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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025

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**School Board Drops
Anti-Racism Policy**

**Fentanyl is Leading
Cause of Overdose**

**Changes Proposed
to Animal Ordinance**

**NEWSOME NAMED
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, AUG 14	FRI, AUG 15	SAT, AUG 16	SUN, AUG 17
PM Thunderstorms Hi: 87° Lo: 72°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 72°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 68°	Sunny Hi: 88° Lo: 71°
MON, AUG 18	TUE, AUG 19	WED, AUG 20	THU, AUG 21
Mostly Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 69°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 68°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 67°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 65°



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School Board Jettisons Anti-Racism Policy

Post Says It's Redundant

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A large crowd rallied outside the Calvert County Public Schools administrative office on Aug. 7 to protest the school board's anticipated elimination of the system's anti-racism policy from the code of conduct distributed to students at the start of every school year.

Instead, before they had a chance to speak in support of the anti-racism policy, the school board unanimously voted to eliminate the policy.

School Board President Jana Post said, "I would like to be sure and make it clear that we have a discrimination policy in place that covers all forms of illegal discrimination. So having a separate anti-racism policy is redundant, first and foremost.

"But second, it sends the message that we are elevating one form of discrimination over all of the other forms of discrimination. And that simply is not the fact. All illegal forms of discrimination we recognize, and we want to make sure that we are adhering to all of the laws at all times."

Board Vice President Lisa Grenis said, "We can all agree that racism in any form is wrong and cannot be tolerated. Since the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, all forms of racism and discrimination have been against the law. At the state level, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights investigates and enforces anti-racism and anti-discrimination laws, and the Maryland

State Board of Education and Comar have well-established anti-racism and anti-discrimination policies and regulations that are strictly enforced across all school districts. Additional policies are redundant."

It is typically board policy to post any policy changes for 30 days for public review and comment before a vote. In this particular case, the board voted and then Post said it would be circulated for 30 days.

There's a speaker limit of 30 for public comment, and the sign-up sheet was packed. Most, but not all, decried the board decision.

Calvert Branch of the NAACP President Debra Harris spoke on behalf of the local, state, and national NAACP. She said, "These actions taken without transparent explanation or public engagement send a troubling message to the students, families, and educators who have long advocated for equitable and inclusive education environments. Efforts to create an inclusive school system where all students feel supported and affirmed regardless of race, ethnicity, background, or identity are not political agendas. They are essential components for safe and effective learning environment. Removing language that acknowledge racism, supports DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and affirms equity, undermines years of progress, and marginalizes communities that historically and currently face systematic barriers."

Michael Hawkins, also with the NAACP, said, "Without explanation from the board as to why you removed diversity and sup-

port from the mission statement and are now intending to remove the anti-racism policy, we are left to draw our own conclusions about why these actions were taken. We clearly see it's a political and not evidence-based decision. It's not a decision that would move us closer, from a good school system to a great school system. So, we must also conclude that if you are against diversity, you must be for exclusion. That means certain children who may have disabilities or (are) not of the majority race will be excluded from the best education possible."

Physician Sylvia Baraby said, "The board members have bought the MAGA (Make America Great Again) line that anti-racism and honoring the lives of all children and families in Calvert harms the white population. MAGA seeks to maintain white supremacy by dividing our people with fearmongering, book banning, limiting free speech for faculty, and denying access to safe spaces for our students. Let's face it, ultimately, MAGA would like to replace public education altogether with charter schools and parochial schools funded by taxes using vouchers, education savings accounts, and taxpayer funded scholarships."

Pamela Cousins, former board president and one of the architects of the anti-racism policy, said 586 people have signed a change.org petition "to challenge racism in Calvert County."

Cousins said, "Fun fact, for anyone who didn't know, Maryland has 24 school districts. Guess how many have intentionally placed public comment at the end of their action items on their agenda? Two, Calvert and Washington counties and both just coincidentally changed to this unacceptable move to silence the public."

Diane O'Leary said, "We began this meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, with liberty and justice for all and that means all, not just the whites among us. There's nothing more American than that. All men are created equal from the Declaration of Independence. There's nothing more American than that. Our students need to be taught this. Our staff needs to abide by this, and it means that white supremacy is anti-American because that's insane that we are not all created equal."

She added, "Racism is still widespread in this county, and it does impede the learning of many of our students. So, our first duty as a public school system is to teach our students to be good citizens and they're not going to be good citizens unless they believe this liberty and justice for all."

Former board president Inez Capone, formerly Inez Claggett, said, "And I am here to implore you not merely to request, but to demand that you reverse your action to remove Policy 1018 on anti-racism. The decision to even revisit this policy early is a betrayal of the fundamental values that schools claim to uphold equality, inclusion and respect for each student and staff member. Your actions tonight are a dangerous regression, a deliberate choice to normalize silence and complicity in the face of racism. Policy 1018 was not some symbolic gesture, it was a commitment posted for all to see that Calvert County Public Schools will denounce racism, bullying and white supremacy in all forms and that our district would not



School board member Paul Harrison

tolerate the values and structures that perpetuate systemic racism."

But Marian Canning said, "Nobody who wants the anti-racism policy removed is arguing against protecting students from racism or discrimination. In fact, it's quite the opposite. We have a legal and moral obligation to protect students from unfair treatment based on their race. And these commitments are reflected in our non-discrimination and equity policies.

"The issue isn't whether we should fight racism. We absolutely should. The real question is how we do it? The CCPS anti-racism policy and the broader concept of anti-racism itself represents a radicalized approach to equity, one that uses racial discrimination as a tool for redistributing resources and opportunities."

She said of the belief that the only remedy for present discrimination is future discrimination, "That is not equality. That is not justice. That's institutionalizing discrimination under a new label."

Former Calvert County Republican Central Committee chair Ella Ennis also spoke in support of the board's action.

At the end of the public comment, the audience was still audible, and Post ordered the sheriff's department to clear the room of guests.

Later, board member Paul Harrison said, "I think it's sad, because I have a tremendous respect for everyone. I've raised my kids the same way. But I think what you have to understand is that we were elected by the citizens of Calvert County, and I was elected by 27,000 citizens of Calvert County. So, someone tonight said that there were 586 people that made some comment on change.org. That's great. But change.org happens on election day. It doesn't happen over the internet. It happens on election day. So, if you want to get out and you want to support people who run against me or whatever, do it. That's democracy. That's the process. But I was elected by 27,000 Calvert County citizens on a platform that I'm fulfilling. So, if you want to do something different, you've got to get out there and you've got to politic and you've got to donate because it costs a lot of money to win this seat. You've got to raise some money and all these protests and signs and all that stuff, that's great, but that doesn't register on the ballot box."

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School Board Selects Interim Superintendent

Newsome Had Led Three Virginia Districts

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A man with extensive experience as an educator has been chosen as the interim superintendent of Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS).

Dr. Marcus J. Newsome was introduced to the public at the Aug. 7 school board meeting. He will serve as interim superintendent until June 30, 2026, at a salary of \$224,583.34.

After the announcement, the school system sent out the following press release detailing Dr. Newsome's background:

"Dr. Marcus J. Newsome is an award-winning educational leader who has served as an advisor to governors, members of Congress, and business leaders throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. He serves as President of the National Bible College and Seminary in Fort Washington, Maryland, a senior advisor for Benchmark Education, and a professional developer specializing in Artificial Intelligence in Education.

"Newsome is the author of three books: *Breakthrough Leadership*, a guide to effective leadership strategies; *Out of a Crisis*, a study of crisis management in educational institutions; and *Transcend*, a heartfelt story of his life's journey from a neighborhood called *The Bottom* to the pinnacle of his profession.

"He previously created and led the Virginia Superintendents Leadership Academy, providing professional development, coaching, mentoring, and training for school superintendents.

"Dr. Newsome is celebrated for his innovative leadership and ability to drive change. He began his career as an art and mathematics teacher in the District of Columbia Public Schools. His journey led him to principal, director, executive director, and superintendent roles in three districts. As superintendent of Newport News Public Schools, all high schools were named among the 'Best High Schools in America' by *Newsweek Magazine*. As superintendent of Chesterfield County Public Schools, the district was honored as a national leader in digital education at a White House ceremony.

"His contributions to Petersburg Schools are featured in the movie documentary, *Petersburg Rising*, which is the recipient of six international film festival awards.

"Dr. Newsome has earned a Doctorate Degree in Christian Education from the International Seminary in Plymouth, Florida, and a Doctorate Degree in Educational

Leadership from Bowie State University in Maryland. He has held academic positions as an associate professor at Harvard University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia State University. He co-founded Mega Mentors, an organization recognized by the Obama Administration for its impactful work in the community.

"Newsome's numerous awards include the FBI Community Service Award. Beyond his professional achievements, he is a dedicated volunteer and advocate, serving as an education advisor for the Abulkoi Foundation, which supports underprivileged students in South Sudan, Africa. He is an active member of the National Church of God, serving as a member of the Pastoral Staff, Pastor's Council, Board of Trustees, and Director of Christian Education. Dr. Newsome is an ordained minister, devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

At the Aug. 7 meeting, Dr. Newsome implied that he would not be a candidate for the full-time position. Chief Operating Officer Dr. Susan Johnson served as acting superintendent for the month after Dr. Andrae Townsel resigned to become superintendent at Hartford, Ct. public schools.

Dr. Newsome said at the meeting, "I did have prepared written comments, but I see that there are so many people here tonight who are invested in this school district that I'm going to save those comments and let's ask that you post them on the website.

"I would though like to share my appreciation to the board chair, vice chair, and all of the board members for engaging me in a very rigorous process that has led to this day. My family and I chose to live in Calvert County several years ago because of the reputation of this school district. We have three grandchildren. One just graduated from Northern High School. One is going to middle school, leaving Mount Harmony, and the other is about two years away from starting pre-kindergarten. So, we are vested in this community and there just so happened to be a need for an interim superintendent, and I had a need to serve this county, not just for my children, but for every child.

"My priorities are, number one, making sure that our children are safe. Number two, striving for academic excellence. Number three, accountability and transparency. And number four, making sure that I laid the groundwork in partnership with the board to bring you your long-term superintendent within a year from now, who will take this school district to the next level.

"And lastly, my commitment is to make every decision that is in the best interest of children."

In his prepared posted remarks, he said, "I am honored and grateful to the Calvert County Board of Education for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent for the 2025–2026 school year. This is a privilege that I embrace with humility and a steadfast commitment to the students, families, educators, and community members who make Calvert County such a special place to live and learn. Several years ago, my family and I chose to make Calvert County our home because of its reputation for strong public schools, dedicated staff, and a deeply caring community. These values mirror my own beliefs about the promise of public education.

"Today, our grandchildren are proud students of Calvert County Public Schools. As a family man, I have a personal stake in the success of this district and the well-being of every child we serve. As we embark on this year together, my focus will be on ensuring a smooth leadership transition, maintaining safe and inclusive learning environments, advancing academic excellence, and promoting open, transparent communication. I am committed to collaborative governance and accountability.

"I look forward to working closely with the Board of Education, our talented educators and staff, families, community partners, and, most importantly, our students. Together, we will build on the district's strong founda-



Interim Superintendent Dr. Marcus Newsome

tion while laying the groundwork for a successful long-term future. I am here to serve with an open mind, a listening ear, and a student-centered vision for excellence."

Dr. Newsome has been thrust into a school system in turmoil over the elimination of its anti-racism policy (see separate story). He witnessed a long line of speakers during the public forum later in the meeting largely criticize the school board for that decision, which has been boiling over for months since the election of three new board members, establishing a more conservative policy line.

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Plan Presented for Calvert Elementary, Calvert Country Schools

Would Repurpose Existing Buildings

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education has been presented with a staff plan for new Calvert Elementary and Calvert Country schools that includes retaining the existing buildings for other uses. Director of Planning and Construction Shuchita Warner called the project “The art of the possible.”

