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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

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**Commissioners Revise
Panhandling Bill**

**County Outlines
Transportation Priorities**

**Rural Legacy Sought
for Fishing Creek**



TOLL OR NO TOLL FOR THOMAS JOHNSON BRIDGE?



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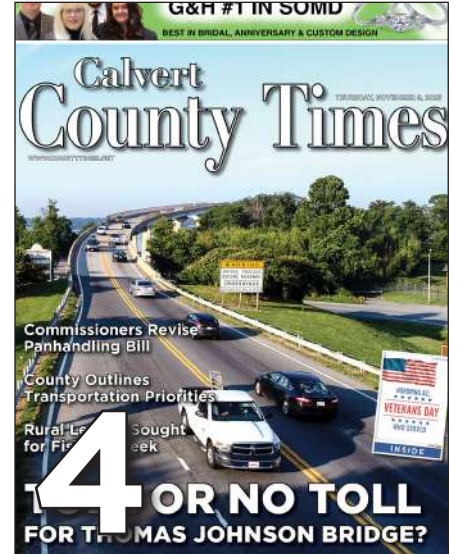
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“WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE HEADWINDS.”

UNITED BRIDGE PARTNERS PRESIDENT DOUG WITT



LOCAL 6
Calvert to deal with panhandlers



ON THE COVER
Calvert weighs in on toll bridge idea



LOCAL 7
Prince Frederick VRS to merge with county

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, NOV 9 Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 50°	FRI, NOV 10 Showers Hi: 54° Lo: 40°	SAT, NOV 11 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 39°	SUN, NOV 12 Partly Cloudy Hi: 51° Lo: 35°
MON, NOV 13 Sunny Hi: 58° Lo: 40°	TUE, NOV 14 Mostly Sunny Hi: 59° Lo: 38°	WED, NOV 15 Sunny Hi: 58° Lo: 41°	THU, NOV 16 Sunny Hi: 66° Lo: 43°



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Is It Toll or No Toll for TJ Bridge?

Commissioners: Public Says No Tolls

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

After seven public meetings (four in Calvert, three in St. Mary's) the proposal for a private toll bridge to replace the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge was met with a tepid response from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in a meeting with principals of the company proying the idea.

The BOCC did not give United Bridge Partners President/CEO Doug Witt a definite "No!" Instead, Commissioner President Buddy Hance left a slight opening in the door by saying the idea would be discussed with representatives of the Maryland Department of Transportation when they visit the county on Nov. 14 for their annual briefing to the commissioners.

But Hance noted the commissioners haven't received one positive comment on the idea of a toll bridge. He said, "What concerns people is there are private roads in Virginia around the Beltway and on the express lanes out to Dulles. And people have seen on the news the horror stories about those tolls and what they were told they were going to be and then what they ended up being were two different things. And I think people are very concerned that you say that you we're hoping to keep the toll at \$2 or \$3, but you don't know that. And once we start down this path, once that train leaves

the station, that train ain't got no brakes. And we're going to end up with a bridge that's going to cost whatever, and the toll is going to be whatever."

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart said even after the recent accident that closed the bridge and snarled traffic on the Benedict Bridge, the customers at his Lusby liquor store still were dead set against toll and he said he agreed with them, that the state and federal governments should pay for a new bridge.

Witt said they wouldn't get into it if they were forced to charge tolls that were unsustainable.

He admitted there were major challenges, but his company is still committed to working them out. He said, "We know that there are headwinds. We kind of knew that. And we came in here and said we'll invest the time to go ahead and do this and give it a try and see if there was a path forward that made sense on both sides, that doesn't overly tie us up. We made a commitment, said we really want to try and help out the community. And there might be some ways to do it. But this is not easy. And it would require some things that are probably outside the box of standard practices in terms of the way things are done."

The commissioners questioned the company's lack of specificity on some key points. Witt said the details would be hammered out during a 60-day due diligence period. Cost is

one of those variables. He mentioned something in the \$250 million to \$300 million range. The state has estimated a \$1 billion project cost, but that includes the needed road improvements from the bridge to Route 235 in St. Mary's County.

So, one of the major variables would be what the state would be willing to do for the work outside the bridge itself.

Witt said, "Under the prior administration, we had a conversation with the Maryland DOT director who said, if it resonates locally, we will support transferring the bridge to the local communities." But he said that conversation didn't include any state commitments to the roads and that he had not had any conversations with the Moore administration.

One factor impacting the bridge cost and thus what tolls had to be levied would be how much of the existing bridge could be salvaged. "We would validate that, because if there was a solution that actually was completely feasible, that allowed the existing piers to maintain them to be right there without having to go to the right, which has some right of way property," he said.

Another consideration is whether it's simply toll versus no toll as a solution for the bridge replacement. Hance noted, "If the state were to say, which I'm sure they're not going to, that if we replace that bridge, we're going charge you a toll too."

The toll Bay and Gov. Harry Nice bridges



United Bridge Partners President/CEO Doug Witt

are operated by the Maryland Transportation Authority, with monies to pay for them raised through revenue bonds.

Even though there appears to be near universal disdain for a toll bridge, there's universal belief that a new bridge is needed. Witt reported of the 300 public meeting attendees, "I would say there was a resounding message from the community that the bridge needed help unequivocally."

Witt said he would wait to hear back from the commissioners and was ready to come back for another presentation if they requested it.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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County Prepares for State Transportation Visit

Next Section of Routes 2/4 Still Top Priority

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

When the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meets with representatives of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on Nov. 14 for their annual visit to the county, three major projects on this year's wish list will still be there for Fiscal Year 2024.

Planner III Jessica Gaetano, in a Nov. 7 briefing to the commissioners, said, "The Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP) is Maryland's six-year capital budget for transportation projects. In developing the CTP and establishing funding levels, the MDOT must consider state and local economic growth, transportation revenue fluctuations and various funding source allocations. This year's CTP, over the six years, covers more than \$43 billion in Maryland's transportation system through MDOT's operating and capital projects. However, this draft CTP has a funding gap of more than \$2 billion. The reasons cited for the loss in revenue include negative impacts from COVID-19, the increasing fuel efficiency of vehicles and the growing fleet of electric vehicles. The rising cost of transportation projects due to labor shortages, supply chain disruptions and inflation are also contributing factors. The overall recurring theme of the MDOTs



FY2024-2029 CTP, 2024 State Report on Transportation is, 'No One Left Behind.' In this year's draft CTP, no new funding was allocated to Calvert County's priority projects. The previously awarded funding for the transit transfer station feasibility study, two bus replacements, dispatch software, Department of Public Works fuel depot and safety improvements along the MD 231 corridor remain in place."

The county's major priorities (more than \$5 million) are:

- MD 2/4 Widening Phase 3A and 3B:** Preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisitions
- Thomas Johnson Bridge:** Planning and design
- Transit Transfer Station:** Site development

No monies were allocated for the first

two projects in the current fiscal year. The county hopes for the next phase of funding for the bus transfer station.

The first priority is about a mile-long segment of the next phase of the Routes 2/4 widening from Fox Round Boulevard to Stokely Road. Commissioner President Buddy Hance noted at the Nov. 7 staff briefing that the state is now estimating the cost for that project to be \$40 million. The bridge and associated road improvements (see separate story) is estimated at \$1 billion.

Of the Prince Frederick widening cost estimate, Hance said, "So like three times as much as they initially had planned," adding, "They did ask us to break down the projects into smaller phases. So that was what we did."

Minor projects, those of less than \$5 million estimated cost, on the county's list to

be presented to the state, are:

- Level of Service Intersection Studies – MD 2/4:
 - MD 4 at Ward Rd.
 - MD 2/4 Split
 - MD 2/4 at Cox Rd.
 - MD 2/4 at Stoakley Rd.
 - MD 2/4 at Dares Beach Rd
 - MD 2/4 at Sixes Rd.
 - MD 2/4 at Calvert Beach Rd.
- MD 258 and MD 4 intersection shoulder improvements
- MD 765 sidewalk extension between Old Field Rd and Calvert Towne Rd
- Crosswalk installation at MD 2/4 and Sherry Lane
- Lusby Town Center Streetscape

The state previously approved funding for three intersection improvements along Royte 231. Jason Leavitt, a Department of Public Works representative, said, "So the previous safety improvements along Maryland 231 are just getting there and do remain funded and moving forward. We meet with SHA (State Highway Administration) quarterly and I believe that there is a kickoff meeting for construction on one of them."

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Rural Legacy Sought for Fishing Creek



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) has recommended that the Fishing Creek watershed be made Calvert County's third Rural Legacy Area.

ACLT Executive Director Greg Bown told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Nov. 7, "Many people know Fishing Creek exists. They drive over it every time they visit Chesapeake Beach. They may or may have motored or sailed into the creek or got on a charter boat or may have hiked along the railway trail. What they may not know is that it's the third largest watershed in county. It has 30 percent of the land as farmland and a whopping 66 percent is forested, the largest percentage of any of the major watersheds."

Bowen explained, "This year, ACLT participated in the newly formed Friends of Fishing Creek. Testing of the upper reaches of the creek found that nitrogen and phosphorus levels were very low. That's a good sign of water quality there."

Earlier this year the county expanded the two existing Rural Legacy areas, known as North Calvert and Calvert Creeks. The approval came after an April 19 joint public hearing with the planning commission.

Bowen said that expansion created a connectivity with the Fishing Creek watershed that the state requires for approval.

During that public hearing, Rural Planner II Jennifer David explained: "The Rural Legacy Program is a State of Maryland land preservation easement program overseen by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and administered by the counties. It:

- Provides funding to preserve large, continuous tracts of land to enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection;
- Supports a sustainable land base for natural resource-dependent industries;

- Creates public-private partnerships between local land trusts and local government;
- Protects working landscapes critical to the environment and local economies; and
- Targets the most ecologically valuable properties impacting local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay

Admission into the program is purely voluntary on the part of the landowner, David explained.

Bowen said on Nov. 7, "Of all the major watersheds in Calvert, Fishing Creek is the only one that did not have a Rural Legacy area. And in the last decade, the Maryland Rural Legacy Program has been the most successful county tool in protecting lands. During his tenure, Governor Hogan fully funded the program in his eight years and that made a major difference. Owners of land in Rural Legacy areas had that tool that they can use. By the way, it doesn't require county funds. That's a major advantage."

"Governor Hogan's Wildlife Action Plan targeted the most significant land for conservation to achieve the goals for fisheries and wildlife habitat. If you look at Calvert County, almost all of it is in one of the primary heritage protection areas," he said, and for Fishing Creek, "Almost all of it is in areas that are desirable for conservation based on the action plan."

Rural Legacy areas in Southern Maryland are administered by Southern Maryland Resource, Conservation and Development and Bowen said they support adding Fishing Creek, as do the other legacy areas.

