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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024

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**Commissioners Hear
 Anti-Poverty Plan**

**Fatal Overdoses
 Are on the Decline**

**Man Convicted
 for 2023 Murder**



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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	5	OBITUARIES	21
COMMUNITY	17	CALENDARS	23
COLUMNISTS	20		

“I NEVER EXPECTED ANYTHING LIKE THIS.”

MIKE SCHWARTZ ON BEING NAMED PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR



LOCAL 7
Non-profit pitches anti-poverty plan



LOCAL 9
Fatal overdoses decrease



ON THE COVER 11
Leonardtwn honors fallen firefighter Brice Trossbach

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUN 13 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 68°	FRI, JUN 14 Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 66°	SAT, JUN 15 Sunny Hi: 83° Lo: 63°	SUN, JUN 16 Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 65°
MON, JUN 17 Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 69°	TUE, JUN 18 Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 69°	WED, JUN 19 Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 69°	THU, JUN 20 Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 70°



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WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?



Types of Elder Abuse:

- **Physical Abuse:** Use of force to threaten or physically injure an older person
- **Emotional Abuse:** Verbal attacks, threats, isolation or belittling that cause mental distress to an older person
- **Sexual Abuse:** Sexual contact that is forced upon an older adult, or anyone who is unable to give consent
- **Exploitation:** Theft, fraud or misuse of authority as a way to gain control over an older person's money or property
- **Neglect:** Failure to care for an older person properly

WHO IS AFFECTED BY ELDER ABUSE?



Elder abuse affects older people across all socioeconomic groups, cultures, and races and can occur anywhere when they are disconnected from social supports:

- In a person's own home
- In nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other institutional settings
- In hospitals

THINGS EVERYONE CAN DO TO PREVENT ELDER ABUSE



- Learn the signs of elder abuse
- Provide respite breaks for over-burdened caregivers
- Check on older adults regularly to prevent them from feeling isolated
- Be aware and take note of what may be happening with your older neighbors and acquaintances
- Report suspected abuse and neglect to local Adult Protective Services or Law Enforcement

Lord Calvert Mobile Home Park to Stay



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Lord Calvert Mobile Home Park in Lexington Park will not be redeveloped as once planned, Cherry Cove, Inc. CEO Brian Norris confirmed this week.

Though, Norris said, there are still plans to redevelop properties around the mobile home park sometime in the future.

"There aren't going to be any residents displaced because cause of the redevelopment," Norris told The County Times. "With the economy and the interest rates being the way they are now, now is not the time to redevelop."

Cherry Cove, Inc., which owns the property that has long sat astride Great Mills Road and the eponymous high school.

"The park will remain for the foreseeable future," Norris confirmed, adding that properties "directly along Great Mills Road" would likely be developed.

But specifics of Cherry Cove's plans would be revealed to residents at a meeting in August, Norris said.

The community at Lord Calvert was deeply concerned earlier this year when the property owner announced there would soon be evictions from the property to make way for a complete redevelopment of the property.

Many clamored for help from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to

either prevent the redevelopment or provide relocation assistance.

Elected leaders pledged they would do what they could to help relocate residents to housing they could afford but said Cherry Cove's property rights to with the property as they saw fit had to be enforced.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt made the announcement about the mobile home park public this week at the June 11 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

"The good news is the trailer park will be staying," Hewitt said. "It will not have the forced relocations or evictions of several hundred homes.

"That's great news."
Still much work had to be done at the site, Hewitt said, since loose refuse was a serious problem there as were illegal structures such as unsafe decks that had been built without county permits.

"We need to have some fundamental changes in the way... the residents take care of it," Hewitt said. "We need to figure out a way to get rid of all the trash that's accumulated there; it is the landlord's part to do that, but we need county help."

Of the numerous building violations there, Hewitt said: "We cannot permit anything that is unsafe.

"And if it's not safe it has to be corrected."

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- July 12:** The Warp Trio joins in!
- July 19:** Europe and the Jazz Influence



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new bed & racks, Iva field sprayer w/ small air compressor & foam markers in good cond., Mc. D. #9 mower from Peachey, ELS 900 gal. tandem axle alum. liquid manure spreader, torsion axle Millwood fore cart w/ hand steering, 2-way Int. plow in good cond., 2 -horse cultivator.

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National Group Presents Anti-Poverty Plan for St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A nationwide non-profit group known as Circles USA says they have a plan to alleviate the deep and abiding poverty found in the county's oldest urban area — Lexington Park — by putting poor people in contact with middle-and-upper-class volunteers who will help break the cycle.

Scott Miller, founder of Circles USA, said his organization has effectively used their specific model elsewhere in the nation to great success and is ready to help agency partners such as the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services and Church of the Ascension in Lexington Park tackle the problem directly.

"People need a team," Miller told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County at their June 11 business meeting. "They need coaching."

Circles USA pairs people in poverty who are ready to find a way to break the cycle of their predicament with mentors more financially well off who can teach program participants the best practices to improve their socioeconomic status.

Miller said that a recent study of Circles USA's methods by the University of California, Los Angeles business school showed that for every \$100 spent on their

anti-poverty model there was more than a \$1,500 return.

"For every participant it's a \$686 return for every \$100 spent," Miller said of the poverty alleviation model.

Miller said in years past he worked with groups to help the poor through charity but soon found the results were not there.

"I'd say 'Where's the program that gets them out of poverty?'" Miller said. "We didn't have it."

The current model often used to help the poor often devolved into a vicious cycle, Miller said, of crisis assistance and stabilization with those receiving assistance slipping back into crisis for lack of planning, preparation and positive mindset.

"It just swirls; and it's super expensive," Miller said. "You can make one extra dollar and lose four in subsidies."

"Why make it this hard?"

Circles USA provided counseling and education that took into account how difficult it was to break the cycle of poverty, Miller said, by being so dependent on benefits.

He called it the "cliff effect."

"What we want to do is create a pilot where people move out of crisis and into stabilization but quickly move into workforce readiness," Miller said.

Circles USA does this by helping par-

ticipants plan for their employment goals and needs, including extra training and education.

The non-profit makes partnerships with certified jobs providers, Miller said, to place program participants.

"They get placed and then there's post placement support," Miller said. "Circles USA works diligently to make sure people keep those jobs."

There are 1,093 families in Lexington Park who live at or below the federal poverty line, according to information in Miller's presentation, and there were a total of 4,415 families in Lexington Park which were categorized as having unstable incomes.

According to Miller's calculations a family in Lexington Park had to earn \$85,000 after taxes to be considered income stable.

This represented an income three times the federal poverty line.

Pairing the impoverished with those who were economically stable was key to the program's success, Miller said.

"If you really want to double your income, hang around with people who make twice as much as you do," Miller said. "It's a complex journey out of poverty."

"We want to build intentional pathways from human services to employment."

Also key to making the program work was motivating those in it to maintain hope

of success.

"People will not do the work if they don't think they can get there," Miller said.

Alexis Zoss, director of the county's social services department, said the program would also seek to alleviate some of the barriers to overcoming poverty, which included housing, childcare and transportation.

Rev. Greg Syler, the pastor at Church of the Ascension, said that the church would be the clearing house for much of the training and organization of Circles USA's efforts in St. Mary's County.

"It's an exciting opportunity," Syler said, noting that what could be done for Lexington Park could be replicated to root out pockets of poverty in communities like Mechanicsville and Ridge. "It will have ripple effects throughout St. Mary's County."

"You've got a big job," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who as vice president of the commissioner board led the meeting in the absence of Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy. "All of you have great big jobs."

"The county wants to be an ally."

Circles USA gets its financial backing from donations from private citizens and foundations as well as grant funding from local, state and federal tax payer sources.

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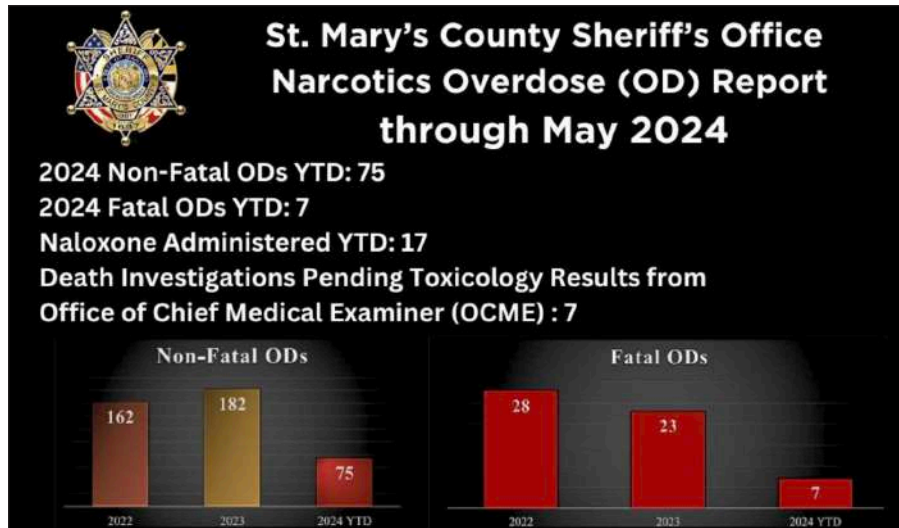
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- Health insurance
- Paid time off

Sheriff's Office Data Shows Decline in Fatal Overdoses



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The number of fatal overdoses from opioid abuse reported to the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office are on the decline, according to the latest data from the agency and may be on track to maintain that decline this year.

There have been 75 non-fatal opioid overdoses so far this year in St. Mary's through the month of May and seven fatalities for the same period of time.

For the entire calendar year of 2022 there were 28 total fatal overdoses, but that dropped to 23 such fatalities last year, the data shows.

The current number of fatalities, at roughly the half way point for the year, is less than half that of last year.

But the opioid crisis still plagues the county, as non-fatal overdoses stood at 162 such cases in 2022 but shot up to 182 non-fatal overdoses just a year later.

The number of non-fatal overdoses this year is still less than half of last year's total, however.

The winter and spring months appear to be the worst for overdoses here, with 17 recorded in January, 11 in February and 18 in March and April each.

