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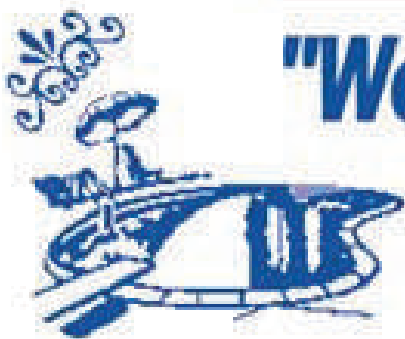




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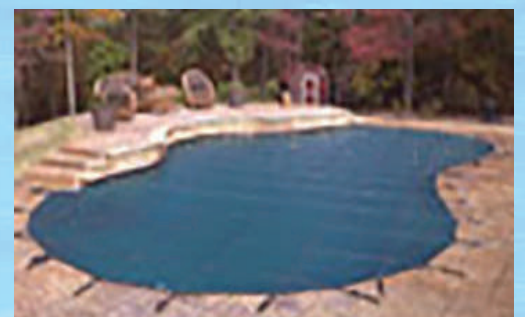


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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	5	COLUMNISTS	18
COMMUNITY	12	OBITUARIES	19

“I’LL TAKE WHAT THE COMMISSIONERS WILL PROVIDE...BECAUSE WE ARE IN NEED OF RESOURCES.”

STATE’S ATTORNEY JAMIE STERLONG ON BUDGET ADDITION



LOCAL 5
School system faces staff cuts



LOCAL 10
County warns on Lyme disease



ON THE COVER
Historic Sotterley to host 2nd annual Southern Maryland Heritage Festival

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 15	FRI, MAY 16	SAT, MAY 17	SUN, MAY 18
Partly Cloudy Hi: 80° Lo: 65°	AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 85° Lo: 67°	AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 87° Lo: 65°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 59°
MON, MAY 19	TUE, MAY 20	WED, MAY 21	THU, MAY 22
Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 54°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 73° Lo: 59°	Showers Hi: 70° Lo: 58°	Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 59°

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Three Administrators Cut from School Budget

Follows County Adding \$3.1 Million

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) tentatively restored \$3.1 million to the county public schools on May 6, which School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said was enough to cover the system's negotiated agreements with their bargaining units.

But that decision still left the school system \$3.2 million short, including a \$1 million reduction by the state, from that which was requested of the county from the school board.

So, with that in mind, Deputy Superintendent of Fiscal and Supporting Services Tammy McCourt outlined at the May 7 school board meeting the additional cuts the school system will have to make in order to close that gap and balance their budget.

She said, "We need to step back and look at what actions have you already taken within your recommended budget. So as we work to develop the budget... we analyze and review in great detail every budget request. Last year's budget is not the starting point for next year's budget. We really work with our directors and supervisors to dive down into the details. They work hard to obtain quotes. We analyze the utilization of instructional software to make sure that is a software product that is valuable for our students and absolutely should be incorporated in next year's budget. Or is it not, and it should be removed. So, we spend a lot of time ensuring that what's being put forward for the board's consideration is absolutely of great benefit to the school district and students."

She added, "During the course of the fiscal year, in accordance with your board policy and regulations, we obtain three price quotes. And if we don't like the results of those three price points, we may actually go out and obtain additional pricing under the purchasing cooperation and utilizing econ-

omy at scale pricing in your budget. We also cut 10 teaching positions, elementary, middle, and high school.

"For our healthcare, we incorporated changes, and these were very methodical and strategic plan changes. We incorporated Medicare Advantage this past January and we knew that that would produce budgetary savings. We incorporated Prudent RX that was implemented effective April 1st and Marathon Employee Health Center, in partnership with the county government. We rolled that out last April. So, we've had a first full year impact of that, which will result in claims reductions for next year."

McCourt said, "Our budget also included the full implementation of the building maintenance automation system. The current fiscal year's budget included a one-time contribution to stand up that system."

McCourt explained, "But we do have that additional shortfall that we need to address beyond your recommended budget. Therefore, we have cut three cabinet positions. We have cut the assistant superintendent of support services. We have cut the chief of equity engagement and access, and we have cut the chief strategic officer. And it's important to ensure that we're setting the tone at the top. So, we're not just making cuts at the school level. We're making cuts in the central office at the cabinet level. We're cutting four IRTs, a reduction of one to every elementary school, with the exception of our Title IX schools. We have cut three administrative intern positions, and we have cut up to 15 teacher positions. That is inclusive of the 10 prior positions that we've mentioned. We have removed one-to-one technology in kindergarten through first grade. We have relocated the virtual academy and turned the virtual academy existing building back over to the county government effective July 1st. And we have moved the environmental

education from the Elms to Sotterley, and we are continuing to put in place additional reductions in the relocatables."

McCourt said, "Going into next year's budget, this is a much more streamlined approach. It consists of not three deputy and assistant superintendent positions, but two; not six chief positions, but four. Additional budgetary savings have been recognized due to implemented strategies with regard to our healthcare."

McCourt noted that with the passage of the Excellence in Education Act, the potential state cut to the county was reduced from \$2.5 million to \$1 million.

School Board Member Josh Guy said, "I'm grateful that the county commissioners gave us some more funding this year. And I like what you said about we didn't just focus on cutting teachers, we also cut three top admin positions because it starts at the top."

Member Mary Washington said, "We educated our employee groups about the healthcare options from triple options to HMO. And in the final analysis, we have enough money when the commissioners vote on the budget to fund our employee groups. And that's one of the main priorities of the board, to make sure that we pay our employees an excellent wage, well, I'll say a very good wage."

Board Vice Chair Cathy Allen thanked



Deputy Superintendent of Fiscal and Supporting Services Tammy McCourt

McCourt and her team "for your diligence, as always, in not just accepting the information given to you, but really digging down, seeing if the numbers do make sense, and if there are areas where there could be adjustments, that those are made in a timely fashion so that the number that goes to the commissioners with is the absolute."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Application Withdrawn

for Proposed Crisis Stabilization Center

May 22 Public Hearing Cancelled

St. Mary's County Government announces that the public hearing regarding the proposed Crisis Stabilization Center in Charlotte Hall—previously announced and scheduled as part of the St. Mary's County Board of Appeals meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025—has been cancelled.

The applicant, *Pascal Crisis Services, Inc.*, has officially withdrawn their application for conditional use approval for the proposed project located east of the intersection of MD Route 5 and Mount Wolf Road.


The Board of Appeals meeting will still take place as scheduled, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Chesapeake Building, located at

41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown to hear other pending matters. However, the proposed Crisis Stabilization Center will not be discussed.


For questions or further information, please contact Sherrie Young with the Department of Land Use & Growth Management at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1522 or via email to: Sherrie.Young@stmaryscountymd.gov.

For more information, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook, X, and Instagram for regular updates.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government



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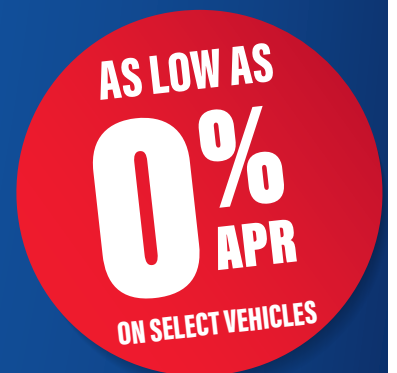
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State's Attorney Gets Last-Minute Budget Help

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) are expected at their May 20 meeting to sign a \$348.6 million operating budget for the next fiscal year that begins July 1.

At a short final budget work session on May 13, the commissioners made only one change from the previously discussed budget iterations. They unanimously added \$150,000 to the state's attorney's budget.

Commissioner Eric Colvin made the suggestion. He said the budget deliberations have generated "a lot of discussion from the community, rightfully so. And a lot of good (discussion). There's one last thing that I'd like to do. If we can get consensus among the board and that's provide some additional support to our state's attorney office. We always talk about not micromanaging other elected officials. So, what I propose is we give \$150,000 to the state's attorney and let her decide how she wants to allocate that with the understanding that it's got to be pegged somehow into something before we approve the budget finally next week."

Colvin said, "I'd like to make a few cuts in a couple of different places in order to get that funding."

He said he had a conversation with the county administrator about suggesting cutting \$52,000 from his budget that has been allocated for "the CSM employee development program that they do. And we pause that for a year. The county administrator told me that legal could generously donate \$25,000 from their budget, that there was extra money in legal services there that could be pulled back."

The difference would be made up of freez-

ing a vacant position budgeted at \$47,000 salary and \$14,000 of fringe benefits. And an additional \$11,000 would be taken from the commissioners' reserve.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said, "We ought to just tell all our departments to deal with X amount less every year. Because you're picking and choosing here."

Hewitt added, "I use the term 'rob Peter to pay Paul.'"

Colvin noted, "I think that brings up a good point. I'd love to have a discussion about switching to zero-based budgeting and what that would look like for us as a commissioner board and as a county."

Chief Financial Officer Vanetta Van Cleave said, "I think that it would lend itself more towards, to your point Commissioner Hewitt, the identification of what the needs, wants, must haves are, to be able to have a more informed conversation about potential reductions."

Hewitt said, "I don't have any issue with giving the state's attorney more resources. We have said we're going to do something with this fourth courtroom. And I know she had put in her request for \$694,000. So, what's \$150,000 do? Does that just make us all feel better? And we gave somebody something."

Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr. said, "I have to agree with Commissioner Colvin. Given that \$150,000, the state's attorney should help relieve some pressure in that office in respect to that fourth courtroom. I feel that if we don't address this now, we will be in the same position we were in two years ago. We're in the middle of the cycle, scrambling to give her money for that department over there to help cover the shortcoming she found when she took office."

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling said she

needs closer to her budget ask of \$690,000, but "I also understand that we're in difficult fiscal times and I'm not going to get (it all)." She added, "I'll take what the commissioners will provide the state's attorney's office because we are in need of resources."

Sterling equated her office with the state's attorney's office in Calvert. "We have 17 prosecutors, and I think I've said this before, the state's attorney's office in Calvert County has 17. We have probably 20,000 more people than Calvert County in our county. Our county is also growing at a rapid pace. We're one of the fastest growing counties in the state."

She added, "The majority of people who live in Calvert County go outside to work, a lot of them coming to St. Mary's County. St. Mary's is a county where a lot of people who live here also work here. And we have a lot of people coming into our county. So the crime in St. Mary's isn't necessarily people who live in St. Mary's. So, we have to factor all those things in."

Sterling said, "We need more courtrooms because of the great work the state's attorney's office is doing, a 261 percent increase in criminal trials. If I were to ask for a 261-percent increase in my office, it'd be for 40 prosecutors. You don't see me doing that. I asked for three. And if you're saying you can get me one, I'm going to graciously accept the one and I'm going to put those into our office and get those working."

She added, "I will tell you right now is an excellent time to be an employer in ways that's not really excellent for the rest of the country or excellent for the rest of the working people in St. Mary's. There are people looking for jobs and I have never, since I've started, received the number of applicants



State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling

that we're able to receive. So, I don't want us to miss out on some of these opportunities. There are some incredible candidates who are applying."

Even with his objections, when it came around to voting, Hewitt joined the other four commissioners in providing the extra funding for the state's attorney, although he said, "I just think it's a lousy way to budget."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Great Mills Rezoning Approved on Split Vote

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) have approved, on a 3-2 vote, the rezoning of an 8.27-acre piece of property at 29698 Goddard Road in Great Mills.

Land Use and Growth Management Deputy Director Courtney Jenkins, at the May 12 CSMC meeting, said the change was to amend the 2010 comprehensive plan land use map, "to change the land use from rural preservation to mixed use medium intensity, and to also amend the zoning district from Rural Preservation District to Medium Density Mixed Use (MXM) zoning district and to amend the Lexington Park Development District Master Plan land use maps dated May 8th, 2018, to include the entirety of the property to be located within the Lexington Park Development District."

She said, "The request went to the planning commission on February 24, 2025, and the planning commission voted 5-2 in favor of the applicant's request. They came before you on March 25 to request a public hearing. The public hearing was conducted

on April 29 at 11:30 a.m. It lasted approximately 24 minutes. In addition to the brief presentation that I provided, there were two speakers. One speaker spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance and one speaker, the applicant's representative spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance."

Commissioner Mike Hewitt asked, "Ms. Jenkins, tell me, is there a reason that this has to be done in advance of the comprehensive plan, which is already being worked on and should be ready hopefully within a year?"

Jenkins said, "It is the property owner's decision whether or not they would want to wait or not wait, and they've elected to not wait and to make the proposed amendments at this time."

Hewitt then said, "I'm going to vote against it because I believe it could wait. And secondly because I believe the Lexington Park Development District is big enough."

But Commissioner Eric Colvin disagreed. He said, "I think I'm going to support this because it seems like a pretty reasonable plan, and I like what the owners of the property are saying that they're planning to do there. If down the road they were to

change their plans to something that would be drastically different, then that would be a different story."

The applicants, Robert and Robin Belden, are planning a building to support their defense contracting business.

Colvin noted that their plans still had to be approved by the planning commission.

Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr. said, "My only trepidation with the project would be stormwater management on the east corner, where Goddard Road wraps around on the backside of that property. There's quite a substantial contour change there of almost 10 feet, I believe."

Jenkins said, "Any proposed project would go through stormwater management review."

Commissioner Scott Ostrow agreed with Hewitt. He said, "I reviewed the planning commission meeting as well and I think this is something that could wait."

When the vote was tallied, Hewitt and Ostrow were the two negative votes as the rezoning passed.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Commissioner Mike Hewitt

They Said Yes!

Congratulations to the happy couples who applied for marriage licenses in St. Mary's County during the month of April. Best wishes to all!

