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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024

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No Regulations Proposed
for Short Term Rentals

Grant Aims to Help
Dementia Caregivers

INMATE'S DEATH RULED HOMICIDE



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“IT IS MY GOAL TO
HAVE A DEPUTY IN
EVERY SCHOOL.”

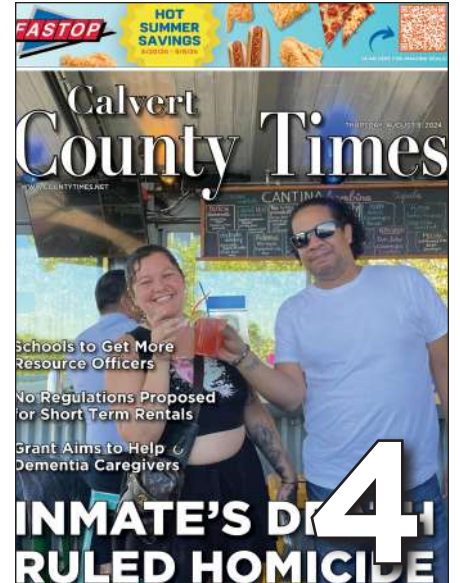
SHERIFF RICKY COX



LOCAL 6
More school resource officers on the way



LOCAL 7
No new rules on short term rentals



ON THE COVER
Family of man who died in Calvert jail wants answers

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, AUG 8	FRI, AUG 9	SAT, AUG 10	SUN, AUG 11
Rain Hi: 79° Lo: 76°	Rain/Thunder Hi: 80° Lo: 71°	Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 68°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 66°
MON, AUG 12	TUE, AUG 13	WED, AUG 14	THU, AUG 15
Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 68°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 67°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 67°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 68°



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Family Seeks Answers to Jail Inmate's Death

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

On December 4th, 2023, Angel Manuel Jimenez died while in the custody of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office. Now more than eight months later his family says they are still waiting for answers. His death certificate states the manner of death was a "homicide" caused by "restraint complicated by Hypertensive Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease."

The incident is being investigated by the Maryland State Police [MSP] and the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office, both agencies confirm. The MSP press office says they are awaiting an autopsy report. No police agency has issued a report on the death.

The family of the 50-year-old Great Mills, St. Mary's County man says they learned about the cause of death [COD] when Brinsfield Funeral Home was informed of it by the Maryland Chief Medical Examiner's Office.

According to Jimenez' niece, Desirea Cruz, "From what we understand, he was brought in on a warrant pertaining to his child support case; though where, how or why he was picked up and/or stopped by the police, we have no idea. We have been given no information from the police department, any investigators who may be working the case since the COD was confirmed a homicide, or the Chief Medical Examiner.



Angel Jimenez

For eight months we have called to check for any updates or information as to what is currently happening and as to what actually happened while he was in police custody."

Jimenez was an electrician by trade. His Brinsfield Funeral Home obituary said, "Angel was the proud owner of IE Concepts, LLC, where he utilized his expertise in electrical work on projects that took him to different states."



Jimenez with his niece Desirea Cruz

Cruz said of her uncle, "To me, Angel was everything. Literally. He was a regular friend of my parents when I was younger, and uncle figure though we are not related by blood. When I was in high school, he reappeared and, though my father (his friend) had left us and moved on, he came back into our lives with as much love as ever. In Maryland, he often stayed for long periods of time (months-years) at my house with my

mother and brother. Or at his sister, Elena's, house with his other nieces and nephews.

"He instantly stepped right back into the role of an uncle but, as so much more as well. He filled in that fatherly role my younger brother and I needed. He was our mentor, our friend, our confidant, and angel. He taught us so much and was there for us in every way possible. There was never a time in my lifetime where I felt I had no one to call or turn to. It didn't matter what the situation was, or where it was for that matter, he was going to be there."

The family is currently working on a video about Angel Jimenez' life. Cruz said, "We are working hard to shine a light on this case for several reasons. First and foremost, to honor and remember the legacy that was Angel Jimenez. Second, to finally receive some answers so that his loved ones may finally gain some closure and begin to heal. Thirdly, to gain justice and make those responsible for his death take accountability!"

She added, "Angel was not brought in for no reason. This is true enough. He did something wrong and was in the process of receiving his punishment. His punishment should not, for any reason, have been death!"

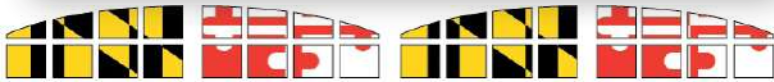
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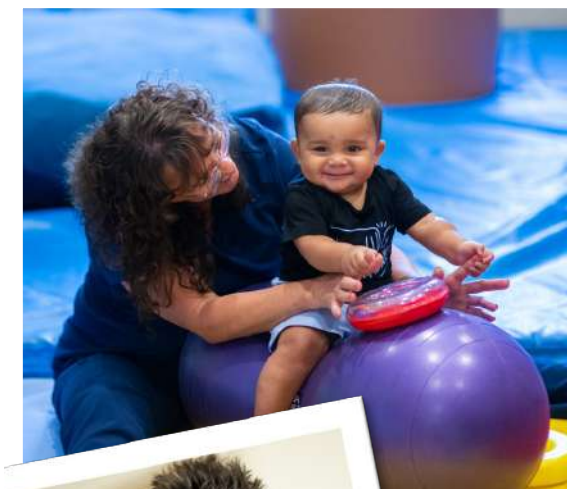
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More School Resource Officers to be Added

Still Short of Full Coverage

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

When Calvert County Public Schools reopen later this month, there will be two additional School Resource Officers (SROs) in the schools. Those two leave the schools five SROs short of being fully covered. Those five are elementary schools.

Assistant Sheriff David Payne, in a memo to the county commissioners for their Aug. 6 meeting, wrote, "Currently, there are 14 Calvert County Sheriff Office deputies assigned as School Resource Officers to Calvert County Public Schools. Each deputy is assigned to a group of elementary, middle, and high Schools throughout the county to provide adequate coverage. School safety remains a high priority and a critical responsibility, creating the need for additional law enforcement presence at each Calvert County school."

Payne continued, "The Board of Education currently reimburses Calvert County Government and the Sheriff's Office for two deputy sheriffs serving as School Resource Officers, and the sheriff's office is responsible for 12. Staffing each school with a permanent School Resource Officer is a responsible necessity. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is committed to accomplishing this goal in systematic steps. To this end, the updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Education includes two additional School Resource Officers (con-



Sheriff Ricky Cox

tract) to be hired by the Sheriff's Office and reimbursed by the Board of Education. This update will result in the Board of Education funding four total positions and the Sheriff's Office funding 12, resulting in 16 total School Resource Officers in Calvert County."

Cost for the additional contract officers is estimated at \$178,209.06. (\$142,188 salary + \$17,062.56 benefits + \$18,958.50 equipment).

Sheriff Ricky Cox told the commissioners, "(Superintendent of Schools) Dr. (Andraé) Townsel is on board with me in securing our schools and giving our schools the best security that we can, just not only the security, but to the relationships that



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andraé Townsel

they, the SRO program and the deputies have within our schools to talk to a few principals. And it's kind of good to see how the program has blossomed, and the relationships that are built with our principals and our kids and our schools with our deputies. Most of them are coaching at the high schools, which is good to see. Building those relationships is the goal and the key. And me as the sheriff, it is my goal to have a deputy in every school, elementary school level, all the way Dr. Townsel, who has just begun his term as president of the state superintendent's association, said, "Safety and security is the number one priority of Calvert County Public Schools. We were

blessed when Sheriff Cox came on board as our sheriff and the county. He had a vision of ultimately having a resource officer in every school building. As superintendent, I want to help him reach that goal. I think this is the first step of getting there."

Later in the meeting, the commissioners heard a request for a budget transfer for the school system. County Director of Budget and Finance Bruce Miller explained, "On July 12, 2024, the county received a copy of a memorandum written by Scott Johnson, Chief Financial Officer for Calvert County Public Schools, to the BOE dated June 13, 2024. The memo notifies the BOE that school revenues are estimated to exceed the appropriated budget by \$1,650,000 due to stronger than budgeted interest earnings on idle funds and the larger than previously estimated health insurance payment from CareFirst. Johnson recommends increasing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget by this same amount."

"In the MD Code, Education, Chapter 5-105, subsection C provides the BOCC with the authority to approve Mr. Johnson's recommended \$1,650,000 increase and/or consider allowing these funds to fall into the FY 2024 fund balance, which could then be used to help offset the FY 2026 budget appropriation."

After much discussion, the commissioners approved the request.

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Fire/Rescue to Get New Breathing Apparatus

Capital Budget Approved for \$4.5M

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved an amendment to the current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) moving more than \$4.5 million from other projects so that new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) can be purchased for all county fire/rescue/EMS departments.

As part of a July 30 public hearing, a memo from Fire/Rescue/EMS Division Chief James Richardson was read that said, "Calvert County Fire, Rescue, and EMS Departments must replace the SCBA for all departments, meeting the compliance requirements of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. SCBAs provide firefighters with an autonomous supply of breathable gas in an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH). Replacing all SCBAs will ensure interoperability among all county fire rescue and EMS departments that function together in emergency operations."

Replacement cost was pegged at \$4,541,000.

Calvert County Fire Chief Michael Clark

said the apparatus currently being used were 21st Century but, "Currently there's four different variations of the SCBA packs within Calvert County right now. Basically, what that boils down to in layman's terms is if Huntingtown goes to St. Leonard or St. Leonard goes to Dunkirk or Dunkirk goes to Solomons, we might not be able to breathe with each other. That's a significant issue that was identified. Also, these packs are good for 15 years. This one-time bulk purchase will not have to be made again until 15 years from now. There is a slight budget for maintenance, but that's already included."

