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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

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**Death Investigation
in Mechanicsville**

**Crab Population
Improves**

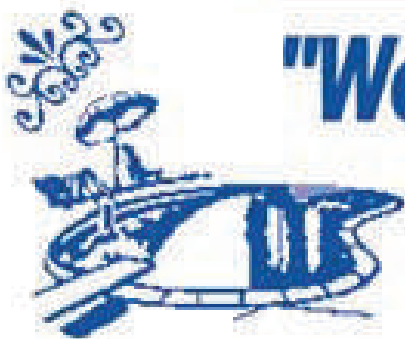
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Data Sought**



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“THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DRIVE MILES AND MILES TO SEE IT.”

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR LASCHELLE MCKAY ON THE WORLD'S LARGEST RUBBER DUCK COMING IN AUGUST



LOCAL 7
Mechanicsville death under investigation



LOCAL 8
Crab population shows some improvement



ON THE COVER 8
New management company selected for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

WEEKLY FORECAST

| THU, MAY 25 | FRI, MAY 26 | SAT, MAY 27 | SUN, MAY 28 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | |
| Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 48° | Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 51° | Cloudy Hi: 70° Lo: 55° | Showers Hi: 71° Lo: 58° |
| MON, MAY 29 | TUE, MAY 30 | WED, MAY 31 | THU, JUN 1 |
| | | | |
| Showers Hi: 73° Lo: 58° | Showers Hi: 75° Lo: 60° | Partly Cloudy Hi: 80° Lo: 62° | Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 64° |

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Jaymi Sterling

State's Attorney for St. Mary's County



New Veterans Home Management Company Has Troubled History

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A Georgia-based health care provider has been awarded the \$159 million contract to run the troubled Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for the next four years by the state's Board of Public Works — but PruittHealth has problems of its own, according to Medicare reports on its operations.

Federal government records show that of the 49 nursing homes in Georgia the health care conglomerate runs, 16 have a one-star rating — the lowest rating — that Medicare can provide based on health inspections, staffing and quality measures the management company institutes in its operations.

Two of those facilities, known as Eastside and Toccoa, were cited for abuse, the Medicare reports state.

PruittHealth operates nursing homes in North and South Carolina and Florida as well.

The same reporting system shows that four out of 10 nursing homes it runs in North Carolina have a one-star rating with two of them being cited for abuse.

In South Carolina four out of 14 nursing homes were given a one-star rating as well.

In Florida, PruittHealth runs just four nursing homes and one of them has a one-star rating.

Gov. Wes Moore announced in March that he would be cancelling the contract with RMH, the management company that had run the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home since 2002 based on reports of poor patient care and even abuse both from Medicare and resident complaints.

The veterans' home, which is the only one in Maryland, also received a one-star rating.

The issue resulted in emergency legislation being passed in the last days of the 2023 General Assembly that required state legislators and local elected leaders be notified if a nursing home in their jurisdiction was given such a low rating or noted to have problems of abuse or neglect of their patients.

When Moore announced that the RMH contract would be terminated, local elected officials and at the state level said they had not been informed of the abuse and neglect allegations at the veterans' home.

If the new management company takes on a fifth year running Charlotte Hall it will

receive an additional \$39 million.

In a statement on the hiring of PruittHealth, the state exhibited confidence in its choice.

"PruittHealth is a family-owned organization and manages more than 105 nursing homes and six veterans' homes throughout Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina," the statement reads.

"Ten of their locations were recently recognized as a Best Nursing Home for 2022-23 by U.S. News & World Report.

"All the veterans' homes under PruittHealth management are recipients of The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for meeting the highest safety and quality health care standards."

The state veterans' affairs office is working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Maryland Department of Health, and St. Mary's County Health Department to ensure a smooth transition from the current management contractor to the new one, the statement said.

Staffing at Charlotte Hall has been a long-standing problem that the state said the new management company is willing to handle.

"PruittHealth is committed to retaining as much staff as possible during this transition, ensuring that nursing staff are able to maintain relationships with their residents and patients," the state said. "PruittHealth will take over management of Charlotte Hall on June 6."

PruittHealth is also engaged in providing home health services for clients and several years ago it was implicated in a federal false claims case.

PruittHealth agreed to pay \$4.2 million



to "resolve allegations that they submitted claims for home health services that were not covered by the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and that they failed to refund overpayments that they had received from Medicare and Medicaid in a timely manner," according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia from 2021.

The government alleged in that case that from 2011 through 2012, Pruitt knowingly submitted claims to Medicare and Medicaid for home health services that were not eligible for reimbursement because, among other things, they did not have the required face-to-face certifications or plans of care, and they did not document the beneficiary's homebound status or need for the home health services. The prosecutors also alleged that Pruitt learned that it had received payments for home health services to which it was not entitled, but failed to disclose those receipt of the overpayments, or refund the overpayments to Medicare and Medicaid as it should have.

Del. Matt Morgan (R-District 29A) said

the state was keeping close tabs on the current situation at the veterans' home as the transition moves ahead.

"I believe [Veterans] Secretary [Anthony] Woods' team has a good plan moving forward," Morgan said after a meeting he had with Sen. Jack Bailey at the veterans home this week. "They have several people from the Department [of Veterans Affairs] living at Charlotte Hall over the next month to be hands-on and handle any problems that may come up."

Bailey said the nursing staff at Charlotte Hall employed by the prior management company were "90 percent agency care workers."

That was not the case when it came to the incoming management company, he said.

"They were not long-term employees," Bailey continued. "They [PruittHealth] have no day employees in long-term health care.

"The same person who is treating them on Monday should be treating them on Friday."

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The Care and Keeping of YOU: The Importance of Self Care
Presented by: Theron Hudson
St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services
11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Lunch provided by Mission BBQ - 12:30 p.m.

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Commissioners Approve \$318M Operating Budget



Commissioner Scott Ostrow

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously this week to pass a \$318 million operating budget that brings in more property and income taxes than the current fiscal 2023 and promises to bring in more revenue in excise taxes for new construction.

Property tax rates remain the same but revenues are increasing because of increased assessments statewide to \$130.4 million; the income tax remains at 3 percent but revenues in that category are increasing as well to \$137.8 million in fiscal 2024.

The county currently holds an unassigned general fund balance — essentially unspent taxpayer funds — of \$36.8 million.

The budget also represents an expansion of government; it includes 33 new positions to go to nearly all county departments from Aging and Human Services to Emergency Services.

The Board of Education received \$128

million in local allocation funds while the sheriff's office received 61.9 million; the county's various other departments got a total \$79.2 million.

"I think we've put forward a very good budget," said Commissioner Scott Ostrow, who just two weeks earlier voted to institute the new excise tax at maximum levels. "We tried to do the absolute best we could for the citizens."

During the debate over the excise tax several weeks ago, Commission Eric Colvin pushed for it to be lowered by 70 percent upon its institution, which he said would still generate a small amount of extra revenue.

Only Commissioner Mike Alderson voted to support Colvin's motion.

The new excise tax is expected to bring in an additional \$3.9 million

Ostrow touted the commissioners' decision prior the vote of May 23 to lower the energy tax by one-half.

"That's something real and tangible people are going to be able to see and feel in their budgets," Ostrow said.

The annual projected revenue collected from the energy tax is just \$1.6 million.

Colvin said he was still pleased with the overall budget process.

"Every commissioner had some items they were passionate about that made it into the budget and some items they were disappointed about that made it into the budget," Colvin said. "But we still worked together and we all agreed at the end of the day to create a strong budget."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Health Department Seeks Long COVID Data

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The national health emergency for COVID-19 is over, said County Health Office Dr. Meena Brewster this week, but the health department still wants to know more about the long-term effects the disease.

Speaking before the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, sitting as the Board of Health, at their May 23 meeting, Brewster said future briefings would expand to other topics beyond the pandemic.

"COVID-19 continues to be a serious public health issue around the globe and here locally," Brewster said, noting that residents could take a brief, anonymous survey on-line at the health department's webpage on how COVID continues to affect their health.

"What it allows us to do is get a better sense of what the impacts are of long COVID," Brewster continued.

About 40 percent of respondents worldwide who have been infected with COVID reported still suffering from symptoms about four months after the initial infection waned, Brewster said.



Dr. Meena Brewster

Those symptoms include shortness of breath, neurological problems such as difficulty focusing or "brain fog," and fatigue.

"These are our very real concerns," she told commissioners. "We're continuing to deal with a certain portion of the population that are still experiencing symptoms."

Factors that contribute to a person experiencing long COVID include diabetes, obesity, advanced age or other co-morbidities.

Those who have a history of vaccinations, she said, had a lower chance of experiencing post COVID symptoms.

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Death Investigation Underway in Mechanicsville



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office detectives are investigating the death of a white male found in an apartment May 24 in the 29000 block of Three Notch Road.

Sheriff's officials told The County Times that the decedent, who has yet to be identified, was killed by a single gun-

shot to the head.

Jason Babcock, sheriff's office spokesperson, said there are no charges pending at this point as the investigation into the death is continuing.

The sheriff's office has individuals in custody, he said, and interviews are being conducted.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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David McDonough
Financial Advisor

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Mechanicsville Man Convicted of Felony Sex Abuse of a Minor



Randy Thomas Dindlebeck

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced that a St. Mary's County jury convicted Randy Thomas Dindlebeck, 27, of Mechanicsville on all counts, including sex abuse of a minor and third-degree sex offense, stemming from multiple incidents

of sexual abuse on the same child between July and September 2021.

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling said, "No child should ever undergo this horror, and I sincerely hope the verdict provides closure and relief to the victim and family. My office will continue prosecuting these cases vigorously; we are committed to defending our children." Sterling went on to say, "These types of cases are difficult and complicated, and I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the jury for their time and attention during the trial."

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

Detective Corporal Trevor Teague of St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services assisted in the investigation.

Mr. Dindlebeck will be held without bond pending a sentencing hearing.

