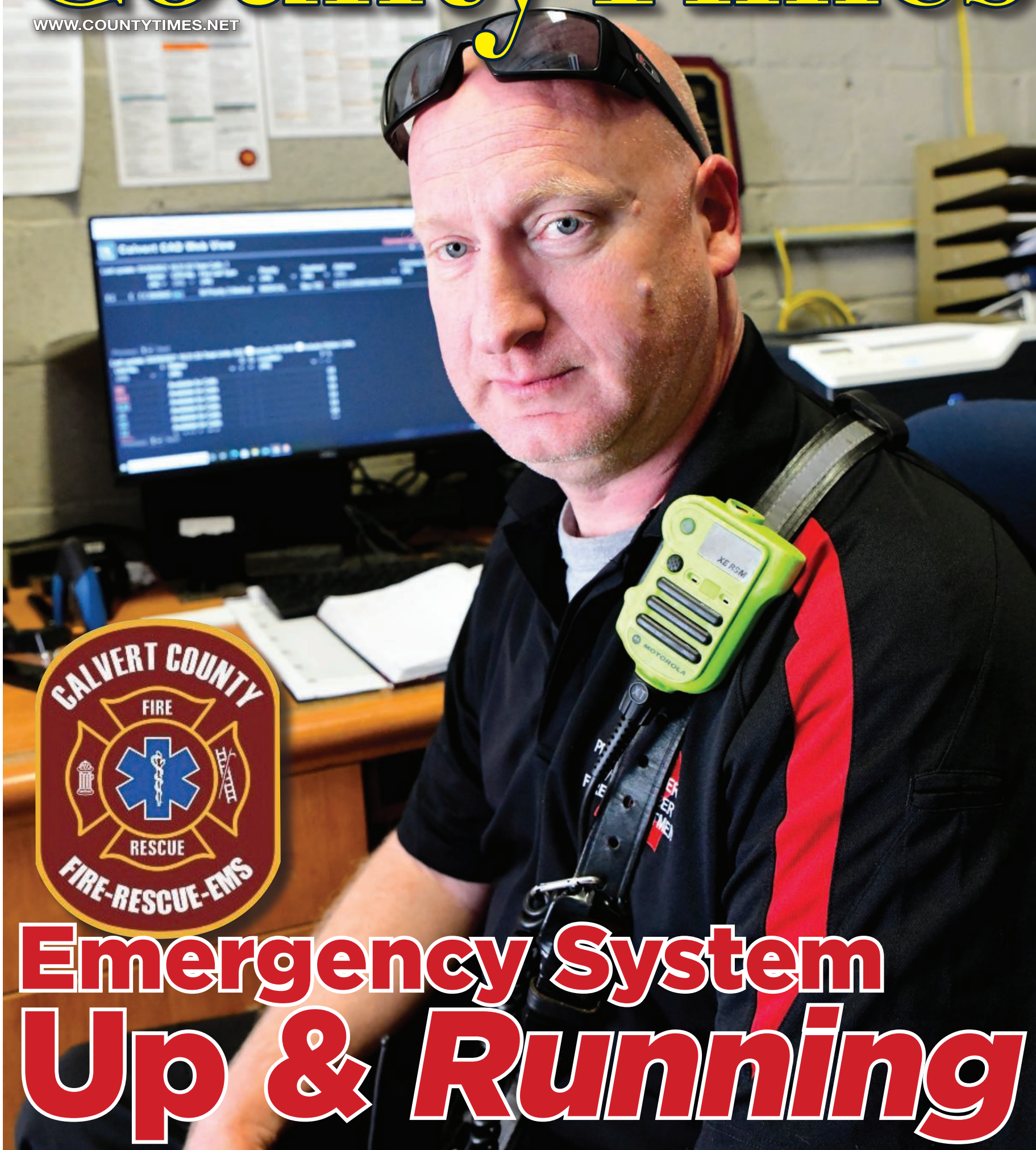


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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

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Emergency System Up & Running

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FEATURE 11
 Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Eric Holtzberger at the temporary firehouse with newly reprogrammed equipment in the county's new emergency communications system.



LOCAL 5
 Some students return on Fridays



COMMUNITY 9
 County establishes Veterans Commission

"I HAVE HELD ONE OR BOTH OF MY CHILDREN AS THEY CRY EVERY SINGLE DAY."

PARENT ASHLEY HAPENNEY ABOUT VIRTUAL LEARNING.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 4/1	Fri 4/2	Sat 4/3	Sun 4/4
53° 30°F	48° 33°F	59° 44°F	70° 47°F
AM Light Rain/Wind	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Mon 4/5	Tue 4/6	Wed 4/7	Thu 4/8
68° 49°F	70° 53°F	70° 52°F	69° 52°F
Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy



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Prince Frederick
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Chesapeake Beach
- Southern Community Center*
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COVID-19

As of March 30

Positive Cases	Deaths
Calvert 5652	66

Information provided by Calvert Health Department

Back to In-School Debate Continues

Parents, Students Rally at Board Meeting

By Dick Myers
Editor

As the Calvert County Board of Education arrived at the school system's administrative building for their March 25 meeting, they were greeted by dozens of parents and students rallying outside for a return to in-person education.

The rally organized by Melissa Macuci Goshorn featured speeches by several students and county commissioner candidate, Steve Jones.

School board members Pat Nutter and Antoine White stopped by the rally and Nutter reportedly pledged to have the board consider planning now for a full return to school in the fall.

Later at the meeting, school board member Dawn Balinski also said she favored that discussion. However, Vice President Pamela Cousins said she didn't favor having the discussion now. Cousins has been a consistent opponent of the return from all-virtual learning.

At the school board meeting the debate on when to return to the classrooms full-time continued during the public comment section, at which in-person testimony is limited to eight speakers and the rest via email to the board members.

Some of the parent supporters of return to in-school learning have been critical of the



Parent and student at the March 25 rally.

Calvert Education Association (CEA), which represents the teachers, for allegedly working against them.

But one of the public comment speakers, a parent and teacher, spoke in favor of a full return to school.

Rachael Ellison, a parent of a freshman and junior at Calvert High School, where she teaches algebra, said, "I am concerned for the student who told me that after being out of the classroom for so long, it's hard for him to look at people in the eye. I am concerned for the student that asked to meet with me before school starts before hours because his house is too loud. I'm concerned for my non-English-speaking students that for the first time had an 'a-ha' moment in math and will only get to see me four times a month for the rest of the year."



Melissa Macuci Goshorn speaking at the March 25 rally at Calvert County Public Schools' Brooks Administration Building in Prince Frederick.

Ellison added, "More concurrent hybrid will not fix this problem. Concurrent teaching for me is doable, but it's not enough for these kids. I am concerned with how our athletes and students view their reality and relationships. Their peers, our athletes are doing their best to enjoy the activities they love while wearing masks and competing against other athletes who don't. In addition, they see many other schools across the country fully engaged in sports, as well as music and theater programs."

Agreeing with the protesters, she said, "I think it is shortsighted to wait until summer to start planning for a full fall reopening."

Betty Goldstein, a teacher at Barstow Elementary, stood up for the CEA. She said of 1,227 people who qualify to be members of CEA, 1016 are dues paying members. "We had 667 responses to our survey. That is a response rate of nearly 70 percent."

She said members were asked to rank their five top concerns. "Most important was ac-

commodations for members of high-risk groups for complications from COVID; second, parent workplace safeties and concerns and considerations; third challenges resulting from substitute coverages. We don't and can't fill sub and other positions in our buildings."

She said the fourth concern was workplace safety followed in fifth place by "workload and work life balance."

She said, "Our members speak volumes about educators."

She added that the members average rating for CEA, out of a possible five, was 4.4.

Goldstein noted, "People have said they support educators, but not the union. That can't be true. Educators are the union."

Another speaker was Ashley Hapenny, a mother to seven and five-year-old students as well as a four-year-old.

"I am here today to advocate for my children and all the other parents, children and teachers who feel that you are doing a disservice to them," she said.

She added, "I have held one or both of my children as they cry every single day. They feel unnoticed and left out on the internet. Computer problems and constant distractions are just a few of the issues. My five-year-old even asked Santa to bring the teacher a new computer for Christmas so there wouldn't be any more computer problems."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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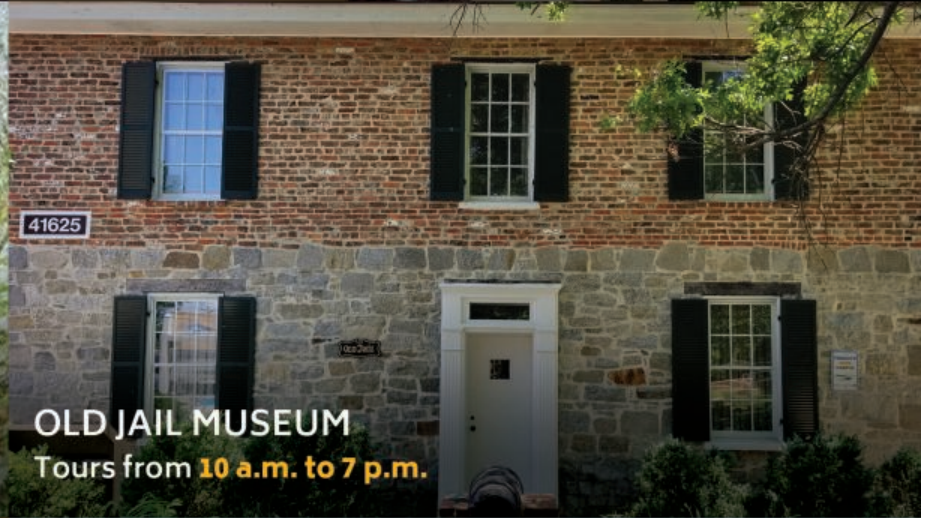
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Some Students to be in School on Fridays

By Dick Myers
Editor

Days after Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Curry announced dropping plans to bring students into school on Fridays, the school system launched plans to bring back on Fridays the students who are having the most difficulty with virtual learning. The new system will begin April 16.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Diane Workman told The County Times, "We've heard from parents, teachers and students that students are struggling with virtual learning. Although some students are coming four days one week, they continue to struggle in their off weeks. We're planning a robust summer program for struggling students, but we don't have enough teachers who are choosing to teach. Our teachers are exhausted and would love to have the summer off. Fridays are counted as one of the 180 required days of instruction. We have eight Fridays which we will be bringing in students, April 16 through June 4."

Workman noted this is a continuation of what the school system has been doing all year. "Some schools have been bringing small groups of students in all year. They have seen progress with these students," she said.

Workman explained, "Each school is identifying students who are struggling. Students may be struggling in reading, math and/or social-emotional."

What teachers will be involved? Workman said, "All teachers assigned to a school will be involved. It is not voluntary. There will be three hours where teachers will be required to work with students each Friday. The remainder of the day will be used for teachers to plan individually and collaboratively."

The Calvert Education Association (CEA), which represents the teachers, is upset at the abrupt change of plans. Amy Cox, CEA board member and Huntingtown High School teacher, talked about it during the public comment section of the school board's March 24 meeting.

Cox especially expressed empathy for her elementary school colleagues, who she said have faced "a Herculean journey" during the year.

Cox said some elementary school teachers have been treated like children by the school



Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Diane Workman.

system's leadership and some principals.

