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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

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**St. Mary's Weathers
Heavy Storm**

**Zoning Amendment
Hearing Set**

**Town Partners with New
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**BUBBY LEAVES
A LEGACY
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Mary's

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“THIS BRIDGE IS CRITICAL TO OUR FUTURE.”

SEN. JACK BAILEY ON EFFORTS TO GET THE STATE TO PURSUE FEDERAL MONEY TO REPLACE THE GOV. THOMAS JOHNSON BRIDGE



LOCAL 3
New DES director hired



LOCAL 5
St. Mary's recovers from winds, rains



ON THE COVER
St. Mary's says goodbye to Bubby Knott

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JAN 11 Sunny Hi: 52° Lo: 33°	FRI, JAN 12 PM Showers Hi: 50° Lo: 47°	SAT, JAN 13 Sunny Hi: 51° Lo: 31°	SUN, JAN 14 Partly Cloudy Hi: 44° Lo: 32°
MON, JAN 15 AM Rain/Snow Hi: 44° Lo: 22°	TUE, JAN 16 Partly Cloudy Hi: 33° Lo: 19°	WED, JAN 17 Partly Cloudy Hi: 34° Lo: 26°	THU, JAN 18 Partly Cloudy Hi: 41° Lo: 29°

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New Emergency Services Chief Accused of Toxicity in Last Post

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county's new director of the Department of Emergency Services, Jennifer Aubert-Utz, last served as assistant chief in the Baltimore County Fire Department where she failed a no confidence vote by the local firefighter union there regarding leadership style and the influence it had on the department.

A report issued by the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1311 of a June 2023 no-confidence vote by 662 active and retired members showed a little over 90 percent of those responding did not approve of Aubert-Utz's leadership.

The report stated that the entire leadership team of Baltimore County Fire Department (BCFD) had created a toxic working environment where first responder morale suffered badly as a result.

Aubert-Utz was called out in the report specifically in one instance regarding their fire training academy.

"Staff and students are being spied on from HQ via security cameras," the union report stated. "It was noted that on at least one occasion operations were shut down by [Assistant Chief] Utz because she did not like what she saw during a training session via camera."

Aubert-Utz was also mentioned in a federal Department of Justice complaint regarding alleged sexual harassment against female employees at BCFD dating back to 2017.

According to the complaint, the county violated Title VII when it subjected the women to a hostile work environment, specifically the actions of a male employee who allegedly both shared and solicited nude pictures of some of the women.

The findings of the Justice Department were that the department did not take prompt action to correct the hostile working conditions, including not informing the victims of the progress of the investigation into the alleged misconduct by the male employee.

Aubert-Utz was told of the first incident involving nude photos in June of 2017, but the complaint stated that the fire department "had not taken any steps to investigate the matter prior to Aug. 24, 2017," according to federal allegations in the complaint filed in September of 2023.

Baltimore County subsequently agreed to pay \$275,000 to the 11 employees over their sexual harassment claims.

County commissioners expressed enthusiasm this week at Aubert-Utz's hiring, the culmination of a process that lasted about



Department of Emergency Services Director Jennifer Aubert-Utz

a year.

"We are confident that her skills and experience will benefit both the Department and our residents," said Commissioner President Randy Guy.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said the commissioners were not involved in the interview process, rather that was undertaken by a panel of fire and EMS personnel here in St. Mary's.

The commissioners did meet with Aubert-Utz in a closed session, however, Colvin said, where the no-confidence vote was discussed.

It did not count against Aubert-Utz during their question and answer session, the commissioner said.

"We have faith she will do a good job," said Colvin.

"I am incredibly humbled by the confidence bestowed on me by the Commissioners and County Administrator," said Aubert-Utz. "I am beyond excited to join this well-established leadership team and look forward to serving the St. Mary's community alongside the men and women of the Department of Emergency Services."

Aubert-Utz holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University with an emphasis in Public Safety Leadership. She has also earned the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer designation, as well as the Certified Public Manager through University of Baltimore.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Heavy Rains, Winds Result in Widespread Power Outages



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) was still repairing a few power outages the morning and early afternoon of Jan. 10 after heavy winds and rains that hit the area the day before.

Heavy deluges and fierce winds, sometimes reaching more than 50 miles-per-hour, according to one resident's account, had plagued the county most of the day on Jan. 9 but the worst came around the evening time, data from SMECO shows.

Just before noon on Jan. 10, SMECO's data showed there were still about 411 outages in St. Mary's.

The power outages that occurred did so quickly; by 5 p.m. Jan. 9 there were already 4,771 outages in St. Mary's County alone, according to SMECO.

County government sources reported that

public works crews worked throughout the night to respond to storm damage including more than 60 downed trees, 11 road closures and a maximum of 5,960 power outages.

One South County resident, Roy Fedders, said the storm caused serious flooding in his neighborhood which stood directly athwart from St. Jerome's Creek. The creek sits next to the Chesapeake Bay.

"The most recent storm was a bit wicked here," Fedders told The County Times. "I had three inches of rain and 51 mile-per-hour winds.

"It was flooded around three sides of my house... the beach on the bay side had major erosion."

The following day, Jan. 10, Fedders said winds in his area still reached up to 35 miles per hour after the storm.

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Counties Want State to Pursue Bridge Funding Grant



Sen. Jack Bailey, center, with MDOT Secretary Paul Wiedefeld, right, and Deputy Secretary Samantha Biddle. Photo courtesy of Sen. Jack Bailey.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county has joined an effort to encourage the state Department of Transportation to seek federal funds to defray the costs of building a replacement for the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge, a letter of support for the endeavor from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County shows.

"Our county recognizes the importance of this infrastructure project and believes that securing federal funding for its replacement is paramount to our county and our region's continued growth and success," the county's missive dated Jan. 9 stated. "We commend the State Department of Transportation for its proactive approach to addressing the infrastructure needs of our region."

Sen. Jack Bailey told The County Times this week that back in December the Calvert County board of commissioners sent a similar letter of support to MDOT Secretary Paul Wiedefeld.

"The [federal government] is accepting applications for bridge project grants," Bailey said. "I've had the secretary [Wiedefeld] and the deputy secretary [Samantha Biddle] down here in Solomons to discuss the bridge replacement.

"They were non-committal about abso-

lutely moving ahead, but they were very interested in continuing discussions."

The replacement of the bridge, which is now about 50 years old, has been a key issue locally, with leaders on both sides of the span calling for a replacement as being critical to traffic safety and mobility, economic growth and even national security.

But the state has stubbornly left off funding the project, saying the bridge is not a priority for replacement as it is still structurally sound.

The prior administration of Gov. Larry Hogan deemed the bridge "functionally obsolete" but never committed much funding to it beyond maintenance and planning studies.

Recently, the only federal funding going to the bridge came in the amount of \$1 million; estimates to build a new span have reached as high as \$750 million.

Bailey said he wants to have a fresh start with the new administration.

"I thought it was important to continue to have these discussions [with the new administration]," Bailey said of his recent meeting in the fall. "This bridge is critical to our future."

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"Bubby" Knott Remembered for Giving Back to St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Joseph "Bubby" Knott, celebrated locally for his philanthropy, was an integral part of life in St. Mary's according to many who knew him throughout his life, though he largely eschewed the limelight for his many acts of charity.

Knott passed away last week at the age of 77.

Knott was the owner of the construction business The Great Mills Trading Post.

His business empire, which, according to County Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy speaking a week after Knott's passing, started out as a junk collecting business that he parlayed into a huge construction concern.

"He had a single truck that he used to go around and pick up metal and take it up to a scrap yard in Washington, D.C. for extra money," Guy said.

"That's how he started and he built up a huge business."

Knott went into the excavating business like his father did, Guy said, and he went on to do many construction projects for the county — including the latest section of FDR Boulevard — and also the replacement runways for the Navy at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

His cousin, former state senator Roy Dyson, said he was hard pressed to think of anyone in St. Mary's who had contributed as much through their generosity as Knott had as a life-long resident of the county.

"He was an extraordinary man," Dyson said. "He gave it all back to St. Mary's County."

"He seemed to back everybody; he had a legacy — I don't know of any place where he didn't help financially or build things for."

His daughter, Karen Knott Siebert, said her father passed away the morning of Jan. 4.

The response from the community with sympathy for the Knott family has been strong and immediate.

Knott was famous for his business acumen and also for his giving nature; in 2022 he bought the old Brass Rail sports bar on Route 5 and donated it as the new home of the St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen.

Knott also founded the tradition of Christmas lights and holiday themed displays that had drawn and delighted the



Joseph "Bubby" Knott

community to view the sprawling work for decades at Flat Iron Farm.

Dyson said his cousin was circumspect with regards to the sway he could have held in local issues as such a successful businessman, preferring to simply give his opinion rather than press for immediate action.

"When you do that much, you do carry a lot of weight," Dyson said of his cousin's reputation. "Those people who are having lunch today at the soup kitchen, they'll probably never know he was the one who brought that about."

Knott's extended family lived in close proximity to his business on Route 5 in Great Mills and he was noted for his support of both Holy Face Catholic Church and Little Flower School, of which he was a former student.

"He always wanted to be in Great Mills," Dyson said. "His roots were deep here."

Ronnie Farrell, local auctioneer, said his friend was always busy making business deals, seeming to thrive off the work.

"He was heavily involved in auctions, always buying and selling," Farrell told The

County Times.

This extended to the St. Mary's County Fair, where Knott would have Farrell pay top dollar for livestock raised by local youth whose animals had not been bid upon.

"He'd be a big buyer to support the kids," Farrell said.

In one instance, Knott purchased a tractor and resold it several times just to raise money for schools such as Mother Catherine Academy in Mechanicsville and to aid cancer survivors, said Farrell.

Knott seemed unconcerned with how much money he was spending to help others.

"I would ask him, how much should I buy and he would say 'Whatever it takes,'" Farrell said. "He was extremely generous when it came to those kinds of endeavors."

"And there were things he did behind the scenes that were just as enormous."

And always, Knott was a businessman.

"He would call people and just get things done," Farrell said. "He would make it happen."

Many people also sought out his advice on business matters, which Knott was happy to provide forthrightly.

"You knew exactly where you stood," Farrell said. "They trusted his guidance; they trusted his opinion."

Knott was well known and loved for his annual Christmas celebration at his home — Flat Iron Farm — where numerous lighted displays were erected and thousands would take driving tours around the property to peruse the spectacle, particularly at night.

Howard Thompson, president of the local Christmas in April chapter, said Knott especially enjoyed when children would come to his farm during the holidays.

"If it had something to do with a child, he was like Santa Claus," Thompson said. "I remember being down there with him one year and he turned to me and said 'This is the best; I just like the kids.'"

Knott seemed to always think of others and how he could help them, Thompson said.

"He was always pleasant and willing to help you," Thompson said. "He wanted to see people shine."

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Apparatus from Second District VFD&RS as well as local business, including Knott's own Great Mill Trading Post, assembled at Hollywood VFD on Wednesday in preparation for the funeral procession.

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Leonardtwn Partners with New Broadband Provider

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

This week the Leonardtown Town Council signed a memorandum of understanding with Chestertown-based broadband internet provider ThinkBig in a bid to bring more options to town residents.

The council voted unanimously to approve the MOU at their Jan. 8 council meeting.

Mark Wagner, co-owner of ThinkBig, said his company's plan is to build out their infrastructure with fiber, rather than copper wire, which can deteriorate over time.

"About 99 percent of it is underground," Wagner said of infrastructure his company has built in other communities such as Chestertown and Havre de Grace. "There might be some poles we'd have to use [in Leonardtown]."

"We'd very much prefer to go underground for a lot of reasons."

The newly signed MOU allows ThinkBig to lay cable in the town's right-of-way.

"We do have a Breezeline franchise agreement," Town Administrator Laschelle McKay told council members. "We can bring in other franchises but we've never had anyone interested in building infrastructure before."

"We've got a lot of people who would like have options."

Cable companies, such as Breezeline,



have franchise agreements but because ThinkBig is considered under federal law to be a telecommunications company, they are subject to agreements such as MOUs.

