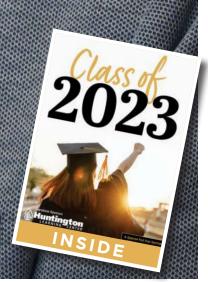
# Calvert Thursday, June 1, 2023 COULT THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 WWW.GOUNTYTIMES.NET

Pushback on Library Review Policy

Pay Study for School Support Staff

Hospice Hosts Annual Fundraiser

# TEASHER OFILE YEAR



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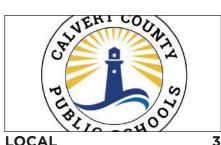
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### "THIS IS ABOUT REMOVAL, PLAIN AND SIMPLE."

TIM SINCLAIR ON THE PROPOSED LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY



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Pushback on library book rules



LOCAL 7
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ON THE COVER

John Allen is Calvert's Teacher of the Year

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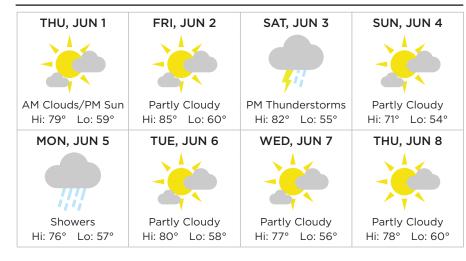
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### **School Board Gets Pushback on Library, Sex Ed Proposals**

By Dick Myers Staff Writer

Calvert County Board of Education member Jana Post's proposal for changes in the review of school library materials has received significant pushback, with the ideas being criticized at the May 25 school board meeting. Speakers included teachers, librarians, and parents.

Calvert Middle School Librarian Jane Embrey quoted Debra Caldwell Stone, the director of the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom, about "self-appointed book police." She said, "Each attempt to ban a book by one of these groups represents a direct attack on everyone's constitutionally protected right to freely choose what books to read and what ideas to explore. One of the best ways to attempt to sway a group is manipulating accepted expertise and data to appear supportive of your viewpoint. The policy update is very good example.'

Tim Sinclair, a Northern H.S. teacher but speaking as a parent, said, "Books have power because they allow us to experience people's stories."

Sinclair said he has been involved in a project called "Restoring" with the Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.

He explained, "The idea of this Restoring project is to bring back the perspectives

and experiences of groups of people whose stories have been stripped away. When we allow dominant narratives to remove the complete story of people from the conversation, we erase the people as well," he said, adding, "Stories allow us access to things we'll never be fortunate enough to experience on our own."

SCHOO He noted, "They also help us understand and sympathize with things experienced by those who are less fortunate than us. We learn from stories how to have compassion for those whose lives are so different from ours, instead of only focusing on people just like us and never reaching outside our own backyards.'

М

Sinclair said of Post's proposal, "Can we drop the pretense that it's about curation? Curation is about access and preservation. This is about removal, plain and simple. In fact, I want to go a step further and say the policy as drafted is utter nonsense that obfuscates censorship in a cloud of reasonableness.'

"It is the least pleasant of ironies that many of the people who speak so much

es VERT COUNT about the freedoms our country was founded on also fight so hard to strip them away if they don't agree them, with Sinclair said.

Natalie Geiger, an English teacher, said, "The roots of these changes could impact access to books that make a library a home for every student. Librarians and media specialists work

hard to make sure library collections are adequate for their schools, including appropriate age range for the students at their school. Creating various committees that will cost significant time and money for a job that library media specialists are highly qualified for and already do every day.'

She said, "As for the high school policy in the curation and management of sexually explicit library materials, the policy of locking up these books and requiring parental permission creates unnecessary restriction of these books. Based on this policy, the school could be locking up and essentially censoring literary works from Chaucer, Shakespeare, and the Bible.'

Geiger said on the proposed changes, "They also minimize the carefully constructed ideas by professionals who specialize in the library sciences. In fact, Calvert County librarians were recognized in 2021 with the National School Library of the Year Award for their inclusive library curation efforts in the county."

Amanda Poland McGrath, a teacher and a parent, said, "About four years ago I was interested in the anti-racism policy we developed. I was glad to see progress in the area where I grew up and more acceptance of the LBGTO community, and vet the backlash since then has been hateful and overwhelming and we're seeing it in the library now."

Anne Jones, a librarian at Windy Hill Middle School, said the current library policy "has served librarians and our programs well. It is fair, all encompassing, and

Mark Taeschner, a librarian for 27 years, said, "The selection of books for a library

requires expertise and knowledge about literature in various subject areas. In addition to the science, history, and education courses I took as an undergrad as part of my coursework, while getting my master's in library science in New York I was required to take multiple courses in children's literature, young adult literature and collection development. If a community board were to take over the book selection process. they almost certainly would not have the same level of expertise and knowledge. This could limit the diversity and inclusivity of the library's collection as stated by the American Library Association in their freedom to read statement."

The proposed changes did get the support of Joshua Johnson, who asked that young people leave the room while he gave his graphic presentation. He said, "What this is about is books that are talking about anal penetration, playful anal penetration," adding, "This is what Calvert County citizens do not appreciate.'

Post said of her proposals, "There are no smoking guns, no secrets. I am looking for what's best for the school system as a whole."

The policy changes for library material selection and sex education proposed by Post are under a 30-day public comment ad will be reviewed in June by the board, as are changes proposed by Board President Inez Claggett for the dress code, which puts less emphasis on what is worn and more emphasis on what the garment covers.

During the board's May 25 meeting, Krystal Arthur, a teacher, said the dress code policy change is intended so "teachers can focus on teaching without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement. However, by using the wording, as long as students face and ears are visible and the student's identity is not concealed, it puts us back into the position of the enforcer. We all know that if a student wears a hood, even with ears exposed from the backside we cannot identify students. And the same goes with wearing a hat. Hoods eventually slip over the face; hats get pulled down so that teachers in the hallway have no way of redirecting or reporting inappropriate behavior because we cannot identify the students."

dickmyers@countytimes.net





### John Allen: Back to Teaching and Now 'Teacher of the Year'

By Dick Myers Staff Writer

When John Allen started teaching at New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL in 1964, little did he know that most of his career would be spent outside the classroom and that almost 60 years later he would be named Calvert County Teacher of the Year.

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Allen told The County Times, "I was a teacher straight out of college. I went to graduate school. I wanted to be a teacher. I thought I'd end up going into school administration. So, I got a master's degree in teaching and education, and then I taught out in the Chicago suburbs for four years at that time. And then I got drawn into the field of film production, and video. Our school that I was at installed one of the country's earliest instructional TV systems. And I spent some time working with that and helping teachers develop lesson plans to take advantage of the closed-circuit system. And liked it so much that I went back to get another master's degree in radio, TV, and film, and had a career in that."

Allen grew up in Vermont and received his bachelor's degree in English from Dartmouth College, Master of Arts in Teaching from Wesleyan University, and MA in Radio, TV, and Film from Northwestern University.

He entered the world of documentary film production with the national headquarters of the American Red Cross and in 1980, established his own documentary and educational film production company, Signature Communications, which was located for many years in Huntingtown.

Allen explained that as a documentary filmmaker, he "travelled extensively throughout the United States, and to such far flung places as Chile, New Zealand. Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan and the

But Allen said, "I never felt that I ever left 'teaching,' since making documentaries was just teaching in another form, but where I was not in a classroom."

With the decision to retire from his business, he said, "I'm not a retiring kind of person, and it just seemed that maybe going back to the classroom would be a fun thing to do. So, now I've had four years here in Huntingtown High School and taught in a classroom, teaching in a total of eight years."

At Huntingtown H.S. Allen teaches film, journalism, and broadcasting. He is a student mentor, member of the Equity Team and advisor to the school newspaper. "I am a strong believer in getting to know one's students personally and teaching to the strengths and needs of each individual. I also believe in the value of engaging students with the local and world community of which they are a part and which they will help to shape in the future," he said in a release from the school system.

"It was a total surprise," Allen said about the announcement he was this year's Teacher of the Year. "I had no idea. My principal planned a meeting with my classes, as a decoy event for me to go to. And Dr. Townsel (school superintendent) was there. and a lot of folks from central office. I had been named teacher of the year of my school, which is also a pleasant surprise. but I had no idea that the county award was coming along.

He teaches several classes. "There is an introduction to journalism where we really start and look at the history of journalism and the constitutional right to free speech and a free press. Kids need to understand those kinds of roots."

There's also a writing class, "learning how to express yourself well, learning the kinds of things that need to go into a news article, to communicate events. And I really try to emphasize that what they're doing for their readers is showing them events and experiences as much as telling them about it in a way that brings the readers into those experiences that you're writing about.'

Allen explained, "Right now, my class is working on some personal documentaries that they're making, but after that, the next step if they want to pursue journalism is they can choose a couple of courses that are focused on newspaper journalism and another couple focused on broadcast journalism. So, they can go in either direction, electronic journalism making documentaries, doing news reports."

He observed, "When I came to Huntingtown four years ago, they had no school newspaper. They had a nice broadcast studio, but no production program for that. So, with our first class of students, we started a school newspaper. It's digital, it's online, so it's an outlet for us to put the videos that our broadcast production class makes within the newspaper as a way to distribute it so they can go in either direction.'

There are similarities. "The writing part is key in terms of no matter what direction you're going, is just

knowing how to express yourself clearly and well, then of course, we branch out into how you do that visually and maybe don't need to use as many words."