The Honorable Joseph Staloni presided over the case.

Crab Population Shows Some Improvement



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

As the summer months approach the state is reporting that the hard crab population is improving after last year's dredge survey showed that crab populations were at a historic low point.

The latest results from the annual winter dredge survey project that there are 323 million blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay in 2023; last year's low count was just 227 million.

This was the lowest overall number in 33 years.

The number of spawning age female crabs had a hopeful increase from 97 million crabs in 2022 to 152 million this year; the state reported this is well above the management threshold of 72.5 million spawning age female crabs to maintain the overall species.

Adult male crab numbers also showed improvement with the population increasing from 28 million to 55 million crabs this year.

"We are encouraged by the increases in adult crab abundance, but we need to be vigilant given the ongoing low recruitment numbers," said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services Acting Director Lynn Fegley. "We haven't seen a strong year class since 2019 despite maintaining the spawning stock at a level capable of producing one."

But the total number of juvenile crabs in the watershed shared by both Maryland and Virginia, who worked together on the survey, are still troubling.

The state reports that the number of juvenile

crabs in the Chesapeake Bay has been below average for the past four years with the 2023 estimate at 116 million crabs, just a slight increase from 101 million juvenile crabs in 2022.

Chris Moore, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's chief ecosystem scientist said the numbers were encouraging but still below the targets to ensure a healthy, growing crab population.

"While this year's numbers show some signs of recovery in the bay's blue crab population, there is still plenty of cause for caution," Moore said. "Because the blue crab population fluctuates annually due to a variety of factors, we hope the improvements observed this year continue over the long term."

Both states should consider strict limits on the harvesting of the crustacean, the foundation contended.

"Due to continued low numbers of male crabs, both states should, at a minimum, maintain measures put in place last year that sought to protect male crabs," Moore said. "States should also consider additional actions, including pot tagging, which assists in the enforcement of blue crab fishery regulations."

"Although both states currently have limits on the number of pots watermen can set, these numbers are largely unenforceable, leading to numerous concerns about the amount of crabbing gear in the water; pot tagging would help the states enforce these limits."

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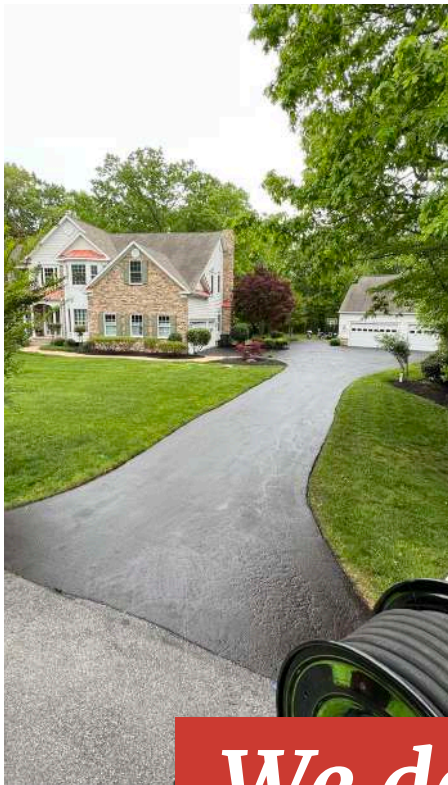
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Identity Needed for Theft Suspects



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the woman pictured in a theft investigation and her male accomplice. On Friday, May 5, 2023, at 6:08 pm, the pictured female and a male acquaintance entered the Dollar General in Leonardtown. Both of them gathered up multiple items into a shopping cart and then fled the store without paying for any of the items. The suspects were last seen going south on Route 5 in a black Hyundai.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to contact Deputy Helen Deitrich at 301-475-4200, ext. 78066 or email helen.deitrich@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 23924-23

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

California Man Charged in Road Rage Incidents

A 32-year-old California man was arrested and charged by St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Patrol deputies on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, following two road rage incidents involving two separate drivers.

Eric Michael Davis, age 32 of California, was charged with two counts of First-Degree Assault, two counts of Second-Degree Assault and two counts of Firearm Use in a Violent Crime.

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 4:48 pm, DFC Max Schell responded to the area of Three Notch Road and Patuxent Beach Road in California for the report of a man who had pointed a firearm at a victim. The victim advised while driving home from work on Three Notch Road at the intersection of Shady Mile Drive, a man in a green truck in the next lane pointed a gun at the victim.

Upon investigation with the assistance of the Criminal Investigations Division, Sheriff's Office deputies responded to Davis' address and located the 2000 Ford F-150 truck described by the victim.

Earlier on Tuesday, at 2:22 pm, the St. Mary's County Emergency Communications Center received a separate complaint of a man in a green truck driving erratically in the area of Patuxent Beach Road. The vehicle began speeding around the two victims in their car and



Eric Michael Davis

eventually traveled to the passenger side and hit the brakes, provoking an altercation. The passenger looked over and observed Davis pointing a black handgun straight in the air. The victims hit their brakes to elude Davis.

The investigation by Deputy Joseph Senatore determined that both incidents were connected.

Davis is in custody at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown where he is being held without bond pending a hearing.



PATUXENT RIVER
NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

How Digital Twins Can Impact Naval Aviation



Naval Air Systems Command's Airborne Electronic Attack Systems Program Office (PMA-234) is turning to digital technology to improve readiness, explore new capabilities and expedite training.

PMA-234 is in the early stages of using digital twins, which are virtual models designed to reflect a physical object accurately. PMA-234 has developed digital twin technology with an industry partner for the past six months.

The program office selected the pod interface unit on the ALQ-99 Tactical Jamming System (TJS), first used in the 1970s, as the initial capability on which to test the new technology. The jamming system is unique as an older technology that converts analog signals to digital signals. By using an older system, the team members can test the bounds of their creativity and exploration.

"We wanted to prove to ourselves we could take an existing piece of hardware and develop a digital twin that would be useful," said Capt. David Rueter, PMA-234 program manager. "We picked something fairly easy as a starting point."

Digital twin technology can enable the sustainment, upgrade and evolution of systems over time.

"From a capability perspective, if I have a digital model of a system that requires improved processing, I can now figure out what that upgrade is and test it out digitally before I even purchase new hardware," said Rueter.

The commercial industry has used digital twin technology for some time. For example, many new cell phones were developed digitally in a lab before consumers could purchase them.

"There are multiple uses for digital twins, including designing, troubleshooting, simulating and enhancing. Digital twins replicate the real-world performance and

have a huge utility," said PMA-234 Chief Engineer Christie Agamaite, who leads the program office's digital twin efforts.

She explained how a digital twin can aid in troubleshooting.

"There is a plethora of signals from a platform and an integrated system; if you are using a digital twin, you can vary those signals at myriad different rates and see the resultant behaviors in real-time," said Agamaite. "The resultant behaviors are where we find the problems."

The digital twin approach provides the Naval Aviation Enterprise with increased resiliency, efficiency, adaptability and autonomy to accelerate learning on old and new systems.

Rear Adm. John Lemmon spearheaded the idea of using digital twin technology during his tenure as Commander of Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD). This initiative invested in workforce development to apply "Get Real, Get Better" principles to utilize technology to benefit the warfighter.

Now, according to Rueter, the program office is providing subject matter experts to build the twin. It hopes to boost readiness as the NAWCAD workforce learns from this endeavor.

The potential future benefits of digital twinning expand to more capabilities. For example, digital twin provides massive learning potential to work with Airborne Electronic Attack systems.

Furthermore, Agamaite explains that "digital twins can benefit maintainers. By building a virtual model of a capability and using virtual reality goggles, technicians can touch and feel the system virtually. This will quickly increase the learning curve by starting the training earlier. It puts you virtually in the world before you get the hardware in your hands."

Leonardtown Is Doing It For The Duck



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Leonardtown is famous for doing anything it can to bring tourists into town to support local businesses and boost its profile, but this time it may have outdone itself.

Town Administrator Laschelle McKay said this August the Town Wharf will host the World's Largest Rubber Duck.

At 61-feet tall the duck will be the main attraction at a waterfront celebration the town is now planning, McKay said.

"Someone mentioned it to me last year and I thought it was cool," McKay said. "It's got a huge following.

"There are people who drive miles and miles to see it."

She was able to make contact with the owners of the attraction, Craig Samborski and his team, but lost track of them for months, McKay said, until recently when they agreed to make an appearance in town.

McKay said the duck would be in town for three days, it would essentially be a First Friday event all weekend long.

"I'm very excited about it," she said. "It's a big draw for visitors.

"Most people I've talked to are really excited about it, too."

The last time the attraction was on the East Coast, she said, was in 2019.

Lately it has been seen in places like Detroit, Michigan and Two Harbors, Minnesota.

Samborski is a major events promoter who has often worked to bring tall ships to various locales around the country; he had the World's Largest Rubber Duck constructed in 2014.

Samborski said years ago he was in Los Angeles promoting a tall ships festival when a friend of his told him what he was doing would not be enough.

"He said I needed to go big or go home," Samborski said. "He said I needed to build the world's largest rubber duck."

Samborski contracted with builders who had specialized in working with balloons who then used inflatables for advertising and the 8-ton, 64-foot wide, 74-foot long duck was born.

"It's just so big, you can't miss it," Samborski said. "You forget all your troubles when you see her; it just exudes happiness and joy.

"She's a big girl."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioners to Host Flag Day Celebration



The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) are pleased to invite the entire community to attend the 2023 Flag Day Celebration on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 6 p.m. on the Governmental Center lawn in Leonardtown.

The event will feature:

- A procession by various color guards and veteran groups from around St. Mary's County.
- A special Flag Day Service, presented by Elks Lodge 2092, highlighting the history of the American Flag.
- Patriotic music, featuring the Father Andrew White, S.J. School chorus and the cast from Recreation & Parks 41st Annual Summerstock Production, School of Rock.
- An official Flag Retirement Ceremony, led by American Legion Post 221, demonstrating the digni-

fied and proper method of disposing of worn, torn, or tattered flags.

