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Gathering the goodies at the Chesapeake Beach
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Pay a toll for a new Thomas Johnson Bridge?



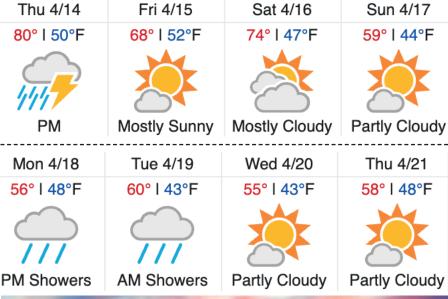
BACK CREEK
Taking the plunge in Back Creek.

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COMMISSIONER CHRIS GADWAY ON STAFF SALARY HIKES.

WEEKLY FORECAST







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Appeals Court Hears McConkey Ethics Case

By Dick Myers

The Maryland Court of Special Appeals (COSA), the state's second highest court, on April 12 heard the appeal by the Calvert County Ethics Commission in the case involving Commissioner Kelly McConkey.

The ethics commission filed the appeal of a ruling by a visiting judge in Calvert County Circuit Court that reversed their decision that McConkey had a clear conflict of interest by voting to place two pieces of property he owns into an expanded Huntingtown Town Center.

The ruling by retired Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge C. Phillip Nichols, former chief judge for that county, was issued Aug. 17 of last year. He ruled that then Ethics Commission Chairperson Jennifer Mazur at a Oct. 14, 2020 virtual meeting at which the decision was made had "an apparent conflict of interest and was required to recuse herself..."

Ethics commission rules at the time required a quorum for a decision. Since there were only three members at the time, although five were authorized, if Mazur had recused herself, there would not have been a quorum and the commission couldn't have voted, the judge concluded.

In reversing the ethics commission decision, Judge Nichols said, "It is discretionary with the Court whether or not to remand, and we find no compelling public interest in doing so," although he did not elaborate on how he came to that conclusion.

The judge however did not at all address the merits of the ethics complaint against McConkey. The judge said, "The Court's review of the Commission fact finding does not permit the court to engage in independent analysis of the evidence." He goes on to write, "Under no circumstances may this Court substitute its judgement for that of the agency." The court could, however, permit reversal when an "Error of Law" was committed, he said.

The ethics commission appeal was filed Aug. 30 in Calvert County Circuit Court by their attorney William C. Brennan, Jr. of Brennan McKenna & Lawlor, a Greenbelt law firm

Attorney Gwendolyn Waters of Brennan's law firm argued the case for the ethics commission at the April 12 hearing, which



Commissioner Kelly McConkev

was held in person. She told the court, "At first blush, this may seem a very isolated case, but we are here to protect the vitality of not just the Calvert County Ethics Commission, but

administrative agencies across the state."

Waters noted the ethics complaint was lodged by county citizens. She said, "During that process, Mr. McConkey sued one of the only, at that point in time, three members of the ethics commission. They were at that point in time operating at a bare minimum. They didn't even have an alternate."

Waters said McConkey, "in an effort to abuse the judicial process simply moved one of those ethics commissioners out of the picture. So, to destroy the quorum, Mr. McConkey sued Ms. Mazur."

The attorney said that the commission carefully considered the allegation of a conflict on Mazur's part and "the decision of the agency was that Ms. Mazur did not have a conflict of interest; they analyzed their own rules."

Waters added, "The commission was clear to say that it's not just that she doesn't have a financial interest. It's not just that she doesn't have an economic interest, she has no interest."

Waters argued, "For someone to be able to file a suit simply to prevent themselves from drawing discipline from the ethics commission, that's a policy the entire state simply cannot stand by."

Attorney Steven B. Preller argued the case for McConkey. He said the basis of the appeal, which has no factual premise, is that "the complaint filed against Jennifer Mazur has no merit, that the complaint filed against Jennifer Mazur was done solely to obstruct this process."

One jurist wanted to know if the ethics commission knew that the suit against Mazur had yet to be served. Preller responded that they did.

The judge then said, "Couldn't they reasonably infer from that fact that perhaps your client wasn't exactly thirsting for justice, but instead was filing this lawsuit for a tactical reason in order to create the appear-

ance of a conflict of interest on the part of one of the commissioners."

Preller responded, "Let's take what factually happened. The complaint was filed March 20th, 2020. What happened in March of 2020? COVID hit, there were stay at home orders." He noted the courts were closed and process serving had ceased.

Preller said potential damages to his client depended on the ethics commission determination, but regardless, "Ms. Missouri, you went out and did an interview."

A judge interjected, "She answered questions from the newspaper. And, as far as I can tell, she didn't even mention your client's name." He added, "It says she would only say, "We have more advisory opinion requests and ethics complaints than we normally have. I can't reveal the nature of the complaints, their allegations until the ethics board completed its investigation'."

Preller answered, "Anybody familiar with this (ethics commission) process, by Ms. Mazur commenting to a reporter that there was an investigation had already tipped off that this had progressed to the investigation stage of Mr. McConkey."

The judge replied, "I still can't figure out who you're supposed to think is being investigated based on what she's reported to sav."

Preller answered, "Quite frankly, your honor, I don't care. The rule provides for total confidentiality. That confidentiality was breached when we were in front of the circuit court, when the first hearing on the TRO (temporary restraining order), in injunctive relief."

Preller was asked by the court if Mazur was found negligent, if any damages would be paid by the county since the county is obligated to provide representation for her as a member of a county board.

Preller responded, "We have alleged malice. And in that lawsuit if it turns out that these acts were maliciously done, then they aren't covered by that."

Preller insisted, "We believe this is a matter of corruption on the part of Jennifer Mazur. The 2040 comprehensive plan is hotly contested. And there's been lawsuits over the 2040 comprehensive plan and one way to defeat it is to go and try to establish that the vote approving the comprehensive plan was not a proper vote."

On the issue of confidentiality, Brennan on rebuttal for the ethics commission, said, "Neither the lawsuit filed by Mr. McConkey against Ms. Mazur nor the TRO, neither one of those is filed under seal. They were put on the public record by Mr. McConkey, not the commission."

The court took the case under advisement and will issue an order when they make a decision. That decision could then be appealed to the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals, but that court is not mandated to hear any case.

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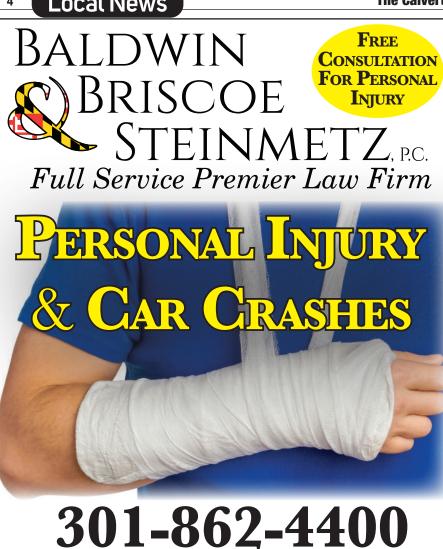
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- Keep prescription medications from being abused.
- Prevention, treatment and recovery information will be available.
- Syringe disposal and Narcan training will be available at Northeast and Southern Community Center.
- Deterra medication drug disposal packets will be available free of charge for county residents. The packets allow medications to be deactivated and thrown in your household trash. Limit of three packets per family, while supplies last.

Drop Off Locations:

- Calvert County Sheriff's Office Prince Frederick
- Maryland State Police, Barrack "U" Prince Frederick
- Harriet E. Brown Community Center Prince Frederick
- Northeast Community Center Chesapeake Beach
- Southern Community Center Lusby

Sponsored by the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc. For more information, call 410-535-3733.

Private Company Proposes to Build, Operate Solomons Bridge

Would Involve a 'Modest' Toll Charge



By Dick Myers
Editor

A Denver, Colorado based company has a deal for the area. They say they can build a replacement Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge. And they say they'll pay for it themselves. Will it be a deal too good for the area and the state to say no?

The catch is that one of the options being presented to local and state officials is that United Bridge Partners (UBP) would own the bridge and users of the bridge would pay what the company calls a "modest" toll.

According to a briefing made available to The County Times, the company has already completed similar projects in Virginia, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan.

According to Calvert County's Public Information Office, "The commissioners are aware (of it) and there is no meeting scheduled at this time."

The briefing says it is the company's understanding regarding the bridge:

- •The 42-year-old Gov. Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge is in need of expansion
- Critical economic link between St. Mary's and Calvert counties over the Patuxent River and Town Creek on MD 4
- •The bridge handles over 30,000 vehicles per day
- •Provides access to important Naval Air Station Patuxent River
- Need for more capacity (two-lane to a four-lane) to ease congestion, and multi-modal capability (protected bike/ped path)
- •The project is listed as "on hold" in the 2020-2025 CTP and ranks 32/38 in terms of priority (funding reduced \$3.7M from previous CTP)
- The 1.3-mile, 140-foot-high bridge has a current sufficiency rating of

43/100

- •Key evacuation route for Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
- •Southern Maryland State Delegation recently requested funding for the bridge from Governor Hogan to help relieve congestion
- Inadequate shoulders and crash/ maintenance closures cause major delays
- A preferred alternative (4-lane parallel span) was identified in the Sept. 2015 State Highway Administration finding of no significant impact.

The company says their approach would be to "finance, design, build, own/lease, operate and maintain the new Thomas Johnson Bridge." They say they would:

Replace the current structure with a new, safe, modern, multi-modal, four-lane structure

Open to traffic within 30 months (estimate) upon starting construction

Economic Stimulus - built using local labor, materials, subcontractors and suppliers

UBP assumes all risk - no financial or operational burden to state or local communities

Creative revenue structures that can include modest tolling, availability payments, etc.

Free crossing for emergency, school, police, medical vehicles

Demolition of current bridge

Local St. Mary's and Calvert Counties integration and partnership

The company says, "100 percent of project costs available now, dedicated for this project, and all long-term maintenance and operations cost." The last estimate from the state for the project was \$800 million.

A call to UBP headquarters was not returned as of press deadline.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Sweeping Climate Bill To Become Law

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

A bill that calls for a 60 percent reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2030 and a net-zero output of those same gases by 2045 will pass into law this week after passing both houses of the Maryland General Assembly.

Gov. Larry Hogan will not veto the legislation — known as SB 528 or the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 nor will he sign it into law.

A piece of legislation that passes both the Senate and the House of Delegates without the signature of the governor automatically becomes law.

The new law would take effect June 1.

To accomplish the goals set out in the legislation, the new law calls for greater reliance on clean energy, transitioning the state's fleet of vehicles to electric cars, building schools that are net-neutral producers of greenhouse gases and renovating large buildings to make them more energy efficient.

