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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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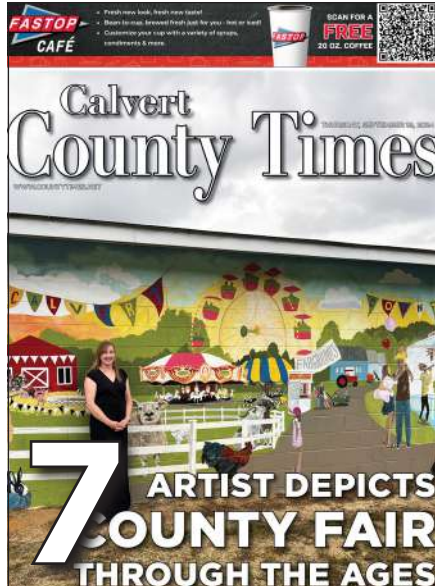
CHESAPEAKE BEACH ENGINEER WAYNE NEWTON ON THE NEW WATER PARK



LOCAL 3
Three options for CB water park



LOCAL 4
Community fights back on Lusby Villas



ON THE COVER
Arts Council of Calvert County recently unveiled Heather Holston's mural in honor of the county fair

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, SEP 19	FRI, SEP 20	SAT, SEP 21	SUN, SEP 22
Mostly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 60°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 61°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 61°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 60°
MON, SEP 23	TUE, SEP 24	WED, SEP 25	THU, SEP 26
Mostly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 59°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 62°	Showers Hi: 74° Lo: 63°	Showers Hi: 74° Lo: 62°



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Three Designs Proposed for New Chesapeake Beach Water Park

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Mayor and Town Council of Chesapeake Beach are mulling over three potential designs for the replacement of the water park. And they are seeking citizen comments on the designs.

The designs were unveiled at a Sept. 10 work session. Each involves leveling of the existing park, stabilizing the foundation, and constructing above ground amenities.

The designs were “based on citizen feedback and third-party geotechnical analysis,” according to a press release from the town.

The release said, “Each conceptual plan incorporates a rough order of magnitude (ROM) estimate of cost. These costs include \$1 million in required work to stabilize the subbase of the park and an estimated cost for varying water feature improvements. Based on this initial review costs range by design from \$5.5 to \$6 million.”

The three plans are as follows:

Concept #1 features new slides, a zero-entry pool, and interactive splash pad with slides. The ROM estimated cost is \$1 million in site stabilization and \$5 million in water elements totaling \$6 million.

Concept #2 features a lazy river, pool with zero entry, and interactive splash pad. The ROM estimated cost is \$1 million in site stabilization and \$4.5 million in water



Artist's renderings of one possible design for the new water park



elements, totaling \$5.5 million.

Concept #3 features two pools and an interactive splash pad with slides. The ROM estimated cost is \$1 million in site stabilization and \$4.5 million in water elements, totaling \$5.5 million.

Mayor Pat Mahoney said \$4 million of the \$6 million American Rescue and recovery Act monies received by the town would be available for the water park and an additional \$1 million has also been set aside.

Mahoney said, “If you had a 30-year-old Mercedes, you bought it brand new 29, 30 years ago, and it’s served you well. It’s been sitting out in the elements with the windows down 12 months a year on the Chesapeake

Bay. And it was unsafe for children. Would you dump money, or would you buy a brand-new Mercedes safe for your town, for your people, for your children who work there and go there? I think the answer’s obvious.”

In response to a question from Councilwoman Valerie Beaudin, Town Engineer Wayne Newton explained, “What you have under this waterpark are a series of piles and gray beams, which were driven down to 90 feet below gray when they built this thing. And those piles and gray beams have not moved, but all the dirt between them has; it’s all sunken. And that’s what the biggest issue we have is.”

He added, “So the plan here is to demolish the park, build a new subbase, even between the gray beams, if you will, build this thing on top of a parking deck. So, if you think of a parking garage, you have a concrete slab and build this on top of that. So, the idea is to fix the subbase by basically creating a flat surface, stabilize the flat surface for us to work on and build the park up from there.”

Beaudin, who is a candidate for mayor to replace Mahoney, who is not seeking re-election, said, “As I walk around town, the comments that I’m hearing, is really

twofold. One is something that children can use, young children. So, I think that would be the idea of the splash pads. And the other idea that I’m hearing consistently is something for the equipment of a small swimming pool area, if you will, that will allow for water exercise, swimming lessons. I’m not expecting an Olympic sized pool here, but laps of some sort. And so those are the two basic concepts that I’m hearing over and over — something for the kids.”

She added, “We know that the survey that was initially done, the number one item requested in that survey was a lazy river.”

Renderings of the three potential designs are available for viewing on the town website.

The town will hold an informal engagement session at town hall on Sept. 19 from 5:30-6:30 p.m., where citizens can ask questions of town staff and the town engineer. Additional modes of engagement with citizens include a survey issued by the town in the coming days and an engagement table at Taste the Beaches on Sept. 21 from 11-3 p.m. at Baia Coastal Kitchen and Wine Bar.

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Pedestrian Fatally Struck in Prince Frederick

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office has identified the victim of the fatal pedestrian crash on Church Street in Prince Frederick on Sept. 12. The deceased individual has been identified as Travis Gregory Pope, 36 of Prince Frederick.

On Sept. 12 at approximately 8:04 p.m., members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau and Crash Reconstruction Unit responded to the area of northbound Solomons Island Road and Church Street in Prince Frederick for the report of a motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian. A preliminary investigation indicates that a 2017 Hyundai Accent, operated by Asaun Jaziah Hudson, 23 of St. Leonard, was traveling north on Solomons Island Road approaching Church Street in Prince Frederick. A black

male was walking eastbound across Rt. 4 from Hallowing Point Road to Church Street. The Hyundai Accent struck the pedestrian causing serious injuries. The male was transported to Calvert Health Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased. Hudson was not injured in the crash.

Initial findings indicate that speed was not a factor in the collision, however, alcohol does appear to be a contributing factor with the pedestrian.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or events leading up to it is asked to please contact DFC Daily at Michael. Daily@calvertcountymd.gov or 410-535-2800. Please reference case 24-70790.

Press Release from CCSO.

New Community Group to Fight Lusby Villas Project

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

In the wake of the Calvert County Planning Commission's approval last month of the 276-unit apartment project called Lusby Villas, a new non-profit community organization has been formed that will attempt to overturn the decision. Called Save Lusby, Inc., the organization intends to file suit against the planning commission and the county.

The officers of Save Lusby, Inc. are: Sean McGuire, president; Terry Singer, vice president; Megan and Kyle Farringer, secretary/co-secretary, and Chris Lee Jr., treasurer.

The new organization's Articles of Incorporation say, "Said organization is organized exclusively to promote social welfare and further the common good and general welfare of the people of Calvert County as set forth in Section 501C(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code through active participation in the planning process, including but not limited to the 2019 Comprehensive Plan and citizen recommendations and advocacy in Calvert County, ensuring that Calvert County growth and development conforms with the current federal, state and local ordinances under sustainability guidelines throughout the planning, zoning, growth and development of Calvert County, recognized as the smallest, most fragile Maryland county. The organization encourages public participation by citizens/taxpayers in the Calvert County Planning and Zoning process and to inform the public regarding all such matters."

A white paper prepared by Save Lusby, Inc. outlines why they feel the Memorandum of Understanding approved in 2005 by the planning commission for the property in Lusby owned by the Gott family is defective.

The white paper says, "Lusby residents became aware of the 276-unit complex only four months prior for the vote to approve being ramrodded through the Planning Commission."

The group formed during a meeting on Sept. 5. In a letter to the Editor, Singer said, "On September 5, numerous Lusby citizens met at the Southern Community Center in Lusby to formerly form a group in order to



Artist's rendering of proposed Lusby Villas project

combat the construction of the 276-unit apartment building known as the Lusby Villas.

"Although the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and the Calvert County Planning Commission have already approved the construction of Lusby Villas, the group that met on September 5 have strong concerns regarding the legality of the approval of both the County Commissioners and the Planning Commission.

The letter goes on to say, "The Save Lusby, Inc. case against the two county organizations stems from three issues. First, there exists a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commissioners and John Gott that is 20 years old and has some gaps in it that have gone unexplained.

"Second, there was a member of the Planning Commission for the past five years, Lisa Williams, who held a real estate license the entire time she sat on the Commission. By Maryland state law, she was required to state that she is licensed Maryland real estate agent before votes on any issue.

"Third, the Planning Commission approved the Lusby Villas project with a traffic study that was five years old. Calvert County requires the study be no older than three years.

"In addition, at a public hearing of the county commissioners and at two public meetings of the planning commission, at least 60 people attended and at least 30 got

up and gave legitimate reasons why the project should not be approved. For example, it would put an extreme on the schools, the sanitation and water systems, the traffic in the town center.

"The Calvert County web site, regarding the Lusby Villas states: 'The county conducts comprehensive adequate public facilities (APF) studies for each new development. APF regulations are designed to ensure that public infrastructure, such as roads, schools, and emergency services, are sufficient to meet the needs of new devel-

opments. It requires that these facilities are in place, and adequate, or designed as part of the proposed development before new development is approved.'

"With all the negative voices at the open meetings, I find it hard to believe that the studies have been completed, as nothing has been told to the public how the facilities that I've mentioned are going to be improved to meet the demand placed on them by the construction of 276 apartments."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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It's Fair Time

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Since 1886, the Calvert County Fair has been the social highlight of many people's calendars. According to the fair board, "This yearly event starts every last weekend of September. We have been organizing the fair for 136 years, facilitating fun and educational events and activities that you and your loved ones will love.

"Under the direction and promotion of Mr. John Drury, who started what is now known as the Extension Service in Calvert County, the fair grew more popular. Then, during the First World War, the area came upon leaner times, and farming became crucial to the war efforts. So little was done in those years to promote fairs.

"For some years, county fairs were not largely promoted until a new agricultural agent arrived in Calvert. Mr. John Morsell, a county agent and an enthusiastic young man from the Agricultural Department of the University of Maryland, decided to hold a fair again. This came after he saw a need to bring farmers and their families together for educational purposes and fun.

"During the twenties and early thirties, he encouraged farmers to participate, and the fair eventually evolved into the major event that we enjoy today. They organized the Calvert County Farm Bureau during this time, and the members also saw the benefits of holding a fair annually.

"It was their foresight in producing the fair and their decision to make the farm exhibits

bigger and better. They held the event in the center of the county in the latter part of the summer to allow and encourage more farmers to participate since they are mostly done harvesting their crops during these times.

"The first mid-county fair was held at the Prince Frederick Town Hall, with the livestock show on the grounds of Dr. Everett Briscoe's farm just south of the hall. In subsequent years, it was held in front of the Evans Hotel, the Town Hall on Main Street, the Roberts' property, and later on the school grounds, which is now the site of Calvert Middle School.

"The Calvert County Fair Board, Inc. was officially established in 1940 as an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) entity. Since then, its purpose has been to provide agricultural education and promote the local farming community.