At Huntingtown, he said, "We have a nice school. It has been really good in terms of giving us access to the technology that we need for that. When the school was built, they built a studio there for video, for television. It has been used occasionally, but when I came there four years ago, it had been turned back into a classroom and was not used. So, we've got some cameras that have been acquired over the years. They're not necessarily up to date, but they're good. They work well.'

With all the debate about fake news and advocacy journalism, Allen was asked how students entering his courses view the profession. He said, "The kids come into these classes, number one, because they're electives, and so they're not being forced to take them. They chose them because they like writing and journalism. I've run into some kids who come from backgrounds that may have a certain religious or political grounding, but we talk a lot about how, unless you're writing an editorial of some kind, to get beyond your personal beliefs and be balanced, to make sure that when we're learning to do interviews, we find people on both sides of an issue."

As to getting back to the classroom after such a lapse in time, he said, "It's a little different, but I really do enjoy being with students. I think in Calvert County the majority of students are interested in learning. Not all of them, but it's a different culture. We were more careful about our time. School can eat up your time a lot as a teacher, but I learned that in business, you had to do what you had to do, and you don't keep track of your hours. You just get it done.

At Huntingtown, he said, "It's a very collaborative place where teachers work together and support each other. We try to build that same kind of collaborative feeling in the classroom.'

He added, "One of the things I teach within these journalism classes, which



John Allen at his first teaching assignment in Illinois.

exists in the real world that I was working in, is the idea of collaboration. You can't make a video without teamwork. And even in writing articles, maybe one person does the writing, but you work with other people, you learn to get along with other people. You learn how to reach out to people within the community or within the school to get more details for your story."

Allen feels his work during the pandemic in improving internal communication may have contributed to his selection as teacher of the year. "When we weren't at the school, keeping people in touch with each other was a huge challenge," he said, adding "so we developed a lot of programs that went out to a lot of families watching as well as students. We had teachers coming on and talking about what they were doing for themselves during covid, or how they were staying healthy, or how they were staving off mental stress, and sharing those things. And students did the same."

According to the CCPS release, "Active in the community as well, John is a member of the Board of Directors of CAASA (Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse) and President of the Men's Titanic Society, an association of Washington area journalists."

"Our staff at Calvert County Public Schools is the best and our 2023 Employees of the Year represent the best of the best," stated Superintendent Dr. Townsel. "It is an honor to work every day alongside our dedicated, hardworking staff who wholeheartedly support our students."

Allen and other teachers and support personnel from each school were honored by the superintendent, Calvert Board of Education, the Calvert County School Foundation, and other special guests at a dinner held at the Calvert Marine Museum.

He and the teachers of the year from the other 23 school districts were honored by the Maryland State Board of Education on

Allen will be vying for Maryland Teacher of the Year, to be announced in the fall.

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### School Support Staff Pay Study Approved

By Dick Myers Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education has unanimously approved awarding a bid for a compensation study of their support staff.

The bid award at the board's May 25 meeting was to Experience Management Institute for \$114,150.

According to Chief Operations Officer Tony Navarro, monies for the study will not come from the school system's general fund, but instead from a Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) Rate Stabilization Fund.

Navarro explained, "(Calvert County Public Schools) CPS and the pool of school systems for the property and casualty liability insurance receives reconciliation payments and the balance grows. The rate stabilization is held by MABE, and we can access the fund twice a year and use this funding at our discretion. As this is an important project, we chose to use this source of funding."

"The scope of work includes conducting a market pay rate analysis, and review and recommend refinements to job descriptions. And those are two of the overall deliverables. But overall, there are 22 deliverables for this study," Navarro explained.

Navarro said that the rationale for the study was to "improve internal pay equity within CCPS (Calvert County Public Schools) to attain or maintain external equity pay and competitiveness with other school districts and other employees. And overall to help CCPS determine competitive pay rates to enable us to recruit and retain highly qual high quality support staff."

School board member Dawn Balinski

asked, "When we set our rates for our employees, we knew what we were paying everyone in the system, but I guess we need to double check that? I understand competitiveness, so we definitely want to make sure that we are competitive and that there's stuff out there that's happening that we may not be aware of. but external equity, I'm a little confused what you mean by that."

Navarro responded, "People in similar position, it could be other school systems. I would compare to Charles and St. Mary's and other school systems like us." Job descriptions are compared with other school systems, he added.

He said the study was prompted by "an internal team that works with positions and pay scales and in discussions feels that this is the appropriate thing to do. We've noted there could be some inequities within our school system in terms of pay rates and it's time to do an analysis and collect information."

The school board, supported by the county commissioners, pressed this year to give support staff comparable raises to those mandated for teachers by the state's Blueprint education reform.

During the May 25 public forum, Joseph Cormier, a special education advocate and school system employee, said, "We had to build a system in this county where teachers are supported from front office secretaries, building service workers, cafeteria staff, instructional assistants, human resources, bus drivers, bus aides, and more. Our amazing teachers could not do the things they do without the support of support staff."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

# **CSM Names 2023 Distinguished Alumni**





Lusby resident and College of Southern Maryland (CSM) alumnus Dr. David Hupp '07 credits the lessons he learned at CSM for inspiring his impressive work ethic, his drive to achieve and his commitment to his community. For his many outstanding achievements and contributions to southern Maryland, The Quality Improvement Team Leader for The John Hopkins Hospital, community first responder, and lifelong learner was recognized as CSM's 2023 Distinguished Alumni during the college's May commencement ceremony.

Hupp's journey with CSM spans more than 35 years. He first came to CSM as a toddler in CSM's then "Mom and Tots" swim class in the summer of 1988. He performed with CSM's community theater program during his elementary school years, and was involved with multiple CSM summer camps during his middle school and high school years. While attending CSM as a dual enrolled student, Hupp worked as a student assistant in the Innovative Technology Center; he helped lead the Hawk's soccer team in back-toback regional titles; and he participated in CSM's travel study abroad to Belize. Since graduating from CSM, he returns to CSM each year to participate in the CSM Foundation's Annual Golf Classic as a proud alum – alongside his brother, father, and mother Karen Smith Hupp, who is CSM's assistant vice president for government relations.

Since graduating from CSM, Hupp has gone on to earn his bachelor's degree in business administration in 2009, a master's degree in business administration in 2011, and a doctorate of business administration in healthcare management in 2022. Hupp's doctoral thesis, "Process Reliability and Its Effect on Improving Patient Satisfaction within an Inpatient Hospital Environment," discussed first responder burnout, particularly evident during the pandemic, and proposed emotional intelligence training as a means to lessen the problem.

"Through his career achievements and

engagement with the community, Hupp has set a standard to which our students and fellow alumni can aspire." said CSM Alumni and Donor Relations Manager Toni Kruszka. "As one of CSM's brightest points of pride, he represents the life-changing impact of a College of Southern Maryland education, and we are honored to award him the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award,"

In his professional life, Hupp is a southern Maryland hometown hero. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he worked at University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center where he deployed as lead support in Hospital Incident Command Structure working tirelessly facilitating the remote tent operation to manage surge planning, capacity analysis, and supply and equipment procurement. He also stepped in to provide extra hands wherever and whenever needed during a challenging time at the hospital, doing everything from answering phones to doing staff temperature checks.

During the same period, he would return home to his wife and two children and continued to serve on the front-line as a volunteer firefighter and EMT. Hupp initially became involved in the volunteer fire and EMS system at the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department in 2012 where he remained active until he moved to Lusby. He transferred in 2017 to the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department (SVRSFD) where he continues to serve. He has progressed through the ranks and currently serves as rescue lieutenant. He was recently elected to SVRSFD board of directors.

Hupp said he is grateful for his early, and ongoing, connection to CSM.

"At CSM, I learned that you can always push yourself to try new things, learn new things, and better yourself," he said. "I learned that there's no substitute for hard work, and it will pay dividends to put work in early. And finally, I learned the value of maximizing the amount of time that you have in every way that you can."

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### **Emergency Management | Student Member of** to Test Sirens

The Calvert County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management will conduct a full-cycle test of the alert and notification sirens throughout Calvert, St. Mary's and Dorchester counties Monday, June 5, 2023, at noon.

The full-cycle test includes a three-minute activation of all sirens within the 10-mile area around Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant. Citizens are encouraged to be aware of the testing and relay this information to friends, family and neighbors.

The testing is conducted to check siren operation and increase public awareness of the alert and notification siren system. If the sirens sound at any other time outside of scheduled testing, residents should tune to one of the listed local radio stations for information and instructions.

Emergency Alert System stations

- WKIK FM 102.9 MHz California
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- WTOP FM 103.5 MHz Frederick and Washington, D.C.
- WMDM FM 97.7 MHz Lexington

- WPTX AM 1690 kHz Lexington
- WSMD FM 98.3 MHz
- Mechanicsville
- WRAR FM 105.5 MHz
- Tappahannock
- WNNT FM 107.5 MHz Warsaw
- WCEI FM 96.7 MHz Easton
- WKHZ AM 1460 kHz Easton
- WGOP AM 540 kHz Pocomoke
- WCEM FM 106.3 MHz - Cambridge
- WCEM AM 1240 kHz Cambridge

Visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/ AlertNotificationSystem to learn more about the Calvert County siren alert system and to find other emergency planning and mitigation information from the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www. CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountvMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/ CalvertCountyGov.



#### **LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS**

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## the Board Sworn In

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) Key Club, Chamber is pleased to announce that Jordan Hayes rising junior at Patuxent High School was elected to serve as the 2023-2024 Student Member of the Board of Education by the Calvert Association of Student Councils (CASC). Miss Haves was sworn in at the May 11, BOE meeting. Her term will begin on June 1, 2023.

