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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

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**School Budget Passes  
on Split Vote**

**Branding Launched for  
Local Ag & Seafood**

**A Weekend of  
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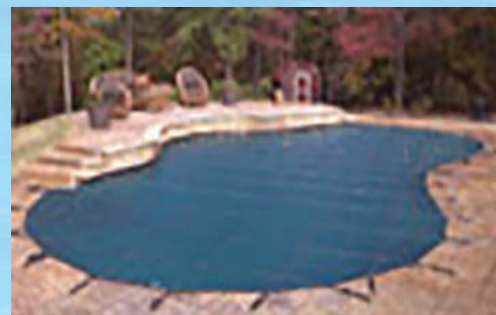
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“...PROBABLY THE MOST VAGUE BUDGET YEAR WE HAVE EVER HAD.”

SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON THE LACK OF BUDGET INFO FROM THE STATE



**LOCAL** 7

School budget approved on 3-2 vote



**LOCAL** 11









St. Mary's transit will be fare free as of July 1



**ON THE COVER**

Governor appoints new Circuit Court Judge for St. Mary's county

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, JUN 12</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 68°</p>	<p>FRI, JUN 13</p>  <p>Mostly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 70°</p>	<p>SAT, JUN 14</p>  <p>PM Thunderstorms Hi: 82° Lo: 68°</p>	<p>SUN, JUN 15</p>  <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 75° Lo: 65°</p>
<p>MON, JUN 16</p>  <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 76° Lo: 65°</p>	<p>TUE, JUN 17</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 69°</p>	<p>WED, JUN 18</p>  <p>PM Thunderstorms Hi: 85° Lo: 71°</p>	<p>THU, JUN 19</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 91° Lo: 71°</p>

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**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.



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MAJOR FESTIVAL PARTNERS



# Governor Selects New Circuit Court Judge

## Hill Currently Serves as Magistrate

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Governor Wes Moore on June 6 announced the appointments of Magistrate Kevin R. Hill to the St. Mary's County Circuit Court. He also announced an appointment for Baltimore.

"The St. Mary's County and Baltimore City Circuit Courts are gaining two remarkable stewards of the law," said Gov. Moore. "These appointees are dedicated public servants, and I am confident that they will continue their work to bring our state ever-closer to the full promise of equal justice for all."

Magistrate Kevin R. Hill has spent almost his entire legal career in public service, currently serving as the magistrate for the St. Mary's County Circuit Court. He previously served as a public defender in Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert counties, representing indigent juveniles and adults in circuit and district courts. In 2016, he was sworn in as an assistant state's attorney in St. Mary's County, where he handled civil, misdemeanor, and felony cases, and represented the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services Child Support Division.

Magistrate Hill is also an adjunct associate professor at the University of Maryland Global Campus, where he has taught business, litigation and professional development classes to undergraduate students.

Prior to attending law school, Magistrate Hill was the general manager of his family's restaurants in St. Mary's County for over 15 years.

Magistrate Hill earned his bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College of Maryland and his law degree from the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law.

Hill provided the following statement to The County Times:

"I am deeply humbled and honored to receive the appointment as the next Associate Circuit Court Judge for St. Mary's County.

"The nomination process included not only applying for the position, but also receiving numerous letters of recommendation, interviewing with eleven individual state and local bar associations, vetting by the St. Mary's County Bar Association, interviewing with the thirteen member Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for the 12<sup>th</sup> District, and finally, an in-person interview with the Governor and his General Counsel.

"Filling the seat left by the sudden passing of the Honorable Judge Michael J. Stamm is daunting idea. He left an indelible presence on the St. Mary's County Circuit Court and changed the lives of those who appeared before him. Judge Stamm was not only a judge that I routinely appeared in front of for juvenile delinquency matters, motions hearings, misdemeanor and felony criminal jury trials, but he was also a friend and a mentor.

"Since 2020, I have held the position of magistrate in the Circuit Court of St. Mary's County where I presided over 1,000s of family law cases, foster care matters, and



Magistrate Kevin R. Hill

IV-D child support hearings. Magistrates in the Circuit Court are tasked with conducting hearings and make evidentiary rulings – similar to a judge. However, magistrates must make specific factual findings and recommendations that are subject to review by a judge before an order is entered. Families have appeared before me on their best and worst days and I have been routinely faced with making generational defining decisions.

"Before being appointed as Magistrate, my legal career was focused mostly on criminal litigation where I handled felony and misdemeanor cases in the Circuit and District Courts of St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles Counties. I had the uncommon professional experience of being a defense attorney in the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, and then later a prosecutor in the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office. Both positions honed my ability to assess cases, identify critical issues, and to litigate those cases in front a judge and jury.

"Prior to attending law school, I managed the daily operations of my family's restaurants, the Hill's Halfway House in Mechanicsville and later the St. Mary's Landing in Charlotte Hall. My parents, Billy and Linda Hill, instilled in me a strong work ethic and the importance of showing up every day. Working with the public for over 15 years gave me a significant amount of humility, but also an appreciation of the needs, challenges, and dreams of people in St. Mary's County. I intend to bring all those real-life lessons to the courtroom.

"I want to thank all those who supported me in this process, and I will strive tirelessly to be fair and impartial. To that end, I will continue to work hard, to be prepared, and to treat each person who appears before me with dignity and respect. I will maintain an open mind and will not bring any personal agenda to the task. Decisions will be based solely on the facts and law presented. I will ensure that each litigant receives procedural fairness and due process. I look forward to serving the citizens of St. Mary's County as an Associate Judge in the Circuit Court."

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02



03



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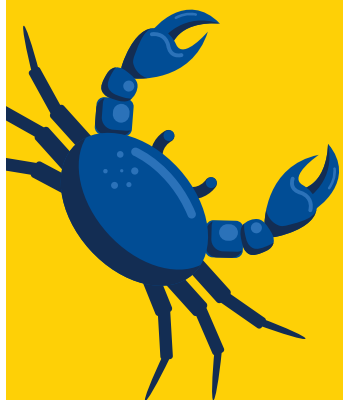
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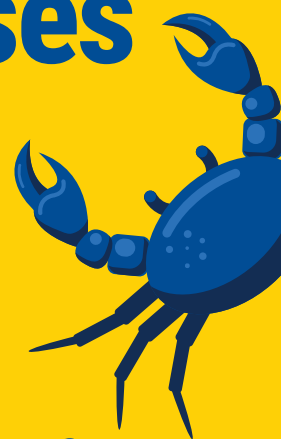
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# Commissioners Approve School Budget on a 3-2 Vote

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County on May 10, by a 3-2 vote, approved the budget of St. Mary's County Public Schools for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The \$137,469,907 budget represents an overall increase from FY2025 funding of \$3.1 million.

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said this year's budget was "probably the most vague budget year we have ever had, where we find ourselves in the second week of June and we still don't have confirmed state funding numbers."

Smith said, "We've projected. And I'm fairly confident (about) Chief Financial Officer Ms. (Tammy) McCourt's projections."

Smith added, "But with your assistance and collaboration and patience, we got to the point where we are able to once again honor our negotiated agreement. And that really is our bond with our employees."

The commissioners after the budget public hearing added \$3.1 million to the school budget to help find the negotiated agreements, but that still left more than \$3 million that had to be cut.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who along with Commissioner Scott Ostrow voted against the budget, asked Smith, "I thought we were going to be reducing more administrative positions than instructional salary

positions, but that wasn't the case."

Smith responded, "Commissioner, I'm sorry you're confused," adding, "Or we didn't present it thoroughly enough so that you could understand what we did."

Smith explained, "First of all, there's administration, which is the Board of Education and Human Resources, and then there's mid-level, which is basically all the other administrative positions across central office, over in support services as well as all of the schools. Not only the principals and assistant principals, but also then all the support staff that they have as, as well. When you go down, you see that there was a reduction in the Board of Education. We reduced the secretary position there, but then we moved it over into Human Resources because they needed the additional administrative assistance. And the coordinator of human resources of new hires, the 11-month (employee), that actually came from the disbanding of an entire department, the Department of Strategic Initiatives. So, there was movement all about to get to just the administration. When we get into mid-level, a lot of that's with the charter school."

Smith noted, "We had reductions in directors. We basically downsized several top-level cabinet positions, moving them from chiefs. So, there's no longer a chief of equity, early engagement and education. There's no longer a Chief Strategic Officer. We downsized those to director levels. It

wasn't an overall reduction in FTEs (full-time equivalents), it was a reduction in the level of compensation for the position."

Regarding instructional salaries, he said, "Yes, various teachers, but that's administrative interns, that's paraeducators, psychologists, in and out instructional resource teachers. We tried as much as possible not to touch the individual classrooms, but we did have to recognize that it's well documented, we had a reduction in enrollment of well over 300 students over the last two years. So that in itself, at 25 students per teacher, is roughly a reduction of 12 classroom teachers."

He said, "We've worked it all out. We have overall reduced 17 FTEs out of our budget to make ultimately the budget work the way it needed to work to honor the negotiated agreement."

Smith was asked about enrollment projections. He said, "We look at the same things that the county looks at. We look at live birth rates, we look at overall trends. St. Mary's County is growing at less than one percent a year. So within that, we believe there's going to be stability."

Smith noted, "We have a great persistence rate where kids stay with us all the way through. The biggest unknown is in kindergarten, first, and second grade, because we have had people who are making other decisions with their children at that grade level. We do believe that with the economy



Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. Scott Smith

perhaps changing and with people having to go back to work full-time in the office as opposed to work from home, we're going to see those numbers rebound. I really won't know probably until we get into September where they are, but I believe that at the very worst, we're going to have stable enrollment. At the very best, we're probably going to add back about another 150 to 200 students across elementary, just based on people returning to work."

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)

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# County Launches Agriculture & Seafood Branding

*Intended to Support Local Producers*

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County have announced "the continued implementation of the Department of Economic Development's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy with the launch of the St. Mary's County Agriculture and Seafood Brand—a new initiative to showcase and promote locally produced agriculture, seafood, and forestry products."

A new logo developed by a consultant with considerable local input was unveiled at the commissioners' June 10 meeting by the Director of Economic Development Chris Kaselemis.

The logo touts the county as: "Maryland's agriCoast."

However, "This brand is more than just a logo—it's a promise of authenticity and a celebration of our local businesses," said Kaselemis, "By creating a recognizable identity for St. Mary's County's agriculture and seafood products, we hope to help local farmers, watermen, and foresters stand out in competitive markets, highlighting the exceptional quality of our locally produced products and experiences."

At the meeting Kaselemis said the initiative "came from our stakeholders, the businesses, the business owners who produce agriculture, seafood, and forestry products. As we went through the process to put together our strategic plan for the department in 2022, the ag stakeholders were asked what are some things that the county can do to help your business? And establishing a St. Mary's County brand was one of those responses."

He said of the branding, "This is considered a best practice, meaning that other locations have created a brand for their ag products," adding, "A brand helps tie together ag, seafood and forestry under one shared vision. It helps farmers, watermen and foresters stand out in competitive markets by promoting local products and experiences, attracts investment, and encourages tourism, expands opportunities, connects residents, businesses and visitors, and reinforces pride and commitment to sustaining these industries for future generations."

He insisted, "As you all know, ag is and



will continue to be a target industry for St. Mary's County Economic Development Department."

Kaselemis said there wasn't enough money in his budget to produce materials, but businesses will be encouraged on their own to use the logo in their marketing.

He explained, "So what we're doing is as much as we can with what we have, which is not a lot of funding. So, we're doing a lot of social media, putting it out that way where we have the images available for the producers so they can put them on their products. So, we're having an internet place that they can go and get those products. And hopefully they'll start using those products and then we'll figure out ways we can start producing some of these products and kind of getting it out a little bit more. But, the producers can put it on their products, they can put it on displays if they're at farmer's markets. So hopefully we'll be seeing more and more of the agri-brand."

The plan also includes brand statements for each segment of the agriculture industry and concludes by saying, "By digging deep into the strengths of our land and water, St. Mary's County continues to take flight, ensuring that its farms, fisheries and forests remain a source of pride, livelihood and opportunity for generations to come. Maryland's AgriCoast represents both a way of life and a vision for the future."

Commissioner Eric Colvin said, "I love the branding and that those brand statements are very powerful. They're very good."

To participate as a business or for questions, please contact Sydney Garner with the Department of Economic Development at [sydney.garner@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:sydney.garner@stmaryscountymd.gov) or (240) 526-0117.

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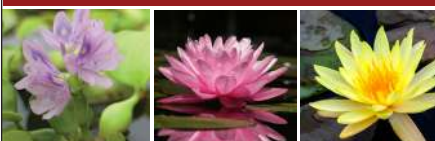
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# St. Mary's Transit to Go Fareless



The St. Mary's Transit System (STS) will begin offering fare-free rides for all passengers starting July 1, 2025. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved this initiative as a one-year pilot project in the FY2026 St. Mary's County Budget.

As of July 1, 2025, STS will no longer charge fares for rides and/or transfers for both public routes and paratransit services. By eliminating fares, STS aims to boost ridership, improve access, and support environmental sustainability. The program is designed to provide financial relief to those who depend on transit while making it easier for everyone to get where they need to go.

