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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

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**Lusby Villas Debate
Raises Ethics Complaint**

**Town Restricts
Campaign Funding**

**Local Sailor Takes
Screwpile Regatta**

**CHESAPEAKE BEACH
MAYOR'S RACE
HEATS UP**

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“YOU WILL NOT SEE A BRUCE WAHL SIGN IN MY FRONT YARD.”

CHESAPEAKE BEACH MAYOR PAT MAHONEY ON WAHL'S CANDIDACY



LOCAL 3
Planner hit with ethics complaint



LOCAL 8
Local sailor takes Screwpile Regatta



ON THE COVER 4
Familiar faces sign on to mayor's race

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 25 Showers Hi: 83° Lo: 69°	FRI, JUL 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 66°	SAT, JUL 27 Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 67°	SUN, JUL 28 Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 67°
MON, JUL 29 Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 71°	TUE, JUL 30 Scattered Storms Hi: 87° Lo: 73°	WED, JUL 31 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 87° Lo: 73°	THU, AUG 1 Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 74°

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Planners Hear Criticism of Lusby Villas Apartment Project

Williams Hit with Ethics Complaint

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Planning Commission member Lisa Williams has been hit with an ethics complaint and Chairman John Toohey has been charged with biased opinions during the ongoing debate over the proposed Lusby Villas apartment project.

Concerns heard at a July 9 public meeting about the proposed 276-unit Lusby Villas garden apartment project spilled over to the July 17 planning commission meeting. During the time set aside for public comments, 20 people spoke, most opposed to the project, although some did chide the audience for failing to come forward until the 11th hour in the process. The planning commission is scheduled to take a final vote on the project at their August 21 meeting.

Concerns continue to center around traffic, crime, and the environment. Ted Haynie, president of the Solomons Civic Association, but speaking as a representative of the Friends of Mill Creek, said, "I totally believe that we need affordable housing in Calvert County, and we need low-income housing in Calvert County to better serve our community. This is just not the right spot."

"This project sits right at the headquarters of Lake Lariat that feeds into the headquarters of Mill Creek. All that goes into Mill Creek, St. John's Creek, Back Creek, Solomons Harbor, and then of course ultimately into the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. I've heard no evidence presented at any of the hearings that I've

been to that says that this will not have any negative impact on our water quality."

Haynie added, "We are in Mill Creek, an urban watershed. We're densely populated when you get to 15-percent impervious surfaces. I said this at the last hearing, that's bad. And it begins to have a negative impact when we're at 20 percent and I have evidence, and I'd be happy to share it with the planning commission that can prove that we're at 20 percent imperiousness in our watershed area and now you're proposing a project that is only going to exacerbate that problem."

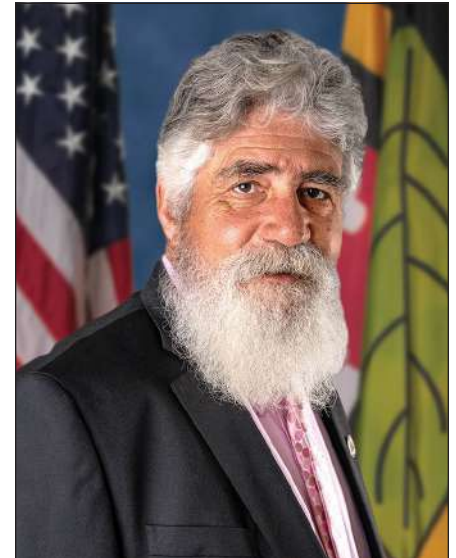
Tracy Malloy criticized Chairman John Toohey for his statements in support of the project. "Mr. Toohey, you are supposed to represent all of Calvert County, not just what's best or maybe best for you and your family in the future. If you are allowing these surveys and studies to be grandfathered in, you are putting all the taxpayers in Calvert on the line financially. The safety, the quality of our children's education and the health of local waterways are all at extreme risk."

Several speakers also criticized commission member Lisa Williams for allegedly failing to report her real estate interests. An ethics complaint has been filed against her.

Myra Gowans, of Calvert Citizens United, said, "Toohey says this is a good project. And I'll tell you why, because I really want my kids to live down here in this county and they can't afford it, and I don't have enough room in my basement, so this would be a good place for them to start out. That my friend is personal bias."



Lisa Williams



John Toohey

Lisa Allen said, "In 2022 to 2023 there was a study done by the FBI on the Chesapeake Ranch Estates. It gave the rating for crime a D- Plus. That's the FBI seeing our Ranch Club right now, in 2022 to 2023 was a D-Plus. It also said minor crime went down 7 percent. Property crime went down 11 percent. But violent crime went up 15 percent."

An updated transportation study for the project is reportedly being done. But David Bury of Breezy Point expressed concern about the timing for the Aug. 21 meeting. He said, "I'm very pleased to see that the county ordered a new traffic study, because of the data in the old traffic study. It is very, very

badly needed. And whether that traffic study actually shows that those will generate too much traffic to allow a determination of adequacy under the public facilities ordinance we don't know until we see the study. My concern about trying to make a timeline for the late August site approval date is that this traffic study also has to go up to Maryland SHA (State Highway Administration) for evaluation after that study is completed. So, by the time the study is completed there is some lag time in which SHA has to review it. I'm not sure that you'll actually be able to make that August deadline."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Democrats Rally Behind Harris

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Democrats are rallying behind the candidacy of Kamal Harris as she became the presumptive party presidential candidate with the decision by President Joe Biden not to seek re-election. This came on July 21 just a month before the Democratic National Convention.

Going to that national convention as one of the 5th Congressional District representatives will be Calvert County Democratic Central Committee Chairperson Cindy Yoe.

Yoe told The County Times, "I have heard nothing but positive things. What I'm hearing from people is they're very excited about it."

Yoe said the vice president is a familiar figure for local Democrats. "I think that she's been out in public a lot and we have seen her a lot over the years."

Regarding Biden's announcement, she was asked if countians were calling for him to pull out. She said, "I had not heard that personally from the people that I was talking to. So, it was a little bit of a surprise to me. I was actually traveling. I was sitting in the airport when I found out on Sunday."

Yoe was asked if Harris' candidacy would

rally Calvert's African American population. She replied, "I think it is, but also, I have heard from some African American residents who have called and talked to me because they were all very, very fond of President Biden. So, I think they were motivated anyway, but I think that this might motivate more younger voters. I don't know what generation they're in. I know there was a Generation X and a Generation Z, but I think that it might motivate, from what I'm hearing, some younger voters to come out to the polls."

Democrats in the county were already motivated because of Trump's GOP candidacy to be re-elected. "We are motivated. And between the presidential election and the local election, yes, we are very motivated."

Between now and the November election the party will be at events such as the county fair, and also registering voters. She observed, "I think there are enough people registered, we just have to work harder on getting them to turn out to vote."

She's excited about going to the convention in Chicago. "I've never done this and I never even thought about it." Adding, "Who knew it was going to be such an interesting convention. There's been so much going on."

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05)

released the following statement endorsing Harris: "This historic moment is a testament to the strength of American democracy. The values Democrats are fighting for — decency, freedom, and equality for all — transcend any one person or election."

"Now, it is imperative that we come together and defeat Donald Trump at the ballot box this November. I am proud to offer my full support to my friend Kamala Harris. Vice President Harris has shown herself to be a strong, experienced, and effective leader. Her service at the local, state, and federal level makes her uniquely qualified to be President of the United States."

"The very soul of our nation remains on the line, and I am confident that Vice President Harris will lead our party successfully and protect the values American and Maryland families hold dear."

Maryland Democratic Party Chair Ken Ulman released the following statement in regards to Joe Biden choosing to not accept the party nomination.

"Joe Biden is among the best and most consequential presidents in American history. In three and half years, President Biden navigated the country through COVID and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, passed historic investments in

infrastructure and climate, lowered prescription drug prices for seniors, passed landmark gun safety legislation, and so much more.

"Our country and party owe Joe Biden a debt of gratitude. As President, he is a remarkable leader that has always put his country first."

Governor Wes Moore, in an email fundraising blast, said the target was Trump. He wrote, "Donald Trump still falsely claims the 2020 election was 'stolen' from him. He brags about an attack on our nation's democracy. He has been found guilty of 34 felony charges. And now, he's running again for President to continue his career built on fraud and lies — only for his own political gain."

"Donald Trump failed us, repeatedly, which set our country back significantly. He put his own interests over the country's, and his own petty grievances over people's freedoms. If Trump is elected, he'll take away our freedoms — abortion rights, health care, the freedom to vote."

"I'll work every day to make sure he doesn't get that chance again."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Former Mayor, Two Council Members File for Chesapeake Beach Mayor

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The race to succeed outgoing Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney has heated up, with three announced candidates, a former mayor and two town council members.

Former Mayor Bruce Wahl candidacy to return to office in late April. Council members Valerie Beaudin and Greg Morris announced their candidacy at the July 18 council meeting.

Mahoney quickly interjected himself into the race by blasting Wahl and praising Beaudin and Morris. He said he might make an endorsement later in the campaign.

Of Wahl, Mahoney said, "Thirty-six years ago, in 1988, Bruce Wahl was appointed by Mayor Gerald Donovan to the town council.

Bruce was loyal to that administration for his entire time in office. Well, this council and I have supported the will of the people and successfully opposed a any expansion of slot machines in town and support an increase in revenue from that when in office. Bruce was the opposite. He supported gaming. He vehemently opposed increasing the gaming revenue tax, which would bring more revenue and services to our citizens. So, just to be clear, because I read something advertised on social media, to be clear to the world, you will not see a Bruce Wahl sign in my front yard. This is not the same town it was in 1988. Probably, you know, close to a large percentage of our registered voters weren't even born in 1988. Our citizens expect more and deserve better now."

The County Times was unable to reach Wahl for comment. His campaign Facebook page quote Mahoney when he was vice president as praising Wahl. The posting said, "Bruce Wahl's vision for Chesapeake Beach has always been clear: a community where leadership is about service, not personal gain. His advocacy for fair compensation for town council members and the mayor's office demonstrates his commitment to attracting diverse and dedicated leaders.

"Bruce Wahl's leadership, experience, and dedication make him the ideal candidate to lead Chesapeake Beach once again."

At the council meeting Beaudin said, "Moving here in 1997 after receiving a doctorate in geography, I've had the pleasure, the honor of serving on town council for 20 years. We've raised our daughter here, and I understand there's been many accomplishments and many challenges that have occurred in this past 20 years, but it has been wonderful.

"So, looking at that 20 years and then looking at the opportunity to run for mayor, I decided that this was a good path for me to take. And there's a few things that I wanted to share with you. First, when we were lis-



Bruce Wahl

tening to the sheriff today, we heard about the CVS ATM 1 (theft)...I will ensure that we live in a safe and secure town. We will do everything in our ability to ensure that we can limit the number of break-ins to cars, break into homes, and have personal and property safety. I can't think of anything more important than safety.