Richard Alexander Jordan, Jr., 39, Lexington Park, MD
Carmen Marie Butler, 34, Avenue, MD

Kate Elizabeth Woolgar, 38, Saint Leonard, MD
Nicholas Alan Vlahos, 43, Dameron, MD

Felix Morales Lazaro, 45, Lexington Park, MD
Julian Martinez Martinez, 53, Lexington Park, MD

Adam Dwain Bowen, 37, Lexington Park, MD
Diana Leigh Dickens, 41, Lexington Park, MD

Kristin Marie Kelly, 34, California, MD
Matthew Thomas Inman, 36, Mechanicsville, MD

Shelby Ann Reynolds, 27, Lexington Park, MD
Kevin Montieth Coates, 36, Lexington Park, MD

Scott Wayne Springer, 22, Fredericksburg, VA
Brenlie Belle Shirts, 21, Fredericksburg, VA

Savannah Nicole Olzer, 22, California, MD
Noah Eugene Johnson, 23, California, MD

Kathryn Cooper Liebler, 31, Baltimore, MD
Nathan Ryan Cuklanz, 32, Leonardtown, MD

Marissa Adrienne Barrios Ruiz, 26, Lexington Park, MD
Marcos Valente Guardado, 23, Lexington Park, MD

Lesley Gail Keller, 49, Mechanicsville, MD
Clarence Allen Black, 3rd, 49, Mechanicsville, MD

Gisele Jean-Louis, 37, Saint Albans, NY
Fedieu Paul, 41, Saint Albans, NY

Jacob Louis Cleveland, 30, Hollywood, MD
Brittney Amber Dooley, 27, Hollywood, MD

Brittany Marie Bowen, 34, Mechanicsville, MD
Gabriel Aaron Young, 31, Mechanicsville, MD

Siera Elizabeth Kerley, 22, California, MD
Nathaniel Christopher Owens, 26, California, MD

Jason Wade Knott, 24, California, MD
Ashley Marie Schaeffer, 24, California, MD

Amanda Lynn Brady, 28, Bushwood, MD
Jacob Robert Walker, 31, Valley Lee, MD

Gabriella Maria Stankaitis, 25, Fort Washington, MD
Skyler Andre Prue, 26, Fort Washington, MD

Cailyn Nicole Barnes, 21, California, MD
Christopher Daniel Harrington, 24, California, MD

Timothy Causey Warner, 31, Great Mills, MD
Shannon Adair Even, 25, Great Mills, MD

Kaelyn Elizabeth Dowd, 21, Great Mills, MD
Ty Benjamin Rife, 20, Great Mills, MD

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Octavio Delfino Lopez Juarez, 39, Lexington Park, MD

Valerie Marie Amadio, 45, Lusby, MD
Richard Allen Curl, Jr., 57, Chesapeake Beach, MD

Jessica Lynn Cusic, 33, Chaptico, MD
Justin Paul Miedzinski, 32, Chaptico, MD

Kayla Sue Sexton, 29, Clements, MD
Michael Fremont Davis, 35, Clements, MD

Brian James Bowen, 37, Hollywood, MD
Jessica Raye Davis, 46, Hollywood, MD

Thomas Cooper Kenney, 28, Lexington Park, MD
Leandri Van Der Spuy, 26, Lexington Park, MD

Emma Jane Lynch, 26, California, MD
Aron Richard Gemberling, 27, California, MD

Jenny Lee Hall, 28, Mechanicsville, MD
Ronald Cory Wathen, 35, Mechanicsville, MD

Brooke Alyssa Dement, 27, Leonardtown, MD
Justin Thaddeus Langley, 27, Leonardtown, MD

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Bridgett Renea Jones, 35, Leonardtown, MD
Kourtney Michelle Bumbrey, 37, Leonardtown, MD

Gregory Bright Havens, 26, Charlotte Hall, MD
Shelby Makenna Massey, 25, Charlotte Hall, MD

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Michelle Denise Sands-Kortie, 45, Prince Frederick, MD

Luke Thomas Wiley, 37, California, MD
Tania Mariela Galdamez, 23, California, MD

Emily Nicole Rinaldo, 30, Leonardtown, MD
Randall Aaron Jones, 29, Leonardtown, MD

John William Scheffler, 71, California, MD
Christine Marie Plath, 71, California, MD

Christina Aliece Deneale, 45, Lusby, MD
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New Road Added to Golf Cart Regulations

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) have approved adding Old Horse Landing Road in Mechanicsville to the list of roads on which golf carts are allowed. The approval came at the CSMC May 13 meeting.

The decision amended the ordinance that limited golf carts to select roads in the Golden Beach area.

County Attorney Buffy Giddens said, "We did have a public hearing on April 29 regarding this issue, and we had a total of 13 comments/speakers, all of whom were in favor of this repeal and an adoption of the amended ordinance."

Giddens said, "Old Horse Landing Road is about a mile long. DPW&T (Department of Public Works and Transportation) did do a traffic study on that. They found that one vehicle was traveling in excess of the 30-mile posted speed limit at 69 miles per hour). Because of that, the director felt like this would not be a safe move to allow golf carts on that road."

"However, there are a number of requirements for golf carts to be driven on that road. Some of these come from the state law, which includes that golf carts can only be operated between dawn and dusk. They have to be equipped with reflective devices as required and...they're also to be driven as far to the right of the roadway as it's feasible and that the driver should possess a valid driver's license. A golf cart is a vehicle that seats more than one occupant. It has a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour. It has a windshield and a steering wheel, and it is not a motor vehicle. It is not a low-speed vehicle, which is a four-wheel vehicle that has a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour."

Giddens added, "It's not an off-highway recreational vehicle."

Commissioner Eric Colvin said, "I think the community in this neighborhood has been at this for a long time and I really have to commend them for how dedicated they've



County Attorney Buffy Giddens

been at chasing this down and encouraging this to happen. And their commitment to safety is important to note."

Colvin added, "We've had other people reach out to us interested in this, and one thing I tell them is look at how the people on this road handled it because they really advocated well."

Commissioner Mile Hewitt said he had talked to an elderly man who wondered what would happen in the event that a golf cart caused an accident with a car. Hewitt noted that the golf carts don't have to be insured. Giddens said in that case the car driver would have to file suit against the golf cart driver.

The commissioners were also informed that the Town of Leonardtown would be responsible for enacting golf cart regulations for town roads.

Also at the May 13 meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved amending the animal control regulations to remove having five or more dogs from the definition of a commercial kennel. No one objected to that at another April 29 public hearing.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Public Art Masterplan

The Commissioners of Leonardtown are seeking proposals for development of a public art masterplan. The plan will build upon existing assets, identify themes desired by the community and outline criteria for selected installation sites in the future. Applicants must have experience in similar projects. Proposals are due May 30, 2025. Details of the request are available at www.leonardtownsmd.com or in person at Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD or by emailing Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov.

By Authority: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE MOBILE HOME

In accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Commercial Law Article Section 16-207, notice is hereby given that a public sale of a mobile home will be held by the Lord Calvert Manufactured Home Park (the "Park"), to sell the mobile home currently situated at 21167 Winding Way, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653, as follows:

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 21167 Winding Way, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653

Description: 2000 Skyline Mobile Home VIN#14100251MAB (the "Home")

Terms:

- Successful Bidder; Minimum Bid.** The Home shall be sold to the bidder making the highest bid during the sale, who also satisfies all of the Terms contained herein. The successful bidder is referred to herein as the "Bidder". Bidding shall start at \$10,000.00 and the Home will not be sold for less than \$10,000.
- Home must be removed from the Park or Bidder must qualify as Park Tenant.** The Home shall be removed from the Park, by a licensed and bonded mobile home transport contractor, at the Bidder's expense, within ten (10) days after the sale; OR if the Home is to remain in the Park, the sale shall be contingent upon the Bidder's application and approval as a Tenant in the Park (to include background and credit verifications). If the Bidder does not qualify to become a Tenant in the Park, and does not remove the Home from the Park as required, the Home shall be offered to the next highest bidder, in order of bid (high to low) upon the same terms set forth in this paragraph.
- Home must be owner-occupied.** The Home must be occupied by the Bidder as Bidder's primary residence. The Home may not be rented or sub-let to any other person(s).
- Lease; Rent.** If the Home is intended to remain in the Park, Bidder, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 1, above, shall execute a Lease with the Park, prior to occupying the Home. At the time the Lease is signed, Bidder must pay a security deposit of one month's rent and pay the first month's rent. Lot rent in the Park is currently \$808/month and includes water, sewer and trash service. Park rent is scheduled to increase to \$858/month on July 1, 2025.
- Payment.** The Bidder shall pay a deposit of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) at the time of sale and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in certified funds by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday May 22, 2025. Payment shall be delivered to 21027 Great Mills Road, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653.
- Bidder Identification.** All parties intending to bid on the Home shall provide their name, address, phone number, e-mail address and valid State or federal photo ID, prior to the commencement of bidding.

If you would like to place a classified ad or legal notice, please call the County Times at 301-373-4125 or email aldailey@countytimes.net

It's May and It's Tick Season

County Proclaims Lyme Disease Awareness Month



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's May and it's prime time for ticks to be hiding in wait to leap on you or your pet.

In recognition of the Lyme disease carried by ticks, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) have proclaimed May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

The proclamation presented on May 13 said, "Lyme disease, which is transmitted by the bite of an infected tick, is the most common tick-borne disease in Maryland, with over 900 cases reported in 2021."

It went on to say, "Lyme disease can lead to a range of symptoms, including fever, fatigue, joint pain, facial paralysis, and neurological complications, impacting individuals of all ages and potentially causing long-term health issues if left untreated."

The proclamation said, "Detection and treatment are crucial for mitigating the effects of Lyme disease, yet diagnosis can be challenging due to the varied nature of its symptoms."

During the presentation, Director of the Department of Aging and Human Services Lori Jennings-Harris said, "One of the most important pieces that we need to remember is the prevention of tick bites. If you think you have been infected or have been bitten by a tick, to follow up with a medical professional and be persistent if you have to be. Sometimes we have to do that in order to get the care that we need."

Deputy Director of Department of Aging dickmyers@countytimes.net

and Human Services Brandy Tulley said, "Our department also offers tick awareness kits and tick prevention kits for the public. So, you can reach out to our Department of Aging and Human Services if you're interested in those or need more information about Lyme disease prevention and tick-borne illness."

Division Manager for Senior Center Operations Candace Nelson said, "The, Northern Senior Activity Center does a lot of the tick-borne illness information and outreach and one of the staff members there, you all may have met her before, does speaking events and things like that."

Director of Environmental Health with the St. Mary's County Health Department Heather Moritz said, "The majority of my staff is out in the field on a regular basis and is exposed to tick-borne illness every day. It's a discussion we have as far as checking yourself, what clothing can you wear, certain kind of sprays you can put in your clothing and things like that to protect yourself. It is something that does impact our office as well as our community."

"You can definitely check out the health department's website at www.smc.org for more information on how to see signs of a tickborne illness, which can be hard because they mimic a lot of other things that are just your common cold or flu and things like that, but also ways you can prevent it and protect yourself."

Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has apparently been abandoned for 180 days on the property of: Joseph D. Thompson, 27439 North Sandgates Road, Mechanicsville, MD. The vessel is described as:

Registration# MD 2869AX
Hull# C1497
Builder: WR Chance
Length: 40 feet
Color: Grey

Application for title will be made in accordance with Section 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.

Arrest Made in Series of Vehicle Burglaries

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office continue to investigate a series of motor vehicle break-ins in the California and Lexington Park areas, which have resulted in additional charges for the suspect previously arrested.

Donell Davonne Rothwell, 54, of no fixed address, was initially arrested on Saturday, April 5, 2025, following reports of thefts from unattended vehicles. Deputies canvassed local businesses and residential neighborhoods, collecting evidence that linked Rothwell to multiple incidents in which credit cards and valuables were stolen and later used for purchases at area stores.

After continued investigation, Detective First Class Alexander Wynnyk has now filed additional charges against Rothwell, which include:

- Eight counts of Rogue and Vagabond
- Three counts of Theft Less than \$100
- Four counts of Theft \$100 to Less than \$1,500
- Three counts of Credit Card Theft: Stealing Another's
- Two counts of Credit Card Theft/ Another Charge Less than \$100
- One count of Credit Card Theft/ Another Charge \$100 to Less than \$1,500
- One count of Felony Theft Scheme \$1,500 to Less than \$25,000

These are in addition to the original charges filed at the time of arrest, bringing the total number of charges against Rothwell to 46 counts. Rothwell remains incarcerated at the St. Mary's County



Donell Davonne Rothwell

Detention and Rehabilitation Center on a no-bond status pending trial.

Anyone with further information related to these incidents is asked to contact DFC Alexander Wynnyk at 301-475-4200, ext. 8020, or via email at Alexander.Wynnyk@stmaryscountymd.gov.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office reminds residents to take simple but effective steps to help prevent vehicle break-ins. Always lock your vehicle, even when parked at home, and avoid leaving valuables in plain sight. Parking in well-lit areas and securing your belongings out of view, preferably taking them with you, can significantly reduce the risk of becoming a target for theft. These precautionary measures are essential ways to protect yourself and your property from opportunistic crimes.

Public Input Needed for St. Mary's 2050

Survey Open, Community Events Scheduled

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) continues to seek input from the community as the county's Comprehensive Plan, "St. Mary's 2050: Charting Our Tomorrow" is updated.

By completing a short survey, members of the community can provide targeted feedback on certain topics shared during the Community Visioning Sessions and activities held earlier this year.

LUGM staff will also be attending upcoming events across the county to engage community members and encourage participation. Hard copies of the surveys will be available. Please stop by and visit the project team at the following events in May:

- Saturday, May 17, 2025 (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.): Southern Maryland Heritage Festival at Historic Sotterley, located at 44300 Sotterley Lane in Hollywood.
- Sunday, May 18, 2025 (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.): Southern Maryland Heritage Festival at Historic Sotterley, located at 44300 Sotterley Lane in Hollywood.
- Saturday, May 24, 2025 (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.): Barns at New Market Farmers

Market located at 29133 Thompson Corner Road in Mechanicsville.