Following Bowen's presentation, Commissioner President Buddy Hance ordered county staff to work with Bowen to achieve the Rural Legacy designation for the Fishing Creek watershed.

Hance said two of the largest undeveloped tracts of land in Calvert were in that watershed and deserve to be protected.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Proposed Panhandling Bill Modified

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A request from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for legislative authority to regulate pedestrian panhandling has been modified after concerns were expressed by the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

At the Nov. 7 BOCC meeting, County Attorney John Norris explained that the state has regulated pedestrian panhandling and solicitation of persons in vehicles since 1970 through a section of the state's transportation code. Norris said, "Because of the state's action, local laws regarding this are pre-empted. The board has renewed its request that solicitation and panhandling be addressed in Calvert County. Staff recommended application of the state prohibition on solicitation by modeling after the laws applicable in Allegany and Cecil counties. This model was chosen to allow non-profits to apply for a permit to conduct solicitation and panhandling and avoid the debate whether the General Assembly intended its use of the word 'business,'" to include charitable solicitations.

Several of the county's legislators expressed constitutional concerns about the county request when the commissioners and legislators met. Norris explained, "The Office of the Attorney General has provided Del. Jeffrie E. Long, Jr. an opinion that 'there is a risk that a reviewing court would even find that a ban on all commercial solicitation, while allowing solicitation for non-commercial purposes, is unconstitutional.' This opinion recommends treating commercial and noncommercial speech the same; while acknowledging '... commercial speech receives less First Amendment protection than non-commercial speech'."

Norris said, "There is existing legislation that precludes all solicitation and panhandling, not making any distinction between commercial and non-commercial speech. Specifically, the board may wish to consider amending its request for legislation to, instead, be included in the following legislation: In Calvert, Carroll County, Charles County, Harford County, and Washington County, a person may not stand in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to



County Attorney John Norris

solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle."

The commissioners went along with their attorney's recommendation.

Commissioner Toddd Ireland said, "We've had some safety concerns with people that have been panhandling, soliciting donations, money in shopping centers. And our deputies and law enforcement have no tool at this point to be able to address these types of situations. We put in the legislation last year, and it did not make it through. I'm in favor of this legislation and to change it similar to what Charles County has in place."

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart said, "I I'm with Commissioner Ireland completely. We need a tool. It's getting worse and you don't know that the average person out there, they don't know who's approaching them."

Norris added, "Certainly 40 years ago, you wouldn't be concerned that somebody standing in the median would be trying to take your mother's car or your daughter's car. And certainly, those concerns are more real today. Occurrences happen more often today."

Commissioners Cox and Grasso were not at the meeting during the discussion. Cox was called to jury duty and Grasso had a doctor's appointment.

The remaining three commissioners felt that modifying the bill based on Del. Long's concerns would give it a greater chance of succeeding in next year's Maryland General Assembly.

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CALVERT COUNTY CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of October 23 – October 29, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,712 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-75465

On October 23, 2023, DFC Ostazeski responded to the 400 block of Lake Drive in Lusby, for the report of a burglary. The complainant advised she heard loud bangs from the front and side of the house. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect attempted to enter the home through the front door and broke the door frame. The estimated value of damaged property is \$130.00.

Theft: 23-75436

On October 23, 2023, DFC Ostazeski responded to 12600 block of Catalina Drive in Lusby, for the report of a theft. Contact was made with the complainant who advised two bicycles were stolen from the victim's yard. The bicycles were described as a Schwinn Sidewinder 26-inch men's bicycle. It is black with a green stripe. The second is a Huffy 24-inch female bicycle light purple in color. The estimated value of stolen property is \$320.00.

ARRESTS



Daniel Abdul Bangura

On Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 6:32 p.m., Deputy Tavares responded to the Walgreens Pharmacy located at 110 Hospital Road in Prince Frederick, for a reported robbery in progress. Investigation revealed **Daniel Abdul Bangura**, 19 of Laurel, jumped the counter and stole prescription medication, but was quickly detained. A second suspect, **Thomas Ruedy Heaton**, 24 of Rockville,

was located in the suspect vehicle and detained. Both suspects were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Bangura was charged with Strong Armed Robbery, Second-Degree Assault, Resist/Interfere with Arrest, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, and Disorderly Conduct. Heaton was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, CDS: Possession- Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

On Oct. 26, 2023, Deputy Zinn responded to the KFC/Taco Bell located at 13400 HG Trueman Road in Solomons, for the report of a property damage accident. Upon arrival, Deputy Zinn observed **Zachary Alan Kiger**, 34 of Millersville, MD, seated in the driv-



Zachary Alan Kiger

er's seat of a vehicle next to a fence that had been knocked over as a result of Kiger backing into it. Kiger advised he had a crack "stem" in his pocket. A search of Kiger's person revealed a glass pipe containing a white powdery residue. A vehicle search revealed additional contraband including a broken glass pipe containing a white powdery residue, an uncapped hypodermic syringe, a metal spoon, and a metal bottle cap both containing burn marks. Kiger was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, CDS: Possession of Controlled Paraphernalia, Negligent Driving, Reckless Driving, and other traffic related charges.



Marvin Wayne Thomas

On October 26, 2023, Deputy McCourt responded to Ken Mar Liquors located at 1525 S. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the reported disorderly subject. Upon arrival, Deputy McCourt met with **Marvin Wayne Thomas**, 57 of Prince Frederick, who was reportedly being disorderly with customers coming in and out of the business. Thomas had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the property. Thomas was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Ricardo Burrows

On October 26, 2023, Deputy McCourt responded to the Exxon Gas Station located at 11805 HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for the reported trespassing. Upon arrival, Deputy McCourt met with **Ricardo Burrows**, 62 of Lusby, who was sitting on the property and partially in the roadway. Burrows had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the property. Burrows was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. During a search of Burrow's person upon entering the Detention Center, deputies located a small amount of cannabis. Burrows was charged with Trespassing: Private Property, Possession of CDS While Confined (Cannabis), and Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement.

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

Prince Frederick VRS to Realign Under County Government

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) announces the realignment of the Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad (Company 4) to operate under Calvert County Government, effective Friday, Nov. 3, 2023. This decision was made by the Calvert County Circuit Court on Nov. 3, 2023.

Calvert County Government will work with the Fire and Rescue Association to enable the volunteers of Company 4 to regroup, re-establish and rebuild their membership. This change is expected to have minimal impact to residents. More information will be provided as available.

"We want to assure our community that the safety and well-being of our residents remain our top priority," said BOCC President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance. "We have made arrangements to transfer emergency response responsibilities to our highly skilled team of career EMS staff members, ensuring that the highest level of service continues to be provided. Public Safety Fire-Rescue-EMS staff will support operations."

Company 4, located at 755 Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, serves approximately 13,700 residents in Prince Frederick and portions of Plum Point.

Calvert County's volunteer fire, rescue and EMS companies function as independent organizations within the county's emergency response system. The volunteer agencies serve as a critical component of the broader public safety network, offering timely and vital services to the community. Although they operate autonomously, with their own internal hierarchy and funding mechanisms, they are closely integrated with county government through formal agreements that delineate the roles, responsibilities and expectations of both the volunteer entities and the county.

For questions, contact Public Safety Director Dave McDowell at 410-535-1600, ext. 2303, or by email at dave.mcdowell@calvertcountymd.gov. For more information about Calvert County Fire/Rescue/EMS, visit www.calvertcountymd.gov/FireRescueEMS.

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Nov 9

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way and ZOOM
6:30-8 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeannette Findley and JC Hooker. Please register to receive the Zoom link 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Nov 10

Veterans Day (Observed) Lecture Series

Calvert Marine Museum
10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Join CMM staff and local historians to commemorate Veterans Day by examining the role Solomons Island and Southern Maryland played in our country's military history. Presentations will take place throughout the day in the Harms Gallery; see the schedule below. The event is free to the public, regular admission to the museum can be purchased at the Admissions Desk. Free admission for active duty military and veterans on Friday and Saturday.

- **10:30 a.m.** Vincent Turner, II, "The Provisional Ranger Group: D-Day, June 6, 1944"
- **11:45 a.m.** Mark Wilkins, "The Amphibious Training Base: Solomons, Maryland, 1942-1945"
- **1:00 p.m.** Vincent Turner, II, "The Provisional Ranger Group: D-Day, June 6, 1944"
- **2:15 p.m.** John Cook and Eve Love, "Before the Base: Patuxent River Naval Air Test Center Property Condemnation Appraisals." A book signing event will follow.

Sun, Nov 12

Fossil Club Meeting & Free Public Lecture

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

The CMM Fossil Club meeting is at 1:30 p.m. in the Harms Gallery, followed by a free public lecture at 2:30 p.m. Check CMM's website for details.

Mon, Nov 13

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
1-4 p.m.

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us this month to discuss "Code Name Hélène" by Ariel Lawhon. Told in interweaving timelines organized around the four code names Nancy used during the war, Code Name Hélène is a spellbinding and moving story of enduring love, remarkable sacrifice and unfaltering resolve that chronicles the true exploits of a woman who deserves to be a household name. C 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Nov 14

Astronomy Night

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
7-8 p.m.

Come see what the night sky has to offer in the field behind Fairview Branch. Learn about the equipment used to view the sky from the Astronomy Club of Southern Maryland. All ages welcome. Outdoor only event, weather permitting. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Nov 15

Legislative Evening with Your Delegates

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join Calvert League of Women Voters and our state delegates to hear about planned initiatives for the coming term. Organizations can sign up to speak for 3 minutes. Individuals may sign up for 2 minutes. We'll call on organizations and individuals in the order of registration until 7:15. 5:30-6pm Informal meet and mingle, 6-7:15pm-Legislative Evening with Delegates, 7:15-7:30 Closing comments from Delegates., 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies: Young Readers

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
6-7 p.m.

At this event, elementary-aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one (1) service learning hour for participating. It's a great way to socialize and build reading confidence! Does your K-5th grade child love to read out loud, or struggle with reading confidence? Here's the chance for everyone to practice in a safe and welcoming space! 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tween Book Club

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons

6:30pm-7:30pm.

We will be reading and discussing fabulous books and enjoying book-related activities. Recommended for ages 9-12. Eleven-year-old Avery Lee loves living in Hickory Valley, Maryland. She loves her neighborhood, school, and the end-of-summer fair she always goes to with her two best friends. But she's tired of feeling squished by her six siblings! 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Nov 16

Lecture Series Breakfast Event

College of Southern Maryland Center for Health Sciences
6105 Foster Place, Hughesville
8:30-10:30 a.m.