"Fare-free public transit can transform lives by making transportation more accessible for everyone, regardless of income," said Allison Swint, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works & Transportation. "We are excited to see how this pilot program can connect our community and create new opportunities for residents and visitors alike."

Commissioner President Randy Guy shared, "This pilot project reflects our com-

mitment to supporting mobility, equity, and economic vitality in St. Mary's County. We're eager to see the positive impacts this initiative will have on our community."

The one-year pilot program will also allow the county to evaluate the impact of fare-free service on ridership and the local economy. By removing financial barriers to transit, the initiative is expected to enhance equity, reduce congestion, and contribute to a cleaner environment.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this fare-free service and explore new opportunities to travel throughout St. Mary's County without the burden of fares.

For more information on STS, including routes please visit [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/STS](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/STS).

Questions or concerns may be directed to the Transportation Division at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1120 or via email to [sdipatchers@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:sdipatchers@stmaryscountymd.gov).

*Press Release from St. Mary's County government.*

## Shepherd Announces Run for District 2 Commissioner

Lifelong St. Mary's County resident and former Director of Recreation & Parks, Arthur Shepherd (Shep), has officially declared his candidacy for County Commissioner, District 2 which includes the geographic area of Leonardtown and Hollywood.

With over 40 years of public service in St. Mary's County, Shepherd is widely recognized for having led transformational projects, programs, and events for citizens of all ages and abilities. In 2022, he played an instrumental role in the R&P Department earning national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. This recognition placed the R&P Department and County

among the nation's best.

Arthur was also a passionate advocate for inclusivity, having ensured that all County parks and facility improvements included universal access for users of all abilities.

Shepherd, a Republican, stated that "a major goal of mine is to increase partnerships that will benefit small businesses; and to promote the work of non-profit entities in shaping The County's future. I will also value the taxpayer's dollars which will provide incentive for everyone to thrive. Finally, managing growth while honoring our heritage will be at the top of my priorities list."

*Press release*

### INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS

- Home-Delivered Meals
- Home & Community-Based Services
- Housing Resources
- Long-Term Care Options
- Legal Referrals
- Transportation Services & Resources
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# Burglary, Pursuit Leads to Four Arrests

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded at about 4:20 a.m. on Sunday, June 8 to a commercial burglary alarm at a retail business in the 21000 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park.

Video surveillance from the business provided deputies with suspect information, including a description of the vehicle used during the burglary, a Honda passenger car. A short time later, deputies observed a vehicle matching the description traveling north on Three Notch Road in the Mechanicsville area. Deputies attempted a traffic stop near the 26000 block of Three Notch Road, but the car fled, prompting deputies to deploy stop sticks. The suspect vehicle came to a halt shortly afterward, and multiple individuals fled on foot.

Air and ground searches were initiated with assistance from the Sheriff's Office drone unit, a Charles County Sheriff's Office K-9 team, Trooper 7 of the Maryland State Police Aviation Command, as well as Troopers and SMCSO patrol deputies. The coordinated effort led to the successful apprehension of several suspects. A check of Maryland databases later confirmed that the suspect vehicle involved in the burglary had been reported stolen.

During the same timeframe, while proactively patrolling in the area of Queen Tree Road in Mechanicsville, a patrol deputy observed a silver BMW operating at a high rate of speed and initiated a traffic stop. It was determined that three of the vehicle's occupants were suspects in the burglary.



David Burch



Darryl Harrison



Ejion Thorton



Javeion White

A tip from a community member alerted deputies to a suspect seen in a silver Nissan Altima on Delabrooke Road, traveling toward New Market Turner Road. Deputies initiated a stop and took the suspect into custody.

David Burch, 29; Darryl Harrison, 22; Ejion Thorton, 19; and Javeion White, 19; all of Washington D.C., were arrested and charged with

- burglary second-degree,
- burglary third-degree,
- theft of up to \$1,500 but less than \$25,000
- destruction of property.

The suspects were transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown to await bond hearings.

Following the arrests, Sheriff Steve Hall said, "I want to thank our incredible staff for their outstanding work this morning.

But let me be clear—this investigation is far from over. The work will continue for weeks, because, as is often the case, the real challenge begins after the arrest is made.

"These were not random acts. These are individuals with no regard for others—speeding through our streets in stolen cars, breaking into businesses, and leaving a trail of damage behind. In St. Mary's County, we will not allow criminals to come into our community and act without consequence. Our deputies are out there doing what needs to be done. I want the public to understand the weight of that responsibility."

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office extends its sincere gratitude to the Maryland State Police and the Charles County Sheriff's Office for their vital partnership and support during this incident. We also thank the community members whose tips

proved invaluable during the search.

The Criminal Investigations Division has assumed this case, and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Andrew Burgess at 301-475-4200, ext. 8041, or by email at [Andrew.Burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Andrew.Burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov).

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or text Crime Solvers at 274637. In the message block, type "Tip239" and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown. With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

*Press Release from SMCSO*

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# Man Arrested After Fleeing in Stolen Vehicle

While investigating a commercial burglary that occurred early Sunday morning, June 8 in Lexington Park, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office encountered a separate suspicious vehicle near Old Horse Landing Road and Mount Zion Church Road in Mechanicsville. The car was in the general vicinity of the ongoing investigation.

The driver, later identified as Kazon King Cassion, 25, of no fixed address, refused to stop and led deputies on a pursuit into Charles County. Deputies from the Charles County Sheriff's Office deployed stop sticks to disable the vehicle's tires, bringing it to a stop near Maryland Route 488.

Cassion was taken into custody without incident by St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office deputies.

A check of Maryland databases confirmed the vehicle he was driving had been reported stolen from the Washington, D.C., area. Cassion was charged with 17 offenses, including:

- Unlawful taking of a motor vehicle
- Theft of \$1,500 to under \$25,000
- Reckless driving
- Related traffic violations

Cassion was transported to the St. Mary's



Kazon Cassion

County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, where he is currently being held on a no-bond status.

The investigations into this incident and the June 8 burglary remain active and ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Andrew Burgess at 301-475-4200, ext. 8041, or by email at Andrew.Burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov.

*Press Release from SMCSO*

# Suspect Arrested Following Stabbing in Charlotte Hall

On Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at around 4:55 p.m., Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a medical facility in Charlotte Hall for the report of a stabbing victim. The victim told deputies he was stabbed by a coworker at a job site in Charlotte Hall.

Following an on-scene investigation, deputies identified the suspect as Jose Wilbert Herrera Chavez, 36, of Silver Spring. Herrera-Chavez was located at the job site, taken into custody without incident, and charged with first- and second-degree assault.

The Criminal Investigations Division has assumed the case, and anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Kortnie Marsch at 301-475-4200, ext. 8179, or by email at Kortnie.Marsch@stmaryscountymd.gov. Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or text Crime Solvers at 274637. In the message block, type "Tip239" and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation. Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive and must be typed in the



Jose Wilbert Herrera Chavez

message block as shown.

With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

*Press Release from SMCSO.*

# New Sign Now Marks Esperanza Farms Entrance

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Esperanza Farms in one of the heritage subdivisions in Lexington Park. Construction at the 200-home development between Millstone Landing Road and the Patuxent River was started in 1967. But a sign at the entrance went into disrepair and for a couple of decades there has been nothing announcing the subdivision. That is until May 31 when a ceremony was held for the erection of a new sign.

Glen Orbin moved to Esperanza Farms from Bethesda three and a half years ago. His old neighborhood had a nice sign, and it got Orbin thinking about the Esperanza Farms void.

Orbin said, "I was told by some of the old timers that there was one there a long time ago, a different kind of sign. It was like a picket fence and like an entry sign for Esperanza Farms. But it long ago went away. Nobody knows when it happened. In fact, very few people were in the neighborhood who are still here remember anything about it."

Remembering that sign in Bethesda, Orbin said, "I thought, let's do the same thing down here, see if people are interested in doing it, and that's when I started a campaign."

He said, "I was the one who sort of started the campaign, and what I did was I just reached out to everybody on the farms Facebook page; that's the only thing we really have. That's a community thing. We don't



New entrance sign at Esperanza Farms

have a civic association. I guess there was one years ago... there wasn't that much interest."

He got contributions from about 30 households.

Using the design of the entrance sign at Orbin's previous home in Bethesda, Stuart Langford fabricated the new sign.

A short ceremony was held on May 31 to dedicate the sign. County Commissioner Scott Ostrow was on hand to make a few remarks.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

# Neighbor Rescues Dog from California House Fire



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

An alert neighbor rescued a dog from a house fire on May 10 in California.

According to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, the fire occurred at around 6:45 p.m. in the single-story, single-family home at 45774 Oliver Court in California.

According to the fire marshal's office, "The fire was discovered by a neighbor who heard smoke alarms sounding. The occu-

pants were not home at the time of the fire. The neighbor successfully rescued one dog from the home. The family was displaced and are being assisted by the American Red Cross."

Bay District VFD responded, and it took 20 firefighters 20 minutes to bring the blaze under control.

Estimated damage was \$100,000 to the structure and \$50,000 to the contents.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*



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# Legal Notices

## COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN REQUEST FOR BIDS Leonardtown Beacon Newsletter

The Commissioners of Leonardtown are currently accepting bids to perform the design and printing of the Leonardtown Beacon newsletter. The Beacon will be produced three times per year. This will be a two-year contract with three (3) one-year options.

Interested bidders should obtain bid materials from the Town office, located at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD, or by calling 301-475-9791, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

The Commissioners of Leonardtown reserve the right to reject any and all bids and proposals and to accept any proposal deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

## COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN Fair Summary of Ordinance No. 229

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 229 an ordinance adopting Chapter 78 (Floodplain Management) of the Code of the Town of Leonardtown. A fair summary of the ordinance will follow:

Ordinance No. 229 – An Ordinance amending Chapter 78 (Floodplain Management) of the Code of the Town of Leonardtown for the purposes of incorporating the most recent revision of the Flood Insurance Study for St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas, and amending certain other provisions for clarity and consistency; and generally relating to floodplain management in the Town of Leonardtown.

Ordinance No. 229 will become effective on June 30, 2025. Full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or on-line on the Town's website at [www.Leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.Leonardtown.somd.com).

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

## COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN 2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

The 2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be available July 1, 2025 to Town residents and the public at the Town Hall office, 22670 Washington St. Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and at the Leonardtown Post Office, 22735 Washington Street and will also be available online at <http://leonardtown.somd.com> under the Government tab, titled Water Quality Reports.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

## COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN Fair Summary of Ordinance No. 230

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 230, an ordinance amending Chapter 155 (Zoning) of the Code of the Town of Leonardtown. A fair summary of the ordinance will follow:

Ordinance No. 230 – An Ordinance concerning the adding, deleting, and amending certain defined terms, providing that single-family dwellings, attached shall be permitted uses in the R-SF and C-H Districts, and amending general criteria regarding the PUD-M District; and generally relating to zoning in the Town of Leonardtown.

Ordinance No. 230 will become effective on June 30, 2025. Full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or on-line on the Town's website at [www.Leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.Leonardtown.somd.com).

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

## COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN Fair Summary of Ordinance No. 231

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 231, an ordinance which repeals Ordinance No. 132. A fair summary of the ordinance will follow:

Ordinance No. 231 – An Ordinance which repeals Ordinance No. 132, concerning sewer allocations for new construction which would result in new and additional connections to the Town sewer system.

Ordinance No. 231 will become effective on June 30, 2025. Full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or on-line on the Town's website at [www.Leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.Leonardtown.somd.com).

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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](mailto:aldailey@countytimes.net)

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Live Demonstration June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Dave's Engine in Loveville

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Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM





# Crab Festival This Saturday



Crab picking contest participants and winners at the 2024 Crab Festival. Photos courtesy of Billy Fitzgerald.

By Vada Mercer  
Contributing Writer

The Leonardtown Lions Club will be hosting their 39th Annual St. Mary's County Crab Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 14, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is \$10, and entry is free for anyone age 12 or under.

Festival highlights include a crab-picking contest, a classic car show, crab races, and live music from The Fabulous Hubcaps and Thunderball. A wide variety of educational and entertaining activities for children will be held as well.

More than thirty food and craft vendors will be present. Hot crabs that have been cooked on-site will be available for purchase, as well as crab mallets and knives. Adults can enjoy cold beer alongside their fresh seafood, and non-seafood options will be available.

Each admission doubles as an entry into a prize raffle, where 30 names will be drawn. Prizes include free movie tickets, gift cards to local restaurants, and much more.

Children can decorate their own sun visors and make paper plate crabs with pipe cleaner sea nettle. They'll also have a chance to dig for buried treasure in a sand pool using shovels and buckets. A designated play area will feature inflatables, including a bounce house. Afterwards, kids can enjoy temporary tattoos, face painting, and balloons.

Educational opportunities include displays from the Chesapeake Biological Lab and St. Mary's River Association, including a live oyster exhibit. Commissioner Jack Russell and his program Fins and Claws will be there to share engaging information about our local waters and their ecosystem. MedStar St. Mary's Hospital staff will be

providing blood pressure checks and health brochures, and there will be free vision and hearing screening.