- Friday, May 30, 2025 (10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) Bingo & Bunco at the Northern Senior Center located at 29655 Charlotte Hall Road in Charlotte Hall.
- Saturday, May 31, 2025 (8 a.m. – 1 p.m.) – Home Grown Farm Market located at 21078 Three Notch Road in Lexington Park.

Please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/StMarys2050 to get more information and to stay updated as more events are announced. This online survey will remain available on the Project website through Monday, June 30, 2025.

St. Mary's 2050: Charting Our Tomorrow is an update to the County's existing Comprehensive Plan, which will guide future land use in the County through 2050 and beyond. St. Mary's 2050 will chart the course for ensuring St. Mary's County continues to be a great place to live, work, and play. Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/StMarys2050 today to learn more, stay engaged, and add your voice in shaping the future of St. Mary's County.

Great Mills Man Convicted of First-Degree Murder

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling has announced that a St. Mary's County jury found James Jerome Adams, Jr., 20, of Great Mills guilty of first-degree murder and the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence for his role in a shooting homicide in Great Mills.

On April 4, 2023, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the parking lot of the Sheetz on Old Great Mills Road in Great Mills for a report of gunfire. A thorough investigation including surveillance footage revealed that Adams and several others carried out a coordinated attack on a 26-year-old victim who was at the convenience store. The victim suffered multiple gunshot wounds and ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

"The defendant's actions stole a young man's life and endangered many others in a brazen act of gun violence carried out at a busy gas station," said State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling. "This conviction delivers accountability, though no verdict can bring back the life that was tragically taken that day. We will continue to stand with the victim's family and do everything in our power by continuing to prosecute cases involving senseless gun violence to the fullest extent of the law."

Adams was convicted by a St. Mary's



Jerome Adams, Jr.

County jury following a jury trial. He will be held without bond pending sentencing. He faces a maximum penalty of *Life* plus 20 years in prison.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Alena Mosier and Assistant State's Attorney Shaye Reynolds prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Sergeant Austin Schultz of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Joseph Stanalonis presided over the case.



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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Annual Fleet Workshop Equips Warfighters with Training on Evolving Aircrew Systems

Military personnel from across the country gathered near NAS Patuxent River May 5-8 for an annual workshop aimed at strengthening fleet training on critical aircrew support systems, ensuring the safety of both aircrew and maintainers during flight missions.

Hosted by the Naval Aircrew Systems (PMA-202) Fleet Air Introduction/Liaison of Survival Aircrew Flight Equipment (FAILSAFE) team, the event welcomed more than 100 attendees, including parachute riggers, fleet aeromedical safety officers, and Naval Survival Training Institute instructors.

"Our job at PMA-202 is to equip and sustain aircrew with cutting-edge mission ready systems, ensuring their dominance in any operational environment," said Capt. Joseph Kamara, who recently took lead of PMA-202. "What you all do is critical for the safety of our thousands of aircrew and maintainers around the world."

The three-day training focused on the introduction, support, and assessment of new or modified Aviation Life Support Systems (ALSS), including ejection seats, oxygen systems, and survival vests. Attendees received essential instruction on system updates, emerging technologies, and direct engagement with PMA-202's product and fleet support teams.



Lt. Chris Mecham, Naval Aircrew Systems (PMA-202) Fleet Air Introduction/Liaison of Survival Aircrew Flight Equipment (FAILSAFE) lead, introduces the core FAILSAFE team at the program's annual symposium May 5 near Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. (U.S. Navy photo)

"This workshop equips warfighters with the expertise needed to navigate system transitions smoothly, ensuring fleet readiness and awareness of advancements in critical technologies," said Lt. Chris Mecham, FAILSAFE team lead.

Staying informed on these advancements is crucial for aircrew and maintainer safety in life-or-death situations, reinforcing operational effectiveness and survivability,

Mecham said.

"My first FAILSAFE workshop was in 2019, it was an eye-opening event that motivated me even more to complete the PR [parachute rigger] mission," said Aircrew Survival Equipmentman Master Chief Rob Johnson. "This year's event is no different, being able to see what happens in the background to support ALSS and hearing about updates on new equipment is really

cool. It's important for more maintainers to attend these, not only for knowledge, but for networking. Meeting the faces behind the emails and the voices behind the phone make it easier when reaching out for help."

PMA-202 oversees the development, procurement, and sustainment of aircrew and maintainer-support systems, including ALSS, protective gear, vision systems, and survival equipment.

Navy Restores T-10 Test Cell Facility at Pax River, Enhancing Fleet Readiness

The Navy's T-10 Test Cell Facility at Pax River is undergoing a significant revitalization that will enable engine testing in a noise-suppressed environment.

Driven by a collaborative effort between the Common Aviation Support Equipment program office (PMA-260) and Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), this initiative strengthens NAVAIR's propulsion community by enhancing engine testing capabilities, emphasizing the Navy's commitment to maintaining mission-ready aircraft.

The restoration of T-10, which had been closed for more than a decade, is essential for supporting the Engine Test Instrumentation Replacement System (ETIRS), a next-generation capability designed to improve engine performance evaluations across multiple aircraft platforms.

Once operational, the facility will provide a controlled, weather-independent testing environment, reducing reliance on costly off-site evaluations and mitigating schedule risks. By investing in this critical infrastructure, the Navy is ensuring maintainers will have reliable, ready-for-use equipment to support engine repairs on the flight line.

"The revitalization of the T-10 Test Cell Facility is a crucial step in reducing cost



Navy team members facilitate instrumentation setup during a recent load test as part of the collaborative effort between the Common Aviation Support Equipment program office (PMA-260) and Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) to revitalize the T-10 Test Cell Facility that will enable engine testing in a noise-suppressed environment at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. (U.S. Navy photo)

and schedule risk for the ETIRS program," said Capt. Matt Wilcox, PMA-260 program manager. "As legacy engine test instrumentation systems become obsolete, our team remains committed to delivering this enhanced capability to Sailors and Marines without disrupting I-level engine maintenance operations."

As T-10 ramps up towards full reactivation, it symbolizes the strategic alignment

between aviation support equipment (SE) modernization and achievement of maintenance capability. By streamlining maintenance and engine testing, T-10 acts as a force multiplier, significantly improving support equipment acquisition and sustainment.

"By optimizing test and evaluation opportunities and ensuring efficient resource utilization, this strategic effort directly supports the program office's goal to deliver

our products on time, on cost, with proven functionality and reliability," Wilcox said.

For intermediate-level maintainers and flight line personnel, the introduction of ETIRS brings faster and more accurate diagnostics capability to Navy Fleet Readiness Centers (Level II), Carrier Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Departments, and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadrons ensuring aircraft remain ready, reliable, and lethal.

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Heritage Festival Returns to Sotterley



Historic Sotterley is hosting the 2nd Southern Maryland Heritage Festival on May 17 and 18.

It's an unforgettable two-day celebration of Southern Maryland's rich history and culture, and the incredible people who make it unique.

This festival promises something for everyone, so mark your calendars and get ready for an amazing experience!

Heritage Demos & Exhibits

Check out demonstrations and exhibits from Southern Maryland businesses and organizations, such as blacksmithing, jousting, quilting, antique tractor pulls, and more!

Food and Artisan Vendors

Shop one-of-a-kind hand-crafted goods made by local artisans, and enjoy fabulous food from local favorites!

Vendors include Aunt Titty's Food Truck, Blue Wind Gourmet, Calvert Crabs, Cutty's Rock N' Ribs, Guy Distributing Company, Liquid Assets and Salted Scoop.

Music & Entertainment

Music is part of our heritage! Enjoy live performances on our outdoor stage. Music includes HydraFX, Copper Pennies, All Funked Up, Chaptico Songworks and Community Choir.

Beer & Wine

Brews on tap and wine will be available at two locations on site. (Bring your ID!)

Kids Corner

Your little ones can enjoy games and other family-friendly activities at our designated kids area.

Wagon Rides

Take a scenic ride through Historic Sotterley on a tractor-pulled wagon ride.

Open House Tours

Explore some areas of our Manor House and learn some history from our experienced docents.

Don't miss out on this vibrant celebration of Southern Maryland's heritage. Bring your friends and family for a weekend filled with fun, learning, and community spirit!

Ticket Pricing

Two-Day Entrance (Adults): \$18 in advance, \$25 at the gate. One-Day Entrance (Adults): \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. Children (12 & under): FREE

Boondocking at the Southern Maryland Heritage Festival

For the first time this year, the Southern Maryland Heritage Festival will allow two nights of on-site RV camping (May 16 & 17)! Guests will be able to fully immerse themselves in the beauty of Sotterley and the festival experience.

Camping registration costs \$100 and includes two adult two-day tickets to the festival. To reserve your spot, please reach out to Sotterleyfest@gmail.com

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Find Your Next Treasure at a Local Thrift Store



A Calvert whiskey vase, one of Joe Mattingly's favorite thrift store finds



Kathy Cerwensky's heavy-metal lamp find

By Florence Ballengee
Contributing Writer

Most people love a bargain and thrift store enthusiasts will tell you it's their favorite place to find one.

For some it's the thrill of the hunt and they just roam the thrift stores until something attracts them.

Former Assistant State's Attorney Joe Mattingly, Jr. has been a long-time thrift store enthusiast. Over the years he has found items from the unusual to the valuable. One of his favorite finds was a

Calvert whiskey vase with a picture of Lord Baltimore on it. He has an extensive glassware collection, but because the whiskey vase is a Maryland item, he is particularly fond of it. He found the item at Goodwill in Annapolis.

While at a thrift store in Laurel, Mattingly found an unusual hat rack. It is wrought iron, and is shaped like a tree with branches.

At the Salvation Army in Waldorf, he found a cast iron frying pan. Mattingly enjoys cooking and using his extensive collection of glassware.

He advised that if you see something and you can afford it, buy it. Not only can you find some great conversation pieces, but you can help the environment by recycling. If you go often enough, he said, you will eventually find a treasure.

Mattingly says thrift stores are often run by churches and other nonprofits. They are good for the community because instead of ending at the dump, useable items are sold to raise money for charity.

Mattingly frequently shops at local thrift stores and when he travels, he often makes it a point to check out thrift stores.

Betty Claus has four children, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Thrift stores are a way for her to save money since she often comes across new toys. Because she is very active in her senior community, she finds items that can be used for various fundraisers that she enjoys doing where she lives. She also purchased good used clothing.

Bernice Jones Williams looks for high end clothing and home decor. She changes her bedroom decor every few months and most often from thrift store bargains. She is

well known among her friends for her generosity and if someone is in need of something at her senior apartment building, "Ask Bernice" is often the advice given.

There are particular brands that appeal to her. For instance, she is always on the lookout for Chico women's clothes. She found a coat which was mink on one side and leather on the other for \$25 at a thrift store.

Kathy Cerwensky was not a thrift shop shopper until she moved to Victory Woods Senior Apartments. There she found a group of friends and one of the things her group enjoys most is thrift store shopping. Recently Cerwensky found a big, heavy-metal lamp that was being given away. She took it home, took it apart, painted it with chalk paint and put some flowers in it.

Below is a partial list of St. Mary's County thrift shops. All of those listed raise funds for charitable purposes. You can look up any of them online where you will find their business hours.

St. Andrews Thrift Store, St. Andrews Church Rd. (Route 4); small, but well-kept shop run by volunteers. They have a monthly newsletter and have frequent sales.

Vintage Values; two locations, Route 5 in Leonardtown, and Route 235 in California; these two shops are always well-stocked stores with a little of everything. Each week there is at least one sale item, generally more than one.

Angel Wings and Things on the campus of St. Michel's Church in Ridge; run by volunteers; old two-story building with very organized items of everything description. They even have a bargain basement. Open on Saturday and Sunday only

Hooks and Hangers, Route 5, Charlotte Hall; large inventory including a lot of furniture and an expansive supply of books. Sales every week.; in the former IGA grocery store building.

That's a little about each store that supports a charity or church. The Tri-County area has lots of thrift stores and other than Waldorf, you won't find better prices anywhere. There are several large thrift stores in Waldorf. While the variety of merchandise is excellent, the prices are much higher than here in St. Mary's or in Calvert County.

Recreation & Parks Recognizes Volunteers



St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation and Parks (R&P) was honored to recognize volunteers who dedicate their time, energy, skills and passion to R&P programs.

The R&P Board and staff members recognized outstanding volunteers from the department's Museums Division, the Summerstock Theater program, and volunteer coaches from the youth indoor soccer league and youth basketball league. Volunteers were presented with certificates thanking them for their accomplishments.

In addition, two volunteer coaches were awarded plaques for their exceptional sportsmanship. The annual George Stewart Coaches Award was presented to Dustin Robinson, who coached two R&P youth basketball teams. Kevin Meyer received the First Year Coaches award for his inaugural year of volunteer coaching service.

"It's definitely a labor of love," said Julia Pappendick, a Summerstock volun-

teer recognized for her costume work. "I started with my teenager when she was part of Summerstock, but I've kept going. It's been a great experience."

In 2024, R&P volunteers provided nearly 9,000 hours of service. Their dedication helps R&P programs, facilities and events run smoothly and contributes to R&P's mission of sharing top notch programs with local communities.

"Any amount of effort that someone wants to put in, you get to say you're part of it," said Summerstock volunteer Christina Allee.

If you would like to volunteer with St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks, please complete an online application at www.surveymonkey.com/r/VolunteerApplicationRelease. To see a full list of volunteers recognized and awarded at the May 1, 2025 R&P Board Meeting, visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/docs/VolunteerRecognition.pdf. Never miss an update!

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MEET JAXX

Meet Jaxx the 2 year old American Pitbull Terrier. Jaxx is a very sweet boy, who does well with most other dogs. He sure does love to play and is a great couch buddy! Are you interested in giving Jaxx his Furever home? Fill out an application at www.animalreliefund.org. Call 301-866-0303 or stop by during our adoption days at the Well Pet Clinic Saturdays 11am-2pm!