When asked how she will work to represent students, Hayes shared, "I will hold regular student focus group meetings open to all Calvert students, without any age parameters, to gain opinion and perspective on current Board of Education topics as well as areas of concern. Using personal experience and input from students all across Calvert, I will work with the Board to improve the school experience for students.

Hayes has held numerous leadership positions to include the Maryland Association of Student Councils Student Workshop Coordinator, Maryland Association of Student Councils Liaison, PHS Class of 2025 President, PHS Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President, MASC Division 7 Liaison, CASC Special Issues Department Director, CASC Student Workshop Coordinator, CASC Forum's Coordinator, Southern Middle School (SMS) President, SMS SGA Vice President, and SGA Historian. Additionally, Hayes is a member of the PHS Varsity Cheer Team,

and Advanced Orchestra programs, as well as Lung Health Ambassadors program.

"Congratulations to Miss Hayes for her appointment as the 2023-2024 student member on Jordan Hayes the Board," said



Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel. "As demonstrated by her previous leadership experience, she understands the value of student voice and the correlation it has to student success. We look forward to working with her next school year.'

The position of Student Member of the Board of Education (BOE) is established by the Annotated Code of Maryland. Officially, the student is a non-voting member of the Board; however, the student may cast a symbolic vote on all matters coming before the Board. To serve as the student member on the Calvert BOE, the student member must be a rising high school junior or senior in CCPS. The student member's term runs from June 1 through May 31. The primary responsibility of the student member of the board is to facilitate the flow of information between the BOE and students and is encouraged to share students' feedback on issues before the board.



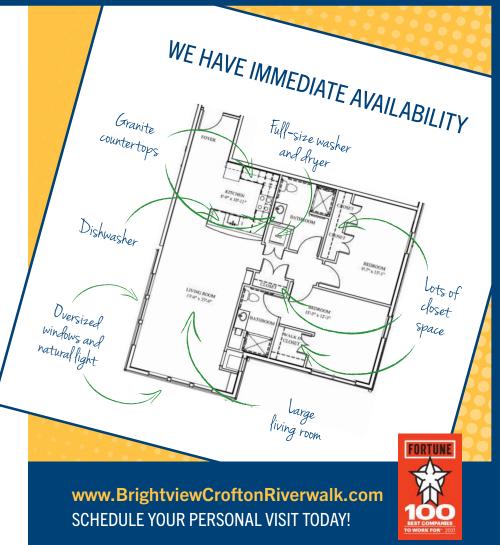
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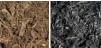


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### **Hospice Event** Raises \$143,000



From left, Hospice of the Chesapeake Board Member Greg Kernan, Sarah Simmons, President and CEO Mike Brady, Calvert County Commissioner Catherine Grasso, Frank Grasso, John Miller and COO Becky Miller Photos by Elyzabeth Marcussen.

The Calvert County community came together to enjoy fine cuisine, local wines and spirited dancing, helping to raise more than \$143,000 for Hospice of the Chesapeake at the 10th annual Culinary Event held May 12 at The Hall at Huntingtown.

In June 2022, Calvert Hospice proudly joined the Hospice of the Chesapeake brand family as an affiliate. Though the nonprofit is now caring for families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties, the organization is fully committed to having local dollars supporting local programs. All proceeds from this event will be used to grow and strengthen programs in Calvert County and providing direct support to local patients and families living with ill-

The organization is grateful for the generous support of its many sponsors, including Vintners Blend sponsors APOD Group, Constellation Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Floor Systems, J. W. Graner Excavating, Inc., Kelly Generator & Equipment, and Maertens Jewelers; Malbec sponsors Gail Siegel - O'Brien Realty, Lee Funeral Home Calvert, Rymer & Associates, P.A., and Mike & Karen Sharpe; Rosé sponsors Calvert Dermatology, SMECO, and Sunset Terrace Solomons LLC; Pinot Noir sponsors CalvertHealth and Matt and Carmen Gambrill; and many more.

The nonprofit also would like to thank its event partners, The Hall at Huntingtown, Maryland Country Caterers, Floral Expressions, Event Pro, and NightLife.



Enjoying the dance floor are Theresa Johnson, left,



Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Mike Brady, left, poses with CalvertHealth President and

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### **CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER**

During the week of May 15 – May 21, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,916 calls for service throughout the community.

#### Damaged Property: 23-35463

On May 19, 2023, DFC Idol was conducting a patrol check of Northern High School located at 2950 Chaneyville Road in Owings, and upon arrival, observed toilet paper all over the front of the school, trees, and windows. Windows around the school were covered in syrup, baking flower and had newspaper stuck to them. There were multiple signs and shipping containers that had been spray-painted. On the stadium field, lacrosse goals were set on flag poles and bleacher benches were on top of the goal posts. No physical damage was apparent. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

#### Damaged Property: 23-35647

On May 19, 2023, DFC Kwitowski responded to the 400 block of Round Up Road in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) tampered with the victim's air conditioning unit. The fence around the unit was partially dislodged and screws were observed on the ground nearby causing the fan to fall to the bottom of the A/C unit. The estimated value of damaged property is \$8,700.00.

#### **Property Destruction: 23-35907**

On May 20, 2023, Deputy Daily responded to the 1500 block of Wilson Road in Huntingtown, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between 6-6:30 p.m. on May 20th, an unknown suspect(s) broke five barn windows belonging to the victim. The estimated valued of damaged property is \$2,500.00.

#### Theft: 23-34313

On May 15, 2023, Deputy Contic responded to 155 Holiday Drive in Solomons, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his 18ft black CAM Superline trailer had been stolen from the parking lot. The estimated value of stolen property is \$4,945.00.

#### Theft: 23-34837

On May 16, 2023, DFC Grierson responded to Baia Costal Restaurant located at 8323 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect described as a Hispanic male wearing a mask, backed a white Chevrolet work van up to the restaurant's used cooking oil dumpster and stole used cooking oil. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.00.

#### Theft: 23-35397

On May 18, 2023, DFC Shoemaker responded to the 11200 block of Lakeview Drive in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his front and rear Maryland registration plates were stolen from his vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$250.00.

#### ARRESTS



Keenan Berry



Shanika Green

responded to the area of the Thomas Johnson Bridge in Solomons, for a traffic complaint. A traffic stop was initiated along Rt. 4 just south of St. Leonard Road in St. Leonard. Upon making contact with the driver. Keenan Anthony Berry, 27, and passenger, Shanika Lanae Green, 21 both of Lexington Park, a strong odor of marijuana was

On May 16,

2023, Dep. R. Jones

emitting from the vehicle. Further investigation revealed Berry's driver's license was revoked. A vehicle search yielded 12.2 grams of a white powdery/rock mix, (suspected Crack Cocaine), a digital scale covered with a white powdery residue, two resealable bags containing marijuana, 3 cellular phones and \$697.00 in US currency. Both Berry and Green were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where they were charged CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Marvin W Thomas

On May 17, 2023, DFC Shoemaker responded to the McDonald's located at 515 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a disorderly subject. Upon arrival,

DFC Shoemaker observed Marvin Wayne Thomas, 56 of Prince Frederick, yelling aloud. Investigation revealed Thomas had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the establishment. Thomas was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Andrew Hart

On May 17, 2023, Deputy Claggett was dispatched to the Dollar Tree located at 545 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the reported trespassing. The complainant

advised, **Andrew Edward Hart**, 63 of no fixed address, had been previously trespassed from the property indefinitely. Hart was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Francis Curtis

On May 19, 2023, DFC Aranda and Deputy Dawson responded to the CVS Pharmacy located at 10095 Ward Road in Dunkirk, for the report of a suspicious activity

inside a vehicle. Upon making contact with occupants of the suspected vehicle, Deputy Dawson observed the floor boards to be littered with cut and torn Brillow Pad fibers. Dep. Dawson observed a torn-up copper Brillow pad fell from the vehicle. Investigation revealed one of the occupants who originally provided a false name, was wanted on an open warrant through St. Mary's County. Francis Xavier Curtis, 25 of Chaptico, was placed into custody. A search of Curtis's person revealed a black tie off containing two rocks of crack cocaine (approximately 1.3 grams). Curtis was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possess-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possess Paraphernalia and Fraud - Per Identification Avoid Prosecution.



Stephen Greenwell Jr

On May 17, 2023, Deputy Novick, responded to 80 Sherry Lane in Prince Frederick, for the check welfare of a subject in the parking lot possibly using controlled dangerous

substances. Upon arrival, Deputy Novick and Cpl. Shrawder made contact with an occupant, who initially provided a false name. Further investigation revealed the occupant, **Stephen Matthew Greenwell Jr.**, 34 of Shady Side, had two open war-

rants through Anne Arundel County for Assault and Escape. Greenwell was placed into custody and began to resist arrest while failing to comply with deputies' orders. Greenwell was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was served the open warrants and additionally charged with charged with False Statements to a Peace Officer and Resisting/Interfering with Arrest.