Wagner said Leonardtown was a community where his company was keen to start doing business.

"Out of a survey of 596 communities this one was a top contender," Wagner said. "A lot of people want to come and live here."

"We're happy to be a part of the community."

The county government signed a similar MOU with ThinkBig in 2022, hoping to bring more internet service options countywide.

Mayor Dan Burris called the MOU "a good thing," and asked Wagner to pay particular attention to the downtown and wharf areas as they were notorious for getting poor internet coverage.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

State Affordable Housing Push Could Run Afoul of Local Zoning

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Gov. Wes Moore plans to introduce a legislative program this year that would encourage the building of affordable housing throughout Maryland, but local leaders fear that push could degrade local authority when it comes to zoning matters.

During a pre-General Assembly briefing on what legislation might move forward to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County Jan. 9, Deputy County Attorney John Houser said that while the governor's announcement of several months ago did not actually define what affordable housing was, it did show what local leaders could expect to see in any enabling legislation.

"We know... making work force housing more accessible is going to be a push this year," Houser said. "Perhaps at the expense of local control and oversight of these types of projects."

The governor's bill package, which has yet to be introduced, would potentially relax adequate public facility requirements

if they would hold up such a project, expedite local reviews of those projects and limit the amount of public hearings on them, Houser said.

"That's a large rumor I've been hearing about for a while now, that the governor's plan will supersede local zoning," said Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Houser said the only legislation on file so far was from a Montgomery County delegate which would expedite the review of such projects but only on land owned by charitable organizations that had offered such a proposal in the first place.

Houser said he considered this bill a "milquetoast" version of whatever the governor's office plans to introduce.

Affordable housing in St. Mary's has long been a serious issue with housing prices rising quickly as the population has increased to more than 100,000 residents.

According to Redfin.com, the median price for a single-family home here is \$400,000, up almost 10 percent from 2022.

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County Considers Allowing Fast Food in Flight Safety Zone

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The developers of the newly proposed Pax River Village Center, Atlantic Realty Inc., want the zoning code amended to allow fast food restaurants in the flight safety zone surrounding Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

The developers want the changes to allow their redevelopment of what is now known as Millison Plaza.

The proposal would allow such uses in the light commercial industrial zone and in the accident potential zone No. 2, which is laid out in the compact shared between the county and U.S. Navy known as the aircraft installation compatible use zone (AICUZ).

The AICUZ acts as a guide to construction near the base that restricts building projects that would bring in too many people at risk should an aircraft accident occur or excess air operations noise.

APZ 2 is actually several different sections of land surrounding the base and moving out into the Lexington Park interior.

Deputy County Attorney John Houser explained to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week that the U.S. Navy now considers fast food operations as an allowable use in APZ 2.

"The predominant use of the [fast food] restaurant is not to serve seated customers," Houser said of the reason the use is now acceptable in the APZ 2. "You can have some seating, so long as it's not the predominant use."

"The Navy wants to decrease the concentrations of people."

The specific use to be built in the redeveloped shopping center is a Starbucks coffee shop, which figures in the zoning



ordinance as a fast food operation, Houser said.

"This is a pretty big deal that the Navy is willing to allow more in the AICUZ," said Commissioner Eric Colvin.

"Everyone wants a Starbucks," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt.

The commissioners voted unanimously — with one abstention — to authorize a public hearing on the proposed zoning change with a hearing set for Jan. 30.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow abstained from the vote because he said that Atlantic Realty had contributed to his political campaign fund.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Government Operations for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

The January 15 closure also includes:

- St. Mary's County Libraries (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park)
- The Animal Adoption & Resources Center
- The Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler & Northern) and no home-delivered meals
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS)

The following SMCG operations will be

open on January 15:

- Department of Recreation & Parks programs and facilities
- St. Clements Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the Old Jail Museum
- The Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill
- Wicomico Shores Golf Course (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.); Riverview Restaurant (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

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

ST. MARY'S COUNTY CRIME BLOTTER

Sheriff's Office Deputies Recover Stolen Tags, Drugs During Traffic Stops

While performing proactive patrols throughout the county on Thursday, January 4, 2024, Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) recovered narcotics and stolen registration plates.

At approximately 10:12 p.m., Deputy First Class (DFC) Tyler Westphal stopped a 2007 Dodge Caravan in Lexington Park for a traffic violation. A K9 scan by Corporal Philip Henry and K9 Maja led to a positive alert. Suspected crack cocaine and related paraphernalia were located within the vehicle. The suspect, identified as Jessie Marie Russell, 40, of Great Mills, MD, was placed under arrest and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center.

Later that evening, at approximately 11:59 p.m., in Mechanicsville, Dnico Awaun Williams, 25, of Waldorf, MD, was stopped by DFC Jessica Wilson for an equipment violation when a subsequent investigation revealed that the registration plates displayed on Williams' vehicle were stolen from Prince George's County. Williams was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, where he faces charges related to the stolen registration plates.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community through proactive law enforcement efforts.

Woman Arrested After New Year's Eve Fire

An investigation on New Year's Eve in St. Mary's County led to the arrest of a Mechanicsville woman after she started a fire inside a home while two other people were inside.

Wendy Hope Firebaugh, 64, was charged last Friday after Deputy State Fire Marshals determined she was responsible for setting a fire inside a bedroom she rented. Investigators learned that Firebaugh set the fire while inside her bedroom while two other people were inside the home.

Just before 9:00 a.m., the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched for a dwelling fire at 40231 Duke Road. When they arrived, they were told the owner had quickly extinguished a fire in a bedroom

rented to Firebaugh. The owner told investigators he was walking past Firebaugh's room when he smelled something burning and Firebaugh coming out of the room. While the man's girlfriend called 911, he extinguished the fire with a pan of water.

With the assistance of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, Firebaugh was transported to MedStar St. Mary's for an evaluation.

On Friday, Firebaugh was charged with first and second-degree arson, malicious destruction of property less than \$1,000, and two counts of reckless endangerment. She was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center and is currently being held without bond.

Traffic Stop by Deputy Results in Drug Arrest

In the early hours of Tuesday, January 9, 2024, Deputy Tyler Westphal, while conducting proactive traffic enforcement in Lexington Park, MD, initiated a traffic stop that led to a drug-related arrest.

At approximately 2:33 a.m., Deputy Westphal stopped a 2005 Honda Civic for operating without a front registration plate and additional safety equipment violations. The operator provided a false name, and CDS paraphernalia was observed inside the vehicle. A subsequent search uncovered suspected crack cocaine and related paraphernalia.

The driver of the Honda Civic has been identified as James Perry Bond, 33, of Dameron, MD. A subsequent investigation, including a check of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), revealed that Mr. Bond was wanted for an outstanding warrant through the Maryland Parole Commission.

As a result of the findings, Mr. Bond was placed under arrest and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with CDS: Possession – Not Marijuana and one count of CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

United States Naval Test Pilot School Graduates Class 163

The United States Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) held a graduation ceremony for Class 163 on December 14. 28 students successfully completed the intense 11-month course of instruction and received their designations as Engineering Test Pilots, Engineering Test Flight Officers, and Test Project Engineer.

U.S. Army Col. David Phillips, Assistant Program Executive Officer for Redstone Arsenal's Program Executive Office for Aviation in Alabama, delivered the keynote address. Col. Phillips graduated from USNTPS in June 2006 as a member of Class 129.

The graduation ceremony took place at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department in Hollywood, Maryland. Graduates included members of the Israeli Air Force, Italian Air Force, Italian Navy, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Aaron Kia, USNTPS Commanding Officer, and Dr. John Tritschler, Chief of Academics, presented diplomas and offered congratulations to the new testers.

Lt. Lucas Papadakis earned the Capt.



Willie McCool Outstanding Student Award for the top performing student in the categories of academics, flight performance, and technical report writing.

Lt. Marius Bernotas earned the Developmental Testing Thesis Award for the best final capstone report.

Cmdr. James Brodtmann earned the Capt. Syd Sherby Leadership Award, named after the founder of the test pilot training division, now USNTPS.

The Capt. Syd Sherby Award recognizes the student who displays exemplary leadership in the class.

Twenty students completed the requirements for the engineering test pilot course, seven students completed the engineering test flight officer course, and one student, the first enlisted graduate for USNTPS, fulfilled the requirements for the test project engineer course.

USNTPS trains pilots and engineers for development test and evaluation of aircraft and aircraft systems. USNTPS is a component of Naval Test Wing Atlantic, the developmental test wing under the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) in Patuxent River, Maryland. NAWCAD advances capability and operational readiness for Naval Aviation.

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Chesapeake Bay 2023 Fall Oyster Survey Records Outstanding Spatfall

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Fall Oyster Survey recorded a remarkable year for juvenile oysters in Maryland waters, finding both prolific numbers and a widespread distribution throughout many regions of the Chesapeake Bay.

The survey's spatfall intensity index, a measure of reproductive success and potential population growth for oysters, was 86.8 spat, or juvenile oysters, per bushel, nearly four times the 39-year median of 23.6 spat per bushel and the fifth highest in that timeframe.

"We have not recorded this extent of oyster spat recruitment in the fall survey in a generation," said Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. "Both the quantity and the wide distribution of spat throughout the Bay, including several areas where our biologists have rarely observed spat in nearly 40 years of results, are outstanding. We plan to build on these natural spatsets by continuing oyster restoration efforts and promoting aquaculture to bolster the overall oyster population."

This survey, which measures the population status of oysters in the Bay, marks the fourth consecutive year of above-median results for juvenile oysters, a promising sign for restoration efforts for the bivalve, which has faced precipitous population declines over the decades.

Aside from the spatfall intensity index, the



DNR Secretary Josh Kurtz joins Fishing and Boating Services staff analyze to oyster spat during the fall survey. Photo by Robert Bussell, Maryland DNR.

department looks to see how widely young oysters are distributed throughout Maryland's oyster habitat. For example, the 1997 survey produced the highest index in the history of the survey at 277 spat per bushel, but the spatset of that year was concentrated in particular areas of the Chesapeake Bay: the eastern portion of Eastern Bay, the Miles River, the northeast portion of the lower Choptank

River, and in parts of the Little Choptank and St. Mary's rivers.

By comparison, the 2023 survey found spat in areas where they are rarely observed, including in the upper reaches of Bay tributaries that are typically too brackish for strong oyster reproduction. The distribution of the 2023 spatset far exceeded prior spatsets.

The Potomac River and two of its tributaries, the Wicomico River and Breton Bay, in addition to the Patuxent River and the Tred Avon River, received a once-in-a-generation spatset. A supplemental survey in the Potomac found numerous spat well above the Route 301 bridge, an area where devastating freshwater deluges of 2018-19 had all but wiped out the oysters there. Eastern Bay, where oysters have been in decline for over a decade, also saw a significant increase in spatset. Many of the areas that typically receive high spatsets did so again in 2023: the lower Eastern Shore, the lower Western Shore, Broad Creek, and others.

This year, the department recorded spat at 50 out of 53 key bars, the primary sampling sites for the spat survey. Spat have not been recorded at this many key bars since 1985.

Environmental conditions, such as adequate water salinity, play a role in successful oyster recruitment. This past year, salinity measurements have been above their long-term averages due to below-average rainfall in the watershed, providing ideal conditions for oyster recruitment. However, in some years, spatset may be lower than expected despite adequate salinity conditions, emphasizing that other forces influence recruitment.

While many factors played a part in the 2023 spatset, Maryland Department of Natural Resources scientists believe the considerable numbers and distribution recorded — in conjunction with the three previous years of above-average recruitment — are encouraging signs for ongoing management efforts.

Eastern oysters, the species found in the Bay and parts of the Atlantic coast, are critical to the Chesapeake ecosystem. They are an important food source and the reefs they

form provide habitats for fish and crustaceans. Each mature oysters can filter gallons of water daily and consume algae, which removes excess nutrients and helps clarify the water.

Oyster harvesting is an economic engine for Maryland watermen, second only to crabbing in terms of dockside value. Over time, overharvesting, habitat loss, pollution and oyster diseases have decimated the population of oysters in the Bay, leading to intensive management practices aimed at bolstering the population.

