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# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

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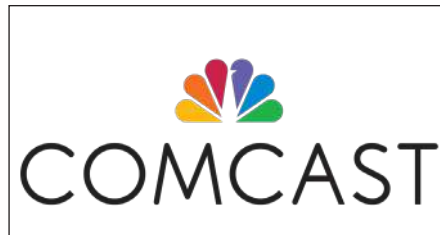
## COMMISSIONERS DOUBLE DOWN ON TAX HIKES

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“YOU KNOW, IT WEIGHS ON ALL OF US.”

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT BUDDY HANCE ON RAISING TAXES.



**LOCAL** 4  
Broadband rollout hits snag



**LOCAL** 6  
Owings man charged with kidnapping



**ON THE COVER** 3  
Commissioners push tax increases in latest budget

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>THU, JUN 6</b>  PM Thunderstorm Hi: 86° Lo: 66°	<b>FRI, JUN 7</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 62°	<b>SAT, JUN 8</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 82° Lo: 66°	<b>SUN, JUN 9</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 65°
<b>MON, JUN 10</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 63°	<b>TUE, JUN 11</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 61°	<b>WED, JUN 12</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 66°	<b>THU, JUN 13</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 67°

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# Property, Income Tax Rates Increased

## Demands Made on School Board

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners [BOCC] has adopted a \$518.4 million budget for the next fiscal year that includes four cents per assessed \$100 property tax rate increase and an income tax increase from three percent to 3.2 percent. The decision came after public hearings at the BOCC June 4 meeting.

Four of the commissioners supported the motion by Commissioner Vice President Catherine Grasso, with Commissioner Mike Hart abstaining, saying he would have preferred using the fund balance to close the budget revenue gap.

The motion by Grasso included a message to the school board, which is facing significant budget challenges because of the state cutting \$22.5 million from them.

Grasso motion was: "I move that we close the record and approve and adopt the fiscal year 2025 operating and capital budgets as submitted with a one-percent COLA for county pay scales and a single merit step for eligible employees and adopting and setting the tax rates, fines and fees being effective as reflected in the resolutions presented for each. I further move that we set the Board of Education's budget appropriation within the major categories as our county Director of Finance and Budget deems appropriate at maintenance of effort, including the use of \$22,500,000 of its existing fund balance to offset state cuts. And an additional use of \$6,500,000 of the Board of Education's existing fund balance matched with an education reserve fund of county appropriations, which will include the Board of Education's fiscal year 2024 unexpended funds in the amount of \$3,500,000 to be held by the county in financial reserve for the use of the Board of Education in Fiscal Year 2025, upon the following conditions:

"One, honoring the negotiated contracts with the Calvert Education Association and the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff,

"Two, adopts a three percent cut across the board with no reduction in workforce,



Commissioner Vice President Catherine Grasso

layoffs, or similar actions without the consent of the Board of County Commissioners,

"Three, continued discussions among staff leadership regarding budgetary matters with detailed information and access reasonably requested by the county's leadership team.

"Four, no new renewal or extension of existing employment or personnel service contracts or similar until the Board of Education seats subject to election this year are elected and sworn in."

Only three people spoke at the two public hearings on the tax increases. Joseph Cornier spoke at both, and the serial commenter suggested that the commissioners were exceeding their authority over the school board in imposing those conditions. He also wondered how the school system was going to absorb the cuts without cutting staff.

Director of Finance and Budget Bruce Miller outlined some of the highlights of the budget from its earlier two iterations:

"Changes in revenues were real estate tax increase of \$5,945,504. income tax increase at \$3.6 million, water and sewer loan note at \$5.4 million. in removing use of unassigned fund balance at \$11,508,595,



Commissioner Mike Hart

making the total general fund revenues \$343,690,900. A decrease to the Board of Education of \$2,469,199. A step of one percent and a one percent COLA [cost of living adjustment] of \$2,586,746; transfers to other funds of \$413,814' planned surplus at \$2,905,548, making total general fund expenditures at \$343,690,900. The fiscal impact is the tax supported general fund budget is decreasing by 0.29 percent as compared to the prior year."

During the public hearing, Julie Fuller, speaking for the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors [SMAR], said of the proposed property tax rate increase, "This proposal amounts to a hefty annual tax increase on homeowners, which comes in as an additional burden as most county residents continue to see higher real estate assessments. Since 2020, Calvert County has seen its median home price grow nearly 20 percent. Just this past April, the median sold price of a home in Calvert County rose 14.94 percent year over year from \$435,000 to \$500,000 for the first time ever.

"While there are many reasons to oppose a property tax increase, SMAR IS concerned for several notable reasons; one of the most

concerning is how raising property taxes can have a negative impact on affordability and the region's desirability. Higher taxes can potentially deter home buyers and potentially decrease property values, both of which can have long term negative impacts on a government's revenues. As growth has remained minimal over the past several years, the property tax base has also grown minimally.

"Another major concern that we have is the negative impact that raising property taxes can have on seniors and retirees with inflation skyrocketing for several years. Older individuals and those on fixed incomes have experienced financial strain in many aspects of their lives. From the grocery store to the gas pump, this proposed additional tax burden disproportionately impacts property owners and especially hurts those seeking to retire in their own beloved community."

On the income tax increase, Sarah Weems testified, "It is the working-class families who will feel the most impact in times when inflation and interest rates are already out of control. Adding additional financial pressure on our community is simply not the right move."

Commissioner Hart, before abstaining on Grasso's motion, said, "With the circumstances we're dealing with now, my belief would be to use the fund balance this year and potentially maybe the following year."

