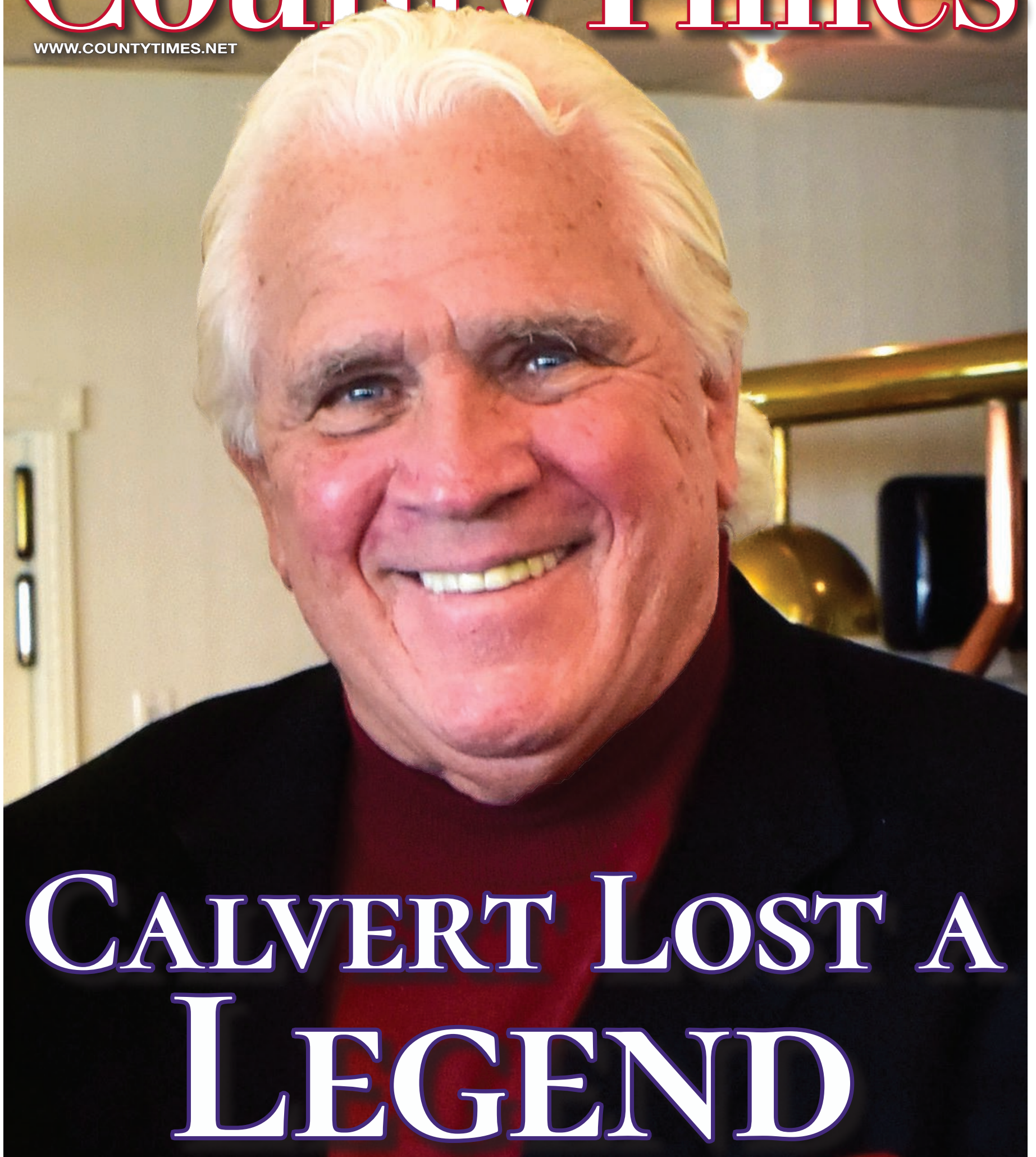


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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

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CALVERT LOST A LEGEND

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“THE CALVERT COUNTY POSITIVITY RATE HAS GONE UP LIKE A REALLY STEEP ESCALATOR.”

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DR. DANIEL CURRY

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 1/21	Fri 1/22	Sat 1/23	Sun 1/24
50° 32°F	47° 27°F	38° 23°F	40° 30°F
			
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Mon 1/25	Tue 1/26	Wed 1/27	Thu 1/28
43° 34°F	40° 26°F	38° 28°F	37° 23°F
			
Showers	AM Showers	Partly Cloudy	Snow Shower

St. Clement's Island Museum

APPRAISER FAIR

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10am - 3pm

Visit with expert appraisers as they determine the value of your prized possessions at St. Clement's Island Museum. Appraisers for dolls, furniture, glassware, pottery, artwork, music boxes and coins will be available.

Only items that can be hand-carried will be appraised. Space is limited and items will be viewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Fine arts has a two-item limit per person.

FREE admission, various costs for item appraisals.

Advanced reservations required. Please Call the Museum. Walk-ups accepted on limited basis, if available.



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For staff listing and emails, see page 23

COVID-19

As of January 19	Positive Cases	Deaths
Calvert	3,980	42

Information provided by Calvert Health Department

Mike Miller Remembered

His Daughter Talks About Her Father

By Dick Myers
Editor

Many people in Calvert County witnessed the political side of Mike Miller during his almost 50 years in the Maryland General Assembly. He was everywhere, at events large and small.

Yet Miller, who died Jan. 15 at the age of 78, was also a family man, a terrific husband and father, according to his daughter Melissa “Missy” Miller, a member of the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee and an attorney in the law practice founded by her father.

“He loved and adored my mother (Patricia) and showed her the utmost respect. He got married very young and they had four kids right away,” said Missy, who was the second of their five children.

Mike and Patty were married for 61 years. They met at a fraternity party at the University of Maryland. She was 18.

Missy said her father promised his mother that he wouldn’t have any children until he finished law school. But by then they already had those four of their five children.

Miller was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1971 when Steny Hoyer was a senator. Missy said her father’s law practice and being a legislator were flip sides of the same coin labeled “public service.”

Mike grew up working in his family’s store in Clinton, B.K. Millers, as did the rest of his siblings and as did Missy and her siblings. Mike always said he learned the value of hard work and customer service there.

From her earliest years, Missy said of her father, “I remember him being a father, but not a politician. I thought everybody went to every event. We went to every spaghetti dinner locally. We went to every award ceremony. I just thought it was something you did.”

She added, “I never felt special, that we had a unique life at all. He was always part of our lives. And now looking back on it, I realized what a dedicated mother my mother was because he was always working. But on Sundays it was our day, the four (of us) and him.”

She explained, “We would have events –

bowling was his favorite. We also had horses. This man rode horses, bareback, down Brandywine Road with his kids.”

She said, “School was the main thing for him. And we were not stellar students...he pushed us all to read.”

Anyone who ever heard a Mike Miller speech knew he was an amateur historian, although based on his knowledge of history, particularly of Maryland, he could have been mistaken for a history professor.

The study in his home south of Chesapeake Beach was chock full of books.

She said, “He read a book every single night, growing up, on history, whether it’d be biographies or fictions.”

“It’s pretty amazing how many [books] he has,” saying they number in the thousands.

She remembered, “My father always played an active role. He always quizzed us every car ride. We’d go on great trips every weekend.” She said that was how they eventually found their Calvert County home.

“This is kind of a crazy story and I don’t mind it being said, but I never knew my father said a cuss word until I came to work for him at the office,” she said.

“Working with him [in the law firm], there’s been no greater gift in my life than to work for my father,” Missy said.

“He is a task master. He wanted everything. He believed people were paying us for a service and we needed to provide the best from our law firm compared to others. We provide a service and work our butts off. No case is more special than the other. We charge fair, reasonable fees” she said, noting that they do a lot of pro bono work. The original Clinton office was expanded to one in Dunkirk.

“It’s just the way he is. We serve the people. And that came from his long years at B.K. Millers. The customer’s always right.”

Did he encourage her to become a lawyer? “I just picked it up from him. I saw the love of the people and it really is. And he would always say, how lucky are we to go to work every day to do something we love where people are first and we serve the people and it’s like really going to work with your friends every day. Our clients are our friends; our staff, our friends; the

courthouse people, our friends. It’s pretty amazing.”

As he became the longest serving state senate president in the country, he acquired many friends nationally including former president Bill Clinton, who visited Miller’s hometown of Clinton during a famous campaign stop.

Missy said Clinton “called my mother after my father died.”

Missy said her favorite story about her father is how he got the nickname “Mike.” He was born Thomas Vincent Miller Jr. “When he was born, my grandfather was away at war. And so, she (her grandmother) didn’t know if he was coming back or she’d never have any more children. So, her favorite name was always Michael. So, she just started calling him Mike.” But he did return, and they had nine more children, but the nickname stuck.

She said her father wasn’t a stellar student. “Actually, the letter does exist where my grandmother called Louis Goldstein, she did not know him, and begged him to help my father get into college. And in it, Louis Goldstein wrote back and said, ‘I will help him get into law school’ and which he did. And my father went into law school, graduated law school with Ben Cardin, who

was top of his class. My father always says he was at the bottom, but he knew what he had to do. And he got through it.”

As to his budding political career, she said, “He was just very smart and just kept working and working and just kept serving. He learned, he said, history repeats itself. And he learned some of the past and he knows people. He studies people. He loves them.”

But he still spent every weekend with his family. “Even though with his law, he needed to make money for his young family. So, he was working his butt off nonstop, getting clients. And he took on cases, pro bono. He helped many, many different people. The amount of love and support that comes from people that he’s helped over the years is tremendous.”

The daughter stood up for her father. “It makes me so angry when people say negative things about my father, especially when he does so much for the community. People have no idea. He gets money for our volunteer fire departments. He’s such a dedicated person when it comes to giving back to the community money for our parks, money for our schools. I know the county commissioners are going to miss him.”

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Arrangements Announced for Senate President Emeritus Mike Miller

Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. will lie in state in the rotunda of the Maryland State House on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. and on Friday, Jan. 22 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, in-person visitation will be limited to appointments for invited guests only. Visitors must remain socially distanced and masks will be required at all times. State House staff has increased air circulation, created restricted walkways with marked off standing spots. Anyone entering the State House will be strongly encouraged to be tested, and will have to complete mandatory health and temperature screenings. The visitation will also be streamed online with a link provided later this week.

Troopers who have previously served with President Emeritus Miller will provide an escort from the Lee Funeral Home to the Maryland State House, passing by Senator Miller's law offices, the Prince George's Fire Department in Clinton, Surrattsville High School, Chesapeake Beach,

Dunkirk Fire Department, and Herrington Harbor before arriving at the State House. Well-wishers are encouraged to send him off from these outdoor locations, but they are asked to wear masks and maintain proper social distancing protocols.

A Maryland State Police procession will escort President Emeritus Miller from Route 50 Exit 24 to the State House where he will process through family and selected guests into the State House, with evening visitation for family members only.

On Friday, President Emeritus Miller will have visitation from 8-11 a.m. and from 3-7 p.m. a pause for the Senate Session from 12-2 p.m. At 7 p.m. the Maryland State Police will escort President Emeritus Miller from the Maryland State House to Route 50. Troopers who have previously served with President Emeritus Miller will provide an escort to the Lee Funeral Home. On Saturday, the family will hold a private mass and service at their family church St. John the Evangelist in Clinton, followed by a private interment.



Mike Miller with Rod N' Reel owner Gerald Donovan

The mass and service will be live streamed on the St. John the Evangelist Facebook page.