Warner explained, “The next major projects that are slated in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) are Calvert Elementary and Calvert Country, followed by Mount Harmony Elementary School. Currently within the CIP, these projects follow basically a start to finish kind of a sequence with the design of one starting, construction commencing, construction completes, and then the process repeats for the next project.”

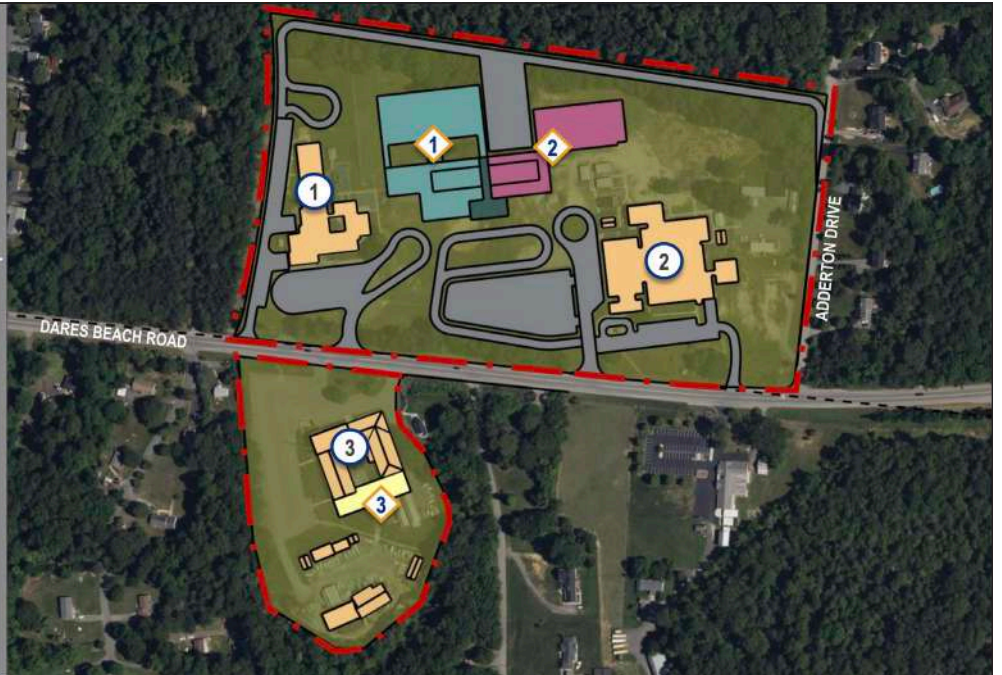
But she said the state, which provides more than half the funding, support the new Calvert Country School and “it has been determined and strongly emphasized by the state that they will support that project if it is a co-located facility with Calvert Elementary School. We do believe that this constraint placed on us by the state actually opens up multiple opportunities for Calvert County schools. It allows us to widen the aperture and see potential uses for the campus to effectively support our students and meet the systems long-term needs.”

“We are really, really looking long-range here,” she insisted.

Calvert Country School, which is a special needs school, was built in 1957, with an addition in 1983.

The original Calvert Elementary School structure was built in 1963, with 1974, 1981

ESTIMATED COST*	
1	EXST CALVERT COUNTRY SCHOOL MAJOR RENOVATION W/ CTYD INFILL 35,940 GSF @ \$325/GSF = \$11.7M
1	CALVERT COUNTRY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT 79,700 GSF @ \$525/GSF = \$41.8M
2	EXST CALVERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIGHT RENOVATION 63,360 GSF @ \$85/GSF = \$5.4M
2	CALVERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT 76,885 GSF @ \$525/GSF = \$40.4M
3	EXST BROOKS ADMINISTRATION RENOVATION 37,950 GSF @ \$275/GSF = \$10.4M
3	EXST BROOKS ADMINISTRATION ADDITION 20,600 GSF @ \$425/GSF = \$8.8M
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and 1999 improvements.

Across Dares Beach Road, the Brooks Administration Building was built in 1939, with an addition in 1958 and then a warehouse added in 1990. “There have not been any upgrades made other than a fire alarm system that was added,” Warner said.

“We can in fact construct a new Calvert Elementary School and a new Calvert Country within the green space between the two existing buildings. We can have adequate parking a bus loop, and we can keep the existing facilities for future use,” Warner reported.

Those future uses include a swing space while Mt. Harmony Elementary is being con-

structed, and then swing space while Brooks is being remodeled or whatever its future fate is, all within the existing Calvert Elementary.

The existing Calvert Country options, Warner said, would be used “to locate two alternate regional programs into the existing facility, as well as appropriate central office departments that can be fully located alongside to best support these programs. There are options for maintaining the Infants and Toddlers Program where it exists towards the back of the facility. And we can study either putting a regional pre-K facility there, to include a couple of teaching stations or a limited alt-ed regional facility depend-

ing on the optimal program that should be placed here.”

By packaging the two existing schools for new construction at the same time, a year would be saved in the timetable, Warner said.

The school board liked what they saw. Member Joseph Marchio, who is a builder, said, “I really like your forward planning. It’s pretty outside of the box. I like it.”

The board made no decisions as the presentation was a preliminary work session. Decisions will come at a later date as the CIP is finalized.

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Animal Regulation Changes Slated for Public Hearing

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will be holding a public hearing on proposed changes to the county’s Animal Ordinance. The date and time have not yet been announced.

Public Safety Director Dave McDowell wrote in a memo read at the Aug. 5 BOCC meeting, “The Department of Public Safety, Animal Control division, is moving forward with proposed changes to Chapter 7 of the Calvert County Code – Animals. The goal of this review is to align the ordinance with current animal welfare standards, increase accountability for both pet owners and animal-related businesses and streamline enforcement and administrative processes. The last significant update to Chapter 7 was enacted in March 2008, making this a timely and necessary revision to reflect modern best practices and community needs.”

The presentation at the Aug. 5 meeting, according to April Coleman, deputy director

of Animal Services “serves as a follow-up to directives issued during the April 8, 2025, work session. Included in the discussion are amendments made to the proposed Animal Ordinance, specifically addressing the distinctions between commercial and residential animal licensing, as well as a revised approach to the Emergency Preparedness Plan requirement.”

Coleman said, “We do see that farmers have very different needs than those that have pets that you would tend to see on a farm.”

She said, “We’re seeing more of domesticated livestock. So, this is addressed.”

Coleman added that in the previous discussion the animal fancier license was lumped with the commercial license. She said, “We completely separated it out into its own separate section. It does not have the same standards as commercial licensing, such as the inspections and whatnot.”

Licenses are annual. “We have a software system that keeps track of it.”

There is an exemption for hunting dogs. She said, “They wouldn’t count towards the

number for your fancier license. The only thing is that they just need to be actively used for hunting. Same with farm dogs. If you have an active dog, you live on agricultural property, you have a herding dog or a guardian dog that are actively being used for it, they won’t count towards that number for the fancier license.

But she added, “If somebody has a farm and they still elect to keep 12 dogs just as personal pets, like little toy poodles, those would towards the fancier license.”

As to the commercial license requirements, Coleman reiterated “the animal fancier is no longer in there. So, it’s going to be for those businesses. and then also we’ve added in for nonprofit rescues. And just to reiterate, there is no license fee for them because we do understand the work that they’re doing is nonprofit. So, they’re doing this out of the goodness of their heart and through donations that they collect. So, there would be no fee for the rescues.”

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Opioid Related Overdose Deaths Decline

Fentanyl Replaces Heroin as Drug of Choice

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Although opioid related overdose deaths have been on the decline in the state and in Calvert recently, “The impact remains profound,” according to Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Nimfa Teneza-Mora. She provided a follow-up briefing to the county commissioners on Aug. 5.

Dr. Teneza-Mora said, “Opiate related overdose deaths in Maryland started to rise from 1999, and it peaked around 2020 and 2021 when the total number of deaths were 2,500 annually. And so concurrently those numbers are starting to drop.”

Fentanyl has replaced heroin as the prime concern. From July 2024 through June 2025, there were 1,360 overdose deaths in Maryland, of which approximately 1097 or 80.6 percent were from fentanyl deaths.

The switch from heroin to fentanyl started to occur in the county in 2017 and the trend continues today.

Fentanyl can be prescribed, the health officer reported, “Fentanyl actually is used in the intensive care unit as a sedative. And for pain, it’s for people who are intubated. That’s what makes them comfortable and allows the breathing tube to stay in there,” Dr. Teneza-Mora said.

She observed, “There’s also the illegally made fentanyl, which are not made by phar-

maceutical companies, but they’re made by clandestine labs. They’re the ones that are sold on the streets. They could look like a pill, and they could look like a prescription pill. So, a person may not necessarily understand that it’s not a prescription pill they’re getting. The other risk with that is that it may be tainted or laced with other items. There’s no way to know.”

She said, “There was a push to educate providers about responsible prescribing of these drugs, because although they are beneficial, they can be addictive, and they can be misused. And so there has been I would call it more responsible prescribing by clinicians of these medications.”

The health officer said, “Fentanyl is a hundred times more potent than morphine and it’s 50 times more potent than heroin. So, an affected person, who may be suffering from an overdose will exhibit some of these symptoms. They may have difficulty staying awake, they may appear drowsy, or they may even be unresponsive. And other times they’ll also have other symptoms such as slow or labored breathing, or pinpoint pupils...and then they may have a stopped heartbeat or slow heartbeat, so their heart could stop.”

“They may even sound like they’re just snoring,” she added.

The availability of Narcan (trade name) could be a contributing factor in the decline in overdose deaths, Dr. Teneza-Mora said,

“Naloxone is a very important emergency medication that can be used or that is currently used to treat the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose.”

She added, “Its primary function is to rapidly reverse the overdose effects. Once it’s administered to a person who’s suffering from an overdose, their breathing gets restored, their oxygenation gets restored, and they wake up essentially.”

She said, “It’s important to know that naloxone action is only short-lived, so it lasts 30 minutes to two hours. And sometimes this is why a kit usually has two doses because a person suffering from an overdose may actually go back into the non-breathing state after the naloxone works off.”

Narcan is so readily available that it may be skewing the numbers because some overdoses may be reversed and thus not reported.

Narcan is available over the counter at \$44 a dose, but Dr. Teneza-Mora said the preferred way is through the opioid response program that the health department administers.

They emphasize “overdose education and training. The importance is that it educates individuals on how to recognize the signs of an overdose and how to give naloxone before a paramedic arrives. And the reason for that is, time is of the essence when there’s an opioid overdose, and the earlier Narcan is administered, the more likely a



Health Officer Dr. Nimfa Teneza-Mora

person may survive from that overdose. The second component is Narcan distribution. So, this component ensures the broad access to Narcan in the timely administration of this medication. So, we have community-based opioid response programs that have consistently been proven effective. The advantage of this type of a program is that they’ve increased individual’s knowledge and self-confidence in responding to overdoses. They are cost effective, the cost of it, it’s against a life.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

SMECO to Distribute

Legislative Energy Relief Refund

Many Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) residential customers will see a credit on their electric bill in August, thanks to the Legislative Energy Relief Refund, a one-time statewide initiative established by the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Wes Moore to help offset high energy costs.

The refund, created through House Bill 1035 and administered by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC), provides an average total credit of \$80 per eligible household, distributed in two phases: summer 2025 and winter 2026. Credits will be applied automatically to eligible accounts.

To be eligible, members must have had an active residential account as of August 1, 2025, and must have used electricity during the 12-month period ending March 31, 2025.

“This refund comes at a critical time, especially during the peak summer months when energy usage is at its highest,” said Sonja Cox, SMECO President and CEO.

The credit is based on a member’s average monthly usage over the 12-month period ending March 31, 2025.

