

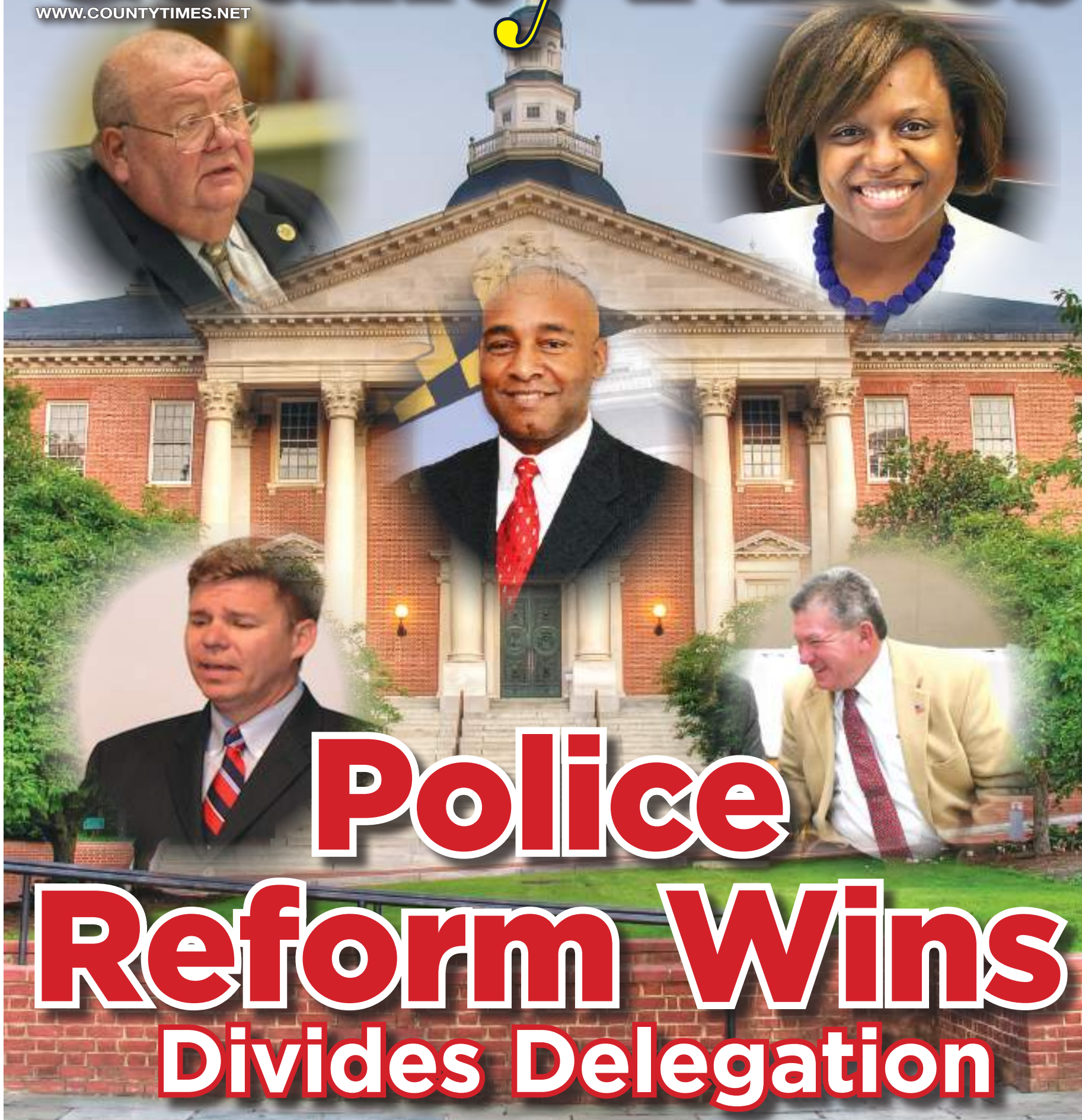
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Home Improvement Guide Inside

Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET



Police Reform Wins Divides Delegation

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FEATURE 11
Calvert County's legislative delegation was divided along party lines over the police reform package that passed this legislative session.



LOCAL 6
State's Attorney Robert Harvey opposed juvenile sentencing changes.



COMMUNITY 23
Big Conversation deals with healthcare trust.

“HANG IN THERE. WE ARE GETTING THERE.”
CHESAPEAKE BEACH COUNCILMAN CHARLES FINK ON GETTING THROUGH COVID-19.



Calvert County Prescription Medication "Take-Back" Day
Saturday, April 24, 2021
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Remove unused and expired medications from your home.
- Keep prescription medications from being abused.
- Prevention, treatment and recovery information will be available.
- Deter medication drug disposal packets will be available FREE of charge for residents. The packets allow medications to be deactivated and thrown in your household trash. Limit of three packets per family, while supplies last.

No questions asked!

LOCATIONS:

- Calvert County Sheriff's Office
Prince Frederick
- Maryland State Police, Barrack "U"
Prince Frederick
- Harriet E. Brown Community Center*
Prince Frederick
- Northeast Community Center
Chesapeake Beach
- Southern Community Center*
Lusby

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For more information, call 410-535-3733

*Residents visiting the Harriett Brown and Southern Community centers can receive a FREE 15 minute Narcan training and receive a Narcan kit.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 4/15 68° 45°F AM Showers	Fri 4/16 62° 45°F Partly Cloudy	Sat 4/17 64° 50°F Mostly Cloudy	Sun 4/18 66° 49°F Mostly Cloud
Mon 4/19 68° 52°F Partly Cloudy	Tue 4/20 69° 52°F Partly Cloudy	Wed 4/21 68° 49°F Partly Cloudy	Thu 4/22 66° 47°F Mostly Sunny

County Times
St. Mary's County • Calvert County

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For staff listing and emails, see page 23

COVID-19

As of April 13

Calvert Positive Cases: **5896** | Deaths: **68**

Information provided by Calvert Health Department

All Virtual School Proposed

Would Begin in the Fall

By Dick Myers
Editor

“It’s kind of like opening another school,” is how Calvert County School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry described an initiative planned for next school year. This time it wouldn’t be a bricks and mortar school but a “Virtual Academy.”

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Diane Workman said at the school board regular April 8 meeting, “(Some) students have proven they have performed higher in a virtual environment.”

There may also be a more practical reason for the proposal: the school system has lost more than 600 students to home schooling and private schools during the current school year when the system went all-virtual in September.

The discussion came as some parents were pressing the school system to begin planning for a full reopening in the fall. Melissa Macuci Goshorn, leader of a parent group seeking the full return, noted the discussion of the Virtual Academy and lack of discussion about the fall return. She said during the public comment section, “CCPS has been ineffective in their



planning, communication, and transparency thus far and the BOE has the authority to create ad-hoc committees to support this planning. The purpose of this committee will be to work with CCPS in the planning for re-opening full time in-person in the fall.”

She added about the Virtual Academy, “Based on the information I have received thus far, no teachers, CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) members, parents, or union members were consulted in the planning of this virtual academy.”

Workman said some teachers were involved in the initial planning pro-

cess and she admitted to the board that it was still a work in progress with details to be developed.

The school board was told that a survey was sent out to families and 657 expressed an interest in the new virtual academy, representing 918 students. The plans are for 800 students to be accommodated.

Families will have to apply for the academy and make a one-year commitment although there may be a procedure to get out if it proves to be not working for their child. Career and Technology Academy students would not be eligible.

According to a presentation to the board, the intended outcomes for the Virtual Academy are:

- Provide students with the opportunity to learn in a modern, virtual environment.
- Offer both synchronous and asynchronous opportunities for students to learn within a flexible learning environment.
- Employ innovative, collaborative, state of the art instructional practices and learning technologies that meet the evolving needs of each student.
- Build students’ interpersonal and intrapersonal skills that promote

success.

- Provide interactive and rigorous standards-based courses that are engaging for learners.
- Meet the diverse educational needs of a variety of learners.
- Build and grow a partnership between families and the school community.
- Provide enrichment/enhancement opportunities for all learners.
- Provide a range of services and activities that help our students feel connected to our school and each other.

Workman said each student would be assigned a mentor/teacher to help them navigate the virtual learning. She insisted the students’ social needs would be attended to.

Teachers will be given the option of volunteering for the Virtual Academy and those who volunteer will be dedicated just to virtual learning.

Students assigned to the Virtual Academy will be allowed to participate in sports at their home school.

The school board listened to the discussion but did not take any action nor indicate whether such action was within their purview or could be done administratively by Curry.

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Across the Board Budget Cuts Ordered

County Flush with Extra Income Tax Revenue

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has ordered county departments to make a three-percent reduction in their proposed operating budgets for Fiscal Year 2022.

The reductions were ordered at the BOCC’s March 30 meeting to accommodate changes presented to them at the meeting by Finance and Budget Director Tim Hayden and County Administrator Mark Willis. They include almost \$1.4 million in unresolved issues with 18 new staff positions that were deemed necessary, including personnel for the new Ward Farm Park in Dunkirk when it opens in the fall.

The department cuts will also allow for an employee step increase, estimated to cost \$1.4 million.

The unanimous decision came with the news that projected income tax revenue will be \$14 million more than budgeted in the current fiscal year coupled with the belief that eventually the other shoe will drop, and revenue will decline amid the pandemic.

Hayden, when asked what was causing the revenue increase, said, “I have never seen that. I think it’s federal money,” referring to CARES Act funding and stimulus monies flowing to taxpayers.

“I would consider that a one-time for sure,” Hayden said.

The county also is cautious about projected declines in revenue from Dominion’s LNG plant in Fiscal Year 2024, leading them to try to avoid costs that are recurring.