The department works in consultation with the Oyster Advisory Commission to manage oysters in Maryland's portion of Chesapeake Bay in an ongoing effort to increase the population and habitat as well as to facilitate long-term, sustainable oyster harvest. Following a three-pronged approach to restoration, the department protects 50% of the most productive oyster bars in sanctuaries, creates new opportunities for oyster aquaculture, and utilizes a data-driven management strategy for public fishery areas.

Since 1939, the department and its predecessor agencies have monitored the state's oyster population with an annual field survey — one of the longest-running programs of this kind in the world. Locations monitored include natural oyster bars, oyster seed production areas, seed and shell planting sites, and sanctuaries.

Oysters reproduce by external fertilization, releasing their eggs and sperm into the water column when triggered by both temperature and the presence of gametes from other oysters. The more closely situated adult oysters are to each other, the greater the likelihood of successful fertilization.

Once the eggs are fertilized, they develop into free-swimming larvae and are subject to wind, tides, currents, and a host of predators, such that only a minute fraction survive to settlement. At that time, using a tiny foot, they seek out hard substrates, namely the shells of other oysters, on which to attach and remain for the rest of their lives. After attachment, the juvenile oysters are known as spat. By the following year, they have reached sexual maturity and are considered young adult oysters.

Despite the hostile environment for oyster larvae and spat, some make it through, sometimes in spectacular numbers. The spatfall intensity index in 2020 (109 spat per bushel), 2021 (43.9 spat per bushel), and 2022 (32.1 spat per bushel) were all well above the 39-year average. A robust number of mature oysters from these three previous year classes is another influence that may have driven the intensity and the distribution of the spatfall up this year.

"Oysters are unique in that they are environmental engineers, meaning they create their own essential shell habitat as they grow," said Department of Natural Resources Shellfish Division Director Christopher Jody. "This large influx of young oysters will help build a foundation for more oysters in the future."

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St. Clement's Island Museum to Host Annual Appraiser Fair

You may have an attic full of hidden treasures and not even know it! Meet with expert appraisers to determine the value of your prized possessions at the St. Clement's Island Museum annual Appraiser Fair on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Appraiser's Fair provides an opportunity for the public to learn the value of their heirlooms and how to properly care for them. Appraisers will be available to offer oral appraisal to members of the public for the following categories: fine arts, dolls, coins, and currency. The fine arts category includes ceramics, pottery, glassware, artwork/paintings, music boxes and small furniture pieces. Items in this category are limited to two items per person at a fee of \$5 per item. Other category fees are \$5 each. Cash, credit card, and check are accepted.

The featured appraisers come from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines. The "fine arts" appraisers include Dorie Lear, a certified auction house appraiser; Henry Lane Hull, proprietor of Commonwealth Antiques and Appraisals; and Bill Curry, proprietor of Hammer's Antiques and Collectibles. William Parron, proprietor of the Bill Parron Coin Co, will be available to appraise coins and currency. Linda Neeley of the Black-eyed Susan Doll Club of Southern Maryland will appraise dolls.



Shari Mesh of Mesh Appraisal Services will appraise jewelry.

The public will be seen on a first come first served basis and are encouraged to only bring items that can be hand-carried. Items that do not fit these categories will not be accepted for appraisal. Appraisals are not certified; however, one can arrange for a certified appraisal at a later date and time. The public may experience long wait times for fine art appraisers.

St. Clement's Island Museum is located at 38370 Point Breeze Road in Colton's Point, MD. Call (301) 769-2222 or visit Facebook.com/SCIMuseum for more information. The museum is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce Launches National Civics Bee

Essay Deadline Extended to January 22

The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer the 2024 National Civics Bee®, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. Organized in partnership with The Civic Trust® of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the competition in St. Mary's County will inspire middle schoolers to become better informed about American democracy, to engage respectfully and constructively in the community, and to build greater trust in others and institutions.

Middle school students from public, private, charter, and home schools are invited to take part in the first-round civics essay competition. After a distinguished panel reviews the 500-word essays, the top 20 students will be selected to move on to the next round of competition: a live quiz event to test their civics knowledge. The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce will host this live event on March 2, 2024 at Cole Cinema, St. Mary's College of Maryland, co-sponsored by the Center for the Study

of Democracy and the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. The finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including \$500 cash for the first-place student.

"This is such an exciting opportunity! Middle school students are invited to write an essay on an issue that concerns them in their community and how they can have an impact through the lens of civics. Attendees at the live event are also encouraged to test their civics knowledge along with the students," said Christine Bergmark, CEO/President of the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce. "Sponsors can help unlock the potential of future leaders by purchasing a sponsorship for the Civics Bee and supporting the next generation of informed and engaged citizens!"

The deadline for student essay submissions has been extended to January 22, 2024. For more information to submit your essay, sponsor the event, or register to attend the live event, visit: National Civics Bee® - St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce (smcchamber.com)

Pet OF THE WEEK

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St. Mary's College to Host 20th Annual MLK Prayer Celebration



Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the 20th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Celebration on Monday, Jan. 15, at St. Mary's College of Maryland. This year's theme is Living the Dream: Hope, Courage & Unity. The program begins at 8 a.m. in the Campus Center Great Room. An optional breakfast opens at 6:30 a.m., at a cost of \$15 payable at the Great Room entrance.

This year's keynote address will be given by Rev. Trisch L. Smith, global chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer at Edelman; African Methodist Episcopal Minister. Other speakers/performers will include SMCM's PING Vocal Ensemble; SMCM President Tuajuanda C. Jordan; Rev. Andrea Cummings, Zion Methodist Church; Rhythm Club of Spring Ridge Middle School; Casual Groove band; and more.

Participants are invited to be of service by bringing items such as unopened packs of diapers, baby wipes, baby wash and lotion, diaper rash cream, and baby formula as there will be a collection drive during the event to support the Maryland Diaper Bank.

Volunteers will be on hand to collect in-person donations for this worthy cause,

or participants can opt to donate online via the organization's Amazon Wish List. Please include "2024 MLK Day of Service" as a note when purchasing to show support for the initiative. Participants are also encouraged to donate non-perishable food items as well.

The annual MLK event at the College draws local, state and federal government officials; religious leaders; and citizens from all walks of life. The event is sponsored by St. Mary's College of Maryland; St. Mary's County Branch NAACP The 7025; St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission; St. Mary's County Public Schools; College of Southern Maryland; Ivy & Pearls of So. Md. Community Charities; and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter.

St. Mary's College of Maryland is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. St. Mary's College, the National Public Honors College, is ranked as a top public liberal arts college by U.S. News & World Report. Approximately 1,600 students attend the college, nestled on the St. Mary's River in Southern Maryland.



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- 04/23/24 Patuxent River, MD
- 04/25/24 Andrews AFB, MD
- 05/16/24 Stafford, VA
- 07/25/24 Dahlgren, VA (King George)
- 07/31/24 Fort Gregg-Adams
- 08/20/24 Patuxent River, MD
- 08/22/24 Andrews AFB, MD
- 09/19/24 Stafford, VA
- 10/24/24 Dahlgren (King George), VA
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In Remembrance

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

Mary Agnes Graves, 83



Mary Agnes Graves, 83, of Clements, Maryland, passed away on January 1, 2024, at the residence of her daughter in Grampton. She was born on December 9, 1940, in Leonardtown, Maryland to the late Harry Victory Pilkerton Sr. and Mary Marguerite Quade. She was the loving wife of the late John Edwin "Eddie" Graves, whom she married on July 12, 1958, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bushwood, Maryland and who preceded her in death on November 6, 2001.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Donna Lynn Russell (Andy) and her granddaughter, Theresa Darlene Russell Bradley. She was also preceded in death by her siblings, Daryl Pilkerton Sr., Vivian Pilkerton, Rachel Quade, Catherine "Kitty" Huntington, and Harry "Bubba" Pilkerton Jr.

Mary Agnes is survived by her daughter Melinda Lee Lyon and her husband Ronnie Lyon, as well as her grandchildren, Amber Lyon Ripple (Lewis), Kristen Russell Young (Jeff), and John Adam Lyon. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, Leighna Bradley, Shayne Morse, Skylar Morse, Vivian Ripple, Waverly Ripple, and her siblings, Phyllis Gray (David) and June Dalrymple (Ronnie).

Mary Agnes was raised in "Sugar Hole", near Oakley, where she made countless meaningful memories with her parents, siblings, and friends. She enjoyed reminiscing about her early years, including the quality time spent with her father at Triangle Garage. She attended Holy Angels Sacred Heart School and was a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church. After marrying Eddie, they moved to Newburg where they had two daughters and were tenant farmers for the Simms family on the farm known as "Ditchley". In 1971, they purchased the farm in Clements known as "Saint Dougherty's", where they raised tobacco. Mary Agnes worked side by side with Eddie in his work as a tobacco farmer and waterman. She later worked for and retired from the Minitex Corporation in Hollywood. After Eddie's passing, Mary Agnes savored time with her family. She enjoyed cooking, listening to music, attending dances and events at the Senior Centers. She spent her final years frequenting dances and valuing companionship with her dear friend, Jerome Hammett, of Compton.

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the care and kindness provided to Mary Agnes, for the past 4 years, by all the staff at the Fresenius Kidney Center, Leonardtown, MD. They truly treated her like family.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with prayers at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev.

Kevin Fields on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 23080 Maddox Road, Bushwood, MD 20618. Interment will follow in the church cemetery at 11:00 a.m.

Pallbearers will be Adam Lyon, Shayne Morse, Skylar Morse, Ernie Graves, David Graves, and Richard Gray.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation, P.O. Box 871847, Kansas City, MO 64187 or the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Carol Harris, 93



Carol Worden Harris was born on August 27, 1930, in Manhattan, New York City, NY, to Edson Giffen Wolf Worden and Madelene Grace Belcher Worden. She grew up in Forest Hills, Queens, NYC with her younger brother Edson. She graduated from Forest Hills High School, then earned a Bachelor of Art in 1951 from Beaver College (now Arcadia University) in Glenside, Pennsylvania, majoring in Fine Arts.

Carol met Chuck Harris in Philadelphia, and they married on June 27, 1959. Eventually they moved to Glenside, PA, where they raised three children. They moved to Solomons, MD, in 1998. After a lengthy decline, she peacefully entered the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday, December 22, 2023 at 6:30 pm, surrounded by her husband, children, and daughter-in-law.

Carol is survived by her loving family: husband Chuck of Solomons, MD, sons John (Tita) of Lexington Park, MD, and Jim (Kamilla) of Anderson, SC, and daughter Jennie (Monty Cornwell) of Lexington Park, MD; grandchildren Daniel (Montana) of Mechanicsville, MD, Maija Filer (Jordan) of California, MD, Heidi of Sarasota, FL, Isaiah (Allie) of Anderson, SC, Emma of Anderson, SC, and Grace of Anderson, SC; great-grandchildren Hudson, Brooks, Elena, and Claire, all of Mechanicsville, MD; brother Edson Allen Worden of Somerville, AL; and sister-in-law Marjorie Harris of Wynnewood, PA.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to Faith Bible Church in Mechanicsville, MD.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Rose Lee Thompson, 99



Rose Lee Thompson, "Rose Lee", 99, of Avenue, MD, passed away on December 28, 2023 at her home. Born on June 13, 1924 in Cobrum Wharf, MD, she was the daughter of the late Rose Milburn (Farrell) and the late Bruce Johnson Quade. Rose Lee was the loving wife of the late Louis Marshall Thompson, whom she married on July 26, 1942 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD, and who preceded her in death on August 4, 2008. She is survived by her children, Margaret Taylor (George -Deceased) of Saint Michaels, MD, Buddy Thompson (Debbie) of Avenue, MD, Benny Thompson Deceased (Mary) of Mechanicsville, MD, Donnie Thompson (Debbie) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Rose Mary George (John) of Avenue, MD, 18 grandchildren, 57 great grandchildren, 29 great-great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild due in April. In addition to her husband and parents, Rose Lee was preceded in death by her brothers Charles Truman Quade, Louis Benjamin Quade, Johnson Bruce Quade, and James Leonard Quade, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Rose Lee was a lifelong resident of Avenue, MD in St. Mary's County. Her passion was working with her flowers and gardening. Rose Lee enjoyed helping out her friends in their time of need, and volunteered at Holy Angels Sacred Heart School making homemade biscuits for the students; she worked all church dinners up until she was 94 years old, and also helped her husband at Holy Angels and Knights of Columbus Bingos. She enjoyed spending time with family and cooking all of their favorite foods. Rose Lee loved to play cards and bingo, go to lunch with friends, and watch Youtube with her great grandchildren, as well as make memories with her bestie, Kate.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 11, 2024 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11:00 AM in Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD with Rev. Kevin Fields officiating. Interment will follow at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Bushwood, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Johnny George, Jereme George, Tina Fay Gale, Donnie Thompson, Donnie Thompson, Jr., and Tony Hodges. Honorary pallbearers will be her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the 7th District Rescue Squad and Holy Angels Catholic Church.