Eligible SMECO members fall into one of three usage tiers, with higher-usage households receiving a larger credit. Tiers are defined as follows:

- **Tier 1**, 0–400 kWh average usage: \$40 credit
- **Tier 2**, 400–1,200 kWh average usage: \$55 credit
- **Tier 3**, 1,200+ kWh average usage: \$40 credit

The refund will appear as “Legislative Energy Relief Refund” on page two of the August SMECO bill. A second credit will be issued in winter 2026.

Members who wish to share their refund can donate it to SMECO’s Members Helping Members program, which provides assistance to fellow cooperative members who need help paying their electric bill. Donations are sent to the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, which gives the money to members who seek aid and meet the qualifications. One-time donations can be made by sending a check to SMECO, Members Helping Members, P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637. Refund donations cannot be made automatically. Interested SMECO members can also sign up online at smeco.coop/mhm to add \$1, \$5, or \$10 to their electric bill each month.

For more information about the Legislative Energy Relief Refund, visit SMECO.coop/relief.

Press Release from SMECO

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of July 28, 2025 – August 3, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,988 calls for service throughout the community, including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 51
- Disorderly: 14
- Domestic: 24
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 41
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 794
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 38
- Traffic Complaints: 80
- Traffic Stops: 488
- 911 Hang Ups: 61
- ARRESTS: 48



Mario Alberto Lopez-Avendano

CDS Violation: 25-62640 On August 1, 2025, at approximately 4:11 a.m., DFC A. Dymond responded to the Popeyes located at 75 Harrow Lane in Prince Frederick for a reported burglary alarm. Upon arrival, deputies observed a white Penske box truck fleeing from the restaurant, swerving across the roadway and making abrupt turns. A felony stop was initiated, and the driver, identified as **Mario Alberto Lopez-Avendano**, 36, of Upper Marlboro, eventually came to a stop. A search of the vehicle revealed a bag containing a white powdery substance, suspected to be cocaine, and two cans of Modelo. Lopez-Avendano was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis.

Damaged Property: 25-62671 On August 1, 2025, Master Deputy Burggraf responded to Solomons True Value, located at 20 Creston Lane in Solomons, for the report of property destruction. Investigation revealed a vehicle in the parking lot had all four tires punctured, along with damage to the front passenger window and windshield. The estimated value of the damage is \$1,500.



Da'Mia Ranesha Armstrong

Disorderly Conduct: 25-63187 On August 3, 2025, Deputy Armbruster responded to the Tiki Bar at 85 Charles Street in Solomons for a report of a disorderly subject. Deputies made contact with **Da'Mia Ranesha Armstrong**, 34, of Washington, D.C., who refused multiple orders to leave the business. When taken into custody, Armstrong resisted and assaulted a deputy. She was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, public intoxication, second-degree assault, and trespassing on private property.

Mail Tampering Theft: 25-61559 On July 28, 2025, DFC Mister responded to the 900 block of Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick for a reported mail tampering. The complainant advised that an unknown suspect opened three mailboxes, removing an unknown number of letters and one package. The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 6 feet tall, weighing 200 lbs., with short black hair, wearing a

black tank top, black shorts, and black shoes. The estimated value of the stolen property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 25-61575 On July 28, 2025, Deputy McIntosh responded to Giant Food located at 655 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick for a reported theft. The complainant advised that two unknown suspects carried assorted groceries past all points of sale without paying and fled toward Dares Beach Road. The suspects were described as two mixed-race females wearing all black. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$53.

Theft: 25-61590 On July 28, 2025, Deputy McIntosh responded to 200 Main Street in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant reported that an unknown suspect(s) gained entry to the victim's vehicle and stole his handicap placard. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.

Theft: 25-62768 On August 1, 2025, Deputy Grabill responded to the Shell gas station located at 11550 HG Trueman Road in Lusby for a reported theft. The complainant advised that an unknown suspect(s) removed and stole both the front and rear tags from a vehicle parked in the lot for maintenance. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$40.



Nathan Oliver White

Theft: 25-63330 On August 3, 2025, Deputy Morgall responded to the District 1 Office located at 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd in Dunkirk for a reported theft. The complainant advised that while their vehicle was parked at Walmart, located at 10600 Town Center Blvd in Dunkirk, an unknown suspect(s) stole the front license plate. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$20.



Chandler B. Shaw

Trespassing: 25-62296 On July 30, 2025, Deputy Angell responded to the Chesapeake Beach Fastop located at 8054 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach for a reported trespassing incident. Deputies made contact with **Nathan Oliver White**, 42 of Chesapeake Beach, who had been previously issued an indefinite trespass notice for the property. White was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

Weapons Violation: 25-61496 On July 28, 2025, Deputy McIntosh conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle exceeding the posted speed limit in the area of Rt. 4 and Industry Lane in Prince Frederick. During the stop, both occupants consented to a search of the vehicle. The search revealed a firearm case containing a magazine and a Sig Sauer pistol loaded with 16 rounds. The driver, **Chandler B. Shaw**, 21 of Old Town, Maine, was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle and other related offenses.

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

Sobriety Checkpoints to be Conducted

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to reducing the number of alcohol-related fatalities in support of the Maryland Highway Safety Office's "Towards Zero Deaths" campaign. One of the ways the Sheriff's Office supports this initiative is by utilizing grant funding obtained from the Maryland Highway Safety Office to place additional deputies on our roadways for the specific task of locating impaired drivers.

The Sheriff's Office will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in the coming weeks. The purpose of these checkpoints is to educate drivers about the dangers of driving a motor vehicle after they have consumed alcoholic beverages and/or controlled dangerous substances.

In 2023, there were 5,455 impaired (alcohol and/or drugs) driving crashes statewide, resulting in 1,668 injuries and 116 fatalities. (Towardzerodeathsmd.com)

Sobriety checkpoints have been shown to be an important component of a comprehensive program to reduce drunk driving.

Research had shown that sobriety checkpoints can reduce alcohol-related crashes anywhere from 18 to 26 percent. (Checkpointstrikeforce.net) The Calvert County Sheriff's Office will continue to aggressively enforce the State DUI laws and will be conducting more DUI Checkpoints and Saturation Patrols.

Sheriff Ricky Cox asks that if you choose to drink, drink responsibly and please don't drive. Plan ahead, make arrangements for a safe ride home, call a ride share or call me." - Sheriff Ricky Cox. We are committed to the safety of our roadways and motorists here in Calvert County.

Press Release from CCSO

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CalvertHealth Earns 5-Star Rating from CMS



CalvertHealth Medical Center has been awarded an overall 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the highest distinction in hospital quality and safety.

Only four hospitals in the state earned this rating, and CalvertHealth is the only 5-star hospital in Southern Maryland. Nationwide, only 10% of hospitals received the highest rating.

"This incredible achievement reflects the dedication of every member of our team – from nurses and physicians to support staff – all working together to put patients first," said CalvertHealth President and CEO Jeremy Bradford. "We are honored to be recognized nationally for the high-quality care we provide to Calvert County and the

Southern Maryland community every day."

This 5-star distinction underscores CalvertHealth's ongoing investment in quality improvement, staff education, and innovation – ensuring the community has access to the very best in healthcare, earning the trust of its patients and all those who turn to CalvertHealth for care. It is also a testament to its vision, to be the trusted healthcare leader delivering a lifetime of exceptional care.

To learn more about the CMS hospital quality ratings, visit <https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/topics/hospitals/overall-hospital-quality-star-rating>.

Press Release from CalvertHealth

Aquatic Center Closed for Annual Maintenance



The Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in Prince Frederick is closed for annual maintenance through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1. The facility will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Front desk staff will be available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the lobby will be open for visitation. The lobby will be closed Wednesday, Aug. 27, through Friday, Aug. 29.

Registration for fall swim lessons opens Monday, Aug. 11, at 8:30 a.m., and registration for September water fitness classes opens Monday, Aug. 18, at 8:30 a.m. To register, visit calvertcounty.perfectmind.com/SocialSite/MemberRegistration/MemberSignIn or call 410-414-8350, ext. 2.

For additional questions or information, email aquatics@CalvertCountyMd.gov or visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/397/Edward-T-Hall-Aquatic-Center. Residents may also email Aquatics Division Chief Brandon Madeja at brandon.madeja@calvertcountymd.gov.

We thank residents for their patience as we perform this necessary maintenance to ensure the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center remains a safe, clean and enjoyable facility for all.

Press Release from Calvert County government

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@CalvertCountyGov

 CALVERT
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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Aug 14

Tween / Teen Karaoke Party

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

We provide the space, the karaoke machine and the glow sticks. You bring your singing voice and friends! Don't want to sing? Come to support those who do. Pizza & snacks. Free event! For ages 11-18. Please register. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

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

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

Fri, Aug 15

Family Fun Friday: Meet the Mollusks

Calvert Marine Museum
9 – 11 a.m.

Join us for Meet the Mollusks- a special Summer Family Fun Friday event at the Calvert Marine Museum! Learn what a mollusk is and how they live, from the shells you find on the beach to snails in your garden. Summer Family Fun Friday events are designed for families with children ages 5-12. They are a chance to enjoy the museum and a special program with activities and crafts that begin before the museum is open to the public. Please keep in mind that this is not a drop-off program.

Sat, Aug 16

Kayak Trip on Hellen Creek

Private boat ramp
Off Turner Road, Lusby
9:30 a.m.

The Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust and Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust are

co-sponsoring the kayak trip. We require pre-registration as a courtesy to the owner and to coordinate parking. Please contact RobertBoxwell1@outlook.com for more information and to register. Hellen Creek is off Patuxent River and has plenty of water, so tides aren't a factor. Enjoy the sights and sounds of a creek with some houses, but mostly untouched shorelines.

Free Paper Shredding

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

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division is hosting these free events for county residents and businesses. Shredding documents helps prevent identity theft by destroying confidential or sensitive information.

Shred events will be held rain or shine.

Proof of Calvert County residency or business location is required. Paper clips and staples are acceptable. Binders and binder clips are not acceptable. Businesses are allowed up to five banker boxes of paper per business or the equivalent volume of five banker boxes in alternate containers. There is no limit for residents. Certificates of destruction will be provided if requested.

Sam Hunt Performs Live

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

Multi-platinum award-winning country star Sam Hunt will bring his chart-topping hits to 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 \$70 - \$140 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

Humane Society Event

Calvert Cliffs State Park
10540 HG Trueman Rd, Lusby
11a.m.-2 p.m.

Come and meet adoptable dogs from the Humane Society of Calvert County while

taking in the great outdoors, take a hike on one of the many trails and enjoy the views.

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

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

Bring your gently used puzzles and exchange them for new-to-you challenges. It's a fun, eco-friendly way to refresh your collection and connect with fellow puzzle enthusiasts. Whether you're a seasoned puzzler or just starting, you'll leave inspired and ready to piece together something new! In partnership with Calvert Co. Puzzle Swap. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Guided Hike: Summer Evening Walk

American Chestnut Land Trust
676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick
7 p.m.

Say farewell to Summer with a guided hike along Parkers Creek Loop. Bring a headlamp and flashlight, just in case.

To register:
form.jotform.com/250216060292143

Mon, Aug 18

Introduction to Sewing—Wallet Style Organizer

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6-7:30 p.m.

Join us for a brief introduction to sewing. At this event, you will learn the basics of the Bernina sewing machine in our Makerspace and create your own wallet-style organizer! Participants must complete the Bernina sewing machine online certification piece before this event. Click through to the full event description for the certification link. You will leave with a basic understanding of how to use the sewing machine and a finished bag organizer to use. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Aug 19

Neurodivergent Peer Support Group

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

Join us for an hour of neurodivergent peer support conversation. This group is a wonderful opportunity to connect with peers about the joys and struggles of being a neurodivergent, those exploring their identities on the spectrum or autistic adult. We welcome everyone 18+ regardless of ability or diagnostic status. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Aug 20

Book Discussion

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
& Zoom
2-3:30 p.m.

