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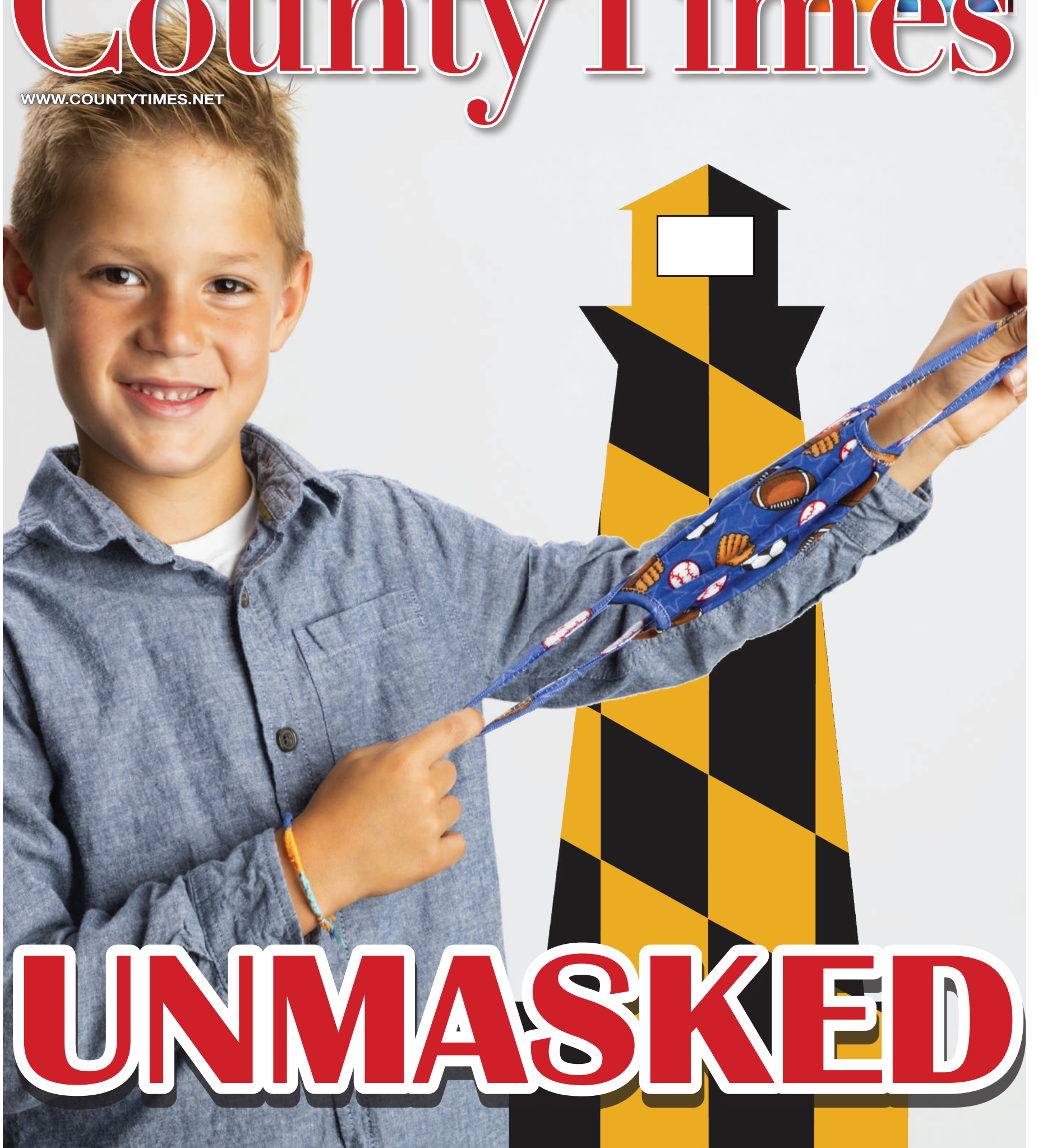
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Guide

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022

Calvert County Times

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UNMASKED

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WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 3/3	Fri 3/4	Sat 3/5	Sun 3/6
57° 31°F	46° 38°F	58° 47°F	74° 62°F
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	AM Clouds/PM	Mostly Cloudy
Mon 3/7	Tue 3/8	Wed 3/9	Thu 3/10
79° 53°F	55° 43°F	53° 44°F	59° 42°F
Mostly Cloudy	Showers	Showers	Showers

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Mask Confusion: They Became Optional in Schools on March 1

By Dick Myers
Editor



Masking and the weather seemed to be on parallel tracks in Calvert County last week. If you don't like the weather this time of year (or anytime for that matter), just wait - tomorrow will be different. The same went for those for and against masks in schools. The decision seemed to change from day to day.

It was finally settled on Saturday, Feb. 26 with a joint letter signed by Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Curry and Health Officer Dr. Lawrence Polsky that was sent out to school system parents. It said:

"On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) modified its criteria to calculate COVID transmission risk in counties across the U.S. In addition to case rates, the CDC is now including hospitalization rates. Previously, any county with a case rate greater than 100 per 100,000 residents was designated High Transmission. Under the new criteria, a county with a case rate less than 200 per 100,000 and COVID hospitalizations accounting for less than 10 percent of the local bed capacity is designated Low Transmission. For the past two weeks, Calvert County has met these newer criteria for Low Transmission. As such, the CDC now recommends that face covering should be made optional in Calvert County schools.

"On March 1, the Maryland State Board of Education's mask requirement for students and school staff will expire. This Tuesday, mask wearing will become optional on Calvert County Public Schools' buses and inside school facilities.

"For students and staff with immunocompromising conditions, it is safest to consider wearing a KN95 face covering until case counts decrease below 50 per 100,000. As of this past week, the county-wide case count was 105 per 100,000, and the case rate among elementary age students was 155 per 100,000. Serious illnesses are down significantly since mid-January, but infections are still spreading, and some hospitalizations continue to occur. The county's weekly case counts can be found at <https://www.calvertcountycovid19.com/statistics>."

A lot had happened in the previous two days. A motion by Calvert school board member Pat Nutter at the board's Feb. 24 meeting to overturn Curry's decision to delay the day before keeping the mask mandate at least until March 14 was rebuffed by the rest of the board at their Feb. 24 meeting.

Nutter had argued that Curry's decision was a policy one and should have been made by the board. He was challenged by board Vice President Inez Claggett, who said the board did have policy authority, but Curry's decision wasn't one.

Curry, in his missive to parents on Feb. 23, said, "It is our hope that our county's infection rate will be low enough by the week of March 14 to make mask-wearing optional. We want to provide advanced

notice for parents and school employees. To be clear, until the case count reaches the moderate range (less than 50 cases per 100,000 residents), mask requirements for everyone in school buildings will remain in place. But if case counts continue to drop at their current rate, it is possible that masks may be optional by mid-March.

"Parents who have delayed having their children vaccinated against COVID may want to take this time to reassess their decisions. Vaccinations for 5-11-year-olds have proven very effective and extremely safe. Careful monitoring has shown no myocarditis in this age group. Vaccination protects the child him/herself, their classmates with chronic medical conditions, and family members at high-risk of COVID complications."

Curry's Feb. 23 decision came the day after the state school board voted to remove the mask mandate and leave the decision up to each school system. And the school board's decision came the day before the Maryland General Assembly's Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) Committee ratified the state school board decision by a 17-1 vote. Several AELR members took pains, however, to note that a school board deciding to continue their mask mandate was not snubbing them, that each county had the right to make the decision based on what was best for them.

At the AELR hearing before the vote, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudhury said, "Lack of a vaccine for children under the age of 12, limited testing opportunities and the emergence of the Omicron variant were all experienced during the first part of the 21-22 school year. The face covering requirement helped keep all of our schools open throughout the fall as many schools and entire districts closed around the country. And it helped our school systems weather the surge and preserve in-person learning for the vast majority of our students. We continue to emerge from the pandemic and transition to an environment that now includes readily available vaccines for school-aged children, ample testing opportunities, and a greater depth of understanding of COVID 19 and its impact."

Choudhury also noted that that day the Centers for Disease Control had also relaxed recommendations: "their new guidance will no longer rely on the number of cases in a community to determine the need for restrictions such as mask wearing. Instead, they will direct counties to

consider three measures -- new COVID-related hospital admissions over the previous week and the percentage of the hospital beds occupied by COVID patients, as well as new coronavirus cases per 100,000 people over the previous week."

At the AELR hearing, one of the speakers against masking took note of the vote the night before at the Calvert County Board of Education.

And Calvert parent, Melissa Macuci Goshorn, Maryland state director of Power to Parents Union, said, "The rights of parents to care, custody and nurture of their children is of such character that it cannot be denied without violating those fundamental principles of liberty and justice, which lie at the base of all our civil, political institutions."

She added, "Our children have been used as political palms for far too long. During this pandemic, our babies need smiles, education normalcy. Our children deserve this because they were never at risk to begin with. And we've known this for months, if not even the better part of two years. This isn't about vaccination. This isn't about masks. This isn't about science. This isn't a public health issue. This is an abuse of power issue at the expense of our children, a parental rights issue and a human rights issue for our children."

Goshorn also spoke at the Feb. 24 school board meeting, as did Elizabeth Sutter of Calvert Parents United, a parent of two children. She sarcastically thanked the school board. "I would like to thank you for making my kids wear masks in school, in spite of an overwhelming body of research showing that they are unnecessary and ineffective. I've had COVID. My kids have had COVID. Everyone we know in the county has had COVID. Honestly it almost seems like the masks haven't really worked and that most people are not actually scared of COVID anymore because we've all had it."

Parents against masking held a rally outside the school system administration building on Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick before the meeting.

Shortly after the AELR Committee decision, St. Mary's School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith announced that masks in that county's schools would be optional beginning Feb. 28.

To add additional drama, all five Calvert County commissioners sent out letters via the county's Public Information Office that said, "neither the Calvert County Board of Education (BOE), nor Calvert County Public School (CCPS) staff have the authority to enforce a local mask mandate in CCPS school buildings."

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CSM Moves to Mask Optional March 8



The College of Southern (CSM) will lift the indoor mask requirement on all campuses and implement a Mask Optional policy March 8. This move is in line with guidance recently issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Governor Hogan, and state and county health departments. The lifting of indoor mask requirements at the county, state and national levels follows significant declines in COVID-19 health metrics.

CSM's practice since the beginning of the pandemic has been to closely follow CDC, state, and local health guidance. It has also been the college's practice to make changes to its COVID-19 related policies at semester or term breaks. With these factors in mind, CSM's Mask Optional policy is as follows:

The Mask Optional policy begins at the end of the first spring term Tuesday, March 8.

Masks should be worn by anyone who has recently tested positive*, has symptoms of COVID-19 or has recently been exposed to someone with the virus.

Masks may continue to be required in some off-campus instructional locations like health care facilities and other specialized instructional sites.

It is recommended that individuals who are not fully vaccinated

continue wearing a mask while indoors.

