz. 30 Pack Cans
Miller Lite
Beer

23.99



10-Oz. Cans, 12 Pack
12-Pack
Coors Light Beer

10.99



12-Oz. 18-Pack Cans
Michelob Ultra
Beer

14.99



12-Oz. Bottles
12-Pack
Corona Extra

16.99



12-Oz. Bottles
12-Pack
Modelo

17.99



1.75L
Smirnoff
Vodka

18.99



1.75L
Dewar's
White Label

33.99



1.75L
Maker's Mark
Whiskey

44.99



1.75L
Seagram's
VO Whiskey

19.99



750 mL
Hornito's
Tequila

23.99



1.75L
Crown
Royal

44.99



1.75L
Tito's
Vodka

30.49



1.75L
Tanqueray
London
Dry Gin

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1.75L
Captain Morgan
Original
Spiced Rum

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750 ML
Chateau D'Esclands
Whispering Angel Rose

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750 ML
Lamarca
Prosecco

15.99



750ml
Stoneleigh
Sauvignon Blanc

12.99



750ml
Harken
Chardonnay

12.39



750 ML
Casillero
Del Diablo

10.99



750ml
Seaglass
Pinot Grigio

10.99

Wines of the Month



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XXL
Wines

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Tomasello
Hard Cider

10.99



750mL
Tomasello
Fruit Flavors

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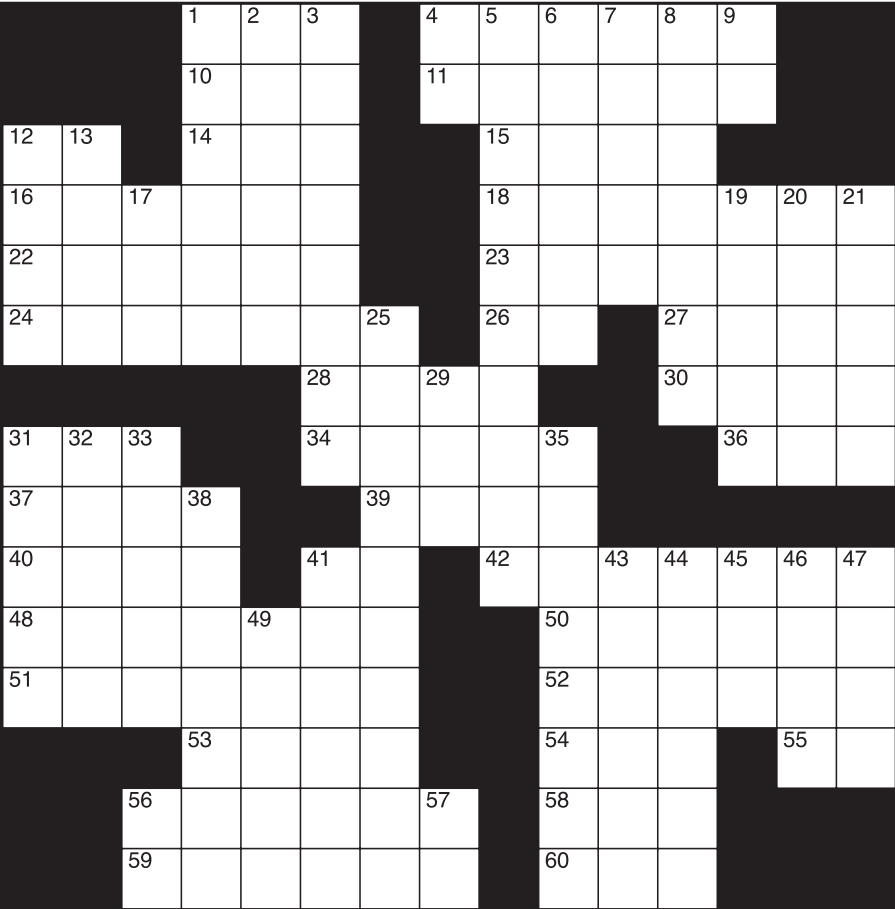