"Next as shown by our ordinance that was just passed (campaign financing), I believe we need to protect our town against the destructive forces. Not only sea level rise, I am the chair of the green team, but we also need to protect our town against the destructive forces of developers and things like short-term rentals that may want to try to change or destroy our neighborhoods in our marina environment. And so, I want to protect our town and keep it livable and maintain our quality of life.

"And finally, I think one of the biggest issues in this campaign will be the waterpark. And this is what I will propose, is that we're going through the process now. I don't see a major change. I think we need to strictly monitor the budget that allows us to rebuild our town aquatic facility, while at the same time developing more park amenities."

She said, "I will not accept a penny from anyone as I run for mayor, I assure you. And over the next three months, what I do hope to do is go door to door to mostly listen to your concerns, and then I will be able to add to the list above that I just started to enumerate."

Morris said, "I have an announcement. With the help from a very wide support base, my family, trusted colleagues past and present, friends, old and new, but maybe most importantly, through my own experience and tempered vision of what we can be. I've made a very difficult decision this past July 11th. I declared my candidacy for Mayor of the great and historic town of Chesapeake Beach. As I like to plan with the end in mind, I see myself as mayor of this town. I



Valerie Beaudin

see myself fulfilling those shoes. This isn't just a passing fancy. I maybe like to be mayor. You can maybe go into council like that, but you cannot go into a mayor race where you may win with the idea and fancy the notion of filling those shoes. I see myself bringing people together through words and actions. I see myself allaying the fears of our residents and town staff. If the world or mother nature comes down hard on us, I will be there standing tall on the horizon. I can see the next young town council today faceless, tomorrow eager to help lead this town through the next four years with the



Gregg Morris

refreshed energy, vigor, and perspectives they require a mayor that can pull their varying opinions together and move issues forward effectively. A mayor that is committed to the things that our families want and need from their town, which is a continuation of this body's work. A mayor that is committed to engaging, advancing, collaborating, building, and as needed, pushing this town forward. A mayor who is for the people and by the people. I respect this institution, and I'm eager to get to work."

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Chesapeake Beach Adopts Campaign Finance Restrictions

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Chesapeake Beach Town Council, on a 4-to-2 vote, on July 18 passed campaign finance regulations that limit individual contributions to \$500 and restrict donations only to town residents. An amendment that would have allowed non-resident business entities in town to make contribution failed on a tie vote with Mayor Pat Mahoney breaking the tie by casting a vote against the amendment.

Prior to the vote, three people spoke against the restrictions. Kristin de Phillip, who lives outside of town but is property manager for Horizons on the Bay, said, "In 2020, when the town released their comprehensive plan, it stated that 23 percent of households within the town were occupied by renters." She said an updated figure was 22 percent.

She said, "This means that there are roughly 570 households within the town limits that are rental homes. One could assume even when being conservative, that with real estate taxes on those rental homes, the \$2.7 million that the 2024 general budget collects for real estate tax, that that 22 percent is going to be about a half a million dollars, give or take, depending on the state assessments."

She said the ordinance is "removing their opportunity to try and have somebody to sit at those seats and represent them. I'm

hoping that the council understands that the impression that's being given to these owners who do contribute to the town economy and to provide their tenants with an opportunity to reside inside of the town that they might not otherwise afford, that they don't matter, that their voice doesn't count."

Former mayor Bruce Wahl, who is a candidate to return to his old seat, said he favors campaign finance disclosure, but opposed the limitations in the ordinance and said any vote should be postponed until after the election.

Wahl said, "My brother, my two sons, and my two stepdaughters do not live within the corporate limits of Chesapeake Beach, but they are all supportive of my efforts to run for mayor. If this ordinance is adopted as presented, my children, my brother, they will not be able to support me with any campaign funding."

Wahl added, "My son-in-law's brother and his family live on 5th Street in Randall Cliffs. They live about 200 feet from the town limit, and they live very close to Brownie Beach. They would not be able to support my campaign, although they have a keen interest in the outcome of the election, because what happens here in the municipality affects the people that live in Randall Cliffs just south of the town limits."

Wahl said the \$500 limitation on contributions is much lower than the \$6,000 limitation elsewhere.

Mahoney said, "In my seven elections, I've never accepted a penny from anybody. And that's the way that I wanted it. It never wanted to be beholden to anybody because that's what happens when you take money."

Councilwoman Elizabeth Hartman said, "I can understand if you have property here and investment here, you want to have a say in it. But it is different when you live here and you're here every day, and you have to pay all the expenses of living here, than when you've invested in here and you're renting your property to get money back from it. It is a different experience to live here."

Councilman Greg Morris, who is a candidate for mayor, said, "I can assure everybody in this room that it's coming from a good place. The timing of it on the surface certainly looks suspect," but he added, "We know that this is needed, especially in this town today. In today's environment, how much money do we need to run for office in a small town? Thousand dollars, \$10,000; is \$25,000 enough. And to some of the opinions mentioned up on the dais this evening, just the thought that that is possible in this town suppresses the average folks from trying to get involved at all. This town thrives on its volunteers."

He said, "All of my campaigns have been a hundred percent funded by me. That is small town."

Councilman Larry Jaworski said, "From

an economic development point of view, as I always speak, what I've heard so often over the eight years I've held this seat from our local businesses is that they are concerned that they don't really have a voice in what goes on here at the council. And our town's economy is based on the economy of our local businesses. So, it just concerns me that they feel they don't have a voice to articulate."

Councilman Charles Fink said, "I echo what Councilman Jaworski said, that businesses should have some voice there. They contribute to our economy. And I would support contributions being made by a business incorporated in town with the same spending limit to any individual candidate as an individual."

Councilwoman Valerie Beaudin, also a mayoral candidate, said, "I've run for five elections, been elected five times, and I've yet to accept a penny from anyone else because I also do not want to be beholden to anyone or anything. And so, I think I'm not frightened about scaring away people because if you don't accept anything, you don't have anything to report and everything's good."

It was an amendment introduced by Fink to allow businesses to make contributions that failed on the 5-4 vote.

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Comptroller Visits Calvert County



Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman on July 19 visited the Horsmon Farm in St. Leonard which includes agritourism as part of its business model. The comptroller also visited the Twin Beaches Library, the Armory Square project and Chesapeake Hills Golf Club.

Cove Point Park Sports Courts to Close for Renovations

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation announces the temporary closure of the Cove Point Park sports courts for demolition and replacement. The closure is anticipated to last several months.

Beginning on Monday, July 22, two tennis and pickleball courts closest to baseball fields three and four will close. The two courts nearest the parking lot will remain open for use during this period. The tennis and pickleball courts are expected to be completed in early October 2024.

Immediately following the demolition of the tennis courts, the basketball courts will be closed for demolition and construction will proceed to both the tennis and basketball courts simultaneously. The basketball courts are expected to reopen in late October 2024, and will include a full scale, painted mural on the surface. Two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking spots will be constructed near fields three and four, allowing access to the refurbished tennis/pickleball courts via a new accessible paved path. Additionally, a wider path will be constructed leading to the basketball courts from the existing basketball parking area.



Cove Point Park is located at 750 Cove Point Road in Lusby and remains open for activities during this renovation period. Find Park amenities and maps at <https://calvertcountymd.gov/covepoint>.

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks/ and follow Parks & Recreation on Instagram [@calvertcountyparksandrec](https://www.instagram.com/calvertcountyparksandrec).



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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of July 8, 2024 – July 14, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,792 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 81
- Disorderly: 23
- Domestic: 20
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 34
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 813
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 24
- Traffic Complaints: 66
- 911 Hang Ups: 80
- ARRESTS: 47

Burglary: 24-52536 On July 8, 2024, Det. Buckler responded to Rubble Bee Recycling and Demolition located at 7665 Binnacle Lane in Owings, for a burglary investigation. Investigation revealed unknown suspects forced entry into the building and expelled two fire extinguishers causing damage to the interior offices. Further investigation revealed the cab windows of three earth-moving machines had been shattered. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$6050.00.



Kevill Casswell Gregory

CDS Violation: 24-53201 On July 10, 2024, members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) observed a vehicle and its operator, known to police to be suspended, traveling in the area of Lore Road in Solomons. Calvert Deputies were advised the driver's license of the operator was not valid. Deputies initiated a traffic stop with lights and sirens activated in the area of northbound Rt. 4 and Creston Lane in Solomons. The driver, **Kevill Casswell Gregory**, 43 of Lusby, looked back at deputies and disregarded the attempted traffic stop, and began fleeing at speeds exceeding 100 mph in a 45 mph zone. As Gregory fled, deputies observed Gregory throwing bags

of a white rocky substance (suspected crack cocaine) out of the window which struck the pursuing officer's and innocent citizen's vehicles while traveling down Rt. 4. WhiGregory was traveling into St. Mary's County over the Thomas Johnson Bridge, Gregory continued to throw several large baggies out of the vehicle into the Patuxent River below. Due to Gregory's actions during the pursuit and failure to comply with law enforcement, a successful traffic maneuver was conducted that ultimately immobilized Gregory's vehicle deterring him from being able to flee and be a danger to citizens. Gregory was placed into custody without incident. A search of Gregory's person incident to arrest revealed, a rocky white substance (suspected crack cocaine) and a clear plastic baggie. Gregory was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Reckless Endangerment, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Fleeing and Eluding, Altering Physical Evidence, and CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics.



Delano O'Brien Gray

vehicle initially failed to stop and continued to drive and sped up in an attempt to elude law enforcement. Upon making contact with the driver, **Delano O'Brien Gray**, 39 of Lusby, Gray refused to exit the vehicle. Further investigation revealed a K9 sniff of the vehicle resulted in a positive alert. A vehicle search revealed three plastic tear-offs containing a white residue, a digital scale with white residue (suspected cocaine), and a cut plastic straw with white residue. Gray was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS:

CDS Violation: 24-53519 On July 11, 2024, Calvert Deputies initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for an inoperative brake light in the area of Calvert Towne Drive in Prince Frederick. The operator of the

Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Resisting/Interfering with Arrest, and Fleeing & Eluding.



Matthew Scott Long

on property in violation of a protective order. Contact was made with the driver, **Matthew Scott Long**, 39 of Lusby, who volunteered that he had violated the order. Long was advised he would be arrested for the violation. Deputies observed a smoking device stuffed with copper mesh covered in a burnt residue in plain view inside Long's vehicle. Long was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Violation of Protective Order and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Christopher Alan Hall

disorderly subject. Investigation revealed that **Christopher Alan Hall**, 62 of Prince Frederick, was visibly intoxicated and had illegally entered the victim's vehicle and removed his pants. Deputies arrived on the scene and observed Hall attempting to re-enter the vehicle by pulling on the door handle and repeatedly ignoring instructions to stop. Hall was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Intoxicated Public Disturbance, and Failure to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order of a Law Enforcement Officer.