"You are told where to be and what to do when you're not actively teaching your students. Sometimes your schedules on Fridays are so packed, you must rush to the restroom. I see how just a little time to grade, create materials, prepare manipulatives, or use your time as you see fit would make all the difference in your morale and how you feel as a professional," she said.

Cox charged the teachers were treated like guinea pigs and the planning throughout the year was "not very well thought out and was shoddy at best."

Cox added, "I see you and your dedication, but I also see you in your exhaustion, your low morale, your desire to be part of the planning process. That includes what's best for CCPs teachers and students."

"I see your anger, when one day you're told you can keep your Fridays asynchronous for students, but then a few days later you are given yet another new schedule. You will be teaching to students who are lacking basic skills but given no extra time to plan for what you will teach or the resources to do so. No one asked you how you would choose the students, the logistics of who taught what and when or anything else, but you are expected to follow along and fill in the inevitable holes in these rushed plans."

When asked if there were any plans to expand the new program, Workman said, "Some schools are also keeping some students for an extended day program. We're starting with elementary but secondary schools will also be running a similar program."

The changes were done administratively, and the school board did not discuss them in open session."

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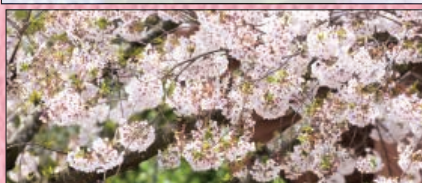
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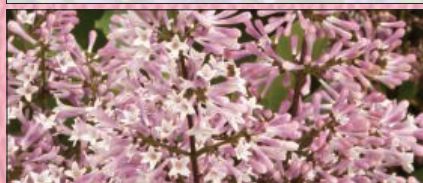
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COVID-19 Positivity Rate Rises for Fourth Week

Dates	Total	Positive	Negative	% positive
02/25-03/03	2391	109	2282	4.56%
03/04-03/10	2212	135	2077	6.10%
03/11-03-17	2163	152	2011	7.03%
03/18-03/24	2236	189	2047	8.45%

By Dick Myers
Editor

The COVID-19 positivity rate has been steadily climbing in Calvert County over the past four weeks. From 4.56 percent during the week of Feb. 25 to March 3, the rate has gone up each week to where it stands at 8.45 percent for the week of March 19-24.

Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky presented the data during his regular briefing to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on March 30.

Polsky blamed two factors for the rise:

"We know that there is an increase in both the UK variant and the California. There's actually two, almost identical variants that were first identified in California. So, the California variants and the UK are what we're predominantly seeing in Maryland at this point," he said, noting the data is based on "a kind of crude surveillance at the state level."

He added, "We know that the prevalence rates of both the UK and the California variants are significantly higher than they were a month, six weeks ago. Both of those strains are more easily transmitted from person to person. And there is very good evidence at this point that both of them are capable of causing more severe disease, which we've seen increases in hospitalization rates as well as increases in cases."

The second reason for the surge, he said: "This is just the reality. You have millions of people in this state (and) we're all fed up, and all this pent-up energy (in the) spring. Biologically, everybody hibernates in one way or another in the winter. And then when spring starts to roll around, people want to go out and do things, and then you have these kinds of subtle messages that we're past the worst of it. It's almost like it gives us permission. It gives license for people to start acting in ways that are going to increase transmission."

And to add to that double whammy is the impending Easter weekend when people will be attending social and family gatherings, increasing the risk of transmission, he said.

"People really need to focus on trying to hold themselves in check for another month, let their neighbors, let their family members, let their congregation

members, let everyone have a chance to get vaccinated who's in that 16 to 60 age range with underlying health conditions. And at that point, I think it'll be a much better late spring and summer," he advised.

Polsky noted that Calvert has been doing well in getting shots into the arms of senior citizens. "In Calvert County we had the second highest rate of vaccination among seniors in the entire state, and certainly it's not accidental. There's been a lot of work by a lot of people to try to really get the most vulnerable people in. So, when CVS and Walgreens fell flat with vaccinations in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, the health department jumped right in and made sure that residents were vaccinated. We continue to go out every two weeks to every nursing home and vaccinate any new residents or any new staff who were there. So, we realized that populations are not static.

"The Office on Aging and the nurses at the hospital had been doing a tremendous job going to senior centers and rotating around the county each week to make sure that people who can't travel to mass vaccination sites or other places that they can get vaccinated close to home."

Still, even with the success, there are 3,400 seniors who have not been vaccinated yet, for whatever reason.

Polsky observed, "Currently, about 25,700 Calvert County residents have at least begun their vaccination series; that accounts for about 20 percent of the total population or about 35 percent of all the adults." But the flip side, he noted, there is still a long way to go.

Polsky encouraged everyone 50 and older to register for vaccinations as well as everyone 16 and older with underlying health conditions or living with someone with those conditions. He said, however, that the health department has received no supplies this week of Pfizer, which is the only vaccine available to 16-year-olds.

Polsky also reported that the mass vaccination site in Waldorf is little used by local residents, with only eight percent of those being vaccinated there from Calvert, Charles, or St. Mary's counties.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

CSM Seeks Budget Cuts Restored

Schools Seek \$1 More from County

By Dick Myers
Editor

The March 23 hearing on the Staff Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 Calvert County Budget featured only four speakers. Only one of the speakers requested changes but that speaker represents a major community institution.

College of Southern Maryland President Dr. Maureen Murphy asked for restoration of monies cut from the budget request submitted by the college.

Dr. Murphy said, “We understand that we must be prudent stewards of student tuition and taxpayer dollars. And we’re proud that most of our money is directed toward instruction, student services and academic support. Learning is a human centered enterprise. Consequently, the overwhelming majority of our operating dollars go to salaries and benefits. And this focus has become even sharper during the pandemic.”

Dr. Murphy explained, “Calvert County is a partner in our operations and it’s disappointing that the recommended budget doesn’t include our request for \$92,939, a two-percent increase of our maintenance of effort. Indeed, we haven’t received an increase since 2018 nor have our one-time requests been honored. Unlike county employees, our



College of Southern Maryland President Dr. Maureen Murphy.

employees at the College of Southern Maryland have not received an increase since July 2019. This lack of funding has made it increasingly difficult to serve our over 4,200 credit students who attend the Prince Frederick campus.”

Murphy added, “CSM has already dipped into its rainy-day fund to the tune of \$2.8 million. Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for the college and especially for our students, their families have lost jobs.

They’ve had illness, they’ve had unbelievable food insecurity and we’ve tried our best to meet their needs.”

The college is also seeking an additional \$225,000 to pay for one class for more than 400 county students.

The other three speakers, from Jefferson Patterson Park, the Calvert County Historical Society and Leap Forward thanked the commissioners for their funding support.

The commissioners, however, don’t have an easy road ahead of them as they review the staff recommended budget and develop their own budget to be presented to the public in May. The budget submitted by staff has \$1,092,00 more in expenses than the anticipated \$324,933,241 in revenue. That will necessitate a reduction in budget requests, an increase in revenue (taxes) or a combination of both. The commissioners have pledged a tax rate decrease from \$0.0932 to \$0.0927 per assessed \$100 of real estate valuation.

The hearing also included a presentation from School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry on his proposed budget that includes only a request for a \$1 increase from the county but is \$6 million more than the current year, tapping their reserves to pay for salary increases ne-

gotiated with their three unions.


Two days later the school board adopted Curry’s budget. But school board member Dawn Balinski said they are able to tap into their Rainy-Day Fund because of “the state and federal funds flowing down to the counties, which will help us pay for all COVID related expenses, such as subsidizing the free meal distributions that have been going on since March, paying for PPE, paying for technology to do virtual teaching and for additional tutoring and summer school efforts.”

Balinski warned, “So going forward to meet contractual commitments that include a 1 percent cola and steps, we will need to continue to grow our budget by roughly \$5 to \$6 million per year. Our negotiated salary levels are intended to help us retain and attract the highest quality teachers and support staff that we can so that we stay competitive in the state and remain as one of the top three to five counties for teacher salaries.

“So, even though we’re not asking for any additional county funding this year, I just wanted to go on record and state that we will need to come back to the commissioners in the future to help us keep this district strong.”

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Former Calvert Settlement Agents Face Federal Charges

Embezzling Client Funds Alleged

A federal criminal complaint has been filed charging Brian Edward Steuart, 52, of Huntingtown and Jamie Lynn Alford (formerly known as Jamie Lynn Steuart), 44, of Port Republic with conspiracy to commit wire fraud affecting a financial institution, in connection with an alleged scheme to siphon off a portion of closing funds they collected while acting as settlement agents in certain real estate transactions. The criminal complaint was filed on March 18, 2021, and was unsealed at the defendant's initial appearance on March 26.

The criminal complaint was announced by Acting United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Jonathan F. Lenzner; Special Agent in Charge Mark P. Higgins of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), Office of Inspector General (OIG); and Acting Special Agent in Charge Shawn Rice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General (OIG).

According to the affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, Steuart and Alford were husband and wife from June 2008 until September 2017. Beginning in August 2011, Steuart and Alford were settlement agents for Company 1, a title and settlement company located in Prince Fred-

erick, which closed real estate transactions for properties in Maryland and Virginia. Steuart and Alford were responsible for closing mortgage loans used to purchase or refinance properties, reviewing property titles, issuing title insurance, facilitating closings, and ensuring that the land records were properly filed and recorded. Steuart and Alford also had a fiduciary duty to all parties involved in each real estate transaction, including to accurately account for, collect, and disburse settlement funds from the seller, the buyer, and the lender, in order to close a transaction.

The affidavit alleges that Steuart and Alford violated their fiduciary duty by embezzling funds from unsuspecting clients during real estate closings from at least 2011 to 2017, from both buyers and sellers, from Company 1, and even from a deceased seller's estate. The fraud was typically accomplished by inflating or inventing various fees or taxes, creating false entries in settlement documents, and creating forged or altered checks. Steuart and Alford allegedly wrote checks to themselves, wrote checks payable to each other, or were jointly made the payee on checks. The affidavit alleges that the defendants deposited the fraudulently obtained funds directly into joint accounts for

the benefit of both of them.

According to the affidavit, in order to conceal their fraudulent activities from individuals inside and outside Company 1, Steuart and Alford falsified the settlement statements and altered or fabricated bank statements. The fabricated bank statements allegedly had beginning and ending balances that were significantly lower than the true amounts according to the actual bank records. In addition, information such as the date or amount for deposits, withdrawals, credits, or checks were allegedly also inaccurate and there were checks added or missing in some of the fabricated statements.

As detailed in the affidavit, between 2011 and 2017 Steuart received a total of \$735,825.63 from Company 1—both lawfully and unlawfully. However, he allegedly reported his salary to the State of Maryland for that time period to be only \$208,168.50. Between 2011 and 2016 Alford allegedly received a total of \$653,537.91 from Company 1 for all sources—both lawful and unlawful. However, she allegedly reported her salary to the State of Maryland for that time period to be only \$302,462.50.

If convicted, Steuart and Alford each face a maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison for wire fraud affecting a financial institution. Actual sentences

for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after taking into account the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. At today's initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy J. Sullivan ordered that the defendants be released pending trial.