It is recommended that individuals who are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease continue wearing a mask while indoors.

Masks will be optional in classrooms, meeting rooms, offices, conference spaces, and at athletic events.

These updated protocols are subject to change as conditions warrant. If COVID-19 health metrics severely worsen in our local community mask requirements may need to be readopted.

Maintaining a safe learning and working environment is part of our college community's social contract. The lifting of the indoor mask requirement is possible in large part due to the success of the college's vaccination requirement. While the positivity rate, case rate, hospitalizations and other health metrics continue to improve, it is important for the CSM community to remain vigilant. Layered prevention strategies – such as COVID-19 vaccinations, screening testing, physical distancing and wearing masks – can help keep the COVID-19 infection rate low.

*For additional information, visit <https://www.csmd.edu/ready/covid-19/index.html>

Press Release from CSM



School Board Meeting Ends Abruptly

Police Called to Remove Audience

By Dick Myers
Editor

Sex Education in schools. It's an emotional issue. But when the subject came up at the Calvert County Board of Education's Feb. 24 meeting, it caused such an uproar that School Board President Pamela Cousins recessed the meeting.

The board's administrative assistant Karen Maxey sought the aid of the sheriff's office "to ensure public safety," she said. She then announced to the public that the meeting had been adjourned.

It happened during the final agenda item of the evening meeting for board member comments. Member Pat Nutter was speaking and he referenced comments made earlier in the meeting by parent Katie Fuentes regarding what was being taught her son at Northern High School.

"This really upset me. This sexual thing. That is not something that is being taught?" Nutter asked. The crowd could be heard to loudly erupt in the audience.

Cousins asked Nutter if he was addressing the audience or the board. "Pat, I am not trying to be difficult, but this is a business meeting." She then said she was going to recess the meeting.

Maxey said the board was fearful of returning to the meeting room.

Fuentes earlier had said to the board, "My son is a ninth grader at Northern High School. I want to discuss the highly inappropriate assignments that were given to the students in the sexual health portion of PE (Physical Education) class. This PowerPoint is from a website named metrosexual.com. The creator is Sam Kellerman, who is not a doctor, not a psychologist. He's a comedian. It starts off by giving Sam Kellerman's definition of gender identity and sexual orientation. Then when we get to the sexuality tree, it asks the students to use the list of provid-



School board member Pat Nutter

ed terms to see how they experience sexuality. These terms include, and are not limited to, 'fantasy, fetish, masturbation, oral sex, pornography, sex toys, skin hunger.'

"The next assignment is called pizza activity. The kids are to partner up to order a pizza together. They're to reflect on how going through this process, ordering and sharing a pizza, is similar to deciding to be sexually active. It asks questions such as: 'How do you compare toppings on a pizza to your sexual desires? How satisfied do you think you will feel after eating this pizza? Have you eaten this pizza or is this style of pizza something new?'"

"In other discussions, it was pondered is sexting okay. The answer is yes, because it prevents STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) and unwanted pregnancy. In these activities, the kids are directed to tell the class and teacher about their sexual desires.

"What business is it of Calvert County Schools to discuss fantasies, fetishes, or sex toys with my kid? Sexual education should only be



based on facts and that are backed by science. The state should not be teaching privacy-invading, age-inappropriate, opinion-based subject matter. This is not a sexual exploration college course. It's ninth-grade health.

"It's not the duty of the state to raise my four children and tell them how to think. It is the exclusive right of every single parent to be able to raise their children, using their own life experiences, lessons learned and family values.

"I want a complete revision of the sex-ed curriculum from K through

12. I suggest health be completed in one quarter and use a remainder of the year to participate in much needed physical activity. The American Academy of Pediatrics states that physical exercise helps children relieve stress and anxiety. They are more focused and retain information better. Playing sports in groups helps young people to improve their teamwork and leadership skills, which boosts confidence in their steps toward a happy, healthy adulthood."

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Hearing Planned on Prince Frederick Downzoning

Would Involve Armory Square

By Dick Myers
Editor

A proposal to reduce from 24 units per acre to 14 units per acre the allowable density in the New Town District of the Prince Frederick Town Center is headed soon to a joint public hearing by the planning commission and county commissioners. The planning commission at their Feb. 23 meeting agreed to move forward with that public hearing.

The reduction to 14 units per acre in the New Town District has been included in the latest draft of the rewrite of the town center master plan. But the county commissioners at their Sept. 28, 2021, meeting agreed to proceed with the change in advance of the town center changes.

The New Town District is a relatively small section of the town center and includes where the middle school used to sit and is now called the Armory Square project.

The impetus for moving ahead with the lowering of the density was to preclude any more intense development in that location at the Routes 2/4 and Dares Beach Road

intersection.

At the planning commission Feb. 27 meeting, a letter was presented from acting director of the Department of Economic Development Danita Boonchaisri requesting to “allow grandfathering of any projects currently planned or in concept to move forward with a density of up to 24 units.”

The planners were told that one project in the New Town zone is working its way through the system but that has less than 14 units per acre. However, Planning Director Mary Beth Cook noted that another project had been submitted but she could not give any details on that.

If that is in the Armory Square development, and grandfathering is allowed, it could negate the intent of the proposed change, to limit density there.

The commissioners at their March 10, 2020, meeting unanimously approved a purchase and sale agreement for the property at a purchase price of \$3.8 million to Westmoreland Partners of Washington, DC and Generation Properties, LLC of Dunkirk. Rick Bailey, former president of



Marrick Homes, is a principal in Generation. Westmoreland is involved in large shopping center developments.

The two companies proposed purchasing two tracts of land totaling about 12 acres. The county will in turn use part of the proceeds to purchase a 32,000 square foot parcel on Steeple Chase Drive for a bus transfer station. The developers will pay \$225,671 for that and then be given a credit for it at closing.

The sale was not bid, and the contract has not yet been signed. At the county commissioners March meeting the deadline for signing the contract was extended to June 6.

The development has slowed because of the pandemic. A grocery store and convenience store

are reportedly slated for the property although no residential development has been announced. The county Technical Evaluation Group heard plans for the property on May 4, 2021. Proposed were approximately 109,050 square feet of new commercial buildings, parking lots, utilities, and related infrastructure.

The vote to allow the contract extension was 3-2. The prevailing vote eliminated the possibility of a further extension to November. The extensions were requested to allow the developer to work out issues such as receiving approvals from the State Highway Administration and Verizon before going to the planning commission for their review.

Commissioner Kelly McConkey opposed the motion, arguing that the approval process by the planning commission might take longer.

Commissioner Mike Hart opposed any extension. “At the end of the day there was always something,” Hart said of the delays.

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Commissioners Hear About 'State of the College'

CSM Fights the 'Baby Bust'

By Dick Myers
Editor

"Lousy," is how College of Southern Maryland (CSM) President Dr. Maureen Murphy described enrollment at the institution. The questioner was Calvert County Board of County Commissioners President Buddy Hance during the annual State of the College presentation to them at their March 1 meeting.

Murphy had just shown a video that highlighted some of the major impacts the pandemic had on CSM over the past two years. But she added, "It's a national trend. I wish we weren't part of it. We've got two things that are operating against increased enrollment. One is declining population of college age students, and this is going to continue for a while."

The second, she said, "We are not seeing many of the students who normally came to community college. They're not going anywhere else. They're generally low income and overwhelmingly they're male. Right now, I want to say, about 36 or 37 percent of our student body is male. So, they're, they're vanishing from the higher ed landscape."

Hance observed that the county's high-school-age population wasn't declining.

Murphy responded, "If you look at it year by year, you'll see some fluctuations. If you look at the trend lines, that is not really what's happening. There's something, the term is the 'baby bust.' We have a national trend of a lower birth rate. And if you look nationally, American population didn't change over this last year, which is the first time that's happened. Our projections, when we extended it out, barring an influx of people from someplace else, we're not going to see growth."

Murphy emphasized to the commissioners the economic benefit of CSM to the region.

The report said, "In FY 2018-19, CSM added \$259 million in



CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy

income to the Southern Maryland economy, a value approximately equal to 1.5 percent of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, CSM's impact supported 4,236 jobs. For perspective, the activities of CSM and its students support one out of every 39 jobs in Southern Maryland."

Of the future, she said, "The next few years is still going to be fraught with challenges. And I think we all know that, though, I think it's really important that we all work together and try to sort this out."

She added, "Going back to 2019 is simply not possible. Too many things have changed for us in education. I am in awe of what our public schools have been able to do. I'm also aware that we've got a two-year gap at every single level. And so, in higher education, we're going to be looking at trying to help people still put things back together for the next day."

During the meeting Murphy presented a proclamation to the commissioners for their scholarship support.

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Hart Opposes Lusby Parkway Extension

By Dick Myers
Editor

Calvert County Commissioner Mike Hart says he's opposed to the extension of Lusby Parkway.

The more than \$1 million project would extend the parkway the short distance from behind the Lusby Town Center through a new shopping center and connect with Gunsmoke Drive which then connects with Town Square Drive.

The project is in the county proposed six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that was reviewed at the commissioners' March 1 meeting.

The project is slated to begin in Fiscal Year 2025 according to the transportation CIP request presented by Deputy Public Works Director J.R. Cosgrove at the meeting. That portion of the CIP has \$4.7 million worth of projects for the next fiscal year and \$35.8 million for the six years.

Hart, who represents the southern part of the county as the 1st District commissioner, said the proposed project was "harmful to the folks in Chesapeake Ranch Estates (CRE)."

Hart said the parkway extension

would direct traffic through CRE to the detriment of its residents.

Hart is running for re-election, but he said he hoped whoever was in the seat at the time would not support the parkway extension.

"No way should we support that," he insisted.

The rest of the transportation CIP was noncontroversial and included a number of "non-specific" items that covered annual maintenance and safety projects, such as bridges, sidewalks, stormwater management areas and storm drainage projects.

The CIP also includes another project in Lusby—the straightening of a curve on Little Cove Point Road. Engineering is underway and the project is slated for construction over the next several years. Total cost is estimated at \$1.5 million.

Since the beginning of the year, the commissioners have been reviewing CIP proposals from various departments. Total request for the next fiscal year beginning July 1 is \$54.8 million. The commissioners are getting ready to begin their budget review in earnest, including decisions on the CIP.



Calvert County Commissioner Mike Hart

The public hearing on the staff recommended budget, including operating and capital, is set for later this month.

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Hallowing Point Park Restrooms Being Demolished, Rebuilt



The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation advises citizens that in preparation of new restroom facility construction, the Hallowing Point Park restrooms that serve visitors of fields 1 through 6 are being demolished. A temporary restroom trailer will be available beginning on Tuesday, March 8. Prior to March 8, citizens can use the restroom facility located near fields 7 through 18. Work is expected to be complete in late July, but is subject to change due to supply chain issues or inclement weather.

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks and follow @CalvertCountyParksandRec on Instagram.

