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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2021

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2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

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“WE ARE DIVIDED ENOUGH WITHOUT THE CRAZY PEOPLE PUTTING UP SIGNS LIKE THIS.”
BARBARA BOWEN ON THE ROUTES 2/4 SIGNS.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 12/23 44° 34°F Mostly Sunny	Fri 12/24 54° 44°F Mostly Cloudy	Sat 12/25 64° 48°F Partly Cloudy	Sun 12/26 55° 40°F Partly Cloudy
Mon 12/27 51° 41°F Mostly Cloudy	Tue 12/28 51° 41°F Showers	Wed 12/29 53° 36°F Partly Cloudy	Thu 12/30 49° 37°F Partly Cloudy




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For staff listing and emails, see page 23

Legislative Redistricting Map Splits Calvert

Would be in Two Senate Districts

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission has released proposed maps that change what was proposed for Calvert County by the governor's redistricting advisory panel.

The governor's panel had put all of Calvert County and a portion of Anne Arundel County into one senatorial district.

The legislative committee has changed that to more reflect the current situation in which Calvert is lumped into two districts, with one also including part of Prince George's and the other St. Mary's. Those current districts are represented by Michael Jackson of Prince George's, a Democrat, and Jack Bailey of St. Mary's, a Republican.

Under the legislative panel's proposal, a House district would be created which would remove Huntingtown and add North and Chesapeake Beach, along with a portion of Prince George's County.

Del. Rachel Jones, a Democrat who lives in Calvert, told The County Times she was unsure of the population breakdown in the new district between the two counties. She said the new district continues to include Dunkirk, as well as Sunderland and Owings.

District 27C, which is the central part of Calvert, would add Huntingtown and lose the twin beaches. That district is currently represented by Republican Del. Mark Fisher.

In the south, District 29C would continue to be split between Calvert and St. Mary's. Del. Jerry Clark now represents that district.

Clark said his portion of Calvert would remain pretty much as it now does, going north to White Sands. But his St. Mary's portion would change. He would lose a portion of Wildewood and pick up

Piney Point and St. George Island.

Clark, a Republican, is most concerned about Calvert losing the possibility of having its own senator, as was likely under the governor's committee's proposal.

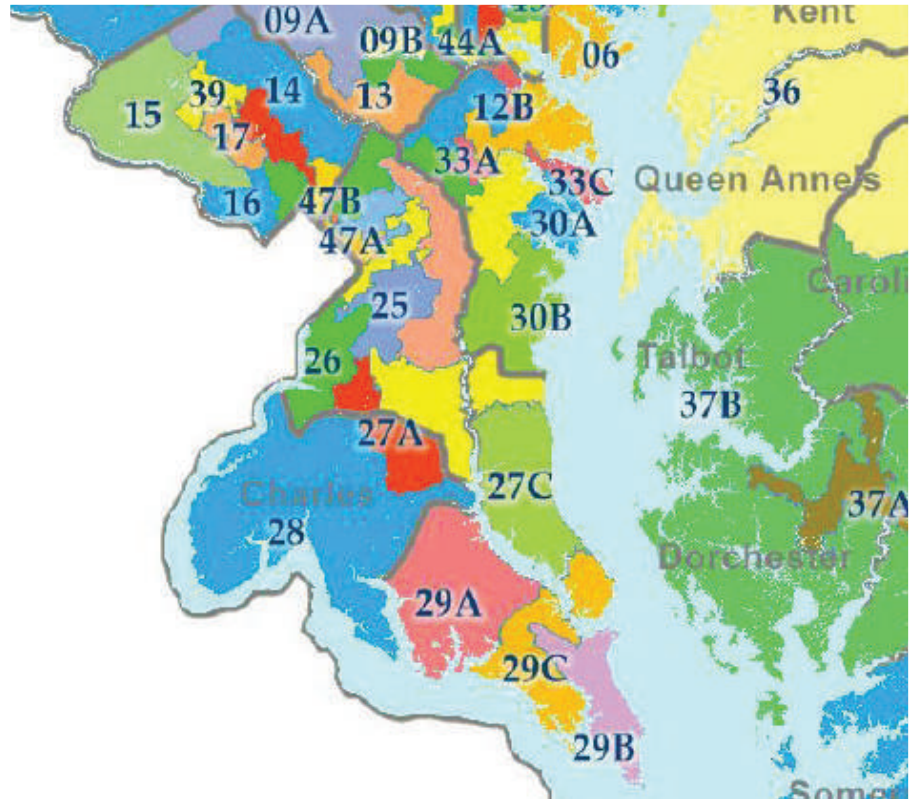
Clark said Calvert County has a long history of legislative leadership. "Why are we being mistreated," he asked.

The outcome from the Democrat-controlled legislature seems to favor a map from the legislative leadership instead of one drawn by the governor's committee. However, Clark predicted a court challenge to whatever emerges from the legislative session that starts next month.

Meanwhile, Fair Maps Maryland, a nonpartisan grassroots organization, has announced that a group of Marylanders have filed suit in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court to prevent the "use, application, administration, or enforcement of unconstitutional and gerrymandered Congressional maps in Maryland."

The lawsuit is being brought by a diverse group of plaintiffs made up of Marylanders from all eight Congressional districts. They say, "The claims of partisan gerrymandering are very similar to ones that have been made in other states and have found success, including in Pennsylvania and North Carolina."

Fair Maps Maryland said the state "has a long and disgraceful history of partisan gerrymandering dating back decades, but it was most prominently displayed during the redistricting process that took place in 2010. During legal depositions and widely reported after the fact, former Governor Martin O'Malley and the legislative leaders at the time were forced to admit that they used their legal power to benefit their own political party and purposefully suppressed the votes of Marylanders to achieve



The Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission map.

that end. Under oath, former governor O'Malley stated the following: 'As a governor, I held that redistricting pen in my own Democratic hand... I was convinced that

we should use our political power to pass a map that was more favorable for the election of Democratic candidates'."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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The Obscene Highway?

Who's Responsible for the Signs?

By Dick Myers
Editor

Warning: The following story contains an abbreviation of an obscenity.

Could it be that the Louis L. Goldstein Memorial Highway (Routes 2/4) will have to be renamed the Obscene Highway?

They are popping up like dandelions in a summer field. They say: "FU Biden and Your Socialism (sic) Agenda."

Critics of the signs say abbreviating an obscenity doesn't make it any less of an obscenity. The eye sees it and the brain knows exactly what it means.

The signs followed an earlier and likewise obscene billboard erected on the highway at Bowie Shop Road.

That billboard drew complaints from the Democratic Central Committee. That billboard was permitted by the Maryland State Highway Administration because it is on a state right-of-way.

As to those new signs up and down Routes 2/4, the official county position is: "Calvert County Government cannot regulate sign content, based on the Supreme Court case decision *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* (2015) (https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/13-502_9olb.pdf). The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners adopted updated sign regulations Jan. 31, 2018, to Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. Upon finding a sign violation, the enforcement staff visits the business or sign owner to advise what is and is not permissible under the new regulations. Staff also provides a zoning inspection report which includes a correction date (30 days from date of issuance), if warranted, along with an online link to the sign regulations. After the correction date, county personnel continue to monitor the signs and work with the businesses and/or sign owner to bring their site into compliance. Additionally, calls are regularly made

to businesses that place multiple yard signs with county and state rights-of-way."

A county spokesperson said all of the signs are illegal because they had not had a permit secured by the owner of the property on which they were placed.

Permits were required because of the size of the sign, not the content. Enforcement was on a case-by-case basis, and one landowner had removed the sign after being visited, the county spokesperson said.

So, who is responsible for the signs? A call to the Outdoor Advertising Division of the State Highway Administration by The County Times was not returned. However, a Facebook posting after the billboard was erected said it was placed by Steve Stanley, a Calvert County businessman who owns Vera's White Sands Restaurant and Marina.

Several persons familiar with the situation told The County Times that Stanley was responsible for the FU Biden signs. They asked not to be identified for fear of reprisal.

The County Times attempted to contact Stanley through telephone numbers purchased from whitepages.com. None of the cell phone numbers were valid, however one of the landlines connected to Stanley Concrete, LLC, an Annapolis Junction, MD company. One of the extensions finally answered. The County Times asked the male who answered for a message to be given to Stanley asking for either confirmation or denial of the allegation. The call was not returned.

The signs are drawing considerable community reaction. Several community leaders who The County Times spoke to expressed concern that the signs could reflect negatively on the county as a whole and its efforts to attract job creating businesses.

Barbara Bowen wrote to The County Times: "Do you think you could address the filthy, foul signs regarding the President of



the United States that have been put up on our roads? We are divided enough without the crazy people putting up signs like this. The people who use this inflammatory language give me grave concern about our future. I feel threatened by the number of signs and the crude content. Do citizens have a recourse? Is this low behavior what we are teaching our children?"

Retired educator and decades-long Beach Elementary School principal Mike Shisler wrote to the commissioners: "Do you remember when residents and visitors could drive down Rte. 4 from the north, and see the welcome sign that said: Calvert County - The Charm of the Chesapeake?"

"Now residents and visitors - and their children- can drive South Bound on Rte. 4 from Huntingtown south and see signs that state FU Biden."

He added, "The frequent response is, 'Yes it's sad, but it's a 1st amendment issue.'

"So how would any of you like to see one of your signs with FU on it?"

"It is one thing to put up signs that disagree with policies or poli-

tics — it is another thing to use code obscenities to attack another person - let alone the president of the US.

"A priest shared with me yesterday that a mother told him that her kids asked her what the signs meant?"

"She had to tell them."

In reaction to the billboard at Bowie Shop Road, Calvert County Democratic Central Committee Chair Jeanette Flaim on May 3 condemned it, saying: "The obscene imagery and language displayed on this latest sign is deeply disturbing." The billboard displayed caricature-like images of President Biden and Vice President Harris on feces and includes expletives in its caption.

Flaim continued, "This does not reflect the values of our County, regardless of party. Our county is home to a myriad of families who must drive by this on their way from school or work. Our county welcomes visitors from far and wide. Parents should not have to explain something so vile to their small children. And it certainly shouldn't be what our visitors remember us for."

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Hart Files for Re-election

By Dick Myers
Editor

During the last election, Calvert County Commissioner Mike Hart, then running for a second term, said it would be his last. He has changed his mind and filed for a third term.

No one else has filed for the 1st Commissioner District seat. Planning Commission Chairman Steve Jones has indicated he is running for commissioner, although he has not designated whether he is running for the 1st District or At-Large. Both Hart and Jones are Republicans.

Hart admitted his change of heart. "That's so true. So, I like doing the work. I can't stand the politics. As the years progressed, we hit, COVID actually, and the struggles with the school system. I still have a child in school."

Hart added, "There's a lot of financial problems coming, and I don't want to sound arrogant, but when it comes to the budget, I take it real personal. I watch it real close. Not saying that there aren't capable people. I'm very worried about what four years from now will bring, with the Kirwan Report, with all these changes we've seen with COVID. So, I have a great concern with the budget."