That number dropped to 10 in May and just one has been recorded in June so far, according to the latest sheriff's office report.

Sheriff's office representatives have said that the prevalence of Naloxone, also known as Narcan, and the training of law

enforcement, civilians and even some inmates at the local detention center, has helped significantly in reducing the number of fatal overdoses.

"We have been seeing a positive trend regarding fatal overdoses," said Sgt. Brian Fennessey of the sheriff's office. "But there are still seven cases that are being investigated with regards to cause of death.

"We don't know what they are, but it's highly doubtful that all of them would be overdoses."

"When our narcotics deputies are doing search warrants, they're finding Narcan all over the place," he said. "So, it's definitely in the community and it's definitely saving lives."

However, he said, civilians were using Narcan to stop overdoses without calling police or first responders, making full assessment of the number of overdoses difficult.

Also, the Narcan might not be enough to fully quell an overdose in all drug users, Fennessey said, since the amount of opioids in a user might be too large for a single dose.

Though opioids were causing the vast amount of overdoses, Fennessey said, the most drug seizures during warrant searches were now cocaine-based, meaning drug users were appearing to move away from dangerously lethal fentanyl so prevalent on the streets.

"The drug users, even they're scared," he said. "We're starting to go back to crack cocaine."

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They Said Yes!

Congratulations to the happy couples who applied for Marriage Licenses in St. Mary's County during the month of May. Best wishes to all!

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Milton Elias Barahona Cubias, 26, Lexington Park, MD
Kriscia Yamileth Carcamo Carcamo, 25, Lexington Park, MD

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David Marcel Laughlin, 68, Saco, ME

Ashley Marie Nickerson, 32, Hollywood, MD
Johnny Cruz Ryan, 34, Hollywood, MD

Katherine Margaret Derse, 38, Lexington Park, MD
Phillip Dean Sandy, IV, 32, Lexington Park, MD

Shawn Michael Cathcart, 41, Leonardtown, MD
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Connor Nicholas Flynn, 21, Venice, FL
Rachel Caitlynn Seep, 22, Ava Marie, FL

Katherine Taylor Delk, 23, Leonardtown, MD
Cameron Ian Aitchison, 22, Leonardtown, MD

Nicole Jo Gordon, 43, Saint Inigoes, MD
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Allyssa Jean Blackburn, 35, Leonardtown, MD
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Kimberly Louise Scott, 50, Mechanicsville, MD
Robert Eugene Oliver, Jr., Mechanicsville, MD

Thereasa Marie Black, 37, Leonardtown, MD
Justin Ames Carter, 38, Leonardtown, MD

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Nickolas Eugene Rustin, 46, Chaptico, MD

Andrew Carl Chesser, 25, California, MD
Sydney Ann Armmitage, 25, California, MD

Megen Ann Jackson, 29, Dunkirk, MD
Jason Lee Kirby, 32, Dunkirk, MD

Ayushi Amish Kadakia, 26, California, MD
Vraj Jigneshkumar Shah, 26, North York, Ontario, Canada

Za'tone'e Rae'jeen Wynn, 23, Lexington Park, MD
Cordarius Jermel Little, 26, Lexington Park, MD

Paul Philip Nickel, 54, Leonardtown, MD
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Idalia Maricela Berganza Hernandez, 33, Lexington Park, MD

Camden Kareen Sciascia, 21, Bel Alton, MD
William Americo Parillo, 20, Leonardtown, MD

James Spencer Phillips, 29, Baltimore, MD
Taylor Diana Stillings, 29, Baltimore, MD

Roshaundra Davenna Dyson, 37, Valley Lee, MD
Brian Oneil Hicks, 41, Valley Lee, MD

Bethany Lynn Wilson, 26, Hollywood, MD
Jacob Ronald Allard, 28, Hollywood, MD

Tamara Denise Baker, 38, Williamsburg, VA
Linwood Erwin Scayles, Jr., 35, Williamsburg, VA

Gabrielle Hope Gutierrez Clark, 29, North Beach, MD
Mitchell David Johnson, 32, North Beach, MD

John Andrew Wilded, 33, Lexington Park, MD
Liliana Marie Ramos Irizarry, 38, Great Mills, MD

Matthew Ross Shaffer, 35, Lexington Park, MD
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Dylan Shane Whittles, 27, Dameron, MD

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Firefighter's Memory Honored with Wharf Memorial



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

It's been nearly a year since Firefighter Brice Trossbach lost his life fighting a fire in Leonardtown but his community and fellow firefighters continue to honor his memory.

A memorial bench created in his honor was unveiled at the Hometown Heroes Celebration in Leonardtown, Trossbach's hometown, this past weekend.

Trossbach's family worked with the Leonardtown Business Association (LBA) months ago to come to an agreement on a fitting monument to their son, said LBA vice president Jen Stotler.

The bench was designed and manufactured by Gibson Steel and Powder Coating LLC in Leonardtown and installed at the wharf property on June 10 overlooking Breton Bay in cooperation with town government.

Trossbach was working as a paid firefighter with the Naval District of Washington out of Patuxent River Naval Air Station the early morning of June 27

when he was killed after the floor of the home that had caught fire collapsed, trapping him along with two other firefighters.

He was also a member of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department.

"It was a day that changed all of us forever," said Tommy Mattingly, Jr. vice president of the Southern Maryland Fireman's Association at the June 8 celebration in Leonardtown. "We were fortunate to have known Brice. He was a loving, kind, faithful and respectful man; he made us better."

Brice's funeral brought out the entire community to honor his memory, but also to honor the entire fire service, Mattingly said.

"On the day of Brice's funeral we felt a love from our community that quite frankly I don't think can be matched," Mattingly said. "Brice was looking down on us that day and still is today."

Mattingly called Trossbach a "hero... who was taken away way too soon."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Schools Looking to Increase in Student Enrollments

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The current trend in the St. Mary's County school system is to focus on maintaining the facilities the county has rather than try to build any new ones, said Kimberly Howe, director of Capital Planning, to the school board this week.

But that strategy may only last for the next five years or so.

Howe said that if certain developments in the county that had been planned move ahead then enrollment numbers would accelerate.

"As we look at our enrollment it has not warranted new construction," Howe said at the June 12 business meeting. "We are starting to see trends that are going to change that."

In the next five to 10 years, Howe said, if development continues to increase, "we should see an influx of students."

Also, she said, the way the state funded school capital construction projects was due to change, specifically with the continual funding of a major project.

"We always assumed that second-year funding would just be there," Howe said. "We learned this year that is not true.

"We're working through a project right now that did not get its second-year funding."

Howe said during her 34-year career this was the first time second-year funding had been denied a school construction project.

"We have solutions with how we will move forward," she said.

School officials later said the project in question was the limited renovation of Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said state school construction funds were limited.

"We're talking about just \$450 million for the entire state allocated annually," Smith said.

"Which is nowhere near sufficient to meet the needs," Howe continued.

The county still has \$14 million from the Build To Learn Act funding that will be used Chopticon High School's limited renovation, she said.

This new situation meant that the school system would have to work more closely with the state and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to ensure they received enough capital improvement money, Howe said.

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Schwartz Named Year's Top Philanthropist



Photo courtesy of St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Mike Schwartz, the owner of Mike's Bikes in Lexington Park, was named the philanthropist of the year last week by the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce, honoring his many years of work to help the needy in the community.

It was the chamber's first such award, named in honor of Joseph "Bubby" Knott who passed away earlier this year, leaving behind a lifetime of giving to the St. Mary's community.

Schwartz, who is not a member of the chamber, said he had no idea he would receive an award.

He said he thought his girlfriend was in line for an honor.

"I was completely surprised," said Schwartz. "I never expected anything like this. I'm not even a member."

For decades now, Schwartz has been

organizing an annual holiday food drive to ensure needy families have a Christmas meal complete with turkey, potatoes and canned vegetables.

The effort has always brought in thousands of dollars in donations to help the less fortunate.

"I've been doing about 1,000 birds a year for the past few years," Schwartz said. "When I think about philanthropy, I think about what Bubby Knott has done or what the Rotary Club has done."

Of his own work, Schwartz said: "I don't think it's that big a deal."

"I didn't think I deserved it."

Schwartz said he was grateful of the award and the Knott family for continuing to honor and expand Bubby Knott's legacy.

"That's an outstanding thing," Schwartz said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Government Operations for Juneteenth

All St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

The June 19 closure also includes:

- All three St. Mary's County Libraries (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park)
- All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler, and Northern), and there will be no home-delivered meals
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS)
- Department of Recreation & Parks indoor programs and facilities
- The Animal Adoption & Resource Center

The following SMCG operations will be open on June 19:

- The six Convenience Centers (9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- The St. Andrews Landfill (8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- Great Mills Pool (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Wellness & Aquatics Center (6 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- St. Clements Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the Old Jail Museum
- The Wicomico Shores Golf Course and Riverview Restaurant

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, please visit: stmary-county.md.gov.

Natural Foods Store Celebrates 25 Years in Business



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Valerie Deptula grew up in a family that appreciated fresh food, especially vegetables and that love of foods that eschewed pesticides and other additives carried on into her adult life.

Back in 1996, she was a customer at The Good Earth Natural Foods store in Leonardtown and saw it under two owners before she decided to ensure the store stayed open.

She said one day she was helping her father prune trees when she made the comment that the store was closing; he suggested she buy the place.

"He started the wheels turning," Deptula said. "He gave me the loan to buy it."

Deptula has kept The Good Earth running for the past 25 years and was honored recently for her success.

The town presented a commemorative tray to her and County Administrator David Weiskopf presented a proclamation and Steve Wall with the Maryland Department of Commerce presented a proclamation as well celebrating her quarter century in Leonardtown.

She first started out in the town square and in 2006 moved to her current store space to allow for more parking for customers and

space to allow for that all-important item her customers clamor for: all-natural produce.

"I've gone from 900 square feet to 3,000 square feet," Deptula said. "I knew I needed to have produce."

"I've been lucky; the key is to listen to the customer and being flexible."

Deptula said she was grateful to her staff and her loyal customer base.

"I couldn't do it without them," Deptula said. "I'm very fortunate to be in business this long."