A criminal complaint is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by criminal complaint is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

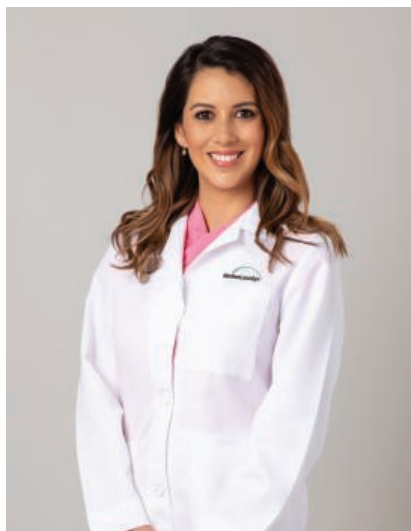
Acting United States Attorney Jonathan F. Lenzner commended the FHFA, HUD, and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, the Maryland State Police, and the Anne Arundel County Police Department for their assistance. Mr. Lenzner thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael Morgan and Erin B. Pulice, who are prosecuting the case.

For more information on the Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office, its priorities, and resources available to help the community, please visit www.justice.gov/usao/md.

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Commissioner Election Bill Gets First Senate Hearing

By Guy Leonard and Dick Myers
Staff Writers

St. Mary's Del. Brian Crosby (D-Dist. 29B) continued to defend his bill that would compel counties, including Calvert, which elect their commissioners at-large to change to selecting them on the basis of districts only, this time in the Senate's Health, Education and Environmental Affairs Committee hearing of March 23.

The bill remains in that committee as of March 30 and no votes have been taken, according to the Maryland General Assembly's records.

Crosby continued to argue that electing commissioners at large dilutes the votes of people living in a certain district who have a vested interest in electing someone to focus on those particular interests.

The bill would also change the way boards of education are elected in those at-large counties.

"This bill is about fairness, equality and diversity," Crosby said in the virtual hearing. "It simply improves democracy at the local level by instituting in-district voting and ends a discriminatory and anti-democratic policy that has historically prevented minority political factions from engaging in the political process."

At-large voting, Crosby said, had its roots in Jim Crow laws that were used to disadvantage and discourage African-American, minority or minority ideologies from being represented; this did not mean those elected under this system were racist, however.

Ellen Kohl, a professor of environmental studies, specializing in human geography, at St. Mary's College of Maryland, testified in support of Crosby's bill.

She said at-large voting methods "are a second-generation barrier to voting, what some have called Jim Crow 2.0."

"These direct structural barriers rose when direct forms of voter disenfranchisement such as all-white primaries, poll taxes and [literacy tests] ... were ruled unconstitutional," Kohl said.

Opponents of the bill doubted that it would achieve the ends described by Crosby and the other supporters; they also said the intrusion into the affairs of other counties was unwelcome.

Calvert County Board of County Commissioners President Buddy Hance opposed the bill. He said, "We've had minority commissioners in the past and we currently have minority members of the board of education.

"We have minorities dispersed all over the county." Hance said. "I could

argue that going to district voting could harm minority [candidates] so that all minorities could not join together to support that individual."

Commissioner Tim Hutchins, however, supported the bill in a letter to the committee. Hutchins, a former delegate, said the bill "brings to fruition the principal embodied in the 1964 Supreme Court guidance of 'one man one vote.' The Court's guidance focused then generally on reapportionment and resulted in the convening of the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1966-1967. HB655 supports that concept today of one person one vote, by ensuring that county commissioner representation is selected by the registered voters of those individual districts in which their representative is required to be a resident.

"Calvert County is ideally apportioned to easily fulfill the principle purpose of HB655, which is to me today One Person-One Vote, a concept of constitutional right. In Calvert there are three Commissioner Districts which already require residency of its commissioners, additionally there are two at large commissioners. Currently all are elected by the total registered voters in the county who chose to cast a vote. Thus the citizens who live in a particular Commissioner District, are subject to a dilution of their vote for their respective District Commissioner by the fact that the entire voting population of the county may sway the outcome for a particular candidate.

"Consequently, this current method may unduly influence the outcome of who may represent the residents in their particular district. One may prefer that this concept will hurt minority groups that are not concentrated in a given district.

Again, in Calvert County no matter the dispersion of a given minority element of the voting population they have the opportunity to vote for the majority of the Board of County Commissioners. With the passage of HB655 they will continue to have the opportunity to vote for two at large candidates and one district candidate. Thus any argument that HB655 will unduly hurt any minority population is simply not true, as everyone will be able to vote for a majority of the Board of County Commissioners.

During the hearing, Crosby said he had not counted the bill being controversial.

"To be honest, when I put this bill in, I didn't expect it to get the political attention that it got," Crosby said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net and dickmyers@countytimes.net

Commissioners Establish Veterans Commission



Calvert County will establish a Veterans Affairs Commission to advise the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on programs, policies and initiatives affecting the lives of Calvert County veterans. The BOCC unanimously approved the measure establishing the volunteer commission during their Tuesday, March 23, 2021 regular meeting.

"Calvert County has strong and proud ties to the military, and we are pleased to establish this commission so that we can better serve those who have served our nation," said BOCC President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance.

Once formed, the commission will work with the community to promote and expand existing veteran support and services within the county. The commission will also be tasked with providing assistance, guidance and information to businesses and other public entities to ensure adequate representation of veterans in employment, education, training and public programs throughout Calvert County.

The BOCC will appoint nine voting members to serve three-year volunteer terms, with a limit of three consecutive full terms. Voting members must be veterans honorably separated from mili-

tary service. Voting members will consist of one business owner, one educator or educational administrator, one representative from each of the four American Legion posts in Calvert County and three at-large members.

The Veterans Affairs Commission will meet monthly and provide, at minimum, an annual report to the BOCC. Those interested in serving may complete an application form through the Volunteer Boards and Commissions webpage at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/GetInvolved.

Formation of the Veterans Affairs Commission is part of the board's continuing effort to ensure that positive and impactful support and services are available for Calvert County veterans. The Department of Community Resources will support the commission.

The Board of County Commissioners has established over 50 boards, commissions and committees that offer Calvert County citizens an avenue to actively participate in local government. A list of all volunteer boards and commissions and current vacancies is available online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/GetInvolved.

Press Release from Calvert County Government.



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REFRESHER ON THE NEW RETIREMENT LAWS

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

A refresher while you are preparing your taxes for 2020:

The SECURE Act, the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act” was passed into law effective January 1, 2020. This new retirement law has five significant changes, as follows:

1. The new law increases the age for Required Minimum Distribution (the “RMD”) from 70 ½ to 72. The RMD is the amount you are required to withdraw from your retirement account. Anyone turning 70 ½ in 2020 is not required to take RMD. If you have been taking RMDs prior to 2020, you will need to continue taking them. Starting in 2020, you are required to withdraw retirement funds at age 72 (as opposed to 70 ½ prior to 2020). Those born on or before June 30, 1949 must take RMDs at age 70 ½. Those born in July through December 1949 take RMDs in 2021; those born in 1950 take RMDs in 2022 and those born in 1951 take RMDs in 2023.

2. The new law eliminates the IRA “stretch” option. This is potentially the most significant law change. When you withdraw money from a traditional IRA in RMDs, you must pay income tax on the money. Inherited IRAs with death dates prior to 2020 were able to “stretch” the RMDs over the beneficiary’s lifetime. For younger beneficiaries, this meant the amounts of RMD could be much smaller and therefore result in a smaller income tax. Beginning in 2020, the new law requires, for non-spouse beneficiaries, that an inherited IRA has to be distributed over 10 years after the individual’s death. The new provisions make it clear that IRAs must be liquidated, and income taxes paid,

over a ten year period, potentially resulting in income tax on much larger amounts required to be withdrawn. For deaths in 2020 and later, all IRAs must be distributed in full by the tenth calendar year following death.

3. The new law repeals the maximum age for traditional IRA contributions. Prior to 2020, no one over age 70 ½ was permitted to make IRA contributions. The new law allows anyone over 70 ½ who has U.S. earned income to make contributions to a traditional IRA. With our population aging, this is a good benefit for saving.

4. The new law expands Section 529 plans. Parents can now use their 529 accounts to cover costs associated with registered apprenticeships and for up to \$10,000 of qualified student loan repayments. This should be a help to those paying student loans.

5. The new law increases the maximum credit for startup business retirement plans from \$500 to \$5,000. A new tax credit of \$500 is also available for some smaller employers who set up automatic enrollment in their plans.

Everyone with a traditional IRA or similar retirement plan should consult their financial advisors or accountants about how to cope with the changes in the new law.

Join me on the third Wednesday of every month to discuss this and other topics at 11am, 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

We support PROJECT ECHO, the homeless shelter in Calvert County and urge you to do the same. Donate to Project Echo at www.projectecho.com. Your support is appreciated.

Lusby Man Wins \$100,000 Prize

Earned on \$30 Instant Ticket

A Lusby man’s pit stop on the way to a part-time gig made him \$100,000 richer, courtesy of the Maryland Lottery.

During a short delay in his commute, the 45-year-old stopped at a Calvert County convenience store to purchase a \$100,000 Extreme Cash scratch-off. The winner, calling himself “Lucky in Lusby,” told Lottery officials that he was commuting from his historic restoration job to another part-time job. He found his fortune when he stopped at Wawa #591 in Prince Frederick.

“I had scanned the ticket in the store, so I knew I had won, but I figured it was something small. When I got to my vehicle, I scratched to reveal the prizes and that’s when I began to see all those skinny zeroes,” said the winner.

Since no one was around to share in the excitement of winning \$100,000, he quickly called his wife to share the news. “Lucky in Lusby” said he plans to use the \$100,000 prize to move his family from an apartment to a house.

His \$30 ticket to home owner-



ship came from Wawa #591 located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick. For selling a \$100,000 top-prize winning scratch-off, the store earned a \$1,000 bonus from the Lottery.

The popular \$100,000 Extreme Cash scratch-off began selling at Lottery retailers in September and features prizes from \$30 to \$100,000. With this win, the game now has 41 \$100,000 top prizes remaining.

Press Release from MD Lottery.

State Opens MD 261 in North Beach

Crews Continue Final Phases

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) has reopened MD 261 (Bay Avenue) between 9th Street in Calvert County and the Anne Arundel County line. Crews recently paved the two-lane roadway, covered existing signs and updated the portable variable message signs used for the temporary traffic detour.

The temporary road closure was part of the \$6.3 million MD 261 Roadway Reconstruction Project designed to raise the elevation of the roadway to reduce flooding along Bay Avenue. Flagging operations will continue to direct motorists through the work zone as crews continue construction of the remainder of the project, which is scheduled for completion in summer 2021. Learn more about the project at <https://mdot-sha-md261-recon-8th-st-to-beach-ave-ca1485184-maryland.hub.arcgis.com/>



MDOT SHA works hard to maintain safe traffic mobility in work zones for our crews as well as our customers. Drivers need to stay alert, focus on driving and, look for reduced speed limits, as well as other driving pattern changes. Drive like you work here and slow down in work zones.

For a list of all major MDOT SHA projects, go to Project Portal. Visit our homepage at roads.maryland.gov. For a look at real-time traffic conditions, go to md511.maryland.gov.

Press Release from MDOT SHA.

