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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

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APOLO



**Intersection Failures
Delay Town Center Plan**

**Barns Raise Concern
at Hallowing Point**

**County Treasurer
Announces Retirement**

FROM CALVERT TO THE BIG APPLE

WHEN IT COMES TO **STROKE,**

B E F A S T



Balance
Sudden loss
of balance,
dizziness



Eyes
Sudden loss
of vision or
blurred vision



Face
Uneven smile,
one side of face
is drooping
or numb



Arm
One arm
is weak
or numb



Speech
Slurred speech
or difficulty
speaking



Time
Time to
call 911
immediately

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“THAT CAN'T HAPPEN TONIGHT.”

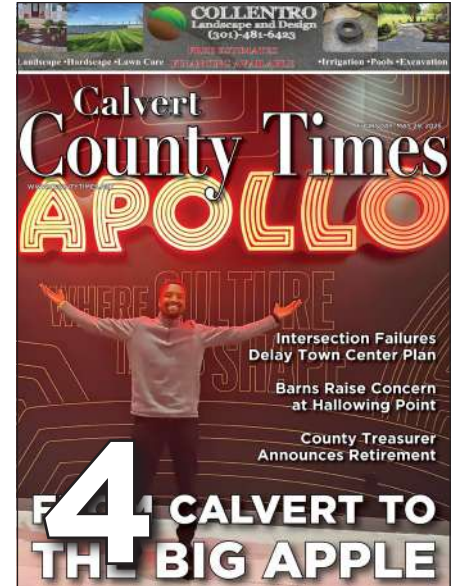
PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER DAVID BURY ON PRINCE FREDERICK
PLAN DELAY



LOCAL 4
Town Center plan delayed over failing
intersections



LOCAL 6
Master plan approved for Hallowing Point Park



ON THE COVER
Calvert native set to perform at the historic
Apollo Theater

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 29	FRI, MAY 30	SAT, MAY 31	SUN, JUN 1
AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 76° Lo: 64°	Scattered Storms Hi: 75° Lo: 60°	Showers Hi: 70° Lo: 52°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 56°
MON, JUN 2	TUE, JUN 3	WED, JUN 4	THU, JUN 5
Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 58°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 62°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 80° Lo: 64°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 69°

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From Foster Care in Calvert to the Big Apple

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

When Devonte Jones steps on the stage at the historic, iconic Apollo Theater in New York's Harlem on June 6, the path leading to that point had been long and sometimes bumpy. The singer, actor, and model, who goes by the professional name of Von Tae, grew up in a foster home in Calvert County and attended Sunderland Elementary School.

Born at Calvert Memorial Hospital, he was in foster care from when he was around six years old until he was 18. His foster mom was Sylvia Booth. "She's actually a bus driver for my uncles and my aunts," he told the County Times during a May 22 interview.

When Booth's husband got sick, he jumped around to various relatives and other foster homes before graduating from Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County. He later returned to live with Booth.

He said, "It was very adventurous, like all over the place a little bit. I won't say that it was tough. I think emotionally it was tough, because I was in a very good environment with my foster family and I still was able to see my mom and my other relatives. I just wasn't able to stay with them. So that was the most difficult part."

He explained, "I just remember going to daycare one day. My mom usually would come and pick us up. And then that day my foster mom came. She just came and like, okay, we're getting in a van and we're going to someone else's house."

"It was just very weird for me" he said. "I still to this day can remember everything, the weather, I can remember the smell of the van. I can remember the music that was playing on the radio. And yeah, it was a very difficult at that time, at the beginning stages of it. But after that, it got better. I was able to see my mom more, and the rest of my family more, my sister, and my two younger siblings who were at the foster home."

Of his mother, he said, "From my mom's perspective, she just said that she felt as



though she was going through some things and she didn't want to drag us along with her as she was going through the things she was going through."

"My family was very musically driven," Von Tae, 32, said. "Most of them play instruments or they sing on my mom's side. On my dad's side, I just found out that most of them do the same thing."

His family attended Bethel Way Of The Cross church in Huntingtown.

While at Sunderland Elementary, he said his foster mom recognized his interest in music and purchased a recorder for him. "She ended up buying me a clarinet. I played the clarinet for a little bit, and then she saw that I enjoyed that. So, then she bought me a flute. Then I played the flute, and then she saw that I enjoyed dance. And then she bought me a saxophone." A trumpet followed that.

Before music, though, he said, "I started out dancing with my cousins. We would make up routines and we would do hip hop, dance choreography, dance moves. And then Brittany Spears's ex-husband, Kevin Federline, who was an artist. his choreographer came to Huntingtown where I was in a



Christian church organization called Dance Empowerment." That was an organization headed by Antoine White, who would later become a school board member.

His musical interests are now the guitar and piano. "I like to do slower, intimate versions of the songs, whether it be like an acoustic guitar or just a keyboard or a piano."

"If I can perfectly play them, I will be the happiest person on the planet."

With the help of a former classmate, he was able to put together his first album. His music is available on his website and through most social media sites.

After graduation from high school, he started an online program called Full Sail University and "just trying to be an adult after I left foster care, trying to get my own place and working and getting a job and stuff like that."

While working in Annapolis, he said, "I went to audition for American Idol and I made it through, but that was around the time where they were switching up the show, trying to figure out what they were going to do with it. And so, they canceled the entire production of the show." So, he

kept plugging along.

So, he said, "I got the equipment from my friend and just started recording a bunch of demos and making a bunch of CDs, passing out CDs, performing at different venues, and just trying to get as many people as possible to listen to me."

Von Tae said, "After a while, just going through different life experiences, going through different relationships, those things kind of helped me to pour into my music and become better as an artist. Obviously my family and different mentors like Antoine and my schoolteachers, and just anyone that I came in contact with, they knew I was pursuing music. So, they always pushed me, they always encouraged me."

He even got into acting, he said. He had a part in the movie with Seth Rogan called *An American Pickle*.

He tells of driving to Atlanta for an audition and living out of his car and by chance getting that audition for a movie with Tyler Perry.

"The entertainment industry is something that I've always dreamed of doing," he said.

One of his dreams was to perform at the Apollo so he took the chance and drove to New York, auditioned and got the June 6 gig, another step in his purposeful career path.

He recently performed with Tony Braxton's sister on her tour.

Von Tae still keeps close to his Calvert roots. He said, "I just went down there for a birthday for my great aunt who turned 90."

He added "When I got there, they all went crazy. They got on the mic, and they were like, this is our family. For everyone you don't know his name is Von Tae and he's going to New York, so everybody please pray for him that he gets up there safely. He does a great job."

And then they made him perform and he sang one of his favorites, Mary Jane, a song by Rick James, a song he is considering performing at the Apollo.

His website is theofficialvontae.com

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Prince Frederick Plan Update Delayed Again Planners Say Intersection Failures Not Addressed

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The process started five years ago but will have to wait a while longer to be completed. The Calvert County Planning Commission, at a May 21 public hearing, postponed a decision on the update of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan, which is now a chapter in the county's new Town Centers Master Plan.

The delay came at the insistence of new commission member David Bury. He said he pointed out at the previous meeting that "there are currently five failing intersections in Prince Frederick under the adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) criteria now approaching failure, actually failing. It (the plan) also did not mention the implications of these failing intersections, which are under the APFO."

"There will be major new restrictions

on new commercial and residential development in effected areas within Prince Frederick as part of the A PFO goal of keeping traffic levels within the capacity of our road network and keeping traffic congestion from getting averse. The APFO will require extensive traffic flow remediation by the state and county or developer, or a six-year delay in any plan development unless overridden by the State Highway Administration."

Bury said, "The planning commission members agreed that these were important points that should not be left out of the Prince Frederick Master Plan."

He said the motion was passed unanimously yet the information was omitted.

Bury said, "Traffic congestion continues to be one of the greatest issues of public concern. It is important for the public to review the required new language that we have advocated, and comment about whether

they consider that it adequately addresses their concerns. That can't happen tonight."

Bury also said, "The April 16th planning commission direction to the planning and zoning department to add text to the draft master plan was not just advisory, not just a recommendation. It was a requirement before we go to public hearing, and yet here we are."

Bury noted that the public has been complaining about the Routes 2/4 intersection with Stakley Road. He said that intersection "is failing according to the most recently publicly available SHA data."

After discussion it was decided to have a joint meeting on June 18 with the Department of Public Works to discuss intersection issues and decide then when to continue the public hearing and then make the final recommendation to the county commissioners on the master plan update for Prince Frederick.



Planning Commission member David Bury

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Proposed School Board Policies Draw Fire

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Several proposed new policies from the Calvert County Board of Education have drawn confusion among some board members and criticism from the public. The policies come on the heels of removing exclusion from the board's mission statement and removing "Safe Space" stickers from the schools. The policies deal with professional boundaries, political neutrality and flags in schools.

The May 22 meeting at which the policies were introduced featured the unusual occurrence of having board attorney Edmund O'Meally sitting in and giving advice in public.

At the end of the discussions and the public comments, board member Paul Harrison said the messiness of the discussions was the result of having them open to allow the public to watch the sausage making.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andraé Townsel said the former purpose of the political neutrality policy, "To provide direction for how the school system will interact with political campaigns, political parties, partisan groups, and candidates for public office" was replaced with:

"A. To ensure that Calvert County Public Schools remain neutral on political issues, parties, and candidates.

"B. To ensure that neither students nor employees are pressured, coerced, or obligated to endorse political viewpoints by requiring employees to remain neutral on political issues, parties and candidates during classroom instruction and avoid discussion of such issues unless such discussion is aligned with approved curriculum and by allowing and facilitating student expression of their own viewpoints on political issues in a respectful and non-disruptive manner."