The legislation originally had a key

requirement that would have required new construction, either residential or commercial, to use electricity exclusively instead of fossil fuels.

While environmental activists widely supported this key provision, it was pilloried by purveyors of natural gas and other fossil fuels as destructive to the economy and a harbinger of much higher fuel costs that are already climbing.

The version that passed did not include that provision.

Also, in the current version, buildings over 25,000 square feet in size must be retrofitted to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2040, according to the law's main sponsor, Sen. Paul Pinsky of Prince George's County.

The new law also restricts school boards from entering into contracts for busing services involving vehicles using fossil fuels past 2025.

The legislature acted a month ago to suspend the gasoline tax, immediately dropping gas prices by nearly 40 cents per gallon but that suspension will sunset April 16.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Environmental Groups Speak Out on Growth

By Dick Myers Editor

In successive weeks, two Calvert County environmental groups have spoken out against proposed growth at a county commissioners' meeting.

At the April 12 meeting, Len Zuza of Solomons, speaking for Keep Calvert Country, presented a report alleging that growth incorporated in the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan update would cost county residents at least \$500 million through 2040 for roads, schools, water and sewer facilities and other county services.

"These are rough order of magnitude estimates but are based on the best information available to this time," Zuza said.

He added, "You need to make more informed judgements on expansion while you are grappling with the 2023 budget. We believe you also need to identify the costs of expansion before you approve that expansion."

Keep Calvert Country, Zuza said, recommends "you not approve the proposed town center expansion until you receive the analysis necessary for you to make informed decisions." They suggest planning staff analyze

Zuza said of the organization, "We are not anti-development. We support managed growth guided by fact driven assessments," also noting that they are non-partisan. "Republicans and Democrats support our efforts to help you make informed decisions for our wallets and our welfare."

The week before, Myra Gowans of Huntingtown, representing Calvert Citizens United, criticized the proposal for a sewer line from Prince Frederick to Solomons, challenging that the idea was driven by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Gowans said she was given by county staff the name of two key people in that agency to speak to about the proposal. She said both denied the state supported it nor would they provide funding for it. The price tag is estimated at \$60 million.

"This plan, this action, was taken by our county administrator," she said. "This is why it'll fail. It'll fail because it's insistent with the county's sewer and water plan and the comprehensive plan. This makes us look like the JV team down here."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Tri County Livestock Auction

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM Located Off MD Rt. 6 West - Charlotte Hall, MD (closest physical address is 9033 Glock Place – Look for auction sign at entrance)

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

Grocery Auction – Mother Catherine Academy

Thursday, April 28, 2022 @ 6 pm (Doors open at 5 pm)

38833 Chaptico Road - Mechanicsville, MD

Auctioneer's Note: Richard (the food provider) has informed us he will have a full truckload with a large selection!

Spring Farm, Home & Garden Auction

Saturday, May 7, 2022 @ 4 pm

Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn - Mechanicsville, MD

Mother's Day Baskets, Hanging Baskets, Combo Planters, Bedding Plants, New/Unused Outdoor Furniture, Concrete Lawn & Garden Items, Mowers, Misc. Household/Garage Items & More

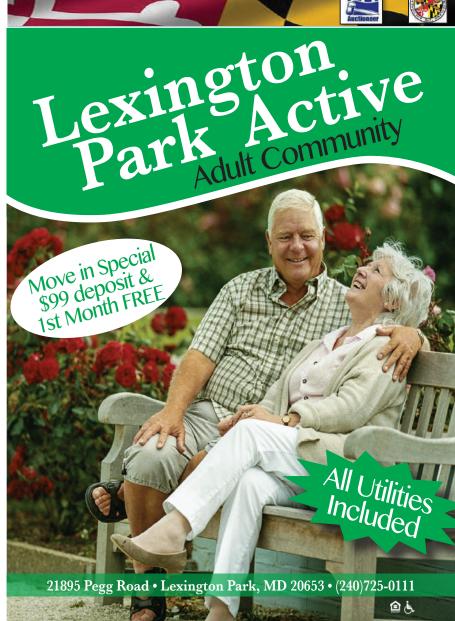
Advance Auction Notice: "Ponies, Minis & More" Auction SAT, JUNE 11, 2022 at Tri-County Livestock Auction Barn. Hay, Tack, Horse-Related Items, Ponies, Miniature Horses & Others.

Be sure to check out other local auctions we will be assisting including: Loveville Produce Auction - "Spring into Spring" SAT, APR 30th @ 9 am - Rt. 247, Loveville, MD





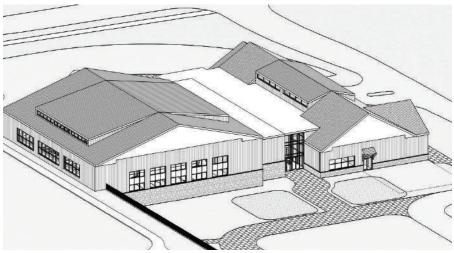




6 Local News Thursday, April 14, 2022

Community Center Master Plan Approved

Price Tag Creates Sticker Shock



Artist's rendering of possible design of the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center

By Dick Myers

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved the master plan for the proposed new Harriet Elizabeth Brown Park and Community Center on Fairgrounds Road in Prince Frederick.

The presentation of the plan also included a budget estimate that caused sticker shock rippling through the meeting room. The estimated cost has blossomed to almost \$40 million, including \$23.3 million for the building which originally carried a \$7 million estimate

The commissioners did approve the plan upon being reassured that the approval did not commit them to funding the scope or design or paying that much for it. The price tag still caused Commissioner President Buddy Hance to vote against the plan.

The project's architectural consultant noted the escalating inflationary spiral as part of the explanation. However, the project was also expanded by 5,000 square feet from the original 35,000 square feet by adding a second story that will contain an indoor track with two lanes for running and walking and a cardio area, along with office space for parks and recreation staff

Department Director Shannon Nazzal said of the proposal, "This came directly from what Calvert County residents are looking for." The plan evolved from a series of public meetings and online surveys in which more than 1,000 people participated.

The center will be on almost 28 acres northeast of the park and ride lot on Fairgrounds Road. Access would be from that road. The property is partially cleared and partially wooded and is in the Parker's Creek watershed. Plans

include an American Chestnut Land Trust trailhead. Existing structures on the property have been razed.

- The master plan calls for:
- The community center building
- Park green/gathering area including parking for food trucks
- Playground
- Two outdoor basketball courts
- Four tennis courts
- Four pickleball courts

Other amenities include space for a memorial to Calvert County civil rights icon Harriet Elizabeth Brown, five pavilions, picnic area and shared use trail around the property.

The building would include a two-court gymnasium, indoor track, locker rooms and changing areas, meeting, activity and exercise areas, children's areas and office space.

The building with a 45-foot vertical height would be of traditional design and was one of two options preferred by the survey respondents.

Later in the commissioners' meeting, Margaret Dunkle, chair-person of the task force which developed the plans to memorialize Brown, pledged her group's support in fundraising and whatever else needed to be done to see it comes to fruition.

Nazzal told the commissioners any grant monies for the project would fall way short of what is needed.

The commissioners had earmarked almost \$6 million cash for the project but earlier in the meeting they pulled that to be used for employee pay increases. Hance observed that other methods of funding such as bonding, were available for it.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Staff, Sheriff's Office Get Pay Hike

\$14 Million Approved for 'Market Adjustment'



Human Resources Director Melanie Woodson

By Dick Myers Editor

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has tentatively approved increasing salaries of both county staff and the sheriff's office to bring them up to parity with neighboring counties and agencies. The salary adjustment will cost almost \$14 million in the next fiscal year beginning in July.

County Human Resources Director Melanie Woodson explained how the adjustment was arrived at for county staff. "There is a 17 percent number that's being used. And that number has come from salaries from Charles and St Mary's counties. And what we did was we looked at the minimum and the median salary for almost every position in county government and determined what that delta was. And on average, we are 17 percent behind Charles and St. Mary's."

Commissioner Chris Gadway said about increasing staff salaries, "We're in a perfect storm where we are right now, where we can't get employees in so many different departments. Parks and recreation is 140 employees short. We need to do something as a county to be a competitive employer across the board."

A consultant used as the comparable for determining sheriff's of-

fice adjustment as what the state police are paid.

In order to pay for that significant budget expense, the commissioners agreed to use \$2.5 million in projected increased property tax revenues, almost \$6 million set aside to help pay for the Harriett Elizabeth Brown Community Center (see separate story), \$3 million in health insurance reserves and \$2 million in other line-item savings.

The commissioners also agreed for now to keep the school system funded at the same level as was included in the Staff Recommended Budget that recently went to public hearing. That amount is \$3.8 million more than the minimum required Maintenance of Effort, but \$5.7 million short of what the school board is requesting.

The commissioners will meet with school representatives in two weeks to discuss with them the impact of those cuts.

The decision to proceed with a budget with the salary increases was unanimous. That proposal will go to a public hearing next month, but the BOCC can still make changes before adopting next year's budget. And as County Administrator Mark Willis noted, changes can be made at any time during the year after a public hearing for a budget adjustment.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Cops & Courts **The Calvert County Times** Thursday, April 14, 2022

CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S **CRIME BLOTTER**

During the week of March 28, 2022 – April 3, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,552 calls for service throughout the community

Damaged Property: 22-18088

On April 1, 2022, DFC R. Evans responded to the 5700 block of Oakcrest Dr. in St. Leonard, MD for the report of a possible burglary. Deputy Evans observed an apartment glass window that had been damaged in an attempt to enter the residence. Nothing appears to have been stolen. The value of the damaged property is \$100.00.

Damaged Property: 22-17423

On March 29, 2022, DFC Burgraff responded to 340 Fairgrounds Road in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised unknown suspect (s) damaged a Coke machine located in the laundry room of the mentioned property. The value of the damaged property is

Damaged Property: 22-17425

On March 29, 2022, DFC Burgraff responded to the 200 block of Fairgrounds Road in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) scratched the passenger side of her vehicle and flattened a front tire. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Damaged Property: 22-17423

On March 29, 2022, DFC Burgraff responded to 340 Fairgrounds Road in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised unknown suspect (s) damaged a Coke machine located in the laundry room of the mentioned property. The value of the damaged property is \$200.00.

Theft: 22-17598

On March 30, 2022, Deputy Morrison responded to the 4400 block of Harvest Lane in Huntingtown, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised unknown suspect (s) stole the rear registration plate to his vehicle. The value of stolen property is \$150.00.

Vehicle Tampering: 22-17630

On March 30, 2022, Deputy Anderson responded to the 12300 block of Algonquin Trail in Lusby, MD for the report of vehicle tampering. The complainant advised sometime between March 25 and March 27, unknown suspect (s) tampered with an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway of the residence. Nothing appears to have been stolen. The damage to the interior of the vehicle is estimated to be \$600.00.