Hayden said perhaps the extra income tax revenue could be used to pay cash for the new Twin Beaches Library instead of borrowing and/or advancing the new Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center.

“What we do today will affect the future,” said Commissioner Steve Weems.

The suggestion for across-the-board operating cuts for the departments led to concern that departments that had been frugal in their requests were being penalized.

But Willis responded, “We teach teamwork,” meaning the pain should be shared by all.

The BOCC will take a look at the cuts and make a final decision later this month so the budget can be prepared in time for the May 18 budget public hearing.

Willis said any department head who wants to come in and plead their budget case was entitled to do so at that BOCC meeting at which the decision will be finalized.

“This is a fluid budget,” quipped Weems.

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Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Put on Hold

Health Officer Says They Only Have Pfizer

By Dick Myers
Editor

Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky at his April 13 briefing to the county commissioners reported on the hold by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. He said, "The FDA is investigating rare blood clots (less than one in 1,000,000 people) associated with this one particular vaccine. The blood clots have been seen within two weeks of vaccine administration. Blood clots have not been seen with the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines.

"At this point, Calvert County Health Department will only vaccinate people with Moderna and Pfizer vaccines until the FDA concludes its investigation of Johnson & Johnson.

"The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines were developed using a completely different technology than the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. 200 million doses of Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have been administered in the U.S. without any safety concerns.

"Calvert County Health Department strongly encourages people to get vaccinated. We continue to see high rates of COVID spread in our county along



Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky

with hospitalizations and deaths from the virus. Currently, those hospitalized in Calvert include people in their 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's. Recent deaths have included people who range in age from their early 40's to their 80's.

"During the past month, close to 100 Marylanders have died each week due to COVID infections. Among those who have been vaccinated, we have not seen any hospitalizations or deaths.

"For those who have recently received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the risk to your health is extremely low.

"Please keep in mind that the blood clots have occurred in less than one in one million people who received a dose, and it is not clear that the clots were a direct result of the vaccine. This type of clot, called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, occurs in approximately one in 200,000 Americans each year. Symptoms include severe headaches that are generally accompanied by vision changes, problems with speech, and a sudden onset of muscle weakness in one area of the body. These are also symptoms of a stroke. Anyone with these symptoms should immediately seek medical care."

Dr. Polsky told the commissioners the infection rate has been relatively steady over the past few weeks. He said, "Among older people, the good news is we've seen cases actually go down over the past couple of weeks. That is a result of the relatively high rates of vaccination among seniors. On the other end of the spectrum, we've seen cases rise among those below the age of 20." The positivity rate is hovering around seven percent, he said.

So far 35.2 percent of the eligible

population has been vaccinated in the county, right at the rate overall for the state.

The health officer explained, "Because of the continued shift of vaccines away from us into the mass vaccination sites, I am going to encourage people to look outside of our borders to get vaccinated. This week, we are only receiving 600 doses of vaccine at our local health department. There's still approximately 40,000 Calvert adults who have not been vaccinated at this point."

The local health department is only receiving Moderna vaccines. "We have not gotten any Pfizer vaccine in months," he said, so they are unable to give shots to those 16 or 17, since only Pfizer is approved for those lower ages.

Polsky especially encourages high school athletes to seek places that are administering Pfizer, such as the mass vaccination sites or some of the pharmacies.

Polsky reported the pharmacies providing Pfizer shots in Calvert County are Walgreens in Lusby and Price Frederick, Safeway in Prince Frederick and Dunkirk, and Giant and CVS in Dunkirk.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

The forgotten tragedy on the Potomac...

BLACK DIAMOND DISASTER

April 24 and 25

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days; ceremony Sunday, 2 p.m.

COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND

Hosted by the St. Mary's County Museum Division and The Friends of St. Clement's Island & Pines Point Museums.

An American Civil War Event

On April 23, 1865, the Black Diamond was hit by a steamer near St. Clement's Island during the hunt for John Wilkes Booth. Learn more about this tragic event at a commemorative weekend and wreath-laying ceremony at St. Clement's Island Museum.

Weekend Happenings and Activities

Saturday and Sunday, April 24 & 25 - 10AM to 5PM

- Free water taxi rides to St. Clement's Island
- Free admission to the St. Clement's Island Museum

Sunday, April 25 at 2PM

- FREE Commemorative ceremony with remarks by the Naval Air Station Patuxent River Base Commander.

Saturday, April 24 at 4PM

- FREE period-themed concert by the Federal City Brass Band
~ Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the music along the beautiful Potomac River ~

~ A reception follows the Ceremony at 3PM ~



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—DESTINATION—
Southern Maryland

The Federal City Brass Band Concert was made possible by the Southern Maryland Heritage Area and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

Bill To Change At-Large Voting For County Commissioner Fails



Calvert County Commissioner President Buddy Hance opposed HB 655

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A bill that would have changed the system of at-large voting for county commissioners in several counties, including Calvert and St. Mary's, did not make it out of the Health, Education and Environmental Affairs committee of the Senate and, therefore, did not make it to the floor of the legislature for a vote.

The bill's sponsor, Del. Brian Crosby (D-Dist. 29B) of St. Mary's County, told The County Times he had yet to determine whether he would reintroduce the bill in the next Maryland General Assembly.

If the bill had passed, it would have required incumbent county commissioners or candidates for office who are currently elected at large in counties around Maryland but reside in districts to only receive votes from that district.

Calvert's unique system has three election districts. Candidates run countywide. The top vote getter residing in each district wins. The final two seats go to the next highest vote getters countywide.

Crosby said he was disappointed that the bill did not make it to the floor of the legislature.

"The bottom line is the Senate President [Bill Ferguson] didn't want to move it," said Crosby. "He did not want a debate on the floor."

The bill enjoyed a rapid rise in the legislature, passing quickly through committees in the House of Delegates and getting a majority vote there before being trans-

ferred to the Senate.

There was no companion bill filed to HB 655 there.

Crosby criticized the decision to not allow a floor vote.

"To tell everyone, who signed up to testify, to write letters of support, that you don't want to make time for it, that's unacceptable," said Crosby. "We had the votes; in a democracy the majority does not get to silence the minority."

The bill proved controversial; Crosby and supporters of the bill argued that at-large voting systems had their roots in the Jim Crow era and were used to repress the votes of minorities, especially black voters.

The current system, Crosby argued was unfair and acted to dilute the voting power of communities with specific interests that had long been either ignored or not adequately addressed.

Those who opposed the bill, which included all members of the St. Mary's commissioner board, four out of five commissioners in Calvert, and several other commissioners on the Eastern Shore who would have been affected, said the bill would have unnecessarily divided counties like St. Mary's by forcing voters to select candidates who were beholden only to one district's interests.

By keeping the at-large system, they argued, county commissioners were made to consider the interests of the entire county, rather than the interests of one portion of it.

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Chesapeake Beach Water Park Slated for Visitors

Capacity Planned for 25 Percent

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Town of Chesapeake Beach is hoping to reopen its water park to visitors this summer. The plan presented to the town council at their April 5 work session is to have the park closed on Mondays, open just to town and county residents on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and then to be open to everyone the rest of the week, but at 25 percent of normal capacity.

The park was only open to town and county residents last year. Mayor Pat Mahoney noted the importance of tourists to the town's economy.

According to Town Administrator Holly Wahl, that 25 percent capacity would limit the water park to 360 guests at a time.

With the lower capacity, revenue for the season would be budgeted at \$350,000, which would necessitate dipping into the park's \$782,000 reserve.

"That is a worst-case scenario," Town Treasurer Dale Clark told the council about the impact on the budget of the lower admissions.

"Staff continues to focus on methods to offset exposure while

keeping residents safe," Wahl said.

The decision is expected to be finalized with the adoption of the budget which will be introduced at the town's April 15 meeting.

The council however decided to cancel the popular 4th of July fireworks again this year. "We don't want a super spreader," said Mahoney. But the town is still holding out hopes of doing a fireworks display later in the year, perhaps at the Taste of the Beaches in September.

"I really don't see how we could possibly go forward now," Councilman Larry Jaworski said. He was one of the founders of the Taste of the Beaches so he expressed hope it could be done then.

Regarding all the changes and restrictions, Councilman Charles Fink said, "Hang in there. We are getting there."

"Be patient and be kind with each other. It's been a long year and nerves are getting thin," said Councilman Greg Morris who noted he had just gotten his first vaccine shot.