Town officials praised Deptula for her strong business presence in Leonardtown.

"Good Earth becoming a successful, thriving business for 25 years is by no accident," said Town Administrator Laschelle McKay. "Valerie Deptula is one of the most hard working, smart, caring and compassionate people I know."

"She works tirelessly to help her clients and their families with health and nutritional needs and provides a wonderful service to her community."

McKay said Deptula's store provides goods people have come to depend on.

"Good Earth fills a need in the area that people rely on," McKay said. "We are very fortunate to have Good Earth and Valerie in Leonardtown."

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Man Convicted in Murder Trial

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announces that a St. Mary's County jury convicts Leroy Christopher Neal, 48, of first-degree murder and related firearms charges for the killing of a 46-year-old man that occurred on November 4, 2023.

Following a three-day trial, Neal was convicted by a St. Mary's County jury of first-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, and handgun on person.

Neal faces a maximum penalty of life plus 25 years in prison and will continue to be held without bond pending a sentencing hearing.

Senior Assistant State's Attorneys Jeff Maylor and Kirstin Riddl of the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.



Leroy Christopher Neal

Detective Kortnie Marsch of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Joseph M. Staloni presided over the case.

Deputies Make Felony Arrest Following Traffic Stop

On Sunday, June 9, at approximately 11:18 p.m., Deputy Bradley Kirscht initiated a traffic stop after observing a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, MD. During the stop, Deputy Kirscht verified the identities of the operator and the front-seat passenger.

The passenger, identified as Vincent Lavey Harrington, 23, of Bowie, MD, was found to have felony warrants in St. Mary's County and Charles County. A subsequent search of Harrington revealed a bag containing suspected Ecstasy/MDMA tablets and a loaded handgun.

Harrington was arrested and charged with Illegal Possession of a Firearm after having been convicted of a crime of violence, Illegal Possession of Ammunition, Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm, CDS: Possession - Not Cannabis, and related charges.

Harrington was also served the active



Vincent Lavey Harrington

arrest warrant through St. Mary's County and transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, MD.

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How to Create an Outdoor Living Retreat

Al fresco entertaining has taken off in recent years. It's much more common today to find homeowners who want to extend living spaces to the outdoors in meaningful ways that go beyond a few lawn chairs and a stand-alone grill. Dream backyard living rooms mirror similar spaces indoors and contain features like cozy corners, lush furniture and televisions or movie projectors. Plus, they often add additional outdoor luxuries like fully functional kitchens.

Homeowners have various options when designing outdoor living spaces. Above all else, spaces should be created with the goal of encouraging people to get together. Here are some ideas.

Poolside retreat

Homeowners with pools and other water features likely want this area to be the star of the entertaining space. Furniture will be more of the lounging variety, with comfortable chaises and spots to catch the sun. If a swim-up bar isn't possible, a rolling bar cart can be stocked with essentials for cocktails or mocktails for the kids. Furniture near the pool will be exposed to a lot of sun, so look for durable, sun-resistant fabrics.

Fireside nook

Gathering around an outdoor fireplace or fire pit is a treat when the weather cools down. Mirror the look of the same setup indoors by arranging outdoor sofas so they flank the fireplace. Add some ottomans or side tables for stowing mulled cider or hot



chocolate. A mantel above the fireplace can hold pots of greenery or candles that add to the ambiance.

Consider a custom banquette

Unused corners on a patio or rooftop retreat can utilize a custom-made banquette that provides the functionality of a sofa sectional outdoors. Have a contractor design it to the exact specifications of the area, and add a rug to ground the space.

Vary the flooring

Depending on the entertaining space, a balance of soft grass, pavers or other hardscape will be necessary. Certain areas will need to be hard enough for chairs and other furniture, particularly for those who are including an outdoor dining table in the design.

Create some privacy

Some homeowners are lucky enough to have natural barriers that offer privacy in

their entertaining spaces. When there isn't enough, tall shrubs, inexpensive bamboo fencing or trellis can provide a blind that makes an outdoor living area more cozy and private. Consider placing tall, potted plants on rolling casters to improve privacy as the need arises.

Outdoor living spaces are all the rage, and they can add value and functionality to most any home.



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What to Know About Installing a Pool



Summer is a season of relaxation when school is not in session, vacation season is in full swing and people everywhere are getting outside and soaking up the summer sun. It's hard to imagine how that can get any better. But it can for people thinking of installing a pool in their backyard.

Pools definitely have a wow factor that's hard to replicate. Homeowners considering pool installation can take note of these factors as they try to decide if a pool is right for them.

Cost
The cost to install a pool depends on a host of factors, including which type of pool homeowners are considering and where they live. According to the online home improvement resource Angi (formerly Angie's list), the average cost to install an above ground pool in the United States in 2022 was \$3,322, while the average inground pool installation in the same year was \$55,000. That's quite a disparity in price, and homeowners should know that the average cost of each project is higher in certain regions and under certain circumstances. Potential ancillary costs, such as excavation and plumbing relocation, will add to the final cost of the project. The erection of fencing around the pool if no fencing currently surrounds the area where the pool will be located also will add to the final cost.

Pool type
As noted, above ground pools, on average, require a considerably smaller financial investment than inground pools. This is an important consideration, but which option may ultimately prove the better investment is worth researching. Homeowners can speak with a local real estate professional to determine if an inground pool or above ground might yield a significantly higher

return at resale. If an inground pool is likely to increase property value by a substantial amount, it could be well worth the extra upfront costs.

Maintenance
Pools are undeniably fun, but they still require maintenance. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens note that vinyl liners in pools last approximately six to 10 years, while painted concrete may require a fresh coat of paint every five years. Plaster finishes may last as long as 15 years, while cement-coated products can last a lifetime. Pools also need periodic cleaning, and chemicals to keep the pool operating safely and cleanly will require an additional, if somewhat minimal, financial investment. Homeowners investing in a new pool should be aware of the maintenance required to keep the pool clean and be willing to do that maintenance. And though homeowners typically can open and close pools on their own, it's also possible to hire someone to do it for a relatively small fee each season.

Location
A survey of the land in a yard can reveal how smoothly a pool installation may or may not go. Though it's possible to install a pool in just about any yard, some spaces might require greater preparation and pre-installation effort than others. Sloped backyards, for example, may require the services of a landscape architect to prepare the space, which can extend the time it takes to complete the project and add the overall cost.

These are just some of the factors that merit consideration when mulling a pool installation. A homeowners' best resource might be a local pool company who can visit a home, provide an estimate and point out any challenges that may arise during the install.

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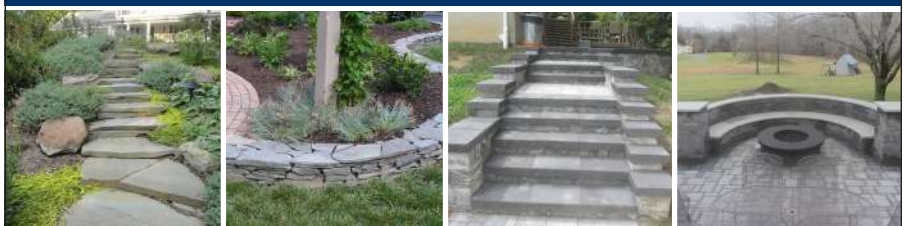
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Must-Have Items for Summer Entertaining in the Backyard



Summer entertaining season provides ample opportunities to soak up some sun and have some fun with family and friends. Backyard barbecues and other get-togethers at home are even more fun when hosts ensure they have certain must-have items for summer soirees.

- **Fire features:** The days when summer hosts only needed a few extra lawn chairs and some burgers and hot dogs on the grill for a backyard barbecue are long gone. Though those items still have a place at backyard barbecues, summer parties have taken a step up. Fire features, whether it's a stand-alone fire pit, one built into a patio or a gas-powered fire table, are now wildly popular. Fire features provide a welcome place to relax and converse with guests after the sun goes down. And much to kids' delight, a fire feature also paves the way for some post-meal s'mores.
- **Insulated wine cooler:** Coolers are great places to store water, soda, beer, seltzers, and other popular beverages. But what about wine? An insulated wine cooler ensures wine stays properly cooled but doesn't get too cold, which can happen when wine is stored in a more traditional cooler filled with ice. Bottles are simply placed in the insulated cooler (much like canned beverages slide easily into can koozies), and the bottle can be kept on the table much like you would for formal dinners indoors. Hosts can go the extra mile by pairing insulated wine tumblers with their wine cooler.
- **Games:** Summer entertaining season might be all about relaxation, but games can up the fun factor at backyard gatherings. Cornhole is a wildly

popular game, and customized cornhole boards can help hosts come across as party professionals. Ladder toss, bocce and wiffle ball are some additional games that can make the festivities more fun. Hosts who don't have a pool also can invest in an inflatable pool big enough to fit all the kids who will be coming to the party.

- **Outdoor storage cabinet:** Hosts can save themselves the stress and effort of walking in and out for dinnerware and other table accessories by investing in a sturdy outdoor storage cabinet. As meal time draws near, hosts will appreciate that all the plates, napkins, utensils, and placemats are already outside. The top of the storage cabinet can double as a small but convenient buffet station for sides that aren't being cooked over an open flame.

- **Projector and screen:** A projector and screen can really up the ante on summer entertaining, turning a backyard barbecue into a great place to watch a game or cuddle up after dinner for a movie night under the stars. Projectors and screens won't bust the budget, but those who have more to spend may want to consider an outdoor television. Outdoor televisions are built to handle the glare of the summer sun, but a retractable awning may be a good safety net for hosts who plan to spend many a weekend afternoon outside watching games or movies with family and friends.

These are just a handful of items that can up the ante on traditional backyard barbecues. Homeowners should know that there's no limit to the number of items that can make summer entertaining season more special.

Grill Safely This Summer

Plenty of people can be found working their grilling magic year-round. But the vast majority of people do the bulk of their grilling over the summer, when warm temperatures contribute to a relaxed atmosphere that makes outdoor cooking and dining that much more appealing.