Laitesha Jonelle Jones

made with **Laitesha Jonelle Jones**, 32 of California, MD, who pulled down her pants exposing herself to passersby along Pardoe Road. Jones was ordered to return to the vehicle but failed to comply with deputies orders. Jones was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Indecent Exposure and Fail to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order of a Law Enforcement Officer.

CDS Violation: 24-53658 On July 12, 2024, Deputy Wilder conducted a traffic stop in the area of the Exxon Gas Station located at 11850 HG Trueman Road in Lusby, on a suspicious vehicle parked

Disorderly Conduct: 24-53503 On July 11, 2024, Deputy Tunnell responded to the Calvert Pines Senior Center located at 450 W. Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a

Theft: 24-53283 On July 10, 2024, Master Deputy Cress responded to the District One station located at 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between July 6 and July 10, a white 2013 Hino 24-foot box Truck was stolen from a commercial storage lot in the 10400 block of Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk. The estimated value of stolen property is \$30,000.00.



Robert Allen Rice

Road in Dunkirk, an unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's black and gray Coach wallet and all its contents from the victim's purse in a shopping cart. The suspect then made numerous fraudulent charges with the stolen cards. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,913.00.



Darrion Markeese Pellman

made with **Robert Allen Rice**, 57 of no fixed address, who was lying on the sidewalk with his belongings in a Giant shopping cart. Investigation revealed Rice had been trespassed indefinitely from the property. Rice was transported to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

Indecent Exposure: 24-53277 On July 10, 2024, Deputy R. Contic responded to the Solomons Island Gazebo in Solomons, for the report of an indecent exposure. Investigation revealed that **Darrion Markeese Pellman**, 37 of Jacksonville, NC, removed his pants and was exposing his genitals. Pellman was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Indecent Exposure.

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

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

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Local Sailor Takes Championship in Last Weekend's Screwpile Regatta

By Tim Flaherty
Contributing Writer

There almost wasn't a sailboat race on Sunday's third and final day of the 2024 Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge Regatta. When racers awoke that morning, the forecast did not bode well for a steady breeze to build for a race to begin in time to meet the regatta's time limit rules.

Fortunately, for Lexington Park's Dewey Melton, the wind came up just in time, giving him the chance to break a three-way tie and win the PHRF 3 class. Melton and his boat, *Dangerous*, also won the PHRF Northern Bay "B" Championship with the win. (PHRF stands for Performance Handicap Racing Factor, and is widely used as a handicapping tool in sailboat racing.) That championship event was held concurrently with the Screwpile regatta for the second year in a row.

When Sunday's race was over, *Dangerous* had outduelled both *Wicked Good* and *Pony Express* to break the tie for an undisputed class victory.

Melton, who purchased *Dangerous*, a 1983 Olson 30, less than two years ago, has come a long way in skippering his boat in the short time he has campaigned it out of Solomons. "Last year, we were basically dead last in every single race," he said after receiving his awards in Solomons on Sunday. "After a year's worth of work with the team and the boat, it felt great going into the third day at least tied for first, even if we were losing the tie-breaker."

"I told the team at the beginning of the race, 'we are going to watch *Wicked Good*, and we are going to watch *Pony Express*, and we've got to cover at least one of them.' After that, we just sailed our race, and had the pace, and came away with first place. It was awesome!"

Members of the *Dangerous* crew for Screwpile consisted of Zach Feltonpriestner, James Bayess, Randy Stallings, Jonathan Nepini, Ben Jackson, and Wolfe Retsrab.

Screwpile 2024 was the 32nd edition of the annual event that is hosted by the Southern Maryland Sailing Association



Dewey Melton of Lexington Park, center with trophy, poses with his crew from the sailboat *Dangerous* after receiving prizes at the awards ceremony for the Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge Regatta in Solomons on Sunday, July 21, 2024. Photo by Tim Flaherty.

in Solomons. Courses were set up in Chesapeake Bay within two miles of the Patuxent River. There were three days of PHRF racing: one race was completed on Friday, three races were finished on Saturday, and the finale was held on Sunday.

In addition, a total of nine boats sailed one race each day on a "cruiser's course" that was scored under Chesapeake Racer Cruiser Association rules.

As usual, conditions varied for each day of this year's Screwpile. Friday saw a fresh easterly breeze for morning racing, but that wind died in the afternoon and PHRF racing was abandoned after one completed race. Saturday saw cloudy skies and a steady southerly breeze in the 11 to 12 knot range that created a three-foot swell rolling up the bay. On Sunday morning, competitors bobbed in the bay, swam, and played various water games while hoping for a sailable wind to build. When it did, their patience was rewarded with a steady south-south-easterly at about 8-knots.

Every class at Screwpile had first place up for grabs on the final day, something that Screwpile Principle Race Officer (PRO) Don Behrens said he had in mind while keeping the fleet in a waiting mode. "I always want to get races off whether there are classes under contention or not," he said. "But when there are classes that are tied, we want the racers to settle that on the water and not by a tie-breaker. So, I work extra hard to make that happen."

"Honestly, I had very limited confidence that the wind would come in time to get the race in. I knew that by 5pm, or even by 2pm, that we would get a sea breeze. All of the weather models said it would not come in early, but the fact that we started seeing evidence of it building right around noon made us be patient."

A total of about 30 people worked as on-water officials aboard seven "committee boats" on the two courses every day. In addition to Behrens, John Herbig was the PRO on the cruisers' course. Another 10 to 12 people

worked shoreside to make the regatta happen. For the fifth year in a row, Jim Keen of Solomons, assisted by his wife, Jody, was the event Chairman. Zahniser's Safe Harbor Marina was the regatta base and hosted the after-race rendezvous every afternoon.

The only other locally-based boat that won its class was Norm Dawley's *Pursuit*, which won the CRCA Racer division. The winner of the Calvert County Trophy, awarded to the winner of the most competitive class, was *Sitella*, a Melges 32 racing in PHRF 1. *Sitella* is owned and skippered by Ian Hill, who sails out of Hampton, Virginia. With the Screwpile victory, *Sitella* also won the Northern Bay PHRF "A" Championship.

Forty boats from up and down the Chesapeake registered for Screwpile this year, and 38 boats were actually scored as participants. Full results can be found at www.smsa.com. Click the Screwpile tab and go to the Yachtscoring.com section.

Hospice of the Chesapeake Announces New Board Members

Several prominent members of the community recently were appointed to the boards of directors of Hospice of the Chesapeake and its foundation.

Joyce Phillip was elected to the Hospice of the Chesapeake Inc., Board.

Phillip is a human resources professional, coach, trainer and consultant who is president of Dynamic Dimensions Unlimited, LLC. She is returning to the board, having served from 2014 to 2023.

Brandon Temple, Mark Frazer and Scott Douglas were elected to the Hospice of the Chesapeake Foundation Board.

Temple is a transitioning Air Force

Special Warfare Officer serving as an Air Force Liaison to the U.S. Congress and is the Chairman of the Calvert County Veterans Affairs Commission. Frazer has a successful family dental practice that has been in Calvert County since 1969 and has served as an elected official in several local and county capacities. Douglas is the principal of Douglas Commercial, a commercial real estate company he founded in 2007, and a community volunteer.

Members who were elected as officers of the Inc., Board include Nancy Smit, Chair; Richard Wilder, Vice-Chair; Albert Zanger, Treasurer; Tricia Lehmann, Secretary; and

David Weng, Member-at-Large.

Members elected as officers of the Foundation Board include Mary Frances Isakov, Chair; Elizabeth Freedlander, Vice-Chair; Amy Castleberry, Treasurer; and Peggy McKelly, Secretary.

Additionally, two longtime board members were unanimously honored with emeritus status. Brian Gibbons was named an emeritus member of the Inc., Board while William Lovelace was named an emeritus member of the Foundation Board. Both continue to be avid supporters of the organization.

Hospice of the Chesapeake is honored to

welcome these new board members, new officers and emeritus members in support of its mission.

Headquartered in Pasadena, Maryland, with local offices in each county it serves, the organization is the largest independent not-for-profit hospice in the state of Maryland. It provides hospice, supportive and grief care services to residents of Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George's counties.

Press Release from Hospice of the Chesapeake

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jul 25

Meki's Tamure Polynesian Arts

Southern Community Center
2-2:45 p.m.

Aloha! Meki's Tamure Polynesian Arts Group, Inc. is an award-winning organization whose mission is to advance the music, dance and traditions of the Polynesian islands. NOTE: Bring a blanket or towel to sit on. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Messy Crafts County 4H

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
1:30-2:30 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Is it art? Is it science? It's both!! Join Calvert County 4H for six fun and educational workshops. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jul 26

On Pins & Needles

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

Calvert Library Twin Beaches
4100 5th St., North Beach
1-4 p.m.

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

Family Fun Friday: Bugs and Blooms

Calvert Marine Museum
9-11 a.m.

Curious about which insects benefit your garden? Want to learn simple, eco-friendly

practices for your backyard? Join us at the Corbin Nature Pavilion for a morning of exploring local insects, plants, and discover how to attract and support local wildlife in your own backyard.

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

Sat, Jul 27

Warhammer 40k

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Play the popular miniature strategy tabletop game. Come in for casual play. Don't know how? This is the perfect place to learn. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Bad Art Night: Poortraits

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
3-4 p.m.

Have you ever looked at an art project and thought "I could do that," but you in fact could not do that? Let your creativity flow without worrying about an end product! This will be all about creating portraits! Join us for an exploration of art in all its forms! We will provide the art materials, you provide the creativity. This event is intended for people aged 10-18. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Jul 28

Bingo Extravaganza

Calvert County Fairgrounds
12 Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Join the Friends of the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and Just One More Dachshund Rescue for their annual bingo extravaganza!

Sunday Afternoons with Poppie

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Make your Sunday afternoon memorable by coming to visit with our very own Pop Star, "Poppie," a Virginia opossum. You can join the Poppie paparazzi in the museum lobby with one of our educational interpreters, learn all kinds of fun possum facts, and visit the Museum Store for possum fan gear. Since the welfare of our animals is our primary concern, Poppie's ability to visit with her adoring public may occasionally be subject to change on short notice.

