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See The Mission's Easter message on page 2.

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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

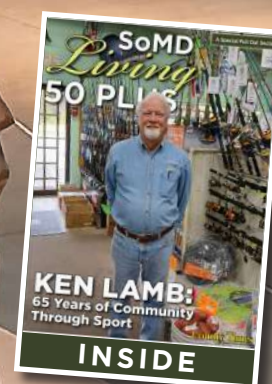
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**Judge Candidates
Down to Four**

**Home Repair Charity
Dissolving After 35 Years**

**Fire & EMS Cadet
Program May Expand**

**THE SKY IS
NO LIMIT
FOR TEST PILOTS**



TORNADO DRILL

As I sit here penning this out, my mind wanders back to Easters in my past, and I remember Easter eggs, baskets, treasure hunts, and fuzzy bunnies. I remember running around the back yard trying to find eggs that were dyed in an array of colors the night before. However, that all changed when, as a 9-year-old, I picked up a Gideon's bible and read John 3:16-17 for the first time. **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."**

Even at 11, I knew that I was not always a good boy and needed my sins forgiven, so I could see Jesus when this life was over. I remember in Sixth Grade, going out in the hallway and having a tornado drill where we all had to get close to the wall and cover our heads. At that moment, all I thought about was, "There has to be more to life than this." I was scared, and no one spoke, but I knew there had to be someone other than me thinking the same thing at that moment, in a crowded hallway waiting for a tornado. Not long after that, I called out to Jesus to save me, and my life would never be the same again. I was twelve.

This reminds me of a hymn I read just a few days ago that says it all: "Approach, my Soul! The mercy-seat Where Jesus answers prayer; There humbly fall before his feet, for one an perish there. Thy promise is my only plea, with this I venture nigh: Thou callest burdened souls to thee, and such, O Lord! Am I. Bowed down beneath a load of sin, By Satan sorely pressed, by wars without and fears within, I come to thee for rest. Be thou my shield and hiding-place, that, sheltered near they side, I may my fierce accuser face, and tell him, thou hast died. Oh! Wondrous love, to bleed and die, to bear the cross and shame, that guilty sinners, such as I, Might plead thy gracious name!" (*Psalms & Hymns, 15th Ed, Hymn 293, pg. 410, S.C. Griggs & CO, 1853*)

Now my wonders are not egging and bunnies, they are the wonders of **Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** Friends, nothing more is needed. As we think about the times we live in, just rejoice, for there is a Savior, one who has walked a road that we never could have. Put all your faith in Him, and you will find that, even as a little boy in a crowded hallway waiting for a tornado, you will have peace, for He has overcome the world.

Until next time,

Pastor Robert Myers
Co-Founder of The Mission

*This message is reprinted in memory of Pastor Rob Myers,
who went home to the Lord on November 27, 2021.*



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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	5	OBITUARIES	20
COMMUNITY	14	CALENDARS	21
COLUMNISTS	19		

“WE’RE READY FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO TAKE OVER.”

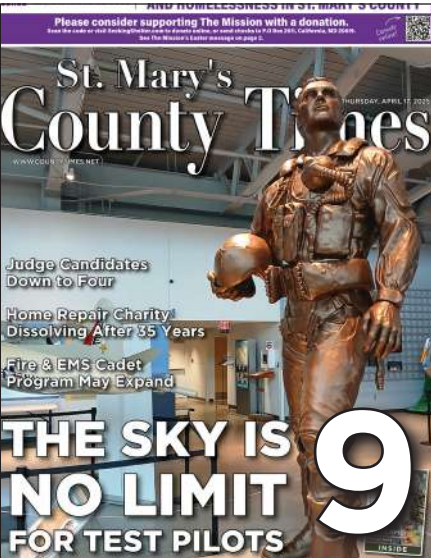
CHRISTMAS IN APRIL PRESIDENT HOWARD THOMPSON ON THE GROUP’S DISSOLUTION



LOCAL 5
Judge candidates field narrows



LOCAL 5
Christmas In April going out strong



ON THE COVER 9
Naval air museum honors the legacy of test pilots

WEEKLY FORECAST

<div>THU, APR 17</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny</div> <div>Hi: 62° Lo: 46°</div>	<div>FRI, APR 18</div> <div></div> <div>Partly Cloudy</div> <div>Hi: 75° Lo: 62°</div>	<div>SAT, APR 19</div> <div></div> <div>Partly Cloudy</div> <div>Hi: 83° Lo: 65°</div>	<div>SUN, APR 20</div> <div></div> <div>Cloudy</div> <div>Hi: 78° Lo: 56°</div>
<div>MON, APR 21</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly Cloudy</div> <div>Hi: 67° Lo: 59°</div>	<div>TUE, APR 22</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly Cloudy</div> <div>Hi: 72° Lo: 54°</div>	<div>WED, APR 23</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly Sunny</div> <div>Hi: 72° Lo: 56°</div>	<div>THU, APR 24</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly Cloudy</div> <div>Hi: 72° Lo: 54°</div>

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Field of Judge Candidates Narrows



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A select committee appointed by Gov. Wes Moore to recommend candidates to fill the third vacant judge's seat with the St. Mary's County Circuit Court has narrowed the field of candidates to four.

They are attorney Sue Ann Armitage, County Attorney Buffy Nicole Giddens, Magistrate Kevin Ray Hill and attorney Marsha Lynette Williams.

The two names eliminated from the list were John Andrew Mattingly, Jr., associate county attorney for Calvert County and attorney Daniel Aaron Slade.

One of the candidates speaking on condition of anonymity said that each of the candidates were interviewed for 30 minutes by the committee on April 8 and that there

was a particular interest in whether candidates subscribed to the ideals of diversity, equity and inclusion.

The position for circuit court judge opened suddenly last year when Judge Michael J. Stamm, who had been vacationing abroad, died unexpectedly upon returning to the country.

That was in October.

The decision as to who the next interim judge will be is up to the governor, but whoever wins the position will have to run for the office in 2026 during the next gubernatorial election.

According to the state's Board of Elections, no candidates have filed for that office.

Circuit Court judges in Maryland serve 15-year terms.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Christmas in April's Last Hurrah

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The president of the board of Christmas in April of St. Mary's County, Howard Thompson, said that 35 years is a good run, but this looks to be the final year when volunteers go out into the county and repair needy citizens' homes for free.

"This is it, 35 years," Thompson told The County Times. "We've lost our office and funding for materials has been so hard to get.

"If anyone wants to pick up our name and continue, they're welcome to it."

Thompson said he and other core volunteers who have served the non-profit over the years may take on single projects around the county such as installing handicapped accessible ramps but the days of groups of volunteers going out and repairing and rebuilding 12 to 20 homes in a day are effectively over.

"But, yes, the organization is dissolving," Thompson declared in a April 16 phone interview, a little more than a week away from their annual project date April 26. "We're ready for the younger generation to take over."

Volunteers are set to repair 12 homes this year and complete one community project: replacing the bleacher seats at the county fairgrounds in Leonardtown.

"We do as much as we can at the fair-



St. Mary's Christmas in April volunteers grounds," Thompson said.

Thompson said over the years that Christmas in April has operated in St. Mary's, it has helped repair more than 900 homes.

"Reflecting on our last year, the decision wasn't easy," Thompson said. "But with a group of core volunteers who've given so many years of dedicated service, we've chosen to finish strong—going out on top, with our heads held high."

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Planning Commission Holds Over Pax Village Townhomes



Artists rendering of townhomes at Pax River Village Center

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Plans for a new, 91-unit development of townhomes are delayed somewhat after the county planning commission continued the public hearing for the project this week during their April 14 business meeting.

The project to be considered is at the former Millison Plaza, now known as Pax River Village Center, in Lexington Park; the developer of the project, Atlantic Realty is deep into renovating and rebuilding the aging shopping center to include new business facades for tenants, a new Starbucks coffee shop and a new Aldi's grocery store.

The attorney for the applicant in the case, Christopher Longmore, requested a continuance; both for a rezoning amendment for the property and for the project itself.

"Some of the comments that were in staff report from the Navy, my client has not had a chance to review until recently," Longmore said. "They want to make sure

they adequately address the concerns that are raised in that."

The meeting was rescheduled for May 5 in Leonardtown at the chambers for the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, which the planning commission shares.

The comments from Navy planners included concerns that while the townhouse project is outside the accident potential zone (APZ) of Patuxent River Naval Air Station, they are still close.

"It is worth noting that while the risk of accidents is lower outside of an APZ, it is not negligible," wrote Hannah Pajewski, community planning liaison officer on base. "NAS PAX does not support any rezoning under the APZ-II from Limited Commercial / Industrial (LCI) to High Intensity Mixed-Use (MXH), as it may have the potential to increase density or allow for uses incompatible with the Navy's AICUZ (Aircraft Incident Compatible Use Zone) guidance."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

State of the Town 2025



More than a 130 people came out to celebrate the latest State of the Town summit meeting in Leonardtown Apr. 11 where attendees celebrated the past 25 years of the Leonardtown Business Association's service and advocacy.

Town Administrator Laschelle McKay said this was the best attended State of the Town meeting so far.

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Changes Could Come to Fire/EMS Cadet Program

By Guy Leonard
 Staff Writer

For years a training program has existed at the Dr. James A Forrest Career and Technology Center in Leonardtown dedicated to training the next generation of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and firefighters for service, but it has only been available to public school students here in St. Mary's County.

Some in the public safety community would like to see that change.

At the most recent meeting of the county's Emergency Services Board (ESB), a member of that advisory committee, J.A. Nelson, president of the St. Mary's Fire Association, pressed for the discussion to commence on letting other students from non-public and parochial schools apply for admission to the program as well.

"Back when the cadet program got moved from Hollywood [Volunteer Fire Department] to the tech center, one thing we made sure to eliminate was outside, adult students being able to come in and take the classes," Nelson said at the April 9 ESB meeting in Leonardtown. "I just wanted to start the conversation here... if we have



St. Mary's Fire Association President J.A. Nelson

homeschooled students or private school students that want to take the class, they should at least be afforded the opportunity.

"I just wanted to get that on the agenda; we'll discuss that moving forward."

Nelson said the matter would require discussion with the county Board of Education as it owns and operates the career and technology center as part of the public school system.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Commissioners & NAS Pax Announce Joint Meeting

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) and the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS PAX) will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 9 a.m. in the Frank Knox Building, located just outside of NAS PAX Gate 2 at 21866 Cedar Point Road, Patuxent River.

"Our partnership with Naval Air Station Patuxent River is vital to the success and prosperity of St. Mary's County," said Commissioner President Randy Guy. "These joint meetings provide an important opportunity to strengthen our collaboration, address shared priorities, and continue working together to support our shared community."

The joint meeting will feature discussion on the following topics:

- Encroachment Agreement
- Hogpoint Shoreline Restoration Project on NAS PAX
- Impact of Federal Reductions on NAS PAX
- Defense Communities Infrastructure Program Sidewalk Project Completion
- Return to Work Impact Mitigation: Traffic and Gate Operations
- Comprehensive Plan Update – St. Mary's 2050: Charting Our Tomorrow

This meeting is open to the public and will be recorded. The recording will air on

St. Mary's County Government TV Channel 95 as part of the regular CSMC meeting replay and will be available for on-demand viewing via our YouTube Channel post-production. CSMC decisions and related documents are available on the St. Mary's County Government website in BoardDocs.

Please note the following security measures will be in place for in-person attendees:

- ID checks
- Bag checks
- Sign in at entry
- Escorts to the meeting room

"It's always a pleasure to meet with our community partners in St. Mary's County," said Capt. Douglas Burfield, NAS PAX Commanding Officer. "These meetings help us to be better neighbors and partners, and to find ways to benefit our community."

Information on the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, including meeting schedules, minutes, and more is available at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/csmc. For more details on the meeting or to request accommodation, please call the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1340.

For more information, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook, X, and Instagram for regular updates.

Museum Exhibit Honors Navy Test Pilots

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In 1945 naval aviator Cmdr. Sydney Sherby received orders to start up the U.S. Navy's Test Pilot School at what was then the fledgling Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Now, 80 years later, his foundational work has blossomed into what many believe to be the best test pilot school in the world, all right here in St. Mary's County.

"It's the premier test pilot school (TPS) out of the four in the world," said Scott Gray, director of the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, (PRNAM) which has just opened a new exhibit honoring test pilots and the school that produces them. "There's one run by the U.S. Air Force and there's another in Britain and one in France.

"The students at TPS are doing original research... they're finding solutions to problems while they're studying here."

Competition to get a seat at TPS is fierce as seats are limited and those seeking admission must get a recommendation from their commanding officer.

It's the kind of feather in a service person's cap that helps them go places, sometimes into orbit.

About 90 graduates of the TPS have gone on to be astronauts, he said, including Sunita Williams who recently came home from an unscheduled eight-month stay on the International Space Station.

The exhibit at PRNAM details 80 years of TPS history, Gray told The County Times, but it wasn't necessarily easy compiling it.

"It was real challenge," Gray said. "There's a lot of history there.

"What do you choose to put on display?"

The answer is: a lot.

Numerous photographs from decades gone by show the progression of test pilots and their school from World War II fighter aircraft, the jet age to supersonic flight to the most advanced stealth fighters and unmanned aerial systems in the world, including rotary wing aircraft like helicopters.

In the interior of the hangar area of the museum are a test bed F-35 Lightning II fighter, an F-18 from the Blue Angels flight demonstration group and a tiny but nimble T-38 training jet used by test pilots to learn and teach the basics of flight.

Also, for visitors to see are the slide rules, protractors, calculators and flight logs that are part and parcel to a test pilot's stock and trade.

It isn't all about strapping into the cockpit and pulling g-forces at high speeds, it's also about meticulous preparation, study and scientific experimentation and rigor to take the Navy's aviation prowess to the next level, Gray said.

The school isn't just open to pilots but engineers as well, and not just from the Navy but other branches of services.

A naval officer now commands the TPS but previously a U.S. Army helicopter pilot was in charge.

Foreign exchange student pilots from allied nations also frequently take part in the program and graduate.