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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Deputy Charged with Driving Under the Influence

The Calvert County State's Attorney's Office has filed charges against Jermaine Parvell Mason, 39, in connection with a motor vehicle collision that occurred on January 7, 2022. Mason, an off-duty Calvert County sheriff's deputy, was allegedly driving his marked patrol vehicle when he crossed over the center line on Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick and collided head-on with an on-coming vehicle. The driver of the second vehicle was seriously injured.



Jermaine Parvell Mason, 39

The charges include driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol, reckless driving, and several other motor vehicle violations.

The charges follow a month-long investigation into the matter by the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office. State's Attorney Robert Harvey indicated that his office will have no further com-

ment until the evidence is formally presented in court. A trial date has not yet been scheduled by the District Court of Maryland for Calvert County.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant State's Attorney Christopher Monte.

Press Release from The Calvert County State's Attorney's Office.

Man Sentenced for Stabbing at Chesapeake Beach Fastop

Donte Terrell Jones, of Owings, MD, was sentenced on February 28, 2022, to 25 years imprisonment, with all but 7 years of active incarceration suspended, followed by 5 years of supervised probation. The sentence was imposed for a First Degree Assault that occurred in July 4, 2021, in which the victim was seriously injured in a knife attack.

According to Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey, the Stare requested a sentence in excess of the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines, which recommended 4-9 years. Because First Degree Assault is a crime of violence, Jones must serve at least 1/2 of his sentence before becoming



Donte Jones

parole eligible. The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Lee A. Bell.

Comprehensive Plan Document For Review



Visit www.planchesapeakebeachmd.gov to view the Town of Chesapeake Beach Comprehensive Plan. A public hearing has been set for March 29th at 6:00 PM. Visit www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov or call Town Hall at (401) 257-2230 for meeting connection information.

Public Notice

The Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing to accept public comment on the Chesapeake Beach Comprehensive Plan 2021 Update at a Special Town Council meeting to be held March 29, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please refer to the Chesapeake Beach website for remote access at www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov

Ordinance O-22-4, an ordinance of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, for the adoption of the Town of Chesapeake Beach Comprehensive Plan for Land Use Issues.

The complete Ordinance may be viewed upon request to shumm@chesapeakebeachmd.gov Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to place a LEGAL NOTICE contact

AlDaileyCountytimes@gmail.com

CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of February 14, 2022 - February 27, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 3,002 calls for service throughout the community.

Commercial Burglary: 22-8871

On February 17, 2022, Deputy Wilder and Deputy Tavares responded to Stoney's Kingfisher Restaurant, located at 14442 South Solomon's Island Road in Solomons, MD for the report of a possible burglary. Investigation revealed an unknown person (s) unlawfully entered the business via an open window. Nothing appears to be missing and no property damage was reported.

Theft: 22-8616

On February 17, 2022, Deputy Hendrickson responded to an apartment in the 200 block of Fairground Road in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a package containing a cellphone was stolen from the patio of the residence. The value of stolen property is \$150.00.

Theft: 22-8073

On February 15, 2022, Deputy Durnbaugh received report of a theft. The complainant advised while at the Results Fitness located at 1990 Chaneyville Road in Owings, MD, he received an alert from his credit card company in regards to a fraudulent credit card purchase. Investigation revealed the victim's wallet was stolen from his vehicle parked at Results Fitness sometime between 12:45 p.m. and 1:33 p.m. and suspect(s) made numerous purchases with the stolen card. The total value of stolen property is \$253. The total value of unauthorized purchases was \$824.20.

Burglary: 22-9479

On February 21, 2022, Deputy Krueger responded to the 600 block of Gunsmoke Trail in Lusby, MD for the report of a burglary that had already occurred. The complainant advised sometime between 2:30 p.m. and 5:25 p.m., unknown suspect (s) broke into the home through a door on the back deck. A 30lb dumbbell was found in the kitchen surrounded by broken glass. Nothing appears to have been taken. The total value of damaged property is \$660.00.

Damaged Property: 22-9473

On February 21, 2022, Deputy Contic received report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between Feb. 19 at 4 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 21, unknown suspect (s) vandalized political campaign signs located in the area of Ponds Wood Road and Hardesty Road in Huntingtown, MD. Two 4 x 8 campaign signs were cut/sawed off the posts and removed. The total value of damaged/stolen property is \$250.00.

Theft: 22-9464

On February 21, 2022, Deputy Hendrickson responded to the 2800 block of Grays Road in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of property damage. The complainant advised her front passenger side window had been broken out of her vehicle and discovered her wallet and its contents were stolen. The total value of damaged property is approximately \$150.00 and the total amount of stolen property is \$75.00.

Theft: 22-9875

On February 23, 2022, DFC Cress responded to the 8900 block of Dayton Ave. in North Beach, MD for report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime

between Feb. 21 and Feb. 23, unknown suspect (s) stole two white plastic folding chairs and a table with a ceramic tile top from the outside patio. The estimated value of stolen property is \$225.00.

Theft: 22-10614

On February 27, 2022, Deputy Contic responded to the Spring Cove Marina located at 255 Lore Road in Solomons, MD for a report of theft. The complainants advised unknown suspect (s) stole nearly 60 oyster baskets from multiple boats at the marina. The total value of stolen property \$1,386.00.

Theft: 22-9605

On February 22, 2022, Deputy Grierson responded to the 3200 block of Cannocade Court in Chesapeake Beach, MD for report of theft from vehicles. The complainants advised sometime during the early morning hours on Feb. 21, unknown suspect (s) broke into two unlocked vehicles parked at that address. A black wireless speaker, a wallet, Maryland Driver's License and military identification card were stolen. The total value of stolen property is \$127.00.

Property Destruction

On February 26, 2022, multiple reports of property destruction were reported throughout the Huntingtown, MD area. In all cases, the complainants advised their mailboxes were destroyed or damaged by large rocks in the overnight hours. The mailboxes were knocked off their support posts and large rocks were found nearby.

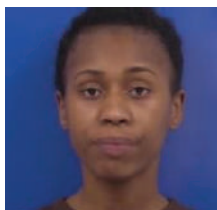
The following streets were affected:

1200 block of Emmanuel Church Rd, 1000 block of Emmanuel Church Rd, 1100 block of Carson Drive, 3600 block of Joshua Court, 300 block of Wilson Road, 2000 block of Stinnett Road and the 620 block of Cox Road.

Anyone with information in regards to these incidents, is asked to please contact Detective T. Yates at Edward.Yates@calvertcountymd.gov. Tips can also be submitted by using the Sheriff's Office mobile app, which can be found in the Android Store and Apple store by searching Calvert County Sheriff's Office or visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678> to download.

ARRESTS

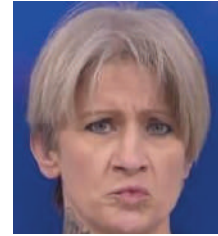
On February 17, 2022, Deputy T. Bowen and S/DFC Flynt responded to a residence on Terrace Drive in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of a burglary. The complainant advised she woke up to an unknown black female inside of her residence petting the family dog on her couch. Investigation revealed, the suspect, **Aryonna Monique Parks**, 28 of Clinton, MD, entered the residence through an unlocked basement door, walked upstairs and began roaming around the residence. Deputies arrived on scene and apprehended Parks. Parks was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with 4th-Degree Burglary and Trespass-



Aryonna Parks

ing: Private Property.

On February 17, 2022, Deputy Hendrickson responded to the Calvert County Detention Center located at 325 Stafford Road in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of a CDS Violation. Investigation revealed during a search of inmate **Dawn Krause**, 43 of Lusby, MD, CDS and CDS Paraphernalia were found inside her person. Krause was arrested and charged with Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

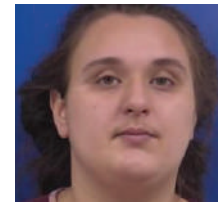


Dawn Krause

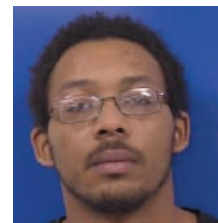
On February 20, 2022, Deputy Ashley responded to a theft in progress at the Prince Frederick Walmart located at 150 N Solomon's Island Road in Prince Frederick, MD. Investigation revealed, **Devonte Twain Harrod**, 22 of Great Mills, MD, **Haley Elizabeth Morris**, 22 of Lexington Park, MD, and **Timothy Eugene Thomas**, 26 of Lexington Park, MD entered Walmart and placed stolen hygiene and clothing items in three separate backpacks and then exited the store. A total of 68 merchandise items were stolen totaling \$708.35 in stolen property. Morris, Harrod and Thomas were all charged with Theft: \$1,500 to Under \$25,000 and Conspiracy to Commit Theft: \$100 to Under \$1,500.



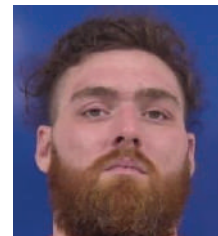
Devonte Harrod



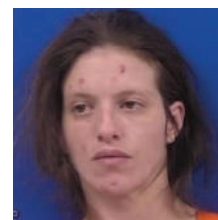
Haley Morris



Timothy Eugene Thomas Jr



Ryan Patterson



Melissa Thompson

A vehicle search revealed several CDS paraphernalia containing suspected heroin. Two passengers were also inside the vehicle at the time of the traffic stop. **Melissa Ann Thompson**, 31 of Waldorf, MD, initially gave a false name. Thompson was confirmed wanted through Charles County on two warrants. Thompson was served with the two warrants and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, False Statement to an Officer, CDS Manufacture/Distribute Equipment Possession/Distribute. **James Everett Patterson**, 37 of Owings, MD, was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia. **Ryan Michael Patterson**, 29 of Owings, MD, was charged with Theft: \$100 to Under \$1500 and other traffic related charges.



James Patterson

On February 24, 2022, Deputy Savick responded to a residence in the 8100 block of Deer Chase Lane in Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732 for a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) violation. Upon arrival, contact was made with the complainant who advised she allowed **Thomas Straten Abbott**, 40 of Stafford, VA, to reside at the home for a brief period of time while she was away. The complainant advised she found numerous needles, multiple bags containing suspected Heroin, multiple bags containing Heroin residue and CDS paraphernalia in her home. Deputy Savick made contact with Abbott in his vehicle outside the residence accompanied by passenger **Mary Katelyn Meeks**, 31 of Richmond, VA. Deputy Savick observed several needles and Ziploc bags in plain view. A vehicle search revealed multiple tear offs, needles, Ziploc bags containing suspected heroin residue. A Mossberg 9mm handgun was also located in the vehicle. Investigation revealed Thomas is a convicted felon and prohibited from owning a firearm. Thomas Straten Abbott was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Possession of a Loaded Handgun in Vehicle, Illegal Possession of Ammunition, Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm, and Handgun in a Vehicle. Mary Katelyn Meeks was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Thomas Abbott



Mary Meeks

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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County Times

General Assembly Debates Game-Changing Climate Bill

Business Groups Strongly Oppose Initiative

By Dick Myers

Editor

Guy Leonard

Staff Writer

It is not unusual that environmental groups and business organizations wind up on opposite sides of an issue. But a bill now being considered in the Maryland General Assembly has created an unusually wide fissure.

