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**LOCAL VOTERS GUIDE INSIDE**

# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

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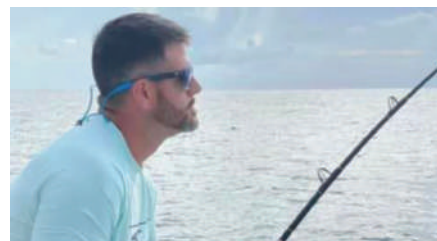
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## “IT WAS A BAD DEAL GOING IN.”

COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE MYRA GOWANS ON THE DOMINION PILOT.



**LOCAL** 7  
Missing boater's body found











**FEATURE** 9  
Chesapeake Garden Club members pose in front of Fairview Library with Branch Manager Lisa Tassa (second from left)



**COMMUNITY** 15  
Yoe Farm to be preserved.

### WEEKLY FORECAST Provided by www.accuweather.com

THU 6/23		84° /68°	Humid with a t-storm in spots
FRI 6/24		85° /68°	Humid with clouds and sun
SAT 6/25		90° /70°	Mostly sunny
SUN 6/26		91° /74°	Times of clouds and sun
MON 6/27		86° /71°	Cloudy with a t-storm or two
TUE 6/28		84° /68°	Mostly sunny and less humid
WED 6/29		83° /69°	Mainly cloudy with a t-storm
THU 6/30		85° /72°	Humid; an afternoon t-storm



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# Is Gas Plant Tax Plan Being Renegotiated?

*Hance: Yes, Vassallo: No*

By Dick Myers  
Editor

The County Times several weeks ago posed questions to county government about the Cove Point LNG PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes), including whether it was being renegotiated.

Deputy County Administrator Linda Vassallo responded: "As of June 6, 2022, there is no contract being negotiated, or re-negotiated, between BHE GT&S and Calvert County Government."

That response was included in a story in the June 16 issue. That very same night at a commissioner candidate forum at Huntingtown firehouse, Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "We've hired a professional firm to come and negotiate for us because we do not have the expertise in house to negotiate this kind of deal. I don't know anything about tax credits in the future. What I do know is we're negotiating a deal right now that's going to move us forward for whatever set period of time we negotiate in that contract. And it'll be based on the taxable assets and the value of the business that that company has today."

When it began five years ago it was known as the Dominion PILOT, after the original owner of the Cove Point Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility in Lusby. The plant is now operated by BHE GT&S, a standalone subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy, one of Warren Buffet's companies.

The PILOT has been a cash cow for Calvert County government over the last five years. The final year is expected to net \$62,785,000 to the county.

Then in Fiscal Year 2024 the company will receive 42 percent relief on real and personal property taxes for nine years. At the end of the tax relief period, the facility becomes taxable at 100 percent of its value," Vassallo told The County Times in response to the original inquiry.

Faced with the contradictory statements from the two county officials, The County Times on June 21 asked Vassallo why she had provided a misleading statement. She stood by her statement.

She said, "We hired a company to look at the value of the facility to determine

the next steps, which could include re-negotiating a PILOT, but we're not there yet."

She was asked if negotiating wasn't what the consultant does. She responded, "The first phase of the contract is to do fact finding and do analysis on the value. The contract has three terms and phase two could potentially be giving scenarios that would help us negotiate a new PILOT, but we are not at phase two yet, and I'm not sure that this company would be the one to negotiate. They're just doing the due diligence, in fact finding on it."

Vassallo was asked if Hance misspoke at the forum. She said she had not had a chance to watch it (it is on the county YouTube channel).

The other three incumbent commissioners were also at the forum and referenced the renegotiating in response to the question posed by the moderator about the PILOT.

Commissioner Mike Hart said, "I'm not going to ever criticize a past board. You don't know unless you're sitting there, what the times were. That's all in the past. But what we have had an opportunity to do is watch that negotiation, learn from it. Commissioner Hance is spot on. No one can tell you right now what that number is, because it's during negotiations. But this time there's a firm, that's what they do. And we've put it in their hands to tell us that we don't have to accept that. But we believe at this point, we've hired the proper firm to go about this."

Commissioner Chris Gadway said, "We, as a county, are going to be just fine. We've got experts working on it. They will present the findings to us. And we, as the commissioners, are already prepared to have those discussions, all the different entities in this county, including Dominion, and Cove Point will pay taxes as everyone does, as every homeowner does, as every person that buys a gallon of gas does."

Commissioner Kelly McConkey said, "I guess when the board that approved that, they probably weren't qualified to approve that deal. We know that we're not qualified to negotiate that deal either.



Deputy County Administrator Linda Vassallo



Commissioner President Buddy Hance

So that's why we hired a consultant."

At-Large commissioner candidate Myra Gowans was highly critical of the five-year PILOT. "Here's your problem. It was a bad deal going in. I've had 40 years as a business entrepreneur, and I've worked with international and national businesses. and it was a bad deal."

She added, "If you look at the PILOT plan, it should have been a 10-year plan, not a five-year plan. The assessors in the state of Maryland believe that the Dominion plant is antiquated, but that's not

true. They took everything out and rebuilt that plant and it should be assessed and appraised that way."

First District commissioner candidate Steve Jones said, "I can't speak to the negotiation when it happened. Was it good? Was it bad? I don't know, but I do know this. It did keep our taxes probably lower. At one point we had a tax increase. I believe that that tax increase may have happened again if it was not for Dominion Cove Point."

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# Scaled-Down County Building Approved

By Dick Myers  
Editor

The Calvert County Planning Commission has approved a revised conceptual site plan for the proposed new County Administration Building in Prince Frederick.

The original plan was approved on September 15, 2021. At the commission June 15 meeting Planner III Olivia Vidotto said, "This is a revised plan with the following changes from the previously approved concept site plan:

a) "Overall scope of the building was reduced by eliminating the Communications Center 'wing.'

b) "The elimination of the 'wing' allowed the proposed building location to be adjusted to maintain more of the existing parking thereby eliminating the need for the previously proposed parking lot in the wooded area on the north side of the property.

c) "Deletion of the above-mentioned parking lot reduced the amount of forest clearing and allowed for all Monumental and Specimen trees located on the property to remain."

Vidotto went on to say in her staff report, "This proposal is for a four-story, 94,000-sq.-ft. building located on Main St. in Prince Frederick that will house all the county development agencies as-

sociated with development, along with two state agencies, the Calvert County Health Department, and the Soil Conservation District. This will provide convenience for the citizens to have all these departments in one location and to be near the County and State Courthouse buildings. The building will replace the existing County Services Plaza that has been demolished. Due to the irregular shape of the parcel, the site is restricted for the location of the building to be where the existing building is currently located. The new building will be in the same location but expanded in size. This will allow the best vehicular access from Main St, maintain the existing access from the adjacent parcel to the east that has the State building, keep access to existing parking spaces on the adjacent parcel to the north, maintain most existing parking spaces on site and promote less disturbance overall.

"A connection for vehicular access is also proposed between this parcel and the adjacent parcel on the south side that is also owned by the BOCC. With the existing different access points and the proposed connection, this provides more opportunities to the buildings and parcels connected for internal traffic flow and more access points for public safety vehicles."



Revised conceptual site plan for new County Administration Building in Prince Frederick.

The new building will have 368 parking spaces, including 18 under the building, which would be largely for security of public officials, the planners were told by a representative of the county's public works department.

The new building would be 75 feet high, which required approval from the appeals board. That approval carries

forward with the new design.

The planners were not presented with a revised cost estimate for the building, although presumably the changes were done to save money in light of escalating construction costs nationwide.

The planning commission unanimously approved the revision.

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# Draft Parks and Recreation Plan Unveiled

*Public Hearing to be Scheduled*

By Dick Myers  
Editor

A draft of the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan will soon be the subject of a joint public hearing by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the planning commission. Both bodies were recently given a briefing on the plan by consultants BerryDunn and Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal.

To prepare the plan the consultants met with a focus group of 40 people and then conducted an online survey to which more than 1,000 people responded.

The online survey consisted of both by invitation and by open link, about evenly divided.

Key findings of the outreach, according to the draft plan, were:

- Living in Calvert County: Residents have a long tenure in the county with about half of respondents residing in Calvert County for 20 years or more. The largest share of Invite survey respondents reside in Chesapeake Beach (18 percent) or Huntingtown (12 percent)
- Transportation to Parks: Recreation amenities are relatively close to Invite respondents with 59% saying they travel 1-9 miles to get to recreation locations.
- Satisfaction: On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very satisfied, 58 percent of Invite respondents rated their current satisfaction with recreation amenities a 4 or 5. The average rating was 3.6, indicating some area for improvement.
- Future Needs: Important areas for improvement according to the Invite sample include trail-based recreation, nature/wildlife related recreation, and water-based recreation
- Park Usage: Invite respondents participate in more passive recreational activities such as walking, birdwatching and going to the beach. Respondents are active park users. About a quarter of Invite respondents said that they have visited active recreation parks and trails/open space 11 or more times in the past year.
- Communication: There is room for improvement to better leverage communication efforts and information dissemination about parks and recreation to further create awareness in Calvert County. On average, respondents rated communication a 3.3 on

a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very effective. Majority (70 percent) use the Activity Guide for information and would also prefer to receive information through email (along with the activity guide).