Gray said the aim of the exhibit was to show the public the importance of the mission of the TPS, an aspect of the work on base that often isn't particularly well known, but is absolutely critical to the Navy's aviation fleet



Scott Gray, director of the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum

and to the advancement of aviation itself.

"The exhibit is about sharing the real determination of the people who were tasked with organizing this training," Gray said. "He [Sherby] did it in such a way that it has grown and endured.

"When you talk about the test pilot school, you're talking about people... these are extraordinary stories."

According to the history of the TPS, Sherby's inaugural instruction included "37 hours of classroom academics and nine hours of flight time spread over a 10-week period.

"Classes met Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and were taught by Sherby. Students in Class 0 flew the F-6F Hellcat, FM-2 Wildcat, SBD Dauntless, TBM Avenger and SNJ and were taught in-flight test and evaluation techniques by Lt. Cmdr. H. E. McNeely."

Since that time more than 4,200 students have graduated from TPS that includes nearly a year of full-time instruction of 500 hours of classroom time, 100 hours of flight time in more than 15 types of aircraft.

Pierre Thuot, retired Navy Captain, naval flight officer and TPS graduate, was wondering what his next steps in life would be as he was coming after his time as radar intercept officer in the rear seat of an F-14 Tomcat fighter/interceptor when he realized something.

"I was looking at what I could do and I looked at the people on the space shuttle and they were all naval flight officers like me," Thuot, who now lives in Hollywood, said. "They went to TPS; all the early astronauts were test pilots."

He applied and was accepted and eventually to pilot aircraft with an instructor on board with him and then on his own.

"I'll never forget that first day," Thuot said. "The commanding officer had us each say why we were there.

"I said I wanted to be an astronaut."

Two other students said the same thing, a Marine Corp aviator and an Army pilot, he said.

All three went on to go to space, he said, though at different times.

Astronauts are constantly testing new systems of hardware and software, Thuot explained and it has to be done in a precise and exacting way to ensure safety and efficiency.

"Being a test pilot is good for becoming an astronaut because you know how to test and evaluate things," Thuot said. "They teach you to do it safely and not to make things worse."

Thuot went on to partake in several space shuttle missions during the 1990s and also took three spacewalks, one of which held the record for a time as the longest at more than eight hours in space.

During one critical mission he helped rescue and repair a disabled telecommunications satellite.

He has logged hundreds of flight hours in space and more than 400 orbits of the Earth.



Capt. Pierre Thuot, TPS graduate

Gray said test pilots like Thuot, and the Test Pilot School have helped keep the country in the pole position technologically for decades and advanced scientific knowledge and national security greatly.

"They've made things safer," Gray said of the dangerous world of the test pilot. "We've learned so much over the decades; it's encouraging and inspiring.

"[TPS] keeps the Navy aviation fleet second to none irrespective of developments in other countries."

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Carnival Shooting Accomplice Sentenced to Life in Prison

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Thomas Moreland, 22, of Lexington Park, Maryland, was sentenced to life in prison for his involvement in the 2022 Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Carnival shooting murder.

On July 15, 2022, Moreland and others carried out a violent attack that claimed the life of a 16-year-old victim and left another teenager suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

"The Hollywood Carnival is a long-standing community event that families have enjoyed for decades. The Defendant's vindictive and reckless actions not only devastated the victims and their families but also shattered the sense of safety in our community during what should have been a safe and fun family event," said State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling. "This sentence ensures that the Defendant will be held accountable for the terror he inflicted on the entire community."

Following a five-day jury trial in April 2024, Moreland was convicted of:

- First-degree murder
- Attempted first-degree murder
- Conspiracy to commit first-degree assault

During the sentencing hearing, the State urged the court to impose the maximum penalty of Life in prison, emphasizing the Defendant's complete disregard for human



Thomas Moreland

life and the long-lasting impact on the victims and the community that go beyond the physical trauma.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Alena Mosier served as the prosecuting attorney for both the jury trial and the sentencing hearing on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Tyler Payne and Corporal Daniel Sidorowicz of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were the lead investigators.

The Honorable Joseph Stalanonis presided over the case.

Sheriff's Office Urges Parents to Secure Firearms

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is reminding parents and guardians of the critical importance of securely storing firearms after recent incidents in our region and surrounding regions where elementary school students brought loaded firearms to school. In two cases, a gun was discharged; thankfully, no injuries were reported.

These incidents serve as a sobering reminder that unsecured firearms can lead to tragic consequences. Parents and guardians must ensure that weapons are safely stored and inaccessible to children.

Under Maryland law, guardians may be held criminally liable if a child gains access to a firearm that was not properly secured.

Jaelynn's Law, which went into effect in October 2023, requires that all firearms be stored unloaded and secured in a manner that prevents access by minors under the age of 18. The law is named in memory of Jaelynn Willey, a 16-year-old student who was shot

and killed in 2018 at Great Mills High School by a classmate who used his father's gun.

Firearm owners who fail to comply with these requirements may face criminal charges if a child accesses the weapon.

The Sheriff's Office encourages the use of gun safes, lockboxes, and trigger locks and offers free gun locks to the public upon request. Free gun locks are available at all our stations:

- Headquarters
23150 Leonard Hall Drive,
Leonardtown, MD 20650
- District 1 Station
37575 Charlotte Hall School Road,
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
- District 3 Station
23125 Camden Way,
California, MD 20619
- District 4 Station
21633 Great Mills Road,
Lexington Park, MD 20653

Public Hearing on County Budget to Be Held April 22

Hearings Include Volunteer Fire & Rescue Rewards Program, Fees, Taxes & More

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will hold Public Hearings on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at Leonardtown High School (LHS), located at 23995 Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown, on the following topics:

1. Establishing a Volunteer Firefighter and Rescue Squad Response Rewards Program
2. Increasing Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad tax rate to .030
3. Increasing Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad tax rate to .030
4. Changes to the St. Mary's County Health Department Environmental fee schedule
5. Changes to St. Mary's County Government fees and charges:
 - a. Animal Control Division – Licenses
 - b. Department of Public Works – Solid Waste Service Fees
 - c. Department of Recreation & Parks – Recreation Activity Fees
6. FY2026 Recommended County Budget

Additional information on each topic is available at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/publichearings.

The hearings will be held in the LHS auditorium. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and sign-up sheets to participate will be available in the school foyer. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in these hearings. Those wishing to address the Commissioners may participate in-person or provide their feedback via:

- Email to: csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov
- Mail to: PO Box 653 Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

All submissions must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. All submissions will be considered by the CSMC at the Public Hearing and/or up to seven days following the Public Hearing.

St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) delivers high quality public services, fosters opportunities for residents and businesses, and works to preserve the county's natural environment, rich heritage, and rural character.

Appropriate accommodation for individuals with language or other special needs will be provided upon request. To support these needs, we respectfully ask for one week's prior notice. Please contact the Public Information Office at 301-475-4200, ext. 1340 or via email to pio@stmaryscountymd.gov by April 15, 2025, to arrange.

CSMC Public Hearings are televised live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 and streamed live at www.youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov.

Community members are encouraged to visit our Budget Engage Page at <https://bit.ly/SMCG-FY26-Budget> to view the county budget timeline, watch budget work session videos, leave feedback on priorities, and more!

For more information, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook, X, and Instagram for regular updates.

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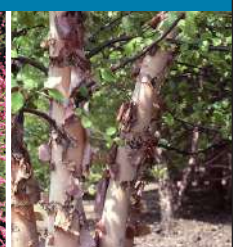
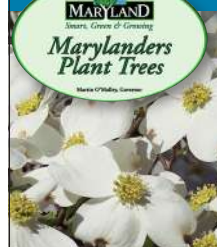
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Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN Fair Summary of Ordinance No. 227

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 227 – **2025 Leonardtown Comprehensive Land Use Plan**. A fair summary of the ordinance will follow:

Ordinance No. 227 – An Ordinance for the purpose of adopting the 2025 Leonardtown Comprehensive Land Use Plan; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary; and generally relating to land use in the Town of Leonardtown.

Ordinance No. 227 will become effective May 5, 2025. Full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or on-line on the Town's website at www.Leonardtown.somd.com.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN Fair Summary of Ordinance No. 228

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 228, an ordinance adopting the Budget and setting the Real Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2026. The real property tax rate shall remain the same as the prior year at \$.1203 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the tax year beginning July 1, 2025. Full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or on-line on the Town's website at www.Leonardtown.somd.com.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

County Government Good Friday & Easter Operations

St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2025, in observance of the Good Friday and Easter holidays. Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Monday, April 21, 2025.

The April 18 closure includes:

- All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler, and Northern), and there will be no home-delivered meals.
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS), including ADA and SSTAP.

The following SMCG operations will be open on April 18:

- All three St. Mary's County Libraries (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park).
- St. Mary's Animal Adoption & Resource Center.
- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill.
- St. Clements Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the

Old Jail Museum.

- The Wicomico Shores Golf Course and the Riverview Restaurant.
 - Department of Recreation & Parks programs and facilities. Please note that Recreation and Parks programs held at St. Mary's County Public School locations will not operate on April 18.
- Additionally, the following SMCG operations will be CLOSED on Sunday, April 20:
- Department of Recreation & Parks programs and facilities (excluding our museum locations, which are OPEN).
 - St. Mary's Animal Adoption & Resource Center.
 - The Lexington Park Library.
 - The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill.
 - The St. Mary's Transit System (STS), including ADA and SSTAP.

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

Traffic Notice: Wildewood Boulevard Turn Lane & Sidewalk Retrofit Project

Drivers Should Remain Alert for Changing Traffic Patterns & Work Crews

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) will be installing a new right-turn lane and sidewalk on Wildewood Boulevard, between White Oak Parkway and Maryland Route 235 (Three Notch Road).

The project was scheduled to begin Monday, April 14 with completion in approximately 30 days, weather permitting.

A traffic control plan will be implemented for the duration of the road and sidewalk construction.

Message boards and signage will be deployed in the area prior to and during the

project to serve as a reminder. Motorists are advised to use caution and follow signage. Please remain alert to work crews, changing traffic patterns, and equipment and consider alternate travel routes to avoid delays in traffic.

Questions may be directed to John Wise with DPW&T at 301-475-4200, ext. 3531.

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, visit: www.stmary-countymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook, X, and Instagram for regular updates.

Sheriff's Office Warns of Spoofing Scam

Scammers are at it again—using our agency's phone number and Captain Shawn Moses's name to try and steal money from members of our community.

They're calling people, claiming to be a Deputy with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, and saying there's a warrant for missing court—but they can "resolve it" if you make a payment over the phone.

This is 100 percent a scam.

Important Reminders:

- We will never call and demand payment for a warrant.
- Caller ID can be faked — just because it looks official doesn't mean it is.

How to protect yourself:

- Hang up on suspicious calls.
- Don't give out personal or financial info.
- Call us directly at our official number if you're unsure.

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<p>750mL Tia Maria Coffee Liqueur</p> <p>26.49</p>	<p>750mL Grey Goose Vodka</p> <p>28.99</p>	<p>1.75L Wheatley Vodka</p> <p>28.99</p>	<p>1.75L Jim Beam Straight Bourbon</p> <p>29.99</p>	<p>750mL Basil Hayden Straight Bourbon</p> <p>37.49</p>
<p>1.75L Kahlua Rum & Coffee Liqueur</p> <p>42.99</p>	<p>1.75mL Evan Williams Straight Bourbon</p> <p>25.49</p>	<p>750mL Sailor Jerry Spiced Rum</p> <p>20.99</p>	<p>750mL Corazon Blanco Tequila</p> <p>21.49</p>	<p>750mL Sazerac Rye Whiskey</p> <p>31.49</p>
<p>750mL Macallan 12 Year Double Cask Scotch</p> <p>88.99</p>	<p>750mL, All Flavors Mumm Sparkling Wines</p> <p>18.49</p>	<p>1.5L, All Flavors Sutter Home Wine</p> <p>8.99</p>	<p>750mL Duplin Hatteras Red Wine</p> <p>8.49</p>	<p>750mL Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio</p> <p>11.49</p>
<p>750mL Chateau D' Esclands Whispering Angel Rose</p> <p>19.49</p>	<p>750mL Misfits And Mavens Sauvignon Blanc</p> <p>11.99</p>	<p>750 mL San Antonio Cardinale Sweet Red Wine</p> <p>10.49</p>	<div> <p><i>Wine of the Month</i></p> <p>750mL, Selected Menage A Trois Wines</p> <p>9.99</p> </div>	
<p>750mL Freixenet Extra Dry Cava</p> <p>11.49</p>	<p>750mL Josh Zinfandel Lodi</p> <p>12.49</p>	<p>750mL Angelina Chardonnay</p> <p>10.49</p>	<p>750mL Line 39 Merlot</p> <p>8.99</p>	

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Marines Fast-Track New Tug for MQ-9 Reaper

The Navy and Marine Corps Multi-Mission Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems program office (PMA-266) recently delivered a cutting-edge aircraft towing solution to a Marine Corps squadron at Cherry Point, addressing urgent operational needs in record time.

Partnering with SupplyCore, the team delivered the TowFLEXX TF-3 Milspec, a remote-controlled aircraft tug, that allows a single operator to maneuver military aircraft with unprecedented precision, maintaining the aircraft's nose wheel alignment while enabling 360-degree turns in confined spaces.

"What typically would have taken years in development was accomplished in less than four months," said Capt. Dennis Monagle, PMA-266 program manager. "This demonstrates our team's ability to rapidly respond to urgent fleet requirements."

PMA-266 collaborated with the Defense Logistics Agency's Special Operational Equipment Tailored Logistic Support Program to rapidly deliver the system. This collaboration allowed the team to bypass traditional acquisition timelines while upholding rigorous safety standards.

"The TowFLEXX technology underwent



Marines test the TowFLEXX TF-3 Milspec, a new aircraft tug capability, with the MQ-9A Reaper at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in March 2025. The TowFLEXX allows a single operator to maneuver military aircraft with unprecedented precision, maintaining the aircraft's nose wheel alignment while enabling 360-degree turns in confined spaces. (U.S. Navy photo)

comprehensive validation to ensure compliance with Naval Aviation Enterprise safety requirements," said Maj. Jeff Kennedy, PMA-266 warfighter readiness deputy. "What makes this system special is its adaptability across multiple aircraft platforms while remaining expeditionary in nature."