It's nicknamed "The Climate Act," but officially Senate Bill 528 is called "The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022."

The bill's synopsis says: "Requiring the state to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions through the use of various measures, including the alteration of statewide greenhouse gas emissions goals, the establishment of a net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions goal, the development of certain energy efficiency and electrification requirements for certain buildings, and requiring electric companies to increase their annual incremental gross energy savings through certain programs and services; etc."

The bill would put the state at the head of the class in fighting Global Warming, setting goals even stricter than those advocated by the Biden Administration and the Paris Agreement.

The bill is sponsored by Prince George's County Sen. Paul Pinsky and has 27 cosponsors including Senator Michael Jackson (D: District 27), who represents the northern part of Calvert County.

The bill is the darling of state environmental groups, who are strongly pushing for it. One is the Bay's largest advocacy group, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which in testimony on the bill touted its own green building headquarters in Annapolis.

Another environmental group, Maryland Climate Action, said, "We must set bold climate goals, and have a plan to meet them!"

But the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce issued a call to action on the bill prepared by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Office:

It said, "Senate Bill 528 (is) a proposal that will drive up the cost of energy and phase out the use of existing energy sources."

The missive went on to say: "This dangerous and burdensome legislation includes:

Setting an unachievable State greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal of 60 percent reduction by 2030 and ultimately reaching net-zero emissions by 2045

That's an increase in the current 2030 goal by 20 percent and a net-zero reduction five years ahead of the current schedule

SB 528 requires the adoption of new

building standards for the total phase out of the use of fossil fuels in water and space heating by 2030 for the construction of new buildings

Mandates a 40 percent GHG reduction goal for all commercial buildings by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2040

Owners of commercial buildings are required to measure and report GHG emission to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) beginning in 2025

The state chamber concludes: "SB 528 mandates the total phase-out of energy sources such as propane, heating oil and natural gas for residential and commercial buildings by 2040. These types of energy policies have drastic cost implications for Maryland businesses and consumers and saddle our state with a competitive economic disadvantage to others in the region.

"Instead of creating new and additional burdens for Marylanders, politicians in Annapolis should focus on finding ways to ensure our state achieves its existing and attainable GHG goals – not moving the target and driving up the costs of energy further."

Theresa Kuhns, vice president of Government Affairs for the Southern Maryland Association of REALTORS® supplied the following testimony on the bill by their state association:

"Maryland REALTORS® are committed to advocating for Maryland private property owners' rights and acknowledge there is a need to balance climate mitigation with the growing challenge of affordable housing. We are concerned that SB 528 will impact housing costs of some multi-family housing as well as new construction. Maryland is currently estimated to have a housing undersupply of over 80,000 units which includes both for sale and residential rental property. Moreover, according to the 'Maryland Housing Needs Assessment and 10-Year Strategic Plan (Needs Assessment),' Maryland will be adding 178,000 new households between 2020 and 2030. The needs assessment also estimates that in 2030 more than half of all new households in Maryland will qualify as low-income. As the requirements for new additional units expand to meet the eventual net-zero requirements, the cost impacts on new residential housing are unclear. While costs today would certainly impact affordability, it is unclear how technology will change in the next 15 years. It is also unclear what sources of energy will provide the electric generation that will be needed for housing and transportation. In addition to residential impacts, HB 528 will impact 17,000 Maryland commercial buildings which have struggled during the global pandemic. Commercial lending volume decreased approximately 60 percent in 2020, and it is important



Senator Jack Bailey (R: District 29, Calvert/St. Mary's)

to note, lender losses in the commercial sector exceeded those of the 2008 financial crisis. National economists also predict short-term price declines for retail, office, and hotel properties of 4-7 percent. The unknown of the commercial recovery from Covid must be considered particularly as it is affected by retrofit requirements. The upfront costs to construct a net-zero commercial building can be up to 15 percent more than conventional construction. A combination of increased construction costs and decreased lending availability will pose challenges to many projects including adaptive reuse of existing structures, which remains an important component of smart growth. While Maryland can continue to be a leader in Climate Change legislation, advancing net-zero requirements for buildings by 2045 will make this job more costly and impact both residential and commercial property affordability. For these reasons, the REALTORS® recommend an unfavorable report."

Sen. Jack Bailey (R-Dist.29) said the 15 Republican senators in Annapolis were actively trying to either stop the bill or amend it.

"We want to at least make it more palatable and not cost our constituents so much," Bailey told The County Times.

There was one bill in the Senate but there were several such bills of a similar nature in the House, Bailey said.

"It seeks to mandate the complete phase out of energy sources such as oil, natural gas and propane in residential homes and commercial buildings by 2040," Bailey said of SB 528. "It also prohibits any board of education from entering into a new contract with a school bus provider that's not electric."

That restriction would take effect by 2024, Bailey said, and school systems would have to act now to bring in any new buses before the deadline that still ran on fossil fuels.

The bill would also instill strict caps on greenhouse gas emissions that would take effect five years earlier than current legislation demands.

"These new regulations negatively affect all small businesses by increasing electricity costs in the short term and increasing surcharges on small

businesses on an ongoing basis," Bailey said. "With the recent 27 percent increase from SMECO our cost of living is already very high.

"This will make it more difficult for everyone especially young families who are just starting out."

Frank Taylor, president of Taylor Gas Co. Inc., which serves customers throughout Southern Maryland, said the legislation under consideration puts a stark division between his company — and other family-owned businesses that provide energy — and those seeking the bill's passage.

"It seems like we're singled out as the villains in this play," Taylor said. "To generate electricity, it takes fossil fuels.

"If we're all electric (an eventual goal of the bill) and the grid goes down or we're subject to a cyberattack we're left in the dark without any options."

Taylor said the bill was ill conceived and essentially made an attempt to put energy providers like Taylor Gas out of business in just a few years.

"I don't think they're thinking it through," Taylor said. "We're an integral part of the community, we want to have a clean Earth just like everybody else.

"But with this bill, if you're not electric you're being singled out."

Taylor was also critical of the accelerated time frame the bill pushed for conversion away from all fossil fuels in Maryland.

"It would like turning a battleship around in a bathtub," Taylor said.

The fiscal note on the bill prepared by the Department of Legislative Services concedes significant impact of the bill on the state's small businesses. It says: "Although a reliable estimate of the bill's impact on small business cannot be made at this time, the impact to small business is meaningful."

It goes on to list some of the effects: "Businesses involved in the provision, institution and maintenance of fossil-fueled water and space heating equipment are significantly affected by the bills changes to MBPS (Maryland Building Performance Standards) for new buildings. These provisions also affect companies that sell fuel for this type of equipment, such as heating and propane companies. Other small businesses, such as those contracting new buildings or renovating existing buildings, incur additional costs to comply with the bill's energy efficiency and solar energy provisions."

Kuhns, who is among a cadre of representatives of business organizations working against the bill, said she is expecting amendments to the bill soon. It is expected to be debated on the Senate floor on Friday, March 4.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net
and guyleonard@countytimes.net*

Calvert Marine Museum Welcomes New Staff



Bonnie Barrett

The Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) welcomes Bonnie Barrett as the new Director of Development and Fundraising and Jenny Liese as Events and Facilities Coordinator. Both positions are key components in sustaining the mission of the Calvert Marine Museum Society and the museum.

Bonnie Barrett joined CMM as the new Director of Development on January 24 and will be responsible for all fundraising efforts in collaboration with the Board of Governors. A Calvert County native, Barrett has served for the past ten years as the Senior Vice President in charge of business development for Community Bank of the Chesapeake. She has a wide range of fundraising experience, having served on various local boards including Calvert Hospice, Calvert County School Foundation, the Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and the Rotary Club of Prince Frederick, among others. She is also a longtime volunteer and very familiar with CMM programs and institutional history.

"A lot of my own family history is located right here in this museum" said Barrett. "The folks that work behind the scenes making the museum come alive are the best I have ever seen. I learn something new every time I enter. What a treasure we all have here in our own back yard."

Jenny Liese joined CMM in November as the new Events and Facilities



Jenny Liese

Coordinator in charge of organizing the many facility rentals including weddings, company parties, vacation rentals, and more. Originally from Calvert County, Liese moved back to Maryland seven years ago after living in Las Vegas for almost 10 years. While in Vegas, Liese gained event experience in multiple roles working for a live theater, running concerts, and setting up for weddings and various events.

"It's amazing to see all that the Calvert Marine Museum has to offer and to be a part of the action" said Liese. "From the museum's rich history and storytelling, to the venue rental opportunities and impressive Waterside Concerts - the Calvert Marine Museum does a great job of enriching and bringing the community together."

Explore how the prehistoric past, natural environments, and maritime heritage come to life and tell a unique story of the Chesapeake Bay. The Calvert Marine Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$9 for adults; \$7 for seniors, military with valid I.D., AAA and AARP members; \$4.00 for children ages 5 - 12; children under 5 and museum members are admitted free. For more information about the museum, upcoming events, or membership, visit the website at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or call 410-326-2042.

Press Release from CMM.

Food Testing Reimbursement Criteria Expanded

Includes value-added processed food products

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a Division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, has announced expanded criteria for SMADC's food testing reimbursement funding.

Launched in the fall of 2021, SMADC's Reimbursement Funding Initiative underwrites the cost of certified laboratory testing services that may be required by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) for 'retail' sales of certain farm-produced cottage foods. Eligible reimbursement criteria is now expanded to include value-added processed foods such as pickles, dehydrated foods, further processed honey, etc.

"The cost of lab services in combination with regulatory upgrades for on-farm kitchen compliance or commercial kitchen rental fees often inhibit farmers from exploring the production of processed food products that can add-value to their farm-grown fruits and vegetables," commented Susan McQuilkin, SMADC Marketing Executive. "We hope the lab test reimbursement initiative will help to alleviate the cost burden and incentivize more farmers to consider value-added food production."

SMADC will reimburse the cost of certified laboratory tests and process review validation up to \$250 for one recipe for up to 10 farmers/producers, on a first come first served basis as funds are available. Reimbursement funding is available to farmers/producers actively farming in one of the five Southern Maryland counties (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's).

Lab test reimbursements for cottage food recipes are limited to cer-



tain 'moist quick breads' (banana, pumpkin, zucchini, etc.), and icings, glazes and frosting recipes that are not on the MDH 'allowable' Cottage Foods list as they may be considered potentially hazardous. Maryland Department of Health is encouraging cottage food producers to test their recipes if they believe their moist bread or frosting recipes should be considered non-potentially hazardous. Recipes with a verified water activity (aw) result of 0.85 or below and/or a pH of 4.6 or below are considered non-potentially hazardous and allowable under cottage food sales.