Brandi Backatt

On May 16, 2023, DFC Aranda responded to the Walmart located at 10600 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a female entered the

store and stole two robot vacuum machines and a coffee machine and left in a 2018 pink/purple Hyundai. DFC Aranda located a vehicle matching the description in Anne Arundel County. Investigation revealed the suspect, Brandi Marie Beckett, 40 of LaPlata, was operating the vehicle with stolen tags that she admitted stealing from a parked vehicle at the Dunkirk Walmart. Upon making contact with Beckett, DFC Aranda observed two wireless robot vacuums, a coffee maker, and a tent in the backseat in plain view consistent with the items the complainant initially reported stolen. With the assistance of an Anne Arundel County Police Officer, Beckett was placed into custody for the stolen registration plates. Further investigation revealed a glass pipe covered in a white powdery residue (crack pipe) was located inside the vehicle. Beckett was apprehended and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. During processing, a search of Beckett's person was conducted and an additional pipe containing white residue was located. Beckett was charged with Theft Less Than \$100, Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

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

# Calvert Community Calendar

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

#### Thu, Jun 1

#### Sea Squirts: Trees

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

#### **Dining in the Field**

American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) 676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick 6-8 p.m. \$150/person

Experience a memorable evening savoring delectable locally-sourced cuisine and refreshing drinks amidst a stunning backdrop. Event will take place in the field next to the Double Oak Barn. Secure your tickets at the following link: https://form.jotform.com/ACLTForms/dining-in-the-field-tickets-form. The proceeds from this year's dinner will go towards benefiting ACLT.

#### North Beach Senior Center Temporary Closure

North Beach Senior Center 9010 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach Through June 2

The Calvert County Office on Aging advises citizens the for repairs and maintenance to the building. The center will reopen with normal hours of operation on Monday, June 5. While the center is closed, Meals on Wheels will still be delivered to recipients. For more information visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ CalvertCountyOfficeonAging or www. calvertcountymd.gov/Aging.

#### Fri, Jun 2

#### First Fossil Friday!

Calvert Marine Museum 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Fossil hunters, bring your fossil finds from the Calvert Cliffs or other local areas to be identified! This service is provided for free; however, admission fees apply for access to CMM exhibits.

#### NDCTheater 'Til Beth Do Us Part

Long Beach Community Center 5845 Calvert Blvd, St. Leonard 7 p.m.

Whether you're married, single, rethinking your divorce or currently being controlled by someone up to no good, you're sure to enjoy this family-friendly, laugh-outloud comedy.

Website: www.ndctheater.org Phone: 443.624.4484

#### Sat, Jun 3

#### **Cultural Arts Market**

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center 13470 Dowell Road, Solomons 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free

Celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of the arts and crafts design in our region! Browse works from artists and vendors selling fair-trade products. Food and drink will also be available for purchase. 410-326-4640.

#### Golden Jubilee

Mary D. Harrison Cultural Arts Center 2950 Chaneyville Rd, Owings 7 p.m.

North Beach School of Dance will present the annual Spring Production, Jubilee, an ongoing tribute to Abigail Francisco's 50 years of dance and dance instruction. The show opens with "Les Sylphides," the last Classical Ballet danced by Ms. Abigail, as well as original Jazz, Tap, & Musical Theater choreography set to music from the beginning of her career. Featuring guest dancers from The Washington Ballet and Ballet Theatre of Maryland.

Tickets are available at www.ticketpeak. co/northbeachschoolofdance

#### NDCTheater 'Til Beth Do Us Part

Long Beach Community Center 5845 Calvert Blvd, St. Leonard 7 p.m.

Whether you're married, single, rethinking your divorce or currently being controlled by someone up to no good, you're sure to enjoy this family-friendly, laugh-outloud comedy.

Website: www.ndctheater.org Phone: 443.624.4484

#### Sun, Jun 4

#### Children's Day on the Farm

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum 10515 Mackall Rd, Saint Leonard 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free

Featuring live performances, creative

activities, entertaining games, wagon rides, and delicious food vendors. Explore the fascinating displays and demonstrations showcasing rural life from the past and present.

#### NDCTheater 'Til Beth Do Us Part

Long Beach Community Center 5845 Calvert Blvd, St. Leonard 2 p.m.

Whether you're married, single, rethinking your divorce or currently being controlled by someone up to no good, you're sure to enjoy this family-friendly, laugh-outloud comedy.

Website: www.ndctheater.org Phone: 443.624.4484

#### Thu, Jun 8

#### Sea Squirts: Trees

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

#### **Ongoing**

#### Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum Wednesday thru Sunday, month of June 2 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour sightseeing cruise on the river aboard the Wm. B. Tennison, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 5-12 years. Children under 5 ride free when accompanied by a paying adult.

#### **Upcoming**

#### **Dragon Boat Festival**

North Beach Saturday, June 10 9 a.m.

Enjoy a family friendly atmosphere, the dragon boat races, and more while supporting End Hunger in Calvert County. Please see https://endhungercalvert.org/events/dragon-boat-festival/ for registration information. 301-855-6681

#### Father's Day Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum Sunday, June 18 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Celebrate Dad during an evening cruise onboard the historic Wm. B. Tennison and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Solomons Harbor and Patuxent River. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, a Father's Day cake, water, tea, and drinks will be served. You are also welcome to bring food or drinks of your choice in small, hand-held coolers. Cost is \$40 for ages 13 and older, \$20 for ages 5-12, and \$10 for children 5 and under.

#### **ZIGGY MARLEY performs LIVE**

Calvert Marine Museum Saturday, June 24 7 p.m.

Emmy winner, musician, producer, activist, and humanitarian ZIGGY MARLEY will perform LIVE at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. Gates open at 5 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$39 - \$69 (additional fees apply).

#### **Church Walk Out**

Various locations
June 11, after church services for participating churches

Churches in the Southern Maryland and surrounding areas will participate in a Church Walk Out "From the Seats to the Streets" to pray at community locations such as hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, housing developments, shopping centers, community centers, and youth centers. To find out how your church can participate or more information, please contact 410-231-0247. A number of churches and the Calvert Interfaith Council are inviting the faith community to participate.

#### 6th Annual Mud Day

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center 13470 Dowell Rd, Solomons Saturday, June 10 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$10 for non-members; \$5 for members (\$12 at the gate, if not sold out); kids 2 & under free.

Celebrate International Mud Day with an afternoon of family-friendly muddy mayhem. Explore squishy art projects, play in the mud kitchen, create a terrarium, paint with mud - and have fun in the giant mud pit! Advance timed-entry tickets required. Food trucks will also be on-site. 410-326-4640.

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# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

#### Thu, Jun 1

American Legion Post 221 Meeting American Legion Post 221

21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301\*481\*6625 for more information.

#### Fri, Jun 2

Food Truck Fri. @ 2nd Dist. VFD&RS—Old Town Pub

Parking lot of 2nd Dist. VFD & RS 19330 Piney Point Rd., Valley Lee 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Food Truck Fri. Fundraiser with Old Town Pub @ the 2nd Dist. VFD & RS parking lot.

Come get dinner to take home!

A percentage of sales from food truck goes back to the department.

For more info contact Stephanie Alvey @ stephanie.alvey@hotmail.com

#### Sat, Jun 3

#### **Huge Community Yard Sale**

Greenbriar Neighborhood Green Leaf Rd and Silver Slate Dr Lexington Park 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Greenbrier neighborhood (off of Hermanville Road in Lexington Park, by Gate 3 and Homegrown Farm Market) is having a HUGE community wide garage sale, both in the common area (the intersection of Green Leaf Rd and Silver Slate Dr) and throughout the neighborhood. There are over 400 homes in the area, so surely you can find what you're looking for at one of the many, many yard sales! There will likely be a few kids selling lemonade and baked goods too!

#### Sun, Jun 4

#### **Drive Thru Chicken Dinner**

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad Rescue Lane, Hollywood 11 a.m. to 3 p.m

4 pieces of Fried Chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, roll and cookies

just \$15. Thank you for supporting HVRS. 11am til 3pm. Drive thru only. No pre orders!

#### Companions and Buddies for Singles Seniors

23630 Hayden Farm Ln., Leonardtown 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This is a group of singles seniors ages 50 and up. We meet on Mondays at the Leonardtown Library. We Have half hour socializing. We plan on events to go to such as movies, dine out, movies, plays, picnics and trips. For more information call Christine Olson 301-997-4160 or email mccambridgec@yahoo.com or just show up.

#### **Upcoming**

#### Filipino American SoMD Annual Fiesta

St George Social Hall, Valley Lee Sat, Jun 10 3 p.m.

It is always FUN at FILIPINO FIESTA. Come and join our Annual Fiesta Celebration. Experience the world famous Filipino hospitality and culture with food, entertainment, art, etc.

For tickets, please contact Jen Mac at 301-

997-3977, or Eventbrite: www.eventbrite. com/e/filipino-american-somd-annual-fies-ta-2023-tickets-623776240527

#### growingSTEMS—Combat Robotics Summer Camp

The Hive—A growing STEMS Center Commerce Avenue, Hollywood 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

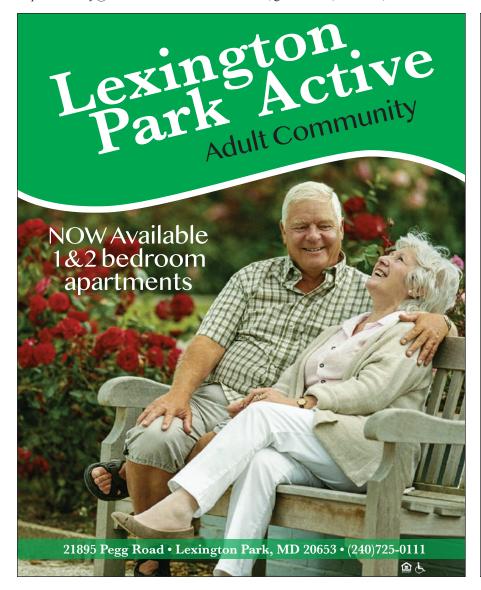
growing STEMS is happy to offer a Combat Robotics summer camp focused around Termite Class Combat Robots! Competitors in grades 3-7th are able to participate in this 2-day camp. Each camp will run on Saturday and Sunday, 10-3PM each day

Camp sessions will be available for the following dates:

- June 10-11th
- July 8-9th
- July 29-30th
- August 5-6th

There will be 12 slots per camp and each camp will be limited to 3 of each robot design.