The relaxing nature of summer can make it easy to overlook safety, particularly when grilling. However, the right safety measures when cooking over an open flame can prevent home fires and other accidents that can cause injury and even death. In recognition of the many things that can go wrong when grilling, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Fire Administration offer these simple fire safety tips that every grillmaster can keep in mind as summer grilling season hits full swing.

- Only use a grill outside. Grills should never be used indoors, and that includes in garages with the doors open. Before lighting a flame, make sure the grill is at least three feet from siding, deck rails and eaves.
- Establish a safe zone around the grill. A three-foot safe zone around the grill can decrease the likelihood that pets will run into and potentially tip over the grill. Kids can be taught to respect this zone as well so they avoid being burned.
- Open a gas grill before lighting it. Charcoal grills, hybrid grills and smokers cannot be lit unless the lid is lifted. That isn't the case with gas grills, but



- gas grills should never be lit with the lid closed. If a gas grill is lit with its lid closed, gas can build up inside and that could cause an explosion. Even if there's some summer rain falling, open the lid on a gas grill before turning the ignition switch.
- Keep an eye on the grill at all times. It's tempting to walk away from a grill while food is cooking, but someone should always be tasked with staying

close to the grill. If cooks must walk away, ask another adult to stay close to the grill until you return. All it takes is a few seconds for a fire to start.

- Clean the grill regularly. Regular cleaning of the grill is both healthy and safe. Cleaning helps to ensure the cooking surface is clean and unlikely to cause food poisoning. But a grease-free grill also poses less of a fire hazard than one that hasn't been cleaned.

- Let coals cool before discarding them. Coals from the grill should be given ample time to cool before they're removed from the grill and discarded.
- Remember to turn the gas valve to the off position after cooking. When cooking with gas grills, cooks must remember to turn the valve to the off position once all the food has been cooked.

Simple safety measures can ensure summer grilling season goes off without a hitch.

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Outdoor Plants That Are Toxic to Pets

Pets bring many positive changes to households. Pets can make homes more lively, and the companionship of animals can reduce feelings of loneliness while offering additional health benefits to pet owners.

Individuals who are preparing to adopt or purchase pets need to be mindful that they may need to make changes at home to ensure residences are safe places for pets to reside. Much in the way new parents must assess the environs for potential hazards to babies, pet owners should conduct similar inspections. These safety checks should occur both inside and in the yard if pets will be spending time outdoors. Poisonous plants are a potentially hidden hazard prospective pet owners must address before bringing a new pet home.

People generally do not give much thought to the plants they include in their homes and yards beyond the care instructions and how they can add to the aesthetic appeal. Homeowners may know if a plant likes the sun or shade, but they may not realize its potential for toxicity. That's because adults in particular are not prone to ingesting the plants in their yard that are inedible, unlike curious pets that may sniff and nibble plants when exploring their environments. For those with dogs and cats that will spend time outdoors, it's best to be aware of these potentially toxic plants, courtesy of the ASPCA, Dr. Buzby's and Garden Design.

- *Autumn crocus*: There are various types of crocus plants, but the one most toxic to dogs is autumn crocus. The



entire plant is toxic, but the highest concentration of toxic agent is found in the bulbs.

- *Sago palm*: People in warm climates may enjoy the look of palm trees on their properties. Despite its tropical and relaxing appearance, the Sago palm is extremely poisonous if ingested by pets, with the seeds being the most toxic part.
- *Lily*: Lilies are highly toxic to cats in particular. Even grooming pollen off of their fur or drinking water out of a vase where lilies are kept may cause kidney failure.
- *Tulips and hyacinth*: These early bloomers are beautiful flowers, but each contains a similar alkaloid toxin that is mild to moderately toxic to pets.

Again, the highest concentration is found in the bulbs, which dogs or cats may dig up while exploring.

- *Aloe vera*: This soothing succulent may be part of an arid climate landscape. Aloe contains saponin, a toxin with foaming properties that can harm pets if ingested and cause severe dehydration.
- *Begonia*: A popular outdoor and houseplant, begonia has decorative flowers and attractive leaves. However, the plant can be toxic to cats and dogs if ingested, particularly the underground tubers.
- *Azalea*: This flowering shrub produces flowers in many colors, so it's often present in household landscapes. It's important to note that azaleas can be toxic to dogs and cats.

- *Yew*: American, Canadian and Japanese yew may be found around properties. These shrubs produce small red berries with green centers (almost looking like the reverse of a Spanish olive with pimento). Yew is toxic to cats and dogs.

- *Dahlia*: Dahlia produce flowers in different colors, so they are common in flower beds. However, these plants also are mildly toxic to pets.

Many toxic plants can irritate the gastrointestinal system in pets, potentially resulting in vomiting, diarrhea or lethargy. Those who suspect a pet has ingested a poisonous plant should contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 or their local veterinarian to learn about how to respond to possible exposure.

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The Basics of Container Gardening



Gardening is a rewarding hobby that has been linked to health benefits like reduced stress and improved mental well-being. Gardening also can lead to an inviting home landscape full of attractive blooms and/or delicious foods.

Backyard gardens have long been planted after clearing a plot of land, tilling and amending the soil, and planting rows of favorite crops. However, gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

What is container gardening?

As its name implies, container gardening is growing plants inside of containers. These containers can be flower pots, rectangular deck boxes or even large raised garden beds.

Pros to container gardening

One of the advantages of container gardening is that plants can be moved in and out of sunlight to ensure the right growing conditions. This isn't as easily achieved when gardens are stationary. Also, beginner gardeners may be more able to control soil conditions inside of a small container rather than a vast ground-based garden, which will require a good deal of manual labor. Pots and boxes also can be grouped together to create eye-popping displays, usually at lower costs than the sheer volume of plants that would be needed to fill out an expansive landscape.

Cons to container gardening

Container garden plants will not have direct access to the ground, so they need gardeners to create the ideal growing conditions. Developing the right care formula can be challenging. The home and garden resource

The Spruce says that drainage is an important factor in container gardening, and most containers do not offer enough drainage holes. If water cannot escape the soil, the roots of the plants can rot and die. It's not enough to add stones or gravel to the bottom of containers. Drill additional holes in the bottom (1/2-inch in diameter for small or medium-sized pots; one inch in diameter for larger pots). Also, be sure to check on soil moisture so that watering can be adjusted. During hot stretches, plants may need to be watered more frequently.

Plan for plants that play well

Grouping plants together can create visually stunning combinations. However, it is important to choose plants that require the same amount of light and moisture. Look at plant tags when visiting the garden center and select complementary plants, or ask a store employee. Mixing different plant shapes, colors and leaf textures, as well as plants of various heights, can help containers look filled out.

Feed plants accordingly

Plants need nutrition to thrive in containers. Quality potting mixes will contain fertilizers, but nutrition will wane over time. Every couple of weeks, container plants will need either fresh potting mix or granular fertilizer added to feed them. Oregon State University Extension Services suggests using a slow-release fertilizer or worm castings several times throughout the season.

Container gardening is a great way to add plants to smaller patios, reduce the workload involved in maintaining expansive gardens, and customize conditions for optimal growth.



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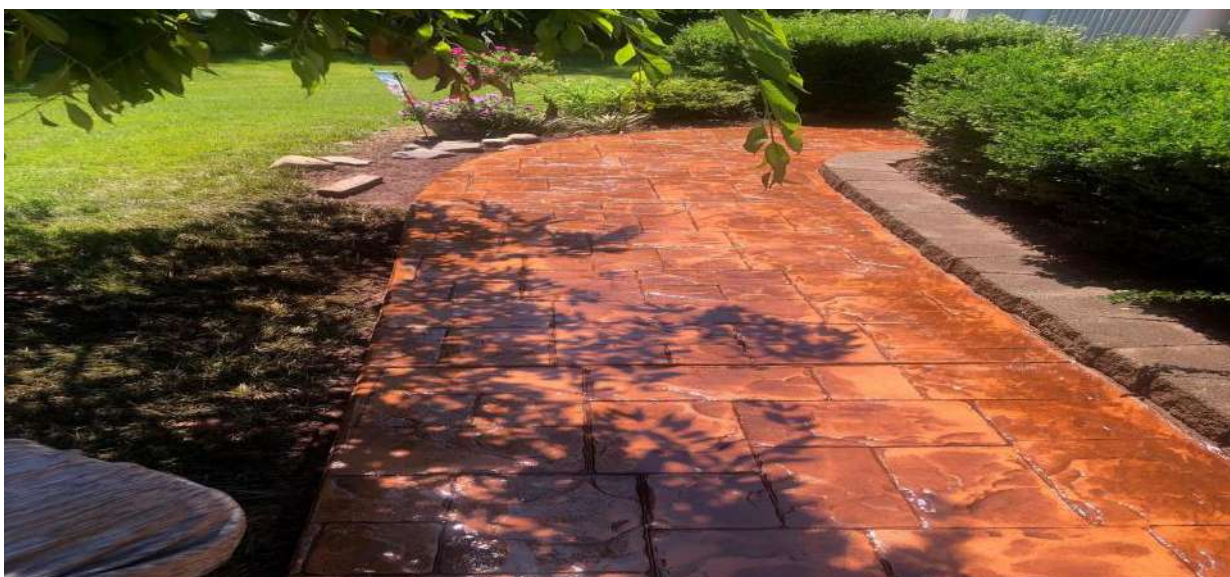
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Dog & Cat Adoption Fees Waived for the Remainder of June



A few of the animals currently available for adoption. Clockwise from top left are Ari, Matrix, Gilbert, and Gaya.

The St. Mary's County Animal Adoption & Resources Center has announced that all dog and cat adoption fees will be waived through June 30, 2024. Adoption fees will still apply for all other animals, excluding some specific animals that have been "sponsored" and paid in advance by other residents to encourage adoption.

Since opening, the St. Mary's Animal Adoption & Resource Center has been protecting, advocating for, and providing compassionate care to animals in need. The Animal Adoption & Resource Center takes

in and oversees adoptions for a variety of animals, including dogs, cats, reptiles, small mammals, birds, and more!

The shelter is open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from noon – 6 pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon – 4 pm. Walk-ins are welcome; no appointment necessary!

Residents can learn more about the Center and volunteer opportunities, view animals available for adoption, and watch the live kitty cam online at: stmaryscountymd.gov/animalshelter.