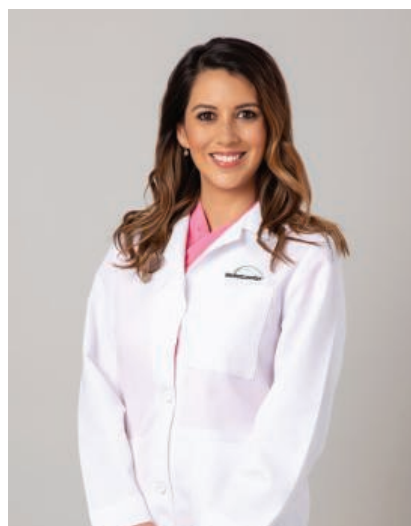
In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Calvert Health Cancer Foundation, the Dunkirk Fire Department, the Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. Center for Lead-

Maryland, or the Thomas V. Mike Miller Education Fund to support youth environmental education and career programs through the Chesapeake Bay Trust (please denote that fund if donating online).

Press Release from Office of the Senate President.



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Reaction Pours in to Mike Miller's Death

Statements are pouring in from elected officials on the death of Mike Miller. They include:

Governor Larry Hogan:

"Maryland has lost one of its most revered leaders, and I have lost a dear lifelong friend.

"Serving the people of our great state was Mike Miller's life's work, and he did so with unrelenting passion and courage for a remarkable 50 years. Even as he waged a hard-fought battle with cancer, I was blessed to continue to benefit from Mike's wisdom and trademark humor. He was, in every sense, a lion of the Senate.

"The First Lady and I extend our most heartfelt condolences to President Miller's wife, Patti, their five children and 15 grandchildren, his Senate colleagues, and all who loved him.

"Effective immediately, Maryland flags will fly at half-staff in honor of Senate President Emeritus Miller's distinguished life and legacy until sunset on the day of interment."

Congressman Steny Hoyer:

"I am deeply saddened by the passing of my dear friend Senator Thomas V. 'Mike' Miller Jr. For more than 50 years, I was privileged to call Mike a close friend. Throughout our many years working together, I treasured his counsel and friendship.

"The state of Maryland mourns the passing of Mike, a giant in the Senate and a champion for working families. I will miss my friend and colleague. My prayers are with Patti and the entire Miller family as they grieve the loss of a wonderful man."

Senator Chris Van Hollen:

"Maryland has lost a giant, and I have lost a dear friend. Governors have come and gone, but Mike Miller was a historic figure and force of nature, always pushing our state forward. His legacy of results for Marylanders is unmatched. Katherine and I send our love to Patty and his family."

Senator Ben Cardin:

It will take time for me to process that we have really lost Mike Miller. He was a Maryland institution, as the longest serving Senate president in our state's history. But even more, he was a cherished friend. Our lives were intertwined, starting with our days together at the University of Maryland Law School and then serving together in the Maryland General Assembly. Myrna and I were privileged to have him in our lives for all these years. He was larger than life, a good friend, a good man who loved his family and community and an incredible public servant who dedicated himself to



Mike Miller with Former County Commissioner Candidate Trish Powell

his beloved Maryland. Our hearts ache for Patti and his family at this immensely difficult time. May his memory be a blessing."

Calvert County Board of County Commissioners:

"On behalf of the citizens of Calvert County, we were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Senator Mike Miller today; he was a first-rate legislator, a man of the highest integrity and a true gentleman. His accomplishments on behalf of District 27 and all Marylanders over the past five decades are unmatched. The enduring effects of his distinguished service and tremendous leadership will be felt for many, many years to come. Our thoughts and prayers are with Senator Miller's wife, Patti, his children and grandchildren, and his many family and friends. Calvert County and the state of Maryland have lost one of its most respected leaders and he will be sorely missed."

Town of Chesapeake Beach

"On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Chesapeake Beach, the Mayor and Town Council are deeply saddened by the passing of Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., a resident of Chesapeake Beach, MD, and the longest serving Maryland Senate President. Senator Miller's accomplishments for the Town, over the past five decades are unrivaled. Through his strong leadership in the Senate, Senator Miller successfully shepherded key bills that benefited our community, including funding for school construction, community projects, parks and recreation, improved safety and stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. 'We are beyond grateful to have been the recipients of Senator Miller's dis-

tinguished service. The enduring effects of his leadership will be appreciated in the Town for many generations to come.' stated Patrick J. 'Irish' Mahoney, Mayor of the Town of Chesapeake Beach.

"In October of 2020, the Mayor and Town Council announced the renaming of the play area at Kellam's field, as the 'Miller-Loveless Park at Kellam's field,' which is planned to incorporate low impact work out equipment for senior citizens, an upgraded children's play area and green space at the foot of the Railway Trail. The park is named after Senator Miller and in memory of Megan Jade Loveless. Senator Miller sponsored the revitalization project through a bond initiative providing a grant to the Town of \$50,000. The Mayor and Town Council look forward to continuing to honor Megan Jade Loveless and Senator Miller within the Town's center bringing citizens together to stay active and healthy. Our thoughts and prayers are with Senator Miller's wife, his children, grandchildren, and his many family and friends. The Town will continue to celebrate Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr's life and his many contributions towards the longstanding vitality of our community."

CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy

"The College of Southern Maryland family mourns the passing of Maryland Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. We will be forever grateful for his leadership, his friendship, and his fiery passion for education, and educators.

"Senate President Emeritus Miller was a poised, straight-talker who never wavered in his com-

mitment to serve his Maryland constituents equitably. A member of the Maryland State Senate since 1975, Miller served as senate president from 1987 until January 2020 when he was named Senate President Emeritus. He continued to serve in the senate, representing District 27 until last fall.

"A native son of his beloved hometown Clinton, Md., Senator Miller referred to himself as "just a local fellow and a student of history," who continued to feel honored and privileged at having been the longest-serving state senate president in Maryland history and in the United States.

But it is those he leaves behind who are honored: Grateful to carry on his spirit of bipartisanship; cooperation; common sense pragmatism; and civility.

"CSM was proud to launch the Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. Center for Leadership alongside Senate President Emeritus, his family, and friends in fall 2019. We were even more thrilled he was able to participate in the center's first programing in September giving him a chance to do what he does best ... interact with students grappling with the day's leadership challenges.

"His public battle with cancer proved that his final days were much like his tireless 33 years in public service: Marked with his trademark grit and wit. We will honor his legacy, his commitment to students, and continue his fight to provide affordable and accessible education for all, always.

"CSM was honored to spend time with Senator Miller in fall 2019 and hear his thoughts about leadership and his hopes for our future generations. We are honored to share portions of that interview with you in our memorial tribute, here: <https://www.csmd.edu/community/miller-center-for-leadership/>"

MD Comptroller Peter Franchot

"My wife, Anne, and I extend our deepest condolences to Patti, the entire Miller family, and the Senate of Maryland on the passing of Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

"Senate President Miller's legacy is that of a masterful legislator, a committed public servant, and a man whose life's work is interwoven in our state's history.

"May future generations be inspired by Senate President Miller's unwavering commitment to public service and may we honor his legacy by continuing to better the state that he loved so dearly. Rest in Peace, Mr. President."

Curry: Positivity Rate Like a Steep Escalator

No Date for Hybrid School Opening

By Dick Myers
Editor

Since last summer hardly a meeting of the Calvert County Board of Education has gone by that there hasn't been a vote to bring students back to school, or not. The votes have often been contentious, usually by a 3-2 margin. Sometimes board members have changed positions from one meeting to the next.

But at the Jan. 14 meeting, there was no disagreement and no vote. School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry had already made the decision. The board's 3-2 vote on Dec. 23 to begin a hybrid rollout for all students was rescinded and the schools will remain all- virtual (except for some special situations) indefinitely.

Curry explained, "If anyone has looked at the graph that is available on the Calvert County Health Department website that shows the positivity rate in Calvert County, they would see that the Calvert County positivity rate has gone up like a really steep escalator since December 23rd."

Curry noted: "We've gone from around a 5 percent positivity rate to, as of the last number I saw dated the 12th of January, the rate was over 13 percent. The CDC classifies a rate of 10 percent or higher as significantly likely to lead to transmission of COVID at school. So, we decided rather than try to set another date two weeks down the road, we announced that we're



Board of Education member Dawn Balinski

going to continue with the all-online indefinitely. We need that number to come way down and to level out and stay consistent within our community. Until that time, we urge everyone to do the best they can. And I remember saying that in September, when I would get emails from parents about this online stuff isn't right. It isn't good. My child's struggling. I would say, I understand. And we hope to get the children in school soon. We also have to recognize given this environment that we might be bouncing back into all online, off and on throughout the year, and we need to get as good as we can at it; both the students and the staff need to try to make the

best they can."

Curry said, "We are doing the best we can until such time as we can see some light at the end of the tunnel and can announce it. We've said that we would give folks a two-week notice before we would intend to roll into a hybrid again."

Curry said, "I appreciate everyone's patience. When you look at those numbers, there is no doubt." He added Calvert has the third or fourth worst positivity rate in the state.

He observed that the board has taken a lot of criticism in the past, but this decision was on him.

He repeated the oft-heard mantra: "Everyone needs to wear masks, wash their hands and keep their distance. That's it."

Board member Dawn Balinski said she has been asked what metrics the board will use to make the decision to reopen. She said, "I agree with the state's guidance that they sent out in the October/November timeframe, which was looking at the community and saying that if we could get below 5 percent positivity rate and maintain below 15 per 100,000 on the seven-day average of new cases, that could signal the lowered community, incidence of the disease and allow us to reopen."

Balinski said she suggested to the county's legislative delegation at a Chamber of Commerce meeting that there be more consistent measurements statewide to

guide school reopening decisions. She got significant pushback, she said.

"They said that the school districts themselves were always very protective of their own governance and that we should manage it ourselves. And then they also said that we have done damage to our community by keeping schools closed," she reported.

Her response: "We all know that it is not ideal for our children not to be in school, but it is also not ideal to have a raging, deadly virus around us. Those same legislators want the governor to open up all businesses as well. So, I don't really know how we keep a vital school system going and keep a vital economy going, on business as usual. In some countries they have done that, but they've also restricted the economy, and they've also subsidized their businesses."

She added, "I don't think the vaccination program is going to help us in a short timeframe. But if, as Dr. Curry said, if we could continue with the public health measures of wearing masks and keeping social distance, and we truly take that to heart and not gather in large groups, then maybe Calvert can successfully bring these positivity rates and the new case-loads lower. So, if we can, I will vote to definitely to go back into hybrid as soon as we can control this community spread."

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Jackson Appointed to State Senate

Candidates Sought to Fill Delegate Vacancy

By Dick Myers
Editor

Delegate Michael Jackson has been appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to fill the vacancy left with the resignation of Senator Thomas V. “Mike” Miller. Jackson was sworn in for the District 27 Senate seat, that includes two thirds of Calvert County, on Jan. 13, the first day of the 2021 Maryland General Assembly session. Miller died the following day (see separate stories).

A press release announced that “On Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7 p.m. the Democratic Central Committee of Calvert County will convene a Special Public Hearing via Zoom to solicit candidates for the District 27B Maryland State Delegate vacancy created by the January 13, 2021 resignation of Delegate Michael A. Jackson.

“Pursuant to the Democratic Central Committee of Calvert County Bylaws Article II Responsibility Section 2.3.1 The Central Committee shall present names of candidates as required by law to the Governor for appointment.

“The Governor shall appoint a person to fill such vacancy from a person whose name shall be submitted to him/her in writing within thirty (30) days after the occurrence of the vacancy from the legislative district from which the Senator or Delegate was elected or appointed, provided that the appointee shall be a member of the Democratic Party in the legislative district at the time of the last election or appointment of the vacating Senator or Delegate. It shall be the duty of the Governor to make said appointment within fifteen (15) days after the submission thereof to him/her. If the vacancy occurs in a district which has boundaries comprising a portion or all of two or more counties, the Central Committee of each county involved shall have one vote for submitting the name of a resident of the district. If there is a tie vote between or among the Central Committees, the list of proposed names shall be submitted to the Governor, and he/she shall make the appointment from the list.”



Michael Jackson

Eligibility Requirements and Instructions for Candidate Filing:

- Must be a registered voter in Calvert or Prince George’s County, Maryland.

- Must reside in the 27B Legislative District.