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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
4. Cause to become entangled
10. Swiss river
11. Conversation
12. “Magnum” was one
14. Small integer
15. Christmas
16. Of a specific mountain region
18. Burrowing bugs
22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
23. A type of syndrome
24. Cephalopod mollusks
26. Metric ton
27. Ornamental box
28. As quickly as can be done
30. “Hoop Dreams” subject Arthur
31. Old TV part
34. Extinct flightless birds
36. Former CIA
37. Successor
39. Archaic form of you
40. Within
41. Danny Hurley’s alma mater
42. Not sacred or biblical
48. Written law
50. Popular hairstyle
51. Congressman
52. Type of font
53. A predetermined period in office
54. Pouch
55. Hormone that stimulates ovulation (abbr.)
56. One from a particular Asian region
58. One’s sense of self-esteem
59. Headgear used to control a horse
60. The habitat of wild animals
- CLUES DOWN**
1. A right conferred through legal means
2. American island state
3. Inflexibly entrenched
4. “Pollock” actor Harris
5. Foolish person
6. Follows a particular Chairman
7. Choose
8. Sunrooms
9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
12. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder
13. South American hummingbird
17. “Girl Chopping Onions” painter
19. Wild dog
20. Units of land
21. Footwear
25. Possessing a constant temperature
29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
31. Popular game
32. Pension (German)
33. Giant of industry
35. Inferred
38. One who revolves
41. Kept possession of
43. Loss of electricity
44. Stoppered bottle
45. Everything
46. First to walk on the moon
47. Engrave
49. Female organs
56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
57. Northeast

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JULY 11 SOLUTIONS

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5	3	6	1	8	2	4	7	9
7	1	4	9	5	6	3	8	2
1	6	2	4	7	5	9	3	8
9	4	3	8	6	1	2	5	7
8	5	7	2	3	9	6	1	4

Calvert Community Calendar

To submit your event listing to go in our Community Calendar, please email timescalendar@countytimes.net with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

Thu, Jul 18

Teen Advisory Council of Students

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books, information, and form community. TACOS meets monthly to help us with our events and services planning. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jul 19

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
Calvert Library Twin Beaches
4100 5th St., North Beach
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Jul 20

Paper Shredding

Northern Middle School
2954 Chaneyville Road, Owings
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, will host free paper shredding events for county residents and businesses. Shredding documents helps prevent identity theft by destroying confidential and/or sensitive information.

Proof of Calvert County residency or business location is required. Paperclips and staples are acceptable. Binders and binder clips are not acceptable.

Businesses are allowed up to five banker boxes of paper per business (or the equivalent volume of five banker boxes in alternate containers). There is no limit for residents. Certificates of destruction will be provided if requested.

Shredding events are held monthly. For information about other recycling events, contact the Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division at 410-326-0210 or visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Recycle.

Children's Theatre of Southern Maryland Presents Seussical, Jr.

St. Nicholas Lutheran Church
1450 Plum Point Rd., Huntingtown
2 and 6 p.m.

Seussical Jr. is the second summer camp of the year. This show, features kids ages 8-12. The Saturday matinee performance will include an American Sign Language interpreter. Seussical Jr. is being directed by Kristtany Ornelas, who previously directed The Addams Family in November 2023 for CTSMD. Tickets can be found at: <https://childrenstheatreofsouthernmaryland.ludus.com/200447881>.

Toy Boat Building

Calvert Marine Museum
1-4 p.m.

Make a toy boat from wood under the Corbin Nature Pavilion! Space and materials are limited. Visitors will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. For ages 5 and up. Museum admission applies; In addition, a donation of \$2 per boat is requested. Sponsored by the Patuxent Small Craft Guild.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
12-3 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Knitting and Crocheting

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
2-4 p.m.

If you knit, embroider or crochet, or would like to learn, join us on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Work on projects in progress, or start something new! Registration requested. BYOY (bring your own yarn). 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mon, Jul 22

Active Play-Active Fun

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
2-4 p.m.

Come jump and play on our Active Floor—an interactive gaming system you play with your feet! You'll be floored! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jul 24

Job Seeker Resources – Skillbuilders

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment and Job Service representatives will be in person to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk-ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Professional Interview Workshop

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Participants will learn professional techniques and the importance of effective interviewing. This workshop will teach you best practices enhancing your interviewing skills by providing insight on dress attire, appropriate attitude, and professional etiquette and presentation. Virtual interview techniques are also discussed. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Family Fun Friday: Bugs and Blooms

Calvert Marine Museum, Friday, July
26 – 9 – 11 a.m.

Curious about which insects benefit your garden? Want to learn simple, eco-friendly practices for your backyard? Join us at the Corbin Nature Pavilion for a morning of exploring local insects, plants, and discover how to attract and support local wildlife in your own backyard.