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.

Virginia Butler, 80



Virginia Ann Butler, 80, of Great Mills, MD, passed away on December 29, 2023 at her home. Born on June 3, 1943, she was the daughter of the late Wearn Mason and the late Veronica Thompson. Virginia was the loving wife of the late Francis Aloysius Butler, who preceded her in death on December 17, 2019. She is survived by her children, Grace Helen of Lexington Park, MD and Marshall Delgado of Bushwood, MD, her sister Theresa Briscoe, as well as three grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her brother Joseph Briscoe, Sr.

Virginia was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and was a teacher for the County School System.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM with Rev. Kevin Fields officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery.

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.

Pauline Drapeau, 90



Pauline "Polly" or "Paula" Drapeau, 90, of Charlotte Hall, MD, passed away at home on December 18, 2023. She was born January 21, 1933 in Prestonsburg, KY to the late Brice Little Shepherd and Susie Johnson.

Pauline joined the US Air Force in 1952, and was stationed in San Antonio, TX, where she met and married her beloved husband, Edward "Ed" Drapeau, on December 24, 1954, and together they raised five children. In her younger years, she enjoyed cooking, sewing, socializing, and dancing. A nature-lover and expert gardener, she also wrote poetry, loved reading, and was always ready for a lively conversation. More recently, her focus was on her family, neighbors, and her precious gardens; as long as she was able to spend an hour or two outdoors each day, she was happy.

She is survived by her son, George Drapeau (Jo) of Little River, SC, Stephen Drapeau of Oakland Park, FL, Gary Drapeau (Elaine) of Georgetown, SC, and Suzanne Matheke (Dan) of Eastlake, OH; grandchildren Ed Drapeau, Mike Drapeau, Kyle Drapeau, Matthew Drapeau, Luke Drapeau, Jackie Drapeau, Jessica Drapeau, Carrie Long, Bekka Baltzell, Nicole Benson, and Sherry Wilber; 13 great-grandchildren; and sisters Sue Haywood, Sharon "Sherry"

In Remembrance

Hagerman, Angela "Angie" Pewsey, Julia "Julie" Williams, and Cindy Brawner.

She was predeceased by her husband, parents, son Michael, and sisters: Aileen Shepherd, Dorothy "Dot" Montgomery, and Cathleen "Cathy" Shepherd.

Services will be at a later date. Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, Charlotte Hall, MD.

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

Bubby Knott, 77



Lifelong resident, Joseph Duane (Bubby) Knott, 77 passed away at MedStar SMH in Leonardtown, Maryland with his beloved family by his side.

Bubby was born on September 1, 1946 in Leonardtown, Maryland to Joseph Irving Knott and Hazel Theresa Knott (Dyson). He was one of nine children. His parents owned and ran Take It Easy Ranch along with an excavation company, where Bubby gained his knowledge of excavation.

Bubby was always a visionary with a BIG personality and an even bigger heart. He had a passion to build a company to grow, serve and enhance his local community. He had a can-do attitude and expected the same of others.

Bubby graduated from Great Mills High School and married Deborah Foster in 1970. Together they built a successful business and raised their two children, Karen and Bobbie Jo. While their life together wouldn't last forever as they had hoped, they built a legacy that lives on. Bubby was blessed with two grandchildren, Lauren and Jack, and they were the light in his sky blue eyes.

As life moved on, Joann Stauffer and her daughter, Vicky came into his life. Bubby raised and loved Vicky as his own. He was lucky enough to have 3 bonus sons, Mark Cullison, David Lloyd Adams, and David Ernest Adams, Jr and they worked along beside him.

Throughout his life, Bubby was passionate about giving back to others. While he was an impactful Philanthropist supporting many meaningful causes and charities; he gave so much more to many. His impact on the community went well beyond monetary donations. His bigger than life personality and shared life experiences impacted more people than we will ever know. He was well known for his expansive Christmas light display at Flat Iron Farm that became a family tradition to people near and far.

His other great passions included local Women's softball, as well as other baseball and softball leagues throughout the county. You would often find him coaching his girls on both Ranch Bar and Trading Post teams. In addition to softball, Bubby loved auctions and tractor pulls. He loved old things and bringing new life into them. He could always find value in things of the past and liked hanging onto history of better times.

Bubby is survived by loving daughters, Karen Siebert (Martin) and Bobbie Jo Goddard; his grandchildren, Lauren Farrell (Bradley) and Jack Siebert; his sisters, Joan Adams, Mary Rita, Archer, Ann Lumpkins (Ronnie), Susan Wise (Charles), and Julie Reece; his companion, Joann Stauffer and stepdaughter, Vicky Gibson; step grandchildren, Mitch Goddard (Morgan) and Mason Goddard; step great grandchildren, Gauge and Oakley Goddard, along with many loved nieces and nephews. Bubby felt blessed to know and grow his community with his extended family members, many close local business owners, childhood friends, and community members. Bubby's life in St. Mary's County was fulfilled by serving his community, helping to make other's lives better, providing hope for a better future, and giving of himself with each endeavor he pursued. He is predeceased by his parents, Irving and Hazel Knott; his brothers, Michael, Mark and Joey Knott; and son in law, Bill Goddard.

Serving as pallbearers will be David Lloyd Adams, David Ernest Adams Jr., Martin Siebert, Jack Siebert, Bradley Farrell, Justin Welch, Joseph Miesowitz and Steve Miesowitz. Honorary pallbearers will be Danny Raley and Mark Cullison.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donation to be made to St. Mary's Caring, P.O. Box 144, Lexington Park, MD 20653 or Hospice House of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Bubby would want everyone to continue to support and uplift St. Mary's County for all generations to come.

John Perkins, 83



John Carey Perkins, beloved son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, left this world on October 15, 2023 aged 83 years. John was raised in Leonardtown, MD, the older of the two children of Carey Jones Perkins and Helen Kemple (Dunn) Perkins. John grew up attending Lexington Park Baptist Church which began in 1946. He made his profession of faith by being baptized in the Potomac River. John was in the first class to attend Frank Knox Elementary School as a 1st grader in 1944. The school was touted as "state of the art" and was built to accommodate families, like John's, who had come to the area to serve at Patuxent Naval Air Station.

Growing up, John held many jobs in the Leonardtown area. As a boy, he worked for Leonardtown Dairy, delivering milk for businesses and homes, and ran the pony ride concession at the drive-in. As an older teen, he worked the concession counter at the Leonardtown theater and also as a construction helper for Jim Raley.

John enjoyed anything creative. He had a love of, and a talent for, art. As a member of the first graduating class of Leonardtown High School in 1957, he designed the school seal and class ring. John also designed the

school's mascot, The Trojan Head, a sculpture of which stood in the school entrance for many years. After high school, John attended the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design in Washington, DC.

Following a tour with the U.S. Army during which he was stationed in Turkey, John began a career with the National Security Agency that would span more than 40 years and include two tours in Cheltenham, England. He and his young family enjoyed many trips to Europe while living in the UK. After returning to the U.S., he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Maryland and a Master of Science degree from the Defense Intelligence Agency. He and his wife, Corinne, raised three children in Bowie, MD. John spent the last five years of his life in Annapolis, MD.

John's interests included archeology, architecture, travel, and gardening. He enjoyed any activity in which he could work with his hands. He took a number of craft classes over the years and fashioned several pieces of jewelry for Corinne. Corinne was unequivocally the love of John's life. They were together since high school and, after her passing in 2004, John never remarried.

John was predeceased by his parents, Carey and Helen Perkins of Leonardtown, MD, and his adored wife, Anne Corinne (Gerwig) Perkins. He is survived by his loving children Cheryl McGowan (Tom) of Alpharetta, GA, Brian Perkins (Lori) of Davidsonville, MD, and Christopher Perkins (Autumn) of Edgewater, MD. He is also survived by his sister, Linda Chakales, of Williamsburg, VA, two nieces, seven grandchildren and one great grandson.

A private interment of ashes will be held at the Crownsville Veteran's Cemetery at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests those wishing to honor John consider a donation to the Hospice of the Chesapeake in Pasadena, Maryland. The wonderful staff there provided excellent care during his final days.

Anna Fannon, 68



On Thursday, January 4, 2024, Anna Pearl Fannon, age 68, passed from health complications surrounded by loved ones in Hagerstown, MD. She was born on August 31, 1955 and was a 1972 graduate of Chopticon High School. She spent most of her career as an insurance agent alongside her brother at the family's insurance agency, Stone's General Insurance. Anna was preceded in death by her parents, Dwight and Zeldia Stone, as well as her brother, Harry Stone. She is survived by her partner, Ray "Frosty" Fannon, her two children, Sharon McCoy Rosado and Danny McCoy, their spouses, and her seven beloved grandchildren. She will be greatly missed for her generosity and great sense of humor. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Jecee Pratt, 32



Jecee Leigh Pratt was born on November 26, 1991 in Glens Falls, NY to Preston Pratt, Jr. and Carrie Pratt (now Carrie Judy). She passed surrounded by family in her home on December 3, 2023 in Great Mills, MD.

Jecee spent her life surrounded by family, friends, and nature, always trying to bring people together. She always spoke her mind and never shied from helping those close to her.

Jecee continues on in her daughter, Madison Pratt; father, Preston Pratt, Jr.; mother, Carrie Judy; sister, Lacey Pratt; and brothers, Robert Pratt, Dale Judy, and Josef Judy, as well as all of her extended family. Services are private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Jan Brooks, 68



Janet Lorraine Brooks, 68, of Piney Point, Maryland ('Jan' to most and 'Ganny' to a few) passed away in her sleep December 30th, 2023 at her home. Jan had

recently celebrated the Christmas holiday with her family catching up on old times with lots of laughs and a lot of love.

Jan was born in Hixson, Tennessee on September 1, 1955, then moved to California where she grew up spending time with her extended family. She would fondly reminisce over the good times. Jan and her family later moved on to Florida, Maine and, lastly, to Maryland. Jan enjoyed watching her crime shows, listening to oldies music, and spending time with her cats. Jan is survived by her only daughter, Kerry Ann McGuiggan, of Lexington Park, MD, her one granddaughter, Desirae McGuiggan, her mother, Mary Emma Bingaman, her sisters Natalie (Tommy) Woodburn and Jenice Porter Bushnell of Florida, her nephew, Casey Woodburn, and her niece, Tommie Jean Redmond.

At Jan's request there will be a private service for immediate family. For those who knew Jan, we hope all find solace in Vince Gill's song 'Go Rest High On That Mountain'.

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.

St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1080
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysMD.com/aging for the most up-to-date information.

WARM Program Seeks Volunteer Drivers

With colder weather settling in, St. Mary's County Government's Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) is seeking volunteer drivers for the Wrapping Arms 'Round Many (WARM) program, which provides emergency shelter during winter months for homeless individuals in St. Mary's County. DAHS coordinates transportation for the WARM program, to include the recruitment and scheduling of volunteer drivers. Drivers must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid driver's license. Volunteers will be given access to a county-owned van. Volunteer slots are open seven days per week while WARM is operational.