Hart noted, "There's still a couple projects that aren't done, with my golf course, with the park, but especially having a child in school. I want to see some better communication with the county commissioners and the board of education. There's a lot of hard decisions that are going to be made. I just have a lot of experience, with having seven years on the board. And I just don't feel right walking away at this point."

Hart was asked if he had become more concerned about growth recently. He said he is concerned about the lack of senior housing and the inability of the private sector to provide it.

"We need to start it really yesterday to make sure we have affordable housing for seniors." He said government should be involved if the private sector isn't.

Hart said recently he didn't like the increase in the number of apartments in



Commissioner Mike Hart

the county. "I understand that you need them in a community, but what they're proposing is way too many. We can't handle it."

Senior housing is different, he said. "They don't want to power wash the house anymore."

He added, "I don't want to go back to building a school every year, like they did in the nineties. The rules are too antiquated. The traffic rules that are in place are not up to handle the load that we have today."

He is concerned about the school board. "Yes, absolutely I am. I don't like the fact that there's only 10 speakers. I know (Commissioner) Chris Gadway has mentioned it many times. It's a public service job. If a hundred who want to show up to speak, you have to listen, that's your job. You get paid to do that. If you don't want to do it, then don't run."

As the owner of a liquor store in Lusby, Hart said he gets citizen feedback every day. "I have learned so much over seven years from my constituents," he said.

"They'll be in the parking lot waiting for me to walk into my store."

Hart said in this election he does not intend to take any campaign contributions.

Gadway has also filed for re-election, the only other incumbent to do so as of press deadline.

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New, Expanded and Relocated Businesses Announced

Calvert County is committed to fostering a dynamic and competitive business climate to ensure economic growth and sustainability. New businesses are a sign that the Calvert County economy continues to thrive. These new businesses help stimulate the economy and provide employment opportunities for local residents.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Economic Development congratulate the following new, expanded and relocated businesses:

New Businesses

Cakes from Home, LLC

Prince Frederick

443-684-5515

Class Above Body Spa

2976 Penwick Lane, Suite 203

Dunkirk, 301-327-5111

La Vela Italian Restaurant

251 C St., Solomons

410-326-4817

Maryland Self Storage

8400 Nursery Road

Lusby, 443-966-3030

Stormy's Cottage Kitchen

1030 Golden West Way

Lusby, 410-231-8096

Tiny Touch Photography

2819 West Chesapeake Beach Road

Dunkirk, 443-822-5680

Expansion

Jacqueline Morgan Day Spa

14510 South Solomons Island Road

Solomons, 443-404-5073

Relocation

Solomons Veterinary Medical Center

13872 HG Trueman Road, Solomons

410-326-4300



The Calvert County Department of Economic Development works to help all businesses succeed, from small, local businesses to large, national enterprises. For information on the Department of Economic Development and the many services the county offers the business community, contact the

department at 410-535-4583 or 301-855-1880, or by email at info@ecalvert.com.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

18th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Celebration

Keynote Address: Dr. Mary Frances Berry, author, activist, educator and historian.

January 17

J. Frank Raley Great Room, Campus Center

Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. (\$10 at the door)

Program: 8:00 a.m. (free)

Day of Service: 10:00 a.m. (free)

Annual Reeves Lecture with Jeffrey Hammond

February 16, 8:00 p.m.

Daugherty-Palmer Commons

VOICES Reading Series with Samantha Liming (class of 2017)

February 10, 8:15 p.m.

Daugherty-Palmer Commons

An Evening to Honor the Legacy of Lucille Clifton

February 28, 7:00 p.m.

Auerbach Auditorium, St. Mary's Hall

For reservations, tickets and information on these and other upcoming events, visit www.smcm.edu and click on EVENTS. Events are subject to change.

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Commissioners Receive Preliminary Revenue Estimates

\$6.4 Million Increase Projected for FY '23



By Dick Myers
Editor

When the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) begins working on building their budget for the next fiscal year (which begins July 1, 2022), they will have \$6.4 million more to work with. That's the estimate from the county's Department of Finance & Budget. Deputy Director Beth Richmond presented the estimate during a planning session at the commissioners' Dec. 14 meeting.

The department will present a staff-recommended budget on Feb. 8, after which a public hearing on that will be held on March 22. All the while the commissioners review the budget and then put their stamp on refinements to whatever comes out of the staff public hearing.

Richmond said the budget is being built with the following criteria:

- Budgets should remain flat from the FY 2022 budget, to include the 3 percent decrease.

- No new positions.
- No new initiatives.
- If a department believes they cannot accomplish their objectives without new staff/initiatives funding, the

request will be reviewed by the County Administrator in a collaborative process at the department head level. The final approval will be made by the board.

She noted that the staff budget is still in a preliminary phase.

Included in the proposed budget is making up longevity steps that were not granted in Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

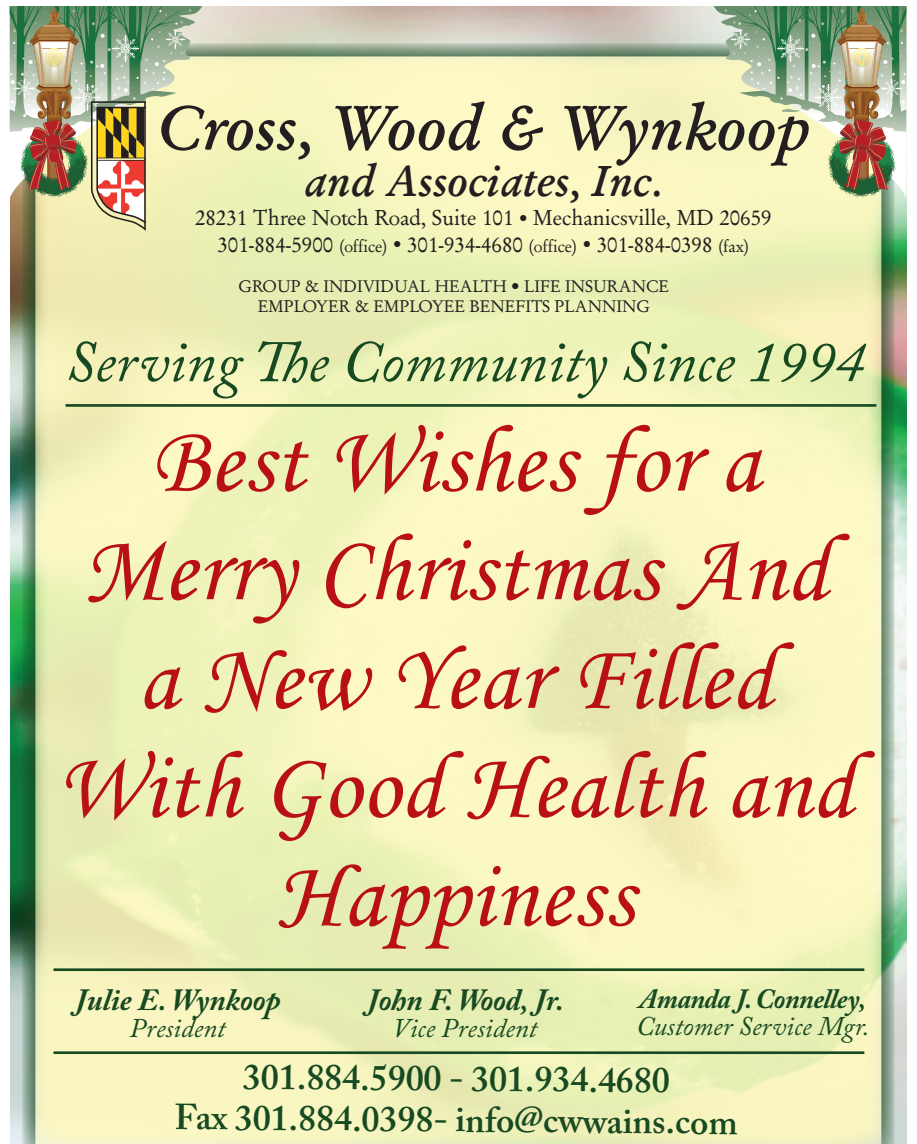
The budget projection also includes consideration for material and gas cost increases seen recently due to inflation.

Income tax receipts are anticipated to increase by \$3.5 million, making up more than half of the projected revenue increases.

On the expenditure side, county schools are expected to receive a \$44 million increase, while monies allocated to general fund transfers for capital projects are expected to decline by \$3.6 million over the current fiscal year.

The projected hearing date for the commissioners' proposed budget is May 17, with the budget adopted on June 6.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Recycle Live Christmas Trees at Convenience Centers



Calvert County residents can take their live Christmas trees, wreaths and garland to county convenience centers for recycling at no charge until Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022. After Jan. 30, residents looking to recycle their trees must take them directly to the Appeal Landfill and standard yard waste fees will apply. This program does not apply to businesses. Businesses must bring holiday greenery to the Appeal Landfill where standard yard fees will apply.

All decorations, including support frames, lights and metal stands, must be removed from trees, wreaths and garlands. Trees and wreaths may not be in plastic bags or cut up. All materials will be taken to the Appeal Landfill to be mulched and made available to county residents at no charge.

Wrapping paper, cardboard box-

es, holiday cards and other paper are accepted at the convenience centers for recycling at no cost any time of the year. Cardboard boxes should be flattened and all packing materials, ribbons and Styrofoam must be removed for disposal.

Locations of the six convenience centers and their hours are listed on the county website at <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/1753/Locations-Hours-Fees>. For more information, call 410-326-0210.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Press Release from Calvert County government.



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CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of December 20 – December 26, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,215 calls for service throughout the community.

Burglary: 21-72446

On December 23, 2021, Deputy R. Jones responded to the 1200 block of Stable Lane in Lusby, MD for report of a burglary. The complainant advised sometime between 5 p.m. on Dec. 22 and 7 a.m. on Dec. 23, unknown suspect(s) stole several items from a residence under construction and tampered with a vehicle on site. The stolen items included: a DEWalt 10" Table Saw, a Hitachi 10" Slide Compound Miter Box, a Milwaukee 7" Grinder, a Porter-Cable 2 HP Router, and a Corrugated Air Nail Gun. The total value of stolen property is \$1,600.00. The value of damaged property is \$200.

Destruction of Property: 21-71900

On December 20, 2021, Deputy Huy received report of a destruction of property. The complainant advised unknown suspect(s) scratched the left back passenger door and window of his 2021 Dodge Charger. The vehicle had been parked at several locations between Lusby and Solomons from Dec. 18-19. The value of damaged property is \$1,500.00.

Destruction of Property: 21-72889

On December 26, 2021, S/DFC Mitchell responded to the 300 block of Strathmore Lane in Solomons, MD for the report of destruction of property. The complainant advised sometime between Dec. 22 and Dec. 25, unknown suspect(s) cut several sections of a chain link fence on the property. The value of damaged property is \$200.00.