St. Mary's Player Hits Lottery Jackpot

In an exciting turn of events, a first-time player in La Plata struck gold in a FAST PLAY game, winning a whopping \$190,383 progressive jackpot prize. The anonymous winner, who selected the nickname "First Timer" to tell the story of her Lottery luck, reports being left speechless upon discovering her incredible win.

The St. Mary's County resident purchased a \$10 ticket for the FAST PLAY Grand Progressive game, enticed by the allure of its progressive jackpot. Little did she know that her spontaneous decision would lead to a life-changing windfall.

"It was surreal," said "First Timer," still in disbelief as she sat in the Lottery Winner's

Circle. "I've always dreamed about winning, but it was just a fun fantasy until it became reality."

The FAST PLAY Grand Progressive game offers players the chance to win a progressive jackpot that grows with the sale of each ticket until a progressive jackpot-winning ticket is sold. For "First Timer," luck was undeniably on her side as she clinched the progressive jackpot on her very first attempt.

Her lucky Lottery retailer was Walmart located at 40 Drury Drive in La Plata. For its role in selling a progressive jackpot-winning FAST PLAY ticket of \$100,000 or more, Walmart receives a \$1,000 bonus from Lottery.

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JUN 18	Third Tuesday Tunes in the Square ft Billy Breslin 12 pm - 1 pm
JUL 4	Fourth at the Wharf: Event & Concert 3 pm - 7 pm
JUL 5	First Friday in Leonardtown Specials & activities all day - check with individual businesses for times
JUL 13-14	Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival: <i>Jazz Cruises at the Wharf</i> Various times
JUL 16	Third Tuesday Tunes in the Square ft Billy Breslin 12 pm - 1 pm

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The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Rockfish are plentiful in the Potomac and Patuxent as waters warm and day light hours are reaching their maximum length. One intrepid angler reported catching 75 rockfish in the lower Potomac casting lures from his kayak. In addition there were slot reds in the mix. 4 inch paddle tail jigs are working well in the shallows.

Trollers find fine stripers up the Patuxent between Helen Creek and Broomes Island. They love bucktails, jigs, and spoons trolled on the twenty foot edge.

The Potomac is loaded with rockfish and puppy drum, and slot redfish.

Some bluefish schools and rockfish are in mid-bay around the Targets, Point No Point and Hooper's Island.

Some croaker (hardhead) showed up this week, caught by shore fishermen at night in the Patuxent. Some small croaker are mixed with spot in the Potomac. Spot are here and can be caught bottom fishing with bloodworms most everywhere.

White Perch are taking bloodworms in the Patuxent at Hawk's Nest. Spot are there too.

Catfish have retreated up the Potomac and Patuxent and are plentiful, big, and eager to bite.

Fresh water fishing is excellent with big bass up the Potomac at Mallows Bay and in Namjemoy. St. Mary's lake is producing bass, bluegill, crappie, and pickerel.



Aubree Easter caught some croaker this week at Hog Point in the Patuxent.

A View From The BLEACHERS



MANY HANDS

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

The 2004 NBA Finals happened a long time ago. Twenty years to be exact. A generation by some measure. The world was different then - better in some ways, worse in others. Such is history. The NBA was a very different league too. Big men still retained a respected role, defenders actually had a chance (and tried), and less three-point shots were taken - a lot less.

The Detroit Pistons represented the Eastern Conference in those 2004 Finals, but hardly anyone outside of Michigan, or absent a personal connection, cared. Detroit was a massive underdog to a Los Angeles Lakers team that featured Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, Karl Malone, Gary Payton and head coach Phil Jackson - all future members of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Pistons had some guys too - Chauncy Billups, Ben Wallace, Tayshaun Prince and Richard Hamilton. Billups and Wallace snuck in to the Hall of Fame themselves, but neither was a player near that of Kobe, Shaq or Malone. Coaching was probably a wash; Jackson has a bunch of rings but the Pistons were coached by Larry Brown, a Hall of Famer as well and one of the best X's and O's coaches ever.

All that said, the Pistons had no shot to win the series. The Lakers were more fun, more famous and had better overall talent. Further, the Pistons seemed like just the next Eastern Conference team to get mopped up by the west's champion. Entering the 2004 Finals, the Western Conference had won five-straight championships and were in the middle of the stretch where it would win 10 of 13 Finals.

The Pistons missed the memo. They didn't read the storyline. They stuffed the Lakers' fairytale manuscript in the shredder...with a smile. In one of the biggest upsets in Finals history, the Pistons destroyed the Lakers, winning the series four games to one. The loss was an inflection point for the Lakers, who shipped Shaq to the Heat in the offseason and began a multi-year reorganization with Bryant as leading man.

Halfway in to this "View", you're rightfully wondering why I'm writing about a 20-year-old memory. Fair. My brain works in ways I'm still deciphering. The short is after watching Game 1 of the 2024 Finals, I thought about those 2004 Pistons. This year's Finals pit the Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving led Dallas Mavericks against the Jaylen Brown and Jason Tatum led Boston Celtics. Doncic and Irving, in total, are better than Brown and Tatum. The former duo is more decorated and more clutch; Doncic alone is one of the league's top five players (easily). But it's a comparison of the teams, not the stars, that had me time traveling.

The 2004 Lakers lacked championship chemistry; they were a superteam before it was cool and were way too over spiced - too many leading men, not enough supporting actors...a flawed team. Conversely, the Pistons ran like a perfectly tuned V-8 engine of key (if not elite) and complimentary components.

In Game 1 of this year's Finals, the supporting casts appear to distinguish the Celtics from the Mavericks. The Mavs have been on an incredible run behind their two megastars, but the rest of the roster leaves much to be desired. The Mavs need (underlined and bolded) Irving and Doncic to dominate - another flawed team. The Celtics need Brown and Tatum to play well, but the team is loaded with really good NBA players - Kristaps Porzingis, Jrue Holiday, Derek White and the venerable Al Horford. They have margin - a Plan A, B and C. It's a complete team.

That's the trait these Celtics share with those Pistons. They are young and classically aged. They are big and small. They have elite talent, depth and versatility. Whatever the question, they appear to have an answer. Doncic and Irving enter every game needing to dominate. Brown and Tatum, while capable of taking games over, don't carry the same burden. In Dallas, a couple heavy lifters bear concentrated responsibility. In Boston, many hands make light work. That's usually a winning formula in sports or for any organization, no matter the professional pursuit.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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In Remembrance

Joyce Donaldson, 80



Joyce Gayl Donaldson, 80, of Avenue, Maryland, passed away on 5/29/2024 after battling a long illness.

Joyce was born on June 20, 1943, to T.J. and Reva Hughes in Springfield, Missouri. She claimed she was the only planned child amongst her other 8 siblings. She attended Willard High School in Willard, MO.

She moved to Mississippi where she met a young Naval Aviator, Lt. JG William Donaldson. The two were married in 1967, and by 1968, her new husband was flying attack aircraft from the USS Intrepid, bombing North Vietnam. After the war, they traveled throughout the United States and Europe during his Naval career, and lived in Italy, which she truly enjoyed. Joyce and Bill were married for 34 years and have two children, Teresa and Michael.

Joyce loved antiquing and owned several antique businesses in the St. Mary's County area. She also loved traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Joyce is preceded in death by her husband, Cdr. William S. Donaldson, III. She is survived by her children Teresa Holcombe and Michael Donaldson (Ann), grandchildren Christopher Donaldson, Hailey Donaldson Hart (Ray), Hana Donaldson, Heidi Donaldson Sloane (Rob), great-granddaughter Amelia Sloane.

In place of flowers, please send donations to Hospice of St. Mary's County, 44724 Hospice Lane Callaway, MD 20620, or call Hospice at (301) 994-3023.

A Memorial Service will be scheduled for later this year.

John Yamnicky, 63



John David Yamnicky Jr., 63, of Woodbridge, Virginia passed away on May 13th 2024 at home, surrounded by his family, after a very long and hard-fought battle with cancer.

He is survived by his children Julia Yamnicky and Devin Best, mother Jan Yamnicky, sisters Jennifer Yamnicky and Lorraine Dixon, brother Mark Yamnicky, as well as the mother of his children, Leslie Wysong. He was loved by all, an amazing man and support system.

John was born November 1st 1960, the first son of John and Janet Yamnicky. His father's Navy career kept the family on the road, Rhode Island, California, and Florida before settling in Maryland. He attended Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy, Fork Union Military Academy, and graduated from Ryken High School in St. Mary's county Maryland. From there he moved onto Salisbury State University, acquired

a degree in Business Administration, and notably, was Vice President of his class and voted most outstanding Senior.

John was a drummer. Leonard Hall Band (C Company) was just the beginning. His passion for drumming quickly increased and that marching snare soon became part of a much larger set. He never lost his passion for drumming, playing in a number of bands throughout his teens and 20's, which took him from Maryland to Florida to Georgia, and to this day maintained a set at home.

John found a particular interest in Real Estate, working for a number of different firms before branching out and starting his own real estate appraisal business. He named it Pentagon Realty in honor of his father, John D Yamnicky CAPT USN RET, who was on the AA Flight 77 that crashed into the Pentagon on 9/11 in the terrorist attack. He honored his father in the best way possible.

The family will receive friends at the Miller Funeral Home, 3200 Golansky Blvd, Woodbridge, VA 22193 on Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 11-1PM where a service will be held at 1PM.

Bobby Bicknell, 67



Robert James "Bobby" Bicknell, Jr., 67, of Lexington Park, MD peacefully left his earthly body, while surrounded by loves ones, on May 15, 2024. He was the eldest child of the late Robert James Bicknell, Sr. and Bertie "Jane" Jackson Bicknell of Callaway, MD.

Bobby was born May 19, 1956 in Riverdale, MD and spent his youth in Greenbelt. As a boy he enjoyed the cub scouts, and playing baseball and football. He was an avid fan of the Washington Redskins and the Baltimore Orioles. He attended Parkdale High School in Greenbelt, MD. After high school he was employed by Orndorff & Spaid, Inc. as a hot tar roofer. After relocating to St. Mary's County he worked for Food Lion In 1992, he moved to St. Mary's County, but continued his employment with Orndorff & Spaid. In September 2020 he suffered a traumatic stroke which left him unable to care for himself.