Join us online or in person at the Fairview Branch to discuss "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore, "a compulsively readable novel that will appeal to fans of mysteries and historical fiction alike," according to Booklist. Register in advance to receive the Zoom link via email if you wish to attend virtually. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tween Summer Book Fest

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
6-7 p.m.

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6:30-7:30 p.m., .

Join other book lovers during this fun summer book club! Each month we will read a new book and come together to discuss, play games and do activities. Did we mention there will be snacks?! The first ten (10) registrants get a copy of the book to keep! August's book is the novel, "Wildfire" by W. R. Philbrick. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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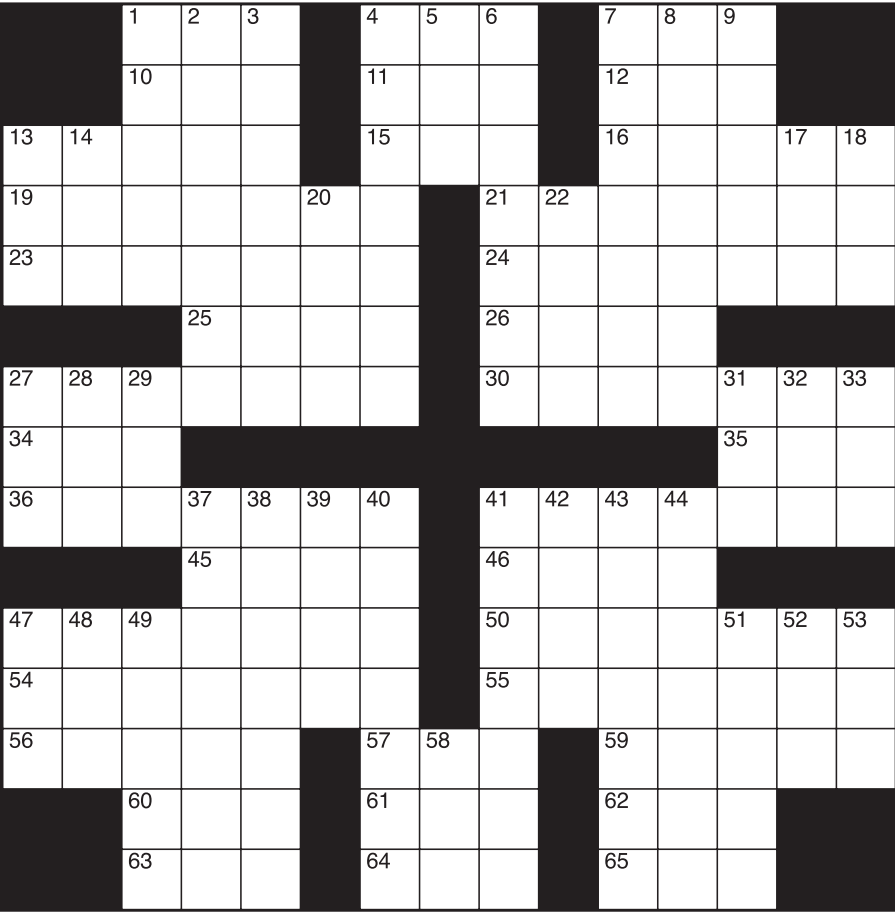
The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies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

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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Auto manufacturer

4. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet

7. Two-year-old sheep

10. Member of indigenous people in Asia

11. Airborne (abbr.)

12. Actress de Armas

13. Not moving

15. Cool!

16. Plants of the arum family

19. Perceptible by touch

21. Rorschach test

23. Monetary units

24. Art

25. Cardinal number

26. Dueling sword

27. Hates

30. Fixed in one place

34. Pie ___ mode

35. Moved on foot

36. Passenger's spot on a motorcycle

41. A way through

45. "Rule, Britannia" composer

46. Leader

47. Flowing

50. Common greetings in Arabic countries

54. Solution for all difficulties

55. Soft clothing fabric

56. Building material

57. Sea bream

59. A way to cause to be swollen

60. One and only

61. Skin color

62. Wreath

63. Nevertheless

64. They ___

65. Sea eagle
1. Policemen (French)

2. Toy dog

3. Inflamed colon disease

4. Muscular weaknesses

5. Helps little firms

6. References

7. Takes down

8. Facilitates

9. One-time empress of the Roman Empire

13. Engine additive

14. Chemistry solution

17. Written account

18. Consumed

20. Coming after all others

22. No (slang)

27. Government lawyers

28. Super Bowl winner Manning

29. Small amount

31. A way to save for your future

32. A way to travel behind

33. Midway between northeast and east

37. Head pain

38. Loud lawn insect

39. Actress Hathaway

40. Boat race

41. About fish

42. Nursemaid in India

43. Marketable

44. Tinier

47. Parts per billion (abbr.)

48. Paddle

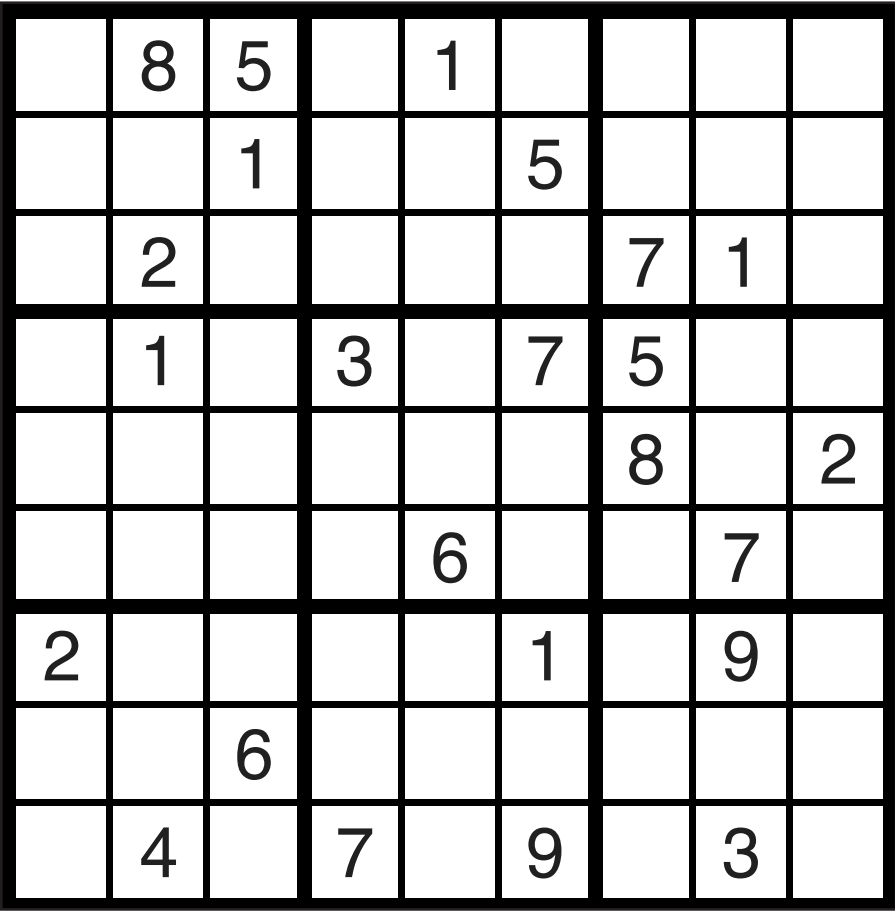
49. Oneness

51. Bitter compound

52. Not around

53. Very fast airplane

58. Swiss river



AUGUST 7 SOLUTIONS

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8	9	2	3	5	6	7	4	1

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Aug 14

Farmers Feeding St Mary's

Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
46900 S. Shangri-La Dr., Lexington Park
2-6 p.m.

From local farmers to your plate! The annual program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community. Please bring your own bag. A variety of fresh produce, such as corn, tomatoes, squash, and more, will be available at each event! Family units will be limited to one bag of produce per event. Food distribution will continue until the event's end time or until produce runs out. For more information, please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1074, or visit www.stmary-countymd.gov/Aging/FFSM/.

Fri, Aug 15

Southern Maryland Film Festival—Meet & Greet

Taphouse 1637
23418 Three Notch Rd, California
6-10 p.m.

Meet the people behind the cameras. The event is free and open to the public. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Visit smdfilmfest.org and the Southern Maryland Film Festival Facebook and Instagram pages for event updates.

Sat, Aug 16

Sam Hunt Performs Live

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

Multi-platinum award-winning country star Sam Hunt will bring his chart-topping hits to 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 \$70 - \$140 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

Southern Maryland Film Festival

44800 Oak Crest Dr, California
10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Showing of movies produced by the Southern Maryland film community, as well as movies produced in or around Southern Maryland. Tickets are available in "blocks" and can be purchased directly through the R/C Theaters web site. Many of the filmmakers will be in attendance, and available to answer questions at the end of each block.

Children's Day

St. Clement's Island Museum
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join us for a FREE day of kid-friendly fun on the beautiful waterside lawn of St. Clement's Island Museum. Families can enjoy lots of kids' activities including games, crafts, outdoor fun and tons more throughout the day. INFO: www.facebook.com/events/1645974046274413

com/events/1645974046274413

Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House

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

Visit one of the nation's best-preserved, one-room African American schoolhouses the first and third Saturday of each month through October. Check out the restored schoolhouse and learn about its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions and provide information. Info: www.facebook.com/events/1304609537658205

Pork Loin and Beef Sandwich Sale

American Legion Post 22
21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pork loin, sliced roast beef, and BBQ beef sandwiches will be sold on both Saturday and Sunday. Ssandwiches cost \$8 each. For more information e-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301-481-6625.

Sun, Aug 17

All You Can Eat Breakfast

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
Social Hall
24801 Three Notch Rd. Hollywood
8-11 a.m.

Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. \$18

ages 13 & up; \$8 ages 4-12; free for ages 3 & under. Cash or check only: ATM on site. Omelettes made to order, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, roasted potatoes, waffles, escalloped apples, sausage gravy, biscuits and assorted beverages.

Pork Loin and Beef Sandwich Sale

American Legion Post 22
21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pork loin, sliced roast beef, and BBQ beef sandwiches will be sold on both Saturday and Sunday. Ssandwiches cost \$8 each. For more information e-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301-481-6625.

Upcoming

10th Annual Patriot Day 5K

Little Flower School
Great Mills
Saturday, Sept. 6
Same-day registration begins 6:30 a.m.
Opening ceremony 8 a.m.

This milestone celebration brings together runners, walkers, families and community supporters for a morning of fitness, fun and fellowship. Honors local "Patriots," which includes military members, firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians. Registration: Visit <https://littleflowercatholic.org/patriot-day-5k>
Proceeds from the 5K directly benefit Little Flower School's educational programs, helping fund classroom resources, technology upgrades and student activities.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rock Painting for All

For years, people have been painting rocks to place in their gardens, on their desks, at tourist attractions, and other places around their community. Come paint your own rock to place during your adventures this summer and help "Color Our World!" You can even add one to our very own "rock snake," Rocky Bal-boa, on the Library's back patio! This program is for all ages and artists of all levels. Participants will be supplied with a rock, paint, and examples of designs they could potentially utilize. Leonardtown Library on Friday, August 15 from 2 - 4 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Exodus and Exile: A History of Modern Mass Migration

Join us for a history talk and Q&A with Historian Paul Rose on the topic of mass migration in the modern world. Paul Rose is a researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum but is not acting a representative of the institution in this presentation. Lexington Park Library on Monday, August 18 from 6 - 7 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Staying, Leaving, & Adapting: Life Along Changing Coastlines

Did you know that nearly 40% of the world's population lives within 100 kilometers of a coastline? Coastal communities are facing growing challenges due to changing shorelines, stronger storms, land loss, and shifting ecosystems. These changes affect homes, livelihoods, local traditions, and long-term planning for the future. In this talk, Dr. Parisa Rinaldi will explore how people in different parts of the world—from the Chesapeake to the Pacific Islands—are responding to these challenges. We'll look at the difficult choices communities face around rebuilding, relocating, and preserving what matters most. Through real-world stories, we'll ask: What does it mean to stay, to move, or to adapt when the land and water around us are in flux? Lexington Park Library on Thursday, August 21 from 6 - 7 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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From SoMD to Kentucky: A Stuffed Ham Journey

Our speakers will explore the local tradition of stuffed ham and the migration of families from Southern Maryland to Kentucky. This event celebrates the culinary heritage and the bonds between communities brought together by the journey of families who carried their tradi-

tions across regions. Enjoy samples of stuffed ham from local restaurants and delve into the stories, recipes, and genealogical connections that have been passed down through generations. Stuffed Ham Samples from WJ Dent & Sons. Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, August 26 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Petite Process Art

Art doesn't have to be intimidating, or time consuming. Instead, it can be a chance to explore creativity, the ability to make mistakes, and even an opportunity to engage in meditation. Each session will feature a small watercolor or paper craft projects that can be completed in an hour to an hour and a half. Lexington Park Library on Monday, August 25 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, August 27 from 3 - 4 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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.