- Free hand-held American Flags for attendees.
- Refreshments provided by the 7th District Optimist Club.

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

Citizens may drop off flags in need of retirement to the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown. For more information, contact the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1342 or via email to PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Quilts Awarded on Armed Forces Day



PAX Sound of Freedom celebrated Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 20, 2023 by awarding nine local veterans with Quilts of Valor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park.

Armed Forces Day was first observed in May 1950 as President Harry Truman wanted a holiday to thank military mem-

bers for their service to our country. Different areas of the country celebrate Armed Forces Day with their own unique events such as parades, open houses, parties and air shows. PAX Sound of Freedom celebrated by presenting veterans with Quilts of Valor on this special day.

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Enjoy A Free Day of Family Fun at St. Clement's Island Heritage Day



St. Clement's Island Heritage Day, a family-friendly event set to occur on June 3, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum and St. Clements Island State Park, encourages the public to visit and become acquainted with the island's past through activities relating to its history, culture, heritage, and ecology.

Come celebrate the history and heritage of St. Clement's Island with a variety of fun and free activities, to include crafts, games, lighthouse tours, traditional music, and much more! The St. Clement's Island Museum will be open, offering free admission and free water taxi rides to the island for visitors throughout the day. Some additional

event activities and exhibitors include:

- Music by local guitarist, Joe Norris, from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Primitive wool carding, spinning, and weaving presentation by Shades of Blue Farm.
- Blacksmithing demonstrations from Chesapeake Blade and Tool.
- Decoy carving demonstrations from Harry Jackson.
- Maryland themed story time sessions with St. Mary's County Library.
- Free, refreshing watermelon slices for visitors throughout the event.
- Hands-on kids' activities from Historic St. Mary's City about Maryland's First Capital.
- St. Mary's County photo exhibit, featuring the work of photographer Joe Norris.
- History of the Newtowne Manor House, an 18th century structure in nearby Compton.
- An interpreter portraying Dr. Thomas Gerard, the first owner of St. Clement's Island, will offer insight into colonial living and using "pieces of eight" as a form of currency.
- Learn navigation techniques used by sailors before GPS with the Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron.
- Osprey observations and information.

- Use a microscope to see the island's smallest inhabitants in the St. Clement's Island Lab.
- Unique items and gifts for sale in the St. Clement's Island Museum Store, including local art, apparel, books, jewelry, kids' items, toys and more.

To learn more about St. Clement's Island Heritage Day, please visit [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) or call (301) 769-2222.

About the St. Mary's County Museum Division

The St. Mary's County Museum Division was established by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the historic sites and artifacts which illustrate the natural and cultural histories of St. Mary's County and the Potomac River. These sites include St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, the Old Jail Museum, and the Drayden African American Schoolhouse. With this as its charter, the Museum Division serves as a resource, liaison, and community advocate for all St. Mary's County public and private cultural assets. For more information, please visit: museums.stmarysmd.com.



REMEMBERING OUR HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY



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| OPEN WED-SAT | OPEN SUN |
| 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. |

LINDA'S ON THE GO





MEET HERSHEY



Sometimes the smallest things
Take up the most room in your heart!

Hi, my name is Hershey. My Shelter Pals think I'm just the GREATEST! Lookin' good, feline good! Just kitten. It ain't easy being PURRFECT! They know I LOVE to CUDDLE and that I have a BIG LOVIN' PERSONALITY. I'm looking to spend all my 9 lives with someone just like YOU! I'm in KNEAD of some LOVE. Do you have some to share? I'm totally ready to meet you during adoption hours, M-F 11am-4pm or Sat 10am-3pm or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And remember, ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!

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



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.

"JP" Fenhagen



James Parran "JP" Fenhagen of California, MD passed away May 8, 2023 in Callaway, Maryland surrounded by family. On June 7, 1942 he was born to the late Sherman Fenhagen and Rebecca Agnes Tennyson Fenhagen.

JP graduated from St. Michael's High School in Ridge, MD. He worked for A&P/Super Fresh for many years as produce manager. In 1966 he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he was made sergeant and served two years of duty. In later years he worked for the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works.

Among his many interests were gardening, fishing, playing cards, and going to the casino. He also loved to drop in and visit with his brothers and sisters and spend time with his friends.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years Carol, three daughters, Janet Biscoe (Daniel), Pearl (Daniel Dorsey), and Laura (Rodie Langley), and five grandsons, DJ, Matthew, Evan, Rodie, and Gilligan. He is also survived by his seven brothers and sisters Suzanne Ferguson (George), Ray Fenhagen (Mary Catherine), Ernie Fenhagen (Kay), Mary Eva Funkhouser

{Clifton), Benedict Fenhagen (Amy), Marsha Bauserman (John), and Darryl Ann Scichilone (Bob).

The family will receive friends on Monday, May 22, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Reverend Peter Giovanoni at 12:00 p.m., at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Hospice House of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650, St. Michael's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 429, Ridge, MD 20680 or the charity of your choice.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Irene Hill, 78



Irene Virginia Hill, a beloved resident of Chaptico, MD, passed away at the age of 78 on May 18, 2023. She was born on October 26, 1944, in Leonardtown, MD, to the late Mary Rainwater Copey and Clements William Copey. Irene's loving husband, James

Leroy Hill Sr, preceded her in death on June 28, 2017.

Irene was a devoted mother, cherished grandmother, and beloved great-grandmother. She is survived by her children and their spouses: Tim Hill and Dora Hill, Kathy Sullivan and Chris Sullivan, Sandy Graves and Joey Graves, and James Hill Jr and Nicole Hill. Irene was also a dear sister to Joyce Alvey, Bernice Copey, and Elaine Gass, all of Mechanicsville, MD. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Dagger Copey and Wayne Copey.

Irene took great joy in her role as a grandmother and great-grandmother. She leaves behind a legacy of love to her 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, who will forever cherish their memories with her.

Irene graduated from Margaret Brent High School and was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. She dedicated over 30 years of her career as a Contract Specialist for the US Navy before retiring in 2005. Her dedication and commitment to her work made her an invaluable asset to her colleagues and the community.

In addition to her many accomplishments and roles in life, Irene Virginia Hill was an individual who truly embraced the joys of living. She had a vibrant spirit and found immense happiness in various activities. Irene had a passion for dancing, which brought rhythm and joy to her life.

Irene also enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, such as playing cards with family and friends. Whether it was a friendly game of pitch or a lively hand of poker, she relished the camaraderie and friendly competition that card games provided.

Gardening was another cherished pastime of Irene's. She had a green thumb and took great pride in tending to her garden. Spending time outdoors, nurturing plants, and witnessing the beauty of nature brought her immense joy and tranquility.

Living near the Patuxent and Wicomico Rivers, Irene found solace and contentment in the peacefulness of waterfront living. She appreciated the serenity and natural beauty that the local rivers offered. Whether it was boating, fishing, or simply taking in the scenic views, Irene felt a deep connection to the

water and cherished her time spent along the riverbanks.

Her zest for life and the joy she found in these activities will forever be remembered by those who had the privilege of sharing in these experiences with her.

Irene Virginia Hill will be remembered as a kind-hearted, loving woman who touched the lives of all who knew her. Her warm smile, bold spirit, and unwavering love will be dearly missed.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 10:00 AM with Father Stephen Wyble officiating in Sacred Heart Catholic Church Bushwood, MD. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The pallbearers for the service will be John Meade, Jason Hill, Josh Hill, Michael Sullivan, Matt Sullivan, and Cody Magelssen. Honorary pallbearers will be Jack Hill and Nick Hill. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Betty Trautman, 81



Betty Ann (Cash) Hunter Trautman, 81, of California, MD, died May 15, 2023 at home surrounded in love by family.

Betty was born August 14, 1941 in Cedartown, GA. She lived in Southern Maryland since the 1960s, where she has raised five children, owned a business, and settled in California enjoying her burgeoning family. She married her husband, Robert (Bob) Trautman, in 1982 and they've enjoyed 41 years of worldwide travel and the rich blessings of family.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Othella Cash of Alabama and Hubert Weatherby of Georgia; infant sister on her mother's side Shirley Ann Landers, brothers on her mother's side David Landers, Buddy Landers, and Alton Landers, all of Anniston, Ala, and brother on her father's

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"love you pumpkin"

Words cannot say
We miss you everyday
Through the month of May
We remember your Birthday

side Hubert Weatherby of Atlanta, Ga. She was also preceded in death by two children: her son Murdic Kurk Hunter of Orangeburg, S.C. in 1982, and daughter Pamela Miller of Mechanicsville, Md. in 2019.

Betty is survived by her husband, Robert, along with daughters Angella Hunter of Lexington Park, Md., Suzanne Lawrence (Bobby) of Mechanicsville, Md., son-in-law Matthew S. Miller of Mechanicsville, Md., and daughter Victoria Hunter Closson (Lorne) of Lusby, Md.; stepson Mark Trautman (Ben Sifuentes) of Highland Park, N.J., stepdaughters Pamela Trautman Vadeboncoeur of San Miguel, Mexico, and Paula Trautman Ledet (Cliff) of Metarie, La.; 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, and 5 step-great-grandchildren. Betty is also survived by a sister on her mother's side, Peggy Landers O'Brien of Oklahoma City, Ok., and a sister on her father's side, Patricia Weatherby Pitts of Hampton, Ga. Finally, Betty is survived by former spouse and father of her children, Murdic Hunter of Lexington, S.C.

