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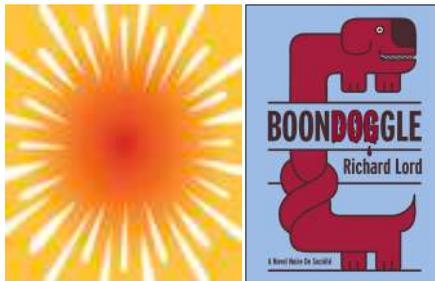
St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET



**Celebrating
Christmas
in Old St. Mary's**



THE LOVE STAR

**THE NIGHT IS FULL OF ENDLESS WONDERS
THROUGH MY SLEEP THROUGH MY SLUMBERS
I SEE A STAR FAR UP ABOVE
A STAR THAT BRIGHTLY BEAMS OF LOVE**

**I THINK OF THE STAR OF OUR LORD
THE STAR THAT GLOWED, GLITTERED, AND SOARED
TO ALLURE MANKIND FROM OVER THE EARTH
TO THE PRINCE OF PEACE AT OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH**

**I BELIEVE THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM
THE STAR FROM WHENCE LOVE BEGAN
IS THAT STAR IN DREAM I SEE
FOR LOVE OF GOD, MANKIND, AND THEE**

**NOW THE END OF NIGHT HAS COME
SOON I SHALL ARISE AS ONE
WHO KNOWS THROUGH DREAM THOUGH IT HAS PASSED
THE LUSTER OF THE STAR SHALL LAST**

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Read more of the extensive poetry in the novel BoonDOGGLE available in all three St. Mary's County Libraries and from all online booksellers including Amazon and Barnes and Noble as noted in www.BoonDOGgle.dog

Created By: 75-year-old Richard Lord, MPA, BYU Romney Institute of Public Service and Ethics; Analyst-in-Charge, Criminal Alien Division, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (retired); Publisher of www.7thDistrict.org Bushwood, Maryland; author of an ISBN novel see www.BoonDOGgle.dog; and a recent St. Mary's County Election Judge

With Inspiration From

76-year-old Nancy Lord Zearfoss, Ph.D. at age 51 in Public Policy and Management, John Glenn School of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University; Executive Advisor to then Maryland PSC Chairman Glenn Ivey stopping the telecoms from adding three new area codes to Maryland including a new one for St. Mary's County saving businesses, governments, and you millions of dollars in not having to change telephone numbers on signs, billboards, trucks, letterhead, business cards, etc.; Analyst-in-Charge US Government Accountability Office (GAO), (retired); ABC TV series EMMY winner as its Producer as well as Location Manager in the film industry in San Francisco & Hollywood; current lead female vocalist on keyboards in area classic rock & blues bands; Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Guardian Ad Litem, protecting neglected & abused children placed in Foster Care; and a recent St. Mary's County Maryland Election Judge

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“WE’RE JUGGLING TO BE HONEST WITH YOU.”
 EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR STEVE WALKER ON THE NEED FOR MORE FULL TIME, PAID EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL.



LOCAL 9
 Local: EMS staffing struggles continue



COMMUNITY 19
 Mike's Turkey Drive delivers to the needy



ON THE COVER
 Celebrating Christmas in Old St. Mary's
 Christmas celebrations were very different in old St. Mary's

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU 12/22	53° /40° Rain	97%	MON 12/26	36° /20° Turning out cloudy and cold	14%
FRI 12/23	44° /15° Very windy, cooler, a.m. rain	75%	TUE 12/27	41° /30° Some sun, then clouds	18%
SAT 12/24	26° /16° Breezy in the morning; sunny	10%	WED 12/28	41° /29° Clouds giving way to some sun	7%
SUN 12/25	32° /17° Plenty of sunshine, but cold	8%	THU 12/29	45° /38° Times of clouds and sun	0%

Provided by www.accuweather.com

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10. LONDON BLUE TOPAZ 11. BLUE TOPAZ 12. SAPPHIRE 13. AMETHYST 14. EMERALD 15. CITRINE 16. BLUE TOPAZ

Stories of Christmas Past in St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Memories of Christmas in St. Mary's County hearken back to much simpler — and often harder — time.

But those simpler and harder times made Christmas even more important as faith and family held a much more central role in the celebration, since material gifts were not nearly as available.

So says Samuel Baldwin, local attorney and historian, who interviewed past generations about what Christmas was like for them growing up.

Some of them grew up in the decades before the coming of Patuxent River Naval Air Station and the subsequent rapid modernization of the state's Mother County while others' memories exist only in correspondence from the 19th century when motor transport was not even thought of and the nation had yet to be torn asunder by the Civil War.

"Christmas was a lot simpler," Baldwin said. "It was much more of a religious holiday."

Letters collected by county residents to each other dating back to 1859 show how weather could keep people apart, that and social upheaval that fortold the coming of conflict between the North and South.

"Your letter by old Nace was duly delivered and I was very glad indeed..."



I will be down the last of this week or the first of next if the weather permits," wrote Dr. Henry Briscoe to his sister Margaret Briscoe who lived at Sotterley plantation in Hollywood. "There were other irritating circumstances to keep me home this Christmas, such as... protection of nervous women who labor under Harper's Ferry apprehensions."

He was referring to the abortive raid on a federal armory by abolitionist John Brown and his followers in an attempt to arm slaves and foment a general rebellion against their masters.

The letter was written three days after Christmas that year.

Letters could be slow but it was one of few methods of distant communication then.

"That's where the technology was, that's where the infrastructure was," Baldwin said. "If you had any inclement weather you weren't travelling or you weren't travelling as far as you wanted."

Also, the wealth that is much more pervasive in St. Mary's County now was held in the hands of a few prominent families.

That meant presents were few and far between.

"An orange or a candy cane was very special," Baldwin said, noting that these items were not widely available during the cold, winter months here. "On a farm, you ate what you grew."

Without the emphasis on gifts, visits with friends and family were the emphasis along with religious ceremonies on Christmas.

The church often facilitated that coming together of friends and family.

"People were more focused on interpersonal relationships," Baldwin said. "And that was where the church came in."

"You didn't work, you had sweets," Baldwin said of the more fun and relaxing time Christmas afforded in old St. Mary's. "You went house to house and sang Christmas carols."

St. Mary's in times past was mostly agrarian in nature, with livings to be made either off the land or on the water harvesting seafood.

"Life was drudgery," Baldwin said. "For people then it was simple day-to-day survival."

But living off the land did provide one advantage, Baldwin said.

"People didn't have the means to make it a big holiday," he said. "But food they could do."

Hams of all kinds were common for Christmas then and, of course, oysters were also a staple for holiday fare as the days were cold and the bivalve plentiful.

"Nobody had big gifts..." said Elizabeth Fenwick, one of the subjects of Baldwin's oral history interviews. "If they had an orange in their stocking they were lucky."

"But it was all about eating the food, the big meal and the old hams and the stuffed hams and the oysters."

Legendary county resident and businessman Arthur "Buck" Briscoe — known as "Mr. St. Mary's" — was famous for sending a live turkey and can of oysters to the White House each year.

Norris Shepherd, interviewed by Baldwin in his oral history compilation, remembered how residents would supplement their holiday fare.

"Families would visit each other," Norris is recorded as said. "You would go somewhere and sometimes they would have dinner at one house and then supper time at another house."

"And we being boys and young men and stuff like that, we had this one week a year where we hunted the whole week; rabbit hunting and squirrels because deer weren't around at that time. No turkeys were here yet, either."

Another difference in the holiday season decades ago was the deep cold and heavy snow that often allowed residents to take their vehicles onto a frozen solid Breton Bay and cross into Leonardtown.

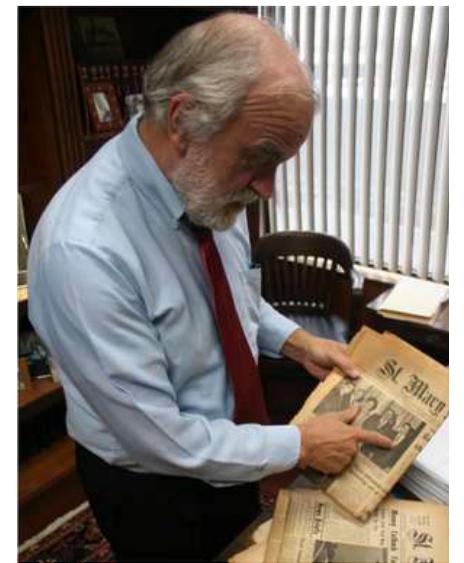
"Then there was a sleigh in the winter time that would ride them up and down the the road, because you there wasn't anyone cleaning the roads off," said Loretta Beavan Norris in Baldwin's records. "I can remember jumping into a snow drift up to my neck; I can remember snow down on the walk being between two and three feet high."

"You would be home from school for several days until the sun came out or you shoveled your way out."

No matter their social or economic level, or the era in which they lived, St. Mary's residents have always loved Christmas.

"Christmas is still everyone's favorite holiday," Baldwin said. "It's just different now."

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Closed for Lunch 12:30pm–2pm • Reopening Regular Hours Jan 4, 2023

Scholarship Looks To Train Local Medical Talent

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Since 2001 MedStar St. Mary's Hospital has offered thousands in scholarship dollars to residents of Southern Maryland who are seeking careers in the medical field.

This year is no different and the money offered for certain educational tracks is up to \$24,000.

"It's based on the level of education you are pursuing," said Holly Meyer, director of marketing and community outreach at MedStar St. Mary's. "And it's really where you go to school."

A scholarship recipient who is pursuing a two-year degree program to be a registered nurse can receive up to \$12,000 while a student pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing science would receive more.

Pamela Barnard, head of human resources at the hospital, said the money goes towards tuition, books, fees and uniforms if they are required in the student's medical field of study.

"We try to help the person with all the different costs," Barnard told The County Times, noting that the scholarships were not just for young people continuing their education but for medical professionals who wanted to boost their careers or those who wanted to completely change their employment.

"There's an untapped group of people

like adults looking to go back to school," Barnard said.

"We really do want to reach out to people and let them know this program is out there," Meyer said.

The scholarships are for numerous fields that deal with healthcare from the science and technical aspects to the administrative.

All of it is focused on dealing with the nationwide shortage of healthcare professionals that is straining hospital staff that are already overworked.

The requirement of the scholarship is that students who partake of the scholarship come back to MedStar St. Mary's and work there for a certain amount of time, usually from six months to about three years in most cases.

"We're trying to solve that national shortage locally," Meyer said. "We believe in this 'grow your own' program."

Several graduates of the program have become leaders in the local medicine field, Meyer said.

This has a strengthening effect on the programs offered here, she said, because



Tom Clark, of the MIL Corporation, presents a check to support the MedStar Scholarship. LeeAnn Carranza and Noel Mast were both scholarship winners. At right is Holly Meyer.

patients are more familiar with the people treating them.

"Because of that, [the scholarship program] is effective," Meyer said.

The scholarships are fully funded by donations from the community and raised each year by the philanthropic committee of the hospital's board of directors.

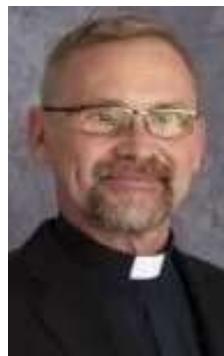
There have been about 170 scholarship winners in the past 21 years, Meyer said, with about \$100,000 given out each year.