Marine Aviation Group 14, operating under the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, will be the first to fully integrate the system

into their daily MQ-9A Reaper operations. Kennedy said this technology is particularly valuable for unmanned air system operations, where hangar and flight line space is often limited.

As the Marine Corps continues expanding its MQ-9 unmanned aircraft community, solutions like the TowFLEXX TF-3 represent the kind of practical innovation needed to support growing aviation requirements.

The successful deployment underscores PMA-266's commitment to enhancing combat readiness through fleet-focused, automated solutions. PMA-266 manages the acquisition lifecycle of the Marine Corps' MQ-9A Reaper, a system providing warfighters with reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and advanced multi-mission capabilities.

The forgotten tragedy on the Potomac...

BLACK DIAMOND DISASTER

COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND • APRIL 26 & 27

An American Civil War Event

On April 23, 1865, eighty-seven lives were lost when the barge Black Diamond and the steamer Massachusetts collided near St. Clement's Island during the hunt for John Wilkes Booth. Learn more about this tragic event at a commemorative weekend at St. Clement's Island Museum.

All Weekend

- Free Admission to St. Clement's Island Museum
- Free Water Taxi rides to St. Clement's Island with free Blackistone Lighthouse tours
- Book signings with Karen Stone, author of the new book *Shipwreck on the Potomac: Disaster in Pursuit of Lincoln's Killer*

Saturday, April 26

- Traveling Magician Peter Wood will be on site at the museum between 2pm and 5pm demonstrating 19th century sleight of hand and other feats of magic. Later, he will present an interactive stage show from 7pm to 8pm at Potomac Gardens; this is a ticketed event: [PeterWoodPotomacGardens.eventbrite.com](https://www.peterwoodpotomacgardens.eventbrite.com)

Sunday, April 27

- Commemorative ceremony and wreath laying with remarks by Naval Air Station Patuxent River Base Commander and keynote address by "Clara Barton," as portrayed by award winning actress Mary Ann Jung.



Reception to follow at 3pm.

- Civil War-era fiddle music by Sibling Rivalry Band before and after the ceremony.
- Dinner & a Cruise Series: The Civil War & the Potomac River, hosted by Karen Stone. Reservations required: bit.ly/DinnerCruise2025

For more information, visit the event posting at facebook.com/SCIMuseum or call 301-769-2222



A Free, Family-Friendly Event

Free Document Shredding Event Announced



It's time to clean out your filing cabinets and desks to get rid of confidential, private, or other important personal documents that you no longer need to keep!

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) will host their 17th annual Community Shredding Event on Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 8 a.m. – noon at the St. Andrews Landfill, located at 44837 St. Andrews Church Road.

This community event gives residents the opportunity to have their confidential, private, and important documents destroyed by a professional shredding service at no cost. This type of shredding turns sensitive documents into confetti-sized pieces,

ensuring that confidential material cannot be copied. All paper material shredded during the event will then be recycled.

Please refrain from bringing materials that are not confidential in nature, such as newspapers and magazines (acceptable for recycling at the six Convenience Centers) as they will cause the truck to fill up more quickly. The shredder can handle simple staples, paper clips, spiral notebooks, and thin metal prongs, however it cannot accept 3 ring binders. Please limit the number of boxes you bring to 3 standard bankers' boxes (10"H x 12"W x 15"D) per person so we can serve as many residents as possible.

For more information, please call DPW&T at (301) 475-4200, ext. 3550.

Recreation & Parks Celebrates Afterschool Professionals Week

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is celebrating Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week from April 21-25, 2025, along with the National Afterschool Association, to recognize, appreciate and advocate for those who work with young people during out-of-school hours.

Over 170 children participate in the department's School Age Care program in five public elementary schools serving grades K-8. Every young person deserves quality afterschool experiences that positively impact their development. It takes skilled professionals to create these experiences. Because of the important role afterschool professionals play in kids' lives, they deserve recognition and support!

Recreation & Parks School Age Care staff are skilled individuals who work with children in diverse school settings to provide various positive developmental relationships and experiences during out-of-school hours. The dedicated staff consists of 18 professionals who have met state licensing requirements and have over 100 years of combined experience working with children.

Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week is a time to recognize, appreciate and advocate for those who work with young



people during out-of-school hours. The week is marked by celebrations, public relations, and advocacy efforts encouraging appreciation and support for afterschool professionals who make a profound difference in the lives of young people.

School Age Care registration is now open for the 2025-26 school year and can be completed online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/sac or at the R&P main office in Leonardtown. For questions or assistance, please contact R&P at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800 or via email to webtrac@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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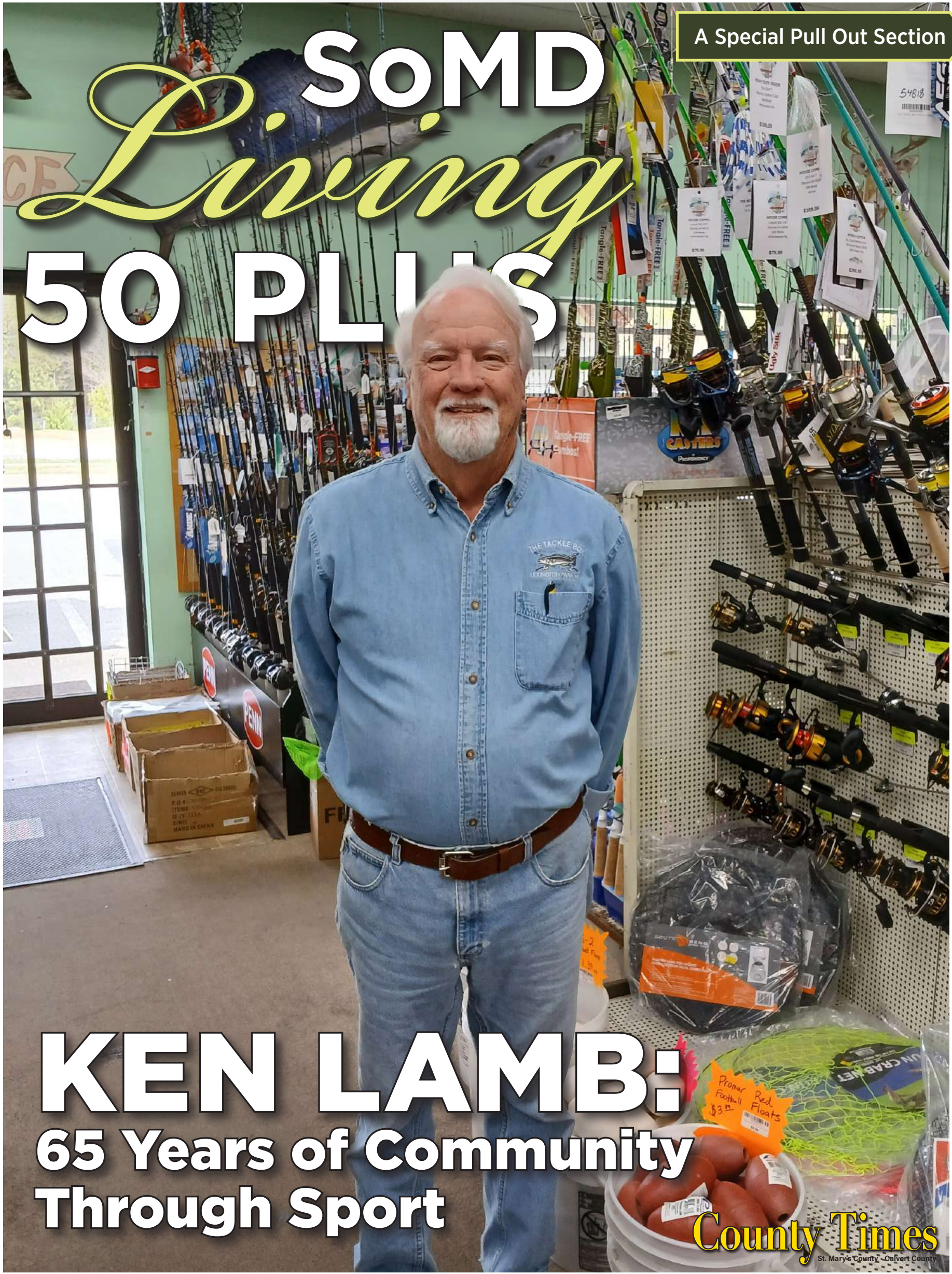
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St. Mary's County - Calvert County

Senior Spotlight

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES
FOR ADULTS 50+

Medicare Minute - Presentation

Join Melissa Craig, Senior Information & Assistance Division Manager for a Medicare Minute at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, April 30 at 9 a.m. The topic of conversation for this presentation is Lowering Your Part D Costs. To register, please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1050.

Cake Decorating 101 with Sweetheart Cupcakes

Join Rebecca Smith of Sweetheart Cupcakes at Loffler Senior Activity Center on Friday, May 2 at 10 a.m. to learn how to decorate mini cakes for special occasions, holidays, or just for fun! You will complete two mini cakes to take home or share. All skill levels are welcome. All supplies are provided. Though you may bring your favorite apron. The cost is \$20. Registration is required and begins on April 20th at 8 a.m.

To register go to <https://www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging/>, 301-475-4200 ext. 1660.

Hearing Screening: Jacobs Audiology of California

Jacob's Audiology's Outreach Program was established to offer free hearing screenings in the community and will be at Loffler Senior Activity Center on Monday, May 5, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Healthy hearing significantly impacts your quality of life. Limited screenings available. Advance registration is

required and begins on April 20th.

To register go to www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging or call 301-475-4200, ext. 1660

Spring Craft & Vendor Fair: Open to the Public

Come to Loffler Senior Activity Center on Friday, May 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to find great Mother's Day gifts, birthday presents, home décor, or something nice for yourself. Come support local seniors, crafters and small cottage industries. Invite your friends to shop with you. This event is Open to the Public. Food trucks will be onsite.

Chair Dance Connection: Laughter's Brain Boost

Join us at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, April 28, from 1-2:30 p.m. for Chair Dance Connection: Laughter's Brain Boost. Instructors Judi Lyons & Paty Massón will blend classic, funny songs with gentle, rhythmic movements. This joyful act enhances brain health, reducing risks of cognitive impairment, memory loss, and depression. By supercharging your intake of oxygen-rich air, laughter gives your mental well-being a delightful boost. IMPORTANT: Accessible to all skill-levels. Assisted or supported by a chair. Bring water and wear comfortable clothing. Enroll for this event at pay the \$20 fee by visiting www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging

and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a message on 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Creating Hope: Therapeutic Art Exercise in Grief Work

Creating can help us express things we have no words for, discover more about ourselves and glean beauty through our sorrow. In each session, people will participate in a therapeutic art project to help with personal grief work and connect with one another.

This workshop is open to teens and adults. Supplies are provided. No art skills are required. It will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3 and June 14, at the Burnett Center for Hope and Healing, 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland. The cost is \$10 per session.

Registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Boots & Bling: A Culinary Experience

Get ready for an unforgettable night of fun and style at Boots and Bling! Join us from 6 to 10 p.m. May 9 at the gorgeous, newly renovated Rod 'N' Reel Resort. Indulge in handcrafted cocktails, savory bites, and a

silent auction packed with local treasures. Soak in stunning Chesapeake Bay views while you dance to live music by Calvert favorite Nightlife. Come for the fun, stay for the cause: Every ticket provides hope and healing for Hospice of the Chesapeake's patients and families in Calvert County.

For tickets, visit <https://www.hospice-chesapeake.org/culinary-event/>

Calvert County Drop-In Grief Support Groups

Drop-In Grief Support Groups are open to anyone grieving. Groups offer participants an opportunity to share their feelings and obtain support from others who are experiencing loss. There is no fee. These groups will meet in Calvert County as follows:

- North Beach Senior Center, 9010 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, May 7 and June 4.
- Southern Pines Senior Center, 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, May 13 and June 10.
- Calvert Pines Senior Center, 450 W. Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, May 20 and June 17.

For questions and details, call 1-888-501-7077 or email griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.



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Ken Lamb Celebrates 65 Years of Helming The Tackle Box

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

There's no place quite like it in St. Mary's County. If you tell someone you'll be at The Tackle Box, there is no question where that is.

For the past 51 years the building owned by Ken Lamb, who has worked there since he was a teenager when his father and mother first opened it in 1960, has stood as one of the county's most prominent provider of sporting goods, especially for anglers and hunters.

"We moved here when I was 13 years old," Lamb, 80, told The County Times. "I grew up here, graduated from Great Mills High School."

Lamb eventually went on to college and the U.S. Navy where he served about three-and-a-half-years before leaving as a lieutenant, junior grade.

"I started working here full time in 1973," Lamb said. "But I was here off and on the whole time."

His father had been in the Navy through World War II and like many other such veterans involved with naval aviation they found a home in St. Mary's County, stayed and started businesses that eventually became community fixtures.

The Tackle Box is definitely one of the original businesses of old Lexington Park.

Lamb decided to continue the family business through to the present day.

"The Navy was very enjoyable," he said. "I just didn't want to make a career out of it."



Ken Lamb

St. Mary's County then, much as it is now, is a paradise for outdoor sports like fishing, hunting and boating but in those days taking advantage of the great outdoors was a higher priority, Lamb said, than in the cell phone age when people turn inwards on their devices.

What he and his family sold has changed and adapted with the times.

"We had a great deal of surf fishing, it was all off the shoreline," Lamb said. "There were a lot of single sailors and at that time

that was a big deal."

But as the mission grew at Patuxent River Naval Air Station so did the population and the wealth the work here generated.

"People became more affluent, they started buying boats," Lamb said. "People started trawling from boats."

As The Tackle Box has prospered, Lamb has seen the drastic changes in St. Mary's over the years.

"The population has more than quadrupled," Lamb said. "We had one lane going north, and one lane going south."

"It [the base] broadened out market a lot."