- The Calvert County Democratic Central Committee requires the following documents in pdf format:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Resume
3. Voter Registration Card
4. Response to Questions (available through CalvertDemocrats.com)

- FILING DEADLINE: Saturday January 30, 2021 5:00 p.m. Email to JeanetteFlaimDemCentral@gmail.com

- Incomplete packets and packets received after the deadline will not be accepted.

- Candidates will speak in alphabetical order, two minutes per candidate.

- Candidates may have no more than two people speak on their behalf – two minutes each.

- Speaker may not transfer their time to another speaker.

The special hearing shall be livestreamed on Facebook. Candidates and people speaking on their behalf shall be emailed a Zoom registration link.

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Huntingtown House Fire McConkey Appeals Ethics Commission Ruling



Photo from MD fire Marshall's Office House Fire

A fire on Jan. 17 caused \$50,000 damage to a home at 15 South View Drive in Huntingtown. Three adults and a child were displaced and are being assisted by the American Red Cross.

According to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office the fire was caused by discarded smoking material in the attached garage of the single family

dwelling.

It took 25 firefighters from Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department 10 minutes to bring the fire under control. One firefighter sustained minor injuries.

According to the fire marshal's office a smoke alarm activated and notified the homeowner of the fire. There was however no sprinkler system.

By Dick Myers
Editor

Calvert County Commissioner Kelly McConkey has appealed the recent Ethics Commission ruling against him.

In a "Petition for Judicial Review" filed Dec. 22 in Calvert County Circuit Court, McConkey through his attorney Steven Preller, asks for review of the Dec. 15 Calvert County Ethics Commission decision that McConkey violated the county's ethics code by participating in a vote that placed two pieces of property he owns within an expanded Huntingtown Town Center.

McConkey's vote on Aug. 6, 2019 broke a 2-2 deadlock and preceded a similar 3-2 vote to adopt the update of the county's Comprehensive Plan.

The opinion in a letter dated Dec. 15 also included a comprehensive "Findings of Fact and Conclusions." The letter stated "...your participation in that vote constitutes a textbook conflict of interest."

In the letter, the Ethics Commission chose to censure McConkey instead of issuing a milder reprimand.

In the Findings of Fact and Conclusion, the body rejects two of McConkey's oft stated arguments: that the complaints against him weren't signed and that Chairperson Jennifer Mazur had a conflict of interest because she spoke to a reporter about the case.

The commission ruled that the complaints were filed by email, which is encouraged on the county's website and that there was no definition as to what constituted a proper signature.

As to the charge against Mazur, the commission ruled that she was only required to recuse herself if there was a conflict of interest, which they say does not exist. Further they ruled that what she said to the reporter was available in public court records.

McConkey has also alleged that the comprehensive plan really didn't do anything because it needed to be implemented by an updated zoning ordinance. But the commission detailed the importance of the master plan in guiding policy and use for funding decisions.

The commission observed that McConkey had abstained on an earlier preliminary vote on the town center. The ethics commission said in fact he should have recused himself from that vote as well.

The findings note that participation in a matter is prohibited if an individual has an "economic interest" and that clearly McConkey did.

"The Comprehensive Plan itself



Commissioner Kelly McConkey

makes clear that Commissioner McConkey had an interest in the matter, due to the implications for his property being included in the extended Town Center boundaries."

The findings say town centers are intended to be places of economic activity and "promote business growth by providing infrastructure."

The findings also say that the law allows a commissioner to vote for the comprehensive plan as a whole, "regardless of how that plan might affect their financial interests, because state law requires that they do so."

But the findings go on to say that the vote on the town center boundaries and the vote on the comprehensive plan overall "were two separate and distinct votes." The difference is that state law does not require the vote on the town center boundaries, it says.

The opinion does not take a position as to whether the vote to extend the boundaries of the town center was a right one or not from a "policy perspective." The commission concludes, however: "Our concern is that Commissioner McConkey had a conflict of interest, knew about the conflict of interest and voted anyway."

The opinion says a censure instead of the milder letter of reprimand was issued "in light of the apparent premeditated nature of the violation."

The Ethics Commission decision was unanimous from the three members.

A court filing dated Jan. 16 from Ethics Commission attorney William Brennan, Jr. said the commission intends to participate in the court proceedings in the request for judicial review.

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Park and Recreation Capital Budget Reviewed

Includes Traffic Circle for New Ward Farm Park



Director of Park and Recreation Shannon Nazzal

By Dick Myers
Editor

Next fiscal year's proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Calvert County Department of Parks and Recreation includes significant funding for both the Dunkirk District Park and the new Ward Farm Recreation Center nearby.

The new Ward Farm Park is a designated recipient of gambling revenue the county receives annually from the state, but that fund has been severely impacted this fiscal year because of revenue reductions due to the pandemic. The CIP had included \$2 million for the new park, half from gambling revenue, according to Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal. Most of the monies for next year were earmarked for a roundabout at the entrance and restrooms.

Because of the revenue reductions, Nazzal said the Department of Public Works had designated some unspent funds in the budget to apply to the traffic circle. Those monies had been the county's portion of a turn lane at Skipjack Road in the industrial Park off Route 231. J.R. Cosgrove of the public works department said the state had declining interest in that project and the design was on hold. Commissioner Mike Hart said he believed that project wouldn't see the light of day, particularly since there was a new traffic light nearby into Hallowing Point Park.

The question arose as to which was more important for Ward Farm, the tragic circle, or the bathrooms. Staff argued for both.

Cosgrove asked, "Do we want to open a park with an unsafe intersection." And County Administrator Mark Willis argued for the restrooms instead of using a row of nearby trees.

The total six-year CIP for Ward Farm Recreation Park and Nature Area is \$9 million in addition to the \$10.7 million already budgeted.

The park is scheduled to open in the fall and the commissioners in anticipation of that opening, agreed recently to hire a park manager and two park maintenance workers beginning in this fiscal year.

The CIP also includes \$689,000 for a splashpad and \$793,000 for a new restroom at Dunkirk District Park. Nazzal said the existing restroom was serviceable so she could live with that being delayed for a year.

Nazzal did reduce the overall Fiscal Year 2022 CIP from \$14 million to \$11 million by removing several projects at Breezy Point Park for which insurance monies had been secured as the result of damage from last summer's tropical storm.

The six-year CIP also includes monies in 2024 for construction of the Harriett Elizabeth Brown Community Center. During the Jan. 12 virtual public forum, Margaret Dunkle, of the committee organized to recognize the county civil rights leader, with among other things the naming of a community center in her honor, thanked the commissioners for advancing funding for the project.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Health Department Opens COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-registration



Calvert County residents who wish to receive a COVID-19 vaccination may pre-register online. Any Calvert County resident age 18 and older may pre-register at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Vaccine.

Calvert County Government (CCG) created a pre-registration portal in partnership with the Calvert County Health Department so citizens can more easily receive the vaccine once it is available for their vaccine priority group, in accordance with the Maryland COVID-19 Vaccination Plan.

"We recognize the strong effort by the Calvert County Health Department staff to ensure the vaccine gets out to citizens as quickly as possible and are proud to be one of the leading counties in this effort," said Board of County Commissioners President Earl "Buddy" Hance. "Even though the Health Department is a state agency, we have been working cooperatively with them throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to provide necessary local resources and to safeguard the health and safety of Calvert County citizens. Calvert County Government will continue to provide the Health Department with any and all support needed to ensure a smooth vaccine rollout to all citizens."

The online pre-registration form will ask residents for their name, basic contact information, date of birth, age and primary healthcare provider; registrants will not be asked to provide any personal health information during pre-registration.

"Health Department staff has been working extremely hard to administer the vaccine as quickly as possible, however vaccine supply is limited and unpredictable from week to

week," said Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky. "While we're unable to say precisely when each group will be able to be vaccinated, we have already administered over 90% of the supply we have received to date."

The timeframe when each group will begin vaccination depends upon vaccine availability. Calvert County is distributing the vaccine to five different vaccine priority groups. Information about the Maryland COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and priority groups is available at covidlink.maryland.gov/content/vaccine.

Residents are strongly encouraged to use the online pre-registration form for COVID vaccinations. An information call center is also available to assist residents without internet access who wish to pre-register for vaccination. For questions or assistance, residents may call 410-535-0218, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For health questions regarding COVID-19, residents may call their primary care providers or the Health Department at 410-535-5400, ext. 334, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or email calvert.admin@maryland.gov.

Calvert County Government continues to take precautionary measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and limit the number of people infected. Residents, employees and media are encouraged to monitor Calvert County's virtual resource center for updates and information resources: www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Coronavirus.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

More Financial Relief Open to Restaurants, Food Service Businesses

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners announces a second round of funding is available through the Maryland Restaurant Relief Fund Grant program to provide financial assistance to locally owned and operated restaurants and food service establishments impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Only restaurants that did not apply in the first round are eligible to apply in the second round.

Calvert County will receive an additional \$387,777 from the program and will disburse these funds through a second round of the Restaurant Relief Fund Grant program through 11:59 a.m. on Jan. 20, 2021, or until funds are fully expended. Closing date is subject to change based on the number of applications received. If funding remains after the initial application window closes at 11:59 a.m. on Jan. 20, 2021, grants will be provided to previous recipients on a first come, first served basis.

Eligible businesses include:

- Full and limited service restaurants
- Locally owned franchise restaurants
- Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars
- Catering businesses
- Bed-and-breakfast establishments with food service
- Food trucks

The grant may be used for working capital such as rent, payroll or job training; purchase of equipment and services to expand outdoor dining such as tents or heaters; infrastructure improvements such as HVAC system upgrades or technology to support carryout and delivery; or for purchase of personal protective equipment and other COVID-19 related or unusual expenses incurred



CALVERT COUNTY
Maryland

due to the public health emergency.

Repayment is not required for any funds received through this program.

Small restaurants with one to seven full-time equivalent employees may receive \$10,000 and large restaurants with eight or more full-time equivalent employees may receive \$15,000.

To be considered eligible for a grant, businesses must:

- Be in good standing with the state of Maryland;
- Be current on all county tax liabilities;
- Have no open zoning or permitting code enforcement issues;
- Have a physical business presence in Calvert County;
- Not be a franchise or national chain (unless able to provide local ownership and operation); and
- Have at least one full-time equivalent W-2 employee.

Business owners interested in receiving a grant are encouraged to review eligibility criteria and application requirements online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/COVID19ReliefFund. The relief program is funded through Maryland's Rainy Day Fund. Questions may be emailed to grant@calvertcountymd.gov.

For business assistance, call the Department of Economic Development at 410-535-4583. Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

MLK Speaker: King's Warning on White Supremacy Stands Today



Dr. Crystal Marie Fleming

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

White supremacy and white nationalism are just as much a barrier, and a danger, to democracy in America as it was during the Civil Rights era, a Harvard-trained sociologist said at this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. prayer celebration hosted virtually by St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Dr. Crystal Marie Fleming, who specializes in studies on racism and anti-racism as an associate professor at Stony Brook University, said white supremacy was deeply ingrained in the history and political culture of the country.

King, the most famous civil rights icon of the 20th Century in America, warned of and spoke against white supremacy as more than just the Ku Klux Klan or Nazi ideology, Fleming said, but a mindset that dated back before the founding of the country.

"We must squarely acknowledge the continuing legacy of white supremacy in the United States," Fleming said.

The breaching of the Nation's Capitol Building Jan. 6 by what Fleming called a white nationalist mob was aimed squarely at subverting democracy by trying to interfere with the certification of President-Elect Joe Biden's election victory in the Electoral College.

The mentality that gave rise to the insurrection, she claimed, "has been mainstreamed in this nation since its inception."

"White power was not a right wing movement, it was the law of the land," Fleming said. "White

men make up only one-third of the population, but they dominate in politics.

"White supremacist groups are more outspoken than they have been in at least a generation."

Only about 100 people have been arrested so far in the capitol breach incident, Fleming said, but Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old African American boy was killed in 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio by a police officer who saw Rice carrying an object that later was found to be a toy gun was just one of many black males shot unjustifiably.

The officer shot Rice almost immediately upon arriving on the scene; a grand jury did not return an indictment however as Rice appeared to draw what appeared to be an actual firearm from his waistband.