The festival offers plenty of chances for friendly competition, including their car show. Classic and modern cars are welcome to enter, and registration will be open until noon day-of. Trophies will be awarded for first, second, and third place winners. The next 15 top entries will receive plaques, and the first 35 cars will dash plates.

Other competitive opportunities include the crab races, which will take place every 10-15 minutes. Attendees can bet \$1 on the crab of their choice. There will also be cornhole competitions, and the exciting crab-picking competition.

The crab picking contest will take place in between the live music sets. Participants will have the non-meat parts removed from their crabs before the judges weigh their haul. This year's contest will even feature appearances from Miss Maryland and Miss Teen Maryland.

The Crab Festival has become a beloved tradition that brings many people of St. Mary's County together, having recently drawn in crowds of over two thousand people. According to long-time Lions Club member George Kirby, about 95% of Leonardtown Lions Club members show out to help with the Crab Festival.

Proceeds from this event are put toward local and international Lions Club community service programs, including aid for the visually impaired, the hospice of St. Mary's, the Leonardtown Fire Department and Rescue Squad, and much more.

"I just want folks to know it's a family-oriented thing, there's something for everyone," said Kirby.

## Pets of the Week

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### MEET BIRDIE

Hi, my name is Birdie! I'm a beautiful 5-year-old Dalmatian diva. I love hikes, squeaky toys, and showing off my "sit" and "stay" like it's a Vegas act. I've lived with toddlers and tiny dogs, but my heart will belong to \*you\*—my future favorite human. If you're looking for a walking buddy with style, sass, and a whole lotta spots—I'm your girl! Meet me during adoption hours, Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



### MEET THE KITTENS

KITTENS, KITTENS, KITTENS! The rescue is bursting at the seams with adorable, playful kittens all looking for their purr-fect forever homes! Come meet your new best friend at Adoption Day, every Saturday from 11-2 at The Well Pet Clinic in Lexington Park. See all adoptable pets online at <http://www.animalrelieffund.org/>



## Sacred Heart Church ANNUAL JUNE

### Drive-Thru Dinner

23080 MADDOX ROAD, BUSHWOOD, MARYLAND 20618

**Sunday, June 22, 2025**

**11:00 a.m. 'til Sold - Out**

**MENU:**



**Crab Cakes**

**Fried Chicken**

**Country Ham**

**\$30.00**

(Make Checks Payable to:  
Sacred Heart Church)  
Cash or Checks Only  
(Sorry, No Credit Card Service Available)

Potato Salad, Cole  
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## River Concert Series Returns for 27<sup>th</sup> Season

### Fireworks to Follow July 4 Concert



Southern Maryland's premier free summer outdoor concerts return for the 27th season as the River Concert Series kicks off on June 27, from 7-9 p.m. on the Townhouse Green at St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM). The popular, family-friendly music festival, performed by the Chesapeake Orchestra under music director Jeffrey Silberschlag, will be held every Friday evening from 7-9 p.m. (grounds opening at 5 p.m.) from June 27 through July 25.

The 2025 schedule is as follows:

- **June 27: A Moment for Our Thoughts:** Music of John Williams, Arthur Honegger, Florent Schmitt, Gabriel Fauré
- **July 4: A Swingin' Singin' 4th With Sara Jones:** Featuring Sara Jones, jazz vocalist and the music of Morton Gould, Ellington Strings and more! Fireworks after the show!
- **July 11: A Midsummer Night's Dream:** Featuring José Cueto, violin. Music selections of Felix Mendelssohn
- **July 18: Everything Old is New**

**Again:** Music selections from Ottorino Respighi's "Ancient Airs and Dances" plus Igor Stravinsky's "Pulcinella"

- **July 25: Rhapsody in Blue!:** Featuring Thomas Pandolfi, piano soloist. Music of George Gershwin and Maurice Ravel

The River Concert Series and the appearances of The Chesapeake Orchestra are made possible by the generous contributions of sponsors, individual donations, the Maryland State Arts Council, the St. Mary's County Arts Council and Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Food and beverages, provided by local vendors, will be available for purchase on location. Attendees are also welcome to bring their own refreshments, blankets and chairs. Pets are not allowed at the River Concerts. Concerts are FREE of charge and open to the public.

The concert series is subject to change. For more information, visit us online at <https://www.smcm.edu/river-concert/>

Press release from SMCM

## Sell it - Buy it at Auction

**Online Auction**

**Decoys, Crocks, Oyster Cans, Tools, Housewares & More**



**Vintage Working & Decorative Decoys** (including carvings by Deagle, Jobes, Vincenti, 2 miniature decoys by Joe Gibson – Bushwood, MD, unmarked/unknown working decoys, & others); **Stoneware Crocks & Jugs; Oyster Cans** (including Mattingly Can – Palmers, MD, Sailor Boy, Sailor Girl, Woodfield's, Patuxent, Clements-Copsey, & others); **Silverware; Glassware; Tools** (Machinist Tools, Misc. Hand Tools, and others); **Portable Generators** (JD 5500 Watt, Predator 2000, Coleman Powermate 6250); **Furniture** (Leather Sofa & Chair; Curio/Display Cabinets; Lawn/Patio Furniture; Secretary Drop Front Style Desk w/ Hutch); **Vintage Framed Prints/Artwork** (including large painting by Peter Egeli); **Vintage Records; More**

**Auction Online and Open for Bidding!**

**Online Auction closes:**

**Monday, June 16, 2025 starting at 6 pm**

(Go to: [www.FarrellAuctionService.com](http://www.FarrellAuctionService.com))

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(and opportunity to leave absentee bids):

**Friday, June 13, 2025, 4 pm – 6 pm**

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

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

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# Flag Day Celebration Announced

*A Proud Salute to the Red, White, and Blue*



The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) invite the entire community to attend the annual Flag Day Celebration on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 6 p.m. on the St. Mary's County Governmental Center Lawn, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown. This annual community event features:

- A procession by various color guards and veteran groups from around St. Mary's County.
- A special Flag Day Service, highlighting the history of the American Flag.
- An official Flag Retirement Ceremony, demonstrating the dignified and proper method of disposing of worn, torn, or tattered flags.
- Hand-held American flags, food, music, fun for the kids, and more!

Additionally, we are pleased to welcome the cast from the Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) 43rd Annual Summerstock Production, TARZAN® who will perform our National Anthem and St. Mary's

County Song during the event. For more information on Summerstock, including the cast list and 2025 show dates, visit [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/summerstock](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/summerstock).

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.

Citizens may drop off flags in need of retirement to the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1340 or via email to [PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov). For more information, please visit [www.stmaryscountymd.gov](http://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.*

# Registration Open for Summer 'Art Kids'



Young artists are invited to join local artist and instructor, Ms. Ellen Duke Wilson, this summer to explore fine arts through St. Clement's Island Museum's Art Kids classes. Young artists will expand their understanding of art and history while learning to sketch, paint and sculpt. Students will also reflect on how making art can impact society in a positive way for future generations.

"We are so grateful to have the very talented Ms. Wilson back to teach these popular classes," says Christina Barbour, Site Manager at St. Clement's Island Museum. "The children have loved coming to each class here at the museum and learning something new in a fun, creative way."

At the end of each session, all participants create an individualized work of art to share with their family and community. These classes are geared towards children ages 7 to 17. Preregistration is required and the cost is \$5 per child. All materials are provided; however, participants are asked to bring a light snack. Parents are encour-

aged to sign up soon as slots fill up quickly.

This year's theme is "Southern Maryland Animals Great and Small." The 2025 class schedule is as follows (12 p.m. to 3 p.m. each day):

- Sketching: Drawing Inspiration from Nature – June 24, 25, 26
- Painting: Crabs and Other River Creatures – July 8, 9, 10
- Collage: Assembling Animals – July 22, 23, 24
- Sculpting: Build a Bird – August 5, 6, 7

Each class consists of three sessions in which participants will create a work of art to share in an exhibit opening on August 17, 2024, at Children's Day at St. Clement's Island Museum. No prior art experience is required.

For more information or to sign up, please call Christina Barbour at (301) 769-4723. For more information on this or other events, visit [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://Facebook.com/SCIMuseum).

*Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division*

**Flag Day!**

**June 14, 2025 at 6 p.m.**

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

[stmaryscountymd.gov](http://stmaryscountymd.gov)



# EXPLORE Leonardtown



**LEONARDTOWN**  
*Summer Calendar*

WHARF | PORT OF LTOWN PARK | LTOWN ALLEY | BUSINESS/OTHER

<b>JUNE 13</b>	<b>Storytime in the Park</b> (LTown Alley) 6pm - 8pm
<b>JUNE 14</b>	<b>Coastal Arts Market</b> 9am - 3pm
<b>JUNE 14</b>	<b>Sizzling Summer Sale</b> 10am - 6pm
<b>JUNE 21</b>	<b>Storytime in the Park</b> (Port of LTown Park) 1pm - 3pm
<b>JULY 4</b>	<b>Fourth at the Wharf: Event &amp; Concert</b> 3pm - 7pm
<b>JULY 4-6</b>	<b>Red, White, &amp; Blues - July First Friday Weekend</b> All Weekend

Leonardtown is blooming with events -  
For all events & activities, visit:  
[www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar](http://www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar)

**RIDE THE LEONARDTOWN TROLLEY**

**RIDE THE TROLLEY!**  
LEONARDTOWN FIRST FRIDAYS  
& SPECIAL EVENTS

**5PM - 10PM**

**FREE TROLLEY RIDES!**

**NEW** stop added @ Breton Marketplace

**Leonardtown**

**SIZZLING SUMMER SALE!**

**JUNE 14, 2025**

[VISITLEONARDTOWNMD.COM](http://VISITLEONARDTOWNMD.COM)

**FOURTH AT THE WHARF**

CONCERT ★ CONTESTS ★ ACTIVITIES

**July 4, 2025**  
**3 PM - 7 PM**

Join us at the Leonardtown Wharf for an afternoon of contests, activities, yard games, tasty food, and a FREE live concert featuring The Copper Pennies! This special event is brought to you by the Town of Leonardtown, the Leonardtown Business Association, and with the support of our generous sponsors, **Jimmy Hayden of RE/MAX 100**, **Mattingley Gardiner Funeral Home**, **Edward Jones**, and **Balanced Paws Pet Care**. Tasty eats, treats, and beverages available for purchase.

**Concert Sponsor**

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For more information, please visit: [www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/FourthAtTheWharf](http://www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/FourthAtTheWharf)





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**Leonardtown Wharf  
COASTAL ARTS MARKET**

**Artist • Crafters • Makers**  
*Local Handmade Products*

**Saturday • June 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**9AM – 3PM**

coastalartsmarket.blogspot.com  
instagram.com/coastalartsmarketpark





**Town Market**

22675 Washington St. Unit 106, Leonardtown  
Saturday 9am–6pm • Sunday 10am–2pm

Fresh Local Produce • Meats • Cheeses • Flowers • Clothing & Shoes

*Something there for everyone!*

**Upcoming Special Events**

<b>Jun 29</b> Cars & Coffee Car Show	<b>Aug 2</b> First Saturday Market Series
<b>Jul 5</b> First Saturday Market Series	<b>Aug 10</b> Cars & Coffee Car Show
<b>Jul 13</b> Cars & Coffee Car Show	<b>Sep 6</b> First Saturday Market Series
<b>Jul 19</b> Christmas in July Sale	<b>Sep 20</b> Vendors of Southern MD
<b>Jul 27</b> Cars & Coffee Car Show	<b>Oct 4</b> First Saturday Market Series

Find us on Facebook for more information!

## Regional Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Year Named

Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal Tim McDowell has been selected by Southern Regional Commander Deputy Chief John Nelson as the region's nominee for the 2024 Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Year award.

Senior Deputy McDowell will join five other Deputy State Fire Marshals from each of the agency's regional offices and the Bomb Squad on June 16 at the Maryland State Firefighters Convention in Ocean City for the "James C. Robertson, Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Year" award.

In 2024, DFM McDowell led 14 fire and explosive investigations and assisted in 29 more. Five of the 14 cases he led were determined to be incendiary, resulting in three arrests, including two cases of first-degree arson. One high-profile case involved a suspect who broke into and set fire to a single-family home in Waldorf, causing extensive damage.

Senior Deputy McDowell was the lead investigator in the 2023 Line-of-Duty Death of Firefighter Trossbach in St. Mary's County. His leadership and coordination with OSHA, NIOSH, the Naval District Washington Fire Department, and local agencies were instrumental in producing a comprehensive incident report.

In addition to his fire investigation duties, DFM McDowell became a certified bomb technician in 2024 after completing the six-week Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama. He now serves on the Bomb Squad, responding to explosive incidents statewide and supporting large-scale security operations.

Further demonstrating his commitment to public safety, McDowell was also selected in 2024 as a Task Force Officer (TFO) with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). This role allows him



Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal Tim McDowell

to operate under federal authority and leverage national resources in complex fire and explosive investigations.

Despite the demands of his position, McDowell actively participates in community outreach events such as Camp COPS, Touch-a-Truck, and No Hunger November food drives.

A lifelong learner, McDowell graduated Summa Cum Laude from Columbia Southern University with a Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration, concentrating in Fire Investigation.