Volunteer drivers are divided into evening and morning shifts. Evening drivers pick up WARM guests at the Church of Ascension at 5:30 p.m. for transportation to their host site for the evening. Morning drivers arrive at the host site by 7 a.m. the next morning to transport guests back to the Church of the Ascension.

This year's WARM season will end Sunday March 31, 2024. This is your opportunity to make a difference for those experiencing homelessness in our community. To volunteer, contact Ursula Harris at 301-475-4200, ext. 1658, via email to Ursula.Harris@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Teen Court Program Seeking Volunteers

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity in the new year? Consider volunteering with the St. Mary's County Teen Court Program! Teen Court is designed to reduce the number of youthful offenders and educate youth in an actual court environment. Teen Court is a juvenile justice diversion program offering the first-time misdemeanor offenders, ages 11-17, and first-time traffic offenders under the age of 18, the opportunity to accept accountability for their minor crimes without having to incur a permanent criminal record or traffic court fines and points. Teen Court is a voluntary program that allows juvenile respondents to be judged by a jury of their peers.

The Teen Court Program also provides our county teens who are interested in our judicial system an opportunity to help their fellow teens and gain first-hand knowledge of the court system. Several of our teen attorneys have proceeded to utilize the experience gained through this program in their future goals and careers. Please contact the Teen Court Coordinator with any questions or to join our dedicated staff of volunteers who make this program work for the benefit of all the citizens of St. Mary's County.

For more information, visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/TeenCourt/ or contact Teen Court Coordinator Greg Jones at 301-475-

4200, ext. 1852, or TeenCourt@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Basketball for Ages 50+

Pick-up basketball games will be held in the gymnasium at Margaret Brent Recreation Center on Fridays, January 5–April 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. Games are open to both males and females. Advance registration is required; a minimum of 8 players is needed to run the session. Cost is \$30 payable in advance at the Garvey Senior Center. Advance registration is required. For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080.

Living Well with Chronic Conditions

Join us at Northern Senior Activity Center on Tuesdays, January 9–February 13 from 1-3:30 p.m. and start doing something wonderful for yourself by improving your life even while dealing with a chronic health condition! This evidence-based program, led by certified co-leaders MarieNoelle Lautieri & Debbie Buckler, was developed by Stanford University to help people with chronic conditions take charge of their life. There is no charge for taking this class; however, a commitment to regular attendance is needed for good results.

Memoirs for Your Grandchildren

Joyce Haderly will again present this

popular class at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Thursdays, Jan. 18–Feb. 22, at 12:30 p.m. (6 sessions) Joyce will show you how to choose special memories from your lifetime and write about them so that your stories can be passed down to current and future generations. What may have been everyday events to you will be fascinating knowledge to great-great grandchildren- what better way for them to gain that knowledge than to read your very own words? Register for this course at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

AARP Smart Driver™ Safety Course

The AARP Smart Driver™ Safety Course will be held at Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, January 29, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with an hour lunch break at 11:30 a.m. This program includes emphasis on roundabouts, pavement markings, stop-sign compliance, red light running, and safety issues such as speeding, seat belt and turn signal use. The fee is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Payment is due to the instructor on January 29 payable by cash or check. Register by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.



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County Times

P. O. Box 250
Hollywood, MD 20636

The St. Mary's County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's County. The St. Mary's County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The St. Mary's County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

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

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.

Thu, Jan 11

Emotional Well-being through CBT Yoga: Mindfulness in Action

Northern Senior Activity Center
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd, Charlotte Hall
2:30 p.m. to 4:30p.m.
Cost: \$20

One of the beautiful gifts that yoga offers us is a chance to sit with our emotions and begin to work through them. Emotional well-being is an important part of holistic wellness. In this workshop led by Paty Masson you will experience the inner work of each asana (yoga pose) and the flow of love and energy that comes with it. Relaxing stretching which allows to identify and modify undesirable emotions through gentle journey that will end up with a long savasana with Tibetan bowls to harmonize the frequencies of the body, mind, and soul. Paty is certified in RYT® 500, CBT, and Qigong.

To register visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov

[gov/Aging/Activities-Programs/](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Aging/Activities-Programs/)

Mon, Jan 15

ELKs Texas Holdem Tournament

St Mary's County Elks Lodge
45779 Fire Department Ln., California
7 p.m.

Buy-in: \$35.00. Blinds will start at 25-50 and progress every 20 minutes. Please enter through the side of the building. For any question or additional details contact:

James Dean
240-577-0828
jdeanjunior@gmail.com

Fri, Jan 19

NARFE Meeting

Olde Breton Inn

Leonardtown
11:30 a.m.

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Chapter #969 of St. Mary's County invites current and prospective members to attend a luncheon meeting at 11:30 A.M. on Friday, January 19 at the Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown.

Mr. John Greely, Vice President of Operations at MedStar St. Mary's, and colleagues will discuss the hospital's various offerings to the community.

Luncheon will be served buffet-style at a cost of \$17.00. For reservations, which are required, contact Boyd Loflin at 240-317-5660 or two4paws@gmail.com by January 17.

WAG: Mac 'n Cheese Night!

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

WAG January event: Join us for the

Working Adults Group (WAG) Mac 'n Cheese night on Friday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Joshua House (house behind the church). Please bring your Mac 'n Cheese for a taste off! Or bring a different side dish to share.

Sat, Jan 20

Wicomico Shores Three Club Challenge

Wicomico Shores Golf Course
35794 Aviation Yacht Club Rd.,
Mechanicsville
8 a.m. to 1p.m.

An 18-hole tournament where each player may only use three clubs! (Yes, a putter is a club). Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Multiple tees will be used to assure everyone has a fair chance. We will use the GHIN handicap system.

Call the golf shop to sign up or ask questions. 301-884-4601

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Library 101: Parent Resource Refresher

Dealing with homeschool burnout? Come learn about the ways the Library can help! Homeschoolers and Parents can benefit from learning about all the resources the Library has to offer! Lexington Park Library on Friday, January 12 from 10 - 11 a.m. We'll go over navigating the physical Lexington Park Library, searching the catalog, all of our online resources and how to access them, using your library account and smartphone apps, and more! You'll leave with a whole collection of bookmarks and printouts to walk you through everything and also inform you about anything we may not have time to fully touch on. This program is aimed specifically towards homeschoolers & parents, so we will be paying specific attention to our library services that are geared towards children and families. This includes resources to help with finding materials for different subjects, using our online Homework Helper, our Apps, Events that we offer, and so much more! Kids are welcome to come along! We will have

crafts set up to keep them occupied while you learn! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Library Holiday Hours

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. All locations will be open on Tuesday, January 16.

Science of Flight

Join us for fun, hands on learning, in the Science of Flight at Lexington Park Library on Wednesday, January 17 from 6 - 7 p.m. Using Stomp Rockets, Paper Airplanes and Whirly-Copters, children 8-12 will learn about the principles of flight, conduct experiments and answer questions about what makes things fly. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Intermediate 3D Printing

Interested in designing 3D models and 3D printing? Join us as we cover the browser-based 3D modeling program, TinkerCAD, as well as how to use PrusaSlicer to prepare files for 3D printing. Two sessions available - Leonardtown Library on Wednesday, January 17 from

2 - 3:30 p.m. and Lexington Park Library on Sunday, January 21 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Some experience with 3D print technologies is recommended, but not required. This is an in-person class held in the Computer Lab and Makerspace. Register on www.stmalib.org.

St. Mary's County Library Strategic Plan Focus Groups

St. Mary's County Library is updating our Strategic Plan! We are working with Library IQ to complete the planning process and will have an updated plan by mid-2024. We have been collecting data, and now it is time to involve you via focus groups! Please join our consultant at one of our public focus groups to tell us your thoughts and hopes for the future.

Charlotte Hall Library, Monday, January 22 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Lexington Park Library, Tuesday, January 23 from 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Leonardtown Library, Tuesday, January 23 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Register on www.stmalib.org.

Targeting Lighthouses: Civil War on the Potomac River

Karen Stone, Division Manager of the St. Mary's County Museums, will give a special seminar highlighting the role of the Potomac River and lighthouses during the American Civil War at Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, January 23 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. The Potomac River has always been busy, but in the 19th century, it got considerably busier and more hazardous with the introduction of steamships. The River was also full of dangerous shoals and narrow turns, making it necessary to install aids to navigation, including lighthouses and light vessels. By the start of the American Civil War, six aids of various types were in use on the Potomac between Alexandria, Virginia and Piney Point, Maryland. All of these aids were targeted by the Confederates at one time or another. Join us as we explore the conditions on the Potomac River during the Civil War, especially in reference to the lighthouses and light vessels, and the dangers they faced. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Defensive nuclear weapon
4. Moved back and forth
9. One-time coach of the Cowboys
14. Last letter
15. Cause to become less intense
16. Genus of tree bugs
17. Body art
18. Romance novelist
20. Be filled with love for
22. City
23. Make vivid
24. Horses
28. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
29. Atomic #18
30. Shortly
31. A type of prejudice
33. Whirls
37. Six
38. Old world, new
39. ___ Hess, oil company
41. Talk
42. Not off
43. Begets
44. Cars need them
46. Computing architecture (abbr.)
49. Of I
50. Journalist, activist Wells
51. Takes apart
55. Lists
58. Positively charged electrode
59. Hard, colorless compound
60. Inflammation of the peritoneum
64. Trent Reznor's band
65. Simply dry fruit
66. "Ivanhoe" author
67. Google certification
68. French commune
69. Medieval circuit courts
70. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Indigenous people of Mexico
2. Dietary supplement
3. Having a particular sheen or luster
4. Views
5. Academic Bill of Rights
6. Automobile
7. When you anticipate arriving
8. Beef or chicken intestine
9. Conspiracy
10. Blood disorder
11. Long-time NBAer Shawn
12. Time zone
13. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
19. Upton Sinclair novel
21. What a cow does
24. Cavalry-sword
25. Ancient Greek war galley
26. Stars
27. Rebukes
31. Billion year periods
32. Some are in a bottle
34. Tears down
35. Lethal dose
36. Humorists
40. Midwestern US state (abbr.)
41. Frameworks
45. Rocker Billy
47. More thin
48. Dog
52. Habitual repetitions
53. State of fuss
54. Uneasy
56. Chemical compounds
57. More cognizant of reality
59. A place to build
60. Exclamation that denotes disgust
61. Supplement with difficulty
62. Very slick
63. Hill or rocky peak

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JANUARY 4 SOLUTIONS

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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, Jan 11

Teen Anime Night

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
6-7:30 p.m.

Come hang out with other anime fans. Watch your favorite anime series on the big screen and eat Japanese snacks (no raw fish). For ages 13-18. Please register., 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, & Zoom
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeannette Findley & JC Hooker. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jan 12

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
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>.

Sat, Jan 13

Brain Games: Mahjongg

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
12-3 p.m.

Want to learn Mahjongg? Already know but want to play? Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. Interested in reading about Mahjongg? Take a look at what the library has. For accessibility accommodations, please contact us at least 2 weeks before the event. 410-535-0291. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Jewelry / Earring Workshop: Wire Wrapping Basics

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
2-4 p.m.

Do you ever feel stressed and wish you had a relaxing hobby to enjoy? Join us to create wire wrapped earrings, learn how to use jewelry tools and work with wire while listening to meditation music on

Freegal. You will leave with finished earrings and basic wire working knowledge to create your own jewelry at home with a new appreciation for meditation and relaxation surrounding art. Please be aware each workshop covers the exact same material, choose one date to join us! For accessibility accommodations, please contact us at least two weeks before the event. 410-535-0291. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mon, Jan 15

Holiday Event: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

Join us as we shine the light on peace and harmony in our local community. Make a public commitment to your community by posting it on a promise wall sign. Find inspiration from the many quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the many contributions of civil rights heroes in Maryland scattered throughout the museum. Hear a small clip of the "I Have a Dream" speech and listen to a few stories. Learn a little background about Martin Luther King Jr. and how his dream of peace is expressed by others at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Harms Gallery. For more information, visit calvertmarinemuseum.com

Wed, Jan 17

Grooving and Moving

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
9:30-10 a.m. and 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join us for Grooving and Moving where we will use music and movement to start the day! Fans of Storytime will enjoy this music session as we move, play instruments and sing together. For ages Birth - 5. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tween Book Club

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
2-3 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join other book lovers during this fun book club! We will be reading and discussing fabulous books. Did we mention there will be healthy snacks?! Miles Morales is a normal kid who happens to juggle school at Brooklyn Visions Academy while swinging through the streets of Brooklyn as Spider-Man. After a disastrous earthquake strikes his mother's birthplace of Puerto Rico, Miles springs into action to help set up a fundraiser for the devastated island. Copies will be available at the Southern Branch of Calvert Library or place a copy on hold here.