"Also, in 1940, several Farm Bureau members—including Mr. Morsell, Mr. Ellis Bowen, and Mr. Claude Turner—determined that the fair needed a permanent home. They contacted a bank for a loan and personally obligated themselves to purchase a permanent site for the fair. Mr. Ellis Bowen, who was then President of the Farm Bureau, resigned from this position to become the first Fair Board President.

"They purchased a nine-acre site from Mr. Duke Brightwell, located on what later became known as Armory Road. Two more parcels were added later as the fair grew, bringing the total acreage to 12. Cattle and animal buildings were built as well as a larger hall. The cattle buildings later

burned mysteriously the night before a fair, but the large exhibition hall survived. These grounds were used until the present location was established in Barstow.

"The Calvert County Fair Board, Inc. continues striving each year to build upon the work begun by those early fair organizers. It is operated by an 18-member Board of Directors, 18 associate directors, and several honorary members who aim to hold an event that educates and entertains, reminds the current generation of its agricultural roots, and promotes the importance of the agricultural community in the lives of all."

Even though the fair doesn't officially open until Thursday, Sept. 26, there are a number of pre-events starting on Sunday, Sept. 22 with the Miss Tranquility Pageant and Lord Calvert Contest at 2:30 in the fair auditorium.

Events early in fair week include:

- Monday, Sept. 23 — Adult Entry Day (including baked goods) from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Youth and 4-H Register in the Youth Building from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. All must be registered by 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 24 — 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Baked Goods will be received (Adults only) Please include 3x5 recipe card. 10 a.m. judging begins 12-8 p.m. Poultry & livestock entries received Pre-registration required. No early livestock arrivals permitted

Wednesday, Sept. 25 is Feed the Needy Night. You can enter the fair for \$1 or a 14 oz. or larger can of food.

On Wednesday, entertainment will be performing at various times throughout the day,



Historical fair photo

including Wheels of AG & Trivia Tractor, Odyssey Mobile Axe Throwing, Odyssey Mobile Archery, Chesapeake Blade and Tool, and Rock'N Rol Pet Store MD. The Agricultural Showcase trailer will be open at 5 p.m.

Carnival Sneak Preview Night will be Wednesday until 9 p.m. Exhibit buildings close at 10 p.m.

Thursday at the fair is senior citizen and special needs day. Friday is Youth Day. Saturday and Sunday are filled with fun events.

The County Times will have the complete schedule in next week's edition.

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Dive in and 'Taste the Beaches'



Taste the Beaches Event Map

Get ready to immerse yourself in the flavors of the Chesapeake Beach at Taste the Beaches, an annual event that promises a day of culinary delights, community spirit, and breathtaking bay views.

Come on out on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Baia Coastal Kitchen and Wine Bar in Chesapeake Beach. Taste the Beaches is a free, festival-themed annual event that highlights a local brick and mortar business while bringing the Town of Chesapeake Beach together. The event is funded through the Town's longtime commitment to Economic Development as approved by town council under the leadership of Councilman Larry Jaworski, the Chair of the Town of Chesapeake Beach Economic Development Committee.

The annual celebration of local businesses features distinct flavors, drinks, crafts, and live entertainment! Jason Nagers, the owner of Baia Coastal Kitchen and Wine Bar, joins the town in welcoming everyone as the host of this year's Taste the Beaches, giving you a taste of what to expect: "Baia Coastal Kitchen and Wine Bar is excited to be the host site for this year's Taste the Beaches event! Make your way around our property, tasting samples sponsored by the www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov Town of Chesapeake Beach from some of our favorite dishes, like our signature burrata toast, which can be found on the rooftop next to our "Spritz Bar."

Down on the main level is where you will find favorites such as ricotta gnocchi and lamb meatballs, just to name a few. Looking for sweets? Look no further than the warm zeppole donuts next to the espresso martini bar!

Wine tastings, live music, and fresh-shucked oysters are other reasons to spend the afternoon experiencing the Town of Chesapeake Beach.

Free samples from Baia will be made available by the Town of Chesapeake Beach and Chesapeake Beach water man, Bobby

Abner of Abner's Crab House, who will be sponsoring fresh-shucked oyster samples free to guests.

Specialty drinks and menu options will be available from Baia throughout the restaurant and outside as the lot overlooking the Chesapeake Bay is transformed into a local festival.

Enjoy live music from the Ryan Forrester Band, shop local businesses and artisans, including North Beach Soap, LLC, Baked by the Bay, Christopher James Candy, Jack & Juni Boutique, AllyCatWalk, Chesapeake Bounty, and more.

Spend some time with Chesapeake Windsail Cruises and Grape Therapy.

Get ready to cheer on Mayor Mahoney as he battles Mayor Benton in the Twin Beach crab race! Visit with the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society, Chesapeake Beach Green Team, Bayside History Museum, Bayside Baptist Church, and many others! With activities for all ages, from face painting and yard games to beer on tap and locally sourced food, this celebration of the Twin Beaches is genuinely one-of-a-kind.

The event also provides an opportunity to engage with the town. Seeking to hear more about plans for improvements to the Chesapeake Beach Water Park? Stop www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov by the Town of Chesapeake Beach table to view plans for improvements to the water park and to provide feedback.

There will be plenty of free parking for the event thanks to a partnership with the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department (8536 Bayside Rd.), as well as shuttle service from the Kellam's Field Complex (3825 Gordon Stinnett Ave.). The shuttle will run throughout the event.

Visit the town's Event Page for the most up to date information and be sure to follow us at @TOCBEvents and @tastethebeaches.

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New Mural Unveiled at County Fairgrounds



The Arts Council of Calvert County and the Calvert Fair Board enlisted the services of Sunderland resident Heather Holland to paint a mural depicting the Calvert County Fair's rural heritage and rich history. The mural can be seen at the Calvert County Fair September 26-30.

2024 Community Needs Assessment Published

The Calvert County Family Network (CCFN) has released its 2024 Community Needs Assessment, focusing on the well-being of children, youth and families. This comprehensive report examines local data in relation to Maryland's Eight Results for Child Well-Being, which include: Babies Born Healthy, Healthy Children, Children Enter School Ready to Learn, Children are Successful in School, Youth will Complete School, Youth have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness, Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families, and Families are Economically Stable. The findings from this assessment will serve as a foundation for CCFN's five-year community plan. By incorporating community input, this strategic plan will outline targeted initiatives to address key areas of need, driving improvements in overall well-being.

"The assessment gives us a clear picture of what the community needs, which helps us plan better services for kids, teens, and families in the county," said Community Resources Director Jennifer Moreland. "This data shows us the key areas where support is

most crucial, so we can make sure resources go where they'll make the biggest difference."

The 2024 Community Needs Assessment can be viewed online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/CommunityNeedsAssessment.

CCFN is Calvert County's Local Management Board (LMB). LMBs operate in each Maryland jurisdiction, partnering with local leaders, public and private agencies and businesses to build communities where all children, youth and families can thrive. For more information about the Calvert County Family Network, visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/CCFN. To contact the Family Network Coordinator, call 410-414-5997.

Learn about other resources and community partners on the Department of Community Resources Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CalvertCommunityResources.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of September 2, 2024 – September 8, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,887 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health 64
- Disorderly 15
- Domestic Violence 27
- Motor Vehicle Crashes 36
- Patrol Checks / School Checks 891
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles 30
- Traffic Complaints 80
- 911 Hang Ups 53
- ARRESTS 40



Keith David Hebbard

Keith David Hebbard, 41 of Lusby, a significant odor of an alcoholic beverage was emitting from Hebbard's person. Hebbard advised he did not possess a driver's license and had two knives in his pockets. Deputies observed a loaded handgun magazine, a Glock 48 9mm handgun, and an opened bottle of Bacardi in plain view. A vehicle search revealed 132 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 7 shotgun shells, 6 open and empty liquor bottles, a Glock 48 9mm handgun, one magazine containing 9 rounds of 9mm ammunition, one Smith and Wesson magazine with 13 rounds of 9mm ammunition, a cut straw with a white powdery residue (suspected cocaine) and \$852.00 in US currency. Hebbard was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Handgun in a Vehicle, Illegal Possession of Ammunition, Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm, DWI, Concealing a Dangerous Weapon, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia,

CDS Violation:

24-67918 On September 2, 2024, Deputy Sylver initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding in the area of Rt. 4 and Calvert Beach Road in St. Leonard.

Upon making contact with the driver,

and other traffic related charges.



William George Parker

William George Parker, 39 of Prince Frederick, who had been indefinitely trespassed from the establishment. Parker then walked over to the Fastop located at 4990 St. Leonard Road. While speaking with Parker, a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was emitting from his person. Parker was advised to vacate the property of the Fastop as they do not allow loitering. Parker refused to obey the deputy's commands and was placed into custody. Parker was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Failure to Obey a Lawful Order and Intoxicated Public Disturbance.



Jayvion Marquise Buck

revealed multiple subjects were screaming and acting disorderly. Staff members on the scene were attempting to disperse the crowd. DFC Crum observed a male yelling at school staff members and aggressively assaulting them. The male later identified as **Jayvion Marquise Buck**, 18 of Lusby, was advised to leave the premises but continued to yell profanities in front of multiple bystanders attending the football

Disorderly

Conduct: 24-68806

On September 5, 2024, Cpl. Bowlan responded to the Tavern located at 4975 St. Leonard Road in St. Leonard, for the report of trespassing. Contact was made with

and other traffic related charges.

Disorderly:

24-69095

On September 6, 2024, DFC Crum responded to Calvert High School located at 520 Fox Run Blvd. in Prince Frederick, for the report of a fight in progress. Investigation

revealed multiple subjects were screaming and acting disorderly. Staff members on the scene were attempting to disperse the crowd. DFC Crum observed a male yelling at school staff members and aggressively assaulting them. The male later identified as **Jayvion Marquise Buck**, 18 of Lusby, was advised to leave the premises but continued to yell profanities in front of multiple bystanders attending the football

game. Due to the Buck's statements and disorderly conduct, he was placed into custody. Buck was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct.

Damaged Property: 24-68133

On September 3, 2024, Master Deputy Wilder responded to the 600 block of Clubhouse Drive in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between February 1 and September 3, an unknown suspect(s) tried to pry open the victim's sliding glass door. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Damaged Property: 24-68440

On September 4, 2024, Deputy Baxter responded to the 12800 block of Lake View Drive in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised that sometime between 7 p.m. on September 3 and 12 p.m. September 4, an unknown suspect(s) shattered the back window of the victim's vehicle while parked in the driveway of the residence. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500.

Theft: 24-68150

On September 3, 2024, DFC Plant responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, located at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant advised sometime between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole the victim's rear vehicle tag while parked at the Sunderland Park & Ride, located at 6425 N Solomons Island Rd in Sunderland. The estimate value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 24-68446

On September 4, 2024, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the 6300 block of 15th Street in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a hit and run. The complainant advised an unknown suspect struck a vehicle parked in the victim's driveway and stole the front registration plate causing minor front end damage. The estimated value of damaged and stolen property is \$300.

