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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

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**Bridge Accident
Snarls Traffic**

**Marina Shop
Put on Hold**

**Townsel to Lead
State Group**

A CALVERT ICON PASSES AWAY

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“HE WAS OUR BEACH BOY.”

GRACE MARY BRADY ON THE LATE GEORGE OWINGS.



LOCAL 4
Law makers react to bridge debacle



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Marina project delayed



ON THE COVER
George Owings passes away

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MON, OCT 30 Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 54°	TUE, OCT 31 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 53°	WED, NOV 1 PM Showers Hi: 62° Lo: 45°	THU, NOV 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 45°

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George Owings, Former Delegate and Veteran's Secretary, Passes Away

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

George Owings, III, one of Calvert County's most well-known and beloved public figures, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Owings was a state delegate for 16 years (1988-2004) and was Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs under governors Robert Ehrlich and Larry Hogan (2004-07, 2015-23).

Owings, a Democrat, held a major legislative leadership position (majority whip) for 10 years.

Owings, 78, was born in Daytona Beach, Florida and graduated from Calvert Senior High School. He attended the University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College, where he received an A.A. in liberal arts.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1964 to 1968, including a tour in Vietnam, and reached the rank of sergeant. During his service he received a Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation with Bronze Star Device, Navy-Marine Corps Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal with Silver Star Device.

Owings was a mortgage banker and cut his political teeth as a member of the Calvert County Democratic Club and then the county central committee. He was active in the Chesapeake Bay Kiwanis, VFW



George Owings (right) with Major Garrett Temple (center) and Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney (left) at last year's Chesapeake Beach Stars and Stripes Festival.

Post 7950 and American Legion Post 206, Chesapeake Beach.

Hogan said Owings was "a dedicated public servant, tireless advocate for our veterans, father, grandfather, and close friend. His distinguished career in the Maryland House of Delegates and as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs left an incredible mark on our state. As a Sergeant in the Marine Corps who served

our country in Vietnam, George's commitment to those who have worn our nation's uniform was unwavering. His leadership and dedication to our veterans and our state set a high standard for all who follow in his footsteps. Yumi and I offer our prayers and heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones."

County Commissioner President Buddy Hance, who served as Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, said Owings was a great guy who served "a great deal of his life to Maryland. We're going to miss George."

"He worked hard on issues and worked across party," Hance added.

Former state senator Roy Dyson said it wasn't just Owings' bipartisanship. "If you or I were governor and an issue came up, it would be so easy to turn to George and say, George, can you take care of this? Are you aware of this? I think it was his effectiveness that ensured that he was a good secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. If you have a situation and I had many, and maybe it was trying to get somebody buried into one of our veteran's cemeteries, you want somebody that's effective. Families don't really care about your politics or if you're partisan. They just want it handled."

Dyson said, "I think he was a great representative for the veterans."

Commissioner Mike Hart said, "What a shame. George was a delight. I loved seeing him at functions. I used to tease that you don't want to speak after George because George was just that good."

"What a treasure," Hart said about Owings' contributions to veterans, adding

"You knew where George stood. George didn't mince words. I always enjoyed all of my talks with George."

Former commissioner Kelly McConkey wrote on George Owings, IV's Facebook page replete with many condolences for the family, "Such a huge loss. One of the greatest guys I have ever known. I will surely miss him!"

Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney noted his distinguished military career and added, "George represented Chesapeake Beach in Maryland House of Delegates from 1988 to 2004 and was responsible for bringing many improvements to town including Veterans Park."

Mahoney said, "George was a true friend of Chesapeake Beach and one of the founders of the town's annual Stars and Stripes event."

Mahoney added, "George believed in service. With vigor, he fought for his country, state, county, and the Twin Beaches. We all admired and loved him."

Mahoney noted, "Earlier this year, George joined [myself], NFVFD Chief Mills and late President Weber in testifying before the Maryland State Senate to rename the town bridge to Fallen Heroes Bridge."

"George loved the American flag and the freedom it stands for," he said.

Bayside History Museum Docent Grace Mary Brady worked with Owings while she was an assistant to another delegate. But she also remembers his love of the Twin Beaches. "He was our beach boy," she said. "He belonged to the local Union Church in North Beach his whole life. He belonged to the Stallings-Williams Post. Everything he ever did, all of his work with Senator Miller, Gerald Donovan, Mark Frazier, and numerous others was to improve North Beach and Chesapeake Beach. He was really our Paul Bunion."

Dr. Brandon Temple, chair of the Calvert County Veterans Affairs Commission said, "The Calvert County Veterans Affairs Commission is deeply saddened by the passing of former Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, George Owings, III. Secretary Owings was a steadfast supporter of our Commission and was instrumental in our establishment. He worked tirelessly supporting veterans until the very end. This is a great loss to the veteran community, Calvert County, and the State of Maryland. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family."

Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

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Is Accident a Wake-Up Call for a New Bridge?

Local Officials Say No

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A head-on collision on Wednesday, Oct. 25 on the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge right at the onset of evening rush hour closed the bridge for about four hours and caused a traffic snarl of epic proportions.

With no other way to get home, south Calvert County residents who worked on the opposite side of the river, many at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, were forced to take the long way home, up to Hughesville, onto Route 231 and over the Benedict Bridge. Eastbound traffic was backed up all the way to Charlotte Hall.

The Maryland State Police said in a press release issued the following day that they were continuing to investigate.

The release said, "Troopers from the Prince Frederick Barrack responded at about 3:30 p.m. for a report of a crash involving three vehicles.

"Maryland State Police Aviation Command helicopters airlifted two drivers to the hospital for injuries. Dewayne Frederick Bailey, 59, of Lexington Park was taken to George Washington University Hospital. James Wesley Dehart Jr., 32, of Lusby was taken to Medstar Washington Hospital Center.

"Bailey was the driver of a 2019 Jeep Cherokee. Dehart was the driver of a 2018

Hyundai Sonata. The driver of the third vehicle, a 2015 Dodge Ram, involved in the crash refused medical treatment at the scene. He is 28 years old and from Texas.

"According to a preliminary investigation, the Jeep was traveling south on the bridge when for reasons unknown at this time it crossed over the center line and crashed with the Hyundai. The Dodge was traveling north behind the Hyundai and became involved after the crash. Firefighters extracted Bailey and Dehart from their vehicles.

"The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration responded to assist with road closures. The bridge was shut down for several hours."

The accident may have been an economic boom to businesses on the St. Mary's County side. Several commuters told the County Times that instead of fighting the traffic, they decided to wait it out by stopping by bars and/or restaurants until things cleared up.

The accident, however, local officials predict, won't clear up the bureaucratic long jam that continues to put a new bridge on the back burner.

Calvert County Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "The issue with the bridge for the state is, we all know the bridge is operating. I think it's double or triple its rated capacity when it was built. And as you know, anytime there's a significant issue on

the bridge, it creates these major backups. And we push hard every year. It's our number one priority for our priority list with the State Department of Transportation. So far, the state does not have it on their priority list. They have other higher-ranking priorities. The state estimates it's a billion-dollar project, not just because of the bridge, but because of the road improvements that have to be done on the St. Mary's County side. And, for them until there are safety issues and they tell us that they don't see safety issues at this time, it's not going to get on their priority list. And, we believe, because it's a vital evacuation route and because of the bases there that until their federal partners are willing to partner up for that project. But we can't get any push for the federal side until it's a state priority. So, we're kind of stuck."

Hance doesn't see any support for a toll bridge, either one built privately or by the state. He said the problem with the private proposal is that it still doesn't include the needed infrastructure improvements on the St. Mary's County side.

Commissioner Mike Hart, who represents southern Calvert where many commuters live, also doesn't see support for a toll bridge and he doesn't think the massive traffic jam changed many people's minds.

He said, "I think the state has no intention. Last summer, when they did their presentation and, they had that book that was

laid out really nice. I flipped to the section that was 'Bridges' and it wasn't even listed."

He said his 20 percent is, "I think politically we don't have the numbers to make them move the dial on that bridge and with the cost of it every year they come in and they tell you, you're not getting it, so pick something else," adding, "If you say it's not a priority, then they're going to turn around and say, well, you didn't even ask for it. So, you have to keep the pressure on it."

He said there are a few people willing to pay a toll but not the majority.

He added, "I was really hoping eight years ago when Larry Hogan came in, because he talked a lot about infrastructure and stuff. I was really hoping the state was going to do that then. And then I think a lot of people were hoping when the federal government talked about this."

He said he hadn't heard even any whispers about the state turning the bridge over to the Maryland Transportation Authority to float a revenue bond to be paid off through tolls.

That's how the Harry Nice Bridge over the Potomac jumped ahead of the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge. But that was already a toll bridge, Hart observed, and people are used to not paying the tolls, and he feels the citizens shouldn't have to pay for it with their tolls.

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Could 'the Pig' Be Coming to Dunkirk?

Ten Area Harris Teeters Slated for Divestiture

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Is the iconic southern grocery store chain Piggly Wiggly, known affectionately as "the Pig," coming to Dunkirk? It's all part of a nationwide grocery store chain consolidation that includes the merger of Kroger, which operates Harris Teeter, and Albertson's, which operates Safeway. Those two brands are located across from each other on opposite sides of Route 4 in Dunkirk.

In a press release from the merging chains in September, a divestiture plan was announced with C&S Wholesale Grocers, LLC, which operates Piggly Wiggly. Part of that plan involves 10 Harris Teeter locations in the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia areas being sold to C&S and converted to Piggly Wiggly stores. The press release said the location names were being withheld pending regulatory approval of the merger. An assistant manager at the Dunkirk Harris Teeter said no information was available on any potential conversion.

The press release initiated by Kroger said, "The Kroger Co. (NYSE: KR) and Albertsons Companies Inc. (NYSE: ACI) announced today (Sept. 8) that they have entered a definitive agreement with C&S Wholesale Grocers, LLC for the sale of select stores, banners, distribution centers, offices and private label brands in connection with their proposed merger previously

announced on October 14, 2022.

"The proposed merger will create meaningful and measurable benefits for America's consumers, Kroger and Albertsons associates, and communities that both Kroger and Albertsons serve by expanding access to fresh, affordable food and establishing a more compelling alternative to large, non-union retailers. This comprehensive divestiture plan marks a key next step toward the completion of the merger by extending a well-capitalized competitor into new geographies. The divestiture plan ensures no stores will close as a result of the merger and that all frontline associates will remain employed, all existing collective bargaining agreements will continue, and associates will continue to receive industry-leading health care and pension benefits alongside bargained-for wages.

"C&S is an industry leader in wholesale grocery supply and supply chain solutions, with a strong track record as a successful grocery retailer. Founded in 1918 as a supplier to independent grocery stores, C&S services customers of all sizes, supplying more than 7,500 independent supermarkets, retail chain stores and military bases. Grounded in its commitment to feeding families across America, C&S currently operates Grand Union grocery stores and Piggly Wiggly® franchise and corporate-owned stores in the Midwest and Carolinas. C&S is deeply invested in the communities where it operates, and this retail expansion will continue its long-standing

mission to keep communities fed. Through its wholesale and retail operations, C&S purchases more than 100,000 products, giving it the ability to provide customers with the best product selection and pricing available. In addition to its franchise and corporate owned supermarkets, C&S provides end-to-end wholesale, supply and marketing services to its retailer customers. C&S also brings experience with the merger process, having been an FTC-approved divestiture buyer in prior grocery transactions with a strong track record of successfully transitioning union employees and their associated collective bargaining agreements. In anticipation of the agreement, C&S's 1918 Winter Street Partners retail holding company has been established to ensure a seamless closing process. C&S's depth of industry knowledge, financial strength and commitment to growing its associates' careers makes it the right fit to ensure the divested stores, distribution centers and offices grow and thrive for years to come."

"Following the announcement of our proposed merger with Albertsons Cos., we embarked on a robust and thoughtful process to identify a well-capitalized buyer who will operate as a fierce competitor and ensure divested stores and their associates will continue serving their communities in the ways they do today. C&S achieves all these objectives," said Rodney McMullen, chairman and CEO of The Kroger Co. "C&S is led by an experienced manage-

ment team with an extensive background in food retail and distribution and has the financial strength to continue investing in associates and the business for the long run. Importantly in our agreement, C&S commits to honoring all collective bargaining agreements which include industry-leading benefits, retaining frontline associates and further investing for growth."