Theft: 21-72038

On December 21, 2021, DFC Durnbaugh responded to the 3700 block of 7th Street in North Beach, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised he was attempting to sell a gift card on Facebook. The suspected buyer messaged the victim for the code prior to victim receiving the money from the sale. The value of stolen property is \$100.00.

Theft: 21-72049

On December 21, 2021, Cpl. Pounsberry responded to the 3200 block of Ben Oak Drive in Huntingtown, MD for the report of mail

tampering/theft. The complainant advised unknown suspect(s) cut open an envelope in the mailbox and removed four (4) \$20.00 Target gift cards. The value of stolen property is \$80.00.

Theft: 21-72648

On December 24, 2021, Deputy Ostazeski responded to 3600 block of 28th Street in Chesapeake Beach, MD for a report of a theft. Contact was made with complainant who advised a package including a black iPhone 11 had been stolen from her front porch. The value of stolen property is \$700.00.

Vehicle Tampering: 21-72566

On December 24, 2021, DFC Holt responded to the 2500 block of Woodland Place in Chesapeake Beach, MD for report of an attempted theft from a vehicle. The complainant advised his Ring camera showed an unknown male suspect with a light colored hoodie and dark pants attempting to enter his vehicle. The suspect was unsuccessful and fled the scene.

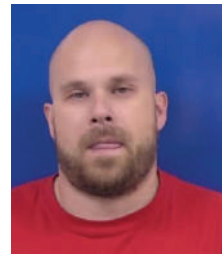
ARRESTS

On December 24, 2021, Deputy Krueger responded to the 11200 block of HG Trueman Road in Lusby, MD for report of a traffic complaint. Upon arrival, Deputy Krueger made contact with homeowners of nearby residences who advised an unknown vehicle struck several mailboxes and a hardcover pickup truck bed, leaving vehicle parts and glass all over the roadway and then fled the area. A vehicle's bumper to include the registration plate was found nearby. Deputy Wilder responded to the registered owner's residence who stated **Richard Allen Alford**, 40 of Lusby, MD, had taken the vehicle without permission and returned it with heavy front end damage. Alford was apprehended and charged with Theft: \$1500 to Under \$25,000, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving and other traffic and alcohol related charges.



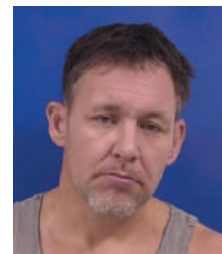
Richard Alford

Leon was dispatched to a lookout for a possible intoxicated driver that went off the roadway and was travelling into oncoming traffic. DFC DeLeon located the suspect vehicle and observed it cross the shoulder on Hallowing Point Road. A traffic stop was conducted in the area of Hallowing Point Road and Jibsail Way in Prince Frederick, MD. Contact was made with the driver, **William David Broomfield**, 32 of Mechanicsville, MD who was observed to have a white paper fold in his hand. When asked about the paper fold, Broomfield advised it was Heroin. Broomfield's license was confirmed to be suspended and revoked. Broomfield was detained and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana and well as several traffic violations.



William Broomfield

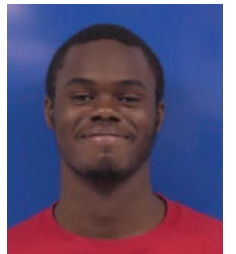
On December 24, 2021, Cpl. Pounsberry responded to Rt. 4 and Southern Connector in Lusby, MD for report of a traffic complaint. Cpl. Pounsberry observed the suspect vehicle swerve across the center line nearly striking another vehicle. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver, **Donald Sheldon Strickland**, 42 of Great Mills, MD, failed to produce identification or a driver's license. A vehicle search revealed several controlled dangerous substances to include pills of Gabapentin, Amphetamine, Dextroamphetamine, Alprazolam, a loaded syringe containing suspected heroin, 2 metal containers of suspected heroin, multiple metal spoons and syringes, a glass smoking device with suspected crack cocaine and a plastic bottle containing urine. Strickland was placed under ar-



Donald Strickland

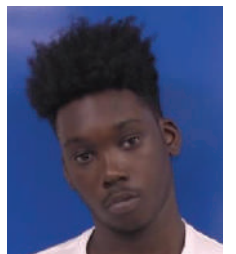
rest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center (CCDC). A search of Strickland's person upon entering the CCDC revealed a Suboxone strip and a plastic baggie of heroin. Strickland was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana (4x) and Altering a Drug/Alcohol Test.

On December 25, 2021, Deputy Newton responded to the area of NB Rt. 4 and Main Street in Prince Frederick, MD for a vehicle traveling in reverse. Cpl. Robshaw and Deputy Newton conducted a traffic stop and the driver of the vehicle advised the transmission went out and asked for a tow truck. An MVA check of the vehicle registration revealed the vehicle was stolen through Prince George's County. A vehicle search revealed a loaded Glock 9mm magazine, a loaded 9mm handgun and 23 rounds of ammunition. The driver who originally provided a fake name to deputies, was later identified as **Dennis Zeigler Jr.**, 19 of Washington D.C. Ziegler was charged with Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle, Theft: \$100 to Under \$1500, Theft: \$1500 to Under \$25,000, Obstructing and Hindering.



Dennis Zeigler Jr

A passenger, **Dovanta Enest McBride**, 20 of Washington D.C. was found was found to be in possession of a pocket knife and a small bag containing suspected marijuana. McBride was charged with Loaded Handgun in Vehicle, Handgun in Vehicle, and Minor in Possession of a Firearm.



Dovanta McBride

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

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2021: The Year of the Vaccine

Part I



By Dick Myers
Editor

It not often that a newspaper's very first story in the very first issue of the new year turns out to be THE story of the year. Last year we dubbed 2020 the Year of COVID-19. Surely then 2021 was the year of the COVID-19 vaccines, with that first story announcing the first shots going into the arms of countians. By year's end health officials were still pleading with unvaccinated county residents to get them as the new Omicron variant surged.

JANUARY

CalvertHealth Medical Center (CHMC) received its **first shipment of Moderna COVID vaccine** on Dec. 23 (2020) and began vaccinating its care team, according to a hospital spokesperson.

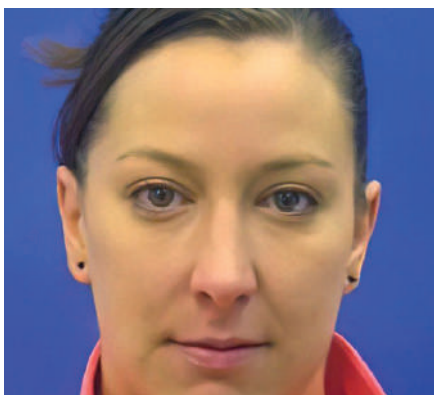
The hospital reports that vaccine clinics are ongoing there with the plan for vaccinating being guided by the Centers for Disease Control and the Maryland Department of Health in "a phased approach." Chief Nursing Officer & Vice President of Clinical Services Diane Couchman was the first to be vaccinated.

The latest **Community Needs Assessment** from Calvert County Family Network was released Jan. 5 to the county. Some of the survey findings:

- 31 percent of students feel sad or hopeless almost every day for stretches of two weeks or more. That's up from the previous survey.
- More than 30 percent of student respondents report lifetime use of alcohol or marijuana.
- Substance use is generally down from last survey.
- 13.5 percent report using prescription drugs without a doctor's order.
- Calvert youth marijuana offenses far exceed the state average, probably because of school resource officers being aggressive in making charges.
- 24.6 percent of students report regularly being sworn at, insulted, or put down by an adult in the home.
- 24.6 percent have an adult in the household who has been in prison.
- 25.3 percent have a household member with substance abuse or gambling problems.
- 32.6 percent have a household member who was ever depressed, mentally ill or suicidal.
- Almost half of adults report having adverse childhood experiences one or two times and a quarter report at least three



Calvert Health distributing vaccines



Ashli Babbitt



Sheriff Mike Evans and Mike Miller

such incidents.

Another story occurred in early January whose effects lingered throughout the year and are still to be a headline grabber as the county goes into the mid-term elections next year. On Jan. 6, a horde of Trump supporters **stormed the U.S. Capitol** in an attempt to thwart Congress from certifying a Biden presidential victory. Lives were lost, among them a former Huntingtown resident.

Ashli Babbitt, 35, an Air Force veteran, died in the siege. Her husband told San Diego TV station KSWB that she was an ardent Trump supporter and had traveled to DC just for the rally. He said he was watching TV when his wife was shot. "She was voicing her opinion and she got killed for it," he said.

Delegate Michael Jackson was chosen by the Democratic Central Committees of Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties to replace Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, who resigned last month for health reasons. The Calvert County Democratic Central Committee made the recommendation after a Jan. 9 public hearing at which the candidates and their supporters appeared virtually.

Upon his resignation from the position as Senate president a year earlier for health reasons, Miller had been the country's longest serving state senate president and in all served 45 years in the body. He resigned in Dec 2020.

A week later on Jan. 15, **Miller passed away** at the age of 78. He was a family man, a terrific husband and father, according to his daughter Melissa "Missy" Miller, a member of the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee and an attorney in the law practice founded by her father.

"He loved and adored my mother (Patricia) and showed her the utmost respect. He got married very young and they had four kids right away," said Missy, who was the second of their five children Mike and Patty were married for 61 years.

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

The year was bracketed by the loss of one political legend, Miller, at the beginning, and another, former senator and county commissioner Bernie Fowler at year's end.

Given the rising local case numbers of COVID-19 and the expected post-holiday increases yet to come, Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) **postponed the planned start of hybrid instruction indefinitely**. A new reopening date will be determined when local positivity rates have decreased and stabilized.

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

FEBRUARY

Our first issue of February had a cover story entitled "**Can a 'Sense of Place' be Created in Prince Frederick?**" The question continues to be asked as the town center update process had still not concluded as the year ended.

The story asked: Is it possible to create a "Sense of Place" in a place defined by a six-lane highway rolling through a bunch of shopping centers and with an old town removed from that with a courthouse green but only one retail store, a hardware, and no shops, restaurants, cafes, or coffeehouses. Yet the hope keeps popping up.

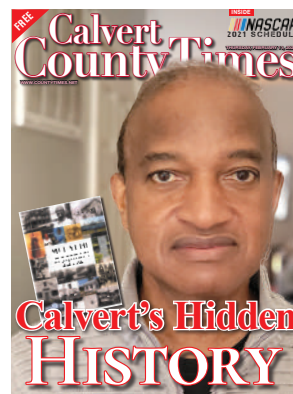
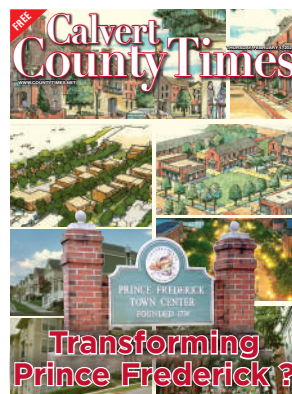
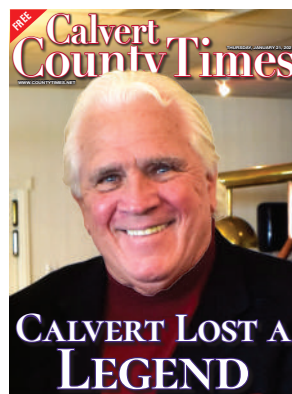
In early February the push for vaccinations was dealt a setback when **the amount of COVID-19 vaccine doses available** to the health department for distribution in Calvert County had been reduced by two-thirds, according to Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky. He said the county's allocation was being diverted to pharmacies and mass vaccination centers in other parts of the state.