410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

Calvert Library (Zoom), 2-3:30 p.m.

Join us for a lively discussion about *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus! Register in advance to receive the Zoom link via email. For accessibility accommodations, please contact us at least two weeks before the event. 410-535-0291. Calvert Library, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Helping Your Child Manage Big Emotions

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

Does your child have meltdowns you would love to prevent? Do you want to help your child learn how to regulate their emotions and become a self-aware problem-solver? "The Zones of Regulation" will help you learn regulation strategies to teach your child for managing emotions and sensory needs. Focused on ages 4+. Presentation followed by Q&A. In partnership with Calvert County Public Schools. Rooted in cognitive behavioral therapy, the framework uses colors to help individuals identify how they are feeling in the moment given their energy, emotions, and level of alertness. By understanding how to read their bodies, detect triggers, think about the social context, and consider their reactions, individuals learn a system for how to increase their ability to regulate their emotions, manage their sensory needs, and become more self-aware and skillful problem solvers. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Dungeons & Dragons – ADULT

Calvert Library (Zoom/Roll20)
6-9 p.m.

Come have fun with D&D, a role playing game for adults of all experience levels. Registration required. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies: Young Readers

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

At this event, elementary-aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. It's a great way to socialize and build reading confidence! Register for the event. Bring favorite books, or pick one of ours when you get here—we have plenty! Stuffed animals are welcome! 410-257-2101. <https://>

CalvertLibrary.info.

Thu, Jan 18

Little Minnows

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

This month's theme is "Are they Fish? Starfish." 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 craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25 – 40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Included with museum admission.

Ongoing

New Exhibit! Backyard Ballads

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – 5 p.m., daily

Be sure you catch our newest micro exhibit, Backyard Ballads, which will be on display throughout the year. This exhibit will inspire visitors to engage in citizen science by learning how to create a welcoming bird habitat in their own yard, as well as learning how to identify our native bird species. Included with museum admission.

Upcoming

Maritime Performance Series: DICK HENSOLD AND PATSY O'BRIEN

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, Jan. 19
7 p.m.

Dick Hensold is one of the leading Northumbrian smallpipers in North America, and Patsy O'Brien is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist from County Cork in Ireland. Music born from the age-old traditions of Ireland, Scotland, England, and Cape Breton is given new life in the hands of two of its Master musicians, delivering an evening of songs, tunes, and stories that have stood the test of time. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online, up to one day prior, and \$25 the day of the concert and at the door.

Southern Maryland Bluegrass

Calvert Elks 2620
1015 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
Sunday, Jan 14
2 p.m.

Bluegrass concert featuring Lonesome River Band

Accidental Fire Damages Owings Home



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

An accidental fire at a single-family home in Owings in the early morning hours of Jan. 8 caused an estimated \$300,000 damage to the structure and \$50,000 damage to the contents.

According to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the fire was reported at 4:18 a.m. at the home on Mt. Harmony Lane. It took 50 firefighters 45 minutes to bring the blaze under control. Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department was first on the scene of the fire. None of the firefighters were injured.

According to the fire marshal's office, "The accidental fire occurred as the result of combustibles in the area of a wood burning furnace lighting. The three occupants of the home were able to escape without injury. The homeowners will be assisted by family and friends."

The owner/occupants of the home were listed as Burell & Vera McPeak.

The fire marshal reports there was no smoke or fire alarm/sprinkler systems present in the house.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Fire-Rescue-EMS Moves to New Location



Calvert County Fire-Rescue-EMS has settled into our new home at the Calvert County Public Safety Building, 110 Main Street in Prince Frederick. The building is on the corner of Armory Road and Main Street).

To access the building, turn into our parking lot off Armory Road and you will find the entrance to the building there and our Fire-Rescue-EMS Offices are located on the second floor.

This move is all about making our services more accessible and convenient for

you, our valued volunteers and community members.

Please take a moment to update your records with our new address. If you have any questions please reach out to us at (410) 535-1600 ext. 2368.

Your safety and well-being are our top priorities, and we are excited to continue serving you from our fantastic new home on Main Street.

Submitted by FREMS Division Erin Ward

CALVERT COUNTY CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of December 25 – December 31, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,548 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-92513

On December 29, 2023, DFC Dymond responded to the community park in the area of Abbington Manor Drive and Holland Cliffs Road in Huntingtown, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised sometime between 5 p.m. on Dec. 28 and 10 a.m., on Dec. 29, unknown suspects cut down three road signs. The signs were on poles inserted into the ground with a concrete base. The complainant noted this is the 5th time the poles have been cut down/damaged. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$1,500.00.

Damaged Property: 23-92535

On December 29, 2023, DFC Grierson responded to the 3700 block of Harbor Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised sometime between 11 p.m. on Dec. 28 and 10 a.m. on Dec. 29, an unknown

suspect(s) keyed the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,200.00.

Property Destruction: 23-92011

On December 27, 2023, Deputy Baxter responded to the 3900 block of Shamrock Court in Port Republic, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between 10:30 p.m. and 11:45 p.m., unknown suspects egged the victim's vehicle parked in the driveway. The vehicle was covered in ketchup and mustard and the taillights had been broken out and were missing. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$240.00. The estimated value of stolen property is \$40.00.

Anyone with information about these incidents is 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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Mailers Going Out on Poll Changes

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Elections will be mailing out information cards this month relating to citizens the changes in the county's polling places for this year's primary and general elections.

Elections Administrator Gail Hatfield told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their Jan 9 meeting, "On November 30th, 2023, the State Board of Elections approved both our early voting and our polling place plans for the upcoming 2024 elections in Calvert County. The plans included several changes including moving the Northern Early Vote Center from the Fairview Library to the Ward Farm Park. There are several polling place changes also for election day. The first one was changing the precinct boundary between the Precinct 1-3, which is St. Leonard Elementary School and Precinct 1-4, which is Mutual Elementary School. Changing the location of the polling place for Precinct 1-5, which is Patuxent-Appeal Elementary campus, to Southern Community Center, which is 20 Appeal

Lane in Lusby. Changing the location of the polling place for Precinct 1-7, which was Mill Creek Middle School to Patuxent High School. Also changing the location of Precinct 3-6, which was Northern Middle School to Northern High School. And then also the last one was changing the location of 3-7, which was the Fairview Vote Center to also Northern High School."

To inform citizens, Hatfield said, "The Calver County Election Board is developing an outreach program to inform all the voters of these changes. The board will begin to mail out voter notification cards to all affected citizens by January 19th. Each card will have a bright label on the outside informing that voter that their polling place has changed, and they need to open this immediately. Additionally, we are going to post the information on our social media for voters to expect mailings to arrive in their mailboxes soon." There also will be a media campaign.

Hatfield further explained, "There's also going to be a second mailing, which will be a postcard that's going to be sent right around March 1st to all the Dunkirk voters, St. Leonard voters and Lusby voters where

any of these changes were taking place. This mailing will not only list all the voter's polling locations, but it's also going to have information about absentee voting and early voting on this postcard. Also, the final mailing before the primary will be the sample ballot, which is scheduled to be mailed out on April 12th, 2024. This will also have the polling place locations highlighted again on the front page."

She said her office will also be scheduling meetings with groups to inform members of the changes.

Hatfield said, "It has no additional impact on our current budget. We are hoping that it won't affect it at all, but of course you've got the cost of all the identification cards that are going out, plus the postcards, which we are getting quotes for now."

Hatfield noted, "Every voter notification card that's going out in the mail has a very bright, either pink, bright green or bright yellow. And it literally says open immediately. Your polling place has changed. So, we're hoping this will entice the voters not to throw it out, but to open it, read it, and then there's going to be another postcard with the same information on it, not even

about a month later. Only this time, we're going to add other options of voting in it. This is your polling place, but if you want to avoid lines or anything, you can also have the options to vote by mail or to vote early. And here are all the early vote sites."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance observed that if a voter did show up at the wrong polling place, they could still cast a provisional ballot there instead of having to go to their polling place.

Commissioner Vice President Catherine Grasso praised the changes in Dunkirk. Hatfield said, "I believe it is a much better location. It's accessible. They're not walking through a field. If it rains, there's no ruts. Wheelchairs can easily go." And there's more parking she noted.

Hatfield, who had been in the election's office for 38 years, quipped, "It's not my first rodeo." She added, "but it is important for the voters to be reminded more than once to me. Absolutely. The more I send it out, the more they will see it and hopefully they will take advantage of it."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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County Applies for Cable Homestretch Grant



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has applied for a Connect Maryland: Home Stretch—Difficult to Serve Properties Grant. The grant is intended to secure monies for the final phase of the broadband buildout which will have connected every home that wants service, the first county in the state to accomplish that.

Grants Management Program Specialist Danielle Russell, in a memo to the commissioners read at the Jan. 9 meeting, explained, “On Dec. 15, 2020, the BOCC committed funding to complete the buildout of Comcast cable infrastructure throughout Calvert County. Calvert County Government, in partnership with Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, has obtained two grants in the past to fund Phases I, II and III of the buildout. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Infrastructure Grant award of \$2,259,694 connected 325 homes and the FY 2023 Infrastructure Grant award of \$942,223 will connect 36 homes.”

Russell went on to explain, “Calvert County Government, in partnership with Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, submitted a response to the Connect Maryland: FY 2024 Home Stretch – Difficult to Serve Properties (HS-DSP program) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued by the Office of Statewide Broadband (OSB). The county and Comcast seek a grant to defray the cost of constructing connections from existing networks to the residences of Calvert County. Assuming the funding maximums for the county, Comcast, and State contributions, 137 residences will receive connection at a total cost of \$2,200,000; if individual connections are less than the maximum cost, the number of connected residents will increase. These are middle- and last-mile residents located in the county’s most rural areas. Calvert County’s Comcast Service Extension Map is available

on the Comcast Buildout page of our county website.”

She said, “The county is asking for \$1.1 million from the state to cover a maximum of \$8,000 per address. Comcast is willing to fund 33 percent of the total cost of all approved addresses up to \$4,000 per address. The county will fund up to \$4,000 per address over the approximate drops, revisable based on assessed need so that Comcast can accommodate longer lengths depending on the amount of funding available.”

Special Projects Program Manager Ashley Staples-Reid told the BOCC she would be able to give a timetable for when the work would be complete in 30 days, depending on whether the grant is approved. She said of Phase 3, “So far, we have done 157 homes, which is about 23 miles of infrastructure, at about \$2.4 million. We are in progress with 53 homes, and we still have an outstanding 174 homes. So, we’re a little bit over halfway there if you include the pending projects, which are slated to be done within the next couple of months. So, it is definitely taking longer than anticipated, a little bit longer than Comcast had projected with us when we agreed to our phase 3 MoU (memorandum of understanding). But we are getting there.”

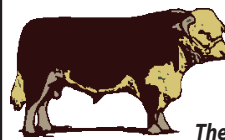
Commissioner President Buddy Hance observed the entire project would cost upwards of \$6 million, with most through grants.

“We’ve been able to defer actually having to use general funds and franchise fees,” Staples-Reid responded.

“And a lot of happy citizens,” Hance noted. She replied, “Yes, some happy, some not so happy with the process.”

Even though residents agree to have the line extended to their home, they are not required to commit to service and its monthly fee.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Lawmakers Look Ahead to General Assembly

By Guy Leonard and Dick Myers
Staff Writers

The State of Maryland is facing a \$2 billion deficit, rising costs for providing virtually all services and the need to find a way to pay for hundreds of millions of dollars in additional education funding — the Blueprint for Education — during this year's General Assembly session in Annapolis.