Rice's family's civil suit against the city was successful, however, with an award of \$6 million.

The killings and violence against black men around the country was indictive of a trend, Fleming said, that their lives were considered worth less than whites.

In the face of such pervasive racism, Fleming said, it was all the more important to stand up to it to eliminate it, even if it meant confronting uncomfortable truths.

"Telling the truth about racism is critical to moving forward," Fleming said. "They [white supremacists] want to impose an anti-democratic, fascist rule over all of us."

"As soon as you stand up against racism, you'll face resistance."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



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CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

During the week of January 4 – January 10, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1288 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 21-1061

On January 7, 2021, Cpl. Curtin responded to Jendan Way, Prince Frederick, MD, for the report of destruction of property. Upon his arrival, the complainant advised sometime between January 1, 2021 and January 7, 2021, an unknown suspect(s) spray painted their vehicle. The estimated value of damaged property is \$800.

Damaged Property: 21-1213

On January 8, 2021, Deputy Wood responded to Summer City Blvd, Chesapeake Beach, MD, for the report of destruction of property. The complainant advised, an unknown subject(s) damaged two Christmas decorations, a flower pot and their vehicle in the middle of the night. The total value of damaged property is \$1,875.

Damaged Property: 21-1541

On January 10, 2021, Deputy Gilmore responded to the Town of North Beach Boardwalk for the report of damaged property to the Christmas tree. The complainant advised, two unknown suspects

removed a panel from the tree and threw it into the bay in addition to damaging ornaments on the tree. The estimated damaged property is \$1,000.

Theft: 21-819

On January 6, 2021, Deputy Kwitowski arrived at the Calvert County Sheriff's Office for the report of a theft. The complainant advised, on December 23, 2020, at approximately 2:00 p.m. a package had been delivered to a residence on Adelina Road, Prince Frederick, MD. Upon retrieving the package, the complainant noticed an unknown suspect(s) had opened the package and a gold ring had been taken. The value of stolen property is \$50.

Theft: 21-989

On January 7, 2021, Deputy Anderson responded to Broomes Island Road, Saint Leonard, MD for the report of a theft. Upon arrival, the complainant advised about a month ago an unknown suspect(s) stole two goats from the farm. Currently the value of stolen prop-

erty is unknown.

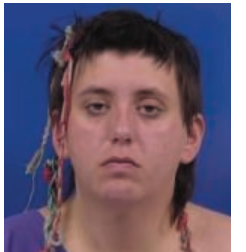
Theft: 21-1006

On January 7, 2021, Deputy E. Payne responded to Palisades Drive, Dunkirk, MD, for the report of a theft from a vehicle. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) stole their handicapped placard from their vehicle while in the Dunkirk Safeway parking lot. The value of stolen property is estimated to be \$1.

Arrests:

On January 5, 2021, Deputy Plant responded to the Calvert County Detention Center for the report of destruction of property. Upon his arrival, he made contact with the complainants who advised an inmate identified as **Marci Bethany**

Pitt (24) had broken a sprinkler head as well as damaged a mattress in one of the holding cells. The value of damaged property is estimated to be \$200. Ms. Pitt is being charged with MAL DEST PROP/ VALU <\$1,000.



Marci Bethany Pitt

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

If you would like to place a LEGAL NOTICE contact
AlDaileyCountytimes@gmail.com

Sewage Overflow Reported in Prince Frederick



The Calvert County Health Department recommends that people avoid kayaking, canoeing and fishing in Parkers Creek for the next 10-14 days due to a temporary discharge of wastewater.

On Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, a slow leak was discovered during a pumping and pipe bursting operation. There was no impact on the service

for water and sewer customers, but sewage was discharged 60 yards north of tributaries leading to Parkers Creek headwaters.

For questions, contact the Director of Public Works, Kerry Dull, at Kerry.Dull@calvertcountymd.gov or 410-532-2204.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

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With Biden in the White House, Democrats See Opportunity with Unity

By Dick Myers
Editor

Will the siege of the U.S. Capitol finally be the wakeup call that unifies America? The attack on our country on Sept. 11, 2001 seemed to do so for a while, but in the years since then we seem more divided than ever.

Joe Biden's inaugural speech (given after press deadline) was expected to be a call for unity. Will that be dead on arrival, with a divisive impeachment of the exiting president, Donald Trump. Will it be more bipartisan or drive the wedge deeper? Time will tell.

Calvert County's Republican commissioners logged in on the aspiration for unity on Jan. 12, in their first meeting after the insurrection and before the change of power.

Commissioner Steve Weems said, "In the last week we witnessed our country torn apart by division. As a locally elected official, I would like to reaffirm my commitment to this community, state, and country. 2020 was a year marked by societal upheavals and a brutal election, which has left friends, families, and communities divided the likes of which I'd never seen, all under the backdrop of a worldwide pandemic. I pray for reconciliation for this country in the future. Next Monday marks a national holiday for a man who believed in reconciliation through nonviolence. I humbly ask for all citizens to remember that and be good to each other and treat others as you would like to be treated and do this, I ask, for your county, your state and your nation."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance added, "As a country, it's time for us to learn to get along, like we used to. You know, there's nothing wrong with differing opinions. It's what's made this country great. And it's time to heal. We need to move on and be the great country that we are."

Earlier in the meeting, Commissioner Trim Hutchins made the same call for unity, but he also urged the dropping of the impeachment process for the sake of unity.

Hutchins said, "Over this last year, at the beginning of each session of the Board of County Commissioners, I have often been called upon to give the invocation. Each time I have included a call to all citizens of our county to close ranks, join together as one people in confronting the tough issues that often divide people, be it by political party, race, country



Calvert County Democratic Central Committee Chair Jeanette Flaim

of origin, or economic situation. We need to do that now more than ever."

Calvert in recent years has switched from majority Democrat to majority Republican, and most elected officials in the country are Republicans.

The Democratic Central Committee is the party's elected leadership, as is the Republican Central Committee for theirs.

We talked to the chair of the local Democratic Central Committee Jeanette Flaim about the call for unity two days before her party returned to power in D.C.

About the new president, she said, "He does want to unite the country, which I think is a great ideal to do that. I think he'll look out for everybody."

Flaim said Biden's website details his goals: "I think they are very clear what he hopes to do for everyone at all levels, not just the super-rich or the connected. I think if people just look at what he does, that he can unite the country, that they'll know he's for everyone."

Given the divisions among the parties and even within the parties, is uniting possible, Flaim was asked. "I think it is a possible aspiration. I do think after the rioting and the insurrection last week, we would have to address that. We can't just walk away from that, but the people who are responsible do have to answer to those actions. I do think it needs some account-

ability. And then I think, with his plans, it will benefit everyone. So, if everyone just looks at the facts and sees that it helps all people, I do hope that people just realize he's for Americans. That's my hope."

Four years ago, after Trump was elected, the Democrats who assembled at the annual Goldstein dinner in Chesapeake Beach had a clear mission: make sure he was a one-term president.

Will the Republicans feel the same way about President Biden, Flaim was asked? "I'm sure they would, but I didn't agree with that." She said the results of the election were undisputed. "It was the most secure election we've ever had. So, it's very clear that Biden won by a large majority. So, I would just like everyone to look at the facts, including the people in our county and move from there. If you don't start from facts, it's difficult. So, if people just stop believing the lies and we just start from facts, I think we can move forward much better."

Will the events in Washington help the unification? She said, "I'm hoping that the people who supported Trump's lies that he won the election, realized that believing in those lies for some people put them over the edge. They think they're doing something right when they're clearly wrong when they're attacking the Capitol. They were the most shocking pictures to see them smashing

things and just walking out with things and then attacking the police officers. It was just horrifying. So, I think people who are in the center with the Republicans reject that, which I think is great."

Flaim said she had a conversation with the chair of the Republican Central Committee before the election over stolen campaign signs ad as a result put out a joint statement. Could that be a start of a dialogue? "I do think there's probably middle ground. I mean, we used to do it, so I don't know why we wouldn't, we all believe that things should be healthier. I would think, we all believe in good roads. We all believe that we should support our local firefighters and our schools. So, I think there's common ground, and we just have to work from each side and get into the middle and hopefully maybe see each other's viewpoint. We all have different views, so whenever it can help the majority of people, we're all behind that."

She agreed that local issues don't tend to be partisan. "Growth and the roads and the traffic. That's something we all, regardless of political parties, should be interested in and we all want our schools to be up there on the top."

The Democratic presidential campaign started off divided between progressive and more moderate wings before coalescing behind Biden. Flaim said, "I think we have different opinions, but we can all agree that we support Democrats and democratic values. So, I think we have a good discussion when we disagree, and we can see each other's viewpoint and we can come to a consensus. So, I think we do a really good job here in Calvert."

What will be the party's unifier this time around now that Trump is gone. She said, "I would think the Kirwan Commission, because we want that. And the Bay and climate change, I think we can all unite behind that."

And of course, the pandemic. "COVID is actually our top one because with the vaccines rolling out so slowly, it affects small businesses. It affects our work lives. It affects our schools."

"COVID-19 is frightening. People are losing their jobs and their homes, and the small businesses are barely hanging on. Yeah, COVID-19 is definitely something that we all need to get behind and fund," she said.

Perhaps a common ground?

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Courthouse Extends Phase II of Reopening

The rapidly evolving health emergency regarding the spread of COVID-19 requires the Maryland court system to continually review and evaluate contingency planning efforts. The Calvert County Courthouse located at 175 Main St. in Prince Frederick will remain under restricted access, with new changes to operations and court proceedings effective immediately through March 14, 2021.

Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), an emergency exists for which measures continue to be required to mitigate potential for exposure for individuals visiting a court or judicial facility and judicial personnel. The rapid increase of COVID-19 infection rates throughout Maryland requires a realignment of the phase of operations consistent with the worsening health conditions and risk to individuals visiting a court of judicial facility and to judicial personnel.

Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera issued new Administrative Orders dated Dec. 22, 2020. Among them was an order extending the Judiciary's Phase II emergency operations through March 14, 2021. The new Administrative Orders regarding Phase II can be viewed on the Judiciary's website at <https://mdcourts.gov/coronavirusorders>. Chief Judge Barbera's Seventh Administrative Order Restricting Statewide Judiciary Operations Due to the COVID-19 Emergency limits matters to be heard in person and encourages the use of remote technology. The Clerks' Office of the Circuit Courts and the offices of the administrative clerks in the District Court shall remain open to the public for emergency matters and by appointment only for other matters. In addition, jury trials are now suspended through April 23, 2021.

At this time, Mark Stephen Chandlee, the Administrative Judge of the Calvert County Circuit Court has determined that all currently scheduled matters in the Calvert County Circuit Court will remain as scheduled. All jury trials will be converted to status or settlement conferences on the dates they are currently set to begin. In regards to other hearings and trials, the Court will make a determination as to whether the matters are to be held remotely or in person. The Circuit Court will rule on requests for conversions to remote hearings and continuances on a case-by-case basis.

Judge Chandlee's Administrative Order, regarding Restricted Access to the Courthouse dated July 17, 2020, remains in full force and effect. Individuals, including parties, attorneys, and witnesses involved in a court case

scheduled for a hearing in the Circuit Court on or after Dec. 22, 2020, through March 14, 2021, who have successfully completed the screening process shall report to the Courthouse for the scheduled hearing, unless otherwise instructed or ordered by the Court or its authorized agent. Parties and/or attorneys involved in a case may request in writing to appear remotely for their scheduled hearing. For all other business not related to a scheduled court hearing to be conducted in the Courthouse, the Courthouse is open to the public BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. To make an appointment, please call 410-535-1600 and request to speak to the desired department to schedule an appointment.

Under Judge Chandlee's Administrative Order, any individual seeking to enter the Circuit Court shall undergo the Court's screening protocol which includes a contactless thermal temperature check, screening questionnaire, and any follow-up questions deemed appropriate. Additionally, all individuals entering or traveling through the Courthouse are required to wear a face mask or covering. Furthermore, all individuals are required to practice proper social distancing while in the Courthouse and follow instructions from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and bailiffs of the Courthouse.