McMullen continued, "We appreciate our incredible associates who support and serve our customers and communities, and who help both of our companies succeed. C&S will offer exciting opportunities for associates to advance their careers – from frontline associates and store leaders to merchants and other professionals. We are confident the associates joining the C&S family will have an amazing opportunity to continue to build a thriving career in the food industry in one of the largest private companies in our country. C&S's strong operational focus and financial resources, along with a comprehensive operational infrastructure included as part of the divestiture agreement, will position it to successfully operate and continue to grow these iconic brands for years to come. C&S is a values-driven organization that is committed to ending hunger while creating healthier communities – now and for future generations."

The merger of Albertson's and Kroger is expected to be completed early next year.

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Townsel to Head State Superintendent's Group

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

After just a little more than a year on the job, Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andraé Townsel has achieved a prestigious honor from his peers. Townsel has been elected president-elect by the Public-School Superintendent's Association of Maryland (PSSAM). Association Executive Director Mary Pat Fannon told The County Times that Townsel would assume the PSSAM presidency on July 1 of next year.

Calvert County Board of Education member Lisa Grenis made the announcement of the honor at the board's Oct. 26 meeting. She praised Townsel for achieving the position.

The PSSAM website lists information on the state's 24 school superintendents.

About Townsel it says, "Dr. Andraé Townsel was born and raised in the beautiful state of Michigan. As a student-athlete at Cass Technical High School, he earned a football scholarship to Howard University in Washington, DC. His football scholarship ultimately turned into a doctoral degree. He earned his bachelors, masters, and doctorate all from Howard University and began his educational career in the District of Columbia. On July 1, 2022, Dr. Andraé Townsel became the



Dr. Andraé Townsel, Calvert County Superintendent of Schools

first black superintendent in the history of Calvert County, Maryland."

The website then goes on to ask Townsel: "In high school I would have been voted," to which he responded, "Most likely to succeed."

As to his "Favorite part of being a superintendent," he answered, "Knowing that I have the opportunity to positively change the trajectory of young people's lives in large quantity."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of October 16 – October 22, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,857 calls for service throughout the community.

Burglary: 23-73552

On October 16, 2023, Deputy McCourt responded to the Patuxent Plaza Shopping Center located at 13928 HG Trueman Road in Solomons, for the reported burglary. Upon arrival, Deputy McCourt observed a wooden pallet lying next to shattered glass by the front door. The complainant advised nothing had been taken. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$2000.00.

Damaged Property: 23-74906

On October 21, 2023, Cpl. Kelly responded to the 500 block of Sonoma Lane in Prince Frederick, for a report of property destruction. Contact was made with the complainant who advised an unknown vehicle struck and damaged his mailbox. The mailbox was found lying in the driveway with tire marks on the edge of the victim's yard along with pieces of black plastic from the post of the mailbox. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$400.00.

Damaged Property: 23-74645

On October 20, 2023, Deputy McCourt responded to the 200 block of Lore Road in Solomons, for the reported property destruction. Contact was made with the complainant who advised the ignition switch to his 26ft Chris-Craft kept at the marina had been damaged. It appears the ignition had been pushed into the dash in an attempt to steal the boat. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 23-74493

On October 19, 2023, DFC Tavares responded to the 1200 block of E. Mt. Harmony Road in Owings, for the theft of a motor vehicle. The victim advised her dark gray in color 2009 Nissan Maxima with no registration was being stored on the property and was last seen on Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m. The estimated value of stolen property is \$4,000.00.

Theft: 23-73898

On October 17, 2023, Deputy Gadwill responded to 175 Armory Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed two Daikin Industries Model 4MXS36RMVJUA Air Conditioning units had been stolen from the property. The estimated value of stolen property is \$12,000.00.

Theft: 23-74139

On October 18, 2023, DFC Savick responded to the 4000 block of 14th Street in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. Contact was made with the complainant who advised his 2017 Dodge Ram Pickup Truck Bed "Roll-Up Tonneau Cover" had been stolen sometime between 4:30 a.m.

and 11:30 a.m. The estimated value of stolen property is \$2,000.00.

Theft: 23-74661

On October 20, 2023, Deputy Bowen responded to the 400 block Oyster Bay Place in Solomons, for the report of a theft. Contact was made with the complainant who advised her wallet and its contents were stolen from her unlocked Chevy Impala during the night. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.00.

Theft: 23-74659

On October 20, 2023, Deputy Gadwill responded to the Prince Frederick Weis market located at 750 Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed on Oct. 18, 2023 at approximately 6:42 p.m., three women entered the store and stole \$666.76 worth of Olay beauty care products. Security footage shows three females with dark hair wearing long dresses and sweaters taking products off the shelves and placing them in various pockets of the dresses. The females then left the store and fled in a silver Toyota van with unknown VA tags. Deputies continue to investigate.

ARRESTS



On October 21, 2023, DFC Plant was on routine patrol in the area of Calvert Town Drive in Prince Frederick and observed a male subject on the sidewalk identified as **Bronzton Xavier Carrington**, 19 of Prince Frederick. Carrington had 4 open and active warrants through the Calvert County Sheriff's Office. DFC Plant attempted to serve Carrington the open warrants and Carrington fled the area on foot. A brief foot pursuit ensued, and Carrington was taken into custody. Due to Carrington's actions, numerous individuals exited their homes due to the disturbance of the public peace and him running from law enforcement. Carrington was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Resisting/Interfering with Arrest, Obstructing and Hindering, and Disorderly Conduct.

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

Planners Table Marina Metal Boat Shop



Solomons Yachting Center

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A proposal for a 40-foot by 60-foot prefabricated metal boat shop has been tabled by the Calvert County Planning Commission after the commission's administrator ruled it was inconsistent with the Solomons Town Center Master Plan. That ruling followed an approval of the proposal by the Solomons Town Center Architectural Review Committee.

Planning Commission Administrator Tamara Blake-Wallace wrote in a memo to staff that metal buildings of the size proposed are not allowed in the Solomons Town Center south of Lore Road.

She advised, the ordinance "requires that the siding south of Lore Road shall be brick (in red-brown range), wood or wood appearance horizontal or board and batten siding with minimum four-inch corner boards; wood or wood appearance shake or shingle siding. Shake or shake appearance siding may be used only as architectural detail. Pitched Roofs: requires shall be wood, metal or asphalt shingles in gray or brown tones."

She also ruled that the proposed pitch of the building's roof did not follow the town center plan.

Thus, she concluded, "It is my finding that the project as recommended by the Solomons Architectural Review Board is not consistent with the STCZO (Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance), Design Guidelines or the Solomons Town Center Master Plan. My decision is based on the prefabricated metal building with corrugated metal siding and the 2:12 roof pitch."

The planning commission at their Oct. 19 meeting was thus left with the dilemma of the committee's approval and their administrator's denial. In the end commission member Chris Gadway, who led the

questioning of the project, moved to table it to give the applicant and planning staff a chance to work things out. It was approved unanimously.

One possible alternative is a metal building that doesn't look like one, such as one with a "faux" brick façade.

The applicant feels metal would be better from a fire safety standpoint.

Gadway said, "I just remember that recently there was a building permit that was denied because of appearance in Solomons. And I'd hate to sit there and disapprove one and approve another. Number one, what it would look like and number two, what it would open up as far as any possibilities by somebody else."

Gadway added, however, "I'm all for a business expanding and providing the services to the public, especially being in Solomons with the water community that we have done there."

Cost was an issue for the applicant. Matt Dean said, "The design cost would be considerable, like a vinyl side or something that way."

The applicant chose to take their chances with a commission ruling in which they didn't prevail.

Planner III Jessica Gaetano said, "We had multiple conversations with one of the applicants, several times. And I guess the idea was that because of the requirements that this project needed, they felt like they wanted to go through this process and see what type of conversations could be had."

Now they have to go back to the drawing board to see what can be worked out with staff. If the issue is resolved it won't have to come back to the planning commission.

The Solomons Yachting Center is located at 255 Alexander Lane on Back Creek.

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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, Nov 2

Group Meditation

Solomon's Mission Center
14454 Solomons Island Rd S
6:30-8 p.m.

We gather together to practice mindful movements and meditation, and to discuss practicing mindfulness in daily life. No registration, donations to The Solomons Mission Center gratefully accepted. Everyone is welcome. Our practice is universal and non-sectarian. Sponsored by Southern Maryland Meditation Community. somedmeditationcommunity.org

Fri, Nov 3

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.

Sat, Nov 4

American Indian Heritage Day

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Celebrate 10,000 years of history and culture with activities, educational demonstrations, native dancers and more! FREE

Jellyfish Day

Calvert Marine Museum
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

In November we celebrate jellyfish, the amazingly tentacled invertebrates of the

Chesapeake Bay! Stop by to check out the Moon jellyfish exhibit and discover fun facts about the bay's other jellyfish species through activities in our River to Bay Gallery. Activities included with museum admission.

"Jelli" Printmaking Make and Take Art Workshop

Calvert Marine Museum
2 - 4p.m.

Celebrate Jellyfish Day by learning all about printmaking and creating jellyfish-inspired prints in this art workshop for artists 16 years of age and older. All supplies and instruction are included. Participants will be able to take home their original prints at the end! \$25 per person and pre-registration is required. Admission applies to visit museum exhibits.

Guided Hike—Fall Foliage

American Chestnut Land Trust
Turkey Trail, North Side Trailhead
10 a.m. to 12 Noon
Free.

Sun, Nov 5

Community Day

Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center
130 Auto Drive, Prince Frederick
12-4 p.m.

The Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center is hosting Admission is free during event hours. Activities include indoor and outdoor games, water fitness classes, diving clinics and more. Food trucks will have food available for purchase. 410-414-8350, ext. 2

"On-Watch" Memorial Service

"On Watch" statue at the end of Dowell Road in Dowell
2 p.m.

Join Calvert Marine Museum us in

thanking all our veterans for their service at the site of the Pm Watch Memorial. Refreshments will be served on-site following the program.

Free Paper Shredding

Appeal Landfill
401 Sweetwater Road, Lusby
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. Paper clips 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.

Thu, Nov 9

Sea Squirts: Yoga Whale

Calvert Marine Museum
10:15 & 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.

Upcoming

Veterans Day (Observed) Lecture Series

Calvert Marine Museum

Friday, Nov. 10
10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Join CMM staff and local historians to commemorate Veterans Day by examining the role Solomons Island and Southern Maryland played in our country's military history. Presentations will take place throughout the day in the Harms Gallery; see the schedule below. The event is free to the public, regular admission to the museum can be purchased at the Admissions Desk. Free admission for active duty military and veterans on Friday and Saturday.

- 10:30 a.m. – Vincent Turner, II, "The Provisional Ranger Group: D-Day, June 6, 1944"
- 11:45 a.m. – Mark Wilkins, "The Amphibious Training Base: Solomons, Maryland, 1942-1945"
- 1:00 p.m. – Vincent Turner, II, "The Provisional Ranger Group: D-Day, June 6, 1944"
- 2:15 p.m. – John Cook and Eve Love, "Before the Base: Patuxent River Naval Air Test Center Property Condemnation Appraisals" *A book signing event will follow.*

Lecture Series Breakfast Event

College of Southern Maryland Center for Health Sciences
6105 Foster Place, Hughesville
Nov. 16
8:30-10:30 a.m.

"Wisdom in America's Schools," Lecture Series, Breakfast Event. Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) invites the public to join us for breakfast and engage in a provocative conversation with celebrated scholar, author and Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy Dr. David Steiner as he discusses his new book, "A Nation at Thought: Restoring Wisdom in America's Schools." Free Registration is required at [eventbrite](http://eventbrite.com). Contact info@leadershipsomd.org for additional information."