Richardson said, "I want to thank Chief Clark and those other representatives for their efforts to find the money within their own budget, which we greatly appreciate. And because they saw this as a higher priority and much more important. I think also since this budget was developed, we believe it's not going to be four-and-a-half-million dollars. We have some information that it's going to be significantly less than that."

After the record was closed, the commissioners approved the budget amendment unanimously.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

No Regs Proposed for Short-Term Rentals

Zoning Ordinance to Have Parking Flexibility

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has decided to not impose any additional regulations on short-term rentals, as many communities such as Chesapeake Beach have done.

The decision came during a briefing by staff in anticipation of developing a second draft of the revised zoning ordinance and looking towards public hearings on it later this year.

Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook said, "The last time we presented this, if this were to be permitted in the updated 2024 draft, we would permit it anywhere that residential dwellings are permitted. It was primarily added to the May 2023 draft in large part so the county can collect taxes on short-term rentals. However, our understanding is that that may no longer be necessary. So, some important considerations are that regulating short-term rentals will require staff tracking permitting."

She explained, "We are collecting the taxes currently," adding, "Initial conversations with the Treasurer's Office was that we would have to put something in the zoning ordinance for them to be able to collect. And then we found out that wasn't the case. The short-term rental companies were already collecting local taxes, and it was just up to us asking for that money, and we're now getting it."

Short-term rentals are defined as 30 days or less.

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "What I struggle with this, I believe people have a right to do with their property, if they want to do this. But I've received many phone calls that homeowners have said this has in some instances disrupted the quality of their lives. What do we have in place? Let's say you have a residential neigh-

borhood and some of our neighborhoods are small, maybe just a cul-de-sac or two blocks, and you've got working people in that neighborhood and you've got somebody two doors down who's partying all night? What do we have in place that protects our homeowners from these disruptions?"

Grasso was told they could call the police for disturbing the peace.

In the end they decided not to make any requirements in the zoning ordinance.

The commissioners also agreed to allow some flexibility in minimum parking space requirements. What was agreed to was that the zoning officer can reduce the minimum parking space requirements of the ordinance "if the applicant demonstrates that the facility to be served would not require in its day-to-day operation, a full complement of parking."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "I think we've all seen, in some of our larger shopping centers, a lot of empty blacktops a lot of the time. I think that there's one fast food restaurant, who I'm not going to advertise, in Prince Frederick that probably needs more. And residential. I think that we should require more. The last study I saw in Calvert County, we average almost three cars per household. And now that we're in the apartment and townhouses, I think we only require them to have one. And we know every one of them has at least two. So, they take up the visitor parking and they take up the streets."

Another session to discuss the changes for the proposed second draft of the zoning ordinance update is scheduled for later this month after which the draft will be circulated for comment.

The goal is to have the planning commission to hold a public hearing on Nov. 20 and the county commissioners to have one on Dec. 10.

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Grant Aimed at Assisting Dementia Patients, Caregivers

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has received a new state grant to provide services to persons with dementia and their caregivers. The \$20,810 Long Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation grant is from the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA).

The grant, according to Office on Aging Division Chief Ed Sullivan is “to enhance or adapt existing programming to provide new or existing services for persons with symptoms of dementia and their caregivers.”

Sullivan told the county commissioners at their July 30 meeting, “We have allocated \$13,000 of that to hire a part-time contracted staff member to be the point of contact for Calvert County residents, caregivers and those with perhaps dementia to be a resource and the primary resource for the Office on Aging, to provide resources for the family.”

Sullivan added, “We are already doing some of this work, obviously, with our current staff at the Office on Aging. But we feel like we could use some additional help and this funding would be perfect for some additional help. Our MAP staff, as you all know, are extremely busy and they’re professionals and they’ve always done their job and they will continue to do so. But we know that this additional staff member, if approved, will be primary point of contact for and to connect families with different resources in the county.”

Sullivan said, “With this funding, there is a nonclinical screening tool that staff members would be trained on. So, if families had concerns, caregivers had concerns about a loved one with the onset of dementia, that screening tool is just a tool to help caregivers and families point them in the right direction, connect them with their primary care doctor and that sort of thing. And we certainly want to make them aware of the current resources. We have our three senior centers, certainly our partnerships with multiple county partners, and that’s what this staff member will do.”

Sullivan reminded residents that “we have three senior centers in Calvert County. We have an information and assistance team at all three senior centers. And they are there to take phone calls from our citizens Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 4:30. And they are great resources to connect caregivers and it may not be caregiver. It could be financial assistance. Certainly, we’re under the Department of Community Resources.



Commissioner Catherine Grasso

Seniors may need financial assistance. Seniors may need housing, meals, food insecurity, Meals on Wheels, home delivered meals, and certainly we’ve got meals at our three senior centers. And we partner with the health department on several programs. We’re getting ready to partner with a group to assist our veterans in Calvert County to bring them to Southern Pine Senior Center. We’re excited about the potential of that partnership.”

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, “In our aging county, you provide such a valuable service. My dad, who passed away last year, the year that he was dying, along with his eight children being there, one of us there every day to help out. We had 24/7 care and it cost \$217,000. The average family can’t afford that. There’s enough of us that we could pitch in and we could do it, but this is such a wonderful service because as we get older, healthcare and kind of care for our elderly is very, very cost prohibitive for most families.”

Sullivan noted “the possibility of in-home healthcare. We collaborate with the state on this. So, there’s also the possibility of in-home healthcare for citizens as needed. And it’s important that citizens know that these things are available to them in Community Resources and ourselves. We want to help if we can.”

The commissioners unanimously approved the grant documents and the budget adjustment.

dickmyers@countytimes.net


International Overdose
Awareness Day

Presented by the Twin Beach Opioid Abuse Awareness Coalition
and Calvert County advocacy partners

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Saturday, Aug. 31 • 7:30-9 p.m.

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Willie Forman

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- Calvert County Local Behavioral Health Authority
- Celebrate Recovery
- Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

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- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 79
- Disorderly: 29
- Domestic: 24
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 47
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 971
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 25
- Traffic Complaints: 68
- 911 Hang Ups: 78
- ARRESTS: 40

Burglary: 24-56517 On July 23, 2024, Deputy Deinert responded to the Project Echo Thrift Store located at 885 Main Street in Prince Frederick, for the report of a burglary that already occurred. Investigation revealed an unknown white male entered the business and stole clothes and books. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.



Richie Aaron Harper

Disorderly

Conduct: 24-56569

On July 23, 2024, Deputy H. Jones responded to Giant located at 655 Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland, for a disorderly subject. Investigation revealed, **Richie Aaron Harper**, 46 of St. Leonard, had ripped down a sign, was screaming profanities, and was aggressively walking up to patrons. Harper was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct.

Theft: 24-56144 On July 22, 2024, Deputy H. Jones responded to the College of Southern Maryland Campus located at 115 J W Williams Road in Prince Frederick, for a reported theft. The complainant advised an unknown black male entered the building began pulling on locked classroom doors, and stole a fire extinguisher. The suspect fled in a 4 door, dark-colored SUV with no front license plate. The estimated value of stolen property is \$120.00.

Theft: 24-56189 On July 22, 2024, DFC Sturdivant responded to the Giant located

at 10790 Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk, for the report of a shoplifting theft. Investigation revealed two unknown males entered the store and began placing items into two separate carts. Both males walked past all points of sale and exited the business. The males unloaded the stolen items into a red Toyota Camry and fled the area. The estimated value of stolen merchandise was \$208.73.

Theft: 24-57799 On July 27, 2024, Deputy Morrison responded to Baia Coastal Italian Kitchen located at 8323 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, for a reported theft. The complainant advised a female patron stole a gold octopus statue from the restaurant's hostess stand. The suspect is described as a white female with blonde hair wearing a light beige/cream-colored dress. The estimated value of stolen property is \$150.00.



Michael Sean Marshall

Trespassing:

24-57130 On July 25, 2024, DFC Tavares responded to the Southern Branch Library located at 13920 HG Trueman Road in Solomons, for a welfare check.

The complainant advised a male was consuming alcoholic beverages outside the establishment. Witnesses observed the male, **Michael Sean Marshall**, 38 of no fixed address, sleeping in the library on top of a table prior to the 911 call. Contact was made with Marshall who had been previously trespassed from the property. Marshall was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Trespassing Public Agency During Hours.

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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County Times

Scott Kirby Reflects on Jimmy Buffett, Solomons



Scott Kirby playing onstage at Southern Maryland Sailing Association in 2022

By Hank Dishman

“If it weren’t for Peter Mayer and Jimmy Buffett, I don’t know if I’d still be doing this.”

Singer-songwriter Scott Kirby was reflecting on the influence the late Jimmy Buffett and Buffett’s lead guitarist has had on his music career. Kirby was speaking a week in advance of his show at Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA) on Solomons Island on Sunday, August 11th.

“When I moved to Key West in 1992, I met Peter and other Coral Reefers,” he said. “I had already met Buffett on Martha’s Vineyard a few years before, but we re-acquainted. J.L. Jameson (Buffett’s longtime stage manager) helped me out there, and I believe I was the first person to record at Buffett’s Shrimiboat Sound recording studio other than Jimmy himself. I have to thank those guys and Radio Margaritaville, who started playing my records. They allowed me to have a fanbase and tour across the whole country.

“I don’t know if I can overstate the influence that Jimmy and Peter have had on me,” Kirby continued. “I don’t think any of us who knew Jimmy Buffett, even just a

little bit like I did, can even grasp he is not here. He had a big impact on the world.”

Jimmy Buffett passed away from a rare form of skin cancer in September of last year.