Fishing is still avidly pursued here, Lamb said, but the cultural changes, especially among the younger generation, has lessened the number of parents and children who want to fish and hunt.

"People don't hunt and fish as much as they did," Lamb said. "It leads to kids not being as active as they should."

It's a shame, as well, he said, since there are places in St. Mary's where the fishing is remarkable but often overlooked.

"St. Mary's Lake has a lot of great fishing," Lamb said. "It's underutilized."

And giving fishing advice is one of the favorite things about the business for Lamb, he said, especially about the best fishing spots on base or around the county.

When a customer who is a neophyte at fishing is able to go out and bring back a great catch based on what Lamb has advised, that makes him feel great, he said.

"That to me is what I live for," Lamb said. "I like meeting people."

"I like to work."

Despite his age and the age of his business, Lamb said he has no intentions of retiring.

"I'm still kicking," Lamb said. "I haven't slowed down."

"I'm not going to, either."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

How to Make Active Retirement a Reality

Scores of people view retirement as a time in their lives when they aren't beholden to schedules and can finally indulge in hobbies and interests they'd been dreaming about while sitting in meetings or commuting to the office. Although retirement often is billed as a time to enjoy life, research suggests a different scenario plays out all too often. According to a recent study commissioned by The Oddfellows, one of the oldest friendly societies in the United Kingdom, 39 percent of retirees have experienced feelings such as loneliness, boredom and a reduced sense of identity and purpose shortly after the retirement glow wears off.

Staying active and engaged during retirement may take some creative effort, especially for those who were used to the regimented schedule of work. But the following are some ways to maintain your active engagement with the world after calling it a career.

- Take that trip. According to AARP, travel is one of the most popular things to do during retirement. Odds are there are places retirees have always wanted to visit, and the world is just waiting. Taking a tour or being part of a travel group can simplify travel planning by leaving the organizing to someone else.



- Travelers just enjoy the ride.
- Get moving physically. The National Council on Aging says regularly engaging in physical activity a person enjoys can help prevent bone loss, boost immunity, improve mood, and even prevent chronic illnesses. Team sport participation is a top choice for seniors looking to stay active because

sports provide physical exercise and also an opportunity to socialize with friends or teammates.

- Maintain a consistent schedule. Some people thrive when they know what is coming next. If you need a routine in order to be happy, establish a consistent schedule that works. For example, people can wake up at the same time

each morning and eat lunch during at the same time they did while working. Upon retiring, incorporate a daily plan for exercise if physical activity is not part of your traditional routine.

- Try something new. It is never too late to try a new activity, class, sport, or hobby. Challenging yourself can stimulate the mind and provide a pathway to new relationships. Individuals can even consider going back to college. According to Kiplinger, New Jersey residents age 65 and older can take regularly scheduled courses tuition-free at the state's public colleges and universities, provided classroom space permits. There are similar programs in other states across the country.
- Pick up a new language. Learning a new language is a beneficial tool for seniors who are looking to maintain cognitive abilities. The National Institutes of Health says bilingualism has been linked to higher cognitive reserve, delay in dementia onset and better performance in executive control.

There are many ways for seniors to keep their brains and bodies active in an effort to overcome boredom and improve overall well-being.



Building Better Caregivers

Learn Valuable Skills with this FREE 6-Week Workshop!

This workshop is for anyone who is a family caregiver (a parent taking care of a child, spouse supporting spouse, adult child taking care of an aging parent, or anyone providing care to another family member with a disability). This workshop is **only for the caregiver**.

Registration is required.

Registration opens, April 20, 2025. To register, visit <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/> and click "View and Sign Up for Activities and Programs" or call 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

To learn more, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1057.

Topics Covered

- Caregiver Stress
- Dealing with Difficult Care Partner Behaviors
- Getting Help
- Making Decisions About Treatment, Housing, etc.
- Communicating Effectively with Family, Friends, and Health Professionals
- Dealing with Caregiver and Care Partner Difficult Emotions
- Planning for Future Needs
- Legal Issues Related to Caregiving
- Action Planning and Problem Solving

Schedule

Thursdays, May 8- June 12
9:00-11:30 a.m.

Location

Loffler Senior Activity Center
21905 Chancellors Run Road
Great Mills, MD 20634

Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Department of Aging & Human Services. Special thanks to the Maryland Department of Aging Long Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program.

What Adults Should Know About Alcohol Consumption After 50



Patients are asked several routine questions during annual wellness exams. Among those queries are a subsection of questions regarding alcohol consumption. Doctors ask these questions to identify how much alcohol their patients consume and how often they drink. It's important that patients of all ages answer such questions honestly, and that includes men and women over 50.

Binge drinking may not be a behavior people associate with individuals over 50, but this behavior is on the rise among aging men and women. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) defines binge drinking as a pattern of alcohol consumption that elevates an individual's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 percent or higher. The NIAAA notes that such levels correspond to consuming five or more drinks (male) or four or more drinks (female) in a roughly two-hour period. Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicates that one in five adults between the ages of 60 and 64 and 12 percent of individuals age 65 and over report current binge drinking.

Binge drinking trends among individuals 60 and over alarm public health officials. The NIAAA notes that older adults are vulnerable to various problems when drinking alcohol, which can lead to bad interactions among people taking medications and increase risk for various health ailments. Such a reality makes it worth aging adults' time to learn some of the basics of alcohol consumption after 50.

- Alcohol can exacerbate various medical conditions. Age is a notable risk factor for various medical conditions. For example, the National Institute on Aging notes that changes in the heart and blood vessels that occur naturally with age may increase a person's risk of heart disease and related health problems. The NIAAA notes that adding alcohol to the mix as you age can

worsen problems such as high blood pressure and congestive heart failure. Additional conditions that can be exacerbated by heavy drinking include diabetes, liver problems, osteoporosis, and mood disorders.

- Alcohol can interact with various medications. Prescription medications come with a lengthy rundown of warnings and instructions, which is enough to compel many people to avoid alcohol when taking such medicines. However, people may not be as careful with over-the-counter medications, even though the NIAAA warns that mixing alcohol with OTC medicines can be dangerous and even deadly. OTC medications such as aspirin, acetaminophen, allergy medicines, and sleeping pills can interact badly with alcohol.
- Alcohol consumption should be limited to two drinks or less. As noted, a significant percentage of adults over 60 qualify as binge drinkers. That may alarm some older adults who do not feel as though they have a problem with alcohol but still meet the qualifications for binge drinking. Refraining from alcohol is arguably the safest option, but individuals over 50 who still like to enjoy a drink every now and then are urged to keep their consumption to two drinks or less in a day for men and one drink or less in a day for women. It's important that individuals recognize they cannot save up drinking for one night of the week. So those who abstain six days a week cannot then consume between seven and 14 drinks on the day they drink. Such an approach is unhealthy, unsafe and potentially deadly.

Adults over 50 are urged to learn about the ways alcohol affects aging bodies. More information is available at niaaa.nih.gov.

Three Tips to Stretch Your Retirement Savings

Cost-of-living has garnered significant attention in recent years and was one of the key issues surrounding the 2024 presidential election in the United States. That extra attention is warranted, as a recent Bankrate analysis of data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that consumer prices were 23 percent more expensive in February 2025 than they were in the same month in 2020.

Rising consumer prices have been a cause for concern among people from all walks of life, but retirees might be among the most vulnerable to such increases. Lacking a desire to return to the workforce or opportunities lucrative enough to make such a transition worthwhile, retirees may be looking for ways to stretch their retirement savings. The following three strategies may help seniors do just that.

1. Seek the help of a financial planner.

Some seniors may see working with a financial planner as another expense at a time when they're trying to cut costs, but such professionals can provide a notable return on investment. Financial planners can help seniors currently navigating complex financial waters without a compass direct their resources toward low-risk vehicles that can grow wealth with the goal of ensuring a rising cost-of-living does not drain existing savings and leave seniors destitute. Even incremental growth can help combat inflation, and financial planners can identify options that promote growth



while limiting risk.

2. *Take up gardening.* People from all walks of life have lamented rising grocery bills in recent years, but seniors are not helpless against rising food prices. The Economic Research Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates food prices will increase by 2.2 percent in 2025. Retirees are uniquely positioned to combat those increases, as many have the time and space to

grow their own foods at a fraction of the cost of buying the same items at the store. Though gardening requires an investment of time (to learn the trade) and money (tools and a landscape adjustment, if necessary), it's possible to recoup such initial costs rather quickly. A 2021 report on the website Greenhouse Today estimated that a single tomato plant, which in 2025 typically can be purchased for

less than \$10, can yield 20 to 30 lbs. of tomatoes, producing somewhere between 20 and 90 tomatoes (size of the tomatoes will affect total yield). Grocery shoppers know that one pound of store-bought tomatoes is likely to cost around \$5, give or take a dollar or two. In this example, seniors can save a substantial amount of money by growing their own food at home. Seniors can even join gardening groups where each member grows a particular food and then yields are shared among the group, leading to even more savings over time.

3. *Request generic medications.* The cost of medication is not fixed and is often vulnerable to changes in governmental policies. However, it's fair to note that many seniors spend thousands of dollars per year on medication. Seniors can request generic alternatives to brand-name medications. The health care experts at Humana estimate generic drugs cost 80 to 85 percent less on average than brand-name drugs. That's a considerable cost savings, and that advantage could prove even more significant if policy changes increase out-of-pocket medical costs for seniors in the coming years.

These three strategies can help seniors manage their money and protect their retirement savings in an era marked by a rising cost-of-living and an unpredictable economy.



INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS

- Home-Delivered Meals
- Home & Community-Based Services
- Housing Resources
- Long-Term Care Options
- Legal Referrals
- Transportation Services & Resources
- Utility Assistance Resources, and more
- Medicare/Medical Assistance
- Prescription Drug Coverage
- Physical Fitness/Life Enrichment Programs
- Caregiver Support
- Financial Assistance Programs

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The Importance of Wellness Exams After 50

Seniors are a growing and increasingly prosperous demographic. As the senior population increases, a greater emphasis must be placed on keeping aging individuals healthy. Wellness checks are important at any age, but they bear even more significance as individuals grow older.

Age brings with it many things, including experience and wisdom. But age also brings an increased risk for health problems. Aging men and women are vulnerable to chronic conditions like heart disease, COPD, cancer, and arthritis. It's noteworthy that many chronic health conditions fail to produce any symptoms until they have progressed to a point where treatment is difficult.

Annual wellness exams can help older adults take charge of their health and stay as healthy as possible. It's possible for a person to preserve his or her health (and possibly life) through check-ups and easy tests. Here are some common screenings and health recommendations that come up in the prime of one's life.

- **Colorectal cancer screening:** A colon cancer screening is recommended for everyone at age 45. Colon cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, and risk increases at age 45. Although people seldom look forward to a colonoscopy and the required prep, putting off this test due to a little discomfort may result in missing colon cancer at its earliest



stage when it is most treatable.

- **Cholesterol screening:** This simple blood test can help evaluate the risk for heart disease. High cholesterol can contribute to the buildup of plaque in the arteries, making them narrower and less flexible, according to Sharecare, Inc.
- **Mammogram:** Most health organizations recommend annual mammo-

gram screenings from age 40 until menopause. Then it may be possible to have a mammogram every other year for those who are at average risk. It is important for women to discuss mammogram frequency with their doctors, particularly if there is a family history of breast cancer.

- **Diabetes:** ChenMed says diabe-

tes may be more common in older adults, so regular screenings for this illness can enable early diagnosis and management.

- **Testicular cancer screening:** This test generally is not recommended without symptoms. Some organizations suggest men with a family history or other risk factors consider performing self-examinations.
- **Vaccination needs:** Doctors can alert patients to recommended vaccinations during wellness exams. Seniors should receive an annual flu shot and updated COVID-19 vaccination as available. Pneumococcal vaccine can protect against pneumococcal disease that can lead to pneumonia, meningitis and bloodstream infections. Adults over 50 also should receive a vaccination for shingles, which can occur in older age in those who have previously experienced chickenpox.

There are additional advantages to routine health checkups. Doctors can inquire about fitness routines, stress, sleep, and diet to see if patients are within the guidelines for healthy living.

Older age may make a person wiser, but the risk for various health issues and certain diseases increases with age. Routine health check-ups can keep doctors and patients on the same page.

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Common Financial Scams That Target Seniors



Financial scams are as old as the concept of currency. But consumers' vulnerability to scams has seemingly increased in the twenty-first century, when the Internet and devices like smartphones have enabled scammers to gain access to potential victims' financial information and even gain virtual entry into their homes.

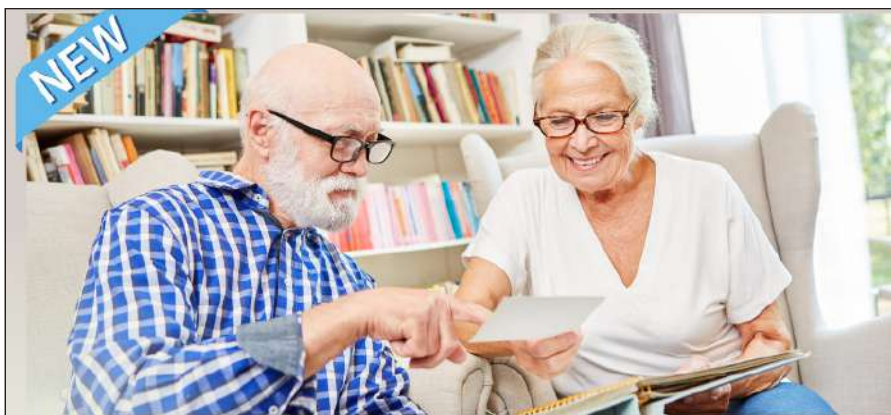
Seniors are targeted by financial scammers with such frequency that the term "elder fraud" has entered the English lexicon and is now widely recognized as a notable threat to individuals age 60 and older. In recognition of that threat, the Elder Justice Initiative aims to support and coordinate U.S. Department of Justice efforts to combat financial fraud that targets older adults. Those efforts are ongoing and include a number of initiatives to educate older adults about elder fraud, including warning seniors about some notable scams that criminals use to target older adults.