The General Assembly began to meet for the 446th time Jan. 10 and while Gov. Wes Moore has said he is against raising taxes, local elected leaders are wary that such increases will come through either his budget or through legislature.

Del. Todd Morgan, who represents southern Calvert and middle St. Mary's County, said he is concerned that the governor's green energy agenda might have negative effects on the operations of the county's biggest economic engine — NAS Patuxent River.

"My mission No. 1 is to protect Pax River [NAS]," Morgan told The County Times a week before the state legislature reconvenes. "If there's something in the climate agenda that hurts the mission there, I'm against it."

The governor has set the state on an ambitious program of eschewing the use of fossil fuels and Morgan said the state government should be put greater emphasis on nuclear power, but that sector of the energy market has not received such attention.

"Calvert Cliffs [nuclear power plant] produces 37 percent of the state's electricity and does it at a 95 percent efficiency rate.

"Why isn't nuclear energy included in the green energy discussion?"

There are still forces who want to place wind turbines in the nearby Atlantic Ocean, Morgan said, a carry-over project from more than 10 years ago and a prior administration, but he vehemently opposes that effort.

"Those wind turbines jeopardize the mission at Pax River," Morgan said. "That's our Atlantic Test Range... anytime the green agenda is pushed it threatens Pax River."

Senator Michael Jackson (D: 27) told The County Times, "We'll be looking at a myriad of priorities and trying to achieve progress on improving our transportation infrastructure, combatting drug addiction, meeting our education and climate goals, and reforming our juvenile justice system. I'd also expect that our biggest issues this year are going to revolve around the projected budget shortfalls that we're facing."

Jackson said, "I'm working on several local and statewide bills this year. In my capacity as Chair of the Senate Veterans Caucus, I have multiple bills geared toward serving Veterans and their families. I also have a few bills related to public safety and to protecting the needs of our most vulnerable populations."

Sen. Jack Bailey (R: 29) supplied The County Times with a list of bills he has prefiled:

- Public Safety Senate Bill 7 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Agencies - Positive Community Feedback would require police agencies to keep a record of positive feedback that the agencies receive about its officers and allows the release of that information under the Maryland Public Information Act. This would ensure that police depart-



Del. Todd Morgan

ments and the public have access to the full picture of a law enforcement officer's record.

- Senate Bill 26 – Criminal Law – Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel – Increased Penalties (Jamari's Law) would increase the existing maximum penalties for felony manslaughter by vehicle or vessel from 10 years to 20 years for a first offense, and from 15 years to 30 years for a subsequent offense. This bill is named "Jamari's Law" for Jamari Duckett, a Great Mills resident who tragically lost his life in an accident caused by a driver who was drunk and traveling at a high rate of speed.
- Senate Bill 108 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Police Auxiliary and Reserve Volunteers would combine the current subtraction modification for volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services members and police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers so that the amounts of these deductions would become and remain equal. The current deduction for volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS members is \$7,000, while the deduction for police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers is \$5,000. Senator Bailey is proud to recognize and support the work of our state's volunteer reserve police officers by sponsoring this legislation to resolve this disparity.
- Senate Bill 130 – Criminal Law – Indecent Exposure Within the Presence of a Minor would strengthen penalties for indecent exposure within the sight of a minor in Maryland. The current penalty for all instances of indecent exposure is a maximum of 3 years in prison and a fine of up to \$1,000. This legislation would change those maximum penalties to a maximum of 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000 in cases involving indecent exposure with prurient intent when a person knows or should know a minor is present.
- Senate Bill 166 – Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup would study the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System to notify members of the public, including recreational boaters and commercial watermen, of



Sen. Michael Jackson

active waterway emergencies involving a person at risk of death or serious bodily harm, emergency marine events, or marine hazards. The workgroup would also explore potential partnerships between the State, the Coast Guard, the Navy, and nearby states to notify boaters of these incidents. Supporting Our Local Small Businesses

- Senate Bill 32 – Economic Development – Maryland Watermen's Microloan Program – Eligibility ensures that Maryland watermen who hold commercial licenses from the Potomac River Fisheries Commission are eligible for the Maryland Watermen's Microloan Program in the same manner as a resident who holds a commercial license from the State.
- Senate Bill 183 – State Procurement – Prompt Payment of Suppliers was introduced following Senator Bailey's discussions with owners of local businesses who currently work on State projects. While there is an existing law requiring prompt payment of State subcontractors, this does not apply to businesses deemed by the State to be suppliers. This has led to several of our local small businesses not being paid for their work or materials in a timely manner as they deserve. This legislation expands the prompt payment statute to ensure that these suppliers are compensated appropriately and quickly in the same manner as is currently required for subcontractors.
- Natural Resources Senate Bill 152 – Fishing Licenses and Stamps – Exemptions – Residents Eligible for Assistance Programs is an initiative of the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus to exempt Marylanders who receive support certain government programs such as TANF, SNAP, WIC, and Medicaid from recreational fishing license fees. This is based off of similar programs in place in other states, such as North Carolina and Florida.
- Senate Bill 207 – Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name would rename the snakehead as the "Patuxent Fish," with the intention of making it easier to market to consumers, which would increase demand and lead to a greater economic incentive



Sen. Jack Bailey

for Marylanders to remove this invasive species from our waterways.

- Supporting Our Communities Senate Bill 158 – Cannabis Licensing – Zoning Requirements – Alteration would repeal provisions of law enacted by last year's cannabis legalization bill that exempted certain cannabis facilities from needing to be approved by a county or municipal zoning board. Senator Bailey has introduced this legislation in response to the concerns of the residents of the Seventh District regarding the cannabis facility being built in Abell.
- Education Senate Bill 63 – Motor Vehicles - School Vehicle Drivers - Medical Examinations changes the current State requirement for school bus drivers to pass medical examinations from annually to up to every two years, with individual school systems retaining the ability to require these examinations more frequently. This will make Maryland's requirements consistent with current federal requirements, as well as those in neighboring states, including Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia. This increased flexibility will give local school systems a larger pool of prospective bus drivers to choose from to alleviate current driver shortages without sacrificing student safety.
- Protecting Consumers Senate Bill 172 – Private Passenger Motor Vehicle Insurance – Premium Increases – Collisions with Wild Animals would prohibit insurance companies from increasing auto insurance premiums as a result of a driver's collision with free-roaming wild animals for which the insured was not at fault for the loss.
- Public Health Senate Bill 117 – Health – Newborn Screening Program – Krabbe Leukodystrophy would add Krabbe Leukodystrophy to the list of potential disorders that are required to be included as part of the State's Newborn Screening Program

Bailey said he would be introducing additional legislation over the course of the 2024 Legislative Session.

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Public Transportation to Become Fareless

Change to Become Effective July 1

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners has opted to eliminate fares for using the county's public transportation system. The new policy will be effective July 1.

Director of Community Resources Jennifer Moreland, at the commissioners' Jan. 9 meeting, had presented the idea as a pilot project. But Commissioner President Buddy Hance quickly jumped on the idea as making sense as a permanent policy.

Moreland said, "In March 2020, with the start of the pandemic, the Department of Community Resources Public Transportation Division, along with the public transit systems worldwide experienced significant declines in ridership. They continue through today. This decline in ridership creates a substantial decrease in farebox revenues, fares passengers pay." She said the result is that the fares are an insignificant percentage of the transportation budget.

Moreland noted, "Most recently, Charles County VanGo and the town of Alexandria have transitioned to a fare free model," adding that the transition in Charles has been without a hitch and ridership is up.

Transportation Division Chief Sandy Wobbleton said, "As of right now, we're still only about 70 percent of our ridership previous to when the pandemic hit. Our farebox revenue is still barely at two percent of what our operational cost is. So as far as offsetting the cost with the farebox revenues, it doesn't really make that much of a dent in the total cost." Annual fare revenue is between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Moreland said, "The highest proportion of trips that we provide for work and medical, 97 percent of riders, do not have a car; 68 percent do not possess a driver's license. And 63 percent of individuals have income under \$14,999, that's our 30 percent area median income level we're talking about."

Moreland added, "We have a lot of seniors that ride our transit and mostly to meet their nutritional needs at the senior center."



Director of Community Resources Jennifer Moreland

Wobbleton said, "As we all found out during the pandemic, transportation is a vital infrastructure. It was one of the things that basically did not shut down. We ran continuous service, so we were there."

Another issue is the fareboxes themselves. The commissioners were told they cost \$15,000 each and are no longer being made. Moreland said they have some parts but after that if they fail, they will have to be replaced.

That was enough to prompt Hance to stop the discussion. He said, "I think based on the information that we have here, I don't know why we're doing a pilot. We need to just get rid of the fares because at the end of the day, it looks like you're losing money collecting them."

Hance added, "And you don't even have here what it costs to account for all that money and keep track of the financial end of it. Just in maintenance, you're eating up whatever you're collecting."

Hance appeared willing to end the fares immediately, but Moreland convinced the board it would be a smoother transition, since some riders had purchased passes for multiple trips, to transition to fareless on July 1 at the beginning of the next fiscal year. That decision was unanimous.

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Fatal Motor Vehicle Collision in Huntingtown

Members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded on Jan. 5 at approximately 9:42 a.m., to the area of Plum Point Road and Kimberly Lane in Huntingtown, for the report of a head-on motor vehicle collision.

Upon arrival at the scene, deputies identified two vehicles - a 2001 Peterbilt tow truck and a 2018 Ford Edge involved in the crash.

Preliminary investigation revealed the Ford Edge operated by Gregory L. Cristarella, 73, of Huntingtown, was traveling westbound on Plum Point Road approaching Kimberly Lane when multiple witnesses observed Cristarella driving on

the wrong side of the roadway and colliding with the tow truck. Cristarella was transported to CalvertHealth where he was later pronounced deceased.

The driver of the tow truck, identified as Robert H. Bradford, 42, of Mechanicsville, was transported to CalvertHealth with minor injuries.

Anyone who witnessed the collision or events leading up to it is asked to contact M/DFC Jeffrey Hardesty with the Crash Reconstruction Team at 410-535-2800 or by email, Jeffrey.Hardesty@CalvertCountyMD.gov.

Press Release from CCSO

Dunkirk, Lusby Police Substations to Open

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners has approved leases to establish sheriff's office substations in Dunkirk and Lusby.

Deputy Public Works Director Thomas Jones reported at the Jan. 9 commissioner meeting that the substations will be at 10500 Southern Maryland Boulevard in Dunkirk at the former Sun Trust building and at 11780 HG Trueman Road in Lusby in the former Bank of America location.

Jones said the yearly rent on the 1,800-square-foot Dunkirk building would be \$75,600. The annual rent on the 2,400-square-foot Lusby building will be \$50,000. Sheriff Ricky Cox said he would cover the rent for the remainder of the fiscal year out of savings in his budget, but the rent would have to be budgeted by the county thereafter. The rents have yearly escalator clauses.

Cox told the commissioners, "My plan is to have a true presence of our deputies and our staff in the two areas of Dunkirk and Lusby. And our building that we currently reside in is going to house the Prince Frederick response team. What we've been doing as the traffic is getting busier and busier on Route 4 is putting the deputies in those locations and keeping them there is my goal. They will not come out of that patrol area. So, for the citizen out there, that's going to improve response time."

Cox said changes in the Dunkirk area raised the concern for a substation there and then when the building in Lusby became available, he hopped on that as well. "I think this is a true plan that'll work out for not only the, the Sheriff's Department, but also work out for every citizen that lives here. And it's my duty as sheriff to improve those response times and to have those deputies actively engaging in their communities where they work."

Cox said the patrol deputies will begin to remain in their areas on Jan. 26 and the offices will open on or about Feb. 1. He said they wouldn't be fully staffed at first but there will be a phone there for anyone to use if they stop by when there is no one there. He said the intent is to move to fully staffed substations.

He said the substations would be places to come to meet with either him or a dep-



Sheriff Ricky Cox

uty and the space could also be used by the commissioners for meetings.