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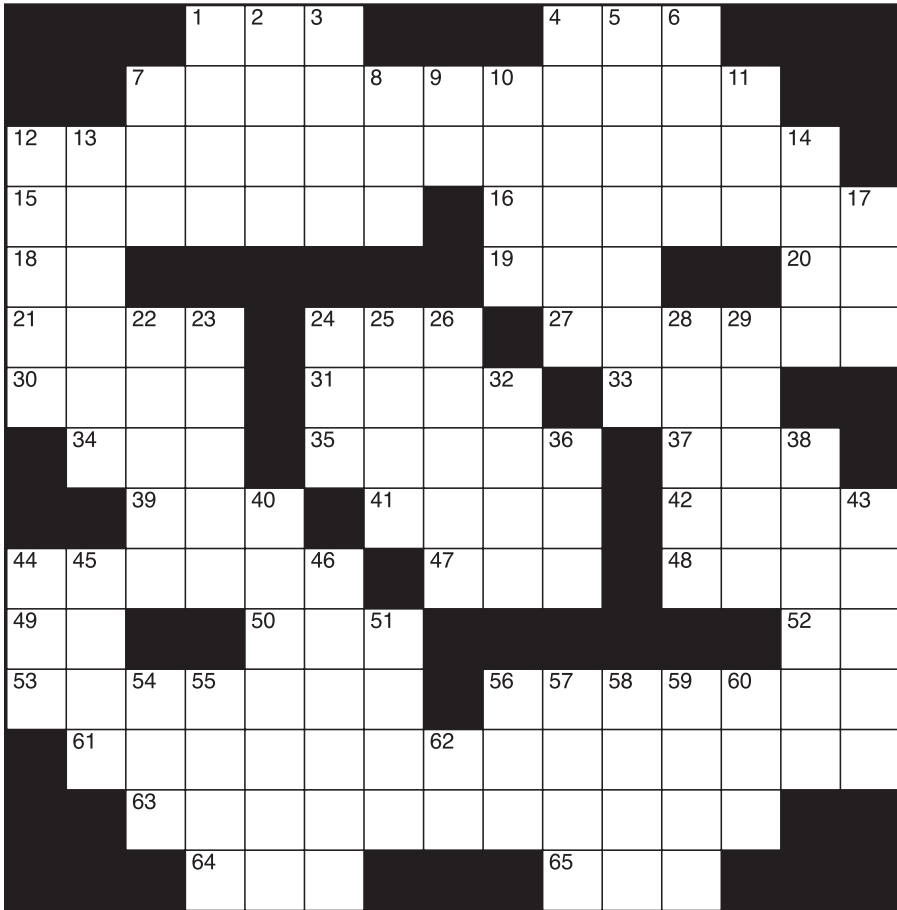
The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

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



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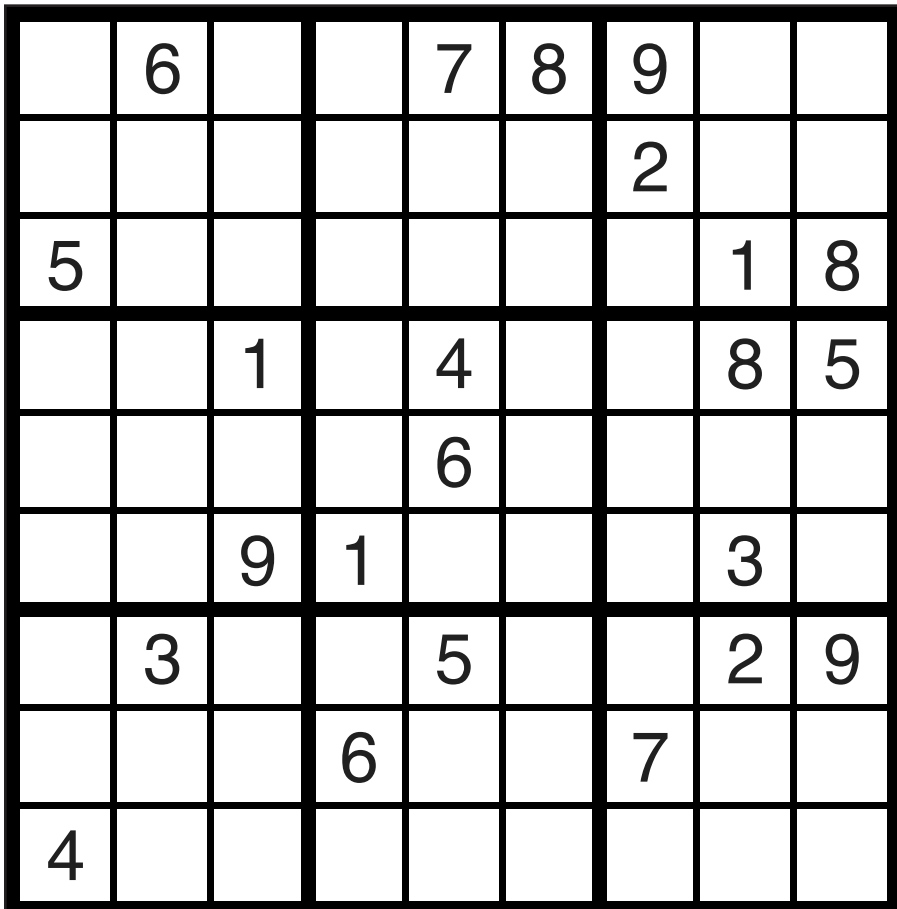


CLUES ACROSS

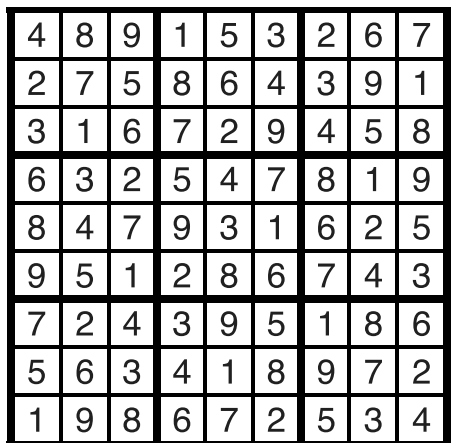
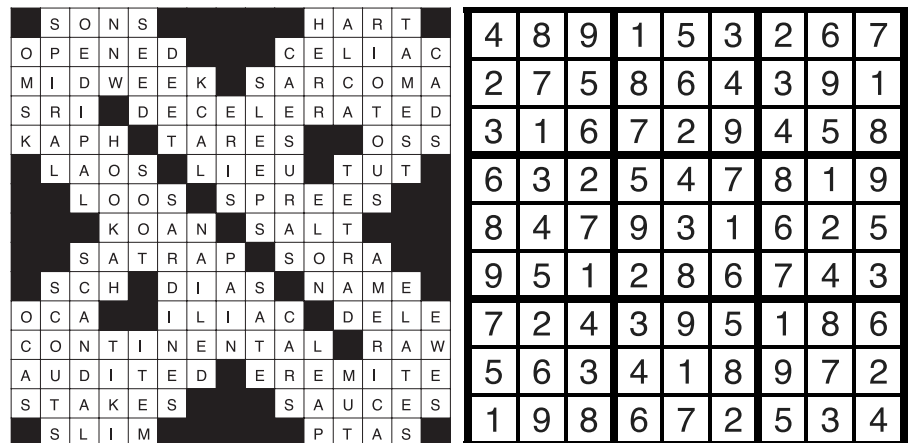
- 1. A way to drop
- 4. Bits per inch
- 7. Ghosts
- 12. Presents
- 15. Noises
- 16. Honorable fourth name in ancient Rome
- 18. Elevated railroad
- 19. A way to drench
- 20. The Tarheel State
- 21. Lilly and Manning are two
- 24. Where golfers begin
- 27. Harvester
- 30. Unit of subjective loudness
- 31. Jewish calendar month
- 33. Dash
- 34. Armed conflict
- 35. Daisy __: Broadway actress
- 37. Jump
- 39. Get free of
- 41. A written proposal or reminder
- 42. Organic chemistry reactive structure
- 44. African country
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Used to treat Parkinson's disease
- 49. __ route
- 50. Ed Murrow's home
- 52. Lethal dose
- 53. Give cards incorrectly
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. In an incisive way
- 64. Mark Wahlberg's screen partner
- 65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mountain in the Julian Alps
- 2. A domed or vaulted recess
- 3. Trade agreement
- 4. Larger
- 5. Edged
- 6. Data
- 7. Something curved in shape
- 8. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 9. Farm state
- 10. Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
- 11. Short-term memory
- 12. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- 13. Honor as holy
- 14. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 17. Company that rings receipts
- 22. City in Finland
- 23. Small finch
- 24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 26. Very willing
- 28. Partner to "oohed"
- 29. Turntable
- 32. Major Hindu deity
- 36. Move head slightly
- 38. Plain-woven fabric
- 40. Die
- 43. Shipped as cargo
- 44. Something highly prized
- 45. Individual thing or person
- 46. Humbled
- 51. Speak indistinctly
- 54. No seats available
- 55. Financial obligation
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Singer Charles
- 62. Camper



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Calvert Resident Devoted to Service

By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

Jean Moyer is a well-known and truly respected individual who was born here more than 70 years ago. A woman of great faith, she continually sets the standard for service and volunteerism few citizens are capable of attaining. She is totally devoted to caring for the families of her "Our Lady Star of the Sea" Parish in Solomons the past 36 years. She is a "fixture of love" within her church where she can be seen doing everything, everywhere, every day ... if there is anything going on within the Parish, Jean is guaranteed to be present.



She has gained a fine reputation as the "go to person" for most everything needing attention. Somewhat shy, she seeks no recognition, and goes about her work quietly with little fanfare. Yet she is very friendly and greets each person with a wonderful smile. Her greatest love is caring for the children and continues to be involved in the Parish school. She has cleaned the school each school night for 36 years, helped produce the School Yearbook, served as part time School Secretary, greets all the students on the first day of school in her "dinosaur" costume, accompanies classes on all of their "field trips" while taking photos of the event to place in a book of memories. These are just a few of her school activities.

As a result of her fond love for photography, Jean has become the "Parish Photographer and Historian." Her scrapbooks are legendary as she has a wonderful skill for capturing the "moment." Her decades of photos provide many, many memories for the families of the Parish to reflect on their children's and even their grandchildren's accomplishments when they were young. They will often bring tears of joy when folks reflect on the good times when life was much different.

On Sundays, Jean appears omnipresent and may be seen greeting fellow Parishioners as they enter church, serving as an usher, or even collecting Sunday donations. She will often serve as a Lector, or as a Eucharistic Minister serving communion. Following services, she is often the one to blow out the candles, turn out the lights or prepare the church for the next Mass. She also takes care of the altar servers robes, the altar linens and cloths among many other chores.

One additional accomplishment of this

remarkable lady, she has been donating her blood to the Red Cross to help others undergoing surgery here in Southern Maryland. Amazingly, she has given almost 25 gallons of her blood over the years. This is just one more wonderful example of how this individual completely gives of herself to others, especially those in need.

Jean's efforts have not gone unnoticed. She previously received the 75th Anniversary Medal from Cardinal Wuerl, former Archbishop of Washington for her years of unselfish devotion to her faith and the Archdiocese of Washington. Further, she is also the recipient of the 2017 Father Alexander Award for her dedication to her Parish and her community. Jean has also been nominated for the "Most Beautiful Person of Calvert County" for her volunteer services here in the County.

Jean married her husband Gary 53 years ago here in Solomons. They raised three daughters Kathy, Kim, and Kristina that have provided them with eight grandchildren. It is important to note Jean comes from a large, loving Christian family. She is the eldest of nine siblings all of whom graduated from the Parish School. Her mom graduated in 1941 when classes were held in the church basement. Even her grandmother walked several miles to attend Mass there and help put on Church suppers. And her dad became the school's first bus driver! Her family has been a part of the Parish since its beginnings in 1921 when Father Alexander arrived to establish a parish here in the southernmost part of the County.

Moyer is a selfless lady who thoroughly exemplifies the qualities of a vibrant love and true commitment to others within our community.