"Tim is a consummate professional whose contributions reach far beyond his assigned duties," said Deputy Chief John Nelson. "He exemplifies what a Deputy State Fire Marshal is —highly trained, deeply experienced, and completely dedicated to the safety of our communities."

*Press Release from State Fire Marshal's Office*

## Museums Offer Free Admission for Dads

On Father's Day, June 15, St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum in Piney Point will offer free museum admission for dads during normal operating hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please note regular admission prices apply to others with the party:

St. Clement's Island Museum: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children (6-18), \$2 for seniors and military, and free for those 5 and under. St. Clement's Island Water Taxi rides are not included in this promotion. Water taxi rides are \$7 per person (all ages), which includes museum admission.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children (6-18), seniors and military, and free for those 5 and under.

Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown: always free admission, for all visitors!

The Museum Stores at all three locations are open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and showcase a broad assortment of unique items — from books to jewelry, to children's products, home accessories, and offerings from local artisans and authors, there is something for everyone — including dad!

For more information on hours, programs, events, admission prices, and more, following the museums on Facebook at Facebook.com/SCIMuseum and Facebook.com/1836Light.

*Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division*



# ONE-DAY AUCTION

**LIVE & ONLINE**  
**JULY 19 • 8:30AM**  
**PREVIEW JULY 18 • 9AM-6PM**

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## SMECO and VMDEAC Award Scholarships



Sophia Cheng



Maddox Cypress



Alexander Myers



Ashlyn Zeier

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) has awarded four scholarships for 2025 to high school seniors who live in the cooperative's service area. Recipients receive awards based on scholastic achievement, financial need, and school and community involvement.

Since beginning the scholarship program in 1993, SMECO has presented awards to 132 students. Each of the following students will receive a \$2,500 college scholarship: Sophia Cheng, Maddox Cypress, Alexander Myers, and Ashlyn Zeier.

Sophia Cheng graduates this year from Huntingtown High School in Calvert County. She plans to attend Northeastern University in Boston to study public health. While in high school, Cheng received the Eric Lander Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biomedical Science, the Ivan Pavlov Award for Outstanding Achievement in AP Psychology, and the Varsity Minds in Motion Scholar Athletic Award. She played varsity tennis for Huntingtown and became team captain. Cheng was also president of the Calvert County high school science fair committee. As a participant in Girls Who Code, she created an app for locating lunch locations around her school that included tutoring options. Cheng has volunteered in local nursing homes, interacting with residents with dementia and Alzheimer's disease to improve their quality of life. She is the child of Mu Q Li-Cheng of Huntingtown.

Maddox Cypress is graduating from Westlake High School in Charles County. He plans to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor this fall to study aerospace engineering. Active in Westlake's National Honor Society chapter, he served as its vice president, received its Certificate of Excellence, and organized an anti-bullying campaign. His awards included the MESA Program, Team Vex Robotics Sportsmanship Awards, and the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence. He was team captain for the Westlake Math Team and tutored classmates who experienced challenges in mathematics. Cypress has volunteered at soup kitchens and hospitals. At Naval Surface Weapons Center Dahlgren, he will work as a summer intern under the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program. Cypress is the child of Alphonso and Kina Holmes Cypress of Waldorf.

Alexander Myers graduates this year from La Plata High School in Charles County. He plans to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland to study marine and environmental science. At La Plata, Myers won Minds in Motion awards from his participation in var-

sity swimming, soccer, and track and field. He was inducted into the National Honor Society and his school's World Language Honor Society. A member of La Plata's Polyglot club, he served as its president and vice president. In his community, Myers delivered food through Meals on Wheels and Fields 4 Valor, and provided volunteer maintenance services at a local Montessori school. He also captained teams for the La Plata Youth Soccer Association's outdoor and indoor recreational teams. Myers is the child of Elissa Myers of La Plata.

Ashlyn Zeier is graduating from Leonardtown High School in St. Mary's County. She has been accepted into the honors program at Pennsylvania Western University, where she will pursue a degree in biology. Zeier sang with the Chamber Choir, All-County Honors Choir, and Tri-County Honors Choir, and was the vice president of the A Capella Club. An active swimmer, she was the captain of Leonardtown's varsity swim team, setting three team records, and she was also head lifeguard for the local Elks lodge. She belonged to the National Honor Society, the Key Club, Mental Health Awareness Club, Active Minds Club, and the Student Leadership Council. Zeier is the child of Tara and Douglas Zeier of Hollywood.

Besides the four students receiving SMECO scholarships, three others from the cooperative's service area received money for higher education from the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDEAC) and its Education Scholarship Foundation. SMECO is a member of the association along with other electric cooperatives in the Mid-Atlantic region. The foundation awarded \$124,000 in college scholarships to deserving high school students for the 2024-25 school year, including 33 Worth Hudson Scholarships. Hudson was the Education Scholarship Foundation's first chairman and he also chaired the board of directors of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in Chase City, Va. Included in the Hudson awards were:

- Garan Gray (\$2,500), a senior at Patuxent High School. Gray is the child of Abbe Gray of Lusby
- Mark White II (\$2,000), a senior at La Plata High School. White is the child of Mark White of Swan Point.
- Gabriel Dempsey (\$1,500), a senior at Leonardtown High School. Dempsey is the child of Michael Dempsey of California.

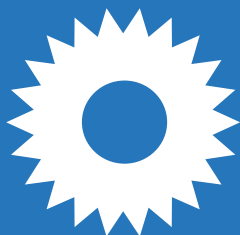
*Press Release from SMECO*

## ANNUAL YARD & PLANT SALE

**STAUFFER BROTHERS FARM**

**Saturday • June 14<sup>th</sup> • 7AM-3PM**

**Bake Sale • Multi-Family Yard Sale**  
**Farm Fresh Vegetable Stand**



**Blow out prices on annuals, perennials, planters, hanging baskets, trees, shrubs, tropicals & garden plants. Some are free!**

**41360 Friendship Ct. Mechanicsville, MD**  
**(Off Route 235 in Oakville - Follow the signs)**



## A View From The BLEACHERS



### Highlighting the Details

By Ronald N. Guy  
Contributing Writer

With all due respect to Kevin Bacon and his Seven Degrees of Separation (the theory that everyone is connected to Bacon by a series of no more than six acquaintances), I was once just two degrees of separation from former Washington Bullet and now ESPN basketball analyst Tim Legler. In the 1990s, Legler was an ace shooting guard for the Bullets. To call him a consequential NBA player would be a stretch, but he could flat out shoot the basketball. That was his superpower. Legler was ahead of his time; he would've thrived in today's three-point centric NBA.

In the mid-90s, Legler had found his way to Washington, D.C. and was living in a suburban Maryland condo. Knowing I was a D.C. sports junkie, a colleague at our shared employer in Lanham asked skeptically if I knew of a "Tim Legler", her new neighbor who claimed to be on the Bullets. I went on to describe him and talk about his shooting prowess. I suggested she make him feel at home – invite him to a community event, pool together some money for a welcome package from the neighbors – so as to contribute to higher performance. She blew off the foolish humor (although, as a shameless Bullets fan, I was semi-serious) but left convinced the neighbor was who he claimed to be.

Legler is now a star NBA analyst on ESPN. There's nothing better for basketball nerds than seeing Legler hunched over an iPad, Apple pencil in hand, breaking down offensive and defensive sets. It's brilliant stuff. It also identifies teams that really get it – the ones working as a harmonious five-person band on the court. The individual attention to detail and the repetition that created the symbiotic performance is evident. It isn't robotic; games are too dynamic for that. It is more like athletic improvisational jazz – i.e. individuals with a mastered foundational concept from which split second decisions are made. You go here. I go there. Opponent does this to you, I compensate in this way and you fill the void my decision just created. Whether it is an offensive or defensive set, when done well, the timing and spatial awareness is amazing. It is basketball in its most beautiful form, and it is only made possible by doing the ugly stuff – film study, selflessness and laborious repetition far from the camera's glare that create trained, unconscious muscle movements to fit familiar scenarios unfolding in real-time.

Those interested in this subterranean aspect of sports – we'll call it "The Grind" – are few. Legler does. The best players and teams do. And true sports fans. But most people don't. It's understandable. Practice, process, patience, commitment, discipline – the timeless stuff that fosters mastery of trade – isn't in vogue anymore. Speed is. Clickbait articles. Game summaries. Google feeds. Video highlights. Twitter threads. Cryptic text messages. Anything written in long-form, perhaps even a 700-word "View from the Bleachers", is vulnerable to "TLDR" – "Too Long, Didn't Read." CliffsNotes used to be an eleventh-hour cheat code for students scrambling to cover a neglected reading assignment; it seems everything in life is something of a CliffsNotes experience now.

That is a little unfair. Some things can and should be processed and executed with maximum efficiency, leveraging all available technological advantages, especially if you're inclined to sashaying into rabbit holes and paralyzing analysis. In a nut: Most changes in life are a concoction of favorable outcomes and unfortunate consequences, the former often outweighing the latter. Humanity's progress is nonlinear, but indisputable.

There are aspects of human culture where timeless approaches, tweaked and improved by technology, still produce the best result. The best music is still born from personal experiences and performed by humans. Craft made beer and innovative, scratch made food are better than macro-suds and ultra-processed microwave meals. Success in sports follows a similar formula: Championships are won through a tedious process embraced by rare competitors disinterested in shortcuts. That's what hoists trophies and creates legends...and has former players excitedly breaking down game film while hunched over an iPad and a local sports writer ripping off a column to tell you all about it.

Send comments to [RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com](mailto:RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com)

## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

### Should you pay off debts or invest?

Some financial decisions can be challenging — like whether to use your money to reduce your debt or to invest. If you already have a significant amount of debt and not a lot in savings or investments, it can be hard to figure out which issue should be a priority.

There's no simple answer, and everyone's situation is different, but here are a few suggestions for helping you make a good choice:

- *Evaluate your cash flow.* If you already have enough after-tax income to meet your monthly living expenses, you might lean toward investing any leftover cash, but if you are just getting by, possibly due to heavy debt payments, then you might be better off using your funds to reduce your debt load.
- *Build an emergency fund.* Paying off your debt as fast as possible may seem like the responsible thing to do, but not having an adequate emergency fund or saving for your future could leave your finances at a permanent disadvantage. It's a good move to have an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Once you have such a fund, you could use it, instead of going into debt — or adding to your debt — to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or a major car repair.
- *Evaluate your debts.* Some of your debts are actually more "expensive" to you than others. This expense level doesn't necessarily refer to the size of the debt, however. You might have a large mortgage, for instance, but because your interest payments are typically tax deductible, your "after-tax" interest rate may be relatively modest. Therefore, you might consider investing rather than paying down your mortgage. But if you have consumer loans or credit cards that carry a high interest rate and whose interest payments are not deductible, you might be better off paying down or refinancing this debt.
- *Take advantage of any employer match.* If your employer sponsors a retirement plan and offers a match, you will want to prioritize contributing at least what is required to receive the match. It's essentially free money. So, if your employer matches up to 3% of your contributions, for example, you should contribute at least 3% of your income to this retirement account. Additionally, some employers will match a portion of your contributions to a Health Savings Account. Eventually, you'll likely want to get to a point of saving more than just the match, but you'll have to weigh the benefit of additional contributions against the cost of any debt you're carrying.
- *Make it easier on yourself.* To make achieving these goals easier, automate as much as you can. For example, you can divert part of your paycheck into an emergency savings account or a retirement account through automatic payments for any debt reduction or savings needs.

While it may seem like a huge endeavor to pay off your debt while still saving for the future, it doesn't have to be. Taking small, incremental steps is key to helping you get to where you want to go.

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

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

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# In Remembrance

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to [aldailey@countytimes.net](mailto: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.

## Bill Owens, 86



William Leroy Owens, "Bill", 86, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on June 9, 2025, in LaPlata, MD. Born on January 19, 1939, in LaPlata, MD, he was the son

of the late Mabel Dean Owens and the late William James Owens. Bill was the loving husband of Aloisia Owens, whom he married in January 1966. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Susan Ann Owens of Mechanicsville, MD, William James Owens II (Leighann Ellen) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Cassandra M. Johnson of Woodstock, VA, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his siblings, James "Duffy" Owens and Marjorie L. Owens.

Bill was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from Charlotte Hall Military Academy in 1956. He served in the United States Navy from September 18, 1956 to December 1, 1962; during this time, he was stationed on the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. Bill was an insurance salesman with People's Life Insurance Company through their sale to Monument and then Transamerica. He was a valued salesman and recipient of many sales awards.

Bill was a member of the Moose Lodge,

the Legion, and a former member of the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department. Breakfast at The Landing was a staple for Bill, and he loved a good card game and enjoyed visiting at the Veteran's Home.