The largest number of winners was 17 in one year but the average is between five and six recipients.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Little Flower Priest Pleads Guilty

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer



Jaroslaw Gamrot

J a r o s l a w "Jerry" Gamrot, a Catholic priest who was formerly the administrator at Little Flower School in Great Mills has pleaded guilty to a charge of indecent exposure in an incident that took place in Frederick in July.

Gamrot, a native of Poland, who also served as priest at Holy Face Catholic Church, which sits next to Little Flower School, was suspended by the archdiocese from his position at the two institutions due to the charges against him pending the outcome of the case.

Gamrot took a guilty plea Dec. 14 in Frederick County District Court, on-line records show, and received probation before judgement and 18 months of court supervision as his sentence.

Charging papers filed against Gamrot allege that the priest was driving west-

bound on Interstate 70 at mile marker No. 56 with no pants on while masturbating.

Charging papers state that the victim in the case, Eliezer Molina, told state police that the same man driving the same vehicle had done this publicly to him twice before.

On the third occasion, which occurred July 25, Molina took a picture of Gamrot allegedly committing the act as well as the license tag of the vehicle, charging papers stated.

When he was interviewed by police, Gamrot admitted he was the driver of the vehicle after he was read his Miranda rights, charging papers stated.

The Archdiocese of Washington released a statement regarding Gamrot's status with the church.

"Father Jaroslaw Gamrot remains on administrative leave and suspended from public ministry," the statement reads. "He continues to remain away from the parish and school.

"No determination about Father Gamrot's future will be made until after the Archdiocese has had an opportunity to review the disposition of the case and undertake its own review."

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Service*

6:00pm

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A circular graphic with a dark green background and a light green border. The text is in a white, elegant script font. The background is decorated with red poinsettias, pink flowers, and greenery. At the bottom, there are five lit white candles.

*Christmas Day
Service*

10:00am

EMS Staffing Struggles Despite Paid Employees



Emergency Services Board Vice Chair Hattie Norris

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county is continuing to pull paid emergency medical personnel from rescue squads on short notice to fill greater demands at sister stations, a discussion on the issue of staffing revealed at the latest meeting of the county Emergency Services Board (ESB).

Hattie Norris, vice chair of the ESB, and a member of the 7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad, said her unit had paid personnel pulled with little to no warning recently.

It showed that the largely paid emergency medical response system now in effect has too few employees to adequately cover the county's demands.

"We don't have coverage or people are pulled last minute and we get notified at 2 a.m.," Norris said bluntly of the problems facing her squad and others. "We're told for that day we don't have coverage [during the day] or only partial coverage."

Paid EMS staff are now answering nearly 80 percent of all medical calls in St. Mary's County, particularly during the day when volunteers are mostly unavailable.

The remainder of calls are filled at night, usually by volunteer crews but not always.

"It puts a strain on us but I know you need to pull people to work in other places," Norris said of the need for even more paid staff.

Steve Walker, director of the county Department of Emergency Services, admitted the problem is an ongoing one since the county began employing paid medical responders two years ago on a county-wide basis.

"We're juggling to be honest with you," Walker said to Norris. "One of our

weaknesses is that... we have some full-time employees who have transitioned into hourly employees.

"Hourly employees are not as regimented to work [as full-time employees] are."

The problem was one that came about abruptly and often.

"They call off a lot," Walker said of the hourly EMTs. "We're trying to address that in the budget."

Walker said his department was asking for more money to pay full-time EMTs to help rectify the problem.

"It's taking the entire service, volunteer and paid, to get it done," Walker said of keeping the system going. "But the truth is, it's not enough.

"We just don't have enough people."

Shawn Davidson, county rescue chief, said the issues at the 7th District "should receive more attention than they do" because of their remote position in the county.

He said the county should consider pulling paid staff from stations further south, such as Lexington Park.

"You're more often getting volunteer crews in Lexington Park than you are anywhere else," Davidson said.

The rescue volunteers in the 7th District were the first in the county to consider that they needed paid assistance and operated as the pilot program for career staff county wide.

"There's false security in pulling from a low volume station," Davidson warned. "Given the weight of that call volume is out further than the call volume you see, for instance, in Ridge."

"They're not the only ones we have difficulty filling, there are others," Walker said. "When people call off that's what's really hurting us."

John Nelson, president of the St. Mary's County Fire Association, said volunteers were often willing to fill the gaps left by paid, hourly personnel who suddenly call off work, but the short notification was the problem.

"If they just don't know that that void exists, there's not much you can do until you hear the ambulance not get out," Nelson said. "They don't want that to happen."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Suspect in Stable Condition After Shooting

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A man shot by police in the area of the Outback restaurant parking lot Monday night while allegedly attempting to steal a vehicle is improving in hospital and is now in stable condition according to sheriff's officials.

The suspect is in custody and under the supervision of sheriff's deputies, said sheriff's spokesman Jason Babcock.

The suspect has not yet been identified by police.

"The incident that night was not his first time here," Babcock said. "He was active in criminal activity leading up to the night he was shot."

The suspect faces 18 counts including armed robbery, attempted armed carjacking, assault first-degree and attempting to harm a police K-9 as well as animal cruelty charges.

On December 19 at 9:32 p.m. deputies responded to the California Wawa located in the 23100 block of Three Notch Road in California, for the reported stolen vehicle. Deputies located the stolen vehicle minutes later at a hotel in the 23400 block of Three Notch Road. Contact was made with an individual matching the suspect description, who then fled on foot towards the Wildewood shopping center. Deputies

pursued the suspect who was armed with a knife. Deputies attempted less lethal means by tasing the suspect multiple times with no positive effect, as well as utilizing a Sheriff's Office K-9.

The suspect attempted to carjack an occupied vehicle at a restaurant, but the victim fled. The suspect continued to flee through the shopping center and entered a separate vehicle which was running and was shot by a deputy who fired three rounds from their service weapon.

Deputies initiated first aid immediately to the suspect who was subsequently flown to an area trauma center for treatment and remains in critical condition. No injuries to deputies have been reported.

In accordance with Maryland State Law, the Maryland Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) was contacted and briefed on the incident but declined to investigate. a

The deputy involved in the shooting has been placed on administrative leave in accordance with Sheriff's Office Agency Policy and Procedures.

This incident remains under investigation. Anyone with information on this incident that has not provided a statement to law enforcement is asked to contact Detective Warren Forinash at (301) 475-4200 extension 78072 or by email at Warren.Forinash@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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Season's Greeting

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

David McDonough
Financial Advisor

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NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

Navy Delivers New Maintenance Trainer



The Naval Aviation Training Systems and Ranges Program Office (PMA-205) recently delivered the new Maintenance Integrated Flight Control Trainer (IFCT) Aerial Refueling (AR) capable device to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia.

The new Maintenance IFCT provides a realistic environment for maintainers to receive their initial training without the use of an aircraft.

The trainer incorporates real aircraft components including those used in AR, allowing students to do hands-on work and view the components and their relationship to other E-2D flight control systems in a safe, controlled environment prior to performing maintenance on operational aircraft.

“This new training system revolutionizes how Navy electricians and maintainers train,” said Capt. Kevin McGee, PMA-205 program manager. “They are responsible for reviewing and analyzing flight control systems to make sure they meet standards and perform perfectly when they’re needed in the air, and the IFCT prepares them for that mission.”

The Maintenance IFCT bridges the gap between classroom learning and hands-on experience in the fleet allowing maintainers to remove and replace components. Instructors can supervise trainees and view the training scenarios in real-time due to the open concept design of the trainer.

Unlike in the aircraft where space is extremely constrained, the IFCT allows

for more viewing and training space with each system separated with room for both instructors and students to view each training area. The IFCT also incorporates faults into the system, allowing trainees to experience faults, troubleshoot them, and resolve them.

“This trainer shows maintainers how the flight controls are moved and actuated, giving them a firsthand learning experience with operating the flight control systems and even showing them a sampling of how ground crew pre-flight checks are performed prior to ever performing maintenance on an aircraft,” said Mark Barnhardt, PMA-205 E-2 training systems project manager.

When AR is incorporated into a platform the flight control dynamics of the aircraft can change, leading to modifications in how the flight control systems are moved, measured, and ultimately rigged. The new trainer allows fleet maintainers to receive the necessary training to sustain and repair all aspects of the new flight control system to retain flight safety.

About PMA-205

PMA-205 provides full life-cycle acquisition of naval aviation training platforms, general training systems, training range instrumentation systems, and distributed mission training centers to provide U.S. Navy and Marine Corps pilots, naval flight officers, aircrew, and maintainers with the training equipment required to provide lethal capability and operational readiness.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

During this time of Christmas, there are wonderful times of celebrating family traditions and creating memories to last a lifetime. For some, it comes with times of uncertainty, loneliness, and great need. They feel this way every day, but it is amplified during Christmas as they see and hear everyone making plans for gatherings with family, laughing as they prepare the meal and exchange gifts that loved ones specifically chose for them.

As we come out of two years of craziness, leaving the pandemic behind, let us all focus on the Lord and His provision. The Mission was born out of the Lord seeing to the needs of those that have little and to give hope and a helping hand to the less fortunate in our local community.

When I was 17 with no father figure, a stranger did just that for me. To this day, that act of kindness reminds me that someone took the time out of the hustle and bustle for me, if even just for a brief moment. I was in high school, working as a checker at a small supermarket, in the San Joaquin Valley of California. One evening a gentleman walked up and took out of his pocket a small black Bible that had my name inscribed. He said, "Richard, I'm not in good health and I don't think my heart will last too much longer, but I want you to have this' '. I'm not sure how he knew who I was, as I never saw him again; little did he know that 41 years later I would still be sharing his unmeasurable gift to me.

This Christmas season, I humbly ask each of you for a gift that is close to my heart. You will find, by giving this gift, you will be receiving even a greater gift in return. I ask for you to reach out and help or see to the needs of just one person or family, and experience what a wonderful Christmas it would be for those that you touch. A life can be completely changed by such a gesture that will forever be a memory to someone to reflect on reminding them that someone actually cares for them and that they matter.

We all know you don't have to be homeless to feel the pain of despair or have struggles. So, this Christmas Season let's all help someone and give the glory to our good Lord who's the very reason we are celebrating not only Christmas but every day He blesses us with.

Isaiah 9:6 tells us, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

To everyone in this community that supports The Mission to help keep our doors open; the staff and faithful volunteers say: THANK YOU and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Richard Myers, Executive Director



THE MISSION

Please consider supporting The Mission with an end of year donation. Send Checks To: The Mission, P.O Box 2011 California MD 20650 or a Credit Card donation can be made at:

seekingshelter.com

North County Erosion Project Gets Commissioner Support



An example of a tombolo that could be used in Golden Beach to prevent shore erosion

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Golden Beach coastline suffers from erosion and the Commissioners in St. Mary's County have thrown their support behind a plan to stem its tide.

At their Dec. 13 business meeting the commissioners voted to support a grant application from the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development group (SMRCD) to apply more natural solutions to the erosion problem in Golden Beach.

"As a coastal community, Golden Beach has been combatting environmental concerns such as stormwater runoff, flooding, sea-level rise, storm surge, erosion, and increased storm events, the commissioners letter of support to

the Maryland Department of Natural Resources read. "When solutions are applied, they tend to be conventional, non-nature-based solutions such as pipes, culverts, and concrete. "The current stormwater infrastructure in the community was not designed to handle increased storm events or higher storm surges, leading to flooding. This restoration project will bring a holistic, nature-based solution to a deserving community."