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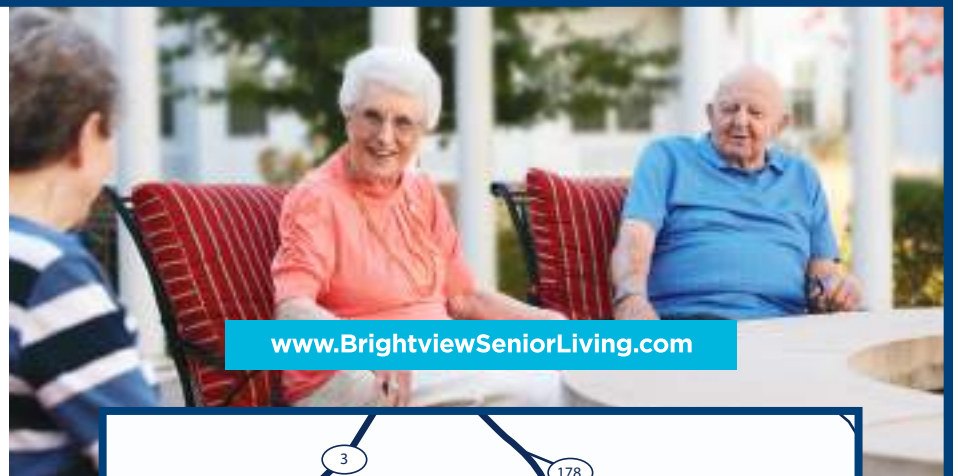
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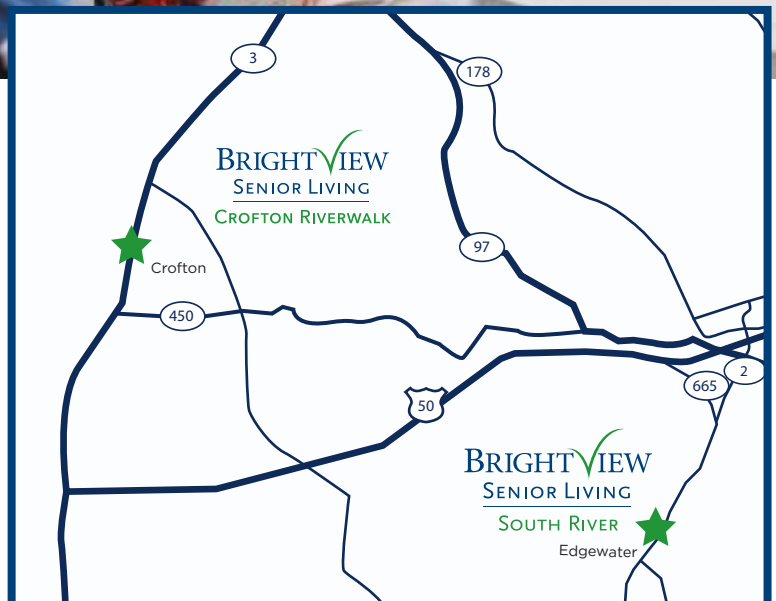
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Legislature Passes Police Reforms Package

Abolishes Law Enforcement Bill of Rights

Maryland, the first state to enact a law enforcement officer's bill of rights (LEOBOR), has now abolished it as part of a package of police reforms hailed by some as a necessary step to curb police use of force and acts of brutality and decried by others as tying the hands of law enforcement and putting them at greater risk of injury on the job by hesitating to act in situations that require split-second decisions.

Those who supported the repeal of LEOBOR argued that the bill gave police more rights than the average citizen, especially when it came to being investigated in the use of force; those against repeal said LEOBOR protected the rights of police officers against overly aggressive investigation into their actions that could violate their due process rights.

Supporters of the new legislation say that though LEOBOR is no more, a different system has been put in its place that is more fair and independent.

The newly passed package of laws, which was initially vetoed by Gov. Larry Hogan but suffered an override by the legislature, has many more stipulations to it.

It has new limits on when police can use force against the public, allows civilians to be involved in the disciplinary process of police officers and mandates an independent state commission to review and investigate fatalities caused by police.

Locally, this means the creation of new civilian police accountability boards in each county, according to the package, which will review accusations of wrongdoing against police.

Police chiefs and sheriffs will still issue punishments but will have to do so according to a new matrix for varying violations.

Officers can appeal these decisions to a trial board comprised of a citizen, a police officer and an active or retired judge.

All police killings will be investigated by a newly formed unit in the Maryland Attorney General's office, but local state's attorney's offices will have the decision on clearing officers or charging them criminally.

The new law also calls for police disciplinary records to be open to public scrutiny, something never before allowed.

But now, even complaints that were found to be unsubstantiated against an officer, can be made public.

Records on active investigations can still be withheld and certain details redacted such as witness identities and personal details.

The original legislation did away with the practice of so-called "no knock" warrants but in the amended package such warrant services are permitted as long as they are approved by a judge, police supervisor and state's attorney and supported by evidence that less intrusive methods would not be effective.

The new law also restricts when a "no-knock" warrant can be served, which is between the hours of 8a.m. and 7p.m. except in what the law calls "exigent circumstances."

Such "no-knock" warrants could only be allowed by a judge if it can be adequately shown that the items to be seized could be destroyed or hidden without that special authority or if the life and safety of the executing officers would be jeopardized if they announced themselves and their intentions.

The package prohibits police from receiving certain surplus military equipment for use in their enforcement actions, such as grenade launchers and firearms silencers.

Part of the legislative package requires that officers undergo mental health screenings every two years as well as continued physical agility tests to maintain fitness for duty; the use of marijuana prior to employment as a police officer is now no longer a disqualifying factor for certification.

The certification of an officer can be revoked or suspended if they have been found to violate the new, more stringent guidelines for policing, including the use of force, which must show that the force used was proportional and necessary to accomplish a legitimate task.

Officers found to have used force improperly would be filed in a statewide database maintained by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

The bills were supported by the Democratic members of the Calvert County delegation, Senator Michael Jackson and Delegate Rachel Jones, and opposed by the Republicans, Senator Jack Bailey and Delegates Jerry Clark and Mark Fisher.

Jackson (D: 27) who represents parts of Calvert and Prince George's counties, is the former sheriff of Prince George's. He explained to The Country Times his support for the reform measures. He said, "I think every profession needs to be assessed from time to time. Reform is not a bad thing as long as you bring in the true stakeholders."

He said this was the second round of reforms he has been involved with—the first was in 2016 aimed at policing in Baltimore.

Jackson said that initial effort was done jointly by both chambers. "This one was different because you had two separate chambers, two separate chamber police reform efforts." He said the effort involved consolidating 15 separate bills.

He said when he was a delegate during the 2016 reforms, he voted against complete repeal of the LEOBOR. The bill that passed this year, he insists doesn't do away with it, only replaces it with something different.

"The effort was to try to make it as bearable as possible. I believe I did that," he said.

His message to those out on the streets protecting everyone: "They're still protected under this. There's transparency to the citizenry."

He added, "The weight hasn't shifted to anyone regarding whether an officer is going to be okay or not." He said his message to law enforcement officers is if you obey the law, "you're fine."

He said the initiatives didn't have to do with criminal accusations but dealt with administrative matters.

Jackson is pleased with the delayed implementation until July 2022. "This gives an opportunity to say, look, let cooler heads prevail." He said it also affords the opportunity for the legislature to make any corrective changes in the next session.

Governor Larry Hogan, in a press release upon vetoing the bills, said, "These bills would undermine the goal that I believe we share of building transparent, accountable, and effective law enforcement institutions and instead further erode police morale, community relationships, and public confidence. They will result in great damage to police recruitment and retention, posing significant risks to public safety throughout our state. Under these circumstances, I have no choice but to uphold my primary responsibility to keep Marylanders safe—especially those that live in vulnerable communities most impacted by violent crime—and veto these bills."

In response, Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis said, "The General Assembly's comprehensive police reform package was a massive step towards improving the safety of our communities, ensuring racial justice and equity, and restoring trust in our law enforcement."

The County Times was unable to reach Sheriff Mike Evans for comment.

guyleonard@countytimes.net and dickmyers@countytimes.net

Votes For:



Delegate Rachel Jones



Senator Michael Jackson

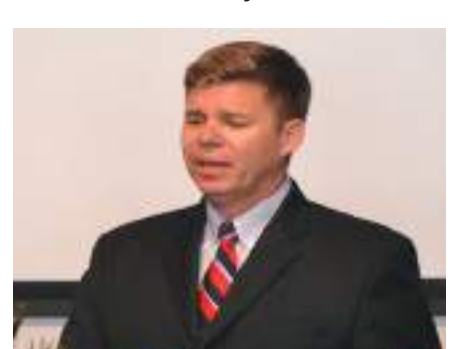
Votes Against:



Delegate Jerry Clark



Senator Jack Bailey



Delegate Mark Fisher

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Home Improvements In A Weekend

Home improvement projects ramp up when the weather warms up, as homeowners channel the rejuvenating feelings of spring and tackle their home to-do lists. Large-scale renovations can greatly affect a home, but smaller projects can yield impressive results and be completed over the course of a single weekend. If time is of the essence, these weekend or one-day projects may satisfy homeowners' desires to fix up their homes.

- **Create an accent wall.**

Painting a focal wall in a home can create a serious impact. The bonus is it will not take as long or require as many materials as painting an entire room. Accent walls frequently feature a bold color, so decide on placement and tackle this project in less than a day.

- **Install stair runners.**

Dress up hardwood stairs with decorative carpet runners. Runners come in elongated pieces of carpeting or individual pieces that can be placed on each step. If carpeting doesn't fit with the home's design, painting individual stair treads also can create visual

appeal.

- **Dress up the entryway.**

An entryway is a guest's first impression of a home. Many entryways can use a minor overhaul, both inside and outside. Paint the front door a different color so it pops from the curb. Install a new mailbox or decorative house numbers. A new welcome mat can change the look as well. Inside, consider laying a new floor. Resilient vinyl tiles come in many different patterns and can mimic the look of wood, travertine or marble. Installing a floor can take a day or two.

- **Install a new faucet.**

Instantly improve a kitchen or a bathroom with new fixtures. New faucets can provide aesthetic appeal and low-flow faucets can help conserve water.

- **Create a gallery on the staircase.**

Gather and arrange framed photos, artwork or wall accents so that they ascend the wall of a staircase. This creates a designer touch and can dress up an often barren area of wall space.

- **Install a fresh light fixture.**

Improve drab spaces with a little illumination. Better Homes & Gardens suggests replacing an existing fixture with something new and vibrant. If hanging a new fixture is not within one's skill set, free-standing table or floor lamps also can cast a new glow on a space.