The family will receive friends on Monday, June 16, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 10:00 AM. Interment will be private.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

## Charles Lumpkins, 80



Charles Ronald Lumpkins, known to all as Ronnie, was born to Benjamin Franklin Lumpkins and Mary Olive Lumpkins (McNeal) on February 1, 1945 in St. Mary's

County, Maryland. He was raised and lived his entire life in Piney Point, Maryland. He was schooled in the St. Mary's County Public School system. He married Anne Florence Lumpkins (Knott) on September 30, 1966 and celebrated 58 years of mar-

riage before his passing on June 4, 2025. He worked hard at whatever he did and faced many challenges through his years, the final being dementia. He served in the National Guard until he sustained a severe work related injury at Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship in Piney Point. He made a full recovery and went on to work self employed at various business ventures he had with his family and with his wife. He was a business partner with his father and brother at Lumpkins' Seafood where he loved the hard work of crabbing, oystering and fishing on the river and surrounding creeks. He was physically strong and strong willed. He and his wife owned a restaurant in Piney Point called "The Captain's Table". Together they owned an apartment building in Piney Point named "Country Lane Apartments". He supported his wife in her endeavors of becoming an ordained minister and creating a church in Callaway named "Christian Fellowship Center". He spent many hours and years working for the Lord at the church in Callaway. Later in life, he and his wife bought "Take It Easy Campground" and ran it together successfully until his retirement after his diagnosis of dementia. He was known to all as a gentle, kind-hearted man who loved the Lord with all his heart. He felt compelled to speak to anyone that would listen about his greatest love, Jesus. He impacted so many lives through his faith, generosity, and kindness.

He is the father of one daughter, Theresa

Anne Mitchell. He was an involved and loving father and grandfather to his daughter and two granddaughters, Gracie Anne Cullison and Lily Elizabeth Cullison. His love for work and people made him a very well liked person in the local watermen community, his campground community, and church. He inspired many with his strength and stamina, especially during adversity. He will be remembered by all for his calm demeanor paired with his desire to never be rushed. His common quip, "I stay ready, to keep from getting ready" was a joke to whoever he told it to because everyone knew he took his time and wanted to do things right, without getting in a hurry. He was a man of few words, but what he said was meaningful. In addition to the family mentioned above, he is survived by his siblings Carolyn Roehm of West Palm Beach, Florida; Bruce Lumpkins of Piney Point, Maryland and Melody Clinton of Onancock, Virginia; his nephews Keith and Kyle and nieces Brittany, Janey, Stella, and Michelle, as well as a host of extended family and friends.

A celebration of life service and memorial will be held on June 16 at 6:30 pm. The service will be at Take It Easy Campground in Callaway, Maryland.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

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## In Memory of JOHNNY ARMSWORTHY



June 12<sup>th</sup> will be our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I wish you were still here with me to celebrate.

Soon it will be 3 years since God called you home. It was August 14th, 2022 and seems like only yesterday.

I love you and miss you everyday.

Love, Lorraine

*A Tribute to the Loved One  
Whose Memory Lives  
On Forever in Your Heart*

Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.

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

**REMEMBRANCES**  
IN PRINT & ONLINE

**County Times**  
ST. MARY'S • CALVERT





# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Jun 13

Storytime in the Park

L'Town Alley Park  
22698 Washington St., Leonardtown  
6- 8 p.m.

Enjoy a delightful evening filled with captivating tales, interactive storytelling, and a whole lot of fun, all under the beautiful open sky. Bring a blanket or chairs, and enjoy quality time with your family in a serene and welcoming environment.

We'll be reading the Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter. Crafts, face painting, giveaways & more! Hosted by the Town of Leonardtown & Fenwick Street Used Books.

Sat, Jun 14

Coastal Arts Market at the Wharf

Leonardtown  
9am-3pm

Local artisans come together to sell their hand-crafted items at this open-air market. If you are looking for something special for home decor or a gift idea, you will find quality handcrafted ideas for everyone from babies to graduates, birthday gifts for all ages, retirement gifts, and even gifts for the special pets in your life.

Art Exhibit & Sale

The Fenwick Inn  
41685 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Explore a diverse collection of artwork from across the U.S., including original pieces by Southern Maryland's Color & Light Society. Meet the artists, watch live demos, and take home a unique piece of art. Free admission.

SMTMD Contra Dance

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall  
37497 Zach Fowler Rd, Chaptico  
7-9:30 p.m.

The evening starts at 7 pm with a half hour beginner's dance workshop followed by live music performed by the SOMD Open Band and dancing from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Check the website calendar for the lineup of dances and callers. Admission: \$8 for members; \$12 for non-SMTMD members; children 17 and under (when accompanied by a paying adult) and band members are free. Info: [smtmd2@gmail.com](mailto:smtmd2@gmail.com), [www.smtmd.org/new-events/](http://www.smtmd.org/new-events/)

Sun, Jun 15

All You Can Eat Homemade Homestyle Breakfast

2nd District VFD & RS Social Hall  
45245 Drayden Rd, Valley Lee

8-11 a.m.

Celebrate the Dads! Menu: scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, pancakes, french toast, sausage links, ham, bacon, creamed chipped beef, sausage gravy, spiced applesauce, grits & biscuits, assorted juices, milk and coffee. Adults \$14.00; children 6 to 12 \$7.00; children 5 & under are free. For more information call 240-925-2512.

Father's Day Evening Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum  
4:30 – 6 p.m.

Treat dad or your "special" someone aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*! Relax together and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Solomons Harbor and Patuxent River. Heavy hors d'oeuvre and a special dessert will be served. Guests are welcome to bring their own beverages; water, tea and lemonade will be provided. Cost is \$40 for adults, \$20 for children ages 5-12, and \$15 for children 4 and under.

Mon, Jun 16

Monday Motors

24710 Sotterley Road, Hollywood  
6-8 p.m.

Bring your car! Casual, fun atmosphere! This month's theme: Summer Haulers—Minivans, vans, and wagons with s'mores!

Did you "have" to get a van for the family? Bring it! No matter the theme, all vehicles are welcome! [www.facebook.com/events/1155193046281800](http://www.facebook.com/events/1155193046281800)

Elk's Monday Night Poker

St. Mary's County Elk's Lodge  
45779 Fire Department Ln., California  
7 p.m.

Texas Holdem tournament. Buy-in: \$35. Blinds will start at 25-50 and progress every 20 minutes. Please enter through the side of the building. For any question or additional details contact Linda Hill, 240-925-5697 or [doxiemama1014@gmail.com](mailto:doxiemama1014@gmail.com)

Thu, Jun 19

Open House

Drayden African American Schoolhouse  
11 a.n.-2 p.m.

For Juneteenth check out the restored schoolhouse and learn about its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions and provide information. This is a FREE EVENT co-hosted by Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) and the St. Mary's County Museum Division. INFO: [www.facebook.com/events/1304609537658205](http://www.facebook.com/events/1304609537658205)

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

### UPCOMING EVENTS



Tie Dye Block Party at Leonardtown Library

It's hip. It's happening. It's a tie-dye block party. Join us and make your very own groovy garment. Ages 8 to 18. Leonardtown Library on Friday, June 13 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Library will supply 1 item per person to tie-dye, but you are welcome to bring 1 additional item (tee, bag, hat, etc.) if you'd like. You will have 20 minutes to complete your tie-dye project. Each appointment is for one participant only. Wear something you won't mind getting messy. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

Summer Reading for All Ages

Summer Reading is for all ages and runs June 13 – August 23, 2025. Complete activities all summer long to earn badges. Badge 1: Free book! Badge 2: Choice of t-shirt or tote bag!

Badges 3-5: treat/food coupons to local businesses! Earn all 5 badges to be entered in the grand prize drawings for gift cards. Grand prize drawings take place after the end of Summer Reading in August. Download the Beanstack Tracker app for Android or iOS, or visit <https://stmalib.beanstack.org> to get started!

SPARK: Storytime in the Park

Join the Mobile Library for an all-ages storytime in the park followed by bubbles, music, playtime, and art! The Mobile Library will be open for library services as well. This activity will take place outdoors, 9:30-11 a.m. on Mondays in June and on Fridays in July and August. Participants should bring blankets or chairs for comfort. Find the locations, dates, and times for SPARK and register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

Hobby Trials: Cross Stitch

Want to try out a new hobby but not sure if it's for you? Come to Hobby Trials! This week we will try out cross stitching with a simple bookmark project. For adults. Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, June 17 from 6- 7 p.m. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

Opera Bears

Puppets + Opera = FUN! The puppet bears Grizzelina & Grizzelino (and their human friends from Maryland Opera) sing, play, and share all the ways that opera is a delightful way to tell a story. Two sessions: Lexington Park Library on Friday, June 20 from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. and Leonardtown Library on Friday, June 20 from 2 - 2:45 p.m. Most seating will be on the floor- feel free to bring a blanket! Summer Performing Arts events are supported in part by a grant from the St.

Mary's County Arts Council. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

Art for Anyone - Inspired by Andrea Nelson

Have you ever wanted to try watercolor painting, but didn't know where to start? Come join us as we explore the art of watercolor through the tutorials of Art Influencer, Andrea Nelson. Lexington Park Library on Saturday, June 21 from 1- 4 p.m. With supplies provided by the library, participants will have the chance to experiment with at least three different art projects inspired by Nelson's online videos. Please wear clothing that can get messy. Smocks will not be provided. This program is intended for adults, teens and school-aged children if accompanied by an adult. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Marsh plant
6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
10. Fogginess
14. Home to Fools' Day
15. Absence of the sense of pain
17. Popular November holiday
19. Consume food
20. Buddy
21. Long-haired goat-antelope
22. Japanese honorific
23. Actor Malek
24. One point south of southeast
26. Illegal acts
29. As fast as can be done
31. Prevents harm to young
32. Exclamation of satisfaction
34. African nation
35. Slow-moving animal
37. Oh, goodness!
38. A team's best pitcher
39. Cleanser
40. Radioactivity units
41. Expectorated matter
43. Cover a wide range
45. The central area of a church
46. California capital (abbr.)
47. Dutch painter Klaver
49. 007's creator
50. Impression of dishonesty
53. Northeastern sports rivalry
57. Cloths
58. Stalin's police chief
59. Hostelries
60. Bitterly regret
61. Anwar \_\_, Egyptian statesman

CLUES DOWN

1. Satisfy
2. European health advocate
3. Expression of annoyance
4. Strong liquor
5. Large red deer
6. Holder of less common religious beliefs
7. West Indian shrub
8. Family of proteins
9. Wealthy, influential business leader
10. Low spirits
11. Approves food
12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
13. Mary \_\_, cosmetics
16. Expressed in pithy maxims
18. Relaxing spaces
22. The NFL's big game
23. Proof of payment (abbr.)
24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
25. Indicates near
27. Minneapolis suburb
28. Herring-like fish
29. Doctors' group
30. Pouches
31. Bread dipping in sauce
33. Commercials
35. A reminder of past events
36. Affected by injury
37. Geological time
39. Stationary part of a motor
42. Brings together
43. Of sound mind
44. Personal computer
46. Without (French)
47. A bank might give you one
48. Agricultural testing organization
49. A small island
50. Type of gene
51. Murres
52. Card game
53. A measure of human health
54. Australian airline (abbr.)
55. One point south of due west
56. Affirmative

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# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Thu, Jun 12

### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way & Zoom  
6:30–8 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeannette Findley & JC Hooker. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Fri, Jun 12

### Pins and Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
1–4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

### Rooftop Car & Truck Show

Rooftop of the Rod N Reel parking garage by the Chesapeake Bay  
4165 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach  
4 to 8 p.m.

FREE, DJ tunes. 866 312 5596

## Sat, Jun 14

### Juneteenth Community Celebration

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum  
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard  
11 a.m.–5 p.m.

It'll be the 29th Annual NAACP Juneteenth Community Celebration. Similar to last year, we are anticipating thousands of visitors to this celebration. Questions should be directed to [naacpcalvert@gmail.com](mailto:naacpcalvert@gmail.com).

### Dee of St. Mary's Dockside Tours

Calvert Marine Museum  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Step aboard the museum's skipjack for an up-close tour with crew members of her

56 ft. deck. Learn how watermen dredge for oysters, hoist the sails, and navigate the waterways of the Chesapeake. Included with museum admission.

### Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
9–11 a.m.

Bring your gently used puzzles and exchange them for new-to-you challenges. It's a fun, eco-friendly way to refresh your collection and connect with fellow puzzle enthusiasts. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Poker Run

Traders  
8132 Bayside Rd Chesapeake Beach  
9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Start and finish at Traders Chesapeake. First bike out at 11am last card at 3:30. Registration is 9-11, card draw to be announced at traders, \$20 a hand \$10 extra hand. Trophy for best and worst hands. Event benefits the Humane Society of Calvert County

## Sun, Jun 15

### Father's Day Evening Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum  
4:30 – 6 p.m.

Treat dad or your "special" someone aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*! Relax together and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Solomons Harbor and Patuxent River. Heavy hors d'oeuvre and a special dessert will be served. Guests are welcome to bring their own beverages; water, tea and lemonade will be provided. Cost is \$40 for adults, \$20 for children ages 5-12, and \$15 for children 4 and under.

## Mon, Jun 16

### Teen Book Box Pickup: Color Your World

Calvert Library

We will be checking out free boxes each month to teens who register. Inspired by

subscription boxes like Loot Crate, each box will have a theme and contain a library book to borrow, a free book to keep, a fun activity and a snack. 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Tue, Jun 17

### Kindergarten Gear Up

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
2–3 p.m.