Tue, Jul 30

Learn What You Love: Career Direction

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

Join Nikki Phillips, Career Advisor and Corporate Trainer, for an interactive workshop to explore your skills, strengths and values as they pertain to your career choices. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jul 31

Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Prince Frederick

850 Costley Way
6:30-7:30 p.m.

At this event, elementary-aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Aug 1

12 Hikes in '24 Hiking Challenge

All trails at American Chestnut Land Trust
8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Participants must register, and then sign-in using the QR code at any American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) trailhead at least one time each month to qualify for a prize at the end of the year. Participants are encouraged to upload photos from each hike to ACLT's Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #ACLT12Hikesin24, and to join the Facebook Group "ACLT's Hiking Challenges Group." For information on ACLT trails, visit www.acltweb.org/

Upcoming

Rescheduled Reptile Shows

Calvert Library Twin Beaches
4100 5th St., North Beach
Saturday, Aug 10
11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
Saturday, Aug 10
3-4 p.m.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Reptile Wonders has had to reschedule their shows with us scheduled for Thursday, July 11.

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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



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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Average damage per system (abbr.)
5. Lustful woodland gods (Greek mythology)
11. Colombian Town
12. Sour
16. A way to stuff
17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
18. Carried or transported
19. Cannot even fathom
24. Hammer is one
25. A way to separate
26. Not moving
27. Women's service organization (abbr.)
28. German river
29. Quantitative fact
30. A person's head
31. Process that produces ammonia
33. French modernist painter
34. Too much noise
38. Agree to a demand
39. One a line at right angles to a ship's length
40. Employees
43. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
44. Component of hemoglobin
45. Quick and skillful in movement
49. Passing trend
50. Part of the eye
51. One who acclaims
53. Deadly amount (abbr.)
54. Taste property
56. Genus of mosquitoes
58. Blood type
59. A group of countries in special alliance
60. Institute legal proceedings against
63. Shade of a color
64. Spoke
65. Work units
- CLUES DOWN
1. Charge with a crime
2. Mended with yarn
3. North Atlantic flatfish
4. Boil at low temperature
5. Lapps of northern Scandinavia
6. Poisonous plant
7. Atomic #22
8. 36 inches
9. Monetary unit of Russia
10. Type of gin
13. An alternative
14. Alone
15. A way to ooze
20. Publicity
21. American firm
22. Jewish calendar month
23. Popular sandwich
27. Comedian Cook
29. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
30. Political action committee
31. Make a low, steady sound
32. Legendary sportscaster Michaels
33. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
34. Designed to keep ears warm
35. One who scrapes
36. Tear into two or more pieces
37. Supervises flying
38. Flying arm of the U.S. military (abbr.)
40. District in Peru
41. One died leaving a will
42. Morning
44. The world of the dead
45. Widen
46. Drink containing medicine
47. Celebrating
48. Secret encounters
50. A type of tag
51. Halfback
52. Modern tech
54. Monetary unit
55. Resigned to one's sleeping chamber
57. Execute or perform
61. "The Golden State"
62. "The Beehive State" (abbr.)

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JULY 18 SOLUTIONS

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1.75L
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1.75L
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19.99



750 mL
Hornito's Tequila

23.99



1.75L
Crown Royal

44.99



1.75L
Tito's Vodka

30.49



1.75L
Tanqueray London Dry Gin

37.99



1.75L
Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum

27.99



750ML
Lambrusco Prosecco Sparkling Wine

14.99



750-ML
Cupcake Pinot Grigio

10.99



750 ML
Chateau D' Esclands Whispering Angel Rose

16.99



750mL
Stoneleigh Sauvignon Blanc

12.99



750ml, Cabernet Sauvignon
Josh Cellars Wine

13.98

Wines of the Month



750mL
Tomasello Hard Cider

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750 ML
Casillero Del Diablo

9.99



750mL
Tomasello Fruit Flavors

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Jul 26

Summerstock—R+H's Cinderella

Great Mills High School
21330 Great Mills Rd., Lexington Park
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

This year's St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks Summerstock production is Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella (Broadway Version). The whole family will enjoy this fresh take on the classic Cinderella story. Featuring the classic R+H songs "Impossible," "In My Own Little Corner," "Ten Minutes Ago," "A Lovely Night," "The Stepsisters' Lament," and many more.

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

Music by Richard Rodgers
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
New Book by Douglas Carter Beane
Original Book by Oscar Hammerstein II
CINDERELLA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of

The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Sat, Jul 27

Nature Walk/Talk at Summerseat Farm

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

We are pleased to announce another Nature Walk & Talk at the farm. Join Maryland Master Naturalist Bill Cheeseman for a guided walk along one of our trails through the wonderful forest here. Learn about the variety of trees that are keeping you cool with their shade (and other magic), as well as many other plants along the way. We will also listen for any birds and try to figure out who they are. We might even find signs of other critters who were there before us. This is an informal, educational and fun way to spend some quality outdoor time in the woods around us.

We will meet at the pavilion at 9am, and start our approximately two-hour walk from there. The total Walk is approximately two miles on a natural surface trail with minimal elevation change. The trail is well maintained, there are very few exposed roots, and it is accessible to most with mobility challenges.

Mechanicsville Moose TEXAS Holdem Tourney

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville
2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

\$120.00 buy in (includes bounty). Starting stack 20,000 chips. Registration opens at 1pm. Cards in the air at 2pm. There will be one re-entry for players who bust out until the second break. Blind levels will change every 20 minutes. Food available for additional cost. There will be a 50/50 raffle and cash wheel separate from tournament entry.

For more information please contact James Dean

240 577 0828
jdeanjr@gmail.com

Family Fun Day: Breakfast with the Animals!

Godiah Spray Plantation
47621 Old Cove Rd., St. Mary's City
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Share your morning (10:30-11:30am) with the staff of Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation (Historic St. Mary's City) and help them feed the animals. Afterwards, enjoy a guided tour of the site.

Museum Admission covers this event AND full access to the all exhibits & sites for the remainder of the day. \$10/adult, \$9/senior, \$6/youth, \$0 age 5+ (Free for HSMC Members.) PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED at 301-994-4371 or hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov

www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events/summer-breakfast-with-the-animals/

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Food Safety from the Garden to the Kitchen

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

How To Use LinkedIn Learning

Did you know you can access everything available on LinkedIn Learning (previously Lynda.com) for FREE with your library card? This class at Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, July 30 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. will show you how to access the different categories of the LinkedIn Learning platform from soft skill development for professionals, or

technical skills like programming and web development, and creative skills like photography, design, and video editing. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Landscaping for Cleaner Waterways

From rain barrels and downspout re-directing to rain gardens and no-mow lawns, there is a lot the average household can do to keep our waterways clean! Join Caroline DiGiovanni, Watershed Restoration Educator for the University of Maryland Extension, at Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, July 31 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. and learn all about landscaping for stormwater management. Landscaping is about more than just pretty plants (though we love those, too!): landscaping includes your stone pathways (hardscaping), your gutter downspouts, and even the topography of your yard. Learn about the many ways we can be better to our waterways without even leaving the backyard! Attendees will be entered into a raffle for a free rain barrel, which will be awarded at the end of the session. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Behind the Scenes Library Tour

Curious about the inner workings of your library? Want to learn more about what the library offers? Join us for this comprehensive tour at Leonardtown Library on Friday, August 2 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. You'll visit the back room to see how we get your books to you, spend time in our computer lab for an overview of key virtual services, and see a demo of the equipment in our Makerspace! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Biodiversity and Native Gardening 101

Are you ready to embark on a green-fingered adventure? Unearth the secrets of gardening with our Biodiversity and Native Gardening 101 program, perfect for beginners and enthusiasts alike! Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, August 3 from 2 - 3 p.m. Unlock the joys of gardening and watch your world bloom! Join us for Biodiversity and Native Gardening 101 and let your green dreams take root. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Meet the Artist Ayanna Proctor: Ēlikhatink (In the Village): New Art Installation and Reception

Piscataway artist, Ayanna Proctor, will discuss her new installation in the Maryland Room at Leonardtown Library representing life in the village. The event will include a hands-on display of cultural items, a Q&A session, and light snacks. Leonardtown Library on Saturday, August 3 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ayanna Proctor is an enrolled tribal citizen of the Piscataway Nation (Turtle Clan). Her inspiration is continuously derived from her Eastern Woodland heritage, rewilding and time spent in New England winters and the Shenandoah Valley. Ayanna is an award-winning quillwork artist as well as a cultural preservationist and historian. She practices traditional woodland farming, hide tanning, wild-crafting, as well as other ancestral skills. Her artwork has been exhibited in the US, Canada and Europe. This art installation is made possible by grants through the St. Mary's County Arts Council. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



YOUNG AGAIN

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

Professional All-Star games are antiquated. That's being kind. More bluntly, they are a waste of time. The products now are a competitive embarrassment and disgrace classics of yesteryear. MLB and the NHL have tried several gimmicks, most prompting more yawns than intrigue. The NFL Pro Bowl is dead. What? You didn't notice? Exactly. The NBA All-Star Game, once a must-see event, is now more like a Harlem Globetrotter's exhibition, only less entertaining.

Last Saturday night I sunk into the couch to enjoy some well-earned air conditioning after another soupy Southern Maryland day. Seriously, can we get a break? The free outdoor sauna is nice and all. The pores are loving it. Detoxification takes little more than a mid-day stroll around the cul-de-sac. But sheesh, the spontaneous sweating is a bit much.

Anyway, immediately following the perfectly executed couch landing, I reached for the remote – love that magic button-adorned, voice-enabled, handheld command center for lazy entertainment. I'm old enough to remember when my sister and I were the remotes, so forgive my strange appreciation for the run-of-the-mill household device. A quick scan revealed few intriguing sports options. What's this? WNBA All-Star Game featuring the women's Olympic team against a WNBA team comprised of stars who just missed Team USA's roster. I was skeptical, but with limited options I gave Alexa the order.

Ninety minutes later, the WNBA All-Stars had beaten the Olympic team 117-109, and I was left convinced that I had just witnessed the greatest All-Star Game ever. That could be true, or reckless recency bias. But objectively, I'm confident it's in the top five all-time. Here's how I processed the moment.

The first player who appeared on the screen was Team USA's Diana Taurasi. She's my favorite women's basketball player of all time. Straight up gangster on the court. Shoots without conscience and ultimate confidence. Handles. Vision. Dimes. She does it all. If you're bothering to keep score – be it a WNBA game, an All-Star Game or a friendly backyard pick-up game – she's going straight for your heart and is looking to consume your spirit, hopes and dreams. She will do so with a wry smile and without an ounce of guilt. Love it. She's forty-two freaking years old and still killing it (challenge issued, LeBron).

