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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

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COVER 9
Crabs are the bright spot in the local economy. Photo courtesy of Abner's Crab House



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Fatal house fire probed



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A Chopin virtual concert

“WE NEED TO STOP SENDING OUR BEST MINDS TO VIRGINIA.”

HOUSING FOR ALL TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN REV. DANA JONES

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 7/30	Fri 7/31	Sat 8/1	Sun 8/2
91° 73°F	84° 71°F	87° 73°F	89° 73°F
Partly Cloudy	Scattered	Isolated	Scattered
Mon 8/3	Tue 8/4	Wed 8/5	Thu 8/6
86° 71°F	84° 70°F	84° 69°F	84° 70°F
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For staff listing and emails, see page 23

COVID-19

As of July 28

Positive Cases

Deaths

Calvert

564

11

Information provided by St. Mary's and Calvert Health Departments 7-28-2020

Ethics Commission to Hear McConkey Case

Judge Limits Hearing to Two Complaints

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Calvert County Ethics Commission will be scheduling in the near future a hearing on ethics complaints against Commissioner President Kelly McConkey. At issue is McConkey's vote last August to include two properties he owns within an expanded Huntingtown Town Center. The vote came just before the commissioners' vote to adopt the revised county comprehensive plan. Both decisions were on a 3-2 vote, with McConkey's vote breaking a tie. With a tie vote, the Huntingtown Town Center would only have expanded to the size approved by the planning commission to include Huntingtown High School.

The action was immediately controversial. Five individuals reportedly filed complaints with the Ethics Commission. And a suit seeking to overturn the comprehensive plan, based in part on McConkey's vote, was filed by four members of a newly formed group called Calvert Citizens United (CCU).

Court filings in the CCU case reported that the ethics commission issued to McConkey a preliminary finding that said: "From the information currently available to us, it appears that you failed to recuse yourself from the discussion and voted on matters related to expanding the Huntingtown Town Center...Your conduct was also contrary to the advisory opinion on recusal issued by the Ethics Commission on September 1, 2015 and summarized by Commissioner Hutchins at the BOCC meeting on August 6, 2019."

McConkey, through his attorney Steven Preller of Annapolis, filed suits against the Ethics Commission and its chairperson Jennifer Mazur. Hearings on both of those suits were heard by visiting judge Terrance McGann of Montgomery County on Friday, July 24 in Calvert County Circuit

Court. Greenbelt attorney William Brennan represented the commission and Mazur.

After arguments and pointed dickering from both sides, the judge ruled that the ethics commission should finally hold a hearing on the matter, but he limited the complaints to only two of the five filed, those from Catherine Grasso, chairperson of the Republican Central Committee, and Susan Dzurec, one of the four members of CCU who are plaintiffs in the suit against the county.

During the hearing, Preller reportedly argued that his client rendered his vote after getting a blessing from County Attorney John Norris. Brennan countered that was immaterial because McConkey should have known such a vote was a conflict of interest because on the ethics forms all public officials are required to sign. He acknowledged it in listing the two properties he owns in Huntingtown at the Routes 2/4 and Cox Road intersection.

At one point in the proceedings, Preller charged that Mazur could

have fabricated the existence of the five complaints against McConkey because he and his client had never seen them. Brennan bristled that Preller had called his client a liar and by extension also himself.

The judge settled the argument by

ordering the hearing, which has not yet been announced. The suit against the county is still pending.

Neither Preller nor Brennan returned The County Times calls for comment.

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Calvert National Night Out Postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, National Night Out (NNO) in Calvert County has been postponed until Tuesday, October 6, 2020. NNO usually culminates annually on the first Tuesday of August and is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. NNO enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a

great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Any communities wishing to participate in NNO or anyone requiring further information is asked to contact Deputy First Class E. Durner at William.Durner@calvertcountymd.gov.

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Calvert County Commissioner President Kelly McConkey

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Calvert Schools Will Open Online

Teachers Can Work from Home or at School

By Dick Myers
Editor

"It wasn't easy at all and that's a complete understatement," was the way Calvert County Board of Education member Pamela Cousins described the decision to open school on Sept. 2 with 100 percent online learning but allowing for specific exceptions. Teachers and staff will be given the option of working from home or at their school. The board delayed a decision on sports and outside extra-curricular activities pending an anticipated statement from the Maryland State Board of Education.

The decision at a special board meeting on July 24 was unanimous, with board President Bill Phalen still absent due to an illness. The decision came a day after a virtual town hall meeting and after the board had received more than a thousand emails supporting not only online, but also in-school and a hybrid of both.

At the town hall meeting, School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry made a strong case for having all teachers and other staff be in their school even if students were at



Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry

home. At the July 24 special meeting, he said he was willing to back off on that position in light of the school board's seeming unwillingness to require anyone to come into the school building if they did not want to.

The school system is in the middle of a summer school program for 400 students (no more than seven in

a class) who had been deemed having difficulty with this past spring's launch of online learning. Those students are being taught by volunteer instructors. In a similar vein, when school starts, exceptions to online learning will be made under the following circumstances outlined at the July 23 town hall meeting by Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Diane Workman:

- Students without internet access
- Students with disabilities
- Students scoring in the bottom quintiles on the MAP assessment
- English Language Learners
- Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students
- Students with a teacher recommendation
- Students receiving research-based interventions
- Homeless students
- Students attending Career Technology Academy

Workman explained that the online experience beginning in September would be "blended learning," which she described as "a combination of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning that requires access to the internet, an electronic device, web conferencing tools, and a learning platform."

Workman added, "Students will be required to be online according to a given schedule. Schedules during this period will look more like the schedule students follow in a typical school year. Although there will be more live synchronous instruction by our teachers, many students will continue to need adult support to ensure they're online at the appropriate time. As was the case in the spring, some of our youngest learners will continue to need extra support from an adult. At times, we may also be asking parents to pick up or drop off materials that students may need at home."

Daycare may continue to be an issue for many parents. Curry said at the town hall meeting that support will be given to daycare centers to provide assistance in the online learning of those in their care. That may include, Curry said, school staff going into the centers to provide extra help.

The decision for online learning came a week after Curry was ready to present the school board a plan for all students to be in school two days a week. That was derailed immediately by Cousins, who insisted the COVID-19 virus was still unchecked. At the July 24 meeting she said, "providing for the safety and security of our students, staff, bus drivers and employees has been and will continue to be my top priority

for Calvert County Public Schools. The priority is not just my priority. If the district's priority."

Board member Dawn Balinski read a detailed, prepared statement. She noted how exponentially the virus has spread recently. She said, "My point is the unrelenting nature of this infection. Once it gets a foothold for the past five months, we've endured a total lockdown, shelter-at-home directive, mandated teleworking, and then some gradual openings. Maryland was successful in flattening the curve on the growth of new cases and saw hospitalizations drop. But, with just a little further loosening of restrictions by letting people get back in touch with each other (more indoor dining, gyms, bars, etc.), we saw the numbers spike back up. Our numbers in Calvert have risen 12 percent in the last 10 days, adding 57 new cases. If we reopened our schools now, that means that we set in motion the machine, the mobilization of bus drivers, students, teachers, food delivery services, cafeteria workers, nurses, custodians, administrators, and bringing in an estimated 8,000 or so students, which is probably half of the student body, and 500 to 600 staff into enclosed spaces for prolonged periods of time could very well jump start the infection right here in our county."

She added, "We all know that one of the prime ways a virus is transmitted is through speaking and shared breathing. And I'm afraid that we do quite a lot of that in our schools where being together with discussing things all day long and we're moving between hallways and classrooms."

Balinski observed, "I do hope that in these extraordinarily difficult times our community will come together to offer innovative solutions to the huge problems caused by the closure of school buildings."

Board member Tracy McGuire said she would have voted for the hybrid model presented by Curry, but she was willing to go along with the majority. But she added, "I am very concerned about these targeted populations. They are the most vulnerable students in our school system. There's no reason to think that when school returns to something that looks like normal for these students, they'll be able to catch up. I believe that the climb will be too steep, and the loss of instruction will irreparably harm their futures."

The board agreed that online would continue at least for the first semester with periodic reviews along the way for changing conditions.

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Task Force Unveils Housing Recommendations

Calls for Developer Incentives, Mixed Uses

Dick Myers
Editor

“We need to stop sending our best minds to Virginia,” said Housing for All Task Force Chairman Rev. Dana Jones. He was referring to the direct connection between the availability of affordable housing in Calvert County and the creation of jobs. Jones and Director of Community Resources Jennifer Moreland presented the task force’s final recommendations, the result of two year’s work, to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their July 28 meeting.

The report contains four recommendations, including providing incentives for developers to create housing for persons and families at the 30, 60 and 80 percent of medium income levels. That translates to \$26,599 for an individual, \$50,400 for a married couple and \$79,600 for a family of four. The report also includes a recommendation to create Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning to allow for development flexibility.