Student Member of the Board Grace Minakowski said, "I had a few students reach out to me with concerns, including my own concerns. We have at our high schools both teenage Republican groups as well as teenage Democrat groups, and they're both partisan groups."

She added, "I also understand that students are allowed to wear political shirts or hats...as long as it's not profane."

Minakowski added, "I'm fully on board with teachers maintaining political neutrality and ideological neutrality. But in terms of enforcement, I think we have to be extremely



Back row (L to R): Melissa Goshorn, Paul Harrison, Joseph Marchio. Front row (L to R): Lisa Grenis, Dr. Andraé Townsel, Jana Smith-Post. Photo by Madalynn Emmett Photography.

diligent and smart about creating a policy as well as creating procedures that don't inadvertently make teachers, especially civics teachers, shy away from these types of conversations. I think that chilling of speech is extremely real."

O'Meally said the policy was directed at teachers and staff and not students "who are participating in a club or activity that falls under the Equal Access Act. (They) have the absolute right within the school during various times and places during the day to engage in speech and speech-related conduct without regard to the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of speech."

O'Meally said the policy also doesn't cover organizations meeting in school buildings after school hours.

Regarding the professional boundaries, Townsel reported the purposes were:

"A. To establish clear expectations for professional interactions between Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) employees, volunteers, and students.

"B. To create a safe, respectful, and effective educational environment by maintaining appropriate boundaries.

"C. To protect both students and staff by delineating acceptable behaviors and interactions."

Board President Jana Post said, "I will say the intent behind this is not to limit or minimize interactions between students and their teachers or teachers who see students outside of school."

Post added, "Obviously the intent was to make sure that students were safe and that adults and students were maintaining proper

boundaries, that there weren't inappropriate conversations that were being had, or conversations that were unnecessary that may have been in private. It was also intended to make sure that we are utilizing some best practices when there is interaction between students and staff." She mentioned the rule of two utilized in some scholastic sports requiring two adults to be in a meeting with a student.

But some of the board members expressed concern about the unintended consequences of the policy.

Regarding flags in schools, the policy statement says, "The love of freedom and democracy, shown in the devotion of all true and patriotic Americans to their flag and country, shall be instilled in the hearts and minds of the students attending Calvert County Public Schools. In furtherance of that (state) provision, the current American flag shall be displayed on the grounds of every school and in every classroom, conference room, school office, gymnasium, cafeteria, auditorium, stadium, and other rooms frequented by students, staff, and guests."

During the public forum senior Meyuana Montgomery exercised her right of political expression by saying, "Donald Trump is one of the most influential figures of modern American politics and has used his platform to normalize hatred. His rhetoric towards LGBTQ+ people, women, Black communities, and immigrants are not just careless, they were calculated. Many of the young Americans are exposed to these types of ideologies that show up in these classrooms, locker rooms, hallways, are as a lot of hateful

words, whispered and shouted, to vulnerable peers. And then now right here in Calvert County, we're seeing the board make decisions that align with those same ideologies and efforts to censor inclusion, strip away safe spaces and silence diversity. We need to name what is happening and the board must choose, will you protect every student, or will you continue pushing an agenda that puts our most vulnerable kids at harm?"

Teacher Chelsea Gallihue said, "I really don't appreciate the implication that all teachers and educators are potential molesters. That's wildly offensive. So, you guys erased inclusive and supportive learning communities from our mission in favor of achievement. These policies as written directly counter best practices and decrease student safety. I know you love an actionable survey, so I would really like... if you could develop a competent ranked choice survey to send to community members and staff members where we can rank what we're interested in that you guys are working on. Based on public comment, written and verbal, at this meeting and the last one...these policies demonize teachers and make our jobs harder."

Amy Hamilton asked, "Have you ever seen an elementary student run and hug their teacher? This is a violation!"

Retired teacher Dona Ostenso, past president of the Calvert Education Association, said, "What has transpired over the last three meetings is concerning, disheartening, and embarrassing. You claim to care about the students and staff, yet your actions and words tell a whole other story. To begin with, inclusion is the practice of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those who have physical or intellectual disabilities and members of other minority groups. It is about empowering people by respecting and appreciating what makes them different. So why would you strike the language inclusive and supportive from the mission statement? Our mission as educators, elected officials and community members is to actively work to create a culture where everyone feels comfortable, valued, and able to contribute. I should not need to explain to adults why these things matter."

The proposed policies will be circulated for 30 days for comment before board action.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Treasurer to Retire

Calvert County Government announces the retirement of Nova Tracy-Soper, who will retire from her role as County Treasurer on May 30 after serving 30 years in an elected capacity.

Tracy-Soper held responsibility for overseeing the county's tax collection operations. During her tenure, the office implemented several customer-facing improvements, including online credit card payments for property taxes and a renewed web presence for public access to tax information.

Tracy-Soper has been a resident of Calvert County since 1970. She graduated from Calvert Christian High School in 1984, earned an associate degree in business man-

agement from Prince George's Community College, and received a Bachelor of Science in business management with a minor in accounting from the University of Maryland.

Tracy-Soper was elected to her first term in 1994. Prior to her election, she worked in banking and advanced to the role of assistant branch manager in a regional office. In 1997, she received the Outstanding Young Women of America award. A year later, she was named an honored member of the International Who's Who. In 2016, Nova received the Public Service Award from Carroll Western United Methodist Church.

The Treasurer's Office plays a vital role in managing county finances. It is responsi-

ble for collecting most of the county's revenues, including property and personal property taxes, permit fees, landfill income, water and sewer payments, gambling and liquor license fees, dog tag sales and other income sources. The office also conducts the Calvert County Tax Sale, ensuring tax compliance across the county. In addition to revenue collection, the Treasurer's Office supports the legal process of property transfer by researching and validating deeds before they are recorded with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Throughout her tenure, Tracy-Soper took great pride in the exceptional customer service delivered by her dedicated team, which has been instrumental in maintaining the office's efficiency and public trust.



County Treasurer Nova Tracy-Soper

Planning Commission Approves Hallowing Point Park Plan

Concern Raised for Nineteenth Century Barn



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Planning Commission has approved the master plan for Hallowing Point Park. During the discussion of the plan at the commission's May 21 public hearing, there was concern expressed about the saving of two old tobacco barns on the property,

Park Planner Stephanie Sperling said comments on the plan were received from Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) and the county's Historic District Commission. "It was sort of an oversight of ours. The MHT was concerned, they talk about three barns on the property, which aren't detailed in the master plan. There are currently only two, one was demolished before the pandemic."

She noted, "One of the barns near the playground was, built mid nineteenth century, 1850 to 1870. And they state that the tobacco barns are a vanishing resource, that they recommend that we incorporate descriptions of them in the plan." The historic district commission echoed those comments.

As to adding the barns to an historic district, Sperling said, "It seems kind of unlikely because barns are infrequently added. It's typically archeological sites or historic houses. My thought for this is to put up signage and just sort of talk about the cultural significance of that for program patrons."

But as to them being torn down, she said, "I know that the Historic District Commission and the Maryland Historical Trust would frown on it if it (the oldest barn) were demolished."

Sperling said Hallowing Point Park (HPP), located at 4755 Hallowing Point Road, Prince Frederick, is an 81-acre park

in Calvert County featuring athletic fields, walking paths, a playground, a basketball court, tennis courts, and pickleball courts. There is also a pavilion available for rental by the community.

"The most recent master plan was developed in 1998, and an update is needed to guide park improvements and growth over the next 15-20 years."

She said, "In the fall of 2023, the Department of Parks & Recreation began the process of updating the HPP Master Plan. They solicited public feedback and worked with Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects to complete a draft plan in September 2024. Desired improvements included constructing well-lit paved walking paths and natural surface trails, converting several multi-use athletic fields to synthetic turf, upgrading the baseball/softball fields, improving signage, and constructing a new inground skatepark, among others."

Planning Commission member Chris Gadway said, "

In reference to the ingress and egress on (Route) 231, the direct ingress/egress on one end has gotten better. On the other hand, it's gotten worse. I know you guys don't have a hundred percent control on it, it's a state issue. You have to have state approval." So, he asked the parks and recreation department to press the state for a traffic solution.

The planning commission voted that the park plan was consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and recommend adoption by the Calvert County Board of Commissioners.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of May 12, 2025 – May 18, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,131 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 54
- Disorderly: 17
- Domestic: 17
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 43
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 987
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 33
- Traffic Complaints: 77
- Traffic Stops: 651
- 911 Hang-Ups: 19
- ARRESTS: 39

Burglary: 25-41443 On May 18, 2025, Deputy H. Jones responded to a residence on Robshire Manor Road in Huntingtown for the report of a burglary. The complainant reported sometime between 7:30 p.m. on May 16 and 10 a.m. on May 18, an unknown suspect(s) broke into the victim's residence and stole several tools, two chainsaws, and a griddle. The estimated value of stolen prop-

erty is \$1400.