- **Social Security Administration Impostor Scam:** When perpetrating this scam, criminals typically contact prospective victims via telephone and falsely claim that suspicious activity has prompted the suspension of their Social Security number. Scammers may also indicate money must be withdrawn from a potential victim's bank and stored on gift cards for security's sake. It's important to note caller ID spoofing is often utilized when perpetrating this scam so an incoming call appears to be coming from the Social Security Administration.
- **Tech Support Scam:** This scam involves criminals claiming to be representatives from widely recognized companies who are calling to inform seniors that viruses or malware have been detected on their devices. Some also may claim a target's computer has been hacked. The Federal Trade Commission notes perpetrators of

this scam pretend to be tech support and request victims enable them to remotely access their devices or computer. Granting such access provides an avenue to view sensitive information, but scammers also may diagnose nonexistent problems and charge a fee. But the scam does not always stop there. Some call back later and offer a refund to account for services that can no longer be rendered or to correct an overcharge. The scammers then request victims' specific banking details under the guise of "correcting" these alleged oversights.

- **Lottery Scam:** The lottery scam involves scammers calling potential victims and informing them they have won a foreign lottery or sweepstakes. Perpetrators of this scam typically identify themselves as lawyers, customs officials or lottery representatives. The telemarketers behind this scam may be based in Jamaica, but the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica warns that those behind the scam will ask winners to pay various fees, including shipping and customs duties, until victims' funds are exhausted.
- **Romance Scam:** The FTC warns that wildly popular dating sites, social networking platforms and chat rooms provide opportunities for scammers to identify and exploit potential victims. The aim of these scams, which many victims are too ashamed to report even after they realize they've been victimized, is to convince targets to send money in the name of love. But the EJI warns that online love interests who ask for money are almost certainly scam artists.

These are just a handful of the many ways that modern scammers target seniors. More information about these and other scams is available at justice.gov/elderjustice.



St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services
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301-475-4200, ext. 1074.
<https://stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/>



Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County

County Government Announces Sandbag Distribution Day

Plan Ahead, Prepare Early: Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins June 1



St. Mary's County Government's Department of Emergency Services (DES) urges community members to be prepared for the next Atlantic hurricane season, which starts on June 1, 2025, and goes through November 30, 2025. While severe weather can happen outside of this timeframe, it is the most active for hurricane and tropical storm activity.

In effort to support community preparedness, the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will provide self-service sandbag pickup for residents on Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the St. Andrews Landfill located at 44837 St. Andrews Church Road.

Residents are encouraged to stock up on sandbags now so that they are prepared before a storm strikes our area. Sandbags are not pre-filled and are limited to 10-25 bags per person, while supplies last. Community partners and DES will also be onsite distributing free hurricane preparedness supplies and information.

"Preparedness is one of the most important ways we can protect ourselves, our families, and our community," said Commissioner President, Randy Guy. "By offering sandbags and sharing emergency planning resources ahead of time, we're helping residents take proactive steps before a storm is on the horizon. I encourage everyone to get ready now—don't wait until it's too late."

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

- Make emergency kits: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/kit
- Home Kit: include a flashlight, batteries, blankets, spare clothing, a battery-operated radio, hygiene supplies, medication, a first aid kit, food that is easy to open and prepare, and clean drinking water.

- Be sure to consider the needs of your family, including infants and children, the elderly, those with functional needs, and pets.
- Have a plan: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/plan
- Know Your Zone and plan your evacuation route ahead of time. Identify a safe place to go, and a way to get there, if an evacuation is ordered by local officials. Keep your gas tank full in case you need to evacuate quickly.
- Discuss with loved ones how you will communicate before, during, and after a potential emergency or severe weather event.
- Sign up for local emergency notifications at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/CodeRed
- Hurricane preparedness basics:
- Secure or bring indoors all outdoor toys, furniture, and items that could be moved by heavy winds; de-clutter drains and gutters; and consider hurricane shutters.
- Check on your neighbors, friends, and family members, especially if they are elderly and/or have functional needs.
- Bring your pets indoors during severe weather.
- Know where the main valves and switches are for gas, water, and electricity – and ensure someone you trust can operate them in case you need to shut them off.
- Follow the instructions of local emergency management officials.

Knowing what to do before, during, and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference, when seconds count.

Learn more about and prepare for potential emergencies at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/em.

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MEET FROGGY



Froggy the 1.5 year old Bulldog Mix was rescued from our local animal shelter. When our volunteer went up to rescue a few dogs, Froggy was the saddest dog there. He is a good boy and is much happier now. He doesn't mind his foster family that has cats and dogs. He does have some of the normal Bulldog issues with skin and ears but we are working on clearing that up. Are you interested in meeting Froggy or filling out an application? Go to www.animalrelieffund.org or come by the Well Pet Clinic in Lexington park Saturdays 11-2.

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How should you respond to tariffs?

The Trump Administration has announced tariffs on trade with other countries. While there has been a lot of uncertainty as to how these policies will evolve, it's generally agreed that tariffs can be inflationary, and they have also sparked volatility in the financial markets. How should you respond to tariffs — as a consumer and an investor?

As a consumer...

- *Review your budget.* If you're worried that higher prices will put stress on your cash flow, look for ways to cut costs, perhaps by eating out less often or eliminating streaming services you no longer use. Look for items that could easily be swapped for cheaper alternatives, like generics for brand names. You may even be able to get a better deal from your cable or internet providers, just by asking.
- *Build or replenish an emergency fund.* It's typically a good idea to have an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account. Usually, you'd want this fund available to meet large, unexpected expenses, such as a medical bill or a new furnace. But with the possibility of tariffs causing inflation in some sectors, you might also want your emergency fund ready to handle price increases in items such as car parts.
- *Accelerate large purchases susceptible to tariffs.* If you're already planning on making a large purchase, and you think the price may be affected by tariffs, you might want to act now, if you can afford to do so. Some items that may be susceptible to tariffs include automobiles, smartphones and computers.

As an investor...

- *Diversify.* Tariffs may affect some industries, such as automobiles and consumer electronics, more than others, such as healthcare and pharmaceuticals. But rather than making hasty "buy" and "sell" decisions based on tariffs and their possible effects, try to build and maintain a diversified portfolio containing a mix of stocks, bonds and other securities. Diversification is the best defense against the market volatility caused by tariffs — or, for that matter, caused by any other factor. While diversification cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, but at any given time, some asset classes may be up, or not hit as hard as others. And if your portfolio is heavily invested in an asset going through a downturn, you'll likely take a much bigger hit than if your dollars were spread across the wide array of available investment types.
- *Keep following a long-term strategy.* Right now, tariffs are certainly in the headlines as a potentially disruptive force in the financial markets. But there have always been such forces — wars, natural disasters, political turmoil, and so on — and while they have caused volatility for a while, the markets regained its footing, sooner or later. And the most successful investors were the ones who stayed the course throughout the disruptive events, rather than jumping out of the market until things cooled down. This doesn't mean you should never make changes in response to market conditions — at times, you may need to adjust your portfolio somewhat. But by following a long-term strategy based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals, you'll be better equipped to cope with market gyrations.

Tariffs can lead to uncertainties in the financial world. But by thinking carefully about how you might respond, you can bring more clarity to your own situation.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
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Contributed by David McDonough, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones
 Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302, Leonardtown, MD 20650
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A View From The BLEACHERS



The Gr8 Familiar

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

It is a dreary Saturday afternoon after a monsoon blew through Southern Maryland. Walking in the yard sounds like skipping across a saturated sponge. Best to settled in for some deep couch sitting and, what's this, an encore showing of "Avengers: Infinity War".

No happy endings with this one: Thanos victorious, the Avengers broken and half the universe's beings reduced to dust by the combined power of the Infinity Stones and the snap of Thanos's fingers. Those left were more confused than hurt, unable to process the speed and depth of change. It feels like College Park was just a victim of Thanos's omnipotence. Just days after the best season in men's basketball in a decade, the coach (his name will not be typed here) and every player of consequence is gone – to graduation, to the NBA Draft, to the transfer portal. New names and faces are gradually filling the vacancies, but the only thing familiar about next season will be the jerseys.

Familiar. It is a highly valued commodity as a child. As one ages into adulthood, there's an assumed disruption, as life, opportunity, school, career, friend groups and significant others pull in all directions. Then mid-life arrives, somehow by surprise despite society's and an aging body's strict and inescapable keeping of time, and familiarity again becomes a desired state of mind and being. And for a world that encountered a pandemic and has been on tilt ever since, the added disruption and confusion has created great weight on conscious minds that crave a recognizable stasis.

Even in chaos, seekers can find familiarity. It can be in simple things: a spouse's warm smile, a favorite dish, a drive through town or the feel and smell of a dear pet hugged tightly to one's chest. There is familiarity in big things too: the moon overhead on a clear night, the incomprehensible beauty of mountains extending into the horizon when viewed from a peak in Shenandoah National Park, a sports team you've followed all your life, or in a star player that feels like a friend despite you never having met.

Reflecting on Terps basketball, this season won't be anomaly; it is indicative of the way things are and a predictor of the future more than a one-off created by the confluence of strange circumstances. Stated more bluntly, there will never be another Juan Dixon or Len Bias, players we watched grow up over four years and grow into a national champion and the greatest player in program history.

Local pro sports have provided a few athletes that were "Great Oaks" in our lives. Skins fans enjoyed 20 seasons with Darrell Green. Ravens fans had a similar run with Ray Lewis. The greatest example, and something out of a fairy tale, was Cal Ripken Jr.'s career with the Orioles. Local kid. Dad worked for the O's. Drafted by the team. Played 21 seasons in Baltimore. Won two MVPs, a World Series, sets the consecutive games played record and punches an immediate ticket into the Hall of Fame. Does it get any better than that?

No, but it can get as good.

Alex Ovechkin has been in the news of late for an extraordinary feat: breaking Wayne Gretzky's goals scored record by netting number 895. In a sport where 50 goals in a season is an extraordinary accomplishment, scoring nearly 900 once seemed impossible. Ovechkin has disregarded previously held hockey and human limits. After being the top overall pick in the 2004 NHL Draft, Ovechkin's career in Washington has somehow exceeded all expectations: perennial all-star, three Hart Trophies (MVP), nine Rocket Richard Trophies (league leader in goals scored), a Conn Smythe Trophy (playoff MVP), a Stanley Cup, and now the all-time goals scored record.

Immediate thoughts of Ovechkin lock on these superlatives. In the afterglow of his record-breaking goal, though, there is something else, something extraordinarily simple. For 20 years now, flipping on a Caps game has meant seeing Ovechkin, D.C.'s great hockey oak, on the ice. The hits, the tooth-challenged grin and that that glorious shot from his "office": In an otherwise ever-changing world, Ovechkin's unchanged and perfectly familiar.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

We have endured March weather for April so far, making fishing conditions difficult. However, if the forecasts can be trusted, good weather starts this week: temperatures in the 60's and 70's building to a glorious 80 degrees on Saturday. The fishing is already good and will break wide open on the warmth.

Catfishing is excellent in the upper Potomac and Patuxent.

Big fish can be expected from the Benedict Bridge in the Patuxent north to Croom and Jug Bay.

The Potomac has catfish from Breton Bay to downtown Washington. Catfish can be caught from Abel's Wharf in Leonardtown, and Bushwood Wharf in the Wicomico.

Bass and crappie are active in St. Mary's Lake. The crappie love live minnows. The hungry male crappie are up in the brush piles along the bank.

White perch should make an appearance in the creeks this week. They will hit blood-worm baits and live minnows fished on the bottom. Beetle Spin and Perch Hounder lures will draw some strikes.

We are a month away from the opening of the Striped bass (rockfish) season (May 16). There will be plenty for trollers and lure casters.



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In Remembrance

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

John Reed, 82



John Carroll Reed, also lovingly known as "Bump", son of Agnes "Irene" Saxon-Fenwick was born on November 11, 1942, in Hermanville, Maryland. He

peacefully departed this life surrounded by his children at home in Hollywood, Maryland on April 1, 2025, after a lengthy battle with serious illnesses. John (Bump) was the oldest of six siblings.

John received his diploma from George Washington Carver High School in 1961 and then decided to join the United States Army in 1962. Upon leaving the Army in 1964, he went to work for the Naval Air Warfare Center, at Patuxent River, MD. After years of dedicated service, he retired from NAWC in September 1999.

John also had another dedication he enjoyed the most; the love of his life, Paula A. Reed, whom he joined in matrimony on July 1, 1977, and their three children, along with his many family and friends he loved spending time with. After a short period of being retired, "Bump" needed to keep active, so he took a job as a Security Officer at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, which he loved. Here, as only Bump could do, he made many more friends who became family.

Bump was a warm and welcoming type that did not have any problems with telling what's on his mind. You could sit and talk to him about anything or listen to him impart his life's experiences. He was never one to judge, but he would let you know about yourself if needed (laughs for days).

He loved spending time with his family, enjoyed playing cards with family and friends, watching sports, especially his LA Dodgers, Baltimore Orioles, and his Baltimore Ravens, as well as going fishing and teaching all things fishing to the younger generation. A lover of the great outdoors, when you visited the house, you could pull up anytime and he would be sitting at the picnic table or in his chair enjoying nature. He enjoyed his trips to the Foxy Fish restaurant with his siblings, nieces, and friends. Foxy Fish will miss him (LOL). He loved his many trips that we took, Vegas, Hawaii, and the Grand Canyon, which was extra fun. A life truly lived to the fullest until God called him home.

Bump was preceded in death by his loving wife, Paula Reed, his mom, Irene Fenwick, brother, Harris Reed, grandmother, Bessie Saxon, and granddad, Thomas "Mr. Tom" Greenwell, Uncle Paul Saxon/Aunt Lena, Aunt Emma Hebb, Aunt Julia Saxon, niece, Lessie Reed-Bradford, brothers-in-law George Awkward, Thomas "Junior" Awkward, and many others.