Town centers are targeted for affordable housing with the goal, according to Moreland, “To provide for a full range of housing types in town centers to attract and retain multi-generational communities.”

The task force recognizes that it’s not just the young people Jones mentioned who are in need. Populations most impacted also include: the disabled, veterans, seniors, and the local workforce.

- Recommendations for developer incentives include:
- Developer incentives for multi-generational families and homeless with income
- Excise tax waivers
- Water/sewer set aside, waiving tap fees for bonus unit

- School density waiver for bonus units in Planned Unit Development
- Creation of a Transferable Development Rights (TDR) land bank applied to affordable housing units
- Density bonus for certain projects.
- Sale of water/sewer rights from parks to undevelopable land
- Donation of county-owned properties in exchange for cash or amenities
- Introduction of the New Market Tax Credit (Federal program)
- Expansion of Opportunity Zones to include town centers with existing water/sewer and priority on mixed use development
- Engage Housing Authority (vouchers, participation, etc.)

The other two recommendations are to educate the community about the problem and do a market trend analysis. “A lot of it will be based on (the) community’s will,” Jones said.

Jones noted the incredible cost of creating public housing high-rises and then tearing them down. The community needed to know, he said, that what was being proposed was “mixed-use developments, not projects.”

Jones, who for years was head of Tri County Community Action Committee, which spearheaded many housing initiatives in the region, insisted, “These strategies are doable.” He used Yardley Hills in Prince Frederick as an example of a development created with multi-partner cooperation.

Jones said many people moved to Calvert to live in large houses on large lots and now they desire to downsize. He wondered who will be able to afford those houses they want to leave behind.

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Report: Bad News for Solomons Harbor

Upriver Creeks Also Show Decline

By Dick Myers
Editor

The news was not good for the environment. The 2019 Water Quality Monitoring Program conducted for Calvert County by the Chesapeake Biological Lab shows deteriorating metrics for Solomons Harbor and things are not that much better for Patuxent River creeks.

Dr. Lora Harris, one of the lab's principal investigators for the project, told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at a July 28 briefing that metrics for dissolved oxygen, algae and blooms were all going in the wrong direction and were considerably off the best years of the survey, which was started by Dr. Walter Boynton in the 1980s.

Harris said the water quality indices were generally worse the further up one goes in the tidal creeks of Solomons Harbor, with Mill Creek the worst, probably because it is the most densely populated.

Harris presented a timeline of the years of the survey from best to worst. She said of 2019, "We are getting some of the worst scores on the timeline."

The survey also shows weather conditions and the last few years have had a lot of rain which could be influencing the poor results.

In addition to Back Creek, St. John's Creek, Upper and Lower Mill Creek and the Narrows in Solomons Harbor, the survey also measures Hall, Hunting, Battle, Island, St. Leonard, Helen's and Hungerford creeks and several points along the Chesapeake Bay. She said the lower four river creeks are showing similar trends to Solomons Harbor but the upper three are pretty level with previous years except for higher algae blooms in Herring Creek.

Harris presented the following survey conclusions:

- Since around 2010, numerous degrading trends but a majority show no trend
- Little relationship between tributlets and larger estuary
- Will additional years show similar patterns?
- Have the big changes already occurred?
- Can we connect to nontidal monitoring?

She made the following recommendations:



- Continue to monitor tidal creeks in Calvert County " Negative and positive trends in water quality can be clearly documented "A new effort to consider relationships between nontidal and tidal monitoring is underway "Nontidal monitoring has the potential to document shifts in the local watersheds and mechanisms for changes in receiving waters

- UMCES is a resource "The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is ready to provide advisory service to the county regarding implementation of the TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay "We are here to listen to your questions and respond to your management needs with sound science and creativity

- Implement the Calvert WIP (Watershed Improvement Plan) to the maximum extent practicable " Focus on practices and locations where the effectiveness will be greatest

- Continue to support planning and eventual implementation of: "Sewer upgrades, BMPs, installation of enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) septic systems, riparian buffer zones, and encourage the use of pump-out facilities by boaters

- Continue to support the local county and state environmental educational programs so the public can make informed decisions at the personal, local, and regional levels.
- Phase III of Chesapeake Bay TMDL focused on local engagement and implementation.

The BOCC unanimously agreed to continue to support the water quality monitoring program with the lab.

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County to State: Complete It

At Issue: Main St. Greenspace

By Dick Myers
Editor

Remove your ditch! That's the message the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) wants the state to hear. The bone of contention is the vacant piece of land created when the northern-most section of Main Street in Prince Frederick was abandoned when the intersection at Routes 2/4 was realigned.

Director of Parks and Recreation Shannon Nazaal, in a memo, said, "From 2016 to 2017, discussions occurred between the BOCC and the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to take ownership of a Main Street Greenspace parcel upon completion of Route 2/4 work. Under that arrangement, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funding was budgeted for the initial concept, and both SHA and the BOCC commissioned concept design for this parcel at that time. However, from 2017 through FY 2021, CIP funding was deferred to outside the six-year CIP. In 2020, our staff was informed that the SHA was in the process of completing the work for this project, though no additional amenities were approved.

The SHA intends to return Main Street Greenspace to the county far below the initial expectations."

Those expectations were for landscaping, seeding, sidewalks, stairs, parking, and removal of the ditch that runs through the property. Instead, what the state completed were stairs to nowhere and a parking lot to nowhere, according to a description by Commissioner Buddy Hance.

Nazaal told the BOCC that to do the rest of the work the state had reneged on would cost the county \$170,000 and without the work the parcel was essentially unusable.

Hance said he had serious reservations about spending money on a park next to a six-lane highway. He doubted parents would want their children playing there. Nazaal said the concept was not really for a park but for more of an open space that would act as a gateway to Main Street Prince Frederick. She envisioned a community Christmas tree there.

"It's just an empty space of land that we have to do something with," she said.

Nazaal said the land had not yet

been transferred, that the Department of Planning and Zoning was working with the state to finalize that.

That left Hance to suggest "make the state do the work before we accept the property."

"We should not have to remove the ditch," he insisted.

Nazaal said she would ask the

planning department to negotiate with the state the completion of their original agreement before the county accepts the land. Hance suggested that the state didn't want responsibility for the property and would have to make that agreement for the county to take it off their hands.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Existing view of the Main Street Greenspace.

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

During the week of July 13 – July 19 deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,397 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 20-36707

On July 13, 2020, Deputy Kwitowski responded to Whispering Drive in Prince Frederick for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised that sometime between July 12th at 8:30pm and July 13th at 7:00am, an unknown suspect(s) damaged their mailbox by knocking it over. The value of damaged property is \$500.

Damaged Property: 20-37587

On July 17, 2020, Deputy Kwitowski responded to Toye Lane in Prince Frederick for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised that sometime between July 15th at 5:30pm and July 17th at 9:00am, an unknown suspect(s) broke a window in the front of the residence. The value of damaged property is \$200.

Theft: 20-37416

On July 16, 2020, Sergeant Denton took a report of a theft that occurred on Shores Acres Way in Prince Frederick. The complainant advised that an unknown suspect(s) stole a package containing a DVD that was delivered to the residence on July 15th. The value of stolen property is \$49.

Theft: 20-37467

On July 16, 2020, Deputy Childress responded to Saw Mill Road in Lusby for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) stole the front registration tag and bracket

from their vehicle. The value of stolen property is \$161.20.

Arrests:

On July 13, 2020, Deputy Gough responded to the Calvert County Detention Center for the report of recovered property. Upon arrival, Correctional Deputy Windsor advised that a search was conducted of Michael Peter Trybus (24) upon entering the Detention Center which resulted in two paper folds containing a white and brown powdery substance, suspected to be heroin. Also located on Trybus' person were eight unopened white and blue packages containing suspected Suboxone Sublingual Films. Trybus was charged with CDS: Possession- Not Marijuana, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, and Possession of Contraband- Place of Confinement.

On July 13, 2020, Deputy Sampson conducted a traffic stop on North Solomons Island Road at the Sunderland Park and Ride in Sunderland. The driver, Kacy Leanne Kerns (32), stepped out of the vehicle and Deputy Sampson observed



Michael Trybus



Kacy Kerns

two semi-transparent white plastic Methadone bottles in Kerns' sweatshirt pocket. Kerns provided Deputy Sampson with a spoon from her pocket which had visible scratch marks. A search of the vehicle was conducted which resulted in a used syringe, two used cotton balls, a clear capsule containing a white residue suspected to be heroin. Kerns was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, CDS: Paraphernalia, CDS Administer Equipment Poss/Dist.

On July 13, 2020, while patrolling the Chesapeake Beach area, Deputy Bowlan observed Alonza Emanuel Wallace (30), enter the Twin Beach Market. Wallace was issued a trespass warning on July 2, 2020 by Deputy Cress.