Angie Williams

with the occupants, the passenger, **Angie Williams**, 51 of Bryantown, attempted to conceal a crack pipe under her shirt. Further investigation revealed a red cut straw containing suspected cocaine residue was located in her purse and suspected crack cocaine was found on her seat. Williams was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

CDS Violation: 25-39779 On May 12, 2025, Deputy Stuart observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of the SureStay hotel located at 75 Main Street in Prince Frederick. Upon making contact



Lionell Victor Garrison

Garrison, 29 of District Heights. Garrison was wanted on an open warrant through St. Mary's County. A search incident to arrest revealed a prescription pill bottle containing cut straws with suspected crack cocaine residue and a container containing suspected crack cocaine residue. Garrison was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

CDS Violation: 25-40521 On May 15, 2025, Deputy Robey responded to the 4900 block of St. Leonard Rd. in St. Leonard to assist deputies with a warrant service. Contact was made with **Lionell Victor**



Chicago Alexander Garner

Chicago Alexander Garner, 30, of Prince Frederick, who was loudly shouting profanities at citizens within the Silverwood Apartments complex, drawing the attention of nearby residents. Garner was advised to cease his disruptive behavior but continued to yell, intimidate, and harass those around him. He was subsequently taken into custody while actively resisting arrest. A search incident to arrest revealed a cut straw and a plastic baggie both containing suspected cocaine residue. Garner was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Intoxicated Endangerment, Violation of a Court Order, CDS: Possession Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

CDS Violation: 25-41260 On May 17, 2025, Deputy Stuart responded to the 200 block of Shore Acres Way in Prince Frederick for a report of a disorderly individual. Upon arrival, contact was made with

for the report of a theft. The complainant reported sometime in the early morning, an unknown suspect(s) stole approximately \$50 from three vehicles that were left unlocked.

Theft: 25-41187 On May 17, 2025, DFC Grierson responded to the 12000 block of San Angelo Lane in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant reported sometime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., an unknown suspect(s) stole \$100 in cash, two CRE beach passes and a garage door opener from an unlocked vehicle parked outside the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$210.



Marquez Malanchi Yvonjay Graham-Raynor

Trespassing: 25-39924 On May 13, 2025, Deputy Zinn was patrolling the Fastop located at 8054 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach when he observed **Marquez Malanchi Yvonjay Graham-Raynor**, 24 of Huntingtown, walk on Fastop property and walk into Dunn Clean Laundry, the neighboring business. Investigation revealed Graham-Raynor had been trespassed indefinitely from both locations. He was placed into custody and charged with two counts of Trespassing: Private Property.



Grayson William Waldrop

Weapons Violation: 25-41108 On May 17, 2025, Deputy H. Jones conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 700 block of Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick for a traffic violation. Upon approaching the vehicle, Deputy Jones observed the driver, identified as **Grayson William Waldrop**, 24 of Oak Island, NC, reaching into the center console and moving items to the back seat. Deputies questioned Waldrop about the presence of any firearms in the vehicle. Waldrop admitted there was a loaded pistol and a loaded shotgun in the back seat. Further investigation revealed Waldrop did not possess a Maryland handgun permit. He was subsequently arrested and charged with Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle and Handgun in a Vehicle.

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

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization, C-SMMPO, will conduct a meeting at the Walter Francis Duke Terminal Conference Room, located at 44200 Airport Road, California, MD 20619 on **Thursday, June 12, 2025**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of receiving public testimony, reviewing, and approving the MD 5 Great Mills Project FY 2025–2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2026.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=83417090072>.

This public hearing is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. A decision will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented during the public hearing. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before June, 9, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly. Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the UPWP and the TIP Amendment may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: Karly. Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov, or by visiting <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, May 29

TACOS Teen Advisory Council of Students

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
5-6 p.m.

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books, information, and form community. TACOS meets monthly to help us with our events and services planning. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

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

At this event, elementary-aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Mountain Laurel Guided Hike

1985 Scientists Cliffs Rd., Port Republic
6:30-8 p.m.

American Chestnut Land Trust. Hike through acres of beautiful mountain laurels. To register: form.jotform.com/250214032645142

Fri, May 30

Pins and Needles

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

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

Rooftop Car & Truck Show

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

Sat, May 31

Garden Smarter: Identifying & Attracting MD Butterflies

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10-11 a.m.

Learn which butterflies you might encounter in Maryland and what to plant to attract them to your garden. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Dungeons & Dragons – TEENS

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

Meet up and have fun with D&D. Players ages 13 - 19 of all levels and interest are welcome. Registration is required. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jun 4

On Pins & Needles

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

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

Thu, Jun 5

Sea Squirts

Calvert Marine Museum
10:15 & 11:15 a.m.

This month's theme is Seasonal / Summer-Time. Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Ongoing

Art in the Stacks

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
Through May 2025.

Enjoy digital art by local artist Scott Strong. The artworks presented in this show represent a single iteration of a digital master original, which lives only as ones and zeros on a computer hard drive. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Lore Oyster House

Select days in May and June
Join us at the newly refurbished Lore Oyster House. Located six-tenths of a mile south of the main museum campus on Solomons Island Road, this 1934 seafood packing house offers exhibits that explore all aspects of oyster processing. No admission required. Visit our website for all summer dates!

Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
Wed through Sun in May and June
2 p.m.

\$9 for adults and \$5 for children, infant through 12 years. *Please note: May 3 will follow the event schedule for the Solomons Maritime Festival.

Cove Point Lighthouse

Grounds and Visitors Center,
Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays in May and June

1- 4 p.m.

The Cove Point Lighthouse grounds are open to the public during the summer months to enjoy a view of the Calvert Cliffs, explore the base of the lighthouse tower, and learn about the history of the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. No admission required. NOTE: *The beach is not open to the public.*

Upcoming

Juneteenth Community Celebration

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard
June 14, 11a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Brantley Gilbert and Opener Jackson Dean

Calvert Marine Museum
Thursday, June 19, 7 p.m.

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

NARFE Calvert Chapter 1466 Annual Picnic and Meeting

CCPR Dunkirk District Park Shelter 4
10750 Southern Maryland Blvd., Dunkirk
Thursday, June 19, noon

Federal employees, retirees (and their families), and the public are welcome to attend. Email: CalvertNARFE@gmail.com

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

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



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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, May 30

Pitch Tournament

St. Mary's County Elks Lodge
22649 FDR Blvd., California
6-10 p.m.

Britton Hall of the Elks Lodge. Sign-ups start at 6pm and game starts at 7pm. \$20 buy-in \$1 up/\$1 go back with cash bar and pizza available for purchase. Cash Prize dependent on the number of entrants.

Sat, May 31

House & Garden Pilgrimage

Begin tour at Historic St. Mary's City Visitor Center
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Experience springtime in Southern Maryland on this self-guided tour of four private and historic waterfront homes, two historic churches, a living museum of archeology and stops at the scenic campus of SMCM with inspiring landscapes and stunning floral designs. In addition to the house and garden tours there will be a special performance by the St. Peter Claver Men's Choir, wine tastings and Bourbon samplings scheduled at various tour stops throughout the day. Proceeds benefit The Society for the Preservation of St. Ignatius Church. Visit www.mhgp.org or www.stmaryscountygardenclub.com for complete

information and/or tickets or contact Tour Chair, Beth Bonifant 301-861-6112,

Spaghetti Dinner

2nd District VFD & RS Social Hall
45245 Drayden Rd, Valley Lee
5 to 7 p.m.

Dine-in or carry out. Menu: spaghetti with meat sauce or no meat sauce, green beans, garden salad, garlic bread & dessert. Adults - \$15; children 6 to 12 - \$7; children 5 & under are free. For more information call 301-904-1656

Indoor Yard Sale

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd.,
Mechanicsville
7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Food for purchase. For more information 301-884-4132

For the Love of Our Animals

Summerseat Farm
Mechanicsville
11a.m.-2 p.m.

Join us in celebrating all the animals at Summerseat Farm. Sheep, goats, cows, pigs, rabbits, chickens, donkeys, a horse, and llamas too! Feeding the animals is a must but we will also have activities and games for the family. Make sure you get a scavenger hunt sheet at the gate!

This is a free community event, but dona-

tions are greatly appreciated. All monetary donations will directly benefit our animals. Suggested donation items are senior horse feed, mini pig feed, wet and dry cat food, rabbit feed, chicken feed, or items from our Amazon wish list. <http://www.summerseat.org/>

Sun, Jun 1

Pork BBQ Drive-Thru Dinner

Our Lady of the Wayside Loretto Hall
Chaptico
12 Noon to 4 p.m.

Pulled pork sandwich, chips, coleslaw and cookie. \$15 per dinner.

Mon, Jun 2

Elk's Monday Night Poker

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

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

Tue, Jun 3

Hands-On Tractor Maintenance Workshop

Leonardtown
4-8 p.m.

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) hosts this event designed for farmers seeking practical skills to perform routine repairs, prevent breakdowns, and keep their tractors in optimal condition. Only 20 spots are available. Interested farmers are encouraged to reserve early. For more information, contact SMADC at info@smadc.com

Mulch Raffle

SDVFD & RS Aux

More info/buy ticket (Zeffy form of payment) contact: george.starks@verizon.net; 240-925-2512. \$10/ticket.

Thu, Jun 5

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
7 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301-481-6625 for more information.



ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



A Healthier You:
Tips to Get You Started

Are you ready to get healthy and fit, but you don't know where to start? Our fitness and nutrition experts can set you on the right path with some basic exercises, nutrition tips, and a Q&A session. The crew from Method Gym in Leonardtown will be here to get you healthy and moving. Leonardtown Library on Friday, May 30, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Color Our World - Adult
Summer Reading Kickoff

Celebrate the beginning of summer reading with a fun art project highlighting this year's theme of Color Our World! You can create a colorful window decoration, color some summer scenes, and participate in a commu-

nity art project! Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, June 3 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

A Renaissance Day Celebration

Enjoy a memorable day filled with laughter, art, and historical discovery with demonstrations from the Barony of Dun Carraig, the Southern Maryland chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism! Join us for a Renaissance-themed celebration filled with fun, creativity, and hands-on learning where kids of all ages will delight in a variety of crafts to celebrate the art and science that was flourishing during this era in Europe! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

The Lights Are Not Safe

Karen Stone, Division Manager of the St.