Theft: 24-69070 On September 6, 2024, DFC Grierson responded to Giant located at 11740 Rousby Hall Road in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect walked past all points of sale without paying for items in the suspect's grocery cart. The suspect can be described as a white female wearing a pink tank top, black leggings, and black heels. The estimated value of stolen items is \$852.

Theft: 24-69135

On September 6, 2024, DFC T. Bowen responded to Fastop located at 8834 Chesapeake Ave in North Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect entered the store and attempted to purchase an 18-pack of Twisted Tea. The clerk scanned the male's ID and advised she could not sell him the alcohol because he was under 21. The male then fled the store with the Twisted Tea and got into a gray Honda with VA tags. The estimated value of stolen property is \$20.

Trespassing: 24-67922

On September 2, 2024, Deputy Deinert responded to the Safeway located at 80 West Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a trespassing. Upon arrival, contact was made with **Antoinette Lajuan Montgomery**, 60 of Prince Frederick. Montgomery had been previously trespassed from the property. Montgomery was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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

Fentanyl Dealer Sentenced

Michael Patrick Hering, 40, of Prince Frederick, on Sept. 16 entered a guilty plea in Calvert County Circuit Court to the charge of CDS distribution (Fentanyl) large volume. Hering was sentenced by Judge Mark S. Chandlee to 20 years imprisonment suspended to 5 years without the possibility of parole.

Based upon an investigation conducted by the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU), a court-ordered search warrant was obtained for Hering's residence. The warrant was executed on February 27, 2024. During the search, detectives recovered approximately 9 grams of Fentanyl, a schedule II controlled dangerous substance, pressed into blue counterfeit 30 mg. Oxycodone pills.



Michael Patrick Hering

State's Attorney Robert Harvey wishes to commend members of the DEU and Senior Assistant State's Attorney Lee Ann Bell for their outstanding work on this case.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney

Lusby Man Sentenced for Sex Abuse of a Minor

Theodore Frederick Harris, 65 of Lusby on Sept. 3, received a sentence of 18 years in prison from Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee. Harris was convicted of two charges involving sexual abuse of a minor.

In February 2023, a child reported instances of sexual abuse to her mother. The mother reported it to the authorities. A joint investigation by Child Protective Services and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office developed Harris as the suspect. Harris was interviewed by Detective Buck of the Sheriff's Office and ultimately admitted to the abuse. When the details became known, a second victim came forward and reported that Harris had abused her when she was a child.

Harris faces an additional 12 years of



Theodore Frederick Harris

prison time. He will be on five years of supervised probation upon release and will be required to register as a sex offender for life.

This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney

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, Sep 19

Lawyers in the Library

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

Need help with an expungement? Have civil legal questions? Meet briefly with an attorney at the library to get hands-on help. Types of issues include: Bankruptcy, Child custody, Divorce, Expungement (removing convictions from criminal records), Foreclosure, Government benefits, Landlord/tenant, Wills/tenants. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Sep 21

Bird Walk—World Migratory Bird Day

Chesapeake Beach Rail Trail
7-9 a.m.

All ages and abilities are encouraged to join local naturalists, Calvert County Parks and Recreation, and North Beach staff who will lead a relaxing and slow-paced morning of bird watching at the Chesapeake Beach Railway and Calvert County Birding Trail. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Garden Smarter: Toads & Fairy House

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

Learn a little about toads and how to create a fairy house for them. The program will be held in the Makerspace which allows ages 8 years and older with an adult. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Taste the Beaches

Chesapeake Beach
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Taste the Beaches is a festival-themed free

event sponsored by the Town of Chesapeake Beach to highlight local food, drinks, artists and businesses. The Town of Chesapeake Beach hosts the event at no cost to guests, moving the event each year at a hosting local restaurant to showcase all that the Town has to offer! This year's event will feature live music from the Ryan Forrester band, free samples from our local restaurants sponsored by the Town of Chesapeake Beach, drinks and fun for the whole family!

Artsfest '24 Fine Arts Festival

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons

Celebrate the visual and performing arts with 170+ artists booths, 40+ performers on four stages, activities for kids, and more! Food and drink will be available for purchase. Advanced tickets purchase online, \$10/person (\$12 at the gate, if not sold out), kids 11 & under free; members free.

Village Days

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard
10:00 a.m.-3 p.m.

This free drop-in event inside our Woodland Indian Village provides hands-on instruction on various topics including pottery, baskets, stone tools, fire, and hunting. This program is generously supported by the Friends of JPP

World Migratory Bird Celebration

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

This event highlights the importance of conserving migratory birds and their habitats. Enjoy a day filled with learning and fun, including activities for children and tweens, local environmental booths, and talks by naturalists and authors. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

How to Save the Bees

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

Hear expert Sam Droege of the U.S. Geological Survey, explain the best plantings to make your yard bee-friendly! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fiber Fiends: Knitting and Crocheting

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

Get together with other fiber crafters to learn or develop your skills. Work on projects in progress or start something new! Registration requested. BYOY! (Bring Your Own Yarn!) 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Sep 22

Claws for Paws

Abner's Crab House
Chesapeake Beach
2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

Benefit Humane Society [f Calvert County; Aall you can eat crabs for \$60 a person. Includes 1 one order of hush puppies per person, soda, tea, water. Cash bar available. 50/50 drawing and raffle items. Tickets available at humanesocietyofcalvertcounty.org

90th Anniversary Democratic Women's Club

Christ Church Parish
3100 Broomes Island Rd, Port Republic
2-4 p.m.

Please join us for the Calvert Democratic Women's Club 90th Anniversary Celebration! Meet and mingle with local Democrats as we celebrate the founding of one of the oldest Democratic women's clubs

in the country. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. Please register at calvertdemwomen.com/event-5826487

Wine & Design Fundraiser

Kids Art Skool
301 Steeple Chase Dr, Prince Frederick
4-6 p.m.

Join us for a fun evening of creativity and camaraderie! MAEVE Northern Calvert has partnered with Kids Art Skool to bring you a Wine & Design night where you can unleash your inner artist. This event is open to the public and a portion of proceeds goes to support MAEVE Northern Calvert's philanthropic work Ages 21 and up, BYOB. Registration/tickets: www.kidsartskool.com/service-page/maeve-fundraiser

Wed, Sep 25

Dine Out One Maryland One Book Discussion

Heritage 485
6-8 p.m.

Join us this month for a discussion of *What Storm, What Thunder* by Myriam J.A. Chancy. Dinner will be at 6pm at Heritage 485 and discussion will begin at 7pm. The whole state is being asked to read and discuss this book as the One Maryland One Book initiative. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Ongoing

Calvert County Fair

Calvert County Fairgrounds
140 Calvert Fair Dr., Prince Frederick
Sept. 25-29.

Come on our and join the fun at the Calvert County Fair! See website for daily schedule. <https://calvertcountyfair.com/>

Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay
General Manager
Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net
Advertising
Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net
Staff Writers
Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net
Contributing Writers
Ron Guy, Ken Lamb, Shelby Opperman,
Dave Spigler

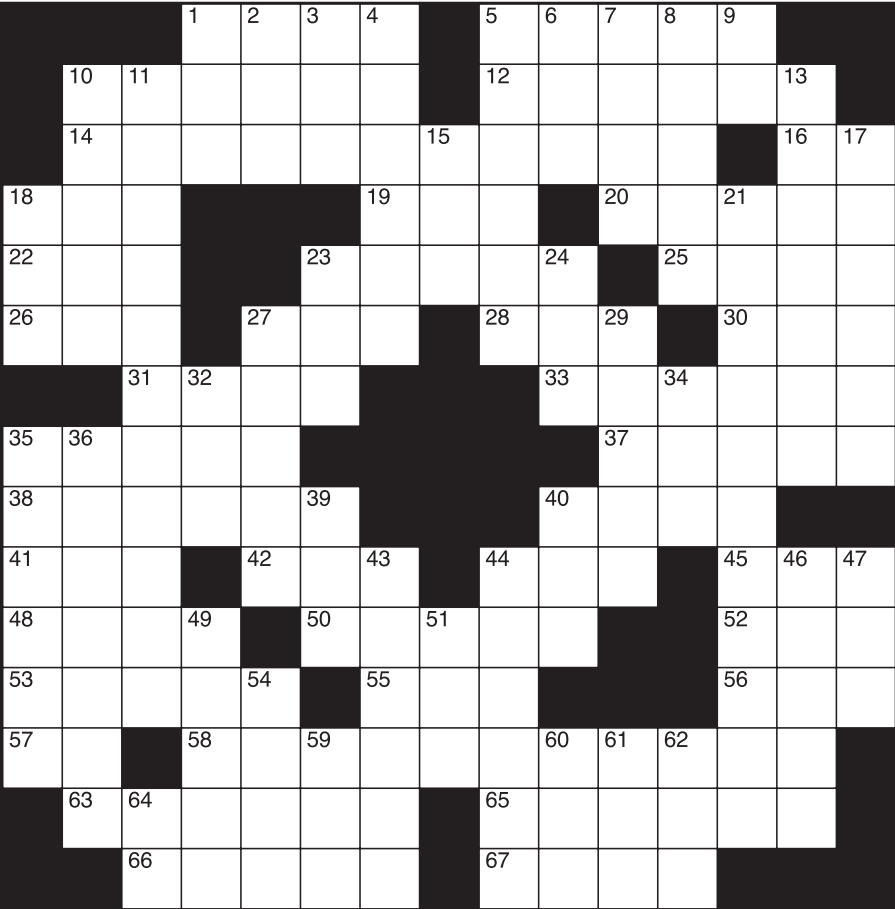
The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies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

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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



CLUES ACROSS

1. Wrest
5. Russian river
10. Grupo Montparnasse founder
12. One who quits prematurely
14. Related to the nature of being
16. Early multimedia
18. Indigenous Tibetan religion
19. Tease
20. J.M. ___, Irish dramatist
22. Pounds per square inch
23. Surrendered
25. Notable Dallas Cowboy Leon
26. Dash
27. Man who behaves dishonorably
28. British Air Aces
30. Data executive
31. Spiritual leader
33. Flower cluster
35. Of the cheek
37. Tears down
38. Uncoordinated
40. Touches lightly
41. Soak
42. Founder of Babism
44. Not good
45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
48. Type of casino game
50. Skills assessments for adults
52. Check
53. Gives a job
55. Fifth note of a major scale
56. Small, faint constellation
57. Thou
58. Reduce
63. Another recording
65. Removes for good
66. Jill and Catherine are two
67. Cruise

CLUES DOWN

1. Greenwich Time
2. Metropolis
3. Complete
4. Scheduled
5. One who obeys
6. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
7. Days (Spanish)
8. Unsaturated hydrocarbon radical
9. Region of the U.S. (abbr.)
10. Tributary of the Alabama River
11. One who eliminates
13. Ballroom music
15. Officer in the Book of Mormon
17. Denies
18. Barrels per day (abbr.)
21. Make vital
23. Former NFLer Newton
24. Kashmiri tribe
27. Indigenous S. American person
29. Capacitance unit
32. MLB great Scherzer
34. Taxi
35. Boggy
36. Artist's workroom
39. Feline
40. Prosecutors
43. Freshwater perches
44. Young ladies
46. Whittles
47. Licensed for Wall Street
49. Type of gene
51. Express displeasure
54. Fly high
59. Norwegian krone
60. Investment account
61. Chinese surname
62. Language
64. By the way (abbr.)