ARRESTS

On April 1, 2022, Deputy Lee responded to the CVS Pharmacy located

at 10095 Ward Road in Dunkirk, MD for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed Curtis Sequan Cannon, 29

Washington D.C., entered the store, placed several items into a shopping cart, passed all points of sale, and loaded the stolen items into a vehicle in the Curtis Seguan Cannor parking lot. Cur-



tis walked back into the CVS and began loading more items into the shopping cart, and exited the store with stolen items a second time. Curtis was confronted by store employees and fled the scene. Deputies located Cannon and conducted a traffic stop in the area of NB Rt. 4 and Brickhouse Road in Dunkirk, MD. DFC B. De-Leon observed several packages of paper towels, laundry detergent, soap, and deodorant inside the vehicle. The total value of the stolen property was \$1,145.00. Curtis was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Theft: \$100 to Under \$1500 and Driving without a License.

On March 31, 2022, Deputy Morrison responded to Dunkirk Market Place Shopping Center, located at 10366 Southern Maryland Blvd, Dunkirk, MD 20754, for report of a shoplifting that had already occurred. Investigation revealed Auctavias Tra-

von Blackwell. 26 of SE Washington D.C. and three passengers were in possession of household goods, toiletry products and food items stolen from four stores in the Dunkirk, MD area totaling



Blackwell

\$1145.14. Blackwell was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with two counts of Theft: less than \$100, two counts of Theft: \$100 to under \$1500, one count of Theft Scheme: \$100 to under \$1500, and one count of Possessing Contraband in a Place of Confinement. Charges are pending for Blackwell's passengers.

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

JOB FAIRS **APRIL 28**

ANDREWS AFB, MD

Sponsored by Top III 10-2pm In-Person @ The Club 1889 Arnold Ave

11-2pm Virtual - https://pvapi.premierevirtual.com/s/8Q9mJ8 Deadline: April 22 for requesting base access approval 25+ companies

MAY 3

Patuxent River, MD

3-7pm In-Person @ Bay District VFD **Social Hall**

46900 S. Shangri-La Dr.

Lexington Park, MD

4-7pm Virtual - https://pvapi.premierevirtual.com/s/dO7qEd 25+ companies

MAY 19 FREDERICKSBURG, VA

3-7pm In-Person @ Fredericksburg Expo 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkwav

4-7pm Virtual - https://pvapi.premierevirtual.com/s/xGjN7d

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The Back Creek

Jumping in and Swimming to the Challenge

By David Barrett Submitted Article

Back Creek, located near the mouth of the Patuxent River, is approximately 1.5 miles long. Boaters rate Back Creek as excellent for wind protection, holding, current flow, and scenic beauty. Swimmers rate it as a fun place to be.

I have spent a good bit of time in the Atlantic Ocean. But I confess that in 1997, when I moved my family into the Harbor Point (HP) development near the head of Back Creek, I was reluctant to swim in the water. There was something about the combination of murky water, unfamiliar marine life, and boat effluent that caused me to hesitate. However, we were swimming off the Harbor Point floating dock by the summer of 2000.

The "we" here includes my sons Adam and Josh, and their friends Matt Forsyth, Sam Forsyth, and Chris Pillion. This was the core group of the Back Creek swimmers. Later, Mike and Chris Rogers joined the group.

At first, we kept to the upper part of the creek. The furthest down the creek we ever ventured was to Solomons Landing. But on a very sunny, early spring morning we took off for the sandy spit at the end of Bean Road. I can't say what beckoned us, but after taking a few steps through the shallows, we pushed on to the Oyster Bay peninsula. We rested there under a dock by hanging on to the cross beams.

The water was cold. At that time Josh was "skin and bones, and a couple of red blood cells." So, he was desperately chilled. I grappled my way from a cross beam to the deck beams, and hung there as a human ladder. Josh climbed up my body and all went well until, for the last step, he placed his foot on my face. For a moment he stood shivering on the dock. And then, in spite of bare feet, he took off. Later my wife claimed to have spotted a skinned rabbit speedily rounding the corner from Newtown Road to Harbor Point.

We continued down the east side of the creek and swam directly into the reflected sunlight. We passed under a huge catamaran and the contrast between the intense light and the solid darkness was stunning. After that we crossed the creek and rested on the underside of a dock at Spring Cove Marina.

We continued this way down the west side of the creek swimming and resting from dock to dock.

I do not remember how far we swam on that first venture, nor do I remember how we made our way back. I do remember the incredible beauty of that morning. Back Creek is a visual treasure anyway, but there was something special about seeing it from neck deep in the water. I also remember a feeling of triumph for we now owned Back Creek.

This group of young teens and pre-teens were hardy. With growing capability and maturity, the need to rest under the docks went away.

Each year there were two "seasons" for swimming. The first was from late April to the end of June. The second was from September to October. The break in the middle of these periods was due to the presence of jellyfish. I wore shirts when in the water and our style of swimming was protective, so there were times in August when we swam with the jellyfish. But onetime we pushed the beginning of the second season too soon and as a result, I experienced what it is like to have tentacles wrapped around my shoulder.

Our longest swim as a group was from Harbor Point to Glasscock Beach. It involved a short stop-over at Wrestle Beach which is a sandy spit at the end of Point Lane. (It was there that Josh and Sam once jumped off of the channel marker while mooning the passengers aboard the Tennison.) From there we rounded Janes Point, traveled up the western side of Back Creek, and shot the Tide Box.

Shooting the Tide Box was always fun, particularly when the tide was strong. You could challenge your swimming strength by fighting the current, and then enjoy a free ride when you reversed your direction. It can be said that you have not really experienced Solomons Island until you have been startled by the Megalodon in [Calvert Marine Museum], spent some time in reflection at [Our Lady Star of the Sea], and shot the Tide Box.

Another frequent swim was to the floating dock of the museum. I particularly enjoyed doing this swim alone in the evening. Climbing out of the water at the museum required grasping the dock's



June 5, 2005, Patuxent River Crossing, Partial team picture. From L. to R.: Harley, Mike, Matt, Sam, Josh Adam

cleat with both hands and pulling oneself upward. The maneuver involved a sidewards roll that left me on my back. Once in that position I would always pause and lay there to appreciate the darkening blue of the sky. A special treat was to have the moon in view. Passing through the gate to the dock I would put on my sandals and start the walk home

Our experiences were rich and varied. Some were beautiful such as swimming in the rain and seeing, at the waterline, the miniature geysers caused by raindrops hitting the water. Some experiences were silly such as when grumpy boaters had to inspect our passage as if we were capable of damaging their boats. There were also creative moments as when Sam and Josh invented the aggressive game of "Swims with the Jelly-Fishs" which involved too many bodies trying to occupy a one-man inflatable.

With the Back Creek conquered, it was time to take on the Patuxent. On an early June day in 2005, the Forsyths, the Rogers and the Barretts gathered on Glasscock Beach to cross the Patuxent River. This time Sarah Forsyth joined us. Mike also brought Harley Swan a friend from school who worked as a lifeguard in Virginia Beach. Harley, being a pro, could swim rings around us.

To support the crossing, we had a canoe, a kayak, a tandem kayak, and a 12-foot wooden row-

boat built by Sarah and her father Brian. I manned the canoe. Mike was in the kayak. Chris and his father Andy paddled the tandem kayak. Sarah and Brian piloted the rowboat. Brian is a consummate mariner, both by profession and by love. If anyone has God's cellphone number, it is Andy. So, we had the perfect support team. Matt, Sam, Harley, Adam and Josh swam the cross-over.

The conditions were good for swimming. Just below the Thomas Johnson bridge there was not much chop, little current and no tidal pull. The water was warm in the shallows, but it was chilly in the main channel. Consequently halfway across the river Josh plopped into the canoe and sat there shivering.

The swimmers made landfall between the finger docks located on the St. Mary's side of the Patuxent. No one was worse for wear. For the return, Sarah, Mike and I would swim. Harley and Matt would swim both ways. I have no idea what the property owners were thinking.

From across the river and neck deep in water the façade of OLSS is a tiny mark. I concentrated on that mark throughout the swim. It was reassuring to watch it grow bigger and bigger until it finally dominated the view.

Upon reaching the Calvert side and standing in the shallows, I turned to greet Sarah. We were all physically competent, but only

Thursday, April 14, 2022 The Calvert County Times

Boys...and Girls



Swimmers from L. to R.: Matt, Dave, Mike, Harley, Sarah. Kayakers from L. to R.: Chris, Andy, Adam

the guys had experience with the water. Although I expected it, I wasn't exactly sure that Sarah would complete the swim. (I wasn't all that sure about myself either.) Sarah had a smile of satisfaction and a sparkle in her eye. Naturally her father was proud of her and her brother Matt, as he completed his over-and-back challenge too.

Chris Rogers did not swim that day. For this and other reasons we would tease him about having a vulnerability to the cold. But as it will be told later, he redeemed himself admirably.

Although we often swam late in the day, the only swim that had us in the water at dusk was a swim up Back Creek. Starting at the rocks bordering the OLSS parking lot, Mike, Chris, Adam and I swam to HP. Adam and Chris were in the water before Mike and I, and they were a good bit ahead of us by the time we descended the rocks. As Mike and I passed in front of a large house on Point Lane the homeowner called to us from a 2nd floor porch. "Are you okay?" he asked. Mike and I stopped swimming and started to tread water. After a moment of silence, I said "We'll, were hungry." After an even greater moment of silence, and with a tone of finality, the homeowner said, "Keep swimming." It was the perfect retort. Mike and I laughed and followed his advice.

The two pair of swimmers didn't bunch together until Osprey Cove. By then the sun was nearly down. As we entered the upper part of the creek, the trees blocked what little light remained. Rather than casting a feeling of gloom, the dark heightened our senses. As we neared the dock, we were aware that there were folks sitting there enjoying the evening. It was Bob and Carol Lightstone with a group of friends. They were not startled by swimmers suddenly coming out of the water. Stoney was probably just thinking "Its only Dave and his crew."

Our adventures included two notable failures. Sam, Adam and I once took on the challenge of swimming completely around Solomons Island. Starting at Glasscock Beach we made our way down the Patuxent. Either the currents were against us, or we misunderstood the tide, but it took us a long time to reach Sandy Point. While swimming along the rocks in front of the Chesapeake Biological Lab, and unusual for us, we folded. I'm sure someone has circumnavigated the Island, but for us it remains an unconquered task.