County Activates Emergency Communications System

\$21M: Largest Single Contract Ever Awarded

By Dick Myers
Editor

Any area's emergency services are only as good as the communications system that supports them. A call unheard equates to help not received. That's why Calvert County in early 2016 awarded its largest single contract ever -- \$21.4 million to Motorola Solutions, Inc.

On March 23, with Commissioner President Buddy Hance doing the honor, the county officially activated the new 800-megahertz P25 digital communications system that replaces the county's 25-year-old system. According to a press release announcing the accomplishment, it provides "enhanced radio coverage and interoperability for the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, fire departments, rescue squads and county government agencies."

"The vital importance of radio communications for emergency personnel cannot be overstated," said Hance. "This new system will provide a new level of safety and service that our citizens and first responders deserve."

"The old system has served us well, but we are excited for the increased coverage and capabilities that the new system provides," said Public Safety Director Jackie Vaughan. "In addition, Calvert County will maintain full control of the entire system, including the new towers and radios, and the technology is protected against obsolescence so we can expect this new system to serve the needs of our citizens and first responders for the next 20 years."

Vaughan, who has been with county government for 39 years, remembers the beginning of the long process that led up to last week's milestone. She said, "It was probably back in the thousands when I approached the finance department about putting a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) project in the budget. At that time, it was estimated to be anywhere between 17 and 20 million, which is a large hit or almost all of the CIP money in one year. So, the project kept getting pushed out and pushed out for a couple of years to the point that our old system, it was reliable at that point and working well, knowing the technology had changed. We needed to replace it."

"So, I approached the finance department that I know it is a big hit in your CIP budget. Let's spread this over several years. At that time, it was estimated to be about \$21 million. And that was probably around 2010, 2011. So, we broke it up into three separate year CIP budgets."

She continued, "In 2013, I wrote an RFP (Request for Proposals), went out to bid and hired a consulting company to come in and help give us direction on what we needed



Newly reprogrammed portable radios charging in the temporary Prince Frederick firehouse.

to purchase, how we needed to purchase it, what we needed in the radio system. So, they were hired. They helped us write an RFP for a radio system, which hit the streets in 2015.

"And then we had an internal evaluation committee in the county that reviewed the proposals that were received. And the contract was awarded in March of 2016 to Motorola. We started working with Motorola to design the system based on our RFP."

She admitted, "There were some delays," but, "Tower construction and equipment installation began in 2017 and system testing began in 2019. Five existing towers were replaced, four new towers were constructed, and communications equipment was installed on other existing structures throughout the county."

With a total of 15 sites, the new system provides more reliable in-building coverage, increases the number of available communications channels from five to 10, and provides 1,200 new mobile and portable radios to first responders and public safety personnel.

"The system is also designed to enable police and fire departments to better communicate with other local, state and federal agencies when a multi-jurisdictional response is required."

"In addition to 20-year maintenance and life cycle protection, the system comes with new features, such as GIS mapping with automatic emergency personnel location and 'man down' emergency alerts."

Vaughan proudly boasted during a March 26 interview, "In the end, I think we ended up with a state-of-the-art system that is definitely going to last the county at least 20 years, if not longer."

Director of Emergency Communications Stanley Harris, who has been with the county for 15 years, said of the previous system, "I don't know if there were actually deficiencies, but we lacked channel capacity." He said communications were shared with police, fire and rescue as well as county government users." And as to coverage, "We went from five sites to 15 sites. We directly increased the

coverage in Calvert County and addressed the dead spots."

Harris said the old system was designed for "industry coverage," not in buildings but 90 to 95 percent street coverage. "We designed for in-building coverage. So, it doesn't mean that we went into people's homes and did coverage testing, but we did go into what we deemed critical buildings in the county and tested coverage in those buildings. If they failed as coverage with the 15 (tower) sites that were designed, we had installed what we call a BDA bi-directional amplifier, which amplifies radio signals in those buildings. Some of those critical buildings were schools, nursing homes, any place that has had the potential to having large capacity of people in them. And we designed to 95 percent coverage in the county."

Some of the former dead spots, Harris said, were "Brownie's Beach, Driftwood Beach and the Ranch (Chesapeake Ranch Estates in Lusby)."

Harris explained, "There were places just on the cliffs. If we went down Breezy Point Road, for example, we lost coverage. Well, this one was designed to address that."

The system was also designed, Harris said, to address interoperability. "If you weren't on the exact model radio system, you couldn't talk to St. Mary and St. Mary's couldn't talk to Calvert County," he explained.

The project involved replacing all the portable radios in very squad car, every fire truck for every officer, firefighter and EMT. And they replaced the alerting system at every firehouse.

The system can be adapted to changing technology, Vaughan said, "Because it was using tax dollars, it was in the CIP project that it had to be up and running for 20 years. Which means they have to maintain it for 20 years. And no part of the radio system can become obsolete in 20 years. So, if one part breaks and they can't fix it, they have to put something else in that will allow us to continue to operate at the level we are now for the next 20 years."

Harris said, "We have a one-stop

shop. Now, if anything breaks, we call Motorola, and it is their responsibility to repair or replace it. And that goes from radios to the infrastructure, to generators, to tower lights, to an air conditioner. We're not going out and finding vendors to repair things. We call Motorola and it's their responsibility to have it taken care of."

Harris said Motorola has a shop in Prince George's County and two employees stationed in Calvert full time to respond to problems.

The system isn't yet fully operational, and the equipment isn't yet in everyone's hands but will be soon. Each location has a punch list of requirements. "We'll have about six months of cleanup of those punch list items," Vaughan said.

The new towers were one of the biggest parts of the project. Vaughan said, "I expected to meet some resistance on the towers because they are there and you know, they're tall." But she said, "When we really explained to them what the tower was for and why they were being built, where they were being built, no one really complained about it."

There was also buy-in from the emergency responders. "We included the users in the process, law enforcement or county government in our user group that actually helped write the RFP and then evaluated the vendor. So, they all had buy-in into it," Vaughan said.

Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Eric Holtzberger called the system "Pretty good. It's working the way it was intended to operate." He said being digital, the sound quality is superior.

Holtzberger said the previous system had a dead spot in Dares Beach but the new system is working fine.

North Beach VFD Chief Chris Mills agrees. "It's been good so far." He said the main advantage has been the added channels.

Vaughan said another feature that the new system has that's causing other counties to salivate over is its Wi-fi program. She said, "Typically somebody would have to take a laptop and touch all 2000 radios in the county, go to one radio, plugging into the laptop, get the next radio plugged into the laptop. We were able to sit in our office and hit one button and program radios over the Wi-fi network. Wow. That probably would've taken us a week to complete; we've finished in less than six hours."

"When you have your surrounding counties calling you, saying, 'Hey, how does this work? That's pretty cool.' You know, I think we definitely did a good job on designing the system," Vaughan said.

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CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

During the week of March 15 - 21, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1, 379 calls for service throughout the community.

Burglary: 2021-13634

On March 15, 2021, Deputy Norton responded to 2600 block of Lowery Road in Huntingtown, MD for the report of a burglary. The complainant advised an unknown male suspect was standing in the kitchen of his residence. The suspect fled the scene as the homeowner approached. No property was taken from the home.

Burglary: 2021-14542

On March 20, 2021, Deputy Shoemaker responded to 1100 block of Monterey Dr. in Lusby, MD for the report of a burglary. The complainant advised sometime between March 7 and March 15, an unknown suspect(s) attempted forced entry into the residence through a French door, however nothing inside the home was taken. The approximate value of damaged property is \$1,300.00.

Damaged Property: 2021-14638

On March 20, 2021, Deputy Wilder responded to a residence in the 900 block of Lubbock Lane in Lusby, MD for report of damaged property. The complainant advised unknown suspects damaged a rope swing in front of his residence. The estimated value of damaged property is \$50.00.

Theft: 2021-13572

On March 15, 2021, Deputy Durnbaugh responded to the 300 block of Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, MD for report of a theft from a vehicle. The complainant advised sometime between March 8 at 6 p.m. and March 11 at 2 p.m., unknown suspects stole two sets of golf clubs and a Bushnell Rangefinder. The total value of stolen property is

\$1160.00.

Theft: 2021-14773

On March 21, 2021, Deputy Ostazeski responded to 8100 block of Cardinal Lane in Lusby, MD for a report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 12 a.m. and 9:45 a.m., an unknown suspect(s) stole her faded black metal mailbox and white plastic post. The total value of stolen property is \$40.00.

Theft: 2021-14318

On March 19, 2021, Deputy Holt responded to the 8000 block of Silver Fox Way in Chesapeake Beach, MD for a report of a theft from a vehicle. The complainant advised between March 18 at 7 p.m. and March 19 at 7:35 a.m., unknown suspects broke into her unlocked vehicle and stole a pair of Tory Burch sunglasses, \$50 in change, and a \$100 Amazon gift card. The total amount of stolen property is \$350.00.

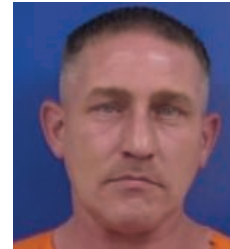
Theft: 2021-14564

On March 20, 2021, Deputy Holt responded to the 7000 block of C Street in Chesapeake Beach, MD for a report of a theft from a vehicle. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) had stolen air fresheners, chargers, and other miscellaneous items from the vehicle. The total value of stolen property is \$30.00.

ARRESTS

On March 16, 2021, Deputy Parks conducted a traffic stop in the area of Rt. 4 in front of the Walmart in Prince Frederick, MD. While making contact with the driver, **Jason David Young**, 43 of Huntingtown, MD, Deputy Parks observed an odor of alcohol emanating from

Young's breath. A search of the vehicle was conducted and an unloaded handgun that did not belong to Young was found along with several pills for which Young did not have a prescription for. Young was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, Possession of CDS While Detained in a Place of Confinement, Possession of Handgun in a Vehicle and Possession of Handgun on Person.



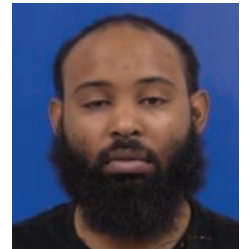
Jason David Young

On March 17, 2021 Deputy Idol conducted a traffic stop in the area of Rt. 260 and Skinners Turn Lane in Owings, MD. Upon making contact with the driver, **Ellis Eugene Gray Jr.**, 36 of Washington D.C., a strong odor of marijuana was emitting from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle was conducted and a large amount of marijuana was found. Ellis Jr. was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Marijuana 10 GM+ and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Ellis Gray Jr

of 5th Street and N. Side Drive in Owings, MD. Upon making contact with the driver, **Khoury Derrell Bethea**, 30 of Suitland, MD, a strong odor of marijuana was emitting from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle was conducted and a large amount of marijuana was found. Bethea was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Marijuana 10 GM+.



Khoury Bethea

On March 20, 2021, Deputy Denton conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of West Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, MD. Upon making contact with the driver of the vehicle, **Chade Annette Hall**, 24 of Waldorf, MD, Deputy Denton noticed a strong odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed five plastic bags containing marijuana, a Xanax pill, and a loaded Tarus 9mm handgun. Hall was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with CDS: Possession of Marijuana 10+ GM, CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, and Loaded Handgun in Vehicle.