- **Add molding.**

Molding can add instant aesthetic appeal to a room. Molding is appropriate near the floor, at the top of walls where they meet the ceiling, or even mid-wall as a chair rail. Some homeowners like to create framed molding on walls in formal living spaces.

- **Update kitchen or bathroom hardware.**

Replacing hardware is a fast and easy project, but one that can have immediate impact. Swap out tired or outdated hardware for newer brushed metals and more impactful shapes and designs. Home renovations do not need to take weeks or months. Many projects can be completed over the course of a weekend.



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Variables to Consider When Choosing a Media Room



The term “home theater” once made homeowners who love movies and sports dream of the day when they could dedicate a large area in their home to watching the big game or their favorite films. Such rooms are now widely referred to as “media rooms.” Though the terminology may have changed, media rooms are not all that different from home theaters. Before choosing an area of their home as their designated media room, homeowners must consider a host of variables to ensure they get as much out of the room as possible.

• Location and shape:

Of course the location of the room is of the utmost importance. Media rooms tend to be more social settings than traditional home theaters, which were often designed to be isolated from the rest of the home so noise and natural light did not adversely affect the film-watching experience. Homeowners may not want their media rooms to be in high traffic areas of their homes, but they needn't be completely secluded, either. The renovation experts at the DIY Network note that the shape of a room should be considered before designating it as the media room. In general, square rooms are not ideal, as such rooms can produce harmonic distortions. A rectangular room likely won't produce such distortions, especially when homeowners place their screens and primary speakers on short walls. It's important that homeowners do not downplay the importance of sound, as media rooms, unlike traditional home theaters, may be used for listening to music just as much as they are for watching films or sports. View-

ers may not recognize distortions when watching something, but homeowners may notice these abnormalities when listening to music.

• Windows:

Media rooms are multi-purpose rooms, so homeowners don't need to remove rooms with windows from consideration. But the experts at the DIY Network note that windows are hard surfaces that can reflect sound and distort audio, and the light that gets in through windows can produce reflections on the viewing surface. Each of those factors can adversely affect your listening and viewing experience. A room with windows can still make for a good media room, but you may want to invest in some blackout curtains to mitigate some of the disadvantages of having windows in the room.

• Wall colors:

The colors of the walls in the room is another variable homeowners will have to consider. Homeowners won't want to host guests for the big game in rooms with darkened walls, as that can create a dreary atmosphere and potentially make people tired. But especially bright colors will reflect light and adversely affect the viewing experience. Neutral colors should not affect the colors on the screen, making them the ideal color choice for media room walls. Media rooms are high on many homeowners' renovation lists. Considering a host of variables prior to designating an area for a media room can ensure the finished product is as enjoyable as possible.

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Safety First With DIY Electrical Work

Home improvement projects can help homeowners transform their homes. Such projects are costly, but many homeowners save money by doing some, if not all, of the work themselves.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety, recommends that homeowners leave electrical work to the professionals. Licensed electricians are well-trained, whereas homeowners may not be skilled enough to avoid accidents or injuries, which can prove fatal when working with electricity. Homeowners who take the do-it-yourself route with electrical work should consider these safety tips, courtesy of the ESFI, before beginning a home electrical project.

- **Learn your home electrical system.**

Home electrical systems may include power lines, electric meters, service panels, subpanels, wiring, and more. These systems are complex, and homeowners who intend to do some DIY electrical work should familiarize themselves with their home electrical sys-



tems prior to beginning any work. The ESFI notes that knowledge of their home electrical systems can help homeowners more safely navigate them and make maintenance easier.

- **Honestly assess your skills.**

An honest assessment of skills

is absolutely necessary prior to working on an electrical system. According to the National Safety Council, injuries relating to electrical incidents typically fall into one of four categories: electrical shock, electrocution, falls, and burns. Each of these injuries is significant. For example, electric shock, which occurs when electrical current passes over or through a person's body, involves burns, abnormal heart rhythm and unconsciousness. Given the potential for serious injury, the ESFI urges homeowners to make an honest assessment of their skills before they begin working on their home's electrical systems. Little or no experience working with electrical systems should be considered a significant hurdle to any DIY project.

- **Turn the power off.**

It's essential that the power to the circuit that will be worked on be turned off prior to starting any work. This can be accomplished by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.

Similarly, when working on appliances or lamps, make sure the products are unplugged prior to working on them.

- **Do not touch plumbing or gas pipes when doing electrical work.**

The experts at the Indiana Electric Cooperative note that the risk for electrocution is significant when water comes in contact with electricity. It's imperative that homeowners do not touch plumbing and gas pipes when performing a DIY electrical project. Professionals know how to work around such pipes while minimizing their risk for electric shock or worse, and homeowners must familiarize themselves with the techniques professionals rely on to stay safe if they intend to begin DIY electrical projects. Homeowners are best served by leaving electrical work to the professionals. However, those who insist on doing such work themselves should do their homework and get to know their systems and safety protocols prior to beginning a project.

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Add Value to Your Home with These Renovations

Homeowners choose renovation projects for a variety of reasons. Although many improvements are made to increase functionality and comfort of a home, several others are seen as worthwhile investments. These investments can add up to a higher resale value when the time comes to sell a home.

Certain projects have a history of providing a greater return on homeowners' investments than others. The following renovation tips can add beauty to your home and generate great returns when you put the home up for sale.

- **Invest in your kitchen.**

Kitchen remodels are a safe bet when it comes to putting money into improving a home. Residents tend to spend a great deal of time in the kitchen, but a dated, poorly functioning kitchen can detract from the value of a home, even if the rest of the home is in good shape. It's possible to recoup between 60 and 120 percent of your kitchen remodel investment, especially if the kitchen matches up well with the rest of your home. Homeowners should know that a deluxe renovation may not be necessary, as relatively moderate improvements can create a whole new look for a kitchen.

- **Look to paint.**

One of the least expensive improvement materials, but one that has a significant

impact, is paint. Neutral, modern colors can easily liven up any space. If you paint with low-VOC paint, you also can advertise an eco-friendly home, which is very desirable these days.

- **Put in another bathroom.**

Multiple bathrooms are an attractive selling point, particularly in older homes that may not have been equipped with more than one bathroom. Finding extra space for a bathroom can be tricky, but consider closets, areas under stairs or even taking some space away from another room. Popular home-improvement television channel HGTV advises that half-bathrooms require at least 18 square feet of space, while full baths need 30 to 35 square feet for a stand-up shower or bathtub.

- **Renovate the HVAC system.**

Aesthetic improvements aren't the only ones that add value to a home. Many home buyers are eager to purchase a home that has a new heating and cooling system, as buyers understand that furnaces and air conditioning units are substantial investments that can last for years. Other improvements, such as adding attic insulation or replacing older windows and doors with more energy efficient options, also are smart bets.



- **Add illumination to rooms.**

A dark home is a dreary home. Adding light can mean including more overhead and accent lighting. Under-cabinet task lighting is a nice touch. Inclusion of skylights and sun tubes can bring natural light into rooms that may not have south- or west-facing windows.

- **Put a deck addition outdoors.**

Outdoor living spaces have become more desirable, especially as the "staycation" has grown in popularity. Decks and patios can make backyards more appealing. The scope of your investment will depend on the size of the deck and design. Doing the work yourself can cut the cost of decks in half, but only if you have the specific tools

or experience to tackle such a project.

- **Improve curb appeal.**

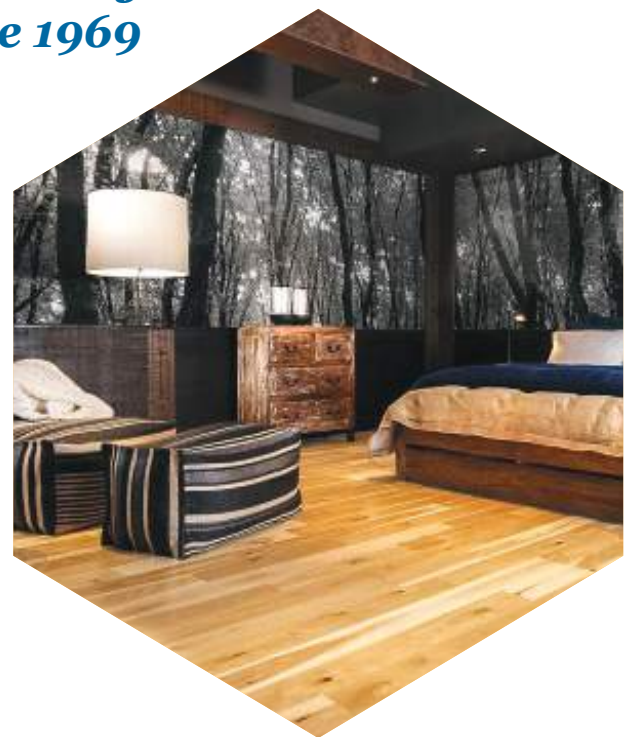
Adding attractive landscaping and freshening up the entryway to a home can add considerable value to your home, as buyers judge homes by their exteriors. Completely renovated interiors may never be seen if buyers pass up your home because of a less attractive exterior. Classy, subtle changes, like well-placed shrubbery and a green lawn, can work wonders. An inviting front door and well-lit entryway also add curb appeal to a home. Before making improvements, homeowners should determine if a given project will provide a solid return on their investment.

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Did You Know?



When planning spring landscapes, homeowners should always group plants with similar water needs together. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, grouping plants with similar water needs together helps to conserve water, which can be an especially useful strategy if or when drought restrictions go into effect in summer. Homeowners also can embrace additional strategies to landscape with water conservation in mind. For

example, aerating soil helps to improve water flow to plants' roots and reduces water runoff, helping to ensure that plants get all of the water they need while reducing the likelihood that homeowners will have to use excessive amounts of water to keep plants healthy. In addition, using low-water-using types of grass can help homeowners who live in areas prone to drought conserve water while still maintaining lush, green lawns.