Wisdom in America's Schools," Lecture Series, Breakfast Event. Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) invites the public to join us for breakfast and engage in a provocative conversation with celebrated scholar, author and Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy Dr. David Steiner as he discusses his new book, "A Nation at Thought: Restoring Wisdom in America's Schools." Free Registration is required at eventbrite. Contact info@leadershipsomd.org for additional information."

Little Minnows: Good Morning Yoga

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

This month's theme is Good Morning Yoga, for preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

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



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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Sat, Nov 11

The 48th Annual Leonardtown Veterans Day Parade & Memorial

Leonardtown Square
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County invite the public to salute America's Veterans at the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Leonardtown! The Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony takes place in Leonardtown Square directly after the parade. For more information, visit: www.visitleonardtownmd.com/veteransday
Contact: Brandy Blackstone, 301-475-9791 or 240-309-9561, brandy.blackstone@leonardtownmd.gov.

35th Annual Craft Fair

Mount Zion United Methodist Church
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd., Mechanicsville
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Local crafts, vendors and more! Enjoy delicious food and bake sale items will be available. Door Prizes!

Sun, Nov 12

Craft & Vendor Fair

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville
11 a.m. 3 p.m.

Over 50 crafters & vendors. Food for sale. Basket raffles and games. Visit from Santa.

Wed, Nov 15

Health Watch Series: Narcan

Loffler Senior Activity Center
21905 Chancellors Run Rd., Great Mills
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Narcan is a nasal spray that can be a lifesaver if a person is in an opioid crisis. You may be surprised to hear that an accidental opioid overdose is just as possible with legally prescribed meds as it is with illegal drugs. Natalie from the St. Mary's County Health Department will discuss how to assess a person who may need Narcan and how to administer it. Advance registration is required for this presentation. Go to

www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

Upcoming

NARFE Luncheon

Olde Breton Inn
Leonardtown
Friday, November 17
11:30 a.m.

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Chapter #969 of St. Mary's County invites current and prospective members to attend a luncheon meeting. Representatives from NARFE's Maryland Federation will address the group. Raffle tickets will be sold for a handcrafted quilt, scratch-off lottery tickets and other items, with all proceeds going to Hospice of St. Mary's and local and national Alzheimer's charities. There will also be a silent auction of items donated by attendees.

Traditional Thanksgiving fare will be served buffet-style at a cost of \$17.00. For reservations, which are required, contact Boyd Loflin at 240-317-5660 by Nov.

15. For membership inquiries, contact VP Geneva Leon at 301-884-5112. To learn more about NARFE #969, visit their Web site at <http://www.narfe.net/site/chapter969/>.

Christmas Stroll - "A Bridge to Bethlehem"

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
Saturday, December 2nd
5 p.m to 7 p.m.

This event is FREE to the public—our gift to the community. Come stroll our grounds to see the live Nativity with live animals, enjoy cocoa and home-baked cookies, listen to live seasonal music in the sanctuary, enjoy dinner provided by BELONG (Bridging Everyone Linking Older and Newer Generations) in the Fellowship Hall, and more!

To support our neighbors in need from the W.A.R.M. (Wrapping Arms 'Round Many) program, we request that guests donate either one toiletry item or a cold weather gear item. We will also have Christmas items for purchase; all proceeds will be donated to our local ministry partners. For complete information, please visit: www.paxpres.com/christmasstroll.

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8:00 AM * Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 * 8:00 AM

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Maytag ringer washers (Reconditioned), woodstoves, misc. furniture, lawn furniture, hand-painted crosscut saws & milk cans, dolls, toys, pots & pans, canners, cookers, etc., John Deere Toys and collectibles, a variety of old coins, and various sizes of Enterprise sausage stuffers .

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Fri., Nov 10th 7:00am-Noon

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In Remembrance

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to aldailey@countytimes.net by noon on Tuesdays for publication on Thursdays. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

Stanley Williams, 66



Stanley Joseph Williams, Jr., 66, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on November 5, 2023 in Bryantown, MD with his loving wife by his side.

He was born on November 28, 1956 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Stanley Joseph Williams, Sr. and Ann Lee Myers.

Stanley was a life long resident of St. Mary's County. He married his lovely wife Joan Weber on May 15, 1993. They have spent 30 wonderful years together. Stanley enjoyed his time with his wife (Joanie); they enjoyed their dogs, camping, cruising, blue grass music, cutting grass, frying HVRS fried chicken & most importantly being with family and was always there to lend a helping hand to anyone that needed it.

He was a devoted Volunteer for St. Mary's County; Stanley has served this county for 50 years! He has volunteered for with both the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad along with Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. He has also played key roles in the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association and Maryland State Firemen's Association, the Emergency Services Board and part of the St. Mary's ALS Unit Member. He has earned numerous awards and played a valuable role in the different committee's listed below.

While part of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad he received several Top 10 Runner Awards with MVFD and also served on numerous committees, was part of the Volunteer Services from December 1972 to May 1982.

When he was part of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department he served several years as an Assistant engineer and 1 year as Fire Captain. He received numerous top call runner awards, President's award and special recognition award. Served on numerous committees and served as the Departments Carnival Committee Chairman for several years. He was part of the HVFD from May 1982 to November 1990.

He has been a part of the Hollywood

Volunteer Rescue Squad from February 1986 to present and has held several positions with them from EMT, Chief Engineer, Assistant Engineer, President, Vice President, Assistant Chief (6 years), Chief (5 years) and on the Board of Directors. He has received the following Squad Awards, Top 10 Call Runner, Presidents Awards (most recently for 2023), Chiefs awards and Member of the Year Award (several years).

Stanley was part of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemens Association as a Delegate and was also inducted in the Hall of Fame in 1996. He was also in the Maryland State Firemens Association and was on the EMS Committee (served for 13 years) and inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2017.

He was both a Chair and Co Chair for the Emergency Services Board from 2001 to 2018. Stanley was also a unit member for the St. Mary's County ALS Unit.

Stanley's Career was also surrounded by Community Safety; He was a St. Mary's County Employee; he started part time in 1978 for Public Safety 911 Dispatcher where he went fulltime in 1983 then to Deputy Director Emergency Management in May 2000. He also worked for the Maryland State Police as a Dispatcher from July 1979 to May 1983. Then he decided to retire from the St. Mary's County Government in 2016.

Stanley is survived by his wife Joanie and his step-daughter Elizabeth Stafford Knight, and his brothers David Williams (Myssi) of Mechanicsville, MD, Wayne Williams (Brenda) of Trappe, MD, John Williams (Caren) of Hughesville, MD, Raymond Myers (Amy) of Lexington Park, MD; his sisters Joanne Phillips (Marvin) of Chester, VA and Phyllis "Susie" Spalding of Leonardtown, MD. He is preceded in death by his parents, his step-son Richard Knight and his sister Vivian Bruner.

Family will receive friends on Friday, November 10, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with a Funeral Service and Fireman's Prayers recited at 12:00 p.m., at Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, 28165 Hills Club Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Pallbearers will be Tony Norris, Billy Johnson, Wayne Johnson, John Raley, Dennis Brady, Ricky Brady, Billy Yost. Acting as

Honorary Pallbearers are Willie Ridgell and Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad, 43256 Rescue Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636 or your local Hospice Organization or for Charles County it's Hospice of Chesapeake, 2505 Davis Road, Waldorf, MD 20608 and St. Mary's County Hospice, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Any Fire or EMS Department wishing to bring apparatus to the funeral please contact Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Raley at deputychief@mvfd.com by noon on Thursday, November 9th, 2023.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Mary Jane Hanlein, 99



Mary Jane Thompson Hanlein passed away at her home, on October 28, 2023, just 40 days shy of her 100th birthday. She was born in Washington DC on December 7, 1923

and grew up in Anacostia where she often would roller skate to the Capitol as a teenager. She was the salutatorian of the Anacostia high school class of 1941. She earned a scholarship to American University where her studies were interrupted; she left college to help her family and worked for the phone company in downtown Washington DC.

Mary Jane was married to Alvin Robert Hanlein on May 26, 1950. They went on to have six children and raised them in Chillum, Maryland. She was widowed after 33 years of marriage at the age of 60. Mary Jane resided in Chillum for 63 years before moving to Silver Spring in 2014. She was active in the Homemakers Club and later, the Lunch Bunch with dear friends in her local community. She loved to travel, and went as far as Pakistan to be at the birth of her third grandson. Mary Jane was an avid reader and could go through a book a day, always reading the Washington Post from front to back never missing the comics. She loved to crochet and made baby afghans for hundreds of new born. A favorite past time was sitting in her rocking chair at her beloved cottage at Mckay's Beach to watch the sunset. She rejoiced in the many visitors she hosted at her beach home, affectionately, known as DADZ after her father. She was fond of animals and took in many a stray dog and gave it a warm home. She loved flowers and plants and had quite a green thumb. She never missed a dessert and frequented local bakeries and ice cream parlors.

Beloved wife of the late Alvin (Dinky) Hanlein, devoted mother of the late Christopher Hanlein (Adele Biancarelli) the late Cathy Hanlein Pielmeier (Mark Pielmeier), Carole Hanlein, Alvin (Chip) Hanlein II, Claire Hanlein and the late Charles (Chuck) Hanlein. Beloved sister of the late Gray Thompson. Cherished grand-

mother of Luke Hanlein, Gaelan Treacy, Jude Hanlein (Lyndsay Rini), Gabriel Treacy, and Sean Treacy.

Funeral services will be held at St. John Baptist de la Salle Church 5706 Sargent Rd, Chillum, MD at 11:00 am followed by burial at Fort Lincoln cemetery on December 7, 2023.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorials be made in her memory to:

The Lehman Center
402 W. Market St.
York, Pa. 17401

Nancy Calvano, 84



Anna Maria Calvano, affectionately known as "Nancy", of Port Charlotte, Florida, formerly of Hollywood, Maryland, passed away peacefully

October 25, 2023. She beautified the world for 84 years. Nancy was born in Leonardtown, Maryland on August 1, 1939 to the late John J. Maddox and Marjorie I. (Hill) Maddox. She graduated from Leonardtown High School where shortly after graduation she married her one and only "Cal" (Ralph). Her focus during those early years was on raising their three sons and one daughter. She participated and excelled in every aspect of mothering including, sports mom, dance mom, den mother, Girl Scout leader, tutor, and spiritual guide. She loved her hobbies and past times that included, playing cards, bowling, softball, sewing, and everything related to the Patuxent River. She prided herself in keeping a beautiful, welcoming home and was an exquisite cook. Cal was instrumental in broadening Nancy's horizon. During his prestigious Airforce career the family was stationed in several U.S. States and toured upward of ten Countries abroad. Upon retirement, Nancy and Cal relocated to Southwest Florida to soak up the sun and entertain the grandkids during the many treks to Florida. She adored her grandchildren and delighted in her great grandchildren. She had the most loving adorable little dog- "Harley".