Dr. Polsky would remain in the spotlight throughout the entire year, and at times controversial.

Superintendent of Schools **Curry unveiled his proposed budget**. "This is what I will call a level budget," he said about the document released to the school board on Jan. 28.

In order to balance the budget and pay for the school system's negotiated agreements with employees, Curry said he has used \$7 million of the system's approximately \$12 million in fund balance.

The total budget proposed by Curry was \$232,994,045, or a \$6,441,505 increase.



“We are not the Department of COVID, we are a public health department.”

-Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Polsky

Chesapeake Beach had a couple of controversies in 2021. After a more than two-hour public hearing on Jan. 27, the Chesapeake Beach Planning and Zoning Commission announced they would begin next month a review of the short-term rental controversy looking to make a recommendation to the mayor and town council.

“I think that everybody can work together,” short-term rental supporter Shad Montague said, suggesting, “Let the community decide.”

In early February Sheriff Mike Evans said, “It is time to pass the torch,” announcing he would not seek re-election to a 5th term.

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) announced in a Feb. 8 press release that “hybrid instruction for students in Grades 3-6 will begin on February 22 and for Grades 7-12 on March 8. Fully virtual instruction will continue for students whose families chose the virtual model. The high school fall sports season will begin on February 20.

Dona Ostenso, president of the Calvert Education Association (CEA), which represents teachers, said, “It’s an awful lot in a short period of time.”

Not all Calvert County residents 75 and over who want to be vaccinated have received their first shot and it will take about a month to complete that task, according to Health Officer Polsky on Feb. 9. Those residents are in Phase 1A of the state’s vaccination rollout schedule.

What’s the track record for hybrid learning? As the Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) begin their full rollout of the hybrid learning model (part in school/part virtual), Student Member of the Board Abigail Setzfang wanted to know if it’s worked elsewhere.

At the school board’s Feb. 11 meeting, Superintendent Curry admitted, “This is so new to the whole country that there’s no great measure for success. Just as we hear (about virtual) from students who say this is awful and parents who say I’m not able to manage my time and I’m not doing well; we also hear from students who say I’m doing great. So, I’m not aware of any research that supports one or the other.”

“It’s really child abuse at this time,” is the way Calvert County Delegate Mark Fisher (R: 27C) describes the school

board’s failure to bring the kids back to school.

Even though Superintendent Curry is beginning a complete rollout of hybrid instruction, Fisher doesn’t support that policy.

Instead, he told The County Times he supports what he calls the Florida model in which students are either in school five days a week or online full time. He said that puts the onus on parents if their child doesn’t succeed in the online environment.

Fisher learned he was getting a new colleague... a Democrat. Calvert native Rachel Jones was sworn in as new delegate for the seat formerly held by Michael Jackson, who was appointed senator to replace the late Sen. Mike Miller. She was a staffer for former Sen. Barbara Mikulski and then Sen. Ben Cardin.

Health Officer Polsky came bearing mostly good news at his regular briefing with the county commissioners on Feb. 23.

“The number of cases in the county continued to decrease since we had that enormous surge, during the holiday period,” he said. “I will just mention as a little bit of caution that even though we are in much better shape than we were a month or so ago, that we’re still looking at over a hundred documented cases every week in the county.”

The updated Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the county commissioners in August of 2019, included a two-phase approach to expanding the Prince Frederick Town Center. The first phase involved areas to the north and south of the town center and included several subdivisions which already have been built out.

The second phase included a much larger expansion area to the west along Route 231 all the way out to the College of Southern Maryland.

At the time, then Planning and Zoning Director (and now county administrator) Mark Willis assured folks concerned about the town center expansion that the second tier would have to occur with a positive vote from the commissioners and may never happen.

Now, the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan update process is more than a year old, and the first draft is close to being released. The consultants working on the plan at the Feb. 17 planning commis-

sion meeting expressed disdain for splitting the expansion into two phases and instead have presented to the planning commission several growth scenarios that combine the two phases.

In an order filed Feb. 17, a visiting circuit court judge ruled in favor of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in a suit seeking to overturn their adoption of the update of the county’s Comprehensive Plan on Aug. 6, 2019.

In her order, retired Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Judge Michelle Jaklitsch stated, “...the 2019 adoption of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan by the County Board of Commissioners was legally implemented.”

The plaintiffs appealed to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals and the decision is pending.

MARCH

Our March 4 issue had a cover story Commissioner President Buddy Hance managing the county during the pandemic. In the final meeting of the year Hance was reelected for a second term as president, a meeting at which he announced he had been operated on for kidney cancer, had one kidney removed and he was cancer free.

He said in a March 1 interview about the pandemic, “It’s made it really different, not just the presidency, but just being a regular board member. You don’t have interaction with the public.”

The fears that some children have fallen behind because of virtual learning have proven to be true in cold, hard facts. The percentage of failing grades in Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) was more than three times in this school year’s first two marking periods compared to the same time last school year.

And the data released to the Calvert County Board of Education at their Feb. 25 meeting is even worse for African American and Hispanic students and all students receiving Free and Reduced Meals (FARM).

We reported March 4 that the Chesapeake Beach Planning and Zoning Commission recommended on Feb. 26 to the town council the imposition of a one-year moratorium on new developments.

The decision followed on the heels of five applications at the end of January by the Donovan family for 11 townhouse, 24 condominium, and 148 apartment units.



Dr. Laurence Polsky



Rachel Jones



Calvert County Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry



Buddy Hance on his farm



...continued from pg. 11



Delegate Mark Fisher

There is also one single-family unit. The Donovan family own and operates the Rod 'N Reel Resort complex, which is undergoing a major expansion.

The moratorium was extended and remains in effect through March of next year.

Health Officer Polsky was pressed during his March 9 update to the county commissioners about **getting kids back in school fulltime**.

Polsky was asked why some school systems have kids back in the classrooms. Was it the six-foot rule being administered differently?

Commissioner Kelly McConkey noted that Polsky's name had been brought up as part of the problem at a meeting last week at Republican headquarters called by Delegate Fisher and attended by parents wanting their kids back in the classroom fulltime.

Polsky said, "We provide advice, but I have no authority to have kids back in school. I have no authority to exclude kids." He said it's a school board decision.

Meanwhile, a group of Calvert County **parents want answers from the school board**. They planned a rally starting at 5 p.m. outside the March 25 school board meeting. The parents are supporters of a complete return to in-person learning.

Parent Melissa Macuci Goshorn led a petition drive with what she feels are realistic expectations. She told The County Times, "We realize at this point that we don't have a lot of help for the rest of the school year." She added, "We're really focusing our attention on getting fall set up."

Parents and some elected officials pressing for schools to reopen for full-time instruction pointed fingers at the Calvert County Board of Education and Calvert Education Association (CEA) as the culprits for it not happening.

Goshorn, at the rally, said, "I'm speaking for the parents, teachers and kids in this county, before we lose one of our own. Children are 10 times more likely to die from suicide than from COVID. I'm speaking because we are not closed due to science or safety, but due to politics, the union's demands and the lack of leadership."

She added, "We must address the role that Dona Ostenso and the teacher's union plays in all of this. Dona and the CEA are using COVID to hold our children hostage. And you all are allowing it. Her antics are driving a wedge between the public you serve and the teachers you employ."

Later she charged, "The union's fight

is for more pay and a more manageable workload and distribution of duties, which is a fair fight to fight. However, holding our children hostage and using this pandemic as its cover is not only unthinkable, but completely immoral."

She said the rank-and-file teachers supported the parents. But teachers' union President Ostenso said, "If members don't want me to do something, I won't do it."

Superintendent of Schools Curry backed off on a plan to have **kids in school on Fridays**. Curry made the announcement at the Board of Education's March 11 meeting after considerable push back on the idea from the school system's teachers.

The BOCC replaced a planning commission member who has served for 20 years with a recently retired, long-time county employee.

Robert Reed was first appointed to the planning commission in 2001 and had served four full terms when the commissioners adopted a term limit ordinance in 2016. Since the ordinance was apparently not made retroactive, Reed was only considered to have served one partial term when being considered for reappointment, which he sought.

The commissioners bypassed Reed in favor of **Victor "Wilson" Freeland**, who served 37 years with Calvert County Government, from 1982-2019, including 10 years as General Services Director. His retirement became effective Dec. 6, 2019.

The consultant working on the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan update told the planning commission on March 17: "The county office building rebuild really could be the backbone of redevelopment or strengthening of Main Street. It's kind of a once in a generation opportunity. Probably that area won't see another public investment like that for another 20 or 30 years."

The plan is to relocate county offices temporary, demolish the County Services Plaza, construct the new county office building there, and then to move into the new building sometime in 2024.

"I wish I had a little bit better news," said Polsky. "As far as statistics, we continue to see a **rise in cases in the county**."

The health officer was giving his regular COVID-19 update to the county commissioners at their March 23 meeting. He reported very few new cases in the senior population. "It's certainly a reflection of the effort to prioritize seniors for vaccines up to this point."

But in showing a visual, he said, "You see an increase in younger people. I do want to point out because you see an

increase in those who were under 15, we did take a look at children who have been back in school versus those who have been a hundred percent virtual. And we found no difference in infection rates. And I want to make very clear that to this point, we have not seen any transmission within the schools."

The Chesapeake Beach Town Council enacted a **nine-month moratorium** on major new developments in town. The decision at the council's March 18 meeting was on a 4-2 vote and came after 38 people, on both sides, testified during the virtual meeting that lasted more than three hours. "Clearly this is a polarizing issue for us tonight," observed Councilman Derek Favret.

Meanwhile at the other end of the county a **major apartment complex** was announced in March.

The Calvert County Planning Commission approved a Conceptual Site Plan for a 276-unit apartment complex called Lusby Villas.

The property is 26.23 acres, with frontage on Lusby Parkway to the west, and MD 760, Rousby Hall Road on the south and west. The property is owned by businessman John Gott.

APRIL

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.

Days after Superintendent 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 was to begin April 16.

The **COVID-19 positivity rate** steadily rose from 4.56 percent during the week of Feb. 25 to March 3, to the rate going up each week to where it stood at 8.45 percent for the week of March 19-24,

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

Polsky cited the UK and the California variants as among the causes.

Calvert County will establish a Veter-



Proposed plans for Donovan Apartments



Commissioner Kelley McConkey



Protests against virtual learning



ans 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 regular meeting.