For further details regarding Judge Chandlee's Administrative Order and the policies and procedures of the Circuit Court, please visit the Circuit Court for Calvert County website at <http://circuit-court.co.cal.md.us>. The Amended Administrative Order of Chief Judge Barbera and the Administrative Order of Judge Chandlee shall be posted on the website as well as at the Courthouse.

Essential court personnel will be available to the public by telephone between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Maryland Electronic Court (MDEC) continues to be available for electronic filing and is required to be used for all MDEC counties. For pleadings not required to be filed electronically, filings will be received by mail and may be received via drop box installed in front of the courthouse.

Any questions or concerns relative to cases or proceedings should be directed to:

Circuit Court: 410-535-1600

District Court: 443-550-6700

Calvert County Government continues to take precautionary measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and limit the number of people infected. Residents, employees and media are encouraged to monitor Calvert County's virtual resource center for updates and information resources: www.Calvert-CountyMd.gov/Coronavirus.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

Great White Heron Visits Calvert



A rare (north of Florida) Great White Heron has been seen along the shoreline just south of Western Shores Estates in Calvert County. It is a variant of the common Great

Blue Heron but an unusual visitor. Photos courtesy of Robert Hazen, Carnegie Institution for Science, senior staff scientist.

New Species of Fossil Found Along Calvert Cliffs

Prehistoric Cobia Named for Local Amateur Paleontologists

On April 27, 2019, local fossil enthusiasts Stephen Groff and Marcus Jones found a partial skull of a fossil fish along Calvert Cliffs. Little did they know at the time that it would turn out to be the find of a lifetime.

Using a microscope, needles, and fine brushes, Groff carefully removed the entombing sediments from around the 10 million-year-old bones to reveal a true treasure. This fossil-find consisted of the bony braincase of a cobia – the first ever found in the fossil record.

The only known species of living cobia is a marine inhabitant that occurs nearly worldwide in a variety of tropical, subtropical, and warm temperate habitats and occasionally enter estuaries, feeding on crustaceans, cephalopods (squid and their kin), and other fishes. The hand-sized fossilized partial skull was different enough from the living cobia that a new species was named in honor of Groff and Jones, and published recently in the *Journal of Paleontology*.

Calvert Marine Museum Curator of Paleontology Dr. Stephen Godfrey, along with fossil-fish expert Dr. Giorgio Carnevale of Torino, Italy, named the new species of cobia *Rachycentron stremphaencus*. When paleontologists describe a new fossil species, one of the perks is that they get to invent a new name for the new species – and they can name it just about anything they like! In this situation, it seemed most fitting to name it after the co-discoverers. So, the new species name “stremphaencus” is derived from a combination of the letters of “Stephen” and “Marcus” with some rearrangement of the letters to make it mellifluous.

Up until now, no species of cobia had ever been named in the fossil record, so this is a first, and big news for paleontologists, both ama-



Marcus Jones (l) and Stephen Groff, co-discoverers of the new species of fossil cobia, *Rachycentron stremphaencus*. Behind them are the 10 million-year-old sediments in which the skull was discovered. Jones and Groff are also volunteers at the Calvert Marine Museum. Photo by S. Godfrey, CMM.

teur and professional.

When asked about the find, Jones said, “It’s a privilege to be able to participate in such an exciting field.” Groff and Jones found the braincase in a block of sediment that had fallen onto the beach from the adjacent cliff face.

When asked about the find, Groff responded, “It wasn’t until the next day when I returned with Calvert Marine Museum Paleontology Collections Manager John Nance to collect the specimen, that we realized it was a skull, and it was then that I knew this was going to be something special.”

A word of warning! Digging in the cliffs is dangerous and is prohibited without a permit on all state and federal lands. On private land, permission must be obtained from the owners before digging. If you see a skull, bone, or unusual fossil in the cliffs, please report it to the Calvert Marine Museum at 410-

326-2042. The museum appreciates getting this information and, if justified by the importance of the find, will make every effort to obtain the necessary permission and have trained personnel collect the specimen, giving full credit to the finder(s).

The clay and sandy sediments in which the fossil was found indicate that the prehistoric environment was a shallow marine one, perhaps even an estuary similar to the present-day Chesapeake Bay. (The Chesapeake Bay as we know it did not exist 10 million years ago.) A large number of predominantly marine species have been found in these deposits, with representatives from several groups of microscopic fossils and invertebrates, like snails and clams, as well as an array of vertebrate species, including a host of sharks and rays, bony fishes, turtles, crocodiles, sea-faring birds, seals, sea cows, dolphins, and baleen whales, and the very rare remains of large terrestrial mammals like extinct elephants and rhinos.

Based on the ecological requirements of the only living species of cobia, and a reconstruction of the environmental conditions that ex-

isted when the fossil cobia was alive 10 million years ago, it is reasonable to conclude that *Rachycentron stremphaencus* was a predatory fish that inhabited the subtropical to warm temperate Atlantic coast of North America during the Late Miocene, where it lived and hunted in shallow marine waters.

Inspired by their recent contribution to the world of paleontology, Groff and Jones continue to hunt for fossils along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

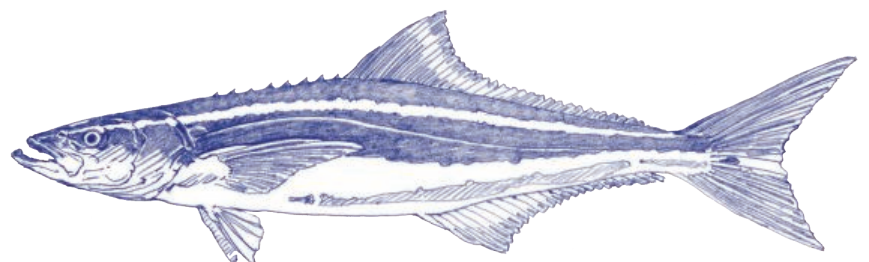
Explore how the prehistoric past, natural environments, and maritime heritage come to life and tell a unique story of the Chesapeake Bay. The Calvert Marine Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with limited capacity and a new timed entry system. Admission is \$9 for adults; \$7 for seniors, military with valid I.D., AAA and AARP members; \$4 for children ages 5 - 12; children under 5 and museum members are admitted free.

For more information about the museum, or to make a reservation for your next visit, please go to our website at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Press Release from CMM



Photo of the new cobia braincase showing the top of the skull that housed the brain and the eyes. Front of the skull to the upper right. Photo by S. Godfrey, CMM



Drawing of what the fossil cobia might have looked like in life, similar to its sole living relative. Illustration by Tim Scheirer (from Carnevale, G., and Godfrey, S.J., 2018, Miocene bony fishes of the Calvert, Choptank, St. Marys, and Eastover Formations, Chesapeake Group, Maryland and Virginia: *Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology*, v. 100, p. 161–212. https://smithsonian.figshare.com/articles/book/The_Geology_and_Vertebrate_Paleontology_of_Calvert_Cliffs_Maryland_USA/9761762)

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CSM Ranks State's Fourth Best Online Community College

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) was named the fourth best online community college in Maryland based on affordability and convenience. The ranking comes from OnlineU and was based on 2020 program data including available degrees, tuition rates and programmatic accreditations, and profit statuses collected from accreditation agencies or from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

As a pioneer of distance learning, it was easy for CSM to continue its 20-year tradition of offering flexible online choices when the nation's public and private school systems, and colleges, were required to lift all classes to an entirely remote environment to help combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus in March 2020. In fact, CSM was a founding partner in the MarylandOnline (MOL) organization created in 1999 – which remains a consortium of Maryland's 16 community colleges, plus a few four-year institutions, dedicated to providing high quality online learning.

"[These] community colleges in the state of Maryland that make it possible for their students to earn an associate degree or certificate entirely online," OnlineU posted when releasing the rankings. "Ten of the schools on this list have annual tuitions under \$4,000, so attending these online community colleges is both affordable and convenient."

CSM's Online Choices

CSM's spring semester begins Jan. 19. All of CSM's credit classes during the spring 2021 semester will be taught primarily in a virtual environment. There will be differences, however, in how CSM's various course offerings will be presented. The classes will be offered via Real-Time Technology, web-based or in a hybrid fashion.

Web-based courses take place completely in a virtual environment, with no set or required meeting days or times. CSM has offered these classes for years, but now they are listed with a location of "Virtual Campus." Each term has a start and end date, but these classes do not have regularly scheduled dates and times for students to log in.

Real-Time Technology (RTT)

ONLINEU

**BEST ONLINE
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COLLEGES**

Maryland

★ 2020 ★

courses take place in a virtual environment, with scheduled meeting days and times for live lectures and class activities. The campus location may be either a specific physical campus (La Plata, Leonardtown, Prince Frederick or Regional Hughesville) or the new "Virtual Campus."

Hybrid courses combine distance learning and in-person instruction. Some on-campus instruction or activity is mandatory for these courses, in order to meet requirements that can't be fulfilled remotely. Examples of the classes that may require on-campus instruction include courses for Emergency Medical Technicians or involving the trades and construction. Hybrid courses have physical campus locations for the on-campus component; have start and end dates; and have specific meeting days and times.

Learn more at <https://www.csmd.edu/apply-register/>.

About OnlineU: Since 2004, OnlineU has been helping students accomplish their educational goals by finding the online degree with the best value. By providing manually researched tuitions and salary data from alumni in their college rankings, as well as collecting over 13,000 reviews from online students, OnlineU hopes to empower more Americans to go to college while lowering the overall cost of earning a degree. OnlineU's rankings have been recognized by more than 475 colleges.

Press Release from CSM

CSM Holds Virtual Winter Commencement

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) celebrated 754 candidates for 403 degrees and 500 certificates during its 22nd Winter Commencement held Jan. 15 during a spirited virtual ceremony held in a Facebook Live event.

Of the students celebrated during the online ceremony, 306 are from Charles County, 229 are from St. Mary's County, 167 are from Calvert County and 52 are from outside of the region. Twenty percent of the associate degree candidates graduated with honors. Sixty-five percent of the graduates are women and 35 percent are men.

The majority of degrees, or 26.6 percent, were in the field of arts and sciences, nursing (11.7 percent), criminal justice (7.2 percent) and business administration (6.9 percent). General study transfers, accounting, business management and cybersecurity were the primary certificates awarded. The oldest graduate is 63 years young and the youngest graduate is 18 years old.

The virtual ceremony drew more than 1,400 viewers. The annual tradition was marked with themes of perseverance, survival and resiliency – as students were recognized for succeeding despite the challenges of the global pandemic and a charged environment surrounding race relations and politics.

CSM student Domonique Rinaldi kicked off the event with a beautiful and riveting rendition of the national anthem followed by speeches, graduate photos and quotes, and a web page filled with well-wishes from local, regional and state politicians. Facebook viewers users left more than 411 comments and clicked their love, like and hug reaction buttons more than 150 times. Within an hour of the event, more than 1,117 people had interacted with the online ceremony.

'You are the Role Models'

"Students gathered here today at graduation navigated a global pandemic along with the rest of the world that turned our lives upside down," began CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy. "Many of us felt the impact the pandemic has had on mental health and finances. Members of our community experienced food and housing insecurity – perhaps for the first time. And students, amid all this, you dealt with an emotionally charged environment around race relations and politics. But you decided what success would like for you and you chose the College of Southern Maryland. For that, I thank you. You've worked hard and you've earned the right to feel pride in your successes.

"We've entered a new world, and I find hope for all of us ... in you," Murphy continued. "You have proven you know how to overcome adversity. You are the role models for those who come after you. You have rewritten the story of success and you are now uniquely prepared to become the pioneers in our new post-pandemic world. I know you are ready. It is with great excitement that I will watch where you will take us."

Plot Twist and Opportunities

The keynote address was delivered by



CSM Com Jackie Curry

Christine Wray, FACHE, president of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. She also serves as a senior vice president for MedStar Health.