Mary's County Museums, will give a special seminar highlighting the role of the Potomac River and lighthouses during the American Civil War. Join us as we explore the conditions on the Potomac River during the Civil War, especially in reference to the lighthouses and light vessels, and the dangers they faced. Lexington Park Library on Wednesday, June 11, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Yarn Storming Day

Join us as we participate in this global holiday where fiber artists decorate our community outside of the Leonardtown Library! Thursday, June 12 from 2 - 4 p.m. Fiber artists of all kinds and experience levels are encouraged to attend. In the spirit of Summer Reading, help us "Color Our World" by crocheting, knitting, or macramé around benches, trees, and

other structures! If you'd like to donate any of your surplus or unused yarn, donations can be dropped off at the Leonardtown Library. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Tie Dye Block Party at
Leonardtown Library

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

In Remembrance

Continued from page 20

grandchildren Ross Luffey, Billy Sanner, Gary Hyde, Lauren Sanner, Dale Warren, Benjamin Luffey, Brianne Luffey, Miranda Beale, Sara Blofsky, Mari Luffey and 10 great grandchildren Gary Hyde Jr., Sophia Hyde, William E. Sanner IV, Ethan Shaw, Savannah Warren, Harlee Warren, Beau Warren, Paisley Warren, Levi Blofsky and Ivy Blofsky. He was preceded in death by his wife Lois (Miffy) and sons Michael, Christopher, grandson Ethan and one sister Regina Kelley.

Family will receive friends Tuesday, May 27, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A. 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 where a funeral Service will be conducted at 12 p.m. Graveside services will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD.

Pallbearers will be grandsons Billy Sanner, Gary Hyde, Dale Warren and Benjamin Luffey, Honorary Pallbearer will be Will Sanner.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's and mail to P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Timothy Berry, 53



Timothy Nicklas Berry, Sr., 53, of Tall Timbers, MD, passed away suddenly on May 21, 2025. Born on July 3, 1971, at the U.S. Army Base Hospital Bad Cannstatt, Germany, he was the loving son of Glen "Jackie" Berry and Helen "Elaine" Morgan Berry, of Mechanicsville, MD. Shortly after his birth, the family returned to the United States, where he became a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County.

Timothy graduated from Leonardtown High School in 1989 and went on to build a life rooted in faith, family, and friendships.

He was a hard worker who took great pride in his career, dedicating 13 years to T.N. Bowes Heating & Air Conditioning, where he was known for his reliability and strong work ethic.

Timothy was a devoted son, brother, and proud loving father to his three children, Timothy Nicklas Berry, Jr., Ashley Brooke Berry, and Mackenzie Leigh Berry, all of Hollywood, MD. His children were the light of his life, and he was deeply involved in their lives, always offering support, love, and laughter.

A faithful Catholic, Timothy was a member of St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church and proudly served as a 3rd and 4th Degree Knight of Columbus, demonstrating his deep commitment to faith, charity, and service. He was a member of the Patuxent Moose Lodge and enjoyed spending many hours playing darts, horseshoes, and sharing laughs with friends.

Timothy also enjoyed watching NASCAR and cheering on his favorite driver, Jimmy Johnson. He also enjoyed watching various sports and proudly supported the Baltimore Ravens, Maryland Terrapins, and Baltimore Orioles.

He loved life on the water, spending time fishing, and watching the sunsets. He had a passion for music and watching karaoke, enjoying a cold beer or a mixed drink among friends, and found joy in simple things such as cooking (which he did exceptionally well), listening to music, and caring for his parents. Above all, he cherished time spent with his family and friends. His love for his family was unwavering, and he was known for his kind heart, easygoing nature, and loyalty to those he loved.

Timothy will be remembered for his sense of humor, generous spirit, and deep love for his children. He had a strong work ethic, a big heart, and a knack for making people feel welcome wherever he went.

Timothy is survived by his three cherished children; his parents; his siblings, Jeffrey "Scottie" Berry (Jenny Boone) of Great Mills, MD and Kimberly Ann Berry (Phillip Smith) of Louisburg, NC;

his nieces, Taylor Dean, Sadie Berry, and Lila Smith; his nephews, Cameron Dean, Logan Berry, Aaden Berry, and Tyler Smith; and the mother of his children, Stephanie Norris. He also leaves behind many cousins, extended family members, and friends who will miss him dearly.

Timothy was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Mary Helen Quade Morgan and William Leo Morgan, and his paternal grandparents, Alta Nina Hamilton Berry and George Raymond Berry Sr.

Family will receive friends on Monday, June 2, 2025 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with a prayer service held at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Funeral Service will be celebrated by Father Raymond Schmidt on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church, 43950 Saint Johns Road, Hollywood, MD 20636. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Pallbearers will be Timothy Berry, Jr., Jeffrey "Scottie" Berry, Shawn Morgan, Billy Graves, Bobby Fuller, and Mike Oliver.

Honorary pallbearers with be: T.N. Bowes.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Bob Aldridge, 87



Robert Brooke Aldridge, 87, of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully in his home on May 20th, 2025.

Born September 11th, 1937 in Washington, D.C.,

he was the loving son of the late Herbert Aldridge and Olive Ramsey Aldridge.

Robert (Bob) said it himself, he had a "wonderful life."

During his final year at Washington College in 1959, he married Jane Smith, his longtime sweetheart. Together they became parents to two daughters.

Bob's service in the Marines as a helicopter pilot took the young family from coast to coast, with deployments to Japan and Vietnam. His Marine service launched his distinguished 32-year career as a United Airlines pilot. His aviation career, in turn, inspired his lifelong love of travel, much of which he enjoyed with a close group of friends from Bethesda Chevy Chase High School.

Bob and Jane built a beautiful home in St. Mary's County with the aim of providing a place for family gatherings. The family treasures memories of eating, crabbing, boating and swimming together at their home.

At age 80, Bob married Maxine Counihan, who the family had known for years, and joyfully gained three more daughters through this union.

He attended St. Andrew's Episcopal Church with his wife Maxine, where he rediscovered his love of singing in the choir.


For more than two decades, he generously volunteered at Historic Sotterley as a member of the Garden Guild and as a Trustee, demonstrating his deep commitment to preserving local history and beauty.

Bob is survived by his wife, Maxine Aldridge; daughters, Lorraine Aldridge-Ey and Joanna Woods; step-daughters, Jennifer Couser, Lorraine Stafford and Erin Counihan; brother, John Aldridge; eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his former wife and mother to his children, Jane Aldridge.

A service will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, California, MD at 11:00 am on Saturday, June 14th, followed by a Celebration of Life at Historic Sotterley, Hollywood, MD at 1:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen at stmaryscaring.org. Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, Md.



**Thank you Lord for
Doug Delahay Woodburn
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Through the month of May
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For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125 for assistance.



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In Remembrance

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

Labro Parish, 73



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Labro Stanley Parish on May 18, 2025, at the age of 73.

Labro was born in Trenton, New Jersey, the youngest of three children to the late Stanley and Catherine Parish. He was the twin brother of his late sister, Irene.

A proud graduate of New York University's School of Engineering, Labro earned his degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics. He dedicated his professional career to the Department of the Navy, first in Ewing, New Jersey, and later in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Labro had a passion for home improvement projects and restoring vintage automobiles, often lending his mechanical expertise to help friends. He also enjoyed boating, fishing, and crabbing, especially along the waters of Southern Maryland.

Labro is survived by his beloved son Christopher, their spouse Matthew, and his granddaughter Caden. He is also survived by his brother Ted, his nephews Alexander and Dr. Stanley, and his dear friend Deborah. He leaves behind family members, friends, former colleagues, as well as relatives in Greece.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, May 22, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, located at 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM, followed by a service at 10:00 AM, with interment immediately afterward at Charles Memorial Gardens in Leonardtown.

May Labro now rest in peace with the Lord and always be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering willingness to help others.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Pat Johnson, 64



Patrick Raymond Johnson, 64, of Piney Point, MD, passed away surrounded by his loving family on May 23, 2025. Born on July 7, 1960 in Washington, DC, he was the loving son of

Janet Rooney Johnson and the late Michael Johnson, Sr. Pat is survived by his siblings, Dee Dee Johnson (Shaun), Michael Johnson, Jr. (Marina), Mary Thompson (Andrew), James Johnson (Roberta), David Johnson, and Thomas Johnson. Included are his many

loving nieces, nephews dear to his heart, Kate, Brett, Matt, Leslee, Mallory, Kelly, Chris, Ryan, Heather, Jake, Joey, Shelbie, Harrison, Grace, Jacob, Blake and Ella.

Pat graduated from Longview School in Gaithersburg, MD in 1981 at the age of 21. He worked for the ARC of Montgomery County, MD, The Center for Life Enrichment, and Vintage Values as a collector, greeter and counter sales.

Pat was known for his caring and loving heart. He had an undeniable love for his family, friends, and neighbors, who loved him greatly. His passions were talking on the phone, going for walks to see neighbors, watching and listening to music, going to the mall and parties.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 30, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. Where a Funeral Service will follow at 11:00 AM. Interment will be private.

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

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

Chuck Luffey, 96



Charles M. Luffey 96 of Lexington Park, MD passed away at his home on May 15, 2025. Known as Chuck, Luffey or Pop to friends and family, he was a respected

patriarch of the family. He was an expert electronics technician and provided his mature guidance and mentoring to others. He had a loving compassion for his work.