In addition to his mother, Jane, Bobby is also survived by his daughter, Melissa Moore (Buddy) of Rockville, TN, grandchildren: Skylar Adam and Andrew Adam; great-granddaughter, Kimber Adams. He is also survived by his nephews, Joseph Mascio (Lucia), Thomas Mascio (Kristen); his niece, Kelli Powell (Allan); great nephews: Nico and Mika Mascio; great-nieces: Ava Mascio, Kailyn and Khloe Powell; his aunts, Nancy McKay (George) and Katherine Hoyt (Terry); and extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Bob, and his sister, Sandra Jane Guin and his infant brother, Joseph A. Bicknell.

Family will receive friends on Monday, May 20, 2024 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Interment will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Johnny Adams, 82



John Edward Adams, "Johnny", 82, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on June 3, 2024, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on June 20, 1941, in Drayden, MD, he was the son

of the late Joseph Raymond Adams and the late Agatha (Abell) Adams. Johnny was the loving husband of Loretta Reeder Adams for nearly 50 years. He was very proud of his three sons, Bruce J. Adams of South Carolina, Brandon R. Adams of California, MD, and Joshua V. Adams of Hollywood, MD, as well as his eight grandchildren, Austin, Cameron, Danielle, Gabriella, Mackenzie, Aubrie, Brantley, and Reighlynn. Johnny also leaves behind three sisters, Mary Jean Goodwin of California, MD, Betty (Ray) Dion of Lexington Park, MD, and Dottie (Pat) Gillooley of Lakeland, FL, as well as his nieces and nephews. In

addition to his parents, Johnny was preceded in death by his brothers, Ray, and Bobby.

Johnny was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and attended Little Flower Elementary School and Great Mills High School. He was a lineman for Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) with over 33 years of dedicated service, retiring on August 19, 1999; he was also the proud owner of Woodburns Tree Service for many years. Johnny had many friends in St. Mary's County and loved to host large parties with his favorite band (Charlie Thompson and Kenny Heard) providing live music. He was an avid Baltimore Ravens fan and excelled at shooting pool in his younger days. Johnny enjoyed spending time with his family, playing cards, attending car shows, fishing, and crabbing.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a memorial service will be held at 7:00 PM in the funeral home chapel with Fr. Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will be private.

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.

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Sat, Jun 15

Nature Walk & Talk

Summerseat Farm
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
9 a.m. 11 a.m.

Join Maryland Master Naturalist Bill Cheeseman for a guided walk along one of our trails through the wonderful forest here. Learn about the variety of trees that are keeping you cool with their shade, as well as many other plants along the way. We will also listen for any birds and try to figure out who they are. We might even find signs of other critters who were there before us. This is an informal, educational and fun way to spend some quality outdoor time in the woods around us.

We will meet at the pavilion, and start our approximately two-hour walk from there. The total Walk is approximately two miles on a natural surface trail with minimal elevation change. The trail is well maintained, there are very few exposed roots, and it is accessible to most with mobility challenges.

Ballet Caliente presents American Heirlooms

Dodge Performing Arts Center
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Mary's City
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Join us on June 15 & 16 at the beautiful Dodge Performing Arts Center as Ballet Caliente embarks on an all-American adventure! Follow our young heroine, Glory, throughout the decades of American history, in an original story ballet that is sure to delight audiences of all ages. With exciting new choreography intertwined with Ballet Caliente classics, American Heirlooms is a star spangled spectacular!

Find more information and purchase your tickets at <https://www.balletcaliente.com/american-heirlooms-performance.html>

8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Menu: scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, pancakes, french toast, sausage links, ham, bacon, creamed chip beef, sausage gravy, spiced applesauce, grits & biscuits. Drinks: Assorted juices, milk and coffee will be available.

Join Merideth Taylor, author and photographer, as she shares images and stories from the book and talks about what inspired her to take on this project.

Register here stmalib.libnet.info/event/10598877 to receive a reminder email. Walk-ins welcome.

Tue, Jun 18

150 Years of Slavery in SOMD with Author Merideth Taylor

Lexington Park Library
21677 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Merideth Taylor's book "Making a Way Out of No Way: Lives of Labor, Love, and Resistance" is a richly imagined, illustrated narrative of 150 years of life in slavery on tobacco plantations in SOMD.

The photographs and stories grew out of Taylor's quest to understand how people who were subjected to a system that made every attempt to brutalize and dehumanize them were able not only to survive but to build families and meaningful lives.

Upcoming

NARFE Chapter #969 of St. Mary's County Luncheon

Olde Breton Inn
21890 Society Hill Rd, Leonardtown
Friday, June 21
11:30 a.m.

NARFE Chapter #969 of St. Mary's County will hold a luncheon meeting at 11:30 A.M. on Friday, June 21 at the Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown. Sheriff Steve Hall from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department will speak on how to detect and protect yourself from telephone and email scams. Buffet luncheon served at a cost of \$17.00. Reservations required; contact Boyd Loffin at 240-317-5660 or two4paws@gmail.com by June 19.

Sun, Jun 16

All You Can Eat Home Made Home Style Breakfast

2nd Dist. VFD&RS Social Hall
45245 Drayden Rd., Valley Lee

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



June 15, 2024



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.

Fri, Jun 14

1:30–2:30 p.m.

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>.

Rooftop Car & Truck Cruize Nite

4165 Mears Ave., Chesapeake Beach
4 to 8 p.m.

On the rooftop of the Rod 'N' Reel parking garage by the Bay. DJ tunes. FREE. 866-313-5596.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Jesus the Good Shepherd Church
1601 Mt. Harmony Rd., Owings
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Register online at recrossblood.org.

Sat, Jun 15

Juneteenth Community Celebration

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For this 28th annual event, the NAACP anticipates thousands of visitors to this free celebration. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact us at naacpcalvert@gmail.com or hollandnmd@aol.com.

Sun, Jun 16

Sunday Afternoons with Poppie

Calvert Marine Museum

Make your Sunday afternoon memorable by coming to visit with our very own Pop Star "Poppie," our Virginia Opossum. You can join the Poppie paparazzi in the museum lobby with one of our educational interpreters, learn all kinds of fun possum facts, and visit our Museum Store for possum fan gear. Since the welfare of our animals is our primary concern, Poppie's ability to visit with her adoring public may occasionally be subject to change on short notice.

Father's Day Evening Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
4:30 – 6 p.m.

Treat your dad or your "special" someone aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*! Relax together and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Solomons Harbor and Patuxent River. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and a special dessert will be served. Guests are welcome to bring their own food and beverages. Water, tea, and lemonade will be provided. Cost is \$40 for adults, \$20 for children ages 5-12, and \$15 for children 4 and under. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/498/Special-Cruises>

Wed, Jun 19

Juneteenth at the Museum

Calvert Marine Museum
1 – 3 p.m.

Learning about the history and legacy of those who worked in the Lore Oyster House through photos and oral histories. Enjoy demonstrations in boat caulking and oyster shucking. Learn about oyster harvesting through time by playing our Generations Game. Included with museum admission.

Thu, Jun 20

NARFE Annual Picnic

Cove Point Park
750 Cove Point Rd, Lusby
Noon

Calvert County Chapter 1466 of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) will be having its June meeting and annual picnic. Members, guests, and federal employees or retirees are welcome. Please RSVP to NARFE14665@gmail.com. Chicken will be provided by the chapter.

Little Minnows: Animals with a Hard Shell

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

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

Ongoing

Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
Wed through Sun, the month of June
2 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour sight-seeing cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children, infant through 12 years.

Cove Point Lighthouse

Calvert Marine Museum
Wed, Sat, and Sun in the month of June
1-4 p.m.

The Cove Point Lighthouse grounds are

open to the public during the summer months to enjoy a view of the Calvert Cliffs, explore the base of the lighthouse tower, and learn about the history of the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. No admission required. **NOTE: The beach is not open to the public.**

Upcoming

Shoppes at Asbury Sale

11000 Asbury Circle, Solomons, Sat.,
June 22, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Asbury Retirement Community Auction. Betty's Closet - Granny's Treasures - Library Book Sale. All proceeds benefit Benevolent Care Fund. Information call 410-394-3000

Toy Boat Building

Calvert Marine Museum
Saturday, June 22
1 – 4 p.m.

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

Boyz II Men perform LIVE

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, June 28
7 p.m.

The iconic trio that has captivated audiences for over three decades, will perform LIVE at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. Gates open at 5 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$59 - \$99 (additional fees apply).

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The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The 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 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 County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



County Times

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Calvert Celebrates New Graduates

The County Times recently invited readers to share photos of their graduates. Congratulations to all on your hard work and bright futures.



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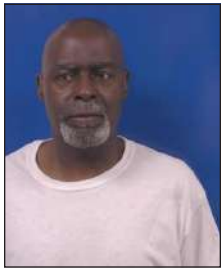
Congratulations
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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of May 27, 2024 – June 2, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,948 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 62
- Disorderly: 20
- Domestic: 21
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 40
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 904
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 34
- Traffic Complaints: 58
- 911 Hang-Ups: 74
- ARRESTS: 42



Leroy Robert White



Sidney Antwan Strain-Carter

CDS Violation-24-42444 On May 29, 2024, Deputy DeSantis initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation along S. Solomons Island Road in the area of Flag Ponds Parkway in Lusby. Contact was made with the driver, **Leroy Robert White**, 67 of Lexington Park, and a passenger who initially refused to identify himself. Deputy Parrott and DFC Hendrickson arrived on scene to assist with the traffic stop. Further investigation revealed K9 Atlas conducted a K9 sniff of the vehicle resulting in a positive alert. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed, multiple bags containing suspected Cannabis totaling 212 grams, empty tear-off plastic bags bearing graphic logos, and four cell phones. A search of the passenger later identified as **Sidney Antwan Strain-Carter**, 35 of Lexington Park, revealed a SAR 9mm handgun containing a full magazine with 18 9mm rounds in addition to \$8,403.00 in US Currency. Strain-Carter was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Use of a Firearm in a Drug Trafficking Crime, Use of a Firearm During a Felony/Violent Crime, Loaded Handgun on Person, and Manufacturing CDS-Cannabis. White was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Manufacturing CDS-Cannabis.