The plan is to use tombolos — sandy isthmuses extending out from the shoreline — that are used to cushion the impact of incoming waves on beachfront, according to the commissioners' letter.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Dean's Service Center Closed After 65 Years



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dean's Service Center, nestled at the intersection of Three Notch Road and Hollywood Road in Hollywood, shut its doors last week, according to a long-time employee there.

Nick Yeittrakis, stepson to the business's owner James Dean, said his stepfather has operated the business since January of 1957 and has decided to sell his business to the owners of the

Birdie's convenience store and gas station that has long been his neighbor.

The store was once the property of the Burch family as part of the Burchmart chain of stores.

Yeittrakis said the plan was to demolish the old building that had held the Dean-owned business and expand the store next door to take over the service center property.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Homeowner Suffers Burns In Fire

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A homeowner on Bradburn Lane in Ridge suffered burns to the top of his head and his hands when fire swept through his home in the early morning hours of Dec. 20, the Maryland State Fire Marshal reports.

The fire destroyed the single family home; it took 65 firefighters from the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department about 25 minutes to knock down the blaze.

Fire marshal investigators believe the fire is accidental and started in the fireplace of the home.

Damage is estimated at \$250,000.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Pet 
OF THE WEEK
MEET
LOKI



Where there is rescue, there is hope.
No life deserves to be left behind.
Be the Hero!

Hi folks, my name is Loki. My lovin' TCAS pals call me the ULTIMATE EXTROVERT! I'm a GORGEOUS, 9 MONTH OLD kitty with a STUNNING COAT!! And, I already weighing 12 pounds. I'm very OUTGOING, PLAYFUL, AND AFFECTIONATE! Of course, my favorite parts of the day are breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I really enjoy my food. And it gets better. I like to play with my cat toys and I DON'T MIND KIDS OR DOGS. I'm that LITTLE CHARMER who will win my way into your heart! If you want to check me out and all of our OTHER KITTY CATS, email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/tri-county-animal-shelter>

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Retirement Planning Tips

We have written about the need to create a retirement plan. The starting point for you is to create an income statement and a balance sheet. That way, you can see where you are in order to plan for the future.

Now, we want to take that income statement and balance sheet and project what it will look like in retirement. To begin, let's look at some of your retirement resources.

Everyone gets a social security statement. When was the last time you checked the accuracy of that statement? Is the income reported on your statement correct? Once you have verified the accuracy of the statement, you can see what the retirement benefit will be at various retirement ages. Take that income into account in your projected retirement income statement.

Pull out your 401(k) statements or, if you have more than one, everything you have. The majority of working people have their retirement savings in 401(k) plans through their employers. Your employers give you investment choices. Make sure your current investment choices are those that meet your present circumstances and your retirement goals. What do I mean by that? Well, we have previously discussed the critical importance to all investors of the concept of "asset allocation." Basically, that means spreading out your investment risk across various types of investments—cash equivalent investments like money market mutual funds, equities that move with the market like mutual funds, corporate bonds that will pay you interest, etc. Your investment portfolio should look like a pie with many slices representing different types of investments. The theory behind this allocation of assets is simple—if one investment goes down, another may go up.

What do your investments look like in your 401(k)? If you are a young person, you can afford to take more risk with your investments because you have time to work and replace losses. But, if you are older and are getting ready for retirement, you do not want to take more risk. You want your investments to be more secure since you will not have the time to replace any losses. That's why evaluating your investments in your 401(k) is so important when you are getting ready to retire.

Once you have retired and left your employment, what do you do with your 401(k)? At that point, your 401(k) can be "rolled over" into another tax exempt vehicle like an IRA. And, you can obtain different investment options when you roll over. If employers have provided restricted investment options to you, your best course is to choose a roll over.

Of course, personal savings need to be taken into account in creating your retirement income statement. But, have you included inheritances in your numbers? The boomer generation will benefit from the largest inter-generational transfer of wealth in history—if you are anticipating an inheritance, list it.

Real estate is another retirement resource. Although the market value of real property has declined in recent years, you can anticipate some increase in property values over the coming few years. If you have more than one property, you may consider selling or renting that property. You also should look at the value of your current home. Refinancing to a 15 year as opposed to a 30 year mortgage may give you a paid off property at retirement. It is time to start looking at those options.

What about your small business assets? Did you know 90% of small business owners have absolutely no transition plans in place? Basically, that means when the business owners dies, the business dies. If that business has made income for you, how about figuring out how you and your family can continue to make income from the business after you retire and when you die?

Finally, don't discount the value of working after retirement. Even if you plan on working for lesser income, the income you do receive from continuing to work may be able to provide you with a much better retirement. The internet is filled with more information on retirement. Do your research and take steps to secure your retirement future.

Join me for a free seminar discussing this and other topics on the third Wednesday of every month at 11 am at our offices, 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your space. Looking forward to seeing you.

To learn more about estate planning, join me at a free seminar on the third Wednesday of every month at 11am in our offices at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your space. See you then.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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Christmas and a very happy New Year.

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Letters ^{to} the Editor

To the Editor:

Last week the Commissioners decided which legislative proposals to send forward to the St. Mary's County Delegation. Four proposals were approved, while three were not. The approved proposals were all submitted by departments in county government, including:

- Dept. of Finance request for authority to issue \$56 million in bonds to finance projects.
- Dept. of Finance request to extend the property transfer tax until 2028 (original termination date was July 2020).
- Dept. of Aging request to allow low-stakes gaming at county senior centers.
- MetCom request to amend/update/define language in local laws regarding sanitary districts and infrastructure.

There were also three citizen submitted proposals. Two requested legislation to change voting for Commissioners from at-large to by-district. The third was a request to change offices like Sheriff and States Attorney to non-partisan races.

During the 2021 legislative session Delegate Crosby filed a bill, HB655, to accomplish by-district voting for the County Commissioners. The Commissioners were not a fan of this bill, their chief complaint being that it did not follow their preferred "process." In other words, it was not brought before them for discussion before being filed in the state house. The previous board of Commissioners voted twice to support an amendment to the bill requiring a referendum during the 2022 election, which would allow the people of St. Mary's County to vote on this change. Ultimately, the bill did not pass.

At the Commissioner meeting on 12/6/22, Commissioner Colvin said that state delegates and senators are open for legislative ideas from residents of the county. He continued by saying the three citizen-submitted proposals should be dismissed and the citizens advised to contact their respective state representatives. He did this despite a consensus at the meeting on November 29th that the Commissioners would take no position

on citizen submitted proposals and act only as a conduit through which they could be forwarded.

"This board has made it clear that we are opposed to these changes in the past...I have no desire to forward something I am opposed to," Colvin said at the December 6th meeting. Commissioners Guy and Alderson voted with Colvin to return these to the citizens. Commissioner Hewitt rightly pointed out that standard procedure has been to forward proposals with no opinion from the Commissioners, with Commissioner Ostrow agreeing.

It is disheartening the Commissioners continue to move the goal post. They complained the process was not followed but when the process is followed, they are still unsatisfied. It's laughable for them to unanimously forward legislation allowing them to increase borrowing authority to spend more taxpayer money while routinely ignoring resident input on a host of issues.

Perhaps the real reason the Commissioners continue to stand in the way is because they are afraid of losing their party's majority on the Commissioner Board. In fact, Commissioner Colvin's district would be a highly competitive seat if voting was done by-district. If all Commissioners should work together for the good of the county, as Colvin himself has argued in the past, then political party should not matter. It shouldn't matter for elected officials making decisions, and it shouldn't matter for residents who wish to participate in the process. Public servants should work together no matter how they are elected, no matter who does or does not vote for them.

The arguments against voting by-district say more about those who make them than they do about the idea itself. We vote for all other government representatives by district and County Commissioners should be no different.

When will the St. Mary's County Commissioners take resident feedback seriously?

Brandon Russell
Leonardtown, MD
240-718-6624

Response to Russell:

I was disappointed to read the opinion letter submitted by Brandon Russell in several other local news publications, not because I disagree with his viewpoint, but because he repeatedly presents inaccurate and untrue information in his push for limiting how county residents vote for commissioners. His mischaracterization of my viewpoints is insulting and unfair to our residents.

I fully understand that there is a portion of our population advocating for district-only voting for the St. Mary's County Commissioner offices. Their motivation is clear to see, they desire to make it easier for a Democrat to win local office in a Republican majority county. Many of the speakers at our public forum voicing support for this change were either current or former members of the Democrat Central Committee.

My opposition, as Russell has heard me say multiple times, stems from the very examples he cites. Our delegates and senators campaign on the premises of what resources they bring back to their district. As a county commissioner, we campaign on what is best for the county as a whole, not our individual districts that we reside in. A shift to district-only voting for commissioners has the potential, over time, to shift the way commissioners view the job and be more district-focused. To borrow a popular comparison of the day, it comes down to equity vs equality for me. Currently, being elected by the entire county, we are able to use our resources in an equitable manner—we provide the

resources where they are needed in the county. Certain areas might be struggling more than other areas and we can and do allocate more funding and priorities to those areas. Shifting to district only voting would result in equality in resource allocation. Each district, having roughly the same number of residents, would receive roughly the same level of resources. Our struggling areas would struggle more. Russell knows this, yet his partisan push to change the way local government operates, without input from all of the residents in the form of a referendum, would hurt St. Mary's County and the very people he claims to be advocating for.

Partial quotes and misrepresentation of the process paint a sensationalized but unfair picture of how local government operates in St. Mary's County. We held a public forum that had great discussion between our state delegation, commissioners, and residents voicing opinions. The accusation that resident's feedback and requests are not heard is simply untrue. There is so much incredible stuff happening in St. Mary's County; I am proud of the partnerships we have built and the work we are doing for the entire county and I'm sorry that Russell is unable to recognize the good that is being done and focuses only on partisan politics.

Eric Colvin
St. Mary's County Commissioner,
District 1

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your name & town of residence.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



LOOK TO THE SKIES

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

A night was getting long in the tooth last week. My usual bedtime came and went, evidence of a successful battle against “the responsible thing to do.” A channel scroll had revealed “10th Inning”, the 2010 additive chapter to Ken Burns’s epic nine-episode/inning 1994 documentary “Baseball”. This was worth forfeiting sleep. Lord knows I have borrowed from the next day for more frivolous pursuits.

In one excerpt, legendary Washington Post columnist Tom Boswell explained that poet John Keats considered William Shakespeare’s literary brilliance rooted in Shakespeare’s lack of “negative capability” in his writing – the tendency to want to explain everything, to work out every detail, to put a tidy bow on every story or deliver a definitive conclusion. Keats contended that comfort in passive writing – letting the story breathe, letting loose ends dance in the breeze – indicated the potential for creating great literature.

One of my all-time favorite sports writers talking Keats, Shakespeare and an essential element of great prose...in a baseball movie. And I was supposed to go to bed? Or record it and watch later? No chance.

Burns’s “10th Inning” devoted considerable time to baseball’s steroid era, years when the sport soiled its most hallowed records, great players compromised careers and legacies and the American pastime lost its innocence. Every year now, when Hall of Fame votes are cast, we’re left to sort through the rubble and debate the accomplishments and sins of players like Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Roger Clemens. It’s a messy exercise with no satisfying conclusion. Who was clean in that era? Who was dirty? Who was at fault? The players? The union? The owners? The commissioner? The rules were loose, enforcement was spotty and too many people were comfortable with either intentional deceit or blissful ignorance.