Hart said he could not support any school system layoffs or not giving their teachers and support staff the same pay increases as are being given to county staff.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "You know, it weighs on all of us. You know, there are 4,000 kids in the school system getting free lunch because of the income levels of their families. We understand that this tax increases that we've proposed are going to be extremely hard on them. Extremely."

But he said funding what the school system asked with tax increases would have been unaffordable for county residents.

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# Broadband Rollout Hits Roadblock at Homestretch

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Calvert County's goal of providing 100 percent coverage for homes desiring broadband service has hit a stumbling block as the process reaches the homestretch.

Special Projects Program Manager Ashley Staples-Reid told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on June 4 that service to 123 homes had been waylaid because the cable provider Comcast has been unable to secure right-of-way agreements with neighboring property owners in order to reach the homes desiring service.

As background Staples-Reid said, "In August 2021, the BOCC temporality removed the customer contribution requirement between the customer and Comcast to any residence in Calvert County beyond the 300-foot requirement, outlined by the 2018 Comcast Franchise Agreement. Staff have since worked with Comcast to determine the homes that are in need of connection in an effort to achieve the BOCC's buildout initiative."

So far funding for the project has been with state and federal grants and the cable franchise fee, with Comcast kicking in a percentage. The county had hoped to have the build-out completed by the end of 2023. So far \$6.6 million in grants has been received or earmarked.

So far more than 700 homes have been connected, including 390 in the last phase completed last year.

The board in the past had made the decision for the cable to be underground.

"It is the easement issues that we're having," she said, adding "The majority of the remaining properties are identified as needing easements to complete the build. It's causing setbacks in predicted timelines. And it's actually encumbering costs, not necessarily for us; it is encumbering costs for Comcast."

She said, "So once they [Comcast] have done a design, they identify if an easement

is needed, either from a neighboring property, multiple neighboring properties, or from the homeowner themselves."

Whether it's above or below ground, easements are required. Comcast's contractors sent out requests for easements to the property owners involved on three occasions, and for the bulk of the properties having issues, there was no response.

Some of the properties may be vacant with out-of-town owners. But there also may be issues between neighbors that may be getting in the way of a resolution.

She said, "So, of those over 123 homes that we have, a lot of them are due to easement issues for why they haven't been completed yet. So, one denied easement can affect a whole project because mind you, it's not always just the homeowner that needs to sign an easement. It could be their neighbors; it could be multiple neighbors."

At Staples-Reid's suggestion, the commissioners decided to give it one official last try to get easement agreements. They will send out once again up to three attempts to get a response. But absent that, those homeowners affected may not be able to get the service they desire.

The cutoff to apply for the free connection has come and gone and a half dozen have come forward since that cutoff date. But later in the meeting the commissioners accepted a \$2.2 million grant from the state that requires the county to open up the process again.

So, anyone desiring service who hasn't contacted the county previously can do so by July 5 to be added to the list for service.

Calvert has been in the forefront in providing broadband service to all who want it, with other counties and state funding hopping on the bandwagon. The concern driving the movement started during the pandemic with people working at home and with virtual learning making internet access a necessity instead of just a nice thing to have.

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)

# Architectural Review Committees to Be Shuttered

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted at their May 29 meeting to eliminate the architectural review committees that serve the county seven town centers. The elimination will take place with the adoption of the updated zoning ordinance, which is expected later this year.

The committees, known as ARCs, have been plagued with vacancies and thus lack of a quorum which has slowed the development process and has been costly to applicants.

The BOCC was given an update of the situation from Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook and Planner III Jessica Gaetano.

Gaetano said, "During the development of the seven town center master plans from 1986-2000, participants identified the need for architectural design standards. Architectural guidelines and the creation of citizen Architectural Review Committees (ARC) were included in each of the town center zoning ordinances. Committees are structured to be composed of five members each.

"The ARC's reviews exterior design features of applicable projects in accordance with the appearance standards and guideline provisions of its respective master plan and zoning ordinance. In 2015, staff was directed to analyze the need for Architectural Review Committees for possible restructuring and/or dissolution. At that time, a previous Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted to abolish the ARC's and transfer the architectural review process to staff of the previously named Department of Community Planning and Building, now known as the Department of Planning & Zoning. Staff worked on zoning ordinance amendments through 2017. Ultimately, the zoning ordinance(s) were only amended to add additional meeting dates and an administrative function to the architectural review process due to public feedback.

"The ARCs have been the subject of long-standing concerns regarding operations, review efficiency and structure.

The deficiencies staff continue to observe include the following:

- Lack of quorum at meetings
- Chronically unfilled vacancies on committees
- Reviews and recommendations inconsistent with town center master plans and zoning ordinances
- Significant and increasing amount of staff time needed to manage seven committees
- Results of concerns are significant delays experienced by applicants"

She said, "Most committees are not consistently achieving quorums. We have unfilled vacancies on almost all of the committees and reviews and recommendations received are sometimes inconsistent and impermissible with town center master plan and zoning ordinances. Ultimately, all of those deficiencies result in a significant amount of additional staff time and significant delays experienced unnecessarily by the applicants since November of 2020, which is when I personally became involved in the architectural review processes to April of 2024.

"The total number of projects reviewed by an architectural review committee is 92. While the total number of projects reviewed administratively by staff is 134. Staff has performed about 59 percent of the reviews while the architectural review committees have performed 41 percent."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance observed, "In most cases, the ARC is just enforcing the guidelines that are already in the town master plans and the zoning ordinance."

Gaetano responded, "Ultimately, that's all that they have the authority to do. What they were kind of created to do is to have that back and forth with business owner or a tenant to say, hey, we'd like to see this here. We'd like to see that there, as long as it was within the design criteria, they can have that rapport with somebody. That's not really what is happening as of today."