CORRECTION: ENROLLMENT DATES

2023 Medicare Open Enrollment Period

What is Open Enrollment

All people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage for 2024

When is Open Enrollment

October 15 -
December 7

Information on Open Enrollment

1-800-MEDICARE
www.Medicare.gov
St. Mary's County
SHIP counselors

St. Mary's County
Department of Aging
& Human Services
301-475-4200 ext. 1080

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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1080
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysMD.com/aging for the most up-to-date information.

Veterans Resource Day

University of Maryland Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Rd., California
Friday, November 3
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Veterans Resource Day! Keep an eye on the website for more information - <https://www.stmarysmd.com/aging/veterans>

Art with Jamie

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, November 7 & 14
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: \$25 per session (\$50 total)

The two sessions in November will be focused on painting a beautiful Autumn scene in acrylic. Cost includes use of high-quality materials which will help you achieve your best possible results. Register and prepay for this class by going to www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/.

Kickboxing

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, November 7-December 5

2 p.m.
Cost: \$40

Kickboxing tones muscles through punching and kicking using focus pads, target pads, and mitts. Participants may notice an improvement in overall balance and flexibility. The aerobic moves of kickboxing have been shown to improve circulation and offer great stress relief. This specialized class is geared toward active men and women ages fifty and above. The class has great energy without the high-impact exercises that are done during a mainstream kickboxing class. The instructor, Geno Rothback, is a registered nurse, a senior fitness instructor, and is a black belt in Taekwondo and a certified Martial Fusion and Kickboxing instructor. Advance registration is required.

Veterans Circle Celebration

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Thursday, November 9
9:30-10:30 a.m.
Cost: \$4 for civilians, FREE for veterans

To honor all veterans, active duty and former service members Loffler Senior Activity Center invites everyone- especially

veterans- to gather for this touching tribute to those who have served our country and those who serve today. Veterans- wear your ribbons (and your uniform if you wish). A continental breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m.; opening ceremony at 10 a.m. Cost is \$4 for civilians, FREE for veterans and active-duty service members. To reserve your spot, go to www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/. If you do not have access to e-mail and the internet, you can still leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. Indicate if you are a veteran when you sign up. Limited space is available.

Diabetes Self-Management Program

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, November 14-December 19
1- 3:30 p.m.
Cost: Free

The Diabetes Self-Management Program is a community-based workshop to help people better manage their diabetes. This program is recommended for those who are managing Type 2 Diabetes or are Pre-Diabetic. Adult-age caregivers, family members, and other members of a support team are highly encouraged to attend as well. The Diabetes Self-Management

Program is based on the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) developed at the Stanford University Patient Education Research Center. Different subject matters are taught over the course of 6 weekly, 2-1/2 hour sessions all focused to help each participant manage their diabetes. This program covers both the physical and emotional aspect of managing diabetes but does not replace any existing programs or treatment for the participants. This program will be offered free of charge; however, regular attendance is encouraged, and seating is limited. To register, visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging. If you do not have access to e-mail or the internet, leave a message on the Loffler reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

Medicare Minute

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Wednesday, November 29

How to Afford Prescription Drug Costs- Understand the Extra Help program and if you may be eligible, learn if your state has a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, using other strategies and programs to save on drug costs.



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Age Is Just a Number for Charter Boat Captain

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Capt. Phil Langley, proprietor of Fish The Bay Charters in Dameron, just turned 63 but he said he has no intentions of quitting of working on the water.

He's done it as a full-time job for the past 15 years, but said he's been on the water for more than 40.

"I think it's been about 42 years now," Langley told The County Times. "I've lost count."

Decades ago, he used to work night shifts locally for the Steuart Petroleum Company in Piney Point but then would get up in the morning and take to the water for charter fishing and harvesting shellfish.

It had him working almost around the clock.

"Well, that's pretty much been my life," Langley said. "I've been pretty active."

Staying active on the move has been Langley's way of staying fit as he's gotten older, he said.

Working on the water isn't easy or for the faint of heart, though.

"That's the most challenging thing of anything I've ever done," Langley said of operating his charter fishing business. "It's also more dangerous at times."

He has to contend with all kinds of weather, he said, and at the same time remain responsible for the safety of his passengers who are just there for a good time.

But he loves being out there, he said.

"I never look at my watch to see when quitting time is," said Langley. "Being active, that's the key."

"Age is just a number to me; but don't get me wrong, I've taken a few steps back."

But the job keeps him moving, he said.

He books charter trips up through December, he said, and spends the winter



Capt. Phil Langley

months marketing his business and attending trade shows and he operates a small oyster lease as well.

He also operates sunset cruises on Breton Bay and out of Point Lookout Marina.

By the spring he's conducting maintenance on his boat and getting ready for coast guard inspections.

By summer it's back out on the water for more charter fishing.

"This is one of those jobs where you can't call in sick," Langley said.

Right now, he's in the process of renewing his captain's license which has to be done every five years.

"Hopefully, I'll be good for another five years," Langley. "Like they say in my business at my age you don't quit you just do a little less."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



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Friday, November 3, 2023

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**University of Maryland at Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Road, California, MD**

Presentations:

**Protecting Yourself Against Fraud & Identity Theft - Navy Federal Credit Union
10 a.m.**

**Learning about Service Animals - MK9 Service Dogs
12:30 p.m.**

Organizations on-site will include:

**A Community that Shares
Humana Military/TRICARE
Freedom Hearing
Warfighter Advance**

**NAWCAD
US Department of Veterans Affairs
Habitat for Humanity
Navy Federal Credit Union**

**College of Southern Maryland
MD Insurance Administration
St. Mary's Health Department
St. Mary's Emergency Services**

Claims processing available all day with Disabled American Veterans (DAV)!

Lunch provided by Mission BBQ for attendees at 12 p.m.!

For more information, contact Sarah Miller

Phone: 301-475-4200, ext 1073

Email: sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov

Website: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans/

Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Department of Aging & Human Services

A man in a green jacket and blue pants is fishing on a boat. He is holding a fishing rod and reel. The boat has several other fishing rods mounted on it. The background shows the ocean and a sunset sky with a bright sun low on the horizon. The text 'P. SoMD' is in white, 'Living' is in a gold cursive font, and '50 PLUS' is in white. At the bottom, there is a quote: 'CAPTAIN PHIL: 'Age Is Just a Number''.

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'Age Is Just a Number'

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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, Nov 2

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.

The Old Man and The Old Moon

St. Mary's Ryken High School
22600 Camp Calvert Rd., Leonardtown

Join St. Mary's Ryken Fine Arts students for their performance of The Old Man and The Old Moon. Show dates are November 2-5. Reserve your seats using this link: <https://smrhs.booktix.net/>

The Old Man tends to The Old Moon,

refilling the light that spills out every night. When his wife unexpectedly leaves home, The Old Man abandons his post and plunges the world into darkness. His eventful journey across land, air, and sea to find her, reminds them—and us—of the unwavering power of love.

Fri, Nov 3

Last Pirate of the Caribbean Dinner Theater & Silent Auction

Mount Zion United Methodist Church
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd., Mechanicsville
6p.m. to 10:30p.m.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Friday, November 3rd for Mount Zion United Methodist Church latest Comedy/Who-dun-it-dinner theater production! Reservations are required. Make yours early as the show has sold out for the last two years. There is also a Silent Auction which benefits the Hungry Team. Tickets are on sale now \$35.00 each.

Contact Lesley Maguire at 240-298-7227.

Sat, Nov 4

The War of 1812 Comes to Point Lookout

Point Lookout State Park
11175 Point Lookout Rd., Scotland
9a.m. to 4p.m.

Costumed interpreters will represent the time when British forces invaded Point Lookout and St. Mary's County during the War of 1812. Interpreters will provide living history programs, exhibits and firing demonstrations from small arms and artillery of the period. There will also be demonstrations focused on the roles/activities of women.

Brown Bag Auction

7th District VRS Auxiliary
Holy Angels Parish Hall
21335 Colton Point Road

Doors open 11 a.m.; raffle begins at 1 p.m.

Tickets: \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 25 for \$20. Over 300 items will be raffled. Remember your address labels to put on tickets. Food, drinks and homemade desserts will be available. There will be a 50/50 raffle, and a Holiday "Fixin" Dinner Basket Raffle. For information, contact Bobbie at 301-481-1510.

Upcoming

Carry-Out Chicken Dinner

K.C. Hall in Ridge
Sunday, November 12
11:30am

\$15 Dinner: 1/2 chicken, potatoes, veggie, cole slaw, roll. Baked goods available. Self-serve seating available. 301-872-4641

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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.

Bea Gies, 87



Beatrice Yvonne Gies, 87, of Solomons, Maryland, went home to be with God on Sunday, October 22, 2023. She died peacefully in the comfort of her own home. Bea was

born on August 31, 1936, in Washington, D.C. to Robert and Isabella Lansdown. Bea was the youngest of 9 children, and her siblings were: Ruth, Robert, Margaret, Dorothy, Bobby, Audrey, Frannie, and Barbara.

Bea is survived by her high school sweetheart, Edward L. Gies, and they would have been married 68 years on November 25, 2023. Ed and Bea lost their oldest child, Ed Gies, Jr. on April 22, 2023, exactly 6 months prior to the passing of Bea. Bea is survived by Angie Gies, daughter-in-law, grandchildren Meaghan and Dan Helmers, and Morgan Gies, and great-grandchildren Audrey, Elena, and Jayden. Bea is also survived by Rob Gies, Ed and Bea's youngest child, Louisa Gies, daughter-in-law, and Austin Gies, grandson.

Bea was an accomplished and highly decorated roller skater having competed in numerous competitions in the 1940's and the 1950's including traveling to California

to compete in the National Roller-Skating Championships. Upon graduating from Northwestern High School, Bea worked for Hoover Vacuum Company followed by Bethlehem Steel in the mid to late 1950's.

She was most proud of her family, and she always enjoyed family reunions, get-togethers, and anything involving her family. She always attended her children's and grandchildren's games, school events, and other activities. For both of her sons, she was their Cub Scout Den Leader, and she supported their Boy Scouting activities. She was very involved in her sons' educational pursuits from being an assistant teacher to helping with various school programs to being active with the inaugural Parents Association at Old Dominion University. Ed and Bea were very active with Reisterstown United Methodist Church. They both led and/or participated in over 50 Volunteers in Mission trips making the difference in the lives of many all over the United States. She was also a member of the Eastern Star. Education, learning, nature, volunteering, community, service, and family were always very important to her.

John Chapter 20 provides the basis for one of Bea's favorite hymns entitled *In the Garden*. "I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses, And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses, And He Walks with me, And He

Talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known, He speaks and the sound of His voice, Is so sweet the birds hush their singing, And the melody that He gave to me, Within my heart is ringing, And He walks with me, And he talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known, I'd stay in the garden with Him, Tho the night around me be falling, But He bids me go, Through the voice of woe, His voice to me is calling, And He walks with me, And He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known."

Bea has gone onto to Heaven to be with her oldest son, parents, brothers, sisters, other family members, friends, and her beloved dogs, Bruan and Millie. A celebration of life will occur in early 2024 at Reisterstown United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, donations in Bea's memory can be made to the Asbury Foundation at Asbury Solomons 5285 Westview Drive, Suite 200 Frederick, Maryland 21703, with the memo line stating, "Asbury Foundation in Memory of Bea Gies". Or, donations in Bea's memory can be made to Volunteers in Mission at Reisterstown United Methodist Church 246 Main Street Reisterstown, Maryland 21136, with the memo line stating "VIM in Memory of Bea Gies".

18, 1973. In 1984, Jack was promoted to Corporal and in 1990, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

On April 2nd, 1977, Jack married the love of his life, Frances Ann 'Franny' Stone, of St. Inigoes, MD. They celebrated 46 wonderful years together. In April of 2002, they renewed their vows at St. Michael's Church, celebrating with close family and friends.

For over 52 years, he was a member of Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad. In fact, Jack and his wife Franny joined the rescue squad on the same day and spent several years courting while running ambulance calls. Jack and Franny were a familiar presence to many who attended the college sports events. They attended most of the games and were on stand-by with the ambulance in the event of an accident or injury that may need their attention. Jack was also a member of the St. Michael's Church, where he sang in the choir and served as a Eucharistic Minister.