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			7		1		9	
1			9	2	6			

SEPTEMBER 12 SOLUTIONS

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					S	O	O	T	I	E	R
					S	O	N	N	E	T	S
					A	R	T	E	R	Y	
					G	E	R	M	E	R	
					A	L	A	E			

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

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Roast
Beef

11.98 Lb.



Kretschmar
Colby Jack
Cheese

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6-Ct.
Apple Cider Or Glazed
Pumpkin Donuts

2.48



10-In.
Baked
Apple Pie

8.98



8-In. Pumpkin Or
Baked
Sweet Potato Pie

5.48



Liquor and Beer

12-Oz., Cans
30-Pack
Michelob Ultra

29.99



12-Oz. Bottles
18-Pack
Coors Light

15.99



10-Oz. Cans
24-Pack
Bud Light

21.49



12-Oz. Bottles
18-Pack
Miller Lite

14.99



12-Oz. Bottles
12-Pack
Corona Extra

18.99



12-Oz., Cans
4-Pack
Cutwater Cocktails

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1.75L
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Whiskey

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1.75L
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Gold Or Silver

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1.75L, Original
Malibu Rum

21.99



1.75mL
Seagram's
VO Whiskey

19.49



1.75L
Smirnoff
#21 Vodka

18.99



1.75L
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Canadian Whiskey

42.99



1.75L
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Vodka

47.99



1.75L
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Vodka

27.99



1.75 ML.
Evan Williams
Whiskey

25.99



1.75L
Makers Mark
Bourbon whiskey

48.99



1.75L
Tanqueray
Gin

36.99



750-mL
Benriach
12 Year

72.99



750mL.
Pinhook High Proof
Rye Munny

49.99



750mL.
Pinhook 8 Year
Bourbondini War

69.99



750mL
Seaglass
Riesling

9.99



750mL
Excelsior
Sauvignon Blanc

9.49



750mL
Presidential
Porto Towny

10.49



750mL
Kim Crawford
Rose

13.99



750mL
Chandon
Brut

22.99



750mL
Rabble
Red wine

16.99



750mL
Director's Cut
Pino Noir

16.99



750mL
Sterling Vintner's
Collection
Pinot Grigio

10.99



750mL
Casillero Del Diablo
Chardonnay

10.99



750mL
Wente
Sandstone Merlot

14.99



Wine of the Month

750mL., Sauvignon Blanc, Rosado,
Cabernet Sauvignon,
Product of Spain
Boyal Wines

6.99



St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Sep 20

Fall Bazaar 2024—Craft & Vendor Sale

Northern Senior Activity Center
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd., Charlotte Hall
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Our seniors are back with more unique items to sell. The shopping possibilities are endless! Find some Halloween/Thanksgiving/Christmas décor. Great opportunity to buy gifts for a loved one. Support local merchants. Invite your family & friends to shop with you—this event is open to the public. No registration is needed to attend. See you there!

Sat, Sep 21

Widow/Widower Group

45220 Flintlock Ct., Hollywood

10 a.m. to noon

Join us to gain support, practical advice and understanding! We have all been where you are and would love to share with you our experiences and compassion. No matter how long since your loss, if you have lost your husband or wife, you are welcome! We look forward to meeting you! If you have questions, please email: Frankiemiller61@aol.com.

Commissioner Ostrow Town Hall Meeting

BDVFD Hall
46900 S Shangri-La Dr., Lexington Park
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Come out and join me for another informative town hall meeting. Please come talk to me about any concerns you have in the community, and find out what your commissioner has accomplished for St. Mary's.

Poker at HVRS

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
43256 Rescue Ln., Hollywood
6 p.m.

Texas Hold'Em at Hollywood Vol Rescue Squad. \$85.00 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 5 pm, tournament starts at 6pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase.

See www.hvrs.org for more info. Chance at 50/50 included in your buy-in. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided. Late Entries permitted until 1st break, approx. 7 pm cut off. No rebuys allowed.

****PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS AT THE RESCUE SQUAD, NOT THE FIRE HOUSE****

Sun, Sep 22

Family and Friends Day Celebration

First Missionary Baptist Church
46370 Pegg Ln., Lexington Park
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Let's Celebrate! First Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Roderick W. McClanahan, invite you to our Family and Friends Celebration on Sunday, September 22, 2024, during our 10:00am Divine Worship Service. The theme for the celebration is 'Rooted in God's Love'. The guest preacher for the occasion will be Rev. Dr. DeCarlo Coley, Kent Baptist Church, Greater Landover, MD.

The Celebration will be In-House and Virtually. The virtual phone number is 617-691-8533 or virtual meeting ID: join.freeconferencecall.com/fmbc0. Masks are optional, temperatures will be taken upon entry, and hand sanitizer will be available.



ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



One Maryland One Book: What Storm, What Thunder Discussion & Mini Book Craft

Each year, thousands of Marylanders come together to read the same book. Come ready to discuss this year's selection on making a better world for tomorrow and make a keychain to remember it by at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, September 21 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. This year's One Maryland One Book selection, chosen by Maryland Humanities for the theme of "restorative futures," is *What Storm, What Thunder* by Myriam J. A. Chancy. You can find a physical copy of the book in our catalog or download a digital copy on Libby or Hoopla. Come ready to discuss the book and its themes with other community members from various backgrounds. During the discussion, we will make a miniature book keychain to commemorate your participation in this year's One Maryland One Book program and serve as a reminder to do what you can to help others and better our community and the world. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Book Tasting at the Charlotte Hall Library

Join us for a delicious Book Tasting

at the Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, September 24 from 6 - 8 p.m. Indulge your literary palate at our Book Tasting! This unique event offers a delightful opportunity to sample a variety of books across different genres. Whether you're an avid reader or just looking to discover something new, this event promises to spark your interest and inspire your next great read. Register on www.stmalib.org.

First Time Homebuyers

Looking to buy your first home, but don't know where to start? Join Amy Scott, Broker/Owner with OE Realty, to learn more about the buying process: what to expect, how to prepare, and first-time buyer loan options that can stretch your dollar. Leonardtown Library, Tuesday, September 24 from 6 - 7 p.m. Come ask us the hard questions! Register on www.stmalib.org.

St. Mary's County Court Help Clinic

The St. Mary's County Circuit Court offers a free Family Law Self Help Legal Clinic to provide legal assistance/advice regarding family law. Come for a one-on-one session with an attorney to discuss matters such as custody, visitation, divorce, child support, name change, guardianship, and domestic violence.

Lexington Park Library, Wednesday, September 25 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. First Come First Serve. No appointments - walk-ins only.

Headshots at the Library

Get a FREE headshot photo taken at Leonardtown Library! Thursday, September 26, appointments between 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Headshots are a unique service for entrepreneurs, nonprofit professionals, job seekers, and more. Use your digital photos to enhance your professional portfolio and make your LinkedIn profile stand out among the selfies! Registrants will receive a set of FREE digital high quality headshots. Recommended attire includes neutral colors and to avoid clothing with logos. By appointment only. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Mid-Autumn Festival

Learn about the Mid-Autumn Festivals celebrated in Vietnam, China, Korea, and Japan! Join us at the Leonardtown Library on Saturday, September 28 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. to learn about the Mid-Autumn Festivals that take place all throughout Asia! We're hosting a belated celebration for the following:

- Vietnamese Tết Trung Thu
- Chinese Moon/Mooncake Festival

- Korean Chuseok
- Japanese Tsukimi

Families are welcome! No registration is required.

Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden: Citizen Science

Would you like to create a habitat for hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators? Turn your lawn and garden into a place pollinators will return to again and again. Saturday, September 28 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the Lexington Park Library, Susan Polsky, of The Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers (ASMB), will share tips on designing a space outside your home that is inviting to pollinators. From growing native plants, water sources, insecticides, plants to avoid, and more! When you join us, don't be shy about asking questions specific to your garden. Embrace the journey of creating a garden paradise for pollinators, and witness the vibrant, dynamic beauty it brings to your outdoor space. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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CATCH *the* SAVINGS

Certified Angus Beef
Boneless Beef
Shoulder Roast

5.98 Lb.

73% Lean, 10L-b Chub
Or Family Pack

Fresh
Ground Beef

3.48 Lb.

1-Piece, Frozen
Baby Back
Ribs

2.98 Lb.

Certified Angus Beef
Boneless
Shoulder Steaks

6.98 Lb.

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

2.98



5-Lb. Bag
Party
Wings

12.40

12-Oz. Reg. Or Thick
Sugardale
Sliced Bacon

2.98



Butcher's Best
Boneless
Beef Stew

5.98 Lb.

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

4.98



26 To 30-Ct.
Texas
Gulf Shrimp

6.99 Lb.

35, 13-Oz.
Tastee Choice
Seafood Boil

12.00



16-Oz.
Nature's Best
Tilapia Fillets

4.98



1-Lb.
Pasteurized Lump
Crab Meat

15.99



Fresh
Salmon
Fillets

9.99 Lb.



2-Lb. Bag, Red/Golden
Or Gala
Washington
State Apples

2/\$5

5-Lb. Bag
All Purpose
White Potatoes

2/\$5

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Hot House Grown
Tomatoes
On The Vine

1.48 Lb.

11-Oz.
Fresh Express
American Blend

2/\$6



3.5-Oz., Fresh
MR.B's
Cotton Candy

2/\$4



Old-Fashioned, Fresh
Cherry Candy
Or Caramel
Apples With Nuts

2/\$4

FAMILY FAVORITES



12 To 16-Oz., Selected
Kraft
Singles

4.78



12-Oz., Selected
Lawry's Signature
Marinade

2/\$7



46-Oz., Selected
Turkey Hill
Ice Cream

2/\$7



12 To 14-Oz., Selected
Success
Rice

1.98



5 To 8-Oz., Selected
Sargento
Shredded Cheese

2/\$5



15.5-Oz., Selected
Hanover
Canned Beans

5/\$5



11.7-Oz., Selected
Pillsbury
Toaster Strudels

2.98



8 To 13.7-Oz., Selected
Nabisco Crackers
2/\$7
DIGITAL COUPON
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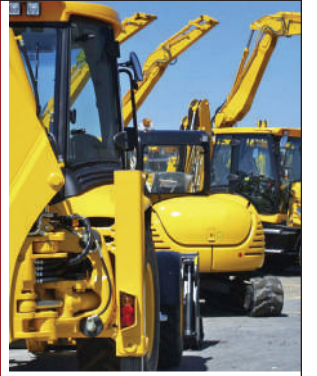


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Saturday, September 21 PARADE DAY