Betty was a resourceful woman who found a way to make things happen, like starting a pet shop business in the 1960s with five children under 8 years old while her spouse was in the Navy. That business, The Aquarium, was sold in the 70s and locals still remember her from there. She went on to other careers but ultimately settled into homemaking after her marriage to Bob. She and Bob enjoyed horseshoes and bowling in their early years, and decades of travel, fine dining, and Vegas, where Betty would exploit the casinos on the dollar slots. They also loved beach vacations with family. Most called her what her grandchildren named her — Mawmaw, Maw Maw, Mama, MaMaw or some other spelling variation — the consensus of which has been a fun and lively family debate for years. Her generosity didn't stop at material things; it overflowed when it came to her hard-earned wisdom of any topic. Ask anyone who knew her, and they will likely have a colorful story of one of her convictions. Her early years were spent in Georgia and Alabama with her mother's family who nicknamed her Cooter, deeming her slow like the box turtle of the same name. Today, her children still get a kick out of hearing southern relatives call her Cooter in their Alabama drawl. Unfortunately, both Betty's parents died when she was young. She never knew her father, since he died when Betty was a very

young child. But she was thrilled to learn at 50+ years old that she had a brother and sister by him, and she was able to meet and establish a relationship with them. She was a fierce matriarch, and we will miss her and appreciate the family that grew from her. She was generous, uniquely beautiful, opinionated and strong-willed, and most who met her remembered her singular personage.

Services will be at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, Md. on Tuesday, May 23, with visitation from 9-10 a.m., and prayer service from 10-11 a.m. Interment will follow at All Faith Episcopal Church Cemetery, 38885 New Market Turner Road, Mechanicsville. Attendees are welcome to join the family for a meal and fellowship at the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department at 28165 Hills Club Road following the burial.

The family wishes to extend abundant gratitude to the staff at Hospice of St. Mary's County for their dedicated, compassionate, and exceptional care during Betty's plight with cancer. Betty loved and appreciated the physical and emotional care and friendship the nurses and aides provided. They are a cherished gift to our community.

Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's: P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Karla Guste Murphy



Karla Guste Murphy, of California, MD passed away May 18, 2023 in Callaway, MD. She was born on August 12, 1934 in Bremerhaven, Germany.

Karla married James J. Murphy "Jim" while he was stationed in Germany. They remained married until his death in 1998. Being a military wife, they moved around a bit, while in Massachusetts, she had one child, Cathy.

She choose a profession in the medical field as a Nurses Aide, working in various hospitals including St. Mary's Hospital until her retirement in 2004. After that, she was able to enjoy the boating life, jet skiing, and going to car shows with her 1940 Full Custom Plymouth Street Rod, which she won numerous awards for, with her later in life partner Dale & Socks, the cat.

Karla was predeceased by her husband

and her daughter Cathy.

All funeral services will be private. Interment at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA.

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.

Mark Knott, 68



Mark Stephen Knott, 68, of Callaway, MD passed away at Med Star Washington Hospital Center in Washington D.C. on Friday, May 19th, 2023.

Mark was born on September 24th, 1954 to the late Joseph Irving Knott Sr. and Hazel Theresa (Dyson) Knott in Great Mills, MD.

Mark was raised in St. Mary's county. He did not like school very much and would often tell humorous tales of adventures of skipping school, spending the day at the creek or near Cecil's Old Mill and on occasion the ramifications of getting caught. Although he never liked school, he loved to read, especially westerns and biographies. He learned the trade of heavy equipment operation early in life from his dad and older brothers. He helped his parents and siblings with various projects and endeavors at the Take It Easy Ranch Campgrounds in Callaway, MD and other business ven-

tures. Mark worked for various construction and excavation companies through-out his career. He enjoyed clearing land, building structures, and operating his own gravel pit.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Michael Knott and Joseph Knott Jr.

Mark is survived by his daughter Denise Foster (Rick) of Virginia Beach, VA; his siblings Joan Adams of Valley Lee, MD, Joseph (Bubby) Knott (Joann) of Great Mills, Anne Lumpkins (Ronnie) of Piney Point, MD, Mary Rita Archer of Callaway, Susan Wise (Charles) of Callaway, and Julie Reece of Callaway.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. Where a funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Rev. Anne Lumpkins officiating. Interment will follow in Holy Face Catholic Cemetery Great Mills, MD. Serving as Pallbearers will be David Adams, Brian Knott, Joe Miesowitz, Martin Siebert, Johnny Heard, and Kevin Heard. Honorary Pallbearers will be Michael Mattingly, and Jack Siebert.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Second District Vol. Fire Dept and Rescue Squad P.O. Box 1 Valley Lee, MD 20692.

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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For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125 for assistance.

REMEMBRANCES
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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1080
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysMD.com/aging for the most up-to-date information.

Stronger Memory

Loffler Senior Activity Center will be offering Stronger Memory sessions beginning Friday, May 26, at 10:30 a.m. This six-week program will be held on Fridays, May 26, June 2, 16, 23, 30, & July 7. This is a program designed to improve your memory by stimulating your prefrontal cortex using simple activities- math, reading aloud and writing. The activities are done at home- 20-30 minutes of daily work recommended. On Fridays at 10:30 a.m., we will have check-ins at the center. (For those who cannot make a check-in session, you can alternatively e-mail or call Shellie at Sheila.graziano@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 1655). All materials will be provided. Because of a generous grant, there is no cost to participate; however, registered participants are asked to commit to completing the program. Register at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging. If you do not have access to e-mail, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

Beginner Acrylic Class

Do you have an interest in Fine Arts and would like to learn more? Come join us in the Art Studio on the last Wednesday of each month for a beginner fine arts acrylic painting class. Class is beginner friendly, and no prior experience is necessary. You will learn the basics of acrylic painting and

have fun while doing so! In May, the project will be a sunset over the horizon. All materials will be provided. The cost for the class is \$15. Class will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, May 30, at 6 p.m. Register online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". Call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075 if you need assistance with registration.

Wii Bowling League

Ready to strike up a good time this Spring at Northern Senior Activity Center? Join us on Thursdays, June 1-29, from 1-3:30 p.m. This league-style Wii bowling event will have staff-led teams and some fun, good ol' group competition! Individual and team prizes will be awarded on June 29. Register and pay the \$2 fee by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Cornhole Competition

Who doesn't love a good round of cornhole? Compete in this casual & fun competition at Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, June 5, from 1-3:30 p.m. Show off your skills or try it out for the first time. Keep in mind that this game requires good

dexterity, throwing, and hand-eye coordination. The 1st and 2nd place winners of the competition will win a prize! This event will be held outdoors (weather permitting). Register and pay the \$2 fee by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

CBT Yoga to Cope with Arthritis/Osteoarthritis: Healthy Joints & Bones

Paty Massón's workshop at Northern Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, June 6, from 1-3 p.m. demonstrates how "CBT integrates yoga and meditation with traditional and alternative cognitive behavioral therapeutic techniques." (NIH.gov) In the first half of this workshop, expect a slideshow presentation to review kinds of arthritis, bones, muscles, and ligaments. Additional information will include Yogic philosophy introducing breathing techniques and hand gestures to alleviate pain. In the second half, explore different yoga flows & breathing techniques to ease pain in stiff joints. "Lotion is Motion" concepts of Yoga for Arthritis, inspiring meditations, & Ayurvedic diet tips for improving joint health, can also be expected. Paty is certified in RYT® 500, CBT, and Qigong. Register and pay the \$20 fee by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View &

Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Beaded Bracelet Making

There will be a variety of beads to choose from. Class will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, June 7, at 6 p.m. Cost for the class is \$10 and all materials and instruction is included. Advanced registration is required. Register online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". Call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

Card Making Class

Would you like to make handmade cards to give to your loved ones? Are you looking for a new hobby or social activity? Materials and instructions will be provided. You will have a variety of punches, stamps, embellishments, and more to create your cards. The cost for the class is \$4. Class will be held on Tuesday, June 13, at 6 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center. Register online at www.stmarysmd.com/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". Call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Library Closed for Memorial Day

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. All locations will be open regular business hours on Tuesday, May 30.

Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint

Are you interested in learning more about Microsoft PowerPoint, a computer program used for making presentations? Join us for Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint at Charlotte Hall Library on Thursday, June 1 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.! Computer skills needed for this class: advanced mouse and keyboard abilities. Register to reserve your spot on www.stmalib.org. Walk-ins wel-

come as space allows.

Outdoor Storytime at Patuxent River Naval Air Museum

Stories, songs, and activities for children with their adult caregivers, outdoors at Patuxent River Naval Air Museum on Saturday, June 3 from 10:30 - 11 a.m. This activity will take place outdoors on the Flight Line, which is a paved area. Participants should bring blankets or chairs for comfort. This event is rain-or shine; in case of bad weather we will move to the indoor theater. The museum entry fee will be waived for all children 10 & under attending the storytime, and offered at a reduced price of \$3 to all adults. Museum address: 22156 Three Notch Road Lexington Park, MD 20653

Managing Stormwater in Your Yard

Learn to capture rainwater for garden use and to reduce flooding in your yard at Leonardtown Library on Friday, June 9 from 10 - 11 a.m. The workshop includes a hands-on demonstration installing a rain barrel on the new tool shed in the Front Yard garden. Nicole Basenback worked in the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program for University of Maryland Extension for 7 years and recently changed tracks to raise her family. During her time with Extension, she assisted homeowners with managing stormwater and creating Chesapeake Bay friendly yards. This program is presented in partnership with The Friends of St. Clements Bay. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Worldwide Knit In Public Day: WWKIPD

WWKIPD is the largest Knitter run event in the world. It started in 2005 and is now celebrated in 57 different countries (2016). The mission is: "Better Living through stitching together"! The Common Thread group that regularly meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Lexington Park Library invite fabric artists of all kinds and ages to come celebrate our love of yarn and thread at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, June 10 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.! Grab a table in the lobby or bring a chair/blanket to sit outside on the lawn. We will have light refreshments and tables for material swapping in Meeting Room B.

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, May 25

Free Stroke Awareness

St. Mary's County Health Department
Health Hub
21625 Great Mills Rd., Lexington Park
9 a.m. to Noon

Do you know the signs of stroke? Join MedStar St. Mary's Hospital and the St. Mary's County Health Department for free health information during Stroke Awareness Month. Learn about signs of stroke, healthy habits, and more. No-cost blood pressure screenings will be offered, and community health advocates will be on site to help address barriers to care.

