

Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

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Student Advocacy Board
Coming to NHS

Fire Damages
Lusby Home

Lusby Woman Pleads
Guilty to Animal Cruelty

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Solomons, Maryland

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ON THE COVER
Solomons to host Dragon Boat Races

WEEKLY FORECAST

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MON, AUG 21 Mostly Sunny Hi: 89° Lo: 71°	TUE, AUG 22 Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 69°	WED, AUG 23 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 67°	THU, AUG 24 Mostly Sunny Hi: 83° Lo: 67°



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Oh My, The Dragons Are Coming

Don't Worry, They're Friendly



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The dragons are headed our way, but these are the kind you want to run to instead of from. The 7th Annual Solomons Dragon Boat Festival is coming this Saturday, Aug. 19 to the Solomons waterfront with preliminary festivities the night before.

The festival is a fun event for the entire family, but it also has the added benefit of being for a good cause -- Southern Maryland Community Resources, Inc., (SMCR).

According to a press release announcing the event: "SMCR Inc. creates opportunities for people with disabilities, providing social, recreational, and educational programs for the entire community, with an emphasis on accessibility for those with developmental differences. For more about SMCR, Inc. and the work we do, check our website at www.somdcr.org."

This year's festival chairperson knows about the organization's good works from her position as a board member. Kristin Kauffman got hooked on what they do in her position as Chief Marketing Officer for Cedar Point Federal Credit Union, one of the event's original sponsors.

She said, "Bonnie Elward, who was the executive director at the time, came to Cedar Point and she said, we want you to sponsor the festival. And we thought that was a great idea, and we thought, you know, let's not just sponsor, let's be the sponsor. So, what we wanted to do from Cedar Point aspect at that point was to just make sure that we were a part of the planning process and just make sure that we understood everything that was going into the event because we were putting our name on it. So, I really just started going to the Dragon Boat meetings just to listen in on everything that was happening. And ultimately, four years later, I ended up running the whole thing."

It fit in with Cedar Point's goal of getting their employees involved in community causes.

"I love it," Kaufman said. "I've been doing this for my whole life, even in middle school, instead of going to the cafeteria for lunch, I would go down to the special needs classroom and help the students there learn math or reading or whatever they were working on at the time."

This is a special year for SMCR. According to the release, "This year we are celebrating SMCR's 10th Anniversary along with our Doting of the Eye Ceremony

on Friday, August 18 at 6 p.m. outside Our Lady Star of the Sea on Solomons Island, during which the public can help paint the dragons' eyes to awake the sleeping beasts."

They were started as a support system for other organizations. Kaufman said, "What we like to say is that, for all of the providers around such as BayCSS or the Arc of Southern Maryland, we provide the fun stuff that they can bring their members to. We are not providers ourselves, and we don't intend to be. But we help facilitate all the fun. So, for example, we're doing a Joy Prom in September. It's a dance that our members love every year. We're finally bringing it back after the pandemic. It's our first time back. So, our members are really excited about that."

She added, "So one of our philosophies at SMCR is that we pay for the support of people and projects, not infrastructure and facilities. So, it goes back to basically to supporting the events that we put on. So, for example, bowling Night, it helps subsidize the entry for that for our members for field trips that we take. So, we'll do picnics in the park. We've taken some folks to see some historic monuments in Washington, DC."

The official release explains, "Race day is packed with teams of all sorts from Southern Maryland and beyond. A variety of entertainment, food trucks, artisan vendors and kid-friendly activities will round out the event. This free day of fun begins with the Dragon Boat Races on the Patuxent River and includes three areas in-keeping with ancient tradition: Team Village, Vendor Village & Dragon's Nest Children's area. Visit www.SolomonsDragonBoatFestival.com for details.

"Dragon Boat Teams consist of 16 paddlers, a drummer and a trained steer person. We partner with 22Dragons to provide the boats and instructors, and they visit us each year all the way from Montreal. Teams can be local businesses or special interest groups looking for some fun and to help raise funds for an excellent cause. Visit our teams page to see all of our awesome partners.

"Spectators are welcome! Race Day is approximately 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, August 19. Practice sessions occur from 5:30-7:30 p.m. throughout the week leading up to the races and are open to the public to view from the Solomons Riverwalk."

- The schedule on Saturday is as follows:
- **8:00 a.m.** Team captains will meet with our Teams Coordinator and 22Dragons representative at the Muster area in the Solomons North parking lot.
 - **8:30 a.m.** At the Gazebo, Presentation

of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem. Our Vendor Village is also open to the public at this time.

- **9:00 a.m.** Races Begin! Make your way to the Riverwalk to cheer on your favorite teams.
- **10:00 a.m.** Food trucks available for orders.
- **12:00 p.m.** Break for lunch. This timing is approximate. We recommend you check out our local restaurants (or two or three!) and sample their specialty dragon rinks just for this ent.
- **1:00 p.m.** Races resume. This timing is approximate.
- **3:00 p.m.** Awards Presentation. This timing is approximate and depends upon when the day's races finish.

Doting of the Eye Ceremony: Friday, August 18, 6 p.m.

Join us as we paint the eyes of the dragons to awaken them and wish them well in the races to come.

All are welcome to help SMCR members paint the eyes. The more, the merrier!

As part of the fun, SMCR reports, "Of course it defeats the purpose of a flash mob, so we won't talk about any flash mob. But if there WERE a flash mob, all would be welcome to learn the dance at 6 p.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Psst! Wear red to join any potential flash mob."

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Student Advocacy Board Coming to Northern High School

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

When Northern High School (NHS) students return on August 28 from summer break, they will be asked whether they would like to join in a new initiative from a group of fellow students. It's called the Student Advocacy Board.

Rising seniors Paige Plater, Samantha Rhodes and Riley O'Leary explained the initiative to the school board at their Aug. 10 meeting.

The project was enthusiastically embraced by board members who expressed hope that the NHS pilot project would expand to other schools.

Plater explained, "This started out as our class project for AP Psychology. Our assignment was to figure out a way to improve mental health in schools. So, our first proposal was to hire a mental health liaison, but when we interviewed students around our school, we realized there's still that negative stigma around going to the guidance office for help. And a number of students just weren't comfortable using this resource to go to with their issues. And it's just more ineffective for development when the voices that are meant to be heard aren't letting themselves be heard."

She explained, "Initially we focused solely on mental health, but students have

issues beyond that field that need to be addressed. So, we decided to broaden our approach/ As students, we are the most qualified in understanding students' problems because we're living them. We think that students should be a part of the solution."

Students were interviewed, and Plater said issues on their mind include "home life, school life, academic challenges, parents, social media, everything. to do with that. And we kind of talked about how we came to the conclusion that students can serve on a board, something we call a Student Advocacy Board. And they can come together to kind of combat the struggles that students are facing. So, students can come to the board, they can talk about the issues in school that they feel should, be changed."

Rhodes said, "The result of our research found that we need a channel between students and administrators. And so, the board would give a comfortable space to share those ideas on just how to improve the school system and ultimately benefit the student body's wellbeing. The board would also give us the students a chance to advocate for ourselves by sharing those ideas directly to those who can make that change. It'd be able to adjust issues beyond mental health that students are passionate about by having students and administrators work together to find a compromise."

Three fliers have been created for distribution when school starts, one of which is a recruitment for members of the board. Another has an access code to a survey of issues that need to be addressed. General issues will be solicited. But if students have individual personal problems they will be referred to resources that can help them, such as guidance counselors or administrators.

Plater said, "Administrators and counselors would select the students to serve on this board. This is how we think this would work over the first or second year of the board. Going forward that might look a little different. So potentially, current student advocacy board members may help select the next advocacy board members."

"Congratulations on being proactive problem solvers. I think that's wonderful," said board member Lisa Grenis after the student presentation.

Board member Jana Post said, "I also want to commend you guys for taking this initiative. I think it's super important to begin to normalize talking about things that may affect you personally, things that happen in school and the stressors that are involved in life. Being a teenager is not easy."

Post added, "I realize it's not an easy task and being in school and being around kids and being around lots of different people can be hard. I think that this is amazing that you have provided additional resources in here for

students that may be struggling with things." Post wanted to make sure that the process included parent involvement when appropriate.