- 8:00 AM** Open Class livestock show (SR)
- 9:00 AM** Exhibit buildings open
- 9:00 AM** Fair Parade Registration begins (Tech Center)
- 10:00 AM** Carnival opens
- 10:30 AM** "The Star Spangled Banner" by Leonardtown High School Chamber Choirs — Kyle Teston, Director
- 10:30 AM** Fair Parade
- 11:00 AM** Amateur Class Jousting Tournament (GS)
- 12:30 PM** Leonardtown High School Orchestra — John Oplinger, Director (PAV)
- 1:00 PM** Grand Jousting Parade and Professional Class Jousting Tournament
- 1:00 PM** 4-H Visual Presentation Contest (4-H)
- 1:30 PM** David Dent Stuffed Ham Demonstration
- 2:00 PM** Southern Maryland Concert Band (PAV)
- 6:00 PM** 4-H Livestock Auction (SR)
- 6:00 PM** Bicycle Drawing (OF)
- 6:30 PM** Suttler Post Clydesdales Demonstration (GS)
- 7:00 PM** Heavy Weight Horse Pull (GS)]
- 9:00 PM** Exhibit buildings close
- 10:00 PM** Carnival closes

Pig Races: 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM (times may vary)

Kountry K-9 shows, times to be announced

Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt (FM): 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM

Reggie Rice's Fool of Illusions (Tolerance Hall): 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing)(11:00 AM – 7:00 PM)

Southern Maryland Decorative Painters (Arts & Crafts Bldg) 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display

Glass Blowing Demonstrations

Blacksmithing Demonstrations (FM)

Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)

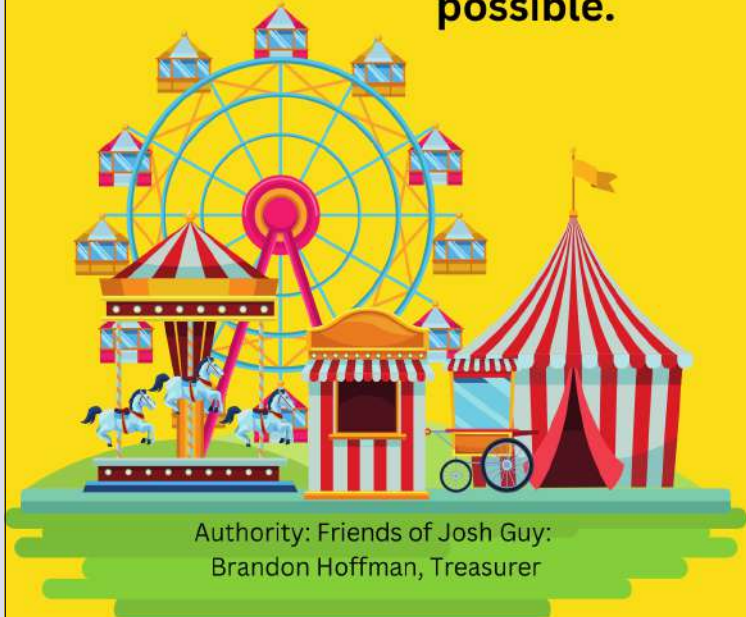
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Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display

Chee Chee the Clown Balloon Twisting

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possible.**



Sunday, September 22 FAMILY DAY

- 8:30 AM** Open Class Horse Show starts (GS)
- 9:00 AM** Exhibit buildings open
- 9:00 AM** 4-H Dairy Goat Fitting & Showing, and 4-H Breeding Goat Show
- 10:00 AM** Baby Show starts (FSA)
- 10:00 AM** Antique Tractor Pull starts (Tractor Track)
- 11:00 AM** Carnival opens (ride all day wristband for \$35)
- 1:00 PM** Chesapeake Country Cruzers (PAV)
- 1:00 PM** Chopticon High School Peace Pipers — Pateley Bongiorno-Cook, Director (outside Tolerance Hall)
- 1:00 PM** 4-H Visual Presentation Contest (4-H Building)
- 1:00 PM** Reggie Rice (Tolerance Hall)
- 2:30 PM** Mystic Caravan Dance (PAV)
- 2:00 PM** 4-H Rabbit Showmanship Contest
- 3:00 PM** Reggie Rice (Tolerance Hall)
- 4:30 PM** Glass Blower Art Auction
- 5:00 PM** 4-H Contest Results announced (SR)
- 6:00 PM** Bicycle Drawing (OF)
- 6:00 PM** Exhibit buildings close
- 6:00 PM** Carnival ticket sales stop
- 7:00 PM** Carnival closes

Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt & Family 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 2:30 PM

Pig Races 11:30 AM, 12:45 PM, 2:45 PM

Gospel Music (Tent): 1:15 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:15 PM, 4:00 PM, 4:45 PM

Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing) (11am - 5pm)

Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display

Glass Blowing Demonstrations

Blacksmithing Demonstrations Jamie Abell (FM)

Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)

Chee Chee the Clown Balloon Twisting

Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display

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By authority Cathy Allen, Candidate; Bradford J. Allen, Treasurer

Thursday, September 19 OPENING DAY

- 3:00 PM Gates open to public
- 4:00 PM Exhibit Buildings open to public
- 4:00 PM 4-H Photo Challenge begins
- 4:30 PM 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (SR)
- 5:00 PM Carnival opens (ride all evening wristband for \$35)
- 5:30 PM 4-H Horse Drill Team Performances (GS)
- 6:00 PM 4-H Market Goat Fitting & Showing, & Market Goat Show (SR)
- 7:00 PM Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt and Family
- 7:00 PM Official Opening (Tolerance Hall)
 - Color Guard by St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office
 - "The Star Spangled Banner" by Leonardtown Middle School Chorus — James Bowser, Director
 - Introduction of the Queen of Tolerance Court
 - Welcome from John Richards, President, St. Mary's County Fair Assoc.
 - Crowning of the Queen of Tolerance
- 7:00 PM Miniature Horse Pull (GS)
- 9:00 PM Exhibit buildings close
- 10:00 PM Carnival closes

Pig Races: 6:00 PM, 7:30 PM

Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing) (4:00pm – 7:00pm)

Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display

Kountry K-9 Shows, times to be announced

Glass Blowing Demonstrations

Chee Chee the Clown balloon twister

Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)

Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display

Visit the County Government exhibits in the Commercial 2 Building

Friday, September 20 SCHOOL DAY

- 8:00 AM 4-H Livestock Show starts (SR)
- 8:00 AM 4-H Horse and Pony Show starts (GS)
- 9:00 AM Exhibit Buildings open to public
- 10:00 AM Horticulture ID Contest (4-H)
- 10:00 AM Carnival opens
- 11:00 AM Decorated Wagon Contest (ARTS)
- 1:00 PM Great Mills High School Bella choral ensemble (PAV)
- 1:00 PM Reggie Rice's Magic of Laughter (Tent)
- 2:00 PM Speech Contest — Joie Samuelson, Chairperson (Tolerance Hall)
 - "The Star Spangled Banner" by Great Mills High School — Sara Nelson, Director
- 3:00 PM Registration for Kiddy Tractor Pull (PAV)
- 3:00 PM Reggie Rice's Magic of Laughter (Tent)
- 4:00 PM Kiddy Tractor Pull (PAV) 7th District Optimists
- 4:00 PM St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office K-9 Demonstration (GS)
- 5:00 PM School Day Activities End, normal entry & regular carnival ticket prices resume
- 5:30 PM Black Belt Academy (PAV)
- 5:30 PM Jumping Mules (GS)
- 6:00 PM Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales Demonstration (GS)
- 6:00 PM 4-H Cake Auction (GS)
- 6:00 PM Bicycle Drawing (OF)
- 6:00 PM Gracie's Guys and Gals (FSA)
- 6:00 PM Community Fellowship (Tolerance Hall)
- 7:00 PM Light Weight Horse Pull (GS)
- 7:30 PM Boot Scooters (PAV)
- 9:00 PM Exhibit buildings close
- 10:00 PM Carnival closes

Pig Races: 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 5:00 PM (times may vary)

Kountry K-9 Shows, times to be announced

Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt (FM): 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM, 6:00 PM

Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing)(11:00 – 7:00)

Glass Blowing Studio Demonstrations

Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display

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ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAIR

SCHEDULE

A Special Pull Out Section



Signs, Signs, Everywhere There're (Fair) Signs

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Walking through the St. Mary's County Fair, now in its 77th year, visitors are bombarded with numerous displays and projects celebrating the history of agriculture here, including pens full of prize-seeking farm animals.

Aside from all those displays, projects and carnival rides and attractions, there are many other pieces that assemble the puzzle of the county fair each year.

One of them is something thousands of people pass each day in the few weeks leading up to fair starting Sept. 19, but only notice for a few seconds.

They are the comical, cartoonish road signs dotting the byways and thoroughfares of the county.

Adorable and endearing, the signs depict farm life but they are more than just artwork designed to boost fair attendance.

"It's part of the fair's history and culture," said John Richards, president of the fair association. "We started doing this about 30 years ago.

"Back then we just painted some three-quarter-inch plywood."

But that soon changed as fair volunteers decided to make larger wooden signs depicting award-winning artwork in the fair's annual catalogue.

"We got to thinking: 'We've got this beautiful artwork in our fair guide every year,'" Richards told The County Times. "Some of them are now on display at the fairgrounds."

The painting of the signs occurs every August, Richards said, with junior and senior high school students competing to



Delia Vallandingham with the sign depicting her winning artwork

have their fair-themed artwork displayed in the annual fair guide.

The best of these pieces submitted to the fair board is published on the front cover of the fair guide, with other runners-up presented on the interior of the publication.

The top artwork would then become a fair sign, with the artist who created the winning piece brought in to paint the work onto a piece of special plywood designed to take well with paint.

A projector is then used to show the artwork on the plywood, which allows the artist to most accurately paint-in the image they initially submitted on the sign.

"Some people call that cheating but I think it's fine," Richards said. "It's really the only way to do it."

The first projector the fair board used for many years weighed about 50 pounds, Richards said, but now they use a much

lighter three-pound version, making the process a bit less unwieldy.

Only one new plywood sign is painted each year, Richards said.

This means that only one of the many signs posted all over St. Mary's is new, while the rest have been created and kept by the fair board for the past 30-plus years.

This year's front-page winner is Delia Vallandingham, a student at Chopticon High School who drew her initial art project while still at Margaret Brent Middle School.

She said she has tried several times over the past few years to submit a piece of art that would appear not only on the cover of the fair guide but on the fair's t-shirts available for sale this year.

"I just thought it would be really cool to have my design, with my name on it to be on so many people's backs at the fair," Vallandingham, 14, said. "I've been artistic



A projector allows the original linework drawing to be traced onto the sign

and crafty all my life."

Her art entry has a pair of draft horses pulling a giant pumpkin which currently graces the fairgrounds in Leonardtown with a Ferris wheel in the background.

"The Ferris wheel is a signature piece of the county fair," she said.

Her family is deeply involved in farming and she also shows goats, pigs and sheep at the fair as well as enters crafts and competes in the public speaking contest.

She is also the Junior Ms. Farm Bureau Ambassador, she said.

She said she plans on continuing the family tradition; she wants to study animal science in college.

"I hope to have a farm of my own when I'm older and have animals for my kids to show at the fair," Vallandingham said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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.