All competitors must pre-register for the event, walk-ins are not accepted. Registration and more information can be found on our website—www.growingstems.org/product/termite-class-combat-robot-summer-camp/





## FINANCIAL FOCUS

### Are your goals 'must have' or 'nice to have'?

Like everyone, you may have a lot of financial goals. But are they all of equal importance? Probably not. And do they share a similar timeline? Again, it's unlikely. So, your first step may be to prioritize your goals — and then follow a process that can help you achieve them.

This process should include the following steps:

- Identify your goals as "must have" or "nice to have." Making sure you can retire comfortably and won't outlive your resources is a "must have" goal. For this goal, you can't compromise you need to be certain of achieving it, or at least as certain as possible. But if you want to someday own a vacation home by the beach, and you can't ever quite afford it, you might find an acceptable substitute, such as renting. So, it seems fair to say that achieving this goal would be "nice to have."
- Prioritize your investment dollars. Unless you have unlimited sums to invest and very few of us have that luxury you'll probably need to prioritize where your investment dollars are going. For your main "must have" goal retirement you'll be helped by the ability to automatically invest through your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you're on track toward this goal, and you budget carefully and potentially receive salary increases over the years, you may also find space to keep contributing toward the "nice to have" goals.
- Put "price tags" on your goals. You need to know what your goals will cost. Of course, you may need to estimate the costs for some goals based on different factors. For example, when you think about your goal of retiring comfortably without outliving your money, you'll need to consider some key questions, including these: When do you want to retire? What sort of retirement lifestyle do you envision? Do you see yourself downsizing your living arrangements? For other goals, though, such as purchasing a vacation home, you could get more specific on how much money you'll need.
- Follow an appropriate strategy. The nature of your goals, and their estimated cost, along with your appetite for risk, should drive your investment strategy — but another key factor is time. So, for a long-term goal like retirement, you'll likely need a reasonable amount of quality growth-oriented investments in your portfolio. While these investments — such as stocks and stock-based mutual funds — will fluctuate in value over shorter periods of time, your hope is that, over several decades, they will ultimately provide the growth you need to meet your retirement goal. However, to achieve a goal you want to meet in a year or so — perhaps you're paying for a wedding or planning a long vacation — you may want to consider more stable investments, such as certificates of deposit (CDs), short-term bonds or even cash or cash equivalents. They may not provide much in the way of growth, but you can essentially count on them to provide the amount you need when you need it. You'll need to regularly review the performance of your investment strategy for each goal to assess your progress.

Achieving any goals — whether they're "must have" or "nice to have" — can be challenging. But by identifying and prioritizing these goals, following an appropriate strategy to meet them, and consistently reviewing your approach, you can help yourself get to where you want to go.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302 Leonardtown, MD 20650 301 997 1707

# Wanderings A Mimless Mind by Shelby Oppermann



### 7 Years of Love... and Chicken Soup

There is a wonderful, cool breeze coming in through the office window, and along with the breeze comes the trills of birdsong. The rooster, a few houses away, is still crowing loudly that this is a day that should be celebrated for its beauty. The lovely morning beckoned me out to my workshop earlier this morning where I enjoyed the big door open while Mindy the crazy hound dog rested on her blanket surveying the driveway and back yard.

To celebrate Mindy's 7th year adoption day this week, I took her to Rufflections in Hollywood so she could have a spa day of bathing and a manipedi. Mindy held her head high as we left yesterday also sporting a cute watermelon bandana over her collar. I really think she loves being bathed. I noticed on Monday night she was nosing her stinky blankets off of her large dog bed in the living room, all the while giving me a meaningful side eye of, "Do you think you could wash all my bedding so I come back to a space that smells as nice as I will?" Mindy can be very bossy at times. Of course, I washed everything, and put clean new blankets down for her last night while her old bedding was in the dryer. This morning she seemed very happy with her clean self and clean bed. Now I just need to make her weekly chicken soup (just plain for her). Mindy insists she is not spoiled. As you can see from the two photos; one from the day we adopted Mindy at 6 months old on Memorial Day 7 years ago to her photo from this morning, she is doing just fine on her chicken soup with a ½ c of dry dogfood. I really think her God-Dog parents, Paul and Gale, are who started her on her love of chicken.

I think I'll make a second pot of chicken soup with all the onions, parsley, carrots, and celery for us — I have been in the mood for it lately. It must be the cool weather, but I really want my mother's style of chicken soup. This afternoon will probably be in the 80s, but that's okay. Since I was down county yesterday, and Mindy was having her fun time at Rufflections, I thought I would check and see if Harris Teeter had fine egg noodles, which were the kind of noodles my mother always used in her soup, and they did had some. I was so excited because I have not been able to find them anywhere. I might have to freeze some containers of homemade chicken soup for my two sons also, now that I have the right noodles.

Another stop I made yesterday was at Zimmerman's Produce and Irrigation Supplies on Friendship School Road. I love their new building with the produce, baked goods, and crafts. Naturally I had to walk through the greenhouse and bought a hanging Black-eyed Susan vine in what I believe is called blushing Susie for its light pink color for a friend's birthday gift. I thought Black-eved Susan's only came in yellow and black until yesterday. While I was there I was also able to recycle the empty strawberry quart containers leftover from the Strawberry Festival, plus get some beautiful potatoes, strawberries, squash, and canned chow chow, beets, and pepper relish. I am going to send my brother and sister-in-law in Utah one jar of chow chow and one of mild pepper relish. If you have never tried chow-chow on top of a burger or a hot dog, you are definitely missing something. I am also going to try and figure out a way to hint to the family that I would like one of the wooden old fashioned water pump flower boxes they carry for my birthday later this month. They are large and on legs. So...hint, hint family. But I will probably end up going back over there and to get some more hanging plants soon, and maybe a large water pump box will end up in my car too.

I guess I better get started on all the soup, and I may even try to make two more strawberry pies, (even after having made 6 strawberry pies for the festival & one as a gift) and think of a way to send one pie to Utah along with the other goodies. That will have to be an overnight shipment for sure – not sure how a jello based pie will ship; lots of Press & Seal and a 2 gallon poly bag I imagine. I'll let you know how it goes. And a big thank you to all who came out to the Strawberry Festival and took the time to say hi.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook



Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, (Strike/Flight w/13 devices), Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat "V", Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation (3rd Award), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2nd Award), Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Mike continued to serve Marine Aviation from 1998 - 2010 as Vice President of Business Development for Rolls Royce (Patuxent River Office). In that capacity, he supported the full product line of Rolls Royce military engine products. Also in that role, he performed leadership and mentoring roles which were instrumental in the technical development of the vertical lift system for the successful production and maintenance of the Joint Strike Fighter.

Michael fully retired in 2010 to become a full-time outdoorsman! Throughout his Military/Civilian career, he continued his love and pursuit of the great outdoors by hunting and fishing, to include trips to Colorado and Alaska to hunt and fly fish with his best friend and Marine brother, John Bioty. His Zoology degree and interest in nature shaped him into a local expert to others. Mike perfected the true artistry of fly tying for fly fishing. He was personally requested on charter fishing trips with his friend, Captain Pete Dahlberg.

During his combat tour in Da Nang, Vietnam, Michael and his squadron were exposed to Agent Orange. Once diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma, he enrolled in a trial program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a "patient zero" for experimental treatment. As one of only two patients who survived the initial trial, he paved the way for NIH to further develop the trial into a successful treatment used to this day, now resulting in a five-year US survival rate of 71%. His involvement in these clinical trials were in essence an extension of his military combat service.

Mike continued to thrive through 30+ years of intermittent chemo and a successful stem cell transplant. The stem cell transplant was successful in curing lymphoma. However, the many years of chemotherapy eventually led to a fatal case of leukemia. His experience with cancer motivated his interest

in helping others to navigate their treatments. He was always supportive and openly shared his vast knowledge, advice and compassion. He was a member, volunteer and Guide for "Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc", a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military service personnel and disabled veterans. He was also a member, volunteer and Guide for "Reel Recovery", a non-profit organization that conducts free fly fishing retreats for men living with all forms of cancer.

On April 27, 2023 Michael received the Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA) John Glenn Squadron's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award. In the future, this award will be presented as the "Colonel Michael A. Nyalko Lifetime Achievement Award". The MCAA enthusiastically embraced "Iron Mike" Nyalko as their first recipient.

Michael was earmarked as a very specialized, skilled and recognized leader - a oneof-a-kind throughout his life. He was simply a personal and professional role model in every respect to those lucky enough to have served with him or who just knew him as a friend....for his earned friendship is priceless! Michael truly lived his life to the fullest. He will be remembered by generations for the gifts he left behind for all of us. He taught us how to live our lives with love, respect and humility to become better persons...and he taught us to have the courage to die with grace and dignity.

He is survived by his wife Lisa, his son Michael J. and wife Rebekah, his grandsons Michael B. and Nathan, his sister Nancy Guzy, his niece Michelle and husband, Art White, his nephew Steven and Jeanne Marie Guzy, his sister-in-law Teri and husband, Bob McLeod, nephew Patrick McLeod, niece Kimberly McLeod and husband Kevin Faust and a loving mother-in-law Ruthann Pfanneschlag.

The family will receive friends for Michael's Life Celebration on Thursday, June 1, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A funeral service and burial with Military Honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

#### A Tribute to the Loved One Whose Memory Lives On Forever in Your Heart

Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.