Explaining that she is a huge movie buff, she shared that she can't wait for the day she and her husband can settle into the local movie theater and enjoy a new plot twist.

"The COVID 19 pandemic has been a plot twist for all of us," Wray told the students. "Thankfully, the fact that you're joining us now means that you were able to view this crisis as an opportunity to innovate and adapt. So much has been asked of our teachers and students this year. It is amazing to see the ways in which you have all collaborated toward common goals and remained committed to your education.

"You don't have to have all the answers now," she added. "You simply have to be ready to work hard and be the hero of your own story. How do I know you can do it? Because I see it every day in the bright committed people who have graduated from CSM and come to work at our hospitals. Their work ethic and willingness to go the extra mile for our patients is a testament to the skills and values instilled in you by your own families and experiences, and by your professors, fellow students and your college programs."

Wray acknowledged that obstacles in lives are unavoidable, but she hoped the graduates could "keep finding a way to turn a plot twist like COVID-19 into an opportunity to grow and touch the lives of others."

'You've taught me to Persevere'

Recalling that her two years at CSM flew by "in the blink of an eye," student speaker Joan Popoola shared how her time at the college shaped and molded her; taught her to think critically as an engineer; and succeed, fail, and work as a team. And it taught her how to "inspire and aspire" as a leader while keeping her faith foremost in all her actions.

"Most importantly," the Great Mills resident shared, "You – fellow CSM graduates – have taught me how to persevere."

Calling her attendance at CSM the best decision she ever made, she said her academic journey also taught her about service leadership.

"Attending CSM, I was able to join a few clubs such as the Engineering Club and the National Society of Black Engi-



CSM Com Joan Popoola

neers both of which work to help people in our community, whether it be mentoring girl and boy scout troops; giving coffee and doughnuts to first responders and police officers; or helping female students at CSM who don't know if engineering is the right field for them," she said. "Part of being empowered as a female engineer has been empowering other female students and letting them know how women and their unique strengths and perspectives are needed in the global engineering industry.

"I think my biggest takeaway from my time shared with you at CSM is that the myth that community colleges aren't as good as the bigger universities is false," she said. "CSM has an abundance of opportunities, but you have to be the one to take them."

'We are Proud of You'

Referring to the graduates as 'accomplished, survivors and completers,' CSM Vice President of Student Equity and Success Dr. Tracy Harris told the graduates he admired them for facing unrelenting challenges in both their personal and academic journeys over the last year.

"You may not understand completely – yet – what you've been through," he shared. "But we know what we witnessed of you. You were flexible, patient, resilient, and understanding that we all were adjusting to a new normal: Wearing masks, isolating and then only reuniting to small gatherings, and then Zooming, online proctoring, [having] study sessions on Microsoft Teams. Surviving unimaginable losses; but still making the grades.

"We are proud of you on this day because you forged ahead and got the job done," he said.

'Making a Difference'

CSM Professor of Communications and Faculty Senate President Dr. Sarah Merranko told the graduates to continue to be compassionate, caring, and contributors to the greater good.

"The world becomes a better place when we do good," said Merranko. "However, most people focus on individual success, rather than contributing to the greater good. Today you are graduating and going on to your next great adventures. Some of you will be continuing your education elsewhere, while others may be heading off into the workforce, or the military. The late President at Illinois Wesleyan University, Minor Myers Jr. said it best when he said, 'go into the



CSM Com Miranda Shipman

world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good."

Oldest Graduate Finishes with Double Major

At 63, Waldorf resident Jackie Curry said she wasn't surprised she was the oldest graduate in her class, but she was a little surprised when she looked back to realize it took her 14 years to earn two degrees; one in Arts and Sciences and one in General Studies.

"When I turned 50, I decided to make a change after a career in mortgage banking," Curry said. "After taking some time off for myself, I took a job as a high school instructional assistant with Charles County Public Schools ~ with no experience at all ~ and I quickly realized I needed to catch up with what was being taught in the classrooms. Then I switched to middle school, and was put in an eighth-grade algebra class and had no idea what was going on, so I enrolled at CSM."

Plus, Curry said she wanted to get her degree because everyone else in her family had one. "And I helped every one of them [husband, daughter, son] get through school," she laughed. And like the majority of students enrolled at CSM, Curry could only attend college on a part-time basis as she balanced her job and her family.

"It's funny," she reflected. "I ended up having some of my students I taught in public schools, in my college classes over the years."

Curry said she had a 'thorough' experience at CSM and over the years discovered a new fondness for the knowledge she gained in her Irish Literature class and her all-time favorite class: The History of Rock and Roll.

"The things I've done since I started working in the public school system really helped me at CSM, and vice versa," she said. "And being a student at CSM helped me look at things from the students' perspective when I was teaching. Every professor and teacher I had at CSM was understanding and helpful. I had a really great experience. I am able to use what I learned in my own classroom. I loved every minute of my time at CSM."

'CSM: 110% Best Decision I've Ever Made'

Press Release from CSM.

A View From The BLEACHERS



Talking Football

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

"I smiled and lit a cigarette. The scene was so unreal that I felt like laughing out loud – to find myself zipping along a New England freeway in a big yellow car, being chauffeured around by a detective while I relaxed in the back seat and talked about football with my old buddy Dick Nixon, the man who came within 100,000 votes of causing me to flee the country in 1960."

Hunter S. Thompson penned those words in his book "The Great Shark Hunt: Strange Tales from a Strange Time (Gonzo Papers, Volume 1)." The excerpt describes an unlikely meeting between the passionate Nixon antagonist and the then 1968 Republican presidential candidate. There was a catch, though: pro football was the only approved topic. As the story goes, Nixon's staff wanted to give the boss a chance to relax, and an eager writer probing about race riots and Vietnam wasn't going lower Nixon's blood pressure. Thompson, despite his frequent, biting and brilliant criticism of Nixon, was as knowledgeable about football as the future president – and Nixon's handlers knew it. So Thompson got the unlikely and coveted, if constrained, access. Given the heat of the time, it was likely a welcomed, disarming breather for both candidate and writer.

Over the last four years, I have often pondered the late 1960s, Thompson and Nixon. The corollaries between that chapter of American history and the present – racial tension, presidential calls for "law and order" but practices of lawlessness and chaos, an administration with disdain for the free press and a nation struggling to find common ground – are obvious. But a shared love of the NFL broke through those barriers in 1968. Briefly? Yes. With no real lasting change to the parties' relationship? True. But it happened – prideful politician and relentless critic, with the nation on fire, had a cordial discussion about a mutual passion.

Could the NFL help again in these turbulent times? Should it?

Ah, football – America's game. I watch it like no other sport. I love it, but the affection is tinged with conflict. My consternation started with "Concussion," the movie that

removed all doubt about the game's long-term health consequences for its participants. My beef with the NFL went next-level the following year with the vicious reaction to Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the national anthem to bring attention to racial injustice and the gap between our nation's creeds and reality.

It is curious what offends and what prompts only a casual shrug. Kaepernick, a courageous truth-teller, deserved our ear; instead, he got white America's fist and a consumer-pacifying career pink slip from the NFL. Four years later, George Floyd was murdered while under a white police officer's knee and a segment of America, many of whom vilified Kaepernick as unpatriotic and anti-military, were puzzled and put-off by the ensuing nationwide protests. Was this segment of America equally as outraged by the mob of mostly white insurrectionists who attacked the Capitol, the crucible of American democracy, two weeks ago?

This is an uncomfortable episode for all Americans to consider – but for different reasons depending on the acceptance of truth or baseless conspiracy. Regardless, the NFL, and pro football more broadly, is intertwined in this reflection point in American history. In theory, football is still one of the great shared cornerstones of our society. But it has struggled, intentionally at times, to lead social progression. I get it – conscience is the only incentive for a wealthy white male dominated league that is printing money to rattle the status quo and tweak the financial golden goose. And with a pro football ownership fraternity that counts deviants like Dan Snyder, Jerry Jones, Eddie DeBartolo, Jim Irsay, Jerry Richardson, Robert Kraft and Donald Trump among its current and former members, odds are slim this group will ever follow a moral compass.

Still, we are a mess and in desperate need of a coalescing agent. The NFL is flawed, contradictory and even hypocritical, but it is, regardless of political persuasion, the great American game. So, I suppose, let us chat about football like it is 1968, perhaps passing on the cigarette this time...

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

Winter Turkey Season Now Open

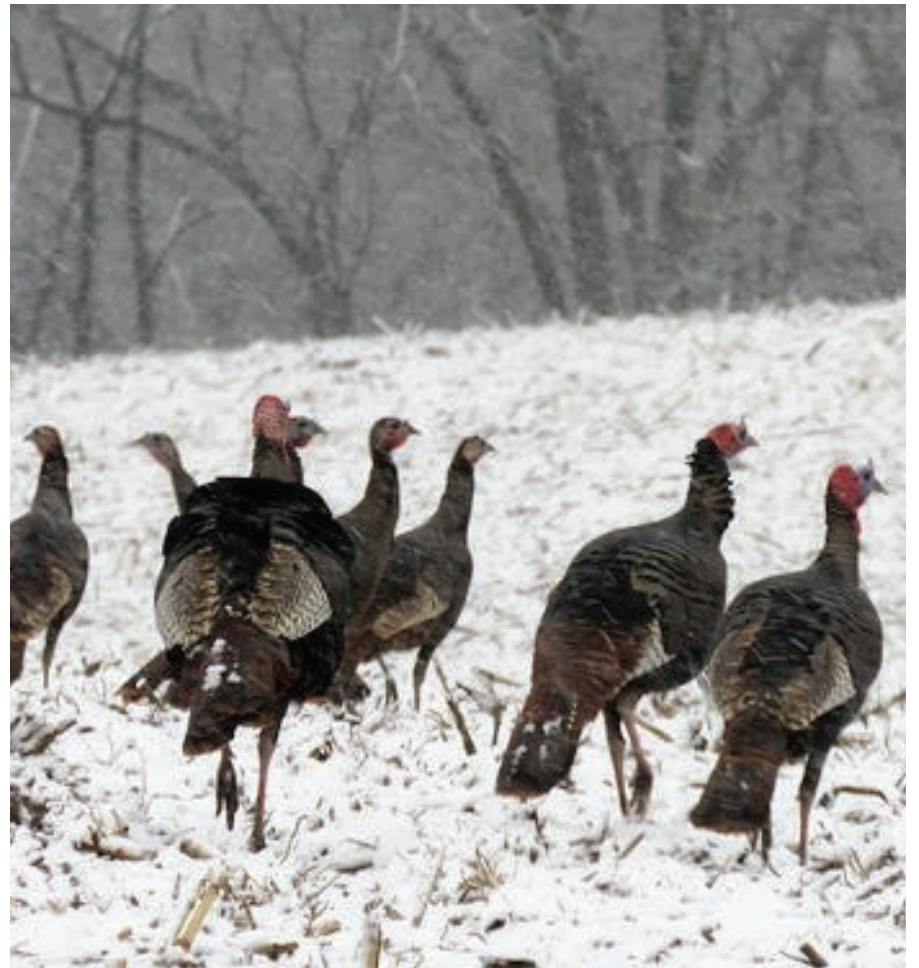


Photo by Isaac Bonneville

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces the opening of the winter turkey season, which runs statewide from January 21-23 for hunters who did not harvest a turkey during the 2020 fall season.

Hunting hours are from one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset. The bag limit is one turkey of either sex.

"Wild turkey populations are at record high levels in many areas of Maryland," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "The winter hunt provides an additional opportunity to bag a turkey when many hunters are putting their

gear away for the season."

During the winter turkey season, hunters may only use shotguns loaded with No. 4 shot or smaller, crossbows, vertical bows, or air-guns that shoot arrows or bolts.

illegal to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait. Hunters are required to check in their harvest via phone at 888-800-0121, online, or via the department's mobile app.

The Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping provides information about winter turkey hunting, including season open dates and regulations.

Press Release from MD DNR.

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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.