Jack and Franny were parents to many Shelties. Their fur babies were pampered companions at home and on many camping trips. When he was off duty from the College and the Squad, Jack and Franny were off in their camper with their Sheltie. They explored many sights along the East Coast including visits with his sisters in Connecticut and their favorite scene in Lancaster PA.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife Franny on June 22, 2023, his parents Francis Chester and Anna Marie, his sisters Sister Mary Rita Cullison, Sister Marie Frances Cullison, Carolyn Clark, Anita 'Betty' Raley, and his brother Edward Cullison. He is survived by his brother Joseph Patrick Cullison of Bushwood, MD, and his sister Varrina 'Tink' Yost of Crownsville, MD.

Pall bearers will be Clint Yost, Wade Cullison, Dylan Lowmiller, Micheal Manuzak, Joseph Raley, David Lowe, Kee Abell, and Richard Merrell.

Family will receive friends on Monday, November 6th, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with EMS Prayers and Life Celebration at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's Church in Ridge, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 7th, 2023 at 11:00 am at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Ridge, MD. Interment will follow immediately in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, P. O. Box 456, Ridge MD 20680, or St. Michael's Church, P. O. Box 429, Ridge MD 20680.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Jack Cullison, 88



In the wee hours of Saturday morning, October 21st, 2023 angels were commissioned to escort John Gregory "Jack" Cullison to Heaven to be reunited with his wife Franny.

John Gregory Cullison, better known as "Jack", was born on October 30th, 1934, at his family home in Ridge, Maryland. He was the seventh child in a family of five sisters and three brothers. He spent most of his life in Ridge, except during his military tour where he was stationed in Scofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii.

After fulfilling his commitment to the Army, Jack returned home to Ridge, where he began employment as a salesman for a wholesale distributor. After being on the road for several years, Jack was recruited by Sergeant John Ridgell to be a Public Safety Officer at St. Mary's College. He began his career with the College on July



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County Times
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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Is It Time for the Chloroform Now?

I am getting the wackies lately. I don't know if it is due to lack of proper sleep, talking to so many people scheduling pool closings, or meds or what, but I go through times where my words come out in a jumble (Okay, I heard you mumble that seems to be all the time). The words in the middle come out in the front or back and vice versa. Is this normal? What is normal anyway? A week ago, I went through an entire day not realizing my shirt was on inside out. My husband noticed in the afternoon, and I had to change it around down low in the passenger seat. Almost as bad as when I went to church like that years ago, and the priest said, "Did you mean to wear your blouse like that?" I had to go into the Sacristy and put it on right.

I look at someone, sometimes in my own family, and the name just slips out of my head. I try to remember everything and write every little

thing down from do the dishes to some crazy days where I have to write down a reminder to take my daily shower. The day will get ahead of me and pass me going 100 mph and I wonder, "Did I get anything done?" Then if I take a moment I can remember how many things I did do, how many times I was inside to outside and how many times I ran up and down these #o#% split foyer stairs. I guess its like the old joke of when the husband comes home and asks the wife, "Just what exactly did you do all day?". My husband doesn't do that, we go over our days with each other as a nice way to wind down after a long day.

Though let me not be too hasty in my praise. We were driving to our favorite winery, Robin Hill Winery off Croom Road in Brandywine on Saturday and I was checking my make-up and hair in the mirror behind the sun visor because most times my hands and fingers don't want to do what I want them to do with make-up, and I end up with mascara on my nose, eyelids, the mirror in the bathroom, everywhere but on my lashes. Well anyway, my eyes spotted a few more wrinkles. I think visor mirrors show way too much if you ask me. So, I asked Robert, "Do I look old?" He replied way too quickly I might add, "You are old". He tried to "fix" it quickly with he was old, we are all getting older, all that nonsense. There went my day, forced me to have that extra glass of wine to take the pain away.

Which brings me to the new little gift I got myself for Halloween. I probably saw it on Facebook, but it is an Etsy handmade product from EmbroidUrway in South Carolina. Actually, I bought one for me and one for a gift – hoping they find it as funny as I did. My treat was an embroidered black hand towel with orange and white lettering that says, "Does this towel smell like chloroform to you?" It just struck me as so funny when I first saw it and I laugh every time I see it on the oven door. I will have it out on the food table for our Halloween Trails on the 31st. The towels came quickly and of nice quality, now I am wishing I got a second one for me for our truck so when Robert gets snarky I can hold the towel up to him. Next time he says I am old, that towel is getting put right up over his mouth and nose. I will however try not to do it when he is actually driving. One significant other of the couple that I got the other towel for asked if it came with the chloroform.

Well, I guess I better get this sent off, lots of things left to do on my list today: get a shower, put that next load of wash in, call pool customers, etc. etc....oh and I've been meaning to check on the price of chloroform for the last few days for some reason...

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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



FINANCIAL FOCUS

Avoid these common investment mistakes

We all make mistakes in many areas of life. These mistakes are usually fairly harmless — we took a wrong turn while driving, used the wrong ingredients in a recipe and so on. But sometimes, our mistakes can be costly — especially those connected to investing.

Here are some of the most common investment mistakes:

- *Too much buying and selling* – Some people find it exciting to constantly buy and sell investments in the pursuit of big gains. Yet, frequent trading can work against you in a couple of ways. First, it can be expensive — if you're always buying and selling investments, you could rack up taxes, fees and commissions. Perhaps even more important, though, excessive purchases and sales can make it difficult to follow a unified, cohesive investment strategy. Such a strategy requires, among other things, careful construction and management of an investment portfolio that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Heavy trading can disrupt this strategy.
- *Failing to diversify* – If you only owned one type of asset, such as growth-oriented stocks, your portfolio could take a hit when the financial markets go through a downturn. But not all investments will respond the same way to the same forces — for example, stocks and bonds can move in different directions at any given time. And that's why it's usually a good idea to own a mix of investments, which can include domestic and foreign stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and government securities. Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can help reduce the impact of market volatility, it can't guarantee profits or protect against losses in a declining market.
- *Trying to "time" the market* – "Buy low and sell high" might be the original piece of investment advice, but it's pretty hard to follow — because no one can really predict when an investment will reach "low" or "high" points. Also, trying to "time" the market in this way can lead to bad decisions, such as selling investments whose price has dropped, even if these same investments still have good business fundamentals and strong prospects.
- *Not understanding what you're investing in* – If you don't know the nature of investments when you buy them, you could set yourself up for unpleasant surprises. For example, some companies, by the very nature of their business and the type of industry they're in, may consistently pay dividends to their investors even though their stock prices may only show relatively modest price gains over time. If you bought shares of this stock, thinking it had the potential to achieve quite substantial appreciation, you might end up disappointed.
- *Making the wrong comparisons* – You're no doubt familiar with some of the most well-known investment benchmarks — the S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq Composite. But it might be counterproductive to compare your results against these indexes. If you have a diversified portfolio, you'll own an array of investments that won't fit into any single index or benchmark, so you won't get an apples-to-apples comparison. You're better off comparing your portfolio's performance against the only benchmark that really matters — the progress you need to make to help achieve your goals.

Investing will always have its challenges — but you can help make it easier on yourself by staying away from as many mistakes as possible.

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

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Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

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Historic St. Mary's City Announces Community Book Club

Historic St. Mary's City is excited to announce the first meeting of a new community book club, "A Farthing for your Thoughts." The club will meet inside The Shop at Farthing's Ordinary on November 15 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. The first meeting will discuss the novel *A Wolf by the Ears* written by local author Wayne Karlin, who will be in attendance.

The novel's title refers to a quote by Thomas Jefferson, "We have the wolf by the ears, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go."

The novel is set during the war of 1812, when thousands of enslaved people from plantations across the Tidewater rallied to the British side, turning against an American republic that had barred them from the promises of freedom and democracy. Against the backdrop of rebellion and war, Wayne Karlin's *A Wolf by the Ears* follows the interconnected stories of Towerhill and Sarai, two African slaves, and their master, Jacob Hallam. Educated side-by-side and insepa-

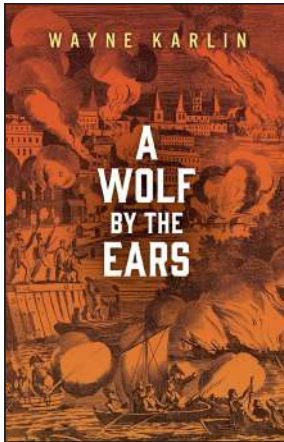


table as children, the three come of age as they are forced to grapple with and break free of the fraught linkage of black and white Americans and how differently each defines what it means to fight for freedom.

Wayne Karlin has published eight novels and a collection of short stories, as well as three non-fiction works. His books have also been published in England, and in translation in Denmark, Sweden, Italy,

and Vietnam. He has received five State of Maryland Individual Artist Awards in Fiction, two Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1994 and 2004), the Paterson Prize in Fiction for 1999, the Vietnam Veterans of American Excellence in Arts Award in 2005, and the Juniper Prize for Fiction for 2019.

Anyone interested in joining the book club please get in touch with Iris Ford by emailing icford@smcm.edu.

The Shop at Farthing's Ordinary is located at 47414 Old State House Road, St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686

SMCM Honors the Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland



The St. Mary's College of Maryland community will come together on Nov. 3, 2023, at 4:45 p.m. for The Sacred Journey: The Beloved Community, an event to honor the third anniversary of the award-winning Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland. The event will be marked by choral and instrumental music, a spoken word performance, a Procession of Dignity from the Commemorative to the College's Waterfront, a reading of names of the enslaved, and a libation ceremony.

Participants will assemble at the Commemorative, located at 47777 Mattapan Road in St. Mary's City. Choral selections by SMCM's PING vocal ensemble will be interspersed with remarks from St. Mary's College of Maryland President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, Professor Garrey Dennie and Professor Jeffrey Coleman. A student-led spoken word performance of "erasure poetry" from the Commemorative will conclude the first portion of the ceremony.

Participants will walk to the College Waterfront, accompanied by student percussionists and musicians. Along the procession route, signage will pose reflective questions and Peter A. Friesen, director of education for Historic St. Mary's City, will highlight historical elements relating to the history of slavery on the lands now occupied by the College.

Upon arriving at the waterfront, participants will be treated to a choral program by St. Peter Claver Men's Choir and the Casual Groove Band, directed by SMCM alumnus Roy Johnson. Dennie and Gwen Bankins, Historic Sotterley descendant and board trustee will provide additional

remarks. Students will perform a solemn reading of the names of the enslaved – over 120 individuals, some known only by a single name or even no name at all, who lived near the campus grounds. Evangelist Francine Dove Hawkins will conclude the event with a libation ceremony.

As a special addition this year, Grammy®-nominated a cappella vocal ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock will perform in concert at the Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center on the campus at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale with more information at www.smcm.edu/dodge.

About the Commemorative: The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland provides visitors with the space to acknowledge and learn from the lives of those who once toiled here while providing a place for reflection and introspection about the nature of slavery and its connections to modern society. The Commemorative uses the slave quarter as a symbol of resilience, determination, and persistence. It complements this symbolism through words, combining names of the enslaved with "erasure poetry" adapted from historical documents related to slavery in and around St. Mary's City.

St. Mary's College of Maryland is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. St. Mary's College, the National Public Honors College, is ranked as the #5 national public liberal arts college in the U.S. by U.S. News & World Report. Approximately 1,600 students attend the college, nestled on the St. Mary's River in Southern Maryland.

Pet

OF THE WEEK

MEET MACK

Love is a cold nose and a warm heart!

Hi, my name is Mack. I'm a ONE-YEAR-OLD Siberian Husky with a secret talent. I'm fluent in Spanish! Forget "sit" and "stay"; I can understand "síentate" and "quedate"! I'm the CASANOVA of the canine world with a soft spot for the ladies and I'm hoping to find a female dog companion and sweep her off her paws! I'm an ACTIVE FUR BALL who's ready to take on the world, but I do require a personal stylist (you!) to spend some quality time brushing my LUSCIOUS FUR to help maintain my HOLLYWOOD-LEVEL LOOKS. If you're up for Spanish lessons, a little matchmaking, and some fur-grooming, I'm the DASHING HUSKY you've been waiting for! ¡Vamos, let's find me a home!