Kirby’s August 11th show will be the 17th time he has performed a concert for SMSA. “Solomons is one of the more pleasant days of my summer,” he said. “Sailing has been a big part of my life. When I am in Solomons, I always feel comfortable with that crowd. I feel like I am in friendly territory. Drinks and dinner, watching the sunset. I always enjoy my stop in Solomons.”

Scott Kirby’s Solomons concert is presented by Corona Extra Beer, and is supported by the Solomons Inn Resort and Marina, Quantum Sails Solomons, Sail Solomons Sailing School, PRMI Mortgages, and by Washburn’s Boat Yard. Door prizes will be provided by the Calvert Marine Museum, the Bugeye Grill, and by Charles Street Brasserie.

The August 11th show begins at 4pm at the SMSA clubhouse on Solomons Island. General public tickets can be found at www.SMSA.com, or by writing to scot-tatsmsa@gmail.com.

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Lusby Man Brings Home Prize in Governor’s Cup Race



Dan Schneider of Lusby, center, holding silver plate, skippered his sailboat “American Flyer” to a first place finish in the PHRF class of the Solomons leg in the 51st Annual Governor’s Cup Yacht Race, conducted last Friday night and Saturday morning. Seventy-eight boats competed on three courses that all finished in St. Mary’s City. Competitors experienced winds in the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River ranging from 12 knots to over 30 knots. The race is sponsored by St. Mary’s College of Maryland and is supported by various sailing clubs, including Southern Maryland Sailing Association of Solomons. Photo by Tim Flaherty.

Calvert Celebrates National Night Out



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, Aug 8

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, (& Zoom)
6:30-8 p.m.

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

Magician Brian Curry: Summer Fun

Dunkirk Fire Dept.
10-11 a.m.

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2:00pm-3:00pm. and 6:00pm-7:00pm.

Brian Curry brings classic literature magically to life with state-of-the-art multimedia, music and illusions in this Book Club Magic Assembly. Introducing families to beloved books with truly amazing magic will get young and old excited about these stories and eager to read. And will make everyone want to learn how to do magic! NOTE: Bring a blanket/towel to sit on. Park at the rear of building. For accessibility accommodations, please contact us at least 2 weeks before the event. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Aug 9

Family Fun Friday: Muddy Around the Marsh

Calvert Marine Museum
9 – 11 a.m.

Dive into the marsh mud in this new family program! Join one of our educators as we dig around in the marsh mud for the animals that make it their home, wade through the grasses of the marsh to discover what secrets they hold, and use items from the marsh to make art! Be sure to wear clothing that can get muddy! Family Fun Friday events at the

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

Sat, Aug 10

Dee of St. Mary's Dockside Tour

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Step aboard the museum's skipjack for an up-close tour with crew members of her 56 ft. deck. Learn how watermen dredge for oysters, hoist the sails, and navigate the waterways of the Chesapeake.

Rescheduled Reptile Shows

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

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

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

Mon, Aug 12

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
1-4 p.m.

Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. This 38' mobile center features 11 computer workstations, smart board instructional technology, satellite internet access, exterior audio visual and broadcasting capabilities; state-of-the-art

workforce applications and connectivity for wireless mobile device access. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Aug 13

Glow Vigil and Light Calvert Purple Outreach event

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
1-3 p.m.

A representative from Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA) in partnership with the Twin Beach Opioid Abuse Awareness Council, will set up a table to give away purple lightbulbs to residents to display on August 31st for International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD). 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Aug 14

Veteran Services Program

Southern Pines Senior Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Are you a veteran or close family member looking for assistance? The Calvert County Office on Aging is partnering with ServingTogether to provide support twice a month, every second Wednesday and fourth Friday. Walk-ins are encouraged. No appointment is necessary. Visit <https://servingtogetherproject.org/calvert> for more information.

Job Seeker Resources – Skillbuilders

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

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment and Job Service representatives will be in person with those seeking

employment or career change. Walk-ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. More job-seeker help is available on mwejobs.maryland.gov 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Resumes and Cover Letters

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

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and cover letter writing help. Looking for a job, or a better job? Don't miss this free class. Registration closes the Monday before the event. If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Thorne at cheryl.thorne@maryland.gov 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

Upcoming

Paper Shredding

Huntingtown High School
4125 Solomons Island Rd.,
Huntingtown
Saturday, Aug. 17
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

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

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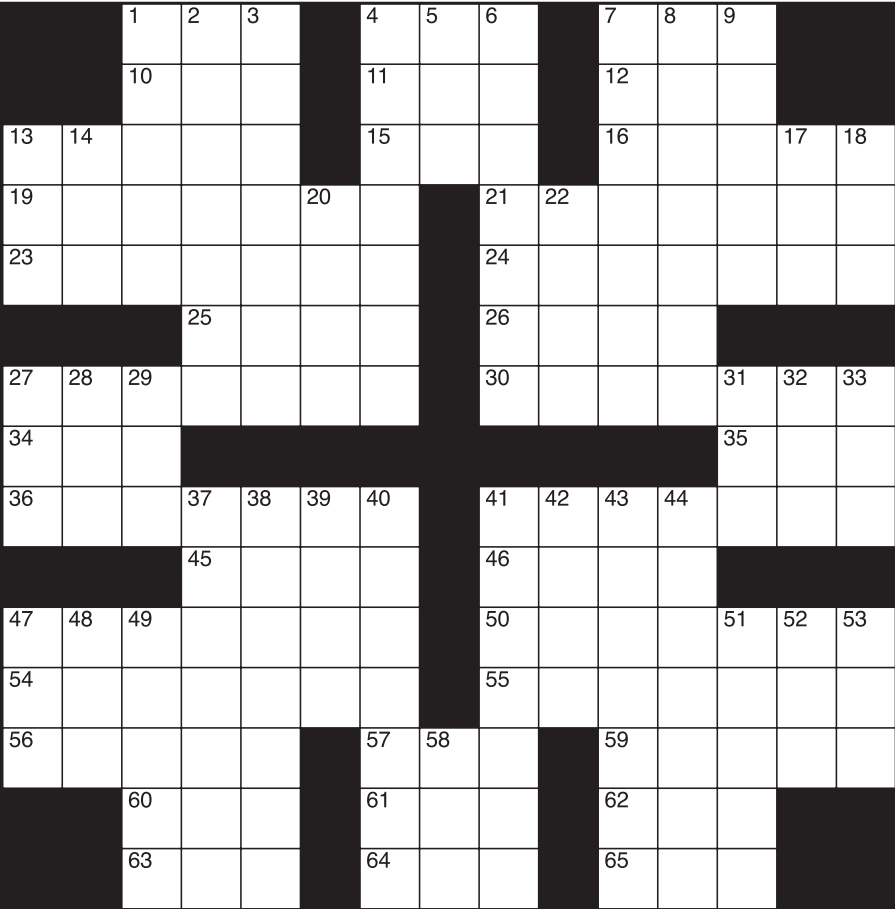
The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies 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



- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Major American automaker (abbr.)