"I know that you know, as teenagers, parents are kind of annoying," Post said. "I know we are. I can appreciate that. But it's also that we play an important role in many respects and, certainly some things would be beneficial for us to know if there were things that were happening. So, if there's an opportunity for there to be parental involvement at some level. I know that the initiative is not to discourage children from participating as in sharing, but just wanted to mention that."

Board Vice President Antoine White said, "I'm just so amazed and glad that you're here because I was blown away the way that you guys are thinking, and I've always said you guys have the answers. We just have to listen to you and support you."

Board member Dawn Balinski added, "This is an excellent idea."

Student Member of the Board Jordan Hayes said, "One of my huge goals for this year is to work with students to expand the advocacy in our county. Have more of you all coming here instead of me talking so much. So I absolutely adore this idea."

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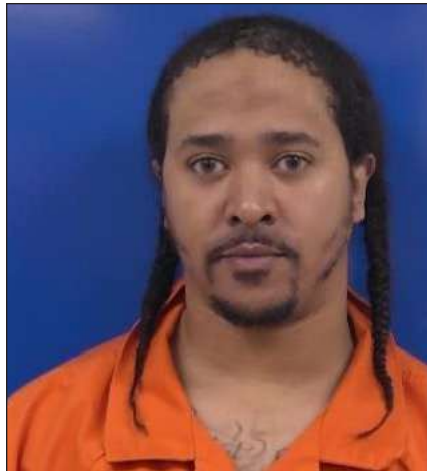
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Sentence Handed Down for Dunkirk Burglary

Randell Jamal Wright, 35 of Washington D.C., was sentence on Monday, Aug. 14 to 40 years imprisonment, suspended to eight years of active time, for his role in the July 2022, burglary of the Jewelry Exchange in Dunkirk.

The sentence was imposed by Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee.

Wright is facing another five years of incarceration for a violation of probation pending in the Circuit Court for Howard County. His hearing date in Howard County is currently set for September 18, 2023.



Randell Jamal Wright

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney

Fire Damages Lusby Home



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

under control.

The owner/occupants are listed as Katsunori and Diann Mita

The Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal is investigating a fire that caused extensive damage on Aug. 13 to a home on Lake Drive in Lusby.

The fire was first discovered in the rear of the dwelling. Loss is estimated at \$150,000 to the structure and \$50,000 to the contents.

According to information provided by the fire marshal, the homeowner reported the fire at 432 Lake Drive at 2:23 a.m. The Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department was the first responder, followed by units from St. Leonard, Prince Frederick, and Hollywood., In all it took 50 firefighters 25 minutes to bring the blaze

The fire marshal's office reports, "There were no injuries as a result of the fire. The homeowners are being assisted by the American Red Cross. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Southern Regional Office, at 443-550-6835."

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Taste the Beaches Returns at a New Venue

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's about the area's epicurean delights. But it's also about community and having a good time. The annual Taste the Beaches returns but this year it'll be at Abner's Crab House in Chesapeake Beach on Sept. 9.

The Town of Chesapeake Beach hosts the 2023 Taste the Beaches at Abner's Crab House on September 9 from 12-5 p.m. The event is free to attend. The community will have full access to the waterfront venue providing the perfect location to taste all that the Twin Beaches have to offer.

The Town of Chesapeake Beach will be sponsoring tastings from local restaurants and fresh shucked oysters from Abner's Crab House while supplies last. Food, beer, wine and deserts will also be available for purchase. The festival styled event offers music, children's activities to include the interactive and educational Phillips Wharf Environmental Center Fishmobile and shopping from local vendors.

Town of Chesapeake Beach Council Vice President Larry Jaworski and Chairman of the Town's Economic Development Committee spearheads the annual event and is steadfast in his focus on Twin Beach businesses. In addition to support of our Twin Beaches business community, the event also serves as an opportunity for the community to gather, connect and engage with governmental activities. Guests will be able to engage with many of the town's committees at the event to include the Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society (CBOCS), Chesapeake Beach Green Team, Twin Beach Opioid Abuse Awareness Coalition, Coastal Resiliency Steering Committee and

the Walkable Community Advisory Group to name a few.

"Our town's Economic Development Committee invites everyone to join us at the 7th annual Taste the Beaches event. The mission of Taste the Beaches is to highlight our local businesses and acknowledge how integral our businesses are to our community. The town council joins me in looking forward to spending time with residents and guests of the Twin Beaches in our continued support of the Twin Beaches business community", stated Jaworski.

Food will come from:

- Abner's Crab House including fresh shucked oysters
- Bala Coastal Kitchen and Wine Bar
- Taste of the Tides
- Railroad Pizza
- Baked by the Bay
- Entertainment will be from:
 - Lusky/Ferro and Friends
 - Kenney Holmes
 - O'Grady Quinlan
 - Academy of Irish Dance
- Wine and beer will be available from:
 - Green Spring Brewing
 - Running Hare Vineyard
 - Whistle Stop Winery
- Community groups on hand will include:
 - Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society (CBOCS)
 - Chesapeake Beach Green Team
 - Phillips Wharf Environmental Center Fishmobile
 - Twin Beaches Opioid Awareness Coalition
 - Bayside Baptist

dickmyers@countytimes.net

VanWie Pleads Guilty to Animal Cruelty

Carol Badart VanWie, 77, pleaded guilty on Aug. 15 in Calvert County District Court to multiple charges involving violations of Maryland's animal cruelty laws.

VanWie was found to have housed more than 40 rabbits and other creatures in unsanitary and inhumane conditions at her non-profit venture, Bunny Magic and Wildlife Rabbit Rescue, in Lusby.

VanWie was given a suspended jail sentence, placed on probation, and ordered not to possess any animals. In addition, she reimbursed Calvert County the sum of

\$67,000 for the care and feeding of the animals that were confiscated from her property.

Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey wishes to commend Senior Assistant State's Attorney Christopher J. Monte for his handling of this case. Credit also goes to Officer Allison Higgs of the Maryland Natural Resources Police who initially investigated the case and brought the charges against VanWie.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney

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Scott Kirby Comes Back to Solomons with His New Album

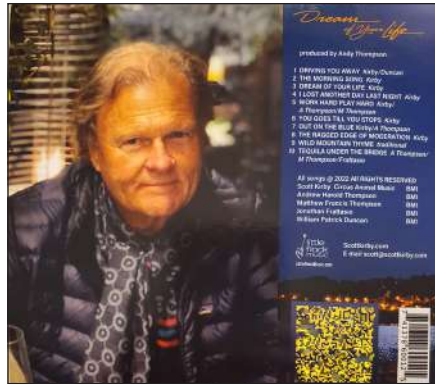
By Tim Flaherty
Contributing Writer

When singer-songwriter Scott Kirby comes back to Solomons this Sunday for his annual show at Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA), fans will be treated to songs from his long-delayed album *Dream of Your Life*.

"It took a while to put out this record because of Covid," Kirby told the County Times. "I wrote seven of the songs in St. John, Newfoundland, where I went to write, and several others when I was staying in France. I write story telling songs, so the compositions are influenced by my life the last few years."

Dreams of Your Life was produced by Andy Thompson of Nashville, who also co-produced Kirby's previous album with his brother, Matt Thompson. The new record is available only in CD form but comes with a QR code that enables purchasers to receive a download that includes liner notes from the CD package.

Dream of Your Life's packaging contains a booklet with song lyrics and stories of how the songs came about. "Back in the day," Kirby said, "it was common to print lyrics and song explanations. We got away from that because of the expense of printing and so many things moving to digital, but we decided to go back to that and also offer the download. It's been great. I've sold more albums in the first few months than I have for any other of my releases, so getting the download with a hard-copy CD seems like a big deal."



The back cover of *Dream of Your Life*. Scott Kirby's new CD release contains old-school liner notes and lyrics. Purchasers may also download the audio and printed material via a QR code on the back of the CD packaging.

Kirby debuted the new record at a series of concerts last winter and spring in Key West, Florida, and in Annapolis.

"I always love coming to Solomons," he added. "I'm a sailor and have many songs about the ocean, so many of the people I meet at my Solomons shows I can relate to."

Kirby will be joined at the August 20th Solomons date by violinist and mandolinist Emily Randle. Randle, a long-time concert violinist who has performed with many artists and orchestras, just retired as the head NCO of the U.S. Army Band. This will be the fourth time she has accompanied Scott Kirby in Solomons.