Meet me during adoption hours, Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!!

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Letters to the Editor

57th Annual U.S. Oyster Festival

A sincere "thank you" to all who participated in making the 57th U.S. Oyster Festival (October 21-22, 2023) an absolute success!

This legacy event (and the largest event in St. Mary's County) celebrates the history of oyster farming in St. Mary's County, and also hosts the official U.S. National Oyster Shucking Championship Contest. The winner of our Oyster Shucking contest goes on to represent the United States in Galway, Ireland at the International Oyster Festival shucking contest in September each year.

This year's winner was Honor Allen. His time of 1 minute 57.86 Seconds (after penalties) set a Festival Record. Honor represented the United States as the U.S. National Oyster Shucking Championship Contest winner in 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021. He will again represent the U.S. in 2024.

Another highlight of this year's Oyster Festival was 12-year old John Davis who swept the U.S. Oyster Cook-Off Contest with Best Overall Recipe, First place in the Oyster Hors D'oeuvres category, Best Presentation award, and the People's Choice award.

Clearly, this event would not have been possible without the support of our many sponsors, vendors and volunteers - thank you all! And to all of you who had the opportunity to attend the event this year (some online ticket purchases were made all the way from Denmark and Washington state!), thank you for your generosity and enthusiasm. The proceeds from this event go back into our community through Rotary Club of Lexington Park grants and scholarships to help support students, non-profit and community groups. We truly couldn't have achieved this without your support and partnership.

We'll be loading many pictures from the event on our website (www.usoysterfest.com)...check it out. We look forward to seeing you next at the 2024 U.S. Oyster Festival, October 19th and 20th!

*Tari Moore, Chairperson and Royal Oyster 2023 U.S. Oyster Festival
2022-23 Past President/Rotary Club of Lexington Park*



NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER News

Navy Assessing New Aircrew Survival Vests

The Naval Aircrew Systems Program Office (PMA-202) aircrew survival vest team is testing new rotary wing and tilt aircrew survival vest systems that will optimize aircrew performance with a lighter, less bulky and more ergonomically suitable solution.

The team is evaluating the new vest systems for their ability to reduce instances of overheating, increase overall comfort and reduce the potential for short and long term back and neck injury of pilots and aircrew due to the bulkiness and imbalanced weight of the legacy systems.

"As mission lengths continue to increase, it's an imperative that we integrate new design features and provide vest systems that meet fleet requirements in a comfortable, lightweight solution," said Capt. Carey Castelein, PMA-202 program manager.

A number of MH-60R, MH-60S, MH-53E and CMV-22 pilots, aircrew and maintainers are currently assessing the vests to ensure the solutions meet their needs and enhance operational capability. Pilots and aircrew are flying with the new vest systems and providing real-time user input on what features work and what needs improvement.

"Through research, test and fleet assessments, our team will determine the best possible solution to optimize aircrew performance with a lighter, less bulky and more buoyant system, taking into account performance and user feedback," said Cindy Stead, PMA-202 Aircrew Survival Vest team lead.

Each operator needs a comfortable vest



that can be worn for long periods of time, does not cause overheating, distributes weight evenly, fits well, and enables the wearer to be highly mobile for in-cockpit visual scanning and physical movement. Additionally, vests need to be buoyant in post-crash survival and evasion scenarios.

The fleet assessments began on the West coast this summer and continue on the East Coast over the next few months. The Navy may potentially field multiple survival vests depending on aircrew mission after completion of fleet assessments.

VETERANS DAY SALUTE

In honor of Veterans Day 2023, The County Times invites you to submit the names of family members who have served in the Military Services. The names will be published in The County Times Veterans Day Salute on November 9th. Email names to timescalendar@countytimes.net or mail to PO Box 250 Hollywood, MD 20636.

Local businesses are also invited to join in our salute to local veterans. Call us at 301-373-2131 for details

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6 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes with SPICE Studio, including barre and high-low fitness, and Pilates. www.facebook.com/somdspicestudio

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

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center. www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Color & Light Art Show at St. Mary's County Art's Council. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Adult Art Club at The Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. North End Gallery hosts the Opening Reception for the new show, "A ZOO in my KILN", featuring Diana Manchak's ceramics. www.facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Meet Illustrator Michael Munshaw (from Star Wars, Marvel, Rick & Morty, Archer, Dynamite Comics & more) at St. Mary's County Art's Council. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Live music featuring Josh Airhart & The Foundation and food provided by Dan D's at Port of Leonardtown Winery. www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

6:30 p.m. - 8:00p.m. "Show Your Thanks" Collage Art Class at the Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

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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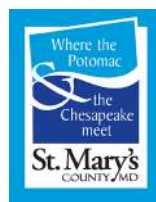
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ST. MARY'S COUNTY CRIME BLOTTER

Maryland State Police Crime Report

On 10/25/2023, Tpr Baden conducted a traffic stop on Buck Hewitt Road at Alydar Drive, Lexington Park, MD. Investigation revealed that the driver of the vehicle, identified as Troy Allen Jones, 31 of Ridge, MD was driving while under the influence and was arrested. A search incident to arrest revealed suspected Cocaine, suspected Crack Cocaine and associated paraphernalia. Jones was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center where he was charged with Possession of CDS: Not Cannabis x2 and Possession of CDS: Paraphernalia x2. He was also issued numerous traffic citations relating to driving under the influence.

On 10/25/2023, Tpr Hersh responded to the Wawa, located at 30320 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD for the report of someone trespassing. Investigation revealed that Jason Tremayne Stringer, 40 of Accokeek, MD had been previously issued a notice not to trespass. Stringer was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespass: Private Property.

The following people were arrested for Driving under the Influence:

- On 10/25/2023, Troy Allen Jones, 31 of Ridge, MD was arrested by Tpr Baden
- On 10/28/2023, Tamika Rochelle Young, 37 of Loveville, MD was arrested by Tpr Hersh

- On 10/29/2023, Todd Efrem Brooks, 58 of Prince Frederick, MD was arrested by TFC Engleman
- On 10/29/2023, Debbie Bahena-Torres, 19 of Lexington Park, MD was arrested by Tpr Black

The following people were arrested for Open Warrants:

- On 10/24/2023, Delanta Day, 35 of Indian Head, MD was arrested by Tpr Larimer for FTA: Driving without a required license
- On 10/25/2023, Marvin Francis Fields, 40 of Silver Spring, MD was arrested by Tpr Larimer for FTA: Driving while under the influence of alcohol, Driving while impaired by alcohol, Driver failure to obey properly placed traffic control device instructions, and Negligent Driving
- On 10/27/2023, Terrell Anthony Duckett, 27 of Great Mills, MD was arrested by Tpr Phelps for Violation of Probation: Malicious Burning First Degree
- On 10/30/2023, Orbin Hans Carter, 38 of Lexington Park, MD was arrested by Tpr Wheeler for FTA: Failure to return & remain at scene of accident involving attended (vehicle damage, property damage)

All persons charged with a crime are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Sheriff's Office Investigating Pedestrian Fatality

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Deputies are investigating a crash that killed a woman in Hollywood, MD.

At 7:55 p.m. on Friday, October 27, 2023, Deputies responded to the southbound lane of the 23000 block of Three Notch Road for a report of a vehicle crash involving a pedestrian. A female victim, identified as Tammy Lynn Boyle, 61, of Hollywood, MD, was declared deceased at the scene.

A preliminary investigation indicates the victim was attempting to cross the southbound lanes of Three Notch Road, north of

Airport Road when she was struck by one or more vehicles. A 2014 Toyota Sienna, being operated by a 51-year-old male resident of Lusby, was involved in the collision and remained on the scene.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction team has assumed the investigation and is requesting eyewitness assistance from the public. If you were traveling in the area and witnessed anything, please contact Corporal Vincent Pontorno at vincent.pontorno@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 2337.

Two Sentenced in 2021 Execution Style Homicide



Leonard Charles Hall



James Reginald Flanagan

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that two men were sentenced for their participation in the June 2021 execution style murder of a teenager at the Chancellor's Run Regional Park.

The sentences for Leonard Charles Hall, 29, of Lexington Park, Maryland, and James Reginald Flanagan, 27, of Lexington Park, Maryland, are as follows:

- Leonard Charles Hall: Life imprisonment; and
- James Reginald Flanagan: A life sentence with 35 years' active incarceration.

Following a multi-day jury trial, a St. Mary's County jury convicted Mr. Hall on May 12, 2023, of conspiracy to commit first

degree murder and related firearms offenses.

Subsequently, on July 21, 2023, Mr. Flanagan, the co-conspirator, entered an Alford plea to conspiracy to commit first degree murder and related firearm offenses surrounding his involvement with the June 2021 homicide.

Senior Assistant States Attorneys Sarah Proctor and Jeff Maylor prosecuted both cases on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Daniel Sidorowicz of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office served as the lead investigator.

The Honorable Joseph Staloni presided over both cases.



Philip H. Dorsey III
Attorney at Law

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Online Auction Opens: WED, NOV. 1, 2023 (may open earlier)
In-Person Auction Preview: FRI, NOV. 3, 2023 - 3 pm to 7 pm.
Online Auction Closes: WED, NOV 8, 2023 beginning at 6 pm.

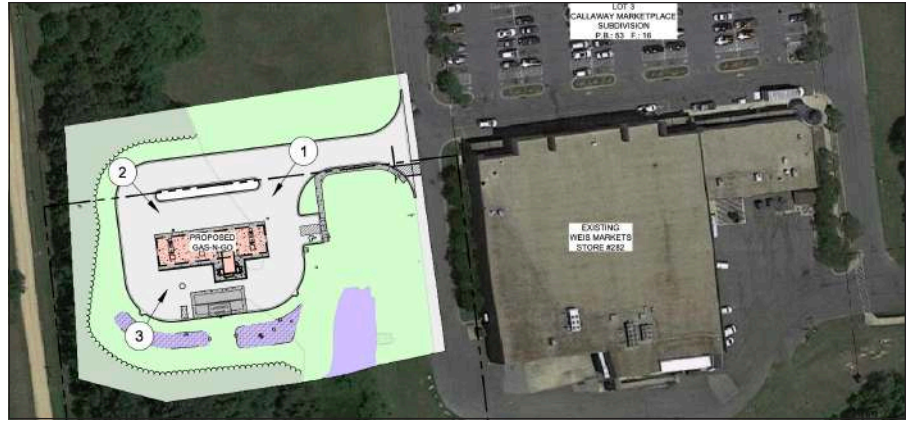
Check Website or Facebook frequently for updates & pictures.
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Saturday, November 11, 2023 – 8 am
41400 Friendship Court, Mechanicsville, MD
(Assisting Randy Ridgely and others for this large community auction.)

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New Gas Station Planned for Callaway



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Weis Market grocery store in Callaway could soon have an addition built to complement its operations — a gasoline fueling station — if its corporate plans are approved by the county planning commission.

The planning commission is set to review the concept site plan for a 2,295-square foot gas station canopy with an additional 204 square feet to accommodate a gas station attendant, according to county planning documents.

The project would be situated on 3.72 acres and allow for six fuel pumps.

County public works engineers report in planning documents that the addition of the gas station operation would generate approximately 50 more vehicle trips per hour and, as such, no traffic study was required to meet the level of service required

for the intersection at Route 5 and Piney Point Road.

Original plans for the Callaway Marketplace, where the new gas station is proposed to go, called for 37,635 square feet for the supermarket, 11,000 square feet for a pharmacy, 4,000 square feet for a fastfood restaurant and more than 43,000 square feet of additional retail space.

But only the supermarket and 6,000 square feet of space has been built at the site, planning documents show.

Callaway is considered a village center for purposes of county planning, which means that development there is supposed to be balanced to be in keeping with its rural character.

Other village centers are located in Chaptico, Clements, Loveville, Ridge, St. Ingoes and Valley Lee.