Beverly Jackson, 82



Beverly Y. Jackson, a retired public-relations professional whose career spanned four decades in Washington DC, died Aug. 9 of unexpected complications during surgery, ending an 11-year struggle with Alzheimer's dementia. She was 82 and living in St. Mary's County, in southern Maryland.

Beverly grew up on a series of farms, some without indoor plumbing, near Galesburg, Illinois. Her father Louis Wyckoff was a struggling tenant farmer, and her mother Marge (nee Wilson) was a traditional housewife. Beverly attended a one-room schoolhouse and later graduated from Galesburg High School with an abiding desire to put rural life behind her, while retaining immense pride in her family's tenacity and unflinching work ethic.

At age 19 she married a Galesburg man and moved to Washington DC, where he was a police officer. She worked as a medical transcriptionist at the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center, putting herself through night school at the University of Maryland and completing a degree in English. She then worked as an assistant

to the psychiatrist who headed the criminal division at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, where she sometimes played volleyball at lunch with inmates. From hospital's hilltop site she watched smoke rising from downtown during the 1968 riots following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After divorce, Beverly lived on Capitol Hill with several other single women in a Victorian house one block behind the Supreme Court building. She was hired as a public relations officer by the Office of Emergency Preparedness (forerunner of today's Federal Emergency Management Agency), where she kept a suitcase packed, in case she should be dispatched on short notice to work at a hurricane or other disaster site. (Co-workers advised that the first order of business would be to set up shop at a motel with a working ice machine.)

During that time, she met her future business partner, Sheila Summers, and took up skiing. A car crash on an icy road in the Alps nearly killed her, resulting in a lengthy stay in an Austrian hospital.

In 1970 Beverly was detailed to a new federal agency, the Price Commission, set up hurriedly by then-president Richard Nixon to regulate the prices of nearly everything. It was a huge news story. One of those covering it was a 28-year-old reporter for The Associated Press, Brooks Jackson, who later went on to cover the presidential campaign of Sen. George McGovern. Beverly

and Brooks married shortly after, on Nov. 18, 1972. The marriage lasted until her death nearly 53 years later.

While raising two children, Bev worked for a Washington DC public relations firm, and in 1975 founded her own -- Jackson/Summers Associates, which operated until 1985, first from her home and then from a K street office. She was a founding member of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

For a time, she headed public affairs for the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. She recalled not getting along well with another Beverly, opera singer Sills. Family members observed that divas do not coexist easily.

In 1987 Beverly was drawn back to the medical world, becoming Vice President for Public Affairs at Children's National Medical Center. In 1996 she returned to government service, as chief of the Public Information Branch of the National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health. She retired in 2004.

Throughout, she mentored countless young PR professionals, was an avid photographer and a tireless producer of knitted and crocheted art. Her art was displayed publicly and sold until about 2015.

Survivors include husband Brooks Jackson, of California MD, sister Debra Corban, also of California MD, daughter Dr. Courtney Jackson Blair, an allergist/immunologist of Arlington Va., son Mark Jackson, a lawyer of Brooklyn NY, and five grandchildren: Chloe Blair, Duncan Blair, Vera Jackson, Celeste Jackson, and Lucien Jackson.

Interment will be private. A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date.

Michael Berger, 71



Michael Berger, an electrical engineer, devoted and cherished husband and father, and enthusiastic member of the Corinthian Yacht Club, passed away unexpectedly

August 2, 2025. Michael was 71 years old and is survived by his loving wife, Teresa Berger and two loving daughters, Shannon and Chelsea. He is survived by his siblings, Barbara Bumgarner and Tom Berger. He is predeceased by his parents, Ernest and Bette Berger; and his brother, Bruce Berger. In Michael Berger's honor, please consider making a donation to the St. Michael's Catholic School, 16560 Three Notch Rd, in Ridge, Maryland 20680.

Michael Berger was a devoted husband, father, brother, friend, mariner, computer geek, engineer, and guitarist. Michael was born to Ernest and Bette Berger in Tampa, Florida in 1954.

Michael spent his entire career working in military aviation navigation, ensuring that combat pilots have safe and trustworthy navigation equipment. Michael loved all things aviation and played flight simulators as a hobby. Michael loved watching the mil-

itary aircraft take off from Pax River during his lunch break.

In 1981, he married the love of his life, Teresa, at St. Thomas More in Tallahassee, Florida. Michael's life was already happy, full, successful, and joyful, but it was made even better after marrying Teresa and welcoming their two daughters into the family. Michael loved all three women unconditionally and protected them fiercely.

In 1987, Michael graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and was immensely proud of this accomplishment. He was so proud, in fact, that he named his first boat "DoubleE".

Michael went out of his way to tell his family that he loved his life and that he had more than everything he wanted out of life. Michael ended every phone call with an emphatic and sincere "I love you".

Michael was much loved and will be very much missed.

Michelle Humphrey, 55



Michelle Denise Hall Humphrey, 55 of Mechanicsville, Maryland passed away on July 27, 2025 surrounded by family and loved ones. She was born October 10, 1969 in

Washington D.C., Michelle was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister, and nana who will be deeply missed by all that loved and knew her.

Michelle's life was defined by her boundless compassion and unwavering love for family and friends. She was happiest when surrounded by loved ones, always putting others before herself and offering help to anyone in need. Michelle's big heart and generosity touched many lives.

Michelle found joy in the simplest things in life, whether it be on the water casting a line, crabbing or floating around on the boat. She enjoyed attending NASCAR events, having crab feasts with family, being with her children and grandsons, and she cherished the simple pleasures in life, like a good cup of coffee and sleepovers with Braydon and Jaxon.

Michelle is survived by her husband, Richard Humphrey; children, Jennifer Barnes (Michael) and John Humphrey (Brittany); grandchildren, Braydon and Jaxon; sisters, Jacqueline Hall Gagnon and Ayla Hall Payne; mother, Dianne Wingrove Hall, and father, James Hall. She was preceded in death by her grandparents James and Juanita Wingrove and Cloyd and Kathryn Hall.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life on Saturday, September 6th at 2:00PM, located at 25040 Old Brick Way, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

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



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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



The Lovely Summer Days of August

By Shelby Opperman
Contributing Writer

I hope everyone was enjoying that short spate of lovely dry weather we had, maybe it will make this next few days of real Southern Maryland hazy, hot, and humid days easier to tolerate. Maybe not, but it looks like Saturday through most of next week won't be too bad. I can hear my practical husband saying, "It's summer, what do you expect?" And they are lovely summer days.

We did get to enjoy a few very breezy fun days with some of our family at a family friend's 1946 beach cottage in the Outer Banks. I have written columns while staying there over the years. It is a place filled with character and inspiration. We also love staying steps away from the ocean. When I say steps that does not take into account the legs-strengthening path which takes you up and over the dune at a fairly steep incline. Anyone that goes to the Outer Banks knows the importance of those dunes between the cottages and the ocean. Lots of mornings, I like to go out on the deck with my tea and watch the changing colors of the sunrise. The ocean salt spray reaches the deck giving my tea a very earthy taste.

This year, Mindy, the crazy hound dog, really seemed to enjoy the ocean and the sandy beach. Even with her severe arthritis, Mindy enjoyed the climb over the dune, and I just let her pull me along at the other end of the leash. Some days, Mindy and I had quality time on the beach taking short walks, and other days she wanted nothing more than to lay in the sand staring out to the ocean. I did get some nice selfies with her. She really likes going with Robert since they probably walked a bit farther.

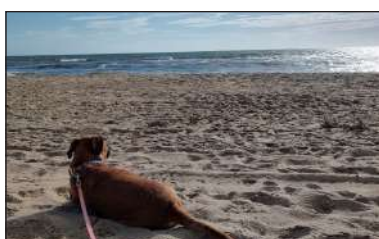
I am really not a beach person and am quite happy staying inside reading a book, however, last Wednesday I did spend a few hours on the beach with everyone. That afternoon, I was heading back up to the cottage for a bit and figured Mindy would be ready to get back inside for the AC so I called for her to come with me. She took a few steps toward me, sat down, and then turned right back around to lay in the sun next to Robert. That doggie loves to bake in the hot sun. It turns out we have a full-fledged beach doggie.

It was nice to have the Utah break to see my brother and the quick Outer Banks break before pool closing time gets underway. I know my husband enjoyed the breaks. He loves ocean beaches, and I think that is where he is the most relaxed in the whole world. He's a hard-working man and deserves any relaxing break he can get. I don't remember us taking two trips during the summer months though it was nice.

But now its time to enjoy these last few weeks of summer and prepare for the big Clements Cuties Foundation event at Back Road Inn on Saturday, September 13th, and to look ahead to all the other fall events starting soon after. Our church, Christ Church, Chaptico has some fall events I am looking forward to such as our church's Homecoming and Ministry Fair event on September 7th, then there is Mindy's favorite, the Blessing of the Animals on October 4th with a few vendors and who know what else with animals of all descriptions at this time. Another night I enjoy is our church bonfire held on the front lawn of the church down towards the marshy water of the Chaptico Bay, with steamed oysters, hot dogs and hamburgers, and of course s'mores. I'm sure you are looking forward to some end of summer and cozy fall activities too. If you would like to add some more fun activities into your schedule then you are more than welcome to join with us at ours. Have a happy week!

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook.



The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

We have the perfect mix of weather and fish. We have spot, croaker, speckled trout, stripers, cobia, mackerel, bluefish, flounder, lizard fish, white perch, and even some whiting, and undersized weakfish (gray trout). No reports of tarpon or snook, but even that would not surprise me; did I mention toadfish?

The spot are everywhere in the Patuxent in about 15 to 20 feet of water. They range all the way to Wayson's Corner, but the big ones are concentrated in the mouth of the river.

Croaker up to 14 inches have been reported in the Patuxent and Potomac. Most are smaller, but growing daily.

Cobia suddenly showed up in all the familiar locations in the lower bay on the middle grounds and the Target ship. Miss Susie Charters found them biting and had a great trip last Sunday. The method is chumming, chunking, and live eels or cut bait.

Spanish mackerel are now mixed with blues for trollers using surgical eels and spoons. Both planers and in-line sinkers work. Troll fast in the shipping channel. Casting lures into breaking fish is plenty of fun.

The bull reds were absent this week, at least not reported as the persistent east winds kept many off the main stem of the bay before they diminished for the week-end. They will be back in the lower traffic times during the week. You can troll with big spoons or surgical eels if you can not find them breaking to sight cast. They are always somewhere eating.

There are lots of under-sized and keeper flounder now in many locations. There should be big ones on the drop off at buoy



Chris with typical striper caught jigging at the Solomons bridge pilings. They are thick there now as are white perch.

76, Cedar Point Rip, Cove Point, and Point Lookout Bar. The lizard fish accompany the flounder. If they suddenly hit your bait, the flounder are on the bottom underneath them.