All Marylanders over the age of 16 could begin to **get a vaccine** dosage to fight COVID-19 on Apr. 6, Gov. Larry Hogan announced.

The first draft of the **Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan** update is expected to be in the hands of the planning commission sometime this spring. At a virtual workshop on March 31 the transportation component of the plan was discussed, and other sections ate being developed.

Consultant Jamie Kendrick explained one of the major changes – the elimination of the developer requirement for a traffic study for each large development. Kendrick said each project has a cumulative effect and it's unfair to make the developer at the end of the pipeline pay for it.

Maryland, the first state to enact a **law enforcement officer's bill of rights (LEOBOR)**, **abolished** it as part of a package of police reforms hailed by some as a necessary step to curb police use of force and acts of brutality and decried by others as tying the hands of law enforcement and putting them at greater risk of injury on the job by hesitating to act in situations that require split-second decisions.

Those who supported the repeal of LEOBOR argued that the bill gave police more rights than the average citizen, especially when it came to being investigated in the use of force; those against repeal said LEOBOR protected the rights of police officers against overly aggressive investigation into their actions that could violate their due process rights.

Supporters of the new legislation say that though LEOBOR is no more, a different system has been put in its place that is fairer and more independent.

New civilian police accountability boards will have to be established in each county.

"It's kind of like opening another school," is how Superintendent Curry described an initiative planned for next school year. This time it wouldn't be a bricks and mortar school but a **"Virtual Academy."**

Assistant Superintendent for Instruc-

tion Diane Workman said at the school board regular April 8 meeting, "(Some) students have proven they have performed higher in a virtual environment."

In our April 22 issue, we noted with the one-year anniversary of the pandemic now in the rearview mirror, everyone wonders how far ahead a semblance of normalcy is. The year anniversary caused many to pause and consider how much their lives had changed and how much they have had to adapt to those changes.

Institutions such as Calvert Library have, by their very nature of serving the public every day and handling thousands of items in the process, gone through a tsunami of adjustment.

A year ago, said Calvert Library Executive Director Carrie Wilson, "We thought we were going to go home for two weeks."

But even with that expectation there was preparation. "We had some foresight," she said, particularly in the two-person IT Department. "They started getting laptops ready for VPN access a couple of weeks before."

"We still knew that a number of people would need to have VPN access to get to the files on the server," she added.

So, the IT people started converting laptops for staff to achieve that access.

It appears the Town of Chesapeake Beach will be getting **sports betting venues**. The Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 940 which allows sports wagering in facilities already regulated by the state, including the Rod 'N Reel, Abner's and Traders in Chesapeake Beach with electronic video pull time machines. At year's end the licenses still had not been issued.

For Calvert Country's two stare senators, the contentious **debate on and final passage of a landmark police reform** package in this year's General Assembly session was a personal matter. Senator Michael Jackson (D: 27) and Senator Jack Bailey (R: 29) are the legislature's only former law enforcement officers.

Jackson was sheriff of Prince George's County and former Fraternal Order of Police chapter president, and Bailey is a returned Natural Resources Police officer.

The police reform package was one of the prime topics of discussion at the annual Calvert County Chamber of Commerce post-session breakfast, held virtually on April 13. And Jackson and Bailey were front and center on the issue, having sat side by side in the Judicial Proceedings Committee, which Jackson said grappled the whole session on the issue.

Jackson said, "You have two retired law enforcement officers in the general assembly out of 188. That's very difficult and challenging for folks who have worked it as a career to be locked into a bubble where folks are telling you how horrible your career has been."

"We are receiving, in conjunction with the hospital, a **shipment of Pfizer vaccine**," Health Officer told the county commissioners during an April 27 briefing. The health officer in his last report two weeks ago said he was only receiving the Moderna vaccine at the health department.

He said the Pfizer shipment "does two really important things. One, it increases the number of doses that we have locally. And the second is that now 16- and 17-year old's can be vaccinated with Pfizer."

Sen. Michael Jackson (D:27) summed it up for the Calvert Country legislative delegation: "This is **the most unusual session that we've all partaken in.**"

Senator Jack Bailey (R:29) agreed. "Jackson is a hundred percent right. It was an extremely weird session."

The comments came at a virtual post-session briefing by the delegation to the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce two days after the session ended. The April 15 confab in normal times would have been an in-person breakfast.

Bailey added, "It was painful, not being able to have our constituents with us, not being able to be able to just get their daily feedback. I have to say painful because that's something that the process really needs. We need to have that interaction, with the stakeholders, with the community. We were talking, unfortunately, like we are today, on a computer."

Bailey insisted, "We have to work very diligently to get back to normal."

Delegate Jerry Clark said, "It was fast and furious and very interesting in the way we operated, with half of us in the chambers, half of us in the House Office Building."

Delegate Mark Fisher charged the Democratic controlled legislature restricted the times constituents could sign up to testify. "The purpose of the rule was to limit any kind of testimony from the public and it is wholly unconstitutional," he said.

The Calvert County Planning Commission approved at their April 21 meeting the **concept site plan for the proposed new clubhouse at Chesapeake Hills**

...continued on pg. 14



Protests against school mask mandates



Calvert Library Executive Director Carrie Wilson



Michael Jackson



Plans for Rod n' Reel





Calvert County Teacher of the Year Carrie Akins



Solomon's Fire



Governor Larry Hogan



New Prince Frederick Firehouse



North Beach councilwoman Gwen Schiada

...continued from pg. 13

Golf Course (CHGC) in Lusby.

MAY

There was currently a sufficient **supply of COVID-19 vaccines** in Calvert County to meet the demand, according to Dr. Michelle Folsom-Elder of the health department. She filled in for Health Officer Polsky for the regular briefing to the county commissioners at their May 4 meeting.

She said, "Local and mass vaccination sites continue to have vaccines on hand as do pharmacies. Multiple medical providers in our community have been provided vaccinations. I still think, as a former practicing family doctor in the community for over a decade, the best place for people to get their medical education is from their own personal physician who can know their medical history and guide them as to where they should get their vaccines and what type of vaccine to get."

Calvert County Democratic Central Committee Chair Jeanette Flaim on May 3 **condemned the latest billboard** erected at the intersection of MD 4 and Bowie Shop Road. "The obscene imagery and language displayed on this latest sign is deeply disturbing" said Flaim. The billboard displays caricature-like images of President Biden and Vice President Harris on feces and includes expletives in its caption.

Flaim continued, "This does not reflect the values of our County, regardless of party. Our county is home to a myriad of families who must drive by this on their way from school or work. Our county welcomes visitors from far and wide. Parents should not have to explain something so vile to their small children. And it certainly shouldn't be what our visitors remember us for."

Calvert County in May dealt with a pleasant surprise: a \$12,931,300 windfall of unbudgeted income tax revenue. There was a controversy over how to spend it.

Capital Projects Analyst Veronica Atkinson presented at a May 4 public hearing a plan to use \$6 million of that revenue to fund the proposed Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center in Prince Frederick, paying cash for it instead of using bond money.

But Commissioner Tim Hutchins, speaking via Zoom from Florida, recommended instead banking it, putting it into fund balance for future uses and using bond monies for the community center.

Calvert Career and Technology Academy (CTA) Principal Carrie Akins said, "Miss Rachic is a phenomenal teacher. She cares about her kids and she's not ever going to let anything stand between our kids and being successful."

Akins was referring to Calvert County's **Teacher of the Year Jennifer Rachic**, a teacher at CTA. Rachic was one of 49 teachers and educational support personnel in the running for the two top spots during a live virtual ceremony May 6 that featured School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry making a surprise visit to the winners' schools. James Johnson of Calvert High School was Educational

Support Professional of the.

"There's light at the end of the tunnel" is the cliché being tossed around to describe the **status of the pandemic**. In early May Maryland reported its COVID-19 positivity rate dropped below three percent for the first time since October.

One of the outcomes of the series of bills that passed the Maryland General Assembly this year under the broad category of "**police reform**," is the establishment in every county of a police accountability board.

Calvert County Commissioner Tim Hutchins proposed a board makeup heavily reliant on former law enforcement officers.

"Love it!" is how **Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department (PFVFD)** President Pat Hassler describes Company 2's new digs. It's been a long time coming.

In one sense you could say it's been 95 years in the making. The company's charter was issued on May 6, 1926. And just two days after their anniversary date, the move began, from their temporary quarters for 639 days at the old National Guard Armory, where they had moved while their old building was demolished and a new 30,000-square-foot, \$9.5 million facility rose in its place on Solomons Island Road. That old building dated back to 1960, with a 1984 addition.

Things looked different for those watching the May 18 Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting. For the first time in quite a while **the five commissioners weren't wearing facemasks**. And the plexiglass dividers separating them had been removed. It was only later in the meeting that Commissioner Tim Hutchins donned the mask while he was speaking.

Indeed, the BOCC played a key role in the change. With Governor Larry Hogan stating that facemasks were no longer required in most indoor settings, the day after the BOCC issued a statement that the county would follow the governor's lead, although some counties have not.

North Beach Councilwoman Gwen Schiada announced at the May 13 town meeting that she has resigned. She told the council that she will be spending more time in the Bahamas, although she still will be spending part of the year in North Beach.

The commissioners May 18 ratified a plan for using a **\$12,931,300 windfall** of unbudgeted income tax revenue. The decision was 4-1, with Commissioner Tim Hutchins opposing.

The disagreement was over allocating \$6 million of the surplus to the proposed Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center in Prince Frederick, named after a county civil rights leader. The decision paves the way for the project to move forward earlier and without using bond authority and securing approval from the state legislature.

Hutchins argued the bulk of the money allocated to the community center should instead stay in a reserve for contingencies, such as hurricanes or another pandemic.

But the majority opinion was that there were a significant number of large projects in the Capital Improvement Plan that would compete for funding with the community center, such as the St. Leonard Firehouse and needed schools.

"We have a lot of substantial projects," said Commissioner Steve Weems.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal, in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, has concluded the cause of the May 26 Solomons **multi-alarm fire that caused nearly \$3 million in damages** was an accident.

Investigators determined a candle being used by a homeless person taking refuge inside a camper trailer located to the rear of the building ignited combustibles before spreading to the adjacent structure. The subject inside the 25-foot trailer was able to escape and temporarily fled from the area.

Investigators worked throughout the night and into the early morning hours and identified the 38-year-old man after being transported to a local hospital for an unrelated medical emergency.

Firefighters were dispatched to 13860 HG Trueman Road in Solomons around 10:45 p.m. for a building fire. Firefighters arrived to find the shopping plaza located just before the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge ablaze. It took nearly four hours and multiple fire departments from Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles, and Prince Georges counties to bring the fire under control.

According to Solomons RS&FVD Public Information Officer Norman Rea, "One firefighter was treated for dehydration and smoke inhalation." No other injuries have been reported.

Firefighters were successful in rescuing two pets from Solomons Veterinary Medical Center.

"We will be closed until further notice," the veterinary hospital reported to its customers.