Family Fun Friday is designed for families with children ages 5-12 and is an opportunity to enjoy the museum and a special program with activities and crafts that begin before the museum is open to the public. \$15 per person for non-members; \$12 per person for members; Fee includes museum admission.

Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay

General Manager
Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net

Advertising
Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net

Staff Writers
Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net

Contributing Writers
Ron Guy, Ken Lamb, Shelby Opperman,
Dave Spigler

The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



County Times

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their July 17 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

1) CSPR-142881, **Prince Frederick Town Center South, Shopping Plaza**, located on South Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, on 115-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Forest District. This project will have private water but will utilize public sewer. Proposed about 75,000 sf of commercial retail & office space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

2) CSPR-143116, **145 Adelina Business Office**, located at 145 Adelina Road, Prince Frederick, combining Parcel 120 and Parcel 250, Lot 2 for a total of 2.44 acres, zoned Rural Commercial. Proposed remodeling of existing structure for use as an office and construction of a new 7,400-sf, two-story building for business-related storage with associated parking area required

for the two buildings. This project will utilize private well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

3) CSPR-143112, **CCIP Lot 3R**, located at 171 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, Lot 3R in the Calvert County Industrial Park, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed redevelopment of a portion of the 4.5-acre lot by demolishing the existing office and constructing a new two-story office building in its place. It is further proposed to repave the southern portion of the site and to construct a storage warehouse and wall to segregate parking between the storage building yard & adjacent flex space tenants. A total of 6,524 sf of new construction with a total disturbance of 1.2-acres is proposed and the amenities will utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

4) CSPR-143134, **Kelly Generator Storage Facility**, located at 7645 and 7655 Meadow Run Lane in Owings, MD. A redevelopment of Lots 6RR (1.43 acres) and 7RR (2.26 acres) in the Meadow Run Park Subdivision, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed construction of a 16,800 sf, two-story

industrial storage facility with parking and site improvements. This project will utilize well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted January 24, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett

5) CSPR-143181, **Weis Markets Store #284 Gas-N-Go**, located at 210 Village Center Drive in Lusby, MD and is zoned Lusby Town Center/Village Center District. This proposed project consists of a 6-pump fuel station associated with the existing Weis Market and a separate 3,000 gross sf retail building. Forest conservation requirements for the project parcel were satisfied at the time of subdivision via recordation of forest retention area. Domestic water, fire protection service and sewerage will tie to the existing public systems. Parking requirements are proposed to be satisfied utilizing 272 existing spaces to remain, 6 proposed spaces and a shared parking reduction factor of 1.2. The concept submittal was accepted June 26, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett

The following Major Subdivision Proposed Project List for Upcoming Review

was also submitted at the same meeting.

No major subdivisions are currently under review for Planning Commission consideration. Please check next month's agenda for any new additions to this list.

Concept submittals have been removed from this list. There is no assurance that those projects will reach Preliminary Plan status. If/when they do, they will be placed on this list under their Preliminary Plan project number.



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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of July 1, 2024 – July 7, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,895 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 66
- Disorderly: 24
- Domestic: 34
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 41
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 809
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 48
- Traffic Complaints: 50
- 911 Hang Ups: 80
- ARRESTS: 35

Burglary: 24-51898 On July 5, 2024, DFC Huy responded to the 7600 block of Investment Court in Owings, for the report of a commercial burglary. Investigation revealed unknown suspects forced entry into the business and set off the fire extinguisher destroying the main office. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,000.00.



Thornton Kahlil Kindrick

driver, **Thornton Kahlil Kindrick**, 29 of Washington, DC, a loaded handgun was observed in plain view. A vehicle search revealed two bags of mushrooms and several containers of cannabis. Kindrick was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Loaded Handgun in Vehicle, Handgun in Vehicle, Illegal Possession of Ammunition, and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.

Damaged Property: 24-50901 On July 1, 2024, Deputy DeSantis responded to the Weis located at 210 Village Center Drive in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised unknown suspects

splattered pink paint across the rear of the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,000.00.

Damaged Property: 24-52100 On July 6, 2024, Master Deputy Burggraff responded to the 600 block of Field Road in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between July 4 and 5, unknown suspects damaged the victim's vehicle tire by cutting the sidewall. The estimated value of damaged property is \$100.00.



Wade Faron Robinson Robinite

Upon arrival, contact was made with **Wade Faron Robinson Robinite**, 32 of Leonardtown. Robinite was shouting profanities and making threats toward deputies, drawing the attention of citizens nearby. Further investigation revealed Robinite was unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. Robinite was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with DUI, Disorderly Conduct, Intoxicated Endangerment & other related charges.