Join us for an 8 week program designed to help prepare kids and their caregivers to start school in the upcoming year. Through instruction and play, kids will learn social and academic skills while caregivers will learn how to better support their children. This program is intended for children not receiving formal childcare. Registration is required, and it is asked that you attend all sessions. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### 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 adult. 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, Jun 18

### Planned Giving Educational Seminar

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center  
6:30–8 p.m.

Presented by Wells Fargo. This is a free financial seminar hosted by Ann's Circle, the non-profit organization that supports Annmarie Garden; a presentation and Q&A session will be included. Light refreshments

will be served. Please RSVP to [donor@annmariegarden.org](mailto:donor@annmariegarden.org)

### Book Discussion

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

Join us online or in person to discuss "The Caretaker" by Ron Rash. A tender examination of male friendship and rivalry as well as a riveting, compelling novel of familial devotion, "The Caretaker" brilliantly depicts the human capacity for delusion and destruction all too often justified as acts of love. Register in advance to receive the Zoom link via email if you wish to attend virtually. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch  
4100 5<sup>th</sup> St., North Beach  
1–4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

## Thu, Jun 19

### Brantley Gilbert and Opener Jackson Dean

Calvert Marine Museum  
7 p.m.

Live at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$60 - \$100 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

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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

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



# CalvertHealth Earns National Workplace Recognition

CalvertHealth is proud to announce it has earned the prestigious Great Place to Work® Certification and has been named one of the Top 150 Places to Work in Healthcare by Becker's Healthcare—two national recognitions that reflect the organization's ongoing commitment to a culture of excellence, trust and compassion.

These honors follow another major distinction: CalvertHealth was recently recognized as one of the Top 100 Hospitals in the nation by Premier, as published in Forbes. This elite designation highlights hospitals that are excelling across clinical quality, operational efficiency, and patient experience—affirming CalvertHealth's standing as both a leading employer and top-tier care provider.

The Great Place to Work® Certification is awarded based on validated employee feedback and data-driven assessments of workplace culture. This designation confirms what the CalvertHealth team already knows—that it is a great place to work because of the people who make it great.

"We are incredibly honored by these rec-

ognitions," said Jeremy Bradford, President and CEO of CalvertHealth. "They speak to the power of our mission and the extraordinary people who carry it out every day. When our employees thrive, our patients benefit—and that is what matters most."

Bradford added, "Our certification reflects a culture built on trust, purpose and collaboration. We will continue to invest in creating a workplace where everyone feels supported and empowered."

The Becker's list recognizes health-care organizations that promote employee well-being, offer exceptional benefits and cultivate meaningful engagement. CalvertHealth's inclusion highlights the system's emphasis on professional development, communication and teamwork.

Whether it's being recognized as a top employer or a top performer in clinical care, CalvertHealth continues to raise the bar in community-based healthcare.

Learn more about CalvertHealth by visiting [CalvertHealthMedicine.org](http://CalvertHealthMedicine.org).

*Press Release from CalvertHealth*

# New Video Highlights Grief Programming

Grief doesn't come with a map—but no one should have to navigate it alone. In a new video about the Chesapeake Life Center, one can hear the voices of those who've walked through loss and found comfort, connection, and hope through Hospice of the Chesapeake's grief support programs.

The story of how Chesapeake Life Center uses creative programming and wellness to help the community heal through connection is told in the video produced by Hospice Foundation of America (HFA). It features griever's sharing how they learned to cope with loss with Chesapeake Life Center, which offers bereavement services through Hospice of the Chesapeake. Also in the video are team members discussing their role in grief counseling.

Marie Burgess was greatly impacted by the care she and her family received after her six-year-old son Harvey died. A licensed clinical professional counselor, she shared in the video that her experience led her to volunteer as a camp counselor at the center's children's grief camp.

Terri Hussman shared how Chesapeake Life Center gave her the tools to help her children after her husband died suddenly. "This organization knows how to create community, how to sustain community and how to wrap people up in community who

maybe haven't been a part of it," Hussman said.

The video is part of the HFA's continuing education series, *Improving Dying*, which showcases exceptional care programs that are enhancing care for patients, families and even entire communities. These special programs go the extra mile to provide excellent patient care, ease caregiving and grief, and raise public awareness of the humanity and dignity that can be part of end-of-life care.

Chesapeake Life Center was one of six hospice programs featured in the series. "End-of-life care providers are doing amazing work that rarely gets the attention it deserves," said Amy Tucci, HFA's president and CEO. "With *Improving Dying*, HFA's goal is to recognize their efforts and provide models that can be replicated to enhance care for dying and the bereaved."

"It brings me so much joy to be in a position to hold space and hear people's stories and their journey and to see people happy again," Chesapeake Life Center grief counselor Jennifer Ward said in the video. "To see that joy brings me joy."

To see the video, visit <https://vimeo.com/1080179661/bd52bfdecb1?share=copy>

*Press Release from Chesapeake Life Center*

# Buy Local Challenge Returns July 28

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is thrilled to bring back the highly anticipated Buy Local Challenge Celebration for 2025.

This lively, family-friendly event showcases Maryland's thriving farms, talented local producers, and vibrant arts and crafts scene. Join us on Monday, July 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Tettimers' Produce at Rolling Acres Farm, located at 3305 St Leonard Rd., Port Republic, rain or shine!

Attendees can enjoy a bustling farmers market featuring more than 35 vendors showcasing Maryland's summer bounty. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet and shop directly from local farmers, artisans, and beverage makers.

Highlights include farm-raised meats, dairy, fresh produce, Maryland oysters, baked goods, artisanal jams, honey, hand-crafted soaps, and local arts and crafts. Guests can also sample beverages from Maryland wineries, distilleries, and breweries.

Tickets are \$5 per person, with free

admission for children aged six and under. Tickets can be purchased online until 4 p.m. on event day. Each ticket includes access to shopping, a complimentary insulated tote (for the first 900 paid attendees aged 7 and up), live music by the trio 'Chaptico Songworks,' carriage rides with Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales, pony rides, a petting pen, one oyster tasting, and a chance to win vendor-donated prizes in the free raffle.

Please Note: Food, drinks, and alcohol are not included with admission; attendees are encouraged to support vendors and food trucks onsite. The event will proceed rain or shine. Parking is available on-site; restrooms are ADA accessible. Pets are only permitted if they are service animals.

For more information or inquiries, contact [info@smadc.com](mailto:info@smadc.com) or call 240-528-8850, Ext. 327. Updates and additional details are available at <http://www.buylocalchallenge.com>.

Join us for a celebration of Maryland's local flavors, arts, and community spirit!

*Press Release from SMADC*

# Schools Offer Summer Meals Program

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) is offering free Grab 'N Go meals this summer! Although our school sites do not qualify for traditional summer meal programs, we're pleased to share that some of our locations are eligible to participate in the USDA's *Rural, Non-Congregate Summer Meal Program* — a special opportunity designed to support rural communities.

These USDA-approved rural sites offer free Grab 'N Go meal kits to children ages 2–18 who are living in income-eligible households.

## How do I know if my children qualify and how do I register?

If your child is a CCPS student who received free or reduced-price meals during the 2024–2025 school year, simply call the Child Nutrition Office at 443-550-8680 to confirm eligibility and register for a meal pickup site. Provide the names of any other children ages 2–18 living in the household. If one child living in the household is eligible for summer meals, the other children will be too!

If your child is a CCPS student who did NOT receive free or reduced-price meals during the 2024–2025 school year, submit a Meal Benefit Application to determine eligibility. Applications may be completed either online at LinqConnect or by using the printed form. You may also access both options on the CCPS website. If you would like an application sent to you, please call 443-550-8680. Once eligibility is confirmed, you will be contacted to register for a site.

If your children are not CCPS students, but are between the ages of 2–18, submit a paper Meal Benefit Application to determine eligibility. Paper applications are available to be

printed from the CCPS website. If you would like an application sent to you, please call 443-550-8680. Once eligibility is confirmed, you will be contacted to register for a site.

## How many meals come in a kit?

Meal kits contain 5 breakfast meals, 5 lunch meals, and milk for each meal.

## How often will meal kits be distributed?

Meal kits will be distributed on Wednesdays, starting July 2 and ending August 6. Meals will be available at Calvert High School from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., and at Huntingtown High School and Southern Middle School from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

When you call to confirm your children's eligibility and register (443-550-8680), you will also select a meal pick up site. That site is where you will be able to pick up meal kits each week. You may change your pickup site during the summer by contacting the Child Nutrition Office to update your registration.

The USDA typically requires children to be present for meals but does make an exception for Parents/Guardians of children participating in the Rural, Non-Congregate Summer Meal Program. Parents/Guardians may pick up meals for their registered children without them being present. Unfortunately, if an adult is not the Parent/Guardian, they will only be able to obtain meals for the registered children who are present. While not ideal, complying with program regulations is what allows us the ability to continue to operate this much needed community program. Please plan accordingly.

*Press Release from CCPS*



## CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of May 26, 2025 – June 1, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,016 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health 54
- Disorderly 11
- Domestic 32
- Motor Vehicle Crashes 42
- Patrol Checks / School Checks 945
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles 25
- Traffic Complaints 73
- Traffic Stops 436
- 911 Hang Ups 62
- **ARRESTS 42**



Jamar Arsenio Brown

**CDS Violation: 25-45064** On May 30, 2025, Deputy Shuart conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation along Rt. 4 near Sherry Lane in Prince Frederick. The driver, identified as **Jamar**

**Arsenio Brown**, 35 of Huntingtown, was found to be operating the vehicle with a revoked license. During the stop, K9 Atlas performed an open-air sniff around the vehicle and alerted to the presence of a controlled dangerous substance. A subsequent search of the vehicle led to the discovery of a burnt glass pipe (commonly used for smoking crack cocaine) containing suspected crack cocaine residue. Brown was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Driving on a Revoked License, and additional traffic-related offenses.

**Damaged Property: 25-45325** On May 31, 2025, Deputy Blackstone responded to the Cove Point Park public restroom located at 750 Cove Point Road in Lusby

for the report of property destruction. The complainant reported an unknown suspect(s) caused damage to the bathroom and destroyed a mounted soap dispenser. The estimated value of damaged property is \$550.

**Theft: 25-44620** On Thursday May 29, 2025, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the 1800 block of W Mt. Harmony Road in Owings, for the reported theft. The complainant reported an unknown suspect stole a package from the front porch of the residence containing a new iPhone. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,270.



Martin Sylvester Woodland

**Trespassing: 24-44800** On May 30, 2025, Senior Deputy Idol responded to the Rod 'N Reel located at 4160 Mears Ave in Chesapeake Beach, for the reported trespassing. Upon arrival contact was made with **Martin Sylvester Woodland**, 59 of Waldorf. Woodland has been previously trespassed indefinitely from the property. Woodland was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Trespassing Private-Property.

*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](mailto:ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov)*

## Deputy Receives Sentinel Valor Award



Calvert County Sheriff's Office Corporal Nick DeFelice was the very first recipient of the Sentinel Valor Award presented by American Legion Stallings-Williams Post 206. Pictured Bottom L to R: Lt. J. Elliott, Scott Deacon, Cpl. N. DeFelice, Patricia McCoy, F/Sgt. S. Moran.

## Arrests Made in Lusby Shooting

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Patrol Bureau responded on June 5 at approximately 11:38 a.m. to the 700 block of Spruce Drive in Lusby for the report of a shooting. A citizen had contacted 911, advising that an individual had pulled up onto Spruce Drive and informed them they had just been shot while parked on Field Road.

Upon arrival, deputies located a 24-year-old female victim seated in her vehicle, suffering from a gunshot wound to her lower back. Deputies immediately rendered aid until emergency medical personnel arrived. The victim was transported to a regional trauma center, where she is currently listed in stable condition.

A preliminary investigation revealed the victim had arranged to meet two males in the area of Evergreen Drive and Field Road. A white SUV, occupied by two males, arrived at the location. A black male exited the vehicle and approached the victim's car. Moments later, neighbors reported hearing gunshots and observed the male suspect re-enter the passenger seat of the SUV before it fled the scene at a high rate of speed.

Detectives from the CCSO Criminal Investigations Bureau responded and assumed the investigation. Through swift investigative efforts, detectives located the suspect vehicle parked at a residence on Pine Trail in Lusby. An investigatory traffic stop was later conducted in the 12500 block of Catalina Road, where the driver, identified as Steven Anthony Gilner, Jr., 18 of Lusby, was taken into custody without incident. Further investigation led deputies to a residence along H.G. Trueman Road in Lusby. As law enforcement approached, a male suspect fled on foot but was apprehended following a brief pursuit on a nearby golf course. The suspect, a 16-year-old male, was taken into custody. A search of the residence recovered evidence consistent with the suspect's clothing and weapons believed to have been used in the shooting.

The 16-year-old male has been charged with:

- Attempted First-Degree Murder
- Attempted Robbery with a Firearm
- First-Degree Assault
- Use of a Firearm During a Felony/Violent Crime
- Reckless Endangerment • Possession of a Firearm Under the Age of 21 (x2)
- Removing/Obliterating a Serial Number on a Firearm

Steven Anthony Gilner, Jr., 18, has been charged with:

- Attempted First-Degree Murder
- First-Degree Assault
- Armed Robbery with a Firearm



Anthony Gilner, Jr.