- Importance/Quality of Life: On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very important, Invite respondents rated agriculture and land preservation priorities very highly at a 4.3 or above. Trail-based recreation, wildlife/nature recreation, and water-based recreation are of high importance. For parks, recreation and trails, Invite respondents place the highest importance on maintaining current amenities followed by new trails and recreational opportunities.

According to the consultant, some of the recurring themes they heard were:

- Improve connectivity; trails, greenways, multi-use paths
- Renovate and improve existing facilities and parks; address the deferred maintenance program
- Address aging infrastructure
- Balance the rural character of the county with development of facilities and amenities
- Improve communication and outreach
- Increase natural open and green space; additional passive and informal programming
- Address the need for facilities in underserved areas
- Increase access to the water and water-based recreation
- Add artificial turf fields
- New recreation center
- Complete park development projects

Although it wasn't a high priority in the surveys, when the consultants met with stakeholders "adding turf fields" came out as the number one priority.

The plan includes multiple recommendations, one of which is: "Continue with development of the Harriet Brown Community Center with consideration of adding a gymnasium, fitness room, and other community needs as identified through the community engagement process."

The BOCC recently removed \$6 million from the budget that had been earmarked for the center.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

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# Body of Missing Boater Found

*Boat discovered off of Dares Beach*

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Sixth months after Ernie Sigmon III went missing from his boat in the Patuxent River his body was found in Dorchester County Monday.

Sigmon was a Mechanicsville resident and his disappearance triggered a massive effort to search for him from both law enforcement and volunteers.

Maryland National Resources Police say they are still investigating Sigmon's death.

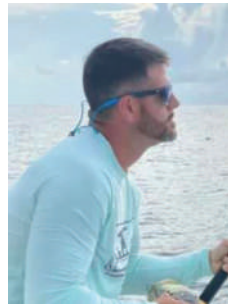
"After conducting a six-month investigation that involved underwater imaging sonar technology, authorities recovered... [Sigmon] on June 20 at approximately 11a.m.," the statement reads. "Officers were alerted after receiving a phone call from a concerned citizen who stated they found the victim deceased in the Choptank River in Dorchester County."

Sigmon's father, Ernest Sigmon Jr. offered a prepared statement from the family regarding the discovery of his son.

Back in December, searchers investigated Sigmon's last known position, which appeared to be off the shore of Calvert County.

His 25-foot center console boat was found trolling in the waters off of Dares Beach, the family's Facebook page stated, but he was not there and no blood was found on the boat, they said.

"After 173 days of this unimaginable tragedy, God has brought Ernie home to



Ernie Sigmon III

us," the father wrote. "Our hope, faith, and strength has never been so extensively tested.

"Each and every day, we feel such a tremendous loss deep in our hearts. Ernie is so much more than a father, son,

brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, friend, boss, mentor; he was the one who supported so many of us to be the best version of ourselves."

The family was giving up hope they would ever find answers about Sigmon's disappearance

"Just when our hope and patience were waning, God answered our prayers to bring Ernie home," Sigmon's father wrote. "Our entire family is so thankful for your ideas and knowledge which helped us make great strides.

"We are thankful for your posts, in general, which helped us find the positives to push forward. Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and supporting efforts in bringing Ernie home. We will never be able to fully show our gratitude to each and every one of you that helped bring Ernie home. Thank you for the support."

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

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# CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of June 6, 2022 – June 12, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,472 calls for service throughout the community.

## Damaged Property: 22-32435

On June 6, 2022, Deputy Wilson responded to the 11500 block of Ventura Trail in Lusby, MD for the report of property destruction to a vehicle. The complainant advised sometime between June 5 and 7 a.m. on June 6, unknown suspect (s) attempted to gain entry to a vehicle using a pry tool, leaving a dent and scratches on the window panel. The estimated value of damaged property is \$75.00.

## Damaged Property: 22-33047

On June 9, 2022, Deputy Contic responded to the Shell Gas Station located at 11550 HG Trueman Road in Lusby, MD for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between 8:30 p.m. on June 8 and 8:30 a.m. on June 9, unknown suspect (s) spray painted several vehicles awaiting maintenance in the lot. The estimated value of the damaged property is unknown at this time.

## Damaged Property: 22-33136

On June 9, 2022, Deputy Hen-

drickson responded to the 13700 block of Olivet Road in Lusby, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) cut down four trees recently planted on the victim's property. The value of damaged property is \$500.00.

## Damaged Property: 22-33445

On June 10, 2022, DFC Ostzeski responded to the 11500 block of Deadwood Drive in Lusby, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised he heard a loud popping noise and glass breaking. The homeowner discovered his front window had been shattered and a rock laying on the ground nearby. The value of the damaged property is \$300.00.

## Theft: 22-32409

On June 6, 2022, DFC R. Evans responded to the Solomons Yacht Club located at 14604 S. Solomons Island Road in Solomons, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a sump pump had been stolen from the property. The estimated value of stolen property is \$2,500.00.

## Theft: 22-32710

On June 7, 2022, Cpl. Jacobs responded to the 11100 block of Prancer Court in Lusby, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) stole the registration plate from a trailer parked at the residence. The value of the stolen property is \$100.00.

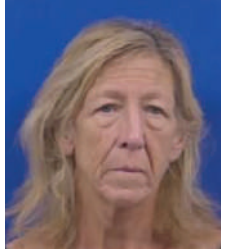
## Theft: 22-33313

On June 10, 2022, DFC Gilmore received a report of a theft. The complainant advised a wallet and its contents were stolen from his unlocked vehicle in the 3800 block of 27th Street in Chesapeake Beach, MD. The wallet is described as a black Dickies brand tri-fold and contained \$100 in US currency, a GameStop gift card, two debit cards, and a Maryland Driver's License. The approximate value of stolen property is \$150.00.

## ARRESTS

On June 10, 2022, Deputy T. Bowen responded to Calver-

tHealth Medical Center located at 100 Hospital Road in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of a disorderly subject in the emergency room. Contact was made with the complainant who advised, that **Catherine Collins Riley**, 59 of North Beach, MD, was harassing patients in the waiting room and acting belligerent. Riley was advised multiple times to leave the property. Riley failed to obey hospital staff and deputies' commands and attempted to reenter the hospital. Riley was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Trespassing: Private Property and Disorderly Conduct.



Catherine Riley

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

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# Calvert's Green Thumbs Transform Fairview Library

## Chesapeake Garden Club Project Since 2014

By Dick Myers  
Editor

Thousands of cars go streaming by it every workday, heading south on their way home from work in the DC area. The Fairview Branch of Calvert Library sits close to the southbound lanes of Route 4 just before the Chaneyville Road intersection.

For many people who take the time to glance over at the library, it can bring smiles to their faces after that long commute. The library is surrounded by the handiwork of the Chesapeake Garden Club. It's been a close partnership between the club and the library.

"We first started with that rear bed in the back. One of our members noticed that it needed some assistance. And so, in 2014 we diagrammed what plants we would want in there," said Kay Parris, chair of the club's ongoing library project.

Parris met with Fairview Branch Manager Lisa Tassa and county representatives to forge the cooperative effort that has lasted since then.

The club's ongoing work at the library earlier this year earned the grounds the prestigious Bay-Wise certification. According to a press release issued on the occasion of the certification, "Bay-Wise is a program sponsored by the University of Maryland Extension that helps to educate homeowners on gardening practices that protect the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay-Wise program would like to encourage sustainable management practices in yards and gardens, that will help improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay."

The club first planted Maryland natives in some of the areas around the building. and then, Parris said, "We noticed that the front garden needed attention. So, we put a pollinator garden in there, took out a lot of weeds and things and trimmed back the shrubs."

According to the press release, "Over the years additional gardens were added, including shade and pollinator. Club members meet regularly to tend the areas, making sure they do not over fertilize while using environmental techniques to create a natural habitat for frogs, dragon flies, butterflies, bees, bunnies and even a much-maligned resident snake!

"The gardens are filled with hydrangeas, ferns, hostas, native Black-Eyed Susans, winterberry, prim roses, coneflowers, coralbells, larkspur, and more. Many plants and cuttings come from the Club Members' gardens.

"The yardstick' is used to measure how a yard or area meets criteria for Bay-friendly gardening practices. Areas of focus include:

- "encourage wildlife
- "protect the waterfront
- "mow properly/water efficiently
- "mulch appropriately
- "manage yard pests with integrated pest management
- "plant wisely
- "fertilize wisely
- "include native plants
- "recycle yard waste."