Nancy is survived by her three sons and one daughter, Stephen M. (Laura) of Natural Bridge Station Va., David J. of Natural Bridge Station, Va., Daryl W. (Carol) of Mechanicsville, Md., Karen Thompson (Mendell), of Port Charlotte, Fl. Her beloved sister and Brother in Law Marjorie and Ron Horton, Englewood Fl., and Sister in Law Von Maddox, Prince Frederick, Md., nine grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. Nancy was predeceased by her parents, her beloved husband Cal (Ralph) and her two brothers, John (Jack) and James Samuel.

Visitation will be held on Monday November 27, at 9:00 am followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am at St. John's Church in Hollywood Md. Interment will follow immediately in the church cemetery.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



A COMPLICATED KNIGHT

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

The NFL was my first sports love. As I was coming of age, my football team, the one in Washington D.C., was consistently among the best - even the very best, several times over. It is hard to imagine now. The relics I retain from that era seem as much magical fiction as historical fact. But it all happened, "Once upon a time", as all good stories begin.

A close "2" and "2a" to the NFL were the NHL and college basketball. I owe my love of hockey to my dear Uncle Wayne. He dedicated so much time taking his son and me to Capitals games. I'm eternally grateful. Every nephew should have an Uncle Wayne.

As for college basketball, my timing was impeccable. I was nine when Patrick Ewing and Georgetown lost to Michael Jordan and North Carolina in the national championship, 10 when N.C. State upset Houston's Phi Slama Jama, 11 when Georgetown beat Houston to win the national championship, and 12 when they lost to Villanova. I saw Ralph Sampson, Chris Mullin, James Worthy, Tim Duncan, Christian Laettner and Grant Hill. I worshipped Terps such as Adrian Branch, Juan Dixon, Joe Smith, Walt Williams and Len Bias, my first sports hero.

Unlike the NFL, NCAA basketball games were on every night. A game between giants on a random Tuesday was a fabulous distraction from my horrendous attempt to flirt with the cute girl at lunch earlier in the day or the upcoming math test I had no interest in studying for. Gleaning a few new moves to try at the next day's basketball practice was emotionally safer than forays into adolescent infatuation and far more appealing than algebra.

After Maryland icons Gary Williams and Lefty Driesel, and long-time Duke head coach and Maryland nemesis Mike Krzyzewski, Bobby Knight was the college basketball coach who most preoccupied my mind. The curiosity of Knight was multi-faceted: a brilliant basketball coach who won over 70 percent of his games and three national championships at Indiana, and an equally indisputable hot head who coached and seemingly lived like a 24/7 drill sergeant (hence his nickname "The General").

When a friend texted me last week that Knight had passed away, several superlatives and criticisms flooded my mind. Ultimately, I managed but a two-word reply: Complicated dude.

Knight won nearly 900 games. He hung a bunch of banners. He made Indiana basketball a national power. His structured and disciplined approach and demanding coaching style turned many teenage boys into strong young men well-equipped for life.

Knight was also a bully. He tossed chairs across the court and feigned use of a whip on players as a motivational technique. He could be verbally and emotionally abusive. And in the case of former player Neil Reed, there was documented physical abuse. He was so spiteful over his dismissal from Indiana after an incident with a student that he shunned the university for years and skipped a 2016 reunion for his undefeated 1976 team.

Selfish. Generous. Mean. Kind. Highly effective. Self-destructive. It was all simultaneously true of Bobby Knight. His traits were impossible to reconcile. In a way, he embodied our complex world of coexisting contradictions.

After his death, social media was filled with positive stories. It was as if Knight's supporters felt compelled to influence the narrative of his legacy, counterbalance the "yeah buts" and passively apologize for his significant shortcomings. But Knight was certainly self-aware. He had to have moments of self-examination where the broader impact of his behavior was considered. That he never evolved and never yielded, despite a world yearning for him to do so, is disappointing. It left qualified praise as the tone of his farewell.

And that's a shame. But it was Knight's choice. There was - is - another way. Coaches like John Wooden, Dean Smith, Bill Walsh, Mike Krzyzewski and Joe Gibbs followed a different, and more admirable leadership model. Like Knight, they all won big, built a culture, benefitted a community and reached young men in meaningful ways. But they did it with a grace that Knight never grasped and absent a complicated legacy.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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The County Times invited our readers to share the names of their family members and loved ones who have served in the United States Armed Forces. We thank each and every one for their service.

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| J.M. Adams, Jr. | E.D. Butler | S.L. Dyson | J.W. Henson | D.W. Leland | P.R. Scheer |
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| L.D. Alvey | J.D. Clarke | C.A. Frank | P.E. Huff | V.H. Mast | R.L. Sydnor |
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| Ted Barber | Raymond E. Cyrus | W.E. Gough, Jr. | R.L. Joyner | Walter Nelson, Jr. | J.E. Weber |
| Stephen Barber | Stanley Czwartacki | A.J. Gray | Tom J. Julien, Jr. | G.E. Newton | D.E. White |
| Richard Barilone | Robert Czwartacki | William A. Grierson | Tom J. Julien, Sr. | J.B. Norris, Jr. | J. Wayne Williams |
| Daniel Barilone | Stanley Czwartacki | William A. Grierson, Jr. | Leonard E. Kessler | R.E. Payne | R.C. Williams |
| John Barilone | Stephen Czwartacki | C.C. Guy | Jay W. Kessler | E.W. Peterson | A.C. Wood |
| D.J. Beachy | T.M. Dennison | J.R. Guy | J.J. Kilroy, Sr. | W.A. Pilkerton, Jr. | F.X. Wood |
| J.E. Bell, II | R.D. Downs, Sr. | A.C. Guy, Sr. | J.H. Kurtz | S.R. Pistachio | J.I. Wood |
| T.I. Bennett | M.T. Dudley | Dennis L Hager | M.M. Kurtz | D.R. Pobst | R.H. Younger |
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★ SOMD VETERANS DAY EVENTS ★

The 48th Annual Leonardtown Veterans Day Parade & Memorial

Leonardtown Square
Saturday, November 11
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County invite the public to salute America's Veterans at the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Leonardtown! The Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony takes place in Leonardtown Square directly after the parade. For more information, visit: www.visitleonardtownmd.com/veteransday
Contact: Brandy Blackstone, 301-475-9791 or 240-309-9561, brandy.blackstone@leonardtownmd.gov.

The 38th Annual Veterans Day Observance

Veterans Of Helen Memorial
Saturday, November 11
2 p.m.

Sponsored by the Veterans of Helen, dedicated to the citizenry of Helen and veterans of the community and the nation.

Ceremony includes presentation of the colors, pledge of allegiance, guest speaker Capt. Derrick Kingsley, Commanding Officer, NAS Patuxent River and roll call of the deceased Veterans of Helen.

Calvert County American Legion Veteran's Day Ceremony

The Calvert County American Legion will be hosting once again this year the joint Veterans Day Ceremonies. Event will take place at 10:30 am on November 11 at the Calvert County Courthouse on the Veteran's Green. Guest Speaker is a Marine Corps Veteran and the Mayor of North Beach MD, Mike Benton.

Leonardtown Rotary's Flags for Heroes Ceremony

College of Southern Maryland,
Leonardtown Campus
Monday, November 13
1 p.m.

Each year, local businesses and people recognize heroes living and deceased by sponsoring one or more flags flown in the display. During the November 13th ceremony, the name of each hero will be read aloud. Funds raised from the Club's Flags for Heroes event will be used to support higher education and trade school scholarships for residents of St. Mary's County. For more information on Flags for Heroes visit <https://leonardtownrotary.org/>

Shine a Light to Support Veterans with Operation Green Light

Calvert County invites all residents and businesses to show support for military veterans during the week of Nov. 6-12, 2023. Join us in lighting buildings and homes in green to raise awareness and express our profound thanks for the sacrifice and service of our veterans.

Operation Green Light, a nationwide initiative spearheaded by the National Association of Counties, unites counties across the country to support those who have bravely served in the armed forces. This campaign serves as a powerful plat-

form to increase awareness about the unique challenges faced by veterans and the wealth of resources available to them.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate by changing at least one light bulb in their home or building to a vibrant green. This can be as simple as replacing an exterior light that neighbors and passersby see or an interior light. By shining a green light, we send a clear message to our veterans that they are not only seen but also deeply appreciated and supported. For more information on Operation Green Light visit veterans.maryland.gov/operation-green-light.

For more information on resources for Calvert County veterans visit the Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC) webpage at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/VAC.

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

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Charities That Support Military, Veterans, and Their Families



The support Americans have for their armed forces is evident in how much they donate each year to charities with military-related missions. According to Charity Navigator, Americans donate more than \$2.5 billion annually to charities with missions dedicated to the military.

Individuals who want to donate to a charitable organization with a military-related mission may not know where to start, and that can be daunting given the number of organizations that fit that criteria. Charity Navigator indicates there are more than 40,000 American charities with military-related missions, which underscores how difficult it can be to find one to support. Thankfully, Charity Navigator, which has provided donors with free access to data, tools and resources to guide their philanthropic decision-making since 2001, has curated a list of highly rated organizations that provide a variety of services to military members and their families. The following is a brief rundown of that list that can serve as a solid foundation for prospective donors. The full list can be found at charitynavigator.org.

Wounded Troops

- Air Warrior Courage Foundation (airwarriorcourage.org)
- DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust (cst.dav.org)
- Fisher House Foundation (fisherhouse.org)
- Higher Ground (highergroundusa.org)
- Homes for Our Troops (hfotusa.org)

- K9s for Warriors (k9sforwarriors.org)
- Operation Second Chance (operationsecondchance.org)
- Wounded Warrior Project (woundedwarriorproject.org)
- Yellow Ribbon Fund (yellowribbonfund.org)

Military Social Services

- AMVETS National Service Foundation (amvetsnsf.org)
- Hire Heroes USA (hireheroesusa.org)
- Honor Flight Network (honorflight.org)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (iava.org)
- Operation Gratitude (operationgratitude.com)
- Operation Healing Forces (operationhealingforces.org)
- Soldiers' Angels (soldiersangels.org)
- The Mission Continues (missioncontinues.org)

Military Family Support

- Army Emergency Relief (armyemergencyrelief.org)
- Blue Star Families (bluestarfam.org)
- Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation (fallenpatriots.org)
- Folds of Honor (foldsofhonor.org)
- Operation Homefront (operationhomefront.org)
- Our Military Kids (ourmilitarykids.org)
- Travis Manion Foundation (travismanion.org)
- VFW National Home for Children (vfnationalhome.org)

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The Roles of the Various Branches of the U.S. Military

Each November, people across the United States and its territories honor the brave men and women who serve and have served in the various branches of the country's military. Veterans Day is observed annually every November 11 and honors the service of all U.S. military veterans. The day should not be confused with Memorial Day, which is celebrated each year in May and honors all military personnel who have died in service.