For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125



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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.

Peggy McCabe, 94



Ellen Margaret ("Peggy") McCabe died on May 14th, 2023 in Olney, Maryland at the age of 94. Family members were at her side. With her love and kindness, Peggy

enriched the lives of family, friends and all others with whom she came in contact. She was widowed in 2010 after 61 years of marriage to her husband Jerome McCabe, a retired Army office. Peggy set up households in Japan, Spain and 6 states in the US in her role of "Army wife." She was a founding member of Hospice of St. Mary's and served as its first Volunteer Trainer and Coordinator. She owned and operated a historical tour company in St. Mary's County called Terra Mariae Tours.

Peggy is survived by her 5 children: Mike McCabe, Pat Ruppert (Craig), Tim McCabe (Mary), Mark McCabe (Kathleen), Pete McCabe (Jenny), 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren whose names are Ellen, Ada and Boden Bluey, Cordelia, June, Kael and Daphne Felts, JamesCate, Julien and Tobin McGehee, Natalie and Carl Ruppert, Everett and Eva Boyle, Owen and Avery

McCabe, Arya Samantello, and Ella Niles.

Viewing and Catholic Mass on June 12 at St. Paul Catholic Church, Damascus beginning at 10:15 AM. Reception afterwards at Pat and Craig Ruppert's home. Graveside service on June 13 at St. Aloysius Cemetery in Leonardtown.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Peggy's memory may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's. http://www.hospiceofstmarys.org

#### Michael Nyalko, 76



Colonel Michael Alan Nyalko, USMC (Ret), 76 of Leonardtown, MD passed away on May 26, 2023 at his residence with his loving wife, Lisa. He was born on

December 25, 1946 in Monessen, PA to the late Michael Julius Nyalko and Mary (Matty) Nyalko.

He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1961. He was an avid outdoorsman - hunted, fished, & trapped in PA at a very young age with his father. He attended Penn State University in State College, PA, graduating in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Zoology.

Michael was commissioned as a Marine

2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from Penn State in 1968. He began Naval Aviation Flight Training in Pensacola, FL and received his Wings of Gold in Nov 1969. He joined his 1st "Gun" squadron – Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 324 flying the A-4E Skyhawk (Attack iet) in Beaufort, SC in Jan/ Feb 1970. Mike deployed to the Western Pacific (Westpac) joining Marine Attack Squadron 311 at Da Nang, South Vietnam for a combat tour in Aug 1970. He flew 179 combat missions in the A-4E Skyhawk in support of the Vietnam War. Upon return, he served as a Navy Advanced Flight Training Instructor in Beeville, TX with Training Squadron (VT) 25 from 1971-1973, flying the TA-4 Jet aircraft. In 1974, Michael applied and was selected as one of the first Marines to fly the AV-8A Harrier (USMC Vertical "Jump" Jet) and was assigned to VMA-231 at MCAS, Cherry Point, NC. As VMA-231's Landing Signal Officer (LSO), he completed a Mediterranean cruise with Carrier Air Group (CAG) 19 as part of the Harrier Air Integration trials aboard the USS Roosevelt (CVA-42) from Oct 1976 to May 1977. Mike attended Amphibious Warfare School (AWS) at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico, VA from 1977 – 1978. Upon graduation from AWS, Mike joined the Marine Attack Training Squadron (VMAT) 203 at Cherry Point, NC as a Flight Instructor in

Harrier Jets. He was instrumental in training replacement pilots in the Harrier from 1977 – 1980. Michael applied for and was accepted to the Navy's Test Pilot School (TPS) at Patuxent River, MD in 1980 as Class 79. He graduated with distinction following a highly rigorous selection and training program and was selected as the Outstanding Student of his class.

Michael performed development and testing of the AV-8B Harrier from 1980 - 1985. At TPS and throughout his military career, he flew a total of 36 different type/model/series aircraft.

In 1985, Mike deployed overseas to Iwakuni, Japan to join Marine Aircraft Group 15 flying the Navy/Marine Corps F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft. He then attended Military Top-Level School at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) in Washington, DC from 1986 – 1987.

From 1987 – 1998, Michael was assigned to Naval Air Systems Command in Crystal City, VA. He was the first Marine assigned to the A-12 Program, serving as the Integrated Test Team Leader. After the A-12 Program was cancelled, he became the Director of Engineering for the Joint Strike Fighter Program, now named the F-35 Lightning II.

Mike retired from the Marine Corps at the rank of Colonel in 1998. His Decorations, Medals, Badges, and Citations awarded were:





### Fast TRAC Program to Offer Free Chromebooks

In an effort to advance equal access to technology for our residents, St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) is excited to announce plans to distribute 4,500 HP Chromebooks for free to local households with an income at or below the national poverty level. Households participating in any of the following programs automatically qualify:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors
  Benefit
- Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools
- Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year

Eligible households are limited to one device per qualifying address and must show proof of residency/home address and verification of income eligibility or participation in one of the above programs.

"Access to the internet and current technologies is becoming essential to our everyday lives," said James Randy Guy, Commissioner President. "This initiative will help to bridge the digital divide by delivering valuable resources to those in our community who need them most."

Distribution will begin in June of 2023, with varied times and locations across St. Mary's County, while supplies last.

Please visit stmaryscountymd.gov/fast-trac for the schedule of distribution dates, to pre-register, or for additional information. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. Interested seniors may contact any of the St. Mary's County Senior Activity Centers for more information.

"These distribution days will offer a wide range of services, to include tech support from the University of Maryland Extension Office, help enrolling in internet assistance programs, and more," said Bob Kelly, Director of Information Technology at SMCG.

This initiative is part of the Fast TRAC program and is funded by the Connected Devices Grant from the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband. SMCG is working to Fast TRAC our citizens on the information highway through:

- Training Provided by the University of Maryland Extension Office.
- Resources 4,500 HP Chromebooks to be distributed in St. Mary's County.
- Affordability Assistance programs to help pay for internet service or technology needs.
- Connectivity Assistance getting broadband connectivity to your home.

Special thanks to our partners: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services, St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks, St. Mary's County Housing Authority, St. Mary's County Libraries, St. Mary's County NAACP 7025, St. Mary's County Public Schools, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, St. Mary's County Health Department, St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, the Minority Outreach Coalition, and the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions.

# **Lions Club Donates to Mission of Mercy**

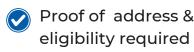


L-R Retired St. Mary's County dentist and Leonardtown Lion Dr. Martin Barley accepts a donation on behalf of the Mission of Mercy Program from Lion George Kirby. The Mission of Mercy Program is supported by the St.Mary's County Health Department and provides free dental work free to the underserved adult population in Maryland. Photo by Lion George Kirby

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- Free & Reduced-Price School Lunch/Breakfast Program
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### **Crab Festival Set For County Fairgrounds**

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

Summer is upon St. Mary's once again and so is the Leonardtown Lions Club's annual Crab Festival.

This year's event features local musical acts of Wesley Spangler and Hydra FX as well as assorted food vendors, craft displays and a classic car show.

The June 10 event

also features a petting zoo at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds and will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The date marks one of the most popular social events in St. Mary's and also serves as the chief fundraiser for the Leonardtown Lions.

This year's festival is the 37th such gathering getting one step closer to four decades for the Lions.

Aside from feasting on the region's iconic steamed hard crabs, attendees can take part in a crab picking contest to see just how good their crab meat gathering skills are.

Judges will sift through the pickings of guyleonard@countytimes.net



each contestant and weigh them — minus all non-meat parts — to see who really picked the most of the precious meat.

A fee of \$20 in advance gets participants a seat in the contest but \$25 will provide a seat the day of the competition.

The winner gets a trophy while the pickers get to eat the fruits of their labors, according to rules of the contest posted by the Lion's Club.

The Leonardtown Lions provide vision and medical screening, vision health support, hearing aid support, and a large variety of other services to the community.

### **Bay District Volunteers Giving Out Free Smoke Alarms**

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

Bay District Volunteer Fire Department Chief Joe Gould says that smoke detectors are

life-saving equipment when it comes to house fires and he and his volunteers will take the next two weeks to ensure residents in their first due area have them.

And they are free.

"We've done this multiple times since I've been chief," Gould told The County Times. "It's a passion of mine; it's about

"This gives people a fighting chance in the event of a house fire."

Since 2010, Bay District volunteers have gone out in the community as an organized event to provide free smoke detectors; but for the past 20 years, he said, residents could always call into the station or use their website to request a free smoke

This year, Gould said, the local Lowes home improvement store has donated 100 smoke alarms and the regional office of the Maryland State Fire Marshals has donated 70 alarms.

Gould said the volunteers would pay for more smoke detectors if they ran out of the donated

items.

According to the volunteer fire company the installation schedule is as follows:

#### Sunday, June 4th, starting around 9 a.m.

- Patuxent Homes
- Country Side
- · Colony Square

#### Sunday, June 11th, starting around 9 a.m.

- **Tubman Douglass Estates**
- Lexington Estates
- D&B Trailer Park

Residents of these communities who will not be home on the scheduled dates, or anyone who cannot afford smoke alarms, can visit the company's website, www.bdvfd.org.