- Use of a Firearm During a Felony/Violent Crime
- Reckless Endangerment
- Possession of a Firearm Under the Age of 21

Subsequently, deputies arrested a 15-year-old male of Lusby in connection with the case. Pursuant to Maryland law, the identity of the juvenile suspect will not be released. The 15-year-old male has been charged as an adult with:

- Attempted First-Degree Murder
- Attempted Robbery with a Firearm
- First-Degree Assault
- Use of a Firearm During a Felony/Violent Crime
- Reckless Endangerment
- Possession of a Firearm Under the Age of 21

Sheriff Ricky Cox praised the collaborative efforts of the responding deputies and detectives, stating: "I want to personally commend the tireless work and swift action of our patrol deputies and Criminal Investigations Bureau detectives in bringing a quick resolution to this violent crime. Their dedication to justice and the safety of our community is evident in the results of this investigation. Let this be a clear message: violent crime will not be tolerated in Calvert County. We will continue to work diligently to hold offenders accountable and keep our neighborhoods safe."

This investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with additional information is urged to contact Det. W. McDowell at [wyatt.mcdowell@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:wyatt.mcdowell@calvertcountymd.gov) or Det. M. Mudd at [Michael.Mudd@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:Michael.Mudd@calvertcountymd.gov). Citizens may remain anonymous through the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email [ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov)

Press Release from CCSO

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# Northern High School Holds Graduation

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Northern High School held its commencement ceremony on June 4 at Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro.

At each of the Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) graduations this year, the Graduate with Distinction chosen to speak for the graduates was the keynote speaker.

At NHS Charlie Pottlitz was that student. He said, “Today as I opened up my school-issued Lenovo laptop and started a new Word document, I headed to Google to discover the best way to write a graduation speech. While I feel I tackled the introduction and gratitude portion, well, I hit a wall immediately on step two, pick a theme. How do I pick just one in a moment filled with so many emotions? How do I pick just one that describes every graduate’s experience? How do I pick one that incorporates every aspect that has made us who we are today overcoming adversity, embracing change, the importance of friendship? All things I’ve experienced through my 13 years in Calvert County Public Schools fall equally as important in shaping the Charlie that’s standing on the stage today.

After detailing elementary school experiences, he said, “Again, ready for some independence, we let recess be a moment of the past, went down the slide a final time and retired our names as a Seagull, a Wizard, a Seahawk, or a Mustang, and prepared for the chaos of middle school. I find a lot of satisfaction in knowing we didn’t have the typical middle school experience. I’m sure we all remember the halls buzzing when we learned of our extended two-week spring break. How much could a little virus hurt us while we only have a year and a half of true middle school experience? If there’s



one thing I have to say about these transformative and awkward years of our life, it’s that if there are any middle school teachers out there today, you are so brave.

“As I’m sure many of us came out a few pounds heavier and about a foot taller, we each uniquely experienced independent growth through a global pandemic, and I’m sure that’s something many of us will hold against our future children. Beyond ready for some social interaction mixed with the excitement of finally being a high schooler. We logged off Microsoft Teams and walked through the same doors that we’d faced each morning for the very first time.

“For the past 720 days, we’ve made countless memories together. We’ve been side by side under the Friday night Lights creeping slowly down to the front of the stands. We’ve watched new friends come and maybe watched a few go hand in hand. We’ve encountered the awkward school dances at homecoming. We’ve gotten our driver’s license, we’ve joined a club or two. We’ve become SMAC

and state champions, but through every step we’ve taken, we’ve embraced it and let it unite us with Patriot pride.

“As we turn our tassels today, don’t allow the memories of not only the past four years at Northern High School to escape you, but the childhood that you got to call yours as we turn them. Don’t let this motion put the last 17 or 18 years of your life in a box but rather use these memories as fuel to create more.

“As we step out of this building tonight and each go our separate ways, unsure of if our paths will cross again, remember the foundation you built here at Northern. Look back often and embrace the laughs, the cheers, the faces of the people you pass in the hall, the good, the bad, and the ugly.

“But even more importantly, as we move forward, continue to create lasting memories that you can look upon as you did today, and be proud of what you did. Change the world, inspire others, and build a jar of memories that you are proud of.”

Seniors must have a weighted grade point

average of 3.9 and above to be a graduate if distinction. This year NHS had 123 seniors who qualified to be recognized as graduates with distinction, the highest number of graduates with distinction at Northern High School and among all Calvert County public Schools to date.

Charlie Pottlitz is the son of Joe and Kerry Pottlitz. He’ll be attending the University of South Carolina in the fall while he’ll be majoring in nursing.

NHS Principal Dr. Kevin Simmons, said, “You are here today because of your fortitude, your attitude, your resilience, and your unwaveringly mindset.”

He said, “My message to you, the graduates of 2025, is simple, yet profound. Keep your head up, be approachable, speak with credibility. By doing so, you’ll find your next journey to be as successful, if not more successful than the one you are completing here today.”

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)

## Central Committee Recommends Treasurer Replacement

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Republican Central Committee, on a 9-0 vote, has recommended Amanda Dolina to fill the vacancy for Calvert County Treasurer.

The central committee, in an email to Governor Moore and other county officials, said, “She has been actively involved in the community for some time through RWLC (Republican Women Leaders of Calvert) and has been an advocate for education.”

She lives in Chesapeake Beach and is founder of West Bridge Finance Solutions, which according to their website, is “a consulting firm specializing in strategic financial and accounting guidance for small and medium-sized businesses and nonprofit organizations.”

She said on the website, “I have the privilege of working with some of the most hard-working, inventive, and downright tenacious people on the planet: small business owners. If you’re one of them, you know that every

day is an adventure. And while I love numbers and financial systems, I know that’s probably not what gets you out of bed in the morning.

“I spent years managing the financial intricacies of large organizations, leading audits, and consulting with companies of all sizes with many resources at my disposal. Then I had the chance to work with a family-owned business and several local organizations close to my heart. That experience showed me where I could make a difference: bringing big-company finance expertise to small businesses—the people driving our economy forward, one dream at a time.”

Nova Tracy-Soper resigned from the elected Treasurer position on May 30. The county commissioners appointed Cynthia Harris as interim Calvert County Treasurer. Harris has more than 30 years of experience in the Treasurer’s Office, having served as deputy treasurer since 1995.

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)



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# Patuxent High School Holds 26<sup>th</sup> Graduation

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Patuxent High School (PHS) held its 26<sup>th</sup> commencement on June 5 at Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro.

Graduate with Distinction Speaking for the class was Dilana Winter.

Winter in her address talked about the many countdowns they had faced. "We cross off freshman year, sophomore year, junior year, and now we've reached the end of another countdown. One more thing to cross off to breathe a sigh of relief because it's over and done with, but we've been waiting for four years and maybe longer has finally arrived and we should be thrilled, and I am thrilled."

"As we bring this chapter of our lives to a close, it's important to remember the significance of each type of memory we hold. The good made us wish the clock could slow down and will make us nostalgic in the future as we reminisce on simpler times, the bad encouraged us to keep counting down and hope the time could somehow move and possibly faster. In each bad memory, though I'm sure any of us can find a bright spot and every test you felt like you failed, maybe you had a friend who could share in your disbelief in every game you lost and maybe shouldn't have."

She said, "Today in everything we do, we will always have ample reason to count down. However, we will also be armed with hindsight. While it's impossible to know what the future holds for us, we can remember that there is good and every bad moment, that there will always be something that makes saying goodbye hard."

Winer said, "We might find it a little bit easier to stop counting down every second with the knowledge that we can look forward to the future while still enjoying the



present and every bright spot we can bind in it.

"After all, our lives are only just beginning, and if we keep going the way we have been, we'll have thousands more days to cross off, millions more minutes to count down in an infinite number of moments to waste staring at the clock."

Winter observed, "If we instead stop counting down the days and start living in the moment, I think we'll all find that we'll have less regret, less grief when those wonderful things are over, that our joy and our sorrow will be simultaneous and auspicious."

Winter said, "We spend so much time trying to think of the perfect words to encapsulate our feelings for one another, and oftentimes we end up sharing platitudes that don't seem to do our own gratitude justice. I learned a lesson recently though that sometimes simple is best. Sometimes all the feelings we mean to communicate in so many words can be conveyed just by

saying, 'Thanks for loving me,' and in turn, 'Thanks for making it so easy to love.'

"So, to our teachers and coaches, our friends and family and everyone else who helped us make it here today. Thank you for loving us and thank you for making it so easy to love, for pushing us and giving us a reason to show up every day and making us want to stop counting down. We couldn't have done it without you."

Winter said, "This school truly is one of a kind and I think ultimately it has done well in teaching us to stop counting down the days and instead start living in them."

She will attend the University of Delaware Honors College as a DuPont Scholar, where she plans to study philosophy in public policy with a pre-law focus.

PHS Principal Anthony Barone said, "Derek Jeter gave the commencement speech at the University of Michigan last month, and in his speech the captain said, 'Failure is essential.' He is right. It is essential. You have to be willing to take the risk despite

the possibility of failure. You don't know if you'll get into a school unless you apply. You won't know if you get a job unless you interview. You won't know if that hottie will say yes unless you ask them about."

"In all three of these cases, you could be rejected, or you could be accepted. But by taking those risks you learn, even if you fail. If you didn't get into the school of your choice, you go where they will take you and then you work harder on your grades. If you did not get the job, you learn from their employer what certification is needed, and you work towards that. If the hottie shoots you down, you learn. Next time you better make sure you don't have anything in your nose or in your teeth before you ask out."

One example he said, "If our football team does not fail in the state championship two years ago, they do not learn what it needs to be done to end Dunbar's streak and become state champions."

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# Calvert High School Holds Commencement

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Calvert High School (CHS) held its graduation ceremony on June 4 at Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro.

Graduate with Distinction Speaking for the Class Cailleigh Soveaux told those assembled and watching on steaming video, “We stand here today at the conclusion of a long, enlightening journey to finally bring us to this day. The past four years were packed with assignments, homework tests, and an incredible amount of hard work to earn us the privilege to walk across this stage today and equipped us with the knowledge to conquer life.

“Here we are on the other side of everything we could have only ever imagined when we were sitting in elementary school with the 2025 banners hanging above our heads. At the time, we were so naive about the challenges, experiences, and opportunities that would come our way over the coming years as we leave high school.

“Though, thanks to all the unexpected lessons. We now have the ability, confidence, and wisdom to build our own success, to become the person we want to be, to reach for our goals and dreams and to approach each day with the drive and enthusiasm to grow and persevere.

“The people we are striving to become is now our choice. We have the opportunity to solve the great wonders of our generation. I wonder how far technology will go. I wonder if we’ll see the cure for cancer in our lifetime. With that, I look forward to seeing what our class can achieve in the coming months, years, and decades.

“What I hope most though is that each of you find your definition of a meaningful life. Reminisce on the stories and memories, but also project onto the world the lessons we have been taught. Live life to the fullest. Be the kind stranger. Be the friend you once needed and always chase the best outcomes in life.

“Never forget that the most extraordinary people were once just high school students sitting in their graduation and caps and gowns. That is the magnitude we have of the possibility standing in front of us. We are graduating high school. There’s once again a ton of unknowns and mysteries in our world and our future, but we have the ability to make it so bright.

“While graduating seems almost like an expectation for some. Remember to be proud



of your accomplishments because it was so much more. You fought the fight to your goals. You continued on while exhausted, found your place, made it through the conflicts of high school. I hope you are proud of what you have done, and I hope in 20 years you can say the same.”

This year there were 39 graduates with distinction at CHS. To qualify for this prestigious recognition, seniors must have a weighted grade point average of 3.9 and above.

CHS Principal Andrea Young said, “You are 232 graduates strong, whose bright futures include commitments to four-year and two-year colleges, various branches of the military, internships, apprenticeships, and into the workforce. Your class was awarded more than \$5 million in scholarships and awards. That is a commitment to excellence.

“And today, we gather not just to celebrate a milestone for you completing high school, but to honor a journey. A journey filled with questions, discoveries, challenges, and triumphs.

“I’d like to share three words to carry you forward into the next phase of your journey: curiosity, purpose and boldness. Curiosity is where it all begins. It is what drives us to explore, to learn and to innovate. It’s what brought you through years of classes, projects and exams, and it’s what will carry you through the unknowns ahead. Never lose your curiosity. Ask the hard questions. Seek understanding. Understanding. Explore the unfamiliar and wonder about the world. Be the person who doesn’t just accept the world as it is but imagines what it could be.

“But curiosity alone is not enough. You

must also find your purpose, that deeper reason behind what you do. Purpose gives direction to your curiosity. It’s the why behind your actions as it turns questions into action and dreams into goals. When life has challenges, it will come back to that purpose. Let it ground you and be your compass. You don’t have to have it all figured out today, but be sure to listen to yourself, to what excites you, what moves you, and what makes you feel alive. That is where purpose begins.

“And finally, be bold. Be bold enough to stand up for what is right to try and fail and try again. Being bold doesn’t mean being fearless. It means acting in spite of fear. It means raising your hand when no one else will and standing up for what is right, even

when it’s hard. You are entering a world that needs people who are willing to stand up, to speak up, and to lead with boldness and courage, to have a positive impact on society and in our communities.