Veterans Day is a great time for anyone to learn more about the various branches of the U.S. military.

Army

The U.S. Department of Defense notes that the Army is the largest and oldest service in the country's military. The Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States. Members of the Army are trained to defeat enemy ground forces and to seize and control enemy lands and resources. Army also are trained to control and interact with the general population in countries where members are stationed.

Navy

The Navy protects America at sea. Despite its massive land mass, the United States is a maritime nation, which underscores how important a strong Navy is to the safety of the country and its residents.



The Navy works alongside American allies and partners to keep the seas open and free.

Marine Corps.

It might surprise some to learn that the Marine Corps. is a component of the Department of the Navy. That's one reason why maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations. The Marine Corps. is divided into four groups: the operating forces that fight; the headquarters for leadership; the supporting establishment that provides logistical support; and the Marine Corps. Reserve.

Air Force

The Air Force has five core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and command and control. The Air Force defends the country and its residents in air, space and cyberspace and is capable of delivering forces anywhere in the world within hours.

Space Force

The existence of the Space Force may come as a surprise to many Americans. Organized under the Department of the Air

Force and established in 2019, this branch of the military organizes, trains and equips space forces in order to protect the interest of America and its allies in space.

Coast Guard

During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In times of war, it operates under the Navy. The Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement as well as environmental protection. In addition to promoting national security, border security and economic prosperity in the maritime environment, the Coast Guard saves those in peril on the sea.

National Guard

The National Guard is comprised of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The National Guard has a diverse array of responsibilities that range from supporting combat missions to responding during domestic emergencies to assisting in humanitarian efforts and more.

The U.S. military is made up various branches, each with its own unique missions and responsibilities. Veterans Day marks the perfect occasion to celebrate the many individuals who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military.

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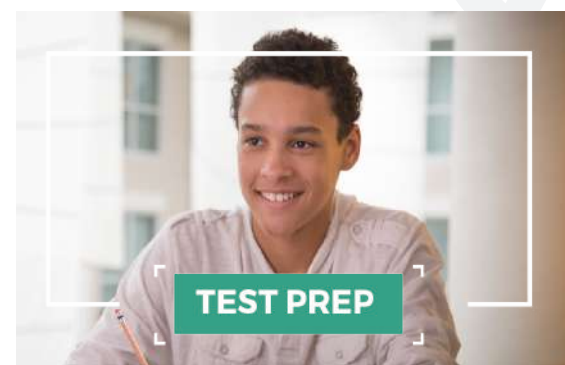
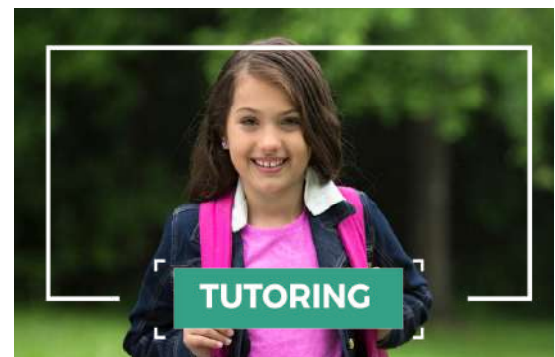
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A Calvert Sailor's Story



By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

Calvert County resident Candace Milcarzyk is a multitasking Navy Veteran who has earned many titles during her lifetime of giving herself to others. These include "Daughter," "Navy Wife," "Mother," "Grandmother," "Sailor," and "Petty Officer" to name a few. Today she is referred to as "Madam President" in her current role as President of the Solomons Optimist Club, a position she has held for three years. Like many former military members, Candace continues to serve others through her steadfast determination to serve to her community. She leads this group of volunteers with the same enthusiasm and dedication she demonstrated in the many leadership roles she was assigned to during her 24 years of naval service.

Candace was born in Wheaton, Illinois and later moved to Spokane, Washington where she grew up. The day after her 16th birthday, she saw the local Navy Recruiter and signed up for the Navy's "Delayed Entry Program" which guaranteed recruits a choice for several preferred formal programs once they graduated from high school. Upon earning her diploma, she immediately left for Recruit Training in Orlando, Florida in the summer of 1984. Following "boots," she received orders to Navy Patrol Squadron 50 at Moffett Field, California and was able to completely travel around the world twice during this tour of duty.

Her squadron deployed to the small island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean where she gained experience working the aircraft flight line, the tool room and the electrical shop. She decided she wanted to become an Intelligence Specialist and spent seven years dealing with handling classified material, messages, and records. She married a naval aircrewman, but soon realized they would have difficulty getting assigned together, so she cross rated to the Aerographer's Mate rating commonly called the "weather guessers." Her assignments would take her to several naval bases throughout California, as well as Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, the Pentagon, and Patuxent River, Maryland. She spent many years



teaching basic weather forecasting to subordinates and finished her naval career as a certified forecaster for the entire East Coast while stationed at Norfolk, Virginia.

Candace retired in 2008 the same year her son Zachary entered bootcamp. He followed in what became a "family tradition" - her dad, her husband and his dad were all sailors so she looked to Zachary as the one "to take up the family reins." Today he is a Naval Officer aboard the USS Maken Island. A younger son, Brandon, is currently serving on the USS Boxer as an electrician's mate. Her daughter Candlist is a CPA in St. Mary's County and youngest daughter Marissa is a student in New York. Candace spends much of her limited free time visiting this brood that includes her three grandkids who are spread all over the country. Fortunately, her current position as a Customer Service Assistant with Southwest Airlines provides many benefits and opportunities for her to visit with her family often.

Upon finishing her Navy career, Candace went into teaching. She earned a teaching certification in Prince Georges County and later taught middle school science in Anne Arundel County for three years. Health problems would later prevent her from teaching full time, but she finds time to work part time at the St Mary's Elms Environmental Center as well as serve as a Chief Judge for the Calvert County Board of Elections for the past 16 years. And if that isn't enough, she still finds more time to volunteer for the Solomons Rescue Squad as a Driver and Aide. She did serve on the Calvert County Rescue Dive Team for 21 years until injuries from an auto accident forced her to resign. And now she serves as President for the Solomons Optimists where she is a highly respected leader for this organization that cares for our youth while instilling a cheerful countenance in others within our community.

In closing, it is apparent this amazing, energetic lady has continually devoted a lifetime of commitment, not only to our Country, but to her neighbors and friends throughout our community. She continues to serve. Her outstanding life long record of devotion and accomplishment are well over and above what one would expect of any citizen.

Veteran Recounts Service on Front Line of Cold War

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Larry Hill keeps busy as the president of the Veterans of Helen organization that honors veterans local and from afar, but he has his own story of military service to tell.

He does not think it's particularly special, he said, but he served on the front lines of the nation's defense in the Cold War when the threat of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact still loomed large.

At the age of 20, in 1972, he was drafted into the U.S. Army but instead of being sent to Vietnam — a war that was winding down — he was given training in air defense radar systems.

He had taken the armed services testing and was signed on for a three-year hitch instead of the two-year option available to most draftees.

"I figured, if I'm going in, I'll go in on my terms," Hill, 71, told The County Times.

A St. Mary's County native, Hill worked as a young man after school in a local electronics and TV repair shop making deliveries and performing simple repairs and installations at first before receiving his draft notice.

His training at the technology center in Leonardtown showed he had an aptitude for

technical training and the army quickly put him in a 10-month school to become a radar operations and repair technician.

When he finished advanced individual training (AIT) and earned the rank of Specialist 5 he was assigned to a battery of Nike/Hercules missiles "literally in a cow pasture" in Elrama, Penn.

Those types of fixed missiles were a staple of Cold War air defense against strategic, long-range bombers and intercontinental ballistic missiles, both of which carried nuclear weapons payloads.

His assignment was to see the aging system of missile defense, which ringed every major city in the country, on its way.

"They were shutting down all the Nike batteries in the continental United States," Hill said. "Then we got transitioned to the Hawk missile system in Germany."

He spent the majority of his service in the then still-divided West Germany watching over air defense of U.S. forces that had squared off in a decades-long staring match against the Soviets in Eastern Europe.

Because his job was so critical and he had a security clearance his ability to travel and see the sights in West Germany was restricted to just a few places and he had to be accompanied by security to ensure his safety.

"We defended the border between East and West Germany," Hill said.

During his time in the Army, he got married to his wife and they lived for a time in Fort Bliss, Texas while he was in training.

They would part while he was in Germany but her getting a job at Patuxent River Naval Air Station as a secretary would help him to secure employment there when he mustered out in 1975.

He soon got a job at the test range on base working for a contractor monitoring radar there.

He continued on to civil service and retired in 2017.

He looks back on his military service with pride, even though felt differently about it at the time.

"I didn't want to go; I went kicking and screaming at first," Hill said. "But I went... I got a career out of it."

He remembered the 10 weeks of basic infantry training as the most miserable of his life but he saw it through because he still wanted to honor his country's call to service.

"You didn't want to be labeled a failure," Hill said. "They're trying to teach you how to survive."

"It's probably the best thing that ever happened to me."