Carl Griffiths, 63



Carl Henry Griffiths was born on December 14, 1960 in Inglewood, CA and died on September 14, 2024 in Great Mills, MD. Carl was a loving husband, father, brother, and son. A musician, mechanic, dreamer, inventor, lifelong ham operator, he had an affinity with all things aircraft and electrical. He was especially thoughtful, generous, and respected by the local community. He is survived by his wife, four kids, five grandkids, and six siblings.

Services are private.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Bob Harper, 69



Robert "Bob" Eugene Harper, 69 of Lexington Park, Maryland, passed away on September 9, 2024 in LaPlata, Maryland with his wife at his side.

Born in Potosi, Missouri on November 20, 1954, he was

the son of the late Bobby Gene Harper and Ramona Annabelle Harper (nee: Barth).

Bob received his Bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and was a veteran of United States Navy with 6 years of dedicated service. In 2020 he retired from Patuxent River Naval base as a Logistics Engineer for the Department of Defense. He was an avid Fisherman and Hunter and a very proud Dad. He enjoyed watching his son, Jesse play football and his daughter, Chrissy play softball and was even part of the board for Parks and Recreation for several years. In his free time, helped his friend on his family farm, cheered on his favorite baseball team, the St. Louis Cardinals, and was a Boy Scout Leader for many years.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Edmona "Monie" Lee Harper, his son Jesse Harper (Katie), and his grandchildren, Zachary and Amelia. He is also survived by this three sisters, Susan, Judy, and Cindy.

Bob is tragically preceded in death by his beloved daughter Christine who passed in 2004 at just 21. The loss of Chrissy left an undeniable hole in the family's hearts and they take comfort in knowing that Bob is now with her and will be laid to rest at her side.

Family will receive friends for a memorial gathering on Friday, September 20, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a Memorial service beginning at 12:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road,

Leonardtown, MD 20650. Burial will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown.

Contributions may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project in Bob's Honor (support.woundedwarriorproject.org).

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Virginia Bunker, 86



Virginia "Ginger" Lee Bunker, "Grammee," 86, of Lexington Park, MD, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, September 14, 2024. Born on May 10, 1938, in Brainerd, MN, she was the

daughter of the late Blanche Burchett and the late Arthur Bangston. She is survived by her sister, Carolyn Benzinger of Hillsboro, ND, her daughters, Jody Hass (Robert) of Scottsdale, AZ, Julie Tracy (Robert) of Hollywood, MD, and Tonya Lakner of California, MD, her grandchildren, Molly Tracy of Seattle, WA, Jay Tracy (Miranda) of California, MD, and two great-grandchildren. Virginia was preceded in death by her sister, Venita Seefield, and her granddaughter, Jamie Emory.

Virginia and her family moved to Lexington Park, MD in 1976, and, a few years later, she started her business as an antique dealer. Over the next 40 years, her business expanded and she had as many as five antique shops at the same time in the PA-MD-VA area. In addition, her extensive knowledge of antique furniture enabled her to become a licensed appraiser for the Southern Maryland area in the 80s and 90s. She continued to work as a successful businesswoman until December 2023. Virginia loved gardening as well, and her yard was always full of beautiful flowering plants and trees throughout most of the year. Most of all, she loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and she was a very important part of their lives.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 11 AM at Patuxent Presbyterian Church, 23421 Kingston Creek Road, California, MD 20619.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the American Lung Association at www.lung.org/get-involved/ways-to-give, or mail to American Lung Association, National Direct Response, P.O. Box 756, Osceola, WI 54020-0756.

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

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



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Happy Birthday in Heaven

**We think of you in silence and make no outward show,
for what it meant to love you, only those who love you know.
We remember you every day; the heartache of losing you
will never go away.**

Happy Birthday, Mama.
Love,
Ellen and Larry

A View From The BLEACHERS



PREDICTABLY UNPREDICTABLE

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

When the NFL Draft ends, another draft begins. This one isn't televised. Mel Kiper, NFL Draft Expert (and Baltimore native), isn't available with prospect breakdowns. Short of NFL front offices and coaching staffs, and ultimate nerd-fans, no one cares. And rightfully so: This is the NFL equivalent of a picked-over yard sale.

Nevertheless, this second draft, if you will, is for the vinyl record hounds. You know who you are. You search for record shows and music shops wherever your travels lead. Stuffed crates are comprehensively searched. No record can go unturned. Broken fingernails and busted cuticles must be risked. Mounds of record fodder are no deterrent. The crates contain vinyl gold - somewhere. Golfers swear one memorable shot can rescue a brutal round; likewise, a single epic find validates the swim in vinyl seas.

What in the "it rhymes with smell" am I talking about? Undrafted free agents - UDFA's for the initiated. Dudes unselected during the seven rounds of every annual NFL draft immediately become UDFA's. It's slick code for what resembles an ordinary job search. Instead of getting chosen by a team and reporting aboard, UDFA's shop their wares, balance offers for fit or financial return, and make a decision in their best interest. It sounds glamorous. It isn't. Better descriptors: disappointing, nerve-racking, stressful. UDFA's are clinging to NFL life. Few make NFL rosters, fewer still make meaningful contributions or see their jerseys in the stands.

Imagine: three years ago you were a backup running back on a middling Georgia Tech football team. "Middling" being kind: you won 16 total games in four years with the Yellow Jackets (Free tip: If you dig jazz, check out the band Yellowjackets). The 2022 NFL Draft comes and goes, your name unspoken. The phone rings. Modest offers filter in. You sign with San Francisco, one of the best teams in the NFL, and begin a precarious professional football existence.

After two seasons, your resume includes 80-ish carries and over 30 games played. As an UDFA, the odds have already been beaten. Entering the 2024 season, you're buried on the depth chart behind more experienced players and the most versatile running back in the NFL. Then stuff happens, as it does in life. The backup gets hurt in late August. The starter has a nagging injury and can't go. So in week one, on Monday Night Football, in front of the entire nation, you get the start.

Too much? Stage too big? Nah. You rush 28 times for 147 yards and a touchdown to lead your team to victory.

And that's the story of Jordan Mason: UDFA and the most unlikely starting running back for the San Francisco 49ers. He backed up that Monday night performance with an impressive 20 carries for 100 yards last Sunday.

Mason's story causes many words, with broad applications, to come to mind. Belief. Self-confidence. Commitment. Ability. Preparation. Professionalism. Availability. Reliability. Faith. Opportunity. Teammates. These ingredients led Mason to this moment and allowed him to succeed in it. Deserved props to him and the 49ers.

But there's more - the sheer unpredictability of Mason's emergence. Further, that he's taking handoffs from Brock Purdy, himself an absolute lottery ticket (Purdy was the last pick...Mr. Irrelevant...in the 2022 NFL Draft), defies all logic. A couple years ago Mason and Purdy were seeking a shot; now they are backfield mates for the 49ers, the defending NFC Champions. How? Sports, man...

Reflecting on Mason's ascension, two lessons emerge from sports' classroom. The first, no matter your walk of life or professional pursuit, fate will smile on the confident, the committed, the prepared and the reliable. Opportunity will knock; be ready to answer. And second, as a fall wave of COVID and illness confront families and young athletes, I think back to what we learned in 2020: Plans are written in sand next to an angry, shifting surf. Anything can happen at any moment. More metaphors: You can get drafted first, last or not at all. Be sent to faraway cities, traded, cut or benched. The only infallible prediction, is the unpredictability of every journey. Overcome. Adapt. Capitalize. Be Jordan Mason.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

There have been bluefish in the 4-to-8-pound category eating surgical hose lures (eels) in the bay for the last two months. Charter boats and experienced trollers using number 2 planers are doing well. Working from the PR buoy south to Hooper's Island Light to 72 and on down to the Target Ship and below the fishing is very good. The bigger boats that can put out bigger spreads and handle rough weather have the advantage. There is a generous mix of cobia, bull reds, and slot reds taking the lures as well. When the bull reds gather for a surface feeding frenzy they can be caught casting lures on light tackle. The boats pull in their trolling gear and drift into the feeding fish with lure casters hooking up on any dangling lure.

The spanish mackerel were not in the mix much in the bay this week, but good catches of spanish, rockfish and bluefish were made in the Potomac on the Virginia side from Ragged Point to the 301 Bridge with a concentration in the area of Machodoc Creek. The rockfish were very good there for jiggers who spotted them on their electronics. The blues and mackerel were chasing bait on the surface, attracting birds. Rockfish were underneath for deep jiggers. Slot reds and puppy drum show up at any time amidst the other feeders.

Lure casters in the fish in the shallows of the Potomac and Patuxent are doing well at dawn and dusk. There are redfish, rockfish and an occasional trout (usually very good-sized) ready to take your surface popper, soft plastic, or swimming plug. Shore fishermen



are getting their share. The St. Mary's River is still the hottest location.

Perch fishing is off and on in the creeks. Good days are very good; off days not so much. The puppy drum are not as numerous in some creeks. The river shorelines are best now for under-sized puppy drum, white perch and slot reds. The rockfish are slowly moving back into their familiar haunts. Their feeding activity is improving with the cooler water temperatures.

Spot and croaker are all over the rivers and creeks. The problem is they are in the tiny bait-stealing size. There are jumbo spot and keeper croaker on the oyster bars and holes, but you have to search for them.

Southern Maryland Online

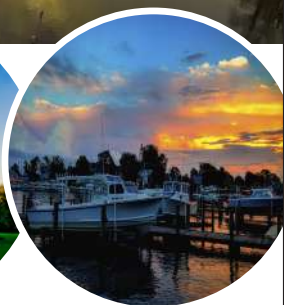
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SEP 13	Movie Night in LTown Alley 7 pm - 10 pm
SEP 14	Walk for Recovery in Leonardtown Square 9 am - 12 pm
SEP 14	Coastal Arts Market 10 am - 3 pm
SEP 28	Taste of St. Mary's 1 pm - 4 pm
OCT 4	October First Friday / Start of Scarecrow Stroll Specials and sales all day

For all events & activities, visit:
www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/EventsCalendar

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Registration Now Open for Community Health & Wellness Fair

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) is excited to announce the annual Community Health & Wellness Fair, which will be held on Friday, October 11, from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland, located at 44219 Airport Road in California, MD.

This event is free and open to the public. Health screenings offered at this year's event include body composition, glucose, skin cancer, hearing, vision, and blood pressure. The Pharmacy at PJ Bean will be supplying flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Please bring your insurance card – all insurance types are accepted. Additionally, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and St. Mary's County Health Department will be on-site to collect expired or unused medications for safe disposal, including medical sharps such as needles, lancets, and EpiPens. 15-minute seated massages will be offered throughout the day and presentations this year include:

- Unclaimed Property with the Comptroller (9:30 a.m.)
Presented by: Teresa Jones, Office of the Comptroller of Maryland

- Living with Lyme Disease (10:45 a.m.)
Presented by: MarieNoelle Lautieri, Department of Aging & Human Services

- Fraud & Scam Prevention (1:00 p.m.)
Presented by: Lt. Ed Evans, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office

DAHS thanks the many sponsors that support this event, including St. Mary's Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, The Pharmacy at PJ Bean, Cedar Lane Senior Living Community, ProFlex Physical Therapy, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, ClearCaptions, Clearway Pain Solutions, Mid Atlantic Skin Surgery Institute, Jacobs Audiology, Newbridge Spine & Pain Center, Williams, McClernan, & Stack, LLC, California Total Body Massage, LLC.