He leaves fond memories in the hearts of his three children, daughter, Charlene Cooper (George), son, Herman Awkward, and daughter, Tameika Thomas (Frank), two grandchildren Shabreene and Candra Awkward (mother Heike), and one great

grandson, Eli, and godson, Erik "Boogie" Spann, Jr. He also leaves behind two brothers, Larry and Michael James, two sisters, Agnes Davis (Carl-deceased) and Charlotte Reed-Holly (Sonny), mother-in-law, Theodoris Awkward, three sisters in-law, Vivian Mills (John), Jackie Johnson (Lowell), Dorothy Reed, and brothers in-law Ronnie Awkward (Charlethia), Roger Awkward, (Mary- deceased), and Raymond Awkward (Daisy-Mae-deceased), and a load of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, and a ton of friends that will greatly miss him. God says, I have John in my loving care until you meet again. He's holding Paula once again. REST IN PEACE DAD!

The family will receive friends on Friday, April 25, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Bishop John Briscoe officiating. Interment will follow in Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Cemetery, Lexington Park, MD.

The repast will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall in Lexington Park, MD.

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.

Mary Wathen, 89



Mary Alwilda Wathen, 89, of Compton, MD, formerly of Hollywood, MD, passed away on April 12, 2025, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on March 9, 1936, in Hollywood, MD, she was the daughter of the late Helen Marie Clarke and the late Joseph George Clarke. Mary was the loving wife of the late John Plowden Wathen, Sr., whom she married on May 5, 1956, in St. John's Catholic Church, and who preceded her in death on May 13, 1987. In addition to her parents and husband, Mary was preceded in death by her son, James A. Wathen, and her siblings, John R. Clarke, Joseph A. Clarke, Joseph Clarke, Gregory Clarke, Sister Caroline M. Clarke of Nazareth, KY, George F. Clarke of VA, Edward J. Clarke of Hollywood, MD, Helen G. Norris of Hollywood, MD, Richard B. Clarke of Hollywood, MD, and Catherine M. Clarke of Hollywood, MD. Mary is survived by her children, John P. Wathen, Jr. of Compton, MD, Catherine M. Owens of Leonardtown, MD, Leonard E. Wathen of Medley's Neck, MD, and George William Wathen of Compton, MD, seven grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

Mary was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. She was a homemaker and enjoyed playing bingo, skipbo, sewing, puzzles, watching gameshows on TV, bird-watching, and putting up decorations for the holidays. Most of all, she cherished the time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Monday, April 28, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with the rosary recited at 6:45 PM, followed by prayers at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 10:00 AM in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Leonardtown, MD, with Rev. Ted Hegnauer officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD.

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.

Joe Ferguson, 85



Joseph "Joe" Mitchell Ferguson Sr., 85, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Joe was born in Hollywood, St. Mary's County,

Maryland to John and Mildred Ferguson on June 29, 1939. Joe married Marilyn Wood and they resided in southern Maryland. He is survived by his children Vickie Bowles (Larry), Joe Jr "Bubby", Donna Irons (John), Michael (Theresa), Robert, Kimmy Lumpkins (Keith) and Billy Tucker (Laurie). He is also survived by 18 grandchildren, 9 great-children, 1 great-great grandchild and two siblings Francis "Fergie" and Edna.

Joe is preceded in death by his parents, siblings John, Edward, Philly and Patsy and daughter Kim Tucker.

Joe attended St. John's School. He entered the National Guard in 1961 and after serving two years, Joe started his life-long delivery career as a milk delivery driver – yes, house to house delivery. He then went on to be employed at Wonder Bread as a delivery driver for 30 years before retiring in 2000.

Joe was a dedicated Richard Petty fan and had a very large collection of Richard Petty memorabilia that he was very proud of. As an avid fan of Stock Car Racing, he enjoyed working on race cars and going to the local dirt tracks every time he could. Joe was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and friend. You could sometimes find Joe at a corner store playing his favorite KENO numbers. He always had a quick wit in which he spared no one, you had to be on your toes at all times, Joe enjoyed a good laugh!

Our many thanks go to Hospice of St. Mary's MedStar for his care during his end of days. Joe took a piece of all of our hearts with him but he also left a piece of his heart which will be with us forever. Until we meet again Joe...you will be missed.

Services for Joe will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650. The family will receive friends from 10:00-11:00am with a service to follow at 11:00am. Interment will be held at Mt Zion Cemetery, 27108 Mt Zion Church Road,

Mechanicsville, Maryland 20659.

Pallbearers will be Nicholas Irons, Robert Ferguson, Mark Bush, River Lumpkins, John Bowles and Michael Ferguson. Honorary pallbearer will be Billy Tucker.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Bill Clark, 88



It is with deep sorrow that the family of William "Bill" Thomas Clark announces his passing on April 15, 2025, at the age of 88. Born in Essersville, Virginia, on April 14, 1937, he was the beloved son of Lola Mae Hale and Charles Baynard Clark.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, Bill will be fondly remembered for his steadfast character, his love of family, and his dedication to both his country and his community.

Bill married his high school sweetheart, Clarius Tracy Clark, on May 4, 1959, in Aurora, Illinois. Together, they shared a lifetime of love and partnership. A proud veteran, Bill honorably served in the United States Air Force for 30 years, achieving the distinguished rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Following his military retirement, he found joy in spending time with his loved ones, perfecting his cornbread recipe, and working on John Deere equipment—a reflection of his hands-on nature and enduring work ethic.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Clarius Clark and is survived by his siblings, Sue Pierce (John), George Clark (Josie), and Steve Clark (Margaret); his children, David Alan Clark (Patti), Danny Edward Clark (Randy), and Tracy Clark Levine (Scott); his grandchildren, Jennifer L. Clark, Alan T. Clark (Leah), and Clark T. Levine; and his sisters-in-law, Orlies Dreas (Conrad) and Glada Hearn.

The family will receive friends on Monday, April 21, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, Maryland. A memorial service will be held at the same location on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 10:00 AM, followed by interment at Queen of Peace Cemetery in Helen, Maryland. The Pallbearers will include David Clark, Alan Clark, Clark Levine, Scott Levine, Pat Tennyson, and Francis Tennyson.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend and honor Bill's life as well as share memories and support one another during this time of loss.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

St. Mary's 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, Apr 18

Virtual Bake Auction

SDVFDRS Auxiliary Facebook page
2nd Dist. Volunteer Fire Department
and Rescue Squad Social Hall
45245 Drayden Rd., Valley Lee
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If interested in donating a bake good, please contact Jennifer at 301-247-9288 / email jasanders99@yahoo.com. by Thursday, April 17. Request all donations be dropped off on April 18 by 10:00 a.m. at 2nd Dist. Social Hall. That will allow enough time to take pictures and upload on Facebook.

Bidding starts at 12:00 p.m. on April 18 and ends at 12:00 p.m. on April 19. Go to SDVFDRS Auxiliary Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pg/SDVFDRS-Auxiliary-260355781452833/posts/) to view and bid.

Winners will be posted online, Saturday, April 19th, after 12:00 p.m. All winners must pick-up their items on Saturday, April 19th, between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at

the 2nd District Social Hall.

Cash or check accepted. Make checks payable to 2nd Dist. VFD & RS Aux.

Proceeds from this fundraiser support the Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad.

Drive Thru Fried Shrimp Dinner

Seventh District Firehouse
21660 Colton Pt. Rd., Avenue
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Cost \$20.00 per dinner. Menu includes 8 fried shrimp, fries, coleslaw, cornbread and desserts. Thanks in advance for your support.

Check your smoke alarms. Keep your family safe.

Sat, Apr 19

Annual Easter Eggstravaganza

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
Bingo Hall & Field
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
Noon to 3 p.m.

Please join us at the Hollywood-Leonardtown Optimist Club's Annual Easter Eggstravaganza!! This is a FREE event for the first 150 kids 12 and under. Get pictures with the Easter Bunny, paint eggs, play games, and have a chance to win 1 of 4 bikes, 1 of 4 giant stuffed bunnies, or 1 of 12 filled Easter baskets. There will also be a raffle for a giant Easter basket stuffed full of toys, games and candy. Every kid gets a free goody bag and bunny ears, plus a free hot dog, French fries, popcorn, and small drink (sold at cost for those over 12). There will also be a bake sale. Hope to see you at this fun-filled event!

Sun, Apr 20

Sunrise Service

Hollywood Church of the Nazarene
24710 Sotterley Rd., Hollywood
6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

Bring the whole family to the field by the trailer for our traditional Easter

Sunrise Service! Bring a blanket! Chairs provided. www.facebook.com/events/1232232661842970

Thu, Apr 24

Coffee with the Sheriff

Loffler Senior Activity Center
21905 Chancellors Run Rd., Great Mills
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Cost: Free

The TRIAD/SALT Council invites you to have Coffee with the Sheriff! Are you interested in learning about the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office? Do you want to know more about issues that affect you? This is an opportunity to ask Sheriff Hall directly. Advance registration is required by calling 301-475-4200 ext. 1074 or emailing Nicoletta.Pollice@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Dark blacks

7. Construct a wall to confine

13. Most inappropriate

14. A type of board

16. Sacred Hindu syllable

17. Flatterer

19. The Granite State

20. Tears down

22. China's Chairman

23. Former Houston footballer

25. Periods of time

26. Expressed pleasure

28. World alliance

29. A Brit's mother

30. Television network

31. Brother or sister

33. Type of spirit

34. ___ Ladd, actor

36. A medium oversees it

38. One time province of British India

40. Wrong

41. The highest parts of something

43. Insect

44. Baseball stat

45. A way to use up

47. Where wrestlers compete

48. It helps elect politicians

51. As fast as can be done

53. Genus of legumes

55. Samoa's capital

56. Monument in Jakarta

58. Former French coin

59. Exploiters

60. College sports official

61. Uninterrupted in time

64. Stephen King story

65. Marked by no sound

67. Weathers

69. Denouncements

70. More beloved
1. Winged nut

2. It cools a home

3. Kisses (French)

4. Oxford political economist

5. Keyboard key

6. Leaf pores

7. Agrees with publicly

8. Not around

9. Czech city

10. Muscle cell protein

11. Greek letter

12. Movements

13. Ned ___, composer

15. Popular series Game of ___

18. Exclamation that denotes disgust

21. Helper

24. Gift

26. Up in the air (abbr.)

27. Treat without respect

30. Trims

32. Slang for lovely

35. City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)

37. Guitarists' tool

38. Island nation

39. Delivered in installments

42. A baglike structure

43. Cooking vessel

46. Gets in front of

47. Wounded by scratching

49. More breathable

50. Medical dressings

52. Indiana hoopster

54. Married Marilyn

55. An ancient Assyrian city

57. Congressmen (abbr.)

59. Approves food

62. Ventura's first name

63. Between northeast and east

66. Atomic #71

68. Email designation

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Fri, Apr 18

The Passion of Christ Outdoor Passion Play FREE

200 Calvert Beach Rd, St. Leonard
8-10 p.m.

Experience the Story of God's Love!
Admission: FREE

Eco-Invaders

Calvert Marine Museum
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Explore how fragile the bay ecosystem can be when nonnative animals or plants are introduced and begin to take over. Play the Aqua-invaders game (ages 6+) to learn how native species are affected by Eco-Invaders at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., or 2 p.m. Programming is included with museum admission.

Maritime Performance Series – JOSH GOFORTH

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

Josh grew up in Madison County, North Carolina, surrounded by the music and stories of his ancestors. He is a highly accomplished storyteller and old-time bluegrass and swing musician, playing close to 20 instruments. Doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online, up to one day prior \$25 the day of the concert, online and at the door.

Rooftop Car & Truck Show

Rod N Reel
4165 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

On the rooftop of the Rod N Reel parking garage by the Chesapeake Bay. Free auto magazines. 410-535-1932

Sat, Apr 19

Fossil Egg Hunt

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – noon

Participate in our annual fossil egg hunt!

Look for eggs with real fossils inside, hidden around the museum. Participants will be given a container for egg collection and fossil identification guides; no baskets are needed (limit: 4 eggs per child)! For ages 3 – 10. A follow-up activity (ages 5+) allows you to "excavate" fossils from matrix. Pre-registration is required for this event.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
12-3 p.m.

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

On Pins And Needles

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
2-4 p.m.

If you knit, embroider or crochet, or would like to learn, join us on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Get together with other fiber crafters to learn or develop your skills. Work on projects in progress or start something new! Registration requested. BYOY! (Bring Your Own Yarn!) 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Earth Day 5K Run / Hike

American Chestnut Land Trust
676 Double Oak Rd., Prince Frederick
9:00 a.m.

Run or hike the scenic Parker's Creek Loop. Rain date Sunday, April 20.

Sun, Apr 20

Beyond the Displays: Artifact Stories

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Join Lori for an insightful exploration of the museum's artifacts, uncovering their origins and significance. Discover the history behind the eagle emblem, learn about the name and source for the pig iron, and

explore the significance of the Gov. R. M. McLane name board. Hear captivating stories about WWII's impact on the Solomons community and uncover hidden pictures within the museum murals. It's a unique opportunity to delve into local history and see these artifacts in a new light. Learn something new every tour. Included with museum admission.

Tue, Apr 22

Introduction to Wildlife Photography

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6-7:30 p.m.

Professional photographer Sal Icaza will share years of experience with wildlife photography and information on using manual and automatic setting most effectively. Learn tips, tricks and best practices for your most stunning photographs. Please bring your digital camera to practice along with the presenter! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Apr 23

Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

MD Labor Workforce Development Specialists, Veterans Services, Senior Community Service Employment, and Justice Involved program representatives, along with Health Department staff will be available (in person) to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. Walk-ins are welcome on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Changing Careers Workshop

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Thinking about a new direction? Learn

how to navigate the process of changing your career path. Identify your strengths and transferable skills. Learn how to begin the career-change process efficiently and effectively. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Dinner/Show/Dance

St. John Vianney Family Life Center
105 Vianney Lane, Prince Frederick
Saturday, April 26, 6 p.m. – 11 p.m.;
doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Johnny Seaton and the Bad Behavior Band. Dinner, show, dancing. Beer, wine and sodas by donation. Tickets \$35 advance/\$40 at door per person. Tables available for 6, 7, or 8 people. Visit www.sjvchurch.net (family life center-Johnny Seaton)

Southern Maryland Bluegrass

Calvert Elks Lodge
1015 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
Sunday April 27, 2 p.m.