"To qualify for the Bay-Wise Certification, Master Gardeners visit and rate the areas using the 'yardstick' method of points."

The Chesapeake Garden Club has been around since 1958. Their theme is "Friends":

"Friends are the flowers in the garden of life.

"Friends to the Bay

"Friends to the greater environment

"And especially to each other."

Since its founding, club public relations director Judy MacWilliams said, "It has evolved just like women's roles have evolved."

The club joined the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland in 1960. MacWilliams said, "The federation and the clubs have evolved so that they do flower arranging. They have coursework in landscaping. They have coursework in various other areas. We do flower shows. Occasionally we travel and visit nurseries."

She added, "We're learning about agriculture. We're learning about food production and also we're active gardeners, most of us, so that we're always looking for a special plant for our yards or our properties."

Club Vice President Jackie Smith said, "We're a service to the community too. We go to the senior centers and have garden therapy where they sign up and we bring all the flowers and containers, and we teach the people there."

Smith noted, "We work with a lot of the handicapped that are at Calvert Pines Senior Center. We do it in the fall and the lady in charge, Pearl, enters all their things in the fair and they each get a ribbon and they're so proud of their ribbons."

At Christmas the club makes flower arrangements and delivers them to nursing homes.

The club also has an annual plant sale on the Fairview Library grounds. This year 15 new library patrons signed up that day.

The garden club is partners with and contributes to Battle Creek Cyprus Swamp, Calvert County Public Libraries, Calvert Hospice, Hammond Harwood House, Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, Jefferson Patterson Park, Sotterley Plantation, Penny Pines (patriotic garden) and Tawes Garden.

Many of the club members are Master Gardeners. Club Treasurer



(l to r), Chesapeake Garden Club VP Jackie Smith, Fairview Library Branch Manager Lisa Tassa, and Kay Parris, Sharon Sherbert, JoAnn Murianka and Judy MacWilliams.

JoAnn Murianka is a first-year intern. In addition to doing course work (she did it online), "Your first year, you're required to do 40 hours of volunteer work for the master gardeners.

The club members learn from each other. MacWilliams said, "The reason I got involved is after I retired, I'd always wanted to know more. And this has really been an eye-opening experience for me because I'm still very much a novice and these ladies are experts. I can take a question to Kay, or Jackie or JoAnn and say, what do I do to bring this plant back to life? And they'll tell me, and it works."

She added, "We're very open also to sharing. Every time somebody has an excess of plants in their yard, they'll send out an email and say, 'I have tons of irises to give away.'"

Tassa said of the long-time partnership with the garden club, "It's wonderful. The partnership has been just truly great for all of us."

She added, "Just the ideas, the creativity, the color that they bring, the different plants that they've brought, and customers see that, and they complement us on it."

Tassa added, "Everyone's complimented how Fairview has a very homey environment to begin with. So, this just adds to everything that we've maintained and that just accents and just brings people in.

"They can see it from Route 4. All the red tulips, all the colors in the front."

The Chesapeake Garden Club members are Calvert County's green thumbs.

MacWilliams said, "I have a friend who loves plants, but she says, when she brings her dying plants over to me, I can sometimes rejuvenate

them. And it's just simply a matter of caring, know when to give them water and the sun." And she said she talks to them too.

Smith explained, "My dad had four acres of a vegetable garden. He used to give away bushels of tomatoes. He just loved to garden. My mom always had flower beds all around the house from the time I was young. And so, I learned about different flowers, perennials and things like that, because I grew up with it."

Parris said, "My family gardened, but my father was from Saskatchewan. He was a farmer. So, I learned to appreciate what he was doing and the hard work, but my mother liked to have flowers in the house, but in turn, my daughter and my granddaughters are now learning, and enjoying gardening as part of their lifestyle."

The club's flower show chairperson Sharon Sherbert said, "I guess I'm one of those people that Judy was talking about, that kills plants, and I could never do anything."

She added, "Now that I'm in the garden club, I'm doing so much better and I'm learning, and I read a lot about them, and I research. So, I'm getting there."

Murianka said, "I too came from a family of farmers. But I must say when I was little having to go out to the garden and pick bean beetles and all these creepy crawly things, because my parents didn't use pesticides, it wasn't until I got older that I really got more of an interest in gardening.

"It's an ongoing process and I'm learning something new all the time. I'm not so sure my thumb is green yet, but it's getting there. It's a shade of lime."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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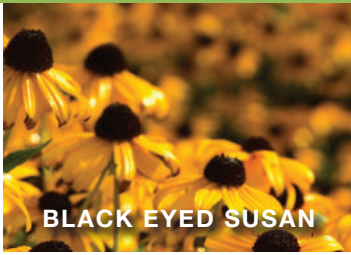
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**A  
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# CALVERT COUNTY PRIMARY VOTERS

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ GUIDE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**KONTRA**



**McDOWELL**



**Cox**



**WILSON**



**SHERIFF AND BOARD OF  
EDUCATION CANDIDATES INSIDE**



# BOARD OF EDUCATION RESPOND TO K



Scott Devine



Lisa Grenis



Tracy McGuire



Joseph Marchio



Jana Post

## **IF YOU WERE A TEACHER, WHAT GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE THE CURRENT SCHOOL BOARD FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR?**

### **SCOTT DEVINE**

I would give the current BOE a F, as they failed the students in CCPS! Only one board member had a child that attends the school system and the other voted on issues that NEGATIVELY effects the students.

### **LISA GRENIS**

As the only candidate who was a teacher, I can comfortably give this school board a failing grade. When our students needed consistency and a return to normalcy, this Board gave us disarray and mandates. When asked to eliminate the ten-speaker limit at board meetings, this Board refused. They even refused to increase it to fifteen. This is unacceptable from our elected officials. Trust must be restored among the community, county commissioners, superintendent, and the Board of Education.

### **TRACY MCGUIRE**

B

### **JOSEPH MARCHIO**

D - This year, the current board has been slow to act on many issues, never leading from the front. They have passed empty policies and proclamations that are nothing more than word salad. The empty policies of zero tolerance directly attribute to the discipline problems that jeopardize the safety of teachers and students. The board has mismanaged the budget; it had record surplus, yet asked

the Commissioners for more money without substantial justification. Yet, the money never seems to make its way to teachers and critical items needed to make actual improvements.

### **JANA POST**

If I were a teacher, I would give Dr. Curry a failing grade due to improper planning to re-open schools, ignoring input from teachers and lack of proper support for discipline.

If I were a teacher, I would also give the BOE a failing grade due to the negativity toward parents and community members, lack of transparency and the times in which teachers can attend afternoon meetings because many are still working at 3:30pm.

### **DAMIEN LEE VILLANOVA**

I would have to give the current school board an F, for failing to hear the voices of the majority parents and guardians of Calvert county public school system. There were numerous times that the parents and guardians of students that attend Calvert County public school systems wanted to have their voices heard and on several occasions it was ignored. Case in point the removal of the ten person speaking rule being able to speak at the board of education meetings, That rule is still in place.

## **WHAT DO TO THINK OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY, AND SHOULD IT BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOL?**

### **SCOTT DEVINE**

Critical Race Theory(CRT) by far is one of the most radical, Marxist and racist ideologies that is in the current curricu-

lum in CCPS. Additionally, Curry recommends books and supports/ mandates teacher training based on this Marxist ideology which uses stereotyping terms like "white privilege" to generalize folks by skin color regardless of circumstances. This kind of stereotyping and labeling are hallmarks of "CRT"!

I am against CRT and will vote in favor of its removal from CCPS!

### **LISA GRENIS**

Schools are a place for learning and thinking, not ideological conditioning. Critical Race Theory should not be taught in schools.

### **TRACY MCGUIRE**

I think Critical Race Theory is a practice of interrogating the role of race and racism in society, specifically in legal scholarship. No.

### **JOSEPH MARCHIO**

Any time in history where people are placed into specific boxes based, or deemed oppressors or oppressed based on immutable characteristics, the results have been negative. CRT encourages a victim mindset and encourages people to make judgements about other people based on skin color and other immutable characteristics, which is wrong. CRT at its core challenges meritocracy, neutrality, color-blindness and objectivity, rejects the multicultural paradigm of our society and prefers a Marcus Garvey approach of "race first." I do not agree with teaching CRT in our schools.

### **JANA POST**

Critical Race Theory classes (including CRT pedagogy) should be reserved for higher education and do not belong in

primary and secondary education classes.

### **DAMIEN LEE VILLANOVA**

Critical race theory is a derivative of Critical theory, which is a derivative of Marxism- Karl Marx, writer of the Communist Manifesto. His original economic theories of the oppressed and oppressor has since been ascribed to race as of the 1960s- Critical Race Theory. This theory delves into separating humanity from ethnicity. My perspective on CRT is it creates division and the K-12 environment should not be a place where this is taught nor imposed.