Boswell’s reference to Shakespeare’s negative capability has interesting application to the steroid era. It will likely always remain a confounding and disappointing experience, one incapable of being fully understood or fairly judged. Attempting to force a definitive conclusion is a fool’s errand of well-intended souls

lacking negative capability. Good and bad have always co-existed in the world – the explanation may be that simple, no matter how ungratifying.

Looking around, there’s much to cause concern and thwart any mere mortal attempt at negative capability. Russia’s war in Ukraine. Political strife. Inflation. COVID. Inequitable wealth concentration. “Isms” and phobias – race, gender, national origin, etc. Climate change and natural disasters. Gun violence. Erosion of democracy. Cheap, repackaged corporate music. Ultra-processed foods. Electronic friends and virtual existences.

Sports has its worry list too. Excessive strikeouts in baseball. The struggle to balance player safety with the inherent violence of football. The three-point-obsessed, no defense, no physicality, no walking or carrying NBA. Big-time college sports that are more bedrock of sports capitalism than amateur athletics.

It is enough to conclude that this is it: the moral and ethical rot of humanity is complete, final judgment is near and the world and all its sports finally stand at the precipice of Armageddon.

Such a leap, though, would dismiss all other incorrect doomsday prophecies (Y2K, Mayans, Pat Robertson, Nostradamus, etc.), ignore humanity’s resilience and expose an astounding lack of negative capability. Yes, the world is flawed. Challenges abound. But this is perhaps the most tolerant and among the most peaceful times in world history. And our sports now... wow. The athleticism, advances in technology, the worldwide passion – this is arguably sports’ golden era.

As the holiday season approaches, it brings an opportunity for reflection. There is, as usual, much to ponder – personally, nationally and the trajectory of our shared human existence on our tiny blue dot of a planet. And much of it dampens the mood. But to rally the optimistic spirit and inspire negative capability, I’ll offer a quote, with parenthetical adds germane to this piece: “May you never be too old (or jaded or cynical) to search the skies on Christmas Eve.”

Whatever your beliefs, whether that quote be perfectly aligned or metaphorical, I trust the point resonates: there is magic in this world, and on its fields of play, and it is easy to glimpse with a timely peek.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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The County Times publishes obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Submissions may be sent to aldailey@countytimes.net by noon on Mondays in order to be published the following Thursday. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

In Remembrance

James Youngerman, 85



James Carlton Youngerman, "Jim", 85, of Lusby, MD, passed away at his son's home surrounded by his loving family on December 12, 2022. Jim was born on December 29, 1936 to the late Carl G. Youngerman and Lucille

H. "Yancy" Youngerman on the family farm near Boyds, MD. In addition to his parents, James is predeceased by the love of his life, Michele Gabriele "Fi El" Youngerman, whom he married in St. Nazaire, France on January 19, 1961, his son, Jimmie G. Youngerman, sister Clara Fraley, and brother George Youngerman. Jim is survived by his daughter Lucille J. Youngerman of Ormoy, France, his son Roger C. Youngerman (Jennifer) of Lusby, MD, his brother Joseph Youngerman of Killeen, TX, his sister Barbara Cody of Frederick, MD, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren

James graduated from Poolesville High-school in 1955 where he then enlisted in 1958 to the United States Army. During his

service, which included two combat tours in Vietnam (Bearcat 9th Air Cavalry) and Vietnam Cameron Bay. He was stationed in Ft. Jackson SC, Ft. Story, Ft. Eustis VA, Ft. Lewis WA, St. Nazaire France, Ft. Knox KY, Ft. Detrick MD, Ft. Meade MD, Karlsruhe Germany, North Point Germany, Ft. Dix NJ, Ft. Sill OK, and received several decorations for his honorable service. After 20 years of service, Jim retired from the Army in 1978 as a CW03 and went to work at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant until he became the owner/operator of the Lusby Sunoco from 1988-1998. Jim had a great love for the outdoors from an early age. That love included hunting, fishing, camping, and gardening. He also was an avid animal lover both domestic and wild, and had an incredible appetite for reading military history and anything Western. He was an active member of the VFW, American Legion Post 274, and MOAA. He enjoyed spending time with the ones he loved the most.

The family will receive friends on Monday December 19th 2022 in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD from 9:00am to 10:00am, where a funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 10:00am with Pastor Daniel Simmons officiating. Interment will follow at the Charles Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Leonardtown, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be Roger Youngerman, Austin Youngerman, David Youngerman, Mark Garner, Jay Cody, and Mike Fraley. Contributions may be made to the Folds of Honor, 9500 N 129th E Ave, Suite 235, Owasso, OK 74055, and the Wounded Warriors Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Mildred Norris, 74



March 26, 1948–December 3, 2022

Mildred Anne Norris, 74, of Elk Grove Village, IL, formerly of California, MD passed peacefully on Saturday, December 3, 2022 with family by her side due to complications from dementia.

Millie was born March 26, 1948 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Ernest I. Sr and Mildred L. (Guy) Norris. She was preceded in death by her younger brother Ernest I. Norris, Jr and beloved niece Erin Rochelle Norris.

Millie is survived by her daughter Jennifer L. (Norris) Cocagne, son-in-law Thomas Cocagne, grandson Luke, brother Thomas Merle Norris, Sr and his wife Eleanor, and sister Francis Ellen Quade. She is also beloved of her nieces and nephews Eleanor Anne Hilsinger, Thomas Merle Norris Jr, Joseph Andrew Norris, James Michael Quade, Jacquelyn Michelle Greenwell, Jeanette Marie Hammon, Joshua Shane Norris, Rachel Marie Norris-Achterberg and many other great nieces and nephews.

Millie worked for 35 years for the Department of Defense both at the Pentagon and at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Md. She was often praised for her devotion to duty, professionalism, initiative, enthusiasm, and keen attention to detail.

She was a devoted Mother and Aunt who enjoyed spoiling the kids and making them laugh with her witty sense of humor and sassy attitude.

Millie was a beloved daughter, sister, mother, aunt, and friend who will be missed.

The family will receive friends and family at a Celebration of Life on Saturday, January 7th, 2022 at 2pm in Our Father's House Church, California, MD. Internment will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Millie's name to the Dementia Society of America by mail to PO Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901, or online www.DementiaSociety.org/donate. Or to The Radcliff by mail at 276 E. Irving Park Rd, Wood Dale, IL 60191.

Robah Garner, 93



Robah "Robie" Ellis Garner, Jr., 93, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on December 11, 2022 in North Carolina.

Born on September 5, 1929, in North Carolina, he was the son of the late Robah Ellis Garner and Julia

Melida Ashley Garner. Robah grew up in a large family, one of thirteen children.

Robie married Marion J. Mullins and they had four children; Bobby Garner, Nancy Wilkinson, Charles Garner and Jewel Daniels. He later married Shirley Jean Tulllock on April 3, 1954, having celebrated 61 years of marriage prior to her passing in November 2015. Together they had three children; Theresa Gilbert, Brenda Kerper and Jerry Tulllock.

He made his living as a Truck Driver for Continental Baking (Wonder Bread). He was proud of his 17 year "safe driving" award with them for having logged 1 million miles without an accident. He retired in 1992 after 30 years of dedicated service.

In his younger years, Robie enjoyed fishing, hunting, dancing and riding his Harley. He also enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Robie is predeceased by his parents, his beloved wife, Shirley, his son, Charles and his daughter, Jewel; 8 siblings and a grandchild. He is survived by his sons, Bobby, Jerry; daughters, Nancy, Theresa and Brenda; 4 siblings; 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 11:00am-12:30pm on Thursday, December 22, 2022 at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. A Funeral Service will be held at 12:30pm also at the funeral home with Pastor Ann Strickler officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Gardens, Waldorf, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Robie's name to the American Cancer Society.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

**Merry Christmas to You
in Heaven
Mary Catherine Kane
Sept. 18, 1924–Nov. 22, 2019**

Mama the Joy of Christmas has not been with us since you went to be with the Lord. We look at the lights and talk about how you enjoyed them. We know that you are looking down on us and we have you in our hearts. We miss and love you.

**Merry Christmas, Mama.
Love,
Larry & Ellen**

ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER



Burglary / Assault- On December 7, 2022, Cpl. Teague responded to the 21300 block of Chancellors Run Road in Great Mills, for the reported burglary in progress. In-

vestigation determined Jason Williams Wiley, age 35 of Ridge, forced his way into the victim's residence and assaulted the victim. Wiley fled the scene prior to police arrival and was located hiding near the residence in the woods. Located on Wiley at the time of his arrest were suspected Suboxone strips. Wiley was arrested and charged with Burglary 3rd and 4th Degree, Assault 2nd Degree and CDS: Possession-not Marijuana.



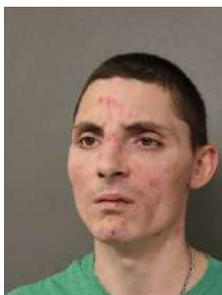
Briggs was arrested for Assault 1st and 2nd Degree.

Threat of Arson- On December 9, 2022, Dep. N. Hill responded to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, to serve court paperwork on Patrick Charles Koller, age 42 of Pennsylvania. Koller made a threat to burn down a residence in the presence of Dep. Hill. Koller was charged with Threat of Arson.



Trespassing/ Fail to Obey Lawful Order- On December 9, 2022, Dep. Morgan responded to the 25000 block of Pt. Lookout Road in Leonardtown, for the reported trespassing. Upon

arrival Joseph Maurice Watts, age 56 of no fixed address was located in front of the property. Watts was told to leave by Dep. Morgan as well as employees of the business several times and he refused. Watts was arrested and charged with Trespass: Private Property and Fail to Obey Reasonable/Lawful Order.



Assault- On December 8, 2022, Dep. Deinert responded to the 22700 block of Three Notch Road in California, for the reported motor vehicle collision. While investigating the collision, the operator of

one of the involved vehicles, Andrew James Briggs, age 36 of Solomons, was involved in an argument with a tow truck operator and brandished a pocket knife.



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Photos by Ceandra Scott

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.

Dec 21 - Dec 23

Retro Holiday Exhibit @ Piney Point Lighthouse Museum

Admission: \$7 for adults/\$3.50 for seniors, students and military/5 and under free
 Location: Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, 44720 Lighthouse Road

Bring your loved ones and friends if you're looking for a special place to have some holiday throwback fun. Enjoy tours of the retro holiday exhibit inside the museum and the keepers' quarters in this welcoming environment for families. Bring your list with you and purchase your holiday presents from the museum shop. This special exhibit is open 11/28/22 - 1/1/23; daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., except on Christmas and Christmas Eve.

Doll and Train Exhibit @ St. Clement's Museum

38370 Point Breeze Road
 Admission: \$3 adults, \$2 for seniors and military, \$1.50 for children; 5 and under are free
 Location: St. Clement's Museum
 38370 Point Breeze Road

Gather all of your family and friends

that would enjoy an antique and collectible dolls and train exhibit inside the museum.

Get a jump on your holiday shopping with a wide variety of unique and local items inside the Museum Store.

The holiday exhibit continues all December long until January 1, 2023 (except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day). Great for visiting family and kids.

Thu, Dec 22

Virtual Auction of Christmas Naut, Other Gifts, & Bake Goods

Aux. Facebook url: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/SDVFDRS-Auxiliary-260355781452833/posts>
 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Virtual Auction of Christmas Nautical, Various Other Gifts, & Baked Goods Thursday, Bidding on line will begin after all pictures are loaded on Thursday until Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Cash or check accepted (Make checks payable to 2nd Dist. VFD & RS Aux.)
 For more info contact: Robin at 240-577-0270

WINNERS will be posted online, Friday, December 23rd, after 4:00 p.m.