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SUN 11-4

A Special Pull Out Section

The background is a vibrant blue with a fine grid pattern. Scattered throughout are small white daisies and yellow plumeria flowers. Various summer-themed illustrations are placed around the central text: a watermelon-shaped inflatable ring in the top left, a pink inflatable ring with a person in a red bikini and a large pink sun hat in the top center, a red inflatable ring in the top right, a yellow inflatable ring in the middle right, a pink and white beach ball in the middle left, a pineapple in the bottom left, and a yellow and white beach ball in the bottom right.

SOMD Summer Fun

25th Anniversary

POTOMAC JAZZ & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Four Days of Jazz Fun!
JULY 10-13, 2025
IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD



JULY 10
THUR



A Jazz Sunset Affair on the Potomac

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park
This exclusive, elegant affair in the shadow of the lighthouse by the Potomac River features music from Higher Standards and wine from local wineries, seafood Hors d'oeuvres and dancing under the stars. Tickets: \$85 per person/\$160 per couple.

JULY 11
FRI



Jazz in the Neighborhood

Kick Off Concert *fea. U.S. Navy Band: The Commodores*

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum
Kick off the 25th anniversary weekend with a FREE family-friendly concert featuring food trucks, vendors and more along the waterside museum lawn.



Artful Harmonies: A Plein Air Celebration

5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. (All Day) at St. Clement's Island Museum
Attention artists: Bring your art materials and capture the vibrant energy of the festival's setup and the gorgeous riverside landscape. Fee: \$10/artist.

JULY 12
SAT

THE Main EVENT



CASUAL GROOVE



REBECCA JADE



ANDRÉA LISA



CHELSEY GREEN

12 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum Grounds

Enjoy live jazz performances by **Casual Groove, Rebecca Jade, Andréa Lisa, and Chelsey Green**, as well as a variety of seafood vendors and activities. Tickets: \$75 General Admission/\$95 VIP.

JULY 13
SUN



Jazz Brunch and Golf at Wicomico Shores

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course
Enjoy a delicious jazz brunch with music from The Sweet Potatoes, then head out to the links for a round of golf (optional fee). Brunch Tickets: \$50 per person/\$90 per couple.



Jazz Cruises with Captain Phil and Sax Appeal

Departs from St. Clement's Island Museum dock
Music on board by Sax Appeal Duet. Tickets: \$85.00 per person/\$160 per couple.
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. **Early Bird Jazz Cruise** featuring pastries and mimosas.
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. **Seafood Jazz Cruise** featuring seafood or chicken option and wine.
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. **Evening Casual Jazz Cruise** featuring charcuterie and wine.



LEARN MORE ABOUT EVENTS AND ORDER TICKETS AT
WWW.POTOMACJAZZFEST.COM

The Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival is a fundraiser for the Friends of The St. Clements and Piney Point Museums; proceeds support local museums.

Make it a weekend! Check out
VisitStMarysMD.com/stay
for hotels and waterfront lodgings.



MAJOR FESTIVAL PARTNERS

SOUTHERN MARYLAND Summer Events

June

UCAC Juneteenth Celebration

June 7, 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd, Leonardtown
Admission: Free

The Unified Committee For Afro-American Contributions is excited to host the twenty-first annual Juneteenth African American Heritage Celebrations. A free, fun, event for all ages! This year we are featuring the Ni Dembaya African Drum and Dance Ensemble (above), Ms. Story (below), and the band SIXX (below). The event always includes opportunities for learning as well as entertainment with workshops, exhibits, art activities, living history, music, and a variety of vendors. We encourage you to bring your own lawn chairs - seating will be limited. All are welcome to spend the day in the park enjoying live music, speakers, workshops, food, community, and fun.

Juneteenth is a National Holiday com-

memorating and celebrating the end of slavery in America - a day of reflection, a day of renewal, a pride-filled day. It is a day for all Americans to come together to reflect on our past as a nation, celebrate the African American experience, and begin to build a brighter future together.

Lavender Days Festival

June 14 & 15, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Dixon Family Farm
27075 S. Sandgates Rd, Mechanicsville
Admission: \$12-\$18

Celebrate summer at Maryland's only waterfront lavender farm. Live music, food trucks, local craft vendors, craft beverages, lavender distillation demonstrations, and rolling hills of over 5,000 lavender plants in bloom.

Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket and relax in our shaded lawn area. Get a bite to eat from one of our food trucks, enjoy a cocktail from our amazing craft beverage vendors, take in the sweet aroma of lavender in the air, and enjoy the lineup of live music.

Crab Festival

June 14, 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
Admission: Adults \$10; Kids under 12 free

The Crab Festival is a celebration of St. Mary's Crab Culture and Cooking. Expect to find plenty of steamed hard crabs, crab soups, crab cakes, and other seafood dishes available for purchase.

In addition, guests will enjoy:

- Live music
- Regional Crafts
- Inflatables for the Kids
- Classic Car Show
- Petting Zoo

Flag Day Celebration

June 14, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
St. Mary's County Governmental Center
41770 Baldrige St, Leonardtown
Admission: Free

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County invite the entire community to attend the 2025

Flag Day Celebration! This event features a procession by various color guards and veteran groups from around the county, a special Flag Day Service, an official Flag Retirement Ceremony, plus hand-held American Flags, food, music, for kids, and more!

Seating will be provided but attendees are also welcome to bring blankets and chairs to enjoy the festivities from the comfort of the lawn. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be relocated to the inside of the Leonard Hall Recreation Center, adjacent to the lawn.

Mulberry Music Festival

June 20, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
St. Mary's College of Maryland
47645 College Dr., St. Mary's City
Admission: Free

Kick off Juneteenth weekend with an evening of joyous expression and uplifting beats at the Mulberry Music Festival. This year's lineup includes DUMPSTAPHUNK,

Continued on page 5

Flag Day!

June 14, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Bring your blankets and chairs!
Government Center Lawn
41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown

stmaryscountymd.gov

The poster features the St. Mary's County Maryland seal on the left, which includes the text "ST. MARY'S COUNTY MARYLAND" and "1637". The background is a large American flag. On the right, there are three vertical photo strips showing: 1) A group of people in red and white clothing standing in a line. 2) A group of people in uniform standing in a line on a lawn. 3) A large fire burning in a field.

SUMMER EVENTS AT ST. MARY'S MUSEUMS

DISCOVER HISTORY AND HERITAGE FOR ALL AGES



FREE
FAMILY
FUN

St. Clement's Island Heritage Day

Experience a day of history, wildlife, art, games, family activities, and more as guest presenters and interpreters showcase the history, culture, heritage, and ecology of St. Clement's Island.

Saturday • June 7 • 10AM–3PM

For more info: 301-769-2222 • Facebook.com/SCIMuseum



Drayden African American Schoolhouse

Learn more about one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses and its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County.



Open Houses June 7 & 19–21 • July 5 & 19 • August 2 & 16 • 11AM–2PM

For more info: 301-994-1471 • Facebook.com/DraydenSchool



FREE



SUMMER SOLSTICE AT PINEY POINT

Come enjoy the longest day of the year with after-hour tours of the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park. Regular admission applies.

Friday • June 20 • 10AM–8PM

For more info: 301-994-1471 • Facebook.com/1836Light

2025 Dinner & A Cruise Series

Enjoy a fun evening of cruising on the St. Clement's Island Water Taxi, including presentations by experts on local history, followed by a delicious seafood dinner catered at Morris Point.



May 25 • June 8 • August 3 • September 7 & 21 • 3pm–6pm

Scan QR code for tickets • For more info: 301-769-2222 • Facebook.com/SCIMuseum



St. Clement's Island Art Kids

Students age 7–17 will explore fine arts through a variety of artistic styles and reflect on how making art can affect society in positive, impactful ways.

June 24–26 • July 8–10 • July 22–24 • August 5–7

To register and for more info: 301-769-2222 • Facebook.com/SCIMuseum

FamilyFest on the Potomac

Enjoy a full day of family fun with live music, food, vendors, displays and a variety of family activities.



Saturday - September 13 - 10am–4pm

For more info: 301-994-1471 • Facebook.com/1836Light



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. MARY'S COUNTY MUSEUMS,
VISIT [MUSEUMS.STMARYSMD.COM](https://museums.stmarysmd.com)



Continued from page 3

Carly Harvey and Kelly Bell Band.

The festival will take place outdoors on the sublime Townhouse Green, so pack a few lawn chairs or blankets to cozy up for the performances. Bring your own food, or purchase some from one of the tasty food vendors.

Free of charge and open to the public, with fireworks following the show!

Summer Solstice Faerie Party

June 20, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Xella Winery
26781 Laurel Grove Rd., Mechanicsville

Our 2nd Annual ACOTAR Summer Solstice Faerie Party is happening June 20, 6–9 PM! Xella (Spring Court) welcomes all of Prythian for a night of faerie wine, food, dancing, and pure magic.

Community, Culture & Cuisine

June 28
Lexington Manor Passive Park
21675 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
Admission: Free

Enjoy a family-friendly experience at the 2nd annual Community, Culture & Cuisine, featuring the diverse culture, cuisine, community, arts & entertainment of Lexington Park and beyond!

July

Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival

July 10 to July 13
St. Clement's Island Museum
38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point
Admission: \$80 for General Admission

Get ready to groove! The Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival is turning the big 2-5, and we're throwing a party you won't want to miss! Join us for four days of jazz, fun and waterfront vibes in beautiful Southern Maryland's scenic St. Mary's County. This isn't just a festival; it's a silver jubilee celebration of music, community and the stunning beauty of the Potomac River.

Judged: Stories of Colonial Justice (and Injustice)

July 11 & 12, 5:00 PM & 6:30 PM
Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation
47755 Old Cove Rd., Lexington Park
Admission: \$20; \$15 for HSMC members

What does justice look like—and who gets to define it? Join us for this immersive, adults-only evening tour based on true 17th-century court cases from Maryland's first capital. As you walk through the plantation, you'll meet characters whose lives were entangled in the legal system—people navigating interracial relationships, enslavement, adultery, abuse, and public scandal. Their stories are complex, raw, and very real.

The tour ends with a dramatic outdoor court hearing, where you'll see how the colonial justice system delivered its verdicts—sometimes fair, often not. Come ready to question, reflect, and walk in the footsteps of the past.

This program is intended for adult audiences (18+). The stories presented are based on real 17th-century court cases and include sensitive topics such as enslavement, interracial relationships, abuse, adultery, and

substance use. These themes are presented with care and historical context, but may be distressing for some visitors. We encourage thoughtful engagement and reflection.

Insectival

July 19, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Rd., Solomons
Admission: \$8/person online (\$11/person at the gate, if not sold out); ages 2 & under free; members free

What's an INSECTIVAL? It's an insect festival! Join us for a day of buggy fun as we explore and get creative with the world of insects. Enjoy activities for all ages, meet community groups who love bugs, and have fun roaming the garden as you explore and have fun with insects!

Wine in White - SoMD Speakeasy

July 26, 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM
The Fenwick Inn
41685 Fenwick St., Leonardtown
Admission: \$82

SoMD Wine In White 2025 is back and better than ever! Join us for a fabulous evening of wine tasting and mingling at the historic Fenwick Inn in Leonardtown. Get ready to sip on some of the finest wines Southern Maryland has to offer, all while enjoying the company of fellow wine enthusiasts. Whether you're a wine connoisseur or just looking for a fun night out, this speakeasy-themed event is the perfect blend of elegance and excitement for everyone.

Ticket price includes mouthwatering cuisine by The Real Food Studio and lavish libations to keep the party flowing.

August

National Lighthouse Weekend

August 2 & 3, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
20254 Colton Point Rd., Coltons Point
Admission: Free

Head to Piney Point for a fun open house weekend in recognition of National Lighthouse Day, which is celebrated at the museum each year on or near August 7th. Enjoy tours of the museum, Potomac River Maritime Exhibit, lighthouse tower, the Keeper's Quarters, and grounds.

Bad Art Night

August 22, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Rd., Solomons
Admission: \$7/person (must be 21+); members FREE

It's an outrageous night of BAD ART MAKING for adults at Annmarie Garden. Guests 21 and up are invited to be inspired by the works in our galleries, then undertake some unconventional and unorthodox art-making. We'll have all the supplies you'll need to have at it. Finished artwork will be displayed for all and then cast your vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes will be awarded! It's a great night to let loose, get "creative", and have some fun!

A cash bar, food trucks, and lively music will add to the fun!

Grab a friend, come with a group, or just come alone and meet new people and join the fun. No reservations required; just come!

19th Annual 2025

Rain or Shine Event



August 1st & 2nd

Friday & Saturday

at Bowles Farms

22880 Budds Creek Road, Clements, MD 20624 | Intersection of Rt.234 & Pincushion Road



2-Days Of Racing

Admission Cost: \$10.00

Children 8 and under "FREE"

Food & Refreshments Available – NO Coolers Permitted

Camper Sites Available - 301-904-7694

Friday August 1st

Gates Open	4:00 PM
Trial Runs	6:00 PM
Racing Starts	7:00 PM



Saturday August 2nd

Gates Open	3:30 PM
Trial Runs	5:00 PM
Racing Starts	6:00 PM

7th District Rescue Squad: Ronnie 301-904-7694

7th District Optimist Club: AL 240-299-1891

More Info

www.BowlesFarms.com



All Proceeds To Benefit









HELLO SUMMER

**FREE SUMMER EVENTS
HAPPENING AT ST. MARY'S
COLLEGE OF MARYLAND**



FRIDAY, JUNE 20

MULBERRY MUSIC FESTIVAL @ 6 P.M.

Featuring DUMPSTAPHUNK, Kelly Bell Band and Carly Harvey. Enjoy local food trucks and vendors, plus special fireworks following the show!

Learn more: www.smcm.edu/mmfnf

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

FRIDAY, JULY 4

FRIDAY, JULY 11

FRIDAY, JULY 18

FRIDAY, JULY 25

RIVER CONCERT SERIES @ 7 P.M.