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### Saturday, June 3

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Kids Open Studio at Wine & Design (kids 12 and under), facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Wine & Design - Open Studio for teens to adults, facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Antoinette's Garden Brunch, facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Old Jail Museum Visitor's Center and Gift Shop is open daily, facebook.com/ theoldjailmuseum

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Arts Council Gift & Gallery viewing hours featuring the Cinco de Mayo Art Show and the works of local member artists, stmarysartscouncil.com

**11 a.m. - 5 p.m. North End Gallery** viewing hours featuring the work of the gallery's five ceramic artists in their Clay Extravaganza Art Show, northendgallery.com

**12 p.m. - 7 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery**, live music featuring Ben Connelly, food by Heidi's Eats, Sage's Treats Food Truck, facebook.com/portofltownwine

**12 p.m. - 12 a.m. Viking Axe Throwing at the Brudergarten** in Shepherd's Old Field Market, facebook. com/vikingaxethrowingandrentals

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Board & Brush, Mini Signs & Mimosas Workshop, boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

**2 p.m. - 10 p.m. FREE Trolley Rides** provided by Patuxent Transportation LLC courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown, visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtowntrolley

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Mountain Beach Art Workshop at Wine & Design, facebook.com/ wndstmaryscountymd

7 p.m. Karaoke with Mike Trujillo at Social Coffeehouse starting at 7 p.m., facebook/socialcoffeehouse

8 p.m. That Big Comedy Show at the Rex Theatre starting at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), facebook.com/ therextheatre

### Sunday, June 1

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Antoinette's Garden Brunch, facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Old Jail Museum Visitor's Center and Gift Shop is open daily, facebook.com/ theoldjailmuseum

**11 a.m. - 5 p.m. FREE Trolley Rides** provided by Patuxent Transportation LLC courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown, visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtowntrolley

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Seaplane Rides return to the Leonardtown Wharf providing aerial views of Breton Bay, Potomac River and more, pre-booking recommended, somdseaplanes@gmail.com

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer Sunday Slice Party at the Slice House featuring Japanese City Pop and DJ set by Juice Box Johnson, facebook.com/slicehouse

**11 a.m. - Close Customer Appreciation Day** at Action Billiards & Lounge offering FREE pool all day long, facebook.com/actionlounge

**12 p.m. – 6 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery**, live music featuring Night Cap, food by El Co Qui Food Truck, facebook.com/portofltownwine

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Pick Your Project Workshop at Board & Brush, boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

**1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Viking Axe Throwing at the Brudergarten** in Shepherd's Old Field Market, facebook.com/vikingaxethrowingandrentals

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Kids Open Studio at Wine & Design (kids 12 and under), facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Wine & Design - Open Studio for teens to adults. facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

The information included here is accurate at the time of printing, and is subject to change. Please visit the event page for current information.





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### Friday, June 2

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Antoinette's Garden Brunch, facebook.com/ AntoinettesGarden

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. The Old Jail Museum & Visitor's Center will be open with extended hours for First Friday, facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Shepherd's Old Field Market specials throughout the Market, shepherdsoldfield.com

12 p.m. - 12 a.m. Viking Axe Throwing at the Brudergarten in Shepherd's Old Field Market, facebook.com/vikingaxethrowingandrentals

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Audience Participation Drum Circle on the Arts Council Lawn, stmarysartscouncil.com

**5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Music performance from Bethany Yeh** in LTown Alley (courtesy of the Leonardtown Arts & Entertainment District).

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m. North End Gallery Opening Reception** for the all-member show titled Busting Out All Over, northendgallery.com

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m. St. Mary's County Arts Council** will host an Opening Reception featuring the works of local photographer Michael Montillo. This Community Art Show will be featured for the month of June 2023 w/ an Opening Reception on First Friday, June 2nd from 5 to 8 PM., stmarysartscouncil.com

**5 p.m.** – **10 p.m. FREE Trolley Rides** provided by Patuxent Transportation LLC courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown, visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtowntrolley

5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Drumline performance on the Arts Council lawn, stmarysartscouncil.com

**5:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery**, live music featuring Bootleggers, food by Chaptico Market Food Truck, facebook.com/portofltownwine

**5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Live music in Ltown Alley with Bethany Yeh** (courtesy of Leonardtown Arts & Entertainment District), visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownae

**5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Car Show** featuring antique and classic cars on display in LTown Alley courtesy of St. Mary's Rod & Classic, facebook.com/stmarysrodandclassic

**5 p.m. – 9 p.m. FREE, family-friendly Make & Take project** with Tape a Friend, Make a Friend in LTown Alley (courtesy of the Leonardtown Arts & Entertainment District), 301-664-0396, visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownae

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. FREE, family-friendly Immersive Splatter Paint Activity with Cam Donahue in the Mad Splatter Shack in LTown Alley (courtesy of the Leonardtown Arts & Entertainment District), visitleonardtownmd. com/leonardtownae

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. First Friday live music on the Square featuring Joseph Norris, visitleoanrdtownmd.com/ firstfriday

6 p.m. – 9 p.m. A good, old-fashioned Cookout in Leonardtown Square hosted by Leonardtown businesses. Enjoy live music from Joseph Norris, tasty eats and fun! visitleoanrdtownmd.com/firstfriday

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Board & Brush, Pick Your Project Workshop (for 16 +), boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Yellow Line Studio**, Summer Abstracts with Pan Pastels Art Workshop, facebook. com/theyellowline.co

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Sunset Cruise** returns to the Wharf with Captain Phil of Fish the Bay Charters, visitstmarysmd.com/cruises

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design** - Kids Open Studio (12 and under), facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design** - Open Studio for teens to adults, facebook.com/ wndstmaryscountymd

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# School Bus Collision in Mechanicsville



A St. Mary's County school bus with 23 passengers on board was involved in a collision May 30 in Mechanicsville. Reports from first responders show that all the passengers were assessed and five of the students on the bus were sent to the local hospital though without serious injury.

# **Great Mills Road Community Clean Up This Weekend**

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

Great Mills Road is one of the most important roads in St. Mary's, unfortunately, at times, it can also become one of the littered upon as well.

That's why the Three Oaks Shelter, county health department, Community Development Corporation (CDC) and the Lexington Park COPS Unit are partnering to sponsor Saturday's Great Mills Road Community Clean Up.

From 9 a.m. to noon on June 3 bands of volunteers

will team up starting at the Church of the Ascension and move out to pick up trash all along the road and in the community.

The effort still needs volunteers.

But more than just trash pickup, which was the focus of last year's event, this year's event will include planting greenery at businesses along the corridor to beautify it.

The CDC won an \$11,000 grant to provide the greenery; it was part of a \$10 million state grant package released in December of last year by former Gov. Larry Hogan.

The CDC is encouraging residents from neighborhoods such as Patuxent Homes, Westbury, Colony Square, Patuxent Crossing Apartments, Essex South to help pitch into the effort.

Taylor Smith, executive director of the CDC, said about the same number of vol-



unteers have come out this year so far as last year.

"We have 108 volunteers right now," Taylor said. "I'm really shooting for 150 volunteers.

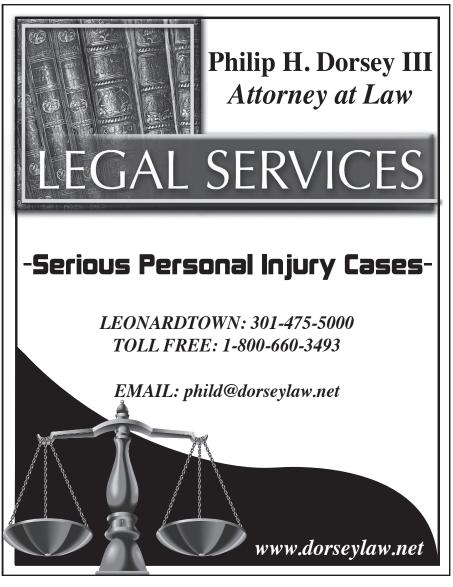
"We're really excited for this; this is a big initiative in the name of hopefulness."

Smith said Lexington Park and the Great Mills Road corridor often suffer from "unfortunate stereotypes" as being a place where its own residents don't care about where they live.

"This is a meaningful event," Smith said. "It's proving that when people come together real change can happen.

"They're defying those stereotypes."

guyleonard@countytimes.net





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## **Esperanza Middle School Has St. Mary's Teacher of the Year**

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

Armed with a love of English literature and grammar and a desire to help young people, Alisha Swann set out eight years ago to become a teacher in St. Mary's County Public Schools.

Now, at 29 years old, she is St. Mary's County's Teacher of the Year.

Her teaching career has focused solely on teaching English language arts to 8th graders at Esperanza Middle School.

It's a time when students face taking the next big step in their education to high school.

Swann said she takes her role in that critical time of change seriously.

"I'm able to help them get acclimated whether they're going into honors English or on-grade level English in high school," Swann said. "English literature, the English language; that's what I love."

She has five classes that she teaches, three accelerated, one gifted-and-talented and one on-grade level.

She teaches roughly 120 students and is happy to call Esperanza Middle her school home.

A Prince George's County native, she

That Surann

graduated from a Christian school in Upper Marlboro before moving on to Elmira College in up-state New York; she now holds a Master's Degree, which makes her a valuable state-certified teacher.

They are the kind the county school system, like so many other in Maryland, need to fill classroom vacancies.

When she applied for a teaching position with the county, she was quickly guaranteed a place but had interviews with principals throughout the system to see where she would best fit in.

The senior decision makers felt that Esperanza was where she could make the best impact and she seems to agree.

"I was excited about it," Swann said of getting hired nearly a decade ago. "I was an early hire.

"I've enjoyed it here."

At just 4-feet, 11-inches tall, Swann is petite but very positive, kind and outgoing.

Her personality, influenced by her Christian upbringing — her father is a church pastor who also worked as a telecommunications engineer — often brings greetings her way from teachers and students alike as they pass by her in the halls at Esperanza.