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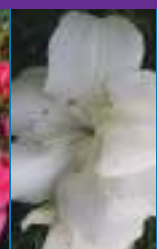


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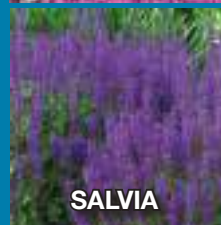
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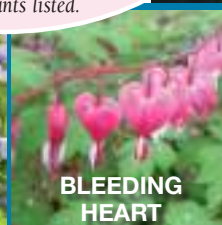
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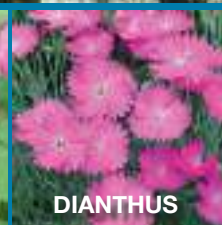
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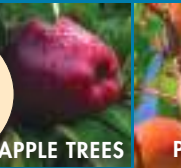
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Big Conversation Announces Three-Part Series

Focus on Building Trust in Health Care Systems

The Big Conversation partners have announced a three-part series on Building Trust in Health Care Systems. These sessions are a follow-up to the Big Conversation forum on Health Care (In) Equality.

Leading the sessions is Steven Ragsdale, an internationally known health systems expert. He is an associate faculty member of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Ragsdale is presently working with several health provider organizations and hospitals in the metropolitan area.

The first online ZOOM session is Sunday, April 25 from 3-5 p.m. Register through partner the Calvert Library.

Pre-registration is required at Building Trust in Our Health Care Systems (Zoom) - Calvert Library (libnet.info)

Attendance at all three sessions is encouraged; however, one must attend either session 1 or 2 to participate in session #3.

Here is an overview of the sessions:

- Session I: April 25, 3-5 p.m. on Zoom -- Provide an overview of the history of local social determinants of health care disparities and the resulting adverse effects that are pervasive in society, medical, nursing allied professional education and the clinical environment today.

- Session II: date TBA
Provide an overview of systemic unconscious bias and the importance of understanding its effects on society, medicine caring models, and patients.

- Session III: date TBA
Facilitate a discussion to help us imagine an improved health care system including:

What role should community and health care leadership play in a building strong health care community that enhances continual



Steven Ragsdale

learning, fosters innovation and builds capacity to help in mitigating the adverse effects of systematic disparities?

Ø What tools can be currently available that can help track progress in your efforts and systematic improvements?

Ø How do you capacity build?

The series is brought to you the public by the founder, Middleham and St. Peter's Parish with The Big Conversation Partners in Dismantling Racism and Privilege in Southern MD including: All Saints Episcopal Church, Calvert County Public Schools, CalvertHealth, Calvert Interfaith Council, Community Mediation Centers of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, College of Southern Maryland, Concerned Black Women of Calvert Co, Emmanuel SDA Church - St. Leonard, Historic Sotterley, Inc., NAACP Branches of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, Patuxent Friends (Quaker) Meeting, Public Libraries of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties, Remnant Center of Excellence, Inc., St. Mary's Co. Health Department and St. Mary's Co. Public Schools.

CCPS Confirms Graduation Dates

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) is moving forward with plans to close the 2020-2021 school year with celebratory graduation ceremonies and to open the 2021-2022 school year with virtual and in-person options for families.

High school graduations will be held on June 2 and 3 as originally planned. Calvert High School and Northern High School will graduate on June 2. Huntingtown High School and Patuxent High School will graduate on June 3.

Principals, assistant principals, and class sponsors in each high school met with the senior class council to discuss ideas and design a survey that was emailed to all seniors to elicit their input about the ceremonies. Details, including the locations, will be shared with families as soon as information is available.

June 2 and 3 will not be early dismissals and will instead follow the schedule



of the typical instructional day. June 2 will, however, be a full day of asynchronous learning for Calvert High and Northern High students, and June 3 will be asynchronous for Huntingtown High and Patuxent High.

For high school students only, June 4 will be an in-person instructional day for Cohort A. Cohort B and fully virtual high school students will participate in synchronous instruction that day.

Press Release from CCPS

Women of the World Celebration Scheduled

18th Annual Event Includes Awards

Following the election of 2020, it is increasingly obvious that more women are holding positions of leadership in all sectors of society, including those traditionally dominated by men. For almost two decades, the outstanding contributions and achievements of women in Calvert County have been recognized at the Annual Women of the World (WOW) Recognition Celebration led by the Calvert County Commission. Originally started by the League of Women Voters of Calvert County, this will be the 18th WOW celebration. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WOW was postponed initially to fall from April 2020, and then to spring 2021. The eight partner organizations have decided to hold Women of the World virtually rather than delay the opportunity to honor this group of outstanding women.

This year's theme is "Women Breaking Barriers" and reflects the opportunity to look back in history to those women who led the way in calling for the right to vote, as well as in other areas of society - whether in science, education, health, economics, space, law or in community organizations and in families. The WOW Keynote Speaker this year is Yun Jung Yang, Esq., Chair of the Maryland Commission for Women. She received her law degree from Howard University and is an immigration lawyer by profession. She serves on the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and the Maryland Women of Tomorrow Committees. She is well-positioned to address

how women have broken and are still breaking barriers in society today.

"No time is more relevant to recognize the leadership and contributions of women in our society and in our community. Women continue to break boundaries every day. They are at the forefront of every issue affecting our nation," said Commission for Women Chair Joan Winship. "The 18th Women of the World Celebration is the ideal time to recognize and support women in Calvert County who have made a difference and who continue to inspire women and men, girls and boys in Calvert."

Participating organizations that are honoring key women include not only the Commission for Women, but also the Community Mediation Center, Calvert Collaborative for Children & Youth, Concerned Black Women, Calvert Historical Society, the League of Women Voters, the NAACP-Calvert County, and the Calvert Minority Business Alliance.

The public is invited to join in this celebration on Saturday, April 17 to honor the accomplishments and contributions of outstanding Calvert County women and girls. The virtual event will be held from 9:45-11:30 a.m. with technical support from the Calvert Library. All are welcome. The event is free but participants must register by April 16 at <https://calvertlibrary.libnet.info/event/4880294>.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



Answers and Questions

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno used to do a segment called "Jaywalking" where he would stroll the streets and quiz folks on topics such as history, geography and politics. It was hilarious and alarming for the same reason – the unsuspecting souls would often struggle to answer basic questions such as "Who was the first president?", "What countries border the United States?" or "How many stars are on the American flag?"

Instead of lobbing softballs for seemingly easy trivia homeruns, Leno came off like a ruthless high school calculus teacher humored and horrified by a new crop of bemused students. "Jaywalking" came to mind many times in the wake of the 2016 presidential election and subsequent swell of anti-immigrant vitriol. The suggestion is that if passing a basic civics test was required before Americans could qualify to criticize immigrants or the nation's increasing diversity, much of the xenophobia would have been silenced before it started.

Ah, but that is another piece for another time. For the here and now, two NFL quarterbacks, David Epstein and jacks of many trades brought Leno to mind. The writer goes first, of course.

Epstein opened his 2019 book "Range" by contrasting Tiger Woods and Roger Federer. The former was trained, from the moment he could hold a club, to be what he ultimately became – an elite golfer. Conversely, the latter, despite growing up in a tennis household, played many sports and wasn't encouraged to play tennis specifically. Federer did, though, and it turned out okay: his 20 Grand Slam singles championships are tied with Rafael Nadal for the most in the history of men's tennis.

Epstein's book discusses our fascination with specificity, questions to what extent exclusive training works (diminishing returns) and postulates that it isn't specialists, but those with range – broad acumen across numerous skillsets – who will excel in a fluid world of accelerating technological advances and expanding job descriptions.

I think Epstein's theory – that jacks-of-many will be better positioned than masters-of-one – is right for most professions, but I question

if his suggestion – to try different things, challenge your comfort zone, develop an array of skills... expand your range – will gain believers. Specialists, superheroes in their narrow realm, catch the eye. The most attractive, the fastest, the smoothest, the most intelligent, the strongest or the most technically proficient – the exceptional – often garner admiration, regardless of the specialist's lack of depth or glaring weaknesses.

The All-Pro, Super Bowl winning quarterbacks are up. The earlier reference was to Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. It's probably unfair to bring Brady to this stage, but Rodgers started it, so here it goes. Rodgers, a complex dude with a serious interest in trivia (and, by definition, a broad interest in all things), is in the midst of a temporary gig hosting "Jeopardy!" He might even have designs on filling Alex Trebek's giant shoes permanently. Brady, meanwhile, seems all about football and intends to play – to the chagrin of his opponents – forever. If both went "Jaywalking," Rodgers would ace the quiz; Brady would too if the topics were narrowed to the NFL defensive schemes and how to maintain physical health and pliability into your forties.

That's the unfair part. There's undoubtedly more depth to Brady than football. Well, maybe. Point is that Rodgers's curiosity and range makes Epstein's point – an appreciation of generalists is too often overlooked in the valuation of personal and professional skills; however, Brady's success is proof that singular focus is a means to generational, if narrow and exceedingly rare, achievement. Rodgers is similar to Federer; Brady reminds of Woods. The world needs both kinds – a warm thought for those with an identified specialty and others who nimbly and adeptly adapt to life's curves.

To tie all of this together, I hope the "Jeopardy!" folks at some point have Rodgers read the answer, "This quarterback has won the most Super Bowls in NFL history." The contestants, if they possess adequate trivia range, will answer, "Who is Tom Brady?" To which, the witty Rodgers would no doubt quip, "Correct...but let's see Mr. Football host this show."