Larry Hill

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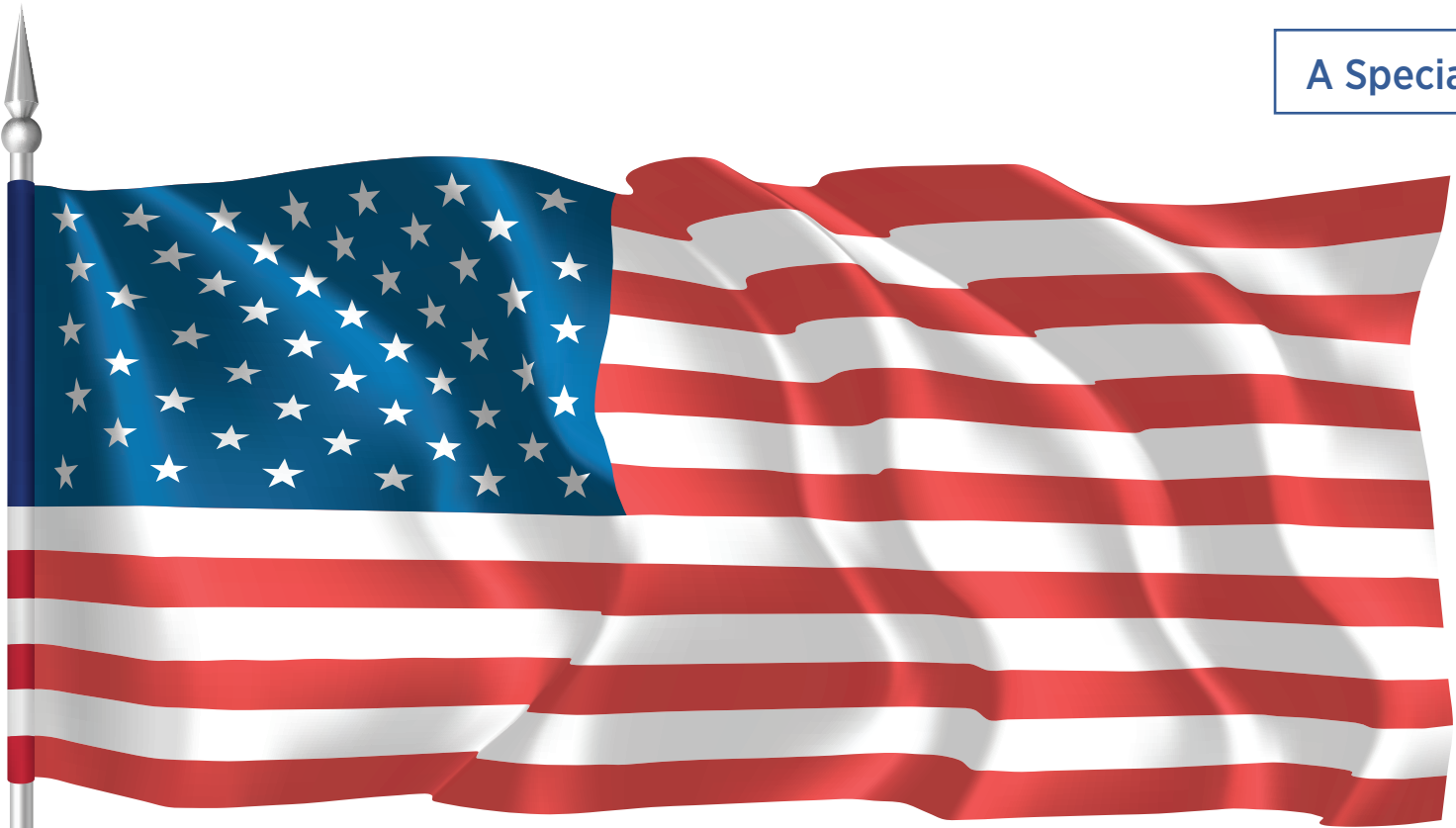
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Museums Will Join "Bells of Peace" Tolling on November 11



The bells at St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, two historic sites overseen by St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, will toll on November 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. to honor the 116,516 Americans, including the 27 St. Mary's County natives, who died in World War I.

The program, BELLS OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR I REMEMBRANCE, begun in 2018 to commemorate the centennial of World War I, is a collaborative program announced by the World War I Centennial Commission in coordination with the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, the Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, whereby American citizens and organizations across the entire country are invited to toll bells in their communities twenty-one times on November 11, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. local time.

Conceived and designed in collaboration with the nation's veterans of service with the Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the bell tolling provides

a solemn reminder of the sacrifice and service of veterans of World War I, and all veterans. Bells will be tolled in communities across the nation, in places of worship, schools, town halls, public carillons, and cemeteries, to mark the anniversary of the Armistice that brought an end to hostilities, in what Americans fervently hoped had been "The War to End All Wars."

This nationwide program is designed to honor those American men and women who served over one hundred years ago during World War I. The war ended by an armistice agreement between the warring countries at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918. World War I took place between July 1914 and November 1918 and was one of the deadliest conflicts in world history. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war. The United States officially entered the war on April 6th, 1917. Some 4.7 million Americans stepped forward to serve in uniform during the war, 2 million of them were deployed overseas to fight, and 116,516 of them never made it home.

County Government Veterans Day Operations

All St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023, in observance of Veterans Day.

- The November 10 closure also includes:
- The Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler & Northern); with no home-delivered meals
 - All three St. Mary's County Libraries (closed November 10th and 11th)
 - The St. Mary's Transit System (STS), including ADA and SSTAP. STS will resume normal operations on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

The following SMCG operations will be open on November 10th and 11th with normal hours:

- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill

- All Recreation & Parks programs and facilities
- The St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and Old Jail Museum
- The Wicomico Shores Golf Course and Riverview Restaurant

Additionally, The Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Town of Leonardtown invite the public to salute America's Veterans at the Annual Veterans Day Parade & Memorial Ceremony on November 11, 2023, in Leonardtown; information available at: visitleonardtownmd.com.

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, please visit: stmaryscountymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook or Twitter (X) for regular updates.

Leonardtown Rotary's Flags for Heroes Display at CSM



The Leonardtown Rotary Club invites the public to the annual Flags for Heroes ceremony taking place at 1 p.m. on November 13 at the College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus. Each year, local businesses and people recognize heroes living and deceased by sponsoring one or more flags flown in the display. "A hero can be anyone who makes a positive impression on your life or strives for the betterment of our community," stated Michael Blackwell, President, Leonardtown Rotary Club.

The America flag display is now in place on the campus lawn through December 1st.

Keepsake medallions recognizing a hero and the individual or business that sponsored the flag will soon be attached. Flag sponsorships can still be secured by visiting <https://leonardtownrotary.org/>.

During the November 13th ceremony, the name of each hero will be read aloud. Funds raised from the Club's Flags for Heroes event will be used to support higher education and trade school scholarships for residents of St. Mary's County. For more information on Flags for Heroes visit <https://leonardtownrotary.org/>.

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Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C-18-FM-23-000735

TO: CHRISTOPHER JAMES FINN, JR.
IN THE MATTER OF RYLAN MARIE FINN

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF A MINOR
(Md. Rule 15-901(d))**

FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO: Rylan Marie Bowles

A petition to change the name of Rylan Marie Finn to Rylan Marie Bowles has been filed with this court.

You must consent to (agree) or object to (oppose) the petition in writing no later than 30 days after being served (receiving) this notice and the documents filed in this case. **If you do not file a written consent of objection within 30 days of being served with this notice, the court will consider your silence to be consent and may grant the name change.**

You can use form CC-DR-063 (Parent's/Guardian's/Custodian's Consent/Objection to Change of Name of a Minor).

Any objection must be supported by an affidavit (a written statement signed by oath or affirmation) and served on all parties. (Md. Rule 1-321.)

Changing the name of the minor will not change and existing child support obligation or paternity.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of the Court, St. Mary's County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C-18-FM-23-000736

TO: CHRISTOPHER JAMES FINN, JR.
IN THE MATTER OF HARLOW LAINE FINN

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF A MINOR
(Md. Rule 15-901(d))**

FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO: Harlow Laine Bowles

A petition to change the name of Harlow Laine Finn to Harlow Laine Bowles has been filed with this court.

You must consent to (agree) or object to (oppose) the petition in writing no later than 30 days after being served (receiving) this notice and the documents filed in this case. **If you do not file a written consent of objection within 30 days of being served with this notice, the court will consider your silence to be consent and may grant the name change.**

You can use form CC-DR-063 (Parent's/Guardian's/Custodian's Consent/Objection to Change of Name of a Minor).

Any objection must be supported by an affidavit (a written statement signed by oath or affirmation) and served on all parties. (Md. Rule 1-321.)

Changing the name of the minor will not change and existing child support obligation or paternity.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of the Court, St. Mary's County

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NAS PATUXENT RIVER News

Navy to Deploy SDB-II Smart Weapon Aboard F/A-18 Aircraft

The Navy is set to field the Small Diameter Bomb-II on the F/A-18E/F after declaring Early Operational Capability (EOC) in October.

The F/A-18E/F is the Navy's first platform to carry the SDB-II, giving the aircraft the capability to hit moving targets in harsh weather and address targets in dynamic scenarios.

"The Navy and Air Force team, along with the test community and fleet stakeholders, worked relentlessly to expedite the fielding of this weapon," said Tyler Alt, Navy SDB-II program manager. "This weapon will give our warfighters a much-needed capability and provide the basis for future network enabled weapons."

The team will complete two additional operational test events before achieving Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in 2024.

SDB-II is an air-launched, precision-strike standoff weapon that enables the warfighter to defeat moving and fixed targets. It can operate in adverse weather conditions through its tri-mode seeker that employs infrared and millimeter wave radar to see through fog, smoke and rain.



The weapon has the capability to receive updated target coordinates mid-flight via two-way datalink communications. Using these network options, SDB-II allows airborne or ground controllers the ability to send in-flight target updates.

SDB-II is a Joint-Interest, Air Force Lead program and is currently fielded on the U.S. Air Force's F-15E aircraft. SDB-II will also

be compatible and fielded on F-16C/D and F-35 aircraft.

The Navy component of the SDB-II program is executed by the Precision Strike Weapons Program Office (PMA-201), which provides naval aviation with dominant lethal, integrated precision strike solutions for any conflict anytime, anywhere.



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8x12	\$4.90	15x30	\$21.65
8x15	\$6.15	16x20	\$15.40
8x18	\$7.35	20x20	\$19.25
8x20	\$7.70	20x30	\$28.85
9x12	\$5.50	20x35	\$33.65
10x12	\$6.15	20x40	\$36.85
10x15	\$7.65	24x36	\$39.80
10x16	\$7.70	25x45	\$51.80
10x20	\$9.65	30x40	\$55.25
12x12	\$7.35	30x60	\$75.50
12x14	\$8.10	40x50	\$83.90
12x16	\$9.25	40x60	\$100.65
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10x15	\$14.95	40x60	\$198.90
10x20	\$19.95		
12x12	\$14.35		
12x16	\$19.15		
12x20	\$23.95		
12x25	\$29.90		
15x20	\$29.90		
15x25	\$35.85		
16x20	\$31.90		
20x20	\$38.20		
20x25	\$47.75		
20x30	\$57.30		
20x35	\$66.85		
20x40	\$69.65		

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10x12	\$16.35	20x20	\$52.10
10x20	\$27.20	30x40	\$135.55
12x12	\$19.60	30x50	\$169.45
12x16	\$26.10	30x60	\$203.35
12x20	\$32.65	40x60	\$271.10
12x25	\$39.10		

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Deputies Arrest Pair in Great Mills Murder

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office have arrested two people in connection with the Nov. 4 shooting death of Scott Marvin Bernich, 46, that took place at St. Mary's Fine Wine & Spirits in Great Mills. Arrested were Leroy Christopher Neal, 48, of Mechanicsville and Britny Lee Blankenship, 33, of no fixed address.

A statement of probable cause filed against Neal states that detectives found shell casings from a .380 caliber pistol both in the victim's car and in the back lot of the establishment where he was found. Bernich was transported to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital for immediate care and then flown to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, MD, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Surveillance video from nearby businesses and the establishment where the crime is alleged to have occurred also led to Neal being positively identified as a suspect, charging papers stated.