Tickets for Scott Kirby at SMSA are \$25 for the general public and can be purchased at <https://www.smsa.com/> or by calling 3021-481-7474. Doors open at 3pm and the music begins at 4pm.

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.

Carolyn Matzerath, 55

Carolyn Barbara (Cook) Matzerath, 55, of Saint Leonard, MD passed away August 1, 2023, at her home.

She was born on April 6, 1968, in Clinton, MD to Richard and Barbara Cook of Hollywood, MD.

Carolyn is a 1986 graduate of Surrattsville High School. On February 29, 2008, she married her beloved husband, John Matzerath. Together they celebrated over 15 wonderful years of marriage. She was a beloved employee at the Hermitage of St. John's Creek in Solomons, MD for nearly 25 years. Carolyn was a loving and devoted

mother, daughter, aunt, cousin, and friend to countless.

A celebration of Carolyn's life will be held on September 16, 2023, in Mechanicsville, MD.

In addition to her parents, Carolyn is also survived by her daughter, Haley Amanda Craddock of Saint Leonard, MD, her brothers Wesley and Richard and her extended family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her brothers Wayne, Ronald, and David.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or to the Saint Leonard Volunteer Fire Department.

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Aug 17

Tween Summer Book Fest

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
2-3 p.m.

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

First ten registrants get a copy of the book to keep! Recommended for ages 10-12. August's book is the graphic novel *Freestyle* by Gale Galligan. While preparing for the last major dance competition before they graduate from eighth grade and go to separate high schools in NYC, Cory must balance the expectations of his parents, school, crew and his new friend as pressure mounts from all sides. View the book on Calvert Library's catalog: <https://catalog.somd.lib.md.us/polaris/search/title.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.1&pos=8&cn=1875656> 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Social Security: Medicare

Zoom, Hosted by Montgomery County Public Library
6:30-7:30 p.m. in English
5:30-6:30 p.m. en Español.

The Social Security Administration provides protection for workers and their families. Presentation by Diana Varela, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration followed by Q&A. This event will not be recorded. If you'd like to use the wifi and library computer to participate in this Zoom event, please choose "in-person" registration. Call the library if the Prince Frederick location is not the most convenient for you. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Aug 18

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. For library resources on this topic, click here! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mornings at the Museum: Summertime Blues

Calvert Marine Museum
10 – 11 a.m.

Join an educator on the historic *William*

B. Tennison for a hands-on blue crab educational experience. This youth field program uses live blue crabs to illustrate their life cycle and how to identify male and female crabs. Discover the history of the blue crab fishery on the Patuxent River and learn the ins and outs of our annual blue crab harvest. Cost: \$20 per participant. For more information and to register,

Sat, Aug 19

Free Paper Shredding Events

Huntingtown High School
4125 Solomons Island Rd., Huntingtown
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, will host free paper shredding events for county residents and businesses. Shredding documents helps prevent identity theft by destroying confidential and/or sensitive information.

Shred events will be held rain or shine:

Proof of Calvert County residency or business location is required. Paperclips and staples are acceptable. Binders and binder clips are not acceptable.

Businesses are allowed up to five banker boxes of paper per business (or the equivalent volume of five banker boxes in alternate containers). There is no limit for residents. Certificates of destruction will be provided if requested.

www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Recycle.

Fossil Field Experience

Calvert Marine Museum
9 a.m. – noon.

Come and explore the fossils at Cove Point. Learn more about fossils: where to find them, how to identify them, and what they can tell us about the past. This program is for adults and children ages 8 and older that are accompanied by an adult. Preregistration required at least two business days before the program. Cost: \$25 per participant.

Sun, Aug 20

Museum FunFest

Calvert Marine Museum
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us for our first ever Museum FunFest on the museum grounds. Putt on over for some fun on the mini golf course and see if you can achieve a hole-in-one! Watch as brave individuals take their turn in the dunk tank; you may even recognize some familiar faces! Join in more fun with corn hole for the whole family! All proceeds from this event go directly to the Calvert Marine Museum. Face painting and food vendors will be onsite. Mini

Golf: Adults \$10, Kids 12 and under \$5. Dunk Tank: Donation only. Event is not included in museum admission.

Waterside Performance Series: The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

Come dance, come sing, having the time of your life at THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE CELEBRATION! Performance is at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion starting at 7 p.m.; gates open at 5 p.m. with food and beverages onsite. The Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$25 - \$35 (additional fees apply).

Mon, Aug 21

Veteran Caregiving Resource

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
1-2:30 p.m.

Representatives from the DCVA offer an overview of caregiving resources: - Homemaker Home Health Aid - Medical Foster Home - Caregiver Support Following the presentation, DCVA will offer assistance with the Caregiver Support application process, if needed. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Aug 23

Job Seeker Resources

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

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment, and Job Service representatives will be in person at Calvert Library, Prince Frederick to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Want to learn Mahjongg? Hope to make your Scrabble skills killer? Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Overcoming 7 Challenges

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

Overcoming 7 Challenges that Interfere with your Success. This workshop offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center encourages you to move forward from the most common challenges that interfere with your success. Learn how to say 'YES' to a rewarding work life! Registration ends 24 hours before the event. By registering for this class, you are agreeing to share your contact information with Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center (AJC) staff who conduct this workshop. Please contact AJC Job Service Specialist Gayle Howe at: gayle.howe@maryland.gov. For more library resources on this topic, visit Calvert Library's Jobs and Careers page online, or visit us in-person! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

Thu, Aug 24

Little Minnows: Messy Science

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

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

Ongoing

Clear the Shelter

Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter
5055 Hallowing Point Rd, Prince Frederick
Month of August

The shelter will waive adoption fees for adoptable animals during this campaign, made possible through a collaborative effort between Friends of the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and the Board of County Commissioners. Regular adoption procedures still apply during the event.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter is an open admission animal shelter managed by the Animal Shelter Division of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety. Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an intake appointment, call 410-535-7387. Animals of all ages are available for adoption, including dogs, cats, rabbits, roosters, pigs and more. For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter visit www.CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.com.

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, Aug 17, 2023

Farmers Feeding St. Mary's

Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
46900 S. Shangri-La Dr., Lexington Park
1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

From local farmers to your plate! The second annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community.

A variety of fresh produce, such as corn, tomatoes, squash, and more, will be available!

Family units will be limited to one box of produce per event. Food distribution will continue until indicated event end time or until produce runs out.

For more information, please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1050, or visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, Feed St. Marys, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Feed St. Mary's are pleased to offer this valuable community event!

Sat, Aug 19, 2023

Children's Day at St. Clement's Island Museum

St. Clement's Island Museum
38370 Colton's Point Rd., Colton's Point
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join us for a FREE day of kid-friendly fun on the beautiful waterside lawn of St. Clement's Island Museum. Families can enjoy lots of kids' activities including games, crafts, outdoor fun and lots more throughout the day.

The St. Clement's Island Museum will be open FREE to all eventgoers. The Water Taxi to St. Clement's Island State Park will operate during normal hours and the regular fee applies.

Outside exhibitors include the local Fire Department and Rescue Squad and many more. Hometown Karaoke & DJ Services will have everyone dancing to kid-friendly tunes.

The Seventh District Optimist Club will provide food and a free bike raffle for children 12 and younger. Organizers encourage families to get there early—the first 100 children will receive a free water bottle courtesy of the Museum Division and sponsors.

Call 301-769-2222 for more information.
INFO: www.facebook.com/events/828652225103493

On the Water's Edge Concert Featuring The Dynamos

Leonardtown Wharf
22510 Washington St., Leonardtown
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

End of Summer Bash and Back to School Drive/Teacher & School Support Staff Appreciation Day at the On the Water's Edge concert series at the Leonardtown Wharf (sponsored by Jimmy Hayden of RE-MAX 10 and Homes for Heroes) featuring Rivalry from 5 PM—6 PM and The Dynamos from 6 PM—8 PM.

For more information about this special event and other music festival concerts visit: www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest.

Sun, Aug 20, 2023

Blessing of the Backpacks

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Let's celebrate the new school year! Our Pax Pres family would love to bless and pray over students of all ages. Students are invited to bring their backpacks to the 9:30 a.m. worship service. They will receive a new keychain for the upcoming school year!

To learn more about our church, please visit: www.paxpres.com.