White perch are now responding to cleansing tides and cooler water. The water temperature in the mouth of the bay is 78.8° according to the Sea Temperature website, and that is the lowest recorded on this date in the last ten years. Breton Bay is an excellent location for white perch. They will take most any bait: bloodworms, shrimp, squid, razor clams, clam snouts, and even night crawlers. Catches in all creeks improved this week. Both rockfish, and perch were very willing under the Pearson creek bridge on the Naval Air Station this week.

This is a glowing report, but I never embellish, I just report what I hear and have the pictures to prove.

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SEP 5	Art & Entertainment District Celebration 5pm - 8pm
SEP 5-7	September First Friday Weekend All Weekend
SEP 7	Sidewalk Chalk Art Showcase 10am - 3pm
SEP 13	Coastal Arts Market 10am - 3pm
SEP 26	Outdoor Movie Night 7:30pm - 9:30pm

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Michael Jackson Tribute Artist Wins Talent Show

Victory Comes Days After Hospitalization



Dimitri Reeves. Photos courtesy of Ron Bailey Photo Productions & Town of Leonardtown

By Vada Mercer
Contributing Writer

Dimitri Reeves, a well-known Michael Jackson tribute artist from southern Maryland, earned first place in the first annual Leonardtown's Got Talent competition after being declared clinically dead days prior.

The talent show was judged by five talented individuals experienced with the arts, and contestants were given 1-5 points in multiple categories: Stage presence and crowd control, creativity and originality, technical skill and execution, preparation and coordination, overall performance quality, and audience response and crowd appeal.

Held at the Rex Theatre, the show featured 16 talents, chosen from almost fifty initial applicants. Talents ranged from singing and acrobatics to yo-yo tricks.

Reeves' winning performance was an original song, 'Rock That Body,' which was accompanied by Michael Jackson inspired dance moves.

According to Reeves, he has been channeling Michael Jackson since he was young. Having performed from St. Mary's County to Los Angeles, he told judges each performance is just as important.

Reeves' goal with his performances is to spread a message of love. He told audience members that whatever energy they put out in the world will return to them, and that "the world is not scary," but that there are hurt people in it.

Days prior to his performance, Reeves



Reeves (center) with 2nd place winner Richard Lepper (left) and 3rd place winner Gabriel Cabral (right).

had suffered a seizure that landed him in the hospital, and he had been declared clinically dead. Despite this challenge, his determination to spread love helped him pull through with an epic performance that dazzled the crowd.

The second place winner, Richard Lepper, 30, performed a multi-faceted act featuring acro-chair, hula hooping, and color guard skills. A teacher at the Vertical Dance Company, Lepper is a familiar face for many Leonardtown community members, frequently seen rollerblading around the town square.

Third place was awarded to Gabriel Cabral, whose choreographed yo-yo routine featured a set of flashy tricks. Cabral said his love for the hobby began in elementary school when he saw a guest performer demonstrate yo-yo tricks in the auditorium. Since then, he's honed his skills to a competitive level, performing at yo-yo contests.

As part of his award, Reeves will be performing on August 30 at the Leonardtown Wharf's Labor Day event. The free event, from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., will feature two live bands and fireworks.

The top three winners received trophy plaques, gift cards, and Leonardtown swag. Additionally, five door prizes were given away, with various gift cards to small Leonardtown businesses.

This competition is the first of many, and the town plans to make it an annual event that will highlight the many unique talents of southern Maryland.

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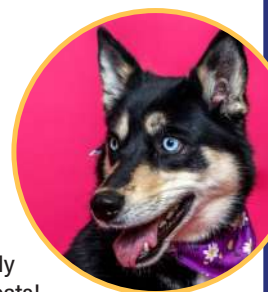


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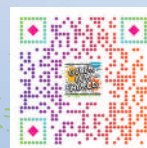
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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

E-130J Popular Name Announced for TACAMO Mission Aircraft

The U.S. Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) and Strategic Communications Wing 1 (SCW-1) announced the official popular name for the Navy's new Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) mission aircraft: E-130J Phoenix II.

In October 2024, the placeholder name E-XX was officially designated as E-130J. As of today, the E-130J's popular name has been designated as Phoenix II, representing the mythical bird whose ability is to be reborn and represents a symbol of immortality, resurrection, and renewal.

This meaning of rebirth is a nod to the proven C-130 platform fulfilling the TACAMO mission since 1963-1993 via the EC-130Q. The E-130J Phoenix II will relieve the Navy's E-6B Mercury fleet of the TACAMO mission. TACAMO is the vital connection for the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command with naval ballistic missile forces.

"Phoenix II is the ideal popular name as we take the E-130J TACAMO mission into its next phase," said Capt. Roger Davis,



Northrop Grumman artist rendering

PMA-271 program manager. "A phoenix is known for its resilience, exceptionally long lifespan, and its ability to transform and continue its purpose. The dedicated team at PMA-271 have committed to the ideals of TACAMO's critical deterrence mission when executing this new platform; transforming the legacy mission aircraft into a new weapon system with unmatched sur-

vivability and longevity for this country."

SCW-1 squadrons home based out of Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. They include the "Ironmen" of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 3, "Shadows" of VQ-4 and "Roughnecks" of VQ-7.

"I'm pleased that this very important program remains on track, and that we were able to leverage our community sailors and

veterans through the process," said Capt. Britt Windeler, commander of SCW-1. "I feel like Phoenix II is especially apt, as we are returning to our roots of executing the TACAMO mission on a C-130 variant."

The current platform, E-6B Mercury, is a communications relay and strategic airborne command post aircraft. It provides survivable, reliable, and enduring airborne Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications (NC3) for the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command. The E-130J Phoenix II will recapitalize the aging E-6B Mercury fleet that has been in service for more than three decades.

PMA-271 is part of Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) with its headquarters at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. Its mission is to deliver and support survivable, reliable and enduring airborne command, control and communications for the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command.

The mission of SCW-1 is to receive, verify and retransmit Emergency Action Messages (EAMs) to U.S. strategic forces.



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Great Mills Man Indicted for Child Abuse in Boy's Death

On Thursday, May 8, 2025, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office along with emergency medical services personnel responded to the 22000 block of Castle Pollard Way in Great Mills for the report of an 11-year-old male juvenile not breathing. Life-saving efforts were attempted, and the juvenile was transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

The juvenile was released to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore, who later ruled the death a homicide.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division assumed the investigation. Through investigative efforts, detectives obtained and executed multiple search warrants, resulting in the recovery of evidence, and on Tuesday, Aug. 12 Tyrone Edward Proctor, 40, of Great Mills, was served with a Grand Jury Indictment warrant for the following charges:

- Child abuse first-degree: contributing to the death of a child under 13 years
- Child abuse first-degree: course of conduct
- Child abuse first-degree: severe physical injury
- Child abuse second-degree
- Reckless endangerment



Tyrone Edward Proctor

Proctor is being held in the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, where he has been incarcerated since July 19, 2025, on unrelated charges.

The investigation remains open and ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Allison Mattera at 301-475-4200, ext. 8124, or by email at Allison.Mattera@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Press Release from SMCSO

SMECO to Distribute Legislative Energy Relief Refund

Many Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) residential customers will see a credit on their electric bill in August, thanks to the Legislative Energy Relief Refund, a one-time statewide initiative established by the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Wes Moore to help offset high energy costs.

The refund, created through House Bill 1035 and administered by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC), provides an average total credit of \$80 per eligible household, distributed in two phases: summer 2025 and winter 2026. Credits will be applied automatically to eligible accounts.

To be eligible, members must have had an active residential account as of August 1, 2025, and must have used electricity during the 12-month period ending March 31, 2025.

"This refund comes at a critical time, especially during the peak summer months when energy usage is at its highest," said Sonja Cox, SMECO President and CEO.

The credit is based on a member's average monthly usage over the 12-month period ending March 31, 2025.

Eligible SMECO members fall into one of three usage tiers, with higher-usage households receiving a larger credit. Tiers are defined as follows:

- **Tier 1**, 0–400 kWh average usage: \$40 credit
- **Tier 2**, 400–1,200 kWh average usage: \$55 credit
- **Tier 3**, 1,200+ kWh average usage: \$40 credit

The refund will appear as "Legislative Energy Relief Refund" on page two of the August SMECO bill. A second credit will be issued in winter 2026.

Members who wish to share their refund can donate it to SMECO's Members Helping Members program, which provides assistance to fellow cooperative members who need help paying their electric bill. Donations are sent to the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, which gives the money to members who seek aid and meet the qualifications. One-time donations can be made by sending a check to SMECO, Members Helping Members, P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637. Refund donations cannot be made automatically. Interested SMECO members can also sign up online at smeco.coop/mhm to add \$1, \$5, or \$10 to their electric bill each month.

For more information about the Legislative Energy Relief Refund, visit SMECO.coop/relief.

Press Release from SMECO



Letters to the Editor

Saint Mary's County Classics

There is nothing more "All American" than a classic car show and St. Mary's County is famous for some of the best in the state. The sight of a well preserved vehicle that has withstood the passage of time is a joy that many people share regardless of their age. The nostalgia connected to viewing classic cars is what brings back "good memories" of yesteryear for many. The county has a couple of weekly Cruise-Ins" that also feature classic cars and trucks. Wednesday evenings at Arby's in Leonardtown is a mid-week show, and Cars and Coffee at Hobby Lobby in California takes place on Sunday Morning. You'll find all categories represented from hotrods to modern muscle

cars and the famed "classics from yesteryear". If you are like me and are too old to attend them often, you will appreciate the coverage on YouTube at "Out of Order Garage ". Mr. John Pajak does some fine video coverage of car shows and cruise-ins events and posts them on his YouTube site. John has a lifetime love of classics and his knowledge and interest is demonstrated in his videos. Check it out and don't forget to subscribe and leave John a comment. I'm sure that he will appreciate your inputs.

*Samuel R. (Sal) Pistachio
Mechanicsville*

Legal Notices

RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Inc. is currently soliciting bids for the following:

- 16' rigid hull, soft sided boat / raft
 - Lightweight for 3 or 4 people to lift and move from trailer to water
 - Capacity of at least 6 adults
 - Heavy duty rubbing strake
 - Multiple Inflateable Chambers with pressure relief valves
 - Deck drains/scuppers
 - Bottom shall be aluminum or fiberglass
 - 30–40hp Yamaha four-stroke, tiller steer, electric start and mounted in accordance with manufacturers specifications
 - 6 gallon plastic fuel tank with accessories to hook up
 - Plastic battery box
- 1 handheld Garmin GPS73
- 1 handheld ICOM IC-M85UL VHF radio
- Bunk style trailer, single axle, aluminum or galvanize equipped to move same vessel

Boat / Raft shall be delivered to 13820 Pointlookout Road, Ridge, Maryland 20680

One original and one copy of the sealed bid should be addressed to Steve Gatton and marked "Sealed Bid for Raft". The bid will be received at the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Inc., PO Box 520, 13820 Point Lookout Road, Ridge, Maryland 20680 until 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on September 4, 2025. At which time, the bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid for comparable equipment will be accepted. The Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the proposal submitted when such waiver is in the best interest of the Department.

Inquiries concerning proposal information should be directed to Steve Gatton at 301-872-5571.

If you would like to place a classified ad or legal notice, please call the County Times at 301-373-4125 or email aldailey@countytimes.net

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Jennifer Clancy Files for District 29A Seat

Jennifer Clancy, who describes herself as “a dedicated mother of five, licensed therapist, wife to an upstanding local sheriff, former public school counselor, and passionate advocate for education, healthcare, and community” officially announced her candidacy for Maryland State Delegate 29A.

According to a press release, “Jennifer grew up as a Navy kid, experiencing the strength and connectivity that shines throughout military communities, just like ours. From a young age, Jennifer learned the power of community, and is running to champion policies that prioritize families, expand access to mental health services, protect constitutional rights, and advance social justice for all.”