## **SOME TEACHERS SAY DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS HAS GOTTEN OUT OF HAND. ARE THEY RIGHT AND IF SO, WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?**

### **SCOTT DEVINE**

I totally agree with the teachers that there is minimal discipline in schools! Administrators do not support teachers when it comes to disruptive and disrespectful students. Additionally, they don't want acknowledge the issues ie; drug use, fights, bullying and disruption in the classroom as they don't want those negative stats and want things to seem perfect.

As a BOE member I would hold the superintendent accountable for school level administrators failure to support teachers regarding student discipline. Leadership starts at the top and if the superintendent isn't held accountable, they won't hold the principal accountable.

### **LISA GRENIS**

The BOE has failed to create and follow through with a structured and fair disci-

# ATION CANDIDATES

# KEY QUESTIONS



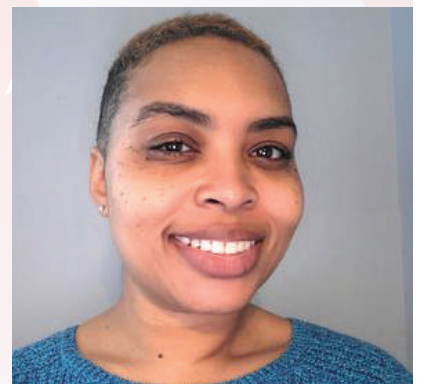
**Damien Lee Villanova**



**Scott Fowler**



**Christina "Tina" Hall**



**Camille T. Khaleesi**

pline policy. When teachers don't have the support from their administrator to address disruptive students, students cannot learn. Current policy prioritizes the rights of disruptive students over others. Schools are pitted against each other to achieve low behavior metrics. This results in schools underreporting problematic behaviors and encourages principals to sweep behaviors under the rug instead of addressing each child's needs and matching them with appropriate interventions. We should applaud leadership that focuses on students' best interest, and not punish schools for reporting and addressing discipline.

**TRACY MCGUIRE**

Yes, I am sure the teachers are right. When students struggle to meet a teacher's classroom expectations for deportment school administrators and student services teams need to intervene so students learn to exercise self control and adopt appropriate classroom behaviors.

**JOSEPH MARCHIO**

After listening to several teachers' first-hand accounts of disciplinary issues, the only honest answer is "yes." To combat this, the parents and school system need to work together. Parents need to teach their children proper behavior. The school needs to enforce an ACTUAL zero tolerance policy with real consequences for violations. There have been multiple instances of fights where both students return to class together before the end of the period. That is unacceptable. Real consequences need to be implemented and enforced. If parents are disrupted by the consequences they will be more likely to fix the behavior.

**JANA POST**

The ability to discipline has become very limited and I agree with teachers when they say that things have gotten out of hand. At the local level, we can ensure our discipline policies and procedures are easy to follow and adhered to consistently. As a BOE member, I can also advocate at the state level for changes in legislation and policy.

**DAMIEN LEE VILLANOVA**

I support the teachers. I believe whenever you have a group of young people for a long period of time, they will become rambunctious. I am a huge believer that discipline begins at home and as engaged parents, our responsibility is to train our children upright.. I do understand that all kids have bad days and good days but on those bad days I do strongly believe that kids should be disciplined equal to the bad behavior. I am afraid if we do not discipline our children when bad, we miss the opportunity to correct children, foundational character building of knowing right from wrong. By ignoring the behavior we not only condone but instill that behavior.

**CAN ANYTHING MORE BE DONE TO ENSURE SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOLS?**

**SCOTT DEVINE**

I am for safety and security in our schools and to ensure the students and staff are in a safe environment!  
Northern, Huntingtown and Patuxent high schools have two Safety Advocates. Calvert HS has three.  
If you are not aware, there is a-lot of drug use, unreported fights and bullying going on in our schools, specifically high

schools. Believe or not, drug use is occurring in our middle schools and they have no full time Safety Advocates assigned.

I will work hard to to have four Safety Advocates assigned to all four high schools and one full time Safety Advocate assigned to each middle school.

**LISA GRENIS**

We cannot become complacent with school safety. Every school in Calvert County should have a trained and armed school resource officer to ensure the safety and security of our students and staff. Every school should have a surveillance and alarm system capable of tracking an intruder. Additionally, there should be no stigma associated with schools documenting dangerous behavior. It is a valuable tool that allows schools to address the behavior before it escalates to a school-wide safety event.

**TRACY MCGUIRE**

Yes. More mental health services in school for staff and students, Be SMART gun safety initiatives, online safety instruction at all grade levels, social and emotional learning, community mediation, restorative justice, and outdoor activities (recess) for all.

**JOSEPH MARCHIO**

Yes: Provide all schools with a full-time armed School Resource Officers  
Ensure that all schools have a single controlled access point, while having multiple emergency exits.  
Institute and enforce a zero tolerance policy for bad behavior, including bullying and threats.  
This year, a Calvert County student made a threat against the school, but was in school the next day as it was deemed

the student wasn't serious. That is unacceptable, words matter. The student should have been suspended or spent at least one day out of school.

**JANA POST**

Yes, dedicated SROs at every school. Effective and consistent discipline. Adequate staffing, resources, and support for School Psychologists, Behavioral Specialists, and other staff.

**DAMIEN LEE VILLANOVA**

One way we can ensure the safety of our schools is to fully staff each school within Calvert County public school system with a uniformed County Sheriff. My belief is that having a law-enforcement presence would substantially decrease the odds of wrong-doing- especially something illegal.

Candidates Scott Fowler, Christina "Tina" Hall, and Camille T. Khaleesi did not respond to the request for answers to the four questions.

*Editor's Note: Candidates were asked to confine their answers to each question to 100 words. Answers that did not were edited.*



# REPUBLICAN SHERIFF'S CANDIDATES



Ricky Cox



Craig Kontra



Dave McDowell



Mike Wilson

## WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, DO YOU FEEL NEED TO BE AFFECTED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE?

### RICKY COX

First and foremost, as Sheriff, I will get away from stats/numbers for patrol Deputies to improve teamwork. The current system is based on a point system, and I want quality police work over quantity. This will improve the judicial process and better for prosecution for the State's Attorney's Office. Secondly, I want to build strong community relationships with our citizens and community leaders. Community policing will be policing under my command. Thirdly, I will implement more training for Sheriff Deputies and the people of our community. Having an internal training unit is the key to success. Last, introducing grant funded healthcare programs for Sheriff's Office employees. This will include mental health, nutrition, substance abuse and marriage counseling.

### CRAIG KONTRA

I do not intend to make any immediate changes. However, I do intend to evaluate each bureau within the Sheriff's Office to determine where and how our manpower can be better utilized. I have several focal points that I believe are key to a more efficient and effective Sheriff's Office. Those focal points will be the mental health and welfare of the men and women of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, adequately staffing our Patrol Bureau, adequately staffing our Drug Enforcement Unit and getting a School Resource Officer into every school.

### DAVE MCDOWELL

We do a lot of things right, which is evidenced by the low crime rate we enjoy in our county. There are areas where we can refocus and have a greater impact on the community. We must work together with our community to ensure that there is trust and accountability in everything we do. We must have a sustained presence in our schools with the goal of having a deputy assigned to every school in the county. We must take a 360-degree approach to the drug epidemic. We will use data to identify those areas of the county with the highest rates of crashes and we will utilize education and enforcement to reduce the number of crashes.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE POLICE REFORM MOVEMENT IN MARYLAND AND THE MAKEUP OF THE LOCAL POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD?

### RICKY COX

I have always been in favor some form of a Citizen Advisory Board. The police accountability board takes it a step further. I attended many of the public forums leading up to the eventual formation of the board. The board is going to have a big responsibility. I plan to work with them in as productive a manner as possible. I think there are going to be some growing pains that are going to be addressed and worked through. I will offer as much training and communication with the board to ensure they are making the most informed decisions

### CRAIG KONTRA

Regardless of what I think, the Police Accountability Board will become law effective July 1, 2022. As a sworn law enforcement official, I'm bound to enforce the Maryland law. Due to the haste in which this law is being put into place, Calvert County's board members have not been selected as of this writing. With that said, I hope to work with the accountability board, to develop a solid working relationship. I would be a huge proponent of the accountability board members attending a citizen's academy. My ultimate goal will be for them to realize our deputies are friendly and unbiased.

### DAVE MCDOWELL

The Police Accountability Board has the potential to be a benefit to both the citizens and to the Sheriff's Office as it provides a voice to our citizens regarding policing matters. I believe it is crucial that we develop a strong working relationship with the Board that is built on mutual respect. The PAB and the Administrative Charging Committee will have a major role in the disciplinary process for our deputies. We should work together to ensure a fair process for both the citizens and the deputies.