Featuring the Chesapeake Orchestra, directed by Jeff Silberschlag. Bring your folding chairs and blankets and enjoy the finest food trucks from across Southern Maryland. Learn more: www.smcm.edu/rcsnf

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

GOVERNOR'S CUP YACHT RACE

Greet the finishers of the 52nd annual Governor's Cup at the SMCM Waterfront from 12 noon on with live music, food trucks and a cash bar.

Learn more: www.smcm.edu/gcnp

ST MARY'S
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

**FOR ALL SMCM SUMMER
EVENTS VISIT:**



Christ Episcopal Church, Chaptico
invites you to their 31st annual

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

for local charities held at the
Christ Church Parish Hall 37497 Zach Fowler Rd, Chaptico

SUNDAY, May 18th, 2025

New Hours: 12:30 – 4:00

Strawberry Shortcake with the "Works", Ice Cream, and Strawberry Pies

Visit Historic Christ Church built in 1736

MIKE'S BARBECUE

LIVE MUSIC: Bushmill Band and Folk Salad

ARTISTS & CRAFTERS

SOUTHERN MD BOOTSCOOTERS PERFORMANCE 1:30

Bicyclists invited to participate: Dan: ddonahue@md.metrocast.net

Funds raised help support charities in St. Mary's County: ACTS, HOSPICE, and the
Clements Cuties Foundation for Childhood Cancers.
"Family Fun in the Country with Terrific Food and Great Music"

Please call Shelby (301) 904-2532 or Church Office (301) 884-3451 www.cckqp.net

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...and all that jazz!

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37th year in business!

National champions 2024

Voted BEST Studio in SoMD 2023



Summer Classes Start July 7th!

Twice a week until July 24th

**TAP • BALLET • ACROBATICS • HIP HOP
OFFERED THIS SUMMER**

Classes for Ages 3 & Up!

Registration: GraciesGandG@aol.com

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Hollywood, MD 20636**

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& Commercial Refrigeration**

Leonardtwn Summer Concerts



Robbie Boothe

JUNE 7, 2025

5pm to 9:00pm
Leonardtwn Square

The Copper Pennies

JULY 4, 2025

3pm to 7pm
Leonardtwn Wharf



HydraFx
AUGUST 30, 2025

5pm to 9:30pm
Leonardtwn Wharf

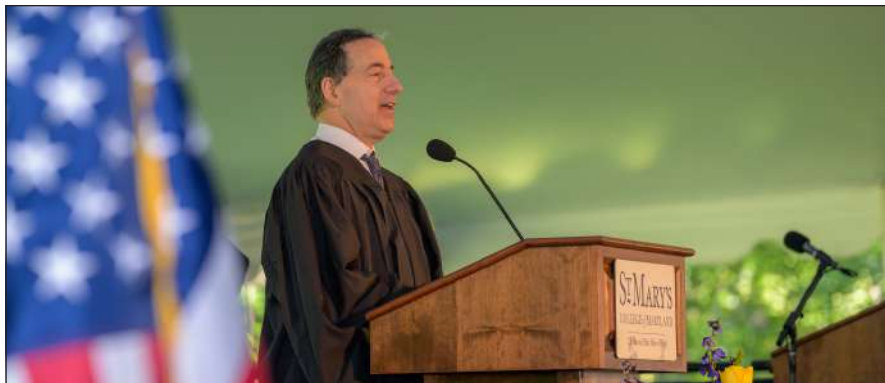
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Raskin Delivers Commencement Address at SMCM



St. Mary's College of Maryland, the National Public Honors College, graduated 386 students with Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts in Teaching degrees on Saturday, May 10, outdoors on the campus' Townhouse Green.

U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Md., 8th), the Ranking Member on the House Committee on the Judiciary, delivered the keynote address. In his message, Raskin spoke of the current challenges to American democracy while kindling hope for the "other path" awaiting the graduates: "...the path of democracy and freedom, human rights, the rule of law, literature, education, research and art," he said. "And I can't prepare you for that path in two minutes, but that's all right, because the last four years of your time at St. Mary's have been your real preparation for this moment, because you embody the St. Mary's Way."

Raskin received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters presented by President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, accompanied by Board of Trustees Chair John J. Bell '95.

In her final address, presiding over a commencement ceremony at St. Mary's College, President Jordan reminded the Class of 2025 of what they had accomplished together. "In the spirit of the St. Mary's Way, you have persevered through the challenges of the past few years with tenacity, patience and focus, balanced so importantly with a bit of fun," she said. "We trust your journey with us has given you the leadership tools necessary to have productive careers and exemplary lives displayed with grace and humility."

Bell also delivered a short message to the graduates. "As an alumnus, I remember what it felt like to sit in those front rows, filled with excitement about my path ahead," he stated. "And now three decades later, I feel that same sense of hope and possibilities standing before the Class of 2025."

The College's newest alumni heard from one of the five class valedictorians: Devon Gorel, Robert Koontz, Morgan Kresslein, Sam Parizek and Alaina Sievert. Parizek was selected to address the class via lottery.

Parizek charged his classmates to respond with kindness to the unprecedented times in the world they were about to enter. "[A]n unwavering and unflinching commitment to kindness is an unwavering and unflinching commitment to the values of this school, to the values of a liberal education, to the values of humanity," he stated. "Our position is not solely reactive or passive, but is brimming with agency, waiting to be energized and employed. I would suggest then that we proceed in our lives, in this nebulous world, not on autopilot, but through conscious engagement, emphasizing action, even amidst rampant inaction, and kindness."

President Jordan recognized four faculty who retired this year: Beth Charlebois, professor of English; Sandy Ganzell, professor of mathematics; Walter Hill, professor of political science and Andrew S. Koch, professor of chemistry. Together, the four represent over 100 collective years of teaching students.

The commencement was live-streamed on the College's website, and that recording is available for view there.

Leonardtown Gears Up for Car Show, Running of the Balls



Hundreds of classic, vintage, restored cars, trucks, and hot rods will take over the streets of Historic Downtown Leonardtown on Sunday, May 18 during the annual St. Mary's Rod & Classic Car Show. This family-friendly event draws vehicle enthusiasts from across the region and includes games, raffles, awards, and music. This is the rescheduled event date due to inclement weather for the original date (May 4th).

Also featured during the day's festivities is the 12th Annual Running of the Balls, a signature fundraiser hosted by the Leonardtown Rotary Club. All proceeds from the event benefit Hospice of St. Mary's and other local non-profit organizations. Spectator entry is just a \$5 donation to support Hospice of St. Mary's.

To ensure the safety of attendees and participants, the following road closures

will be in effect on Sunday, May 18 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or until roads are cleared and deemed safe to reopen):

- Washington Street from Church Street to Courthouse Drive will be closed to all through traffic and parking (from 6-10 a.m. only for vetting vehicles).
- Washington Street from Shadrick Street to Courthouse Drive will be closed to all through traffic and parking from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Access to downtown Leonardtown will be maintained via Lawrence Avenue and Courthouse Drive for residents, businesses, and patrons. Please plan ahead and follow posted signage and directions from event personnel for a safe and enjoyable experience.

For more information about the event please visit: www.stmarysrodandclassic.com.

St. Mary's Transit to Offer Fare-Free Week

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) is pleased to announce that all riders of the St. Mary's Transit System (STS) will enjoy fare-free rides from Sunday, May 25 through Saturday, May 31, 2025. This special promotion is being offered in honor of National Transportation Week.

The fare-free week aims to raise awareness of the vital role public transportation plays in connecting residents to employment, education, healthcare, and essential services, while also encouraging more community members to explore the convenience and value of STS.

"Public transportation is a vital service that helps keep our community connected and supports local economic growth," said Commissioner President, Randy Guy. "The Commissioners continue to evaluate ways to make STS more accessible for all, including the possibility of launching a fare-free pilot program in the next fiscal year."

DPW&T Deputy Director of Transportation Allison Swint expressed appreciation for both transit users and staff: "We're grateful for our team members who work every day to keep our buses running smoothly and safely. We also thank our rid-



ers—your support keeps this service strong and community-focused."

The St. Mary's Transit System operates fixed routes and paratransit services across the county, serving both urban centers and rural areas. Whether commuting to work, running errands, or attending appointments, STS provides a safe, reliable, and accessible transportation option for residents of all ages.

For routes, schedules, and rider information, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/STS or call the STS Office at 301-475-4200, ext. 1120.

Vacation Rental in Nags Head

Beautiful condo in Nags Head for rent.

Beachwoods Resort in Kitty Hawk, located at milepost #1.

3 bedrooms, 3 bath, 2 kitchens and living rooms, sleeps 10.

Indoor pool with waterpark, gym, outdoor pool, hiking paths, private beach with parking, scheduled daily children's activities.

Wooded resort with bike trail.

Available 7/26/25-8/2/25

\$2,800 for the full week (\$400/night)

Call 301-904-8483



FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Be alert for caregiver financial abuse

Do you have a parent or other elderly relative who may soon need a caregiver? If so, be diligent when selecting the right person for the job — because choosing the wrong one could lead to big financial problems.

You might find a close family member or friend to serve as caregiver — someone who is honest and trustworthy, with good judgment and strong money management skills. However, in many cases, people hiring caregivers just don't know how they'll perform until the caregivers have begun work. A dishonest caregiver could steal valuables or cash from the person they have been paid to assist or incept their mail to obtain credit card numbers and other sensitive information to commit identity theft.

So, if you enlist a caregiver and begin having doubts about them, you'll need to watch out for these warning signs of possible financial abuse:

Efforts to prevent the individual receiving care from speaking to family members

- Inquiries into the location of estate-planning documents, such as a will
- Interest in brokerage and retirement accounts, possibly with the intent to change transfer-on-death designations
- Withholding financial or medical information from the family
- Missing jewelry or property
- Requests to be a joint holder on bank or brokerage accounts, sometimes followed by large cash withdrawals paid to the caregiver
- Request for legal authority, such as a financial power of attorney naming only the caregiver

This last item — the request for financial power of attorney, or POA — is particularly concerning because of the scope of duties covered by this type of authority. That's why it's so important that all family members understand what a financial POA can and cannot do.

A general financial POA provides the agent with the authority to act on behalf of an individual's finances, while a limited financial POA gives the agent the authority only for certain actions, such as paying bills, making withdrawals and opening or closing bank accounts. A general financial POA and a limited financial POA both can be durable, which means they take effect once executed, or springing, which is contingent on a specific event, such as a physical illness, mental incapacity or even a hospitalization.

Unfortunately, some POA agents have abused their responsibility by stealing money, making unauthorized transactions and even attempting to change the beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or insurance policies owned by the people for whom they provide care. These beneficiary designations can even supersede the instructions left in a will or living trust — and they can't be changed by a financial POA.

If you suspect financial abuse by a caregiver, you can consider contacting your loved one's financial advisor or attorney, if you know who it is. While they can't share information with you, they can check for red flags and contact your loved one directly. You also can get help from your state government. The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) provides a listing of offices in each state at napsa-now.org/help-in-your-area.

Finding a caregiver for a parent or other elderly relative can be emotionally difficult — but it doesn't have to be financially draining. Get to know the caregiver if you can and watch for any red flags, so you can take comfort in knowing that your loved one's finances are in good hands.

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

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

Contributed by David McDonough, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302, Leonardtown, MD 20650 301 997 1707

Edward Jones®

A View From The BLEACHERS



Hockey Pucks and Fried Eggs

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

Imagine the innocent hockey puck. It's held firmly in a warm hand, unsuspecting of the future it was designed to endure. The calm ends with an abrupt slam to a hard, cold surface, followed milliseconds later by a violent beating from competing weapons. The subsequent 60 minutes are a demolition derby, as the poor little puck is slapped, kicked, slammed against boards and deflected off metal posts. Some die heroes (souvenirs for fans). Others find the briefest of reprieves — a soft landing in a comfy net — but even this well-earned rest can prompt a chorus of displeased boos (an opponent's goal).

Pondering the life of a hockey puck of course led to a memory from the 1980s. Remember that anti-drug commercial with the egg and the frying pan? A blazing hot pan is shown on the screen while a disembodied voice proclaims, "This is drugs". A cracked egg then lands in the pan and immediately begins to sizzle while the chilling voice from the beyond declares, "This is your brain on drugs...any questions?"

Forty years later, I have one. Actually, it's a statement. Conferring recently with a dear friend of similar vintage and trusted source of wisdom, we concluded that our brains are frying on the daily in a new, well-oiled pan: The consistent onslaught of information-age stimuli. First it was email. Then social media. Then smart phones brought 24/7 connectivity to all things and produced crispy-fried brains — i.e. agitated, over-stimulated and wounded - worldwide. Now 30 years in to what is clearly a never-ending adaptation cycle, we both acknowledged fatigue - our original curiosity and determination to keep pace with technology being replaced with a palpable dose of "I just don't give a damn anymore."

It is two days later and I'm typing this piece while watching games in a quad box and monitoring text messages from other sports degenerates. Glorious? In some over-indulgent fantastic way, yes. In others this method of modern sports consumption, which is metaphorical for our daily lives, is in a dimension all its own. In an effort to be everywhere, are we really present anywhere? It is a question best pondered in a dimly lit room and with proper mental lubricants in play: classic jazz playing, incense wafting though the air and a decent amount of whisky having been consumed by the conversationalist.

In that aforementioned discussion with my dear friend and fellow member of Gen-X, we had none of those ingredients, but we made due with salads, iced tea and the multi-decade popporri of pop music that was playing in the background. We talked about our unique place in history, as the last generation that will remember life before the internet and the first to encounter and wrestle with its impact and evolution — in the workplace, as parents and across all aspects of society. We cherished our ability to escape it all as needed; after a tough day at school there were no text messages to fear or address, there was only the therapeutic solitude of the basketball court in the backyard. We reminisced about how we used to consume music — hunting for the latest album, scoring it at a record shop, listening to it front to back (no skipping), finding the hits and exploring the deep cuts, learning all the words — and our sympathy for kids today who are robbed of that magic by the instantaneous, superficial world of digital downloads. Road trips were another topic. Truth be told, I wouldn't trade the power of GPS, but navigating with a road atlas and a little bit of directional chaos sure created some epic adventures. Sports were very different too. We felt closer to our teams and our favorite athletes, even though they were far less accessible; the suggestion being that a child's imagination is a better gap-filler than a website, YouTube or a social media follow.