Fri, May 26

SMTMD Acoustic Open Mic

Christ Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Rd, Chaptico
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Come to Christ Church Parish Hall in Chaptico to enjoy some fine acoustic music performed by local talented singers and songwriters. Musicians of all skill levels are warmly invited to perform. The admission is \$7; performers are admitted free of charge. Contact Michael Smith smtmdmike@gmail.com in advance if you'd like to sign up to perform. Visit www.smtmd.org for more information.

Sat, May 27

Memorial Day at Summerseat Farm

Summerseat Farm
26655 Three Notch Rd, Mechanicsville
Noon to 4 p.m.

Memorial Day is a day to honor those who lost their lives while defending their country. Memorial Day is a somber day but also a day to celebrate this beautiful country that they sacrificed for and we here at Summerseat, plan to do both. Country Memories will be playing from

1pm-3pm. Feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket and grab a spot on the lawn to enjoy their music. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. No outside food please.

We will have an antique tractor display and lawn games for all ages. The barn area will be open for visiting with our pasture animals.

No admission fee at the gate. Donations are always appreciated.

Mechanicsville Moose Texas Holdem

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

\$120.00 Buy in (includes Bounty)
Starting Stack 20,000 chips
Registration opens at 12pm. Pre-registration is encouraged but not necessary

There will be one re-entry for players who bust out until the second break.

Blind levels will change every 20 minutes
Cash Game will start at 12 pm for anyone interested and will run concurrent with the tournament.

Food available for additional cost.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and cash wheel separate from tournament entry.

For more information please contact James Dean
240 577 0828
jdeanjunior@gmail.com

Leonardtown Summer Music Festival Concert—The Lucky Few

Port of Leonardtown Winery
23190 Newtown Neck Rd,
Leonardtown
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Leonardtown Summer Music Festival Presents The Lucky Few in Concert at the Port of Leonardtown Winery on Saturday, May 27, 2023 from 3 PM—6 PM. Sample award-winning wine while enjoying the high-energy mix of popular rock and pop hits from this dynamic Southern Maryland band.

For more information about this special event or other music festival concerts visit:
www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest

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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG001-05-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

A View From The BLEACHERS



MOMENTS

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Foiled by a crashed ticket service (nameless, for now, to protect the guilty) last fall, and with time slipping away, the prospects seemed bleak. There was still a way through the gate, but the cost resembled a mortgage payment, not a few hours of entertainment. Two young hearts weren't broken, but with time running out and no viable options, they braced for disappointment.

Then light fought through the clouds.

"Dad, I just got a ticket notification...what do I do?" "Where?", I asked. "Philly...on Saturday night. The tickets are still a lot...oh, and we have four minutes to decide", said my daughter.

Let me offer a couple things. First, "a lot" was a LOT less than I had been tracking on the secondary market, so this flicker of hope had my attention. But it came out of nowhere. The four minutes to decide were trimmed to two-and-a-half once my slowing, middle-age brain processed this unexpected possibility and the adrenaline it stoked. Pressure. With no idea if this date worked for our family, no hotel, no clue if that other fragile heart I mentioned was available or could get from school in Boston to Philly, I gave my daughter the go-ahead. Details, details. Two dreams were on the line. "No" or "Let me think about it" weren't on the menu. "Yes" was the only option.

And that's how my daughter and niece, after months of struggle, researching, checking and crying (lots and lots of crying), survived Ticketmaster's debacle and scored seats to Taylor Swift's concert.

In the end, all those unknowns worked out just fine – the drive to Philadelphia, my niece's availability and train from Boston, the two hours of prep (two hours!) the ladies needed before the concert and finding our way through the maze of Swifties. On the drive home, one word dominated my thoughts: moments. All that struggle, all the worry, the time, the cost: none of it mattered now. Those two young ladies (besties) had a moment together, one that created a precious, lifetime memory. Priceless stuff.

With the sale of the Washington Commanders moving closer to completion, long-suffering fans of the Burgundy and Gold are starting to view the future through a decidedly different lens. At the very least, prospective owner Josh Harris seems capable of building a professional organization that fans can be proud to root for again. And what if the team wins? Regularly. Can you imagine? Maybe, maybe not (you to be at least 40-years-old to remember when this franchise had sustained success). I can...and it was glorious. At its peak, the team cut through every petty difference even a town like Washington, D.C. and its surrounding region could muster – a razor sharp knife through buttery political sludge.

From 1981 into the early 1990s, D.C. had a football moment. The scramble for tickets, the pre-game prep, the euphoria of the event, the absolute and unqualified togetherness of those wearing the colors – it was very similar to a Taylor Swift concert. Wins put a spring in your step all week. Loses hurt until at least Wednesday. And then, as Swift says in her song "August", it all "...slipped away into a moment in time."

It can happen again. The Caps hoisted the Stanley Cup in 2018. The Nats had their World Series moment in 2019. Sometimes moments are more like "Eras" (see what I did there, Swifties?). The Pittsburgh Steelers of the 1970s. Duke basketball. The Packers of the 1960s, then with Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers. Serena Williams and Roger Federer. Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls. Alabama football – with Paul "Bear" Bryant and now with Nick Saban. The Tom Brady-Bill Belichick Patriots.

Dan Snyder broke us: we concluded (correctly) that nothing good would come from his ownership. Josh Harris and his ownership team haven't made a single football move yet. They haven't even officially assumed the helm of the Commanders. But maybe the phoenix (Harris) will rise from the ashes (Snyder) – that's the prevailing feeling now. Harris has allowed us to dream again. And if that Taylor Swift experience proved anything, it was that a dream, held onto tightly, can produce an unforgettable moment.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

The calendar says summer is here, but the weather is refusing to give up its grip on cold. Bay water temperature remains at about 67 degrees and the daytime temps this week will not bring us up to the norm of 72. So, the fish are acting a little funny.

Stripers are active in the mouth of the Potomac for trollers and lure casters in the Cornfield Harbor area on the warmer afternoons. The average size is about 23 inches and the two per day, 20-inch minimum creel limit is attainable. The universal 31 inch maximum is in effect, so be careful to keep your keepers in the slot. Puppy drum and speckled trout have been caught there too, but just one here and there. Further up the Potomac there were mixed reports this week as tides have been low with little movement. Some perch were caught by bottom fishermen and rockfish trollers could not find consistent catches. The new moon is now waxing and full moon is June 3, bringing strong tides and better fishing.

Savvy fishermen have found good rock-

fish in the Salt Islands from the Mouth of the Choptank to Hooper's Straits in the mouths of creeks and on structure. Clean water is an imperative, and a lot of fuel can be burned trying to find some. The occasional puppy drum and speckled trout are in the mix.

White perch are now active in the creeks and rivers but can be sluggish in the cool and in windy conditions. Sunny afternoons are best.

The skates (cow nosed rays) are more numerous than normal and can take over large areas, feeding and splashing about. The females give birth and mate before the general population starts out for the Atlantic in mid-summer. Some skate stay in the bay until late fall.

Crabs are on the move in good numbers in the rivers and bay. The creeks are filling up too, but crabs love warm water and won't hit stride until the water gets into the 70's. The winter survey for blue crabs in the bay was excellent indicating very good numbers for all categories of young and mature males and females.

Fresh water fishing is very good for bass, crappie, bluegill, and pickerel.

Legal Notices

THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 4:15 p.m. at the Town office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive comments on the Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Copies of the recommended budget will be available on June 5, 2023 online at <http://leonardtown.somd.com> or at the Town Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The public is invited to attend or send written comments by 4:00p.m. on June 12, 2023 to:

leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov

or

The Commissioners of Leonardtown
P.O. Box 1
Leonardtown, MD 20650

THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN EVENT PLANNER/COORDINATOR

The Town of Leonardtown is accepting resumes for a full-time Event Planner/Coordinator. Responsibilities include managing all aspects of the event planning process, including collaboration with subcontractors, venue identification, printing and design of material and budget tracking. Collaboration with departments as well as local community groups. Attend community functions to network and identify potential opportunities. Bachelor's degree in hospitality management, marketing, business administration, or a related field or equivalent combination of experience, education and training is required. Excellent time management, composition of written materials, graphic/social media knowledge and competent communication skills required. Event physical demand requirements are in excess of those for sedentary office work. Must be able to work a flexible schedule to include late nights and weekends. Annual salary will start at \$46,619 and up based on experience. Send resume and three professional references to Laschelle McKay, Commissioners of Leonardtown, POB 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or email to leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov.



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Special Forces Veteran Reflects on Sacrifice

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Only about a year after graduating from high school in Texas, Tim Tullos was looking for a purpose in life.

He decided to join the U.S. Army.

Now in his mid-50s, Tullos, who lives in Avenue and is an assistant pastor at Patuxent Baptist Church, still has vivid memories of his service.

“I was just trying to do something that meant something,” Tullos told The County Times. “When I joined, I had no idea what it would be like. ‘I excelled because I was a worker.’”

He went through boot camp and advanced infantry training and began to rise through the ranks quickly.

He and everyone he went through basic training with were sent to Fort Ord in California as a cohort.

“We were straight leg infantry,” Tullos said. “And then I learned there were other things I could do.

“Some of them were there just for the paycheck, some of them were just there to get an education; I wanted to be around people who wanted to work.”

He went through air assault school and became an instructor in close quarter combat.

Still, he wanted more.

“I heard about the Rangers and tried out for them,” said Tullos.

He spent two years in that elite unit often times either training or deployed as part of a special surveillance unit.

“I worked with guys who loved their jobs,” Tullos said. “They were patriots. ‘They loved God and their country.’”

As Memorial Day approaches, Tullos said it’s a time to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, but he said that every member of the military makes sacrifices to ensure that others can live free.