Chade Hall

On March 20, 2021, Deputy Idol conducted a traffic stop in the area

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'Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work' Progress Cited

Program Helps Businesses, Citizens with Workforce Challenges

The progress made by the regional effort aimed at 'Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work' is the latest topic of "Inside Your County Government," a podcast that brings an inside look at the people and events that shape Charles County and the Southern Maryland Region. During the podcast, host Brent Huber was joined by College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Associate Vice-President of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Ellen Flowers-Fields and Ruthy Davis, director of Regional Workforce and Business Development for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) to discuss the significant headway being made to create transparent, accessible and coordinated pathways to skills upgrade training and re-employment for individuals who became unemployed or underemployed as a result of the pandemic.

CSM and TCCSMD partnered to launch the Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work effort one year ago when the nation's business shutdowns began.

"This all started with a compelling conversation between Ruthy and I immediately following the shutdowns back in March of 2020," said Flowers-Fields of her and Davis' partnership. "We talked about the very important role that we play in supporting our regional economy in terms of connecting people with jobs and providing skills training." Recognizing the foreshadowing impact of prolonged shutdowns, the pair moved quickly "to align the federal, state and local resources that we each receive so that we could respond to business needs, help individuals being laid off and get in front of some of the emerging trends," she added, "and from that conversation, the Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work Initiative was launched."

Davis pointed out that she and Flowers-Fields had long been partners in local workforce development and they knew early on that every business and citizen in Southern Maryland would become a stakeholder in the effort.

"Our local businesses ... immediately needed help to sustain and continue to operate and grow and thrive in the midst of the pandemic shutdowns," Davis said. "Second [were] our citizens. Now there are citizens who are unemployed or under-employed as a result of the pandemic. There are citizens – who data shows us from previous economic upheavals – are going to want to be career changers at this point. We saw this after 9/11, when some first responders wanted to get out of that business and people who weren't first responders said 'I want in [that career].'"

Another compelling issue, according to Flowers-Fields, is that many resources are available to businesses and individuals within the community but very often they either are unaware of them, or uncertain as to whether or not the services are actually available to them.

"So being able to communicate to the community and through the community about the availability of the resources, and to make sure the services we are providing,

actually respond to immediate pain points," was very important, according to Flowers-Fields. "So it was important for us to engage as many individuals as possible to ask the question, first and foremost, 'what do you need?' Second [was] to educate them about the capacity we have to respond to workforce needs. Also engaging our K through 12 and our economic development partners in those conversations so that we are ensuring that the full spectrum of people entering the workforce – whether you're just coming out of high school, or whether you are in a GED program or whether, as Ruthy said, you're a career changer – that the conversations were happening across the full spectrum of the workforce. More importantly was having the conversations that we are here to help this economy reposition itself. That is the work we have been doing."

"Our road to recovery actually moves through CSM and the Tri-County Council at bringing together the businesses and then training the people to help recover us economically," said Huber as he heard details of the many results already provided by the initiative.

To identify issues and leverage progress, Flowers-Fields and Davis held virtual Town Halls meetings with leaders from healthcare, retail/hospitality, construction and IT/professional services industries – all considered essential trades during the pandemic and all largely reshaped by COVID-19. A snapshot of results include:

Workforce Preparation

Equity & Access in Instructional Delivery

During the pandemic, more than 90 percent of CSM instructional learning was switched to web based, Real Time Technology or hybrid learning modalities allowing existing students to continue their studies and providing new students access.

Aligned workforce training efforts with those of the Workforce Development Board with the goal of meeting the needs of disadvantaged populations in the community. From March – December 2020, 28 individuals were awarded nearly \$106,000 in federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support their education and attainment of an industry recognized credential.

In 2020, CSM conferred 1,426 certificates and associate degree graduates,

CSM delivered workforce and continuing education training to 4,298 individuals. Of those, 3,458 enrolled in courses leading to an industry recognized certification or credential. While many are still enrolled, 290 students completed workforce training certificates by the end of December 2020. The highest number of completers were in Electrical Helper and Certified Nursing Assistant/Geriatric Nursing Assistant providing a skilled and readily available workforce.

SkillUp© Southern Maryland was procured providing an online training platform to upskill our local workforce and increase the pool of qualified candidates to support our existing and potential local businesses. Accessible 24/7 from anywhere with internet access, SkillUp® Southern

Maryland can help workers who plan to return to their former employer as well as those who are looking to change careers by offering free and unlimited access to more than 5,000 high-quality online training courses for 180 days. Whether they are looking for a first job, a new job or to advance in their chosen field, residents can take advantage of this service to reach their career goals. The platform also offers business services to assist with recruitment, hiring and internal training.

Approximately 7,500 unemployed Southern Maryland residents receive weekly outreach providing relevant information and useful resources.

Industry Engagement

To date, more than 240 industry and community leaders have convened through this initiative to discuss solutions to COVID impacts on existing and future workforce needs (in collaboration with TCCSMD).

Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work delivered customized employer-specific workforce and professional development training for 26 regional employers, supporting 734 incumbent workers gaining skills upgrade training in areas from leadership development, technology skills, COVID safety to employee wellness and more.

A regional virtual hiring event held in September 2020 connected 64 hiring employers with 952 individuals seeking employment and resulted in 52 confirmed hires.

Fifty customized recruitments were held for 44 employers and 127 individuals were hired as a result.

Meeting the needs of the construction industry

In response to the regional needs of the construction industry and to assist the K-12 public school CTE programs, CSM entered into an agreement with Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) last fall, according to Flowers-Fields. This agreement focuses on early entry into formal apprenticeships through the delivery of an Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship training program. This 200-hour Pre-Apprenticeship Electrical Helper Hybrid training program provides classroom, skill lab and online instruction preparing participants to enter full-time employment as an electrical helper and entry into formal apprenticeship training to become an electrician.

In addition, Flowers-Fields said the first cohort with Charles County Public Schools is scheduled to begin training in early 2021. Ten individuals were awarded federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support their education and attainment of an industry recognized credential in the construction industry.

Meeting the needs of the healthcare community

"One of the hardest hit industries during this pandemic has been our healthcare providers, specifically our local/regional Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) providers," said Flowers-Fields. "CSM and representatives of local DDA providers have been meeting to discuss the development of a standardized training pro-

gram and professional development pathway which would assist our local employers with recruitment and retention of valuable frontline caregivers by relieving the burden of new employee training and existing employee professional development from the employer and moving it to the college."

Additionally, CSM added COVID-19-specific educational materials and skills to all its allied health course content to prepare students with the information and skills necessary to safely deliver patient care in the community.

In the fall of 2020, CSM also launched educational/career pathways in several healthcare areas. Continuing Education students completing CSM's Certified Clinical Medical Assistant can earn credit for courses in the academic certificate/degree program – allowing an individual to earn an entry-level industry credential in a condensed period of time, gain employment, and continue an educational pathway (while working in the industry) to earn an academic certificate/degree that will increase earning potential on the job.

Nine individuals were awarded federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support their education and attainment of an industry recognized credential in the healthcare industry.

Meeting the needs of the IT/Professional services community

The needs of the IT community are being met at CSM through offering multiple different scheduling options; daytime, week-long accelerated courses and evening, multi-week exam prep courses for the most in-demand certifications. Courses include computer systems support (A+), networking (Network+) (CCNA), security (Security+) (CEH) (CISSP), cloud security (CCSP), and software development security (CSSLP).

The needs of the professional services community are being met through offering both contract training and open enrollment courses in leadership, supervision and management, soft skills, and project management.

To help students realize their education and career potential, CSM has developed Guided Pathways to also provide its students with academic credit for continuing education courses and recognized industry credentials.

"For example, a student completing the workforce course CIT 5020 A+ Exam Prep and earning the CompTIA certification can receive academic credit for the academic ITS 1050 Computing Essentials course in the AAS degree program," Flowers-Fields explained.

In addition, nine individuals were awarded federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support their education and attainment of an industry recognized credential in the IT/Professional Services industry.

For more information about the Getting Southern Maryland Back to Work Initiative, or to listen/view the Town Hall meetings, visit online at <https://tccsmd.org/bactowork/>.

Press Release from CSM.

Men's Soccer Concludes 2021 Spring Season

The St. Mary's College of Maryland men's soccer team hosted the Salisbury University Sea Gulls on Friday (Mar. 26) in Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference action. The Seahawks played to a 0-0 draw to conclude their 2021 spring season.

St. Mary's College - 0, Salisbury University - 0

How It Happened

• The first half of action was scoreless and both squads struggled to find legitimate scoring chances. Salisbury held the slight advantage in shots (4-3) and both teams earned one corner kick each. The first half of play was also chippy as three yellow cards were handed out. Two were charged to the Seahawks, while one was handed to the Sea Gulls.

• Both the Seahawks and Sea Gulls picked up the pace in the final half of play as both squads fired off seven shots apiece. St. Mary's College finished the frame with four corner



kicks compared to the Sea Gulls one. In all, the Seahawks placed four shots on goal compared to Salisbury's three in the game.

Inside the Box Score

• Isaac Ekobo led the Seahawks with four shots. Roshawn Panton added three on the night. Liam Delone-Bellsey and Matthew Kopsidas split time in goal this evening. Kopsidas collected three saves.

Up Next for the Seahawks

• This concludes the 2021 spring season for the St. Mary's College of Maryland men's soccer team.

Press Release from SMCM.

No. 20 Women's Lacrosse Improves to 3-1

Notches Victory Over Randolph-Macon

The No. 20 St. Mary's College of Maryland women's lacrosse team (3-1) took on the Randolph-Macon College Yellow Jackets (2-2) on the road on Sunday (Mar. 28) afternoon in non-conference action. The Seahawks improved to 3-1 with a 12-7 victory over the Yellow Jackets.

No. 20 St. Mary's College - 12, Randolph-Macon College - 7

How It Happened

• The Yellow Jackets struck first with a goal in the first 35 seconds of play. However, the Seahawks completely took over the game for the remainder of the opening half, scoring eight-straight goals while holding Randolph-Macon scoreless. Lily Davison netted three goals during the run, while Kelly Emge tallied two. Additionally, Jayne Barkman, Lucy Gussio, and Erin Carmody all found the back of the net during the run. The Seahawks headed into halftime with a comfortable 8-1 advantage.

• Randolph-Macon opened up the second half with back-to-back goals to cut the Seahawk lead to 8-3. St. Mary's College responded with back-to-back goals of their own from Gussio and Davison to jump out to a 10-3 lead.

• Next, the Seahawks and Yellow Jackets exchanged scores to bring the score to 11-4 in favor of the Seahawks. From there, the Yellow Jackets made a strong comeback attempt with a three goal run to cut the Seahawks lead to



11-7 with 13:15 remaining.

• The Seahawk defense buckled down for the remainder of the game by holding the Yellow Jacket scoreless. On the other end of the field, Erin Carmody tacked on another goal for the Seahawks to seal the 12-7 victory.

Inside the Box Score

• Davison and Gussio led the Seahawks on the offensive end. Davison finished the game with four goals, while Gussio recorded three goals and one assist.

• Defensively, MC Mortimer caused six turnovers and also tied for the team lead with three ground balls. Emge and Francesca Ziccardi were the other two Seahawks who collected three ground balls as well. Stephanie Heffron played a key role in the victory by collecting nine draw controls. In goal, Aimee Uibel collected nine saves and earned the victory.