With the elimination of the ARCs, architectural review will be handled in house by planning and zoning staff.

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)



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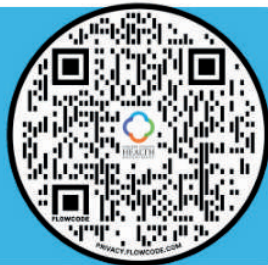


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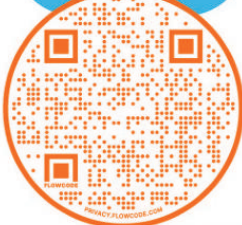
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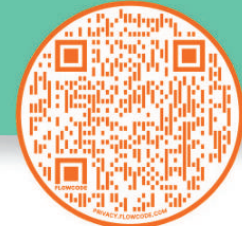
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# O'Donnell Retires from Public Service Commission

Commissioner Anthony J. O'Donnell, who has been a member of the Maryland Public Service Commission for nearly eight years, has retired as of June 1, 2024.

First appointed to the bench by Governor Larry Hogan in 2016 to fill out the unexpired term of Commissioner Anne Hoskins, Commissioner O'Donnell was reappointed in 2021. The Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, and passenger-for-hire transportation companies.

For 21 years, Commissioner O'Donnell represented the people of Calvert and St. Mary's counties in the Maryland General Assembly's House of Delegates. He held a variety of leadership roles including senior minority member of the Environment and Transportation Committee (2015-16), House Minority Whip (2003-06), and House Minority Leader (2006-13).

Commissioner O'Donnell worked for 15 years at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Lusby, Maryland (where he lives), serving in various capacities supporting safe and reliable nuclear power generation. Prior to working at Calvert Cliffs, Commissioner O'Donnell served for over eight years in the United States Navy.

He served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal and as a member of the Committee on Electricity for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). In 2021, Commissioner O'Donnell was elected President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (MACRUC).

"The Public Service Commission helps ensure safe, reliable, and economic public utility and transportation service for Marylanders across the state," said Gov. Wes Moore. "We thank Commissioner O'Donnell for his dedicated work in service of the commission's mission and for his years of dedicated service to the state."

"Tony O'Donnell is the best example of a true public servant," said Frederick H. Hoover, Chair of the Public Service Commission. "It has been an honor to serve alongside him on the PSC bench. He could be tough on the regulated companies that came before the Commission, always with an eye towards protecting Maryland utility ratepayers and making sure those companies complied with our laws and regulations. I



Anthony J. O'Donnell

join Commissioners Michael Richard, Kumar Barve and Bonnie Suchman and all of our PSC colleagues to commend him for his years of dedicated service to our country and the people of Maryland."

"Tony and I have enjoyed a professional relationship that spans a quarter century," said Commissioner Kumar Barve, also a former delegate. "Even when serving in the legislature in adversarial roles, we found opportunities to be allies and collaborators. Through it all we were the best of friends. It has been my pleasure to work with him this past year at the Public Service Commission, where we have had a chance to agree 95% of the time! Congratulations my friend after a long and honorable career of service to the citizens of Maryland."

In a farewell message, Commissioner O'Donnell shared words of praise for the PSC's staff: "Our staff is among the best anywhere and it has been the honor of my career to have worked with you to carry out our mission. Safe and reliable utility service is vital to the well-being of our state and my colleagues have been exemplary in their commitment on behalf of the people of Maryland. I'm so proud of all we have accomplished together. As we say in the Navy, I wish you fair winds and following seas."

Press Release from MD Public Service Commission

# Owings Man Charged with Kidnapping

Calvert County Sheriff's Office DFC Hendrickson on May 26 observed a motorcycle traveling at a high rate of speed northbound on Rt. 4 in the Prince Frederick area.

A traffic stop was initiated, and the motorcycle rapidly accelerated traveling at speeds over 100 mph. Deputies initially lost sight of the bike. S/DFC Idol later located the bike passing Mt. Harmony Elementary and observed it turn southbound on Rt. 4 in the area of Briscoes Turn Road, where the driver lost control of the bike causing a rear passenger to fall off the motorcycle.

Deputies stopped to assist the female passenger who was evaluated and transported to Capital Regional Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Investigation revealed the female was begging her boyfriend to stop the motorcycle but he refused to do so and refused to let her get off.

The driver was identified as Austin Page Catterton, 25 of Owings. Deputies responded to Catterton's residence and found Catterton hiding in a truck bed inside the garage. The



Austin Page Catterton

motorcycle was also located in the garage. Catterton was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Kidnapping and Failure to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order of a Law Enforcement Officer.

Press Release from CCSO

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Bowling	Aug. 19-20
Cornhole	Oct. 13
Cycling 10k Time Trials	May 1
Cycling 5k Time Trials	June 5
Disc Golf	July 20
Diving	Sept. 29
Golf	Sept. 30
Horseshoes	Sept. 7
Pickleball	May 16-19
Powerlifting	July 14
Racquetball	Sept. 4-5
Road Race 5k	Aug. 31
Road Race 10k	Sept. 22
Shuffleboard	Sept. 28
Softball	Sept. 7
Soccer 8v8	Aug. 17-18
Swimming	Sept. 7
Table Tennis	July 27
Tennis	Sept. 27-29
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# CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of May 20, 2024 – May 26, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,983 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 70
- Disorderly: 24
- Domestic: 25
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 56
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 787
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 29
- Traffic Complaints: 93
- 911 Hang Ups: 82
- ARRESTS: 51



Paul Darnell Gantt

**Assault: 24-41149** On May 24, 2024, Deputy Campbell responded to the 5500 block of Macs Hollow Road in Prince Frederick, following a 911 hang-up. Investigation revealed **Paul**

**Darnell Gantt**, 39 of Prince Frederick, assaulted a victim known to him, then proceeded to take the victim's phone and threw it into the woods. Gantt was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Second-Degree Assault and Robbery.