Kenneth Sarpong-Kari Kari

on a vehicle for a speeding violation and having expired registration. Contact was made with the driver who refused to provide his identity,

Disorderly Conduct: 24-50893 On July 1, 2024, Deputy Parrott responded to Langley Lane and Solomons Island Road in Solomons, for the report of a motor vehicle accident and possible impaired driver.

Obstructing Justice: 24-51683 On July 4, 2024, F/Sgt. McCarroll initiated a traffic stop along NB Rt. 4 and Norfolk Drive in Owings, for the report of a speeding violation and having expired registration. Contact was made with the driver who refused to provide his identity,

driver's license, and vehicle registration. The driver was advised if he failed to provide the requested information he would be placed under arrest. The driver failed to comply with the deputy's commands. Investigation revealed the driver was later identified as **Kenneth Sarpong-Kari Kari**, 33 of Carlisle, PA, and his registration had expired. Kari Kari was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Obstructing and Hindering and numerous traffic charges.

Theft: 24-51076 On July 2, 2024, Deputy Hill responded to the 100 block of Alton Court in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a package was stolen from the victim's mailbox sometime between 2:15 pm – 3 pm on July 1. The package contained a Nintendo game cartridge. The estimated value of stolen property is \$20.00.

Theft: 24-51042 On July 2, 2024, Cpl. Durner responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office located at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect stole the real estate lock box and damaged a storm door to a home in the 4000 block of 27th Street in Chesapeake Beach, sometime between June 19 and June 30. The estimated value of damaged and stolen property is \$225.00.

Theft: 24-51088 On July 2, 2024, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the Dunkirk Giant located at 10790 Town Center Blvd in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a female with a basket full of groceries walked past all points of sale and fled the area. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 24-51808 On July 5, 2024, Deputy Baxter responded to the 600 block of Beech Drive in Lusby, for the report of theft. The complainant advised a kayak and life jacket were stolen from the backyard of the residence sometime between 8:30 p.m. on July 3 and 6 a.m. on July 4. The kayak is described

as a red Wilderness Systems single-seater. The life jacket is brown and black. The estimated value of stolen property is \$650.00.

Theft: 24-52505 On July 7, 2024, DFC Huy responded to the 6200 block of 5th Street in Chesapeake Beach, for a report of a theft. The complainant advised while at the McDonald's located at 7925 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, the victim's purse and all of its contents were stolen. The purse is described as a small purple crossbody. The estimated value of stolen property is \$85.00.



Jose Albino Baca

of a disorderly subject. Upon arrival, contact was made with **Jose Albino Baca, V**, 61 of Chesapeake Beach. Investigation revealed Baca was intoxicated and was making inappropriate comments to juvenile females. Baca was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Trespassing: Private Property, and Resisting/Interfering with Arrest.

Editor's Note: The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (410) 535-2800 and reference the case number provided. Citizens may remain anonymous thru the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov

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Regional Partnership Aimed at Workforce Development

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County's involvement in a regional workforce development initiative is expanding, according to information provided to the county commissioners during a June 9 briefing.

Economic Development Director Julie Oberg said in a memo to the commissioners, "Southern Maryland 2030 Workforce Development Initiative is a workforce development initiative to build a STEM pipeline, increase career opportunities, and expand partnerships with government, industry, and academia. It is a tri-county program that supports paid apprenticeships, paid college internships and the SPARK! Career Awareness Fair, cyber lab facilities and related STEM and artisan/skilled trades activities. The Patuxent Partnership (TPP) has partnered with the College of Southern Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's County Public Schools, industry, and the Naval Air Warfare Center Aviation Division (NAWCAD) for this initiative. In the first year, the Spark! Fair focused primarily on St. Mary's County, with 40 Calvert County high school students attending. In the second year, 150 Calvert County high school students attended. In both years, bus transportation for Calvert County students was paid for by TPP and SoMD 2030. TPP also provided approximately \$80,000 for the CSM Cyber Lab build-out in Prince Frederick. This CSM Cyber Lab supports CSM students, dual enrollment programs, and other cyber education opportunities with Calvert County Public Schools. TPP is working with the Calvert County Department of Economic Development and reaching out to the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce to share information with the business community about the SoMD 2030 Workforce Development initiative. The first two years

of SoMD 2030 were funded by NAWCAD and will end in October 2024. TPP is currently seeking additional funding opportunities through the Rural Maryland Council. NAWCAD will provide some funding for the third year."