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St. Mary's Woman Wins \$124,754 Jackpot

Playing the Maryland Lottery is “just for fun” for a St. Mary's County woman, who enjoys a variety of games. Winning \$124,754 on a \$5 FAST PLAY game increased the fun substantially.

“I don't have any vices,” she said on Oct. 27 while claiming her prize at Lottery headquarters in Baltimore. The lucky lady won the progressive jackpot on a World Championship Poker ticket she bought Oct. 22 at Pals Liquor and Gas in Leonardtown.

She elaborated on her interest in playing, saying that the possibility of winning money is a big part of what makes the Lottery fun. She has won before, but never a six- or even five-digit prize.

“My biggest (prize) before was \$5,000 on a straight Pick 4,” she said. The avid player is a big fan of the Pick games as well as scratch-offs, FAST PLAY, and Multi-Match.

Meanwhile, she says she isn't much on playing the multistate rolling jackpot games, Mega Millions and Powerball, because the odds are too long for her taste.

With her winnings, the happy woman anticipates making some upgrades to her home, making a few repairs to her car and getting her finances square. And, she'll be celebrating with a nice dinner, one that likely will feature a healthy helping of seafood.

Pals Liquor and Gas located at 25965 Point Lookout Road receives a Lottery bonus of \$1,000 for selling a jackpot-winning FAST PLAY ticket worth more than \$100,000.

The winner's jackpot score was the last one in the World Championship Poker game, which closed after she bought the final winning ticket.



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Education "Blueprint" Could Bring Upheaval for County Schools

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith briefed local elected leaders this week on the impact the state's Blueprint for Education will have on county school operations; in short it is likely to cause quite a few changes that the school system would rather not have to do.

Smith told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County that the Blueprint, which is a massive increase in education spending statewide and places many different mandates on local school systems on how they allocate both human and financial resources, was not promulgated with smaller school systems in mind.

Rather it was created to better suit much larger school systems, he said, noting that costs of operations and delivering instruction were likely to increase.

For just one example, Smith said, the school system now bears the cost for a student who wants to take a test such as an SAT or PSAT or a college level course such as Advanced Placement, whether it is at school or another off-site learning facility.

"We pay 100 percent of that," Smith said, noting that students who were studying trades or learning to work in industries and had to take certification tests also put that cost on the school system.

"The system pays all of that," Smith reiterated. "This is a great time to be a parent."

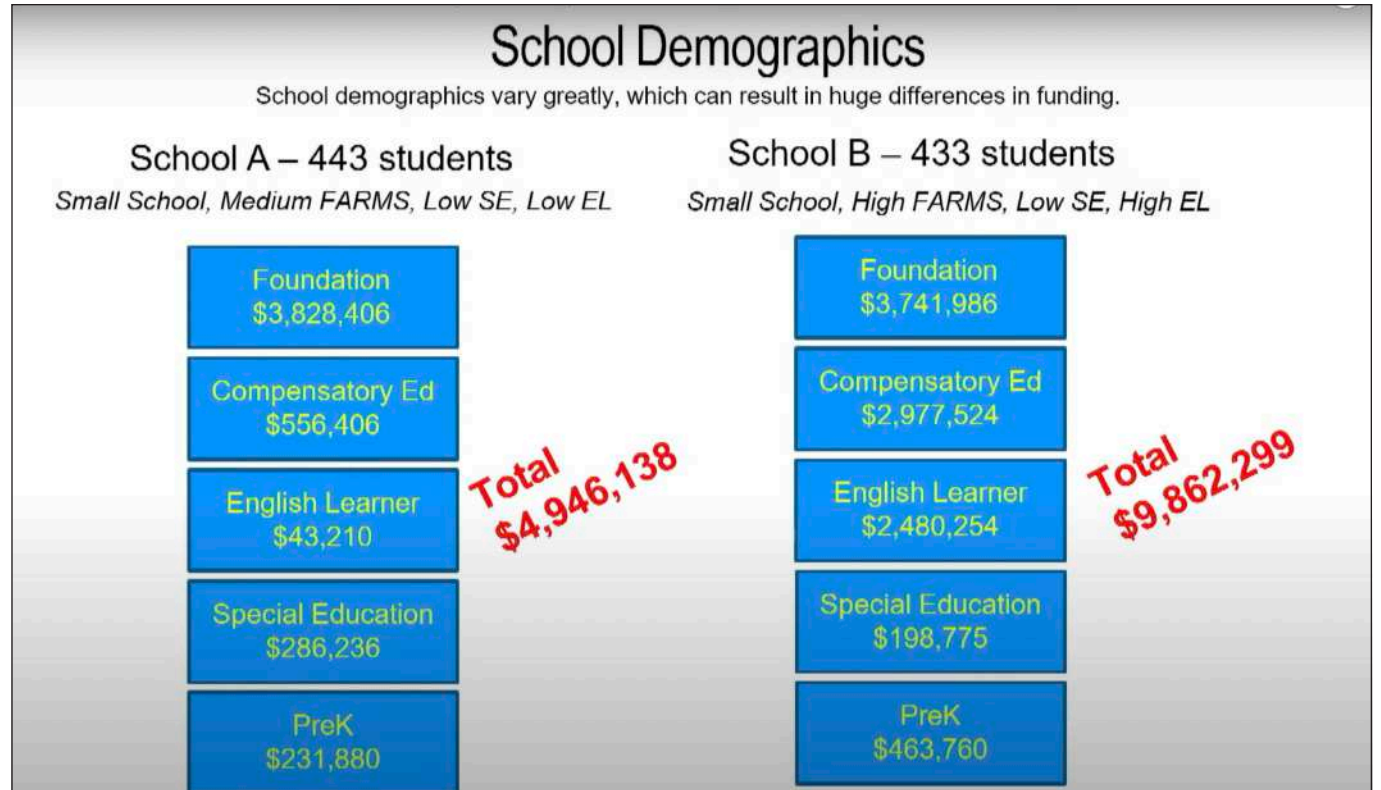
"This is going to be a \$1 million-plus expense annually."

When it comes to expenditures per student, those who exhibit problems learning, have special needs or are economically disadvantaged will have vastly more spent on them compared to other students on a more normal track.

While so called Title I schools have always received extra funding due to their having larger populations of economically disadvantaged students, the Blueprint's plan would shift even more resources to those schools, such as Lexington Park Elementary, confirmed Dr. Jeff Maher, Chief Strategic Officer for the school system.

"It's Title I on steroids," Smith reiterated. "It's fairly eye-opening."

Smith said that, at the state level, the Blueprint was being lauded for its introduction of universal Pre-Kindergarten, but he cautioned that the school system could



only provide that service for economically eligible families up to 300 percent above the federal poverty guidelines.

"Just pulling everybody to understand that is really important," Smith said.

The school system's Chief Financial Officer Tammy McCourt said there were a "ridiculous number" of mandates when it came to how the school system spent its funds on student education.

She showed elected leaders that a school with just 10 fewer students under the Blueprint would get almost double the funding more because it had a higher number of free and reduced meal-receiving students and students who did not use English as their first language.

The two hypothetical schools — one with 443 students and the other with 433 — were part of her demonstration to the commissioners.

"The differential between these two schools, because of the demographics and the funding following the school is almost \$5 million," McCourt said.

"So according to the Blueprint one school will spend \$5 million to deliver instruction and the other will be spending \$10 million to deliver instruction to 10 fewer students,"

said Smith. "That's not the way schools work."

"That's not the way, really, anything works."

The demonstration was part of the local school system's modeling work to see if the Blueprints many mandates could actually be done.

"But the law says it's got to be done like this," Smith said. "All of this wasn't considered when they formulated the law."

McCourt said a middle-income family's student would receive \$8,642 in funding, while a low-income student would receive that baseline funding and an additional \$7,519 for a total of \$16,161.

A student who was low-income, an English language learner and who was enrolled in special education would receive a total of \$32,754.

"So the demographics in the building are driving how much we're receiving," McCourt said.

Smith said the way the Blueprint worked also made it difficult for the system to continue funding long-serving, high wage-earning teachers at small schools, such as White Marsh Elementary in Mechanicsville.

Those teachers receiving higher wages,

he explained, would have to go to schools that were receiving higher funding because of their larger student populations and the greater number of special needs or at-risk students.

"We're going to have to move people, simply based on their salary, to make the money work out right in the end," Smith said. "That's going to be a really challenging conversation... with our [employee] associations where you're moving a staff member and you're moving them because they make too much money."

The Blueprint also calls for more teachers at larger schools to reduce class sizes, which could cause larger class sizes at smaller schools.

"I think I can tell there weren't too many teachers writing on the Blueprint," said Commissioner Mike Alderson. "I can't think of a single teacher that I know who would be willing to trade off going to a higher needs school and a higher class size."

"This is actually advocating for larger class sizes."

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Marching Bands Earn Double Honors



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The marching bands of Leonardtown and Chopticon high schools each won the state championship this past weekend for their respective competitive divisions.

The competition was held at Stevenson University in Owings Mills Oct. 28.

Chopticon took the top spot on the 1A division with a score of 89.6 including best overall effect, best guard best music and best visuals, according to the band's booster organization.

Leonardtown won top honors in the 4A division with a score of 93.5, setting a school record in the process and winning accolades for best overall visual.

Both bands will soon compete in a

national marching band competition in Allentown, Pennsylvania set for Nov. 5 at the J. Birney Crum Stadium, the largest high school stadium in the state.

Chris Thompson, president of the Chopticon band booster organization, said the win was the culmination of much hard work by the students and their director CeCe Badovski.

The parents were ecstatic, he said, over how all that hard work paid off.

"Personally, this is a huge win for myself and my family," said Thompson, who has a senior in the Chopticon marching band. "It was a very emotional day Saturday.

"It's a huge achievement for the students, parents and of course the band director."

The Chopticon marching band was undefeated during the regular season,

Thompson said.

He said the parents, and especially the students, share a special bond through the marching band.

"It's a fine art, keeping the fine arts alive," Thompson said. "But the camaraderie between the kids is the big thing. They have a tremendous time together."

The members of both bands leave Friday night to test their skills at the national championship level.

"They're just like my kids," Thompson said of Chopticon marching band members. "I love them all the same."

Leonardtown's band director Hunter Martin, a 9-year veteran music teacher at the high school, said the work of past band members melded with the work of current

ones to make their victory possible.

"Every year is a stepping stone," Martin said. "These kids are truly incredible. It's because of them that this job is so good."

The big win last weekend has them ready to top their performance when they go to the national-level competition.

"I think that's really motivating for the kids going into the last competition," Martin said. "This is their last performance of the season and that's motivating them, too."

Their performance last week was impressive, Martin said.

"It was a really incredible show," Martin said. "It's one of the best shows to come out of Leonardtown, at least while I've been here."

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Board Denies Appeal Against Cannabis Operation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

An attempt by residents who live near the industrial-sized medical cannabis growing operation in Abell to have it shut down through the county's Board of Appeals has failed.

After a nearly-five-hour hearing Oct. 26 a majority of the appeals board voted to deny the citizen appeal to halt the operations there claiming that the county had improperly allowed for the expansion of a non-conforming use on the property; that being an expanded septic system.

The 4-to-1 vote came after months of hearings and delays, which stemmed from an Oct. 11, 2022 approval by then director of land use and growth management Bill Hunt that gave the property owners at the site — Blue Griz LLC — the permission to install the modified septic mound system.

In this approval, Hunt stated that the system was not an expansion of the non-conforming use of the cannabis growing operation.

The growing operation was constructed before there was significant local zoning law to regulate it.

This incensed some local residents enough to file the appeal, claiming Hunt's approval was improper; many of these had complained in the past about the manner in which the 50,000-square foot operation was approved in the first place (without a



The Seven Points Agro facility in Abell

concept site plan before the county planning commission) and its industrial nature in the highly restrictive rural preservation district.

Assistant County Attorney John Houser said near the end of arguments between opposing legal counsels that what had occurred at the site in the heart of rural St. Mary's County was at best an intensification of operations there and not an expansion.