Upcoming

Yard Sale

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd.,
Mechanicsville
Fri, Sep 1 and Sat, Sep 2
7am - 1pm

Toys, dishware, furniture, collectibles, appliances, electronics, books, toys, clothes and much more. Proceeds benefit the Hungry Team whose mission is to keep the Food Pantry stocked and also help offset the cost of specific utility bills for those in need in St Mary's County.

Donations accepted Sun, Aug 27 12-4 pm and Mon-Thu, Aug 28-31 from 9am-3pm.

Questions contact Brenda Bellere at 301-643-0668



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A View From The BLEACHERS



AND THEN...CHAOS

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Over the years, most of these bleacher musings have been drafted late at night. With the sun long set and the day's duties done, the body rests, the mind calms and the keys beckon. Midnight often passes unnoticed; as a hard-wired night owl, the wee-est (a word?) hours of the morning provide the best inspiration.

Music is a common companion – preferably something old and on vinyl. The television is usually on, but muted. Given the time, it is tuned to some far away, magical west coast sports offering from a place I've never been. The memories are long and distinguished. Boise State University's blue football field. An early fall snow during a game at BYU. NBA games in Denver or Portland. Dodgers games in the setting sun at Chavez Ravine - idyllic. True to form, at this very moment, the Orioles game in Seattle is on and Bruce Springsteen's "Greetings from Asbury Park" record is spinning.

There was a purposeful omission from those late-night sports credits: the Pac-12 conference, that great western bastion of college sports and, being three perfect hours behind eastern standard time, a treasured wingman during the crafting of many "Views". UCLA basketball games from Pauley Pavilion. USC football from the Coliseum. Oregon football's latest fabulously tacky uniform. Stanford-Cal. Washington-Washington St. Arizona-Arizona St. Those names, places and rivalries – great memories.

A few years ago, a world without the Pac-12 would have seemed unimaginable. Then last year, USC and UCLA, cornerstone Pac-12 schools, announced they would join the BIG Conference in 2024. The money grab in college sports, masquerading as conference musical chairs, had reached a new level. The next obvious question: would USC's and UCLA's departures prove fatal for the Pac-12? Question... answered. Last week, five schools – Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Arizona St. and Utah, announced they would depart the Pac-12 for the BIG and Big 12 conferences.

Start drafting the Pac-12's eulogy. Total chaos just became reality. Where does it end? Do the ACC and Big 12 survive. Or maybe they ultimately get carved up and fed to the SEC and BIG, thereby creating two super-conferences. Suddenly Maryland's painful move to the BIG a decade ago appears to be proactive genius.

The understandable emotional reaction to all of this is to lament the loss of order, the familiar and how things used to be, and to point at the fluid landscape, shout it down as soulless greed and declare that once-great college sports will never be great again.

There's a lot of that going around, in sports and other aspects of life. And I'm guilty in this case. No Pac-12? More shape-shifting? Bah! But that is nostalgia's trap and regrettably naïve.

Stability is an illusion, a temporary state at best. Change is the only constant, as they say. And the mysterious and often cited "they" are, in this case, correct. The loss of rivalries and player movement are disrupters, but when crying in our beers, ponder the gains. College athletes are now free to roam and profit from their labor. They are no longer indentured servants of the NCAA and universities, helpless to pursue personal interests when coaches move or programs go on probation. With scholarships no longer four-year contracts, and with conference alignment more a casual intent than a marriage, sustained success is harder, but building a winning program is arguably easier (the test of that statement may be Colorado this season, where head coach Deion Sanders inherited a 1-11 team and has aggressively reconstructed the roster).

Admittedly, that little pep talk was as much for me as it was for you. The Pac-12's cannibalization stings. The classic rivalries will be sorely missed; much like this Maryland fan misses basketball games against Duke and North Carolina. However, a Maryland basketball game at UCLA or a football game against USC at the Coliseum sounds fabulous, particularly if played late on a Saturday night while I am pounding out words for the following week's "A View from the Bleachers."

As for handling life's non-sports changes, I need advice more than I am positioned to give it. If you have any, send me an email. I'm always up late.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

It's August and it's hot. So, we have spanish mackerel, bluefish, cobia, redfish, speckled trout, and spot in continuous supply.

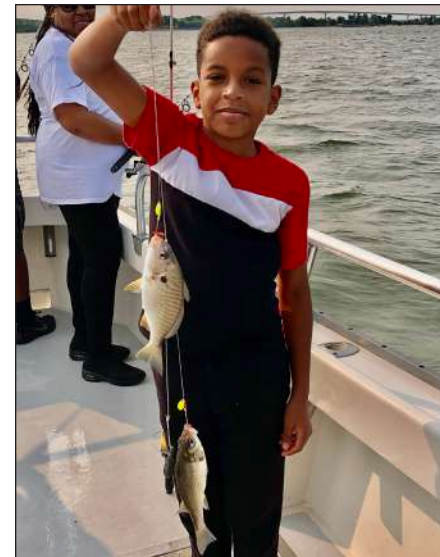
The rockfish, white perch are seeking clean water and the cool of daybreak to bite. The scorching mid-day finds them sulking in deep water waiting for a good running tide of clear water to activate feeding activity.

The hot salty water is a boon to the tropicals that visit the bay, rivers and creeks in summer is also the breeding ground for sea-nettles (*Chrysaora chesapeakei*), or also called jellyfish by the non-native. The nettles are very thick this year.

I ventured out on the creek Sunday evening when the temperature dropped from the high of 91° to 86°. It was nearly 6pm and daylight was waning. I found the tide stopped and water stained. The nettles were hindering my lure on every cast. I caught about nine puppy drum eager to hit my Fish-bite tipped Beetle Spin, one of which was 14 inches long. Redfish love heat and will eat anything in murky water or clear.

My only perch hit my lure in the shade where the smallest of tide movement provided some cooler, clear water. Consistent with this day's outing, the hefty fish got off the hook right at the boat.

I knew conditions were bad and would improve for excellent perch hunting of the



tide at day break, but one can only utilize the time allotted.

I'm describing the conditions on a smaller creek with only a small opening to the river. River and big creek fishing is much better.

Fall approaches and the perch and rockfish will be excellent. October brings the best of all possible worlds with all species rejuvenated.

There are pockets of speckled trout and slot reds lurking everywhere.

It is a banner year for spot. They will begin migrating to the ocean in mid October. You have 60 days to fill your freezer.

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Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-FM-23-000251

Thomas Snook
21685 Oakley Road
Avenue, MD 20609
Plaintiff

vs.

Nancy Lynn
25463 Maddox Road
Chaptico, MD 20621
Defendant

NOTICE – ALTERNATE SERVICE (Md. Rules 2-121, 2-122)

Thomas Snook, the above named plaintiff, has filed a complaint titled Complaint for Limited/Absolute Divorce and Other Relief in which he/she is asking the court to grant a Judgment of Limited/Absolute Divorce.

The Circuit Court for Saint Mary's County, Maryland may grant that relief unless Nancy Lynn, the above named defendant, can show reason why the court should not grant the relief. Nancy Lynn must file a response to the complaint on or before October 18, 2023.

If Nancy Lynn fails to respond within the time allowed, the court may enter a judgment by default or grant the relief sought, as long as a copy of this Notice is published in a newspaper in this county at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks on or before September 16, 2023.

After the time period in the judge's order has passed, you may ask the court for a default judgment or to move forward with your case.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of the Court, St. Mary's County

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe, or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to:

Any and all persons, known heirs, and unknown heirs, that have or claim to have any interest in property described as 22125 Pegg Road, Lexington Park, MD,

that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County require the purchase of 0.2827 acres (12,312 Sq Ft), more or less, of the above-referenced property, for the construction of F.D.R. Boulevard – Phase 3, from Chancellors Run Road (MD Rte. 237) to Pegg Road, also known as County Project Number HW1202. Copies of the current plans are available for review at the office of the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation. If you have an interest in this property and have not spoken with us yet, please contact us IMMEDIATELY at 301-475-4200 ext. 1700.