Then I learned that Cheryl Miller was coaching the WNBA All-Stars. Miller was my favorite player as a kid. She was an alien in the early 1980's, a statement meant in the most complimentary terms. Miller was so far ahead of her time. Between Miller and Taurasi, there were greats like Sheryl Swoops, Lisa Leslie, Tamika Catchings, and Cynthia Cooper. Today's best player is A'Ja Wilson, followed closely behind by Breanna Stewart. The last few years have brought an influx of talent, including Angel Reese and Caitlyn Clark this year, two stars who promise to take the league to new heights.

Two things about the game jumped off the screen. First, the level of play was simply incredible. If there's a sport that has advanced more than women's basketball in the last 25 years, good luck convincing me of it. The second was the effort. The two teams were going at it. The pace was relentless. Both squads were taking and giving punches. Every player was putting it on the line, giving their best and raising the level of play in their teammates and opponents. As a sporting spectacle, it was beautiful: an authentic competition, stoked by nothing more than professional pride.

As one ages, psychological scar tissue tends to build. Hope doesn't shine as bright. There can be less laughing. Smiles aren't as wide. Complacency can settle in. Life, as is simply said, is hard – as much on the mind as the body. There are many available tonics – therapy, exercise, hobbies, strong social connections, mindfulness and intentional gratitude. All are noble pursuits.

Sometimes though, a group of women committing to a cause, projecting positive energy into the universe, developing a collective will and accomplishing something amazing is all that's needed to lubricate the mind, rejuvenate the soul and make you feel young, even if your date of birth suggests otherwise.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

In Remembrance

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

Virginia McDonald, 73



Virginia Anne McDonald, 73, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on July 21, 2024, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on July 22, 1950, she was the daughter of the late

Hazel Virginia McDonald and the late James Arthur McDonald.

Virginia was born in Washington, DC, and spent much of her life in Prince George's County, before moving to St. Mary's County in 1999 to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. When not at Bingo, work, or spending time with family, friends and especially her grandchildren (including fur-babies), she enjoyed staring out the kitchen window into her backyard, watching the hummingbirds, rabbits, and deer.

In the last years of her life, she was valiant in her struggle with cancer, demonstrating strength, courage, and independence. She never gave up the fight, maintaining her positive, pollyanna perspective until the

very end. She was as resilient as she was stubborn. Her determination and optimism never faltered, and we loved her for it.

She is survived by her daughter, Terri Lemerise (Rob), her siblings, Francis McDonald (Eileen) of Leonardtown, MD, Marilyn Essex of Alexandria, VA, Dee Putney (Marc) of San Antonio, TX, Billy McDonald of Leonardtown, MD, and David McDonald (Joyce) of Savannah, GA, her grandchildren, Buddy and Breanna Lemerise, as well as multiple nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Virginia was preceded in death by her siblings, Barbara Bowden, Tommy McDonald (LaVerne of Springfield, VA), Robby McDonald, and life-partner Bob Stevens.

The family will receive friends on Friday, July 26, 2024 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. Prayer Services, officiated by Father Ray Schmidt, will take place at 2:00 PM.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

...I know you have to go home, Mom. It's okay to eat and run.



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Piney Point Lighthouse to Celebrate National Lighthouse Weekend



St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division welcomes all community members to join in celebrating National Lighthouse Weekend on Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4, 2024, at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park in Piney Point, MD. The museum and lighthouse will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for tours.

At Piney Point, visitors can explore the museum grounds and celebrate the oldest lighthouse on the Potomac with tours of the Piney Point lighthouse tower, Keeper's Quarters, Potomac River Maritime Exhibit featuring full sized workboats, and two

floors of exhibitions in the Main Museum building. While admission and tours are offered free of charge this weekend only, donations are greatly appreciated to support the museum.

National Lighthouse Day, designated by Congress on August 7, 1989, is the anniversary of the signing of the Congressional Act "for the establishment and support of lighthouses, beacons, buoys, and public piers" and the date of the first commissioned Federal lighthouse. For more information, please call the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum at (301) 994-1471 or visit www.facebook.com/1836Light.

Six Veterans Honored with Quilts of Valor



PAX Sound of Freedom awarded six Quilts of Valor, to all veterans, July 20, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park. From left to right are: Howard Kennedy, Army (2 years); Jesse Greenwell, Army (3 years); Joseph Swales, Army (2 years); Monica Jo Stech, Navy (20 years); Charles Terry, Navy (20 years); and William May, Marine (5 years).

If you have any questions about Quilts of Valor or are interested in helping the local group produce quilts, please contact PAX Sound of Freedom Group Scheduler, Miriam Boles, at (240) 298-1744, for additional information. For more about the history of Quilts of Valor go to: <https://www.qovf.org/about-qovf/our-history/>

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MEET JAX

What's a dog's favorite mode of transportation? A waggin'!

Looking for a WALKING BUDDY who will guilt-trip you into daily strolls? Hi, my name is Jax, (aka Athena). I'm a 1-YEAR-OLD Lab mix who's an expert in neighborhood sniffing and professional people-watching! I've got EXPERIENCE living with kids 6 years and up, I just ADORE other dogs, and best of all, I'm HOUSEBROKEN! Are you ready to add some SNIFF-TASTIC ADVENTURE to your life? Then adopt me and let the nose-led escapades begin! Hurry on down and meet me during adoption hours, Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm.

BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



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EAA Chapter 478 Hosts Young Eagles Build and Fly Summer Camp

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) developed a program called the Young Eagles Build and Fly (YE B&F) for youth to build and fly a remote-controlled (RC) aircraft. The idea was that the local EAA chapter would team up with the local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) club to build and fly a model airplane. EAA sold a complete kit with a balsa wood airplane (SIG E KADET LT-40), tools, electronics, simulators and more at a very reasonable price to local EAA chapters to promote the program.

EAA Chapter 478 leadership discussed the program in the spring of 2023 but did not have the time or facilities to execute a summer camp that year. When the decision was made to conduct a YE B&F summer camp in 2024, a kit was purchased in the fall of 2023.

Planning meetings started in January of 2024 with EAA chapter members and the local AMA chapter, Patuxent Aeromodelers. The decision was immediately made to purchase a second airplane kit so we would have experience in building the model and that we could structure a program that could be completed during a weeklong summer camp. Under the efforts of EAA chapter members John Reinert, Don Byrne, and Charlie Fox, this second kit model was constructed and the plan for the summer camp was laid out to complete the building and flying of a similar RC model in just six days.



To also help us understand what was involved in working with a group of Young Eagles doing hands on projects, we conducted two day-long workshops, one in February and another in March of 2024. These workshops consisted of building a wing rib, electrical projects, simulator sessions, and flying drones. It also helped us identify future candidates for the summer YE B&F camp. Eventually, nine youths ranging from ages 12-17 were invited to attend the camp from those attending the winter workshops, from a local high school with an aviation program, and from the local Civil Air Patrol squadron.

On Monday June 17th, 2024, the YE B&F camp kicked off at the St Mary's airport (2W6) terminal building. The camp

participants were assigned to three individual teams with three kids on each team. The first 2 ½ days were primarily construction and covering of the balsa wood model airplane. Knowing that we could not have nine kids trying to work on the model at the same time as the model building progressed and assemblies came together, we started doing separate sessions with the teams on different projects. All of the kids completed the FAA TRUST course under the supervision of Greg Stevens. Sid Wood led a workshop on building a wing rib and Chris Moody led a workshop on fabricating a metal cell phone holder. These projects provided hands on experience for building a full-scale airplane.

On Wednesday afternoon, we took a break and walked next door to the Maryland State Police who gave us a tour of their Trooper 7 helicopter. Thursday morning, we gave each Young Eagle an airplane ride, several for their first time in a small airplane. Thursday afternoon we toured the U of MD UAS Research and Development Facility. Meanwhile the building on the RC model continued and focused on the installation of the electrical components, programming of the transmitter and other RC model tasks led by Joe Allen, President of Patuxent Aeromodelers, with support from club members Rocky McCumbee, Larry Thomas, Larry Young, Michael Mazuc and others.

Friday was the last day at St Mary's air-

port and focused on such things as a weight and balance exercise, passing a simulator test flight of the model without crashing, drafting a preflight checklist, and finalizing the checkout of the RC model.

Early on Saturday morning, we all showed up at Helwig Field, the Patuxent Aeromodelers RC flying field. Paul Gambacorta, EAA Chapter 478 Vice President welcomed everyone and thanked the volunteers for a successful summer camp. Although it was an extremely hot day, each Young Eagle was given an opportunity to fly the RC model, again led by the expertise of the Patuxent Aeromodelers; they also demonstrated flying RC models, up to and including a turbine powered jet. We enjoyed hot dogs, chips, drinks and ice cream for lunch and then broke camp.

Since this was the first time for all of us conducting the build and fly program, we learned some lessons for improving, primarily working in the area with the electrical and RC flight components. Pictures of the week-long event were posted by our chapter photographer, Ken Barlow, on the EAA Chapter 478 website: Chapter 478 (eaa.org).

Overall, it was a great team effort by EAA and AMA members to successfully complete the Young Eagles Build and Fly program and a very rewarding week to see so many young people excited and involved in the world of aviation.



Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Visit our website for an up-to-date listing of our free events.



David McDonough
Financial Advisor

41680 Miss Bessie Dr Suite 302
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-997-1707

Erika Miller, FPQP®

Sr Branch Office Administrator

Caregivers' Support Group Meetings Begin July 23

The St. Mary's County Government's Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) is pleased to welcome caregivers in our community to the St. Mary's County Caregivers' Support Group.

The St. Mary's County Caregivers' Support Group is designed to be a safe space for caregivers to share their experiences and learn about resources. This group is open to caregivers of all types, including those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or dementia, diagnosed with Parkinson's, recovering from a stroke, or experiencing other physical, cognitive, or mental challenges.

This group will meet at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning July 23, 2024, at the Garvey Senior Activity Center, located at 23630 Hayden Farm Lane in Leonardtown. We want each person to feel welcome to attend and be encouraged through their caregiving journey.

For more information, contact the DAHS at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1057, or via email to Jennette.Beyer@stmaryscountymd.gov. For more information on home and community-based services offered by DAHS, please visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/HCBS.



NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

New Contract Award to Help Train Fleet to Counter Electronic Warfare

The U.S. Navy awarded the Phoenix Air Group Inc. a \$165 million contract June 28 for Contracted Air Services (CAS) flight hours to simulate a variety of airborne electronic warfare (EW) threats to train, test and evaluate shipboard personnel and aircraft squadron weapon systems operators and aircrew.

"Fleet training against airborne electronic attack forces is a priority and a critical path to achieving electromagnetic spectrum superiority," said Capt. Greg Sutton, Adversary and Specialized Aircraft Program Office (PMA-226) Program Manager. "The CAS EW jet services contract provides an ability to simulate both the threat and overall spectrum density of the current and future high-end fight of which is essential to effective aircrew training."