At the conclusion of our discussion, we parted ways with a hearty bro-hug, an appreciation for the emergent circumstances that brought us together, gratitude for genuine, focused human contact and this definitive conclusion: We grew up in the best of times.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

In Remembrance

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.

George Brstilo, 90



George John Brstilo, "UG", passed away peacefully on April 18, 2025, at Hospice in Callaway, Maryland, just days shy of his 91st birthday. Born on April 24, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois, to John and Anna (Stochl) Brstilo. George lived a life marked by dedication, service, and joy.

A proud U.S. Marine veteran, George served his country with honor before embarking on a long career with Kettler Brothers Construction Company, as VP of Data Processing. He and his beloved wife Barbara (Roznowski) Brstilo shared nearly 68 years of marriage, beginning their life together in Washington, D.C., and later enjoying travels abroad that enriched their shared experiences.

George was known for his vibrant personality and wide-ranging interests. A devoted Chicago Cubs fan, he found immense joy in capturing breathtaking moments through photography, tending to his gardening, and contributing his time volunteering at the Piney Point Lighthouse, where he was honored for his remarkable commitment of over 650 hours. He was especially known for crafting his signature "Green goo" hot sauce, and held a deep, heartfelt bond with his beloved cat, Sable Marie.

He is survived by his wife Barbara; sister-in-law Joyce (Roznowski) Riegel; nieces Ellen Papageorge (Peter), Lori Havlicek, and Kimberly Johnson (Jeffrey); nephews Mark Havlicek (Debra) and David Riegel (Jillian Pfau); and great-nieces and nephews Jacqueline (Molly Lawrence) and Ryan Foster, Emma and Cameron Riegel; great-nieces, Alexa Havlicek Casper (Connor) Samantha Havlicek, and many loving friends near and far. George was predeceased by his sister Evelyn Havlicek and niece Cynthia A. Riegel.

The family is having a Memorial Mass on May 16, 2025 at 11:00 am at St. George Catholic Church, 19199 Saint Georges Church Road, Valley Lee, MD 20692 with Father John Nguyen as the celebrant.

Rest in peace, George. Your warmth, and legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew you. As we mourn our loss they celebrate in heaven. A dearly loved one is welcomed home.

In Lieu of flowers please send donations in George's honor to St. Mary's Caring, or to the Valley Lee Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 1, Valley Lee, MD 20692.

Condolences maybe left at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown.

Matthew Lamb, 81



Matthew Joseph Lamb, of Leonardtown, Maryland, passed away in Callaway, Maryland on May 9, 2025.

Born on November 1, 1943 in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Joseph Matthew Lamb and Mary Catherine (nee: Schneider) Lamb.

Matthew was a graduate of Villanova University and was an Engineer for the U.S. Navy. He developed several patents during his career including a military grade flight suit.

He was a faithful member of the Knights of Columbus and cherished the fellowship. He was also a member of the Sanner's Lake Sportsmen's Club.


Matthew is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Lamb whom he married June 7, 2003 and spent 21 wonderful years together, his sons, Mark Lamb, John Lamb, Ret. Col. Christopher Lamb (Blanca), daughters, Michelle Apple and Danyelle Crum (Nathen), seven grandchildren, and his sister Maureen DaPonte (Julio).

Matthew will fondly be remembered for always staying busy, being a jack of all trades, and a constant helping hand to anyone who needed one. He will be truly missed.

Family will receive friends on Monday, May 19, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Holy Face Catholic Church, 20408 Point Lookout Rd, Great Mills, MD 20634. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Father Scott Holmer at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow the Mass in the Church cemetery.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.



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For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125 for assistance.



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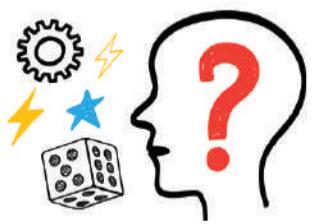
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Two-person German submarine
6. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
9. Database management system
13. Vertical position
14. American jazz singer Irene
15. Ancient Greek City
16. Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
17. Japanese seaport
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Beloved type of cigar
22. Discounts
23. Cambodian communist leader Pot
24. Important football position
25. Kilometers per hour
28. Lentil
29. Extremely angry
31. Yellow-flowered European plant
33. American state
36. Some are made by rabbits
38. Express with a head movement
39. Affair
41. Cured
44. Youth organization
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. Focus a shot
49. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
51. Mouth
52. Infections
54. Curved pieces of a horse collar
56. Shameless
60. Assist in escaping
61. Capuchin monkey genus
62. Cold wind
63. Retired Brazilian NBAer
64. Tropical Old World tree
65. Bulgarian city
66. Speak indistinctly
67. Soviet Socialist Republic
68. Between-meal sustenance

CLUES DOWN

1. Not soft
2. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
3. Line a roof
4. Greek god of the underworld
5. Software
6. Large-headed elongated fishes
7. Shag rugs
8. Type of whale
9. Lacking a plan
10. Spill the beans
11. Some is "heavy"
12. One who has been canonized
14. Indicate times
17. Greeting
20. Broadway actor Josh
21. Seashore
23. Indicates before
25. Electrical power unit
26. Destitute
27. Drags forcibly
29. Impropriety
30. Word forms
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Computer language
37. Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A promise
43. Challenges
47. Official
49. People living in Myanmar
50. Notable tower
52. Type of sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Listing
56. Summertime insects
57. Concluding passage
58. Guitarist Clapton
59. Damp and musty
61. Central nervous system
65. Against

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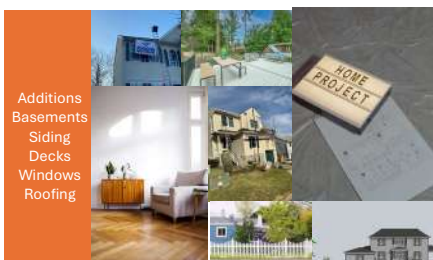
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Calvert Community Calendar

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, May 15

Song Circle

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6-7:30 p.m.

Whether you're a musician, singer or just love to hum along, this event is for you. Lead or learn folk and acoustic tunes in a casual, welcoming jam session. Bring your instrument, voice or enthusiasm. Spectators are welcome too! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

TACOS (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 and information. TACOS meets monthly to help us with our events and services planning. Join us every third Thursday! You can receive one Service Learning hour for each meeting attended. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, May 16

Night at the Museum for Friends with Disabilities

Calvert Marine Museum
5 – 7 p.m.

The museum and grounds will be open exclusively for guests with disabilities and their families, friends, or caregivers. This FREE evening of fun is offered through a collaboration with CCPR Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS). Enjoy the skates and rays, fish, fossils, and maritime history in a relaxed and supportive environment. A calming room is available. Take a 30-minute cruise on the *Wm. B. Tennison* at 5 p.m., 5:45 p.m., or 6:30 p.m. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for each person to ride the *Wm. B. Tennison* - Call 410-535-1600, ext. 8204 or 8205 to register for a cruise.

Sat, May 17

Strawberry Festival

Waters Memorial United Methodist
7-9 a.m.

Yard sale; Strawberries for purchase; Lunch 11 a.m. -2 p.m.

Mother's Day Appreciation Tea

St. Paul United Methodist Church
11000 HG Trueman Rd., Lusby
1-3 p.m.

Bring the family to celebrate a special woman in your life. Tea includes sandwiches, snacks, desserts and of course, tea. Bring a tea cup set to swap if you'd like. Fun events for the children and games for the family to enjoy.

HIPPY Calvert Community Baby Shower

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

Sponsored by HIPPY/Healthy Healthy/PAT and Calvert County Health Department. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Natives in the Garden & Tour

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
10-11:30 a.m.

Native plants will be presented with information on how you can integrate them in your garden. A tour of the gardens will also be done to see the spring-blooming plants. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, May 18

Family Clay at Annmarie: Animal Planters

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
1-3 p.m.

You must register to attend this class. Join us outside at Annmarie and make a family clay masterpiece! Work together to create

an animal planter, perfect for a porch, yard, or windowsill! Learn slab, coil, and texture techniques and paint your project with colorful underglazes. These outdoor clay classes are a fun way to spend time together. They ARE outdoors, so please dress for the weather. We recommend bug spray and sunscreen. An adult must participate with children. Cost is \$5 per individual; \$45 per kit

Mon, May 19

Learn to Access Libby, Freegal & Kanopy

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
3-4 p.m.

Learn how your library card can help you access free digital content like TV, movies and music. Why pay for streaming and eBooks when your library offers them for free? This session will show you how to access a vast collection of eBooks, audiobooks, movies, TV shows and music using your library card. We'll guide you through setting up and using library-supported platforms, helping you start reading, watching, and listening in minutes. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, May 20

Neurodivergent Peer Support Group

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

This group is a wonderful opportunity to connect with peers about the joys and struggles of being a neurodivergent, those exploring their identities on the spectrum, or autistic adults. We welcome everyone 18+ regardless of ability or diagnostic status. This group is not run by a therapist and is not intended to diagnose an individual or replace medical expertise. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, May 21

Tween Book Club

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Rd., Solomons
2-3 p.m.

We will be reading and discussing fabulous books. Did we mention there will be prizes?! Jason Reynolds explores multigenerational ideas about family love and bravery in the story of two brothers, their blind grandfather, and a dangerous rite of passage. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
& Zoom
2-3 p.m.

Join us to discuss "The Ministry of Time" by Kaliane Bradley. Register in advance to receive the Zoom link via email if you wish to attend virtually. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Dine Out Book Discussion

City Sliders at the Westlawn Inn
North Beach; 6-8 p.m.

Join us to discuss "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros. Dinner at 6pm with a book discussion at 7pm. Come for the dinner, discussion, or both! 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tween Book Club

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
6:30-7:30 p.m.

We will be reading and discussing fabulous books. Did we mention there will be prizes?! Jason Reynolds explores multigenerational ideas about family love and bravery in the story of two brothers, their blind grandfather, and a dangerous rite of passage. Copies are available at Calvert Library Southern Branch (ask at the checkout desk). Also available in Libby. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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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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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of April 28, 2025 – May 4, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,331 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 75
- Disorderly: 17
- Domestic: 26
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 40
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 998
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 28
- Traffic Complaints: 90
- Traffic Stops: 566
- 911 Hang-Ups: 65
- ARRESTS: 50

Burglary: 25-36783 On May 4, 2025, at approximately 1:08 a.m., deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded to a commercial burglary alarm at the Tobacco King Smoke and Vape Shop, located at 10359 Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk. Upon arrival, Deputy Claggett discovered signs of forced entry, including a shattered front door. While securing the scene, a small SUV was observed exiting the parking lot with its headlights off. The vehicle fled south on Southern Maryland Blvd. before being involved in a crash with another vehicle near the intersection of Southern Maryland Blvd. and Ward Rd. The occupants of the SUV fled the crash scene on foot. Detectives from the Criminal Investigative Bureau responded and assumed the investigation. Store surveillance footage revealed four suspects making entry through the broken front door. All suspects were dressed in dark clothing, wearing facemasks and gloves. The video showed the suspects filling a backpack and other bags with vape devices from store shelves and taking cash from the register before fleeing. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$1,000, with approximately \$2,150 worth of merchandise reported stolen. The investigation remains ongoing.



Amy Lynn Letcher

CDS Violation: 25-36081 On May 1, 2025, at approximately 10:55 p.m., Cpl. Kelly observed a vehicle parked partially on a grassy hill and partially in the parking lot of Holiday Auto and Trailer Sales,

located at 1042 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick. The business was closed at the time. Upon making contact with the sole occupant, identified as **Amy Lynn Letcher**, 43, of Waldorf, an open gel capsule containing a light powdery residue was observed in plain view. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted, which led to the

discovery of several plastic baggies with white residue and a cut straw containing residue. A subsequent search of Letcher's person revealed multiple small baggies containing various powdery substances, three cut straws, and paper folds, all containing powdery residue. Letcher advised deputies that some of the substances were fentanyl, while others were baking soda. Letcher was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where she was charged with CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute, Fake CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

Damaged Property: 25-35626 On April 30, 2025, Deputy Daily responded to the Lusby Market Exxon, located at 11805 HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for a report of damaged property. The complainant advised that an unknown white male, believed to be between 35 and 40 years old, approximately 6 feet tall, entered the business and attempted to purchase alcoholic beverages. There was an issue with the suspect's payment method, and he was informed that he owed additional money. The suspect left the business forcefully slamming the door open as he exited. A short time later, the suspect returned with change, which he threw onto the counter toward the clerk. He then exited the store once again, slamming the door behind him, which caused the door to strike a nearby window, causing it to shatter. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500. The suspect fled the scene in a burgundy GMC Envoy towing a trailer loaded with lawn care equipment. The investigation is ongoing.



David Edward Krolczek

driver, the individual advised he did not have a registration card or a driver's license and initially provided a false name. Further investigation identified the driver as **David Edward Krolczek**, 44 of Davidsonville, who was found to have an active warrant for his arrest through Anne Arundel County. Krolczek was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. He was charged with Fraud-Per Identification to Avoid Prosecution and issued warnings for his suspended and expired registration.

Fraud: 25-35930

On May 1, 2025, Deputy Pope conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the parking lot of 25 Church Street in Prince Frederick for an expired and suspended registration. Upon contacting the

Theft: 25-35339 On April 30, 2025, Deputy H. Jones responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant reported sometime between April 26 and April 29, an unknown suspect(s) stole the rear Mississippi registration plate from the victim's vehicle while parked outside a residence in the 100 block of Polo Way in Prince Frederick. The estimated value of stolen property is \$32.