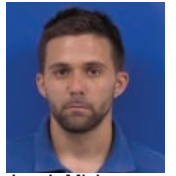


Alonza Wallace

Deputy Bowlan observed Wallace exit the Twin Beach Market and defecate in the driveway of a residence nearby. Deputy Bowlan made contact with Wallace, and instructed Wallace to place his hands behind his back. After refusing multiple commands, Wallace was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespass: Private Property, Failure to Obey Reasonable/

Lawful Order, Resisting/Interfering with Arrest, and Indecent Exposure.

On July 14, 2020, Deputy Payne assisted a motorist on Southern Maryland Boulevard at Drury Lane in Dunkirk. The complainant advised the driver was stumbling around the vehicle seeming confused. Deputy Payne made contact with the driver,



Jacob Mishou

Jacob John Joseph Mishou (29), who appeared disoriented and incoherent. Mishou stepped away from the vehicle, and Deputy Payne observed six clear capsules contacting a white powdery substance, suspected to be heroin. A further search of the vehicle resulted in a prescription bottle containing four pills that did not match the prescription label, and fifty additional clear capsules containing a white powdery substance of suspected heroin. A search of Mishou's person was conducted which resulted in a used syringe. Mishou was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, CDS: Possession- Not Marijuana, CDS Administer Equipment Poss/Dist., and CDS Possession with Intent to Distribute.



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Crab Season Going Strong

By Bri Corley
Contributing Writer

While coronavirus continues to devastate businesses across the country, Maryland's signature crustacean has remained a monetary powerhouse in Calvert and St. Mary's counties. From independent watermen to local crab shacks, high demand and a plentiful crab population led to an unexpectedly successful season.

The season started slow for many Maryland crabbers, with watermen catching fewer crabs than expected. This led to prices rising quickly, especially with increased demand coming as a result of families being home and crabs at home being a good replacement for family dinners at restaurants. Statewide, blue crabs are running upwards of \$215 a bushel, varying based on location.

Back in May of this year, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced the results of the 2020 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, which estimates the number of blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay each year. It stated that populations for adult male and adult female blue crabs were above average going into the summer. Although he can't speak for all watermen, part-time Patuxent River crabber Tommy Thayer of Calvert County said the season has been one of the more successful ones for him in past years.

"I've had really good luck up until about last weekend," said Thayer. "They ran really good, compared to the last couple of years. I've seen a pretty good increase in catching them. They were going for about \$200 a bushel but they usually drop off after July 4th, then after Labor Day they really drop. I think everybody's 'crab craze' is pretty much over by then."

Thayer said that fellow crabbers were worried about how the market would turn out once unemployment rose and jobs started falling through. If this were the case, watermen would be in a predicament of having more crabs than they can sell. However, the result seems to be quite the opposite, where people are using the time at home to bond with their loved ones over a crab dinner.

"I actually found that because of the pandemic, I've been able to get rid of crabs easier because a lot more people are at home," Thayer said. "I sell to the public as well as carry-outs and such, but I try to sell to the public more to make a little better money. I've noticed that this year it's a lot easier to sell crabs during the week because everybody is home. It's like a weekend every day. I remember when it first started and everyone was saying it was going to be a terrible crab season because of the virus and I just thought 'Well, it is what it is. What are you going to do?', but really it's been pretty nice."

Maryland Watermen's Associa-



Photo Courtesy of Abner's Crab House in Chesapeake Beach

tion President Robert T. Brown of St. Mary's County had similar sentiments, saying how the market for crabs has stayed strong during the pandemic, even when other seafood like oysters and rockfish had a slower start. Brown believes this may have a lot to do with the experience of picking hard shell crabs at home versus cleaning and preparing other kinds of seafood on your own.

"Well, since restaurants have opened up, that's helped the fishing market a whole lot. The difference is when people get hard crabs, they have to pick them. Well, people don't want to go to a store to buy fish to have to clean it. They want it already prepared for them, so the problem for watermen came in there...the crab market has stayed stronger than what it generally is at this time of year. Meanwhile, rockfish market was slow due to all the restaurants being closed," Brown said.

Calvert County Watermen's Association President Dale "Simon" Dean said of 2020, "It's been up and down, very spotty. It started off beautiful. And then as the crab shed came on, they dropped off. The trotliners in the river did very well with them. The last few weeks, they're starting to slow down as the crab shed starts to come on again." Once that natural cycle is over things should pick up again, he predicts.

"It's been nice, beautiful male crabs this year," Dean boasted.

Dean, who normally works out of Solomons, said of this year's demand: "It really depends on what market you have as a crabber. So, the basket market has been on fire. You can't keep up with the demand." The pickers market, however, has been slow because they depend on the restaurant trade, which has also been slow. They also have had trouble finding pickers, he said.

The Calvert Watermen's Association president for the last year sees a bright

future for his industry. "I'm very optimistic about it. Our biggest thing is overregulation from people not understanding what we go through and not understanding that we're not out there to catch it all."

Dean sells to Mel's Crabs in Huntingtown and Thompson's Seafood

Corner Market in Mechanicsville in addition to some direct sales. Seafood markets such as Thompson's have seen similar successes this season. Manager Denise Ching said that the pandemic truly hasn't made a large impact on their business as they have never offered dine-in seating, which has led to many issues for restaurants that are trying to maintain social distancing inside. Thompson's now only allows six customers in at a time to abide by health guidelines. "We're doing just as well as we usually do, the pandemic hasn't made a huge impact on our sales since we have always been carryout," said Ching.

Matt McCormick, manager of Abner's Crab House in Chesapeake Beach, said that their business is actually on par with where they were last year, even with restrictions on how many customers they can serve at once, which he views as an indicator for their success thus far.

"Our numbers are about equal to this time last year when we were fully open, even though we can only hold 50 percent capacity. Our customer base has come back in full force," said McCormick.

Editor Dick Myers contributed to this story.

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Churches of Southern Maryland: New Life Baptist Church

By Grace McCready
Contributing Writer

New Life Baptist Church, on Route 4 in Prince Frederick, embodies a small but growing congregation of caring people.

Pastor Jason Baxter stated it this way: “We love people. I love broken people.”

This love is found in a building with a house-like exterior but a church-like interior. The upstairs has classrooms, while the downstairs is the auditorium with pews. And there are plans for a new steeple to be added.

Since his youth, Baxter has had an interesting relationship with church. Though he was saved when he was 16 years old, he struggled with personal questions. It wasn’t until his high school senior year that his family ended their search and found their dream church—a small Baptist congregation located in Waldorf.

“We walked in, and we just knew something was different about it,” he stated.

He became involved there but later moved to Indiana to attend Bible college when he felt God’s call to become a pastor. After he had earned his Bachelor of Science in Pastoral Theology and Church Administration, he and his family returned to Southern Maryland. And he pastored the same church his family had grown to love many years earlier.

Baxter has only been the pastor of New Life Baptist Church for two years, but since he arrived, attendance has quadrupled from eight people to around 35 people. Formed by a group that left another church in Prince Frederick, the current church has only existed since 2001.

Congregational singing, prayer, announcements, offering, and preaching are normally incorporated into services. But the invitation is crucial for services at New Life Baptist Church.

Congregants are invited to respond to the sermon. And the opportunity for salvation is always offered. He



added that “we’re not trying to embarrass anyone or...make anyone feel uncomfortable. We just want them to have the help that they’re looking for.”

Of course, as a Baptist church, the opportunity to be baptized is also available at every service. Even if it’s not possible for someone to be baptized on the same day he or she expresses interest, a date can be chosen for the baptism.

By supporting several missionaries and providing donations for Thanksgiving baskets, New Life Baptist Church is involved in outreach. Baxter also noted, “We will do Vacation Bible School in the future for sure. As of today, we don’t. But I could see us easily doing it next year.”

Multiple age groups attend the regular service, but because the congregation is small, it’s difficult to have consistent activities.

Besides the Sunday services held at 11 a.m., the regular activities are weekly Sunday school classes before church, weekly Bible study/prayer meetings, and monthly men’s prayer meetings. Also, the evangelism ministry meets one Saturday per month to visit local areas and spread the

gospel.

Of course, not everyone accepts the offer of salvation during the church’s monthly outings. “But we go out and present the gospel to as many folks as will let us for about an hour on Saturdays,” Baxter explained.

Activities for women are more spontaneous, with perhaps a teatime for Mother’s Day or a local church conference. “We do a lot of stuff, although it’s not necessarily a full calendar yet,” said Baxter.

COVID-19 made life much more complicated for New Life Baptist Church.

“We did not have the capability to livestream because we were a small church...we weren’t trying to make a big public impression outside of the walls of the church...we weren’t trying to get any attention, so we never took that step until we were forced to,” Baxter explained.

Because of the church’s poor internet connection, livestreaming was

still impossible. Thus, he recorded services at the church and drove to a location with better Wi-Fi to upload the videos and email or text them to church members. As the only church employee, he actually did the entire recorded service himself, from singing to announcements to preaching.

Finally, after about a month, livestreaming became possible with an internet upgrade. But because of the small crowd at the church, people never stopped attending services there, though the number of attenders was limited to 10. He shared that he “asked for folks to tell me if they were coming or not, and then I would have to tell other folks.”