“You are entering a world that needs your courage, your voice, and your ideas, and your leadership. So, as you step into your next chapter, stay curious enough to keep learning. Stay purposeful enough to keep growing and stay bold enough to keep going even when it becomes challenging. The world is waiting for your questions, your passion, and your courage. So, remember, be curious, live with purpose and lead boldly. The world is waiting for you.”

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# Huntingtown High School Holds 21<sup>st</sup> Graduation

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Class of 2025 of Huntingtown High School (HHS) held its commencement on June 5 at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro. It was the school's 21<sup>st</sup> graduation.

Graduate of Distinction Speaking for the Class was Grace Minakowski, who spent her senior year as the Student Member of the Board of Education.

Minakowski said, "Class of 2025, if there is one thing I learned to do during my four years at Huntingtown, it is know when to quit. So, with that, thank you and congratulations. That was a joke.

But seriously, as we reflect on the lessons we've learned from high school, the one that stuck out the most to me was that there is so much power, so much freedom in learning to let things go. Now, the secret to being a good quitter is knowing when to quit. Right before you start a grad speech, probably not the best time to quit. But aside from the obvious, knowing when to cut your losses as a high schooler is hard. A time when just about every struggle feels like THE struggle. But why is that?

"For those of us who actually paid attention in AP microeconomics this year, which was admittedly very few of us, you might know about something called the 'sunk cost fallacy.' That is that the more time and resources you invest in something, the harder it is to let go. But it's called a fallacy for a reason. We all went into high school



with goals and mine was focused on academic success. My plan of attack was this: adhere to the perfect combination of classes and friends and extracurriculars such that I would maximize my time and energy and get what I wanted.

"This girl is crazy, you're probably all thinking. But even if you weren't nearly as manic about it as I was, we likely all fell victim to the belief that there is one right path to success and felt the accompanying fear of straying from said path. After all, when you're told that your future depends on the grades you get and the awards you win, why risk change despite this?

"My time at Huntingtown showed me how these rigid paths aren't really paths at

all. They're limiting cycles. There are a lot of different things you can quit. Sometimes it's tangible, but in my case, it was a mindset. I remember very vividly the spring of my sophomore year, I was on a run and I thought to myself, God, I wish I could just run. What I really meant was God, I wish I had the courage to disregard the investments I'd made in soccer and theater and chose the sport that made me happy, which was cross country. I don't know where my courage came from in this moment, but I'm grateful it did. I quit the clubs. I'd already been a part of that. I convinced myself I was too sunk deep in to let go, to go run, and it was the best decision I ever made. Not just because I found my friends, my sport, and my rare tolerance to run nine miles over the summer, but because I proved to myself that the world didn't end when I surrendered to change.

"As a matter of fact, my world became a whole lot happier, and I believe that each and every one of you have the power to find this happiness too.

"Huntingtown High School, thank you for teaching me that it is both okay and necessary to change. When you believe that some aspect of your identity is rigid and unchangeable, you sacrifice your autonomy to that very thing. As you reflect on your high school journey, and especially as you enter this next chapter of your life, I challenge you to embrace the fear of leaving things behind. I challenge you to remember the beautiful things that you discovered at Huntingtown, the community, the passions, the values, and make room for them.

"Without apology, class of 2025, together, let's be the class of quitters. After you accept

your diploma, let's quit thinking that quitting is impossible and put the power to shape our futures in our hands.

"This time for real."

Minakowski is the daughter of Christopher Minakowski and the late Lisa Ann Minakowski. She and her dad founded and run the Lisa Ann Minakowski Memorial Scholarship in honor of her mother's life. In the fall she will be attending Duke University on a full ride through the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program, planning to double major in economics and public policy.

Principal Beth Morton said, "For me, this moment today truly started on June 6th, 2024. So last summer I attended the celebration of life for Sean Powell, who is the father of one of your classmates, Peyton. Peyton shared a message from his father, and in that moment I knew it would be my message to you today, and that is attitude and effort are the foundation of a meaningful and successful life. When you approach each day with positivity and give it your best, success doesn't just become possible, it becomes inevitable."

Morton added, "We have so much to celebrate today. In the words of Booker T. Washington, nothing ever comes to one that is worth having except as a result of hard work. Your attitude and effort are celebrated today."

She said, "As Billy Cox, who is a renowned musician who played with Jimi Hendrix, one said, 'The two things you have control over are your attitude and your effort.'"

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)



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# Townsel Tells Graduates to Embrace Their 'Acre of Diamonds'

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andraé Townsel told the graduating seniors of the four high schools a lesson about knowing what they have.

He said at Northern High School's ceremony, "It's called commencement. That doesn't mean the end of your educational career. It means now it's the beginning of our lives. You put (to use) all the information you learned, all you could possibly learn in these last 12, 13, possibly 14 years here in Calvert County Public Schools.

"And I want to share with you a message that changed the trajectory of my future and my prayers is that it does the same for you.

"It's a story called 'The Acres of Diamonds.' And I need you to hear me. I need you to hear me well. The acres of diamonds. Once there was an African farmer who heard tales that farmers were going across the continent of Africa, mining for diamonds and becoming millionaires. This farmer got so excited about mining these diamonds that he was anxious to sell his farm. This farmer sold his farm and spent the rest of his life looking for these diamond minds so he could become a millionaire. Unsuccessfully. He searched and out of frustration and desperation, this individual threw himself in a river and drowned.

"Meanwhile, back at the farm, the farmer

who sold his land to another gentleman, he walked across the property, and he went into the back of the farm, and he saw a bright red/blue light flashing, almost blinded him, hit him in the face. He dug down into this creek and picked up a large stone and he took this stone and set it on this fireplace mantle out of curiosity. He said, I'm going to keep this for a souvenir, because I don't know what this is.

"A couple of weeks later, a visitor came by this house and almost fainted when he saw this rock sitting on the fireplace mantle. He said, whoa, where did you get this? And the farmer said, oh, this thing, I found in a creek out back. He (the visitor) said, do you realize this is the largest diamond ever found in the whole continent of Africa?

"He did not believe it. He said, is that so? Because there's a bunch of these things sprinkled generously across the creek in my backyard.

"Needless to say, the farmer who sold his land to go search for diamonds and mine across Africa, the whole time, he was sitting on his own 'acre of diamonds,' did not know what a diamond looked like in this rough state and sold it for practically nothing to go and ultimately get nothing.

"Right now, ladies and gentlemen, you are standing in your own acre of diamond, and I don't want you to miss the opportunity. I don't want you to get caught up searching for greener pastures everywhere, and

you're possibly not exploring every option and opportunity you have right in front of you. When you go off and begin your life, the goal is for you to go all in and whatever it is you want to achieve and want to accomplish, because you made it this far...but now you got more to go.

"I don't want you to have all these scholarships and awards, and you go off and lose it. It took you 12 years to get it, but with a bad decision, it takes you 12 minutes to lose it.

"I want you to know when I was standing right here in your position, full ride to Howard University, football scholarship, eight months later, kicked out, sent home, bad decisions. I don't want you to fumble the bag for yourself. You're in your own acre of diamonds. It's important for you to understand who you are, your strengths and your weaknesses. Self-awareness. Understand the opportunity you have in front of you.

"Next, I want you to understand self-management. Do not let anybody get you out of character. Don't let anybody be a bad influence.

"The next thing, being socially aware, understanding what's going on in the community around you, the college campus, you're possibly going into the military.

"Next, having good relationship skills, understanding how to talk to people, how to look them in their eye and shake their head and treating people the way you want



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andraé Townsel

to be treated.

"And very last, making responsible decisions. Let me tell you something, one bad decision, I don't care how much you got it all together now, one bad decision can cancel your future. We do not want that for you. We want your dreams to come true. For your dreams to work, you must work. The dream is free, but the grind is sold separately. The dream is free, but the hustle is sold separately."

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# Commissioners Approve \$386 Million Budget

## Motion Fails to Increase Staff Salaries

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on June 10 formally adopted a \$385,978,812 budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The balanced budget retains the current property tax and income tax rates.

But the final approval was not without controversy. Commissioner Mike Hart at the last minute attempted to provide an extra step increase for county employees on top of the one Step and a one-percent Cost of Living Adjustment already in the budget. The extra Step would have cost an additional \$1 million.

Commissioner Mark Cox supported Hart, saying a revenue stream from cost saving elsewhere had been identified.

But Commissioner Vice President Todd Ireland and Commissioner Catherine Grasso opposed Hart's motion, and the tie vote caused the motion to fail. Commissioner President Buddy Hance did not vote.

Hart explained, "During my second board, at one point we had to do a 17 percent increase for staff across the board because we had gotten so far behind jurisdictions. (It's) no secret out there that employers are paying more in the state of Maryland than they ever have. So, the competition for employees is getting more and more diffi-

cult. I don't want to see us down the road where we're so far behind. I think some of the folks that we have that have been here longer may not be in that category as much as the new employees. But the competition for new staff and to keep the younger staff is getting tougher and tougher."

Hart added that a closer look needed to be made with the sheriff's office and state's attorney's office staffs to see if they needed pay adjustments in the future. Also, he said the funding formula with the school board may have to be revisited.

Commissioner Grasso was incensed. "I don't find that this budget was any more of a walk through hell than any of my budgets since I've been here. And when we approved this budget, we were all breathing a sigh of relief because we were able to do for those who really needed it, and we have a lot of angst and anxiety, but when you're working on a budget for several months and all five commissioners say one percent Cola and a Step increase, and on the day you're approving the budget, you want to change it. I find this to be very unprofessional. I find it to be very chaotic."

Hart responded that it wasn't personal, it was a business decision.

A memo from Deputy County Administrator Linda Turner before the discussion explained, "Two public hearings were conducted, the first on March

11, 2025 and the second on May 6, 2025, to present and receive public comment on the Staff Recommended Budget and the County Commissioners' Budget for fiscal year (FY) 2026. Discussion: The FY 2026 General Fund Operating Budget, totaling \$385,978,812 is a balanced budget. Compared to the FY 2025 adopted General Fund budget, the sources of funds have decreased by approximately \$1.6 million. This decrease is primarily due to eliminating the use of fund balance and the reduction of interfund transfers. However, these reductions were partially offset by revenue increases from property assessments, income taxes and 911 fees. The FY 2026 budget continues to focus on the county's core services, including funding for education and public safety, while maintaining a high level of service to our community. In the FY 2026 budget process, the county continued to deploy various strategies to combat declining revenues and rising operational expenses to provide services. This resulted in a lower General Fund appropriation than in the prior fiscal year. Funding towards education remains a priority for the county, accounting for approximately 44 percent of the General Fund operating budget. The current allocation for education operations is \$163.0 million, as compared to \$164.7 million in FY 2025. The FY 2026 budget amount is calculated using the State's



Commissioner Mike Hart

Maintenance of Effort formula, which is \$1.7 million less than the funding provided in FY 2025. There are 20 new employees in this budget, 18 of which are for Public Safety (Emergency Communications, Career EMS and the Sheriff's Office). The two remaining positions are with the Circuit Court and the State's Attorney's Office, offset by a reduction to the Department of Community Resources."

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## “I FIND IT TO BE VERY CHAOTIC.”

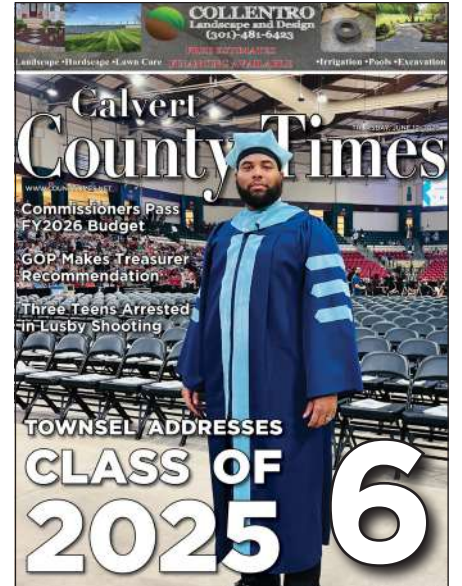
COMMISSIONER CATHERINE GRASSO ON LAST MINUTE BUDGET MOTION



**LOCAL** 4  
Commissioners approve county budget



**LOCAL** 6  
GOP committee makes county treasurer recommendation



**ON THE COVER**  
Superintendent addresses the class of 2025

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUN 12	FRI, JUN 13	SAT, JUN 14	SUN, JUN 15
Mostly Sunny Hi: 89° Lo: 70°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 85° Lo: 70°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 80° Lo: 67°	Scattered Storms Hi: 74° Lo: 65°
MON, JUN 16	TUE, JUN 17	WED, JUN 18	THU, JUN 19
Scattered Storms Hi: 75° Lo: 67°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 70°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 86° Lo: 72°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 71°



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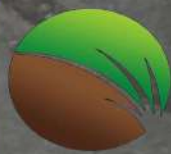
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**Commissioners Pass  
FY2026 Budget**

**GOP Makes Treasurer  
Recommendation**

**Three Teens Arrested  
in Lusby Shooting**

**TOWNSEL ADDRESSES  
CLASS OF  
2025**