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

By: BUFFY GIDDENS
Deputy County Attorney

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Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs.
Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

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Amy at 1-800-677-2773 (Toll Free)

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"Sonny" Votta, 93



Frank Joseph Votta, Jr., "Sonny", 93, of Hollywood, MD, formerly of Ocean City, MD, Annapolis, MD, and Philadelphia, PA, passed away on August 10, 2023 in Hollywood, MD. Born on August 11, 1929 in Philadelphia, PA, he was the son of the late Philomena Votta (nee Fazio) and the late Frank Votta, Sr. Sonny was the loving husband of the late Rosarie Votta (nee Pinto), whom he married on April 21, 1956 in Philadelphia, PA, and who preceded him in death in 2015. He is survived by his children Amy Matzdorf of Hollywood, MD and Joseph Votta of Tuscon, AZ, as well as three grandchildren, Kathryn, Jeffrey and Kristen.

Sonny moved to St. Mary's County, MD from Ocean City, MD in 2015. He served in the U.S. Army for three years and was a Logistician for the United States Navy, retiring in 1993. Sonny was a member of the Sons of Italy and enjoyed woodworking.

The family will receive friends on Monday, August 21, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A graveside service and interment will follow at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD.

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

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

Nellie Quade, 88



Nellie Lillie Quade, 88, of Brandywine, MD, passed away on August 1, 2023, surrounded by loved ones.

On January 13, 1935, Nellie was born to Ernest and Nettie Sherman in Maryland.

In January 1952, she met her future husband, Wilmer Quade and they were later married on March 28, 1953. They went on to have seven children, Wilmer Quade, Jr. (Joan) of Brandywine, MD, John Quade, Sr. (Pam) of Brandywine, MD, James Quade (Mary) of Spotsylvania, VA, Linda Kimble (Roger) of Mechanicsville, MD, Doris Swiderski of Mechanicsville, MD, Connie Paiz (Ray) of Brandywine, MD, and Donna Thompson (Mike) of Brandywine, MD.

When Nellie had her daughter, Linda, she decided to dedicate her life to being a fantastic and wonderful mother. Nellie excelled at propping up members of her family and supporting them through the many passions and difficulties of their lives. She made it her mission to improve the lives of others.

Nellie was a passionate cook and loved to bake for her family. She loved to garden, watch judge tv series, play checkers, and do puzzles. Most of all though she loved to spend time with her family. We will miss her greatly.

Nellie was predeceased by her loving husband, parents, son-in-law Roger, Ray, and her brother Alton Sherman broth-

ers Jonis Sherman of Arkansas, Berton Sherman of Cobb Island, MD, Roy Sherman of Alabama, sisters Mary Farrall, Naomi Olson of Wason, MD, and Pearl Flemming of Lexington Park, MD. She is survived by her seven children, fifteen grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and three and a half great-great-grandchildren.

On Monday, August 21, 2023, the family will receive friends for the visitation from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm with the funeral service beginning at 12:00 pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home located at 30195 Three Notch Road in Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622. Interment will follow after the service at 2:30 pm at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Hwy, Cheltenham, MD 20623.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a Parkinson's Disease Foundation alongside the Dementia Society of America.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

Melvin Koon, 86



Melvin Epting Koon, "Mel", 86, of Hollywood, MD, formerly of Chesapeake, VA, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on August 11, 2023. Born on

August 31, 1936 in Little Mountain, SC, he was the son of the late Harold and Jesse Koon. Melvin was the loving husband of Jerusha S. Koon, whom he married in North Carolina in 1955. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, his daughter Kay Sullivan (Garry), grandchildren Shannon Wallace (Andy), Lauren Farmer (Adam), Nichole Canales, his great-grandchildren Drew, Tyler, and Ashlynn Wallace, Hayden and Jarrett Farmer, Katelyn and Shane Canales, and great-great grandchild Grayson Baker. Melvin was preceded in death by his son Craig Koon and his brother Ray Koon.

Melvin graduated from South Norfolk High School in 1954 and attended Old Dominion University. He moved to St. Mary's County, MD in 1978 from Chesapeake, VA. Melvin was a Program Manager for the United States Government for 35 years, retiring in January 1996. He served in the VA National Guard from 1952 to 1969 (1st LT, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Division, Executive Officer) and the United States Marine Corps for 20 years, from 1969 to 1989, earning the rank of Captain. During this time, he was stationed at NAS Oceana and MCAS Cherry Point and served in the Vietnam War. He received the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 from 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM at Lexington Park Baptist Church, Lexington Park, MD, where a memorial service will be held at 5:00 PM with Pastor Chris McCombs officiating. Interment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Contributions may be made to the Hollywood Vol. Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Hollywood, MD 20636, the Hollywood Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 709, Hollywood,

MD 20626, and/or Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

Frank Hill, 83



William Franklin Hill, "Frank", 83, of Mechanicsville, MD, formerly of Helen, MD, passed away on August 8, 2023 at his home. Born on February

10, 1940 at Hills Store, Helen, MD, he was the son of the late Marie Alice (Wood) Hill and the late William Elmer Hill. Frank was the loving husband of the late Kathryn "Kay" Hill who preceded him in death on November 16, 1986. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Graves Hill, his children Joan Bartz (Jimmy) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Michelle Cockerham (Victor) of Mechanicsville, MD, his stepchildren Joseph Raley of CA, Crissy Page of KY, Randy Raley of Hollywood, MD, and Karen Stinson of OK, his siblings Dallis Hill (Betty) of Helen, MD, Delores Cusic (Harry) of Oraville, MD, June Davis (Jimmy) of Charlotte Hall, MD, and Larry Hill (Glenda) of Helen, MD, six grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren, and five step great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents and first wife, Frank was preceded in death by his son, William S. Hill.

Frank graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1957. He was a welder for Potomac Electric Power Company for 25 years, retiring in April 1995. After his retirement from PEPCO, he managed Carter's Welding in Clements, MD for 20 years until his declining health forced him into another retirement. Not only was welding his profession, it was a beloved hobby. His home is filled with items that he designed and fabricated, including numerous gifts to loved ones and friends. Frank was a faithful member of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Laurel Grove for 36 years, serving as treasurer to the UMM group for 29 years. He enjoyed spending time with his family, cooking, dancing, and taking trips to Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 17, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A funeral service will be held on Friday, August 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM in Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Mechanicsville, MD with Pastor Darryl Kemp officiating. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Andrew Bartz, Kevin Bartz, Justin Shea, Dallis Hill, Larry Hill, and Charles Carter.

Contributions can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Mt. Zion Hungry Team, 27108 Mt. Zion Church Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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

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

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Budds Creek to Host New SuperMotocross World Championship



One year removed from celebrating a half-century of racing, the prestigious Pro Motocross Championship will usher in a new era for the 2023 season as the centerpiece of the newly formed SuperMotocross World Championship. The 11-round summer Pro Motocross campaign will visit 10 different states over the course of its journey to crown a pair of AMA National Champions with the sport's most distinguished title, which will include an annual visit to the greater Washington D.C. area and Southern Maryland to one of American motocross' most famed venues in Mechanicsville's Budds Creek Motocross Park. For more than 30 years this legendary venue has welcomed the fastest racers on the planet, from all over the world, for an international showcase of this gritty, awe-inspiring sport, and on Saturday, August 19, the 33rd running of the Yamaha Budds Creek National will host the penultimate round of the 2023 season.

The SuperMotocross World Championship is a comprehensive 31-race season that combines the winter AMA Supercross Championship, which takes place on man-made racetracks in major stadiums across the country from January to mid-May, and the summer Pro Motocross Championship, the original action sport that visits the most iconic, rural venues in off-road motorcycle racing from late-May through August. At the end of each respective championship awaits the inaugural SuperMotocross World Championship Playoffs and Final this September, which will crown the ultimate champions across a full calendar year of this grueling and captivating motorsport. The race at Budds Creek Motocross Park will signify the 10th of 11 events on the summer Pro Motocross calendar and the 27th event of the SuperMotocross World Championship following the 17-race Supercross season.

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Elks Lodge Supports Summer Camp for Kids in Need



In July 2023 the St. Mary's County Elks Lodge 2092 joined a partnership with community based and government organizations whose mission is to provide a meaningful summer camp experience for vulnerable children and their families. The coalition of partners include the St. Mary's County Department of Parks and Recreation, Kings Christian Academy, St. Mary's County Public Schools, and the St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen, all led by staff from the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services.