## WHAT SHOULD THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE'S ROLE BE IN SCHOOL SAFETY?

### RICKY COX

I think my record shows I believe children should be a priority. I will do everything I can to ensure there is a deputy in every school. I will ensure our deputies

make regular visits to all schools including private schools in our county. I have personally conducted active shooter drills in almost every school. There is no reason we do not have the blueprints, or an electronic file in our office in case of an emergency. I have an inside view of how those things really happen. We need a better relationship with each school and with the school board itself. Every deputy should do a walk down of each school on a regular basis.

### CRAIG KONTRA

The Sheriff's Office Role in school safety is paramount. This is why I'm such an advocate for staffing every school with a School Resource Officer. A School Resource Officer is so much more than a friend, teacher, role model or mentor. They are now the very first line of defense to protect our children, teachers and staff against active shooter incidents.

### DAVE MCDOWELL

School safety is the entire community's responsibility, but there are certain aspects where the Sheriff's Office should play a major role. As Sheriff, I will work with both the community and the Board of Education to provide whatever resources are necessary to protect our children. I will advocate to have a deputy assigned to every school in the county. We will continue to utilize threat assessments to identify, investigate, and evaluate persons of concern who have exhibited behaviors consistent with potential for violence and identify the appropriate interventions for them. This is an important step in preventing an incident before it occurs. We will also provide security and training recommendations so that school personnel are prepared as well.

## WHAT SHOULD THE RELATIONSHIP BE BETWEEN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE STATE POLICE AND HOW SHOULD THE RESPONSIBILITIES BE DIVIDED?

### RICKY COX

This relationship needs to be better than where it is today. As, Sheriff I will work with the barrack commander to work together as one team. This approach will give both agencies a safer working environment and provide the best service to our community. I feel that Maryland State Police and our traffic unit can work towards traffic safety on our roadways. This will free up the

road Deputy to work in the neighborhoods and business communities. The goal is to improve community relations and protect property while you are not at home.

### CRAIG KONTRA

The relationship between the Sheriff's Office and Maryland State Police should be a conjoined working relationship. In the past, the Sheriff's Office teamed with the Maryland State Police and the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office to form an elite investigative team that was known as the "Calvert Investigative Team". That team was second to none. I would be a strong advocate to bring that team and working relationship back to the Sheriff's Office. Police agencies are always better when they have a solid working relationship and information sharing process.

### DAVE MCDOWELL

The Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police have a long tradition of working well together in Calvert County and that will continue. The Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency in the county handling everything from patrol services and criminal investigations to the service of civil process and court security. Both agencies handle both emergency and non-emergency calls for service in the county, utilizing established protocols. For large events such as the annual Fourth of July celebrations, both agencies work together and provide staffing. When the Sheriff's Office holds large training exercises such as an active shooter drill, MSP troopers are always invited to participate as they are likely to respond alongside deputies during an actual event.

Candidate Mike Wilson did not respond to the request for answers to the questions.

Editor's Note: Candidates were asked to confine their answers to each question to 100 words. Answers that did not were edited.



# Calvert NAACP Celebrates Juneteenth

Community Day Held at Jefferson Patterson Park



Calvert County NAACP Youth Division President Gayle Henderson presents award to outgoing Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Curry



Maryland Veterans Secretary George Owings presents proclamation from the governor to Glenn Mason of Gray Ray Post 220 for their 75th anniversary



Commissioner President Buddy Hance presents Juneteenth proclamation to Calvert NAACP President Michael Kent



Maia Dixon performs during talent contest

# Poster Content Finalists Present Art to CalvertHealth



(left to right) Chief Nursing Officer/VP Clinical Affairs Diane Couchman, CalvertHealth; Maria Lendacky, Art Teacher at Sunderland Elementary School; Noelle Harrell, rising third grader, CCPS; Lilah Flores, rising 6th grader, CCPS; Christie Cook, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts, CCPS; and Kasia Sweeney, VP of Strategy & Business Development at CalvertHealth.

Earlier this year, the Office of the Governor of Maryland and the Maryland State Department of Education presented the 2022 Governor's Healthcare Heroes Poster Competition for Maryland school students in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. The competition encouraged Maryland students to submit poster designs that depicted the theme "Celebrating Maryland's Healthcare Heroes."

A total of 131 schools from 18 local education districts participated in the competition. On June 15, the two Calvert County finalists for the 2022 Governor's Healthcare Hero Poster Contest presented the health system with their artwork, which will be proudly displayed in the medical center.

*Press Release from CalvertHealth*

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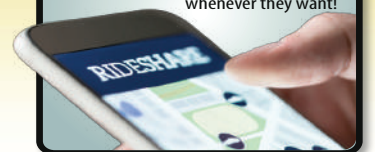
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# Letters to the Editor

## R-rated Northern High Homecoming Dances

*The following was read at the May 17 Calvert County Commissioners' meeting:*

This is a summation of the letter I sent to Dr. Curry, Ms. Tracy McGuire President of the Board of Ed, the four parent chaperones and the concerned parent on June 6, 2016 regarding the 2015 Homecoming Dance. Parents need to know what behavior is TOLERATED at the Homecoming Dances at NHS.

I volunteered to chaperone the 2015 NHS Homecoming dance on Saturday, October 17 because I had confirmed from students and parents that sex had occurred in the "middle" of the dance floor at the 2014 Homecoming Dance. It's called the "inner circle" where the boy and girl have sex in the middle of the dance floor while the other students tightly encircle them, standing hip to hip, with arms stretched out and around the person's waist, blocking the view.

A group of parents decided to become chaperones at the 2015 dance but were not welcome by the administration. We had to force the issue to become chaperones. We met with the administration in advance and voiced our concerns about what had taken place at the previous Homecoming dance and Assured this type of behavior would not be tolerated.

This is what I witnessed at the NHS Homecoming dance. The boys line-up behind the girls, making bodily contact from the chest down, groin to buttocks, and both the boys and the girls gyrate back and forth massaging the girls' buttocks and the boys' groin area, into each other. The girls often bend over at the waist, with palms flat on the floor, buttocks in the air, while the boys hold them by their hips, and the boys continue to gyrate into the girl's buttocks, while the girls move their buttocks, in a circling

motion, into the boys' groin. Several girls were bent over from the waist, palms flat on floor and buttocks in the air- massaging other girls' buttocks, bumping back and forth. A girl was bending over from the waist, palms on the floor, while her dress cascaded over her torso, bare buttocks in the air, the boy's hands are on waist and the thrusting ensues, her facial expression tells all. The freshman girls are giggling because the boys are having "accidents" in their pants. There's a couple standing in front of the DJ, the boy is lined up behind the girl, groin to buttocks. The boy and the girl gyrate back and forth; she's moving, circling her buttocks into his groin. The boy looks to be having an orgasm, his face points towards the ceiling mouth wide open, as he gropes her breast. I turn my head to find a young girl standing with her dress hoisted so high her black panties are visible. I look elsewhere and see five students dancing together, bodily contact, from chest to private area: two girls, one boy and two girls. I turn my head and find three girls dancing, making bodily contact. They looked glued together. While all this was taking place, there is a fog machine, blasting out fog onto the dance floor, limiting visibility.

The principal had stated earlier, "if inappropriate dancing ensued, he would turn off the music, make an announcement and if it gets really out of control, turn on the lights". All of the above happened, but the music never stopped and lights were never turned on. The students attending the Homecoming dance were minors: 13-18 years of age or older.

We have learned from sources that this still occurs regularly at the Homecoming dances and possibly at other schools in the county.

*Beth M. Bubser  
Dunkirk*

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## A View From The BLEACHERS



### IF CAL RIPKEN JR HAD A PODCAST

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.  
Contributing Writer

Tim is an eccentric. He is bombastic, enjoys music and likes to dance. Many good times have been shared with Tim. There were little league games, high school parties and several seasons of rec league softball. He's been your wing man at sporting events and a member of your foursome during rare trips around the links. With a shared circle of friends, he's turned up at bachelor parties, baby showers and barbecues over the years. Tim is, by all accounts, your friend. He has enriched in your life at several stages and in various capacities. And if you needed something – a couple eggs, a cup of flour or a beer - Tim would deliver with a smile, no questions asked.

But your relationship with Tim is challenged. He can be arrogant and self-centered, and isn't above a shameful remark about various demographics other than his own. With an unspoken understanding of irreconcilable differences, politics are an uncommon topic. Tim's smartphone is dangerous territory for wholesome souls and immaturity is a personality trait he pridefully maintains.

The specific details vary, but everyone has a "Tim": that imperfect soul who is best seen in small doses (so as to create needed breathers from his unbecoming traits).

As a child of the 80s and a long-time Maryland resident, Cal Ripken Jr. is the most significant baseball player in my life. Between my ninth and twenty-ninth birthdays, Ripken won the Rookie of the Year, the World Series, two MVPs, eight Silver Slugger awards and two Gold Gloves. He amassed over 3,000 hits and 400 home runs, and in 1995 broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played. His life-size "Drink Milk" poster hung on my wall. He hit a game-winning home run during my eighth-grade class trip to Memorial Stadium. Years later, I was at Camden Yards when he tied Gehrig's record. I watched thousands of his at bats on Home Team Sports and only my death will separate me from his rookie cards.