The other failure was when Adam and I decided to swim the length of Back Creek. Late one afternoon we took off from HP and swam without a break to Wrestle Beach. Once there we took a step, saw that there was no boat traffic, and kept going. After making our

way down the east side of Molly's Leg, our goal was in sight. As we got approximately halfway across the last section of Back Creek, a Maryland Natural Resources police boat rounded the mouth of the creek and made a beeline towards us. Someone must have "reported" us. The boat was manned by two officers, Tubby and the Spitter. (Please note that these are not derogatory nicknames. Rather, they are just appropriate characterizations of two people whose names we never learned.) As the boat pulled alongside of us, the Spitter wanted to know what we were doing. I answered that we were swimming the length of the creek. He responded with a statement about how swimming is not prohibited, but that it was up to him to judge our ability to do so safely. He allowed us to take one stroke, and then ordered us into the boat.

As we attempted to grasp the gunwale, Tubby, a sizeable man, easily lifted us on board. Upon being quizzed I told the officers where we had entered the water and we proceeded up the creek. Initially, Tubby engaged us in some conversation. The Spitter just spat. Adam was angry that our quest was interrupted, but then on the bow of the boat he and I quietly engaged in our own conversation, and soon we were just appreciating the beauty of the creek.

The Spitter accompanied us onto the HP dock. At that point

he lectured me about water safety and foolish behavior. From his perspective, he was absolutely correct. It was his responsibility to protect the waterways and the people that use them. But our "behavior," although out of the ordinary, was not illegal. And we were quite safe. Our risk level was much less than that of the county drivers who at that moment were speeding well in excess of the posted speed limits. From my perspective, I was willing to engage in this activity in order to build lasting bonds with my son. However, I vocalized none of this, because the Spitter, through his office and his concern, deserved my respect. We thanked the officers and they departed.

Our last swim was in November of 2016. Adam, I, and the Rogerii decided to test our ability to endure cold water. We entered the Patuxent from Glasscock Beach. I led, and the water was a shock to my feet and legs. However, I realized that if I hesitated, the adventure was over. I pushed forward and began to swim. Mike, Adam and Chris followed without a qualm. We made our way to the Tide Box, passed through it, and entered the west side of Back Creek. The cold had little effect on us as long as we swam vigorously. Having experienced the conditions, we made our way back through the Tide Box and onto the beach. Back in the air we quickly grew quite cold. Chris couldn't stop shivering, so to warm himself he went for a run. It was the kind of solution that makes me proud of the Back Creek Swimmers. And let it be noted that no Barrett will ever ride him again about dreading the cold.

That was our last swim. At one time it was possible to see the bottom of Back Creek and all of the marine life that it contained. When we started swimming in the creek the water was already permanently murky. We ended our activities when Vibrio bacteria became a concern in the brackish waters of the Chesapeake.

I have tried to live cleanly. We kept the Back Creek as we found it. Still, Harbor Point was just another development that adversely influenced the fate of the natural area around it. Such is life. Now just about all of the Back Creek swimmers have children of their own. As a society, we need to restore the waterways of the Chesapeake, for it is my hope that there will be a future generation of Back Creek swimmers.

























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Low-Cost Ways to Revamp Living Areas

Home improvement projects require substantial financial investment. But just because a homeowner wants to bring a fresh look indoors doesn't mean he or she has to break the bank along the way.

Living rooms are some of the most frequently used spaces in a home, and they can use an update from time to time to stay on trend or to make the area more functional for a changing family dynamic. Here are some budget-friendly ideas for breathing new life into living room designs.

• Establish the budget.

Homeowners should figure out how many dollars they can designate to a living room makeover before purchasing supplies or hiring out the work. Figure out the scope of the remodel, visit stores or suppliers to price out materials, get estimates from contractors, and then plan for some unforseen circumstances along the way to determine if this type of renovation is affordable. If not, scale things back until the project more closely aligns with your budget.

• Change the paint color.

Lighter and brighter colors are on trend. A can or two of paint can do wonders for updating a space without a large financial commitment. Pair that new paint color with new window coverings and complementary throw pillows to pull the theme together with minimal expense.

• Update the flooring.

Tired, outdated carpeting or other flooring can use an overhaul. While solid hardwood flooring may be preferable, there are many types of laminate flooring that mimic the looks of popular wood colors and styles for a fraction of the cost. Plus, many are sold at home improvement retailers and even at warehouse clubs or online for reasonable prices. Laminate flooring also may be a potential DIY job for a skilled homeowner, saving even more money.

• Introduce a fireplace.

Fireplaces were once hot commodities, but that popularity waned in the 1970s and 1980s. Homeowners with chimneys may discover a fireplace was boarded over and the bare bones still exist that can be renovated to



bring back character. There also are ventless freestanding units that are quite affordable that can mimic the look of a built-in fireplace.

• Reupholster instead of replace furniture.

There's no need to throw away quality furniture if the fabric is the only thing impeding design. New upholstery or even a slipcover can update designs.

Conquer clutter.

Rather than adding something to the living room, remove clutter to give the room a more airy feel. This can instantly change the look of the room. Use cord covers to tame plugs for electronics and remove unnecessary furniture from the room.

• Improve lighting.

Another easy and often inexpensive fix is to change lighting fixtures, including using brighter, more energy efficient LED bulbs, and to assess lighting needs to eliminate dark corners of rooms that can make the space seem drab.

Living room spaces in need of an update often can benefit from improvements that go easy on the wallet.



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6 Ways to Make Your Garden More Successful

Homeowners enjoy gardening for many different reasons. In addition to adding beauty to a property, gardens can offset grocery costs by yielding tasty produce. They also offer important habitats and food sources for both insects and animals.

While growing a vegetable or flower garden can turn into a rewarding hobby, or even a passion, gardening also can be overwhelming — particularly when the results are less than stellar. Novice gardeners have scores of resources at their disposal, including the advice of gardeners who have made mistakes and learned from them. The following guidance can make home gardens that much more successful.

1. Start small.

You may have visions of an expansive garden growing rows of crops or acres of flowers. But it is smart to start small and build on what you find successful, which includes plants that thrive in your lawn and garden.

This also is beneficial if you are unsure of vegetable yields. Several blooming plants producing bush-

els of crops can be overwhelming, especially if you can't get to harvesting or cooking them in a timely fashion.

2. Assess the soil.

Plants need nutrient-rich soil to encourage extensive root systems and produce strong, hardy plants, according to the gardening resource GrowVeg. Nourish soil with organic matter, such as manure, compost, shredded leaves, and natural mulch. Add this organic matter in the off-season to give it enough time to be incorporated into the ground before spring. You can have your soil tested for pH and other characteristics that make it friendly or averse to plants at a local garden center.

3. Arm yourself with knowledge.

Do you know how deeply to plant seeds and how far apart to space plants? Are you aware of the sunlight needs of certain flowers or plants? If not, read the packaging and do your research so your plants have the best chance of not only sprouting, but also surviving. Many people prefer to start seedlings indoors in late winter and then transfer those



plants outdoors when they are stronger and more established.

4. Sit in your yard and observe.

Watch the way the sunlight dances over areas of your landscape. Take note of which areas get the most sun and shade. This will help you plan what to plant and where to plant it. Vegetable gardens tend to need ample sunlight to bear pick-worthy produce. You can give plants a leg up by growing them in optimal conditions.

5. Choose hardy varieties.

Certain plants have been bred to thrive in your climate, including

heat-tolerant plants for climates with sweltering summer sun. Consult with a local gardening center to figure out which plant zone you are in and which plants will do best within that zone.

6. Use rainwater.

Rainwater contains fewer contaminants and additives than tap water, which can benefit garden plants. Collect rainwater in rain barrels and use irrigation systems to deliver it to the garden.

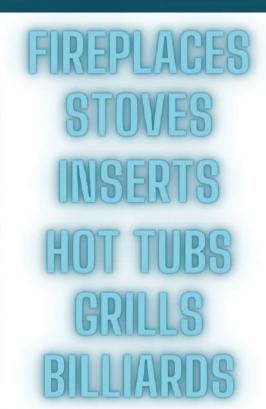
Home gardens can yield many gifts, from flowers to fruit. Beginners can utilize some time-tested strategies to increase their chances of planting a successful garden.



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How to Keep Outdoor Living Areas Safe

Outdoor living spaces are a wildly popular trend. A 2021 survey conducted on behalf of the International Casual Furnishings Association and American Home Furnishings Alliance found that 90 percent of individuals surveyed felt outdoor living spaces are more valuable than ever. That popularity was evident during the pandemic, during which 23 percent of respondents indicated they bought new furniture while 18 percent acknowledged building a deck.

The excitement of seeing a new or renovated outdoor living area can make it easy to overlook safety. But outdoor living areas, particularly those that include entertaining areas with televisions, lighting and other electronics, can pose significant safety hazards if homeowners don't take some necessary precautions.

• Use an appropriate extension cord.

String lights above outdoor living spaces like decks and patios can create a warm, relaxing nighttime vibe. Those lights need to be plugged in, which increases the risk for electrical accidents.

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type of flooring needs!

When utilizing an extension cord outdoors, never use a cord designated for indoor use. Outdoor extension cords are better insulated than cords made for indoor use. That insulation provides better protection against the elements, including sunlight, changes in temperature and moisture. When using an extension cord outdoors, make sure the cord is secured and not left lying on a deck or patio where it can easily become a tripping hazard.

• Consider fencing.

Fencing can make an outdoor living space more private and safe. Local laws may mandate that pools be enclosed with fencing, but even living spaces without pools can be made safer with the installation of a fence. Firepits are wildly popular, as more than 35 percent of homeowners who responded to the ICFA survey acknowledged their intention to purchase new firepits in 2021. Adding fencing around areas with firepits establishes boundaries. which is a must for homeowners with small children. Fencing also makes it harder for local wildlife to gain access to a property,



which can decrease residents' risk for tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease.

• Purchase an outdoor television.

Outdoor televisions can be expensive, but the cost of such devices will depend on what homeowners are looking for. Homeowners who plan to spend ample time outdoors watching games, movies and their favorite shows may feel a high-end outdoor television, which can cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000, is well worth the investment. But those working

with smaller budgets can find a quality 4K outdoor TV for around \$2,000. That's still a steep price tag, but the electronics experts at P.C. Richard & Son note that outdoor TVs are designed with safety features that indoor televisions don't have. For example, outdoor TVs can self-regulate temperature and moisture levels, greatly reducing the risk of electrical issues.

Outdoor living spaces are wildly popular. Homeowners are urged to prioritize safety when designing and enjoying outdoor entertaining areas at their homes.

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How to Prepare Landscapes For New Plants

New plants can add much to a landscape. Whether they're replacing plants that are no longer thriving or being added to supplement an existing landscape, new plants are an affordable way to give a home's exterior a whole new look.

Much consideration is given to which plants to add to a landscape. That's understandable, as homeowners want to choose plants that will thrive and won't compromise the health of surrounding plants and trees. Before planting or even choosing plants, it's important to plan for new additions to a landscape. Preparing the landscape can inform homeowners about which plants to purchase and can ensure they thrive after planting.