TPP Executive Director Bonnie Green explained, "We're a nonprofit member organization that works with government, industry and academia on science and technology issues, programs of interest to the naval aviation community and the broader community, and a great deal of time and energy on workforce development. We have been supporting STEM Workforce for many years, and we are very happy to have Ms. Sheebah Smith, the Deputy Director of Economic Development on the TPP Board. And thanks to her, we've become more engaged."

Green said, "We work very closely with the College of Southern Maryland. We have an education partnership agreement with the Naval Air Warfare Center, aircraft Division [NAWC-AD] and St. Mary's College of Maryland. And we have what is called a partnership intermediary agreement with the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division. And this covers STEM projects, other work that we do on behalf of the Navy, and it covers our Southern Maryland 2030 Workforce Development Initiative."

She explained, "This is a program that is funded by NAWC-AD and thanks to the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance, who spent a good bit of time lobbying and to the efforts of our Congressman Steny Hoyer, we were able to get this funding. So, 2030 increases the STEM pipeline in Southern Maryland and builds career opportunities as well as helping many of the employers find workers for positions that previously have gone unfilled. It educates high school students on careers with the Navy, on careers in the contractor community, in healthcare across the spectrum. It has expanded our partnership in the Tri-County area."

Green said in the first year of the Spark! Career Awareness Fair they hosted 440 students at the University of Maryland smart building in St. Mary's County. She said, "It's a very impressive facility."

"It's a hands-on all-day program," she said, adding, "We had 20 some organizations from the Navy at Pax River. We had medical, we had hospitals, we had the College of Southern Maryland. We had HVAC, we had trades organizations all talking to the students and demonstrating opportunities. We also had the Sheriff's department. And it was interesting to see how many students, wanted to sit down and talk about career opportunities in law enforcement as well."

Green noted, "We did it again in February of this year, and we had 900 students, and that included 150 students this year from Calvert County. So, what we do when we invite the counties to participate is we cover the cost of bus transportation, and we provide lunch for all of the students who attend."

She explained, "This recently closed academic year, we had 65 apprentices. And not only is this really valuable to the students, some of whom stay on full-time with the organizations, which include the Navy, the contracting community, businesses, and the nonprofit community. Some of them are staying on part-time and going to the College of Southern Maryland. Others have concluded that's not what they want to do when they're going on to another career or college or to a better opportunity."

Green admired, "So our initial focus of the funding was on St. Mary's County, because that's what we know. We have done outreach now to Calver County, and we have some meetings coming up, and we're also working with Charles County and the folks at Indian Head because of the career opportunities there. One of the challenges for Calver County is two of your most substantial employers are not able to participate in an apprentice program because of security



TPP Executive Director Bonnie Green

concerns and so forth."

She said of the commitment to the CSM cyber lab, "No matter what work you're doing, there's a cyber factor as well as careers directly in the cyber field because it's critical across the workforce."

Green noted, "Because many of our members and many of the people who work at Pax River live in Calvert County, we are particularly interested in getting more engaged and developing more opportunities with the students in Calvert County."

She explained, "We are all about growing the regional workforce, and one of the things that we have learned is that for students, even in St. Mary's County, if you don't have a father, mother, sister, or brother who works inside the gate of Pax River, it's just a mystery. So, we have for our apprentices and interns, an opportunity for a tour inside the gate."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Teen Charged in Prince Frederick Shootings

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A Huntingtown teen has been charged in connection with the July 15 shootings in Prince Frederick that left two people injured, one of them critically.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of Andre Xavier Howe, 17, on July 16 after an extensive search involving K-9 units and drones.

Howe will be charged as an adult with two counts of attempted first-degree murder, two counts of attempted second-degree murder, two counts of first-degree assault, two counts of second-degree assault, two counts of use of a firearm in a felony/violent crime, possession of a firearm under the age of 21, and possession of a stolen firearm.

The sheriff's office in a July 16 press release asserted, "The arrest marks a significant step forward in ensuring the safety

and security of our community."

The release started, "On July 14, 2024, deputies responded to reports of shots fired in the 1600 block of Mint Court in Prince Frederick. Upon arrival, deputies discovered two victims with gunshot wounds, who were immediately transported to area trauma centers for treatment."