ALL WINNERS pick-up their items on Friday, December 23rd, between 4:30

p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the 2nd District Volunteer Fire Dept. & Rescue Squad, (aka Company 6 / Valley Lee)
 45245 Drayden Rd., Valley Lee, MD

Queen of Hearts—LVRSA

Action Lounge and Billiards
 25470 Point Lookout Road
 Leonardtown
 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Queen of Hearts Every Thursday Night at Action Lounge and Billiards. Queen of Heart ticket sales from 6pm to 7:45 p.m. Drawing at 8 pm. You must be present to win. Take your chance at Pull Tabs while you wait for the drawing. Instant win up to \$250.

Bring your family, bring your friends, enjoy some dinner, some drinks, enjoy some good company.

All of this is to Benefit the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary. Please share to get the word out.

Sat, Dec 24

Live Music at Port of Leonardtown Winery

23190 Newtowne Neck Rd.
 Leonardtown
 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Come dance the afternoon away and try the mulled wine, wine tastings, and hot chocolate in the heated tent extension on the patio. Port of Leonardtown winery is the perfect place to spend an afternoon relaxing with friends and family.

Here's the upcoming line-up:

Dec 24: Christmas Eve music by Sarah Bubb; food from Farm.Fork.Soul
 Dec 31: New Year's Eve music by Josh Airhart; food from Farm.Fork.Soul

Wed, Jan 4

Men Doing the Will of the Lord

First Missionary Baptist Church
 46370 Pegg Lane
 Lexington Park
 7p.m.

The guest preacher for the occasion will be Pastor John Butler, St. Matthews Pentecostal Church, Leonardtown, MD on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 7 pm. All Men/Men's Ministries and Women are welcome to attend.

The occasion will be held in the church Sanctuary; as well as virtually. The virtual phone number is 617-691-8533 or virtual meeting ID:<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/fmbc0>. For additional information please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388



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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, Dec 22

Little Minnows

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

This month's theme is Dinosaurs are Fossils Too. 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 takeaway craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Capacity is limited. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Cost is free with admission. For more information, visit: Little Minnows | Calvert Marine Museum, MD - Official Website

Wed, Dec 28

Winter Break Programing: Hibernation

Calvert Marine Museum
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

While winter air temperatures throughout the Chesapeake region are relatively mild, the water temperatures are downright icy! Discover how different species cope with the arrival of winter at the museum. Activities appropriate for ages 4-10. Included with museum admission.

Working Wednesdays - Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9:00am-3:00pm.

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment, and Workforce Development representatives will be in person to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Prince Frederic
850 Costley Way
6:30pm-7:30pm.

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read aloud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thur, Dec 29

Winter Break Programing: Chesapeake Horseshoe Crabs

Calvert Marine Museum
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Called living fossils by some, horseshoe crabs are a truly ancient species that we are fortunate to have as part of today's Chesapeake ecosystem. Identify the amazing adaptations that have helped horseshoe crabs to survive for millennia and see live Atlantic horseshoe crabs in the museum's animal collection. Activities appropriate for ages 4-10. Included with museum admission.

Little Minnows

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

This month's theme is Dinosaurs are Fossils Too. 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 takeaway craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Capacity is limited. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Cost is free with admission. For more information, visit: Little Minnows | Calvert Marine Museum, MD - Official Website

Upcoming

Winter Break Programing: Evolution and Extinction: Megalodon

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, Dec. 30, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Today is all about the top predator of the Miocene seas – Megalodon! Dis-

cover how this massive shark evolved and how it ultimately met its extinction during the Pliocene Epoch. Activities appropriate for ages 4-10. Included with museum admission.

On Pins & Needle

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way,
Friday, Dec. 30
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Ongoing

Annmarie Garden in Lights

Annemarie Garden
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons, MD
Nov. 25-Jan. 1 (closed some evenings)
5-9 p.m./ nightly

Dazzling light show - festive exhibits - holiday shopping - food trucks. Admission: ADVANCE TIMED-ENTRY TICKETS REQUIRED! Members FREE (must reserve tickets); Non-members \$15; Ages 2 & under FREE; SNAP card holders, call 410-326-4640 to reserve your reduced price tickets

Santa Sundays @ Annmarie Garden In Lights

Annemarie Garden, 13470 Dowell Road, Solomons, MD
Nov. 27 and Dec. 4, 11 and 18
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening with Santa at Annmarie Garden In Lights. Santa will be greeting guests from the Front Patio of the Arts Building; in the event of inclement weather, Santa will greet guests in the Arts Building.

Guests will be able to take a family photo with Santa and other holiday characters.

Please note that Santa may take warm-up breaks at 6:00-6:15 and 7:00-7:15. Thank you for your understanding. This is a first-come, first-served activity.

Included with cost of admission.

Holiday Magic

ArtWorks@7th

8905 Chesapeake Avenue (near 2nd street), North Beach
December 1, 2022 – January 1, 2023
Open House December 3, 1-4 p.m.

Art in the Stacks: Photography by Gary Scribner

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
Month of December

Calvert Library's Art in the Stacks is delighted to exhibit the amazing photographs of local artist Gary Scribner for the months of November through January at Fairview Library. Gary has traveled to all 50 US states and over 35 countries capturing landscape photos on film and digital media since the early 1970's. During his travels, Gary has also enjoyed capturing street scenes of ordinary people in cities he has visited, some of which will be in this exhibit. Check-out his website @ www.scribbleimages.com; 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Art in the Stacks: Photography by Ray Saunders.

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
Month of December

For Ray K. Saunders it's all about the images, the moments and the light. Ray spent his professional life as a photojournalist working for newspapers in Virginia, spending 23 years as a photo editor at The Washington Post. , 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Art In The Stacks: Art by Mimi Little

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Rd, Solomons
Month of December

Mimi Little's paintings will be on display at the Southern Branch during the months of November and December. Mimi works with acrylics, collage, and cold/wax oil to create paintings that are abstract in nature. Although the majority of her painting are done in the studio, she enjoys painting en plein air (in nature). Mimi's passion is to make paintings that relate to her life, where she lives, what she is doing and what is socially important to her, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of December 5–December 11, 2022, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,495 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 22-71250
On December 7, 2022, Deputy Dymond responded to a commercial building in the 1200 block of East Mount Harmony Road in Owings, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised during a walk-through of the building, the window portion of a rear door was broken/smashed in. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$800.00.

Damaged Property: 22-71374
On December 8, 2022, Deputy Zinn responded to Saint John Vianney Family Life Center located at 105 Vianney Lane in Prince Frederick, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised sometime between Dec. 7 at 7:15 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 9:55 a.m., an unknown suspect (s) damaged outdoor patio furniture and broke a glass table-top. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$150.00.

Motor Vehicle Tampering: 22-72028
On December 11, 2022, Cpl. R. Shrawder responded to the 300 block of

Lessin Drive in Lusby, for the report of motor vehicle tampering. The complainant advised sometime between 9 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 6 a.m. on Dec. 11, an unknown suspect (s) rummaged through his unlocked motor vehicle. It appears nothing was stolen, but the contents of the glovebox were emptied out.

Motor Vehicle Tampering: 22-71938
On December 10, 2022, Deputy Ashley responded to the area of Barreda Blvd. and Grover Lane in Lusby, for the report of disorderly subjects. The complainant advised three subjects wearing ski masks, riding around on bicycles wearing backpacks were observed lurking around residences. As Deputy Ashley approached the subjects, they fled into the woods. Two bikes were recovered on the complainant's property. The victim's vehicle had been rummaged through and interior lights left on. Nothing appears to have been stolen.

Theft: 22-71910
On December 10, 2022, Deputy Novick responded to the 400 block of Dogwood Drive in Lusby, for the report of a theft from a motor vehicle. Contact was made with the complainant who advised two vehicles in the victim's driveway had been entered and rummaged through. A pair of Apple AirPods

Pros were reported stolen. The estimated value of the stolen property was \$150.00.

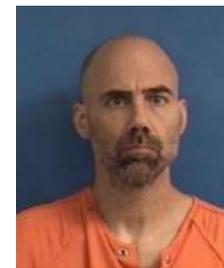
Theft: 22-70792
On December 5, 2022, DFC Durnbaugh responded to the 5600 block of Victoria Lane in Sunderland, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) stole a package from the victim's mailbox containing three wine samples, two wine glasses, and two wine cozies. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$40.

Theft: 22-71254
On December 7, 2022, Deputy Aley responded to Fox Run Liquors located at 701 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect stole a 750ml bottle of Grey Goose vodka. The suspect is described as a black male, wearing red shoes, black pants, a white hooded jacket, a red hat, glasses, and a black bookbag. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$30.

ARRESTS



On December 11, 2022, around 3:40 p.m., Deputy Huy was routine patrol in the area of the Walmart in Dunkirk, when she was flagged down by a Walmart employee that a theft had just occurred. Investigation revealed, two subjects walked past all points of sale with a cart full of stolen items. The suspects were observed entering a gray Lexus and fleeing onto Penwick Lane. Moments later, a loud crash was heard in the area. Deputy Huy arrived on Penwick Lane and observed the suspect vehicle stopped in the middle of the roadway. A traffic stop was initiated, and stolen items were recovered inside the vehicle. The driver was identified as **Brandon Lorenzo Van**, 29 of Hyattsville, MD. Van was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Theft: \$100 to Under \$1500, Theft Conspiracy, and Attempt by Driver to Elude Uniformed Police by Means Other than Failing to Stop and Fleeing on Foot. The passenger **Olivia Antneshia Parrott**, 31 of Hanover, MD, was also transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Theft: \$100 to Under \$1500 and Theft Conspiracy.



On December 7, 2022, DFC Boerum was alerted to a shoplifter in progress at the Walmart store located at 150 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick. Investigation revealed that an employee approached Deputy Boerum and advised that a male suspect, **Harry Albert Vredenburg, III**, 55 of Prince Frederick, had physically pushed his way past the Loss Prevention Officer, through the store's exit, past all points of sale with stolen items inside his book bag. Vredenburg was observed fleeing the store into the parking lot. Deputy Boerum apprehended Vredenburg following a brief foot pursuit. Vredenburg was placed into custody and the stolen items (two small propane bottle, one DVD, and a power bank battery pack) were recovered. The estimated value of the stolen property was \$57.04. Vredenburg was issued a Trespass Warning and charged with Theft: Less than \$100.

On December 5, 2022, Deputy Tavares initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling at a high rate in the area of Rt. 4 and Rousby Hall Road in Lusby. Upon making contact with the driver, **Diyonte D'Shon Johnson**, 23 of Washington D.C., an odor of marijuana was emitting from the vehicle. A vehicle search revealed a small amount of marijuana in a Ziplock bag, multiple empty marijuana containers, and a .40 caliber handgun with a loaded magazine. Investigation revealed the handgun was stolen. Johnson was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Possession of a Firearm with a Felony Conviction, Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm, Illegal Possession of Ammunition, Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle, Handgun in a Vehicle, and Stolen Regulated Firearm.

Anyone with information about these incidents are asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (410) 535-2800 and reference the case number provided. Citizens may remain anonymous thru the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov

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Editor's Note

The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.