Then there's the grander-than-fiction/beyond imagination stuff: Ripken grew up in Aberdeen, Maryland, suited up for his hometown Baltimore Orioles, and

played part of his career for his dad and with his little brother. It was a little league story taking place at the major league level. But the most impressive chapter in Ripken's fairy tale? He built and maintained one of the most impeccable reputations in professional sports history – a true icon on and off the diamond.

The world's "Tim's," human flaws, and today's unfiltered communication and social media scoundrels, beg the question: would Cal Ripken Jr. be possible today? Launch Ripken's career 40 years into the future. Now he's a 22-year-old charismatic phenom winning Rookie of the Year in 2022, not 1982. The Orioles would expect him to maintain an active social media presence. His every public move would be captured on fan video. And he would have one of MLB's most popular podcasts.

Try as he might, there would be missteps – a regretful video here, an impulsive response to a social media troll there. The social interaction filter applied to make "Tim" tolerable wouldn't be available to Ripken; fame leaves few hiding places. Not that Ripken ever had such regrettable traits as our hypothetical "Tim," but it would be naive to think Ripken's impeccable image was absolute reality. Imperfection is an innate human trait, and character destruction and chaos are preferred today to character building and order. Moreover, with everyone wielding a smartphone, and masquerading journalists/click-bait chefs whipping up salacious nonsense, today's social environment leaves no reputation unscathed – fair or not.

The result: a modern-day Cal Ripken Jr. experience, even assuming the identical baseball accomplishments, would be decidedly different. Ripken's character would likely not be as irreproachable (how could it be?). But the greater consequence would be his predictable self-preserving retreat to only the bare minimum of carefully choreographed public interaction, an act that would deprive Baltimore and its fans of the unique, intimate relationship they had, and still have, with him.

What if Cal Ripken Jr. had a podcast during his playing days? I'm glad he didn't.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

## County Agencies Partner for Maritime Event

The Arts Council of Calvert County and the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) will sponsor a Maritime Art & Artifacts event to celebrate the treasures of the Chesapeake Bay region.

The art show will be held at CMM in Solomons on July 1st through July 3rd from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily and is included with museum admission.

Explore first-hand the maritime culture and natural history of the Chesapeake Bay through artistic interpretations and specific examples of marine life for all ages.

"We are excited to sponsor this unique event with the Calvert Marine Museum and encourage young and old to come enjoy and experience first-hand the artwork of local artists and maritime culture and history," stated Joe Davis, Executive Director of the Arts Council.

Weather permitting, local artists may choose to set up an easel to paint or draw on-site and visi-



tors will have the opportunity to purchase certain pieces of art.

Additionally, experience all the museum exhibits, including indoor and outdoor habitats for the North American river otter, indoor aquarium exhibits, the in-depth Maritime History Gallery, as well as, the Treasures from the Cliffs paleontology gallery.

*Press Release from Calvert Marine Museum*

## Ashland Craft to Open for Brothers Osborne

*To Perform at PNC Waterside Pavilion*

South Carolina native Ashland Craft will open for Brothers Osborne at the Calvert Marine Museum's PNC Waterside Pavilion on Saturday, July 16 at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com)!

Ashland Craft's strong, personal songwriting is rapidly earning a dedicated fanbase with the release of her 2021 debut album, *Travelin' Kind*. "There's a new country badass in town, and her name is Ashland Craft," hails American Songwriter. Her soulful country voice helped catapult her to the Top 10 on NBC's *The Voice* and the stages of Zac Brown Band, Luke Combs, Morgan Wallen, Ashley McBryde, and currently Brothers Osborne. Craft has also notched major collaborations with Brothers Osborne on *HiXTAPE: Vol. 2* and *HARDY*'s acclaimed project, *A Rock*.

Proceeds from the Waterside Music Series support the education and preservation efforts of the Calvert Marine Museum. This event would not be possible without the generous support of the community and many local busi-

nesses. Sponsors include: Prince Frederick Ford Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, PNC Bank, O'Brien Realty, Bozick Distributors, Inc., Bay Weekly, Sunshines Catering, Equity Resources, Inc., Solomons Inn Resort and Marina, 102.9 WKIK, SOMAR Communications, Quick Connections, Isaac's Restaurant, Asbury-Solomons, The BayNet, Directmail.com, Spalding Consulting, Inc., Certified Carpet and Airduct Cleaning, News Orleans by Myra, J Calvin Wood, Calvert Health, City Wide Mechanical, Southern Maryland - This is Living, Quality Built Homes, Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, Southern Maryland Newspapers, and Chick-fil-A - First Colony Center. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Director of Development Bonnie Barrett at 410-326-2042, ext. 8065.

Gates open at 5 p.m. with food and beverages for sale on-site. Chairs and coolers are not permitted. For additional information, please visit the website at [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com).

*Press Release from CMM*

# Calvert Community Calendar

To submit your event listing to go in our Community Calendar, please email [timescalendar@countytimes.net](mailto:timescalendar@countytimes.net) with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

## Thursday June 23

### Little Minnows

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

This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult, are invited to join us for story time and a craft you can do on-site or take home, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Chesapeake ABC!

## Friday, June 24

### Dee of St. Mary's Sunset Sail

Calvert Marine Museum  
6-8 p.m., (adults only)

Join us on a 2-hour evening sail aboard the historic vessel Dee of St. Mary's, and experience the Patuxent River aboard an iconic Chesapeake Bay Skipjack. Guests will have an opportunity to help raise and lower the sail. This Friday evening cruise is for adults-only, and you are welcome to BYOB. Capacity allows for 30 guests. If there is inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$45 per person. To register visit: Dee of St. Mary's Cruises | Calvert Marine Museum, MD - Official Website

### "Extremities" Performance

Long Beach Community Center  
5845 Calvert Blvd.,  
St. Leonard, 7 p.m.

From its explosive beginning to its unnerving end, this psychological thriller is simultaneously intriguing and profoundly disturbing. It follows Raul's attempted rape of Marjorie, and the lengths to which she goes for revenge. For tickets \$12-15, visit [www.ndctheaer.org](http://www.ndctheaer.org).

## Saturday, June 25

### Free Paper Shredding Event

Appeal Landfill  
401 Sweetwater Road  
Lusby, MD, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, is hosting free paper shredding events for county residents and businesses to help prevent identity theft by destroying confidential or sensitive documents.

Proof of residency or business location is required. All paper must be removed from plastic bags and cardboard boxes prior to shredding. Paper clips and staples are acceptable. Binders and binder clips are not acceptable.

Businesses are allowed up to 5 banker boxes of paper per business (or the equivalent volume of 5 banker boxes in alternate containers). There is no limit for residents.

Certificates of destruction will be provided if requested.

For more information about recycling events, call the Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, at 410-326-0210 or visit [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Recycle](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Recycle)

### Toy Boat Building

Calvert Marine Museum  
1-4 p.m.

Make a toy boat from wood under the Corbin Nature Pavilion! Space and materials are limited. Visitors will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. For ages 5 and up. Sponsored by the Patuxent Small Craft Guild. Museum admission required, with a suggested donation of \$2 per boat.

### Soldiers Realigned Nonprofit Grand Opening Event

12485 Southern Connector Blvd  
Lusby, MD; 1-5 p.m.

This is a grand opening event for The Soldiers Realigned Nonprofit organization that strives to train service animals to support our Great Nations veterans who suffer with PTSD, Anxiety and other mental health illnesses. At this event it is planned to have multiple food trucks, classic/muscle car show, small shop vendors. Families are welcome. We are asking that you RSVP in advance or just show up the day of the event. We look forward to seeing you

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## Monday, June 27

### Chamber Annual Golf Classic

Chesapeake Hills Golf Course  
Check-in begins at 8 a.m.  
followed by a shot-gun start at 9 a.m.

The Calvert County Chamber of Commerce will host their 26th annual 18-hole Golf Classic provides opportunities for the Chamber to continue to support the local business community and award scholarships to deserving Calvert County students majoring in business at the College of Southern Maryland.

The Calvert Chamber invites ALL Golfers for a fun day on the course to network, meet local businesses, and enjoy NEW to the event this year a Cigar Lounge. Breakfast & lunch are included

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## RIVER CONCERT SERIES 2022



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- July 1: Music from the New World
- July 8: The Music of Ralph Vaughan Williams
- July 15: Bach to BOP
- July 22: Stravinsky and Froom



MORE DETAILS AT: [WWW.SMCM.EDU/RIVER-CONCERT/](http://WWW.SMCM.EDU/RIVER-CONCERT/)

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# In Remembrance

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

## Robert John Kuntz



Robert John Kuntz, 76, of Port Republic, MD passed away on June 16, 2022 in Port Republic, MD. Robert was born in Arlington, VA to Joseph and Clara Kuntz in 1946. He attended Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, MD. Upon graduation Robert enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served honorably. Robert was a long-time employee of Prince George's County Public Schools, where he retired as the Director of Capital Programs. He was also the owner of R.J. Kuntz Electric Company. As much as he liked to work, he loved his hobbies. They included earning a private pilot's license, fly fishing, hunting, and golfing. He was also a member of the All-American Harley Davidson Club.