"Love you, too!" she often responds to her admirers.

She looks up to many of the teachers around her who have either been in the system longer than her and have achieved much; some of them nominated her for the honor of being teacher of the year. "I was excited and shocked at the same time," Swann said when she learned of the award. "It's a huge honor.

"We have so many amazing teachers in our county."

And a teacher is all Swann has ever wanted to be, even from the nearly unbelievable age of just 4 years old.

She remembers asking a teacher at that early age to help her write a letter and from that moment on that was all she could think about becoming—someone who was an educator

and could help people grow.

"I want to help students do that," Swann said.

While the English language and literature is what she loves she said she would put the same passion into teaching lessons on something like social studies.

"What I love most is teaching students... helping them get from one level to the next," Swann said.

Sometimes that progress goes beyond the academic, she said. Sometimes that means helping students advance behaviorally and socially, helping build their confidence and coping skills.

"Maybe they were making 'D's and now they're making 'C's," Swann said. "That's progress."

She finds that being kind to students and teachers alike has won her not only respect but love from those around her.

She said students have refrained from bad behavior in her classroom because they did not want to disappoint her.

"My kindness, I think that works to my advantage," Swann said. "If I do have to raise my voice, they know..."

Swann said she wanted students to learn that education was more than teaching them skills but helping them to grow as people.

"They're the next generation," Swann said. "But they're also human beings. I want them to see the better version of themselves... that they don't have to settle."

Swann said she has several possible paths ahead of her in her career, perhaps moving on to a professorship somewhere or staying and helping and continuing to teach young people in their formative years, but she said she always wants to be involved in education no matter what she does.

SP R A N Z A

"I'm always asking God, 'What do I do next year?'" she said. "Whatever God wants me to do, I'll do.

"As long as I'm working in education."

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### **Fight Over Septic System at Pot Farm Continues**

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

The owners of the large, industrial medical cannabis farm located on Abell Road in Avenue lost their bid last week to have an appeal filed against their operations there thrown out by the county Board of Appeals.

They must now submit to an evidentiary hearing before the zoning appeals board on June 8 to make the case that they should be allowed to expand the septic system that serves the 52,000 square-foot growing facility.

The vote on whether to dismiss the appeal was split 3-to-2 in favor of proceeding with the appeal against the facility.

In their argument against dismissing their case, the citizen appellants argue that then-land use director Bill Hunt approved a building permit in 2021 for the facility that would bring in 20 employees to work on 800 medical cannabis plants; but the county subsequently passed zoning laws that restricted such operations in the rural preservation district.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County did this in response to community uproar about such a large project in an environmentally sensitive area with no public community input.

These new zoning regulations made the

cannabis farm a legal, non-conforming use.

But the owner of the facility, 7 Points Agro, owned by Blue Griz, LLC, would soon offer an amended site plan that brought the facility to more than 70 employees tending to 23,000 cannabis plants.

The appellants argue that the amended site plan improperly authorized the expansion of that non-conforming use that exceeds the limits of the zoning ordinance.

The county approved this amended site plan that would increase the intensity of the operations at the cannabis farm in October of 2022, the appellants filed their case the following month.

The site owner contend that the appeals board does not have the authority to deal with septic system approvals; only the state can do that and the local health department has already made the approval of the septic system expansion.

"This appeal is nothing more than a last-minute, improper attempt to hinder and delay the operation of Blue Griz's justabout-completed medical cannabis cultivation facility," the site owner argues in their case for dismissing the appeal.

"The grow house itself is already built thereby vesting the right to use and occupy the facilities — at substantial cost and effort.

"The instant case involves only the grow house's septic system which is a simple



The Abell Road cannabis facility

and relatively standard sand mound septic system designed, situated, and constructed pursuant to state standards and approvals."

The board's authority did not extend to reviewing septic systems, the site owner argued, only matters of the zoning ordiance.

"In contrast, the board's jurisdiction is limited to reviewing county decisions 'made in regard to the administration or enforcement of this ordinance'-i.e., the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance,' Blue Griz's filing with the board reads.

During the more-than-two-hour May 25 meeting of the appeals board, there were several outbursts from the public regarding the motion to dismiss — one person shouted

out that they had never been informed of the amendment to the project area as they should have, as they were a neighbor to the site.

Appeals board chair Dan Ichniowski warned them that he would clear the room if the outbursts continued.

Ichniowski and fellow board member Wayne Miedzinski voted on Miedzinski's motion to approve the dismissal of the appeal but lost out to the other three members present that day.

They were Ronald Payne Sr., Guy Bradley and Rich Richardson.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Presented by: Theron Hudson St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Lunch provided by Mission BBQ - 12:30 p.m.

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### **Two Charged in Shooting Death**



Marvin Orlando Johnson

By Guy Leonard Staff Writer

Court documents reveal that the man charged with murder from an incident in an apartment in Mechanicsville, Marvin Orlando Johnson, had allegedly threatened to kill family members regarding a sex offense that had occurred within that family some time ago.

Police say that Johnson, 38, made good on this threat in the late hours of May 23 by killing Raymond Franklin Woods, Jr. with a single gunshot wound to the head in the victim's apartment in the 29000 block of Three Notch Road

Court documents do not specify who the victim in the sex offense was, nor the offender, only that the case had been investigated and adjudicated.

Johnson, and a person police say was an accessory after the fact in the homicide, Marlee Lynn Stokes, 37, are both being held on a no-bond status at the adult detention center in Leonardtown.

Both have been charged with first-degree murder, second degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and first-degree assault.

Police write in an application for a statement of charges against Johnson that he became embroiled in an argument with his mother, who was also the victim's wife, over the sex offense in question; this led to a conference call with other family members in which Johnson is alleged to have threatened to kill certain of them in reference to the (unidentified) suspect in the previous sex offense.

That evening the victim's wife went to sleep with the victim outside of the residence drinking alcohol with his stepson; she was later awakened by the sound of a gunshot and the smell of gunpowder, court documents state.



Marlee Lynn Stokes

She awoke at about 5 a.m. on May 24 and found the victim on the couch with his head covered with a blanket; she removed it to find that he was dead.

A witness told police that they saw Stokes parked in her silver Mazda a short distance away from the murder scene and engaged her in conversation.

Shortly thereafter, the witness saw Johnson open the car door and place a rifle in the rear floorboards.

Johnson came around, got in while the witness exited the vehicle, and drove away, court papers state.

The girlfriend of the victim's stepson, who works at a convenience store in La Plata, told investigators that Johnson entered the store in the early morning hours of May 24 and spoke to her.

"[She] reported Johnson admitted to her that he 'shot pop pop," court papers read. She reportedly told Johnson that she did not believe him, to which he retorted: "No. For real."

Police were able to locate Stokes vehicle and stop it in Mechanicsville near the intersection Charlotte Hall School Road; both Stokes and Johnson were detained.

Stokes told law officers she had taken the defendant and his brother, identified as David Johnson, to the victim's residence at about 10 p.m. the night of the homicide.

After both men came back out they drove to La Plata where Johnson told Stokes: "I told her I killed him."

"He then laughed and said it was a joke," court papers stated.

Stokes directed police to a wooded area in Charles County where they found a gun they suspected was tied to the homicide.

Johnson agreed to talk to investigators, court papers stated, and provided a statement but that statement was not released.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

### **Legal Notice**

#### THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN 2022 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

The 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be available July 1, 2023 to Town residents and the public at the Town Hall office, 22670 Washington St. Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and at the Leonardtown Post Office, 22735 Washington Street and is also available online at http://leonardtown.somd.com under Town Government, Water Quality Reports.





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Two arrested for Mechanicsville murder



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Community cleanup on Great Mills Road



ON THE COVER

Alisha Swann is St. Mary's Teacher of the Year

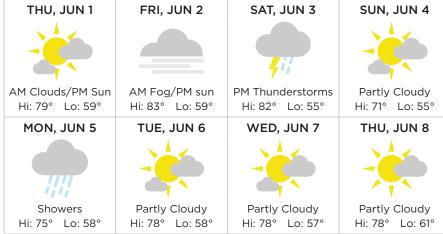
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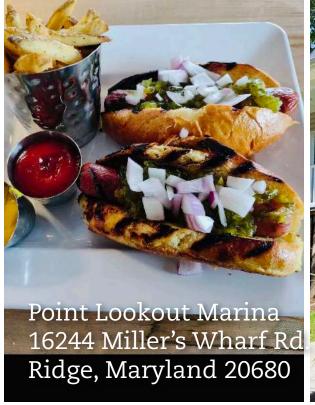
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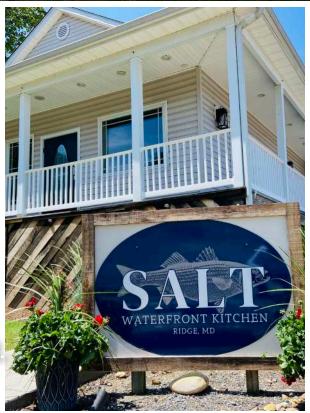
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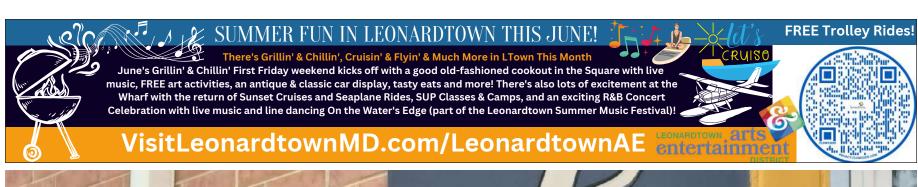




















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