4. Pressure measurement

7. Two-year-old sheep

10. Indigenous person from Laos or Thailand

11. Up in the air (abbr.)

12. Actress de Armas

13. Not moving

15. Cool!

16. Bog arum genus

19. Perceptible by touch

21. Type of test

23. Monetary units

24. Collection of various things

25. Sum of five and one

26. Type of sword

27. Hates

30. Immobile

34. Pie __ mode

35. Moved quickly

36. Passenger's place on a motorbike

41. A way through

45. Former US Secretary of Education Duncan

46. Leader

47. Flowing

50. Greetings

54. Remedy

55. Soft lightweight fabric

56. Building material

57. Sea bream

59. A way to cause to be swollen

60. One and only

61. People get one in summer

62. Wreath

63. Thus far

64. They __

65. Sea eagle
1. Policemen (French)

2. Toy dog

3. Inflamed colon disease

4. Can't move

5. Helps little firms

6. Lists of names, subjects, etc.

7. Takes down

8. Makes possible

9. Wife of Julius Constantius

13. Engine additive

14. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

17. Written account

18. Consumed

20. Something the first shall be

22. No (slang)

27. Gov't lawyers

28. Peyton's little brother

29. Small amount

31. Investment vehicle

32. Fall behind

33. Midway between northeast and east

37. Head pain

38. Popular sport in England and India

39. King Charles's sister

40. Boat race

41. About fish

42. Maidservant

43. Able to be marketed

44. Tinier

47. Parts per billion (abbr.)

48. Paddle

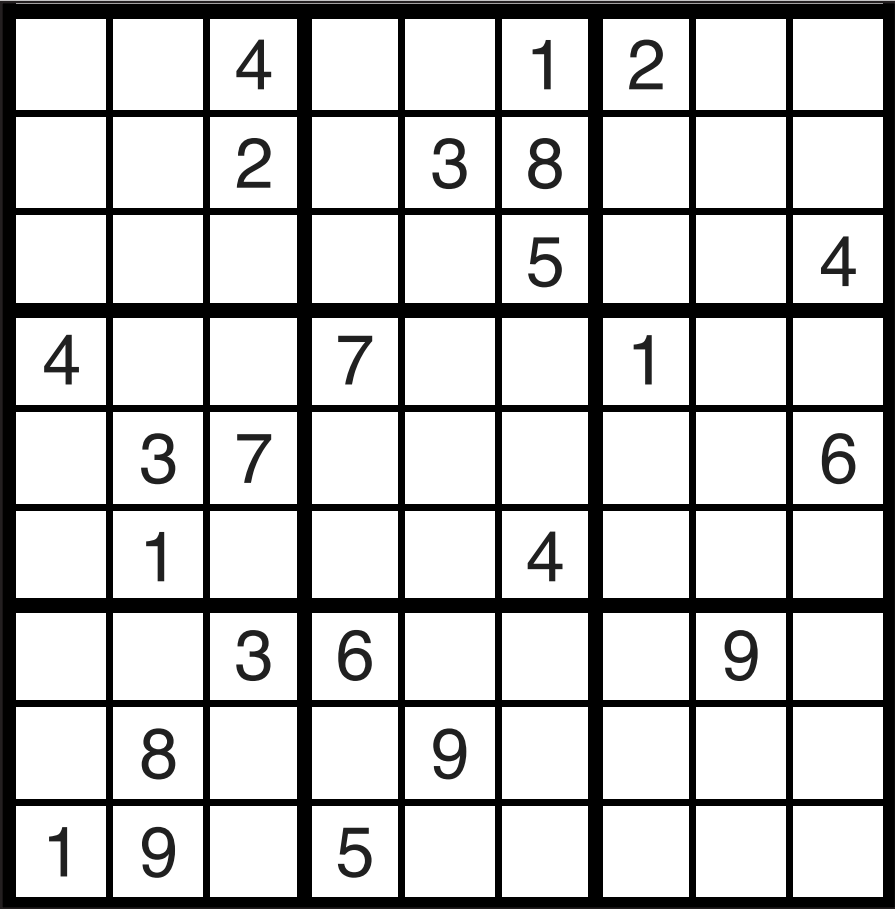
49. Oneness

51. Bitter chemical

52. Not around

53. Very fast airplane

58. Swiss river



JULY 25 SOLUTIONS																			
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4	2	3	8	1	6	7	9	5
7	6	8	5	9	4	3	2	1
9	1	5	2	7	3	6	8	4
2	4	9	7	3	8	5	1	6
8	3	1	6	4	5	2	7	9
6	5	7	9	2	1	8	4	3

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Pinto Grigio**

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**The Federalist
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Unoaked Chard**

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Noir**

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Blue**

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**Tito's
Vodka**

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**12-Pack
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**Guinness
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Wine of the Month



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Sauvignon Blanc 750ml

**Seaglass
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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.

Thu, Aug 8

Make-A-Wish Charity Golf Tournament

Wicomico Shores Golf Course
35794 Aviation Yacht Club Rd.,
Mechanicsville
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This event will be family friendly, but open to competitors of all styles and abilities to come show their support for the organization. As always you can expect the usual Above Par unique mini-games on course and included in your entry fee, lots of prizes given away for all skill levels, and Nick's of Calvert grilled sausages, hamburgers, and hotdogs provided throughout the day!

Players will receive a swag bag, round of golf and entries for minigames, lunch at the turn, and lots of prizes!

Score Helpers are Available for Purchase: Score Helper package to be announced during event check-in.

Event Check-In: Starts at 7:30am

Shotgun Start: 9:00am

Entry Fee: \$100/person

www.abovepar.golf/event-details/make-a-wish-foundation

Shakespeare in the City: "Much Ado About Nothing"

The Inn at Brome Howard
18281 Rosecroft Rd., St. Mary's City
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City & the New Towne Players invite you to experience the magic of Shakespeare's comedic masterpiece—a delightful journey into the heart of love, laughter, and the artful complexities of human connection.

Outdoor performances run August 8–10 and August 15–17 at 7:30pm on the lawn of The Inn at Brome Howard, with food trucks on site. (Rain venue is Dodge Center at St. Mary's College). There will be one indoor matinee on Sun. Aug 11, 3pm at Dodge Center. Visit www.newtowneplayers.org for tickets and more information.

Sat, Aug 10

FREE Concert at the Leonardtown Wharf w/N2N

Leonardtown Wharf
5p.m. to midnight

The Town of Leonardtown and the Leonardtown Business Association are proud to present an R&B Night on Saturday, August 10th, 2024 featuring N2N at the On the Water's Edge Concert Series at the Leonardtown Wharf (sponsored by Jimmy Hayden of RE-MAX/100 and Homes for Heroes—www.jimmyhaydenrealtor.com).

Come by water or land—Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy live music, sample award-winning wine from Port of Leonardtown Winery, purchase beer from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department tent, and cool down with sweet treats from Frog Town Ice Cream.

This FREE event is open to the public. Save for later or send to your friends and family!

For more information visit: www.facebook.com/events/323708473986163 or www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest

For questions, please call Aris Nazarova at 301-475-9791 or email aris.nazarova@leonardtownmd.gov

SMTMD Contra Dance

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

The evening starts at 7 pm with a half hour beginner's dance workshop followed by live music performed by the SOMD Open Band and dancing from 7:30 to 10 pm. Check the website calendar for the lineup of dances and callers! Admission is \$12 for non-SMTMD members; \$8 for members. Children 17 and under, when accompanied by an adult, and band members are free. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, smtmd.org/#/dances/

Sun, Aug 11

All You Can Eat Home Made Home Style Breakfast

2nd Dist. VFD&RS Social Hall
45245 Drayden Rd., Valley Lee
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Menu: scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, pancakes, French toast, sausage links, ham, bacon, creamed chip beef, sausage gravy, spiced applesauce, grits & biscuits. Drinks: assorted juices, milk and coffee will be available.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Composting Workshop

Learn how to turn your trash into garden treasure! Compost is the best fertilizer for your plants and garden - and you can make your own for free! In this interactive workshop, you will learn the basics of how to create your own at-home compost, using materials you might have otherwise thrown out. Walk away with the knowledge and tools to compost - whether on an acre or in a condo! Informational session is free, and discounted compost bins may be purchased by cash or check at the end of the program. Lexington Park Library on Monday, August 12 from 6 - 7 p.m. This program is made possible with support from the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Program and the LMPP Community Garden. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Reptile Wonders

Meet real, live reptiles from around the world! From baby tortoises to giant

pythons, learn about their habitats, diet, adaptations, & behaviors. Three sessions on Saturday, August 17:

- Fifth District Park Pavilion (37880 New Market Turner Rd, Mechanicsville, Maryland 20659), 9:45 a.m.
- Leonardtown Library, 12:30 p.m.
- Lexington Park Library, 3:15 p.m.

Most seating will be on the floor- feel free to bring a blanket! Space may be limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. This event is supported in part by a grant from the St. Mary's County Arts Council. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Loteria (Bingo) for Everyone!: Bilingual Bingo

It's a family event! All ages can have fun learning Spanish while playing Loteria, a fun Bingo game. Fun prizes for the winners! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, August 17 from 10 - 11 a.m. Join us for a morning of Loteria (Mexican Bingo) for all ages! The bingo boards have colorful

pictures with Spanish words labeling the picture. Pictures will be called in Spanish and translated to English, giving you an opportunity to learn new Spanish or English words! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Is It AI?

AI is becoming increasingly prevalent in today's technological world. Can you tell the difference between "real" and AI? Join us for an interactive workshop that focuses on identifying and using Generative AI like Chat GPT and Image Generators at Lexington Park Library on Monday, August 19 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. This class will be taught by Maria Barga, University of Maryland Extension Tech Educator. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Introduction to 3D Printing

Have you ever wanted something 3D printed at the library, but weren't sure how? Now is your chance to learn! This introductory course will cover the basics of how a 3D printer works and how to use

PrusaSlicer software. Learn how to find ready-to-print files online and submit them to the Library for printing. No prior experience is needed. Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, August 20 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Silent Book Club: The Book Group for Introverts

Have you heard of the latest book club trend sweeping the nation? It's all about reading in "companionable silence" and spending time together as a reading community. All types of readers are welcome, no matter your preferred genre or format. Bring any book that you'd like to read, grab a book off of our shelves, or download one of our digital eBook and audiobook apps. We'll start with around 10-15 minutes of casual chatting before diving into our individual books. Leonardtown Library on Thursday, August 22 from 6 - 7 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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Boneless Beef
Top Sirloin Steaks



7.98 Lb.

Certified Angus Beef
Boneless
London Broil



5.98 Lb.

Fresh Atlantic
Salmon
Fillets



8.99 Lb.

USDA Inspected
Boneless Center
Cut Pork Chops



3.48 Lb.

80% Lean, Fresh
Ground
Chuck Patties



4.98 Lb.

12 To 14-Oz., Selected
Kielbasa Or
Hillshire Farms
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3.48

16-Oz. Hot Or Mild
Swaggery's
Sausage Roll



3.98

12 Oz., Reg. Or Thick
Gwaltney
Bacon



3.98

12-Oz., Clear
Gwaltney
Meat Hot Dogs



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Minute Maid
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4.1 To 5.7-Oz., Selected
Knorr Rice
Or Noodles

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Gelatin Or Pudding Cups

2.48



7 To 8-Oz., Selected
Borden
Shredded Cheese

2/\$5



128-Oz., Lemonade Or Selected
Milo's Famous
Sweet Tea

3.48



16-Oz.
Borden
American Singles

3.78



15.39 To 17.89-Oz., Selected
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Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
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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.

Millie Durkin, 88



Esther Mildred ("Millie") Theresa Durkin passed at age 88 on July 28, 2024 in Saint Inigoes, Maryland surrounded by her five children. Millie was born in Chicago, Illinois on September 23, 1935 to Bror Oscar Böös and Anna Eufrosyna (Esberg) Böös. Millie became responsible for the household when her mother passed when Millie was but 13 years old; she worked in a candy store at age 14.

Millie was wed to her high school sweetheart William ("Bill") Thomas Durkin, a sailor in the U. S. Navy in a civil ceremony in Seattle, Washington on July 14, 1952, returning to Chicago for a religious wedding service on September 6, 1952. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in Seattle in June 1953. After 70 years of marriage Bill predeceased Millie in 2022.