Chuck was born in Nemaquin, PA on April 25, 1929 to Charles W. Luffey of Elk Garden, WV and Gladys Luffey (nee Willis) of PA. After high school he joined the Army and served his country. Chuck moved his family to Southern Maryland for employment at the Patuxent Naval Air Station. He started his government career in 1952 and retired from his government service in 1984 only to return to work as a government contractor. Chuck worked at Weapons Test Directorate (WST), RTPS and the Hush House, and enjoyed the comradery of his coworkers.

Chuck loved his family vacation trips, country music, Pittsburgh Steelers, Redskins, fishing, hunting at his cabin in West Virginia, coaching his sons little league games and watching the Saint Mary's County women's and men's leagues.

He is survived by his daughters Linda Sanner, Karla Warren and Deanna Youdal (Richard). Chuck is also survived by his

Continued on page 22

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A View From The BLEACHERS



Important Stuff

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

The workday is done. Dinner is consumed and cleaned up. Other daily adulting (yes, it's a verb) nonsense — paying bills, ironing clothes, making lunches for the next day — is complete. An aging domestic warrior saunters upstairs, grabs the remote and flips on the television.

Countless channels are available (the spoils of a modern world enabling sedentation), but only a few are needed — i.e. the ones broadcasting live sports. Every night over these last few fabulous weeks has offered NBA and NHL play-off showdowns in New York, Raleigh, Los Angeles, Miami, Oklahoma City, Minneapolis and several cities north of the 49th parallel (Canada!). “Waiter, I’ll take one of everything, please!”

An ancillary routine has emerged in my household during execution of the ritual described above. The games beamed from across the hinterland into my man-loft inevitably produce a fantastic shot or sick goal that prompts a loud guttural sound from my loins that would make my hairy, meat-eating, cave-dwelling ancestors proud. On cue, my son, whose bedroom is adjacent to the man-loft, will run in to survey the scene. He’s likely been watching the same event and takes the primal reaction next door as evidence of my presence upstairs and an invitation to watch the rest of this night’s fantastic competition with his old man.

As east cost dwellers, we stay up past our bedtimes to watch to conclusion. I neither have nor want the discipline to turn off epic games in crunch time. I certainly don’t want my kid thinking he should. This is important stuff!

Important stuff. The games? Yes, of course. These are the greatest athletes in the world battling for their sports’ biggest prize and team and individual immortality. But something more important is happening.

An admission: Sometimes I don’t watch the games. My mind wanders. My vision drifts from the television. And I just watch my kid, the one-time little fellow who is now entering quasi-adulthood. He jumps. He laughs. He produces similar caveman noises. Most importantly, though, he’s present, with me, in this moment. Age and life experience have provided me the wisdom to recognize the preciousness of these daily gatherings and this moment in time. This will not hold. It will not last. There’s a clock on this experience, just like the one governing the games we watch. The countdown to zero is inevitable.

My son is a high school senior. He’s off to college this fall and our lives will never be the same. The life that we’ve both known since he arrived as we all did — naked and screaming gloriously — is about to change forever. I know this because I’ve lived it as a younger man and as a father (with his older sister). I think he does too, as much as he can. We’ve never actually talked about it, but it is what draws us together at night. I’ll admit that I embellish my reactions during these games, ensuring he can hear me. I smile wide when I hear his door open seconds later, indicating he’s in-bound. Do my eyes sometimes swell with tears as he darts into the room? Every time. Why? Because next year he won’t be down the hall for the NBA and NHL playoffs. He’ll be in a dorm room. I’ll be in my man-loft — alone. Sure, we can text and FaceTime, but it won’t be like this. Not next year. Not the year after. Probably never again.

During this graduation season, many families are facing this same inflection point. The emotional roller coaster is real — a combination of sentimentality and excitement for the present and future. What I tell myself: I have to be okay with my son’s departure for college. This is how it’s supposed to be. He’s worked hard and created this opportunity; this is the first step in building his life, not existing in the life his mother and I built for him. Like a lot of parents, I’ll get to this point eventually. For now, it’s elusive and I’m just grateful for sports, the daily games and the treasured memories they are creating for this dad and his son.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Observe Save for Education Day with a 529 plan

Whether your children are in grade school or high school, they’ll be leaving for college or trade school before you know it. With the cost of education rising, now is the time to prepare for that day.

Starting to invest when your child is born is often a great way to build a strong financial future. Even if your children are older, you can still make progress and potentially reap tax benefits by contributing to a 529 education savings plan. Contributions are made with after-tax dollars, accumulate with no federal income tax and can be withdrawn for qualified education expenses federally tax free.

Unfortunately, half of Americans don’t know what a 529 plan is, and fewer than a quarter have one, according to 2024 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. One way to keep a 529 plan top of mind is to recognize May 29 (5/29) as Save for Education Day.

Benefits of a 529 plan

- **Tax Advantages.** Your withdrawals are free from federal income tax when you use them for elementary or secondary school tuition — including vocational schools and some online courses and degree programs — registered apprenticeships, and qualified higher-education expenses such as housing, books and more.
- **Flexibility.** The variety of qualifying expenses may surprise you. For example, you can pay for off-campus housing (up to the cost of on-campus room and board), student loan repayments (up to a \$10,000 lifetime limit), and computers and computer-related accessories, including printers, internet access and educational software used primarily by the plan beneficiary. You may even be able to roll over unused funds to a Roth IRA for your beneficiary, switch beneficiaries or roll it over to another 529 plan.
- **Control.** As the account owner, you — not the beneficiary — control how the funds are used, as you planned and intended.

Strategies for building 529 savings

If you set aside money every month, it can make a big difference toward funding your child’s best educational path forward. So, how can you budget for a 529 for your child, when you have competing financial priorities?

- **Save early and regularly.** Consider setting up automatic transfers into a 529 account, even if it feels like a small amount. Taking a few minutes to set it up now can help pay for four years of your child’s education in the future.
- **Increase over time.** You could reallocate your day care expenses once your child enters school, which could be a substantial amount each month.
- **Review your savings over time.** Many things can change over time — your available dollars, education costs, investment performance, choice of college, financial aid options and the number of children you’re providing for. You have the flexibility to change your contributions.

Your financial advisor can help you determine how a 529 plan can fit into your overall financial strategy and navigate the various guidelines and limits — such as defining a qualified expense, changing beneficiaries and rolling unused dollars elsewhere.

A 529 plan can be a valuable tool for helping your family members afford the educational opportunities that can lead to a promising future. Whether you’re exploring this opportunity for the first time or reviewing your current plan, Save for Education Day on 5/29 is good time to do it.

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

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

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LEONARDTOWN'S GOT TALENT

..... TALENT SHOW - AUGUST 9TH

**Calling all singers, dancers, comedians,
magicians, musicians & more!**

**Submit your audition for a chance to
perform in front of a live audience &
open for the band at the Labor Day
Concert at the Wharf!**

ELIGIBILITY

- Must reside in St. Mary's County
- Must be 13 years or older
- All acts must be family-friendly
- Audition video must be at least 30 seconds but no more than 1 minute 30 seconds in length.
- **Deadline to submit entry is July 10th**



For complete rules & details, scan the QR Code
or visit the event page at:

VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar



SUMMER EVENTS AT ST. MARY'S MUSEUMS

DISCOVER HISTORY AND HERITAGE FOR ALL AGES



FREE
FAMILY
FUN

St. Clement's Island Heritage Day

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

Saturday • June 7 • 10AM–3PM

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



Drayden African American Schoolhouse

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



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

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



FREE



SUMMER SOLSTICE AT PINEY POINT

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

Friday • June 20 • 10AM–8PM

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

2025 Dinner & A Cruise Series

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



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

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



St. Clement's Island Art Kids

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

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

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

FamilyFest on the Potomac

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



Saturday - September 13 - 10am–4pm

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



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



SoMD June Events

UCAC Juneteenth Celebration

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

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

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

Blue & Grey Days

June 7 & 8
Point Lookout State Park

This event will represent the occupation of Point Lookout by Union forces, creation of Hammond Hospital and the establishment of the largest prison camp in the North. Costumed interpreters will present small arms and artillery demonstrations as well as static living history exhibits depicting Civil War military and civilian life at Point Lookout.

Maryland Dove Passenger Sail

June 14, 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM
Historic St. Mary's City
47414 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City
Admission: \$60/person (members \$50)

Set sail aboard the *Maryland Dove* for a sail on the St. Mary's River. Experience history firsthand and learn about life on a 17th-century trading vessel. Pre-registration required: hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov.

Lavender Days Festival

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

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

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

Crab Festival

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

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

In addition, guests will enjoy:

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

Flag Day Celebration

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

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County invite the entire community to attend the 2025 Flag Day Celebration! This event features a procession by various color guards and veteran groups from around the county, a special Flag Day Service, an official Flag Retirement Ceremony, plus hand-held American Flags, food, music, for kids, and more!

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

Mulberry Music Festival

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

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

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

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

Summer Solstice Faerie Party

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

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

Mud Day

June 21, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Rd., Solomons
Admission: \$12/person (members \$7); advance timed-entry tickets required

We hope you will join us for a most unusual event! Celebrate international MUD DAY at Annmarie with a day full of muddy Earthy explorations and creative nature play. We'll learn about the importance of soil, the plants, insects, and other creatures that rely on soil and live in it, and the extraordinary importance of mud in our lives. Plus we will have fun with the creative side of

things with squishy art projects, mud painting, mud pies, tree faces, a mud kitchen, and so much more.

It's an unforgettable day of science + art + muddy fun!

Food vendors will be on site. Pack like you're going to the pool or the beach! Chairs, towels, sunscreen, and bug spray encouraged! Rinse-off stations will be available, but bring extra clothes and prepare for a muddy car ride home! This is a rain or shine event; all ticket sales are final; no pets, no smoking, no vaping.