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

Additional Financial Aid For Food Service Industry

Restaurants, Food Service Businesses Eligible



The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners announces additional funding is available through the Maryland Restaurant Relief Fund Grant program to provide financial assistance to locally owned and operated restaurants and food service establishments that have experienced significant economic hardship or unusual expenses because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The application portal opened April 14. The portal will be available until 11:59 a.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. Closing date is subject to change based on the number of applications received.

- Eligible businesses include:
- Full and limited service restaurants
- Locally owned franchise restaurants
- Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars
- Catering businesses
- Bed-and-breakfast establishments with food service
- Food trucks
- Breweries and wineries

The grant may be used for working capital such as rent, payroll or job training; purchase of equipment and services to expand outdoor dining such as tents or heaters; infrastructure improvements such as HVAC system upgrades or technology to support carryout and delivery; or for purchase of personal protective equipment and other COVID-19 related or unusual expenses incurred due to the public health emergency. Repayment is not required for any funds received through this program.

Small restaurants with up to seven full-time equivalent employees may receive \$6,000. This also includes

restaurants with no employees. Large restaurants with eight or more full-time equivalent employees may receive \$12,000.

To be considered eligible for a grant, businesses must:

- Be a legally recognized business in good standing with the State of Maryland as determined by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT);
- Be current on all county tax liabilities (paid in full);
- Have no outstanding/open zoning or permitting code enforcement issues with the county;
- Have a physical business presence in Calvert County;
- Not be a franchise or national chain (unless able to provide proof of local ownership and operation);
- Be primarily engaged in activities that, in accordance with the North American Industrial Classification System, would be included in Code 722320 (Caterers), Code 7224 (Drinking Places (Alcoholic Beverages)), or Code 7225 (Restaurants and Other Eating Places); and
- Demonstrate a need for assistance.

Business owners interested in receiving a grant are encouraged to review eligibility criteria and application requirements online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/COVID19ReliefFund.

The relief grant program is funded through the Maryland RELIEF Act.

Questions may be emailed to grant@calvertcountymd.gov. For business assistance, call the Department of Economic Development at 410-535-4583.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

During the week of March 29 – April 4, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,400 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 21-16781

On March 31, 2021, Deputy Krueger responded to the 700 block of Hickok Trail in Lusby, MD for report of damaged property. The complainant advised sometime between March 30th at 9:30 p.m. and 10 a.m. on March 31st, unknown suspects keyed the front passenger exterior door of her vehicle. The estimated value of damaged property is \$50.

Damaged Property: 21-16721

On March 31, 2021, Deputy Contic responded to the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised sometime between March 30th at 4:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. on March 31st, unknown suspects removed a metal gate and had damaged the metal gates locking mechanism. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 21-17503

On April 4, 2021, Deputy Mitchell responded to Buckets Bar and Grill located at 12020 Rousby Hall Road in Lusby, MD in reference to the theft of vehicle registration plates. The complainant advised sometime between 8:30 a.m. and 12:20 p.m., unknown suspects stole the rear tags off his vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

ARRESTS

On Friday, April 2, 2021, Deputy Abercrombie was attempting to serve an active warrant at a residence in the 9100 block of Sam Owings Place in Owings, MD. Deputy Abercrombie made contact with the wanted subject **Collin Joseph Donohue**, 30 of Owings, MD. A search of Donohue's person was conducted and a Suboxone pill was found not prescribed



Collin Jame Donohue

to him. Donohue was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center for the warrant and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana.

On April 1, 2021, Deputy Aurich conducted a traffic stop on southbound Rt. 4 and Dorris Drive in Owings, MD after receiving report of a stolen tag. Contact was made with driver, **Jose Javier Ochoa-Sierra**, 25 of Beltsville, MD, who was not provide a registration for the vehicle he was driving. The tag on his vehicle was reported stolen from Prince George's County. Ochoa-Sierra was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Theft Less Than \$100.



Jose Javier Ochoa-Sierra

On March 30, 2021, Deputy Savick conducted a traffic stop in the area of Southern Maryland Blvd and Chaneyville Road in Owings, MD after receiving report of a stolen tag. Contact was made with the driver, **Tremont Deshaw Heath**, 42 of Washington D.C., who was not able to provide registration for the vehicle he was driving. The front and rear registration plates were confirmed stolen through Prince George's County. Heath was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Theft: \$100 to Under \$1500.00 and Driving on a Suspended License.



Tremont Heath

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

PAYING OFF CREDIT CARD DEBT

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

According to a survey by CreditCards.com, 13% of Americans say they'll never pay off their loans and another 8% say they won't pay off what they owe until they're at least 71 years old. You don't have to be one of these people. If you are stuck in debt, take action to help yourself. Credit card debt is the enemy of financial security. Here are 5 tips to help you pay off those high interest credit card balances:

1. STOP Paying Only the Minimum on Your Credit Card Debt.

The minimum payment on credit card debt is 2% of the balance. Suppose you have a balance of \$5,000 on your credit card with a 15% interest rate. If you pay the minimum, it will take you more than 27 years to pay off the balance. It gets worse. Your total payments will amount to \$12,518 or about 2.5 times your original \$5,000 balance. Paying the minimum is keeping you in servitude to the bank or credit card company. What can you do? By boosting your payment to 3% of the balance you can pay off the credit card balance in about half the time. Boost the payment to 5% of the balance and you can pay it all off in about 8 years. If you do not have the cash flow to make one larger credit card payment every month, try making two minimum payments every month.

2. FOCUS ON PAYING OFF ONE CARD FIRST.

If you have multiple credit cards and want to show progress, pick the one with the lowest balance and pay that one off as soon as you can. Then, tackle the next in line. In any event, your credit score will decline based on whether you have used more than 20% of your available credit. Paying down your credit cards to show loans of less than 20% of the available balance on the card will immediately boost your credit score. So, even if you cannot pay off the entire card, paying down the balance will give you progress and a better credit score.

3. SPEAK UP.

If you have a good credit score (usually 730 and above) and are current in making your pay-

ments, call the credit card company and ask them to lower your rate. Most companies will accommodate their long-term customers who pay on time. If you have been offered a lower rate by a competitor, tell the bank. Most likely they will meet that lower rate to avoid losing you as a customer. Remember, you are valuable to the banks.

4. TAKE ACTION, BUT BE CAREFUL.

Transferring your credit card balance to another card with a 0% introductory interest rate is a good idea IF you can pay off the entire credit card during the time the introductory interest rate is 0%. Most of the cards will give you up to 18 months of 0% interest before the card reverts to the 15-25% interest rate category. If you can't pay the card balance off in 18 months, you may wind up paying more in interest on the balance than you had with your first card. Check the interest rates on the cards. If you find a card with an interest rate after 18 months of 0% that is significantly lower than your current rate, even if you cannot pay off all of the debt in 18 months, you will be better off. Try your online resources for education. Nextadvisor.com is helpful. Enter the balance you want to transfer, the amount you want to spend each month and the website will give you a list of credit cards that may help you. There are plenty of other online resources for you to choose from.

5. NEVER BORROW FROM YOUR HOME OR YOUR 401(K) TO PAY OFF CREDIT CARD DEBT.

Your home and your retirement funds are critical to your financial well-being. Why jeopardize either of them by borrowing against them?

No matter how you tackle the problem of credit card debt, the important point is to take action to pay down that debt. Get a plan and stick to it.

A reminder: Join me for a free estate planning seminar on the third Wednesday of every month at 11 am at our office at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

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In Remembrance

The Calvert County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to dickmyers@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

Richard Ashton Loveless



Richard Ashton Loveless, "Dick", 88, of Huntingtown, MD passed away April 4, 2021 in Harwood, Maryland. He was born on

September 14, 1932 in Washington, D.C.

Dick proudly served in the Korean conflict from 1948-1952 as a member of 1st Cavalry unit; recipient of Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal w. 5 Bronze Stars and many other medals recognizing his bravery and valor.

He served his career as a lifetime member of Steamfitters Local Union 602 having been initiated in January 1965 and remained a member-in-good-standing until his passing.

Dick had an unquenchable thirst for the great outdoors he loved hunting, fishing and observing wildlife.

He was a man of immeasurable generosity and kindness who would be the first one to stop and help someone if their car broke down on the side of the road. He had a warm and welcoming heart and never met a stranger. He was known for his sense of humor however you needed to be on alert around him as you may become the victim of one of his many harmless pranks. He loved working with his wife Peggy in the yard, hanging out with his friends, solving the world's problems and his cat Satan.

Blessed with a large and loving family, Dick was pre-deceased by his first wife: Geraldine (Prochaska) Loveless and second wife: Peggy (Weems) Loveless, whom he has been longing for his time to reunite with her.

He is survived by six children, April Hanrahan, Daniel Loveless (Sandy), Wayne Loveless (Linda), Dale Weems (Lauren), Cheryl Vaughn (Dennis), and Lynne Daniels (Aubrey). Grandfather of nine; Rebecca, Heather, Stephanie, Rachel, Alex, Siena, Brittany, Joshua, Marty and numerous great-grandchildren.

A Graveside Memorial Service will be held on Saturday April 10, 2021, 10 AM, at Christ Church Cemetery, Port Republic, MD. Memorial contributions may be made to either Charlotte Hall Veterans Home or Hospice of the Chesapeake.

John Wilson Bowen



John Wilson Bowen, 41, a lifetime resident of Lusby, MD, passed away on April 4, 2021. He was born July 12, 1979 in Prince Frederick, MD to John Hillery Bowen and Joy Wilson Bowen.