The contract includes use of 10 contractor-owned and operated aircraft that can support up to 5,000 flight hours of EW jet capabilities per year for fleet scheduling on the East and West Coasts. They can be used in a variety of venues, from basic "school-house" air intercept control training, large multinational exercises, and small, single unit training exercises, including target/banner tow missions supporting the Navy, Department of Defense (DOD) and non-DOD agencies.

"CAS affordably fills critical and mandatory training requirements, mitigating readiness gaps and capability divestments," said PMA-226 CAS EW Integrated Product Team Lead Matt Rhodes. "It provides fleet air defense training to include evaluation of



evolving threats via uniquely modified aircraft configured as required to simulate Fleet Forces Command identified hostile EW near peer threats for air-to-air and air-to-surface training events."

The EW jets contract is a firm-fixed-price, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract with work scheduled to begin this August and completed in August 2029.

Pax River Firefighters Promoted, Named Navy Civilian Fire Chief, Inspector of the Year

Four of Naval District Washington (NDW) Fire Department personnel stationed at NAS Patuxent River were honored in a ceremony July 11 in front of family, friends and colleagues.

The gathered crowd were welcomed by NDW Fire and Emergency Services Chief Kevin Grinder in a bay of Fire Station 2, before honoring the newly promoted Fire Inspectors on the Pax River firefighting team.

"Each time a member is promoted it signifies a few things," said Grinder. "First, it shows that they were successful in their previous position and that leadership knows they are up for taking on a new task, it shows they were motivated to take and successfully complete the required training, and third I shows their commitment to the department and the civilian and active duty military community we serve."

Grinder then welcomed to the front Firefighters Robin Jones and Ray Currie, both promoted to Fire Inspector. The position requires them to be responsible for fire inspections, fire extinguisher and flightline extinguisher training, plans review, code enforcement, food truck inspections, burn permits, and a host of other tasks. Fire inspectors also assist in staffing and overtime mitigation and special events while continuing to ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and personnel at Pax River.

Grinder then moved on to accolades, recognizing two of NDW's top performers of the previous year.

"Each installation was tasked with submitting nominees for the multiple categories of Commander, Naval Installations Command awards – firefighter of the year, fire officer of the year, inspector of the year, etcetera," said Grinder. "These nominations were then sent to a panel that consisted of the deputy



N3, emergency management director, and safety director, where they were reviewed and a winner in each category was selected and forwarded to CNIC as NDW's nominee. Beginning in 2022 our management team felt that we also needed to recognize these individuals locally to show our appreciation for the work they perform."

First to be honored was Fire Inspector Mike Fuhrman, announced as the Navy Fire Inspector of the Year 2023.

Fuhrman's achievements were varied and many in earning this award. In the execution of his duties he single-handedly performed 297 inspections and ensured all deficiencies – 212 in total – were documented and brought to compliance, executed more than 157 hot work permits with zero mishaps, and worked with the Naval Air Warfare Center- Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) safety department to identify safe muster locations for military and base populations. He made professional development a priority, instructing a HAZMAT tech class for the region, became a Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute-certified fire investigator, maintained Maryland State EMT certifications, instructed all flight line fire extinguisher

training at NAS Patuxent River, and conducted more than 20 fire safety presentations to more than 1,500 personnel at Pax River.

Fuhrman also served as the lead fire department representative for the flight line, providing subject matter expert guidance to hangars and hot pits, was the liaison to the NAWCAD safety division providing practical fire education to their personnel, and was recognized by his supervisor as a "Superior Performer" earlier in the year for outstanding customer service to the base population.

"I never thought I'd be a fire inspector, I thought I'd be riding a truck forever," Fuhrman said after being presented the award. "But I want to thank the chiefs and the guys and gals here, because they're what really made this possible and it means a lot."

Grinder then recognized Fire Chief Ryan Gallant as the Navy Civilian Fire Chief of the Year 2023.

Among his many achievements, Gallant managed fire safety for 31 bases, 200,000 personnel, and approximately \$20 billion worth of assets, and overseeing 200 plans reviews and \$1 Billion in renovation projects. He was cited for spearheading the implementation of a 60-hour workweek

for inspectors, resulting in a maximized inspection output of 30%, a 40% reduction in backlogs, and a \$200,000 savings in overtime. Gallant proactively engaged in 16 hours of Outward Mindset training, taking that training and mentoring eight peers on mindset transformation. He certified in tactical emergency care, enhanced active shooter response capabilities, and EMT-B.

Gallant's skills were in high demand to critical assets and teams throughout the region. He supported the White House Secret Service Fire Auxiliary program, training 12 U.S. Secret Service agents in White House fire suppression and HAZMAT incidents, and served as the active shooter exercise liaison to the National Capital Region Fire Interoperability Planning Team. He also revamped the extinguisher course, training 500 employees in periodic checks and emergency operations, replaced 8,000 extinguishers in the region, and obtained \$50,000 for flight line extinguisher repairs.

"It's tough competition once you're standing up against other chief officers, because there are so many great ones in the region," said Gallant upon receiving the award. "Thank you to everyone who does this job every day and helps us complete the mission, because it's a daunting task."

Capt. Douglas Burfield, NAS Patuxent River Commanding Officer, reinforced Gallant's theme of mission preparedness as he addressed the awardees and the Fire and Emergency personnel in attendance.

"We don't have an air station without a fire department," said Burfield. "Whether it's in a building, in the air, or on the ground, the work you do is essential to our mission here, and I want to thank you for the hard work you do every day to keep us safe and mission ready."

Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Ordinance No. 224

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

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

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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

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

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

Thirty days following publication of this notice, applicant will seek title to the vessel described below unless proof of an existing ownership interest has been presented. Vessel is described as:

1987 FISHER
Length: 12’ 0”
Color: Light Brown
Registration Number: MD 5213 AU
Hull Identification Number: FMC86149E787

Contact Dustin Horst:
(240) 925-4511
41370 Friendship Ct
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Thirty days following publication of this notice, applicant will seek title to the vessel described below unless proof of an existing ownership interest has been presented. Vessel is described as:

1980 Basshunter
Length: 11’ 6”
Color: Blue
Registration Number: MD7311AE
Hull Identification Number: MD7311AE

Contact Nathan Faus:
(570) 930-2013
24945 Nelka Lane
Leonardtown, MD 20650

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
LEONARDTOWN MEADOWS AT TOWN RUN WATER TANK

Sealed bids for construction of the Leonardtown Meadows at Town Run Water Tank Project will be received by the Commissioners of Leonardtown (“Town”), c/o Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator, at the Town offices at 22670 Washington Street, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 until 10:00 a.m. local time on August 27, 2024. Said bids will then be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after the designated date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The Work is described in Bid Documents prepared by GHD Inc. (“GHD”). In general, the Work consists of constructing a new 1.0 MG composite water storage tank, in accordance with the Contract Drawings and Specifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time on August 6, 2024, at the Town offices at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Representatives from the Town and GHD will be present to discuss the proposed project. Attendance by prospective bidders is encouraged but is not mandatory.

The Issuing Office for the Bid Documents is:

Commissioners of Leonardtown
22670 Washington Street
P.O. Box 1
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

The Bid Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Town Hall
22670 Washington Street
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

GHD Inc.
16701 Melford Boulevard
Suite 221
Bowie, Maryland 20715

Digital sets of Bid Documents may be requested by email at Laschelle.mckay@leonardtownmd.gov or by phone at 301-475-9791. If mailing of documents is requested, it will be done at cost. No refunds will be made for the return of Bid Documents.

Direct all questions regarding distribution of Bid Documents to:

Laschelle McKay Town Administrator
laschelle.mckay@leonardtownmd.gov
301-475-9791 (phone)

All other questions regarding the Bid Documents shall be submitted in writing to:

Will Allen
Will.allen@ghd.com
704-342-4916 (phone)

The subject heading for all e-mails and faxes shall be: Subject: Leonardtown Meadows at Town Run Water Tank. No response will be given to questions received less than 7 days before the Bid opening date.

Bidders are required to certify, under penalty of perjury, that bids have been prepared without collusion with other bidders, subcontractors, suppliers, etc. This certification is included with the Bid Documents which each Bidder must sign in the space provided.

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

By Authority: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator

NOAA Announces \$10 Million Grant for Oyster Sanctuary



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced that it has recommended awarding \$10 million to fund new reef construction for a Maryland Department of Natural Resources oyster sanctuary in the Chesapeake Bay.

The four-year grant will provide infrastructure funding for building reef bases on about 50 to 75 acres within an existing oyster sanctuary, as well as ground-truthing to assess the area before construction. NOAA awarded the funding as part of its Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

"This is an exciting time for oysters in the Chesapeake Bay," Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz said. "Just as we're finishing the tributary phase of sanctuary construction and seeding, this \$10 million award will help us with future oyster restoration throughout Maryland."

The construction will be part of a new project at one of several proposed sanctuaries. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources identified several possible sites, which will be presented at the August 19 meeting of the Oyster Advisory Commission to receive stakeholder feedback on the sites.

The grant comes as the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement hits its 10th anniversary. The

agreement outlined a goal to restore oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries—five each in Maryland and Virginia—by 2025.

According to this summer's Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration Update for 2023, four of Maryland's five large-scale oyster sanctuaries are initially complete, and work on the last site in Manokin River is well underway and scheduled to be complete on target in 2025. Harris Creek, the first Maryland sanctuary to be targeted, is now considered fully and successfully restored.

Maryland now has more than 1,000 acres of restored oyster reefs, which is equivalent to 1.5 square miles or more than 800 football fields. Last year, the state had record-setting oyster spat plantings and an outstanding natural spatset.

The eastern oyster, the species found in the Bay, is a keystone species. Oyster reefs provide important habitat for Bay fish and crustaceans, and oysters serve as natural filters that remove excess nutrients. Scientists estimate that adult oysters can filter more than 10 gallons per day in the Chesapeake Bay.

Oysters are also an economic driver for the region. In the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 oyster harvest seasons, Maryland oystermen have brought in dockside values of \$21.5 million and \$31 million, respectively, a result of two years with the highest land-fall of oysters since 1987.



Letters to the Editor

Prioritizing what's best for our county

I am pleased to respond to Mr. Philip Wentz's July 18th letter regarding my reaction to not being endorsed by the teachers' union.

I participated in the EASMC's endorsement process, which can be viewed on the EASMC website, because I was invited to answer its questionnaire and to be interviewed. I thought both would be publicly informative. Having responded to questionnaires from the news media and having participated in public forums, I saw no reason to decline the invitation. After all, I am an Educator and former public-school teacher.

To be completely honest, I had mixed emotions about sitting down for the EASMC interview because of my more traditional, conservative views. Frankly, many of my positions on the issues conflict with the union.