Community, Culture & Cuisine

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

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

Sacred Heart Church

ANNUAL JUNE

Drive-Thru Dinner

23080 MADDOX ROAD, BUSHWOOD, MARYLAND 20618

Sunday, June 22, 2025

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



Crab Cakes

Fried Chicken

Country Ham

\$30.00
(Make Checks Payable to:
Sacred Heart Church)
Cash or Checks Only
(Sorry, No Credit Card Service Available)

**Potato Salad, Cole
Slaw, Green Beans,
Pickled Beets, & Rolls**

**Drive-Thru &
Carry Outs
Only**

Cake Table Available

HELL SUMMER

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



FRIDAY, JUNE 20

MULBERRY MUSIC FESTIVAL @ 6 P.M.

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

Learn more: www.smcm.edu/mmfnf

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

FRIDAY, JULY 4

FRIDAY, JULY 11

FRIDAY, JULY 18

FRIDAY, JULY 25

RIVER CONCERT SERIES @ 7 P.M.

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

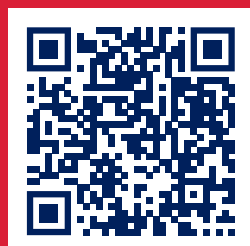
GOVERNOR'S CUP YACHT RACE

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

Learn more: www.smcm.edu/gcnp

ST MARY'S
COLLEGE of MARYLAND

FOR ALL SMCM SUMMER
EVENTS VISIT:



The **NATIONAL PUBLIC HONORS** *College*



SoMD *June* Events

25th Anniversary

POTOMAC JAZZ & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Four Days of Jazz Fun!

JULY 10-13, 2025

IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD



JULY
10
THUR



A Jazz Sunset Affair on the Potomac

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

JULY
11
FRI



Jazz in the Neighborhood

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

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



Artful Harmonies: A Plein Air Celebration

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

JULY
12
SAT

THE Main EVENT



CASUAL GROOVE



REBECCA JADE



ANDRÉA LISA



CHELSEY GREEN

12 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum Grounds
Enjoy live jazz performances by **Casual Groove, Rebecca Jade, Andréa Lisa, and Chelsey Green**, as well as a variety of seafood vendors and activities. Tickets: \$75 General Admission/\$95 VIP.

JULY
13
SUN



Jazz Brunch and Golf at Wicomico Shores

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



Jazz Cruises with Captain Phil and Sax Appeal

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



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

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

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



MAJOR FESTIVAL PARTNERS

Create Your Native Plant Garden



Gardening is a worthwhile endeavor that not only passes the time, but can be a form of exercise and relief from the daily grind. Gardens also provide ample opportunity to experiment, as individuals can produce everything from vegetables to bountiful blooms.

Recent years have witnessed a growing emphasis on eco-friendly gardening that aims to reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides in an effort to protect the planet. One way to do so is to rely on native plants.

What are native plants?

Native plants are indigenous to particular regions. The National Wildlife Federation says native plants grow in habitats without human introduction or intervention. Native plants have formed symbiotic relationships with local wildlife over thousands of years, which the NWF notes makes them the most sustainable options. Native plants help the environment and thrive with little supplemental watering or chemical nutrients.

Natives vary by region

Native plants vary by region. In arid climates, certain succulents may be native because they don't need much rainfall to thrive. In lush wetlands, succulents might be out of place.

Start native planting

The NWF offers native plants for 36 different states that can be shipped right to customers' doors to help replenish native varieties. In addition, gardeners can visit local gardening centers to select native plants. Small and independently owned centers often feature knowledgeable local

staff whose expertise can prove invaluable to individuals seeking native varieties.

It's important to keep in mind that native varieties may look less cultivated than more exotic blooms and foliage designed to sell for their unique appearances. Wildflowers and native grasses may be the types of native plants found in abundance, which may grow up and out quickly. These other tips can help the process.

- Plan and prepare the site by removing weeds and turning over the soil. This will give seedlings an opportunity to take root without competition from weeds. Seedlings will give gardens a faster head-start than waiting around for seeds to germinate. However, gardeners can start seeds indoors and then move them outside once they are seedlings.
- Avoid planting native plants in rows, as that's not how they're likely to grow naturally. Vary the placement so the plants look like they sprouted up haphazardly.
- Gardeners can still exert some control over native gardens prone to growing a little wild. Borders and paths can better define the growing areas.
- Grow Native!, an initiative from the Missouri Prairie Foundation, suggests planting two to four species in broad sweeping masses or drifts. Mix grasses with flowering plants. The grasses produce dense, fibrous roots that can prevent weed growth.

Native plants should require minimal care. Keep an eye on them and supplement with water if conditions have been especially dry.

THE Wentworth Weekly

BOGO SAVINGS ON SEASONAL COLOR

Get your Patio, Deck, Pool, and Pond Ready for the Season.

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Ready-To-Go Instant Color

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BOGO - HERBS & VEGETABLES

All herbs and vegetable plants

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50% OFF



BOGO - COLOR BOWLS

Ready-To-Go Instant Color

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BOGO - 3.5" ANNUALS

All 1801 full flats 31/2" annuals.

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BOGO - MARKET PACK ANNUALS

All traditional market pack annuals.

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Wentworth Nursery

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Sale Ends: 6/3/2025

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Garden Center
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Prince Frederick, MD
410-535-3664 • 866-535-3664

Oakville
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Get to the Root of a Dry Lawn

Weather can be unpredictable, even during the warmest months of the year. Summer days may feature strong thunderstorms and downpours, followed by stretches of extremely hot and dry conditions. Weather extremes can take a toll on lawns, especially when drought is part of the equation. The results can be anything from dry patches to a scorched landscape, leaving homeowners wondering what they can do to repair the damage.

According to The Spruce, dry grass can happen in as little as a week without adequate care and water. Sometimes dry grass can be the result of disease, pets, or pests. A healthy lawn will be lush and green; a dry lawn quite the opposite. It's crunchy, uncomfortable and muted in color. Here's how to address a dry lawn to restore it to its natural beauty.



Pet urine

Animal urine often is the culprit behind dry patches in a lawn. Lawns need nitrogen to grow, which is why it is included in many fertilizers. But the nitrogen in dog urine is concentrated and directed in one area, so much so that it chemically burns the lawn. This concentrated nitrogen causes the grass to dry out, turn yellow and eventually go brown and die.

Rinsing areas where dogs urinate on the lawn or creating a separate potty area in the yard can help alleviate brown spots.

Lawn height

Sometimes a lawn mower might be to blame for a brown lawn. According to Scotts®, the higher a person mows, the deeper the

lawn's roots will grow. That can help the lawn thrive under restricted water conditions and insulate the lawn from some of the effects of hot, dry weather. Never remove more than one-third of the total height in a single mowing, as that can stress the lawn.

Diseases

Leaf blight, brown patches and powdery mildew are just some of the diseases that can affect a lawn. Fungal bacteria can spread on a lawn and contribute to these conditions, which makes it important to aerate and dethatch the lawn in cooler seasons to help prevent disease.

Improper pH

A lawn requires a certain pH to grow well. According to Weed Man Lawn Care Services, the ideal pH range for lawn soil is between 6.0 and 7.0. Anything outside of this range may result in poor, brown grass. A soil pH test will indicate if the soil is acidic, alkaline or optimal. Amend an acidic soil with lime and an alkaline soil with sulphur in small amounts until a balance is reached.

Pest infestation

People are not the only creatures that like a lawn. Many pests feed on blades of grass or the roots. The result can be patchy, dry grass. Figuring out what is causing any damage is

essential. Homeowners can then take steps to remove the pests and return the lawn to its former glory.

Dehydration

Deep watering can help restore a lawn that has widespread wilting and browning. Popular Mechanics advises homeowners begin watering more in spring. Water infrequently but for longer periods of time to encourage roots to deepen. The ideal time to water is between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m. to limit evaporation.

Trial and error may be necessary to figure out why a lawn is brown and what's needed to revive it.

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Juneteenth Open Houses Announced



St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, in partnership with the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC), will be offering free open houses for visitors and the community at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse and the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Interpretive Center in the Lexington Manor Passive Park for Juneteenth from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 19; Friday, June 20; and Saturday, June 21 at both locations.

At Drayden, visitors can discover one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses, whose story represents a significant part of St. Mary's County's African American history. Visitors are invited to learn more about the restored schoolhouse, its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Hear the real stories about how African American students learned in this school up until the mid-20th century.

Inside the U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center, visitors can learn about two St. Mary's County Congressional Medal of Honor recipients who served in the 38th

Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Colored Troops and fought for the Union during the Civil War. These two men received the Medal of Honor for their valor and bravery at the Battle of New Market Heights, Virginia, in 1864. On the trail between the Interpretive Center in Lexington Manor Passive Park and John G. Lancaster Park, you can learn about the Civil War era in St. Mary's County and the African American troops on interpretive panels that lead to the statue of the soldier.

Staff will be available at both locations to answer questions and provide information on these amazing stories.

The U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center is located at the Lexington Manor Passive Park at 21675 S. Coral Drive in Lexington Park, Maryland. For more information, call (301) 994-1471 or visit Facebook.com/USCTCenter and click on "events".

The Drayden African American Schoolhouse is located at 18287 Cherryfield Road in Drayden, Maryland. For more information, call (301) 994-1471 or visit Facebook.com/DraydenSchool and click on "events".

Big Tree Contest Now Underway

The Maryland Big Tree Program is celebrating its 100-year centennial by sponsoring a Big Tree Contest. There are five cash prizes starting at \$500.