John graduated from Calvert High School in 1997 and went on to work as an HVAC Technician up until his death. He loved his family and will be dearly missed.

John is survived by his mother and father; his children, Thomas Wilson Bowen, Austin Tyler Bowen, Xander Leigh Bowen, Blaze Lodan Bowen and Lotus Leigh Bowen; his step-children, Tierany and Ryleigh Foster; his grandson, Oliver Franklin Bowen; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Hillery and Kathleen Bowen and Rayner and Mammie Wilson.

No services are scheduled at this time. Condolences to the family may be made at www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.

Debora "Debbie" Thorne



Debora "Debbie" Thorne, 58, of Solomons, MD and formerly of Capital Heights, MD, passed away on April 5, 2021.

Born April 27, 1962 in Clinton, MD, she was the daughter of Francis Edward White and Joy Elaine (Kroll) White.

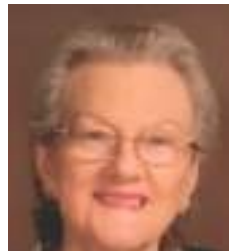
Debbie graduated from Surratsville High School in 1980. She was employed by Prince George's County Public Schools and retired after thirty years. Debbie worked for the Center for Life Enrichment in Hollywood, MD from 2014 until the present. She was a fan of Bon Jovi and enjoyed camping, crafting and going to the beach.

Debbie is survived by her mother, Joy Elaine White; her father, Francis Edward White; her stepmother, Patricia White; her children, Kimberly Thorne, Brandy Blackburn, Matthew Pennington and Rebecca Pulliam; her grandchildren, Richard E. Blackburn, Brooke Blackburn and Mila Kazman; and her sisters, Diane Cook and Jacqueline White. She was preceded in death by her son, Gene Thorne, her brother, Jamie White and her partner, Stephen Pennington.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403 or the Center for Life Enrichment, P.O. Box 610, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

Mary Evelyn O'Neill Pineault



Mary Evelyn O'Neill Pineault, widow of James Martin O'Neill and Edward J. Pineault, died at Sunrise of Mount Vernon

Assisted Living Facility in Alexandria, Virginia on April 11, 2021, just a month shy of her 89th birthday, from advanced dementia.

The youngest child of Howard Marvin Humphreys and Catherine Isabel Gott, Mary Evelyn was born on May 11, 1932, and grew

up in Wallville, Calvert County, where she enjoyed being on the water, especially the Chesapeake Bay. She loved her older siblings: James Rufus Woodrow, Kathryn Eva (Harrison), Howard Vivian, Charles Marvin, Leroy Hutchins, Robert Lee and Kenneth Hoover. Sadly, her parents and all her siblings predeceased her.

She graduated from Calvert High in Prince Frederick, Maryland in 1949. While in high school she took on her nickname of "Mernie" which many came to know her by. After graduation she went to Baltimore where she worked part time at a toy factory to put herself through secretarial and modeling school. One of her first jobs was with AAA in Washington, D.C.

In 1951 she met James Martin O'Neill, also a native of Calvert County and an army veteran of World War II. Martin worked at the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative in Prince Frederick. The two were married on August 4, 1951, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and lived most of their lives at Dares Beach. The couple had two children Patricia Tydings (Tricia) and Gary Martin.

Mary Evelyn held a variety of jobs during her life. She worked part time at the Calvert Independent, the Farm Bureau, the Soil Conservation Service, and finished her career as a full time personnel supervisor and budget manager at the Calvert County Health Department. She also held various civic roles. When Martin was Chief of the VFD in Prince Frederick, Mary Evelyn was President of the Ladies Auxiliary. She not only attended St. Paul's regularly, but she taught Sunday school, was on the Altar Guild (where she could practice her love of flower arranging) and helped with the annual Christmas Bazaar.

She was widowed in 1974 and found solace in her many friends and relatives. She loved playing bridge and socializing. Through those friends, she met Edward J. Pineault (Eddie), a veteran of the Korean War and a representative of the UFCW. They married on May 6, 1978. She became a beloved stepmother to Debbie and Joanne. She took up golf and loved making new friends on the golf course. Mary Evelyn and Ed were known for their love of entertaining, especially the crab feasts at her Dares Beach home. She continued her community service and received service awards in multiple years for her volunteer work.

When Ed became ill, she retired in 1992 after 26 years of service to the state of Maryland to take care of him. At her retirement, she received a resolution and a citation

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from the Senate of Maryland for her "impressive commitment to the people of Maryland." She was widowed once again in 1995.

She lived alone for decades, maintaining her home at Dares Beach with its beautiful yard until dementia prevented this. She loved Calvert County, but most of all she loved her friends and family.

She is survived by her children Tricia (John) Politte and Gary (Michael) O'Neill; her stepchildren Debbie (Mike) Lebkicher and Joann Haley; her grandchildren--who called her Nana-- Erik (Carisa) Lebkicher, Kevin (Amy) Lebkicher, Lauren (Kevin) McCarthy, and Scott Veneziani; her step grandchildren Kristy (Doug) Decarme and Jonathan Politte; her great grandchildren Henry, Elliana, and Audrey Lebkicher and a host of beloved nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at the Rausch Funeral Home, 4405 Broomes Island Road Port Republic, MD. On Thursday April 15, 2021 from 6-8 PM. Funeral Services will be held on Friday April 16, 2021, 11 AM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 25 Church Street, Prince Frederick, MD. Interment will follow in the Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish to make a memorial gift may consider a donation to St. Paul's Episcopal Church 25 Church Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or to The Alzheimer's Association. www.act.alz.org

Michael Edward Zirnhelt



Michael Edward Zirnhelt, 63, of Lothian, MD, passed away on April 7, 2021 at Anne Arundel Medical Center with his wife, daughter,

and son in-law by his side. He was born February 3, 1958 to Edward and Ruth Zirnhelt and was raised on Broadwater Creek in Churchton, MD. Mike graduated from Southern High School in Harwood, MD. He met his high school sweetheart Robin Christine Cox in 1973 and they married on March 15, 1980, and were married for 41 years. Mike retired from Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works in 2019 after 35 years of service. During his tenure, he worked as a Pumping Station Operator, Tractor Trailer Driver, Heavy Equipment Operator and retired as Supervisor of the Millersville Landfill. He loved

operating all types of heavy equipment and was a master at it. Mike enjoyed working in his yard on his John Deere Tractor, gardening, crabbing, NASCAR, watching the History channel, cooking, baking, and spending time with his family and friends.

Mike is survived by his beloved wife Robin, daughter Amber Jacobs (Chuck) of Dunkirk, his mother Ruth Phipps Zirnhelt of Churchton, sister in-law Joyce Amaker (Robert) of Owings, niece Debora Sines of Middletown, nephews Todd Cox of Lothian and Jim Dorsey of Port Republic, and great nieces Brittany Moore of Leonardtown, Samantha Amaker of Bel Alton and Victoria and Savannah Sines of Middletown, MD. He is also survived by his grandpups Bentley & Stella, whom he cherished spending time with.

He was preceded in death by his father Edward Zirnhelt, his in-laws Teddy and Marguerite Cox, brother in-laws Teddy, Jr. and William "Billy" Cox, sister in-law Linda "Sue" Dorsey and nephew Robert "Bobby" Amaker.

Services are Private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Michael's name may be made to the American Heart Association 217 E. Redwood Street, 11th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202

Link: <https://www.heart.org/> or American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22202.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Christopher Max Gonzalez



Christopher Max Gonzalez, 40, of Prince Frederick, Maryland passed away April 6, 2021 in Washington DC. He was born on September 25,

1980 in Cheverly, Maryland to the late Max Gonzalez and Kathy Ann Gonzalez.

Christopher was a very kind-hearted and compassionate man to his friends. He warmed everyone's hearts. He also loved all animals especially his ferrets. He also enjoyed all sports, watching TV and gardening.

Christopher is survived by his mother, Kathy Ann Gonzalez, sister Jamie Duff and her husband Richie, his children Branden, Lexus, Ashton, and Cameron Gonzalez. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews, Bria, Stephen, and Tyler Knott, Samara,

Charisma, Richard, Savannah and Presley Duff, and two Great Nieces, Delilah Ortiz and Ellie Knott.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter, 5055 Hallowing Point Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-535-7387; Link:

<https://calvertcountyanimalshelter.com/>

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

William David "Bill" Tranmer



William David "Bill" Tranmer, 84, of Owings passed away peacefully on April 3, 2021 at his home surrounded by family. He was born July

24, 1936 in Washington, D.C. to Robert F., Sr. and Irvie Eggleston Tranmer. Bill was raised in Capitol Heights and graduated from Suitland High School. He married Frances in 1958 and they lived in Prince George's County before settling in Owings in 1977.

Bill was an entrepreneur. He owned and operated several successful companies throughout his lifetime, including: Arbez Flooring, Tranmer Construction (home building and master general contractor), Park Snacks Concessions in Dunkirk Park with his daughters, and Sonny's Tackle Shop with his brother. Bill built many beautiful custom homes in southern Maryland, and after a long successful career as a contractor, he went on to work as the Director of Community Resources for the Calvert County Government, and later worked as Director of Construction for the Calvert County Board of Education, until his retirement in 1995.

Bill's wife and family were first in his heart. He was a self-proclaimed "people person" with a very kind soul; he was always willing to help family, friends, and others in need. Bill loved politics and ran for Calvert County Commissioner twice. He was also a member of the Jaycees and Optimists and he enjoyed gardening, spending time with family and life-long friends and collecting coins.