GRAMMY nominated and 10-time International Bluegrass Music Association Bass Player of the Year, Missy Raines, has received this honor more than any other bass player in the history of the organization. In January of 2020, Missy debuted on the Grand Ole Opry with her band, Allegheny.

Tickets are \$23.00 per person and under 12 free with a paid adult. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs with all the trimmings will be available for sale from Noon until 2:00 pm by the Calvert Elks. Tickets are available at the door. Although not required, if you prefer to pay in advance, you may do so by going to www.somdbluegrass.com or call 301-737-3004.

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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

With Sonar and Some Patience, Geologists Paint a Picture of the Bay's Bottom

Not long after the sun came up, a team of Maryland geologists set out on the Patuxent River.

As they approached the Upper Patuxent Sanctuary, the team prepared the sensing equipment and took preliminary measurements in the water. With a custom crank-and-pulley system, they lowered the interferometric side-scan sonar off the bow. Soon after, they deployed a magnetometer and a sub-bottom profiler to trail in the wake of the boat.

Then they headed forward, following a long, straight line. It was the first line of the day, but one of hundreds the team has conducted over the last two years, part of the diligent work of mapping much of the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Though the Maryland Geological Survey has collected data on the sediment and underlying structure below the water of the Bay for decades, its current work focuses on areas that serve as possible oyster habitat.

"We need this data to determine where the suitable bottom is," Stephen Van Ryswick, the Director of the Maryland Geological Survey, said from the survey boat. "We look at where the new data gives us the most value, where new data can help us make decisions."

It takes careful and precise work to arrive at that data. To make a map of the bottom of a section of the Bay, the team follows a routine they liken to "mowing the lawn"—going back and forth in close, slightly overlapping lines to allow their sensing equipment to get complete coverage. The captain of the boat executes tight turns to keep them on track.

Before setting out the equipment, the team took a measurement of the velocity of sound across different depths of the water, letting them make corrections for subtle changes. As they coursed along a steady line, the sensing equipment beamed live data onto the boat. The quantities of data are considerable, often up to 30 gigabytes in a day. While the staff processes much of the data back in the office, some of the information from the riverbed goes directly to the screens on the boat.

Survey geologists Joseph Allman and Gillian Branam watched closely as monitors displayed the trajectory of the boat and the readings from the equipment. A red column marked the bathymetry, the depth of the water below, while yellow bars pocked with red dots showed the "loudness" of the riverbed, where the sonar finds harder surface layers. Sometimes the readings illuminate paleochannels, ancient river channels from 18,000 to 450,000 years ago, now filled in with sediment.

"A lot of the day is paying attention to five different screens, and each one has at least five different things going on," Branam said.

They collect data in the winter months—usually from November to March—so that crab pot floats and other boats won't disrupt their fine tracings of waterways, and so schools of fish and submerged aquatic



For ground truthing, or confirming their readings with material observations, the team pulls up samples and analyze the quality of the bottom, whether it's mud or soft sand—or filled with oyster shells. The team sometimes also uses an underwater camera to look at areas of the bottom. Photo by Joe Zimmermann/DNR

vegetation don't obstruct their readings. But the winter comes with its own challenges, as the crew works through cold temperatures and schedules around ice and wind.

The side-scan sonar with interferometric swath bathymetry system—which, through some creative engineering, remains directly beneath the front of the boat—collects surface layer and depth data over a 150-meter-wide swath, while the sub-bottom profiler provides more detail on the sediment beneath the surface layer. The torpedo-shaped magnetometer detects the presence of metal material, which tells scientists if there are any possible shipwrecks or archeological artifacts in an area.

To confirm the data collected, the team also pulls up samples using a Petite Ponar grab sampler, which scoops patches of sediment so they can make sure their findings match what's actually on the bottom. They take notes on the mud, sand, and shell they find, before pouring it back into the water.

Together, this information shows where there could be habitat for fish spawning, benthic communities, bay grasses, and—critically—oysters. The current Bay bottom mapping work is funded by a law passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2022, supporting the department's efforts to survey the extent of existing oyster reefs and potential future habitat. To grow to maturity, juvenile oysters require a substrate of hard bottom or other shells.

"Knowing the bottom type is crucial for implementing successful oyster projects," said Chris Judy, shellfish division director of the Maryland Department of Natural

Resources. "These surveys will update habitat maps that date back many decades."

Surveyors first mapped Maryland's oyster bars in the "Yates survey" of 1906 to 1911. Living on a two-decker house boat for the duration of the project, the hydrographic team relied on local knowledge to arrive at oyster bars. According to a 1997 DNR report, the Yates survey team would "run a zigzag or parallel series of lines across the bar to ascertain its exact limits," with a local assistant holding a "chain-wire apparatus" and feeling the vibrations to determine condition or density of the bottom.

In 1975, the Maryland General Assembly funded initial work on a large-scale Bay bottom mapping survey. For much of this work, DNR crews dragged microphones across the bottom, recorded the sound, and later listened to the tapes to characterize the type of bottom. While the technology has changed considerably, the row-by-row approach, across one patch of the Bay at a time, has remained over the decades. That survey work resulted in the updated numbered oyster bars in charts released from 1981 to 1985.

Survey teams have continued intermittent work since then, but the current Bay bottom mapping work is the start of a comprehensive update to the 1980s charts, with an annual budget of \$2 million from 2024 to 2026. During this statewide remapping effort, MGS surveyors or contractors also assist to assess the Bay bottom at DNR's large-scale oyster projects before oyster plantings or other restoration work occurs.

Accurate bottom data allows scientists to focus their restoration efforts on the hard

bottom that oysters can successfully repopulate. In Maryland's large-scale restoration sanctuaries, scientists have seen promising signs for recovering local oyster populations, with considerable reproduction and the establishment of dense, vertical oyster reef structure.

The Bay bottom mapping team recently completed comprehensive mapping work at Eastern Bay.

As the Department of Natural Resources looks toward the new strategy for Bay restoration that focuses on shallow-water areas, Van Ryswick said bottom surveys could help to identify restoration opportunities in rivers and shallow waterways, areas that are a primary concern of the Whole Watershed Act. In addition to a larger boat that surveys more open water, the MGS team also operates a smaller vessel for shallow areas.

By the end of the day at the Upper Patuxent Sanctuary, the team had completed seven lines, putting about 368 more acres on the map. Branam started to process more of the data on the boat as they headed back to the dock, the area they had mapped filling the screen, line by line, in varying hues of yellow and red. What starts as a process of mowing the lawn ends up producing a vivid map of striking color, a catalogue of information that will shape the understanding of what lies beneath the water for years to come.

"The finished mosaic is really pretty," Branam said. "It's basically science art."

By Joe Zimmermann, science writer with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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Lusby Resident Honored for Arctic Science Research



From left: Jay A. Perman (USM Chancellor), Jacqueline Grebmeier (UMCES Professor), Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm (UMCES President) and Linda R. Gooden (Board of Regents Chair). Credit: Thomas Nappi.

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Professor Jacqueline Grebmeier of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) has received a 2025 Excellence in Scholarship or Research Award, the highest honor bestowed by the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents to recognize exemplary faculty achievement.

Dr. Grebmeier of Lusby, a professor at UMCES' Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL), was awarded the honor for "exceptional scholarship or research that extends or deepens the bounds of knowledge." Grebmeier is one of several scientists at the state-supported Solomons laboratory who conducts field research in the Arctic. For 40 years, she has specialized in understanding how ecosystems at high latitudes are responding to climate warming and the loss of sea ice.

"I appreciate this award as an honor for myself and our research team because it recognizes the value of the many years of long term, time series and cooperative studies that are tracking the ecosystem response to warming seawater and declining sea ice conditions in the Polar North," Grebmeier said.

Notably, she has led the development of the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO), which was established to monitor ecosystem response to warming conditions in the Pacific Arctic. Recently, the DBO concept has expanded globally through a Pan-Arctic DBO network of developing international programs in the Arctic.

"Dr. Grebmeier's initiation and deployment of the DBO system has been transformative to understanding how the Arctic ecosystem has been changing over the past few decades and predictions of future changes," said Dr. Carys Mitchelmore, CBL Interim Director. "Her expertise is called upon by international governments, agencies, and other groups around the world to monitor and understand changes in ecosystems."

Mitchelmore continued, "Jacqueline's scholarship and research portfolio is outstanding in terms of global impact, interna-

tional recognition, and funding support for her Arctic ecosystem program. Her expertise and collaborative approach have been called upon to advise the national, including the executive branch, and international Arctic programs. Her high-quality long-term research datasets have been instrumental in informing national and international policy decisions."

Grebmeier's contributions have been formally recognized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Arctic Science Committee, and the North Pacific Research Board. She has led many ship-based research programs, serving as a co-chief scientist on a 2022 cruise that included a stop at the North Pole aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Healy. She is also a former member of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, a federal agency that advises the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch on Arctic research needs.

Dr. Grebmeier completed her Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She holds an M.M.A. in Marine Resource Management from the University of Washington Seattle, an M.S. in Biology from Stanford University, and a B.A. in Zoology from the University of California, Davis; indeed, she exemplifies the caliber and spirit of an UMCES Scientist.

Over UMCES's 100-year history, it has been renowned for its groundbreaking research on coastal and terrestrial ecosystems and boasts many globally eminent faculty scholars.

Grebmeier joins an impressive group of UMCES Faculty Members who have received Regents Faculty Awards, including Professors Xin Zhang, Eric Schott, Jeffrey Cornwell, Mario Tamburri, Russell Hill, Tom Miller, Andrew Elmore, Keith Eshleman, Patricia Glibert, Rose Jagus, Rodger Harvey, Ed Houde, Michael Kemp, Tom Malone, Margaret Palmer, Allen Place, David Secor, and Diane Stoecker.

Press release from UMCES

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of March 31, 2025 – April 6, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,284 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 78
- Disorderly: 22
- Domestic: 33
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 38
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 948
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 29
- Traffic Complaints: 89
- Traffic Stops: 544
- 911 Hang Ups: 62
- ARRESTS: 49



Yulia Gennadyevna Uvarova

Burglary:

25-26394 On April 1, 2025, DFC Aley responded to the 2300 block of Sixes Road in Prince Frederick for a reported trespassing. The investigation revealed that **Yulia Gennadyevna**

Uvarova, 34 of Miami Beach, FL, had entered a residence uninvited and refused to leave the property. Uvarova was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Fourth Degree Burglary.



Derek James Ward

CDS Violation:

25-26660 On April 2, 2025, Sgt. Norton responded to Beach Elementary School, located at 7900 Old Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, for a traffic complaint. The caller reported that a truck

had struck the curb several times before stopping in the school's parking lot. The vehicle then left the property and came to a stop in

the 3900 block of Old Bayside Road. Upon making contact with the driver, identified as **Derek James Ward**, 39, of Friendship, deputies observed a glass smoking device with burn marks in plain view. A probable cause search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of two additional smoking devices, a bag containing numerous white pills (23 whole and 19 broken suspected Alprazolam pills), a folded paper towel and a separate folded piece of paper—both containing suspected crack cocaine—along with \$1,500 in U.S. currency and two cellular phones. Ward was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis (x2), CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute, and CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute: School Bus/Property.



Andre Charles Morris

CDS Violation:

25-26529 On April 1, 2025, Deputy Blackstone responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle at the Solomons Island Boat Ramp, located at 14195 S. Solomons Island Road in Solomons.

Upon arrival, Deputy Blackstone observed a vehicle with its lights off, occupied by three individuals. A strong odor of marijuana was detected coming from inside the vehicle. During the encounter, one of the passengers, identified as **Andre Charles Morris**, 20 of Great Mills, voluntarily handed Deputy Blackstone a bag containing suspected marijuana. A subsequent consent search of the vehicle led to the discovery of a bag containing suspected cocaine and drug paraphernalia. Morris was arrested and charged with CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis and two counts of CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

CDS Violation: 25-26085 On March 31,



Felicia Diane Passmore

Passmore, 36, of Leonardtown. During the stop, a knife was observed in plain view inside the vehicle. Further investigation revealed that Passmore was operating the vehicle on a suspended license. A search of her purse led to the discovery of a pill crusher and three cut straws, all bearing white residue. Passmore was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she charged with Concealing a Dangerous Weapon, CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

Theft: 25-26460 On April 1, 2025, DFC Plant responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office located at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant reported an unknown suspect(s) stole two handicap placards from the victim's two vehicles parked outside a residence in the 6300 block of Hollow Way in Huntingtown. The estimated value of stolen property is \$2.

Theft: 25-27134 On April 3, 2025, DFC R. Jones responded to the 700 block of Hickock Trail in Lusby, for the reported theft. The complainant reported that sometime between March 30 and April 3, an unknown suspect(s) stole the registration plate from the victim's utility trailer. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.

Theft: 25-27096 On April 3, 2025, Deputy Robey responded to the 300 block of Red Cloud Road in Lusby, for the reported

theft. The complainant reported sometime between 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's black Kate Spade wallet and all its contents. Multiple credit cards had been charged with fraudulent transactions. The estimated value of stolen property is \$5,000.

Theft: 25-26971 On April 3, 2025, DFC Huy responded to the 6300 block of Hollow Way in Huntingtown, for a reported theft. The complainant reported sometime between 8 p.m. on March 27 and 3:50 a.m. on March 28, an unknown suspect(s) broke into the victim's vehicle and stole clothing. The estimated value of stolen property is \$80.

Theft: 25-27056 On April 3, 2025, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the 3200 block of Hewitt Court in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant reported an unknown suspect(s) stole the new registration stickers off a vehicle parked at the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$150.

Theft: 25-28026 On April 6, 2025, DFC Sturdivant responded to the 100 block of Miss Sam's Way in Huntingtown, for the reported theft. The complainant reported his yellow DeWalt 400 psi pressure washer and hoses were stolen out of his shed. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,000.