A warrant search at an apartment in Leonardtown turned up both the suspect and ammunition preliminarily matching that used in the alleged shooting, charging



LEROY CHRISTOPHER NEAL

BRITNY LEE BLANKENSHIP
photo taken 3/4/23

papers stated, as well as controlled dangerous substances and paraphernalia and clothing items that matched those seen in surveillance footage.

The charging papers did not share a possible motive for the crime; when Neal was taken into the sheriff's office District 3 station in California for an interview he invoked his Miranda rights.

Neal and Blankenship were taken into custody and charged with Murder First Degree, Murder Second Degree, Assault First Degree, Assault Second Degree, and Firearm Use in the Commission of a Crime of Violence.

The suspects are being held in the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center pending bond hearings.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Jury Convicts Man for HVFD Carnival Murder

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that following an eight-day trial, a St. Mary's County jury convicted Devron Ny'Quez Murray, 20, of Lexington Park, Maryland, of first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder, and related offenses. The violent crimes, committed at the 2022 Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Annual Carnival, took the life of one teenage victim and left another teenager shot and injured.

"The Hollywood Carnival is an annual highlight of the summer for our County. The actions of the defendant on the night of July 15, 2022, turned this beloved family event into a nightmare. I thank the jury for their careful deliberation to ensure justice, and I hope the victims' loved ones will gain some closure from this verdict," said Sterling.

The jury convicted Mr. Murray of the following charges:

- First-degree murder (16-year-old victim);
- Second-degree murder (16-year-old victim);
- Use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence (16-year-old victim);
- Attempted first-degree murder (17-year-old victim);
- Attempted second-degree murder (17-year-old victim);
- First-degree assault (17-year-old



Devron Ny'Quez Murray

victim);

- Use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence (17-year-old victim);
- Loaded handgun on a person; and
- Possession of regulated firearm under the age of 21.

The defendant will remain held without bond pending the sentencing hearing.

Senior Assistant State's Attorneys Sarah Proctor and Alena Mosier prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County. Detective Tyler Payne and Deputy First Class Daniel Sidorowicz of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were the lead investigators. The Honorable Amy D. Lorenzini presided over the case.

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Burris Isn't Finished in Leonardtown Yet

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In the last 10 years Leonardtown has experienced rapid revitalization and small business growth, with pedestrians patronizing shops and tourists coming to town to find out more of what they've heard about this "Most Convenient Place" as the town has chosen to brand itself.

It's a far cry from where it was in the 1990's when the bypass that cut through the downtown to provide a more rapid route to Patuxent River Naval Air Station took traffic away from it.

This could have proved the death knell for Leonardtown, but leader-activists like Mayor J. Harry "Chip" Norris III, who recently passed away, fought to keep anchors like the court house and post office where they are.

This helped to lay the groundwork for turning Leonardtown into a model for small town growth and revitalization.

But Norris couldn't do it alone.

Mayor Dan Burris, who is entering into his 12th year in the office, considered Norris his mentor and Burris has kept the town's revitalization and growth as his prime focus.

Making the town government friendly and responsive to small businesses is just one aspect, working with the county and state to improve infrastructure to boost commercial and residential development is another.

The town government is also active in promoting its small businesses any way it can, providing support in dealing with the county and the town's own development approval process when it can.

But more than that it has leveraged events and gatherings, such as the recent World's Largest Rubber Duck, to bring in an estimated 50,000 visitors into the town and a windfall of tourist dollars to bolster small businesses.

Burris said he is anxious to continue providing more of the same to town residents.

"We've got some things I want to see through," Burris told *The County Times*. "We've got the Tudor Hall Farm project and its main entrance will be [across from] Clark's Rest."

The Tudor Hall Farm is just one example of Burris's priorities.

The project is a combination of residential and commercial properties that would take advantage of some 400 acres the town has along the water front of Breton Bay; the project has been in the works for years and was delayed once again by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Burris wants to continue in office long enough to see that project get started and gain momentum; once completed — which would take years — Tudor Hall Farm would create a circuit of communities in town.

Clark's Rest, Tudor Hall Farm, Leonard's Grant and The Meadows at Town Run would be connected by community roads and allow town residents to access the downtown and other businesses without using Route 5 through town.

Aside from reducing traffic, it would spur foot traffic for small business, he said.

"We don't want it to be two separate downtowns," Burris said. "We want them



to be interconnected.

"It's more continuity with all the neighborhoods coming together."

It's for this reason, seeing to one of the biggest developments in the town in recent history, that Burris has decided to run for one more term in office.

During the last election cycle, Burris had said he planned to step away from the mayor's seat but his desire to ensure the continuity of progress on new projects, the redevelopment of the downtown with its redesign and repurposing of previously empty spaces and alley ways, plus the completion of expansion of the town's wastewater treatment plant, have changed his mind.

He doesn't see much ability to develop residentially after Tudor Hall Farm, he said, since the extra capacity at the waste water treatment plant will be mostly filled by that development, which is still years away.

But just as much, if not more, concerning to Burris is keeping the commercial growth in town going "to make everyone's life in Leonardtown easier and help the businesses."

The town uses a solid schedule of events and gatherings to boost tourism and access to downtown business, which have flourished in the past decade with establishments like The Rex and Shepherd's Old Field bringing new life to the old town.

Gerrie L'Heureux, owner of Shepherd's Old Field market, said the town, under Burris's leadership with the town staff and council, have made the town the epitome of business friendly.

"He's the face of the town," L'Heureux said. "He's very approachable... he's the whip behind to make sure things happen."

"I wouldn't open a business anywhere else in St. Mary's County."

Burris has a full-time job as owner of Olde Town Insurance on the town square, but he is only about a block away from the

town offices.

"I check in with the office about two to three times a day," Burris said.

Burris was on the town council in the 1980s for one-and-a-half years and resumed service there from 2008 to 2012 before winning election as mayor when Norris stepped away.

"I figured after 12 years I would've been done," Burris said. "I'm not done yet."

"I've also had so many people ask me to run; they like the way things are going in town."

Burris said keeping the town focused on projects that are already underway, as well as those in the near future, has been challenging.

The Route 5 breakout project, which has focused on widening the road through Leonardtown between the entrance to MedStar St. Mary's and Moakley Street, has been a frustrating one with years of delays and two contractors put off the job by the state before finally finding a third to finish the job.

And the full project isn't even done yet, Burris said.

"We need to work with the local delegation [to Annapolis] to get that project finished," Burris said. "The finished project will widen Route 5 all the way from Hollywood Road to Compton Road."

"That's a center turn lane all the way through."

The town has to stay on the project, he said, as the design of it is only about 45 percent completed.

Burris credits the work the town has finished to earn both Main Street and Arts and Entertainment District designation from the state with raising the town's profile; both were awarded while he was in office.

The designations earn the town assistance from the state in marketing the town's strengths to tourists as well as building

bridges with other similar communities to share best practices.

But the real prize with these kinds of designations is grant money and tax incentives.

Grants from the state for façade improvements at local businesses took a \$175,000 investment, Burris said, and sparked further investment by business owners to the tune of \$750,000 to make more improvements.

Burris credits his relationship with the town council and town government staff with working together as a tightly knit team.

His wife Donna is an unofficial part of that team; she said she supports her husband's work and believes his ideas are the right ones for the town.

"I'm very verbal with what I think about something going on in town," Donna said. "He either listens to me or he doesn't."

She noted that he often took her advice seriously.

She also keys her husband and the town council and staff into any issues around town.

"If I see something that's not to quite right, I'll tell them," Donna said.

That could be anything from traffic and parking concerns to whatever might impede foot traffic in the town square, she said.

"His ideas are to keep our town small and quaint even with all this growth around us," Donna said. "I think he's doing a really good job."

Getting Leonardtown to this point has been a challenging job but Burris, who was born in town and spent much of his formative childhood there, said it's a job he relishes.

"I love working with people," Burris said. "I just love to see Leonardtown get even better."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Planning Commission Continues Callaway Gas Station Hearing

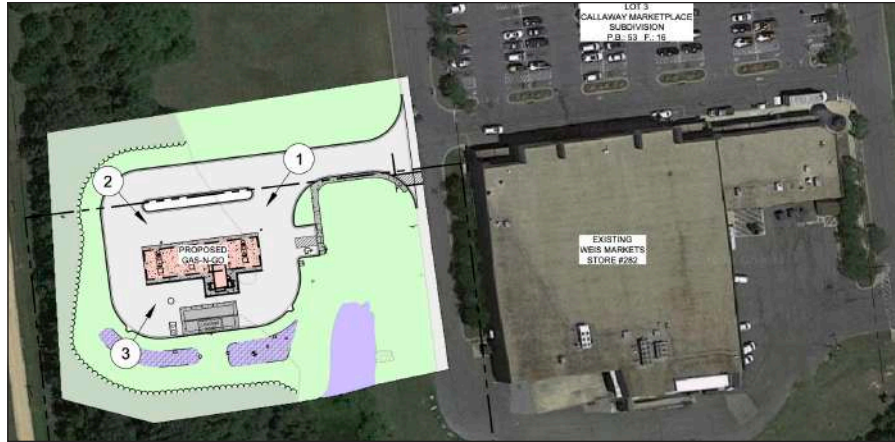
By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Callaway residents who are concerned about the prospect of a gas station being built next to the Weis Market near the intersection of Route 5 and Piney Point Road will have to wait until next year to learn the fate of the project.

After a three-hour meeting Nov. 6, some of which was taken up by another matter, the planning commission members voted unanimously to take up the concept site plan for the Gas-N-Go to the scheduled Jan. 22 meeting.

There was significant community opposition voiced in letters to the planning commission leading up to this week's hearing in Leonardtown; increased traffic volume and safety concerns as well as increased noise were the prime concerns among opposing residents.

"We are also opposed to the construction of another gas station in Callaway," wrote Thomas and Brenda Chaillou, who live in the Hunting Creek subdivision across Route 5 from the Weis Markets. "We currently have two gas stations in Callaway directly



across the street from each other, Shell and USA Fuels, that are located 685 feet from the proposed Gas N Go.

"We do not feel that the small community needs to have three gas stations within 685 feet of each other."

The concept site plan calls for a 2,295-square foot gas station canopy with an additional 204 square feet to accommodate a gas station attendant, according to county planning documents.

The project would be situated on 3.72 acres and allow for six fuel pumps.

County public works engineers report in planning documents that the addition of the gas station operation would generate approximately 50 more vehicle trips per hour and, as such, no traffic study was required to meet the level of service required for the intersection at Route 5 and Piney Point Road.