Bill is survived by his wife Frances Irene Tranmer (nee Vermillion), children Diana Tranmer of San Pablo, CA, Terry Bosak (Patrick) of Severna Park, Tracey Smith (Foster) of Severna Park, and Michelle Bryant (William) of Prince Frederick, his grand-

children whom he loved dearly, Ashleigh, Eleanor, Samantha, William, Macrae, and Lindsay, his sister Audrey Garber of Hollywood and brother Preston "Joe" Tranmer of Huntingtown. He was preceded in death by his sister Helen Whitley and brothers Ronald Tranmer and Robert F. Tranmer, Jr., and will be dearly missed by those he leaves behind.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Mary Therese Kaiser



Mary Therese Kaiser 92, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2021, at Calvert Health Medical Center with family by her side.

Mary was born in Washington D.C on January 3, 1929, to the late Joseph and Marie LaPlaca. She was the oldest of five children and deemed the nickname Sissy by her siblings and Aunt Sissy by her nieces and nephews. After secretarial school, Mary had several administrative jobs ranging from the Coast Guard, to varied government positions and completing her career at the Department of Navy. In 1954 she married her first husband, the late Lorne Larkin with whom she had seven children. She later divorced and remarried Frank Kaiser in 1976 and remained married until his death in 1997.

Mary had a love of butterflies and collected all sorts of butterfly decor. She loved to do crossword puzzles daily, keeping her mind sharp. She was active in her local senior center and loved to attend their weekly dances.

She is survived by her youngest sister Frances LaPlaca- Renehan (John), five of her children, Christopher Larkin (Cyrus), Brian Larkin (Bo), Dennis Larkin, Lorna Larkin, and Jennifer Larkin. Two stepchildren, Beverly Woerner and Karen Kaiser. Eight grandchildren (April, Andrew, Jessica, Amber, Teresa, Kristina, Kevin, Kieran), Seven great-grandchildren (Brianna, Brittany, Mason, Joslyn, Remington, Adeline, Aniston), as well as lots of nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her brothers Joseph LaPlaca and Raymond LaPlaca, her sister Rosalie LaPlaca-Wilson, her sons Steven Larkin and Thomas Larkin and her grandson Benjamin Judy.

Service announcement will be at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.



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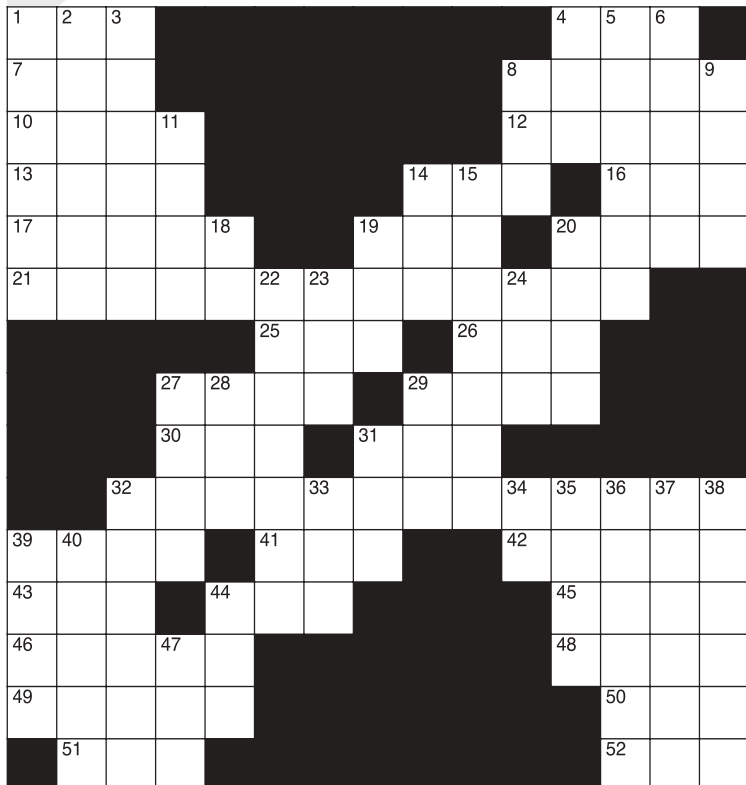
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

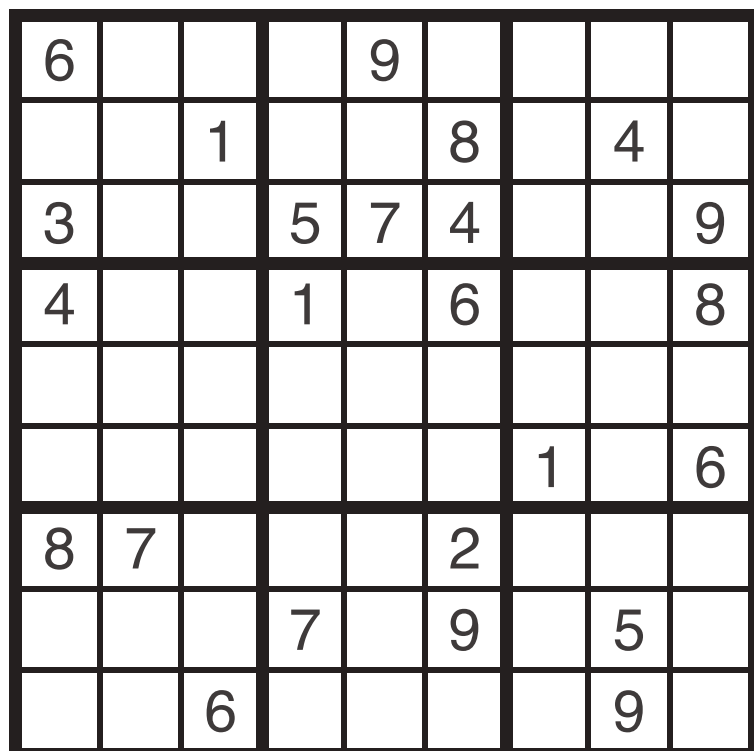
- 1. Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
- 4. American time
- 7. Satisfaction
- 8. Diving duck
- 10. Very small amount
- 12. Metrical units
- 13. An ignorant or foolish person
- 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 16. It may sting you
- 17. Turn outward
- 19. Perform on stage
- 20. "CSI" actor George
- 21. Localities
- 25. Make a choice
- 26. Indicates position
- 27. One of Thor's names
- 29. Indian musical rhythmic pattern
- 30. "The Raven" author
- 31. Take in solid food
- 32. Legendary QB
- 39. Sorrels
- 41. Organization of

- nations
- 42. Texas pharmaceutical company
- 43. Mathematical term
- 44. Expression of disappointment
- 45. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 46. Hide away
- 48. Salad restaurant
- 49. Daughters of Boreas (mythology)
- 50. Men's fashion accessory
- 51. Political action committee
- 52. Unhappy

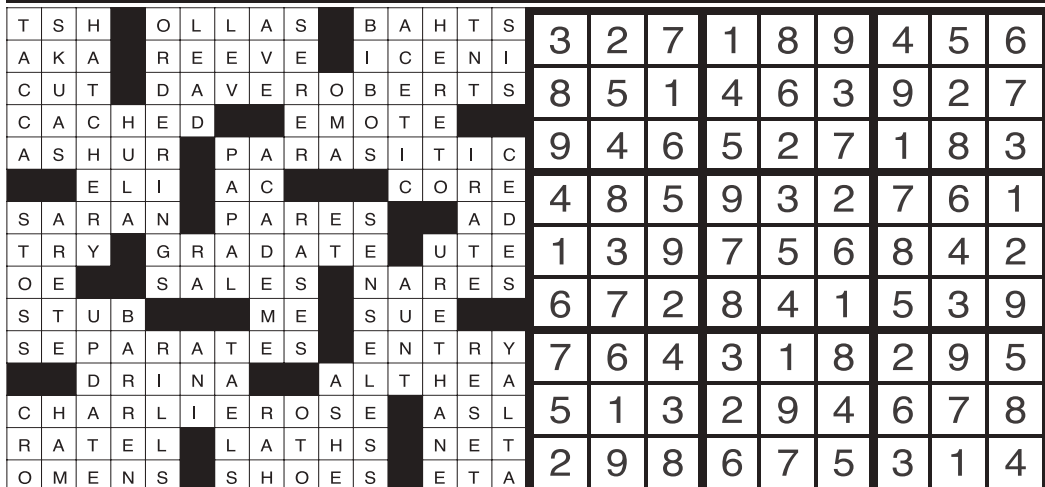
- director Peter
- 14. Boat type (abbr.)
- 15. Apertures (biology)
- 18. Suffix
- 19. Creative endeavor
- 20. Icelandic poem
- 22. Spanish dances
- 23. Town in Central Italy
- 24. Cars need it
- 27. Mimics
- 28. Rocky peak
- 29. Cigarette (slang)
- 31. One point south of due east
- 32. Soap actress Braun
- 33. Large domesticated wild ox
- 34. Island nation
- 35. Appear
- 36. Addictive practices
- 37. Loss of control of one's body
- 38. Type of poster
- 39. Greek mountain
- 40. Funny person
- 44. One and only
- 47. Pouch

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make unhappy
- 2. Heard the confession of
- 3. Capital of Taiwan
- 4. Fiddler crab
- 5. Brazilian dances
- 6. Fit with device to assist breathing
- 8. Brother or sister
- 9. Pastries
- 11. "Lone Survivor"



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Publisher	Thomas McKay	The Calvert County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of Calvert County. The Calvert County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The Calvert County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.
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Contributing Writers	Ron Guy, Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler	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 Calvert 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 Calvert County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The Calvert County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



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