To review eligibility criteria and apply for SMADC food testing reimbursement funding, visit the 'News' page at smadc.com.

For more information about Maryland Cottage Food Business Guidelines, testing requirements, Processing and Selling Value Added Food Products in Maryland, licensing and other resources visit Facility and Process Review on the MDH Office of Food Protection website: <https://health.maryland.gov/>

Press Release from SMADC

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Golf Classic to Support Expanded Urologic Services

Hosted by CalvertHealth Foundation



The CalvertHealth Foundation will be hosting the 33rd Annual Benefit Golf Classic on Monday, May 9 at the Cannon Club in Lothian. Various sponsorship levels are available including tee signs, foursomes, contest sponsors and corporate packages.

To meet growing community needs, CalvertHealth Medical Group has expanded its urologic offerings. Proceeds from this year's tournament will be used to support the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment for the diagnosis and treatment of urologic diseases including kidney, bladder and prostate cancers.

"We look forward to seeing everyone for a day filled with great golf and great fun," said event chair and Foundation Board Trustee Frank Smith. "Last year the tournament sold out, so register early and remember to invite your

friends and colleagues to play."

A shotgun start at 10 a.m. will signal the beginning of tournament play. Refreshments, as well as breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the registration fees.

Since the tournament began in 1990, it has continued to bring together members of the community dedicated to advancing health care for our community. Over the years, the tournament has raised more than \$1.5 million for equipment, programs and technology to support CalvertHealth. Most recently, proceeds from the 32nd Annual Benefit Classic helped support Women's Health initiatives at CalvertHealth.

Those interested in registering can contact the Foundation office online at [CalvertHealthFoundation.org/Benefit-Golf-Classic](https://www.calverthealthfoundation.org/Benefit-Golf-Classic) or call 410.414.4570.

Press Release from CalvertHealth

Calvert Marine Museum Awarded National Grant



Victor Perez, Assistant Curator of Paleontology at Calvert Marine Museum, holds tooth of extinct giant shark Megalodon. Florida Museum photo by Kristen Grace.

A team from University of Florida and the Calvert Marine Museum was recently awarded \$1.3 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to teach middle school students and teachers about artificial intelligence using fossil shark teeth! A primary goal of the grant is to provide students with the confidence and skills to pursue careers in science and computer science by introducing them to fundamental machine learning concepts at a young age.

Shark teeth will serve as the charismatic hook to engage students and, with their relatively simple morphology, are ideal for identification using machine learning. A portion of the grant

will allow the Florida Museum and the Calvert Marine Museum to digitize their research collections, making them accessible for use in these machine learning models that are trained using 2D images. Students and teachers will have the opportunity to explore authentic research questions, as they create models of increasing complexity with real fossil teeth.

Read more about the project through the Florida Museum's press release: <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/earth-systems/blog/uf-earns-grant-to-teach-middle-schoolers-about-shark-teeth-using-ai/>.

Press Release from CMM

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A View From The BLEACHERS



FRACTURES

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

A baserunner takes his lead off first. The pitcher toes the rubber, nods to the catcher – fastball, outside corner. Just before delivering the pitch, he glances at the runner out of the corner of his eye. And again. And again. Hands dangle between the runner's outstretched legs and his twitchy fingers gently scrape the dirt. The pitcher fires the heater toward home plate. The batter, a lefty, was guessing curve but quickly adjusted to the fastball that caught too much of the plate. The ball cracks off the bat's barrel and a well-struck one-hopper rips through the infield between the shortstop and second base.

The calm before the pitcher's delivery is now fabulous chaos. The centerfielder charges the ball violently, intent on keeping the baserunner at second. The shortstop scurries onto the outfield grass to receive a cut-off throw. The second and third basemen man their bags should a play materialize. The left fielder, on his horse, hustles to back up the centerfielder. The pitcher, with no time to lament the failed pitch, moves behind third in the event of an errant throw.

There is great relevancy in that baseball play. It contains order and concurrency of execution without a word spoken. In that moment, how the game's preceding drama played out for team or individual doesn't matter. Every player responds to the challenge presented by the batted ball. Retrieve it, get it back to the infield. Hold the batter to a single and the baserunner to second base. And just in case things go awry, backup is positioned to mitigate the damage. They are teammates, united by a singular goal that is performed individually but can only be accomplished collectively.

I have thought about that hypothetical play on the diamond often over the last few years. Of late, it has become an inescapable image during early morning drives. The "play" is the drumbeat of everyday life. The players are numerous. To name a few, they are: convenience store managers who made your coffee and provided gas for vehicles, teachers readying for another day educating our youth, HVAC specialists and plumbers traveling to a jobsite or

critical repair, Amazon drivers dutifully meeting the two-day deadline, civil servants headed to the base, the road crew rebuilding critical infrastructure, and law enforcement and medical personal remaining at the ready.

The intersections of these teammates range from rare to frequent. Some names are familiar; others are completely unknown. That said, it is fascinating how this "team" quietly works together every day. It seems, no matter the depth of acquaintance, there is a collective assumption of a commitment to role and to personal duty – an understanding that the "we" needs the "me" and vice versa.

That all these things – the baseball play and the intricacies of daily life – happen without notice is remarkable. During execution, there is little attention paid to political affiliation or vaccine status. Race, religion and gender identity prejudices can be transcended. When that "ball" is smacked through the infield, does the white, Republican pitcher care that an African American Democrat is in centerfield and a fully vaccinated homosexual is playing shortstop? Maybe he does before and after the game. But in that moment of need, with runners racing around the bags and the game on the line, I think not. If he does, hate has compromised his heart; his is a soul lost.

And yet, absent crisis, foolish human failings often compromise pursuit of shared interests. Whatever the root of our differences, the consequences of those fractures just increased in severity. Petty political fights, complaints about our government, wild accusations about certain ideologies ruining the country and internet rage based on targeted lies and false-realities – it seems so trivial now. Russia just changed everything. The peace America and her allies have stridently maintained again requires transcendent unity. A perilous ball has been put into play. European basepaths are chaotic for the first time in nearly 80 years. The situation demands an immediate, coordinated and steadfast defense. Come on world...field it clean, hit the cut-off man, stifle the advance - for each of us, for all of us, for Ukraine.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Released



Photo by Stephen Badger, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

In early January, aerial survey teams of pilots and biologists from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) made visual estimates of the ducks, geese and swans along most of the state's Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River, and Atlantic Ocean coastal shorelines. This year, the teams counted about 563,800 waterfowl, lower than the 627,000 birds observed in 2020, and below the most recent five-year average of 718,600 birds. The 2021 Mid-Winter Survey was not flown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Winter distribution of waterfowl is influenced by many factors," Maryland DNR Wildlife and Heritage Director Paul Peditto said. "Global weather patterns, food availability, habitat quality, prevalence of ice, and the population status of each species all play a role in how many birds we count and where we count them."

Overall, dabbling ducks increased in number this year compared to 2020, as did pintails and

green-winged teal, which likely reflected the mild fall temperatures. Likewise, generally mild winter weather likely led to fewer diving ducks being observed than in the 2020 survey.

Hunter reports suggest that late arriving winter weather moved more scaup, canvasbacks, and red-heads into the Chesapeake Bay region after the survey was completed. Biologists counted more Canada geese – 361,100 – than the 2020 survey, which counted 327,200. DNR considers this a hopeful sign that flyway wide harvest restrictions for Atlantic Population (AP) geese are working.

The Midwinter Waterfowl Survey has been conducted annually since the early 1960s, and covers most of the tidal shorelines and near-shore waterfowl habitat in Maryland. These numbers are not population estimates, but offer an annual "snapshot" view of how waterfowl use of important near-shore habitats changes over time.

Press Release from MD DNR.

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Artworks@7th Presents Through the Lens

March 3 – 27, 2022, Open House March 5, 1 – 4 PM

“To me, photography is an art of observation. It’s about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I’ve found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them,” said photographer Elliott Erwitz

His comment reflects the individuality and creativity of photography. With improvements in hardware and software, photography has become an easily accessible medium for millions. Cell phone technology has resulted in an ever-expanding array of artistic output. The sharing of this output is often in a binary world and although this world is easily accessible to many, such exposure can sometimes limit the visceral impact of seeing an image produced and presented in a manner that is more artistic in nature and environment.

Artworks@7th provides an atmosphere that is stimulating for both art and art lovers and this month’s theme, “Through the Lens” features the artistic talents of Photographers as they capture the world as they see it.

As an example of work you’ll see, Wayne Thomas provides “Wisconsin and M”. This photo was captured on a cold winter evening in Georgetown, D.C on the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street. The streaks are lights

from passing cars captured during a 30 second exposure as he sat on the corner.

From Lonnie Harkins: “Sword of Orion”. When looking up into the winter sky at night, one will find the large and bright constellation of Orion. This photo is of the “sword” hanging from his belt. What look like stars are actually nebulae that are visible to the naked eye. Forty-nine photos totaling 1 hour and 12 minutes were used in this image.

From Brooke Kiatta: Blossoming peach trees!

Other artists will also be showing their photography work. We hope you will come in and enjoy a semi-intimate viewing at the gallery on Saturday March 5 from 1 to 4 P.M. Meet the artists and experience the variety of art represented by these wonderfully talented people. If you can’t make it to the Open House, please be sure to stop by anytime during the month.

Money spent locally stays in the local economy and continues to strengthen the economic base of the entire community. Small local businesses make indispensable contributions to communities and neighborhoods. Supporting local artists allows them the opportunity to continue to serve their communities. You will often see members of



Artworks@7th supporting local charities and organizations by participating in art shows, teaching workshops, and donating items for fundraisers.

ArtWorks@7th is located at 8905

Chesapeake Avenue (near 2nd street) in North Beach, Maryland. Our winter hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Press Release from ArtWorks@7th.



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HGX Tank Top

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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, March 3

Sea Squirts

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a carryout craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Who Eats What?

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.csmd.edu/student-services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html>

Friday, March 4

Oddments: A play by Sarah Slack and Sydney Mitchell.

CSM, 7:30 p.m.

La Plata Campus, Fine Arts Center, Brad and Linda Gottfried Theater.

Family may be found in the strangest places. A group of young assault survivors leans on each other in their healing journeys. Little do they know, their beloved therapist, who founded and leads the group, has motives that shroud his dark past. Oddments was written by CSM student Sarah Slack and CSM alumna Sydney Mitchell. The production is directed by the playwrights. Free. For more information, visit <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/2022/03/oddments.html> or contact us at bxoffc@csmd.edu or 301-934-7828. Due to strong language, themes of assault, and flashing lights, this production may not be appropriate for all patrons.

Saturday, March 5

Exhibit Opening Reception

Southern Maryland History; Through Ebony Eyes, 1 p.m., Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard.

On display at the JPPM Museum Center through June 30.