In a briefing to the commissioners sitting as the Board of Health on May 25, Health Officer Polsky observed, "**We are not the Department of COVID**, we are a public health department," indicating there are other persistent health issues in the county that haven't gone away since the outbreak of the pandemic. They include drug overdoses and deaths, and Lyme Disease.

Calvert County Fiscal Year 2022 Commissioners Budget went to public hearing on May 18.

The only person to speak at the hearing was College of Southern Maryland (CSM) President Dr. Maureen Murphy, who asked for restoration of \$92,000 that had been cut from her proposed budget and \$225,000 in one-time tuition assistance for Calvert Country citizens.

JUNE

"Let's remember our fallen service members, with pride this **Memorial Day**, and not lose sight of what they so bravely fought for," said Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat "Irish" Mahoney.

This year's 9th Annual Chesapeake Beach Stars and Stripes Festival over the

Memorial Day weekend was a mixture of live and virtual events centered on the theme: “Memorial Day, The True Meaning.”

The live event was held Saturday, May 29 at the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department, moved inside because of the inclement weather outside for the originally planned Veteran’s Memorial Park venue.

Guest speaker Kelly Swanson, state chapter president of Gold Star Families of Maryland, knows full well the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Swanson said she holds many titles, including Christian, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, daughter-in-law, children’s director at Bayside Baptist Church, American Legion Post 208 member and retired federal employee, “but there’s one title that I have that I truly don’t want, but I’m most honored to have. I’m a Gold Star Parent, a Gold Star Mom.”

Kelly and her husband Gary’s son, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Swanson, spent much of his youth hanging out in the Twin Beaches.

Commissioner Hutchins’ proposal for creating two local boards in response to the **state’s police reform** legislation was presented to the public and the other county commissioners at their May 25 meeting. No decisions were reached. But several of the commissioners were insistent the idea needed more public vetting.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, “I want to hear from the public about the makeup of the boards.” He said they appeared to be weighted in favor of the police, although Hutchins said one of the boards only had four of nine members with police backgrounds.

Commissioner Steve Weems said, “We are going to need everyone to buy into this.”

Days later, **Hutchins**, citing “personal challenges,” **announced his resignation.**

The BOCC on June 8 unanimously adopted operating and capital budgets for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

A memo to the BOCC from Beth Richmond, deputy director of Finance and Budget, said, “The FY 2022 General Fund Operating Budget totaling \$327,940,026 is a balanced budget, with a \$31,076 surplus. Overall, the revenues that fund the budget increased by approximately \$9.4 million, in comparison to the FY 2021 Adopted General Fund Budget. \$8.5 million of this increase is related Income Taxes. FY 2021 included the expected peak revenues of the Dominion (now Berkshire Hathaway) Payment in lieu of Tax agreement (PILOT). FY 2022 starts the decline with a \$0.55 million decrease.”

It was announced in June that beginning Sept. 1, **United Way of Calvert County** would no longer exist. The board of the agency, which has been in existence for more than 40 years, along with boards of similar agencies in Charles and St. Mary’s, have agreed to consolidate as United Way of Southern Maryland (UWSOMD).

“**Good news**, pretty much all around,” was the way Health Officer Polsky led his

regular COVID-19 briefing to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners at their June 8 meeting.

“The county positivity rate of 2.3 percent is much lower than we’ve seen really ever,” he said, noting the 65 and over infection rate still remains low although the numbers of tests administered also is down more than half.

The national controversy over **Critical Race Theory (CRT)** has spilled over to Calvert County Public Schools. At the school board’s June 10 meeting, the Anti-Racism Policy adopted last year was included in the system’s Code of Conduct by a 4-1 vote. Before the vote, three parents at the public forum and school board member Pat Nutter criticized the policy and its inclusion into the code of conduct.

At the public forum, Robin Cox, who described herself as a grandparent, said, “I am appalled at what I read. And though you don’t come out and call it what it truly is, this document is nothing more than the latest Critical Race Theory or CRT, pitting one student against the other, creating hatefulness amongst our students and further dividing our country, and is just the beginning slope of where this school district is headed, which is beyond frightening.”

Board member Pat Nutter attempted to get the code of conduct tabled, but his motion failed 4-1.

Board member Pamela Cousins defended the policy. She said, “I feel like I have the responsibility as a board member, to the countless students, staff, family, and community members who have reached out to me to share the reality of their lived experiences in school, on the school buses and on social media.”

A kickoff public meeting was held virtually on June 2 as the process begins to update the **Dunkirk Town Center Master Plan**. According to Long-Range Planner Jenny Plummer-Welker, the Dunkirk plan was adopted in 1987, the county’s second after Solomons. It has not been updated since then.

A year after a scaled-down event because of the pandemic, the 34th Annual **Senator Bernie Fowler Wade-in** on June 13 had a full complement of supporters of the environment under a tent on the bluff overlooking the Patuxent River at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in St. Leonard.

It is calling attention to the river’s health that is the former state senator and Calvert County commissioner’s main purpose for gathering every year, walking into the river and finding out how far he can go and still see his sneakers. He walks out every year arm in arm with like-minded waders.

Before descending the bank for the wade-in, Fowler said, “For those things that are right, we will not stop fighting.” A deeply religious man, Fowler, 97, said the place to find out what’s right and wrong is in the Bible.

It would be his last wade-in. He passed away in December.

The Naval Research Laboratory - Chesapeake Bay Detachment (NRL-CBD) located just south of Chesapeake

Beach continued to investigate **potential contamination to drinking water wells** and surrounding waterways from testing done there.

According to a release from the Town of Chesapeake Beach, “NRL-CBD occupies approximately 160 acres along the western shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay. Fire suppressant testing at NRL-CBD, including the testing of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), has been ongoing since 1968. Some AFFF contains per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. Results of a recent on-base groundwater investigation indicates that these substances are present in shallow groundwater as a result of historical activities at NRL-CBD; as a result, may have impacted off-base shallow groundwater which may be used for drinking water. The Navy conducted drinking water sampling for certain PFAS in drinking water wells in the vicinity of NRL-CBD; however, the town’s drinking water source was not considered as a part of the testing due to the depth of the town’s water source.”

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.”

The report from Town Manager Holly Wahl presented at the June 18 town meeting went on to say: “Even though the town was not a part of the additional testing, the Town of Chesapeake Beach has taken additional voluntary precautionary measures to test the town’s drinking water, and publicly reported that the town’s drinking water has no traces of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Tests were conducted on all town drinking wells, which draw from the Aquia Aquifer.”

With the national spotlight shining on it, **Juneteenth** celebrations all across the country took on special significance this year. It was a celebration of the historical event that happened on June 19, 1865, when the black residents of Galveston, Texas learned two years after the fact about their freedom with the Emancipation Proclamation. President Biden signed into law the creation of June 19 as a national holiday.

So, after a year’s hiatus because of the pandemic, the Calvert County Juneteenth Community Day celebration on June 19 at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum also took on a special celebratory tone. And with it being one of the first events after the lifting of restrictions, one of the largest crowds ever came out to enjoy the late spring day.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Kelley Swanson



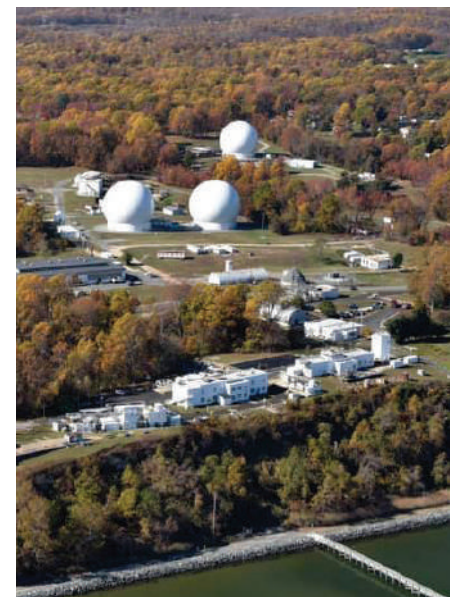
Juneteenth celebration



Bernie Fowler during the wade-in



Pat Nutter



NRL-CBD

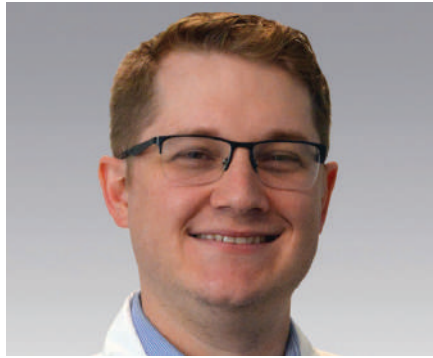
CalvertHealth Medical Group Welcomes New Urologist

Urologist Dr. John (Jack) Cooper has joined CalvertHealth Medical Group. While he has a special interest in treating complex and large kidney stones, Dr. Cooper enjoys providing care for a well-rounded general urology practice including the treatment of enlarged prostate, erectile dysfunction, low testosterone and overactive bladder.

"I chose this field because it allows me to make a difference in my patients' quality of life and wellbeing every day," he said.

Dr. Cooper comes to CalvertHealth from Christiana Care Health System in Delaware where he treated a diverse patient population and built a thriving urology practice. His philosophy of care focuses on educating patients so they feel empowered and informed about their health. "I hope every patient that comes to my clinic will expect to be treated with the utmost respect and have all of their concerns listened to and addressed."

He earned his medical degree at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 2015 and went on to complete his urologic surgery residency at The Ohio State University Medical Center in 2020, where he trained with leaders in the fields of urologic oncology and endourology (using



Dr. John (Jack) Cooper

the latest minimally invasive approaches).

Dr. Cooper has conducted research, authored articles published in peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Urology, and presented at conferences both nationally and internationally.

"I'm excited to join CalvertHealth," said Dr. Cooper, "I look forward to being a primary resource for urologic care in such a tight-knit community." An avid Baltimore Ravens fan, he enjoys outdoor activities, especially spending time at the beach, with his wife and son.

Dr. Cooper will see patients in Suite 210 of the Calvert Medical Office Building, located at 110 Hospital Road in Prince Frederick. To make an appointment, call 410.535.8359.

Press Release from CalvertHealth

Rare Evidence Reported of Shark-on-Shark Predation

Paper Published by Museum Paleontologists

Calvert Marine Museum's paleontologists, Drs. Victor Perez and Stephen Godfrey, have just published a paper in the journal *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* entitled: "Rare evidence of shark-on-shark trophic interactions in the fossil record." This study was co-authored by Dr. Phillip Chapman from Johns Hopkins University.

In modern marine ecosystems, sharks are known to prey upon other sharks, and in some cases will even cannibalize the same species. We rarely see evidence of this feeding behavior in the fossil record, and yet bite traces from sharks are commonly observed on fossil bones of whales and dolphins. So, why do we not find more evidence of sharks preying upon other sharks in the fossil record?