On May 3, about 25 people were at the first indoor service. On Mother’s Day, they did a drive-in service but were back in the auditorium on May 17. The monthly evangelism had to stop, due to the coronavirus, but is going to resume.

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CEANDRA B. SCOTT, PHOTOGRAPHER

Stoney's on Broomes Island Closes



Jeannie Coustineau-Stone, of the Stone family that started the local restaurants named Stoney's, said on a Facebook post about their original location: "Broomes Island will not be reopening. It is for sale! After 31 years of business we have chosen to sell the property! It was a great love of my life .. the friends and family we have made here, the experiences, the parties the weddings and all the good and bad in between have made me a very blessed and loved person. Back in the day the people we hired

were like family and it is hard to find those people anymore, sadly to say! The staff I have that are wonderful are at Clarkes Landing now with me. The other great employees have full-time jobs, so that's why I haven't brought them back! It is a very hard decision but thank you for everything and God Bless everyone .. stay safe, love each other, be kind and accepting and share your love and kindness! The world needs a Stoney's family! People that are awesome .. loving ...caring and flat out beautiful!"



Fatal Fire in Calvert County Under Investigation



A team of investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Calvert County Sheriff's Office and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner are conducting an investigation involving a fatal dwelling fire in the 3300 block of Hunting Creek Road in Huntingtown. The first 911 call was received at 6:32 a.m., July 23 when neighbors discovered the home ablaze.

Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department and multiple other fire companies responded to the one-alarm fire.

Once the fire was extinguished, firefighters located a deceased

adult male occupant within the residence.

Deputy State Fire Marshals discovered no evidence of smoke alarms within the dwelling, and the origin and cause remain under investigation at this time.

The victim will not be identified at this time and has been transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore to determine the exact cause of death. The home was not equipped with running water, and investigators have concluded the home is a complete loss.

State Fire Marshals Press Release

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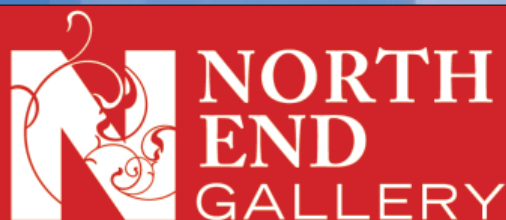
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SMECO Board Appoints New Member

Hance-Wells fills vacancy

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's (SMECO) Board of Directors has appointed Susie Hance-Wells of Prince Frederick to fill the unexpired portion of Samuel "Jack" Hammett's three-year term, which ends in 2021. Hammett, who stepped down as of March 31, 2020, represented Calvert and Anne Arundel counties and served on SMECO's Board since 1990.

Four SMECO customer-members applied for the position. The application and interview process began in April and Hance-Wells took the oath of office at the July 21 meeting of the SMECO Board of Directors. According to Scott White, chairman of SMECO's Board, "Susie Hance-Wells has had years of experience with matters that are important to the residents of Calvert County. She has embraced the growth of the county while maintaining its storied heritage. And her knowledge and experience with budgets, governance, and long-term planning will help to strengthen our cooperative and its Board."

Hance-Wells is a lifelong resident of Calvert County. She graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, and since

then she has managed her family's 320-acre farm, taking it from a tobacco and cattle farm to a farm-to-table operation. She has served on the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board, the Planning Commission, the Colonial Farm Credit Board, and the Farm Bureau in Calvert County. Hance-Wells served on the corporate board of the Southern States Cooperative for six years, and she is currently the chair of the Calvert County Board of Appeals.

Press Release from SMECO.



Susie Hance-Wells

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SMADC Announces Farmer Pandemic Mini-Grants

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is pleased to announce a dedicated Pandemic Relief round of the Southern Maryland Farmer Mini-Grant Program.

Due to the pandemic virus, COVID-19, affecting all aspects of life, and certain agriculture/farm businesses severely, the SMADC board has committed a round of the Southern Maryland Farmer Mini-Grants specifically for pandemic relief. SMADC will begin accepting Mini-Grant applications on July 1, 2020. The Pandemic Relief Mini-Grant cycle will close on July 22, 2020, with awards announced by August 2020.

This mini-grant round is designed to support established farms that have been financially adversely affected by the onset of the pandemic and are at risk for being unable to pay bills and maintain an adequate standard of living and care for their farm operations, and/or those who have financial needs concerning pivoting their business models to effectively serve their customers safely and to implement state-recommended COVID-19 safety protocols and social distancing guidelines.

To address the current need and where possible minimize financial burden, the grant parameters (for this mini-grant cycle only) include extensive changes and restrictions. Match-

ing funds will not be required, and allowable expenses incurred since April 1, 2020 on will be considered. A total of \$27,000 of funding is available. Applicants may request up to \$2,000 per application. However, it is anticipated that the number of applicants may exceed the amount of funding available, therefore grant applications will be ranked and awards may be less than the requested amount.

Applicants may apply for grant funds for equipment that help farm businesses transition to an online or alternative sales strategy and other projects that maintain or expand sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, including on-farm upgrades to meet state COVID-19 standards for safety and social distancing, on-farm upgrades to enhance food safety per compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) produce safety rule, and marketing and promotion of current farm operation. Additionally, grant funds may be used for the purchase of foundation livestock, purchase of plant stock, veterinary bills, livestock feed, seeds, fertilizer, and equipment parts for farm machinery repair.

For complete details of the SMADC Southern Maryland Farmer Pandemic Relief Mini-Grant Program, including criteria, guidelines, and access to the online application form, visit 'Farmer Resources' to find the 'Mini-Grants' page at www.SMADC.com.

Press Release from SMADC.

Leadership Group Honors Healthcare Workers

Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) delivered sustenance and encouragement to tri-county healthcare workers over the past two weeks as part of its initial COVID-19 community support effort.

The non-profit organization raised over \$2,000 since April 1 to purchase breakfast foods from local, small businesses and produce "signs of encouragement" to be placed at the three county medical centers and health department offices.

"Our healthcare teams who are on the front lines of this pandemic were the worthy recipients," said Theresa Johnson, associate vice president for Corporate Communication and Philanthropy at CalvertHealth and LSM Class of 2014. "Our nurses caring for our medically ill patients and our ICU nurses loved the breakfast. From the bottom of our hearts (and stomachs), thank you for giving us sustenance as we fight another day for our patients and our community."

LSM alumni have also sewn masks for St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services and assembled bag lunches to be donated to The Mission and distributed to St. Mary's County's in-need

population.

"The overwhelming response from our alumni has been incredible," said Denise Foster, Executive Director of LSM. "It started as a discussion on how we could give back to the community and 48 hours later we were formulating a path forward. LSM alumni are dedicated to strengthening our communities and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to use our resources and give back to Southern Maryland."

LSM hopes to continue the support efforts as the communities begin to recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

Leadership Southern Maryland educates and inspires a diverse group of current and emerging leaders creating opportunities for collaborations and partnerships impacting the community needs of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. LSM offers a nine-month tuition-based Executive Program and this past year launched the pilot Emerging Leaders (LEAP) program that provides educational programming and networking opportunities to new or emerging leaders in our region.

Press Release from LSM.



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Two CSM Students Earn Scholarship

Two College of Southern Maryland (CSM) students have been named 2020 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise and will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Kia Robinson and Solomon Butler are two of 207 Phi Theta Kappa members nationwide who have earned this high distinction.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Scholars are encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs and are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service and leadership potential. Nearly 700 applications were received.

A total of \$207,000 is awarded through the Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation provides \$200,000 in funding for the scholarships, with \$25,000 set aside for members who are veterans or active members of the United States military. The remaining amount is supported by donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and provides seven Global Leaders of Promise Scholarships, earmarked for international students.

"The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges," said Jane

Hale Hopkins, president of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. "We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa to make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals and support tomorrow's leaders of the global community."

The funds provided by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation not only aid college completion, but also give students the opportunity to engage in society programs and develop leadership skills to become future leaders in their communities.

"Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than their peers," said Dr. Monica Marlowe, executive director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. "The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need isn't an obstacle to achieving their academic goals."

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at www.ptk.org

Press Release from CSM.



Grants Provide Tuition Support for Essential Jobs

Many STEM Jobs Remain In Demand During Pandemic

STEM jobs – in science, technology, engineering and math – are still among the most in demand in today's ever-changing job market and despite the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. And the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has a way forward for students seeking careers in those fields thanks to a \$953,243 award from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM) program, and a second NSF grant for \$257,912 to help students pursue degrees in cybersecurity.

"It is so important for our students and communities facing such difficult times right now to realize that CSM is here to help them achieve their education and stay on course – or start a new career – in positions that are meaningful, important and will always be considered essential," said CSM Mathematics Professor Sandra Poinsett, who is a lead on the NSF S-STEM grant. "The NSF grants we received in 2019 provide tuition support to students who are pursuing STEM degrees or certificates in applied science and technology, biological sciences, computer information systems, computer science, engineering, engineering technology, information services technology, information systems, cybersecurity and physical sciences."