New Volunteer Orientation

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue,
7940 N. Flint Hill Rd., Owings, MD
1 p.m.

Must be at least 13 years of age.

We are looking for dedicated people to join either our morning or afternoon feed shift teams. The orientation covers our specific feed shift routine, a barn tour and a meet and greet with our horses. This is a hands on class, so please wear closed shoes, preferably boots. If you are interested in attending our new volunteer orientation, please contact us at: freedom.hill.org@gmail.com

www.freedomhillhorsesrescue.com/

Oddments: A play by Sarah Slack and Sydney Mitchell.

CSM, 7:30 p.m.

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Saving Native Bees

Your Yard, Your Garden, Your Community Can Plant a Difference. Chesapeake Beach Green Team invites you to join them for an exciting talk with Wildlife Scientist Sam Droege on March 5th from 10-12 p.m.

This event is brought to you by the Town of Chesapeake Beach Green Team in coordination with the Calvert County Parks and Recreation. You may register through Calvert Parks and Recreation <https://webtrac.co.cal.md.us/wbwc/webtrac.wsc/splash.html> with activity code 410111. Walk-in's are also welcome.

Sunday, March 6

Oddments: A play by Sarah Slack and Sydney Mitchell.

CSM, 2 p.m. La Plata Campus, Fine Arts Center, Brad and Linda Gottfried Theater.

Family may be found in the strangest places. A group of young assault survivors leans on each other in their healing journeys. Little do they know, their beloved therapist, who founded and leads the group, has motives that shroud his dark past. Oddments was written by CSM student Sarah Slack and CSM alumna Sydney Mitchell. The production is directed by the playwrights. Free. For more information, visit <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/2022/03/oddments.html> or contact us at bxoffc@csmd.edu or 301-934-7828. Due to strong language, themes of assault, and flashing lights, this production may not be appropriate for all patrons.

Tuesday, March 8

Auditions: Almost, Maine

CSM, 6 pm.

La Plata Campus, Fine Arts Center, Room 141.

Almost, Maine is a play by John Cariani, comprising nine short plays that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical almost-town called Almost, Maine. Community members interested in auditioning should prepare a one-minute comedic monologue and prepare to tell a joke! The play will be presented on May 13-15 and 20-22. Contact Dr. Stephen Johnson at ssjohnson2@csmd.edu with any questions.

Wednesday, March 9

Getting Unstuck

Simple and Smart Ways to Overcome Procrastination.

March 9. 2:30-4 p.m. La Plata Campus.

Procrastination is common, but it can be a real liability to good mental health and academic success. Join us at this workshop to learn the causes of procrastination and, most importantly, how you can shift your mindset and habits to work and cope more effectively. Free. Register at <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/2022/03/getting-unstuck-counseling.html>

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Thursday, March 10

Sea Squirts

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a carryout craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Who Eats What?

Transfer Thursdays

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

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UPCOMING

Ward Virts Concert Series: Antony Zwerdling.

CSM, March 13, 3 p.m.

Prince Frederick Campus Multipurpose Room B.

Antony Zwerdling is an active voice teacher and performer. He sings opera, oratorio and art song, and has performed over twenty-five operatic roles. The companies he has appeared with include Washington National Opera, Opera Lafayette, Wolf Trap Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Lake George Opera, Washington Concert Opera, Opera Boston and Ash Lawn Op

Krasimira Borisova Lusby



Krasimira Borisova Lusby, "Krasi", 77, passed away on February 27, 2022 at her home in Prince Frederick, Maryland. Krasi was born Krasimira Borisova Stoimenova in Samokov, Bulgaria on March 25, 1944. She soon moved to her pre-war family home in Sofia, Bulgaria after the end of World War II. She worked in Sofia as an economist for nine years as a young adult.

Krasi escaped from Bulgaria during the Cold War in September, 1973 to Trieste, Italy via Yugoslavia. She came to the United States of America in December, 1973 with the assistance of her uncle Dr. George Naldjieff, one of the first dentists in Calvert County, Maryland in the 1950's.

In 1977, Krasi graduated as a Registered Dental Hygienist from the Community College of Baltimore. She practiced as a dental hygienist for Dr. George Naldjieff for ten years and for Dr. Jack Ursic for thirty years. She also preformed many duties for her husband Dr. Thomas F. Lusby, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon practicing in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Krasi enjoyed playing bridge, reading books, collecting kaleidoscopes, and browsing in antiques stores. She was a long-time member of Christ Church on Broomes Island Road and a lifetime member of the Calvert County Historical Society. She cherished her immediate and extended family, her coworkers, and her friends.

Krasi is survived by her husband of thirty-nine years, Dr. Thomas F. Lusby, III, her sister -in-law Caroline Lusby Evens of Lynchburg, Virginia, and her sister Viktoria

Filkova who lives in Germany. She is preceded in death by her daughter, Louise Victoria Lusby.

Finley Earl Reatherford

Finley Earl Reatherford, 91, of Owings passed away February 27, 2022. He was born August 7, 1930 in Cleves, OH to Ellis and Lula (Peters) Reatherford. Finley grew up in Ohio and joined the United States Army when he was 17 years



old. He joined the Army in 1947 and proudly served during the Korean War. Finley was stationed in many places throughout his enlistment and was honorably discharged in 1964. He met his wife Margaret Scaggs while stationed in Virginia and they were married August 20, 1949. They lived all over the country before settling on the Scaggs family farm in Owings in 1977. Following his discharge from the Army, Finley worked as a heavy equipment operator and truck driver for several local construction companies before retiring. Finley loved watching NASCAR and sports, especially football and baseball. He was a member of the American Legion Post 274 in Lusby before transferring to the American Legion Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach. Finley also enjoyed tinkering with his lawn mower, feeding the birds, watching Westerns, his dog Mimi and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Finley was preceded in death by his wife Margaret Reatherford in 2020 and children Joann Reatherford, Katherine Jo Reatherford, Susan Diane Reatherford, and Terri Marie Bohrer. He is survived by his children Deborah Biggers and her husband Ed of Hollywood, Donna Sams and her husband Dave of Lusby, Sandra Goldwasser of Jacksonville, NC, Russell Reatherford and his wife Cynthia of Yuma, AZ, Danny Ray Reatherford of Creedmoor, NC, and Sheila Stevens and her husband Brian of Huntingtown, 11 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, 9 great-great grandchildren, sister Ruth and brother Ernie Reatherford.

Robert Elder "Bob" King, Sr.

Robert Elder "Bob" King, Sr., passed away February 27, 2022 at his home in Lothian, surrounded by family. Bob was born December 23, 1927 in Annapolis to Webster F., Sr. and Lillian (Elder) King. Bob and his wife, Evangeline R. "Van" King were married August 13, 1949. They are the parents of son Robert Elder King, Jr. and daughter Cynthia King Galla. Bob spent most of his career as a building engineer and retired from the Engineering Department of Anne Arundel General Hospi-



tal. He loved gardening, remodeling homes and making Santa's and angels for friends.

Bob is survived by his wife Evangeline R. "Van" King, daughter Cynthia King Galla and husband Joseph of Lothian and daughter-in-law Susan A. King of Preston, MD. Also surviving are four grandchildren: Sarah Braund and husband Mark, Janet Galla, Josh King and Justin King (Amber), great-grandchildren Olivia, Joey and Emily Braund. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, a son Robert E. King, Jr., brother Webster Franklin King, Jr., and his in-laws Jim and Ida King.

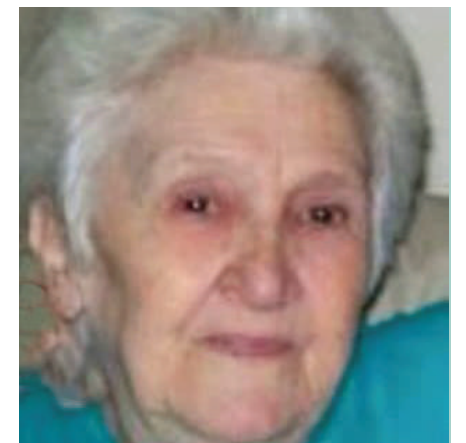
Robert "Bob" Yuill



Robert "Bob" Yuill, 91, of Port Republic, Maryland, passed away peacefully at his home overlooking the Chesapeake Bay, surrounded by his loving family on February 25, 2022. He was born on August 5, 1930 in New Jersey to the late An-

drew James and Ruth Marie Yuill. A retired federal computer specialist and former naval officer, Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Maureen; children R. Peter Yuill (Annie), Barbara Yuill, Jeanie Yuill (Andy), and Kathy Yuill (Andy); grandchildren John Peter, Cassandra (Thomas), Erik, and Liam Yuill; and great-grandson Kieran Yuill. Services will be private.

Annie Elizabeth Hooper



Annie Elizabeth Hooper, 95, of Prince Frederick passed away February 24, 2022 at her home with her devoted daughter at her bedside.

Annie was born January 12, 1927 in Lusby, MD to the late Richard Abraham & Frances Genevieve Milling.

Annie worked many years at Goldstein's Dept. Store until its closing. Annie then started selling Avon for 30 years and she loved every minute of it as she loved getting out and talking to people. Annie also worked long hours daily with her husband John at their 38-acre tobacco farm. Throughout her long hours of working every day, she was also a loving wife to John for 67 years as well as being a great homemaker & mother to her five children that she loved with all of her heart.

Annie was an avid Bingo player for over 50 years and she also loved having card parties all night at times, with a group of us in the basement. Mom was definitely the life of any party & there were so many fun

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times that was shared throughout the many years of her life.

Annie was known for her famous homemade fruit cakes every year that she spent long hours making for her family & friends during the holidays.

Annie was a very generous, kind and loving woman and great mother to all. She was very devoted to her family and always willing to help any of them at any time. She loved everyone and only wanted to be loved in return.

Annie was preceded in death by her one & only loving & devoted husband John of 67 years in 2011. Their love & devotion for each other was beyond words. After 11 long years apart, they are now united back together in Heaven forever.

Annie is survived by her children, Karen (Barbara), Donald Lee (Gladys) & William (Kathy).

She was preceded in death by two of her sons, Johnny & Charles Hooper.

Annie is also survived by her grandchildren, Donald Jr., Tamara, Charlie, Tony, Barbara Jean, Kim, Becky, Jason, Allen & Gary.

She also has many great-grandchildren as well as great-great-grandchildren plus numerous nieces and nephews.

Annie is survived by her sister Ethel Dorsey.

She was preceded in death by her other siblings, Frances, Mary Agnes, Bernard, Allen, Nellie, Mary, Preston & Phoebe Ann.

Annie had several health problems arise in the last 4 years that did set her back but she still continued to try her best to fight her health battles to live as she was a very strong-willed woman right up until the end when God called her home. Now she is finally at rest with no more pain or suffering. Mom will be Forever Loved, Missed and Always Remembered.

I Love You With All Of My Heart Mom

Pallbearers will be Local Firefighters.

The officiating clergy will be Pastor Brenda Stepney.