**Burglary: 24-40255** On May 22, 2024, at approximately 4:37 a.m., Calvert County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to Thursday's Bar and Grill located at 1751 Horace Ward Road in Owings, for a reported alarm/burglary. Upon arrival, deputies observed that the front glass door was fully shattered and the ATM was missing. Further investigation revealed, that the front glass door to Cheema Wine and Spirits located at 1756 Horace Ward Road in Owings, was also damaged (estimated value unknown at this time). The estimated value of damaged property to Thursday's is \$10,000.00. The estimated value of stolen property is \$2,840.00.



Erica Marie Brooks

**CDS Violation: 24-39901** On May 21, 2024, DFC Hendrickson conducted a traffic stop in the area of Traskers Blvd. in Prince Frederick, after observing a vehicle with multiple equipment violations. Further investigation revealed a K9 sniff resulted in a positive alert. A vehicle search revealed multiple glass pipes containing suspected crack cocaine, vials of suspected cocaine, cut straws with suspected cocaine residue, and a paper fold containing suspected crack cocaine.



Brianna Stephanie Quarles



McKinley Theodore Brooks

Passengers **Erica Marie Brooks**, 30 of Huntingtown, **Brianna Stephanie Quarles**, 28 of Prince Frederick, and **McKinley Theodore Brooks, Jr.**, 32 of Huntingtown, were all transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Quarles was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis. Both Erica and McKinley Brooks were charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Bronzton Xavier Carrington

**CDS Violation: 24-40363** On May 22, 2024, Deputy Chase observed a suspicious vehicle parked on Serenity Court in Prince Frederick. Investigation revealed a K9 sniff of the vehicle resulted in a positive alert. A vehicle search revealed, 86g of Cannabis in plastic sandwich bags, THC gummy edibles, four cellular telephones, two digital scales containing Cannabis residue, along with other CDS paraphernalia. **Bronzton Xavier Carrington**, 20 of Prince Frederick, was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Cannabis.



Joseph Carl Meade

**CDS Violation: 24-40829** On May 23, 2024, Deputy Morrison responded to the Wawa in Prince Frederick, after receiving a complaint of two subjects asleep in their vehicle. Upon arrival, the vehicle was observed traveling northbound on Rt. 4. Deputy Morrison observed multiple traffic violations and initiated a traffic stop at Ward Road in Dunkirk. The vehicle finally came to a stop in the Apple Greene Shopping Center where the driver, **Joseph Carl Meade**, 55 of Bowie, fled on foot. Additional deputies responded along with Prince George's County Police Department's Helicopter and located Meade in a field adjacent to Ward Road. A search of Meade's person revealed a glass pipe with burnt ends and a burnt piece of steel wool. A search of Meade's vehicle revealed a metal pipe with residue. Meade was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, DUI, and multiple traffic citations.

**CDS Violation: 24-39901** On May 25, DFC Hendrickson responded to NB Rt. 4 and Main Street in Prince Frederick, for report of a suspicious person. Contact was made with **Lionel Mackall Jr.**, 42 of Prince Frederick.



Lionel Mackall Jr

Further investigation revealed Mackall was possessing a pipe with a white powdery residue, two copper scrubbers, and a plastic tie-off containing crack cocaine. Mackall was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

**Property Destruction: 24-41204** On May 25, 2024, Deputy Mister responded to the 3700 block of Huntsman Drive in Huntingtown, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. on May 24, unknown suspects spray-painted both signs at the entrance to the neighborhood. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,500.00.

**Property Destruction: 24-41419** On May 26, 2024, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the Walnut Creek Subdivision in Huntingtown, for the report of property destruction. Investigation revealed unknown suspects spray-painted the entrance sign and a banner for high school graduates. A book drop box at the playground was also defaced. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,500.00.

**Theft: 24-39646** On May 20, 2024, Deputy Hill responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a checkbook was stolen from inside a book bag while at the Southern Branch of the Calvert Library located at 13920 HG Truman Road in Solomons. The estimated value of stolen property is \$15.00.

**Theft: 24-39851** On May 20, 2024, DFC Strong responded to the 7800 block of Eagle View Drive in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his black and red Ninebot electric scooter and lock had been stolen from the bike rack at the Northeast Community Center located at 4075 Gordon Stinnett Avenue in Chesapeake Beach. The estimated value of stolen property is \$500.00.

**Theft: 24-40301** On May 22, 2024, Deputy Sylver responded to the 7500 block of Broomes Island Road in St. Leonard, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised the Broomes Island location sign and pole had been stolen. The estimated value of stolen property is \$200.00.

**Theft: 24-40402** On May 22, 2024, Cpl. Ward responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised that a purse and all its contents were stolen from the Calvert County Nursing Center located at 85 Hospital Road in Prince Frederick. The estimated value of stolen

property is \$615.00.

**Theft: 24-40371** On May 22, 2024, DFC R. Contic responded to the Walmart parking lot located at 10600 Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his rear registration plate had been stolen. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.00.

**Theft: 24-40709** On May 23, 2024, Deputy Morrison responded to the 300 block of Jendan Way in Prince Frederick, for a theft report. The complainant advised a handicap placard had been stolen out of his vehicle sometime between May 21 and the morning of May 22. The estimated value of stolen property is \$10.00.