Throughout Bill's career in naval aviation, Millie raised five children, who all survive her, Douglas Shawn Durkin (Norma), Theresa Ann Waxman (David), Matthew Thomas Durkin (Linda), Mark William Durkin (Eva), and Cynthia Marie Urban (Timothy). Millie was the heart and soul of a family including 14 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandson, and was renowned creating thoughtful and joyful celebrations for her extended family that will leave a legacy of great love.

Millie, a lifelong learner, focused on raising and educating her children. She emphasized the importance of education as a mean to success, and further emphasized love, respect and kindness for all. She embodied selfless love and always putting others first.

Millie was proud of her Swedish heritage and enjoyed genealogy. Millie was also proud of the success achieved by her hardworking immigrant parents, and by her children who achieved success in law, healthcare, engineering and architecture.

A service for Millie will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lexington Park, Maryland on November 2, 2024. As Millie donated her body to the Uniformed Services University Medical School at Walter Reed Hospital, interment of ashes will take place in 2025 at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Millie may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 46707 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653, and Hospice of St. Mary's, 44724 Hospice Lane, Callaway, MD 20620.

Ray McKean, 79



Raymond William McKean, "Ray", 79, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on July 17, 2024, in Washington, D.C. Born on September 18, 1944, in Scranton, PA, he

was the son of the late Margaret (Shaw) McKean and the late Carl S. McKean. Ray was the loving husband of Linnie Lou McKean for fifty-one plus years. He is also survived by his children, Virginia Chellaf (Mohamed) of Clements, MD, Christopher McKean (Lori) of Grand Valley, PA, Cynthia Hoffman (Dan) of Fredericksburg, VA, and Willam Corbett of Vestal, NY, his brother, Richard McKean (Sylvia) of Pulaski, NY, as well as eight grandchildren.

Ray graduated from Smithfield, Ridgebury, and Ulster High School in 1963 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg State College in 1970. Ray attended George Washington University where he earned his master's degree in education and human development.

Ray moved to St. Mary's County, MD in 1973 from PA and was a Physical Education teacher and guidance counselor for St. Mary's County Public Schools for 33 years, retiring on July 1, 2006. He was a board member for the Center for Life Enrichment and enjoyed sailing, camping, hiking, traveling with family and friends, dance club, and concerts. Ray was an enthusiastic competitor and capable coach for all games, whether it was backgammon, tennis, horseshoes, or any backyard sport.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Breton Bay Estates, 40415 Rosebank Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

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When

Friday, August 9th
9am-10am

Where

Social on Fenwick
41655 Fenwick St
Leonardtown, MD 20650



David McDonough
Financial Advisor

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



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A View From The BLEACHERS



BRINGING HOME GOLD

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

August 2024: There won't be another like it until 2028. Even then, only subject and structure will be the same; the location, participants, details and outcomes will be different. For writers, a comparable won't occur until 2026, in the dead of the northern hemisphere's winter. Such is the tempo of the Olympics. Such is the joyous opportunity to write about them.

For Americans, this latest addition of the Olympiad, the XXXIII Summer Games for those counting at home, comes at a particularly divisive time in America. Differences have always been present in our history; this is both the consequence and great beauty of our democratic creed's sworn protection of the freedom of expression and of democracy itself.

We are, inarguably, at a time when division sells; political power is now obtained more through social media and stump-blasted, fictional fear-mongering and demonization of the opposition than it is through objective discussion of issues and skillful persuasion – think The Federalist Papers, the Abraham Lincoln-Stephen Douglas debates, or any other contentious political endeavor that advanced our republic closer to the idea captured in the Declaration of Independence (such as the 15th and 19th Amendments, and the 1964 Civil Rights Act). It's understandable – as long as the bait is taken, the political angler will cast the irresistible offering into the water.

Into this curious and nationally malignant environment strolls the Olympic Games, where we are athletically as we are in everyday (forgotten?) reality – Team U.S.A. On the team, our team, is, among many others, LeBron James from Akron, Ohio, Stephen Curry from Charlotte, North Carolina, Suni Lee from St. Paul, Minnesota, Scottie Scheffler from Ridgewood, New Jersey, Regan Smith from Lakeville, Minnesota, Gretchen Walsh from Nashville, Tennessee, Simone Biles from Spring, Texas, and a whole bunch of fantastic locals, including Kevin Durant (Suitland), Erin Gemmell (Potomac), Torri Huske (Arlington), Noah Lyles (Alexandria) and Katie Ledecky (Bethesda). In fact, only two states – North Dakota and Wyoming – didn't send an Olympic or Paralympic athlete to Paris.

Glance at a map of the United States. Spin a globe around slowly with your fingers. What do you see? Lines. Darn near every single land mass that has managed to rise above the water's surface has been claimed. This is mine. That is yours. We do things this way within our boundaries. These are our laws, this is who is allowed to join, these are the liberties extended to all, to some or to a select few. Over the course of human history, those lines have flexed – some erased, new ones emerged, still others were re-drawn – often with great loss of human life. Some conflicts are understandable in the moment; none make much sense when contemplating humanity's co-occupation of our amazing little planet spinning through space.

Pondering all of that with an Olympic backdrop invites two thoughts, one global and the other much closer to home. First, in watching Olympians represent their countries, compete and, win or lose, respect the sport and their international rivals...it makes one wonder if we – the big we – can find a way to share our collective human journey as gracefully as Olympians share their athletic experience. That's a big dream, and athletics is small, but perhaps it offers a nudge toward a better world, if not a solution to an existential challenge as old as our species itself.

Second, that long list of Olympians and full accounting of the origins of our Olympic team, makes a powerful point. We can achieve our very best – whether the challenge be in technology, engineering, healthcare, defense of our nation, or sports – only if we draw on all of our resources. No other nation quite resembles our demographics. That is our cheat code as Americans. That doesn't mean we will all get along perfectly, or that individuality in race, religion, gender or creed should be sacrificed for homogeneity. The challenge it does issue is to refuse to view our differences with suspicion, fear or hatred, and to remember our collective potential, no matter what poison those in or seeking power shamelessly peddle. That's how America finishes first and brings home the gold.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Plenty of redfish in all sizes; good rockfish in Maryland waters; perch are hot; speckled trout are about; spot are everywhere, but tiny ones interfere with filling the ice box with eating size; croaker are growing; Spanish mackerel and bluefish abundant, and cobia should be increasing soon.

Slot reds (18 to 27 inches) are in the lower Potomac, the St. Mary's River, Smith Creek and Breton Bay. The Patuxent has its share of redfish, too but most are puppy drum (under 18 inches) for most anglers; the slot fish are available for experienced anglers trolling small bucktails and jigs on the edges of the oyster bars in 3 to 5 feet of water. The big bull reds are in the bay but can be hard to find on any given day. The big reds are up the Potomac as far as St. George Island. One experienced fisherman was spooled by a big red that took a jig on the bottom in the mouth of the St. Mary's River last Thursday.

Some big speckled trout are mixed with the redfish. Trout love tiny spot, and live-liners have found some gator trout on structure in the mouth of the Potomac. One must fish at daybreak.

Lazy tides, low water, and summer heat slowed much fishing activity to a crawl this week. Only early and late fishing was good.

Mackerel and blues were a bright spot in the bay all weekend. Charter boats did very



Brad shows off beautiful trout caught casting jig on Potomac weed bed.

well even though the water was rough and many landlubbers got sick. The mackerel are still stuck in the southern regions, although some made their way up to the Targets in Cedar Point Hollow late in the week. Perhaps they will make it to Cedar Point soon.

August has arrived and September is on its way. The cooler weather will make all species more comfortable and hungry.

Speaking of weather, it looks rough later in the week and the upcoming weekend.



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St. Clement's Island Museum Announces Annual Children's Day



Enjoy a free day of family fun celebrating the end of summer on the beautiful water-side lawn at St. Clement's Island Museum's annual Children's Day event, happening on Saturday, August 17, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Families can enjoy free games, crafts, face painting, crafts, snow cones, balloons, and more. The 7th District Optimist Club will present a kiddie tractor pull and offer a free bike raffle for children 12 and younger. Hometown Karaoke and DJ Services will play kid-friendly tunes.

Other outside exhibitors include the local Fire Department and Rescue Squad, St. Mary's County Health Department, the Delicados, Macaroni Kid of Calvert and St. Mary's, St. Mary's County Library, and

many more.

Organizers encourage families to get there early – the first 100 children will receive a free water bottle courtesy of the St. Mary's County Museum Division and sponsors and a goody bag courtesy of the Southern Maryland American Legion Auxiliary Unit 221.

The 7th District Optimist Club will be selling hamburgers, hotdogs, fries, and drinks.

The museum will be open and water taxi rides to St. Clement's Island will be running. Regular admission and fares apply. The St. Clement's Island Museum is located at 38370 Point Breeze Road in Colton's Point. For more information, call (301) 769-2222 or visit www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum.

Registration Open for Annual Tee-It-Up for Kids Golf Tournament



St. Mary's County Government's (SMCG) Department of Recreation & Parks is pleased to announce that the Tee-It-Up for Kids golf tournament (formerly known as the Scott Verbie Golf Tournament) will be held on Friday, October 4, 2024, at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course in Mechanicsville.

Proceeds from the event support the youth scholarship program providing children of St. Mary's County the opportunity to participate in summer camp, sports, and other programs throughout the year at a discounted rate. In its 27-year history, this event has generated over \$195,000.

The tournament registration fee is \$375 per team and includes greens/carts fee for 4 golfers, light breakfast, lunch, drinks on the course, and door prize entry. The event includes a best ball format with opportunities to participate in various raffles, closest to the pin, longest drive and

other contests. Join us for a day of fun, sportsmanship, and giving youth a chance to experience recreation. Registration is available online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/golftournament.