Donald David Chew, Jr.

CDS Violation: 24-43307 On June 2, 2024, Deputy Madura responded to the Fastop located at 8054 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, for a possible assault. Contact was made with the complainant who advised **Donald David Chew, Jr.**, 51 of Pasadena, was being aggressive and threatened to assault the victim. Chew failed to obey deputies commands and was placed into custody. A search of Chew at the

Detention Center revealed a controlled dangerous substance on his person. Chew was charged with Disorderly Conduct, Intoxicated Public Disturbance, and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Lealyson Page Wright

CDS Violation: 24-43510 On June 2, 2024, DFC Crum initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle exceeding the legal speed limit in the area of NB Rt. 4 and Ward Road in Dunkirk. The vehicle failed to stop and continued traveling northbound on Rt. 4. DFC Crum activated his emergency air horn on two occasions to get the driver to pull over. Upon making contact with the occupants of the vehicle, DFC Crum observed a pill bottle in plain view. Further investigation revealed the pill bottle contained suspected cocaine. A vehicle search revealed multiple purple plastic tubes containing suspected cocaine. The passenger, **Lealyson Page Wright**, 32 of Upper Marlboro, was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and was charged with CDS Possession: Not Marijuana and CDS Possession: Paraphernalia.

Damaged Property: 24-42004 On May 28, 2024, Master Deputy Wilder responded to the Chesapeake Bio Lab located at 146 Williams Street in Solomons, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised the key card scanner to access the research pier was damaged. The scanner was observed lying on the river bottom about 10 ft from the dock. The estimated value of property destruction is \$8,000.00.



Anthony Joshua Pace

Malicious Destruction of Property: 24-41944 On May 28, 2024, Deputy Brown responded to the area of Moravia Road and Catalina Drive in Lusby, for an unknown male staggering in the street throwing metal objects at passersbys. Upon arrival, **Anthony Joshua Pace**, 26 of Lusby, was observed lying in the middle of the street covered in dirt, shirtless with no shoes next to broken American Flags attached to wooden dowels. Investigation revealed Pace had damaged multiple properties in the area including breaking out multiple vehicle windshields, ripping satellite dishes down, breaking sliding glass doors, and forcing entry to at least two residences. Pace was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Malicious Destruction of Property Valued less than \$1,000.00.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 24-41741 On May 27, 2024, Deputy Morrison responded to the 5400 block of Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick, for the reported vehi-

cle theft. The complainant advised a custom-built green 1978 Kawasaki KZ1000 motorcycle had been stolen from the victim's property. The estimated value of stolen property is \$8,500.00.

Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 24-41607 On May 27, 2024, at 1:02 a.m., Calvert County Patrol Bureau deputies were alerted to a tag reader referencing a stolen vehicle traveling eastbound on Route 260 from Rt. 4 in Dunkirk. The vehicle, a blue Audi A7 was confirmed to be stolen and was located by DFC Idol travelling over 100 mph. A traffic stop was attempted, however, the driver failed to stop and a pursuit was initiated. The suspect continued to flee at speeds over 100 mph and subsequently crashed just north of the Calvert County line in Anne Arundel County in the median of Rt. 4 and Lower Pindell Road in Lothian. The suspect struck a guardrail, left the roadway, and came to a rest in a wooded area where the suspect then fled on foot. Deputies conducted an extensive search with K9 units and drones for over 2 hours with negative results. Police recovered a Glock 19 handgun as well as drugs from the stolen vehicle. The firearm with an extended magazine was loaded and confirmed stolen through Virginia. There was no description of the driver. Police continue to investigate.

Theft: 24-41780 On May 27, 2024, Deputy Jones responded to the 700 block of Lazy River Road in Lusby, for a report of a theft. The complainant advised a vehicle in the driveway had been broken sometime between 5:30 p.m. on May 26 and 5:50 p.m. on May 27. Coins had been stolen from the vehicle and bottle rockets were left in the center console. The estimated value of stolen property is \$25.00.

Theft: 24-42047 On May 28, 2024, Deputy Chase responded to the 4200 block of Hunting Creek Road in Huntingtown, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised that a company-issued truck, left unlocked with the keys inside parked in the 700 block of Monarch Lane in Huntingtown, had items stolen from the vehicle. The items stolen were vehicle keys, a registration card, and an insurance card. The estimated value of stolen property is \$231.00.

Theft: 24-42298 On May 29, 2024, DFC R. Jones responded to the Solomons Nursing Center, located at 13325 Dowell Road in Solomons, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised she had five \$20 bills stolen from her wallet. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.00.

Theft: 24-42572 On May 30, 2024, Deputy Daily responded to the playground area of the Victoria Station neighborhood located on Cannery Road and Lakeshore Drive in Owings, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between May 25 and May 27, an unknown suspect cut two eyebolts holding an 18-foot chain and padlock, then stole the chain. The estimated value of stolen property is \$150.00.

Theft: 24-43137 On June 1, 2024, Master

Deputy Wilder responded to the 5200 block of Apple Way in St. Leonard, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 8:30 p.m. on May 24 and 10 a.m. on May 25, a wallet was stolen from a vehicle parked in a locked detached garage on the property. Multiple credit cards were inside the wallet. The victim noticed suspicious spending on his accounts and \$400 withdrawn from a bank account. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.



Arimel Dominic Newman

Traffic Arrest: 24-42553 On May 30, 2024, Deputy Newton observed a yellow sports bike with no tags in the area of Rt. 260 and Brickhouse Road in Dunkirk. Deputy Newton attempted a traffic stop with lights and sirens activated, however, the driver accelerated and fled into Anne Arundel County. Approximately five minutes later, the yellow sports bike was observed coming back into the county. A traffic stop was initiated on Grovers Turn Lane. Deputies were able to stop the bike without incident and placed the driver, **Arimel Dominic Newman**, 56 of Owings, into custody. Newman was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Attempting to Elude Uniformed Police by Failing to Stop Vehicle, Driving an Unregistered Vehicle on a Highway, and other traffic violations.



Timothy Michael Dent

Traffic Arrest: 24-43077 On June 1, 2024, Deputy Wilder responded to the 11700 block of Mill Bridge Road in Lusby, for the report of a pedestrian struck. Investigation revealed a female victim was struck by a vehicle and the driver fled the scene. The victim was able to obtain a vehicle and suspect description as well as a tag number. The suspect vehicle and driver were later located by Deputy Brown at an address in Lusby. The driver, **Timothy Michael Dent**, 60 of Lusby, was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Failure to Immediately Return and Remain at the Scene of an Accident Involving Bodily Injury.

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

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

Owings Man Killed in Pedestrian Accident

Members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Patrol Bureau responded on June 4 at 9:23 p.m., to the area of Maryland Rt. 260 and Paris Pines Court in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a serious motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian. Due to the circumstances, the Crash Reconstruction Team responded to the scene and assumed the investigation.

A preliminary investigation revealed a 2020 Toyota Rav 4, operated by Marilyn Shane Maloy, 30 of Chesapeake Beach, was traveling east on Maryland Rt. 260 in the area of Paris Pines Ct. While driving the Toyota struck Michael Frank Brooks, 69 of Owings. At the time Brooks was struck, he

was wearing all dark clothing and was walking in the travel portion of the roadway.

Brooks sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased on the scene.

Maloy was treated for minor injuries and released on scene.

Deputy First Class Michael Daily of the Crash Reconstruction Team is investigating the crash. Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or events leading up to the incident is asked to contact DFC Daily at 410-535-2800 or via email Michael.Daily@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press release from CCSO

Fire Destroys Century-Old Barn

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A fire on June 6 destroyed a barn at 7120 Wayside Drive in Sunderland. Loss to the 50-by-100-foot barn owned by the Farrell family is estimated at \$50,000 and another \$50,000 to the contents.

The Huntingtown VFD responded to the call and it took 54 firefighters 50 minutes to bring it under control.

The fire is under investigation by the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office. According to that office, "The fire was discovered when it was well advanced throughout the structure. The barn was approximately 100 years old and completely destroyed as a result of the fire. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Maryland State Fire Marshals Southern Regional Office at 410-414-3600."



Police Receive False Armed Robbery Report

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office on June 4 at about 10:30 a.m. received a report of an alleged armed robbery at the Safeway gas pumps located at 10276 Southern MD Blvd in Dunkirk. The report was filed by Brian Arnell Hall, 35 of Washington D.C., who claimed that an unknown suspect had approached him with a weapon and demanded his wallet.

Following a thorough investigation, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office has determined that the report was false. Evidence gathered from surveillance footage, witness interviews, and other investigative methods revealed inconsistencies in Hall's account of the events. The investigation concluded that no armed robbery took place and Hall fabricated the incident.

Hall is facing charges of False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer.

Sheriff Ricky Cox stated, "We take all

reports of criminal activity very seriously and allocate significant resources to ensure the safety of our community. False reports not only waste valuable police resources but also create unnecessary fear and anxiety among residents. We are committed to holding individuals accountable for providing false information to law enforcement."

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office urges the public to report suspicious activities or crimes accurately and responsibly. False reporting is a criminal offense and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Anyone with additional information regarding this incident or any other crime is encouraged to contact the Calvert County Sheriff's Office at 410-535-2800 or via email at ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press release from CCSO

State Trooper Injured After Being Struck by Fleeing Suspects Three Arrested and Charged



Jordan Green

Shaded Gregory Graham

Malik Demencio Lewis

Deputies with the Calvert County Patrol Bureau on Tuesday, June 11 at approximately 4:02 p.m., responded to a report of a theft in progress at the Harris Teeter located at 10125 Ward Road in Dunkirk.

Upon arrival, deputies observed a white Nissan Altima occupied by two male subjects fleeing the scene with numerous stolen items.