Want to skip the registration line? Pre-register online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/healthfair. Online registrants will be eligible for a special prize! Online registration closes at 12 p.m. on Thursday, October 10.

For more information, please contact Sarah Miller, Community Programs & Outreach Division Manager, at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1073, or via email to sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Registration Now Open for Parent-Child Kickball Games

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) has officially opened registration for Mother-Son and Father-Daughter Kickball!

The original mother-son kickball game is back! Moms – enjoy a friendly game of kickball with your son. But the fun doesn't end there! Dads and daughters can join in this year, as we will be running a father-daughter kickball game simultaneously on an adjacent field.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fun and friendly competition. These

events will be held at Chancellor's Run Regional Park on Sunday, October 13, 2024, from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Cost is \$20 per couple (\$40 for non-residents), \$10 each additional participant (\$20 for non-resident).

Register online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate or at the R&P office in Leonardtown. For questions or assistance, please contact us at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

New Contract Will Support Information Systems Modernization

KBR announced today it has been awarded an estimated \$230 million cost-plus-fixed-fee recompete contract under the Department of Defense Information Analysis Center's (DoD IAC) multiple-award contract (MAC) vehicle. These DoD IAC MAC task orders are awarded by the U.S. Air Force's 774th Enterprise Sourcing Squadron to develop and create new knowledge for the enhancement of the DTIC repository and the R&D and S&T community. KBR will perform information systems modernization for Logistics Information Technology (LOG IT) programs supporting Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Program Executive Office for Manpower, Logistics and Business Solutions (PEO MLB) and Commander, Fleet Readiness Centers (COMFRC). The work will be primarily performed at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland and Huntsville, Alabama over a period of five years.

Under the terms of the contract, KBR will provide optimized IT solutions across the NAVAIR enterprise. KBR's LOG IT team will perform research and development for data movement of real-time flight and maintenance information and publications, deployable hosting solutions for applications and a fleet representative environment in which to perform end-to-end testing of software releases, cybersecurity updates and refinement of business solutions for the maintenance and logistics environment. These essential in-service systems engineering, modernization, testing and sustainment capabilities will be delivered through the

Joint Technical Data Integration (JTDI), the Joint Delivery Management Service (JDMS) and the Naval Air Systems Command Fleet System Array (NFSA) programs, which are the bedrock of current and future LOG IT operations.

"For the past 21 years, KBR has supported these and similar essential requirements as a trusted partner to the U.S. government," said Stuart Bradie, KBR President and CEO. "We are proud to be selected again by NAVAIR to further demonstrate our ability to deliver high-end, technical capabilities while implementing and enabling large complex enterprise systems."

KBR deploys technical support and data transportation to over 83,000 users across U.S. Navy, Army, and Marine Corps units deployed ashore, afloat, and expeditionary environments. This award spotlights success with large, complex distributed systems, which enable mission accomplishment while maintaining a cost-conscious mindset.

About the DOD IAC Program

"The DoD IAC, sponsored by the Defense Technical Information Center, provides technical data management and research support for DoD and federal government users. Established in 1946, the IAC program serves the DoD science & technology (S&T) and acquisition communities to drive innovation and technological developments by enhancing collaboration through integrated scientific and technical information development and dissemination for the DoD and broader S&T community".

Navy Awards Contract for Continued AN/UPX-50 Redesign

The U.S. Navy awarded a \$24 million contract to BAE Systems for the continued redesign of the AN/UPX-50(C) digital interrogator assemblies.

The cost-plus-fixed-fee contract is a modification to a previously issued basic ordering agreement to address parts obsolescence and implement solutions to achieve compliance with the latest specifications, qualification and certification standards for the Navy. Additionally, this order adds tasking for the integration of Target Report Processing capabilities into the Common

Core DI, formerly hosted in the Interrogator Set, AN/UPX-24(V).

The redesigned interrogator features a common modular design and systems architecture that allows for customized configurations and performance optimization. The design of this next generation interrogator allows for faster updates to Identification Friend or Foe technology in air defense, weapon systems, air traffic control and range instrumentation for several decades.

Work is scheduled to be complete in late 2026.



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Man Arrested for Narcotic Box Tampering Incidents

Following an investigation into allegations of tampering with Emergency Medical Services narcotic boxes and vials of fentanyl, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, along with detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) arrested Thomas Patrick Raley, age 39, of Leonardtown on a warrant, on Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

In July, the Sheriff's Office was alerted to suspected tampering incidents involving the security seal on a narcotics box in a local medic unit. Detectives from CID discovered fentanyl vials in the medic box had been compromised, leading to further investigation uncovering additional tampering incidents in multiple county medic units and EMS facilities. As the investigation progressed, Raley was identified as the sole suspect, leading to the filing of numerous criminal charges.

Raley was charged with 34 criminal counts, including one count each of theft scheme of \$1500 to under \$25,000, theft scheme of \$100 to under \$1500, and second-degree burglary; three counts of theft of \$100 to less than \$1500; four counts of theft less than \$100; two counts rogue and



Thomas Patrick Raley

vagabond; 21 counts of CDS: possession – not cannabis; and one count CDS: possession of controlled paraphernalia for purposes of illegally administering a controlled dangerous substance.

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

17-Year-Old Arrested on Weapons Charges

Patrol deputies and detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant on a residence in the 45000 block of Woodstown Way in California, Maryland, on September 12, leading to the arrest of a 17-year-old juvenile on multiple weapons charges.

Following a joint investigation by the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions, deputies obtained a search and seizure warrant for the residence and the suspect. During the search, law enforcement officers located a loaded P80 9MM handgun with no serial

number, equipped with an extended KRISS Vector magazine, capable of holding 40 rounds, and loaded with 20 rounds.

In Maryland, juveniles are prohibited from possessing regulated firearms. The suspect was taken into custody and charged as an adult with possession of a firearm by a minor, possession of a firearm without a serial number, having a handgun on a person, and having a loaded handgun on a person.

The juvenile has been transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown.

Shooting in Lexington Park Leaves One Dead

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported shooting at the intersection of Midway Drive and Wasp Drive in Lexington Park on Friday, September 13, at approximately 9:50 p.m. Upon arrival, deputies located Jovan William Medley, 18, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Despite life-saving efforts, Medley was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Criminal Investigations Division has assumed the case, and anyone with information about this incident is asked to

contact Detective David Lawrence at 301-475-4200, ext. 8130, or by email at David.Lawrence@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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

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

Legislative Delegation & Commissioners to Hold Joint Meeting

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will host a joint public meeting with the St. Mary's County Legislative Delegation on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6 p.m., in the CSMC meeting room, located on the first floor of the Chesapeake Building at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, MD.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider requests by the CSMC and proposals by local organizations and members of the public for enactment of legislation during the 2025 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

A copy of the legislative proposals will be available in the County Attorney's Office and online at: www.stmarysmd.com/docs/LegislativeProposals2025.pdf. Meeting

information and related documents can be viewed online at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/publichearings.

Citizens are encouraged to attend and participate in the public meeting. Those wishing to address the Commissioners and members of the St. Mary's County Legislative Delegation may participate in-person or provide their feedback via:

- Email to csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov
- Mail to P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650

CSMC meetings are open to the public and may be viewed live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 or at www.YouTube.com/@StMarysCoGov.

Residents Invited to Learn About Future Transportation Projects

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) will visit St. Mary's County on September 24, 2024, as part of its annual Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) Tour. The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in the Commissioners meeting room, located on the 1st floor of the Chesapeake Building at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown. This meeting is open to the public and provides the opportunity for residents and stakeholders to hear first-hand about Maryland's capital budget for transportation projects. Residents may also watch the meeting live on TV Channel 95 or at www.YouTube.com/@StMarysCoGov.

The CTP is Maryland's six-year capital budget for transportation projects, encompassing a wide range of initiatives aimed at enhancing the state's transportation infrastructure. During the meeting, the Secretary of Transportation and representatives from MDOT's various modes will present infor-

mation on the draft CTP, including upcoming projects and priorities specific to St. Mary's County.

"This meeting offers the opportunity for our community to engage directly with state officials on the transportation projects that will shape the future of St. Mary's County," said Commissioner President, James Randy Guy. "These discussions are critical as we work collaboratively with the state to ensure that our local transportation needs are met."

The annual CTP Tour provides an open forum for local governments and the public to discuss transportation needs and priorities. The feedback gathered during these meetings is instrumental in shaping the final CTP, which will guide Maryland's transportation investments over the next six years. For more information about the MDOT Consolidated Transportation Program or to view the draft CTP, please visit MDOT's CTP website at <https://www.mdot.maryland.gov>.

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St. Mary's Ryken Wants Students to Aim High



Aiden Abell demonstrates a simulator at SMR's Flight Academy

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Aiden Abell, a 17-year-old senior at St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown, wants to pursue being an aircraft structural mechanic and perhaps even become a pilot.

His school's new Flight Academy aims to help him achieve that goal, with access to the latest in STEM curriculum built around aviation science and state-of-the-art simulators.

Abell, who wants to get as much aviation related education in high school as he can before moving on to a specialty training school after graduation, demonstrated the simulator's efficacy to visitors to the academy this week.

He took control of a computer simulated F-35 Lighting II, just one of the aircraft the simulator can approximate for students.

"I've been wanting to pursue something in aviation," Abell said. "I enjoy this class so much."

The Flight Academy program allows juniors or seniors to obtain their private pilot's or unmanned aircraft systems operator's knowledge certificate.

"I just want to learn as much as I can before I graduate... maybe someday I'll be a pilot," Abell said. "That would be awesome."

The Flight Academy, which was opened

to a public launch event Sept. 17, offers 24 flight simulators but also classroom education on aviation sciences aligned with standards of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The curriculum was developed in cooperation with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

Dr. Glenn Wood, president and CEO of the school, said that a key partner in the effort — The Patuxent Partnership's Bonnie Green — first advised him of a unique opportunity to make their wish a reality at the private Catholic educational institution.

"She called me up and asked me if I remembered the flight simulators we saw at Escambia High School in Pensacola, Florida," Wood said to the open house visitors. "I said yes."

"She said 'We have to move it in two days or less.'"

Wood said the quick dash to get the simulators that were suddenly available from the school was worth the effort to provide the opportunity to students.

"We're definitely blessed here in Southern Maryland to have so many partners in the aerospace field," Wood said.

For more information on the Flight Academy contact Gerald Swift at gerald.swift@smrhs.org.

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State of Local Agriculture Strong and Growing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Though St. Mary's County has become known primarily as a hub for technology innovation — largely due to the presence of the U.S. Navy at NAS Patuxent River — agriculture and seafood production still remain the dominant land use here, according to the latest report from the county's Department of Economic Development (DED).