Detectives from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office swiftly launched an investigation, gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses. Their diligent work led to the identification of Andre Howe as a suspect in the case. A warrant for Howe's arrest was issued, and he was taken into custody without incident earlier today."

"We are committed to thoroughly investigating any acts of violence in our community and bringing those responsible to justice," said Sheriff Ricky Cox. "The arrest of Andre Howe is a testament to our detectives' hard work and dedication. We will

continue to work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our residents."

Howe is currently being held at the Calvert County Detention Center.

The names of the victims have not been released by the sheriff's office.

The release said, "The Calvert County Sheriff's Office encourages anyone with additional information about this incident to please contact Det. W. Freeland at Will.Freeland@calvertcountymd.gov or Det. M. Mudd at Michael.Mudd@calvertcountymd.gov."

Citizens may remain anonymous through the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Andre Xavier Howe

Veteran Educator Appointed to Top School Administrator Post

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A woman who has worked herself up in the ranks of Calvert County Public Schools from special education teacher to assistant principal and principal to director of Secondary School Improvement to Chief Academic Officer has been elevated to the top administrative position in the school system.

The Calvert County Board of Education at their July 11 meeting ratified School Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel's appointment of Dr. Susan Johnson to be the new Chief Operations Officer [COO]. She has been with the school system for 33 years.

She replaces Tony Navarro, who retired after being COO for 11 years.

Dr. Townsel told the school board before their vote, "Dr. Susan Johnson inspires others to work on behalf of children every day. She believes that every child deserves the opportunity to reach their potential and adults must be willing to do whatever it takes, even if uncomfortable, to make that happen. Student learning and results have been the cornerstones of her career at the school and central office level, as she has implemented effective school improvement efforts, built cohesive teams, and fostered positive relationships with staff, students, and families. Dr. Johnson believes that marked results are attainable when school improvement efforts reach the classroom and change the learning experience for each student."

Dr. Townsel recited Johnson's background, "Dr. Johnson earned her Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1991 and her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Maryland College. In 2012, Dr. Johnson completed her Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership for Changing Populations from Notre Dame of Maryland University. Dr. Johnson received the 2007 Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and was nominated several times for the MASSP Principal of the Year award."

On accepting the appointment, Dr. Johnson

said, "Thank you so much for trusting in me to move from the Chief Academic Officer to the Chief Operations Officer. Throughout my career, I have been deeply invested in serving the Calvert County community and I look forward to continuing that in this new position. While I think it might be challenging, I do also think that it will be invigorating to move to the operations side of the house. I have so much gratitude for the dynamic board members, administrators, teachers, and support staff that I have had the pleasure to work with and learn from over the past several years. And I look forward to continuing those relationships as we move forward. I would also like to thank Tony Navarro, who has been so instrumental in teaching and sharing his role with me the past seven years. I feel strongly that this knowledge coupled with my experiences with negotiations, transportation, school construction facilities and human resources, that we will be able to increase the efficiencies and the effectiveness of our already outstanding departments, extend our partnerships with the bus contractors and our associations and continue to serve our students and staff of Calvert County. Thank you so much for this appointment."

The board also appointed Jackie Jacobs as Chief Academic Officer, filling the vacancy left with Dr. Johnson's appointment.

Dr. Townsel told the board, "Since 2021, Ms. Jacobs has held the position of Director of System and Instructional Performance. Prior to this role, she served in various capacities, including Supervisor of Professional Development, Digital Learning, and Teacher Induction; Supervisor of Secondary Mathematics; Vice Principal; Dean and Learning Specialist, as well as a mathematics teacher. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Education from Frostburg State University (1994) and her Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction with a Certificate in Administration and Supervision from McDaniel College (2004). Additionally,



Dr. Susan Johnson

Ms. Jacobs has been an integral part of the Negotiations Team and served as the Lead Negotiator for the Calvert Association of Supervisors and Administrators for six years."

Jacobs said, "I am deeply honored to stand before you today as the newly appointed Chief Academic Officer for Calvert County Public Schools. This moment is not only a significant milestone in my career, but it's also a testament to the collective efforts and unwavering support of many individuals who have guided, mentored, and inspired me along this journey. First, I want to express my gratitude to Dr. Townsell and the Board of Education for entrusting me in this pivotal role. I am committed to upholding the high standards of excellence that define Calvert County Public Schools and to fostering an environment where every student thrives. Every student deserves access to high quality education and the opportunity to succeed. Together, we will continue to build equitable and inclusive learning environments that celebrate diversity and ensure that each student and staff member feels seen, heard, and respected. I'm excited to embark in this journey with you As Chief Academic Officer. I promise to lead with integrity, empathy, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. By partnering with our schools,



Jackie Jacobs



Kelly Cleland



Bryan Welker



Erin Mathers

our families, and our students, we will build a collaborative and supportive community dedicated to each student's success and wellbeing.'