The New York Academy of Sciences recently reported about the important role of scientists and STEM professionals in the fight against the new coronavirus. "As we've seen so often in previous times of extreme challenge, the passion, drive, and innovative thinking of scientists and STEM professionals emerges very quickly. And this new crisis is no exception," the academy shared.

And tech journals were abuzz July 23 after the International Consortium of Minority Cybersecurity Professionals and the cybersecurity training firm CyberVista, released a joint report on the state of cybersecurity jobs. The report, "Cybersecurity Jobs Report: Q2," confirmed not only the resilience of cybersecurity jobs at a time of layoffs, but also a resurgence in need of skilled employees.

"The report highlighted that the well-publicized cybersecurity skills gap means

that there is currently a shortage of candidates to meet this demand, finding that 86% of the cybersecurity job openings had attracted under 10 applicants," wrote James Coker with Info Security Magazine.

Former CSM students Dr. Syria Wesley and Rodrigo Arce – both of whom were interviewed last spring by ABC 7/WJLA about being NSF grant recipients – credit the grant, and their time at the CSM, for their continued success.

When Arce began at CSM, he was learning English and in remedial math as a Peruvian immigrant in 2012. After receiving the NSF S-STEM grant, Arce earned his associate degree from CSM went on to the University of Maryland in College Park to study mechanical engineering.

Wesley, who is a Maurice J. McDonough High School graduate, said her time at CSM transformed her life and put her on a STEM career path to become a pharmacist with a doctorate degree.

"When I was awarded the S-STEM scholarship from 2012-2014, I was able to attend college full time and graduate with honors," Wesley explained. "I was also able to utilize so many resources. We had tutors; networking; we went to [Naval Air Station] Pax River; anything you needed to excel, CSM and the NSF scholarship provided."

New and interested students who qualify as academically talented, with demonstrated financial need and who have declared a STEM major, including programs in applied science and technology, biological sciences, computer information systems, computer science, engineering, engineering technology, information services technology, information systems, cybersecurity and physical sciences can apply for the S-STEM NSF grant.

The window to apply for the NSF S-STEM scholarship remains open. The grant monies not only cover tuition, it also covers support services like field trips, guest speakers, supplies and tutoring. Visit <https://www.csm.edu/apply-register/credit/scholars-programs/stem-scholars/> for more information.

Press Release from CSM.



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Pianist to Perform Free Virtual Chopin Concert



Pianist Brian Ganz will perform during the special virtual 49th Abbey Bach Festival Thursday, July 30, at 7 p.m. PDT (10 p.m. EDT). Based at the Mount Angel Abbey in Saint Benedict, Oregon, the festival features a free four-day virtual classical concert series, broadcast live each day at 7 p.m. PDT. Photo by Jay Mallin.

Pianist Brian Ganz will perform a selection of Chopin favorites during the special virtual 49th Abbey Bach Festival on Thursday, July 30, at 7 p.m. PDT (10 p.m. EDT). Based at the Mount Angel Abbey in Saint Benedict, Oregon, the festival features a free four-day virtual classical concert series, broadcast live each day at 7 p.m. PDT, with concerts remaining available for viewing through Saturday, Aug. 8.

Ganz took requests a few weeks before the concert, and will perform some of the works requested and more Chopin favorites. Each concert was performed and recorded live. Ganz's performance was recorded at his home in Purcellville, Virginia on Friday, July 17. "I've never played in Oregon in person, so it's a particular pleasure for me to be able to reach out to offer the soul nourishment of Chopin's music to the people of that beautiful state, and across the internet to all Chopin lovers, at this tender time. How we all need beauty right now," said Ganz. The festival will also feature performances by cellist Amit Peled, guitarist JIJI, and pianist Alon Goldstein with the Mercury Chamber Orchestra. For more information on the Abbey Bach Festival, visit <https://www.mountangelabbey.org/bach>.

"There is a very unusual creative spark at work in this festival," said Ganz. "The artistic director of the series, Alon Goldstein, is one of my favorite pianists and dearest friends, and I encourage everyone reading this to explore not just his artistry but also his ideas about music, art and life. Tune in not just on July 30, but for all four free concerts of the festival. They will leave you both musically enriched and eager for more art... and more life," he said. The 7 p.m. (PDT) recital will be preceded by a 15 minute pre-concert interview, at 6:45 p.m., featuring a conversation between friends Ganz and Goldstein.

Ganz's Chopin concert will include the following compositions. (Those preceded by an asterisk were requested by members of the listening community of the Abbey Bach Festival.)

*Polonaise in A major, Op. 40, No. 1;

*Etude in E major, Op. 10, No. 3; *Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23; Nocturne in A-flat major, Op. 32, No. 2; *Waltz in D-flat major, Op. 64, No. 1 ("Minute"); *Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2; Mazurka in B minor, Op. 30, No. 2; Mazurka in D-flat major, Op. 30, No. 3; *Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31.

Brian Ganz is widely regarded as one of the leading pianists of his generation. A laureate of the Marguerite Long Jacques Thibaud and the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium International Piano Competitions, Ganz has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as the St. Louis Symphony, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Baltimore Symphony, the National Philharmonic, the National Symphony and the City of London Sinfonia, and has performed with such conductors as Leonard Slatkin, Marin Alsop, Mstislav Rostropovich, Piotr Gajewski and Yoel Levi.

In January of 2011 Ganz began a multi-year project in partnership with the National Philharmonic in which he will perform the complete works of Frédéric Chopin at the Music Center at Strathmore. After the inaugural recital, The Washington Post wrote: "Brian Ganz was masterly in his first installment of the complete works [of Chopin]."

Ganz is on the piano faculty of St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he is artist-in-residence, and is also a member of the piano faculty of the Peabody Conservatory. He is the artist-editor of the Schirmer Performance Edition of Chopin's Preludes (2005). Recent performance highlights include Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 at the Alba Music Festival in Italy, Mozart's Piano Concerto K. 466 with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra and the Annapolis Symphony, Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto with the Billings Symphony, and a solo recital for the Distinguished Artists Series of Santa Cruz, California. Most recently, he co-wrote, acted and performed in a multi-media program at the Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C.

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A Cornerstone of Community Life

To the Editor:

A local newspaper is one of the cornerstones of our community's civic life. It's not just a source of news but a forum for the discussion and debate of important public issues that affect our daily lives as citizens. The steady decline of local and regional news coverage, and the sudden termination of journalists and editors who cover events and issues in Charles County and Southern Maryland, is a cause for concern.

As a close observer and consumer of Southern Maryland news for the last 40 years, I've seen the depth and breadth of coverage in our region of the State steadily wither to a remnant of its former self. There was a time when all of our counties boasted a vibrant mix of newspapers and radio stations with serious news coverage and in-depth interviews. The days of press conferences here with more than one or two reporters asking hard questions are gone.

Our region has long been neglected by The Washington Post and the D.C. area's television stations. We're used to that. It's been years since the Post's Thursday edition of "Southern Maryland Extra" ceased publication. But the reality of being ignored by the metropolitan media emphasizes the importance of having news organizations based here in Southern Maryland that are committed to the future of our community.

In spite of recent developments at APG Media of Chesapeake, the free weekly County Times continues to serve readers in St. Mary's and Calvert counties. And there are a few online news outlets and blogs on social media covering the region.

Over the years it's been a privilege to get to know some of the

outstanding reporters, journalists and writers who've wanted to "pry up the lid," become experts on major issues, and get below the surface where things really happen. I've seen firsthand the impact their coverage has had on key public policy decisions, enhancing Southern Maryland's influence at the State level and telling the story of our region's dynamic economic growth and prosperity.

As a subscriber, I'm perplexed by the some of the corporate decisions the Adams Publishing Group (APG Media of Chesapeake) has made. Why would a for-profit enterprise be asking its paid subscribers for donations? Recent draconian staff cuts by APG and the consolidation of their three Southern Maryland papers into one weekly edition is an ominous warning. The Maryland Independent, which has been covering Charles County continuously for almost a century and a half, no longer exists.

The decline and collapse of local journalism in Southern Maryland undermines the quality of our civic life, our sense of place as a community, and the accountability of decisions by our elected leaders at all levels of government.

We're not alone in witnessing the demise of local newspapers. This trend has hit hundreds of other communities across America.

In Charles County and Southern Maryland, the time has come to consider the non-profit model of civic journalism, whose aim is not maximizing profits for distant investors, but serving this community and the people who live here.

Gary V. Hodge
President

Regional Policy Advisors
White Plains, MD

Calvert LIBRARY Events

For more information & to register for events visit <http://calvertlibrary.info>

Thurs, July 30, 2020

Dungeons & Dragons - ADULT (ROLL20).

6:00pm-8:30pm.

Come have fun with D&D, a role playing game for adults of all experience levels. Registration required. Calvert Library Virtual Branch, 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Writers Cribs! Jabari Asim.