R&P is seeking additional community support from local businesses to supply door prize sponsorships, which can include but are not limited to, gift certificates, item donations, and more. In addition to supporting a good cause, event sponsorship is also a great way to promote your business and welcome new customers. The Sponsorship Package is available at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/docs/SponsorshipPacket.pdf.

For additional information about the Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament, please contact Recreation & Parks via email to webtrac@stmaryscountymd.gov or by calling (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800.

Self-Service Sandbags Available for Citizens



Self-service sandbags will be available for residents wishing to prepare for possible flooding conditions due to Tropical Storm Debby on Wednesday, August 7, and Thursday, August 8, 2024, at the St. Andrews Landfill (44837 St. Andrews Church Road) during regular business hours (8 am – 4:30 p.m.) Sandbags are not pre-filled and are limited to between 10 and 25 sandbags per person, while supplies last.

Stay informed during the storm! Residents are encouraged to:

- Sign up to receive SMCG News

Releases at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/news

- Sign up for Emergency Weather Notifications at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/codered

For more information on sandbag distribution, please contact the Department of Public Works & Transportation at (301) 475-4200, ext. 3551.

Learn how you can be prepared during emergencies at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/prepare.



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St. Mary's Celebrates National Night Out



Sheriff Steve Hall and deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office joined residents at multiple National Night Out events Aug. 6. Joining them were local government agencies and elected officials. Food, drinks and games were on hand for children and families alike.



Pet of the Week



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MEET PUDDIN

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Come 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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22156 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024

IN-PERSON 3-7 PM

Bring copies of your resume to share

VIRTUAL 4-7 PM

Companies include:

- AMEWAS INC.
- BillGoldenJobs.com/
Intelligence Careers
- Cruz Associates Inc.
- Dayton T. Brown, Inc.
- Fairfax County Sheriff's
Office
- FGS, LLC
- Fleet & Family Support
Center - TAP/WFL Programs
- Island Creek Associates
- JobZone IN-PERSON &
VIRTUAL
- KBR
- NuPaths LLC, Cofounded by
Harrisburg University
- Precise Systems
- PSI PAX
- Sabre Systems
- St. Mary's County Sheriff's
Office
- Tekla Research Inc.
- The MIL Corporation
- Total Cyber Solutions, LLC
- VTG Defense

JOINT BASE ANDREWS AFB JOB FAIR

@ 459 ARW Auditorium
3755 Patrick Avenue

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024

IN-PERSON 10 AM-2 PM

Bring copies of your resume to share

VIRTUAL 11 AM-2 PM

Companies include:

- BillGoldenJobs.com/Intelligence
Careers
- Brightview Landscape Services
- JobZone
- Maryland Department of Labor
- NuPaths LLC, Cofounded by
Harrisburg University
- Total Cyber Solutions, LLC
- Virginia Career Solutions

Professional dress or military uniform required.

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NAVAL AIR STATION
PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Small Businesses' Unexplored Talents are Key to Innovation



NAVAIR Deputy Commander Tom Rudowsky speaks with Southern Maryland small business representatives at the SBA/SBIR Program sponsored by The Patuxent Partnership and the Small Business Development Center July 23.

Delivering outcomes that matter to the warfighter takes an environment of engagement and partnership created by both naval aviation and small businesses, according to Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Deputy Commander Tom Rudowsky.

Rudowsky spoke to more than 100 local small business representatives at the Small Business Administration /Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program sponsored by The Patuxent Partnership and the Small Business Development Center July 23. "Most innovations come from small businesses," he said. "You are key elements in changing the game in this era of great competition. Accomplishing the mission requires all elements of the industrial base, not just large businesses. It will take all of us to expand capability."

He asked small businesses to look at their expertise from a different perspective and determine how they could apply that expertise to different areas and needs within NAVAIR, the Navy, other government agencies and beyond. Small businesses' specialized expertise, niche solutions, rapid innovation, flexibility and responsiveness are only a few attributes that can give the edge to naval aviation warfighting. "There are areas where you have abilities you have yet to recognize," he said.

Partnering with NAVAIR, Rudowsky said, begins with sharing a common goal — delivering the outcomes that matter to the warfighter. "It's also about delivering capabilities when they [warfighters] need

it," he emphasized. "Think about and identify gaps and how those gaps can be closed. Your perspective will help us get there."

He also acknowledged that including and engaging with all stakeholders in the acquisition process, especially small businesses, is critical to reaching NAVAIR's goals. "We need to ensure the opportunity to contribute is available to everyone. Help us identify the impediments to partnering with us so we can make the process smoother," he said.

NAVAIR is expanding opportunities through open topics, which are solicitations for submissions in which small businesses propose solutions to broad warfighting needs, explained NAVAIR SBIR/Small Business Technology Transfer Programs Director Kristi DePriest, one of the event's panelists. For example, the current Broad Agency Announcement (BAA), SBIR 24.4, is an open topic that lists NAVAIR's three areas of interests in advanced robotic automation for the Fleet Readiness Centers: advanced robotic systems integration for aircraft maintenance and repair; human-robot collaboration and safety in aviation maintenance repair overhaul; and emerging technologies for autonomous Aviation Maintenance. The BAA is open until September 4. The BAA is available at <https://www.dodsbirsttr.mil/submissions/login>.

Innovation that will help naval aviation outpace the threat lies in small businesses' creativity, Rudowsky said. "Engage, communicate and partner with us," he said. "We are always learning."

Body in Well Identified

Maryland State Police are investigating the death of a man whose body was discovered at the bottom of a well outside of his residence on Aug. 3.

The deceased is identified as Joseph Andrew Murrin, 53, of Callaway. On Aug. 2, Murrin's family reported him missing to the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack after a reported fire at his residence. Police, firefighters and family members conducted a search of his home and surrounding areas.

On Aug. 3 family members located him at the bottom of a well, approximately 30 feet deep and adjacent to the residence. Troopers, along with firefighters from multiple departments and technical rescue specialists, responded to the scene. Following a coordinated effort, firefighters successfully recovered Murrin the same day. He was transported to the medical examiner's office for autopsy.

Among those involved in the recovery efforts were troopers from the Leonardtown Barrack, and personnel from the St. Mary's County Volunteer Fire Service, the Montgomery County Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue Team, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and other fire and rescue agencies from multiple jurisdictions.

Maryland State Police crime scene technicians processed the scene for evidence. Personnel from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the St. Mary's County Office of the State's Attorney also responded to assist Maryland State Police criminal investigators.

Anyone with information related to the investigation is asked to contact the Leonardtown Barrack at 301-475-8955. The investigation is ongoing.

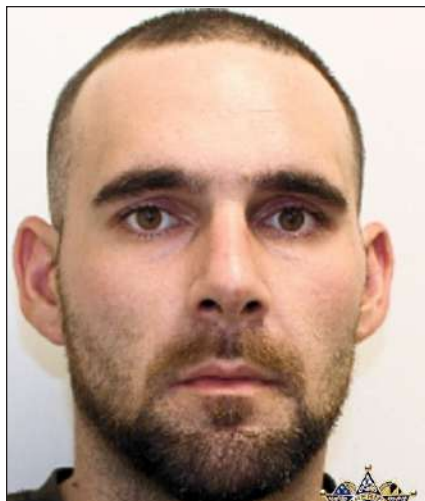
Suspicious Vehicle Report Leads to Arrest for Stolen Firearm

On Wednesday, July 31, 2024, Deputy Zachary Wolfe responded to Friendship School Road and Jones Road in Leonardtown for the report of a suspicious vehicle. After arriving on the scene, Deputy Wolfe observed a vehicle running and a male asleep in the driver's seat.

After waking the driver and initiating a conversation, Deputy Wolfe saw a holstered Glock 22 Gen 4 .40 caliber handgun in plain sight and took possession of the weapon. The driver then told Deputy Wolfe there was a second loaded gun in the car.

James Gregory Smith, 26, of Hollywood, MD, provided a valid Maryland wear-and-carry permit. However, a check of the serial numbers on both guns revealed that Smith was the registered owner of only one. The other gun, a Kahr Arms CW9, had been reported stolen in 2020 and was seized.

A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered suspected CDS paraphernalia. Smith was arrested and charged with illegal possession of a regulated firearm and four



James Gregory Smith

counts of CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

The suspect was transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown to await a bond hearing.



Letters to the Editor

Hollywood VFD Says Thanks

The officers and members of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary wish to express our sincere gratitude to the community for their gracious support of our annual carnival held in July of 2024.

While this event has been a significant fundraiser to support our department and ladies auxiliary for many years, we could not do this without the generous support of the community volunteers as well as the local citizens and businesses that provide monetary donations.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Hollywood-Leonardtown Optimist Club, the Hollywood Lion's Club and the St.

Mary's Little League for their financial support as well as providing volunteers to help work various concessions and games.

The proceeds from our annual carnival and other fundraisers help to offset the operational expenses to provide emergency services to our community.

With your continued support, it is our hope to continue this tradition for many years to come.

We look forward to seeing you and your family next July!

The Officers, Members, and Ladies' Auxiliary of Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department

Legal Notices

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

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

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Great Mills Woman Sentenced to Prison for Murder

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Michelina Desiree Goodwin, 46, of Great Mills, Maryland was sentenced to 61 years in prison, the maximum allowable sentence, for the homicide and dismemberment of a 50-year-old male victim that took place in December 2022.

Following an eight-day jury trial that concluded in March 2024, a St. Mary's County jury convicted Goodwin of murder in the second-degree, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and the unauthorized disposal of a body.

"The Defendant's heinous act of shooting the victim in the back pales in comparison to the gruesome details following the murder. After killing the victim, the Defendant dismembered him, and scattered his remains throughout our County and a neighboring county," said State's Attorney Sterling. "My hope is that with the outcome of today's sentencing hearing, the victim's family can finally find peace, justice, healing, and closure after the horrifying homicide of their beloved family member."