The board also ratified the appointments of Kelly Cleland as principal of Plum Point Middle School, Bryan Welker as Supervisor of Fine Arts, and Erin Mathers as Assistant Principal of Northern High School.

Cleland has been an educational leader in Calvert County Public Schools since August 1991. Currently, she holds the position of Support and Improvement Specialist in the Department of Instruction, which is a grant-funded position. Previously, she served as Principal of Windy Hill Elementary School for eight years.

Since 2019, Welker currently holds the position of Director of Bands and School Improvement Chair at Howard High School. Before that, he served as Music Department Chair, Instrumental Music Director, and Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher.

Mathers began her teaching journey in Calvert County in 2017 as an English Teacher at Northern High School. Prior to that, she taught at Chopticon High School in St. Mary's County.

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Lusby Man Killed in Motorcycle Crash

Members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Patrol Bureau and Crash Reconstruction Unit responded on July 14 shortly after 7 p.m. to a report of a motor vehicle crash in the area of Maryland Rt. 4 and Nursery Road in Lusby.

A preliminary investigation revealed a Dodge 3500 was traveling north on Maryland Rt. 4 just north of Nursery Road. A Honda motorcycle operated by Paul O'Neal, 36 of Lusby, was also traveling north on Rt. 4. Per multiple witnesses, the motorcycle was being operated at an excessive speed. As it approached the Dodge, the bike failed to slow down and struck the rear passenger side of the Dodge causing O'Neal to be ejected from the bike.

Emergency Medical Services responded

to the scene and rendered medical aid. O'Neal was pronounced deceased on the scene due to injuries from the crash.

The driver of the Dodge, David Payne, 52 of St. Leonard, was uninjured. Payne is the assistant sheriff for Calvert County. He is a lieutenant colonel.

The motorcycle's excessive speed and failure to control speed to avoid a collision are believed to be factors in this crash.

Deputy Anna Morrison of the Crash Reconstruction Team is conducting the crash investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact her at 410-535-2800 or via email Anna.Morrison@calvertcountymd.gov. Please reference case #24-54270.

Press Release from CCSO

CalvertHealth-Duke Partnership Lauded

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With respect to cancer, “The state of Maryland, in and of itself, has some of the highest incidents and poor outcomes in the country,” said CalvertHealth Medical Center Chief Medical Officer & Cancer Center Program Director Dr. Theodore Tsangaris. “Calvert County doesn’t do very well either.”

Dr. Tsangaris’ remarks came during a July 9 briefing to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on the hospital’s alliance with Duke University. He appeared with CalvertHealth President & CEO Jeremy Bradford.

Tsangaris said, “We’ve been working on a strategic initiative with Jeremy’s arrival, prioritizing some things that we thought were very important to the county from a health standpoint. Women’s health is one of them, nutrition, bariatrics, orthopedics. And of course, cancer was a huge one.”

He added, “Rural counties in general don’t do well. But here’s some of the facts. Age-adjusted death rate, meaning per age, we have a bad outcome from breast cancer, cancer in general melanoma, lung cancer, colorectal cancer, and prostate cancer. We did a need assessment and we found that we really did have a significant need for our cancer program.”

“A lot of work went into deciding who we might want to partner with, because as a rural county hospital, cancer care really requires lots of resources. And we can’t afford to do it ourselves. We don’t have the bandwidth

to do it. We don’t have the bench strength to do it.” He added. “So, we looked at multiple partners, some of them within the state, some of them more locally. And then, Duke University came to the forefront, partly because they’ve done this before. They have 13 affiliates in their network, and that goes from Michigan to South Carolina. And so, they had a lot of practice working with community hospitals like ours to help develop their cancer program and help maintain the cancer program at a high level.”

He noted, “The key was to keep our patients local, keep them here in the county. So that very few times would a patient here in Calvert County have to go anywhere else, and Duke really fit the bill.”

He said of Duke, “It is a world class hospital. It has more than just a great basketball program. Currently they’re ranked 29th in US News and World Report. I’m not a big list person, but this is a consistent finding.