During the 2023 camp season the number of children participating increased from the prior year, from 75 to 132 necessitating additional support to defray the costs of food

and increased assistance with transportation. The St. Mary's County Elks Lodge stepped up! With the support of the Elks \$3000 Beacon Grant donation, the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen supported 50 children who received lunch each day for the 7 weeks of camp, totaling 1,750 lunches.

Through continued partnership, the Summer Camp program has continued to grow providing a summer experience for children often for the first time in their lives, in conjunction with the requirement of the parents that they engage in activities related to employment while their children are in camp—all with a goal to improve the families' economic situation.

Entries for 2023 Veterans Day Parade Now Being Accepted

Registration is now open for those wishing to participate in the 48th Annual Veterans Day Parade in Leonardtown. Floats, bands, schools, scouts, clubs, cheerleaders, bikes, vintage cars, and horses are some of the entries which will be accepted.

The parade will step off at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from Ryken High School. The line of march will proceed along Fenwick Street to the Leonardtown Town Square. The event provides a great

opportunity to honor our Veterans, participate in a proud tradition and promote your group.

For more information or to request a 2023 Veterans Day Parade Entry Form, please email cdpennington@icloud.com. Information regarding Parade guidelines are included with the forms. Entry forms should be returned to Connie Pennington, Parade Organizer, by Friday, October 20, 2023. Entries received after October 20 will not be accepted.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

International Programs Student Interns Gain Experience, Enhance Learning

The NAVAIR SYSCOM Security Cooperation Office's (SSCO) Junior Personnel Development Program provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain valuable work experience while earning their degrees, network with existing team members and strengthen their marketability post-graduation.

The Junior Personnel Development Program mission is to inspire interns to seek full-time employment in NAVAIR international programs or other NAVAIR positions upon graduation by allowing students to directly work on projects that support Navy and Marine Corps international partner aircraft and weapons systems.

"The SSCO advances our nation's strategic objectives by establishing and growing key allied partnerships through security cooperation efforts across the Naval Aviation Enterprise," said Scott Wiener, SSCO director. "The SSCO Junior Personnel Development Program is critical to this mission by establishing and growing the women and men who will lead the NAVAIR international program efforts of the future."

To qualify for the SSCO internship,

applicants must be accepted or enrolled at an accredited institution or be a recent graduate within two years. Applicants must be pursuing or have attained a bachelor's degree in finance, business, administration, government and politics, international relations, or related fields and able to commit to working 40 hours a week during the summer. Participants who meet all requirements of their intern program may be eligible for transfer to full-time employment with SSCO upon graduation.

Throughout the summer, participants learned about the SSCO mission and the program offices they support. They began with onboarding activities such as obtaining a government identification card and security clearance, followed by participating in interactive training and events within program offices with the goal of exposing them to different aspects of NAVAIR international programs. By the end of the summer session, the interns supported the SSCO Tech Data team in proofreading and editing documents, the Non-Program of Record team in Building Partner Capacity case support and the New Business/Data Analytics team in event planning and SharePoint development.



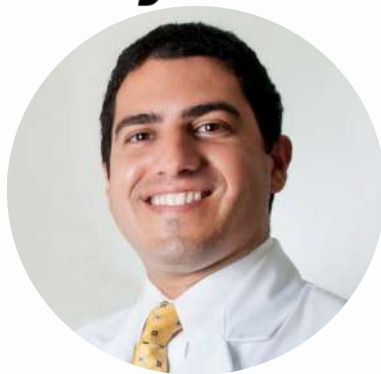
The NAVAIR SYSCOM Security Cooperation Office's (SSCO) Junior Personnel Development Program interns attended a briefing with Robert Kimble, Program Executive Officer for Aviation Common Systems and Commercial Services (PEO(CS)), far right, as part of their final activities for the summer session. (U.S. Navy Photo)

"The SSCO Junior Personnel Development Program is a multi-year opportunity," said Dan Keller, SSCO personnel development coordinator. "The first year we maximize the intern's exposure to the SSCO, NAVAIR and Naval Aviation Enterprise. The following years we assign them directly to program offices where they receive program management or program

analyst track assignments in support of international efforts."

The SSCO Junior Personnel Development Program, established in 2015, has a 75 percent retention rating. The program brought 39 individuals on board with federal civilian service, retaining 28 of those individuals in the SSCO community.

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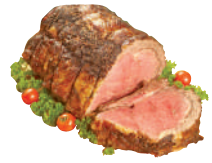
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EV School Buses Will Be Significant Expense

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

As the St. Mary's County Public Schools prepare to open for the 2023-2024 school year Jeff Thompson, director of transportation, said school buses are ready to roll and pick up students for their first day of class Aug. 23.

Thompson said 42 contract drivers stand ready to service 164 regular buses to run routes this year as well as 29 buses for special routes.

There are now 56 spare school buses available, he said, to replace those that breakdown or are otherwise out of service.

But Thompson was already looking to the near future, when it would become more expensive to get older buses certified to run as they will have to pass tougher emissions standards in about two years.

Prices for new buses are also on the rise, he said.

"And there's the ever-looming electric buses... which are tremendously more expensive along with the infrastructure," Thompson said.

School Board Member Jim Davis was curious as to whether electrically powered buses would be a net benefit to the school system.

"Do you see that to be a reliable, financially viable alternative to diesel-powered buses?" Davis asked.

"There are some benefits, in maintenance," Thompson said. "But there are some big concerns about the infrastructure."

Electric buses are three times the price of a conventionally powered bus, Thompson said.

"And the buses don't get the range, currently, that diesel buses do," he continued. "They're having to erect charging stations just to power these buses."

Despite the steep cost of electric buses and the need to build so many charging sta-



Director of Transportation Jeff Thompson

tions to keep them running, the state continues to push school systems to change their fleets away from diesel-powered vehicles, said Thompson.

"It's definitely a concern that they're going to be able to meet what we need them to do," Thompson said. "Because their range is very low, typically 80 to 100 miles is all we will get on one charge."

He said the local system and others were watching how Montgomery County was dealing with the transition, as they had about 100 electric buses as part of their 1,500-strong fleet. "They're really a test pilot for seeing how this is going to go," Thompson said.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said Maryland had great ambitions of "going green" but new technologies — such as a claimed breakthrough by Toyota on their solid-state battery that could be recharged in 10 minutes and offer five-to-six-times the range — could prove decisive.

"We'll see how technology intersects," Smith said.

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St. Mary's Schools Get Upgrades, Still Face Challenges

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Joshua Lynch, principal at Mechanicsville Elementary School, was busy this week darting back and forth through the halls of his newly modernized and refurbished building.

"We're still very much in construction mode," Lynch said. "Open house is on Monday."

Lynch's school is one of several throughout St. Mary's that have undergone extensive improvements and renovations over the summer; some of have had new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) installed and many have had their halls and classrooms repainted, tiled and modernized with the latest in technology, equipment and furniture for teachers and students alike.

Patti Simpson, a 35-year veteran of the school system and Mechanicsville resident, has spent the last several years teaching at the local elementary school.

She, like many other teachers there on Aug. 16, were busy setting up their newly-refurbished classrooms to be ready for students just one short week away.

"I think it's beautiful," Simpson said of the improvements there.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said the system would have approximately 17,500 students returning, about the same number as last year, with about 1,300 of them in kindergarten.

This year many of them will be in cooler, brighter and more advanced classrooms than last year, he said.

At Mechanicsville elementary, he expected the renovations there to be completed by the end of the first half of the school year.

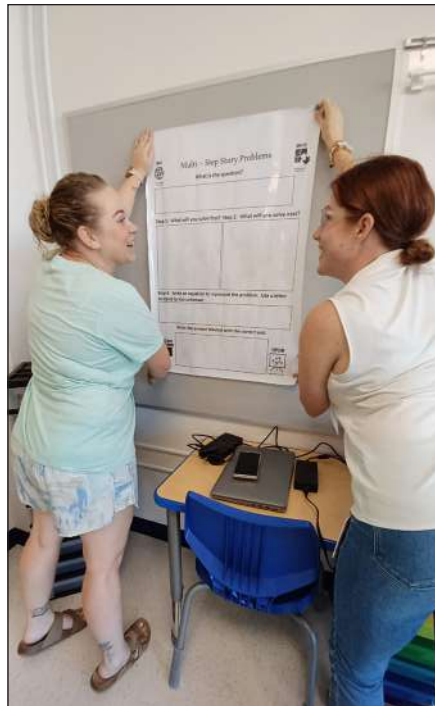
Dr. Alex Jaffurs, assistant superintendent of Support Services, said the project there was actually six months ahead of schedule.