Thursday, January 21

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

CSM hosts Transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. csmd.edu/transferthursdays

Little Minnows

Calvert Marine Museum; various times

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 a carryout craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 15-20 minutes. Capacity is limited to 12 people per session.

This month's theme is Wacky Weather. This program is now offered at various times throughout the day, to accommodate guests during all sessions. For specific times, please visit calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Thursday, January 28

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

CSM hosts Transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. csmd.edu/transferthursdays

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Ongoing

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Calvert County residents can take their live Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland to county convenience centers for recycling at no charge beginning through Jan. 31, 2021. After Jan. 31, residents looking to recycle their trees must take them directly to the Appeal Landfill and standard yard waste fees will ap-

ply. This program does not apply to businesses. Businesses must bring holiday greenery to the Appeal Landfill where standard yard fees will apply. All decorations, including support frames, lights, and metal stands, must be removed from trees, wreaths, and garlands. Trees and wreaths may not be in plastic bags or cut up. All materials will be taken to the Appeal Landfill to be mulched and made available to county residents at no charge. Wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, holiday cards, and other paper are accepted at the convenience centers for recycling at no cost any time of the year. Cardboard boxes should be flattened and all packing materials, ribbons, and Styrofoam must be removed for disposal. Residents are required to wear face masks and practice safe social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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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 dickmyers@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

Norman Levi Riker



Norman Levi Riker, also known as Norm or Stormin' Norman, age 80 of Dowell, MD, and formerly of Upstate New York, passed away on January 11, 2021 at Calvert Health Medical Center.

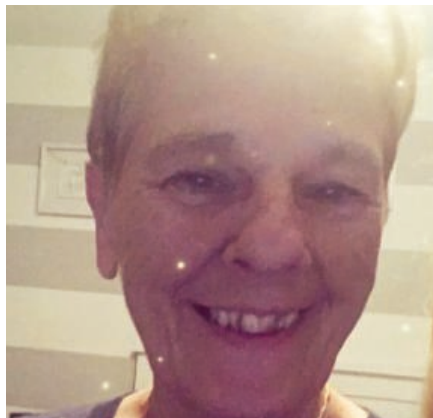
Born March 20, 1940 in Sayre, PA, he was the son of the late Levi Max Riker and Rhoda Jane Riker.

Norman served in the U.S. Navy from April 17, 1957 until his Honorable Discharge on March 17, 1961. He was a member of the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club, a member of the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department for fourteen years, and a member of the Optimist Club. Norman cultivated and sold Bearded Iris and enjoyed model ship building, coin and stamp collecting, jigsaw puzzling and fishing. In his younger days, he enjoyed playing the organ and accordion.

Norman is survived by his wife, Janice Lee Riker whom he married on September 23, 1961 at Middleham Chapel in Lusby, MD; his children, Tawny Marjenhoff (Wesley) of Jacksonville, FL and Deirdre Forrest of Mechanicsville, MD; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and siblings, George Butts of VT and Gloria Lown of Upstate NY.

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

Judy M. Buckley



Judy M. Buckley, 68, of Huntingtown, MD passed away January 13, 2021 at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Judy was born December 6, 1952 in Indiana, PA to Cora Mae (Jones) and Ernest Calvin Brendlinger. She lived with her family in Pennsylvania until moving to Bladensburg, MD where she attended Bladensburg High School. She married Michael David Buckley April 10, 1971 and they lived in Prince George's County until moving to Calvert County, where they have lived for the past 39 years. She was employed at Dunkin Donuts in her youth, and was later employed as a secretary at Brandywine Sand & Gravel and DMAR Repossession Company, and worked as a cashier at Bowen's grocery in Huntingtown. Judy enjoyed Bingo, playing casino slot machines, and spending time with her family, especially her granddaughter. Judy is survived by her husband Michael, daughter Michelle R. Buckley, granddaughter Alyssa R. Murphy, all of Huntingtown, mother Cora Mae Jones, sister Nancy J. Adams, both of Prince Frederick, brothers Alan E. Brendlinger of St. Leonard, and Timothy R. Brendlinger of Blairsville, PA. Judy was preceded in death by her father Ernest Brendlinger and by her brothers Ernest W. Brendlinger, and Barry C. Brendlinger.

Due to Covid restrictions, services for Judy will be private, and attendees will be at the invitation of her family.

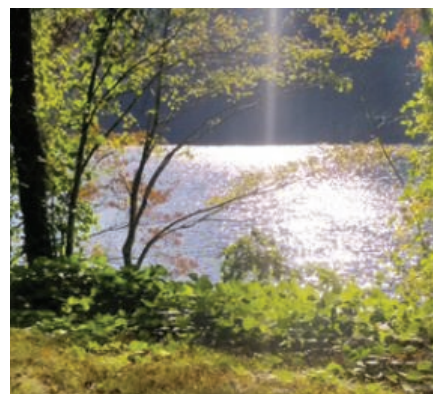
Memorial contributions may be made

to American Cancer Society, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120

Baltimore, MD 21220; 800-227-2345; Link: <https://www.cancer.org/>

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

George Preston Hartge



George Preston Hartge of West River, MD passed away peacefully on January 13, 2021. George was born and raised on Churchton, MD. He was son to the late George and Leicy Hartge. George was a devoted and loving husband of 59 years to Barbara Hartge. They lovingly raised 3 children; David P. Hartge (Chelly), Douglas P. Hartge, and Dawn D. Hartge (Bobby). He is survived by 4 grandchildren, Mandi Carroll (Patrick), Mathew Hartge (Anna), Daniel Hartge, Hannah Hopkins, and great grandchildren, Eric, Michael and Jameson, and a sister Kay Wayson of West River. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter Madelynn.

George was a skilled carpenter that began his career as a boat builder for Hartge Yacht Yard in Galesville, MD. He then moved on to building homes with Greenacres and later retired from a 40-year career with Hardesty Brothers Builders. His passions and hobbies included farming, wood working, and times with family.

Services will be private. At the request of the family, in lieu of flowers please plant a tree in George's memory.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

George Andrew "Andy" Grahame



George Andrew "Andy" Grahame of Owings, MD passed away on January 11, 2021 at his home, lovingly cared for by his family. Andy was born on September 21, 1957 in St. Petersburg, FL to Malcolm Gordon Grahame, Jr. and Martha Williams Grahame. The family moved to the Grahame Farm in Owings in 1961. Andy graduated from Northern High School in 1976. He was a Master Plumber and owned Springfield Mechanical Services for many years. For the last five years, Andy was employed by the Calvert County Board of Education.

Andy is survived by his wife Mary Catherine "Cathy" Grahame, whom he married on May 5, 1990, and his children Malcolm Andrew "Drew", Mason Alexander (Rachael Keeney, fiancé), and Jackson Stewart Grahame. He is also much loved by his son's girlfriends, Rebecca Stanislav and Rachael Owens.

In addition, Andy is survived by his parents Gordon and Martha Grahame and his twin sister Martha Grahame Hyde (Tom). He is predeceased by his brother Malcolm Gordon "Gordy" Grahame, III. He is also survived by his in-laws, Bob and Barbara Stewart and his sisters-in-law, Jennifer Stewart Patterson (Mark), Janice Stewart Graner (Jim), and Valerie Stewart McLaughlin (Seth). Uncle Andy will be dearly missed by Emily Hyde Gilcrest (Matt) and Allison Hyde; Robert (Hannah), Erin, Timothy, and Anna Patterson; Bridget Graner McMillon (Joshua) and Daniel Graner; Vivian and Finn McLaughlin; and his great-niece and nephew Brooklyn and Ryan Gilcrest. Andy also leaves a tremendous group of friends, including several who especially aided and sustained him during the challenges of the last few years.

Andy loved everything about the family farm: planting and sharing his crops, hosting trap shooting events, ice skating, sleigh riding, hunting and fishing. He found comfort in his hobbies and the opportunity to share them with friends and family. Other passions involved hunting, fishing, crabbing, and boating with his boys and friends usually at his second home, "The River Shack." He loved morning rides to Bowen's for bacon and sausage (arguing it was closer than Dunkirk even though it's not) to make a buffet spread for whoever was around. He loved goose hunts, goose blind breakfasts, a good dog and ABBA. He loved potatoes – mashed, baked, fried for breakfast, as long as they came from the farm. He always had water in the carburetor of whatever engine he was working on. He only ever fished two lures: a stingsilver or a plastic worm. If there was a toadfish anywhere near his bottom rig, he'd catch it. He treated the friends of his boys as his own and would do anything to help them.

Andy was always on the move. In his work, he was honest and dependable, including using his expertise to help friends and the community with projects. He also taught us to play hard,

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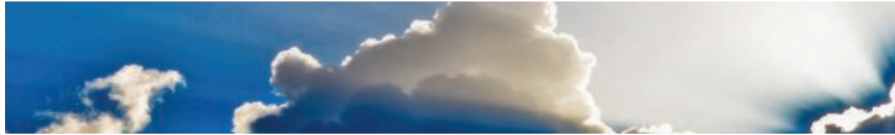
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especially in his 25 years of coaching baseball when he often coached more than one team a year. He was the first one on the boogie board to ride waves, play wiffle ball with the kids, make sure the trot line was baited, and the crabs cooked perfectly. Andy was really a jack of all trades, a professional tinkerer. He taught by example, and his best Dad teaching moments were things he did, never things he said. He was the Grahame boys' dad, but also best friend – built in buddies (BIBs) from the start. He surrounded himself with outstanding men that provided some of the best male role models a young boy could ask for (Uncle Mark, GrandBo, Pop, Alex, Ron, Mike C., Rick, Mike F. Hutch, and Big John).

Andy laughed at his own silly jokes and the pranks he loved to pull. He enjoyed dressing his scarecrow on the Grahame farm for different occasions and for the enjoyment of the Lower Marlboro area community. He was fun, agreeable (“yes, Sweetie”), and patient – unless he was sitting in a deer stand. A loving dad and husband, we hope a little of him rubbed off on everyone who knew him well. Our loss is great.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Andy's name may be made to the American Red Cross, Blood Donation Services, PO Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037; Link:

<https://www.redcross.org/donate/blood-services-donation.html/> or Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-535-0892

Link: <https://calverthospice.org/>

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Dorothy Marie Coleman



Dorothy Marie Coleman, 69, of Huntingtown passed away January 10, 2021 at her residence. She was born March 16, 1951 in Washington, DC to Herman and Mary Jane (Dixon) Sears. Dorothy was raised Lothian on her family's farm and graduated from Southern High School. She married Michael Coleman on June 20, 1986 and they settled in Huntingtown in 1989. Dorothy owned and operated Maryland Tag and Title Services in Lanham with her husband and retired in 2015. She attended Chesapeake Church and in her spare time enjoyed riding motorcycles, traveling to Pennsylvania with her family, spending time with her

sisters, going out to dinner, working in the yard, and helping anyone in need.

Dorothy is survived by her husband Michael A. Coleman, children David Lee Ward, Jr., Kelly Lynn Ward, and Taylor Jane Coleman, and granddaughter Kaleigh Marie Ward, all of Huntingtown. She is also survived by stepchildren Sherri Lynn Coleman of Severna Park and Staci Lee Sylvia and husband David of Pasadena, step-grandchildren Sereena Proctor, Sophia Hodges, Shy-lee Mendez, and Jeremy and Hannah Kahler, sisters Brenda Wilson, Linda Jarboe, and Tammy and Tracey Sears, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother Donnie Sears.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Dianna “Dee” Williams



Dianna “Dee” Williams, 79, of St. Leonard, MD passed away peacefully on January 7, 2021. She was born in Brooklyn, NY April 8, 1941 to Charlotte Frederick. Dee married Robert (Bob) Williams after a love at first sight encounter in 1963 joining his son for an instant family. They then added four more boys to the mix to make a full rambunctious home. Dee worked at Calvert Cliff Nuclear Power Plant for 22 years as a security officer and in the warehouse. She enjoyed her retirement by spending time with family, traveling to Mexico, visiting Alaska by cruise ship and land, soaring in a hot air balloon over beautiful Sedona, AZ, searching for shark's teeth on the beach of The Chesapeake Bay, reading, and playing computer games.