Robert Allen Rice

**Trespassing: 24-41379** On May 26, 2024, Deputy Campbell responded to Outback Steakhouse located at 80 Central Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for a trespassing complaint. Upon arrival, **Robert Allen Rice**, 57 of fixed address, was observed lying on furniture at the front entrance of the restaurant. Rice had been previously trespassed from this location. Rice was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Travon Aronde Berry

**Weapons Violation: 24-40531** On May 22, 2024, Calvert deputies observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate in the area of Rt. 231 and JW Williams Road in Prince Frederick. A traffic stop was initiated and revealed the driver, **Travon Aronde Berry**, 26 of Waldorf, had an open warrant for his arrest. Investigation revealed ammunition was found inside the vehicle. Berry is prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition due to prior criminal convictions. Berry was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center served his open warrant and charged with Illegal Possession of Ammunition.

*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](mailto:ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov)*

# County Officials Get a 'Quilts of Valor' Surprise

By Dave Spigler  
Contributing Writer

At a recent Calvert County Board of County Commissioners weekly meeting in celebration of Military Appreciation Month, two well-known county officials were caught off guard when the Calvert "Faith and Freedom" Quilts of Valor organization honored them with their own quilt in recognition of their years of service and dedication to our country, our state, and our community.

County Administrator Julian "Mark" Willis and Lieutenant Colonel David Payne, assistant sheriff, were surprised when it was announced there was to be a special ceremony before the large audience that attended the meeting.

Joyce Stinnett Baki, president of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Arick Lore American Legion Post in Lusby, sponsors for this presentation, was invited to the microphone to announce what was about to happen. Most of the audience were there by invitation so it came as no surprise with what was about to take place.

The "Quilts of Valor" is a nationwide group of dedicated volunteers who come together to recognize veterans and active-duty military personnel and award them with special patriotic handmade quilts to show appreciation for their service and sacrifice. This practice came about due to the efforts of Catharine Roberts in 2003. Her son was deployed to Iraq at the time and like all mothers with children serving overseas, she was concerned for his welfare. She was haunted by memories of the poor treatment veterans received upon returning home from Vietnam. She witnessed many service men and women arriving from overseas at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware near where she lived. They often appeared to her as very uncomfortable and unappreciated.

Further, she often watched as flag draped caskets were off loaded from military aircraft to much pomp and circumstance. The idea of



Pictured, from left to right, front row: Calvert Sheriff Ricky Cox; Quilts of Valor Member Bonnie Hastings; Lieutenant Colonel David Payne; County Administrator Mark Willis; Quilts of Valor Member Arlene Cadette, who made the two quilts that were presented; and Deputy Director of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Rodney Jones, also a recent recipient of a quilt. Back row: Commissioner Mike Hart; Commissioner Catherine Grasso; Commissioner Earl "Buddy" Hance, President; and Commissioner Todd Ireland.

wrapping surviving military personnel with a warming quilt came to her in a dream one night and later, with a few friends, started this nationwide effort now known as the Quilts of Valor! Due to her initiatives, the total number of these specially made quilts all hand-sewn completely by volunteers now number 382,765. It is noted these quality quilts are made to very specific instructions and they are "awarded" and not "given" to the recipient.

This ceremony was particularly made special by the fact that both men being recognized are former Marines. Mark Willis served in the Marine Corps for 21 years. He was assigned to many combat units and has served as a drill instructor at Parris Island, South Carolina and as an instructor at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. He was a platoon commander at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and served as Manpower Manager at the Marine Corps Headquarters. He graduated with honors from the Army War College at Fort Lee, Virginia and the U.S. Army Ranger and Airborne as well as the Army Rigger school.

Willis holds a B.S. degree in Psychology

from the University of Florida. He was appointed county administrator in 2020 after serving as the director of Planning & Zoning. He previously served as deputy director for the county Department of Public Works where he oversaw the Solid Waste and Water and Sewer enterprise fund programs, the Highway Maintenance Division and was the county's first Fleet Maintenance and Management Division Chief.

Additionally, he has served as on various community boards including the Calvert County Historical Society, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Relay For Life, and president for his Homeowner's Association. He is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Maryland and a 2021 graduate of the Academy for Excellence in Local Government at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy.

David Payne came out of retirement to serve as Sheriff Ricky Cox's assistant. Payne was involved in county youth programs. In his youth he was an athlete and participated in all high school sports in the small town of Beloit, Wisconsin. His parents instilled in him the need for helping others

by their constant efforts in fundraising that taught him the value of helping one another.

Next to his parents, his mentors were his high school coaches who he admired. He worked summer jobs outdoors and soon realized he wanted more than anything to become a US Marine! Following an enjoyable tour of duty, he was offered a position with the Defense Intelligence Agency and was able to find his way to Calvert County. Within a few years he was hired by the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and soon realized his new passion was to work with the youth of the county much as others had worked with him in his early days.

Payne worked the Patrol Division from 1998 to 2002 when he became instructor for new police recruits at the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy and is credited with turning young energetic men and women into sharp, polished police officers. For his efforts, he received the Maryland Police and Corrections Officer Instructor of the Year Award.

Payne advanced rapidly through the police ranks. He coached county youth football teams starting with the Solomons Steelers and even helped coach the Calvert High Varsity Football program. With all this extracurricular activity, he still found time to volunteer his help with the St. Leonard VFD. Finally, as one more example of his love for his community, he raised \$30,000 for the Calvert United Way and was crowned the Mardi Gras King in 2015.