Document sunlight exposure.

Plants have different needs, and one of the biggest differences between species is the amount of sunlight they need to thrive. According to Penn State Extension, plants characterized as "full sun" require six or more hours of sunlight per day, while those considered "partial sun" need between four and six hours of sunlight per day. Plants designated as "partial shade" need two to four hours of sun per day, while "shade" plants need less than two hours of sunlight a day. Documenting sunlight exposure in advance gives homeowners an idea of which plants should be planted and where they should be planted. Jot down these observations in a journal over several weeks and then choose plants that will thrive in each area.

Test the soil.

A soil pH test is a simple and quick way to determine the acidity of soil. Soil pH levels will indicate how likely a plant is to thrive in a given spot. High levels won't necessarily mean an area should be avoided, as some plants thrive in acidic soils. Additional soil tests can determine other characteristics. such as the nutrient levels of soil and the amount of



Each of these variables can help homeowners make the right choices as they introduce new plants to their properties.

Consider local wildlife.

If local wildlife makes its presence known on a property, homeowners may want to take proactive steps prior to planting anything new. A new fence might prevent animals like deer from getting in, but that likely won't do much to repel smaller animals like squirrels, rabbits or foxes. If wildlife is a concern, homeowners can seek advice at their local garden center about which plants certain animals are likely to ignore. Homeowners who want to attract wildlife can do the same in reverse, choosing plants wildlife will be drawn to. Homeowners who want to deter wildlife should erect fencing or other barriers prior to planting.

Clear space if necessary.

Plants grow up and out, and cramped quarters can make it hard for new plants to thrive. Some may thrive but only at the expense of other plants. If necessary, clear space prior to planting to ensure plants have ample space to grow.

Some pre-planting landscape preparation can ensure new plants thrive.

How to Stay Safe on DIY Projects

Home improvement projects can be costly. Depending on the scope of the project, the choice of materials and the skill level involved to see the project through to successful completion, homeowners could be on the hook for thousands of dollars or even more when renovating their homes.

One popular way homeowners look to cut such costs is to do some, if not all, of the work themselves. Indeed, do-it-yourselfers can save a considerable amount of money. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Housing Survey indicate that homeowners can save anywhere from 50 to 80 percent on DIY projects compared to what they might pay for comparable work to be performed by a contractor. However, the key there is "comparable." Cost overruns could derail DIY savings rather quickly if homeowners have little renovating skill or experience. But homeowners' wallets aren't the only thing in jeopardy if a DIY project goes awry.

Renovation projects require attention to detail, and that includes an emphasis on safety. Homeowners who are injured on DIY projects may face costly medical bills, while projects that are completed without incident could later pose safety hazards that require work to be redone. which is both expensive and a threat to personal safety in the interim. DIYers need not be discouraged from taking projects on themselves, but they should heed these tips to stay safe when working on their homes.

• Make sure you choose the right ladder. DIYers may spend ample time shopping for drills and other electronic tools and gadgets that are fun to use. But ample time also must be afforded to the type of ladder you intend to use on a project. Estimates from the West Bend Insurance Company indicate that roughly 90,000 people visit the emergency room due to ladder accidents each year. Never use a broken ladder or an aging ladder that's uneven. In addition, do not use a ladder that forces you to reach far away. If you're leaning while using a ladder, the ladder is either too short for your project or positioned too far away from the wall. The



National Home Security Alliance advises DIYers to place their ladder one foot from the wall for every four feet it rises above the ground. Test your ladders for their sturdiness prior to beginning work so you aren't tempted to use a subpar ladder.

· Be especially careful with power tools. Power tools can do a lot and they're fun to use. But it's important that DIYers do not let fun distract them from safety. The Power Tool Institute urges power tool users to wear personal protective equipment, including eye and hearing protection and a dust mask, whenever using power tools. The PTI also advises users to make sure tools are powered down before plugging them in and to inspect the tool before using it. Inspections can confirm that all guards are in place and that tools are up to the task at hand. Much like it's unsafe to overreach on a ladder, overreaching when using power tools increase the risk for mistakes, accidents and injuries.

• Avoid electrical work. Complicated electrical work is best left to the professionals. Estimates from the Electrical Safety Foundation International indicate that electrical malfunctions cause more than 50,000 house fires each year. Such malfunctions can occur for myriad reasons, and a lack of experience working with electrical circuits and breakers could make homes vulnerable to malfunctions and fires. It's also worth noting that homeowners' insurance policies

may not cover damage caused by DIY electrical work. So at the very least homeowners should contact their insurance providers to determine if any accidents or injuries caused by DIY electrical work would be covered by their policies.

DIY renovation projects can save homeowners a lot of money, but those savings aren't worth compromising your safety and the safety of your loved ones.



Did You Know?



The National Association of Landscape Professionals notes that lawns can support a significant number of insects feeding on them because the grass grows much faster than the insects can damage it. But noticeable damage, such as brown patches in the grass, severed roots and grass that is easily pulled up, indicate that insect infestations are significant enough to require intervention. Lawn care

professionals can work with homeowners to develop solutions to address insect infestations. Infestation prevention involves a handful of strategies, not the least of which is ensuring a lawn is properly cared for. Such care delivers nutrients to the lawn and reduces its risk of becoming undernourished. Undernourished lawns are more vulnerable to insect infestations and weeds.

How to Pick the Right Trees For Your Property



Trees benefit a landscape by serving both aesthetic and utilitarian functions. A home surrounded by healthy green trees can be a sight to behold, and those same trees can benefit surrounding plants and wildlife at the same time.

As appealing as trees are, not all trees and landscapes make for the perfect match. The Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) notes the importance of planning when designing a landscape. Planning ensures the trees homeowners ultimately choose for their properties will grow well in the soil and moisture present in their yards.

Careful consideration of a handful of variables can help homeowners determine which trees will make the best fit for their properties.

Height

Homeowners must consider the projected height of a tree before planting it. Avoid trees that will bump into anything when fully grown, as that can adversely affect surrounding greenery and pose a safety hazard. The ADF's tree sizing guide can be accessed at https://www.arborday.org/trees/rightTreeAndPlace/size.cfm and serves as an invaluable resource for homeowners who want to plant new trees around their properties.

Canopy spread

Trees grow out as well as up, so it's important to consider their potential width at maturity as well. The ADF sizing guide can help homeowners get an idea of how wide a

tree is likely to be at maturity. Trees that spread out quite a bit don't necessarily need to be avoided, but it's important that they're planted far enough apart so they don't adversely affect surrounding plants. In addition, wide trees that are planted too close together can make the landscape appear crowded, taking something away from its aesthetic appeal.

Growth rate

Growth rate is an important variable because it can affect how quickly homeowners will see changes in their landscapes. Homeowners who want to plant for privacy can consider trees with quick growth rates or purchase more mature trees that are already near full growth. Those who are not in need of instant transformation can try trees with slower growth rates, which the ADF notes typically live longer than fast-growing species.

Requirements

Different trees require different amounts of sun and moisture and different soil components to thrive. Homeowners can have their soil tested to determine which trees will thrive in it. Local garden centers can be a great resource for homeowners who want insight as to which trees will thrive in their local climates.

Trees serve many functions on a property. Choosing the right trees for a landscape requires careful consideration of a host of variables.

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Signs it is Time to Overhaul Your Kitchen

Remodeling a kitchen adds value to a home. Remodeling Magazine's "Cost vs. Value Report" indicates mid-range kitchen remodels cost about \$66,000, and homeowners can expect to recover about 60 to 80 percent of that cost at resale.

Homeowners may wonder if remodeling their kitchens is worth the investment. But homeowners should not just consider cost, but also the current conditions of their kitchens when deciding if a renovation project is the right move to make. These signs indicate it may be time to renovate a kitchen.

• Breakers are triggered

If the lights go dark from a tripped circuit breaker every time you try to microwave and run the toaster oven at the same time, your wiring is likely not up to the task of handling the workload and could be out of date. A kitchen remodel will assess wiring load needs and an electric overhaul may be

necessary

· Lack of storage

One of the biggest hassles homeowners encounter in their kitchens is a lack of storage space. If making a meal involves a Jenga-like stacking and rearranging of kitchen tools, or if an avalanche occurs whenever you search for an item, you might need more storage. A carefully planned redesign can achieve this, even in a smaller kitchen.

Outdated appliances

Even if your appliances are not avocado green or mustard yellow relics of the 1970s, they might still need to be replaced. According to CRD Design, appliances are only expected to last around 10 to 15 years. If appliances have become unsafe or energy hogs, it could be time for a remodel.

Family is expanding (or shrinking)

Kitchens often are the heart of a home. They need to meet the needs of the family that



resides in that home. A remodel can add space as needed. On the flip side, when a couple becomes empty nesters, kitchens can be redesigned and downsized to reflect their new needs and desires, such as the addition of a wine chiller or espresso station.

Poor lighting

Task lighting is essential in a kitchen, but older homes may not be equipped with lighting where it's most needed. A carefully designed remodel can improve lighting with under-cabinet lights, pendants, overhead lighting, and even natural light to make the space attractive and more functional.

• Frequent run-ins

The notion that you can have too many cooks in the kitchen refers to having too many people trying to pitch in or offer their opinions. However, it also can apply to when too many people are gathering in a small space. Redesigning a kitchen can improve the efficiency of a space and make the room feel larger.

Aesthetic appeal

Many kitchen remodels have been inspired by unsightly kitchens. Cosmetic changes can lead to big improvements.

Kitchen renovations can add instant appeal and help address issues that tend to plague outdated rooms.

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Stay safe around power lines

With the return of spring, many people are excited to head outdoors and get started on some projects around the house and yard. It's important to stay safe and be aware of overhead power lines. Look up.

- Never climb power poles or transmission towers.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- Keep equipment away from overhead lines when carrying ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning tools.
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Thursday, April 14, 2022 The Calvert County Times In Our Community

Ten Honored at Women of the World



















Top Row (I to r): Chloe Ewalt, Elaine Phillips, Norma Imershein, Pamela Mackall, Rose Vought Bottom Row (I to r): Sheila Montague Parker, Shelby Potts, Sydney Coojsey, Robyn Truslow

More than 150 people joined the Calvert County Commission for Women (CCCW) and its six community partner organizations on March 12 to celebrate the achievements and contributions of 10 outstanding Calvert County women at the 19th Annual Women of the World (WOW) Celebration.