Original plans for the Callaway Market-

place, where the new gas station is proposed to go, called for 37,635 square feet for the supermarket, 11,000 square feet for a pharmacy, 4,000 square feet for a fast food restaurant and more than 43,000 square feet of additional retail space.

But only the supermarket and 6,000 square feet of space has been built at the site, planning documents show.

But residents and planning commissioners were critical of traffic study estimates presented that evening as being outdated by two decades.

"I, too, am concerned about the safety of residents who live parallel to Weis [Markets]," said board member Patricia Robrecht, noting that Granddaddy Way was of particular concern because it was used to move farm equipment but many motorists treated the private way as an entrance to the grocery store property.

"The traffic study, that's unacceptable to me," Robrecht continued. "I go by there at least five times a week and it's exactly as they [the opponents] describe it."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Inspection of Thomas Johnson Bridge Begins November 12

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will begin a week-long routine bridge inspection of the MD 4 Bridge over the Patuxent River (Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge) at the Calvert/St. Mary's County line. The night-time inspection will take place Sunday, November 12, through Thursday, November 16, from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. the following morning.

During the inspection, crews will close one lane and alternate traffic in the open lane using flagging operations. Portable variable message signs will be placed along area state routes to make travelers aware of the lane closure. The inspection will be performed by contractors JMT (Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson) and Gannett Fleming. Overnight travelers should plan extra travel time to cross the bridge.

The State Highway Administration

understands temporary ramp and lane closures can be an inconvenience, but this work is necessary to ensure a safe and reliable transportation system. Motorists are asked to reduce speeds approaching and while in active work zones.

Customers may contact the District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or toll-free at 1-800-331-5603 for additional information. Drivers are asked to stay alert, stay focused, look for reduced speed limits as well as driving pattern changes, and slow down in construction zones. Motorists in need may dial #77 on their mobile devices for roadside assistance.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, go to Project Portal, or visit the homepage at roads.maryland.gov. For a look at real-time traffic conditions, go to md511.maryland.gov.

School Board Approves LHS Generator Replacement

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education voted unanimously this week to spend a little over \$188,000 to purchase a new emergency generator for Leonardtown High School, which is also an emergency shelter designated as such by the county.

The purchase of the new unit from Ebenezer Electric LLC also included a \$13,200 contingency for replacing the old generator and installing automatic transfer switches with the new unit.

The current generator was installed in 1999, according to school board documents, and has reached the end of its service life; repairs to the unit have become more difficult as time has gone on because of obsolescence of critical parts.

Since Leonardtown High School is an emergency shelter facility as well, it is critical, school board officials said, to have reliable emergency power available there.

The new generator will be able to provide 300 kilowatts of power as opposed to the 275 of the current unit, school board documents state.

The new generator is also designed to be quieter than the current model, producing 74 decibels at 23 feet while enclosed a special sound-attenuating housing.

For comparison, school officials said, a



car traveling at 65 miles-per-hour produces 77 decibels at 25 feet away.

The new unit can also be monitored remotely as it used factory-installed telematics.

The unit is expected to be delivered to the school system within the next 24 weeks.

Ebenezer Electric LLC has fulfilled contracts with the school system before, including replacing the gymnasium lights at White Marsh Elementary School in 2020.

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Commissioners Hire Lobbyist for Annapolis Representation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

After much debate and on a split vote, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County decided to hire for one year's time the services of long-time, well-connected Annapolis lobbyist Bruce Bereano to represent their interests.

Three commissioners voted to approve the hiring of Bereano, who has a reputation for being highly successful, while Commissioners Mike Hewitt and Mike Alderson opposed the measure.

Bereano, who did not speak to commissioners at the commissioners' meeting of Nov. 7, has proposed only charging the county \$15,000 for his services.

Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy said he considered this a bargain for such services; Assistant County Attorney John Houser, who presented Bereano's request to the commissioners, said other lobbyists had quoted a price of at least \$80,000 for a year's work.

"That number is fixed, it cannot increase over the course of the year," said Houser of Bereano's fee. "It is also not binding to be renewed."

Houser said 11 other counties employ a lobbyist to represent them in Annapolis; Washington County currently employs Bereano as does Queen Anne's County.

Houser said despite his and others efforts

at the County Attorney's Office, they would not be able to be much more than a "reporting service" on the goings on in Annapolis to the commissioners.

"The hope is that Mr. Bereano would augment what we are doing up there," Houser said, noting Bereano's 52 years of experience. "He'll be one more asset up there to expand our capabilities.

"We will never have the level of experience or the breadth of knowledge he does."

Bereano would be a much more effective representative, Houser said.

Hewitt balked at the idea, saying that both Delegates Brian Crosby (D) and Matt Morgan (R) opposed Bereano's hiring.

"This commissioner would expect our lobbyists to be our delegates and our senator," Hewitt said.

Hewitt noted the recent change in delegation leadership from Matt Morgan to Todd Morgan saying: "I'm told it was because the former chairman did not have enough sway in Annapolis to get anything done."

Delegate Todd Morgan, the new delegation chair, supports it, as does Sen. Jack Bailey.

Houser said hiring Bereano was meant in no way to disrupt the relationship with the delegation.

"Those are four elected officials with their own constituencies which are not the exact same as the commissioners," Houser said.

"He's been disbarred," Hewitt said. "And that's a big issue for me."



Bruce Bereano

Commissioner Eric Colvin, who engaged County Administrator David Weiskopf to have Houser reach out to Bereano in October, interjected that the past decade had brought the commissioners more engagement in statewide politics.

"The commissioners have taken more and more interest in the general session [in Annapolis]," Colvin said. "In my mind... we get another tool in the tool box, someone who is already an insider up there who can testify on the county's behalf for bills the commissioners support."

Bereano was once the highest paid lobbyist in Annapolis but ran afoul of the law in 1994 when he was found guilty of mail

fraud and was sentenced to a short period of incarceration in a federal halfway house.


Prosecutors said Bereano over-billed his clients and used that money to funnel campaign contributions through his employees and some family members to certain candidates in the 1990 election.

Houser said Bereano was able to secure more than \$2 million for the Benedictine School in Caroline County, \$352,000 over the past four years for the Anne Arundel County Fair, and \$700,000 towards the handicapped-accessible boat for St. Clements Island here in St. Mary's.

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ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY JOHN HOUSER ON THE HIRING OF LOBBYIST BRUCE BEREANO



LOCAL 5
Commissioners hire high-profile lobbyist



LOCAL 6
Decision delayed on Callaway gas station



7 ON THE COVER
Mayor Dan Burris wants to continue what's been started in Leonardtown

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, NOV 9 Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 49°	FRI, NOV 10 PM Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 40°	SAT, NOV 11 Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 39°	SUN, NOV 12 Partly Cloudy Hi: 52° Lo: 34°
MON, NOV 13 Sunny Hi: 56° Lo: 38°	TUE, NOV 14 Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 37°	WED, NOV 15 Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 40°	THU, NOV 16 Partly Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 47°

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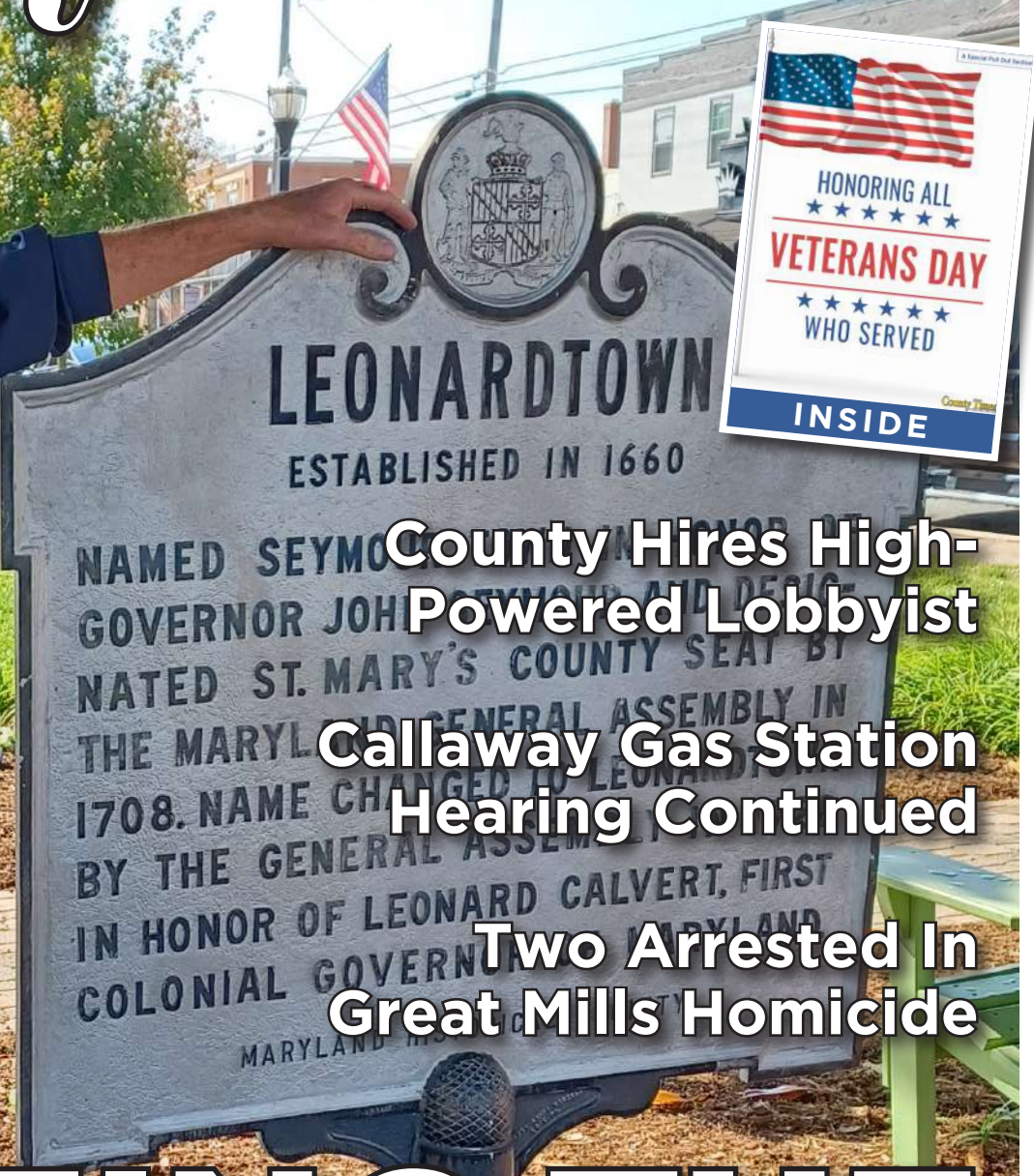


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