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SKU 2123040 MSRP \$449.99

\$379⁰⁰



DISNEY CHRISTMAS LIONCHIEF SET

SKU 1923140 MSRP \$399.99

\$349⁰⁰



CHRISTMAS LIGHT EXPRESS LIONCHIEF SET W/ BLUETOOTH 5.0

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TOY STORY LIONCHIEF SET

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CHRISTMAS HOURS:

Dec 19–23 9am–6pm • Dec 24 9am–1pm • Dec 25–27 Closed

Dec 28–30 10am–6pm • Dec 31 9am–1pm • Jan 1–3 Closed

Closed for Lunch 12:30pm–2pm • Reopening Regular Hours Jan 4, 2023

Calvert County Government Announces Holiday Schedules

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners announces county offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, 2022, in observance of the Christmas holiday. County offices will also be closed Monday, Jan. 2, 2023 in observance of New Year's Day. In addition:



The Appeal Solid Waste Facility, which includes the landfill and transfer station, and all county customer convenience centers, will close at noon on Saturday, Dec. 24, and remain closed Sunday, Dec. 25. All solid waste facilities will close at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, and remain closed Sunday, Jan. 1.

The Solomons Septage Receiving Facility will close at noon on Saturday, Dec. 24, and remain closed Sunday, Dec. 25. The facility will also close at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, and remain closed Sunday, Jan. 1.

The Water & Sewerage Billing and Customer Service Office will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24, and remain closed through Monday, Dec. 26. The office will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 31, and remain closed through Monday, Jan. 2. On-call crews will be available for water and sewer service emergencies only at 410-535-3491.

County senior centers will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2.

Meals on Wheels will not be delivered on Monday, Dec. 26, or Monday, Jan. 2. Participants will be provided shelf-stable meals in advance.

Public transportation will be closed Saturday, Dec. 24, through Monday, Dec. 26; regular schedules will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 27. Public Transportation will be closed Saturday, Dec. 31, through Monday, Jan. 2. Regular schedules will resume Tuesday, Jan. 3.

All Calvert Library locations will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, through Monday, Dec. 26, and will reopen on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 9 a.m. Library locations will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day and will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 9 a.m. All digital services and materials will continue to be available 24/7 through calvertlibrary.info.

The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24, and closed on Sunday, Dec. 25. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31. The museum will be open for MEMBERS ONLY on Saturday, Dec. 31, and the Museum Store will be open to all shoppers. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store will be closed on Sunday, Jan. 1, and reopen on Monday, Jan. 2, at 10 a.m.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and Animal Control Division will close

at noon on Saturday, Dec. 24, and remain closed through Monday, Dec. 26. The shelter and animal services will also close at noon on Saturday, Dec. 31 and Monday, Jan. 2. An animal control officer will be available for emergencies at 410-535-3491.

Community centers will close at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24, and remain closed through Monday, Dec. 26. The community centers will also close at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 and remain closed Sunday, Jan. 1, and Monday, Jan. 2.

All Calvert County recreation parks, including Dunkirk, Cove Point, Hallowing Point, and Ward Farm parks will be closing at 5pm on Saturday, Dec 24 and will remain closed on Sunday, Dec. 25. Recreation Parks will close at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 and will reopen Sunday, Jan. 1, with regular winter hours 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Chesapeake Hills Golf Course will be open on Saturday, Dec 24, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; golf carts must be returned by 2:30 p.m. The course will remain closed on Sunday, Dec. 25. The course will be open with normal winter operating hours Saturday, Dec. 31, and Sunday, Jan. 1.

Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24, and closed Sunday, Dec. 25. The aquatic center will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, and closed Sunday, Jan. 1.

Flag Ponds and Kings Landing nature parks will be closed Sunday, Dec. 25. The parks will be open with normal hours of operation of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, and Sunday, Jan. 1.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp will be closed Sunday, Dec. 25. Trails will be open with normal hours Saturday, Dec. 31, and Sunday, Jan. 1. The nature center remains closed until further notice.

Breezy Point Beach & Campground is closed for the season.

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.

Evans Receives Final Salute



On Dec. 19 Sheriff Mike Evans received a final salute from Calvert County sheriff's deputies, correctional deputies, and Maryland state troopers (including his sons Eric and Charlie). Friends, family,

and colleagues joined the sheriff on the sheriff's office steps for a final farewell. Sheriff Evans retires after 43 years of law enforcement, 20 years as Calvert County Sheriff.

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McConkey Loses Final Appeal of Ethics Decision Against Him



Former commissioner Kelly McConkey

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

On his final day in office as county commissioner, Kelly McConkey lost his last legal challenge to the Calvert County Ethics Commission ruling that he had a conflict of interest when he cast the tie-breaking vote to place two properties he owns within an expanded Huntingtown Town Center.

On Monday Dec. 19, in a terse one-line opinion, the state's highest court, the Maryland Supreme Court, denied McConkey's request that they hear the case. Known as a writ of certiorari, the denial means that the decision by the state's second highest court upholding the ethics commission's stance.

The then Maryland Court of Special Appeals (COSA), now known as the Appellate Court of Maryland, had earlier ruled that a judge erred in over-

turning the ethics commission finding that McConkey cast his vote in error in August of 2019, during his first year in office. The unanimous decision by the three-judge panel upheld the ethics commission decision "imposing its strongest sanction -- a cease and desist order and a letter of censure, rather than a letter of reprimand," according to the Aug. 17 opinion by COSA.

McConkey lost a bid for re-election in the July 19 Republican primary to Catherine Grasso, one of the original complainants against McConkey to the ethics commission. Grasso was sworn in on Dec. 20.

On December 15, 2020, the Ethics Commission opinion said the complaints against McConkey "presented a textbook example of conflict of interest."

Much of the legal wrangling in the case stemmed from a newspaper article in which then Ethics then Commission Chairperson Jennifer Mazur was quoted as saying, "We have more advisory opinion requests and ethics complaints than we normally have. I cannot reveal the nature of the complaints." At no time did Mazur mention McConkey.

When the ethics commission ultimately held a hearing at which McConkey was present, his lawyer asked that Mazur recuse herself because of her statements. And by that time McConkey had filed suit against Mazur and it was argued that because of that she had a financial interest in the outcome of the decision.

Mazur at the hearing stepped down as chairperson but participated in it. She said she stepped down because she was seeking a legal opinion. The commission ruled she did not have a conflict and she voted. McConkey's lawyer argued that

seeking the legal opinion was admission of guilt.

The ethics commission ruling was overturned by retired Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge C. Phillip Nichols, who ruled that Mazur should have recused herself and if she had the commission would have lacked a quorum to make a decision.

The appeals court chided the judge for his decision. On the ruling the court wrote, "In our judgment, the facts before us are essentially undisputed. The sole question is whether the Ethics Commission committed legal error in the decision that it reached on the basis of those undisputed facts. The Commission did not err."

The appeals court went on to write: "Commissioner McConkey argues that Ms. Mazur had a conflict of interest because she had an economic incentive to rule against him in order to minimize the damages that he could recover in the suit that he had filed against her. The Ethics Board responds that the Commissioner filed a frivolous lawsuit as a pretext to require Ms. Mazur to recuse herself, and thus to deprive the Commission of a quorum and to prevent the Commission from taking any action against him. We agree that Commissioner McConkey attempted to conjure the illusion of a conflict in order to derail the case concerning his ethical violations."

"The Commissioner refrained from serving the complaint against Ms. Mazur (and Calvert County) for more than a year, which suggests that he was not thirsting for justice, but was using the complaint for an ulterior purpose -- to interfere with the ethics case against him," the appeals court concluded.

The court also said, "In short, the

Commissioner's lawsuit did not create anything resembling a conflict or an apparent conflict of interest. To the contrary, the lawsuit was a transparent effort to deprive the Ethics Commission of a quorum in order to prevent it from deciding the case."

As to Judge Nichols' opinion, the court said, "As a matter of policy, it is unsound to presume the existence of an apparent conflict of interest when an official does what she ought to do and consults with an attorney about whether she does or does not have an actual or apparent conflict of interest. Public officials should be encouraged to consult with counsel to ascertain their ethical responsibilities; they should not be deterred from consulting with counsel out of a concern that they will be deemed to have had an apparent conflict."

The Supreme Court denial of the writ of certiorari exonerates Mazur.

The McConkey vote on his properties is also one of the key issues in a suit against the county by four citizens seeking to overturn the decision that followed the Huntingtown vote -- to adopt the comprehensive plan, with McConkey also casting the deciding vote.

The Court of Special Appeals upheld the circuit court's decision affirming the commissioners' right to approve the plan. That decision was appealed, and the writ of certiorari was granted in that case. The Supreme Court heard the case, and a decision is pending.

In one of their final acts as a board, the commissioners without McConkey present voted to rescind the decision placing his properties in the Huntingtown Town Center.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Fridman Honored as Calvert Telecommunicator of the Year

Haley Fridman, a dispatch trainee with the Department of Public Safety's Emergency Communications Division, was recently awarded the distinction of Telecommunicator of the Year for Calvert County by the Maryland Emergency Number Association (MENA), a chapter of the National Emergency Number Association.

Fridman was recognized among awardees from each Maryland county for her positive attitude, professionalism and performance reflecting the highest traditions of public safety service.

"Telecommunicators are the 'calm voice in the dark,' the unseen first responders who show up night and day, every day of the year, to do one of the toughest jobs in public safety," said Public Safety Director Jackie Vaughan. "From day one, Haley has demonstrated the alertness, fortitude and skill needed to aid residents through some

of the most frightening moments they have faced. She is held in high esteem by her colleagues and her recognition as Telecommunicator of the Year is a well-deserved honor."

Fridman started with the Calvert County Department of Public Safety as a 911 call taker in the spring of 2021. After finishing her training, she was promoted to dispatch trainee, and continued to work overtime as a call taker. Since then, Fridman has earned numerous commendations, accolades and formal recognitions, including a Life Save Award for providing critical instructions that saved a person's life.

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.

Online Feature Guides Residents and Businesses Through Permit Requirements

The Department of Planning & Zoning, Inspections and Permits Division has launched an online "Do I Need a Permit" feature to simplify the process of navigating permit requirements for residential or commercial projects.

Permits are required for certain residential and commercial projects to ensure that repairs, additions or alterations are done safely and meet building, construction and zoning codes. Anyone planning a project can visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Permit to be guided through what permits, forms, fees or approvals are required for a specific property or work type before getting started.

"Obtaining the right permits, approvals and inspections helps protect people, property and natural and cultural

resources, including agricultural land and wetlands," said Planning & Zoning Director Mary Beth Cook. "Proper permitting is important but can be confusing. We developed this online guide as part of our ongoing efforts to help residents and businesses complete their projects successfully."

Those with questions or who need assistance may contact Inspections and Permits at inspections.permits@calvertcountymd.gov or 410-535-2155, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

Planners OK Concept For 260 Homes

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Planning Commission has approved a concept plan for a development in Prince Frederick with 164 townhouses and 96 multi-family units (in two buildings). The development called Magnolia Ridge is on a road yet to be built and for which the decision has yet to be made about who will pay for it, the developer, the county or a combination.

Before making a unanimous vote to approve the concept plan, the planners were assured by county staff that the unresolved issues will be addressed before they see the final site plan for the development.

Access to the subdivision is proposed off an unbuilt section of Fox Run Boulevard, north of MD Route 402 (Dares Beach Road) between Calvert High School and Calvert Middle School in Prince Frederick. Recently, the planners granted a waiver to allow grading to begin on the road bed so the county can use the dirt for other projects, but the permit has not yet been issued.

Public Works Director Kerry Dull, on questing from planning commission member Steve Jones, assured the panel that there was sufficient capacity in the public sewer system to handle the development. "It is well below what our current threshold is," he said.