The suspect vehicle was located traveling southbound on Rt. 4 in the area of Lower Marlboro Road, where TFC Bauer, Trooper Bennett, and Lt. Tilley attempted to stop the vehicle. Calvert County sheriff's deputies initiated a pursuit when the suspects fled from the attempted traffic stop.

During the pursuit, the suspect vehicle was observed traveling at a high rate of speed in the area of Harvey Road in Huntingtown. The suspects attempted to ram a detective's police vehicle and continued fleeing.

In the vicinity of Harvey Road and MacArthur Drive, TFC Bauer and Trooper Bennett were attempting to deploy stop sticks. The suspect vehicle swerved to evade the stop sticks and struck TFC Bauer.

Deputies quickly apprehended three suspects Shaded Gregory Graham, 23 of Capitol Heights, Malik Demencio Lewis, 27 of Hagerstown, and Jordan Green, 27 of Bowie. All suspects were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Attempted First-Degree Murder, multiple counts of First-Degree Assault, Second-Degree Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, and Theft: \$1500 - \$25,000.

The injured trooper was flown by Maryland State Police Aviation Trooper 2 to R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, where he was evaluated and treated, and has since been released.

Anyone with information regarding this case is urged to contact Det. Mudd with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office at (410) 535-2800 or email Michael.Mudd@calvertcountymd.gov. Please reference case #24-45880.

Editor's Note – The incident caused afternoon rush-hour traffic to be snarled for quite some time.

Press release from CCSO



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Commissioners Tweak Budget Motion



Commissioner Vice President Catherine Grasso



Commissioner Todd Ireland

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners [BOCC] has revised the motion passed on June 4 adopting the county budget for the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

At the June 11 BOCC meeting, Commissioner Todd Ireland added the item to the published agenda. He introduced the motion "that we amend the contract condition that was imposed on the Financial Reserve account for the benefit of the Board of Education to apply only to contracts that extend beyond 12 months. I requested our CFO [chief financial officer] work with the CFO of the Board of Education to recommend financial goals that support both the taxpayers and the students. And then we invite the Board of Education and superintendent to join us in evaluating any additional needs of the public schools for FY 2025 upon receipt of the financial audit in December of this year."

The motion that was introduced by Commissioner Vice President Catherine Grasso on June 4 said, "I move that we close the record and approve and adopt the fiscal year 2025 operating and capital budgets as submitted with a one-percent [cost of living adjustment] for county pay scales and a single merit step for eligible employees and adopting and setting the tax rates, fines and fees being effective as reflected in the resolutions presented for each. I further move that we set the Board of Education's budget appropriation within the major categories as our county Director of Finance and Budget deems appropriate at maintenance of effort, including the use of \$22.5 million of its existing fund balance to offset state cuts. And an additional use of \$6.5 million of the Board of Education's existing fund balance matched with an education reserve

fund of county appropriations, which will include the Board of Education's fiscal year 2024 unexpended funds in the amount of \$3.5 million to be held by the county in financial reserve for the use of the Board of Education in Fiscal Year 2025, upon the following conditions:

"One, honoring the negotiated contracts with the Calvert Education Association and the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff,

"Two, adopts a three percent cut across the board with no reduction in workforce, layoffs, or similar actions without the consent of the Board of County Commissioners,

"Three, continued discussions among staff leadership regarding budgetary matters with detailed information and access reasonably requested by the county's leadership team,

"Four, no new renewal or extension of existing employment or personnel service contracts or similar until the Board of Education seats subject to election this year are elected and sworn in."

When Ireland suggested the motion be revisited, Grasso complained, "I don't like coming to the table for a motion when I've not been consulted, and I'm blindsided by this. It's not Right. I'm 20 percent."

Grasso voted against Ireland's motion which passed 4-1.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance explained, "So the motion is to provide some guidance for the motion that was passed last week, which had a, which had a list of items that had to be addressed. I think the point of the motion today is to give some guidance that clarification on the contracts and that we ensure that the two financial officers of the two different parties continue to work for towards finding savings to reduce the impact."

Hance said there was no financial impact as the result of the motion that passed.

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Time to Shine for 'No Thyme to Cook'

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Solomons business "No Thyme to Cook" will be featured this August on the YouTube Channel show *America's Best Restaurants*."

This comes despite the fact, owner Gwyn Novak explains, "America's Best Restaurants I would say is a more potentially regional show similar to *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives* where they go to restaurants in various regions. And they choose the ones that feeders suggest to them are their favorites. We're not a restaurant, but we still made it on their radar screen, so they asked if we would like to be part of it. And we said, heck yeah."

Novak added, "We wanted to be very clear. We are definitely not a restaurant. We never seemed to fit into any box, but they really liked that it was something kind of different for the show. They're used to going to the same format with restaurants."

"And so, this was really fun with the host. He and I cooked together. So, we prepared classic Chesapeake Bay crab cakes with the Rebel Alive Sauce, and he had never had one before. And it was always fun that he got to experience what a hands-on cooking class is like."

According to the No Thyme to Cook website, "More than one hundred years ago, Chef Gwyn's great-grandfather Mortimer Bowen purchased waterfront property on Solomons Island, Maryland. It was here in 1918 that he built Bowen's Inn. This thriving hotel, restaurant, bar, and marina quickly became one of the favorite fishing headquarters for many congressional and sports figures out of Washington, D.C."

"Prominent among them was Sam Rayburn, longtime Speaker of the House of Representatives. The inn enjoyed a fine reputation for its good food (fried chicken & crab cakes) and played host to such notable figures as Arthur Godfrey, John F. Kennedy, Harry Truman, and Robert Mitchum."

So, if they are not a restaurant, what are they? Novak explained, "I'm the fourth generation in our family to have a food service business there. We opened literally 100 years from when my great-grandfather bought it in 2018. We are primarily a recreational cooking school. We offer hands-on and demonstration classes, but also experiences. So we do dinner and a movie. We have a Literary Bites book club. We host fun wine dinners



with Michelin Star chefs. We do culinary tours. We're going to be going to Iceland next year with a group and back to France again. So, anything fun and foodie, we do. We've created really a fun foodie community in Solomons in southern Maryland."

The idea evolved. She said, "When I started No Thyme to Cook, I started it as a personal chef service. I would come to your house, and we'd talk about what you like to eat, didn't like, wanted to change, lower your blood pressure, and I would grocery shop and prepare two-week's worth of meals for you. And that was fabulous until the economy took a dive in 2008 and no one could afford a personal chef anymore. So, I took a little bit of a break and then a friend suggested, you ever thought about doing cooking classes? And I thought, actually I hadn't, but it sounds like a really fun idea. So I taught them in my home kitchen for a number of years, and then thankfully we were blessed enough to be able to turn this, my grandmother's property into what is now No Thyme to Cook. And it's just really taken off like gangbusters."

She's a local girl. Novak said, "I'm from here. I spent summers right there in that spot in Solomons in Bowens Inn, the restaurant and bar and hotel that my great-grandfather started. So, I would often spend weeks there in the summer, downstairs in the kitchen. I don't know how much help I was, but it was fun for me."

This reporter remembers the unique Crab Imperial served there. She said, "We do that recipe once a year for our Farm to Table dinner. I think it's later this month as

a matter of fact."

She noted, "Gourmet [magazine] asked my grandmother three times for that recipe, and she refused each time. We're a teaching kitchen. We'd love to share our recipes. That is the one that I promised her I would never share with anyone. But we do recreate that once a summer."

They are also open for Sunday brunch once a month, the most recent being this past Sunday. She said, "We'll have it again next month. And we have Chef Robert McGowan, who was executive chef at Old Ebbitt Grill in Washington, DC for nearly 20 years. He's been taking over brunch for us. So that's really a nice treat for our guests."

The show they'll appear on, *America's Best Restaurants Road Show* has been quite a phenomenon itself. According to their website it is: "a national media and marketing company focusing on local, independently-owned restaurants around the country, has reached a remarkable milestone – 800 episodes of its *Roadshow* filmed since beginning in July 2021."

"CEO Matt Plapp came up with the idea to do a traveling restaurant-focused food show in 2018. The show airs solely on social media, such as the Facebook page of the hosting restaurant and *America's Best Restaurant's* YouTube channel."

"Doug Smith, COO of the company's marketing division *Restaurant Marketing That Works*, remembers those early days of shooting at least a half-dozen episodes per day in whatever state the *Roadshow* was targeting. Bad weather, van breakdowns, and exhaustion of the small crew of hosts and



videographers was not atypical.

"It's been exciting to watch the make-it-up-on-the-fly episode shoot evolve into what it is today," says Smith. "The high-tech cameras, lighting and overall storytelling really puts the spotlight on the independent restaurants we visit."

"Now Plapp employs twenty-five people in the *Roadshow* division of his company, from sales to show hosts. 'Massive attention from community excitement around a restaurant is our goal,' Plapp says. 'Every week, we help restaurant owners tell their story. But when that story comes from *America's Best Restaurants*, consumers get even more excited.'

"The mission of the *Roadshow* is to highlight local, independent restaurants with a story to tell. Restaurant owners who are selected to be on an episode find the filming experience to be fun and a big boost to their bottom line. In March, the *Roadshow* traveled through Wisconsin and The Palms Supper Club in Schofield was one of the stops. The Palms' General Manager, Anna Anderson, was thrilled at the response from the public after gaining publicity just from the visit."

"I've never had anything like this as far as a marketing campaign, or an advertising campaign bring in this many," Anderson said. "I've just never seen anything like this so I'm super happy. We're really happy we were involved."

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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	4	COMMUNITY	8
COPS AND COURTS	7	CALENDAR	9

“IT’S NOT RIGHT. I’M 20 PERCENT.”

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE GRASSO ON BEING ‘BLINDSIDED’ BY A MOTION



LOCAL 5
Commissioners make adjustments to budget



LOCAL 6
Trooper hurt by fleeing suspects



ON THE COVER
Solomons restaurant gets national attention

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUN 13	FRI, JUN 14	SAT, JUN 15	SUN, JUN 16
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 69°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 67°	 Sunny Hi: 83° Lo: 64°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 82° Lo: 66°
MON, JUN 17	TUE, JUN 18	WED, JUN 19	THU, JUN 20
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 70°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 70°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 70°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 72°

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