Senior Assistant State's Attorneys Donna C. Pettersen and Jeffrey R. Maylor prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.



Michelina Desiree Goodwin

Sergeant Roger Schwarb of the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit and Trooper First Class Evan Ruggles of the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division were the lead investigators.

The Honorable Terrence J. McGann presided over the case.

Deputies Respond to Double Stabbing in Lexington Park

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a stabbing in the 21000 block of Ronald Drive at approximately 4:45 a.m. on August 3, 2024. While en route, deputies were advised that two victims had been stabbed by an individual known to them.

According to the victims, Terek Demaury Ross, 28, of Prince George's County, had broken into their residence and used a knife from the home to stab the first victim, an adult female, multiple times. The first victim managed to escape and call 911. Ross then attacked the second victim, also an adult female, stabbing her multiple times before she fled to a neighboring residence and called 911.

Ross subsequently stole a car belonging to one of the victims and fled the scene. Neighboring jurisdictions were alerted, and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) located and apprehended Ross traveling north on Maryland Route 4. Ross was then transferred into the custody of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Both victims were transported to an area hospital, where they are listed in stable condition.



Terek Demaury Ross

Ross was transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown and has been charged with two counts of Attempted First-Degree Murder, two counts of Attempted Second-Degree Murder, two counts of First-Degree Assault, and related charges.



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Residents Invited to Submit Legislative Proposals



The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) invite residents to submit legislative proposals for consideration during the 2025 Maryland General Assembly session.

The CSMC will hold a joint meeting with members of the St. Mary's County Legislative Delegation on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6 p.m. to review legislative requests from the Commissioners as well as proposals submitted by residents and/or local organizations.

Residents can access the form to submit legislative proposals on our website at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/CountyAttorney or the form can also be accessed directly at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Docs/2025LegislativeProposalForm.pdf.

All proposals must be submitted by August 21, 2024, to be considered at the October 1, 2024, joint meeting. Proposals may be submitted to:

- Commissioners of St. Mary's County
41770 Baldrige Street

P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown, MD 20650
csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov

- Todd Morgan, Delegate
District 29C, St. Mary's County
215 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
todd.morgan@house.state.md.us

The joint meeting will be held in the CSMC Meeting Room, located on the 1st floor of the Chesapeake Building at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown. CSMC decisions and related documents are available on our website in BoardDocs. Meetings are open to the public and can be viewed live on TV Channel 95 or on-demand via www.YouTube.com/@StMarysCoGov.

For more information on the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, including contact information, meeting schedules, and more please visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/csmc.

Sheriff's Office Enforces Zero Tolerance on Illegal ATV Use

The safety of roads for all citizens is a top priority for the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO). We continue to receive complaints regarding people illegally operating dirt bikes, off-road, and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on public roadways.

Operating off-road vehicles on public roads is illegal and unsafe. These vehicles are not equipped with the necessary lights, signals, and mirrors required for road use, making it difficult for operators to communicate their intentions to other drivers and increasing the risk of collisions. Also, unlike cars, ATVs generally lack essential safety features such as seat belts, airbags, and crumple zones, putting riders at a higher risk of injury in the event of a collision.

To curb unsafe road conditions for all, SMCSO is taking a ZERO TOLERANCE stance regarding the illegal operation of off-road vehicles. Operators could face multiple fines, points on their Maryland Driver's License, and mandatory court appearances for operating an off-road vehicle on the roadway.

Off-road vehicle owners and parents can face fines for ALLOWING the operation of

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Those witnessing illegal off-road vehicles operating on public roads may submit tips to SMCSOTrafficSafety@stmaryscountymd.gov. Please include the following details in the email:

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- Make, model, and color(s) of the ATV
- Physical description of the ATV operator
- Address where the ATV(s) are kept or stored
- Any pictures or videos you have of the illegal operation
- Your contact information if you wish to be contacted

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Andrew Cade Brosky, 25, Coltons Point, MD

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James Edward Wilson, 57, Lexington Park, MD

Shannon Rachel Gray, 25, Saint Leonard, MD
Spencer Bradley Hower, 24, Saint Leonard, MD

Hector Manuel Morillo, 44, Leonardtown, MD
Rina Franchesca Rodriguez Moreno, 27, Leonardtown, MD

Thomas Eugene Fairfax, Jr., 35, Hollywood, MD
Kiersten Marie Shea, 33, Hollywood, MD

Joshua Nathan Van Der Smissen, 47, Leonardtown, MD
Connie Hempel, 47, Leonardtown, MD

Andrew Thomas Sharpe, 27, California, MD
Hillary Lizabeth Oliva Roman, 28, Mechanicsville, MD

Jenae Nicole Johnson, 35, Hollywood, MD
Marquis Terrell Le Shay Johnson, 34, Hollywood, MD

Austin Riley Sidener, 20, Newport, NC
Diana Lorena Leyton, 20, Lusby, MD

Shaday Simone Bryan Carey, 26, California, MD
Carl Jevon Xaven Hughes, Jr., 25, California, MD

Christopher Troy Dunn, 31, California, MD
Orysia Ihorivna Popowych, 30, California, MD

Helen Marie Kuhn, 27, Charolotte Hall, MD
Christopher Patrick Tennyson, 29, Mechanicsville, MD

Kaylamae Grace Phillips, 25, Lexington Park, MD
Shane Zackery Sweeney, 24, Lexington Park, MD

Izayah Emanuell Portalatin, 25, Lexington Park, MD
Magaly Vazquez, 24, Portland, OR

Jason Alexander Mortiz, 48, California, MD
Heather Mae Cade, 48, Haddonfield, NJ

Paul Martin Drechsler, 43, Mechanicsville, MD
Joanna Lee Buckley-Kern, 41, Mechanicsville, MD

Mathias Robert Arnold Ferber, 33, Somerville, MA
Charlotte Deirdre Wijne, 31, Somerville, MA

Elizabeth Irene Gray, 29, Callaway, MD
Daniel Milton Acton, III, 38, Callaway, MD

Allison Noel Dorr, 26, Chesapeake Beach, MD
Deric Shawn Stubbs, 28, Chesapeake Beach, MD

Sheila Marie Donaldson, 49, Newburg, MD
Matthew George Mcclean, 49, Newburg, MD

Selamawit Gashaw, 26, Bryans Road, MD
August Ka'mau Clayton, 26, Bryans Road, MD

Jordan Louise Norris, 25, Leonardtown, MD
Logan Douglas Maidl, 26, Leonardtown, MD

Nicole Elizabeth Susanne George, 35, Scotland, MD
Andrew Parren Tennyson, 35, Scotland, MD

Annie Elizabeth Unger, 35, Henrico, VA
Isaac James Christopher, 33, Mechanicsville, MD

Edward James Ruzek, 36, Waldorf, MD
Laura Valeria Basante Perez, 28, Waldorf, MD

Travis Brandon Merritt, Jr., 26, Lexington Park, MD
Siriluk Sinaha, 26, Lexington Park, MD

Aaron Michael Woodburn, 19, Callaway, MD
Savannah Lynne Herbert, 19, Morganza, MD

Frannie Lynn Long, 43, Colonial Beach, VA
Angela Renee Campbell, 52, Colonial Beach, VA

Shelia Annetta Carter, 56, North Wales, PA
Trenton James Williams, 59, Philadelphia, PA

Shantell Elizabeth Phillips, 20, Lexington Park, MD
Brandon Vargas-Ramirez, 22, Lexington Park, MD

Yolonda Marie Dozier, 77, Windsor Mill, MD
Francis William Mccaulliff, III, 74, Park Hall, MD

Matthew Ryan Keates, 29, Mechanicsville, MD
Lucy Elizabeth Brown, 22, Mechanicsville, MD

Joseph Francis Whipple, 29, Great Mills, MD
Mykalia Alexis Tooles, 26, Great Mills, MD

Juan Carlos Itzol, 51, Lexington Park, MD
Selena Belyani Jovel Palms, 28, Lexington Park, MD

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Former Commissioner Shows Importance of Staying Connected



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For years Frances Eagan was an integral part of one of the largest and well know defense contractors around — Eagan McCallister Associates — started by her husband Rex Eagan and his business partner John McCallister, which had its start here in St. Mary's County.

As it grew, Frances, now 78, worked as the facility security specialist for her husband's company, helping it grow to being the second largest employer here other than the local school system.

On top of all that, she served from 1994 to 1998 as a Republican on the board of county commissioners.

"We were the first all-Republican-county commissioner group in history here," Eagan said.

She counts her win at that time with the work she had done in support of President Ronald Reagan's successful 1980 and 1984 campaigns, the second of which was a landslide victory.

Her work in Maryland which lead it to vote for Reagan in 1984 led to her political appointment as the special assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Trade.

When she and her husband first got here in the late 1960s, there was no Republican Party to speak of.

"We had to get the word out on why you wanted to be a Republican," Eagan told The County Times. "Ronald Reagan turned this county."

With all of her accomplishments in business and politics, Eagan and her husband enjoyed retirement for years — including a three-month round-the-world adventure-until his tragic death in 2020 from COVID-19. Suddenly, Frances was faced with what many senior citizens have to confront, loneliness.

"I thought I was OK, but I wasn't," Frances said.

She continued to travel, taking a trip to the Panama Canal, she said, but there was something missing.

She missed her husband terribly and she

began to pull away from her family and friends.

But she realized she had to turn herself around.

"You start to isolate and you can't do that," Frances said. "You've got to do something."

So, she reached back out to her friends, found a partner with which to share her time, and got back to living the way she had been.

"People would say to me 'It's good to see you back to normal,'" said Eagan. "I didn't know I was unhappy."