7:00pm-8:00pm.

Join us for a conversation and short tour with Jabari Asim, facilitated by Susan Muaddi Darraj. In "Stop and Frisk" Jabari Asim ruthlessly interrogates entrenched injustice and its insidious echoes. Jabari Asim and Susan Darraj will discuss the themes of the book - the interrogation of truths we believe are self evident and encounters with police, through an innovative form of poetry. Jabari Asim is the acclaimed author of "A Taste Of Honey" and "Only The Strong," both works of fiction, as well as the highly praised "The N Word: Who Can Say It, Who Shouldn't, And Why." His children's books include "Whose Toes Are Those," "Whose Knees Are These," "Fifty Cents And A Dream,"

and "Preaching To The Chickens." He is the former editor-in-chief of Crisis magazine, a preeminent journal of politics, ideas and culture published by the NAACP and founded by W.E.B. Du Bois in 1910. He is an associate professor of creative writing at Emerson College. Susan Muaddi Darraj won an American Book Award for her novel-in-stories, A Curious Land. It also earned the 2016 Arab American Book Award, won the AWP Grace Paley Prize, and was shortlisted for a Palestine Book Award. Her previous short story collection, The Inheritance of Exile, was published in 2007 by University of Notre Dame Press. In 2018, she was named a 2018 Ford Fellow by USA Artists. Her debut children's chapter book series, Farah Rocks, is the first to feature a Palestinian American protagonist -- the smart, brave, and funny Farah Hajar. The first book in the series, Farah Rocks Fifth Grade, was published in January, 2020, and the second, Farahs Rocks Summer Break, will be published in August, 2020. Follow her on Instagram/Twitter @SusanDarraj. Presented in partnership with the Ivy Bookshop. Calvert Library Virtual Branch, 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Where to Find YOUR Calvert County Times

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Solomon's, Lusby, Prince Frederick

Giant Foods

Lusby, Prince Frederick, Dunkirk

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Prince Frederick, Dunkirk

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Rollins Market

Chesapeake Beach



Ron Bailey
Freelance Photographer

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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.

Saturday, August 1

Dog Days of Summer Market

Annmarie Garden; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Annmarie has gone to the dogs! Let's beat the heat and celebrate the end of the summer. Vendors will be showcasing a wide assortment of all things handmade and homemade, along with a few surprises for our four-legged friends! This is going to be a howling good market! Vendors will be generously spaced throughout the Market area and are required to wear a mask when guests are visiting their booth. All guests, age 2 and older, must wear a mask in the Market area. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the market. Please make frequent use of them! There is limited seating in the park, feel free to bring chairs. Food & drink will be available. This Market is pet-friendly! Well-behaved pets on a 6 ft or shorter leash are welcome! Admission to the market area is free!

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue New Volunteer Orientation

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue; 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Looking for people to join our am or pm feed shifts as well as many of our

'behind the scenes' opportunities. No experience necessary. At the orientation, volunteers will learn our specific feed shift routine, how to groom a horse as well as the importance of safety and awareness when working around horses. The orientation is hands on. Open to all. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. For information contact freedom.hill.org@gmail.com.

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue's Tack Sale

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue; 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Tack sale at great prices: saddles, stirrups, bridles, bits, halters, reins, apparel, helmets and more.

All proceeds benefit Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Cash, card, and check accepted.

Virtual Paint Party Fundraiser

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Have fun, be creative, and support a great cause! Valuable Blessings is a non-profit organization in Capitol Heights, MD, that offers mentoring programs, anti-bullying programs, food assistance, a girl's book club, and senior services, among many other programs. Participants receive supplies and instruction from Party-By-Design.

Register by July 24 here:

www.eventbrite.com/e/valuable-blessings-inc-virtual-paint-party-fundraiser-tickets-112158707714?aff=erelexpmlt

paint-party-fundraiser-tickets-112158707714?aff=erelexpmlt

Ongoing

ArtsWorks@7th

ArtsWorks@7th is OPEN with new hours and policies to stop the COVID-19 spread. July in-store hours, masks required, are Saturdays and Sundays, 11am-5pm; private appointments available by calling 410-286-5278 or shop 24/7 on social media @ FB and Instagram (<https://www.facebook.com/Artworkat7th/> and <https://www.instagram.com/p/CA47uj9Bomp/>). Please respect appropriate safe distancing and limited numbers in the gallery at this time. Artworks is located at 8905 Chesapeake Avenue, North Beach.

CalvART

CalvART clay artists explore a diversity of approaches to expressing their creativity in two and three dimensions. Marie Bundy Estabrook, Randy Estabrook, Denise Breitburg, Ray Bogle, and Richard Preston are hosting a

virtual exhibit during the month of June, where their art and their stories will be highlighted. Please join us for this celebration of the creative mind

as seen through the hands of these talented artists. View the artwork on Facebook or on CalvART's NEW ONLINE STORE via <https://squarespace.com/store/calvart-gallery> or <https://www.facebook.com/www.calvartgallery.org/>. Or visit us in June at the Gallery as we will be there Friday thru Sunday, three days a week 11 to 5pm.

CSM Chautauqua Series: Fannie Lou Hamer

July 27 - August 1

Chautauqua stage goes virtual as Maryland Humanities raises the voices of four notable women who took action to secure their right to vote. The series will highlight the unique story of each of these historic figures as they fought for their rights. The co-founder of the Mississippi Freedom Party, Fannie Lou Hamer, will be portrayed in the fourth presentation of the series. Maryland Humanities website, Facebook page and YouTube channel will host a video of each performance that will be posted for one week. This series will also feature a performance and a live Q&A which will give attendees the chance to engage with the performers and ask questions about each of these remarkable women. Free. <https://www.mdhumanities.org/programs/chautauqa/>.

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In Remembrance

The Calvert County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to jenicoster@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

Bruce Warren Nash



On July 25th, 2020, Bruce Warren Nash, 89, of Huntingtown, MD, passed away in his home. Bruce was born on May 10th, 1931, to Gertrude Persson

Nash Magnuson and Vernon Flower Nash in Elgin, Illinois. After the untimely death of his father, his mother later re-married to Alfred L. Magnuson, Bruce's beloved stepfather. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jennie Bowen Nash, a native of Calvert County. He was fortunate to be the father of three children: Bradford Nash, Sr. (wife-Dorothy), Jacquelyn Nash, Joyce Nash-Ewen (husband-Timothy) who all survived him. His grandchildren are Bradford Nash, Jr. (wife-Kelli), Alan Nash, Matthew Hilldrup (wife-Bowie), Bryan Hilldrup, Christopher Hilldrup, and Amy Ewen. Bruce was preceded in death by two sisters, Shirley Parker and Janice Brown.

Bruce worked as a patent/trademark searcher for the firm of Cushman, Darby & Cushman located in Washington, DC for more than 40 years. He was also a member of the Potomac River Power Squadron teaching the basics of boating and navigation. Bruce was an avid sailor who enjoyed boating for years out on the Chesapeake Bay he loved. His lifetime joys were reading his trove of books, building model trains, and watching and collecting movies. After retirement, Bruce and Jennie moved to the family farm in Huntingtown where he spent many happy hours out cutting grass on his tractor.

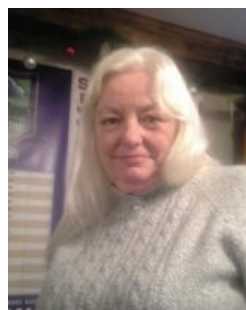
No visitation or funeral services will be held due to the current cir-

cumstances. In lieu of flowers, please send cards and prayers or make a donation to the Salvation Army (salvationarmyusa.org or 615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314), Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-535-0892; Link: <https://calverthospice.org/>

or the charity of your choice. Because visits are not suitable at this time, phone calls would be greatly appreciated.

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Debra Lynn Wilson



Debra Lynn Wilson, 67, of Huntingtown passed away July 24, 2020. She was born July 21, 1953 in Portsmouth, VA to Ruth Miller and Kenneth Brill Peery.

Debbie was raised in Huntingtown and graduated from Calvert High School and later from the College of Southern Maryland with a degree in nursing. She married Larry Wilson on January 29, 1972 and they lived in Huntingtown. Debbie was employed as a registered nurse at Calvert County Nursing Center, Genesis Nursing Center in LaPlata, and Fenwick Landing Adult Day Care in Waldorf, before retiring in August of 2017. Debbie was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and in her free time she enjoyed crocheting, working on the farm, and spending time with her family and friends.

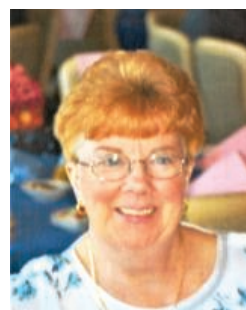
Debbie is survived by her husband Lawrence "Larry" Wilson, Jr. and children Daphne Lynn Wilson and Eddie Wilson and his wife Lesley, all of Huntingtown. She is also survived by grandchildren Andrew James Wilson (Lacey) and their daughter

Isabella, Marissa Marie and Mariah Mae Wilson-Milburn, Tabitha Marie Wilson, EJ Wilson, Karolyn, Kaitlyn and Joseph Mutchler, and Erin and Brittney Denton, and a brother Richard Truitt. She was preceded in death by her sister Sharon Wolfe.