Given the success of the virtual 2021 WOW and because of the unknowns about the pandemic as planning began for 2022, WOW was again held virtually this year with the Calvert Library providing skilled technical support. The 2022 Women of the World was chaired and coordinated by Joan Dowell Winship, chair of the Commission for Women

The 50th anniversary of Title IX in 2022 provided the theme for this year's Women of the World. It was 'Title IX at 50 – Celebrate and Know your IX," and was the ideal opportunity to celebrate and learn more about Title IX and its impact on women and girls...as well as society as a whole.

Each year the Commission for Women awards fourOutstanding Achievements Awards. Nominations are sought community-wide in four categories: Advocacy, Business, Service and Woman of Tomorrow.

This year the recipients were:

- For Advocacy Robyn Truslow, Public Relations Coordinator for the Calvert Library for her outstanding support for partnering with the Commission for Women and her advocacy for the rights of all people as well as advocacy on the environment, especially protection of land in Calvert County;
- For Business Shelby Potts, currently Director of Admissions for the College of Southern Maryland, for her leadership with United Way and the many agencies, organizations, and people it serves as well as her work over the years with mentoring students in post-secondary education;
- For Service Jennifer Lankford for her volunteer work as a first responder with volunteer fire departments as well as her nursing leadership, especially during the pandemic; and
- For Women of Tomorrow Sydney Cooksey, a junior at Northern High

School who has been a student leader in school, and in several community service and youth organizations, and whose performance in school, sports and other activities as well as her volunteer leadership indicates she is truly a young woman of today as well as tomorrow.

Six community partner organizations helped in the planning of WOW. Each recognized an outstanding volunteer who has provided leadership and many contributions to their organization. The WOW partner organizations and their 2022 Women of the World Awardees are:

- Calvert County Historical Society Chloe Ewalt:
- Calvert County Minority Business Alliance – Rosanna Vogt;
- Community Mediation Center of Calvert Elaine Philipps;
- Concerned Black Women of Calvert County Pamela Mackall;
- League of Women Voters of Calvert County – Norma Imershein; and
- NAACP Calvert County Branch Shelia Montague Parker.

Recipients received awards from the various organizations as well as citations from local, state and national elected leaders.

In addition to the award presentations, this year's WOW included an Inspiration and Land Acknowledgement led by Ariane Odom, former Vice Chair of the Commission for Women and member of the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe. The keynote speeches were presented by Margaret Dunkle, former Chair of the CCCW and a 'godmother of Title IX', who gave a very informative historical perspective through firsthand accounts of the early passage and implementation of Title IX.

Emily Martin, Vice President for Education and Workplace Justice at National Women's Law Center, provided her perspective on the key issues today that affect the full implementation of Title IX.

The entire program gave participants the opportunity to celebrate outstanding women in Calvert County and be inspired by efforts to continue to improve opportunities and achievements of women locally and beyond.

Press Release from CCCW.

Easter Festival in Chesapeake Beach











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Easter Sunday Buffet Breakfast 8am to 1pm. Sunday April 17

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Cinnamon Apple Sauce Served Warm Children (3-U) Free

Toast
with Butter & Jam
Cinnamon Rolls
Banana Bread
Mini Muffins
Old Fashioned Carrot
Cake
Easter Cookies













Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb Contributing Writer

Blue catfish are all up and down the Patuxent River eager to take cut bait. Dallas Croce and Zack Romer went to the Public Park at Myrtle Point on Sunday afternoon and caught eight hefty catfish. The biggest of their eight fish was 20 lbs. 10 oz, and put up a great fight. They ended up with nearly 60 pounds of beautiful snow white catfish filets. This kind of shore fishing, making long casts from the beach provides plenty of fun and food!

Dexter McClendon brought one in from the Patuxent also that weighed 18 lbs. 10 oz. One of many that took his fresh alewife bait.

The catfish are in the shallows and the deep. Boaters fishing the deep holes in the middle of the Patuxent between the mouth of St. Leonard Creek and Sotterley Point are doing very well. The fish are in the 60 to 70 feet trench and can range up to 40 pounds! The terminal tackle that works best in the



Dexter McClendon with catfish from the Patuxent

deeper water is a Santee Rig that has a torpedo float which keeps the bait up off the bottom.

The Potomac has catfish too, both in the shallows and deep. The cats are ranging all the way down the mouth of Smith Creek. There may be some at Point Lookout for surf casters.

The cold for the past two weeks has kept our summer fish on hold. But, with the temperatures soaring into the low 80's by mid week, the perch, crabs, and trout should come on strong. The black drum should be booming at Cape Charles and Tangier sound.

It has been a long, cold winter; and it is over.



A View From The BLEACHERS LES UNLIKELY MOMENT

By Ronald N. Guy Jr. Contributing Writer

The NBA and NHL playoffs are approaching. MLB, after flirtations with disaster, kicked off the 2021 season (whew!). The NFL draft is looming. March Madness just wrapped up and Mike Krzyzewski completed an unbelievable and thoroughly irritating (Maryland fan, here) 42-year run as Duke's head coach.

It is a packed sports calendar, indeed. Nevertheless, there's only one story to write.

Poor Scottie Scheffler. This should be all about him. Dude is the world's top-ranked player and just won the freaking Masters. He'll get his run, but he will never be the 2022 Masters' lasting storyline; that was decided before a single player had teed off.

The first whisper came a week before the Masters' start - Tiger Woods hadn't yet withdrawn. It seemed inconsequential; Woods had done similar things in years past before pulling out with various ailments. But then he flew to Augusta. And played a bit. And then Fred Couples commented on how good he looked. And then Woods held a press conference in front of fawning Masters luminaries and a reverent media and announced his intentions to play. And his belief that he could win. And just like that, Tiger Woods, who nearly lost his lower right leg due to injuries suffered in a horrific car accident last February, made the impossible, possible... again.

There is much about Woods that is off-putting. The obvious: his well-documented evisceration of his marriage. Woods's serial adultery, the night his wife allegedly took a golf club to his SUV and his subsequent accident, and the cringe-worthy press conference he gave weeks later were as surreal as his triumphs on the golf course. Woods is also a prickly fellow and perfectly comfortable holding grudges against former caddies, fellow players and members of the media (just ask John Feinstein) for perceived, and often petty, slights.

And then there's his astounding arrogance – a more complicated trait. Woods carries himself with an air that golf needs him more than he needs it. It reminds of Aaron Rodgers's steadfast belief – proven correct - that he could

coerce the Green Bay Packers to kowtow to his quarterbacking greatness. Woods certainly is correct in his judgment of his power over golf – the game with him and without him are two very different things. Off-putting? Yes. An impetus for his success? Indeed. And a big reason behind the drive that made this amazing Masters moment possible? Without a doubt.

For good or ill, greatness is often measured by hardware - rings, MVP awards, Player of the Year honors or other accolades. Second place is first loser. A season that ends without a confetti shower is a failure. Such is the common competition speak to capture when one's best wasn't good enough. It is easy to interpret such a mentality and apply to it life - get that job, drive that fancy car, captain that sleek boat, build that 5,000-square-foot mansion...or else you have fallen short, failed to achieve. Never mind your happiness, the goal is to impress.

Sports and life are more complicated that than. There is context to every story - athletic or personal. Sports decide contests with a scoreboard, but victors aren't always winners and the defeated don't always lose. Woods didn't win at Augusta National this weekend, but his effort was an indisputable success. In fact, if I'm voting, this performance ranks right up there with his 1997 and 2019 green jackets as his most impressive Masters showings. The man almost lost his leg. He is lucky to be alive. There was no indication, even a couple of weeks ago, that he could will his bionic body – the reconstructed left knee, the five-time surgically repaired back and metal lower right leg - to even play four rounds over four consecutive days, much less do it on golf's greatest stage. But he did, and at age 46. Woods pushed through physical pain, overcame the psychological challenge and did the once unthinkable. At Augusta last weekend, Woods created unlikely moment, and an inspirational story of perseverance - for anyone dealt a bad hand or battling against conventional wisdom, stereotypes or even unprecedented circumstances - simply by being present and competing.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

In Remembrance

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

Paul Alan Pinkowski



Paul Alan Pinkowski, "2 Plate Paul", 58 of Lusby, MD and formerly of Stottville, NY passed away on April 1, 2022 at his residence.

Born Decem-

ber 2, 1963 in Hudson, NY, he was the son of the late Henry Lawrence Pinkowski and Patricia D. (Gonyea) Rivenburg.

Paul graduated from Hudson High School in 1981. He served in the United States Air Force from 1981 until 1989, serving in California, RAF Chicksands, England and Fort Meade, MD. Paul moved to Calvert County from Glen Burnie, MD in 1997. He worked as an Application Engineer for Parraid, LLC in California, MD. Paul enjoyed sailing, kayaking and playing guitar.

Paul is survived by his children, Jennifer Masengale (Darren) of Mc-Donough, GA, Katherine Pinkowski of Baltimore, MD and Ann Pinkowski of Lusby, MD; grandchild, Vanessa Masengale; siblings, Stephen Pinkowski of SC, Lawrence Pinkowski of NY, William Pinkowski of TX, Michael Pinkowski of TX and David Pinkowski of SC; and former wife, Kathleen Pinkowski. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Susan Novak and Jim Pinkowski.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul United Methodist Church, 11000 H.G. Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657.

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

Archibald Douglas Parran, Jr.



Archibald
Douglas Parran, Jr., 76 of
Lusby, MD
passed away
on March 29th
at Washington
Hospital Center
with his wife by
his side. Doug

was born August 29, 1945, in Prince Frederick, MD. He grew up and lived on the family farm in Lusby, MD, for most of his 76 years. He worked on the farm planting and harvesting tobacco, caring for the animals, and helping to support the family. In his younger years he carried on the tradition of his father and grandfather competing in jousting tournaments. He spent time going to field trials with his dad and their fox hounds. He graduated from Calvert High School, went to college at Morehead State and then University of Maryland. He was a member of the

National Guard and found himself deployed to our Capitol during the riots of 1968. Doug loved to hunt and fish and competed in tournaments up and down the east coast as a member of the Bear Fishing Team. Doug worked for many years in the banking industry. He later went on to be head of General Services and then County Administrator for Calvert County. Doug and his wife Lisa have been hosting a retired racing greyhound rescue at their farm for the past 18 years. Doug was well known around the restaurants in Solomons. He could be a real pain to the servers, but he tipped well! He was one of the good guys and was always trying to help others. Doug was preceded in death by his father, Archibald Douglas Parran Sr, his mother, Vada Joyce Parran, and his half-brother. Tolar Burks. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Lisa Parran, his half- sister, Jean Egbert, 2 nieces and a nephew. If you would like to honor Doug's memory, please donate to the charity of your choice or you can donate to Greyt Expectations Greyhound Rescue. www.gegr.org.

Doug's burial will be private, but we invite you to email doug.parran@gmail.com if you would like to be invited to his celebration of life (Time and place yet to be determined).