Theft: 25-35691 On April 30, 2025, DFC Huy responded to the 6500 block of Huntingtown Road in Huntingtown for a reported theft. The complainant reported a an unknown white male with brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt, gray shorts, carrying a black bag, was observed on surveillance stealing two Amazon packages from the victim's front porch. The estimated value of stolen property is \$84.94.



Kristin Alene Arnold

complainant reported a woman stole money out of a donation jar and walked out of the Senior Center and into the nearby woods. Employees witnessed a white female wearing a grey jacket, blue jeans, and red shoes take the money and flee. Cpl. Jacobs located a suspect matching the description, later identified as **Kristin Alene Arnold**, 42 of Dunkirk. Arnold was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Theft: Less than \$100.

Theft: 25-35689 On April 30, 2025, DFC McCourt responded to Cove Point Park located at 750 Cove Point Road in Lusby, for the reported theft. The complainant reported sometime between 6:15 p.m. and 7:44 p.m., an unknown suspect(s) gained access to his vehicle and stole a North Point Under Armor Duffel bag containing a Glock 43x 9mm handgun, and a pair of green and black Kevin Durant basketball shoes. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,000.

Theft: 25-35928 On May 1, 2025, Deputy Mister responded to the 600 block of Patuxent Reach Drive in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft from a vehicle. The complainant reported at 12:23 a.m. on April 26, 2025, that his black Springfield Armory Hellcat 9mm handgun was stolen from his unlocked vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$600 - \$700.

Theft: 25-36175 On May 2, 2025, Deputy Deinert responded to the 300 block of Chapel Hills Drive in Prince Frederick for a reported theft from a vehicle. The complainant advised that a folder of school supplies had been taken from her unlocked vehicle and was later found discarded in her yard. It appears an unknown suspect rummaged through the vehicle, but no other items were reported missing or stolen.



Rex Eugene Jones



Edward Sidney Coates

attempt to stop the vehicle. However, the suspect vehicle accelerated and continued at a high speed along the shoulder of the road. The vehicle eventually came to a stop, with its occupants seen moving abruptly inside. Upon approaching the vehicle, DFC Dymond observed a loaded handgun lying on the floorboard. Further investigation revealed that both occupants **Rex Eugene Jones**, 64 of Owings, and **Edward Sidney Coates**, 67 of Prince Frederick, were prohibited from possessing firearms. Both men were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Fleeing and Eluding, Handgun in Vehicle, Handgun on Person, Loaded Handgun in Vehicle, and Loaded Handgun on Person. Additionally, Jones was charged with Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm and Illegal Possession of Ammunition.

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

Two Arrested in Stolen Vehicle Crime Spree



Emmanuel Adjapong Mellish



Ryan Eveard Moses Lowe

Calvert County Sheriff's Office deputies on May 4 at approximately 7 a.m. responded to the 9700 block of Wildfire Lane in Owings for the report of a motor vehicle theft. Upon arrival, it was discovered that unknown suspect(s) had stolen a 2016 white Dodge Journey from the victim's driveway and stole a wallet and credit cards from a second vehicle at the residence.

Approximately one hour later, at 8:04 a.m., deputies responded to the 9100 block of Pauly Drive in Owings for a report of an abandoned vehicle. Deputies located a stolen 2011 Hyundai Sonata abandoned in front of a residence.

On May 6 deputies responded to multiple reports of thefts from vehicles and vehicle tampering in the Cavalier Country subdivision in Dunkirk. At approximately 2:42 a.m., a resident in the 1300 block of Squire Lane observed a suspect dressed in all black clothing and a camouflage hat tampering with two vehicles in their driveway. While investigating further, the resident located a white Dodge Journey parked at the corner of Knight Avenue and Prince Street. The vehicle fled the neighborhood at a high rate of speed when approached.

Det. W. McDowell with the Criminal Investigations Bureau assumed the investigation. In the early morning hours of May 8 Det. McDowell and patrol deputies were conducting proactive patrols and observed the stolen Dodge Journey parked near Smithville Road and Fielder Court in Dunkirk. At approximately 1:25 a.m., the vehicle accelerated out of the area as deputies approached. At 1:26 a.m., deputies observed the stolen vehicle run a solid red light at Ward Road and MD Rt. 4, continuing northbound at a high rate of speed. DFC Plant activated emergency equipment to initiate a traffic stop; however, the vehicle failed to stop, and a pursuit ensued. During the pursuit, Deputy Baxter successfully deployed stop sticks near Rt 4 and

Brickhouse Road, disabling both front tires of the fleeing vehicle.

Despite the tire damage, the vehicle continued northbound, disregarding commands to stop. Deputy Angell successfully executed a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver near Rt. 4 and Chaney Road, causing the vehicle to come to a stop in the driveway of a residence in the 12600 block of Southern Maryland Blvd. The vehicle's occupants refused to comply with deputies' commands for approximately 20 minutes. At 1:56 a.m., following verbal commands and K9 warnings from DFC Rzepkowski and his K9 partner Cruz as well as DFC Hendrickson and his K9 partner Atlas, both suspects surrendered and were taken into custody without further incident.

The driver was identified as Emmanuel Adjapong Mellish, 21, of Silver Spring, and the passenger as Ryan Eveard Moses Lowe, 20, of Bowie. A search of Mellish's backpack revealed a cellphone and a pair of black gloves. A subsequent search of the stolen vehicle recovered multiple items reported stolen during the recent string of vehicle thefts and tampering incidents.

Both Mellish and Lowe were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with the following:

- Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle
- Eight counts of Rogue and Vagabond
- CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia
- Theft: \$1,500 to under \$25,000
- Two counts of Theft: \$100 to under \$1,500
- Theft: Less than \$100.

Mellish received an additional charge for Fleeing and Eluding.

Sheriff Ricky Cox and yhe Calvert County Sheriff's Office commends the diligence and teamwork of Det. W. McDowell, patrol deputies, and K9 teams for the safe apprehension of the suspects involved in this multi-day crime spree.

Event Raises More Than \$115K for Hospice



From left, Doug Ballard; Deb Ballard; Laura McDaniel; and Richard Wilder, Vice Chair, Hospice of the Chesapeake Board of Directors. Photo by Elyzabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake.

Donning denim, cowboy boots and plenty of sparkle, the Calvert County community came together to raise more than \$115,000 for Hospice of the Chesapeake at "Boots & Bling, A Culinary Experience". All proceeds will be used to grow and strengthen programs in Calvert County and provide direct support to local patients and families living with illness and loss.

The event was held May 9 at the beautiful new Rod 'N' Reel Resort ballroom on the waterfront in Chesapeake Beach. Around 180 guests enjoyed international and Chesapeake Bay cuisine while learning about the mission of the nonprofit organization from emcee and Foundation Board member Brandon Temple, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Marny Fetzer and Chaplain Bill Miller.

Dr. Fetzer talked about the importance of the family caregiver. "Behind every person we care for, behind every patient navigating a serious illness, there is often someone quietly carrying a tremendous weight," Fetzer said. "A wife helping her husband in and out of bed. A son tracking medications and managing appointments between work shifts. A daughter sleeping on a couch nearby, afraid she'll miss her father's final

breath. They are family members, friends and neighbors and they are you."

Funds from this year's event will support programs that teach, support, and guide Calvert County people experiencing serious illness and their families. "We have visions of helping this community focus on health in addition to healthcare," President and CEO Becky Miller said. "With your help we will continue to be the #1 independent, community-based hospice in Maryland and become the #1 trusted resource for people living with serious illness."

The organization is grateful for the generous support of its many sponsors, including Diamond Spurs sponsors John & Cathy Belcher and Floor Systems; Gold Lasso sponsors Maertens Fine Jewelry and Peggy McKelly; and Silver Saddle sponsors CalvertHealth Medical Center and Lee Funeral Homes.

The nonprofit also would like to thank its event partners, Photobooth Partner, Crow Entertainment; Dessert Station Sponsor Dunkirk Vision; Décor and Centerpiece Sponsor Jan Kleponis, O'Brien Realty, ERA Powered; and Cocktail Hour Nibbles Partner, Rod 'N' Reel Resort.

Holland Elected Maryland NARFE President

On Wednesday May 7, Edward Holland (Calvert-Charles) was elected the Maryland-National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association's President in Ocean City. The Maryland Federation consists of over 10,000 members spread throughout the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland.

NARFE MD was established on April 5, 1956. With the largest chapters based in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, Holland is the second person to be elected to this position from Southern Maryland.

NARFE, since 1921, is the only organization dedicated solely to protecting and preserving the pay, and earned benefits of America's active and retired federal employees.

To learn about NARFE, visit mdnarfe.org.



Edward Holland

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Proposal Calls for Water, Sewer Rate Increases

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Staff of county government have been working for the past two years to come up with a rate schedule for water and sewer service that allows for collection of enough money to cover costs for the break-even enterprise funds, while at the same time not causing an undue financial burden on ratepayers.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) seem to feel that the plan presented at their May 13 meeting fills the bill. It includes a several tiered system based on usage and calls for a nine-percent increase in sewer rates and a three-percent increase in water rates for the next fiscal year and then a three-percent increase for each for subsequent years.

Deputy Public Works Director James Ritter, in a memo to the commissioners, said, "The BOCC adopted a tiered bill structure for water and sewer last fiscal year (FY). At that time, a rate study was conducted for FY

2025 and is subject to continuing refinement each fiscal year. The rate analysis has identified the need for adjustments to the current rates. The Department of Public Works has collaborated closely with the Department of Finance and Budget to review budget trends and assess available funding balances within the Water & Sewerage division, providing essential inputs for the rate model. Additionally, the department has worked alongside the rate study consultant to evaluate funding requirements and determine the rate adjustments needed to sustain the lowest possible rates over time."

Consultant Mike Maker from NewGen Strategies & Solutions said, "The water and sewer enterprise fund should be financially self-supporting, as an enterprise fund should be fundamentally run as a business and should maintain reserves, contingencies, and unplanned expenses. So, a rainy-day fund, things like that. And ideally water rates and charges should be kept as low as possible over time. And we say this because

you can defer maintenance and not invest in your system and have really low rates. But then at some point you're going to have a main break or something catastrophic."

He noted, "Maintenance expenses are predominantly affected by cost increases, inflationary increases. These are things like salary, cost-of-living adjustments, benefit increases, materials and supplies, things like that. Things in your supply, chemicals, electricity, capital improvement plans. This is usually one of the largest factors. This is just your investment in the system, the treatment system, distribution and collection systems, and debt service too. Both existing principal interest payments you're paying now, as well as any capital projects that are going to be debt funded."

Maker said, "The reserve target we're working to hit is a minimum cash balance of 180 days of expenses. So roughly half a year of operating expenses maintained in a capital reserve."

"User rates are charged quarterly, and the

capital connection fees are charged as one-time fees for new development," he said.

The study came after some residents received bills double or more what they were paying just before the holiday season two years ago.

As to the rate proposal, Maker said, "We also have some research on what other places have done in terms of increase and...they range anywhere from, we've seen just inflationary three percent all the way up to an over 65 percent increase just in other municipalities in Maryland. So, three percent and nine percent doesn't sound quite as bad when you look at what someone other places have had to do in terms of their increase."

The tiered system based on usage was intended to cut consumption, but Ritter said, "From what we're seeing, the usage has not changed. They're still using just as much, if not a smidgen more. I guess those are our green yards."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Planning Commission to Hold Town Center Public Hearing

The Calvert County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 21 at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center, located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, to receive public comment on the Master Plan of Town Centers. The hearing will focus on Chapter One: Town Centers and Chapter Two: Prince Frederick Town Center.

These draft chapters align with the December draft Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan Update, which incorporated comments from agencies, departments and the public during the 90-day comment period from June 27 to Sept. 25, 2024.

The public is invited to attend the meeting in person or participate by phone (audio only):

- Toll-free: 301-715-8592
- Meeting ID: 858 5579 4151
- Passcode (if asked): #
- To provide comment: *9

The public hearing will be streamed live on Comcast channel 99, and 1070 HD and the Calvert County Government YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@CalvertCountyGov.

Recorded meetings can be watched on demand at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Meetings or www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Interested persons are encouraged to view the draft chapters in their entirety at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/PublicHearings or by contacting the Department of Planning & Zoning at 410-535-1600 ext. 2356, or by emailing towncenterupdate@CalvertCountyMd.gov.

Individuals may submit written comments in advance of the public hearing to towncenterupdate@CalvertCountyMd.gov or by mail to the Planning Commission, 175 Main St., Prince Frederick, MD 20678. Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20. Written comments will also be accepted at the public hearing until close of the record; those providing comment at the hearing are encouraged to bring 15 copies of the comments to provide the Planning Commission, staff and the media.

For questions or additional information, contact Tay Harris, long-range planner, at 410-535-1600, ext. 2333, or by email at Tay.Harris@calvertcountymd.gov.

New Councilman Named in North Beach

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Allan Creamer has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the North Beach Town Council.

According to a press release from the town, "The position was originally posted on April 11, 2025. Creamer will serve the remainder of the current term, which runs from 2022 to 2026, until the next scheduled election." Creamer fills the position left vacant with the resignation of Lauren Kabler.

The town council conducted open, public interviews during its May 1 work session.

According to the town, "Creamer, a North Beach resident since 2004, has served more than 14 years on the Town of North Beach Environmental Committee. During that time, he helped develop the town's recycling program, advised on flood protection and living shoreline projects, and contributed to the town's Sustainable Maryland certification and recertification efforts."

"He holds a bachelor's degree in fisheries science from Cornell University and a master's degree in the same field from Virginia Tech. Since 1991, he has worked as a fish biologist with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He also serves on the Media Tech and Disaster Relief teams at Emmanuel Church in Huntingtown and has been an active member of the American Fisheries Society since 1989, participating in various leadership and committee roles," the release said.