• McKenzie Hynson and Natalie Webster led the Yellow Jackets with two goals each.

Press Release from SMCM.

A View From The BLEACHERS



Love Letter

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

To my always:

A blank piece of poster board foretold your annual arrival. One always seemed to show up just before the break of spring. Whether it was requested or mom just knew that it was time, my memory can't definitively say. Rolled out on the table, carefully pinned down in each corner and surrounded by all the necessary equipment - a yardstick, ruler, pencil and pen - it didn't look like much more than lame school project. But with your inspiration, I knew, like a blooming spring, a magical and essential transformation was in the offing.

To properly capture your beauty, the poster board was divided into four identical quadrants. Each quadrant contained five columns consisting of 16, eight, four, two and one line, respectively. After reaching the last single line, the quadrant had to connect with the one above or below to form one last line. The quadrants had to be symmetrical, the column lines had to be of equal length and the final line drawn from the two merged quadrants on the left and right of the poster board had to meet precisely in the middle. There was no room for close or good enough. This exercise demanded my best - because you, my love, deserved it.

Once the structure was complete, names were carefully written on each line in the first column of four quadrants and the masterpiece was displayed proudly...regally even... on the wall next to cherished photos and our family's coat of arms - you mingled with this important company flawlessly. Over the next several weeks we faithfully tracked your progress until all lines were filled and a champion was crowned.

This was my original version of "bracketology."

Many years have passed now. We have both aged, you more gracefully than me, and my youthful poster board projects have transitioned to printouts and now, like so much in life, to the virtual realm. Ah, but my love for you is neither defined nor bound by form. Still, our relationship has evolved. No more am I fueled by blind passion. Age has increased my realism and cynicism, and our consistent acquaintance

has introduced your flaws. Perfect you are not, even if my early drawings were. The air of purity you've always maintained - it's about the kids! - has eroded to such a point of pure fiction now. Of course, given recent events, alternate realities are apparently in vogue.

Amateur athletes are the core of your beauty. And yet, those responsible for your fabulous show are the only stakeholders failing to benefit from the swollen revenue stream created by your broad appeal. How long will this charade continue? There is talk of compensation. Even reparations. And what of the disgraceful inequity between the men's and women's games, a gap willfully perpetuated by your governing body?

We missed our date last March, another sacred tradition claimed by COVID. The time apart should have made your presence all the more special this spring, but alas, your brackets arrived with a dash of guilt. This year was always certain to happen - or at least attempted. The machine - athletic department coffers, big money coaches and hungry television networks - demanded it. And so, the amateur athletes played. Some got sick. Many games were cancelled. But an irregular regular season was completed and a chosen few squads were sent to various gyms in Indiana to play this thing out and declare a champion - for good or ill, as Hunter S. Thompson would have surmised.

Business. Dirty. Business.

But enough of that, dear. Perfect is a fool's illusion; basketball simply imitates life. Your warts will work themselves out. It all pales in comparison to our electric moments - those childhood bracket builds, trips to D.C. and Charlotte for regional games and so many gatherings with you, a few friends and lots of frothy beverages. Now I am even completing virtual brackets with my kids (alas, no poster board requests). It has been an amazing journey, my dear friend.

I love you, March Madness.

P.S.: Don't leave me hanging again. While we all learned to live without last year, let's not make it a habit.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

St. Mary's College Presents Original Production

Deals with Healing During COVID

"Checking In," an original theater piece on the powers of healing during a COVID-19 lockdown, opens with a recorded Zoom performance on Thursday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the St. Mary's College of Maryland Theater, Film and Media Studies, the show performs through Sunday, April 18, with a final matinee performance at 2 p.m.

"Checking In" evolved from collaborative work between students in Assistant Professor of Theater Amy Steiger's fall 2020 course on devising community-based theater and the St. Mary's local community. Based on interviews students conducted with community members on subjects of race, gender and healing, a play took shape that focused on a group of people forced into lockdown in a medical waiting room. To keep themselves occupied, they share stories about their lives. As they transform the waiting room into a place for creativity and community, the group discovers that while there is no single path to heal-

ing that works for everyone, the acts of storytelling and of listening have power.

"Checking In" continues professor Steiger's collaborative work with students and local community members on subjects of race, gender, class and social justice, begun with "Beyond the Sunset" and the 10-minute play festival of student-written plays, "Humanizing Histories."

Access to the recorded Zoom performance is by ticket registration through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/146999614805>. Registration is required; performances are free. The first 10 patrons for each performance who register for tickets will receive a "care package" to make the Zoom performance an interactive experience.

"Checking In" performs at 7:30 p.m. from April 15-17, with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 18.

Press Release from St. Mary's College of Maryland

Seahawks Fall in Final Match of Spring

The St. Mary's College of Maryland volleyball team (0-4, 0-0 C2C) traveled to the Knights of Neumann University (2-2, 0-0 AEC) Friday evening (Mar. 25). The Seahawks dropped the match to the Knights by a final score of 3-2.

St. Mary's College - 2 Neumann University - 3

How It Happened

- The Seahawks came out hot and fired out to a 15-10 lead over the Knights. The two teams split the next 10 points until the Seahawks found themselves up 20-15. From there St. Mary's College won five of the next six points and took the first set 25-16.

- The second set was also very competitive as the two were tied early on at 6-6. Both teams traded points until Neumann was up 19-17 and they would extend that lead into a 25-22 second set win.

- Neumann jumped out to a 13-3 lead in the third and never looked back, taking the set 25-13.

- Neumann took a 1-0 lead in the fourth and that would be the only time the entire set that they would be ahead. St. Mary's College won the next six points after going down 1-0 to be up 6-1 and cruised on to a 25-18 fourth set win.

- The fifth and final set of the day



would go the way of the Knights as they claimed the win 15-11.

Inside the Box Score

- Meghan Stevens finished her season like she started it by once again leading the Seahawks offensively with 14 kills and Chanel Lucas was second with 12.

- Nicole Gibson had a huge night as she tallied 33 assists.

- Lucas, Erin Krauss and Katelyn Klugh all lead in blocks by contributing three each.

- Stevens also led the Seahawks in digs with 21 and Nicole Gibson was right behind her with 16.

Up Next for the Seahawks

- This concludes the Seahawks 2021 Spring season.

Press Release from SMCM

Seahawks Edged by Shorewomen in Season Finale

The St. Mary's College of Maryland women's soccer team hosted the Washington College Shorewomen on Sunday (Mar. 28) afternoon in an exhibition contest. The Seahawks were edged 1-0 in their season finale.

St. Mary's College - 0, Washington College - 1

How It Happened

- The Seahawks were held scoreless throughout the contest and struggled to find legitimate scoring chances in the first half. St. Mary's College fired off four shots and earned one corner kick, but couldn't convert for a score. The Shorewomen tallied 10 shots in the first frame of play and scored on one of them in the 32nd minute.

- The second half of action was competitive and had both the Seahawks and Shoremen tally five shots each. Megan Tazza, Lauren Baker, Haley Bullis, and Madison Webb recorded shots for the Seahawks in the second half but couldn't manage to find the back of the net. St. Mary's College and



Washington College earned one corner kick each.

Inside the Box Score

- Tazza recorded a team-high three shots, while Baker added two. The Seahawks did not have a player from their team in goal. Washington College goalkeepers split time in goal for St. Mary's College.

- The Shorewomen received their game-winning goal from Ellen Daly.

Up Next for the Seahawks

- This concludes the 2021 spring season for the Seahawks.

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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.

Nancy Camille Bell



Nancy Camille Bell (81) of Port Republic, MD received her angel wings on March 26, 2021. She was born in Bowling Green, Ohio on May 29, 1939 to David and Kathryn Beard of Adelphi, MD. She attended High Point High School, in Beltsville, MD. Her eleventh grade year in March of 1956 she met the love of her life, Joseph Dubois Bell. They courted until August of 1958 when they became engaged. They married on September 3, 1960 at the University of Maryland Chapel, College Park where she attended college. She received a degree in Commercial Advertising in Arts. Nancy and Joe then moved to Port Republic, MD in 1981. Nancy began working at Calvert Career Center as a Vocational Evaluator. She returned back to college and received her Master's Degree at George Washington University. She continued her career at Calvert Career Center until her retirement in 2008.

Nancy was preceded by her parents, David and Kathryn Beard as well as her daughter in law, Robin Bell.

She is survived by her husband, Joe of 61 years of marriage. Her children, David Scott (Sandra), John Patrick, James Glenn (Misty) Bell. Four grandchildren, Rachel Tiffany Bell, Rebecca Marie Bell, Breannea Christian Dean, Brendan James Bell and Brooke Camille Bell. Two great grandchildren, Jaxon and Bryson. She leaves behind a sister, Joan Marion Beard Romig of Sarasota, FL and brother, Timothy Victor Beard (Susie) of San Antonio, TX.

Nancy and Joe attended Trinity United Methodist Church from 1981 to 2017. Nancy was very involved with her faith and her love of God. There wasn't a hymn she did not know. If she wasn't taking pictures at church you would find her on a ball field watching her family play. They transferred membership to Waters Memorial United Methodist Church until she received her angel wings.

Nancy's passion was her photography. You would never see her without a camera. She loved to travel and take pictures. She had a library of albums. Her hobbies included ceramic work and sewing. She had a green thumb and loved nature. She also enjoyed walking the beach looking for shark's

teeth.

Arrangements will be provided by Rausch Funeral Home, Port Republic, and MD. A Celebration of Life will be held on April 29th, 2021 at 11:00am. Prayers and service will be by her nephew, Christopher Romig, Pastor of the Venice Presbyterian Church, Florida. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Waters Memorial United Methodist Church, 5400 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD 20685.

Martha Elizabeth Gibson



Martha Elizabeth Gibson, 92, of Tracy's Landing passed away on March 22, 2021 at Anne Arundel Medical Center. She was born in Friendship, MD on August 23, 1928 to parents William Riley and Sadie Elizabeth Tucker.

Martha attended Tracy's Elementary School and graduated from Southern High School in Lothian, MD in 1946. She married Samuel Gibson, Sr. on February 27, 1948. She retired from the Prince George's County Board of Education in 1991 after 36 years of service as administrative secretary to four superintendents. Martha was a member of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church where she served as Treasurer of the Martha Lydia Women's Circle for 20 years. In her younger years, she was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary Deale Volunteer Fire Department, the South County Democratic Club and the Landing Garden Club. She loved spending time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren who affectionately called her "GiGi".

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, five brothers, four sisters, and a granddaughter Kimberly Gibson Stafford.

She is survived by two daughters, Sue Farmer (Steve) of Ijamsville, MD, Jane Osborne (Jack) of Faulkner, MD, three sons, Samuel Gibson, Jr. (Debra Wilson) of Edgewater, MD, Barton Gibson (Deborah) of Dunkirk, MD and David Gibson (Linda) of Lothian, MD. She is also survived by ten granddaughters, one grandson, 19 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Due to Covid-19 there will be no

service at this time. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Martha's name may be made to Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, 5965 Deale-Churchton Road, Deale, MD 20751 or

Deale Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 114

6007 Drum Point Road, Deale, MD 20751; Link:

<http://www.deale42.com/donate/>

Funeral arrangements are by Rausch Funeral Home.