“On Memorial Day you get to focus on people who gave their lives to serve a country where you get to enjoy what other countries don’t enjoy,” Tullos said. “I’ve given the better part of my back, I’ve given the better part of my knees in service to my country, but I don’t regret it.”

Among his fondest memories are a training exercise he was in where conditions were among the harshest that he’d ever been in, but the people he shared it with made it worthwhile.

“It was raining, it was miserable,” Tullos said. “I hadn’t slept in five days, I hadn’t eaten in two days and the last clean water I had had was 12 hours ago.

“But I looked at the give guys with me and they were just content.”

It spoke to the philosophy of soldiers who had chosen to be fighting men.

“You train like you fight,” Tullos said. “We believed that.”

Working in what was called a long-range surveillance company, Tullos had a special job in the Rangers long before cell phones or drones were used as they are now in combat.

He and his team had to remain hidden behind enemy lines to gain intelligence and wait until the right moment to report it.

“You had access to a satellite through

communications every 30 hours,” Tullos said. “There was that little window and that was it.”

From the 75th Ranger Regiment he went to pass selection for the Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets where he spent another three years working with the best of the best.

“My brothers, the guys I was working with they were awesome,” Tullos said.

Tullos went — as veterans often say — “down range” several times; he doesn’t like to talk about it much.

But through hardship he never really wanted to leave the military, that is until he met his future wife — Carin — in San Antonio, Texas.

He was undergoing training to become a Special Force medic, also known as a team doc, and she was an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Their first year of marriage they were still serving apart in two different duty stations.

Tullos decided it was time to get out and start a new life with his wife and soon to be family, which grew to six children.

Tullos is now a grandfather.

“I just saw so many broken families [from the Special Forces],” Tullos said. “So I just went back to swinging a hammer.”



Tim Tullos

Experienced in carpentry and homebuilding, Tullos now runs his own home improvement business.

He has taught his children to respect all veterans who gave their lives, or even a portion of it, in service to their country so they could remain free.

“I didn’t make the ultimate sacrifice, but those veterans gave a portion of their life so I can enjoy the American dream,” Tullos said. “I think that’s a big deal.”

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Memorial Day: It's Personal for Stars and Stripes Speaker

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

This year's guest speaker at the annual Stars and Stripes ceremony in Chesapeake Beach has first-hand experience on the real meaning of Memorial Day.

Air Force Major Garrett Temple, PhD. during his 23 years in the military has served 10 overseas deployments, including five combat missions in Iraq and two in Afghanistan.

If you've seen the movie "The Lone Survivor," Temple said, "that's Operation Red Wings. That rescue, I was on that team that found Petty Officer Deets and Lieutenant Murphy. So, that's just one example of times where you show up on the scene and there's already Americans that are down."

The film and the book that influenced it tell of a four-man SEAL reconnaissance and surveillance team given the task of tracking down the Taliban leader Ahmad Shah.

"I think anytime you're faced with a fellow service member or somebody on your team, or another American who's been killed in combat," he said, "it puts several emotions, from anger, to grief and confusion. All that happens in a very brief moment. And for most of us, for everybody overseas, they don't have a lot of time to process all that stuff, because that happens and then typically within an hour or the next day, you're out on a different mission."

That was day two of a 10-day mission, he explained. "We continuously had to be out there after that. And it's not until later on that you get some time to decompress and think about it. I think oftentimes that's what people fail to understand, especially now when we travel back and forth so quickly from overseas to home. You know, you could be here in a day essentially, and it's fine at that time to decompress."

A friend of his was also killed in combat. "I wasn't there at the scene, but he was on his 14th deployment and was killed in Afghanistan."

He spoke personally about that at last year's Stars and Stripes event, about Memorial Day for all Americans. "And in an almost mystical way, we are all connected to it. We all have a relative, a family member. It could be somebody in our immediate family, a father, a son, a daughter, a mother, a close friend that has been lost in wartime, somebody down the street, a neighbor of yours. Across America, you hear these stories, somebody who's on your Facebook profile these days, like, in a way we're all connected to this, and it's all geared towards preserving our freedom. And it's sometimes difficult to deal with and to think about it. But I think what's unique about Memorial Day from other days is it's a solemn day, but it gives us an opportunity to put aside our differences as a country and come together if only for one day to think about that connection that we all share to it."

Of course, Memorial Day weekend is noted as much for outdoor cookouts as for remembering America's fallen heroes. And Temple doesn't begrudge Americans

for that. "The friends that I have that have been killed in combat or have died in training, they loved a great barbecue. They loved hanging out with their friends and family in those settings. So, I think it's appropriate to celebrate them that way because that's what they would want to be doing themselves. But I also think the other part of it is gathering together as a community like we're doing at Stars and Stripes or like we're doing at the county courthouse on Monday for Memorial Day, where we're having another service there for the county that we get together and we take some moments to reflect seriously about what's going on, what has happened, where we're at as a country, and reflect upon those that have given all and the family and friends left behind."

And the day is as much about those who have been left behind. He said, "That's part of the reason why we do these things like Stars and Stripes. Last year we had two gold star families there. We're there to lift them up as well. They've paid so much and lost so much that we owe it to them to celebrate Memorial Day and to help remember their loved ones."

Temple is chairman of the county's Veterans Affairs Commission. He said, "On April 4th of this this year, we had a proclamation presented by the Board of County Commissioners for Gold Star Spouse's Day and also for the Month of the Military Child, which was April."

He said, "One thing we are advocating for and in the process of doing with the county is implementing property tax credits for certain gold star spouses in the county. The state has legislation that passed years ago, which allows property tax credits for surviving spouses who are not remarried. And we're in the process now of doing that work to bring it before the public for a hearing and then before the Board of County commissioners. Hopefully we can get that done by October."

The commission's motto is "Honor, Advocacy and Respect." He said, "These are the things that kind of drive us and give us an objective strategic vision to look forward to."

One of their new initiatives last October was Operation Green Light, "to bring veterans issues and veterans awareness to the community."

Major Temple is currently serving as a legislative liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives.

He has service in his blood. "My father served active duty during Vietnam. He was in the Air Force and then was in the Reserves my whole childhood, also in the Air Force. My family has served in the military all the way back into the revolution. My family came to this country in the 1600s and settled in the Massachusetts area. So, we've had people in every conflict from the revolution on in my family."

"We do have a strong service culture in my family. Patriotism is a virtue and it's something that's just very important."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Major Garrett Temple (center) at last year's Stars and Stripes Festival with Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney (l) and former Maryland Veterans Secretary George Owings.

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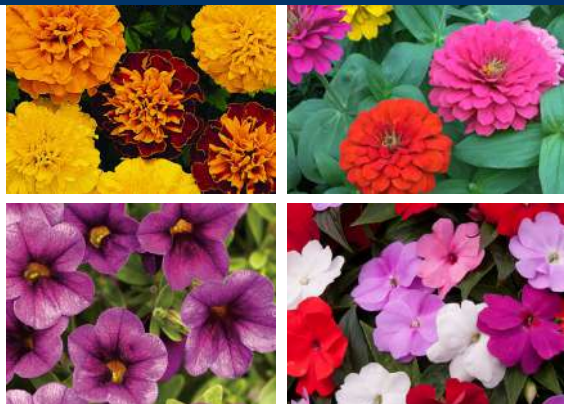
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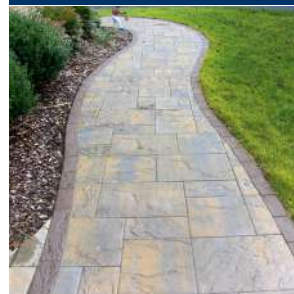


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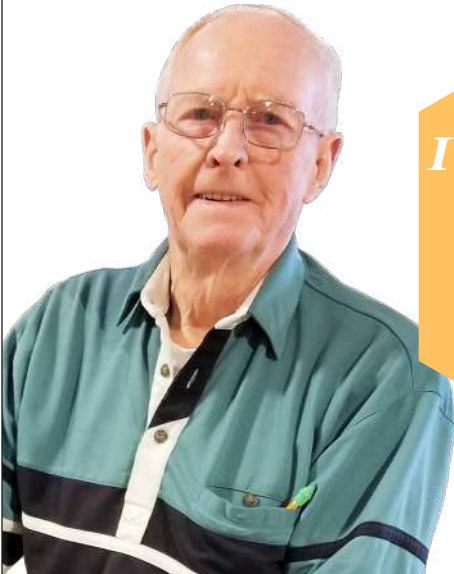
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
4. Chinese philosophical principle
7. Branch
8. Jewish spiritual leader
10. Slang for requests
12. "So Human An Animal" author
13. Rocker Billy
14. British Air Aces
16. Type of tree
17. "Tough Little Boys" singer Gary
19. State attorneys
20. Goddess of fertility
21. Localities
25. Beloved singer Charles
26. Clue
27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
29. Helsinki neighborhood
30. Farm resident
31. Ocean
32. Where ballplayers work
39. Unable to hear
41. Cool!
42. Cape Verde capital
43. One point north of due east
44. Kilo yard (abbr.)
45. Middle Eastern nation
46. It yields Manila hemp
48. People operate it (abbr.)
49. Regenerate
50. Not healthy
51. Chinese sword
52. Mild expression of surprise

CLUES DOWN

1. Unit of angle
2. Headgear to control a horse
3. Clots
4. Follows sigma
5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
6. Greek units of weight
8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
9. Systems, doctrines, theories
11. Stony waste matter
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. Hostile to others
18. U.S. State
19. Not wet
20. Something one thinks up
22. Where beer is made
23. Clumsy person
24. Belonging to us
27. Canadian flyers
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Snakelike fish
31. Unhappy
32. Fruit
33. Not good
34. Zero degrees Celsius
35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
36. Crawls into the head (folklore)
37. Legally responsible
38. Move in a playful way
39. Regarded with deep affection
40. Partner to flowed
44. Native American tribe
47. Head honcho

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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, May 25

Little Minnows: Whose My Mama?