Cox said at the end of the day the substations will save money by eliminating trips to Prince Frederick. Deputies will have gas cards so they can buy gas in their own area, he said.

The sheriff said deputies when they make an arrest will not have to transport the detainees to the detention center. He explained, "We're looking to have some holding areas there. The jail's on board. They're going to have transports from there. So, the deputy doesn't have to leave. The jail van will come to get a couple prisoners that need to go to the detention jail. They'll bring them there."

He added the jail had the staffing for it. "We met with them. They're actually happy to do it." He said it would get correctional officers out of the jail periodically.

State's Attorney Bob Harvey said he was all on board with the substations. "Just a mere presence of a police substation in these areas of our county has got to have a deterrent effect on people coming in. And, as the sheriff can attest, that's what we're seeing, people coming into this county, guns in the car, committing crimes, thinking that they're going to be able to get away with it if they speed off. And that's just not how we operate here, and that's not how we're going to continue to operate."

The decision to proceed with the substations was unanimous by the commissioners.

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Twin Beaches Survive Storm and a Lot of Water

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With tides two to four feet above normal, the storm that rocked much of the East Coast on Jan. 9 dumped a lot of water into the streets of North Beach, but when all was said and done the town came out relatively unscathed. Mayor Mike Benton said as far as he knows no water got into any of the town's commercial or residential buildings.

Benton said at 2 p.m. on Wednesday that water had poured over onto parts of 7th Street between Chesapeake and Bay Avenue, and Atlantic Avenue, "but the crews are there, and we should have, probably in the next hour or two, a hundred percent cleaned out. We did have some small damage on the pier. On our walkway, a jersey wall did get moved from the waves, the strength of the waves. We did have two jersey walls get moved."

The boardwalk area that was damaged during the last major storm held up well, Benton said. "It did. We had one small, little, railing get moved, but other than that, all the work on the boardwalk survived. We had an extensive amount of silt and stuff on the road on Atlantic and North Street. But we had a cleaner come in and we're there to process cleaning. Now, the south side of the boat slips on our pier are missing a large amount of boards from the wave action. And, we had a large amount of sand dispersed onto our boardwalk, near the pier and the welcome center. But that's all been cleaned up. We're almost back to that had never happened."

The water never came over the boardwalk. But Benton said, "We did have some water go underneath the boardwalk. In other words, it entered on the east side of the welcome center underneath the boardwalk and went into Bay Avenue, also on what we call Hatches Corner. We had a lot of water, all tidal, all of our flooding from this storm was tidal. There was no rain flooding.:"

Benton noted, "Our new pumps we put on Fifth Street worked great. Our goal is that

we'll do our best to prevent what we can. But if we can remove it quickly, then that's also a success.

The Route 261 bridge that the state constructed at the northern town limits hoped a lot to reduce flooding, Benton said.

In Chesapeake Beach, Public Works Director Jay Berry said Route 261 at the firehouse was closed for about 24 hours, inhibiting fire truck access.

Otherwise, Berry said, "We fared well. We had some damage to a bridge at our beach at Brownie's Beach, which we've since repaired. The biggest thing was they had to shut down Route 261 for a while, all of the night and until around 11 this morning (Jan. 10). And we have a lot of debris and stuff where the tide came in and left stuff and receded that we're cleaning up. But other than that, we fared pretty well."

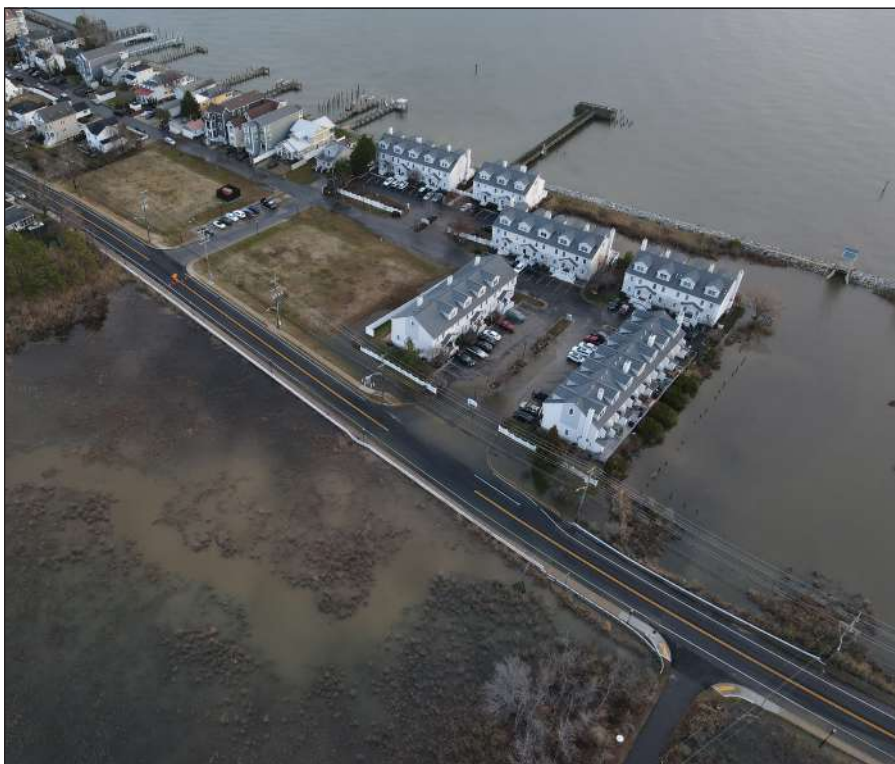
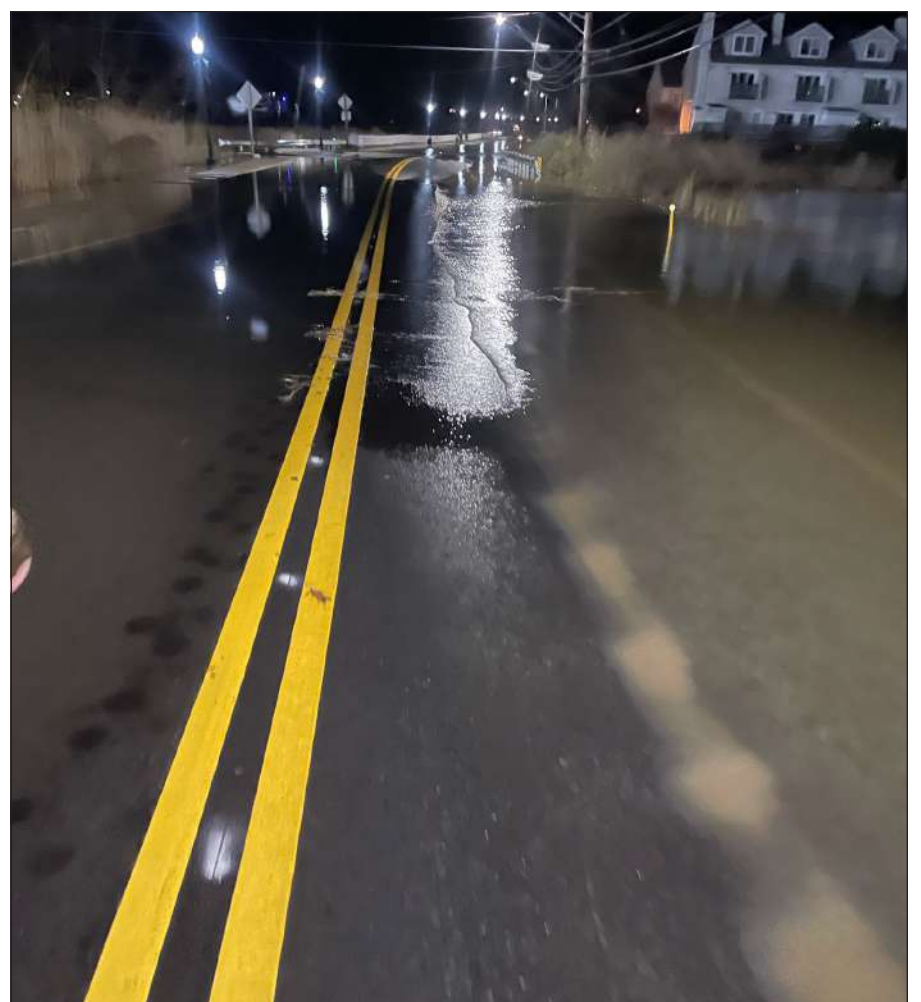
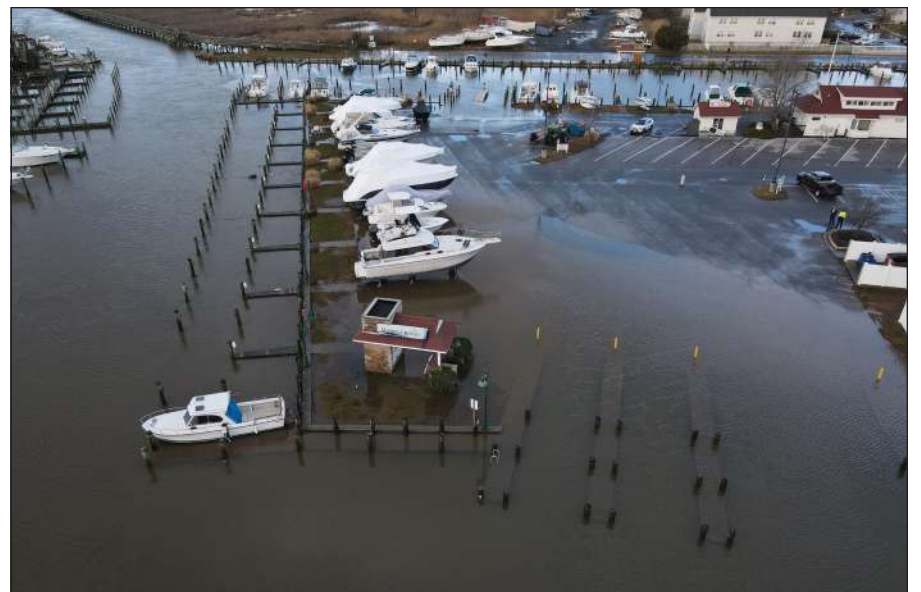
By 2 p.m. Wednesday, Berry said, "Ninety percent. There's some public properties and streets and everything we focused on. I have a few facilities, we had a tree come down at Harbor Road and another one at Ridgefield that we haven't cleaned up yet, but 90 percent of everything's cleaned up."

As to water in buildings, Berry noted, "Water did get into some private buildings, I think, over at Fishing Creek and a few residents, just some rainfall, but I don't think from coastal flooding. It's just from heavy rain."

Town Manager Holly Wahl noted, "The Chesapeake Beach Water Reclamation treatment plant superintendent reported that we had two-and-a-half million gallons of inflow into the plant during the event. A million of that went to our shellfish tank. And so that helps us when we have these big, big influxes with storms and runoff and inflow coming into the plant. But he is concerned for this weekend because it looks like there's another storm on the radar for Friday, since our shellfish holding tank is so full right now."

Normal plant inflow is about 800,000 gallons a day.

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“THEY WILL NOT COME OUT OF THAT PATROL AREA.”

SHERIFF COX ON PLANS FOR PATROL DEPUTIES



LOCAL 3
Commissioners approve sheriff's substations



LOCAL 4
Lawmakers reveal General Assembly priorities



ON THE COVER
Twin Beaches weather heavy wind, flooding

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JAN 11 Sunny Hi: 52° Lo: 34°	FRI, JAN 12 PM Rain Hi: 49° Lo: 46°	SAT, JAN 13 Mostly Sunny Hi: 52° Lo: 32°	SUN, JAN 14 Partly Cloudy Hi: 43° Lo: 32°
MON, JAN 15 Rain/Snow Showers Hi: 43° Lo: 23°	TUE, JAN 16 AM Snow Showers Hi: 32° Lo: 19°	WED, JAN 17 Partly Cloudy Hi: 34° Lo: 26°	THU, JAN 18 Partly Cloudy Hi: 41° Lo: 30°

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**General Assembly
Off and Running**

**TWIN BEACHES
WEATHER HEAVY STORM**