Regarding who is to pay for the road, Public Works Deputy Director for Capital Projects J.R. Cosgrove said, "There is a, we'll say, maybe a difference of opinion that we're currently working through with the developer right now to get to an agreement on how we're going to move forward. I believe we're close to getting there, but we still have to work out some of the details on that."

Cosgrove said of the design for Fox Run Boulevard, "We're somewhere probably around 50, 60 percent on the design of the road."

The builder, Rodney Gertz of Quality Built Homes, seemed to be inclined to put the construction costs on the county. Noting it's been in the county's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for years, he said, "Like with being in the CIP, I believe you know, everybody wants to get this road built, about the importance of it. They go to Giant grocery shopping, and they come out and they're going to head down instead of getting back on (Route) 4 there. So, it's an extremely important piece of road."

lieve you know, everybody wants to get this road built, about the importance of it. They go to Giant grocery shopping, and they come out and they're going to head down instead of getting back on (Route) 4 there. So, it's an extremely important piece of road."

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School Board Commits to Teacher Salary Increase

The Calvert County Board of Education and the Calvert Education Association, as part of the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding to provide a teacher salary increase for the 2023-2024 school year. This will include a 2.75% salary increase in August 2023 and another 2.75% salary increase in February 2024. These salary increases are in addition to the 1% salary increase for the 2023-2024 school year, previously negotiated between the Calvert County Board of Education and the Calvert Education Association.

"We understand the important work our teachers do every day. They are truly deserving of this salary increase," shared Board of Education President Pamela Cousins. "We also want to ensure that our administrators and support staff understand that we value their dedication and hard work too," continued President Cousins. "That's why we are proposing a comparable salary increase for these employees in our upcoming FY24 budget proposal."

"Calvert County Public Schools' proposed FY24 budget will include

projected costs to fund the teacher salary increase that is mandated by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Additionally, the proposed FY24 budget will include projected costs to provide a similar increase for support staff and administrators," explained Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel.

"It is critical that we receive additional local funding to support those employees who are not covered by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future," continued Dr. Townsel.

The Calvert County Public Schools' proposed FY24 budget will be presented by Superintendent Townsel at the January 26th Board of Education Budget Meeting.

"I am very thankful for the collaboration and commitment to excellence between our County Commissioners, Board of Education, and District administration," shared Dr. Townsel.

For more information about the Calvert County Public Schools budget process, visit www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/finance/budget.

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Commissioners Sworn in at CSM Ceremony

Hance Re-elected President

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County's 64th county commissioner board was sworn in Dec. 20 at a ceremony at the College of Southern Maryland. Clerk of the Circuit Court Kathy Smith swore in the five commissioners along with new Sheriff Ricky Cox.

After the swearing in, family members of each of them officially pinned them and then posed for pictures. Each then gave brief comments and the commissioner's first meeting followed. At that session, Buddy Hance was elected president for the next year. It will be his third consecutive term. Mike Hart was elected vice president and Catherine Grasso as the county's representative on the Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee.

During remarks, new Commissioner Mark Cox said, "Thank you to all who voted for me. I am humbled and words cannot express how thankful I am. Thank you to those who did not. I hope I can earn your trust in the next four years. To the county administrators, the department heads and all county employees, thank you for the words of encouragement and the honesty in every conversation we have had. I must say, I'm excited to work with this board. We

all have the county and the citizens first. Our visions are similar, and the pathways are narrow."

New Commissioner Grasso said, "I want to thank the College of Southern Maryland for hosting us and also for the staff, the county employees. They've just been great. This transition has really been smooth. They've guided us with velvet gloves."

Grasso added, "Like I said when I was running, I'm running to represent the people of Calvert County. I'm not afraid to be alone on the Board of County Commissioners if I think it's not what our constituents want."

Hance said, "I want to welcome the three new commissioners to the board. They have no idea what they're getting into, but Mike and I are going to do our best to help them through the process and get them on the ground and running. As Commissioner Cox said, it is a humbling experience. And, when you go through it the second time, it's even more humbling because total strangers put their faith in you to protect this community and protect what we have. This is such a wonderful place, and sometimes we don't really appreciate how wonderful it is. So, that's why these individuals got in. And every day we're going to work to make sure we protect this place as best we can."

Hart said, "I was as green as green could be eight years ago and didn't know it. That shows you how green it could be. But each board has a journey, and we don't know what this one will be. We didn't know four years ago we would face covid and what that brought with people working from home and the school system. Before that I remember all the heavy budget constraints."

Hart added, "I think the voters put together a good team."

New Commissioner Todd Ireland said, "When I was running, the four main platforms that I ran on and I continued to support: smart growth, controlled growth that we need; to make sure our education system, we need to continue to form those relationships with the school board. We've already broken some ground there. I think it's going to improve from this point on. Next thing is our environment. I want to support our environment and take care of our environment. We need to constantly evaluate our environment and what's going on around us. But most importantly, the safety of the citizens of this county who voted for us and the children in our school system. That's the most impor-



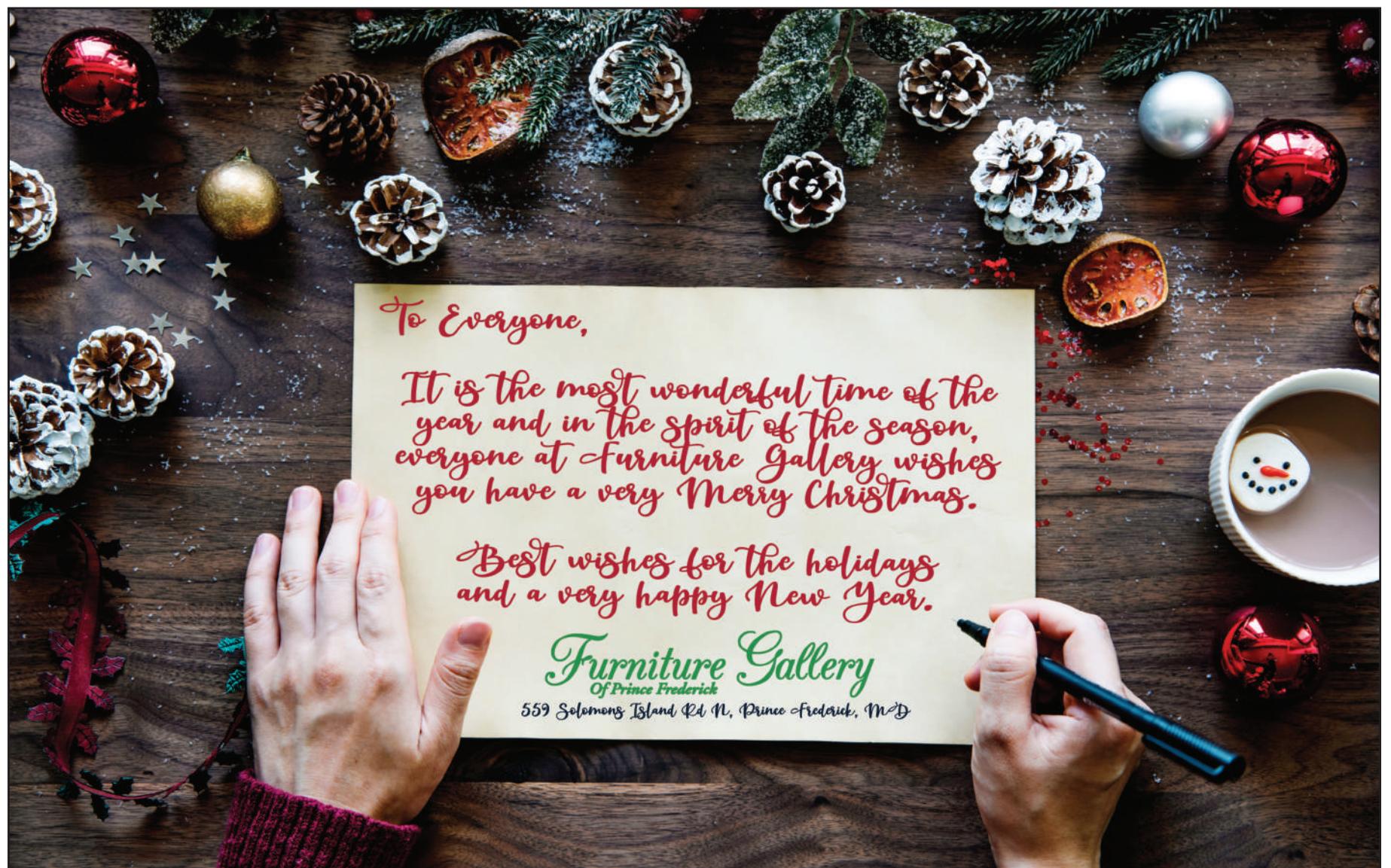
tant thing we need to continue to look out for."

New Sheriff Ricky Cox said, "It's very humbling here today because this is a long-life dream of mine to sit here in this seat. And it's really kind of hard to find the words, and kind of to deliver them, from my perspective on it."

Cox thanked his family. "I put them through hell my entire adult life, serving two tours in Iraq. I was there during an initial invasion of Iraq, so we didn't have a whole lot of communication, so they didn't hear from me for a long time."

"I want to thank the Calvert County citizens that voted for me. I look forward to working for you, the citizens," the new sheriff said.

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Deputy Shot During Police Incident

Remains in Stable Condition in ICU



Senior Deputy James Flynt

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A Calvert County deputy sheriff is reportedly in stable condition after being shot during an incident Dec. 17 in Huntingtown. According to Sheriff Ricky Cox, Senior Deputy James Flynt's condition has improved from critical to stable. Cox said of Flynt, "He has been alert and able to communicate. He will undergo more surgery today (Dec. 19) and remains in ICU for what looks like an extended period. While he still has a long road to recovery, his prognosis has greatly improved in the last 24 hours. Please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers."

According to a release from the sheriff's office, "Detectives assigned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau have identified the suspect in the officer-involved shooting that occurred on Dec.

17 on Walnut Creek Road in Huntingtown as Brandon Alexander Turner, 21, of Greenbelt. Turner is facing charges of Attempted 1st-Degree Murder, Assault 1st Degree, Attempted 2nd-Degree Murder, and Assault 2nd Degree of a Law Enforcement Officer."

The release reports that Flynt is a five-year veteran of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office who served several years prior at the Calvert County Detention Center as a correctional deputy.

Regarding the incident, the sheriff's office reports, "On Saturday, December 17, 2022, around 9:30 p.m., Calvert County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of Yellow Bank Road in Dunkirk. During the initial stop, the suspect vehicle fled from deputies at a high rate southbound on Route 4.

"Preliminary investigation revealed the suspect driving the fleeing vehicle opened fire at pursuing deputies, striking one patrol vehicle. The pursuit continued to the Walnut Creek subdivision in Huntingtown, where deputies utilized a Pit Maneuver to terminate the pursuit. The occupants of the vehicle fled on foot. The suspect that was driving fired additional rounds, ultimately striking a deputy. Deputies returned fire and the suspect fled into the nearby development.

"The passenger of the vehicle was immediately taken into custody. A short time later, deputies apprehended the suspect near the entrance to the neighborhood. It was determined the suspect had also been shot, suffering non-life-

threatening injuries."

The release states, "Two additional deputies involved in the exchange of gunfire have been placed on administrative leave in accordance with agency policy." They have been identified as Deputy T. Bowen and Deputy A. Aranda.

The release said, "In accordance with Maryland State Law, The Maryland Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) was contacted, but based on a lack of qualifying factors, declined to handle the investigation. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate."