Both Town Creek and White Marsh elementary schools have received new windows as well, Smith said, some of them as old as 50 years.

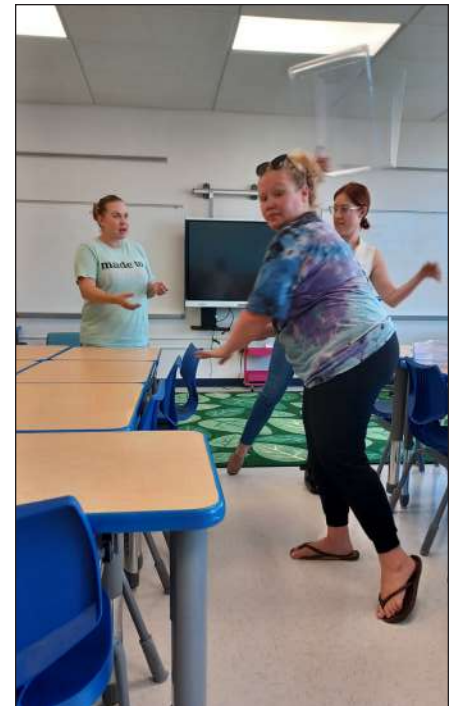
"These will be much more energy efficient," Smith said.

The school system has taken advantage of the way the state now determines how it distributes construction funding, Smith said.

"The state has finally come around on rewarding school systems who take care of



Teachers at Mechanicsville Elementary prepare their classrooms for the start of the school year



their buildings," Smith said.

Aging buildings that are still in good repair can receive 5 percent funding boosts from the state, while schools that have between 55 percent and 80 percent of their student body living at or below the poverty line can receive up to an additional 10 percent in construction funding.

The benefits from the state add up, Smith said, for a system that takes care of its facilities as best it can.

"You can get an extra 20 percent from the state for construction," Smith said. "It's huge."

The school system is concentrating its efforts on renovating and improving the school buildings it already has, including upgrades to security vestibules, since there has not been any student growth to justify even considering building a new school.

But schools need teachers, and there are still classroom positions that must be filled, said Dr. Maureen Montgomery, deputy superintendent.

"We need teachers," she said. "We still have 17 classroom vacancies."

The most critical needs are high school science teachers, high school English teachers and mathematics teachers for both middle and high school grades.

"And as always we need special education teachers," Smith said.

Last week the system brought in 125 new teachers into the ranks, the superintendent said.

Smith said the school system continues to strive to return to pre-COVID-19 norms; some of the problems that came as a result of that pandemic the system continues to struggle with today.

"We need every single parent and every single student committed to being present," Smith said regarding the basic importance of regular classroom attendance. "Attendance continues to be a challenge."

The state standard for daily student attendance is 94 percent; in 2022 St. Mary's schools were able to achieve just 91.8 percent attendance.

For 2023, attendance continued to fall to rest at about 91.2 percent, according to the school system's latest data.

Smith said that elementary schools typically have higher attendance rates than middle schools and middle schools have higher attendance rates than high schools.

"High school remains our largest challenge to consistent attendance," Smith said.

Before the pandemic, St. Mary's came

within a few tenths of a percent of 94 percent attendance, but never quite reached it.

Smith remained concerned.

"We lost 2 percent in attendance and 2023 mirrored 2022," Smith said. "The State of Maryland is getting to one out of 10 kids absent every day."

The students who needed to be in school the most, those who were economically disadvantaged and were often behind in academic achievement, were the ones who have had the most problems with attendance.

In 2018 the attendance rate for such students was 92 percent but by 2022 that number had dropped to 88 percent, the latest school system data showed.

There were 20 school days in a month, Jaffurs said, and it did not take long before a student missing classes could be considered chronically absent.

"A kid can't miss more than five days a quarter," Jaffurs said. "That's the expectation."

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Comptroller Briefs Commissioners on State Economy

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Brooke Lierman, Maryland Comptroller visited St. Mary's County this week and told local elected leaders to expect continued economic growth throughout the state but at a slower rate than just the last two years.

Lierman said the state's last revenue estimate was cut back in March from 3 to 5 percent growth to about 1 percent of economic growth.

A growing economy ensures more revenue for the state through taxes.

"We're still growing but at a slower rate," Lierman told commissioners. "We do expect a [economic] slowdown because much of that growth in the past two years was due to federal assistance.

"That assistance is coming to an end."

But a sufficient surplus remains in state coffers, she said, to include a "rainy day" fund, that would be on hand should a sudden economic downturn occur.

But that would be an unlikely occurrence, Lierman said.

"We don't have any alarm about a recession," she said. "We have money to go back to if things get really dire.

"We're just not there right now."

Still, there are challenges to bringing the state's economy back to its pre-pandemic status.

The state has a rapidly aging workforce, Lierman said, and during the pandemic 100,000 women left the workforce and have not yet returned.

"We need a better picture of what our economy is doing," she said.

More than predicting slower economic growth, Lierman said her office is undergoing a radical technology and modernization upgrade to become more efficient.

"We are moving from the main frame to the cloud," Lierman told commissioners. "Our tax processing system and our state accounting system that we manage are both on COBOL, the old programming language. That means our employees in our agency are sitting on green screens to process tax returns... that just isn't where we need to be."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Opioid-Related ER Visits Down Drastically

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Since 2017, the year recognized as the height of the opioid epidemic's impact on St. Mary's, the number of overdose cases that went to the emergency room of MedStar St. Mary's hospital strained its resources badly.

But the latest data from the St. Mary's County Health Department shows that that number has been steadily decreasing, with the biggest drop occurring from December of last year to the present day.

In December there were a total of 264 visits to the emergency room here for opioid abuse, the health department data shows, but that has dropped sharply to just 105 visits so far this year.

Dr. Meena Brewster, the county's chief health officer, said the proliferation of overdose reversing medication — Naloxone — could have played a part in the shrinking visits to the emergency room.

"A reduction in ER visits might be at least partly from more community members being able to offer naloxone to individuals experiencing opioid overdoses," Brewster told The County Times. "Additionally, our harm reduction program has seen success

with encouraging individuals who have opioid use disorder into treatment and maintaining recovery."

While illegal opioids such as street-manufactured fentanyl continue to be a major problem related to overdoses and fatalities, the number of prescription opioids, which can be highly addictive if not strictly and properly used, has also fallen rapidly in the last six months.

In December of last year there were just under 75,000 prescriptions of opioids filled in St. Mary's — a value close to being able to provide opioids to nearly three-fourths of the county's population — but that number has fallen to 29,555 for May of this year.

The county health department has also been engaged in the practice of distributing syringes to opioid users; in December of 2021 that amount reached just under 40,000 syringes distributed.

That number has dropped to just over 25,000 in December of last year and again to just 13,557 given out so far this year.

In December of last year the county collected almost 82,000 syringes, the health department reported, but so far this year they have collected a little over 33,000.

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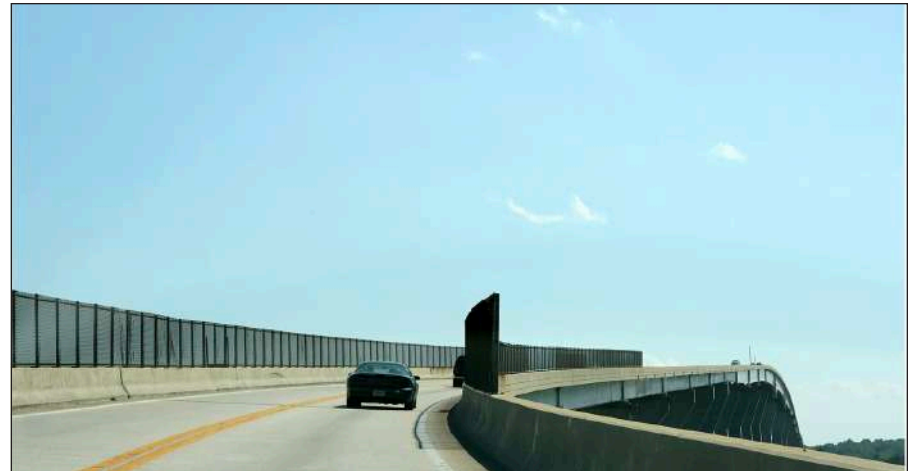
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—The Daily Record, 2023

Sue Ann Armitage



Survey Tests Popularity of Toll Bridge Concept



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In April a construction conglomerate came to speak to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in public about building a replacement for the aging Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge that connects St. Mary's to Calvert County over the Patuxent River.