“And to put some perspective on that, if you’re a member of this county and you want good healthcare, you’d have to go to Philadelphia, to University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, or Duke University to get that kind of care. That’s the spread of how good Duke is.”

Dr. Tsangaris reported, “These were things we identified as opportunities for our cancer program and how we thought Duke could help us: clinical practice, performance improvement, business and operations, clinical research, and education.”

Regarding education, he said, “These are some very basic things that we haven’t had

up until this point. So, continuing medical education (CME) accreditation, for not only doctors, but nurses, and Duke provides that for all cancer-related educational programs.”

He added, “We’ve been able to send our nurses down to Durham for education. So, this has been a great two-way street, palliative care externships. Pharmacy — our pharmacist came down to Duke, and they came up and looked at our pharmacy, which by the way, is one of the best pharmacies I’ve ever been privileged to be associated with.”

He added, “And then onboarding for all our registered nurses and advanced practice providers. So really, really exciting stuff.”

He said two of the hospital’s medical oncologists, Dr. Artie Patel and Dr. Ken Abbott, “are now integrated into the Duke Cancer Network annual review, which is coming up next weekend in Durham. And Dr. Patel in particular will be a moderator for advanced, pulmonary cancer care. So, this is a two-way street. We’re integrating our providers and our nurses into their educational programs, clinical practice, tumor board involvement.” They have three tumor boards: breast, lung and thoracic.

He observed, “Duke not only participates in many of those for us with either a specialist in surgery or medical oncology, but we are also now starting to participate in their tumor boards. So, this is a great opportunity for an exchange of ideas and best practices, and then the peer-to-peer relationships for our providers. So, I can pick up the phone and call up another breast surgeon and ask their opinion on a difficult case and vice

versa. So, our local patients are getting top-notch recommendations and care because of this relationship.”

The hospital hopes to hear soon of their acceptance into a clinical trial, something they have never had before. “They don’t have to go to Durham for these clinical trials. They don’t have to go to New York or MD Anderson [Cancer Center]. They don’t even have to go up to Baltimore. They can stay right here and have top-notch care, which I think is huge performance improvement.”

Dr. Tsangaris said, “They’ve looked at our order sets, they’ve looked at the way we process our patients, the way we write our notes, our medical records. And they’ve been very much involved in improving how we take care of our cancer patients just from an administrative and legal standpoint. So, this has been really very important. And then business operations and managements. They’ve been significantly helpful in getting the robot.”

He said Becker’s Hospital Review ranked CalvertHealth Medical Center as one of the top 100 health organizations who have an oncology program. “Now that’s not small community hospitals, that’s not rural hospitals, that’s hospitals throughout the nation.”

He said only three hospitals in the state made the list, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, and CalvertHealth. In Washington, DC, none of the large cancer hospitals made this list.

“I think we should all be very proud of it.” he added.

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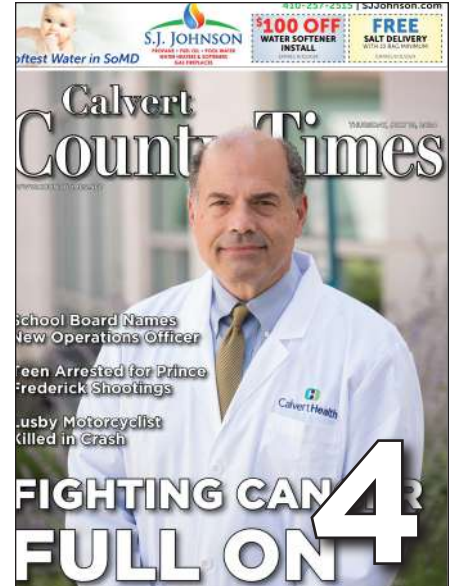
TPP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BONNIE GREEN ON THEIR INVOLVEMENT
WITH CSM’S CYBER LAB



LOCAL 5
Administrator named to top schools post



LOCAL
Man charged in shootings



ON THE COVER
CalvertHealth's partnership with Duke praised.
Pictured: Dr. Theodore Tsangaris, CalvertHealth Chief
Medical Officer

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 18	FRI, JUL 19	SAT, JUL 20	SUN, JUL 21
Scattered Storms Hi: 84° Lo: 71°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 71°	PM Showers Hi: 82° Lo: 71°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 72°
MON, JUL 22	TUE, JUL 23	WED, JUL 24	THU, JUL 25
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**Lusby Motorcyclist
Killed in Crash**



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