When the EASMC representative called me in advance to say that I was not endorsed, he informed me that the choice was not decided by the panel that had conducted my interview, those at the local level, and that the decision was made at a higher level. It's not that I felt entitled to the endorsement, but because I taught in the

public school, worked closely with other educators, Administrators, Support Staff, students and parents, I was hoping that the Union would take this into consideration and make the right choice.

It's no secret that our education system is failing. Look no further than many high school graduates feeling unequipped to deal with the complexities of adulthood; doing their taxes, filling-out job applications, completing official forms, writing a resume, knowledge of interest rates, budgeting, balancing a checking account, are but some of the problems that many post-high school graduates are facing. In my years of living in the county, I have seen the public school system increasingly go astray from the fundamentals. It seems today, that these concerns have, more or less, escaped the minds of higher-ups in the county. Frankly, I'm less concerned with aligning my policies, or personal opinions, with that of large, organized groups, rather my priorities lie with what's best for residents of our county.

Brandie M. Edelen
Mechanicsville, MD



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Affordable Housing Highlighted in DHCD's Day Trip to St. Mary's



Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day visited Leonardtown's Main Street and parts of Lexington Park on Tuesday during the department's latest Day Trip stop.

The St. Mary's County tour was the 13th stop in DHCD's Day Trip series, which allows Secretary Day and senior staff to meet with local officials and share ways the department can help their communities.

From Fiscal Year 2020 to 2024, DHCD has provided more than \$32 million in financial support for affordable housing, improvements for broadband infrastructure and neighborhood revitalization in St. Mary's County.

"St. Mary's County and DHCD have worked well together over the years and I look forward to continued collaboration with our government and community partners here," said Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day. "Directly connecting with residents, community leaders and business owners today allows us to learn, provide solutions and ensure long-term success for St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland."

"St. Mary's County offers a unique blend of rural character, historic significance, and high-tech industry," said St. Mary's County Commissioner President James R. Guy. "We are grateful to Secretary Day, his team, and our local partners for a wonderful visit and their shared commitment to a vibrant Maryland and St. Mary's. We look forward to continued partnership in addressing key

issues such as affordable housing and revitalization, ensuring our community thrives while preserving its distinctive qualities."

Tuesday's visit began with a walking tour of Leonardtown. In February, Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller and Secretary Day joined other state and local officials to celebrate Leonardtown's official designation as a Main Street Maryland community.

Created in 1998 and managed by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Main Street Maryland program builds partnerships with local governments, nonprofit organizations and businesses. In September 2023, the place that touts itself as "A Small Southern Maryland Town that's Big on Charm" became the first designated Main Street Maryland Community in St. Mary's County. It is also home to Southern Maryland's only designated Arts & Entertainment district.

During the tour, Secretary Day presented a ceremonial check officially celebrating recent Main Street Improvement and Project Restore 2.0 grants awarded by DHCD. The grants are designed to spur community revitalization by attracting, retaining and expanding small businesses, as well as through the promotion of local, cultural attractions and events.

Afterward, the tour group traveled to Lexington Park, stopping at Lexwood Apartments before the day ended in Lexington Park with a community stakeholders meeting.

DHCD's Day Trips series will continue this summer.

Harm Reduction Services Now Offered at Leonardtown Office

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is expanding its Harm Reduction Program (HRP) services to the SMCHD Main Office in Leonardtown at 21580 Peabody Street. Services will also continue at the Health Hub in Lexington Park.

Community members can now access Harm Reduction services at both the SMCHD Main Office in Leonardtown and the Health Hub in Lexington Park, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Services are available on a walk-in basis.

HRP uses practical strategies to reduce health risks and make treatment available for persons with substance use disorder. It emphasizes understanding a person's readiness for change and mitigating the harms of substance use disorder. HRP services now expanded to Leonardtown include:

- Evaluation and medication treatment for opioid use disorder
- Collection and safe disposal of used syringes
- Test Strips for fentanyl and xylazine
- Hepatitis C testing and treatment
- HIV testing and referral to treatment
- Linkage to treatment, recovery, and community support services
- Peer education
- Overdose response training and naloxone distribution
- Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD)
- Testing for sexually transmitted infections
- Referrals for wound care

"Harm reduction programs lower infection and disease transmission, prevent fatal overdoses, and make it more likely that people with substance use disorder will get connected to treatment and recovery support services," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Expanding Harm Reduction Program services to our Leonardtown office makes it easier for our community members across the county to get the confidential help that they need."

More information about Harm Reduction services is available at smchd.org/harmreduction.

New Member Sought for St. Mary's County Planning Commission

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) are seeking applications from residents who are interested in serving as a volunteer member of the St. Mary's County Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission is charged with reviewing certain development applications and plans for consistency with the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Plan and various provisions of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. Generally, the Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Applicants must have some business and/or planning experience. Learn more about the Planning Commission at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/plancom.

Interested citizens should complete the online application (include attached resume) at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/boards. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on August 5, 2024.

Questions about St. Mary's County Boards, Committees, and/or Commissions may be directed to Diane Gleissner at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1700 or Diane.Gleissner@stmaryscountymd.gov.



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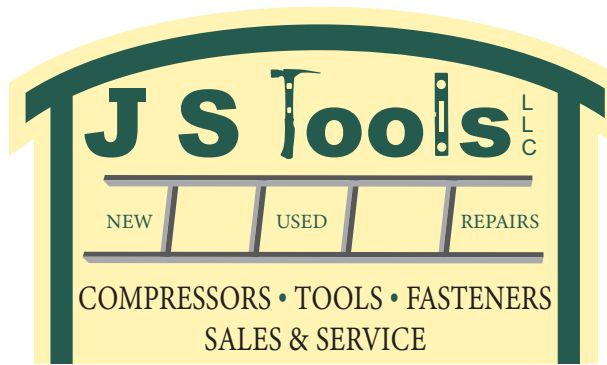
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Former School Employee Sentenced to Prison for Sexual Abuse

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Davon Natrell Stewart, 23, of Lexington Park, Maryland, was sentenced to prison after he was found guilty of sexual abuse of a minor and placed on the sex offender registry for Life.

Stewart was found guilty of sexual abuse of a minor after a two-day bench trial in November 2023 for an incident involving a Chopticon High School student. The offense occurred during the 2022-2023 academic school year while Stewart was employed with the St. Mary's County Public Schools as a Safety and Security Assistant. The victim was a student enrolled at the same school.

"The Defendant abused his position of trust by using his authority to commit a sex offense on a child who was a student in the school he was supposed to serve and protect," State's Attorney Sterling said. "The exploitation of his position is deplorable—especially in a school, a place where children should always feel safe to grow and learn."

Although the Maryland Sentencing Guideline range calls for a sentence between five and 10 years in prison, the State requested the Court to go above the guideline range. The State advocated for a sentence of 25 years, which is the maximum sentence for this offense, with 15 years of active incarceration to serve. The State further requested Stewart be placed on the sexual offender registry for Life.

The Court sentenced Stewart to 15 years



Davon Natrell Stewart

in prison with five years of active incarceration and ordered him to register as a sexual offender for Life.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Proctor, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Tyler Payne of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Joseph M. Stalanis presided over the case.

Two Arrested Following Gun Theft from Local Business



Roger Glenn Chin



Wayne Darnell Winters

On Wednesday, July 17, 2024, Deputy Elijsha Munn responded to the Tackle Box in Lexington Park, MD, for a reported theft. Video surveillance footage showed an unknown suspect walking into the store, going behind the sales counter, taking a Ruger AR-15 rifle from the display rack, concealing it beneath his clothing, and exiting the store.

Images of the suspect were disseminated to officers, and while reviewing them, Deputy Bradley Kirscht recognized the suspect through prior involvement. The suspect, identified as Roger Glenn Chin, 40, is known to live in a homeless encampment in Lexington Park, MD. Deputies went to the encampment and located Chin in a tent, and he was arrested.

Detectives continued the investigation

and learned Chin provided the firearm to Wayne Darnell Winters. On Thursday, July 18, 2024, deputies located Winters, 52, of Lexington Park, and recovered the weapon.

Chin was charged with possession of a stolen firearm, possession of a firearm with a felony conviction, illegal possession of a regulated firearm, illegal transfer of a regulated firearm, and related charges.

Winters was charged with possession of a firearm with a violent felony conviction, possession of a firearm with a felony conviction, illegal possession of a regulated firearm, and related charges.

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

Lexington Park Man Arrested for Home Invasion, Assault

Delontey Montario Butler, 31, of Lexington Park, was arrested by deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office on Sunday, July 21. Butler was wanted on open warrants for home invasion, first-degree assault, and related charges.

The warrants stemmed from a 2023 incident in which Butler allegedly entered a residence, wielded a folding pocketknife, and lunged at the victim. The victim also reported that Butler produced a firearm from his waistband and threatened to shoot.

On Sunday, following an investigation into Butler's whereabouts, the suspect was apprehended in a residential area in the 46000 block of Radford Lane in Lexington Park after a short foot pursuit.

Butler faces charges including home invasion, first-degree assault, second-degree assault, firearm use during the commission of a violent crime, and additional related offenses. He was transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown.



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Two New Car Dealerships Approved



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Both a Honda dealership and a Kia dealership received unanimous approval from the county planning commission this week, with several conditions placed on their development before they get final approval by the director of the Department of Land Use and Growth Management.

The July 22 meeting was a continuation from the July 8 meeting where the hearing on the concept site plan was held over to allow for public comment.

The two dealerships were approved with several conditions such as traffic improvements to be paid for by the developer at the intersection of Route 235 and FDR Boulevard, ensuring that any off-loading of vehicles will take place on site and not on Route 235.

Also, neighboring community streets to the car dealerships cannot be used for test drives from the dealerships, according to the approval ruling from the planning

commission, which includes: Oak Drive, Woodland Acres Road, Potter Drive, Old Line Court or any other road or right of way in Woodland Acres or Woodland Heights.

The entire project would be more than 47,000 square feet in size on about eight acres of land near the intersection of Three Notch Road and Route 4; the Honda dealership would be a one-story building of 27,242 square feet while the Kia dealership would be 20,296 square feet in size.

Despite the conditions placed on the developers of the project by the planning commission, residents near the project took their concerns over noise and traffic to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County the following day at a public forum.

"We have a lot of children in the community and we're a close-knit community," said Jay Armsworthy of the Woodland Acres neighborhood. "So, we're really concerned about the excess traffic and also the noise."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Funds Approved for Chaptico Wharf Repairs



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

This week the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved the use of \$199,000 awarded to the county's Department of Recreation and Parks in September of last year to make improvements at Chaptico Wharf.

The county-owned property consists of a double pier and boat ramp, according to county project documents.

"The improvement project includes the replacement of the existing caps, stringers, decking, sheathing on the wing walls, and all needed project hardware," county documents showed.