"Mr. Creamer's experience, integrity and dedication to public service make him a valuable asset to the town council," said Mayor Michael Benton. "We look forward to his contributions as he begins this new role."

To be eligible for appointment, applicants were required to meet the following criteria under Subtitle 3, Section 19-302 of the Town Charter:



Allan Creamer

- Be a resident of North Beach for at least six months;
- Reside in the town for the entire term of office;
- Be at least 21 years of age;
- Be a registered voter in the town.

Creamer was sworn in by Benton at the May 8 town council meeting. After the swearing-in, Creamer said, "I am truly humbled and honored for the opportunity to do this. As I explained during my interview on Thursday, I've been for the better part of my career 34 years in federal government, serving the American people in public service. I look forward to continuing to do that. And this is one way that I can do that, working with these folks. I know of all of them, some quite well, and I believe we can continue to do good things, and I look forward to getting down to work."

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Calvert One of the State's Healthiest

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County still remains one of the healthiest counties in the state and nation. That according to Calvert County

Health Officer Dr. Nimfa Teneza-Mora during a presentation on May 13 to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) sitting as the Board of Health. She said the data to back up the assertion comes from a variety of sources.

One of the data sets, the health officer said, "looks at two things, population and wellbeing, and then community conditions. So, for the population and wellbeing, the following are used as measures to contribute to it: premature death rates, child mortality, and infant mortality. In the goodness here is that Calvert County is performing very well in this measure. So, we see significantly lower premature death rates, a higher average life expectancy, lower child mortality rates, when compared to both the state and national averages."

Dr. Teneza-Mora added, "Most of the quality-of-life indicators of Calvert County are also quite comparable to those of the state and national averages."

Showing a color-coded map of the state, she said, "Calvert County is recognized as being among the healthiest counties in Maryland and in the country," which prompted Commissioner President Buddy Hance to ask, "So

why aren't we the healthiest?"

The health officer answered, "I think it's a combination of potential funding and then the efforts from the entire community." Hance said, "It always comes down to it."

"It's a major factor," she said.

The health officer observed, "One of those factors is health infrastructure. And the county health infrastructure is generally on par with the state averages in areas like flu vaccination, food environment, and mammography screenings. We also have lower rates of preventable hospitalizations and lower rates of uninsured compared to the state and national averages. Additionally, 73 percent of our residents have access to exercise opportunities. However, one of the challenges we face here is that we have a lower number of mental health providers and dentists that indicate an area of need."

"There are lower rates of housing problems, unemployment, child poverty, and injury deaths here compared to the state and that of the national average.

However, compared to the other counties, there is a gap in terms of proximity to recreational spaces."

She said a quarter of the population reports insufficient emotional support for them. Although on par with state and national averages, she said "That's still an area in which support is being needed for community members."

Dr. Teneza-Mora said, "Calvert is per-

forming above the average for Maryland, and is notably outperforming the national average in terms of community conditions."

Cardiovascular is the leading cause of death in the county, at 29.3 percent, an adjusted mortality rate of 166 per 100,000. "We are pleased to report that that trend is actually coming down for the county."

The next most prevalent cause of death is malignant neoplasms and cancers, at 20.2 percent. She said, "The most common cancers are lung, colon, pancreatic, and prostate cancers."

Accidents are the third leading cause of death in the county, followed by diabetes.

Injury deaths include motor vehicle accidents, suicides, homicides, and accidents. She said they are stable for the state and county. Suicide deaths in the county are actually declining.

"It's important to point out that there's an increase in the death rate from motor vehicle accidents in our county between 2022 and 2023."

As to drug overdose deaths, the health officer said, "Our county's drug overdose rate in 2023 was 31 per 100,000 residents. This is below the state average. And from 2021 to 2023, the drug overdose rate here has been decreasing. In 2022 the rate was in the twenties, down to 11 in 2023, and then last there were five deaths from overdose. And so that's actually equivalent to the decreasing rates throughout the state as well.



Health Officer Dr. Nimfa Teneza-Mora

But I think it's multiple factors attributing to that positive finding, including probably the distribution of Narcan, education of the community of Narcan." She also credits the work of her staff.

Due to a compressed schedule because of Business Appreciation week visits by the commissioners, the health officer will return to continue with her findings.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be eligible to participate in MFP Options Counseling individuals must:

- Meet a nursing facility level of care
- Be eligible for Medicaid
- Be 18 years old or older and have resided in a nursing facility for at least 60 days.

REFERRAL PROCESS AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A Social Worker is required to have the nursing facility resident complete the Minimum Data Set 3.0, Section Q (MDS 3.0). The completion and submission of this form to the Department of Health initiates the options counseling referral. Peer Counselors, Ombudsman and residents themselves can also submit a referral for options counseling. Options Counselors assist with the completion of the Waiver Application and will submit the application and other documentation to the Maryland Department of Health on the resident's behalf.

Referrals for options counseling can also be sent to mdh.mfp@maryland.gov.

All requested referrals will be processed within a 48-hour timeframe.



'Safe Space' Turns into Big Controversy

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

"Safe Space" and the stickers on which the words are attached, have turned into a major controversy in Calvert County Public Schools.

After school board member Mellissa Goshorn suggested the stickers could be used to lure students into an abuse situation, they were ordered removed from the schools. The decision brought a barrage of criticism at the May 8 school board meeting.

The online encyclopedia Wikipedia says "The term originated in LGBTQ culture, but has since expanded to include any place where a marginalized minority (e.g., gender, racial, religious, ethnic) can come together to communicate regarding their shared experiences."

Some, but not all, of the speakers against removal of the stickers, were from the LGBTQ community.

Before the school board public forum, Student Member of the Board Grance Minakowski spoke on the subject. She said, "I recognize that this is a sensitive issue and making students in our school system feel seen and safe in an appropriate way is a process that involves collaboration between parent, staff, and student stakeholders."

She said students had reached out to her, saying, "We cannot ignore the reality that LGBTQ+ students face unique challenges when it comes to feeling included and safe in schools."

Minakowski added, "I recently took some time to look into the most recent data from Calvert County, Maryland's report card and the 2021 civil rights data collection reporting. Our county reported 22 separate cases of bullying and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation reported to the Office for Civil Rights in the dataset."

She said the data reporting "doesn't account for the countless students whose experiences of discrimination go unreported due to stigma."

She said, "I've gotten the opportunity to meet with LGBTQ+ students through my student advisory council and other outreach efforts who shared stories of harassment, bullying, both in person and cyber, and feeling left out of their school community on the basis of their sexual or gender identity. I tell you this, to not despair out the progress that Calvert has made in ensuring the academic and future success of its LGBTQ+ students, but to underscore that we are not yet where we need to be. LGBTQ+ students do require safe space in schools, whether it's indicated with a sticker or not."

She requested the decision be rescinded.

During the public forum, the speakers repeatedly identified themselves with the pronouns they would like to be addressed as.

During the testy session, several people had to be escorted out of the room for heckling and several speakers had their microphones cut off for going over the allotted time.

Some of the speakers opposed to the removal of the stickers equated the decision with the earlier one to remove inclusive from the school system's mission statement.

Sheri Tardo said, "I understand that many people in Calvert County support you in these decisions. I am not one of those peo-



ple. This board, excluding Ms. Minakowski, puts regressive politics over sound policy. Both of these aforementioned changes were hasty, ill-considered, and ignored feedback from the community."

Paul Quade, president of PFLAG (Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays) Southern Maryland, said, "Let us be clear, this decision sends a dangerous message to LGBTQ students, their families, and their allies. And the rhetoric used to justify it, including the false and offensive claims, that these stickers somehow signal predatory intent, is not only baseless, it's harmful. Safe Space stickers are not tools for harm. In fact, they are supported by the State Department of Education. These stickers have historically served a simple but powerful function. They communicate to students that the educator displaying it is friendly and affirming for many young people."

Quade said, "PFLAG Southern Maryland is pursuing an appeal to the MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) and the Maryland State Board of Education to call for a reversal of this directive."

Patuxent High School senior Myanna Montgomery said, "What is happening in our schools is wrong, harmful, and completely out of step with the values that we claim to uphold."

Ash Ashleman said, "I'll start off blunt and strong. When I was 13, I tried to kill myself," adding, "I watched myself bleed with an odd sense of comfort at the thought that the Lord above would be more merciful and understanding than the people I'm speaking here before today. I still have the scars to show for it all down my wrist. That hopelessness I felt for the future was overwhelming."

Stacey Tayman, president of the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff, said, "This meeting is extremely difficult to sit through. The recent removal of safe space stickers and inclusive language from our mission statement...are part of a much larger calculated strategy we are seeing played out across our country. It's not original, it's a script. And our district is now following at the expense of our most vulnerable students, which just as alarming as the process or lack thereof, protocols have

been ignored, decisions have been made without transparency, community input, or even without proper procedure."

But others spoke equally passionately in support of the decision. Jason Skaggs said, "I am so happy to have a board that's willing to put the safety of all kids ahead of identity politics. I'm a conservative Republican and one of our core values is that I want to be left alone, and I want to leave you alone. This value extends to public education. My child's sexuality is my business. Same with your child. A hundred years ago, the community saw the value in publicly funded education, a system that taught kids math, science, reading, and how to be a decent, productive member of society. Today, the majority of taxpayers don't want public education systems involved in a child's sexuality. There are many resources outside of the school system that can help with those in need. It is unfair burden on teachers and staff to try and help with every possible problem a child could have outside of school."

Jeremy Todzia, education chair for the Calvert County Republican Central Committee, said, "Apparently Democrats in Calvert County don't like being reminded that they live in a Republican County."

He added, "I just wanted to do another quick reminder and to quote the great prophet Barack Hussein Obama. 'Elections have consequences'."

Jana Barberio said, "The origin of the safe space stickers are promoting an agenda that is contrary to the voters of Calvert County, which includes the safety of all students, not just those represented by PFLAG and Glisten. If one took the idea of a safe space at face value, instead, we would expect the entire school to be safe. Is one to presume that it is not safe if there is no sticker. Is the sticker merely a way to signal a small population of individuals that they can form an alliance or relationship with teachers? If so, the sticker signifies a code which can drive a wedge between the pupil and their parent."

School board member Goshorn defended her actions. "As I attempted to communicate at the last meeting, while attending a session on child protection, it became very clear that CCPS has some gaps in its policies and procedures, effectively putting our children,

our staff, and our school system at risk. At this session, they explained that grooming happens when an adult builds trust with the child and the other adults around the child to gain access to and time alone with that child. Safe space stickers, posters, buttons, shirts, lanyards, bags, and imagery have been used by some as a way to signal to children that they can safely discuss personal sensitive, intimate, and sex related topics with that person. This is the reality. CCPS has not provided any guidance, training, or certification to ensure that any person self-identifying as safe is in fact trained to support a child's personal, private, or intimate matters."

She added, "I know from my own experience that contact is not being made with the parent when these private conversations happen."

Goshorn said, "Since the last board meeting, we have received troubling reports from our middle and high school students indicating that some staff have been engaging with students in ways that create unnecessary fear and confusion around this topic. We heard from some of those students here tonight. I've personally heard from several students who started out by saying, 'my teacher said' and proceeded to talk about the removal of safe space stickers. Let me be clear. Creating mass panic among students is not only disheartening, it is unprofessional, disrespectful, and inappropriate. It's also a violation of policy 1750, employee discipline. Several violations have already been reported, and I'm disappointed that (Superintendent) Dr. Townsel has not taken any corrective action to date."

School Board President Jana Post said, "For the record, removing stickers is not a violation of an individual's first amendment rights. The classrooms belong to the school system and not to the individuals, and that was fact checked."

She added, "A recent board discussion focused on student safety was deliberately twisted into a political debate about LGBTQ students. Let me be clear, the conversation that was had at that conference was never about identity, sexual orientation, race, gender. It was and remains about protecting the safety and the wellbeing of every single student in our schools. Unfortunately, instead of maintaining professionalism, some staff chose to disrupt the school day, misrepresent the intent of these discussions, and then share them with students. This was both disgraceful and deeply disappointing."

She added, "You do not create and demonstrate inclusion by silencing or vilifying those who disagree with you. You do not create safety by alarming children. A sticker on a door doesn't protect students. In fact, the statistics that were shared here tonight might be an indication that those stickers that have been on the doors for such a long time may not be working. Real safety comes from a culture of trust, not hashtags and slogans. If students feel unsafe about who they can talk to, we have a systemic problem, and stickers are not going to fix it. Our job is to prepare students for the real world, not to model rage, not to model division, and certainly not to model hate. We must do better."

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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	4	CALENDAR	10
COPS & COURTS	9		

“CALVERT COUNTY IS...AMONG THE HEALTHIEST COUNTIES IN MARYLAND AND IN THE COUNTRY.”

CALVERT COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER DR. NIMFA TENEZA-MORA



LOCAL 4
Safe Space stickers banned from schools



LOCAL 4
Calvert touts above-average health



ON THE COVER 8
Culinary event raises over \$115k for Hospice

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 15	FRI, MAY 16	SAT, MAY 17	SUN, MAY 18
Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 65°	AM Thunderstorms Hi: 85° Lo: 67°	AM Thunderstorms Hi: 87° Lo: 66°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 59°
MON, MAY 19	TUE, MAY 20	WED, MAY 21	THU, MAY 22
Mostly Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 54°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 73° Lo: 60°	Showers Hi: 69° Lo: 59°	Showers Hi: 71° Lo: 60°



LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS
SERVING ST. MARY'S & CALVERT COUNTY

County Times
ST. MARY'S • CALVERT

ON NEWSSTANDS EVERY
THURSDAY & ONLINE AT
COUNTYTIMES.NET



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Custom Orders Welcome

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Pints | Ice Cream Cakes

FRESH MD CRAB MEAT

Lump | Jumbo Lump

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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

WWW.COUNT



**'Safe Space' Stickers
Raise Controversy**

**Proposal Calls for
Utility Rate Hikes**

**North Beach Appoints
New Councilman**



BOOTS & BLING FOR HOSPICE