“As a mother, a former small business owner, and a proud member of the northern St. Mary's community, I've seen firsthand how strong we can be when we work together. We are living in a time where the need for equitable solutions and social justice has never been more urgent,” said Clancy. “I'm running for State Delegate because I believe in our Constitutional promise that all members of our community shall be afforded the rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

The press release said, “Jennifer has spent her life in service to others. As a former doula, childbirth educator and midwife apprentice, and former public school educator/counselor, she learned the importance of compassionate, equitable care, and her work as a licensed trauma therapist has deepened her understanding of the mental health needs of families.

“Beyond her compassion, Jennifer has put boots on the ground, serving as the former Chair of the Healthcare Committee for the Women of Action Charles County and was appointed to the Charles County Commission for Women as representative to their Legislative Committee. And in 2020, Jennifer went into action as a co-founder of the SOMD Mask Makers, working with volunteers to produce and donated over 4,500, 100 percent cotton washable face masks to first responders throughout Southern Maryland.

The release goes on to say, “While in office, Jennifer Clancy will prioritize the following key areas:

- “Education for All: Committed to fully funding public education and library systems, providing equal opportuni-



Jennifer Clancy

ties for all students, and supporting our teachers who are the backbone of our future. Listening, learning and advocating for the various needs that our families bring to the table.

- “Affordable Healthcare: Fighting for accessible and appropriate health and wellbeing services, with a pledge to advocate for increased access and maintained funding to support those vulnerable in our community.
- “Our Community: Our Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Agritourism sets us apart from the rest! Supporting educational programming and advocacy for future funding initiatives will be a priority.
- “Fair Tax Contributions: Supporting a tax system that ensures everyone contributes fairly, reducing the burden on working families and investing in public services that benefit everyone.
- “Protection of Constitutional Rights: Defending the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, including freedoms of speech, equality under the law, and the right to live without fear of discrimination.

“This campaign is about making sure that every person has access to the opportunities and resources they deserve,” Clancy stated. “I grew up being taught to fight for American IDEALS (inclusivity, diversity, equity, accessibility, liberty, sustainability). Our ideals are how we ensure security, health, justice and wellbeing for all. When we work towards building our Community, we thrive.”

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What Is Grove Family Health — And Why Is Direct Primary Care the Future of Healthcare in Our Community?

Have you ever felt rushed through a medical visit? Waited weeks to be seen? Or have you been hit with a confusing bill after what should have been a simple appointment? You're not alone—and it's exactly why **Grove Family Health**, your local family primary care clinic, was created.

Based in Leonardtown, Maryland, Grove Family Health is a new kind of healthcare experience—a **family clinic built on trust, time, and accessibility**, all made possible through a model called **Direct Primary Care (DPC)**.

What Is Direct Primary Care (DPC)?

Direct Primary Care is a simple, affordable, and relationship-based approach to healthcare. Instead of billing insurance for every visit, test, or procedure, patients pay a flat monthly fee—much like a subscription—to receive ongoing care.

DPC practices are built around **direct access to your provider, transparent pricing, and longer appointments** that prioritize prevention and whole-person wellness. This model allows patients to avoid co-pays, surprise bills, and long wait times.

It's healthcare on your terms—**unrushed, proactive, and deeply personal**.

What Makes Grove Family Health Different?

At **Grove Family Health**, that Direct Primary Care model is brought to life by **Sheri Dean, CRNP**, a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner with more than 20 years of experience. She opened the clinic to serve her community with **more time, more access, and more heart**.

As a member, you get:

- Unlimited in-office visits for wellness, sick care, and

chronic condition management

- **Direct communication with Sheri by phone, secure messaging, email—even after hours**
- Access to **telehealth and in-home visits** when appropriate
- Personalized attention and appointment times long enough to truly address your concerns

And yes, we have a waiting room—but **most patients barely spend any time in it**. You're seen when you're scheduled, and your visit is never rushed.

We also coordinate with your insurance when helpful—like for labs, prescriptions, imaging, and specialist referrals—so your coverage still supports you, without interfering with your care.

Not Ready for Membership?

That's okay—**Grove Family Health also offers affordable, one-time urgent care visits** for non-members. Whether you need help for a minor injury, infection, or sudden illness, you can get fast, high-quality care without the long waits or inflated costs of traditional urgent care centers.

A Smart Option for Small Business Owners

For small business owners, Grove Family Health is more than a clinic—it's a **partner in keeping your team healthy**.

- Already offer insurance? DPC enhances it with faster access, fewer absences, and better outcomes.
- Not offering insurance yet? A Grove membership gives your employees **real care and peace of mind**—without the overwhelming cost of traditional plans.

BJ Hall Files for District 29B Delegate Seat

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

After an unsuccessful bid for county commissioner three years ago, Lexington Park community activist BJ Hall has thrown his hat into the ring for the District 29B seat in the Maryland General Assembly. Hall is a Republican.

The seat is currently held by Del. Brian Crosby, a Democrat. Crosby has not yet filed and he did not return The County's Times' call requesting an interview. Twenty-two-year-old Kris McDonald of Great Mills has also filed as a Democrat for the position.

Hall is a native of Michigan and graduate of University of Alabama. After being medically discharged from the Army, he eventually wound up in Southern Maryland to work at Calvert Cliffs. He chose the area to be near his son, who was about to enter high school.

"Once I got in the area I started working in the community and kind fell in love with the area. I found a job at Pax River working in simulation division. And I've been working in the simulation division here since 2020, but I've been doing program management for eight years here."

His community involvement has included president of the NAACP. "We have a fraternity here, Omega Chapter. We have a mentoring program. We partner with a couple other programs down here, working with different organizations, the health department to help a couple of resources."

He said, "I started a nonprofit. We have an aviation program. We're going into our fifth year training kids. I've done some work with jobs on the workforce development side." He's on the Tri-County Council's Workforce Development Board.

Additionally, Hall is on the Historic St. Mary's City Commission and the board of the foundation for the Center for the Study of Democracy.

As to his decision to run, he said, "With advocacy in Annapolis over the past few years, I started understanding how I could possibly influence change, to make sure the needs of St. Mary are represented."

He said of Crosby, "It's hard being in leadership, especially with the majority party. I think, he has a lot of responsibilities



BJ Hall

that don't necessarily align with the needs of our county."

Hall was asked about being African American and Republican and why he is in that party. He said, "As a conservative, most of us come from some type of Christian background. You would assume that we would align with a more conservative political party. But I think what's happened with party is civil rights in a way makes African Americans feel like they need to be loyal. I think that's an allegiance that's a bit outdated. I don't think that they necessarily serve African Americans. I don't understand why more African Americans aren't Republican."

He added, "There's almost a social requirement on the African American side where people just feel like it's a betrayal of race if you go to the Republican side, but I don't feel the obligation because I know I give everything that I have to help people of all races and colors. And so that not something that bothers me at all."

He hopes in Annapolis to find ways to help the Lexington Park community through things like community policing and economic development.

Hall said, "We have all this technology out here, all these smart people, but we don't necessarily have a lot of things keep them occupied here."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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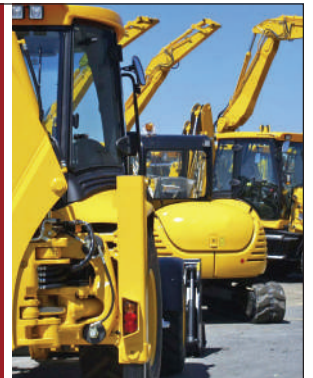
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Two Office/Manufacturing Projects Approved



Artist's rendering of Greenwood Business Center, one of the two newly-approved facilities.

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Planning Commission has approved two similar projects in different locations that would create an office building and separate structure for light manufacturing. Both are spec projects with no tenant identified. The projects are on Route 5 north of Leonardtown and in the St. Mary's Industrial Park in Hollywood.

The projects were unanimously approved with little comment and no testimony at their public hearings.

The first, called the Greenwood Business Center, is owned by Kenny and Edna Wentworth. It consists of 904 square feet of office and 5,214 square feet for production industry/custom. The site is located on the Northbound MD 5 past the intersection with MD 234. It is zoned rural commercial limited.

The zone allows for "production of goods by hand manufacturing involving the use of hand tools and small scale equipment. It includes custom carpentry, small scale fur-

niture making, machine shop, et cetera," according to the staff report.

The 2.09-acre site will be accessed by a shared driveway with the Dr. Dabbs dental office.

The second project is on land formerly occupied by a concrete plant that has been demolished. It is owned by WM Davis Development.

The concept site plan was for a 900 square feet office and 11,100 square feet production industry/custom. The site is located on 44120 Airport View Drive in Hollywood. It sits on 1.21 acres.

The project would have its own entrance.

Although the concrete plant buildings have been removed, the new use would incorporate some of that plant's impervious surface infrastructure and for the entrance, "we would try to maintain as much of the existing concrete that's there today," said Gene Burroughs of Little Silences Rest, the engineer for both developments.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

State Grant Requested for Splash Pad

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Leonardtown Town Council has approved submitting a grant request for a splash pad at Miedzinski Park on the grounds of the St. Mary's County Governmental Center.

The Community Parks and Playgrounds grant request is part of the land acquisition initiative of the Maryland Open Space Program.

The town's grant request is for \$300,000. Grant requests must be made by governmental entities, so the town is making the request on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks, which is the lead agency for the project.

The county will kick in an additional

\$250,000. If the town is awarded the grant, they would pass it through the monies to the county for a total project cost of \$550,000.

In the letter to the state, the town wrote, "The addition of a splash pad to be installed near Wieck Community Playground at Miedzinski Park will provide a much-needed area to cool off during warm weather days. The splash pad will prove to be a unique gathering spot for people of all ages and abilities and will create a community space that can be enjoyed by everyone. Additionally, the new splash pad will create additional opportunities to blend sensory, physical, and social play experiences."

The Leonardtown Town Council approval to send the grant request was unanimous.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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For more info call the MVFD Auction Phone line at 240-466-1512.

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Armitage Sworn In as Family Court Magistrate

By Marcia Hart
Contributing Writer

St. Mary's County welcomed a new face to its judicial bench as Sue Ann Lewis Armitage was officially sworn in August 11 as the Family Law Magistrate for the Circuit Court. The heartfelt ceremony brought together over 200 family members, friends and community supporters who gathered to celebrate this proud moment in Mrs. Armitage's accomplished legal career.

A lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and proud alumna of St. Michael's School, Sue Ann's journey to the bench reflects a deep commitment to her community and to the law. Since graduating from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1990, she has spent more than 35 years advocating for families across Southern Maryland, becoming a trusted voice in family law.

Reflecting on her appointment, Mrs. Armitage said, "I truly believe this role is about being a public servant, and I'm deeply humbled by this appointment. It's an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility to serve the families of St. Mary's County."

In recent years, family law cases have become the cornerstone of her practice — an area that makes up nearly 70% of the Circuit Court's caseload. Her extensive experience with divorce, child custody, visitation, support issues and property disputes positions her perfectly to serve the community in her new role. As Family Law Magistrate, Mrs. Armitage will oversee these sensitive and



Sue Ann Lewis Armitage raises her right hand as she is sworn in as St. Mary's County's new Family Law Magistrate. Photos by Ceandra Scott.

often complex matters with the empathy and expertise that have defined her career.

Beyond the courtroom, Mrs. Armitage has been a steadfast pillar of public service. She has offered her support to St. Michael's School and numerous other local organizations, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to community leadership. She has contributed her talents to the Boards of Directors for the St. Mary's County Bar Association, Southern Maryland Inns of Court, Juvenile Drug Court, St. Mary's Ryken High School and Bay Montessori School.