The "Faith and Freedom Chapter" for Quilts of Valor was established in Lusby in 2019 with the help of the "Pax Sound of Freedom Chapter" in St. Mary's County. All of their efforts are accomplished by dedicated volunteers. Their time, material, and financial support are all donated, therefore their success can only be attained through the generosity of their donors. For information of how you can help support their efforts or to nominate a future recipient for one of these quilts, contact Dee Wunder at 443-624-5547.

## Mill Creek Takes Track & Field Championship



Mill Creek Middle School was this year's middle school county track & field champions. They were coached by Ben Ennis. It was a record-setting year for the team.

## Cpl. DeFelice Named National Law Officer of the Year



The Stallings-Williams American Legion Post 206 has announced that Cpl. Nicholas DeFelice of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office has been awarded the prestigious title of American Legion National Law Officer of the Year.



# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Fri, Jun 7

### On Pins & Needles

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

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Rooftop Car & Truck Cruize Nite

4165 Mears Ave., Chesapeake Beach  
4 to 8 p.m.

On the rooftop of the Rod 'N' Reel parking garage by the Bay. DJ tunes. FREE. 866-313-5596.

### NDCTheater—The Play That Goes Wrong

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
7 p.m.

It's the Opening Night of Cornley Drama Society's "Murder at Haversham Manor" where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through the final curtain call with hilarious consequences.

General Admission Tickets: \$15;  
website—[ndctheater.org](http://ndctheater.org);  
Email—[ndctheater@gmail.com](mailto:ndctheater@gmail.com)

### 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.

### A Toast To Pets With Disabilities

Bayview Hall  
8536 Bayside Road, Chesapeake Beach  
6:30 p.m.

Please join us for a beautiful and fun evening on the bay as we raise a glass and some money for one of Southern Maryland's best rescues, Pets With Disabilities. The night will include music, an incredible live auction, extraordinary silent auction items, hors d'oeuvres and an open wine & beer bar. Tickets are \$80 and can be purchased at [pwtix.com](http://pwtix.com)

## Sat, Jun 8

### NDCTheater—The Play That Goes Wrong

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
7 p.m.

It's the Opening Night of Cornley Drama Society's "Murder at Haversham Manor" where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through the final curtain call with hilarious consequences.

General Admission Tickets: \$15;  
website—[ndctheater.org](http://ndctheater.org);  
Email—[ndctheater@gmail.com](mailto:ndctheater@gmail.com)

### Texas Hold'Em

St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department  
6 p.m.

\$85 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 5 pm, tournament starts at 6pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase. See [www.slvfd.org](http://www.slvfd.org) Chance for 50/50 included in your buy-in. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided. Dealer provided for final table.

## Sun, Jun 9

### Quarter Auction Benefit

Solomons Volunteer Fire and Rescue  
13150 HG Trueman Road, Solomons  
12 Noon-2:30 p.m.

Auction starts at 1 p.m. Regular bidding paddles are \$3 each, two for \$5 or three for \$7. Bring your quarters to bid with. All-in paddles are \$45 and include a bid on all items on the event program. For info or reservations, email [mdquarterauctions@yahoo.com](mailto:mdquarterauctions@yahoo.com) or call 240-416-4224.

## Tue, Jun 11

### Creature Feature

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

Come to the museum for the monthly mystery Creature Feature. Every second Tuesday of the month, the CMM Education team will feature an animal in the museum lobby that is not normally on display. Learn about a new animal and discover the wonderful variety of creatures found in our local estuaries. Take-home educational coloring pages will be available! Check our social media feed for the big reveal on Monday to find out what Tuesday's Creature Feature will be! Included with museum admission.

### J.C. Lore Oyster House Grand Re-opening and Wm. B. Tennison 125-Year-Old Anniversary Celebration

Calvert Marine Museum  
Lore Oyster House  
14430 Solomons Island Rd S, Solomons  
2 p.m.

Join us for a special celebration for two of the museum's National Historic Landmarks! The newly refurbished JC Lore Oyster House will host its grand reopening with a program and ribbon cutting ceremony. Additionally, we are celebrating a mile-

stone anniversary for the museum's Bugeye, the *Wm. B. Tennison*, which holds the distinction of being the oldest Coast Guard-certified passenger vessel sailing on the Chesapeake Bay today.

## Thu, Jun 13

### Sea Squirts: Animals with a Hard Shell

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. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

## Upcoming

### Juneteenth Community Celebration

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum  
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard  
Saturday, June 15  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For this 28th annual event, the NAACP anticipates thousands of visitors to this free celebration. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact us at [naacpcalvert@gmail.com](mailto:naacpcalvert@gmail.com) or [hollandnmd@aol.com](mailto:hollandnmd@aol.com).

### NARFE Annual Picnic

Cove Point Park  
750 Cove Point Rd, Lusby  
Thursday, June 20  
Noon

Calvert County Chapter 1466 of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) will be having its June meeting and annual picnic. Members, guests, and federal employees or retirees are welcome. Please RSVP to [NARFE14665@gmail.com](mailto:NARFE14665@gmail.com). Chicken will be provided by the chapter.

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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.



# County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Fri, Jun 7

### Tidewater Archaeology Weekend

Historic St. Mary's City  
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Help uncover the past at one of the best-preserved colonial sites in the nation! Take a guided tour of excavations, and explore our archaeology laboratory in this once-a-year opportunity. Included with Museum Admission (\$10/adults; \$9/senior; \$6/student; \$0/age 5 & under). Info: [www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events/](http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events/) or 301-994-4370

## Sat, Jun 8

### Sandwich Sale

American Legion Post 221  
21690 Colton's Point Rd., Avenue  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 is sponsoring a pork loin and beef sandwich sale. Pork loin, sliced roast beef, and BBQ beef sandwiches will be sold on both Saturday and Sunday, June 8th & 9th. The event will be from 11:00

a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and sandwiches will cost \$8.00 each. Call (301) 841-6625 for further information. Mike Barbour; AL Post 221 Liaison; [mcgabell@md.metrocast.net](mailto:mcgabell@md.metrocast.net); (301) 769-4569

### St. Mary's County Crab Festival

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds  
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Steamed crabs, crab soups, crab cakes, oh my! Enjoy crabs prepared in a variety of ways, plus loads of other seafood. Learn about and honor the tradition of the watermen in St. Mary's County. Plus, enjoy live music and shop artisan crab-themed goods!