He pointed to the septic system addition being used to bring in more employees and allow more growing and processing of cannabis plants as examples.

"This does not fit what we thought was the definition of an expansion or enlargement of use," Houser said at the hearing regarding research into state law and regulation. "Those are text book uses of intensification."

Houser said, at first glance, there appeared to be little to no difference between an intensification and an expansion or enlargement of a property.

"The law is clear," Houser said. "Maryland's... appellate courts have defined those two very differently over the years."

"What an expansion or enlargement would be is to take that 52,000 square feet and tacking on more square feet but not changing what you are doing within those 52,000 square feet."

Alexandra Votaw, counsel for the citizen appellants, said county regulations regarding non-conforming uses included any "land, building or structures" which contradicted Houser's argument that the rules spoke to the confines of a particular building.

"Based on that... applicants request to add land for a septic system constitutes land used by a non-conforming use," Votaw said. "That is an expansion of a non-conforming use... specifically provided by St. Mary's County law."

Appeals board member Lynn Delahey was the only one in attendance that night who voted against dismissing the appeal, saying that the board should consider the concerns of "an aggrieved community."

Appeals board member Guy Bradley said the narrow nature of the question brought before them constrained the board regarding what kind of decision they could render.

"The county approved it, they saw it, they approved it and it wound up in front of us," Bradley said. "It's such a narrow question that for us, we've been handed a political football."

Bradley said he was deeply opposed to marijuana and the operation in Abell but that the law was clear, which allowed its existence.

"I cannot let my personal disdain for the smell, the crime... conflict with the fact that, right there [in Hunt's ruling] the county approved it," Bradley said. "If it was a small home owner, I would have to give them the same due diligence."

"If the county said, 'Go do this,' we say, 'Go do this,' we do it all the time."

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Bridge Collision Backed Up Traffic for Miles



Photo courtesy of the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad & Fire Department

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The head on collision that occurred at approximately 3:30 p.m. Oct. 25 near the foot of the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge on the St. Mary's County side closed the bridge for four hours, snarling traffic on Route 235 and causing law enforcement to shut down the Route 4 approach to the bridge, allowing only residents in the immediate area to enter to return home.

But the crash, which sent two people to regional trauma centers, caused traffic jams from Charlotte Hall all the way to Hughesville with motorists — many of them Calvert County residents trying to return home — trying to take Route 231 to the Benedict Bridge.

Days later, the crash prompted local elected officials to ask citizens for their help in pressing for more support to get a new bridge.

"Even a minor failure on that bridge is catastrophic," said Commissioner Scott Ostrow at an Oct. 28 town hall at the Lexington Park Library. "To me, that bridge is national security.

"That is an escape route from the power plant, it supports everybody who lives across that bridge who works on this base."

At a recent meeting between the county commissioners and state officials about regional transportation priorities, they again were told that the bridge — though functionally obsolete — is still serviceable to traffic.

Commissioner Mike Alderson was not satisfied with that answer.

"At that meeting I told MDOT (Maryland Department of Transportation) they need to lean on our Congressional delegation for more funding," Alderson said at the same Oct. 28 town hall. "[U.S. Rep.] Steny Hoyer has come down here a few times, dropped off a \$1 million check, got his photo op and walked away."

The amount of \$1 million for the Gov.

Thomas Johnson Bridge project was all that the congressional delegation was able to secure in the recent federal \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill.

Alderson said Southern Maryland was "getting droplets" of funding for its transportation projects despite its many needs.

"We're one of the richest counties in the state, probably the nation and we get treated like this by our congressional delegation," Alderson continued, noting how difficult it was to get the Maryland General Assembly's financial assistance as well.

"Frankly, people in Montgomery County do not care about Southern Maryland," Alderson said, claiming even that the county's state delegation had been largely "emasculated" in the General Assembly. He encouraged residents to send messages to the commissioners about how the latest bridge debacle had effected them, so he could send the entire file to representatives state and federal to get action on local transportation priorities.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said the bridge issue was one that could be solved but not without cooperation.

"We all realize the need for a new bridge," Colvin said at the Oct. 31 business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "We need to have a serious conversation about this at all levels.

"This is not a partisan issue by any stretch of the imagination."

Motorists reported the traffic was backed up starting from the Veterans Administration's Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Mechanicsville up Route 5 northwards to Hughesville with bumper-to-bumper traffic only inching along.

The crashed vehicles were cleared by about 7:40 p.m. that night, according to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office.

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“EVEN A MINOR FAILURE ON THAT BRIDGE IS CATASTROPHIC.”

COMMISSIONER SCOTT OSTROW ON THE NEED FOR A NEW GOV. THOMAS JOHNSON BRIDGE



LOCAL 4
Bridge crash leads to call to action



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Citizen appeal against pot farm fails

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ON THE COVER
Chopticon, Leonardtown high schools win state marching band championships

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, OCT 26</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 52° Lo: 36°</p>	<p>FRI, OCT 27</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 40°</p>	<p>SAT, OCT 28</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 43°</p>	<p>SUN, OCT 29</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 45°</p>
<p>MON, OCT 30</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 54°</p>	<p>TUE, OCT 31</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 53°</p>	<p>WED, NOV 1</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 63° Lo: 45°</p>	<p>THU, NOV 2</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 45°</p>

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Read the 3rd Annual Review of the major St. Mary's County Fall festivals & outdoor music events in this order from best to worst event: *St. Mary's County Oyster Festival*, *Historic Sotterly Heritage Festival*, *Port of Leonardtown Winery music offerings*, *St. Mary's County Fair*, and the 7th District Optimist Club/St. Clément's Hundred *Blessing of the Fleet* at: *Review of County Events* where only the first 3 earned the "Best" rating. Also read the new review sections on area (1) car shows & car clubs, and (2) the hottest music bands

Boon**DOG**gle NOVEL FOR SALE

About the Author

RICHARD LORD is a Connecticut Yankee by birth and a Bohemian by the grace of God. Richard comes from old New England families such as Yale as in the University; Church as in Frederick Edwin; The Hudson River landscape artist; and Dickinson as in Emily, The American poet. However, Richard was not a product of privilege, working his way through college on scallop boats out of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Richard graduated in 1969 from Bingham Young University (BYU). Upon graduation, Richard's first professional job was as the Director of a Boys' Clubs of America in an African American community of Trenton, New Jersey. Richard was actively involved in civil rights and other societal movements of his generation.

Richard achieved the degree of Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the BYU. Marriott School of Business, Romney Institute of Public Service, and Ethics. From that time on, Richard served in local, state, and federal government service, where in 2014 he retired from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as the Analyst-in-Charge of the Criminal Alien Division.

Richard and his spouse, Nancy Zierfoss Ph.D., currently live on their waterfront farm off the Potomac River in Southern Maryland.

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BOONDOGGLE
Richard Lord

Dogs Rule!

WELL, WE DESTROYED our human existence and almost the whole planet. "Intelligent Design" indeed. Dogs now have the run of the place.

Humans were not good stewards of the Earth. Governing a planet requires compassion, concern and care, and while humans had intelligence and cunning, they had not wisdom or veracity. Will dogs do any better? Can canines make any more of this soon God-forsaken planet than humans?

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An Excerpt from Chapter 3 of the many whimsical as well as harsh explanations for the demise of humans –
"In the Dog male mind, females exist solely for sex, pups, and kennel keeping—just like human society—before Huwomen banned testosterone as a dangerous substance and rid themselves of men."¹

¹ Dogs couldn't determine if the human female affliction "PMS," that also was a pox on men, oft used to excuse human female irascible conduct, stood for Pre-menstrual Syndrome or Post-menstrual Syndrome. After extensive scientific research on human female irritable behaviors—Dogs termed "Grumpology"—Dogs concluded PMS could have stood for either. There also was the human female malady "Menopause" that caused "Hot Flashes" among older women where women physically ran hot one moment and then cold the next. Women also turned hot one moment in erotic desire, and then cold the next in erratic temperament. With no Herd Immunity from this Mandemic, men were desperate to find cures for these petulant and snappish human female behavioral disorders. However, the only known protection for men from the ravages of these female ailments was that of social-distancing, self-quarantine, and abstinence from women; consequently, men continued to "waist" away until they were but pitiful skeletons of manhood."



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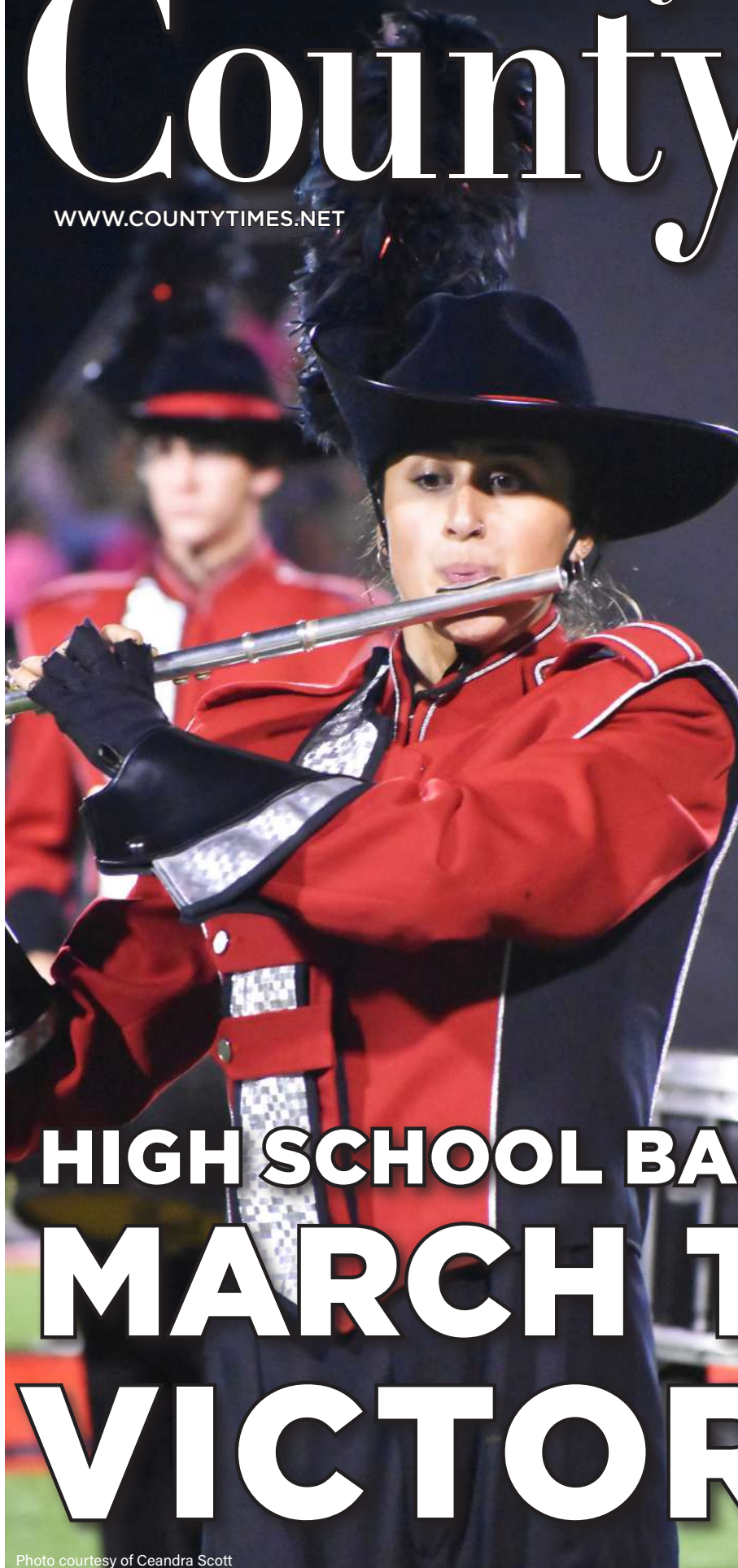
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HIGH SCHOOL BANDS MARCH TO VICTORY



Photo courtesy of Ceandra Scott

Photo courtesy of Leonardtown High School Band Boosters