Karen Thomas Mohler



"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' – Matthew 25:40

Karen Thomas Mohler. To know her was transforming. To interact with her was to recognize that you mattered. To be served by her was to experience the presence of Jesus with skin on.

After enduring a brief battle with metastatic melanoma, Karen peacefully stepped from this life into the arms of Jesus her Lord and Savior, Sunday evening, March 21, 2021, while resting gently in the arms of her husband David, with her boys, daughters-in-law and grandchildren at her side.

Karen Thomas was born on November 1, 1955, at Calvert County Hospital, the first of five daughters born to Lester and Dona Rae Thomas of Prince Frederick, MD. After spending their early years in Dares Beach, the Thomas family

moved into their newly built home in Prince Frederick. Growing up, Karen attended Prince Frederick Elementary School, Calvert Junior High, and graduated class valedictorian from Calvert Senior High School. Blessed with a full scholarship, Karen entered the Union Memorial School of Nursing, then associated with John's Hopkins University, where she again excelled with highest honors, eventually scoring in the upper 5% nationally when completing her nursing board examinations.

High school sweethearts, Karen and David shared their first date on October 7, 1970, and were married on August 17, 1974 while David was serving in the U.S. Navy stationed in Key West, Florida. They often liked to share with friends that their first year of marriage was a yearlong honeymoon in Key West.

After David's final military assignment was concluded, Dave and Karen moved to Springfield, Missouri where Karen, now a registered nurse, served at the Lester E. Cox Regional Hospital and David pursued formal preparation to serve as a pastor, counselor and chaplain. Karen and Dave spent a total of seven years in Springfield, and were honored to serve on the pastoral staff of Tampa Assembly of God where they were blessed with many enduring friendships, including those who are now serving in churches, on military bases, and upon foreign fields around the world.

Karen actively served as a registered nurse for nearly forty years, spending the majority of her time in obstetrics as a labor and delivery nurse. As a certified obstetrics nurse, Karen established the bereavement program within the Calvert Health System obstetrics unit and served as its first coordinator. Through the years she walked along side many couples

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In Remembrance

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who suffered the loss of a child, offering her love and friendship, and would follow up with years of caring. She was a genuine friend and caregiver at heart to many.

Karen cherished being a wife, mother and grandmother. Over the years God blessed Dave and Karen with a daughter, Karie, who was born with birth defects and later died from those complications, and three sons: Kevin (Leo), Andrew (Jen), and Timothy (Kaiti). God also smiled upon them and blessed them with four beautiful grandchildren: Denali, Abby, Drew, and Olivia. Being with her family was one of the greatest joys of Karen's life.

Karen enjoyed serving, encouraging, and simply spending time with others. She was an excellent organizer and communicator who enjoyed mentoring, teaching and leading various women's groups. Karen also liked to sew, cook, run, exercise, and write. She was asked by the editors of the periodicals Christianity Today and Leadership Journal to contribute articles on the subjects of caring for those who are mourning, including how pastors, churches and caregivers can help grieving parents. She was also asked to help write a daily devotional for teens. Her published articles and devotionals touched the lives of many.

A devoted wife, Karen relished serving with David within each of the seven churches to which God called them, including two churches that they helped establish. She and David were a team from day one, serving side by side, loving one another, and always hoping their marriage modeled the life changing power of Christ to those around them.

Now enjoying eternity with the Lover of her soul, although Karen may no longer be with us physically, may her legacy of loving God and loving others live through each of us.

Karen is also survived by her four loving sisters: Kathy Holian (Brian), Kimberly Moulton (Glen), Kristin Ritchie (Mark) and Karol Brannon (Mark).

Expressions of love by sending flowers for Karen's celebration of life are welcomed. In lieu of flowers, you may also make a gift to Shield Bearers, a minis-

try of Life Church Calvert led by Dave and Karen that encourages and supports caring for those men and women serving within our local law enforcement community. Please mail your designated gift for Shield Bearers to Life Church Calvert, P.O. Box 3003, Prince Frederick, MD, 20678.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Joanne Carole Chaillet-Phipps



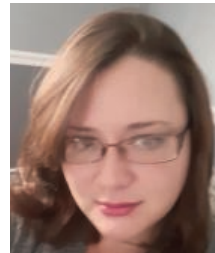
Joanne Carole Chaillet-Phipps, 63, of Chesapeake Beach passed away March 19, 2021. She was born September 2, 1957 in Cheverly to John Jess Sr. and Carole Lenora (Orndoff) Chaillet. Joanne was raised in Holland Point and graduated from Southern High School in 1975. She enjoyed reading, crafts, planting and tending to her roses, especially yellow roses, which were her favorite, taking and looking at pictures, collecting Precious Moments, and spending time with her family, especially her children and grandson.

Joanne is survived by her children Christopher Thomas Chaillet and his girlfriend Lexie Jorgensen of Nanjemoy and Melissa Chaillet-Phipps of Chesapeake Beach, grandson Rhett Walker Chaillet, twin brother John Jess Chaillet, Jr. of Bayard, sisters Theresa Strong of Sarasota, FL, Michelle Dillon of Owings, and Shannon Shenton of Deale, as well as numerous cousins, and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved dog Pickles.

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Sarah Katherine Poole

Sarah Katherine Poole, age 32, of Lusby, MD passed away on March 21, 2021. Born April 11, 1988 in Prince Frederick, MD, she was the daughter of Pamela



Ann (Martin) Brown and Donald Everett Poole.

Sarah graduated from Patuxent High School in 2006. She was incredibly

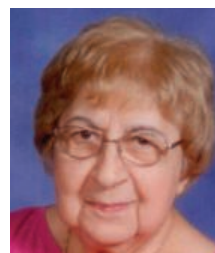
smart. Sarah loved reading books, learning about history, and swimming...she was a fish in the water. She played the violin and was passionate about music. Spending time with family and friends were important to her. Sarah loved to travel she visited Mexico, Ohio, Alaska, Texas, and Tennessee. Traveling to Japan was on her wish list.

Sarah is survived by her mother, Pamela Ann Brown and stepfather Kevin Richard Brown; her father, Donald Everette Poole and step-mother Brenda Ann Poole; her son, Aiden Bradley Bliss-Wells; her sisters, Melissa Ann Messinese (Sissy), Jessica Lynn Coppage (Sissy) and husband, Sean Richard Coppage, Michelle Lynn Drayer and husband Michael Drayer II, Stacy Lee Brown, April Christine Keemer, Angie Renee Keemer and Shelby Ann Murphy; her brother, Samuel F. Murphy and wife Jordan Murphy; and her nieces and nephews, Michael Drayer III, Jaxson Drayer, Camdyn Drayer, Skylee Coppage, Anabella Lewis, Jace Coppage, Lacey Moore and Duffy Moore.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. at Encounter Christian Center, 30080 Henry Lane, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. A Memorial Service will be officiated by Pastor Dennis Gillikin at 2:30 p.m.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.rauschfuneral-homes.com.

Rose Connolly



Rose Connolly, 93, passed away on March 22, 2021 at her home in Solomons, MD with her children singing her favorite hymn at her side. She

was born in 1927 to Italian immigrants, and grew up in New Jersey during the Great Depression. She worked for Union Carbide Corporation for 19 years. In 1962 she married Joseph Connolly, and the two moved to Virginia so that Joe

could work for the Federal Government in Washington, DC.

Rose devoted her next 13 years to raising their two children, Carol Ann and Charles. She loved gardening and flower arranging, crafts, and ceramics. She taught and modeled the values of thrift, service, and generosity. Ever the volunteer, Rose applied her gardening and artistic skills in a variety of ways, ranging from serving as Vice President of the local Garden Club and making flower arrangements for the church altar through selling crafts to raise money for a new church. Rose's children always got drafted into helping and spent many hours cutting felt, shaping bread-dough flowers, and gluing together pom-pom critters and banners. Every parish they joined had a building fund, and over the course of forty years, Rose and Joe helped build four Catholic churches.

Once her children became teens, Rose decided it was time to broaden her horizons. She volunteered for two years in the Flower Room at the White House and then was hired as an Executive Secretary, answering correspondence for Presidents Carter and Reagan. She worked for a dozen years in the Department of the Army at the Pentagon, retiring in 1995.

In 2008, Rose and Joe moved to Solomons, MD for their retirement. Unfortunately, Joe passed away just six months later. Rose made the best of things and made many new friends over the years, participating in numerous trips and activities.

Rose always enjoyed traveling. She traveled across the United States, visited Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean, and toured many countries in Europe. A highlight for the entire family was a trip to Italy in 1999.

Like any good Italian, Rose took great pleasure in dining and in sharing food with others. Family get-togethers always involved an abundance of food, and no one ever left the table hungry, nor left her home empty-handed!

Rose is survived by her two sisters and her children. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents and brother.

A Celebration of Life and reception will be held at a later date when it is safe to do so.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Our Lady Star of the Sea Building Fund, Calvert Hospice, or the Asbury Foundation.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.rauschfuneral-homes.com

REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times
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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, April 1

COVID-19 and Vaccine Information Virtual Event

Online; 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library has coordinated a timely discussion of the COVID-19 vaccine with clinicians, researchers, vaccine recipients, and other health professionals discuss vaccine access, vaccine hesitancy, recent pandemics, and virus variants. The program features:

Dr. Sherita Hill Golden, the Hugh P. McCormick Family Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism and Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Johns Hopkins Medicine

Dr. Tracey Murray, Dean of the College of Health Professions at Coppin State University

Dr. Kim Sydnor, Dean of the School of Community Health and Policy at Morgan State University and serves as Associate Professor for the Department of Behavioral Health Sciences

Dr. Kawsar Rasmy Talaat, Assistant Professor in the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She holds a joint appointment in medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her areas of clinical expertise include vaccine clinical trials and vaccine safety.

Dr. Jonathan Mark Zenilman, professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is known internationally for his work in infectious disease epidemiology.

This event is free and open to the public via Zoom and Facebook. See more details on the Calvert Library calendar at calvertlibrary.info or Enoch Pratt Free Library website.

Viva Latino: Own Voices Writers in Conversation Virtual Event

Online; 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Leading and award-winning contemporary Latin American writers gather to discuss their perspectives on the importance of own voices narratives in providing representation for readers. This program offers Latino/a/x and non-Latin Marylanders with an opportunity to learn about the diversity of the Latin American community, as represented in literature and poetry. The panel is presented by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), Frederick County Public Libraries (FCPL), and Charles County Public Library (CCPL). This program is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the Library Ser-

vices and Technology Act, administered by the Maryland State Library.

Featured panelists are:

Julia Alvarez, National Medal of Arts Winner ("Afterlife," 2020)

Angie Cruz, Inaugural Good Morning America Book Club Author ("Dominicana," 2018)

Reyna Grande, American Book Award Winner ("A Dream Called Home," 2019)

Juan Felipe Herrera, U.S. Poet Laureate (2015-2017) ("Jabberwalking," 2018)

Lupita Aquino, Moderator, @Lupita.Reads Bookstagram

Registration is required for this event, which will be broadcast on the Prince George's County Memorial Library System's YouTube and Facebook. Visit MDLibraries0401.eventbrite.com for more information. The event will be presented in English. ASL interpretation and captions will be provided. Viewers can obtain copies of the panelists' books through Loyalty Bookstores or Curious Iguana. Free and open to the public.