The family will receive relatives and friends for viewing/visitation on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 from 10:00 AM–12 PM at the Rausch Funeral Home, PA., in Port Republic, MD.

Funeral services will also be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 12:00 PM at Rausch Funeral Home, PA., in Port Republic, MD.

Interment will take place following the funeral services at Central Cemetery in Barstow, MD.

Mary Jane Stump

Mary Jane Stump, 85, of Prince Frederick, MD passed away on February 22, 2022 in Solomons, MD after a fighting a long and hard battle with breast cancer. Mary Jane was born in June of 1936 to James



and Jane Hance and raised on the Chesapeake Bay in Huntingtown. Mary Jane was an administrative assistant for the State of Maryland and retired after 31 years of service. After retiring from the state she would volunteer her time at the fire marshal's office from time to time. Mary Jane enjoyed traveling, bowling, and shooting pool with the ladies of Chapline. She passed the time reading and playing board games. She also enjoyed needle point and crocheting blankets and donating them to the cancer center. She especially loved the time she spent playing cards with her girls "card club". Mary Jane is survived by her children, Cheryl Wald (Scott) of Florida; Mike Stump (Fran) of Lusby, MD; and Patti Ward (Ricky) of Huntingtown, MD. She is also survived by 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

The family will receive relatives and friends on March 4, 2022 from 10-11 AM at Christ Church, 3100 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic, MD 20676. A memorial service will follow at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow the service in the church cemetery.

Robert Owen "Bob" Wilson, Sr.



Robert Owen "Bob" Wilson, Sr., 88, of Owings, MD, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on February 21, 2022. He was born September 7, 1933 in Lusby, MD to Clare B. and William James Wilson II. His battle with a serious medical issue in recent years showed his courage in facing life's challenges with faith and strength. He met the love of his life Kitty Beck, while corresponding with her

when serving in the Army. They married on May 10, 1958 at Friendship United Methodist Church. Bob spent his career at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C., as a satellite systems engineer. He continued to support the NRL as a civilian contractor for XEN Corp. after retiring from the DOD. In his spare time, he enjoyed farming and gardening on their farm in Calvert County. He also loved fishing, crabbing, and most of all spending time with his family at their cottage on Hellen Creek in Solomons. He is survived by his loving wife, Kitty Beck, sister Vernelle Jenkins, his sons Robert, Jr. (Elaine), Donald (Danielle) and David. Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Faith, Evan, Emily, Rebecca, Ben, Cassidy and Baylee, twelve great-grandchildren, four nieces and two nephews. Bob was preceded in death by his brothers William James Wilson II and Donald Edwin Wilson and sister Clare Marguerite Simmons.

A Memorial service and celebration of Bob's life will be held Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 11:00 AM at Friendship United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Friendship UM Church Cemetery Fund or the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation-220 N. Arch Street, 13th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Nancy Nell Ridgeway



Nancy was born and raised in Bethel Park a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She loved the city of Pittsburgh and enjoyed going back to visit. During her high school years she was very social and was the head majorette with her best friend. She loved to dance, had many friends and participated in many school activities. She met her husband Jim, as he lived on the next street over. They went to school together and were married in May of 1955. Together they raised three sons and a daughter. In 1964, they moved to Maryland and eventually settled on Weldon Drive. They made many close friends in the neighborhood.

In the 60's, one special memory was the love of tropical fish. Every Saturday they would pile into the car and go to fish stores looking to add

to their collection. This made many fabulous family memories, and Brian still loves fish to this day. At one point, the entire basement was filled with fish tanks! In the early 70's Jimmy talked his parents into getting him a horse. This started a legacy that continues on today in the family. For many years, weekends were spent at horse shows, riding lessons and cleaning tack. She was very active in 4H, and that continued with her grandchildren. Nancy loved the horses and would get up each morning to feed and clean the barn, until a couple of years ago. She still loved looking out her window at the beautiful horses in the field.

In 1986, Nancy and Jim followed Jimmy and Holly down to Calvert County. Shelley ended up buying a house on the same street. That worked out wonderfully, as Nancy was able to assist Shelley while she worked, with her three children. Nancy was such a positive role model with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was a member of Grace Brethren Church and on Wednesday's would take Shelley's three children to Wednesday night dinner and bible school. She always made sure her grandchildren and even great grandchildren attended summer bible school, and usually was seen there helping. Nancy led a very family focused life and was the center of her family. She loved celebrating the holidays, especially Easter and Christmas. She would spend days decorating both in and outside the house. At Easter there would be many plastic bunnies lining her long driveway to her home. There was always an intense Easter egg hunt too! Christmas was always the most special day of the year for Nancy who was really a kid at heart. The family always celebrated Christmas Day at her house and would have a wrapping paper fight after opening presents. She would get so disgusted with everyone as paper balls would be flying through the living room (until someone had a bad aim and hit one of her figurines, then she would put a stop to it). It was one of many special memories that she made with her family. She would help all of her kids and grandchildren making sure they made horse riding lessons, and other after school activities. She was the number one "cheerleader" for all of her family.

Through the years, Nancy was an avid bowler and participated on many teams. She loved going on Friday morning to see all of her friends. She bowled right up to her 84th year. She also loved to play cards. She used to host bridge club at her home, and she continued playing Hand and Foot with several groups of friends in Calvert County.

Nancy was a loyal fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pirates and Penguins. Every Sunday when the kids lived at home, she would fix a large roast dinner and make fried mush-

rooms and chicken livers as appetizers while the games were on. As the kids aged, they realized what a labor of love that was and appreciated all her efforts. In later years, when the sports teams were playing, they would all be texting each other rooting for the teams! Nancy lived a full and wonderful life. She made many memories for her family and will be missed tremendously. She is in a better place now free of pain and at peace with the Lord.

She was preceded in death by her husband James R. Ridgeway in 2009.

Surviving are sons James D. Ridgeway and his wife Holly of Simpsonville, SC, Barry A. Ridgeway and his wife Tammy of Severna Park, MD and Brian R. Ridgeway of Owings, MD; daughter Michelle R. (Shelley) Davis and her husband Mike of Owings, MD; Grandchildren Matthew Davis of Arnold, MD, Jacob Davis of Owings, MD, Jessica Davis of Prince Frederick, MD, Kim Loveless and her husband Mike of Hughesville, MD, Brittany Newcomer and her husband Joel of Simpsonville, SC, and Kristen Ridgeway of Severna Park, MD; Great grandchildren Breeleigh and Britlyn Newcomer of Simpsonville, SC and Hunter and Morgan Loveless of Hughesville, MD; and sister Merlyn (Murph) Sterrett of Bethel Park, PA.

Helen Ruby



Helen Ruby, 98, passed away February 19, 2022. She was born February 15, 1924 in Beallsville, MD to Agnes Louise (Cooley) and John Henry Sullivan. She was a long-time resident of Silver Spring, MD, and with only an eighth grade education excelled as a manager in a Five and Dime variety store. Helen would fondly remember her younger days with family and friends, and loved to share those memories with you. Helen was a strong independent woman who was beautiful inside and out.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband Carl Samuel Ruby who passed away December 15, 1974, and by five sisters and five brothers. She is survived by several nephews and nieces and numerous great-

nephews and great-nieces, and by very special friends Percell and Shelia Boone of New York.

A graveside service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at later date.

Stanley Garry Livesay, Sr.



Stanley Garry Livesay, Sr., age 68, of Finksburg, passed away on Monday, February 28, 2022, at BridgingLife's Dove House.

Born July 4, 1953, in Olney, MD he was the son of the late Calvin and Grace Ruby McPherson Livesay. He was the loving husband of Audrey M. Curtis Livesay.

Stanley retired from Exelon's Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant where he had worked in project planning. Stanley was a hard-working, kind hearted, devoted husband, father and Pop Pop.

Surviving in addition to his wife are children and their spouses Christine M. Livesay of Sykesville, Stanley G., Jr. and Marleen Livesay of Crofton and Cindy A. and Jason Rodriguez of Havre de Grace; brothers and sisters-in-law: Wayne and Brenda Livesay, Ricky and Linda Livesay and Larry and Sandee Livesay and grandchildren: Allison, Stella and Ruby Livesay and Henry, Oliver and Adeline Rodriguez. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, in-laws and cousins.

He was predeceased by brother David Lee Livesay and several nephews.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4pm on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at Haight Funeral Home & Chapel, 6416 Sykesville Road, Sykesville where a funeral service will follow at 4pm. Interment will be in Lake View Memorial Park, Sykesville at 11am on Monday, March 7, 2022.

Those desiring may make memorial donations to BridgingLife's Dove House, 292 Stoner Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157.

Online condolences may be offered at www.haightfuneralhome.com.

TRUE OR FALSE - PROBATE

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

I have often heard from clients that they have a Will so their loved ones will not have to go through probate. True or false? False. When you die, if you are holding property in your sole name, that property must go through the probate process to be distributed to your loved ones. It doesn't matter whether you die intestate (without a Will) or with a Will.

What does holding property in my sole name mean? For real estate like your house or for cars and trucks, for example, the title to the property is in your name alone. If you hold any property this way and you die, then the property has to go through the probate process to be distributed to your loved ones.

The probate process in Maryland takes between 8-12 months. Why so long? One reason is that under the process, creditors are allowed 6 months to come in and claim against an estate. Another reason is pure chaos. When a person dies and a probate proceeding is required, the personal representative or executor has to find all of the person's property in order to report on it to the Register of Wills. Since many people are not at all organized about what they own, the personal representative has to reconstruct the estate before they report on it. One of the filings is called an "Inventory". This is a listing of all the property held by the deceased when they die. If the deceased has not been an organized person it can take a long time to figure out what they owned when they died. For example, if the deceased has not left a detailed list of investments they have, often the only way to know for sure what the deceased owns when they die is to wait for the mail for at least 3 to 6 months for quarterly or semi-annual reports on dividends or interest. Keep in mind that all filings made during the probate process are publicly available.

What does the probate process require? It is a process where filings are made detailing the assets and liabilities of the estate, the expenses of the estate and the monies left over to be distributed to the beneficiaries of the estate.

There is administrative probate, which is where the executor of the estate makes filings with the Register of Wills, or judicial probate, where the filings are made with the Orphan's Court. If a beneficiary challenges the Will or any filings made by the personal representative, the matter goes to judicial probate where the Orphan's Court judges decide on the challenge. Without challenges, most probates are administrative. To find out what filings are necessary in a probate proceeding, go to the Register of Wills website.

Some clients say that the personal representative has no liability for making filings in a probate proceeding. False. The personal representative is a fiduciary—that means they are under a duty to settle and distribute the estate in accordance with the terms of the Will and the law. Fiduciaries cannot act in their own self-interest. They must make sure investments are reasonable and monitored and they must make full and accurate reports to the Register of Wills or Orphan's Court.