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

Holbrook Convicted of Murder

On April 9, 2025, following an eight-day trial, a Calvert County jury convicted Brandon Ross Holbrook of the murder of Joseph Shymanski.

Shymanski, a prominent Washington, DC, photographer and businessman, was shot by Holbrook in the driveway of his home on September 3, 2023. Holbrook then transported the body to his home in Reedsville, PA, where he dismembered and burned it.

Investigators recovered Shymanski's remains and developed Holbrook as a suspect.

Video evidence identified Holbrook's vehicle as being in the vicinity of Shymanski's home at the time of the shooting. Forensic evidence linked Holbrook to the dismemberment and burning of the body.

Holbrook will be sentenced on July 18, 2025. The state is seeking life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.



Brandon Ross Holbrook

The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorneys Benjamin G. Lerner and Christopher J. Monte.

Press release from Calvert County State's Attorney

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Public Reacts to Schools' Mission Statement Change

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The controversy generated by the change of Calvert County Public Schools' mission statement, including removal of "supportive" and "inclusive," spilled over to the public forum at the school board's April 10 meeting. Twenty speakers are allowed to address the board and 20 spoke, largely on the mission statement change, with both pros and cons being aired.

Jana Barbero said, "My understanding of the mission statement is that it needs to be brief and clear."

She noted, "The mission statement in May 2021 read, 'The Calvert County Board of Education ensures excellence in education for our students through vigilant oversight, sound policies, and meaningful community engagement.' It is impossible by most standards to say one is against clean air, clean water, and supporting and including special needs students. Each one of us here supports these things. By not including the verbiage 'inclusive,' it does not mean that special needs students are excluded.

"In addition, according to the US Constitution, the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment prohibits states from denying any person within their jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. This clause has shaped American educational policies and ensured equal educational opportunities irrespective of race, gender, or other characteristics. This means that all students are protected. In response to anyone who believes that special education students were referred to by a BOE member as

'homeless dogs,' upon a simple review of the March 27th, BOE videotape one hears, 'We can't save all the homeless dogs and feed all the families at the same time. We have to focus on what we can control. So, when you get into the other elements, your strategic goal or mission statement can't encompass everything.'"

Board member Pat Harrison, who made the statement, later defended his advocacy for special education.

Chelsea Gallihugh also cited the constitution in her comments opposing the mission statement change. She said, "I'd like to ask how you would revise this mission statement. 'We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, established justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.' I shudder to think which parts you would deem superfluous."

Gallihugh observed, "I think Mr. Harrison, when you said that we need to focus on what we can control, you are absolutely right, but we can't control achievement. I asked my son how he learns best, and he didn't say, 'When my teacher writes math problems on the board. He didn't say, 'When we do a read aloud.' He said, 'When other kids aren't mean to me. When kids are mean to me, I can't focus on the learning that's happening.'"

She added, "There's a lot of things that affect achievement: sleep, whether there's clean clothes, hunger, shelter, health resources, friendship, sense of connection.

Way down the list is instructional strategies. What we can control is a sense of connection, an inclusive and supportive learning environment. That's what we can guarantee that we provide for students, so they are able to learn."

Peta Sinclair, representing Concerned Black Women of Calvert's government affairs team, expressed "strong opposition to any proposals aimed at removing the emphasis on inclusion and equity from the mission of Calvert County Public Schools. Such a change poses a significant risk, particularly to our special education students, and undermines the progress we have collectively strived to make in creating a supportive and equitable educational environment.

"Inclusion and equity are not merely concepts. They are essential components of a well-rounded education that acknowledges and values the diverse needs of all students. Removing these principles from our mission could exasperate the challenges faced by students with disabilities, limiting their access to the same quality of education and opportunities as their peers."

She added, "By prioritizing inclusivity and equity, we not only enhance the educational experience for these students but also promote a culture of empathy and respect within our entire school community."

But Jeremy Todzia, education chair for the Calvert County Republican Central Committee, said, "I'm here today to encourage all of you to continue the fight for the non-woke Calvert values that all of you campaigned on and were overwhelmingly elected to. As you transition from the budget to policy, the liberal Democrats in

the county are sending a shot across your 'diverse' bow. Their game plan is to intimidate you into keeping your hands off their sacred cow 'diversity, equity, and inclusion,' or as I like to call it, 'discrimination, exclusion and indoctrination.'

"A fight over a modest change to the mission statement of CCPS is a warning of what is to come."

He added, "I'm here on behalf of the 30,000 registered Republicans in Calvert County that wanted change, voted for change and support all of you in making that change. I would also encourage all of you to read President Trump's executive order dated 29 January 2025, titled 'Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling.' Parents trust America's schools to provide our children with a rigorous education and to instill a patriotic admiration for our incredible nation and the values for which we stand. In recent years, however, parents have witnessed schools indoctrinate their children in radical anti-American ideologies, while deliberately blocking parental oversight. Such an environment operates as an echo chamber in which students are forced to accept these ideologies without question or critical examination. In many cases, innocent children are compelled to adopt identities as either victims or oppressors solely based on skin color or other immutable characteristics. Imprinting, anti-American, subversive, harmful, and false ideologies on our nation's children not only violates longstanding anti-discrimination civil rights laws in many cases but usurps basic parental authority."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Administrator Announces Retirement

Calvert County announces the retirement of County Administrator Julian "Mark" Willis, effective June 30, 2025.

A county press release said, "Willis, a dedicated public servant and leader, has played an integral role in shaping the county's growth and development through his esteemed career."

Willis was appointed county administrator in 2020, following his tenure as the director of planning & zoning from 2016 to 2019. Prior to this, he served as deputy director of public works, overseeing critical infrastructure programs, including the solid waste and water & sewer enterprise fund programs, highway maintenance, and the fleet maintenance and management division, where he was the first to hold the position from 2000 to 2016.

The release said, "Before transitioning to local government, Willis served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps for more than 21 years. Willis spent 10 years as an enlisted Marine and 10 years as an officer after earning a degree in Psychology from the University of Florida.

"Growing up as a tenant farmer, he learned the value of hard work and perseverance at a young age. Those lessons shaped his leader-

ship style and work ethic throughout his life and military career. His impressive military career included roles as a Marine Corps drill instructor at Parris Island, South Carolina; an instructor at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York; and air delivery platoon commander at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He also held a pivotal role in manpower management at U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters.

Willis' service as a ground combat Marine included three combat tours, and he was the most junior Marine assigned to the original mission to free American hostages in Iran in 1979-1980. His extensive military education includes graduating with honors from the Army Combined Logistics Advanced Officers course and the Army War College at Fort Lee, Virginia. He is also a distinguished honor graduate from the U.S. Army Ranger and Airborne schools, as well as the U.S. Army Rigger school.

"Beyond his professional achievements, Willis has been deeply committed to the community, serving on numerous boards, including the Calvert County Historical Society, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, Relay for Life, Distinguished Young Women and as president of his homeowners asso-

ciation. He is a proud 2014 graduate of Leadership Maryland and a 2021 graduate of the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy."

"Mark Willis has been an invaluable asset to Calvert County, leading with integrity, dedication and a deep commitment to our community," said Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) President Earl "Buddy" Hance. "From his decades of distinguished military service to his pivotal roles in county government, Mark has shaped our county and the progress we see today. His vision, hard work and desire for public service are an inspiration to all, and we wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement."

Reflecting on his career, Willis said, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve this community. I am grateful for the many dedicated colleagues I've worked alongside and for the trust the citizens have placed in me over the years. My legacy is that while I was tough at times, I maintained a 'fair is fair' approach to every county employee and expressed a sincere desire to provide the best possible service to our citizens. They deserve the best we can offer."

Willis has a personal motto, credited to



County Administrator Mark Willis

civil rights campaigner Rita Mae Brown, that has guided his career: "If the action we are about to take does not make us better, don't take it."

The BOCC and all of Calvert County Government extends their deepest gratitude to Mark Willis for his outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication. His legacy of service will leave a lasting impact on our community.

School Board Briefed on Discipline Initiatives

Post Says More Work Needs to Be Done

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Student misbehavior has been a topic of concern at the Calvert County Board of Education for years. Staff have continued to work on the problem and presented some initiatives to the school board at their April 10 meeting. But Board President Jana Post isn't satisfied and feels more work needs to be done.

With classroom disruption, Post said, "I think it's safe to say, we can all agree that there is no teaching happening, there is no learning happening for any of the students."

During the Power Point presentation by Supervisor of Student Services Suzanne McGowan and Director of Special Education Dr. Kendy Anderson, the board was given an update on the controversial use of restraint and seclusion.

McGowan reported, "In the school year 2018, there were 576 restraints and 701 seclusions. In 2019, 750 and 386; 2020, 70 and 78; 20 21, 12 and 16. And in 2022, seclusions were prohibited. So that's why you see it fall off the chart. In 2022, 19 total; 2023, 12; 20 24, 28."

She said, "In 2023-24, we established a restraint committee. And so, we review restraints when there is video, and we use it as a teaching tool, and then behavior specialists go back in and coach. critique, and train those who are involved in those with students throughout the county."

Post asked, "What happens when you have a situation where a student may need to be secluded, such as somebody who maybe has sensory overload. What would you do in a situation where the student may benefit from, from being removed, from whatever is happening? How do you handle those?"

Anderson said, "There's a difference between seclusion and exclusion. Seclusion is when you put a student in a room by themselves, often with the door closed. Exclusion is when you remove them from the situation. But you're coaching the student, you're talking them through that, you're redirecting. It's that alone seclusion piece that is really problematic and as in they would be unattended. Oftentimes people are outside looking through a window, but if there's a trauma response that happens with regard to that versus somebody coaching you, you can liken it to your own children when they're really struggling and you're kind of elbow to elbow with them and talking them through or saying to them, 'I'm going give you a minute. Can you take a deep breath?' That would be exclusion versus seclusion."

Post said, "In order to consider all of the things, we have to ask questions and have some discussion, even when it's not always that easy. It is really easy to put a PowerPoint presentation together and say that these are all the implementations. On the other hand, it may not necessarily be as easy. You all certainly know far better than me, but I have had my own experiences with

my own children in a classroom and have also talked to and heard from a lot of educators and assistants in what kinds of things are happening in their classrooms."

She asked, "What happens when you have a kid that decides that they're going to get underneath the desk and they're going to kick and scream and you can't take them by their arm, you have to figure out how you coax them out."

"So, while I recognize that these might be some tools, I still do think that generally we have a great deal of concerns about the amount of disruptions that are occurring in classrooms on a day-to-day basis."

She noted, "I don't know what that looks like as compared to elementary versus middle versus high school, but I do know that it's causing significant impact across the board, not just with those specific students, but also with the staff that are there in the room and all the other children that are there as well. While I think that these might be some tools that would be useful, I would love to continue to have some conversation and to kind of understand what other things we may do or supports that we may have in place, or how we implement other things to continue to try to change around what's happening."

McGowan said "I agree that we can't translate what's happening in classrooms to a PowerPoint, and I tried to give you data to give you some context. And in my personal opinion, I think we're at the infancy of this, meaning I'm really proud of those numbers



Board of Education President Jana Post

and I'm proud of that for my team because that is a huge investment in our kids, and that lays the groundwork. And one training in any of these categories is not going to change things for our staff or our students.

It is that mindset, continuous growth, and always moving forward. I don't think you said this, but I would caution expanding ideas too far. I think the departments of Student Services and Special Ed agree that we have the right framework. It's about the intensity, the retraining."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Calvert Celebrates Easter



There were a lot of smiling faces at the annual Easter egg hunt at Hallowing Point Park. Photo courtesy of Calvert County Parks and Recreation Department.

Applicants Sought for North Beach Vacancy

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A vacancy with the North Beach Town Council has been announced and the town is actively seeking applicants for the position.

Mayor Mike Benton at the April 10 town council meeting said the vacancy has occurred because Councilwoman Lauren Kabler is leaving the council. Her last day was April 9.

Benton said, "We really hope that we get applicants that want to give back to the town, that want to be involved, that want to come here on the first and second Thursday, that want to be involved in the events. We will make sure that it is advertised, it is promoted."

Shortly thereafter a notice did appear on the town website. It said, "The Council is accepting applications from interested residents who meet the following eligibility requirements (*Subtitle 3, Section 19-302 Town Charter*):

- Must be a resident of North Beach, Maryland for at least six months
- Reside in the Town during the entire term of office
- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Must be a registered voter in the town

"The appointed council member will serve the remainder of the term until the next scheduled election; the current term is 2022-2026. The role requires active participation in monthly council meetings, as well as work on various projects and initiatives to support the town's growth, development, and well-being.

"Interested individuals are invited to submit a letter of interest, along with a brief resume and biography, to info@northbeachmd.org by April 25.

"Applicants may also submit questions for more information prior to applying by emailing info@northbeachmd.org."

"We seek a candidate who is not only deeply committed to serving the wonderful residents of North Beach, but also one who will join hands with our devoted council members to weave a tapestry of progress and unity," said Benton. "We encourage all eligible residents to apply and help make a positive impact in our community."

The council will interview applications and select a qualified candidate. The selected candidate will be sworn in at the May 8 council meeting.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	4	COMMUNITY	7
COPS & COURTS	6	CALENDAR	9

“THERE IS NO TEACHING HAPPENING, THERE...”

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT JANA POST ON DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR



LOCAL 4
Schools hear about discipline initiatives



LOCAL 4
Vacant seat on North Beach Town Council



ON THE COVER
Calvert celebrates Easter

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 17	FRI, APR 18	SAT, APR 19	SUN, APR 20
Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 47°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 63°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 65°	Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 55°
MON, APR 21	TUE, APR 22	WED, APR 23	THU, APR 24
Mostly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 58°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 70° Lo: 54°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 56°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 54°



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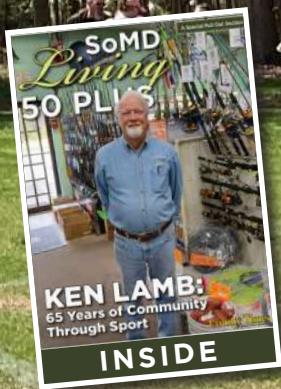
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