Only trees in state forests are eligible, and only trees at 15 feet in circumference or larger qualify for prizes.

There are two state forests in St. Mary's County—Salem and St. Inigoes—and two in

Charles County—Cedarville and Doncaster Demonstration.

The contest ends on Labor Day. DNR Office of Communication has a flyer available. The link is <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/trees/Big-Tree-Centennial-Contest.aspx>. Contact me at mdbigtreeprogram@aol.com for additional information.

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MEET MAX

Max the 5-year-old Jack Russell Mix is looking for a comfy bed to sleep in and a human to call their own! Max has been doing great with many dogs of different sizes and personalities! He would do best in a home with no young kids. Max is a sweet guy, who takes sometime getting comfortable with you, once he trusts you it's all love after that. Are you interested in giving Max his Furever home? Go online and fill out an application at www.animalrelieffund.org, call 301-866-0303 or stop by Saturdays at the Well Pet Clinic for adoption days between 11am-2pm!

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Rylie Farbizio
Branch Office Administrator

Crab Population Declined in Dredge Survey

The Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, a cooperative effort between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, estimates 238 million blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay in 2025, a decrease from last year's 317 million crabs.

The results showed decreases in the abundance of adult male and female crabs, as well as a decline in the juvenile population, marking the sixth consecutive year of below average juvenile recruitment found in the survey.

"We saw a very high mortality rate among blue crabs this winter, likely due to several cold snaps," said Mandy Bromilow, DNR's blue crab program manager. "With the results of the stock assessment next year, we hope to have more insight on what could be contributing to the ongoing low juvenile recruitment and what we can do to support the Chesapeake Bay's blue crabs. Until then, we need to maintain caution in our management approach for blue crabs."

This year's total estimated abundance is the second lowest in the history of the survey, which has operated since 1990. The lowest was 226 million crabs in 2022. The juvenile abundance of 103 million in 2025 was a decrease from 138 million last year, and the third lowest abundance on record, after 2021 and 2022.



Blue crabs await measurement during the 2024 winter dredge survey. Photo by Joe Zimmermann.

The estimated number of spawning age female crabs decreased from 133 million in 2024 to 108 million in 2025. The number of adult male crabs decreased from 46 million in 2024 to 26 million in 2025.

The female abundance is above the threshold number of 72.5 million crabs and below the target of 196 million crabs. In fisheries management, target numbers represent the desired state of a fishery, while thresholds are lower numbers that can trigger a

management response. Based on the current management framework, the abundance of mature females should be high enough to support a strong juvenile year class given the right environmental conditions.

Blue crab reproduction is naturally variable and influenced by many factors such as oceanic conditions, available nursery habitat, predation, and other environmental impacts. The blue crab harvest is known to follow a boom and bust cycle, with runs

of years with higher harvest followed by stretches of lower harvest.

Blue crab management in the Chesapeake Bay will benefit from the completion of the ongoing stock assessment in the spring of 2026. In this analysis, scientists will examine years of data to assess potential factors that could be affecting the blue crab population, including hypoxia, water temperature, habitat availability, and predation by blue catfish.

The previous blue crab stock assessment in 2011 and accompanying management decisions helped to bring the Chesapeake's blue crab population back from more than a decade of low abundance and harvest levels. The current stock assessment will serve as a critical update to that work by ensuring that management targets and thresholds, including sustainable fishing rates, are set appropriately.

The Winter Dredge Survey has been conducted cooperatively by Maryland and Virginia since 1990, and the results are reviewed annually in an effort to have consistent management efforts across the jurisdictions. Throughout the survey, biologists use dredge equipment to capture, measure, record and release blue crabs at 1,500 sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay from December through March. Detailed results are on the DNR website.

Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Ordinance No. 229

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 4:15 p.m. at the Town Office, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and receive public comment regarding revisions to Chapter 78, Floodplain. Copies of the documents are available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office or on the Town website at <https://leonardtown.somd.com/> under the news section.

The public is invited to attend and/or send written comments to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 to be received no later than June 9th, at 3:00 p.m. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Ordinance No. 230

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Office, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and receive public comment regarding revisions to Chapter 155, Zoning. Copies of the documents are available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office or on the Town website at <https://leonardtown.somd.com/> under the news section.

The public is invited to attend and/or send written comments to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 to be received no later than June 9th, at 3:00 p.m. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization, C-SMMPO, will conduct a meeting at the Walter Francis Duke Terminal Conference Room, located at 44200 Airport Road, California, MD 20619 on **Thursday, June 12, 2025**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of receiving public testimony, reviewing, and approving the MD 5 Great Mills Project FY 2025–2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2026.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=83417090072>.

This public hearing is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. A decision will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented during the public hearing. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before June 9, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly. Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the UPWP and the TIP Amendment may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: Karly. Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov, or by visiting <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

Two Arrested Following Leonardtown Burglary



Julian Alexander Moore



Matthew Eric Morris

On Tuesday, May 27 at approximately 10:30 p.m. deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 21000 block of Abell's Wharf Road in Leonardtown for a reported commercial burglary in progress.

Upon arrival, deputies located two 18-year-old males, identified as Julian Alexander Moore and Matthew Eric Morris, both of Leonardtown, on the property.

An investigation determined that the suspects had unlawfully entered the facility and caused damage to the property. Surveillance footage confirmed the unauthorized entry and resulting property damage. Moore and Morris were arrested at the scene.

Both individuals have been charged with:

- One count of Second-Degree Burglary
- One count of Malicious Destruction

of Property

The suspects were transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown for processing.

The investigation into this incident is ongoing, and anyone with additional information is asked to contact Corporal Glen Knott #234 at 301-475-4200, ext. 2279, or via email at Glen.Knott@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.

Hit-and-Run with Stolen Vehicle Investigated

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported motor vehicle collision with a possible disturbance on Sunday, May 18 at approximately 4:38 p.m. at McArthur Boulevard and South Poteat Court in California.

While en route, a deputy observed a group of five juveniles walking away from the vicinity of the reported incident.

The reporting party, the driver of a 2022 Chevrolet Malibu, advised that her vehicle had been struck by a silver Hyundai Sonata. Following the collision, four male juveniles and one female juvenile reportedly exited the Hyundai and fled on foot.

Further investigation revealed that the Hyundai Sonata had been reported stolen in Charles County. A witness's description matched the group of juveniles seen by the responding deputy. Additional deputies assisted in locating and detaining the individuals.

All five juveniles were apprehended in a

non-custodial manner and later released to the custody of a guardian.

Law enforcement agencies are prohibited from publicly identifying a juvenile, even when charged as an adult, due to legal protections safeguarding the juvenile's identity throughout the judicial process.

The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with additional information is asked to contact Deputy Thomas Dewey #441 at 301-475-4200, ext. 8132, or by email at Thomas.Dewey@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.

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4:30 PM



Children's Activities

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1:00 to 3:30 ~ Horseback Rides

1:00 to 3:00 & 4:00 to 5:00 ~ Ongoing children's activities
including Painting, Drawing, Color Books,
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FEATURING 3:00 ~ Ms. Story
Living History

1:45 ~ Zumba Demonstration with Leslie Heigh

2:45 ~ DJ Watts Boots on the Ground and Line Dancing



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School Board Adopts Budget

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education on May 21 officially approved their budget for the next fiscal year.

Deputy Superintendent of Fiscal and Supporting Services Tammy McCourt told the school board the \$298,071,216 unrestricted budget was a 2.9 percent increase. Of that, \$137,469,907 was local funding, or a 2.3 percent increase, and \$146,576,785 was state funding, or a 2.2 percent increase.

McCourt said the state has not finalized what the counties will get.

The budget was balanced using \$7,722,231 of fund balance, as follows:

- Bus contractor retention: \$1,220,725
- CIP Transfer — Critical Building Maintenance: \$1,000,000
- Maintenance/Remediation: \$20,000
- Redistricting consulting fees: \$250,000
- Workforce Development — required carryover from FY25: \$231,506
- Technology: \$2,500,000
- Classroom Furniture: \$500,000
- OPEB: \$2,000,000

Three positions were reclassified:

- Administrative Assistant to Coordinating Administrative Assistant
- General Fund Title I Coordinator to Title I Supervisor
- Title I Director of Parent and Family Engagement I to Director of Title I and Community Engagement II

McCourt said the following budget cuts, savings, and strategies were initiated:

- Detailed review of every budget request
 - » Last year's budget is not next year's starting point
- Reduction of 17.2 positions
- 1:1 technology Kindergarten through First Grade Remove
- Relocation of the Virtual Academy to Leonardtown Campus, close Virtual Academy Building
- Move environmental education from the Elms to Sotterley
- Further reduction in relocatables
 - » Health Care Change
 - Medicare Advantage
 - Prudent Rx
 - Marathon
 - Stop loss insurance
 - Continued transition from Triple Option to HMO
 - » Implement Building Maintenance Automation Systems
 - Increase efficiency in maintenance operation

Regarding Blueprint funding, McCourt said there are "three tiers of new required financial reporting and allocation of resources to programs. She said fund-



Deputy Superintendent of Fiscal and Supporting Services Tammy McCourt

ing is tied to student total enrollment and demographics.

The law says, "For each school, the county board shall distribute the minimum school funding amount for the applicable program multiplied by the school enrollment for the applicable program."

McCourt said 75 percent of the Blueprint funding must go directly to the schools. That requirement is for each school and not for the school system as a whole. The deadline has been extended to Fiscal Year 2027.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said the state requirement presents unique accounting challenges. "This is the most confusing, mind-numbing element of the Blueprint and it is obviously on a daunting scale that those who passed the laws have no concept of."