They claimed they could build the bridge within a few years and provide all of the financing for the project up front but there was one sticking point that gave commissioners pause; to pay them back for their work there would likely be a toll for drivers to pay to use the new span.

Commissioner Eric Colvin is now asking residents to take an informal survey via his Facebook social media account and give their opinions on whether they want a new toll bridge.

"There is a company that is interested in building a new Governor Thomas Johnson 'Solomons' Bridge that they would then own, maintain, operate, and charge a toll to cross," Colvin said on his account. "I have stated that I am opposed to building a toll bridge from St. Mary's County to Calvert County, but I want to hear your input."

Most of the comments left on his social media account seem to show there may be

little support for such a project.

Earlier this year, the CEO of United Bridge Partners Doug Witt addressed the salient issue of building a new bridge without any financial liability to the county or state government.

"If there's one landmine, it's one word... that word is 'toll,'" Witt said in April. "That's the biggest hurdle, that's your only hurdle. We see it all the time."

Witt said United Bridge Partners would take on all the cost of construction of bridges, of which they have completed several in the just the past few years, but they must be able to profit from the venture, too.

Witt gave a passing estimate of \$400 million to build a new bridge.

The idea of building a new span has been spoken of but never fully funded for more than a decade locally despite pleas from local officials in both counties to the state for more funding to go beyond the planning stages.

State transportation officials have said the new span is not a priority as current bridge is obsolete though structurally safe; they have said it would take a major federal commitment of transportation funds to begin construction but that has never materialized.

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Armed Carjacking in Lexington Park

On August 12th at approximately 3am, the victim was stopped at the intersection of South Shangri La Drive and Great Mills Road in a Chevrolet S10 truck. He was approached by a thin black male suspect who knocked on his window with handgun and ordered the victim out of the vehicle.

The suspect then opened the victim's door and forcibly removed him from the truck. The victim ran after his truck as it proceeded west on Great Mills Road and turned onto Midway Drive, entering the Patuxent Homes neighborhood.

The victim later located his truck unoccupied, on Yorktown Road. He recovered

the vehicle and contacted your Sheriff's Office several hours later. The investigation continues.

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Fire Chief Calls for Independent Review in Firefighter Death

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The chief of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department wants a review conducted by an independent panel of the events that led to the death of Brice Trossbach, 25, when he and other firefighters entered a house that was consumed in flames on Deer Wood Park Drive almost two months ago.

Chief Chris Bell made his announcement to the county's Emergency Services Board (ESB) during their Aug. 9 meeting.

He sought their support in requesting the review panel because its findings might require the funding and authority of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to effect changes in how firefighting operations are conducted locally.

Trossbach was a member of the Leonardtown volunteer fire company and grew up in the fire service but when he responded to the fire in the early morning hours of June 27 he was on the job as a firefighter with the Naval District of Washington.

"The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department has put together an external review panel to look for issues and safety concerns that may have happened during the fire," Bell told ESB members last week.

The panel would conduct an open, transparent and honest review of the events surrounding the fire, Bell told the ESB, and do so by gathering all the facts available in the case and conduct interviews of those involved and who witnessed the blaze.

The panel is a gathering of fire service experts from "throughout the State of Maryland," Bell said, who have worked on safety reviews on line-of-duty deaths of emergency response personnel in Frederick and Howard counties.

The work product of the panel would be a "classified" final report that contained person-



Brice Trossbach

nel details, Bell said, and a public report that would feature redactions of that information.

These reports would then rest with the Leonardtown fire chief and the county commissioners, Bell said.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is now conducting a similar review because of Trossbach's federal employment; Bell said that investigation could take between 12 and 15 months to complete.

The panel brought together by the Leonardtown company should take just eight months to make determinations, he said.

Fire marshal's investigators say they have yet to determine the cause of the blaze that destroyed the home, though they are considering the possibility of a lightning strike as storms had been reported in the area immediately preceding the fire.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Mechanicsville Crash Under Investigation

On August 11 at 9:06pm, deputies from your Sheriff's Office responded to the 30000 block of Three Notch Road at the intersection of Oak Station Drive for a report of an accident involving a motorcycle. Upon arrival, deputies noticed the operator of the motorcycle had been ejected and was being treated by medical personnel. Due to the incapacitating injuries, Trooper 7 was requested and flew the operator of the motorcycle to an area hospital. The Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to assume the investigation.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a 2013 Harley Davidson Motorcycle, operated by Fabian Cardona (age 49) of White Plains was going North on Three Notch

Road and struck a 2005 Hyundai Elantra, operated by Jaden Marchelle Roney (age 20) of Waldorf.

It was determined the Hyundai Elantra was traveling south on Three Notch Road when it attempted to make a left turn onto Oak Station Drive and was struck by the Harley Davidson. As a result of the collision, the motorcycle operator was ejected from the vehicle. At this time driver error and weather conditions appear to be factors in the crash.

If you witnessed this crash, or any events leading up to it, please contact Corporal Vincent Pontorno at 301-475-4200, ext. 2337. You can also email him at Vincent.Pontorno@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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“THEIR RANGE IS VERY LOW, TYPICALLY 80 TO 100 MILES IS ALL WE WILL GET ON ONE CHARGE.”

SCHOOLS DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION JEFF THOMPSON ON ELECTRIC BUSES.



LOCAL 5
Panel will investigate firefighter death



LOCAL 6
Bridge toll issue resurfaces



9 ON THE COVER
Pictured: Joshua Lynch, principal of Mechanicsville Elementary School

WEEKLY FORECAST

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MON, AUG 21	TUE, AUG 22	WED, AUG 23	THU, AUG 24
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THIRSTY?

It's been a hot summer, and it seems like it's only getting hotter. While I'm doing my lawn work, it feels like I can't go much more than 20 minutes without needing to catch some shade and a few sips of cold water. More than a few, frankly, as it never quite quenches my thirst. This heat always leaves me wanting, sweating out more than I can take in. I want to run back to the air conditioning, to the coolness that brings comfort.

But that comfort is fleeting, and my thirst is ever growing. No matter how much I drink, I will be thirsty again in an hour. The work is endless, and its demands draw the life out of me, soaking my hair and clothes along the way.

As I sit in the shade, my mind wanders to the book of John, Chapter 4. You see, Jesus had stopped at Jacob's well one afternoon and sent His disciples to get food from nearby. While he sat waiting in the heat of the day, a lone woman came to gather her daily water. He asked her for a drink, and she scoffed because she was an outcast of her community and couldn't believe that this man would request her help. He then told her that if she truly knew who He was, she would have requested His water, the true water which replenishes not the body but the soul, forming a well within which pours out eternal life, a gift far greater than the temporary refreshment of the cup.

Jesus, knowing this woman's needs were greater than water, recognized her stature within her community, for it was unusual that a woman would travel alone, in the heat of the day, to fill her jars. He spoke with her at length, showing her compassion and revealing His nature to her. Immediately, she ran back to town, telling all of the people His words. They received her and believed because of her. She had taken in the Living Water and become a well springing forth. In doing so, she was reconciled to her community, accepted because of the Living Water she brought to them. Jesus not only gave her an eternity of spiritual filling but also healed her communal nature, allowing her to join back into the community.

If you've been finding yourself thirsting for water or community, or you've been feeling the spiritual thirst we all long to quench, we at The Mission would like to offer you the opportunity to drink from this same well. There is a Water greater than can be found at the tap, one that quenches, fulfills, and satisfies without end, and His name is Jesus. He is waiting for you, an open spring which is pouring out in abundance. If you have any questions or need someone to talk to, please reach out to us at The Mission or your local church. We would love the opportunity to show you how to draw from His well.

Spencer Arthur
Resident Director of The Mission



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Schools Concerned Over Electric Buses

State Comptroller Visits St. Mary's

ST MARY'S GOES BACK TO SCHOOL