The answer is the composition of their skeleton. Sharks have a skeleton composed primarily of prismatic cartilage, which is a soft-tissue that decomposes much faster than bone. As a result, cartilage does not preserve as often as bone, but there are exceptions in which the environmental conditions are just right to preserve this delicate material. And in extremely rare circumstances, these cartilaginous skeletal elements will preserve bite traces,

either made when animals were scavenging the carcass or during active predation.

This new study describes four fossil requiem shark vertebrae that possess bite traces, most likely originating from other sharks. In fact, two of the specimens actually have broken shark teeth still embedded in the fossil vertebrae. These exceptionally rare fossils represent the first documented occurrences of bite traces preserved on fossil shark vertebrae, offering definitive evidence of shark-on-shark predation and/or scavenging in the fossil record.

One specimen, CMM-V-2700, is particularly unique, as CT-scans revealed healing around the embedded shark teeth. This implies that the bitten shark survived the encounter. In other words, this fossil preserves a failed predation event between two requiem sharks (Figure 2).

Two of the four specimens described in this study are currently on display at the Calvert Marine Museum in the new exhibit, *Sharks! Sink your teeth in!* Come visit the museum to see them in person

Press Release from Calvert Marine Museum.



One possible way in which the shark centra (CMM-V-2700) could have been bitten. This illustration depicts an active predatory encounter between two requiem sharks (aff. *Carcharhinus* sp.). Original drawing by Tim Scheirer. Coloration added by Clarence Schumaker.

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Tri County Livestock Auction

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM

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(closest physical address is 9033 Glock Place – Look for auction sign at entrance)

This auction is managed/conducted by the Tri-County Livestock Auction committee.

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Friday, January 7, 2022 from 4 pm to 6 pm.

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*Auction to be available online
(www.FarrellAuctionService.com) with pictures and descriptions, and open for registration and bidding on or about January 6, 2022.*

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CountyTimes

Two Countians Appointed to Maryland Youth Advisory Council

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services today announced the appointments of new and returning members to the Maryland Youth Advisory Council. The Council addresses issues impacting youth and young adults in Maryland by working to provide legislative recommendations, spreading public awareness of youth policy issues, and serving as a liaison between young people in Maryland and policymakers in their communities.

"Our youth are our future, and it's important for them to know that their voice is important," said Glenn Fueston, the executive director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. "The council gives young people in Maryland a seat at the table in the leg-

islative process and provides an outlet to share their unique perspective on public policy."

The members of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council are appointed by Governor Larry Hogan, Senate President William C. Ferguson IV, and Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Adrienne Jones. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services appoints other council members nominated by the Maryland Association of Student Councils, the University System of Maryland Student Council, Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Advisory Council, and the Association of Local Management Boards.

This year's members represent Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Caroline

County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Wicomico County.

The Calvert County appointees are:

- Henry Meiser, Solomons: Henry is a junior at St. Mary's Ryken High School. Henry was nominated by the Maryland Association of Student Councils and appointed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The 2021-2022 council year is Henry's first year as a member of the Council.
- Emily Shrieves, Lusby: Emily is a sophomore at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Emily was nominated by the Association of Local Management Boards, and appointed by the Governor's Office

of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The 2021-2022 council year will be Emily's first year as a member of the Council.

Council members must be 14 to 22 years of age and members are required to serve a two-year term. The Council year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year.

All Council meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are open to the public. If you plan to attend a meeting, please notify Christina Drushel Williams no later than the Monday prior to the meeting at christina.drushel@maryland.gov or 410-697-9242.

Press Release from The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

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Winter Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5, Sat. 7:30-3, Closed Sundays
 New Years Day Closed

Search Begins for New School Superintendent

Calvert County Board of Education (CalvertBOE) has begun a search for a Superintendent of Schools to replace Dr. Daniel Curry, who announced his retirement effective June 30, 2021.

Ray & Associates, Inc, a professional organization specializing in educational executive leadership searches, was selected to guide CalvertBOE through the process. Ray & Associates will work alongside CalvertBOE to recruit from the nation's largest pool of candidates searching for a new Superintendent through a robust search process.

We will be soliciting participation from parents, students, staff, and the community through a survey to identify the characteristics the public believes the next superintendent should possess, as well as the challenges the public believes the next superintendent will face. The survey opened on Dec. 16 and may be completed by accessing the link located on Calvert County Public School's website. Ray & Associates will compile and provide survey results to members of the Board to



Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry

assist them in developing superintendent qualifications and leadership characteristics to guide the search.

Please use the link to provide the superintendent characteristics that you believe are most important to this school system: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8FPXCLM>

In the spirit of openness and transparency, information will be shared with the public as the search progresses.

Press Release from CCPS.

Honesty Does Pay



Isaiah, Isabella, and driver Mr. Tom.

Editor's Note: Mr. Tom Alexander drives Calvert County School bus #89 for Reid & Reid Inc. He submitted this story:

One day while transporting Beach Elementary students to school, Isabella Fontana and her brother Isaiah found a \$20 bill on the floor of the bus. Without hesitation, they turned it in to me (Twenty dollars is a lot of money for an elementary school student).

We searched and searched for the owner, but no one came for-

ward. So, Brock Fulton, the principal of Beach Elementary, and I decided that this good deed must be rewarded.

A Certificate of Honesty was presented to Isabella and Isaiah by Mr. Fulton on my bus just before Christmas. He also issued them a Citizenship Pin along with the \$20. They were thrilled and their parents extremely proud.

Isabella and Isaiah Fontana are a fine example of the great students that we have in this county.

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Town or down to
the wharf

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ST. MARY'S COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

22660 WASHINGTON ST.
240-309-4061

Our audience participation Drum Circle featuring the SoMar Drummers will be from 7-8 PM, bring your own percussion instruments or use one of ours! All skill levels and ages are welcome to attend, this is a free event open to all. Doors will open at 6:30 PM. As our office will be closed due to a private function, we will meet right next door at the Leonardtown Town Hall, second floor.



NORTH END GALLERY

41652 FENWICK ST.
301-475-3130

North End Gallery Celebrates being named Favorite Gallery North End Gallery members very much appreciate the support of the Southern Maryland community during such challenging times, and will celebrate this recognition on First Friday, January 7, 2022 from 5-8pm, our monthly Art & Wine Date Night. Open to the public, NEG asked that visitors continue COVID precautions and stay safe.



THE GOOD EARTH

41675 PARK AVE
301-475-1630

The Good Earth Natural Foods Company will be offering free samples of Vital Proteins Collagen Peptides! Also, with any Vital Proteins purchase over \$20 you will receive a free Vital Proteins tumbler!

Vital Proteins is on sale for the entire month of January. First Friday hours are 10 AM to 6 PM.



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St. Clement's Island Museum

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Saturday, January 22, 2022

10AM - 3PM

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

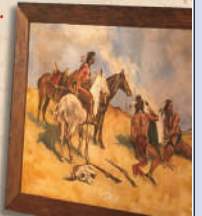
Only items that can be hand-carried will be appraised. Space is limited and items will be viewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Fine arts has a two-item limit per person. FREE admission, various costs for item appraisals.



St. Clement's Island Museum
38370 Point Breeze Road
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www.museums.stmarysmd.com
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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, December 30

Little Minnows

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

For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. Join us for story time and a take away craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Animals in Winter – Migration

Saturday, January 1

Pet Night

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center in Solomons, 5-9 p.m.

Pets are welcome at the last night of Annmarie Garden In Lights! Bring your well-behaved pet for the last night of our holiday light show! Must be on a leash 6' or shorter. Included with cost of admission; advance tickets required.

Monday, January 3

Acidified Foods Training Workshop

SMADC, January 11 & 12, 2022

Better Process Control School training

for farmers/producers who want to make and sell pickles, relishes, salsas and other acidified foods in Maryland

The virtual 'Understanding Acidified Foods' training workshop will take place over two half days on Tuesday, January 11 and Wednesday, January 12, 2022 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon each day. The workshop fee is \$160 (including class materials).

A reimbursement scholarship towards half the tuition fee of the Acidified Foods' training workshop is available to farmers/producers resident and actively farming in one of the five Southern Maryland counties. Register at SMADC.com. Registration closes Monday, January 3, 2022.

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Sea Squirts

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

This program invites children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a take away craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Lighthouses.

Transfer Thursdays

College of Southern Maryland,
1 a.m. Zoom.

CSM hosts transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. <https://www.csm.edu/student-services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html>

Ongoing

Annmarie Garden in Lights

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center in Solomons will host Annmarie Garden in Lights through January 1, 2022, 5-9 p.m. nightly

Advance timed-entry tickets are required. Admission is \$10/12 (depending on the date), free for ages 2; free for Annmarie members. Visit www.annmariegarden.org to purchase tickets and review complete safety information.

Christmas Treasure Hunt!

Artworks@7th in North Beach; through

January 2, 2022.

Artworks@7th continues to be your place for Christmas treasures! We are showcasing unique, one of a kind treasures for everyone on your gift list. We have 23 local artists who have wonderful art of all mediums for the most wonderful time of the year. There are many items at affordable prices to help you with your Christmas list!

Upcoming

Maritime Performance Series with DIANE DALY

Calvert Marine Museum,
Friday, Jan. 28, 7p.m.

Diane Daly is a vocalist of moody contrasts and evocative depth. Certainly, one who cannot be pigeonholed into one particular style. Diane has spent her career exploring a world of music from the strictest classical solos to avant-garde cabaret. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts, and \$25 at the door, unless otherwise noted.

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happy & healthy
New Year!

County Times

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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.

William Roland Brady Jr. "Sonny"



William Roland Brady Jr. "Sonny" 81, of Prince Frederick passed away on December 25, 2021. Born and raised in Prince Frederick, Sonny and his father were well-known and respected carpenters for many years. He was a devoted husband, proud father and long-time volunteer. Sonny served Calvert County at the Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad for 56 years. He was always ready to lend a hand to anyone in need. Sonny loved to cook and play golf with his sons but he loved nothing more than a hard day's work.

Sonny is survived by his wife, Sandy; four children, Billy Brady (Sherri), Sandy Brady, Michael Brady (Barbara) and Brian Brady (Laurene); two step children, Cinda Serbu and Michael Worsham (Susan); three brothers, Tommy Brady, Gary Brady and Robbie Brady; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, December 30, 2021 at the Church by the Chesapeake, 3255 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic, MD 20676. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the service at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Sonny's name to Church by the Chesapeake.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Mary Arline (Davis) Marz



Mary Arline (Davis) Marz, 82, of Prince Frederick, MD and formerly of Florida and Clinton, MD, departed on December 25, 2021 while at home surrounded by her family. She was born August 10, 1939 in Albany, NY to John and Thresa Davis. Her brothers are John Davis of Scottsdale, AZ and the late George Davis. She was married to Joe Marz, her childhood sweetheart, for over 50 years until his death in 2011.

She is survived by her children Mike Marz of Ball Ground, GA, Marie Trawick of Hawthorne, FL and Charlotte Marz of Prince Frederick; 4 grandchildren Courtney Marz of WV, Andrew King of Lothian, Kayla King of Baltimore, Kristine King of West River and one great-grandson Kane Bailey of West River.