"We all agree with that," Smith said of the premise that 75 percent of Blueprint funding has to go to the classroom. It's the implementation that has become a nightmare, he added.

"It becomes really challenging," he insisted. "At the end of it, it's a maddening exercise."

Student Member Hannah Heisler said, "We finally found a way to make the budget work that didn't have to cut a hundred teachers, because that would be absolutely terrible."

School Board member Mary Washington said, "This was a tough budget year, and we made it."

School Board Vice President Cathy Allen thanked the county commissioners for adding \$3.1 million to cover the school system's negotiated agreements.

"That has been priority number one for us all along," she said of funding the employee agreements.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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St. Mary's Ryken Graduates Class of 2025



Photos by Ceandra Scott



Editor's Note: Commencements at Great Mills High School and Chopticon High School occurred after press time and will appear in the June 5 edition of the County Times.

Outgoing SMOB: 'Take Yourself Seriously'

Heisler Recognized at Her Last Meeting

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education recognized outgoing Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Hannah Heisler during her final meeting on May 21.

Heisler said, "I am so honored to have had this opportunity."

Heisler said she wondered before being chosen what the SMOB must be like, and she concluded that he or she must be someone special. "They must be composed in how they handle themselves," she observed.

As a SMOB she said she learned how to be an effective speaker and that because of the fact that she was a role model she needed to learn to take herself seriously.

Her advice to other students is similar: "Take yourself seriously!"

Heisler graduated on May 28 from Leonardtown High School and is heading for her collegiate career at Williams College in Massachusetts.

According to information provided by the board, "In addition to her role as Student Member of the Board, she has also served on the Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council (SSLAC). Hannah has been an excellent school representative for Leonardtown High School and has helped students embrace advocacy and channel their passions into projects that benefit the entire school community."

During her tenure Heisler spoke to every fifth-grade class and also connected with middle and high school students.

School Board Vice President Cathy Allen said Heisler told students, "Their actions and behaviors set the tone for their school community."

"It's been a very busy year for Hannah as she juggled course work, student government, chorus and more as she visited colleges to charter her path after graduation," Allen noted. Allen said Heisler was very helpful to the board in presenting the student viewpoint during discussion of their new cellphone policy."

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said, "I hope you look back in your time with use... and reflect that you were a role model."

Smith advised Heisler to enjoy her time in college.

The school board gave Heisler a fountain pen set as a remembrance.

Heisler will be succeeded as SMOB by Vanessa Li, a rising senior at Leonardtown High School. She was elected to the position by her peers.

According to a press release from the school system, "Vanessa has a wealth of experience in student leadership at both the local and state levels. She currently serves as the President of the Principal's Student



Outgoing Student Member of the Board Hannah Heisler

Leadership Advisory Council at LHS, overseeing more than 40 student leaders and guiding the implementation of various civic and school-related projects.

"Additionally, she holds the position of Vice President for both the SMASC and the LHS Student Government Association. Her other experiences include serving as an LHS representative for the SMCPS Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council and being a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Student-To-Student Mentor, and Freshman Advisory Mentor.

"Vanessa's influence extends beyond the school and county levels; she is also the Division 5 Liaison for the Maryland Association of Student Councils. In this role, she collaborates with student leaders from Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's County, leads monthly meetings with Division 5 student leaders, attends regional general assemblies, and coordinates a student leadership conference.

James Copsey III, the principal of LHS, commented, "Vanessa's background in student government and as a student leader will enable her to provide an informed perspective on school matters before the board."

Kylie Teston, the Choir Director at LHS, praised Vanessa as "a student leader who listens, understands, and advocates passionately for her peers," highlighting how her experiences allow her to lead with empathy and insight.

The release said, "When Li assumes her elected position, her primary focus will be on empowering students and increasing their awareness of educational opportunities, ensuring that all students feel supported in pursuing their interests and academic aspirations. She aims to gain a thorough understanding of the budget process and establish a system for effective communication and collaboration between the Board of Education and students."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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County Times

Leonardtown High Holds 46th Commencement

Valedictorian Shares Her Three Minutes



Photos by Ceandra Scott



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With rain pouring down outside, Leonardtown High School held its 46th graduation ceremony on May 28 indoors at the school.

Valedictorian Hannah Heisler, who also served as Student Member of the Board of Education, noted she had just three minutes to speak.

She said, “Four years in high school, and I get three minutes. Three minutes to tell you everything I’ve learned, three minutes to impart on you everything I wish for us to be, three minutes to tell you how proud of us I am.

“Firstly, what I’ve learned, personally. You want to hear something messed up? Hearing the title of valedictorian made me feel valued, better about myself, like I was somehow worth more. And that was actually crazy. Nothing changed in me physically from 8 to 11 a.m. last Friday. So, why does my self-worth come from external validation? I am my own worst critic. I see myself as all that I could be, instead of all that I am.

“But you know what? Ninth-grade me would be proud to see me now. Ninth-grade you would be proud of you, too. Maybe I could have done more these past four years,

maybe we all could have, but look at how much we’ve grown.

What I’m working on — what I’m learning — is that our worth is not determined by what could be, or by comparison; worth is who you are. Your work ethic, your grit, your kindness, your love. Know your worth and own it. Take yourself seriously. You are a force be reckoned with, and you know what? The world isn’t even ready for us.

Here is my wish for all of you: pursue your biggest dream. I don’t care if you fail — no one cares if you fail. No one cares if you don’t get a job or internship you applied for. No one even knows what you try for and don’t get. Only you know your failures, but you can’t let them stop you. You have the power to forgive yourself and try again. Move on. You are the only one with the absolute control to make your goals a reality.

“There is not just one road you can take to your dream, there are many. You can mess up, you can fail, and you can still pick yourself up. Don’t settle for less than what you love. You haven’t reached your full potential yet, none of us have, so don’t stop now.

“Here’s the thing — we will never all be in the same room as a class again. But we were together at the one of the most vulnerable parts of our lives. We witnessed each

other as we found ourselves. As a freshman, I had no idea what I wanted to do after graduation. I couldn’t even put on an outfit that matched, or decide the best route to my classes. But we grew up together. We improved together, and we learned together. We all grew up to be people who are each a little different than the 9th graders we started as, but we all grew up to be someone to be proud of. Not that we’re ever finished growing up. But wow, we have grown up well these past four years.

“Thank you to all of you, for experiencing childhood with me. I am so proud of all of us. Four years of work is a long time. But trust me, our lives are just getting started. And compared to our four years here, a three minute speech is pretty short, but you can do a lot with three minutes.

“In three minutes, you could learn a few words of another language, buy a plane ticket to travel the world. You can write a note to your teacher telling them thank you for all they’ve taught you. In three minutes, you can help a friend in need or tell someone that you see them for all that they are. In three minutes, you can change someone’s life. And no, my speech right now is probably not going to change the course of your life. But you can change it. For the better.

“Think about how many times a day you waste three minutes. Sitting in the car after you’re parked, scrolling on Instagram, waiting for the microwave timer, contemplating whether or not to do your homework, watching Tik Toks, or even waiting for the shower to warm up. At least some of the time, use those minutes to do something productive. Because every three minutes you rescue is three minutes you wouldn’t have had. And those add up.

“Now, my three minutes have expired, and it’s almost time for us to walk across the stage, to have one last moment together before we all move on, taking steps toward our futures. So for my three minutes, I leave you with three things:

“(1) your sense of self-worth comes from you, and no one else;

“(2) don’t let anything stop you from pursuing your biggest dream, and

“(3) don’t forget to stop for a moment and be proud of how far you’ve come.”

Principal Jamie Copsey observed that the great accomplishments of the world, such as Edison’s invention of the light bulb, were not done in great sweeps, but a series of small victories at a time.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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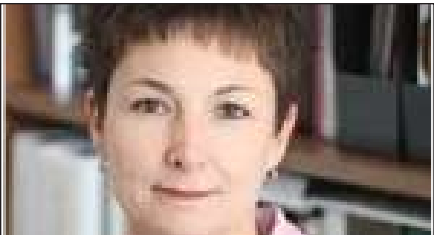
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“TAKE YOURSELF SERIOUSLY!”

OUTGOING STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD HANNAH HEISLER



LOCAL 5
Outgoing SMOB reflects on her tenure



LOCAL 6
School board approves FY26 budget



ON THE COVER
Leonardtown High School held its graduation May 28

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 29 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 64°	FRI, MAY 30 Scattered Storms Hi: 76° Lo: 59°	SAT, MAY 31 Showers Hi: 70° Lo: 51°	SUN, JUN 1 Mostly Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 56°
MON, JUN 2 Mostly Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 57°	TUE, JUN 3 Mostly Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 63°	WED, JUN 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 63°	THU, JUN 5 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 68°

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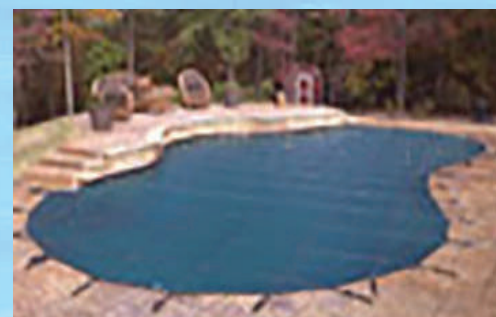
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of activities and events, visit: www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar



St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET

**School Board
Approves Budget**

**Crab Population Lags
in Dredge Survey**

**June Events Calendar
Free Inside**

LEONARDTOWN GRADUATES CLASS OF 2025

Photo by Ceandra Scott