Robert is survived by his wife of 56 years Linda Kuntz. He is also survived by his children, Christy McDonald (Eric) and Tracey Howerton (Don); 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. All services are private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Make a Wish, Gift Processing, 1702 East Highland Ave, Suite 400,

Phoenix, AZ 85016 or Toys for Tots, [Calvert@toysfortots.org](mailto:Calvert@toysfortots.org); Link:

<https://chesapeake-beach-md.toysfortots.org/>

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

## Thomas Francis Sweeney



Thomas Francis Sweeney, 72, of Owings passed away June 15, 2022. He was born October 4, 1949, in Washington, DC to Edward Manning and Annabelle Kip (Henry) Sweeney. Thomas was raised in Takoma Park and graduated from High Point High School. He joined the United States Navy in 1968 and was honorably discharged in 1971 after serving aboard the USS Independence, USS L.Y. Spear, and Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, VA. He married Eileen Marie Isabella on November 13, 1971, and they lived in Riverdale before moving to Owings in 1978. Thomas was employed as a printer for Kiplinger's Editors Press, Moore & Moore, and Creative Printing, before going to work at the Washington Post as a photo engraver. He retired from the Post in January 2013. Thomas was a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church. In his spare time, he was a HAM radio operator and enjoyed traveling and spending time with his

family, especially his grand and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his loving wife, Eileen M. Sweeney of Owings and daughter Nicolette Noreen Savacool of Hanford, CA. Also surviving are grandchildren Angelina Franchino, Anthony Franchino, Jr., Thomas Snell and Zachary Snell, great-grandchildren Harmony Franchino and Korra Snell, sisters Maryann Shenk, Kathleen Thomasson, and Maureen Sweeney, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Thomas was preceded in death by his parents and brothers E. Michael Sweeney and Shawn P. Sweeney.

Visitation will be Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 6-8 p.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday, July 7, 2022,

11 a.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 8816 Chesapeake Avenue, North Beach, MD 20714.

Burial will be in MD Veterans Cemetery-Cheltenham, 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pantry Rebuild Campaign for the Ladies of Charity Calvert County Inc., PO Box 334,

North Beach, MD 20714; Link: <https://ladiesofcharitycalvert-county.org/>

## Teresa Irene Rivera



Teresa Irene Rivera, 58, of St. Leonard, MD passed away suddenly June 15, 2022, at her residence. She was born September 3, 1963, in Hammond, IN. Terri spent the first ten years of her life in California before moving to Silver Springs, MD settling in Bowie in 1976. She was a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt.

Teresa was a Deli manager at Nick's of Calvert for many years. In her leisure time she enjoyed crafts, the beach and spending time with family.

Surviving is her mother Barbara

Anderson of Lothian, daughter Jessica Rivera and granddaughter Charlotte Overby of Crofton.

A Celebration of life details will be held at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

## Margaret Elizabeth Faulconer



Margaret Elizabeth Faulconer, 99, of Annapolis passed away June 11, 2022. She was born March 26, 1923, in Washington, DC to Stockton and Carrie (Settle) Butler. Margaret married Walter Pit Faulconer on October 16, 1943, and they lived in DC and Silver Spring. After Pit's passing in 1958, Margaret moved to Bethesda and later Annapolis in 1988. She worked as an executive assistant for IBM for many years, retiring in 1987. Margaret was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church and in her spare time she enjoyed traveling with friends, playing Bridge, BINGO, and art and crafts.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband Walter Faulconer, brother Stockton Butler and sister Mildred Jeffers. She is survived by her daughters Nancy Miller of Chesapeake Beach and Susan Wehner of Myrtle Beach, SC, grandchildren Eric Miller, Kristin Bunnell, Diane Wehner, and Karyn Sarvis, great-grandchildren Hannah and Tyler Miller and Brooke and Brandt Bunnell, brother Burgess Mills, nieces Linda Sherwood and Patricia Beach, nephew Tom Jeffers, and numerous great nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Margaret's name may be made to a charity of one's choice.

Visitation will be Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 10-11 a.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Parklawn Memorial Park, 12800 Veirs Mill Road, Rockville, MD 20853.

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**Port Republic**

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410-586-0520

**Lusby**

20 American Lane  
410-326-9400



Memorial contributions may be made to a Charity of One's Choice

**Daniel L. Balkenbush**



Daniel L. Balkenbush, bBorn 13 December 1942 in Denver, CO, passed away June 10, 2022. A U.S. Navy veteran, graduate of University of Maryland (BS) and retired government accountant. He was preceded in death by his wife Dolores (2012) and survived by brothers Jerry and David and sister Marcy Nelson.

Life's journey is but a moment in time filled with experiences, routine and extraordinary. It is what we make of those experiences that forms the perceptions of who and what we become. Never perfect and forever a challenge each of us will travel the distance learning and growing as we progress. My journey was not unique and experiences far from profound, but the lessons learned, and friendships formed were truly heartwarming and worthwhile. I thank all I have known and wish each of you happiness and joy throughout your future travels.

I leave this world knowing that I experienced the love of my life and the smiles of my family and friends. I would not have asked for more.

A Celebration of Life to be held at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

**Russell Wallace Groves**



Russell Wallace Groves, 63, of Chesapeake Beach passed away June 7, 2022. He was born on June 26, 1958 in Montgomery County to Leonard Aubrey and Macie (Elswick) Groves. Russell graduated from Northwestern High School, and married Terri Groves on August 26, 1983 in Rockville. They lived in Hyattsville until 1985, when they moved to Huntingtown, later moving to Chesapeake Beach in 2015. He was employed as a plumber with the Plumbers Union Local 5 in Washington, D.C., working for Spartan Plumbing, W.L. Gary Company, Inc., American Combustion Industries, Trade Contracting, and JPG Plumbing Services. Russell was a member of the Mid-Atlantic Motocross Association and the Northern Youth Wrestling Club. He loved the Redskins, NASCAR, and watching his children's motocross racing.

Russell is survived by his son, Michael W. Groves and wife Kayla of Mechanicsville, daughter Kara A. Groves of Leonardtown, grandchildren Kaiden, Michael, and Jaxson, and a brother Tom Groves of Chesapeake, VA. Russell was preceded in death by his wife Terri, who passed on April 14, 2020, and his parents Leonard and Macie.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home-Owings.

# PAYING OFF CREDIT CARD DEBT

Contributing Writer:  
Lynda J. Striegel

According to a survey by CreditCards.com, 13% of Americans say they'll never pay off their loans and another 8% say they won't pay off what they owe until they're at least 71 years old. You don't have to be one of these people. If you are stuck in debt, take action to help yourself. Credit card debt is the enemy of financial security. Here are 5 tips to help you pay off those high interest credit card balances:

**1. STOP PAYING ONLY THE MINIMUM ON YOUR CREDIT CARD DEBT**

The minimum payment on credit card debt is 2% of the balance. Suppose you have a balance of \$5,000 on your credit card with a 15% interest rate. If you pay the minimum, it will take you more than 27 years to pay off the balance. It gets worse. Your total payments will amount to \$12,518 or about 2.5 times your original \$5,000 balance. Paying the minimum is keeping you in servitude to the bank or credit card company. What can you do? By boosting your payment to 3% of the balance you can pay off the credit card balance in about half the time. Boost the payment to 5% of the balance and you can pay it all off in about 8 years. If you do not have the cash flow to make one larger credit card payment every month, try making two minimum payments every month.

**2. FOCUS ON PAYING OFF ONE CARD FIRST**

If you have multiple credit cards and want to show progress, pick the one with the lowest balance and pay that one off as soon as you can. Then, tackle the next in line. In any event, your credit score will decline based on whether you have used more than 20% of your available credit. Paying down your credit cards to show loans of less than 20% of the available balance on the card will immediately boost your credit score. So, even if you cannot pay off the entire card, paying down the balance will give you progress and a better credit score.

**3. SPEAK UP**

If you have a good credit score (usually 730 and above) and are current in making your pay-

ments, call the credit card company and ask them to lower your rate. Most companies will accommodate their long-term customers who pay on time. If you have been offered a lower rate by a competitor, tell the bank. Most likely they will meet that lower rate to avoid losing you as a customer. Remember, you are valuable to the banks.