"People think we spend all of our time with defense contractors and manufacturers," said Chris Kaselemis, DED director to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County at their Sept. 17 business meeting. "The reality is we spend a ton of time with the [agriculture] community."

Ben Beale, lead agent from the University of Maryland's Agricultural Extension office, joined Kaselemis and Priscilla Leitch, DED Agriculture and Seafood Division manager, to brief commissioners.

"You'll see the numbers are actually going up both in sales and number of farms and new farmers entering into farming," Leitch said. "And I think that's really a testament to the work that all of our [agricultural] resource partners have done over the last 10 to 20 years."

Much of this occurred as the county transitioned from a mostly tobacco-centered agricultural to more diversified efforts such as produce, livestock and wine grapes.

Beale's presentation showed the number of farms here increased from 615 in 2017 to 656 in 2022; acreage dedicated to farming also increased from 61,803 to 64,380.

The average farm size remained about the same dropping from 103 acres to 98 acres in

that five-year span, according to the report.

The actual total cropland, though, decreased from 36,993 acres to 34,917, the latest agriculture census showed.

"I think the really good news is for that five-year period, we saw an actual increase in raw agricultural output in terms of dollars," Beale said. "And this is... from just over \$25 million in 2017 to just a little over \$35 million in 2022."

While the average of age of local farmers increased from 55 years old to 55-and-a-half-years-old from 2017 to 2022, the number of young farmers — 34 years old or less — increased from 157 to 172.

First-time farmers also increase from 337 to 375, the report stated; overall the number of agricultural producers in St. Mary's has increased from 1,063 to 1,319.

"That's always really significant when we see an increase in the number of producers," Beale said.

Crops of all kinds remain the bulk of agricultural production and sales in St. Mary's, accounting for \$29.1 million; vegetable production sales have grown from \$2.8 million in value to \$4.5 million.

Sales of livestock and poultry have also risen from \$5.4 million to \$6.1 million, the report stated.

In broad scope, the report showed that St. Mary's leads the tri-county area in both number of farms and in combined sales of crops and livestock with over \$35 million in sales; Charles and Calvert county had only \$20.6 million and \$15.2 million agricultural sales for 2023.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioners Hear Legislative Proposals

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The next Maryland General Assembly is set to begin January 8 of next year, Deputy County Attorney John Houser told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week, and 15 proposals for legislation that could be sent to the state lawmaking body from the county were filed "in a timely manner" for an eventual vote by the commissioners on which they support.

Most came from either county department heads or the commissioners, but some came from county boards and committees and two came from private citizens.

Any changes in the law regarding St. Mary's County must first be approved in the General Assembly as the county is not governed by either code home rule or by charter, but by commissioner form of government.

The commissioners are set to come back in a week's time to vote on which proposals they support to take to the county delegation in Annapolis for consideration.

The commissioners made no decisions for support or opposition this week.

Among the proposals were one from Acting Chief Financial Officer Joyce Sapp to issue public facility bonds up to \$94 million and from Department of Emergency Services Director Jennifer Aubert-Utz for a law that would make amending the local animal control ordinance easier.

Other requests included allowing liquor license operators to hold more than one license at a time under certain circumstances, made by Department of Economic Development Director Chris Kaselemis and another made by the county's Alcohol Beverage Board to increase the maximum penalty for license violations from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow offered a proposal that would prohibit roadside solicitation and donations in St. Mary's.

A similar bill in last year's assembly for Calvert County passed.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's Tops State on MCAP



Chief Academic Officer Lisa Bachner

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Just under 55 percent of students who took the English language arts assessment for the 2023 to 2024 school year in St. Mary's public schools attained a proficient grade on the test or better, the latest data from the Maryland State Department of Education shows. The state's average level of proficiency in English assessment 48.4 percent

The grades which took the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) test across all public schools in the state included 3rd through the 8th and 10th grade in high school.

For grades 3 through 5, students have shown incremental improvement on the English portion of the assessment for the past three years, moving from 49 percent proficient in 2022 to 51 percent proficient this year.

In grades 6 through 8, students achieved 52 percent proficiency in English here for 2022, 56 percent proficiency in 2023, and 55 percent this year, the latest data shows.

Highschool sophomores have gone from 60 percent proficiency to 66 percent over the same period of time, far outpacing the state's average of just 53 percent to 55 percent achievement.

In the mathematics portion of MCAP the county also fared better than most school districts in Maryland but still had quite low achievement levels, showing a continuing struggle here and statewide to master arithmetic.

St. Mary's students from grades 3 through 8 and 10th grade combined to achieve just a 29.1 percent proficiency rating in mathematics; neighboring Calvert schools achieved a little better with 32.8 percent.

Howard County schools achieved a 41.1 percent proficiency rating, the highest in Maryland.

The state's average math achievement was 24.1 percent.

"Math... we're stagnant," said Lisa Bachner, chief academic officer, reporting

to the county school board at their Sept. 11 business meeting in Leonardtown.

"It's not going in the direction we want. When it comes to math, 3rd through 5th graders have gone from 36 percent proficiency in 2022 to 38 percent in 2024, the data shows. Grades 6 through 8 have risen from 24 percent to 27 percent over the same time period.

"It's not where anyone wants to be," said Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith, who acknowledged that St. Mary's math scores were still markedly better than the state's average.

"It's better than most," school board member Mary Washington agreed.

Bachner said continually low scores statewide in math are leading the state to send out requests for a new math assessment this December; students who are scoring low on the Algebra assessment are scoring at the minimum to a high level of proficiency on the English assessment with commensurate classroom grades in math.

"It doesn't make sense," Bachner said. Algebra 1 test takers have gone from 17 percent in 2022 to 23 percent proficient in St. Mary's; the state's latest proficient average is just 20 percent.

Board chair Karin Bailey called the math assessment "slightly unfair" because students who get the first few answers correct are then given more difficult ones to test their ability to expound on fundamental concepts.

In other words, depending on a student's first answers, not everyone is taking the same test.

Bachner said local student proficiency in the grades 5 and 8 science assessment went down but was still higher than most in the state at 30.8 percent and 32.5 percent respectively.

The state's average on that assessment in those grades was in the low-to-mid 20th percentile, she said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioners Briefed on Broadband Connectivity

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Competing internet service providers are starting to come to St. Mary's County, said Bob Kelly, the county's information technology chief this week, offering residents more connectivity options than ever before, while the county has worked over the last several years to connect about 1,600 homes that had not had broadband connections.

It all points to a continued effort to approach 100 percent internet connectivity for all county addresses.

"We've had a holistic approach to providing connectivity," Kelly told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County at their Sept. 17 business meeting.

Connectivity became a critical issue during the COVID-19 pandemic, when internet access became critical for working adults and students alike who had to stay home during the quarantines, he said.

Another obstacle some residents faced with having new connections to internet was that they could not afford it, said Kelly, which the county assisted with in helping them find grant dollars and other federal subsidies.

The county also helped distribute 4,500 free Chromebook laptop computers to income eligible residents.

The program to provide connectivity has been successful, Kelly said, so much so that after another 189 addresses are soon connected, 98 percent of the county will have broadband.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt asked how much it cost the county to connect a home to broadband; Kelly said conditions in the field often dictated price and it was sometimes not an easy job to make that connection. Sometimes the efforts approached a mile in length.

"We have connected homes up to 4,500 feet from the existing cable plan," Kelly said. "You can estimate between \$7 to \$10 a foot."

"That's getting astronomically expensive," replied Hewitt.

A federal initiative called the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program will soon take over the efforts that heretofore have been undertaken by the county.

"They are working with the states directly to essentially take over all [efforts] to getting connectivity nationwide," Kelly said.

In recent months Kelly said his department has been working with the federal government to insure they had all the unserved addresses necessary.

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Report Reveals Details of Firefighter's Death

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

On June 27 of last year firefighter Brice Trossbach was killed while trying to extinguish a housefire in Leonardtown when the floor of the home he had entered collapsed.

More than a year later, a report on the details of that fire from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reveals the apparent actions made that morning that led up to Trossbach's tragic death.

The report stated the factors contributing to the death of Trossbach, 25, included compromised situational awareness, an ineffective analysis of the situation on the fireground as well as an ineffective cost/benefit analysis of an interior attack on the fire and an ineffective use of "appropriate strategy and tactics."

The county's volunteer fire chief, C.P. Miedzinski, said the other company fire chiefs would gather next week to review the report.

"We're going to take this report and use it to ensure St. Mary's County provides the highest level of service and also ensure the life and safety of all of our firefighters," Miedzinski said. "We're going to use this report to ensure this — another line of duty death — never happens again."

The report, which was released Sept. 11, also stated that ineffective professional development, lack of ongoing crew integrity and a lack of information shared from the 911 caller to responding units was also to blame.

At approximately 4 a.m., June 27 three occupants were awakened to noise and



Brice Trossbach

smoke conditions inside the home and fled the house to a neighbor's house across the street on Deer Wood Park Drive.

Investigators have said a lightning strike may have been the cause of the sudden fire.

Trossbach was a career firefighter with the Naval District of Washington and a volunteer with the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department; the morning of the incident he responded as the acting officer of Engine 132 from the NAS Patuxent River Station where

he was assigned as part of a mutual aid call.

Trossbach's volunteer company responded to the fire as well, with the chief of the Leonardtown unit in command, the NIOSH report stated.

Leonardtown firefighters deployed an attack line to the front of the house, called side Alpha in the report, while Engine 132 setup a portable dump tank in the yard to fight the fire.

The report showed the situation quickly

deteriorated from there.

"At approximately [4:25 a.m.], two firefighters from Engine 132 advanced their ... attack line through a first-floor window to the left of the front door," the report stated. "The Engine 132 officer [Trossbach] took the other attack line from an Engine 1 firefighter and entered through the front door."

"At 4:26 a.m., emergency traffic was transmitted from the safety officer Chief 9B on the tactical channel that the second floor collapsed on side Charlie [the back of the house]."

Just one minute after the collapse and the call for a total evacuation of the house, an alert was sounded that a firefighter — Trossbach — had gone missing.

"After several attempts to rescue the Engine 132 company officer, the strategy was changed from a rescue operation to recovery," the report stated. "[Trossbach] was removed from the structure at approximately 0616 hours and transported by an advanced life support ambulance to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased."

The report recommendations said firefighters should develop and maintain "effective situational awareness during emergency incidents" as a result of Trossbach's death.

It also placed the onus on incident commanders to "define their fireground strategy, tactics and goals based upon a risk/benefit analysis and a detailed scene size-up to include known risk" and other factors.

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“WE’RE GOING TO USE THIS REPORT TO ENSURE... ANOTHER LINE OF DUTY DEATH NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.”

COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF C.P. MIEDZINKSI ON THE REPORT ON BRICE TROSSBACH’S DEATH.



LOCAL 3
Report details firefighter's death



LOCAL 5
County test scores increase



ON THE COVER
It's county fair season in St. Mary's

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MON, SEP 23	TUE, SEP 24	WED, SEP 25	THU, SEP 26
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