Recreation and parks director Arthur Shepherd called the receipt of the funds "a good deal" and said the Maryland Department of Natural Resources water-

way improvement program funds had been used by the county many times in the past to make improvements to local waterway access points.

"For the past four years we've had minor projects with [waterfront improvement] money as well as major project at 13 of the 15 public landings."

Shepherd credited Parks Manager Roy Copsey and his team with using the grant money wisely to make improvements.

"At Chaptico we're going to replace pretty much everything except the pilings," Copsey said. "It needs it."

According to the state DNR, Chaptico Wharf is on the Wicomico River and can accommodate "large vessels" up to 26 feet long.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

State Warns County Over Elms Property

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Earlier in the spring the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which leases the 476-acre property known as Elms Beach to the county, and by extension the county school system, for environmental education purposes, told the county to stop using the two-story building on the property due to its dilapidated condition.

In a recent letter to the county, however, DNR cautioned the county against using the building until the it could be brought into full repair.

"The department is aware the county continued to use the building, despite this direction from the department," the letter sent to the county government stated. "We again reiterate that the building should not be used until all health and safety issues have been addressed."

The state has requested a meeting in Annapolis with county officials to discuss the future management and development of the property.

Environmental assessment records of the

building taken in May by an independent contractor show that there were multiple concerns of asbestos contamination there.

"KCI recommends [county schools] to perform additional inspections or investigations prior to demolition and/or major renovations projects," the report from the inspection contractor reads. "Suspect materials that have not been determined for asbestos content must be assumed to be asbestos containing until sampled and proven otherwise by a Maryland licensed asbestos inspector and analysed for asbestos content by an accredited laboratory."

Lead was also found in some of the building's materials, according to the report, at levels that were above the Maryland Department of the Environment's action level of 0.7 milligrams per square centimeter.

Other deficiencies found in the building there include a lack of air conditioning, overloaded electrical wiring and a basement that was leaking and not cleaned or maintained, according to the report.

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Images of the aging Elms building interior



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Assistant Superintendent Passes Away

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Last week the county school system's Assistant Superintendent for Supporting Services, Dr. Alex Jaffurs, who also worked his way up through the system from the teaching ranks where he gained much popularity, died.

He was 55.

"He was a teacher, a coach, a mentor, a husband and a father," said Commissioner Eric Colvin during the Commissioners of St. Mary's County business meeting July 23. "He was one of my math teachers when I was in high school.

"He had that larger-than-life persona; he was one of those teachers that everyone who went to school there remembers."

"He had a big impact on a lot of young people," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt, whose son also had Jaffurs as a math teacher in high school.

In the classroom Jaffurs was known for having a passionate, out-sized personality while teaching.

Kelly Haines, another of his students, talked about this in a social media post upon learning of his passing on July 18.

"This one hurts and makes me so sad," Haines said. "Mr. Jaffurs was my absolute favorite teacher in high school.

"He made tough math classes a ton of fun and kept it exciting, which is hard for calculus!"



Dr. Alex Jaffurs

Haines said she had Jaffurs for three years in the classroom and remembered how he used every day items to keep the students' attention.

"Maybe the beating of the trashcan with the yard stick helped solidify that a bit," she said.

Before Jaffurs was in an assistant superintendent role he worked as chief accountability officer for the school system, putting his mathematical talents to good use.

He was also given to heroic action outside of the classroom.

In April of 2017 a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter crashed on Breton Bay Golf Course outside of Leonardtown, directly behind Jaffurs' home.

Both he and his son rushed out of their home immediately after the helicopter crashed to pull surviving crewmen out of the aircraft despite the danger.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said he

felt the loss on a personal and professional level.

"I struggle to find the appropriate words to convey my sense of loss as I have known and worked side by side with Alex since he first joined SMCPSS in 1994 and could always count on his laughter, love, and support in all facets of my personal and professional life," Smith said. "Over his thirty years of service, Dr. Jaffurs made a tremendous impact on the students, staff, and community of St. Mary's County. His service as a Milken Award-winning mathematics teacher, coach, mathematics supervisor, director, and assistant superintendent leaves a world changed for the better. Everyone who was taught, coached, and collaborated with Alex knew of his high expectations for, learning, leading, and serving others. As a result of his passionate dedication, his work resulted in positive changes in the school system, ranging from his dedicated work on improving curriculum and assessments to decision-making processes and management systems for our system's operations. Alex was also a strong advocate for the leaders in our system, and his leadership prompted the development and implementation of the system's leadership association, SMASA. Dr. Jaffurs served as the president of SMASA from guiding its inception to when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Supporting Services."

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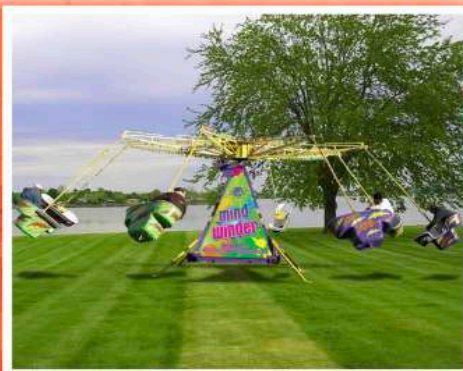
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Fired EMS Chief Suspected in Opioid Case

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Since January of 2023 Thomas Patrick Raley, a veteran emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic, has been fulfilling the role of chief of the county's career EMT force.

Almost six years ago, The County Times had reported, Raley was the same person who was charged with breaking into a medic box at the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad and taking prescription opioids to use for his own admitted addiction.

Coverage from The County Times and other local media outlets from 2019 showed that Raley had been charged with destruction of property and theft less than \$100.

Court records of the charges against Raley no longer exist, according to an on-line search of the Maryland judiciary website.

On July 23 the Commissioners of St. Mary's County moved to terminate his contract as the county rescue chief; that same day the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office named Raley as the sole suspect in a recent spate of tampering incidents in county owned medic boxes that had reportedly been pilfered of narcotics and other drugs.

Raley has not been charged.

Commissioner Eric Colvin confirmed Monday that a unanimous decision last year by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County led to Raley being installed into his former position.

Commissioners acted with the full knowledge that he had been charged with breaking into the medic boxes and that Raley admitted he did so in police charging documents at the time to feed a drug habit, Colvin said.

Colvin said Raley's distinguished service record made him highly recommended for the job.

"It was unanimous across the board," Colvin said. "Everything was open and up front with [Raley's] past history."

This week during the Commissioners of St. Mary's County meeting on July 22



Thomas Patrick Raley

Commissioner Mike Hewitt did not mention Raley's name but admitted that when he went to the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department's annual carnival over the weekend, he was constantly questioned over how another theft from medic boxes could be allowed to happen.

"This was a personnel incident but Lord knows, word travels fast," Hewitt said. "All the people know who, what, where, when

and why.

"They asked me 'Commissioner how'd that happen?'"

Hewitt admitted the commissioners had made a mistake.

"This commissioner apologizes to the community," Hewitt said. "Because commissioners made the decision.

"Let's just say when the facts come out, when we can speak about it openly, let's just

say maybe we'll think better and it'll be a learning experience for us all."

A source with knowledge of the investigation said that it appears as though there was only one suspect involved in the theft of narcotics from the medic boxes.

"Immediate actions were taken to notify law enforcement and medical authorities; and we are fully cooperating with their ongoing investigation," said Jennifer Utz, Director of the Department of Emergency Services. "We are deeply saddened by this incident and are committed to transparency as we navigate this challenge. "Ensuring the safety and well-being of our patients is our top priority. We are evaluating and updating our internal processes and will continue working closely with the state medical director, jurisdictional medical director, and local health officer to address this issue and protect our community. Any individual whose care may have been impacted by this incident will be contacted by our department directly."

Colvin said he was impressed with the speed with which the county's Department of Emergency Services began its check of all medic boxes throughout the county.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office has joined the St. Mary's agency in investigating the case as identical incidents have happened there, the neighboring agency has reported.

Law enforcement officials in Calvert speaking privately said that Raley had worked as a volunteer paramedic there.

Calvert Assistant Sheriff David Payne said Raley had worked as a temporary paid employee at one time in that jurisdiction but no longer.

Payne confirmed Raley had worked in Calvert from Nov. 15, 2021 to July 19 of this year.

"He is no longer associated with Calvert County," Payne said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Rescue Groups Speak Out on Animal Control Ordinance

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Members of animal relief and rescue groups are questioning why the county is limiting the number of animals, specifically dogs, to five that can be owned or homed by a resident before being required to get a kennel license.

The only alternative, according to the newly approved and revised animal control ordinance, would be to rehome the excess number of dogs.

"I'm here... to question why five animals is the maximum and why we'd have to get a kenneling license, especially if your pets are spayed [or] neutered and up to date on their shots and you are a responsible pet owner," said Sherry Russell, who volunteers with the

Animal Relief Fund (ARF).

She said the regulations only made it harder for people to foster animals so they could eventually be handed over to a permanent home.

"The euthanasia rate is off the charts right now without fosters taking in animals," Russell continued. "It's only going to get worse."

Russell said more clarification was needed on the ordinance as to who would actually be required to get a kenneling license and its cost.

Residents with lower incomes who took good care of their animals but might not have the means for spaying or neutering should receive consideration, she said, while the elderly often had a special bond with their pets that improved their quality of life.

"It may be the only loving thing they have

in their life," Russell said.

Brianna Stotler echoed Russell's comments.

"We both take in dogs that nobody wants," Stotler said. "Why is five the limit?"

"I think it should go case by case; having multiple [dogs] mean you can't take care of them."

If the county enacts an arbitrary cap, Stotler said, animal adoptions will suffer.

She said she was able to take in 17 rescue puppies recently in a two-week period and find homes for all of them.

"The regulations you have now, I don't are being followed through on," she said. "So I need to know how it's going to change."

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Sherry Russell of Animal Relief Fund

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“IT WAS UNANIMOUS ACROSS THE BOARD.”

COMMISSIONER ERIC COLVIN ON THE UNANIMOUS DECISION TO HIRE THOMAS PATRICK RALEY LAST YEAR AS COUNTY EMS CHIEF



LOCAL 5
Beloved teacher, administrator passes away



LOCAL 7
County cautioned over Elms property



ON THE COVER
County reels from opioid tampering scandal

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 25	FRI, JUL 26	SAT, JUL 27	SUN, JUL 28
Showers Hi: 81° Lo: 69°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 65°	Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 66°	Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 68°
MON, JUL 29	TUE, JUL 30	WED, JUL 31	THU, AUG 1
Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 70°	Scattered Storms Hi: 87° Lo: 73°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 88° Lo: 73°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 74°

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**Rescue Groups Criticise
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