The investigation is ongoing.

Cox wrote in a Facebook post, "I would also like to take a moment to recognize our dispatchers and our emergency medical personnel. The audio of the call reveals some of the most professional, well-trained individuals I have ever heard in a stressful situation. It is this seamless teamwork between the police, dispatchers, and medical personnel on the scene that allowed for getting the proper resources. But more importantly, those actions allowed for Deputy Flynt to get to CalvertHealth in the most efficient manner possible. Once there, they did amazing work to get him stabilized and on a flight to Medstar. These actions greatly contributed to saving his life."

Cox underscored the severity of the incident during his swearing in on Dec. 20. He said, "When I got that call, it was terrible. I got dressed, went to the hospital and I met Senior Deputy Flynt, and

the floor was covered in blood and I was there watching and helping the medical team. And I want to thank you guys, you did a wonderful job, CalvertHealth, keeping him alive."

A posting on the sheriff's office Facebook page said, "Based on Calvert County government policy, S/Dep Flynt will be placed on Injured Worker's Pay. This pay is less than the rate that S/Dep Flynt currently receives. When S/Dep Flynt is released from the hospital, there will be extensive expenses incurred as part of his recovery.

"Calvert County Fraternal Order of Police is working with the Flynt family to ensure that all donations received will go directly to S/Dep Flynt to bridge the pay gap and assist in recovery expenses.

"Donations can be made to this Go Fund Me account <https://gofund.me/74eb99c8> or Venmo @payfop109 (Include Flynt Strong in Comments). Checks or Cash donations can be dropped off at the Calvert County Sheriff's Office or mailed to FOP 109, P.O. Box 851, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. Checks can be made out to Calvert FOP 109. Please put Flynt Strong on the memo line/envelope."

A blood drawing in Flynt's honor will be held Friday, Dec. 23, noon to 5 p.m. at the Huntingtown fire hall, 4030 Old Town Road. For eligibility questions call 1-866-236-3276.

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New Police Review Agency Has Full Plate

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Any questions about how busy the new police oversight process in Calvert County will be have been answered with early statistics. The newly formed Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) has had before it 35 cases to review, according to Wilson Parran, who is an ACC member and chairperson of the new Police Accountability Board (PAB) which oversees the police reform process.

Parran reported at the PAB's Nov. 30 meeting that of the 35 complaints, seven were referred to the sheriff's office through the PAB and the rest were sent directly to the sheriff's office.

"Someone may come in and do it online through us or they may make the complaint to the sheriff's office directly," Parran explained, adding, "The sheriff's office is sharing the complaints that they

also get so that the ACC can see all those complaints that are coming in. Right now, 26 complaint cases are ready for the ACC. Those are cases that have been investigated by the sheriff's office, and it's ready for us to actually go out and review and decide what to do with those cases. There are 22 that are what's called the 'adjudicated prior to the ACC training' cases. These are cases that the sheriff's office investigated, and the information is out there for the ACC and the ACC will be looking at those cases and reviewing them and deciding whether there's an administrative charge or not for those cases pending an ACC review."

Parra said, "On November 9th we looked at eight cases, and two of those cases we had some additional questions. So, we have looked at six cases so far and when we meet in December, we'll look at another eight plus the two that we're talking about, and we'll eventually catch

up because the ACC meets on a monthly basis. So, for the eight cases, six are not charged. Two, we had questions that will continue. And then in looking at all the cases, we had one case where the complaint came in before July 1st, and the law doesn't allow us to look at those complaints that came in before July 1st."

Parra noted, "One of the things that's really been helpful for us, and this is probably good for the other counties if they haven't thought about it, and that is we have worked closely with the sheriff's office to set up a secure location where the investigative information that they have submitted is available to us on a secure server."

He added, "And we have access to the documents, also the videos and all the information that they have on a specific case. So, in order to enhance the security there, the ACC uses laptops that are actually submitted by the county, so that makes it

even more secure in terms of what we can access. That works very well."

Parran explained the process: "We have the ability for the public to submit a complaint," he said, adding, "We send those complaints to the sheriff's office within 72 hours, the investigation will begin, and there's an overall process that loops back to the ACC that we'll be reviewing the findings and coming up with whether there is an administrative charge or not. That's the first question we have to ask. No administrative charge, that stops right there. If there's an administrative charge, there's a process that we have to follow. That's the statewide disciplinary matrix that we use."

To find the complaint form and more information about the PAB and the ACC go to: <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/2925/Police-Accountability-Board>

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Cox Takes Command of Sheriff's Office

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sheriff Ricky Cox, sworn in as the first new sheriff in 20 years in Calvert County on Dec. 20, spoke to the assembled members of his agency — both patrol deputies and corrections officers — and told them he was proud to lead them into the future.

The sworn personnel took their oath of office at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons; Cox had taken his oath of office earlier that day with the Calvert County Commissioners.

Cox takes command of the agency as one of its deputies lay in hospital facing more surgery following being shot — allegedly by a suspect in a traffic stop who is facing attempted murder charges — and nearly killed in the line of duty.

Sen. Deputy James Flynt has already been to the operating room at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and must do so again, Cox told The County Times in a later interview, to have his right leg repaired.

“He’s got a long road ahead,” Cox said of the wound Flynt sustained to his femoral artery, that could have led to his bleeding to death were it not for the quick action of a fellow deputy.

Cox publicly praised Dep. Joshua Newton, who has only been with the agency for one year, for coming to Flynt’s aid after he sustained a life-threatening wound.



Deputies take the oath of office

“He placed that tourniquet on Dep. Flynt’s leg and stopped most of the bleeding and saved his life,” Cox said of Newton, who he asked to stand and be honored by his fellow deputies.

“He was truly heroic.”

Cox said his vision for the agency was one where it was a “professional and well-organized outfit.”

He said the actions of the deputies in the shooting in which Flynt was

wounded exemplified the excellence in the agency.

“After viewing body camera footage... they did an outstanding job,” Cox said.

Two deputies on the scene of the shooting who returned fire at the suspect, Greenbelt resident Brandon Alexander Turner, also publicly received praise from their new commander as well.

Cox said Dep. Tyler Bowen and Dep. Anthony Aranda both performed well

when they returned fire on Turner, hitting him and putting him under arrest.

Both deputies have been placed on administrative leave, Cox has said, pending the outcome of the investigation into their actions that night.

That investigation had to be left up to State’s Attorney Bob Harvey for a final determination on the appropriateness of the deputies’ actions but Cox said he believed that all the deputies involved that night acted well.

Cox said his main goal in the first 100 days of his administration would be to take the agency back to community policing and “protect our schools.”

Key to that would be more training for each of his deputies in key areas of performance such as driving, defensive tactics and shooting, he said.

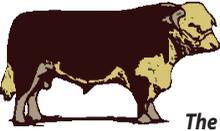
Currently every deputy must qualify annually with various training regimens, Cox said, but he was adamant that they needed more training in those fundamental law enforcement skills to keep them ready for field work.

“That’s key to the success of every deputy working here,” Cox said.

In his address to his troops Cox said he looked forward to leading them and that he would support them in their everyday work, which could put them in deadly danger at a moment’s notice.

“I will go into battle with each and every one of you,” Cox said.

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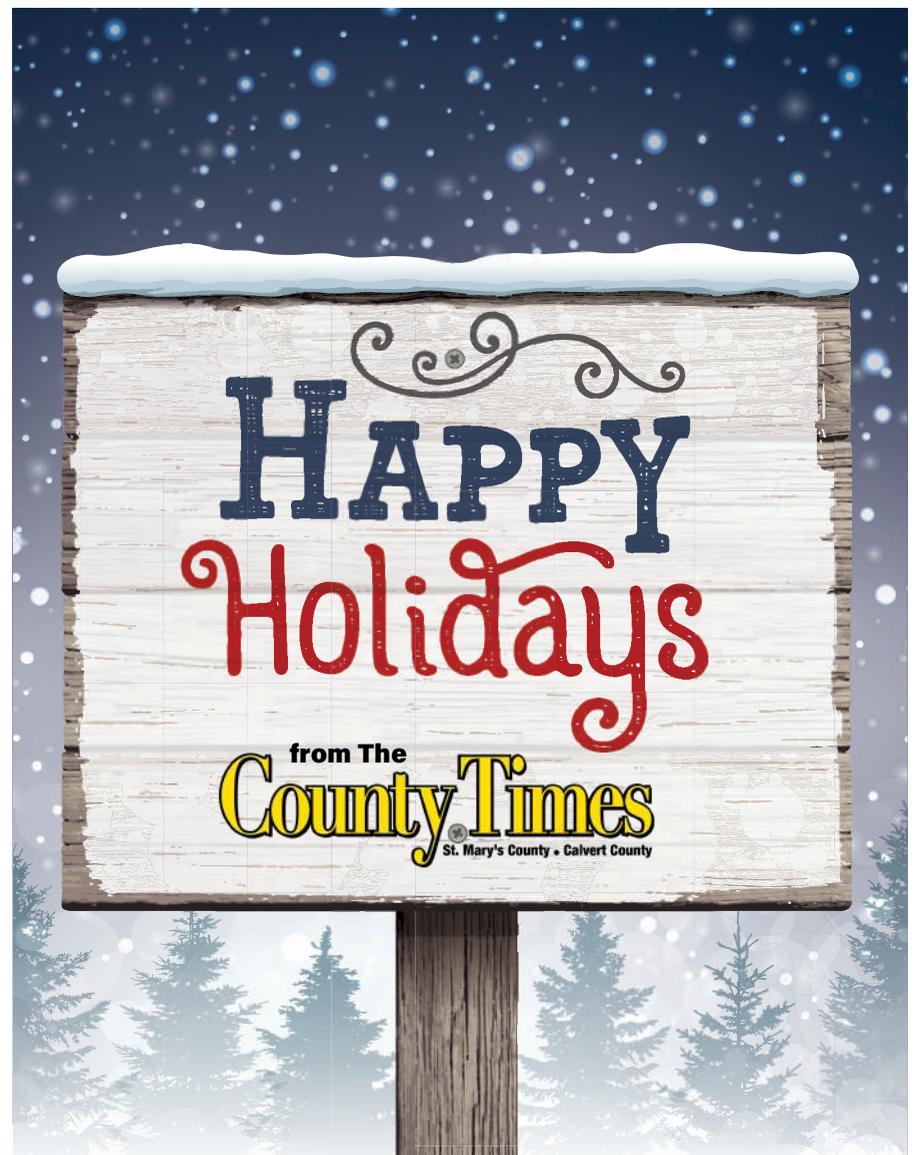
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“HE’S AWESOME.”
 SHERIFF RICKY COX ON THE LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS TAKEN BY DEP. JOSHUA NEWTON TO TREAT A FELLOW WOUNDED DEPUTY.



LOCAL 5
 Calvert Deputy in stable condition after shooting



LOCAL 6
 County Commissioners sworn in

ON THE COVER
 Three commissioners say farewell

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU 12/22 54° /40° Rain 97%	MON 12/26 37° /23° Cold with thickening clouds 14%
FRI 12/23 46° /16° Very windy; cooler, a.m. rain 75%	TUE 12/27 41° /29° Some sun, then clouds 18%
SAT 12/24 27° /19° Sunny and breezy 10%	WED 12/28 41° /29° Clouds giving way to some sun 9%
SUN 12/25 33° /20° Cold with plenty of sunshine 8%	THU 12/29 44° /39° Times of clouds and sun 0%

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COX TAKES COMMAND