Funeral service will be held Thursday, July 30, 2020, 10 a.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owingsm 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736.

Burial will be in Emmanuel United Methodist Church Cemetery, 1250 Emmanuel Church Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639.

June Diane Mister-Jones



June Diane Mister-Jones, who passed away July 23, 2020. was born on October 2, 1945 in Barstow, Maryland to Norman Reed and Margaret C. Mister. Sister to Hagner Reed, Margaret Ann, John William Sr., Lilly Mae, James Ronald Sr., Joseph Allen Sr., and Norman Wayne. She is survived by her brothers Hagner, Joe, and Wayne. She is the mother of Melody Lynn Jones (Mark Jarratt), James Steven Bowie (Donna Bowie), and Ronald Lee Bowie Sr. (Victoria Bowie) who provided her five grandchildren, Angel Nicole, Julia Marie, Rachel, Ronald Jr., and Shawn Tyler. She had four great grandchildren Joshua, Oliver, Trinity, and Aubrey. She worked for Calvert Memorial Hospital for forty-four years. On November 22, 1971 she married the love of her life, Bruce Franklin Jones Jr. with whom she enjoyed 49 years of marriage. She loved music and dancing especially with her brother Billy. She also enjoyed having a Jamaican Me Happy while camping with her numerous friends and family at Four Winds Campground. She adored her children and grandchildren and her loyal & loving g-puppy Gizmo.

Pallbearers: Joseph (JoJo) Mister Jr., Gerald Mister, Mike Hancock, Billy Jones, Shawn Tyler Bowie, Travis Mister, and Honorary Pallbearers Mark Jarratt and Mike Anderson. Memorial contributions may be made to Calvert Hospice

Memorial contributions may be made to Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838

Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-535-0892; Link: <https://calverthospice.org/>

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Mark Joseph Costanza



Mark Joseph Costanza, 62, of Prince Frederick, Maryland passed away on July 23, 2020 in his home. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey on February

27, 1958 to the late James Costanza and Mary Rennell. Mark moved to Calvert County three years ago to be close to his family, and since he has become a full time Grampy. His new life in Calvert County revolves around his Grandchildren.

Mark is survived by his wife, Karen Costanza, daughters Megan Diiorio and Lisa Hahn, step sons, Christopher Borie and Brian Borie. Grandfather of Mia Borie, James Borie, Wesley Diiorio, Hunter, Diiorio and Molly Diiorio. Mark is also survived by his Mother, Mary Rennell, sister Susan Costanza and brothers, Philip and Douglas Costanza.

A Memorial service will be held at a later date in New Jersey.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

James Arthur Dibble Jr



On Thursday 23 July 2020, James Arthur Dibble Jr, of Prince Frederick, Maryland, loving husband and father of four children, passed away

at the age of 73.

Jim was born on December 31, 1946 in Potsdam, NY to James Sr and Margaret (Peggy) Dibble. His family moved to Benedict, Maryland in 1961 where he met his wife Ann 5 years later. "Best day of his life don't you know." Jim and Ann were married June 4, 1966 and raised three sons and lost their only daughter at birth.

Jim became a member of the Steamfitters Local 602 where he spent most of the career until his retirement. His main passion for hobbies was Bass Fishing. He went fishing with his family and good friends just 4 weeks before the Lord took him home. He was enthusiastic about golfing at the Chesapeake Gulf Club with the Chicago League where he made many

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wonderful friends and also his devotion to hunting with his sons.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James Arthur Sr and Margaret (Peggy) Dibble; his daughter Kristi Le Dibble; and his brothers, Donald and Richard Dibble.

He is survived by his wife Margaret (Ann) Dibble; his sons James William (Paula), Richard Paul (Melissa), and Joseph Alan Dibble; his grandchildren, Paul Dibble, Brittany Dibble, Jordan Dibble, LeeAnn Dibble, Cheyanne Washington, Vincent Dibble, Kristi Le Santiago, Quentin Dibble and Jacob Dibble; and his sister Sharon Stanley. He is also survived by eight Great Grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-535-0892; Link: <https://calverthospice.org/>

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

David Michael "Dave" Jackson



David Michael "Dave" Jackson, 37, of Owings passed away July 22, 2020. He was born November 16, 1982 in Prince Frederick. David was a lifelong

resident of Calvert County. He grew up in Chesapeake Beach and graduated from Calvert High School. David married Stephanie Bell on July 18, 2008 and they recently celebrated their 12 year anniversary. He was employed as a union ironworker for Ironworkers Local Union 5 and worked for Hutchinson/United Rigging. David was an extremely proud and hardworking ironworker who loved his job and found great joy in working alongside his father. David loved spending time with his son Colton and was very involved in the Owings Outlaws Football Team. He also enjoyed hunting, tools, and fixing just about anything. David was a loving father, husband, son, brother, and friend who gave 150% in everything he did. David left this world doing what he loved; working. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

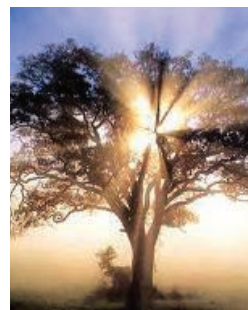
David is survived by his loving wife Stephanie Bell and children Colton Michael Jackson and Morgan Nicole Cranford. He is also survived by his parents Robert and Shelly Jackson of Chesapeake Beach, mother in law Judy Bell of Owings, brothers Robbie Jackson and wife Molly of Jefferson, MD and Brandon Jack-

son of Chesapeake Beach, grandparents Louie and Cathy Humphreys of Lusby, Tommy and Marilene Hardisty of Solomons, and Don and Dana Jackson of Bedford, VA, half-sister Kaitlyn Flynn, half-brother Dustin Flynn, his dogs Hope and Lola, many aunts, uncles, and cousins, and all of his Owings Outlaws family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Owings Outlaws, PO Box 769, Owings, MD 20736; Link: <https://www.leagueathletics.com/Default.asp?org=owingsoutlaws.com>

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Roy Edward "Ed" Miffleton, Jr.



Roy Edward Miffleton, Jr."Ed", 82 of St. Leonard, MD passed away on July 20, 2020 in Washington D.C. Ed was born on July 29, 1937 in Washington

D.C. to the late Roy E. and Eleanor E. Miffleton, Sr. Ed was a retired Washington DC Fire Fighter.

Ed is survived by his wife, Dianne E. Miffleton, father of Sheryl Walsh (Bill), Diana Hill, and Laura Barrett (John Lynch). Grandfather of eight, Great Grandfather of four, he is also survived by his sister Arlene Yeomans.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220, 800-227-2345; Link: <https://www.cancer.org/>

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Merle (Jack) Smith Blair, Jr.



Merle (Jack) Smith Blair, Jr. happily reunited with his wife Martha (Marti) in heaven on July 17, 2020. Jack was born on May 3, 1942 in Washington, D.C.

He passed away at his Huntingtown, Maryland home at the age of 78.

Jack was beloved by so many people. He was a devoted husband, loving father, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-uncle and friend. Jack retired from Operating Engi-

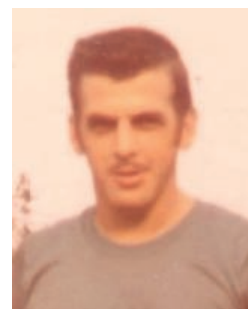
neers Local Union 77. He enjoyed numerous outdoor activities including, golf, corn-hole and tending to his lawn. He was always personable with a smile and could be relied upon to be there when anyone needed a helping hand.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Merle Blair and Catherine Newman; his beloved wife Marti; his sister, Marian Curtis, his brother, William Blair and his daughter, Sandra Flynt. He is survived by his sister, Margaret Ann Turner; daughters Brenda Howard, Teresa Smith and Donna Rasmussen and his niece Kathryn Anderson. Additionally, he is survived by his grandchildren, Jessica, Cheyenne, Jill, Robby, Tiffany, Jeremiah and Rio along with 9 great-grandchildren and a great nephew and a great niece.

His family and friends will honor him at a private Celebration of Life at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Joseph Robert "Joe" Copsey



Joseph Robert "Joe" Copsey, 75, of White Plains, MD and formerly of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on July 15, 2020 at Restore Health Rehabilitation Center, White Plains, MD.

Born July 22, 1944 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Lloyd William Copsey, Sr. and Ruth Mae (Wible) Copsey.

Joe is survived by his siblings, John Copsey of Southern Pines, NC, Mary L. Hill of Lusby, MD, Clara Wallace of Hollywood, MD and Margaret A.