**4. TAKE ACTION, BUT BE CAREFUL**

Transferring your credit card balance to another card with a 0% introductory interest rate is a good idea IF you can pay off the entire credit card during the time the introductory interest rate is 0%. Most of the cards will give you up to 18 months of 0% interest before the card reverts to the 15-25% interest rate category. If you can't pay the card balance off in 18 months, you may wind up paying more in interest on the balance than you had with your first card. Check the interest rates on the cards. If you find a card with an interest rate after 18 months of 0% that is significantly lower than your current rate, even if you cannot pay off all of the debt in 18 months, you will be better off. Try your online resources for education. Nextadvisor.com is helpful. Enter the balance you want to transfer, the amount you want to spend each month and the website will give you a list of credit cards that may help you. There are plenty of other online resources for you to choose from.

**5. NEVER BORROW FROM YOUR HOME OR YOUR 401(K) TO PAY OFF CREDIT CARD DEBT**

Your home and your retirement funds are critical to your financial well-being. Why jeopardize either of them by borrowing against them?

No matter how you tackle the problem of credit card debt, the important point is to take action to pay down that debt. Get a plan and stick to it.

A reminder: Join me for a free estate planning seminar on the third Wednesday of every month at 11 am at our office at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.



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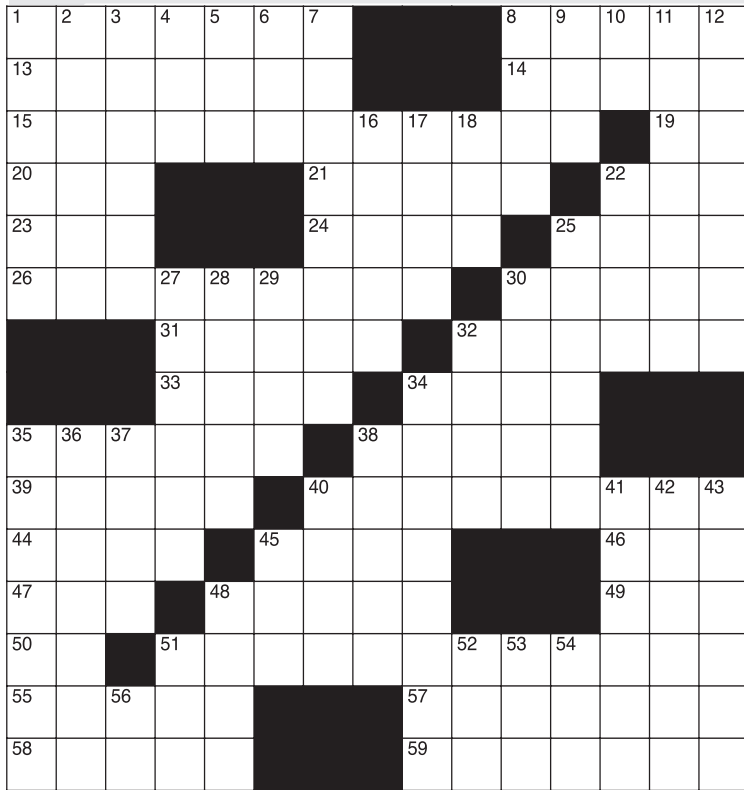
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# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

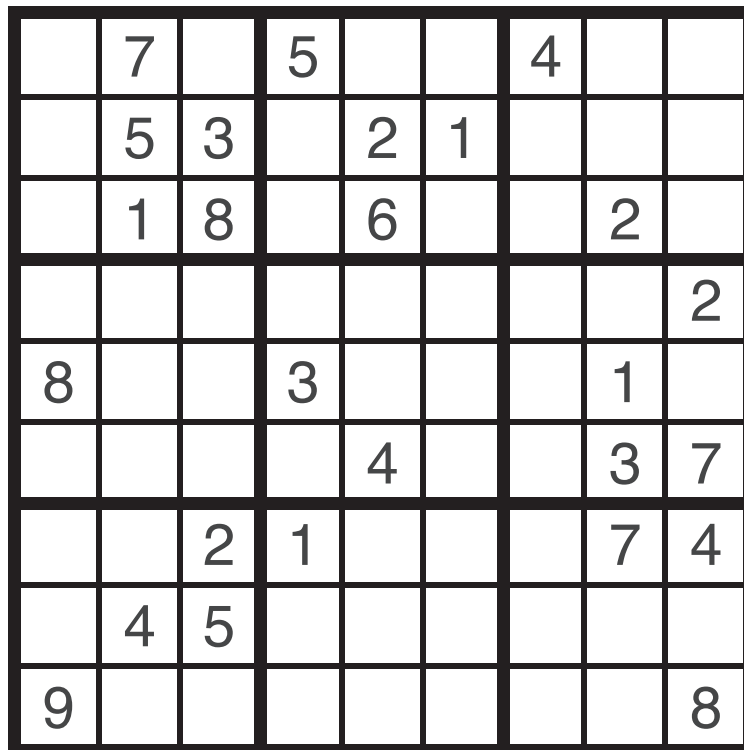
- 1. Half-conscious states
- 8. Unnatural
- 13. Deep regret
- 14. Rogue
- 15. Took without permission
- 19. An alternative
- 20. After B
- 21. Partner to "flowed"
- 22. The best day of the week (abbr.)
- 23. Helps you hear
- 24. Egyptian river
- 25. Lake \_\_, one of the Great
- 26. Make free from bacteria
- 30. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- 31. Sanctuaries in Greek temples
- 32. Most unclothed
- 33. NJ senator Booker
- 34. Tibetan lake
- 35. Desecrate something sacred
- 38. John \_\_, English educator 1467-1519

- 39. Obtains in return for labor
- 40. Views
- 44. Rugged cliff
- 45. Not quiet
- 46. Body part
- 47. Newt
- 48. German city
- 49. A way to save money
- 50. NBC's Roker
- 51. Dire Straits frontman
- 55. Actress Lathan
- 57. Most meager
- 58. Poems
- 59. Companions

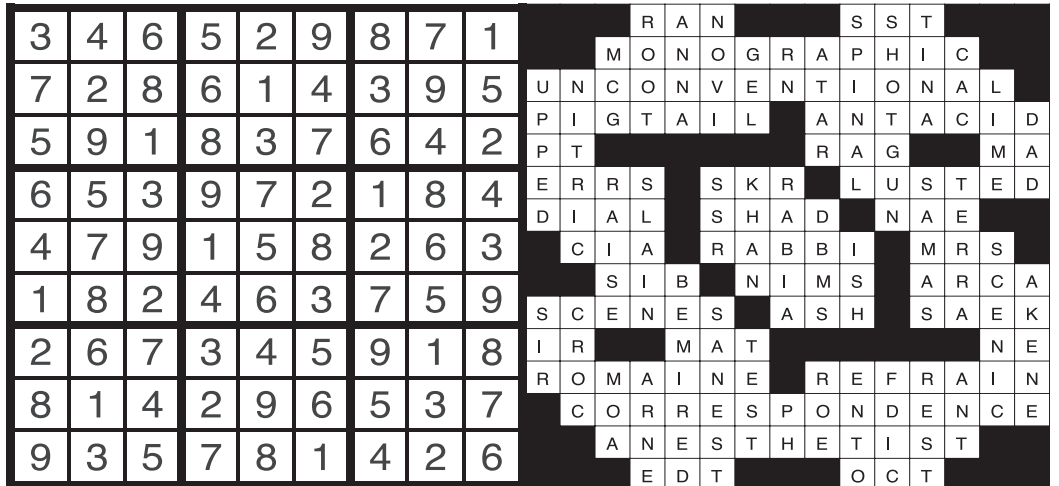
**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Draws over
- 2. Recur
- 3. Current unit
- 4. Neither
- 5. Certified Radio Operator (abbr.)
- 6. Power of perception
- 7. Peace
- 8. Supplemented with difficulty
- 9. The last section or part of anything
- 10. Dorm worker
- 11. Bones
- 12. Most unnatural
- 16. Spanish island

- 17. The skill to do something
- 18. Where golf games begin
- 22. Untethered
- 25. Print errors
- 27. The sport of engaging in contests of speed
- 28. Ones to look up to
- 29. Stringed instrument
- 30. Gives whippings
- 32. Type of tie
- 34. Make more concentrated
- 35. Die
- 36. Part of a winter hat
- 37. Young men's club
- 38. Bathrooms need it
- 40. U.S. president
- 41. American novelist
- 42. Take into custody
- 43. Hurts
- 45. Type of gibbon
- 48. American actor Lukas
- 51. Partner to cheese
- 52. Some are covert
- 53. Political action committee
- 54. To and \_\_
- 56. Atomic #28



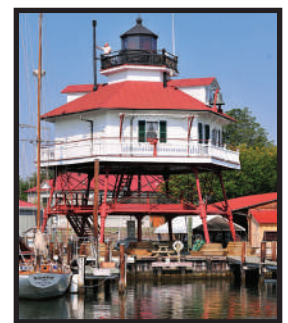
**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



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**GOWEN**  
FOR STATE DELEGATE 29C

Competent ★ Data Driven ★ Problem Solver

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