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

For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Rd, Solomons
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-326-5289.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mobile Health Center from CalvertHealth

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
11 a.m-2 p.m.

Come talk about your healthcare questions or needs because a simple change can make a difference in you or your family's life. The Mobile Health Center travels to areas of the community to bring free health services and education. Some of the services provided include cholesterol screenings, blood pressure checks, referrals, seasonal vaccinations, and more! For more information to view the full schedule or view an online tour of the vehicle visit them online. Calvert Health Mobile van information from CalvertHealth. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

Tween/Teen Anime Night

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

Come hang out with friends and other fans of anime! We will watch anime, talk about our favorite manga and sample some books, use art supplies for anime creations, and try some Japanese snacks! 6th through 12th graders welcome. 410-257-2101.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

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

Children that need some extra help with reading build confidence by reading with teens! With snacks, games, and reading

incentives! A program for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group space! 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, May 26

Waterside Music Series Concert: Dustin Lynch

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

Country music fans get ready for an unforgettable night of live music with Dustin Lynch and special guests Michael Ray and Avery Anna. Gates at 5 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. Tickets are online at Waterside Music Series | Calvert Marine Museum, MD - Official Website.

Managing Fighting and Aggression Lunch and Learn

Community Mediation Center of Calvert
28 Duke St., Prince Frederick
Noon-2 p.m.

The Community Mediation Center of Calvert is offering a FREE lunch and learn event on Managing Fighting and Aggression for parents of young children. Lunch will be provided. Please register by calling 443-295-7456 or on our website at www.calvert-mediation.org

On Pins & Needles

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

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

Sat, May 27

Stars and Stripes Festival

Chesapeake Beach Veterans Park
10 a.m.

The Stars and Stripes festival is a annual festival sponsored by the Town of Chesapeake Beach. The Town strives to educate the public and youth as to the meaning of Memorial Day through this weekend long Memorial Day outreach. Every year brings a new theme for the event and new additions to increase awareness of those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our Country, our Citizens and our Freedom.

Mon, May 29

Wm. B. Tennison Holiday Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Musum
2 p.m.

Celebrate Memorial Day with a leisurely one-hour sightseeing cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4.00 for children 5-12 years. Children under 5 ride free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Tue, May 30

School Readiness Series - Play.

Calvert Country School
5:30-6:30 p.m.

PLAY- Encourage curiosity, discovery, and a healthy body. Spots are limited! Snacks, take home materials, and door prizes provided for all registered families 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Make Your Mark

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

Join estate planning attorney Rose Crunkleton and financial advisor Lee Ritter to learn the benefits of incorporating charitable planning into your financial strategy. Maximize your impact and minimize taxes! Presentation, followed by Q&A, followed by a chance to talk to a wide range of Calvert County nonprofits with whom you can partner to make your mark. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, May 31

Reading Buddies

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

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read aloud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. It's a great way to socialize and build reading confidence! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Jun 1

Dining in the Field

American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT)
676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick

6-8 p.m.
\$150/person

Experience a memorable evening savoring delectable locally-sourced cuisine and refreshing drinks amidst a stunning backdrop. Event will take place in the field next to the Double Oak Barn. Secure your tickets at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/ACLTForms/dining-in-the-field-tickets-form>. The proceeds from this year's dinner will go towards benefiting ACLT.

Ongoing

Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
Wednesday thru Sunday, month of May
2 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour sightseeing cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4.00 for children 5-12 years. Children under 5 ride free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Upcoming

Cultural Arts Market

Anmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Rd, Solomons
Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Free

Celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of the arts and crafts design in our region! Browse works from artists and vendors selling fair-trade products. Food and drink will also be available for purchase. 410-326-4640.

Children's Day on the Farm

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Rd, Saint Leonard,
Sunday, June 4, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Free

Featuring live performances, creative activities, entertaining games, wagon rides, and delicious food vendors. Explore the fascinating displays and demonstrations showcasing rural life from the past and present.

Dragon Boat Festival

North Beach, Saturday, June 10 9 a.m.

Enjoy a family friendly atmosphere, the dragon boat races, and more while supporting End Hunger in Calvert County. Please see <https://endhungercalvert.org/events/dragon-boat-festival/> for registration information. 301-855-6681

CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of May 8 – May 14, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,702 calls for service throughout the community.

Commercial Burglary: 23-34161

Deputies with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to the Smoke Shack located at 10 Creston Lane in Solomons, for the report of a burglary. Investigation revealed at approximately 4 a.m., an unknown male broke a window and entered the business, stole merchandise, and fled the scene. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

Damaged Property: 23-33513

On May 11, 2023, DFC Krueger responded to the 3900 block of 5th Street in North Beach, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) threw a rock at the backdoor, breaking the window panel portion of the door. The estimated value of damaged property is \$100.00.

Property Destruction: 23-32683

On May 8, 2023, Cpl. Callison was conducting a routine patrol check of Sea Horse Beach located in the Chesapeake Ranch Estates in Lusby and observed property destruction to the bath house. Investigation revealed unknown suspects spray painted the bath house and picnic tables at Sea Horse Beach with multiple gang related slurs and phrases. Further investigation revealed the rocks, picnic tables, and reflective sign at Driftwood Beach had also been spray painted with the same gang related slurs and phrases. The estimated value of damaged

property is \$2,000.00.

Property Destruction: 23-33846

On May 12, 2023, Deputy Smith responded to Cove Point Park located at 750 Cove Point Road in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised unknown suspects ripped the wall-mounted soap dispensers out in three of the restrooms. The dispensers were discovered broken on the floor. The estimated value of damaged property is \$180.00.

Theft: 23-33001

On May 9, 2023, DFC Durnbaugh responded to the 3500 block of Tenley Place in Owings, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) stole a red Wilton Vise that was bolted to the victim's Rigid TRISTAND sometime between 6 p.m. on May 4 and 12:15 p.m. on May 9. The estimated value of stolen property is \$2,500.00.

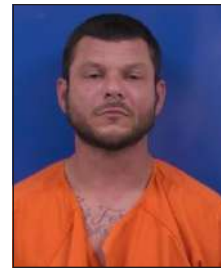
ARRESTS



Anthony Joseph Pessagno Jr.

On May 12, 2023, Deputy Tavares responded to the 200 block of Thunderbird Drive in Lusby, for the report of a suspicious person. The complainant advised a suspicious male was seen with needles in his hand walking to the rear of the residence. Deputies arrived on scene and observed **Anthony Joseph Pessagno Jr.**,

34 of Lusby, outside the residence with a hypodermic needle filled with a clear liquid. Pessagno was placed into custody. Investigation revealed Pessagno entered a home in the 11600 block of Mohican Ln. uninvited and unannounced. The homeowner located Pessagno in the victim's living room and asked him to leave. Pessagno was observed on security cameras attempting to open doors at both residences. Deputies transported Pessagno to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Burglary-4th Degree, Trespassing: Private Property and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Matthew Robert McCormack

On May 11, 2023, DFC Aranda responded to 19 E. Chesapeake Beach Road in Owings, to assist Anne Arundel Police Department with the transport of a subject in custody. **Matthew Robert McCormack**, 39 of Chesapeake Beach, was being transported to the Calvert County Detention Center for an open warrant. Upon arrival at the jail, McCormack changed into a jumpsuit provided to him and a glass cylindrical pipe fell from McCormack's pants. Further investigation revealed, both ends of the pipe were burnt and a white powdery residue (suspected cocaine) was found inside. McCormack was charged with Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Delante Orlando Rash Murphy

On May 8, 2023, Deputy Tavares initiated a traffic stop in the area of Rousby Hall Road and HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for a traffic violation. Upon making contact with the driver, **Delante Orlando Rash Murphy**, 34 of Bryans Road, a strong odor of Cannabis was emitting from the vehicle. Further investigation revealed three clear tear-off bags containing a white powdery residue (suspected cocaine totaling 24.5 grams), multiple individually packaged containers of Cannabis (totaling 83.1 grams), a cut straw containing a white powdery residue (suspected cocaine) and two pills of Ecstasy. Murphy was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

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

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

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National Guard Armory to be Demolished Will Make Way for Open-Air Pavilion

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Planning Commission has approved a permit to demolish the old National Guard Armory in Prince Frederick. It was built in 1953, and most recently served as temporary quarters for the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department while their new facility was being constructed.

The site for a while was slated to be the home of the new county administration building, but those plans were scrapped.

At the May 17 commission meeting, Jason Levitt, project engineer with the Department of Public Works, said, "This demolition permit really encompasses part of the site. It doesn't require demolishing all of the structures. We're looking to take down the armory itself, remove the sidewalk, remove the pump station facility, and install a new fence."

Capital Projects Analyst Veronica Atkinson told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their March 7 meeting that included in next year's proposed capital budget, "is the Armory Square Development project; this project was recently awarded 100 percent grant funding. This project will fall under the Department of Public Works Capital Division. The project was awarded \$60,000

in FY 2023 and an additional amount of \$2 million was awarded for Fiscal Year 2024, for the design and construction of a multi-use open-air pavilion."

According to Public Information Program Manager Sarah Ehman, "The pavilion will be located on the site of the armory building, which is currently owned by the county. We don't have a rendering available at this time; plans include a commercial kitchen, restrooms and a grassy area surrounding the pavilion to support a variety of events including a farmers' market, community events, arts and entertainment."

Leavitt said at the May 17 planning commission meeting about the problems with saving the historic structure, "The building completely needs to be rejuvenated. It doesn't have HVAC, it's going to need a new roof, it's going to need new flooring, interior updates, et cetera. There's remediation required for both asbestos and lead paint on the inside of the building. It does not meet current ADA criteria and the wall on north side is failing and likely will require complete replacement."

Leavitt said the grants do have a sunset provision, "so we basically are trying to get ahead of the curve a little bit on this by requesting this demolition."