### Gospel Concert to Benefit St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen

Patuxent Presbyterian Church  
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California  
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Featuring: The Harmonies of Faith, The New Briscoe Brothers, The Chosen Few, Mother Sylvia Moreland, The Christianares, God's Choice.

## Sun, Jun 9

### 2nd Annual Horseshoe Tournament

Hill's Country Store  
29933 Point Lookout Road  
Registration 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.  
First round starts 1:00 p.m.

Entry fee is \$20.00 per person. 2-person team of blind draw partners. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. There will be a 50/50 raffle, money board and more.

For information and vendor space availability, contact Becky Goddard at 443-717-0488 or [becky.goddard83@gmail.com](mailto:becky.goddard83@gmail.com).

\$15.00 Age 13 & over  
\$8.00 Age 4-12  
3 & under FREE

### Summer Horse Camp

Vandermere Farm  
Leonardtown

Horse Camp registration is open at Vandermere Farm in Leonardtown for ages 5 & up! All levels welcome! Campers come ready to ride & get a daily lesson.

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- June 24-28
- July 8-12
- July 15-19
- July 29-Aug 2
- Aug 5-9

Please message Jen (equine director) for more details & a registration form. [vandmerestables@yahoo.com](mailto:vandmerestables@yahoo.com)  
240-538-8001

## Upcoming

### All You Can Eat Breakfast

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department  
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood  
Sunday, June 30  
7 AM-11 AM

Bacon, sausage patties, sausage links, scrapple, scrambled eggs, waffles, creamed chip beef, biscuits, omelettes made to order, coffee, tea, milk, assorted juices.

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first great-great grandchild, Nathan Cooksey.

After the death of her late husband, Alice married Rudolph A. "Rudi" Reichel on May 20, 1991 at Dent Memorial Chapel, Charlotte Hall, MD. She is survived by step-sons: Jerry South of Annapolis, MD, and Rudi Reichel, Jr. of Huntingtown, MD. She was preceded in death by her step-son, Darren South. Alice is also loved and admired by 14 nieces and nephews, many cousins and relatives, and numerous dear friends.

Alice was fearless when it came to business. She co-founded several enterprise, including C.I. Norris & Son Concrete, Norris Express, Inc., as well as a ceramics studio, plumbing, video rental store, and pool installation business. Later in life, she shared her sand and gravel expertise with Howlin Concrete and Chaney Enterprises, where she eventually retired.

In addition to her professional achievements, Alice cherished time spent with loved ones. She delighted in hearing her grandchildren's laughter over the phone, enjoyed regular meals with her children and siblings, and valued the monthly lunches shared with her friends the "Penney's Ladies." She also found joy in attending the weekly bluegrass jam sessions led by her godson and his band, the "California Ramblers."

A fierce competitor on the shuffleboard court, Alice amassed an impressive collection of league trophies and awards. A monthly potluck and pitch tournament with her Johnson cousins was a tradition held dear. Holidays brought the joy of playing pitch with her sons-in-law, while the Cedar Lane Apartments, her home in later years, provided a community where she relished bingo nights, card games, and the company of friends. Alice's quiet joy, her love for family and friends, and her entrepreneurial spirit will forever be remembered by those whose lives she touched.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM with Father Raymond Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Cemetery, Hollywood, MD. Friends and family will be received for fellowship at Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, 22733 Lawrence Avenue, Leonardtown, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be Ricky Norris, Joey Tippett, Bobby Lacey, Jamie Bowles, C.J. Cooksey, and Alex Woodburn. Honorary pallbearers will be Lisa Cooksey, Angie Tennyson, Samantha Barnett, and Payton Norris.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc., P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD, 20650.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

**Alex Hamilton, 32**



Alexander Michael Hamilton, 32, of St. Mary's County, MD, passed away at home on Memorial Day, May 27th, 2024. He was born on Thanksgiving Day, November

27th, 1991. Alex was raised in Great Mills and attended the St. Mary's County Public Schools, graduating from Great Mills High School.

Alex was a hard dependable worker and enjoyed working as a cemetery groundskeeper with the Catholic Archdiocese of Our Queen of Peace Cemetery in Mechanicsville, Md, where he made many friends. He would always say how honored he was to be a small part of the families that they served. He also worked as a Land Surveyor's assistant with Soltesz Civil Engineering Inc. of Waldorf, MD, and at Little Silences Rest Surveying (LSR) of Leonardtown, MD. He had an extraordinary assortment of odds and ends he collected in his time and travels while land surveying.

Alex as he was known by his family and friends was a wonderful people person. He was easily approachable and had a friendly and likable personality. He could pull witty jokes out of thin air with his quick humor making everyone laugh, managing to cheer you up even if you were feeling down. He would persist until you cracked a smile. He always put others first. He always had a positive outlook on life and was always upbeat, never complaining even through his multiple health challenges such as having Diabetes since the age of 5; he never let it get the best of him.

Most of all Alex loved spending time with his family and friends, developing a close group of friends that became a family. He enjoyed working on and building computers, and would jump at the opportunity to help others with their computer and gaming systems woes. He was an avid console and computer gamer, and had multiple online friends that would keep him up late into the night.