Sea Squirts - O is for Otter

Calver Marine Museum; various times

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for storytime and a carryout craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 15-20 minutes. Capacity is limited to 10 people per session. No pre-registration; sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This program is now offered at various times throughout the day, to accommodate guests during all sessions. For specific times, please visit www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Saturday, April 3

Open House and Tack Sale

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue; 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Come visit FHHR and our horses at our Open House & Tack Sale! Entry is free to the public. We'll have \$5 pony rides, a wide selection of gently-used tack, and tours of the grounds and barn! Masks are required for entry and hand sanitizer stations will be made available throughout the barn area.

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunrise Service

Lighthouse at Calvert Marine Museum; 6:30 a.m.

Conducted by Shepherd of the Bay

Lutheran Church in Lusby. Masks and social distancing required. All are welcome.

Tuesday, April 6

Science for Citizens

Virtual; 7 p.m.

Presented by Dr. Victor Kennedy. In 1940, H.L. Mencken referred to the Chesapeake Bay as "the immense protein factory." In the late 1800s, its oyster and shad fisheries led the world in harvests and economic value. Waterfowl rafts covered miles of its winter surface. Sturgeon and terrapins were everywhere. Dr. Vic Kennedy, author of *Shifting Baselines in the Chesapeake Bay*, will use eyewitness reports by early colonists, newspaper articles, and management reports from the 1800s to describe a cornucopia that we can now only imagine.

Thursday, April 8

Sea Squirts - O is for Otter

Calver Marine Museum; various times

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for storytime and a carryout craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 15-20 minutes. Capacity is limited to 10 people per session. No pre-registration; sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This program is now offered at various times throughout the day, to accommodate guests during all sessions. For specific times, please visit www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Maryland in the Age of Sail

Virtual; 5 p.m.

What role did the Chesapeake Bay play in the War for Independence? Join Mark Wilkins, CMM Curator of Maritime History, as he explores the tactical and strategic importance of the bay during the Revolutionary War, including important battles and associated naval engagements and strategies. Visit <https://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/235/Lectures> for more information and link to the zoom meeting.

Ongoing

United Way Wine Fundraiser

Our wine fundraiser is still going on...and now there's a twist! Support the United Way of Calvert County by purchasing your favorite One Hope wines, open until April 10. <https://www.onehopewine.com/event/73753>

Body, Soul, Peace, and Harmony
Artworks@7th Gallery; Thursday - Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Masks, limited gallery numbers, and physical distance precautions are required. Shop the gallery 24/7 online at www.artworks@7th.com and Instagram or call for an appointment at 410-286-5278. Attached below are featured works from the gallery's cooperative membership of 25 artists, one of whom is always on hand to greet visitors to the gallery and talk about the show and fellow artists. Multi-talented in multi-media Suzanne Shelden is the gallery's newly themed "Featured Artist". Her beautiful Southern Maryland landscapes, seascapes give the viewer a feast to behold. 'Body and Soul, Peace and Harmony' offers new works in stained glass, acrylic, silk painting, ceramic arts, scratchboard, mixed media, sculpture, and jewelry.

Calvert Library Openings

Thanks to declining COVID-19 positivity numbers, Calvert Library is welcoming customers back in for short visits. Customers are still asked to keep visits as short as possible and no longer than an hour, wear an appropriate mask over your nose and mouth, maintain a social distance of 6' from others and help your children do the same. At all four library locations, in-person library hours will be Monday-Thursday, noon to 5pm, Friday, 1-5pm and Saturday, 10am to 2pm. Curbside pickup appointments will continue Monday-Thursday, 10am to 7pm; Friday, 1-5pm and Saturday, 10am to 2pm. Call any Calvert Library location for assistance or appointments. Customers can also follow and interact with library staff on Facebook and Twitter. More information about coronavirus is available in the Research & Learn section of the library website. Call 410-535-0291 or email getanswers@calvertlibrary.info with any reference questions you may have.

Flora or Fauna Exhibit

Calvert Marine Museum; April 1 - May 15

In partnership with the Maryland Federation of Art (MFA), the Calvert Marine Museum is pleased to introduce Flora or Fauna, fine artwork depicting a broad range of animal and plant life. This MFA juried art exhibition will display selected works at the Calvert Marine Museum. The show will be located on the mezzanine level and is included with museum admission.

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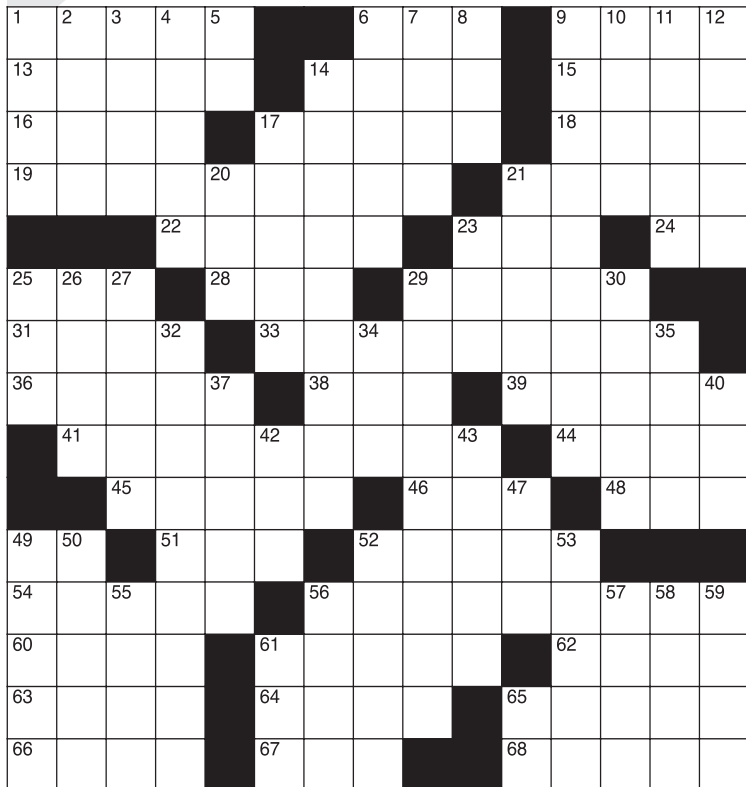
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One who manufactures
- 6. Science degree
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Desert
- 14. Inventor Musk
- 15. Welsh valley
- 16. Round Dutch cheese
- 17. Saying
- 18. Comedian and TV host
- 19. Uppermost portions of the brain
- 21. City in Transylvania
- 22. Where astronauts go
- 23. Men's hairstyle
- 24. Indicates position
- 25. One point east of due south
- 28. Businessmen may have one
- 29. Grass part
- 31. Running back Gurley
- 33. Unwavering
- 36. Options
- 38. Annoy
- 39. Greek mountain
- 41. Pastas
- 44. Fishes
- 45. Wrap
- 46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
- 48. Seize
- 49. The Constitution

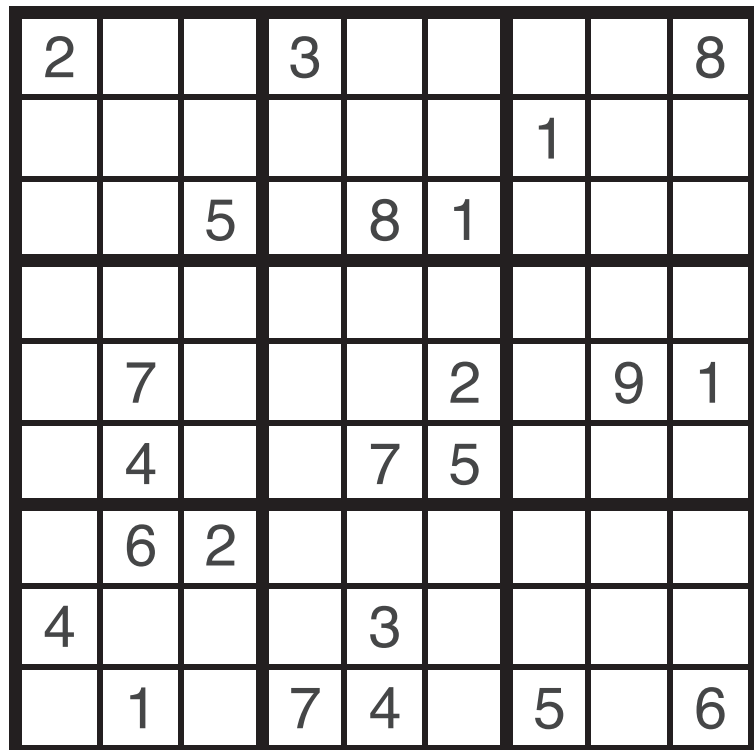
State

- 51. Upset
- 52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
- 54. Central Chinese province
- 56. Predisposition
- 60. A notice of someone's death
- 61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
- 62. Swiss river
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Finger millet
- 65. __ Allan Poe
- 66. German river
- 67. Brew
- 68. Kenyan river

- 17. Semitic peoples
- 20. Beats per minute
- 21. Family of drugs
- 23. Atrocious
- 25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
- 26. __ or bust
- 27. Icelandic poems
- 29. A citizen of Pakistan
- 30. Very pale
- 32. Metric linear unit
- 34. Sea eagle
- 35. Biblical judge of Israel
- 37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
- 40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 42. Cool!
- 43. Large hotel room
- 47. Type of boat (abbr.)
- 49. Picked
- 50. Type of hookah
- 52. Attack
- 53. Directs
- 55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
- 56. Finished negotiation
- 57. Heroic tale
- 58. Middle Eastern country
- 59. Protein-rich liquids
- 61. Malaysian Isthmus
- 65. Spielberg's alien

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Millisecond
- 2. Acts as military assistant
- 3. Knot in a tree
- 4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
- 5. The Ocean State
- 6. Point the finger at
- 7. Parts in a machine
- 8. Midway between northeast and east
- 9. Portray precisely
- 10. Blister
- 11. Mental illness
- 12. Nose of an animal
- 14. What students receive



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

M	A	A	R		A	E	O	N	S		A	B	B	A	5	1	8	6	3	9	7	4	2	
A	B	L	E		A	X	L	E	S		B	R	E	A	7	3	4	5	2	1	8	9	6	
M	I	A	S		R	A	D	A	R		E	A	C	H	2	6	9	4	7	8	5	3	1	
A	B	I	E	S		C	I	R		C	A	S	K	S	6	5	3	7	1	2	9	8	4	
					T	O	T	T	E	N	H	A	M		9	4	2	8	6	3	1	5	7	
C	A	T			R	Y	A		E	A	R		A	M	A	8	7	1	9	5	4	6	2	3
A	B	I	D	E	R		A	S	H		A	B	A	S	1	2	5	3	9	7	4	6	8	
B	A	B	A	S		A	D	S		B	L	I	N	I	3	8	6	1	4	5	2	7	9	
A	C	E	D		P	I	C		A	R	A	B	I	A	4	9	7	2	8	6	3	1	5	
L	A	R			M	A	R		R	N	A		S	A	N									
					S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S											
A	A	H	E	D		D	E	C		S	A	B	E	R										
P	L	E	A		C	A	F	E	S		B	A	R	I										
A	B	E	L		P	L	U	M	B		I	B	I	S										
R	A	D	S		M	E	D	E	A		N	E	C	K										

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



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