Faunce of Brandywine, MD; and his special niece, Renee Hill Crampton of Lusby, MD. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Lloyd Copsey, Jr., Margaret Mister, Francis Copsey, Dorothy Copsey, Virginia Copsey, Mary A. Pilkerton and Mary Elizabeth Thompson.

A Graveside Service will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Cemetery, 43950 St. John's Road, Hollywood, MD 20636.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Hollywood, MD 20636 or the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department, 13150 H.G. Trueman Road, Solomons, MD 20688.

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

James Nelson Webb



James Nelson Webb, 66, of St. Leonard, MD passed away on Sunday July 26, 2020 in Prince Frederick, MD.

Visitation will be Friday,

July 31, 2020, 10 a.m. to noon at Rausch Funeral Home-Port Republic, 4405 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic, MD 20676.

Funeral service will be Friday, July 31, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. at Chesapeake Highlands Memorial Gardens, 3270 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic, MD 20676 with burial to follow.

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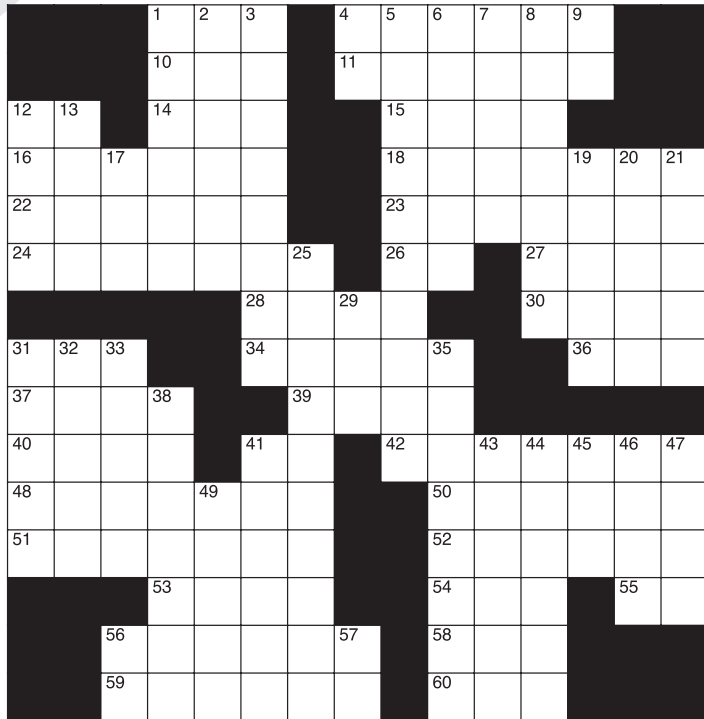
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GAMES & PUZZLES



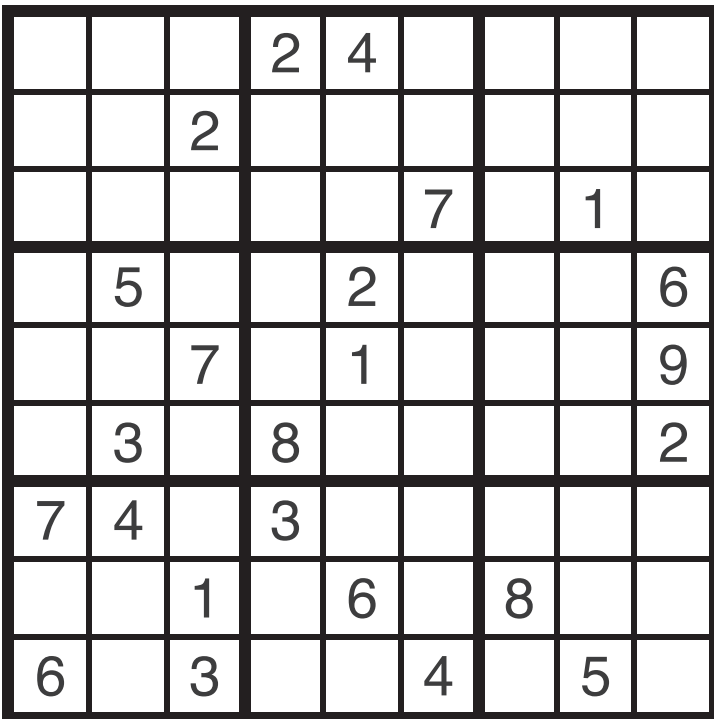
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Central processing unit
- 4. Military action
- 10. How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
- 11. Unsafe
- 12. Of (French)
- 14. Autonomic nervous system
- 15. Type of bean
- 16. Accuse formally of a crime
- 18. Promote
- 22. Type of lava
- 23. Meat from a deer
- 24. Herbaceous plants
- 26. Potato state
- 27. Helsinki neighborhood
- 28. Sports officials
- 30. Shout wildly
- 31. Reptile genus
- 34. Frocks
- 37. N. Scandinavian indigenous people
- 39. Poultry cage
- 40. Aquatic insect genus
- 41. Of I
- 42. Ad ___: tirelessly repetitive
- 48. Item
- 50. Produce
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Bond in a third party's control
- 53. Legendary character ___ Finn
- 54. Space station
- 55. Note at the end of a letter
- 56. In a way, contradicted
- 58. Midway between northeast and east
- 59. Bears important traffic

60. Brooklyn hoopster

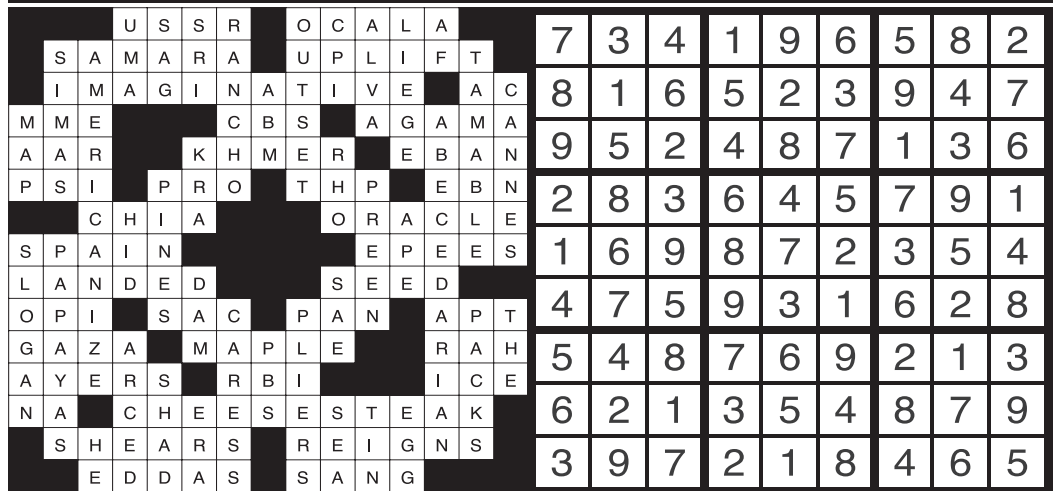
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Presides
- 2. Artist's tool
- 3. On a higher floor
- 4. Commercial
- 5. Something to watch
- 6. Chased
- 7. Commercial producers
- 8. Keyboard instrument
- 9. Blue grass state
- 12. Phonograph recording
- 13. Unusual
- 17. Popular average
- 19. A native or inhabitant of Asia
- 20. N. Sweden river
- 21. Related on the mother's side
- 25. Mediator
- 29. Partner of to
- 31. Arm bones
- 32. Korean seafood dish
- 33. Tap of the foot
- 35. Astronauts
- 38. Carolina footballer
- 41. Indiana city
- 43. Of or relating to bears
- 44. Not widely known
- 45. Body part
- 46. At the peak
- 47. High-pitched cries of a cat
- 49. A way to intimidate
- 56. Prosecutor
- 57. Atomic #66



Level: Intermediate

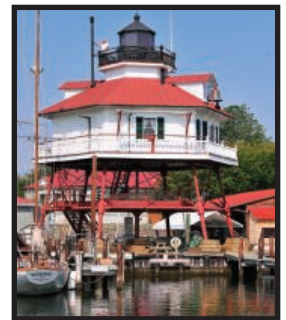
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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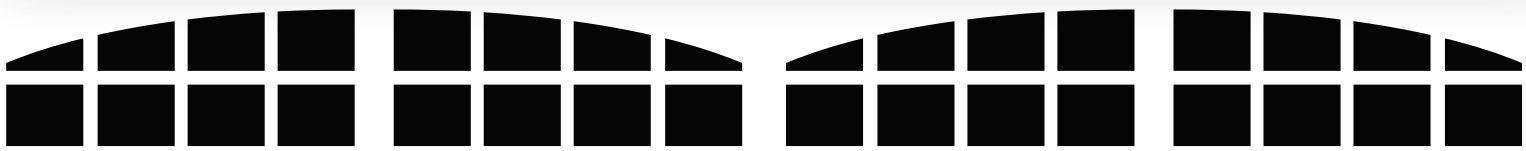
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