Most people faced with the duties of a personal representative consult an attorney and ask them for help to prepare the reports for filing. This costs money in legal fees, but gives the personal representative some comfort that they are correctly performing their duties.

What about "registering" your Will with the Register of Wills. Clients have said that

their Will is not effective because it has not been "registered" with the Register of Wills. False. A Will doesn't have to be filed with the Register of Wills or the Orphan's Court to be effective. If you think you will lose your Will, then paying a small fee to the Register of Wills office to keep your original on file is a convenience to you. Otherwise, the effectiveness of a Will depends on whether it is properly executed, not whether it is filed somewhere. You can keep your Will in a safe place. But, the original Will is necessary to open the probate proceeding so make sure your loved ones can find it.

Some clients have said "I don't need a Will because everything will go to my spouse when I die." False. If you die without a Will and you have a spouse and children, then the estate (property held in your sole name) will go 50-50 to the spouse and the children. The only way your estate will go solely to your spouse when you die is if you have said so in your Will.

If all of your property is held in joint name with your spouse and you die then your spouse will take sole ownership of the property. And, there will be no probate because you have not held any property in sole name when you die. So, with a married couple, it is not unusual for one spouse to die and leave everything to the other spouse and have no probate. However, when the surviving spouse dies holding all the property in their sole name there will be probate.

If your Will says your personal representative doesn't have to file a bond, that means no bond is required. False. Even if the Will says no bond, the Register of Wills requires a nominal bond be filed, usually costing the estate \$100.

The only clear alternative to probate is a Living Trust. True. With a Living Trust, all property of the deceased has been placed into the name of that person's trust so that when they die there is no property held in sole name, so no probate. The person creating and funding the trust is called the Grantor and the Grantor may also be the Trustee. When the Grantor/Trustee dies, a successor trustee is appointed under the trust to take over. Having a Living Trust is the only way to avoid probate. But, the Living Trust provides other benefits. First, it is private, transfers to beneficiaries are immediate (no waiting 8-12 months) and there are no legal fees upon such transfers. With a Living Trust all property is accounted for when creating the trust so there is no chaos trying to figure out what a person owns when he or she dies—it's all set forth in the trust. The Living Trust also offers protection is a Trustee is incapacitated. In that event, the successor trustee simply uses all the assets in the trust for the benefit of the incapacitated person without having to do more. Can there be probate even if a person has a Living Trust? Yes, if the person has forgotten to place property into the name of the trust, that property must go through probate. However, a different form of will, called a "pour over" will is used in the probate process. This will states that the Living Trust is the guiding principal for the disposition of assets.

The probate process needs to be understood by anyone considering whether or not to create a will or a living trust.

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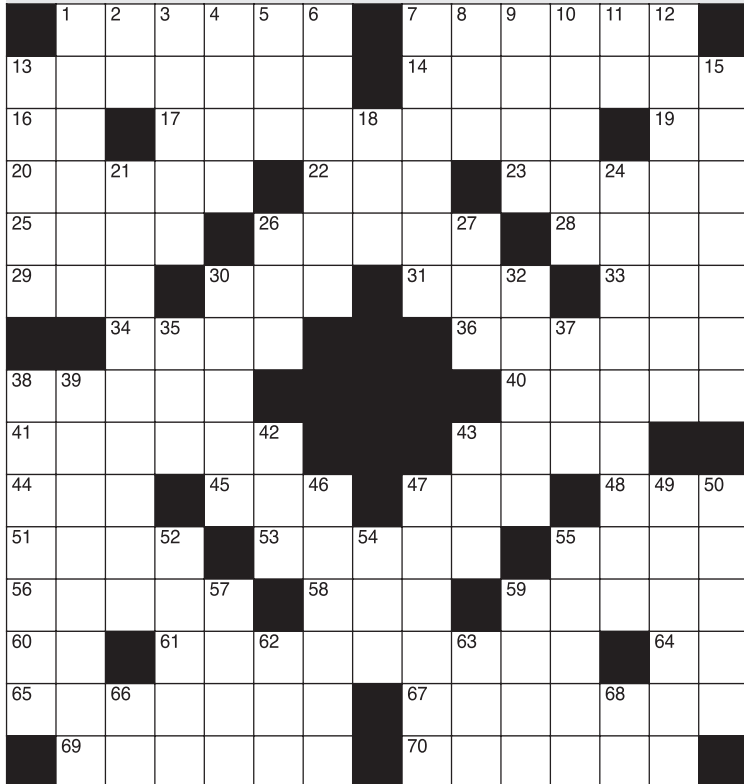
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Neckwear
7. Fish parts
13. Cooking
14. Quality
16. Rural delivery
17. Popular superhero
19. Partner to Pa
20. Shivering fits
22. Wrath
23. Linguistics pioneer
25. Large integers
26. A way to prepare food
28. Group of badgers
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Rock out
31. Danish krone
33. Take from with force
34. Baroque musical instrument
36. Zodiac sign
38. Hebrew alphabet letter
40. Independent member of a clone
41. Type of garment
43. Satisfy
44. One point south of due east
45. A way to wipe out
47. Moved quickly on

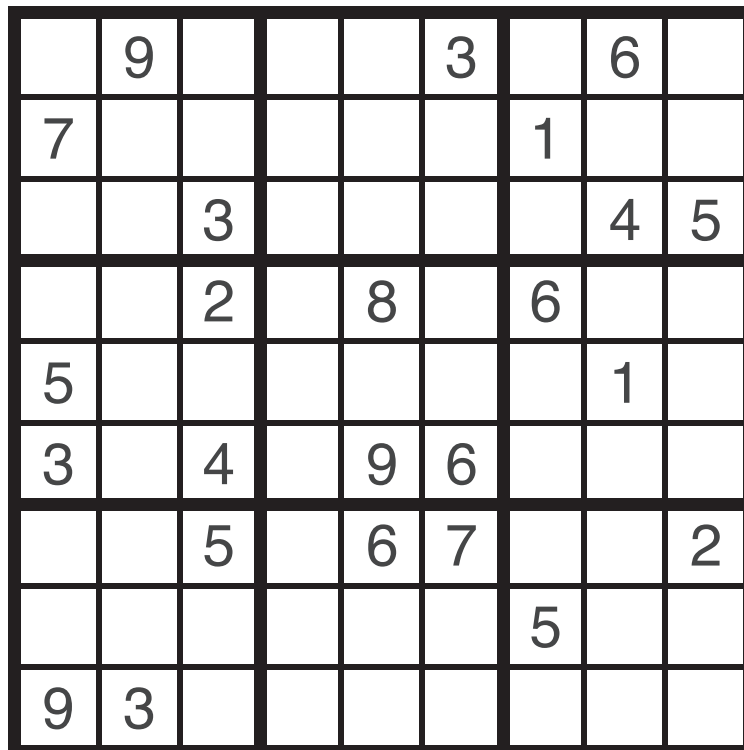
foot

48. Bar bill
51. An idiot
53. Performed with the voice silent
55. Body fluids
56. Rhythmic patterns
58. "___ my i's"
59. Type of wrap
60. It shows who you are
61. Carousel
64. Type of college degree
65. Molding
67. Closes again
69. Verses
70. Surface

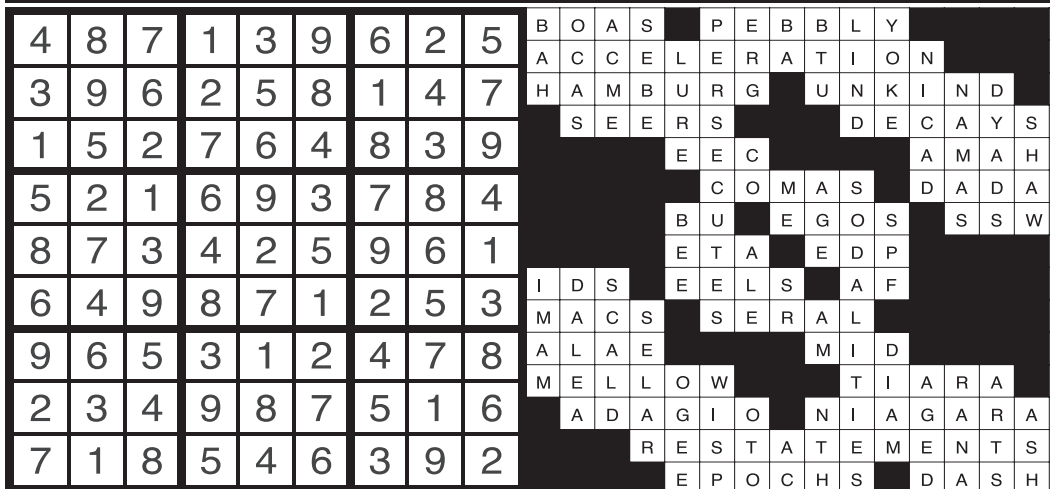
CLUES DOWN

1. Short, thick stick
2. Rhode Island
3. Animals of the horse family
4. Very important persons
5. Folk singer Di Franco
6. Boredom
7. Long speech
8. Footballer Newton
9. Expression of sorrow or pity
10. Linear accelerator
11. One quintillion bytes
12. Smallest interval in Western music
13. Box

15. Cheese dish
18. Make a mistake
21. Done by all people or things
24. Circumference
26. Chum
27. Electrocardiogram
30. Sandwich chain Jimmy ___
32. Showed old movie
35. Important event on Wall St.
37. Where wrestlers work
38. Free from contamination
39. Eastern Canada coastal region
42. Slang for gun
43. High schoolers' test
46. Fathers
47. Call it a career
49. Productive
50. Musical groups
52. Yellowish-brown
54. Lowest point of a ridge
55. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
57. Fill up
59. Cardinal number that's the sum of 5 and 1
62. Frost
63. Jewel
66. Atomic #45
68. Top lawyer



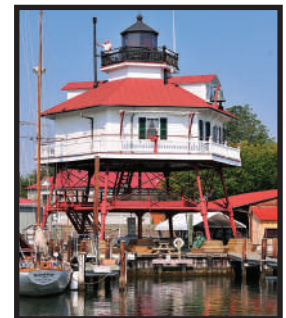
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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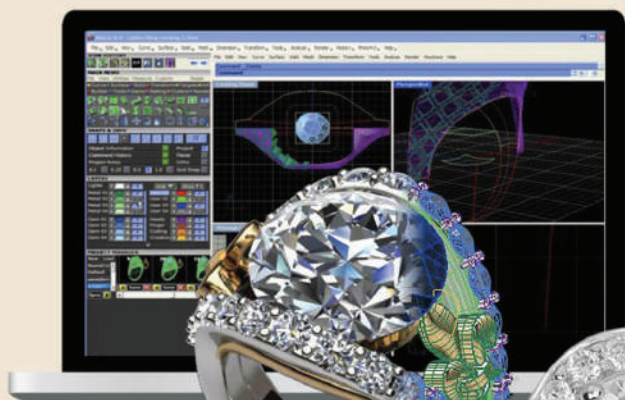
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