Every Friday she said she goes dancing at the Mechanicsville Moose Lodge, still gets together with friends, continues to travel the world — she just got back from a trip to London in March — and enjoys arts and crafts.

She has children and her oldest grandchild is 32 while her youngest is just one-year old.

She wants to remain around as long as she can to spend time with her new granddaughter as she can, staying positive and active is part of her strategy to achieve that end.

"I serve on no boards," Eagan said "Yeah! "But I still work on people's political campaigns, I advise them, and I do fundraisers."

Politics and people are her passion, she said, and it keeps her connected and from feeling alone.

"It's being social, having friends," Eagan said. "Being able to talk with people and not be alone."

"They help me keep going; I don't feel my age."

The important thing, she said, was to continue to do what you enjoy into your senior years.

And it's different for everyone.

"Politics is what I enjoy," Eagan said. "Being involved in what makes you happy is what's important."

If all else fails, she said, go outside and find the light; constant sunlight is one of the reasons she winters in Florida.

"The sun, it just revitalizes you," Eagan said.

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Dyson's Building Center Celebrates 70 Years



Dyson Building Center, then known as Dyson Lumber Co., in 1965

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In 1954 LeRoy and Marie Dyson opened a 1,000-square-foot retail store in Great Mills selling lumber and hardware and now, seven decades later their children and grandchildren are running a store 12 times that size.

Brother and sister team J.C. Dyson and Vi Guzman are president and vice president of the family business, respectively and work with other family members like Melanie Dyson, Anna Price, Sandy Dyson and Seth Thomas as well as a whole host of local employees to keep things running.

Several of their employees have worked there for 30 years or more.

"They've grown the business over the years exponentially," Melanie said of J.C. and Vi's leadership. "We've [the younger generation] done tiny things like replace the phone system.

"We're still learning things."

As the years have progressed Dyson's Building Center, as it was first incorporated in 1987, has had to contend with ever growing competition from local and nearby corporate home improvement stores such as Lowe's, Home Depot, Tractor Supply and now Harbor Freight, yet they have managed to carve out their own customer base and make their business thrive.

Vi said it's the personal touch that the family business has developed over the years that has made the difference for them.

"No customer ever leaves unhappy or disgusted," Vi said. "It's the customer service they come back for."

That sort of loyalty from customers is earned through the expertise the staff has developed from years of dealing with all manner of products and materials used in the construction trades.

"People [who work] here know the product," Vi said. "That's what comes with 30 years of experience."

Their sales experience has also given them a list of qualified and reliable contractors to whom they can refer customers for critical construction work and other projects when reliability is a must.

"We refer a lot of people we use," Anna said. We're trying to give back to the community that supports us."

"We're the Angie's List for local people," J.C. said.

Though it's a family-owned business, family members are often called on to work the hardest and aren't given an easy time.

Seth, at 14 years old, is the youngest family member to work at the store and is often called on to do quite a bit of heavy lifting for customers.

Aside from the 12,000 square foot retail

store, the Dysons maintain a six-acre lumber yard on their property on Point Lookout Road.

Hefting 80-pound bags of concrete is often on his to-do list.

"I love it," Seth said of working in the family business. "I play football so it's like paid weight lifting."

Despite the high level of competition with the big box hardware and construction retailers, they still communicate occasionally, Vi said, if a customer needs something special or a hard-to-find product.

"A lot of Lowes clerks send people to us," Vi said.

"We're kind of a hidden secret here," said Sandy, J.C.'s wife who works in the business office looking after the finances. "When people first come here [to the store] they're overwhelmed."

People who are new to St. Mary's, Sandy said, don't expect a full-service retailer so far away from the county's main shopping districts in California or Leonardtown.

"We have a little bit of everything," Sandy said.

Being in the community for so long means that it has come to depend on their business, Vi said.

Sometimes a customer has an emergency and they need materials before the store opens.

"You come in and you open up for them," Vi said. "Our customers become our friends; they're our neighbors.

"His emergencies become yours; it's the right thing to do."

Anna said there was more to working at a family business other than being part of that security, she knew as an employee she was valued and employees who weren't family could expect to be treated the same way.

"There's more empathy from your bosses when you work in a family-owned business like this," Anna told The County Times. "You're somebody here."

While celebrating 70 years of business in St. Mary's, the Dyson family is looking to the future.

"We've been here a long time and we want to stay here for a long time," Sandy said.

J.C. said building the family business all these years has been his favorite part of the whole experience.

"We'll continue to maintain our own here," J.C. said. "We'll have our 25 to 30 employees.

"Getting the name out there is all you can do for a small business."

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State Mulls Retaining 3rd Graders Over Poor Reading Skills

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Maryland State Board of Education (SBOE) is considering enacting a policy that would hold back 3rd graders from moving on to the next grade if they have not reached desired proficiency in reading.

The state board was briefed on the proposed policy at their July 23 meeting in Baltimore; in short, students have fallen behind significantly in reading comprehension skills since the COVID-19 pandemic and the state has identified 3rd grade as a critical make-or-break period to acquire those foundational skills that make learning possible.

The educational outcome data SBOE staff revealed at the meeting was staggering regarding the loss of 4th grade reading

comprehension skills.

In 2013 Maryland ranked 4th in nation for 4th grade reading comprehension but that has dropped to 41st — near the bottom — for 2022.

Moreover, staff said, research suggested that about 66 percent of students who can't read proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will one day be either incarcerated or on welfare; 60 percent of prison inmates are functionally illiterate as well, staff said.

In St. Mary's County for the 2020-2021 school year, when the MCAP test was still being used, 54.7 percent of county students reached English language arts proficiency, which was better than the state's 46.3 percent in the 4th grade.

The latest data locally for 3rd graders, however, shows more of a decline with just 49.3 percent of that grade level reaching

proficiency in language arts, though that is an improvement over the 45.6 proficiency rate from 2022, the state's data reads.

The draft comprehensive reading policy was a culmination of work by Maryland Department of Education staff.

"This is part of a much larger body of work we've been engaged in since January," said SBOE president Joshua Michael.

"I want to be clear with the board, this is just the beginning," said State Superintendent Carey Wright. "

Wright said the policy work included finding out local statute on reading requirements and what other states were doing when they crafted strong student literacy policies.

The work also included getting parent and other stakeholder input as well.

"We are still seeking input," Wright said.

"This will be your first look at this but it will not be your last time that we'll have an opportunity to talk about this."

Local Superintendent J. Scott Smith said the policy, if eventually passed, would have a significant impact throughout the state.

"SMCPS must comply with state law, whether we agree or disagree," Smith said in a e-mail response to The County Times. "Using the current data the state has from their most recent ELA MCAP assessment for third grade, 50 percent of all students and 85 percent of students receiving special education services across the state of Maryland would be retained and that would present an unprecedented challenge."

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Appeals Board Approves California Apartment Complex



Artists rendering of Park Place Apartments

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county's Board of Zoning Appeals recently the concept site plan of a 160-apartment project in California known as Park Place Apartments, overturning a prior decision by the county's planning commission denying the plan.

The project is planned to be constructed on land behind the SAIC building and current Holiday Inn off of Route 235; four of the appeals board members in attendance at the July 25 business meeting voted to approve the concept site plan.

Only one, Ronald Payne, Sr., voted in opposition to it.

The project continued to garner community opposition at the latest hearing as it did back in March when first heard by the planning commission; many residents sending in comments to the county expressed worries over the apartment project causing even more traffic congestion and speeding.

There were even concerns from defense contractors working near the proposed location of the complex that their security

could be jeopardized by espionage activities using the apartment building as a base.

Christopher Longmore, attorney for the applicant, Park Place Units, LLC with developer John Parlett, argued in his appeal that the planning commission acted on evidence that was not in the record and thus ruled outside their authority.

The applicant's latest presentation also showed several improvements to the Shady Mile Drive/Route 235 intersection they argued would improve the traffic flow there.

The developer plans to remove signage at the westbound right turn lanes at the intersection to allow for the lane to function as an auxiliary lane to support the intersection farther north at Route 4, which is the busiest in the county.

This would allow motorists who want to turn on Route 4 to "separate from the mainline through traffic earlier, thus improving capacity in the existing three through lanes to westbound [Route] 235," according to the appellant's presentation.

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St. Mary's Braces For Heavy Rains

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The hurricane named Debby may now just be a tropical storm but is still dumping huge amounts of rain on the East Coast and St. Mary's County government is already providing bags and sand for residents to fill to help prevent expected flooding this coming weekend as the storm passes by.

News reports from Georgia and the Carolinas claim it has already brought life-threatening levels of flooding and the storm has been blamed for helping to cause six deaths already in Florida.

Gov. Wes Moore has already declared a state of preparedness in anticipation of the remnants of the storm; Virginia has already declared a state of emergency.

"The safety of Marylanders is our top priority," Moore said in a statement. "By

declaring a state of preparedness, I am directing the Department of Emergency Management to coordinate the comprehensive preparation of state government ahead of potential impacts from the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby.

"Residents and visitors should monitor local weather forecasts, remain vigilant, and be prepared to follow safety instructions from local emergency officials."

Projections from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) show St. Mary's and much of Southern Maryland could receive between two-to-four inches of rain over the next several days with concerns over flash flooding through to the end of the week.

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“YOU START TO ISOLATE AND YOU CAN'T DO THAT.”

FORMER COUNTY COMMISSIONER FRANCES EAGAN ON DEALING WITH LONELINESS AS A SENIOR CITIZEN.



LOCAL 3
State policy on 3rd graders looms



LOCAL 11
Man found dead in well after house fire



ON THE COVER
The Dyson family celebrates 70 years in the hardware and construction materials business

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MON, AUG 12	TUE, AUG 13	WED, AUG 14	THU, AUG 15
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