Mary was a fulltime wife and mom. When her kids got to school, she started working part time at Sears & Roebuck. The job she loved came later; being a school bus driver. Once Joe retired, they started a cleaning business, working for a contractor cleaning new construction. After moving to Florida, Mary enjoyed being involved in neighborhood activities; the Welcome Wagon, helping neighbors in need and of course - BINGO, card and game nights! She and Joe spent a lot of time exploring all the state of Florida had to offer. Mary's

adventurous spirit led her to experience hot air ballooning. Hang gliding (on her 80th birthday!), travels to places like Alaska, a road trip with friends around the US for 6 weeks, an African safari, and many cruises, including the Caribbean, Ireland and Asia. Mary was loved.

This writer will be a true daughter of her parents and suggest all readers to speak to your loved ones about your advanced directives. As hard as it may be, they will love you for it. Memorial contributions may be made to Calvert Hospice.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Helen Jayn Griffin



Helen Jayn Griffin, passed away on December 23, 2021. She was born on January 11, 1955.

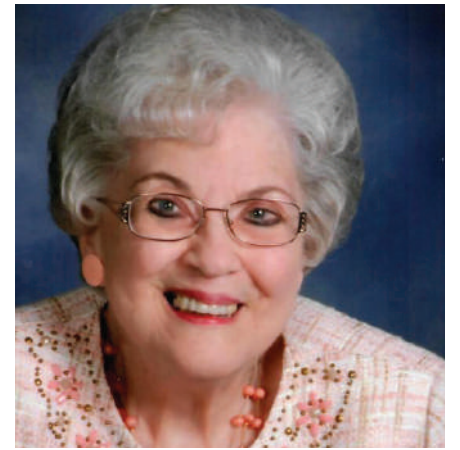
Visitation will be Thursday, December 30, 2021, 6-8 p.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Lusby, 20 American Lane, Lusby, MD 20657.

Funeral Service will be Friday, December 31, 2021, 11 a.m. at Middleham Chapel, 10210 H G Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657/

Interment will be in the chapel cemetery.

Emma Louise Whitmer

Emma Louise Whitmer, 88, of Catonsville and formerly of Dunkirk



passed away December 21, 2021. She was born November 19, 1933 in Sumter, SC to Thomas Edward and Annie Mae (Kennedy) Hinson. Emma was raised in Sumter and Columbia, SC and graduated from Columbia High School in 1952. She married Burl Whitmer in 1956 and they lived in Washington, DC before moving to Forestville and later moved to Dunkirk in 1985. Emma was employed as a cafeteria manager for Prince George's County Public Schools for 25 years. She was a member of the United Methodist Women and Mt. Harmony United Methodist Church where she was involved in church meals and fundraisers and always provided amazing desserts for church functions. Emma enjoyed shopping, taking exercise classes at the Senior Center, going to lunch with friends and talking with her friends while at the beauty shop. Emma was a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.

Emma was preceded in death by her husband Burl in October of 2021 and her sister Margaret Mintz. She is survived by her children Donna Biedzynski and her husband Joe and Tom Whitmer and his wife Andrea Garry, all of Catonsville, grandchildren Jeremy (Shannon), Daniel (Aimme) and Nathan and great-grandchildren Arwen, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

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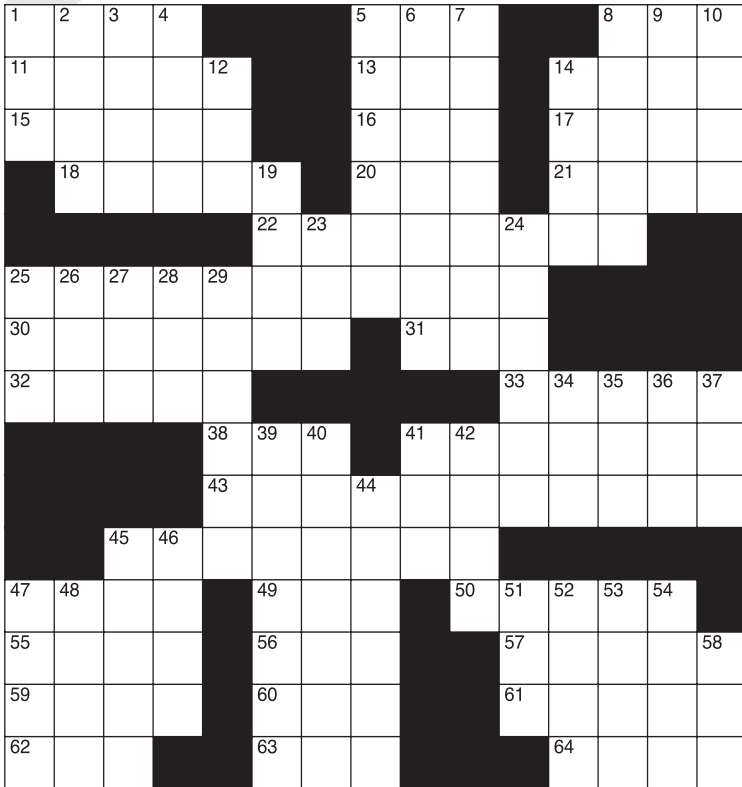
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

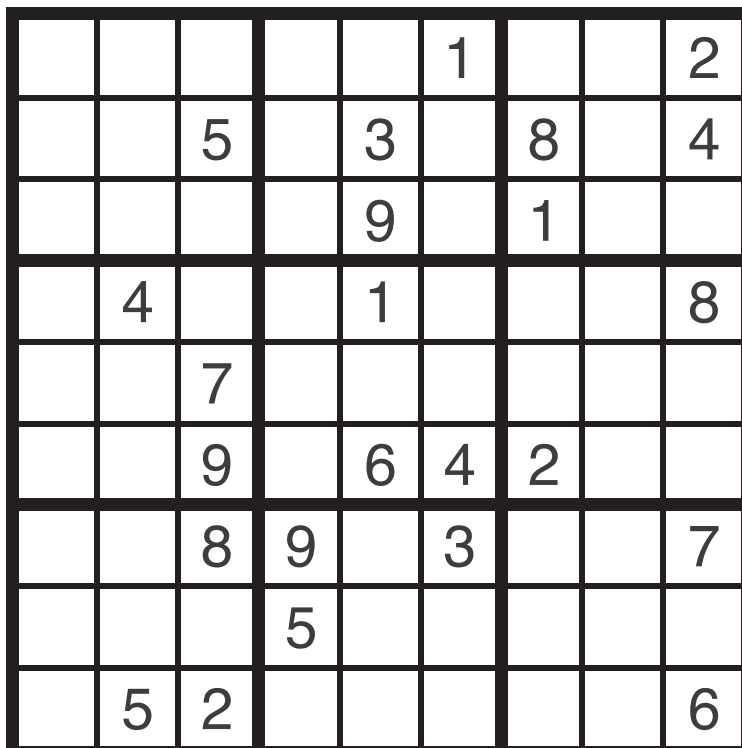
- 1. Loud cheer
- 5. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- 8. Type of cell
- 11. Oblong pulpits
- 13. Pitching statistic
- 14. Uncommon
- 15. Liabilities
- 16. Thin, straight bar
- 17. Oh goodness!
- 18. Competitions
- 20. ___ Jima, WW II battlefield
- 21. Professional assn. (abbr.)
- 22. Italian mountain range
- 25. Taking possession of
- 30. Used in cooking and medicine
- 31. Water (French)
- 32. Parent a child
- 33. Sun-dried brick
- 38. One point south of due east
- 41. Female fashion accessory
- 43. A way of making a copy of
- 45. A way to debilitate
- 47. Wings
- 49. Social insect
- 50. Dull brown fabrics

- 55. Indian musical pattern
- 56. N. England university
- 57. Portable stands for coffins
- 59. Iranian district
- 60. Envision
- 61. Passerine bird genus
- 62. Container
- 63. Falter
- 64. Tunisian city

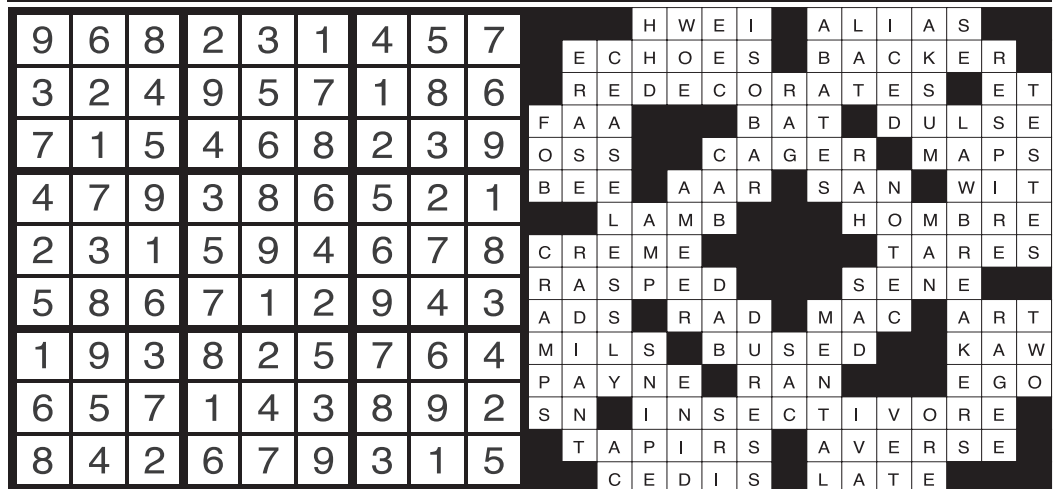
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Passover offering
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. Collegiate military organization
- 5. Large nests
- 6. Beloved baked good
- 7. 1980s pop legend
- 8. Finger millet
- 9. Hillside
- 10. Surrender
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Long, narrow strap
- 19. Discount
- 23. A type of cast
- 24. Large, tropical lizard
- 25. Half of "Milli Vanilli"

- 26. Single
- 27. Big truck
- 28. Midway between east and southeast
- 29. Et ___: indicates further
- 34. Insecticide
- 35. Luke Skywalker's mentor ___-Wan
- 36. Cast out
- 37. Breakfast food
- 39. By reason of
- 40. One who makes thread
- 41. Baseball stat
- 42. Breezed through
- 44. Frothy mass of bubbles
- 45. Tony-winning actress Daisy
- 46. Made of fermented honey and water
- 47. Member of a Semitic people
- 48. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 51. Run batted in
- 52. Makes publicly known
- 53. Disagreement
- 54. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 58. Single-reed instrument



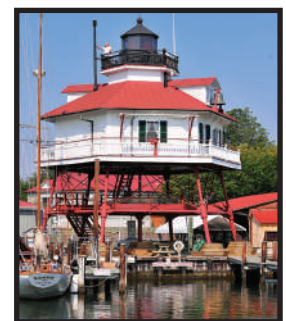
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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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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