Dee is preceded in death by her mother and step-father Charlotte and Oscar Frederick, sister Dorothy Mantuano, and brother Wallace Frederick. Dee is survived by her husband Bob Williams of which she was married to for 57 years; her children, Robert Williams Jr. of Oneonta, NY, Michael Williams (Ruthie Holland) and James Williams (Tracy Citrano) of St. Leonard, MD, Charles Williams (Greta) of Los Alamos, NM, and Frank Williams (Oksana) of Rio Rancho, NM; her sister Charlotte Jenkins; as well as 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

TIPS TO AVOID PROBATE

Contributing Writer:

Lynda J. Striegel

When you die, if you are holding property in your sole name, the only way that property can get to your loved ones is through the probate process. The only way to avoid probate is to create a Revocable Living Trust. By placing your assets into the name of your trust, when you die you will not have assets held in sole name and therefore, no probate.

Many people want to avoid putting their beneficiaries through the probate process. They don't like the fact that the filings in probate are publicly available or that it takes 8-12 months to close a probate. Or, that legal fees in a probate proceeding can be expensive. Additionally, they don't want their loved ones to have to sort through their assets in order to make the probate filings. They seek to make it simple. But, they don't want to spend the money to create a Revocable Living Trust.

What can be done? It is possible to minimize the number of assets that have to go through the probate process.

Since probate applies only to property held in your sole name when you die, you can transfer title of the property to someone else during your lifetime. Or, if you want to continue to maintain some control your property, you can transfer title to yourself and someone else. If you re-title the asset with someone else so that each of you are holding the asset jointly with “right of survivorship”, then when one of you dies, the other will inherit ownership of all the asset and there will be no probate.

Keep in mind that if your property is the subject of a mortgage, the mortgage company may restrict your rights to transfer your ownership.

Most commonly, a husband and wife will hold an asset like their primary residence in joint name with right of survivorship (also termed “tenants by the entirety”). This means that when one spouse dies, the other takes ownership of the entire property and there is no probate of the asset since it was held in joint name. Of course, when the survivor dies, there is probate of the asset.

Suppose you own a house and your spouse is deceased, meaning you own 100% of the property in your sole name. You have one child and want to add that child to your title to the property. Can you add another person, like a child, to your title to the property? Yes, that can be done with a deed. But, there are consequences you must think about

before you re-title any property.

The first issue is a tax issue. When you buy a house, your cost is your tax “basis” in the house. Suppose you buy a house with your husband forty years ago for a price of \$20,000 and the house is paid off. Today that house is worth \$200,000. If your husband is deceased and you own the house and add a child to your title, that child receives the property at your tax basis or \$20,000. When you die, if the child wants to sell the property, the child is going to have to pay capital gains tax on \$180,000, being the difference between your tax basis of \$20,000 and the market value of the property, \$200,000.

That tax can be avoided by passing the property to your child through your Will or Trust. A Will or Trust provides a “step up” in basis so the child or beneficiary takes the property at the market value. If the child then decides to sell the property, there is no tax since the child inherits the property at a value of \$200,000 and sells it for the same amount.

The other issue to be faced with putting a child on your title is whether the child has or will have creditors. Once you place property in the name of the child, their creditors become your creditors.

Another option to avoid probate is to use what is called “payable on death” forms at your bank. Every bank will have a “payable on death” form you can fill out indicating who will take the money in your accounts when you die. By filling out this form and designating a beneficiary to take your accounts, the accounts are not held in sole name and there is no probate on those accounts when you die. For investment accounts, you can designate beneficiaries to take the accounts when you die and avoid probate. These forms are called the “Transfer on Death” forms.

The best approach to probate is to focus on organizing your assets now so that your loved ones will not have to search through years of paperwork to try to find out what you own, where your accounts are, what insurance policies you have, etc. Believe me, your loved ones will love you even more if you leave them with very little to do in a probate proceeding.

Join me for a free seminar on the third Wednesday of each month at 11am at 8906 Bay Avenue in North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

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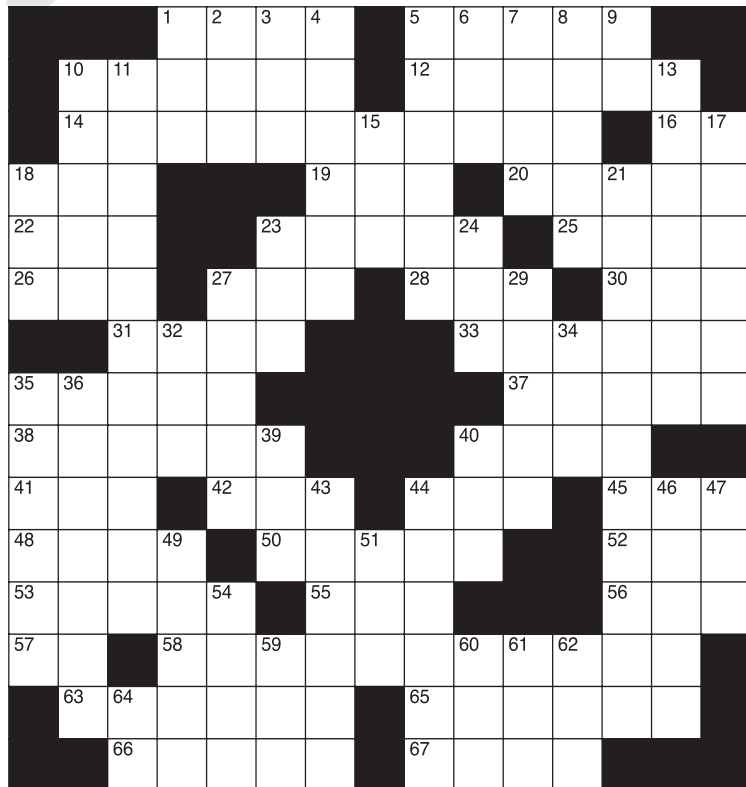
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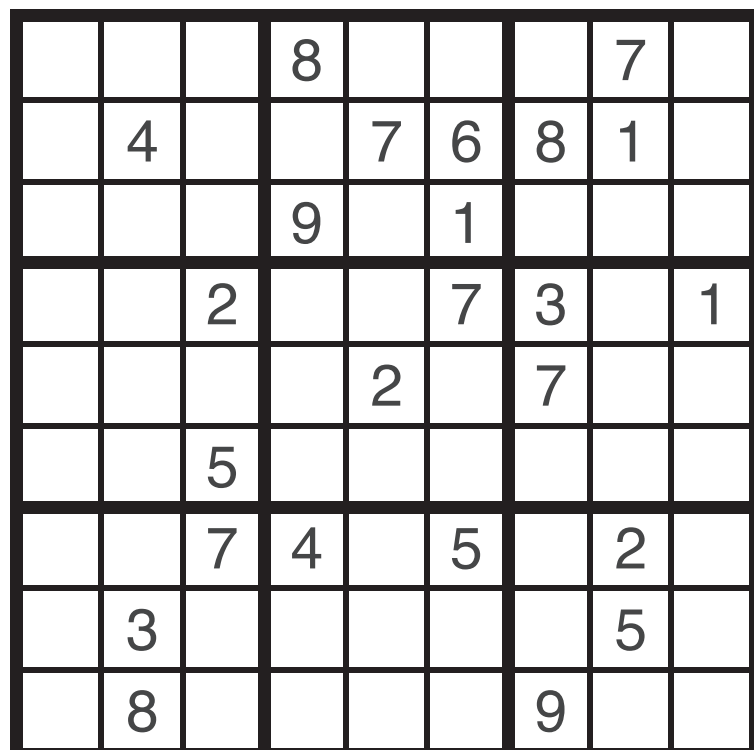
- 1. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 5. 2014 Winter Olympics host
- 10. Soft fabric
- 12. Covered in flowers
- 14. Works at a college or university
- 16. Keeps us cool
- 18. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 19. Similar
- 20. Birthplace of Muhammad
- 22. They ___
- 23. Preamble to a book
- 25. Southern China people
- 26. Hair product
- 27. The woman
- 28. Partner to cheese
- 30. One point north of due east
- 31. Round Dutch cheese
- 33. Be in awe of
- 35. Christmas song
- 37. Emits coherent radiation
- 38. Something that is comparable to another
- 40. Monetary unit
- 41. The cutting part of a drill
- 42. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects

- 44. Touch lightly
- 45. Toyota SUV
- 48. ___ and Andy, TV show
- 50. Made less dangerous
- 52. Assets under management (abbr.)
- 53. Nostrils
- 55. Moved quickly
- 56. Thai isthmus
- 57. TV personality Roker
- 58. Honors anew
- 63. Rags
- 65. One who obtains pleasure from inflicting pain or others
- 66. Marketplaces
- 67. Dark brown or black

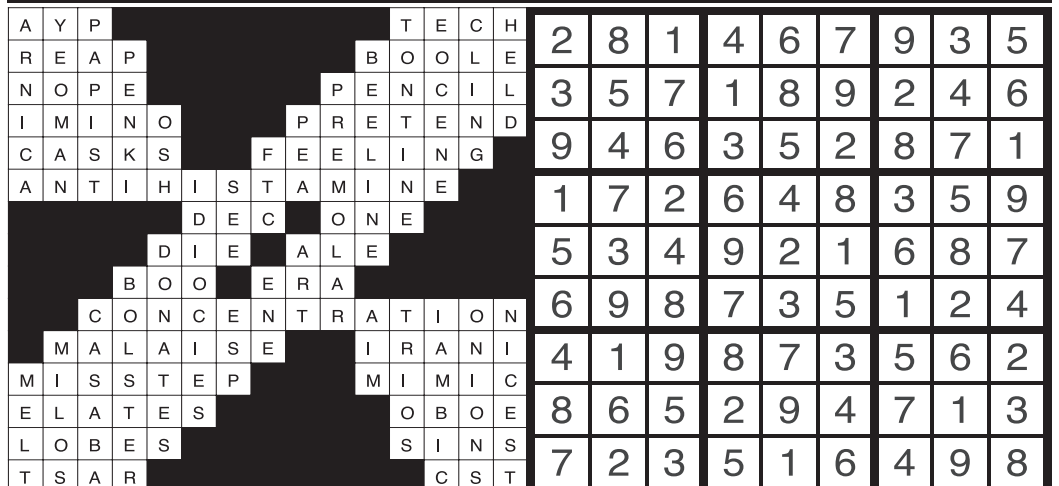
- horrifying
- 15. Equal (prefix)
- 17. Hosts film festival
- 18. Tattered piece of clothing
- 21. Rich desserts
- 23. Unique motor (abbr.)
- 24. Disfigure
- 27. Chemical substance
- 29. Slang for famous person
- 32. Department of Labor
- 34. The A-team rode around in one
- 35. Beach cabin
- 36. Living things
- 39. Gun (slang)
- 40. Disconsolate
- 43. Stroke gently
- 44. Actress Richards
- 46. "Cletus Hogg" actor
- 47. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 49. Brazilian mountain range
- 51. Upset
- 54. One with supernatural insight
- 59. Insecticide
- 60. Taxi
- 61. "Much ___ about nothing"
- 62. Canister
- 64. Popular clothing retailer

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
- 2. Not new
- 3. Brew
- 4. Stain with mud
- 5. Chief or leader
- 6. Luke Skywalker's mentor ___-Wan
- 7. Type of sauce
- 8. Sharpens
- 9. Priestess loved by Zeus
- 10. Jean Henri ___, French entomologist
- 11. Regulates supply of fuel
- 13. Disturbing and



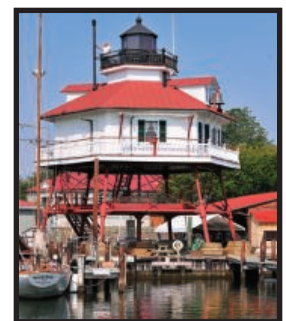
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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