Her dedication has not gone unnoticed. She has received numerous honors such as



Following her August 11 swearing in, Armitage stands with her husband Dan Armitage, Calvert County Circuit Court Chief Administrative Judge Mark Chandlee, Judge Amy D. Lorenzini, St. Mary's County Chief Administrative Judge Joseph M. Stanalonis, and Court of Appeals Chief Administrative Judge E. Gregory Wells.

the Maryland State Bar Association's Pro Bono Service Award and was named one of The Daily Record's Top 100 Women in Maryland in 2023. She was also recognized as a Leader in Law in 2022 and listed among the state's top 25 family law attorneys. Most recently, in 2024, Mrs. Armitage was celebrated as a "Pillar of the Community," a testament to the respect and admiration she has earned throughout her career and personal life.

"Sue Ann truly loves St. Mary's County and the people who live here," said Dan Armitage, Sue Ann's husband and an attorney with the St. Mary's Department of

Social Services. "What we're welcoming today is a dedicated public servant who will work tirelessly and make the right decisions, even when they're difficult." "Her commitment to this community runs deep, and I honestly don't think we could ask for anyone better in this role," he added.

Acknowledging those who have supported her along the way, Mrs. Armitage shared, "This is a big moment, not just for me, but because of all the people who have stood by me and encouraged me along the way. I'm grateful for the chance to give back to the community that has given me so much."



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St. Mary's Schools Prepare for Opening Day

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Public schools in St. Mary's County are abuzz with activity as they prepare for the first day of school on Wednesday, Aug. 20.

Long-time school board member and current Vice Chair Cathy Allen has seen a lot of these opening days as a parent and as a school board member. Her advice for parents, "Make sure children are getting a good night's sleep, and that you begin that process now so that a week from now their bedtime, that often creeps later in the summer, can be pulled back and so that they're ready and awake and alert for going to school. It's always important."

Allen also noted "the importance of showing up every day ready to learn. That showing up is a critical part of life, and it begins with school. It's truly very important."

No just feeling they don't want to go to school that day. "They need to be reminded that right now their job is school and getting ready ultimately to graduate, whether it's this year or 12 or 13 years from now, so that when they step out after graduation, they're ready for the next part of their lives."

Allen chaired the Aug. 13 school board meeting at which School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith gave a rundown of what's been happening and what's about to happen in preparation for school opening.

Dr. Smith said, "Last week as we found ourselves in the first full week of August, we started with welcome back for all of our administrators and supervisors. That's everybody here at central office and at supporting services. And then throughout all of our schools, the principals and assistant principals, (had) a really great two days. We went over a lot of topics. We introduced a lot of new faces. There are 44 people in new positions this year... 42 of whom are internal candidates that just moved up a seat or over a seat, and two coming from outside."

The superintendent said, "There's a lot of... new per energy, and a lot of questions and a lot of why do we do this? Is there a different way to do this? Let's rethink what we're (doing). It was really, really great."

Smith said, "On Wednesday (Aug. 6) all of the new teachers who were hired spent the day in their buildings. But then on the 7th and 8th, Thursday and Friday, they came to the Forest Center as well. And they had a kickoff event where Mrs. Allen, brought them greetings."

Also, County Commissioner Eric presented greetings for St. Mary's. "He talked a little bit about his history with Leonardtown High School and St. Mary's County Public Schools, and the role of a county commissioner," Smith said.

The superintendent said, "There was great energy as well. And part of that energy came from the fact that it is such a tight little cohort. We welcomed 50 new teachers. That is the smallest cohort of new teachers we have brought in the St. Mary's County Public Schools in over a decade. And, while many elements of education across the state and across the United States are struggling, we did really well down here. And of the people that we brought in, there are some brand new to the profession, but there are many who have experience in other systems. And they're drawn to us primarily because of the way in which we go about our business. The way in which the board goes about its business and supporting teachers. And our relationship with county government and with the associations and a really great contract that we've been able to uphold for the last 12 years. That means a lot. And a lot of people looking for stability will do their research, and they will say, this is the place to come."

The newcomers include 50 teachers, four new counselors, six new nurses, "A really great group and super great energy, new people energy."

Smith said the school system still has some openings, including two secretarial positions, one sign language interpreter, two elementary education vacancies, a ROTC instructor at Great Mills High School, a media specialist, one middle school math, two middle school science and middle school English."

Smith said, "I strongly encourage you, if you know of somebody who really wants to teach, we have opportunities here, but they are quickly dwindling, and we are interviewing every single day to get those all filled."

While school starts Aug. 20 for everyone else, Chesapeake Charter School had their opening on Aug. 13, as they are on a different schedule.

The superintendent insisted, "If you have a child who is in your home who isn't registered for school, please take care of it this week. If you wait till next week, you're going to be waiting. And we're going to be struggling to get that all that paperwork done and get them set up and registered and ready to go." Registration information is available online.

Smith said, "If you are all registered because you're fantastic and you're ready to go, there's so much back-to-school information directly on our website. It'll be the first thing that comes up, 'back to school resources,' when you click on it. It'll go through all the back-to-school supplies, as well as all of the open houses, the majority of which are being held on Monday. It'll go through the specific time for each one of the buildings and grade levels and all that

information is right there."

The student access center opens Friday, Aug. 15 at 5 p.m. Smith said, "You can find out exactly what your classes are and your teachers and all that information."

Allen, in an interview with The County Times, was asked about Blueprint's impact this year. She said, "There's continuing efforts with early childhood education, that's a big part of the Blueprint, and making sure that we have the appropriate supports in place for our designated community schools."

"We have full-day pre-K for all eligible students. The Blueprint changed the eligibility. It's primarily for students who are economically disadvantaged. We have also extended it to some special needs students, and English language learners."

There are slots for about 500 students. Allen said, "We try to make sure that every single one of them are filled. Hopefully parents have already registered their children and know whether or not they are pre-K eligible, and certainly for any student beginning kindergarten, if they were not previously in the school system here, this week is the time to make sure that they're registered and ready to go because the first day of school is a busy one and go in this week, you'll be able to get in your paperwork turned in, get everything set."

This year will be marked with a redistricting study. Allen said, "I have a long history with understanding redistricting, and having participated in that process even before I was on the school board. It is a very disruptive



Board of Education Vice Chair Cathy Allen

process. We are taking a countywide look at things, and having a consultant pull this all together. Whether we ultimately move students will depend on a lot of factors, not the least of which is what the recommendations are, but then what are the long-term implications? So, I don't think parents need to be worried. I do recommend that they stay involved and keep an eye on the school system's website to see the update on the process. If there are recommendations for movement, there will be a lot of community engagement, parent engagement and student engagement to get feedback."

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County Times

They Said Yes!

Congratulations to the happy couples who applied for marriage licenses
in St. Mary's County during the month of July. Best wishes to all!

Stephen Michael Hubley, 33, California, MD
Christine Fae Reiser, 44, California, MD

Elizabeth Ann Browne, 26, Lexington Park, MD
Mathew Alden Mincey, 29, Lexington Park, MD

Sydney Elaine Messer, 23, Charlotte Hall, MD
Austin Patrick Reiner, 25, Charlotte Hall, MD

Nathan Deon Jackson, 22, Leonardtown, MD
Savannah Rose Saunders, 22, Charlotte, NC

Tamela Taiwan Marinda Lucas, 36, Indian Head, MD
William Walter Knott, Jr., 37, Indian Head, MD

Julianna Marlee Payne, 32, California, MD
Charles Daniel Clements, 29, California, MD

Robert Adam Strickland, 24, Patuxent River, MD
Jane Ellen Blackberry, 26, Greenville, NC

Hannah Nicole Smith, 24, California, MD
Domenic Anthony Filardo, 26, California, MD

Jacob Joshua Lettiere, 26, Skyesville, MD
Kylie Michelle Davis, 26, Skyesville, MD

Michelle Ranay Miller, 26, Lexington Park, MD
Robert Ramon Rajkowski, 27, Lexington Park, MD

Maura Alexandra Stephens, 25, Mechanicsville, MD
Michael Giovanni Bouyett, 25, Hughesville, MD

Nicole Kiwus, 31, Boise, ID
Travis Russell Tarelton, 31, Boise, ID

Catherine Elizabeth Barr, 36, King George, VA
Stanley James Surratt, 45, King George, VA

Jasmine Marie Walker, 19, California, MD
Tamari Nikolaus Taylor, 18, Mechanicsville, MD

Jocelyn Uneice Greenwell, 27, Godley, TX
Trey Tayshaun Moore, 27, Godley, TX

Lawrence Patrick Mac Curtain, 36, Lexington Park, MD
Rebecca Lynn Wright, 35, Lexington Park, MD

Douglas Preston Carruth, Jr., 48, Bel Alton, MD
Leslie Ann Snurr, 42, Lusby, MD

Todd Stephen Reid, 56, Arnaudville, LA
Misti Guidry Gravouia, 47, Arnaudville, LA

Julia Mary Schuebel, 20, Lexington Park, MD
Luke David Collins, 21, Lexington Park, MD

Magen Lea Purvis, 48, Pueblo, Co
Chris Howard Leeman, 59, Valley Lee, MD

Stephen Dennis Rusevlyan, Jr., 61, Leonardtown, MD
Tricia Marie Morrison, 53, Leonardtown, MD

Heather Renee Tennyson, 41, Tall Timbers, MD
Derek Brandle Jefferson, 43, Tall Timbers, MD

Amber Nicole Connelly, 31, Leonardtown, MD
Dennis Michael Quade, 32, Leonardtown, MD

Daniel Ken Siber, 38, California, MD
Catherine Theresa Cooney, 28, Mechanicsville, MD

Christina Lynn Ferguson, 46, Leonardtown, MD
Jared Ray Stern, 39, Leonardtown, MD

Jesse Delane Dean, 29, Tall Timbers, MD
Trina Jolene Jones, 32, Tall Timbers, MD

Karly Ann Wiley, 26, Newburg, MD
Justin Calvin Welch, 27, Newburg, MD

Jonathan Scott Harding, 52, Leonardtown, MD
Marisa Watson McDaniel, 53, Leonardtown, MD

Calan Antonio White, 27, Great Mills, MD
Sunceray Leah Green, 28, Great Mills, MD

Timothy Wayne Bentey, Jr., 32, Mechanicsville, MD
Delfina Trevizo Garland, 38, Mechanicsville, MD

Richard Martin Redmond, 74, Lexington Park, MD
Donna Marie Voorhar, 77, California, MD

Breanna Elizabeth Peterson, 27, Lexington Park, MD
Colin Robert MacLaren, 27, Lexington Park, MD

Cassandra Ann Savoy, 35, Lexington Park, MD
Kenneth Ian Thornton, 57, Lexington Park, MD

Noel Livingston Plummer, Jr., 44, Waldorf, MD
Chimere Jenay Carroll, 44, Waldorf, MD

David Alan Cain, 40, Charlotte Hall, MD
Lisa Marie Whitney, 41, Charlotte Hall, MD

Allison Mae Mersch, 23, Hollywood, MD
Caleb Evan Young, 22, Mechanicsville, MD

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Olivia Elena Hutchens Rocha, 22, Milton, FL
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SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DR. SCOTT SMITH ON THE NEW TEACHERS



LOCAL 7
Armitage sworn in as Family Court Magistrate



LOCAL 9
Two office/manufacturing projects approved



ON THE COVER
St. Mary's prepares to go back to school

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, AUG 14 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 72°	FRI, AUG 15 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 70°	SAT, AUG 16 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 67°	SUN, AUG 17 Sunny Hi: 88° Lo: 70°
MON, AUG 18 Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 69°	TUE, AUG 19 Mostly Sunny Hi: 85° Lo: 68°	WED, AUG 20 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 67°	THU, AUG 21 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 66°

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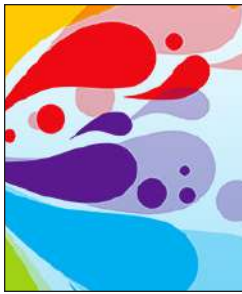


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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025

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**Armitage Sworn in as
Family Magistrate**

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for Delegate Seats**

**CATHY ALLEN ON
BACK-TO-SCHOOL**