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

Duane Henry Hintz



Duane Henry Hintz, a retired Air Force officer and a technology enthusiast with a passion for starting churches, received his eternal crown

of glory on April 4, 2020, after cardiac failure.

The eldest son of Orlo and Berdella Hintz, Duane was born July 27, 1943. (He shared a birthday with his grandfather Henry Hanke.) He was the eldest of six children, and blessed to grow up in a Christian home on a farm in rural New London, Wis. He officially became a reborn child of God through his home baptism on August 22, 1943 and was confirmed in the Lutheran faith on July 14, 1957. A 1961 graduate of Washington High in New London, Wis., Duane went on to pursue engineering at the University of Wisconsin. Upon his graduation in 1966, with a B.S. in Agriculture, Duane was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

His career in the Air Force took him first across the country, training at Chanute AFB in Illinois prior to serving four and a half years as an aircraft maintenance officer at Nellis AFB in Nevada. While he was there, he was among the service members at Nellis

who helped encourage the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to form its first church in the area: Mount Olive Lutheran Church in 1971.

In August 1971, he began a 13-month tour at Osan AFB on the outskirts of Seoul, South Korea. Orders to Dyess AFB in Kansas sent him back to the States, though he also did a six-month stint at Anderson AFB in Guam. In Abilene, Duane helped establish a mission church, hosting meetings to explore the possibility of a WELS startup. Duane's next orders were to March AFB in California, in August 1975 as a logistics controller. He enjoyed his time at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Riverside. He then was stationed at Castle AFB in Atwater, Calif. While there, he graduated from the University of Southern California in 1979 with a M.S. in systems management, and he was awarded a meritorious medal for his outstanding achievements to the 93d Bombardment Wing. He also celebrated a truly memorable Thanksgiving Day that same year by marrying Edith Schneider of Howards Grove, Wis., whom he met through a missionary family friend of his mother. Together, they played an integral at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Modesto, Calif., where Duane helped guide the church through a difficult period as well as the construction of their first church building project.

Their son, Reuben was born in July 1981. In January 1982, when Reuben was just six months old, Duane departed for an 18-month unaccompanied tour at Kadena AFB in Japan. During his tours in Asia, he embarked on trips to Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, Diego Garcia, China, Japan, and Hawaii, with Reuben and Edie able to visit and enjoy some of those adventures on two separate trips.

Now a senior logistics officer, Duane was transferred to Andrews AFB on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., in 1983, where he met some of his very best friends while living in Cheverly. He and his family became active members at Divine Peace in Largo, Md. He retired from the Air Force as a major in

1986 and embarked upon a career in engineering support and aviation logistics for Department of Defense programs, including the EA-6B Prowler and F/A-18. In 2003, he was proud to pin Navy bars on Reuben upon his graduation from Virginia Tech.

Duane was then offered a contractor job in Southern Maryland Edie was hesitant about the move — there was no WELS church in the area! - so Duane told her to do something about it. That's how they came to start what became Shepherd of the Bay. He and Edie moved to Hollywood, Md., in 2000, where he spent eight years working on a number of aviation-related projects and programs until he retired in 2008. Duane served in a number of roles for Shepherd of the Bay, including as church treasurer, an elder, assisting the church's audio-visual and computer efforts, and running the PowerPoint slides during worship services. As a result of his nearly 14-years of involvement at Shepherd of the Bay, the church conducted its first worship service in its own building and sanctuary on Jan. 16, 2011. He also was the guardian of the church's kitchen door until spring 2020. when he was called home to heaven.

Duane loved McDonald's — he was a morning regular — and loved tinkering with the latest and greatest computer and tech advances as well as dispensing advice about all things related to the Internet, apps, and gadgets. He was so proud of his son, whose tours and travels in the Navy and in Asia after his military service later led Reuben to Singapore to pursue a MPP and PhD. Duane and Edie traveled to visit him in Japan and Singapore, among other travels in the region.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Edie, and son, Reuben, and his siblings, Daryl (Mary) Hintz of Appleton, Wis.; Rev Gerald (Nancy) Hintz, of Waukesha Wis.; Rev Michael (Julie) Hintz, of West Bend, Wis.; Corrine (Gary) Ziesemer, of Green Lake, Wis.; and Carol Gagnow, of Appleton, Wis.; as well as 20 nieces and nephews, 37 great-nieces and great-nephews and numerous cousins.



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He is also survived by his aunt and uncle Mildred (Harold) Daberkow and joined his uncle and aunt Merlin (Dorothy) Hintz in heaven.

A memorial service will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, at Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, 9463 HG Truman Rd, Lusby, MD 20657. The service will be livestreamed on YouTube; connect at shepherdofthebay.com. His ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, April 22. Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. at the Memorial Avenue gate. All visitors 16 and older will be required to show ID.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church for the purchase of new hymnals.

James Daniel Baggerly



James Daniel Baggerly, 46, of Chesapeake Beach passed away April 9, 2022. Danny worked for Siemens Corporation as an electronics se-

curity technician covering Maryland, DC, and Virginia. He loved his job and the freedom it allowed to move about. He made a lot of friends and received much recognition for his hard work and dedication. He loved growing up on the Baggerly farm and playing with his cousins and friends. He enjoyed Ocean City and getting in the ocean, riding the waves. His hobbies included hunting and fishing. Danny was a huge sports fan and loved the Washington Capitals, Washington Redskins, Baltimore Orioles, and NASCAR racing. Danny always said "I'm doing it my way."

Danny is survived by his daughters Brooke Baggerly of Tampa, FL and Brandy Baggerly of Denver, CO, mother Robin Sue Owens (Michael) of Chesapeake Beach, father Daniel James Baggerly (Jennifer) of Murrells Inlet, SC, aunts Brenda Proctor, Ginger Nethers, Theresa Armiger, Kelly Moraites, and Betty Lou Curtis, uncles Bowie Armiger (Chris) and Joe Armiger (Melina), and many cousins.

Visitation will be Friday, April 15, 2022, 2-4 p.m. & 6-8 p.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736.

Funeral Service will be Saturday, April 16, 2022, 11 a.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings.

Burial will be in Mt. Harmony United Methodist Church Cemetery, 155 East Mt. Harmony Road. Owings, MD 20736.

Lavenia Ann Burris

Lavenia Ann Burris was born in Warner Robins, Georgia to Kenneth Burris, Jr. and Dorinda Ann Cribbs. At



age 8 she moved to Jacksonville Beach, Florida to live with her grandparents. Kenneth and Martha Bur-Lavenia ris. loved swimming, the beach and 'hang-

ing out" with her friends and cousins. As a young teen Lavenia loved punk rock music and attending concerts and Warped tours. She particularly enjoyed the music of a Maryland band named Good Charlotte.

After graduating from Fletcher High School in Neptune Beach, Florida and taking courses at Jacksonville Community College, Lavenia met Brandon Sr. at Dairy Queen and their young love brought two sons, Brandon Jr. and Cameron, into the world. During a vacation her husband informed her she needed to stay in Maryland. As he could not support them. She joined forces with her grandparents to help to raise her boys with the same love and care she received from them for so many years. They made North Beach their home. Lavenia began working at Roland's Grocery in Chesapeake Beach where she met many wonderful friends and locals in her community. She enjoyed her work and work family. Lavenia's cancer was silently growing inside of her body but her spirit was untouched. She silenced her pain and worked hard to support and provide for her sons.

Lavenia lost her battle to cancer on April 7, 2022 in her home surrounded by family. She joins her mother, great grandparents and many loving family members in Heaven with her Lord. Lavenia leaves behind to protect her memories those touched by her quiet strength; her sons Brandon James (15), Cameron Vaughn (11), her grandparents Kenneth Sr. and Martha Burris, of North Beach MD. Her father Kenneth Jr., sisters Vanessa and Mary Burris of Warner Robins GA and her Aunt JoAnn (Henry) Slice and cousin's Stephanie (Mike), Christy (Billy), and Brandon (Rudy) and their children all residing in the nearby Maryland area. She is loved by many family members across the US and will be missed. Cancer Sucks Big Time. We will always remember Lavenia's desire to surround her children with loving and supporting family and her quiet, never complaining fight until the end doing what she could to get even a few more hours with her boys.

Rather than flowers please consider a gift to: American Cancer Society in the fight to cure cancer or Windy Hill Elementary and Middle, whose staff and counselors continue to support her sons or Grateful Great-Grandparents Go Fund Me, Link:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/grate-ful-greatgrandparents?qid=afe866191 1659cc97cda886931eb615c or Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Freder-

ick, MD 20678; 410-535-0892; Link: https://calverthospice.org/

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral HHome.

Her family sends their thanks to staff of Windy Hill and Roland's Grocery for their wonderful support during this difficult time.

Ella Hardesty



Ella Hardesty, 94 of Lothian, MD passed away peacefully on April 6, 2022. She was born January 05, 1928 in Troutdale, VA to the

late Arthur and Eudora Wilson. She married the love of her life Ernest Hardesty in 1947. Together they raised three children. Ella spent her days as a loving wife and mother. She enjoyed spending time at home with her family. Everyone who knew her called her Nana. She touched the hearts of many and will be missed by all.

She was preceded in death by her husband Ernest Hardesty, her son Roger Hardesty Sr. and her five sisters, Leota, Blanche, Hilda, Goldie and Jean, and by her 6 brothers Hicks, Blair, Bryan, Clinton, Woodrow and Lawrence. She is survived by two daughters, Joyce Jameson (Lewey) of Owings, MD and Brenda Chase (Buzz) of Lothian, MD. She is also survived by one sister, Opal Good of Colorado, six grandchildren, Angie Hooper, Kimberley Bateman, Roger Hardesty Jr, Stacey Blazek, Eddie Brickerd and Ashleigh Horn, as well as seventeen great grandchildren and twenty seven great-great grandchildren, and by many nieces and nephews.

Ella was a devoted supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and her family asks that in lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in her memory be made to St. Jude Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; Link: https://www.stiude.org/

Visitation will be Thursday, April 14, 2022, 5-8 p.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736.

Funeral Service will be Friday, April 15, 2022, 10 a.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings. Interment will be at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, 3401 Bladensburg Road, Brentwood, MD 20722.

Colletta Jean Fox



Colletta Jean Fox, wife of the late Rev. A. J. Fox, passed away on April 6, 2022, at the age of 87 years old. She was born on November 1, 1934 in Bramen, Oklahoma. She was a loving wife and mother. She enjoyed sewing, counted cross stitch, reading, walking, and selling Avon. She supported her husband faithfully for many years in the ministry at Burlington, NC, Danville, VA, and Prince Frederick, MD at Full Gospel Assembly of God. After raising her four children, she worked as a secretary at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, and as the secretary for the County Commissioner's Office – Calvert County Government.