Former commissioner Tim Hutchins had hoped to save the building for use as a vet-



eran's service center. And a community theater group had expressed hope it could be converted for use as a theater and arts center.

Leavitt said some of the history will be saved. He noted, "There will be design inclusion of some of the existing building elements. Number one, there is an MNG (Maryland National Guard) concrete monument on the south facade of the building. It's a large concrete slab. So, in the demolition details we are going to attempt to save that so

that it can be used in some capacity for something in the new design, whether it's a step or a monument type thing or something of that nature. There are to be six pallets of bricks saved from the building itself and they're going to be cleaned. So, we're going try to use them also in another design capacity."

The commission unanimously approved the demolition permit.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Seeks Grant to Advance Emergency Homeless Shelter

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved applying for a state grant to complete engineering design work for renovation of a building in Prince Frederick for an emergency homeless shelter.

The building is at 85 Main Street. The county had earlier received an \$800,000 grant from the state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to purchase the property.

Community Resources (CR) Special Projects Manager Jacquelyn Culver told the BOCC at a May 23 public hearing on the grant: "There is a documented need for an emergency weather shelter due to an inadequate amount of beds in local programs."

She said previous homeless surveys showed: 373 individuals served in 2018; 451 in 2019; and 440 in 2020. The most recent statistics are still being compiled.

She said, "These numbers include the growing number of senior homelessness. The county's current Project ECHO Shelter has exceeded available capacity and has limits on serving the chronic homeless with serious mental illness. Instead, these individuals often live in encampments and cars,

presenting a health and public safety issue; this also frustrates small business owners."

Culver reported to the BOCC: "Local established nonprofits On Our Own of Calvert, Inc. and LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc., have proposed a partnership with the county on this project. Both nonprofits work with CR on homelessness outreach, case management and services."

The Phase 2 grant request to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), which operates the CDBG program, is for \$600,000, Culver said, adding, "Additional funding for day-to-day operations is available through other grant opportunities."

Several representatives of On Our Own of Calvert spoke in support of the grant as did one of their clients, a homeless man who has been helped by their program.

On Our Own of Calvert, Inc. has been providing services to Calvert County's homeless population for more than 27 years, Director of Community Resources Jennifer Moreland said last year during a presentation on the first phase of the project.

The BPCC unanimously approved applying for the additional monies.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Audit Reveals Youth Team's Financial Errors

Adult Members Criticize Chesapeake Beach Response

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

In spite of assurances of progress, the fissure between the Town of Chesapeake Beach and the youth sports team that uses a town park appeared to grow wider during the course of the May 18 town meeting.

Since the town took ownership of Kellan's Field from the county, they have also taken over the agreement with the Beach Buccaneers organization over the use of the field. An audit initiated by the town uncovered financial irregularities although there have been no allegations of illegal activity. The issue has led to the resignation of the organization's president, but the town says there are still some unresolved financial issues.

At the start of the May 18 meeting, Mayor Pat Mahoney said, "I have faith that this is a positive turning point for all and look forward to a positive partnership of transparency and benefit to the families of the town of Chesapeake Beach and Calvert County. By achieving this, the town will continue to support the Beach Bucs with annual grants and continue to spend the annual \$175,000 that is our cost to support the current youth sports program at Kellam's Field. We look forward to investing approximately \$445,000 in capital improvements at Kellam's Field over the next year so it will continue to be the best football field in Southern Maryland that the boys and girls who wear orange and black deserve."

But as speaker after speaker came to the microphone or shouted from the audience, it became apparent that there was a lot of unrest within the Beach Buccaneer community about how they have been treated by the town. There was considerable disenchantment over a presentation by Town Administrator Holly Wahl detailing the history of the dispute where the organization members thought it constituted piling on. There was however no stated dispute over the facts presented by Wahl.

She explained, "Per the youth sports agreement, the town is able to review all financial records of the team. And so, the

town had requested this information as part of the youth sports agreement and was not provided with financial information that was not altered. That prompted the town to conduct the third-party audit, which was paid for at the town's expense, in accordance with the agreement. There was also the requirement to be a nonprofit, and the team's nonprofit status had lapsed and was no longer active. In addition, the team had not filed their tax returns for multiple years."

Wahl added, "in February of 2023, a town resident volunteer did step up and helped the team and provided multiple items of support. So, we did receive additional support, and we were left with about \$21,478 which remained unsupported or with insufficient documentation."

Wahl reported, "The current status is that the town continues to work with Beach Buccaneers to ensure financial transparency in ways that make sense and limits administrative burden."

"There's been no interruption to children's activities and the town has used all measures necessary to keep the children on the field while we make these adjustments to ensure financial processes are accounted for," she concluded.

New Beach Buccaneers President Jason Cabbage was visibly upset at what had transpired up to that point as he spoke. "Originally, we had a joint statement prepared, but I wholeheartedly cannot read that. We're here in the 11th hour and we're hurt by the actions of the town to shame our organization."

He added, "Petty back and forth does nothing for the community or the kids because it's a waste of time and resources for all. Our kids deserve the absolute best, and we can't give that to them if we're constantly beat down. We have stated numerous times, and in many forums, public and private, that we've failed. Our books were a mess. And we are working our hardest to fix our errors. The answer cannot just be to follow the youth sports agreement. While we signed the 2023 version, it was only done because without doing so, our kids will not have a field for spring sports. The 2023 Youth Sports Agreement had significant

modifications from the 2022 version. These modifications were deliberate and include requirements such as permanent access to all our banking accounts, Quick Books, in order to monitor all our transactions in real time. Mayor and the council members, we want to move forward. We need you to step up as part of your civic duty and get involved."

Bucs parent Jamie Schulz said, "I get it that a bunch of volunteers messed up on books. I get it. They're not CPAs. They don't have a CPA doing all their stuff. I get it." But he said he was embarrassed by the town's reaction.

Speaker after speaker criticized the town. Several council members said they were caught by surprise.

Councilman Charles Fink said, "I'm not really sure how to follow that. I'm a bit blindsided by the rancor. I need to learn more, apparently, because I thought we were further along than we are."

Councilwoman Elizabeth Hartman said, "I really did think it was a small accounting problem that was just going to be sorted (out) and taxes would be filed, and things would be done. And that was it. And I was also very surprised at everything that came out tonight as far as your feelings of being betrayed by the town, being lied to by the town. And I am very distressed that it has



Chesapeake Beach Town Administrator Holly Wahl

come to this. And I hope, and I think we can make the trust continue or at least rebuild it with you."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Budget Includes \$13.4 More for Schools

State's Attorney Gets Extra Assistant

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With no discussion the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on May 23 decided what to do with the historic request from the school board to increase the school system's local funding by \$22.4 million more than the current year.

They will fund \$13.4 million now. At the budget hearing the week before, Commissioner President Buddy Hance said he had secured an agreement with School Superintendent Dr. Andrae Townsel to provide that amount now and review the fiscal situation at the end of this year (at the fiscal year midpoint) to see if the rest can be funded.

Hance said the amount funded can allow the school board to give staff a three percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) instead of Townsel's proposal to give a total of a 6.5 percent COLA required to fund the state's Blueprint for education reform.

Townsel reported at the county budget hearing the following priorities for the Blueprint:

- A 10 percent increase for teachers between FY19 and FY24 (final 1 percent plus 5.5 percent is included in proposed budget)
- Implementation of a career ladder by FY25
- Starting teacher salary of \$60,000 by FY27 (FY 23 starting teacher salary is \$51,005 for bachelor's degree)
- And other Blueprint requirements.

The Blueprint also has a pre-kindergarten component.

The school board will approve its final budget next month that will decide how the county funding will be allocated.

Unspoken in and unanswered out of the May 23 decision is how it will be paid for. At the budget hearing it was said the county is still trying to determine the property tax revenue that will be received from the Cove Point LNGF and Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power plants. That would be one option. It has consistently been said that fund balance will not be used for recurring expenses,



State's Attorney Bob Harvey

which the school funding will be.

The County Times made an inquiry to the county about the revenue sources but did not receive a response as of press deadline.

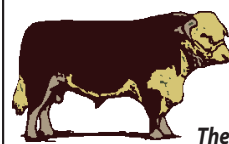
In addition to the education funding, the BOCC agreed to give the state's attorney an additional assistant state's attorney for \$165,224.

State's Attorney Robert Harvey said, "I've been doing this job now for a little over three years. Prior commissioners have been very supportive of public safety and law enforcement. This board is equally supportive. So, I want to thank you. This position is a result of a case that was brought to my attention by Commissioner Cox, where maybe we didn't do everything we could have done to get restitution in a case. This position is designed to designate a state's attorney to aggressively monitor restitution and criminal cases and seek prosecution for violations of probation when it's not paid. So that's what this job is all about. It's also going to do some liaison with the police accountability board."

The public hearing keeps the record open until close of business June 5th. The FY 24 budget is scheduled to be adopted on June 6th by the BOCC.

Presumably the questions about sources of revenue for the added expenses will be answered at that time.

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“I'M A BIT BLINDSIDED BY THE RANCOR.”

CHESAPEAKE BEACH COUNCILMAN CHARLES FINK ON BEACH BUCCANEERS CONTROVERSY



LOCAL 4
Commissioners approve increase for schools budget



LOCAL 7
Funds sought for emergency homeless shelter



ON THE COVER
Chesapeake Beach plans Memorial Day celebration

WEEKLY FORECAST

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| THU, MAY 25 Partly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 48° | FRI, MAY 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 53° | SAT, MAY 27 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 55° | SUN, MAY 28 AM Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 59° |
| MON, MAY 29 Showers Hi: 76° Lo: 59° | TUE, MAY 30 AM Showers Hi: 76° Lo: 60° | WED, MAY 31 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 62° | THU, JUN 1 Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 65° |



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Approve Budget**

**Funds Sought for
Homeless Shelter**

**Armory to be
Demolished**

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