Colletta is survived by three of her children, Cynthia Clark, Mark (Colleen) Fox, and Steven (Barbara) Fox.

10 Grandchildren: Farrah (Josh) Rosenthal, Natalie (Matt) Doebler, Levi (Leslie) Godwin, Christopher Fox, Matthew Fox, Dustin (Lindsey) Fox, Ethan (Claire) Fox, Dylan Fox, Adam Fox, Alan Fox.

6 Great Grandchildren: Jack Doebler, Chloe Doebler, Zelda Godwin, Edgar Godwin, Brianna Fox, and Sloane Fox.

Colletta is preceded in death by her parents, Stella and Paul Felible, husband, Rev. A. J. Fox and son, Alan Fox.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 11 a.m., at Rausch Funeral Home in Port Republic, Maryland. Pastor Dave Mohler will be officiating at the service.

Interment will follow the service at Asbury Cemetery, 3660 Hallowing Point Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Eugenia L. Renke



It is with deep sorrow and much love that the family of Eugenia L. Renke, 92, of Dunkirk announce her peaceful passing on April 5, 2022 at her

home. She was born February 10, 1930 to Edgar and Ida Mae (Ayers) Miller. Jeannie was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Edgar Raymond, Leroy Howard, Howard Orlando, and Ayers John Eugene Miller and sisters Cora B. Daymude, Marian A. Miller and Ida E. Vezina. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth L. Renke who passed away in 1987. She is survived by her children. Kenneth H. Renke, Kathy J. Natale (Vince), Karen S. Renke, Kay M. Rutter (Charlie), 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and sisters Florence E. Chaney (Robert) and Sueann N. Downs as well as many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of your choice.

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home-Owings.

Thursday, April 14, 2022 The Calvert County Times Obituaries



Charles Edward Phipps



Charles Edward Phipps, 76, of Chesapeake Beach passed away April 5, 2022 at his home surrounded by family. He was born Septem-

ber 19, 1945 in Prince Frederick to William and Ruth (Ford) Phipps. Charles was raised in Dunkirk and graduated from Calvert High School in 1964. He married Linda Railey in 1966 and they lived in North Beach. He was employed as a heavy equipment mechanic for Chaney Enterprises for many years, retiring in 1989. In his spare time, Charles enjoyed sitting outside in the sunshine with a cup of tea and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Charles was preceded in death by his wife Linda Phipps, daughter Sherri Phipps, sons Charles and Brian Phipps, Sr., grandson Brian Phipps, Jr., and brothers Tommy and Dickie Phipps. He is survived by his daughter Margaret Stokes and her husband Mike of Chesapeake Beach, 9 grandchildren, 7 greatgrandchildren, sisters Mary Sutton and Linda, and brothers Chester, Ronnie, Mark, and Ernie Phipps.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home-Owings.

Terry (Donna) Lorraine Watson



It is with great sadness that the family of Terry (Donna) Lorraine Watson, 83, of Dunkirk announce her passing. Terry passed away suddenly at Cal-

vert Health hospital on April 5, 2022. She was born in Charles Town, WV on January 24, 1939 to Marshall Theodore and Anna Louise (Good) Weller. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Nancy and Lily Mae, her husband Gilbert Raymond Watson Sr., daughter Tina Marie, and granddaughter Michelle Lorraine. She is survived by her four children Linda L. Watson, Gilbert Raymond Watson Jr. (Anne), Roxanne Dalrymple (Gary), and Carl T. Watson, eight grandchildren William and Luke Leapley, Leo Watson (Joelle) and Alexis Watson, Candace, Dakota and Zoe Dalrymple, and Zachary Watson, three great grandchildren Calvin and Mallory Dalrymple and Walker Watson, and her nine siblings

Marshall Theodore Jr., Joy, Raymond, Harry, Larry, Robert, Donald, Wayne and Brenda. In 1957 she married the love of her life, Gilbert Raymond Watson Sr., and moved to Washington D.C. Terry took great pride in caring for her family and being a wife, mother and homemaker. She and her husband moved the family to Dunkirk in 1972 and made a home and life in Calvert where Terry worked for many years at the Rod 'N' Restaurant and also started her own business. She loved to read, cook, bake, spend time with her family, garden, play the lottery and bingo, watch Judge Judy and root for her beloved Dallas Cowboys. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Visitation will be held at Rausch Funeral Home, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane

Owings, MD 20736 on Thursday, April 14, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. followed by the service at 12 p.m.

Interment will be in Southern Memorial Gardens, 10155 Ward Road, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

Donations in Terry's name can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation, National Capital Area Chapter, 8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 400, McLean, VA 22102; Link:

https://act.alz.org/site/ Donation2?df_id=39209&mfc_ pref=T&39209.donation=form1

James Edward Stowell Jr



James Edward Stowell Jr, (Jimmy), age 58, passed away peacefully at his home in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland on April 3, 2022.

He was predeceased by his father, James Edward Stowell, his mother, Patricia Ann Stowell, his wife Lauri Ann Stowell, and brother Bobby.

He is survived by his son, James Edward Stowell III, his granddaughter Charlotte Ann, his sisters Deborah, Becky and Sherry and brother John, along with a multitude of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

Jimmy was originally a long-time resident in the Shadyside/Deale area of Maryland. He loved the Chesapeake Bay, cats, music, the Dallas Cowboys, the Washington Nationals and NASCAR.

A special thank you to Nancy Rodda for the long-term care and friendship she provided Jimmy over the past 14 years.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

TIPS TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR LIVING TRUST

Contributing Writer: Lynda J. Striegel

If you have created a living trust, you have already taken steps to avoid the probate process. The concept of the living trust is to re-title all of a person's assets into the name of their trust so that when they die they are not holding any assets into their sole name and therefore there is no probate. But, beware. A living trust is just what it says—a living document. If you have a living trust you must make sure you have (1) placed all your assets into the name of your trust; and (2) kept your trust and beneficiary designations up to

1. Placing your assets into your living trust.

So many times clients have come to see me proudly holding their binders for their living trusts. Upon review, I have found that the client's assets are not in the trust and, without that, the assets must go through the probate process to get to loved ones.

Unfortunately, many people who have living trusts die without realizing that they have not funded their trusts and their loved ones then have to go through the probate process—something their living trusts are intended to prevent.

For example, you must re-title your house into the name of your living trust through filing a new deed to the house. The house will not technically be moved into the trust by simply saying so in the trust document. The same holds true for your other assets. Each asset is different, but the approach must be the same—fill out all required forms to technically retitle the asset.

How does it happen that some clients have no assets in their trusts? Some attorneys that create living trusts require that their clients take all the steps necessary to re-title the assets into the name of the trust. I recommend you do not obtain a living trust without assurances that the attorney will prepare all transfers of your assets into the trust. This is not something you should try to do yourself. First, life often intervenes in plans and clients do not have the time or knowledge to figure out how to re-title their assets. Second, moving assets can be complicated with various forms to fill out that are confusing. The clients should not have to do work to fund their trusts. Their attorneys should do that work for the clients.

Don't let this be your reality. If you already have a living trust, make sure all your assets have been re-titled into the name of your living trust. And, don't forget. If you acquire a new piece of real property, acquire it in the name of the trust so that you do not need to file a separate deed to re-title it. Most attorneys will provide you with an affidavit of trust to enable you to provide a document to the title company so that they can title the property in the name of your trust.

2. Keep Your Living Trust Up to Date

In our practice, we meet with clients every few years to update their trusts. Why? We want to make sure that the clients have not purchased an asset (like a house, for example) in their sole name. If they have, we will take steps to prepare a deed to transfer the house into the name of their trust. Often, clients' wishes will change Clients that have over time. named certain beneficiaries for their estates may wish to change the names of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries may die and precipitate a change. Investments and brokers may change. Retirement funds may change, etc. Whatever it is, you must keep on top of the changes in your life by including the changes in your living trust package. If you do not, there may be terrible consequences.

For example, one married couple prepared a living trust and the wife died leaving her share to the husband. The husband remarried but the trust was never changed to reflect this. On the death of the husband, part of the estate went to the relatives of the first wife.

It isn't difficult to amend a trust to make changes. The concept of a living trust is to avoid the hassles of the probate process and create a very easy transition for loved ones when you die. But the transition is only going to be an easy one if the trust is up to date. If you have not reviewed your living trust in more than three or four years, do it now.

If you would like to learn more about living trusts and other estate planning matters, join me at 11am on the third Wednesday of each month at our office at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

Thursday, April 14, 2022

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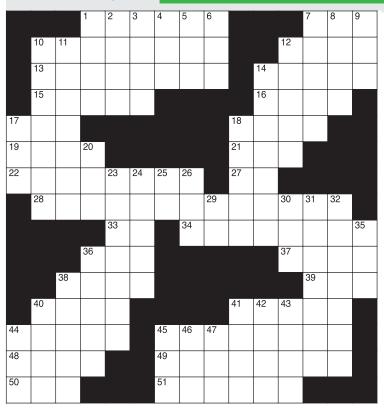




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GAMES & PUZZLES



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CLUES ACROSS

A woman of refinement
 Body part
 One who imitates
 Tropical Asian starlings

13. A type of delivery

14. W. Australian capital

15. Many wombs16. Wings

17. Expression of

amusement 18. Brews

19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese

21. Mild expression

22. Solitary

27. Distance to top 28. The rebirth of a soul in a new body

33. Police who investigate police (abbr.)

34. Begrudged 36. Popular sports league

37. Autonomous republic of Russia

38. Double-headed drum

39. Type of light bulb 40. Czech River

41. Male servants (Span.)

44. Previously

45. Minor

48. Metrical foot

49. Days that follow Mondays

50. Small European

51. News shows have

CLUES DOWN

1. Inspiration

2. Resembling wings

3. Form of Persian

4. Consumed

5. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand

6. Sea eagle

7. Jaguarundis

8. Poker stake

9. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

10. South American nation

11. A colorless, odorless gas

12. Disturbance

14. Artist's tool17. Polish peninsula

18. Ottoman military leaders

20. Bird-like dinosaur

23. Drinking glass

24. Central Florida

city 25. One's mother

26. To do it is human

29. Atomic #10

30. Used to write

31. The branch of medicine concerned with the ear

32. Adversaries

35. Have already done

36. One of

conspicuous wealth

38. It flies over

sporting events

40. Geological times 41. Net

42. Musical phrase

43. Chadic dialect

44. Private Internet

Access (abbr.)

45. Lizard genus 46. Woman of the

church

47. Having ten

LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS																							
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Eric McKay
General Manager
Al Dailey
Thomas McKay
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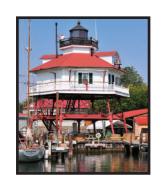
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