Alex enjoyed numerous Anime TV shows and loved to attend multiple Anime and Comic book conventions. He had a collection of numerous books, comics, and lots of memorabilia signed by the book authors and voice actors. He enjoyed swimming, solving Sudoku puzzles, and he had a knack for the Arcade Claw Machines. He could always get any prize you wanted out of them. He was the Claw Machine King.

Our loving Alex will be deeply missed. He is survived by his parents Richard and Denise, Siblings John Benjamin and Zachary Ryan along with his Aunts, Melanie Draper, Dorothy, Darlene, Debra Hamilton, his Uncle David Hamilton, as well as many Nieces and Nephews.

Family will receive friends on June 14, 2024, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm with a Life Celebration Funeral Service cele-

brated by Pastor Rick Conner at 1:00 pm at the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

In lieu of flowers please make donations in honor of Alex to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Condolences may be left at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

**Kyle Yeittrakis, 32**



Kyle Nicholas Yeittrakis, age 32, passed away peacefully May 27, 2024. He was born April 3, 1992 in Leonardtown, Maryland to Dawn and Nick Yeittrakis.

Kyle worked for many years in the family business at Dean's Service Center then as an electrician and was always appreciated for his strong work ethic. He loved to play guitar and garden. He had an amazing

green thumb and could turn a dull patch of grass into a beautiful and productive garden. Kyle was an avid reader, loved music, hiking (anything in nature really), dogs and most of all, his family.

Kyle was known and loved by all he met, leaving a lasting impression with his genuine kindness, authenticity and hilarious sense of humor.

Kyle is survived by his parents, Nick and Dawn, his sister-cousin Natalie Adams, and grandparents Patricia and James Dean and Bob Libby and Judy Ramsey of Lisbon, Maine as well as many loving aunts, uncles and cousins. All of who he loved and touched deeply.

Please join us in celebrating his life on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, with visitation from 5pm-6pm and a Memorial Service will begin at 6pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to support local community members struggling with substance abuse disorders here <https://everloved.com/life-of/kyle-yeittrakis/donate/>.

Condolences may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.



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# In Remembrance

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to [aldailey@countytimes.net](mailto: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.

## Pat Hall, 87



Patricia "Pat" Wormwood Hall, 87, of California, MD passed away peacefully on June 1, 2024 at her home with her loving family at her side.

She was born March 13, 1937 in Brooklyn, NY. She had a special relationship with her mother the late Rita Crowley Wormwood and was devoted to her father the late Wesley "Bill" Orin Wormwood.

She attended Frank Knox Elementary School in Lexington Park and graduated high school in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (Class of 1954) with honors. Pat attended Junior College at St. Mary's Seminary in St. Mary's City and briefly attended American University in Washington D.C. In 1986, she returned to school at the age of 40 and obtained a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College of Maryland. Pat was employed by the Department of Defense at Naval Air Station Patuxent River until her retirement in 2011 after 41 years of dedicated service. She also loved working part time at Belk (formerly Leggett) department store in the Wildewood Shopping Center. Pat was a devout Catholic, living out her faith by seeing God in everything around her and offering her hand in friendship, peace or assistance to anyone in need. The only thing that surpassed Pat's incredible beauty was her infinite kindness. Her lifelong devotions were her faith, her family and her friends. She was an active parishioner and member of the Ladies of Charity at St. Michael's Catholic Church and a member of NARFE Chapter 969.

Pat is survived by her sons, Jeff Hall (Suzanne) of Leonardtown, MD and Steve Hall (Faith) of Great Mills, MD; her siblings: Toni Lesko (Gerald) of Bowling Green, VA, Mike Wormwood (Peggy) of Davidsonville, MD; and Rita Gail Wormwood of Albuquerque, NW; her grandchildren: Cody Hall of Marietta, GA, Cassidy Hall of Salt Lake City, UT, Trent Hall of Huntingtown, MD and Clay Hall of Adrian, MI; her great-grandson, Emmett Scott Alexander of Salt Lake City, UT. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved son, Scott Hall and youngest sister, Kerri Wormwood.

Family will receive friends on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Reverend Peter Giovanoni and concelebrated by Monsignor Karl Chimiak at 2:00 p.m., at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 16555 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions in Pat's name may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Wayne Morgan, 74



Mark "Wayne" Morgan, Sr., 74 of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on May 29, 2024, at his home. Born on April 23, 1950, in Oraville, MD, he was the son of the

late John Mitchell Morgan Sr. and the late Elizabeth Victoria Morgan. Wayne was the loving husband of Barbara Irene Morgan, whom he married on April 23, 1983, at Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Laurel Grove, MD. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Mark Morgan, Jr. of Foley, Alabama, Mandy Mason (Yvonne) of Villa Ridge, Missouri, Krissy Letourneau (Joe), Paul Cronin (Kelly) and Kim Morgan of Mechanicsville, MD; his siblings, Lenny Morgan, Lewis Morgan, Ambrose Morgan, Ronald Morgan, Donald Morgan, all of Mechanicsville, MD, Marlene Tippet of Tappahannock, VA, Sissy Pfuhl of Mitchellville, MD, and David Morgan of Dameron, MD; his twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his siblings Mitchell Morgan Jr, Harvey Morgan, Stevie Morgan and Imogene Summers.

Wayne was very proud that he got his GED in 1991. Wayne worked in construction all his life. Early on he worked with his Dad, Mitchell Morgan Sr. building barns. Wayne was an excellent trim carpenter and was owner of Morgan Trim Company which he held for almost 30 years until his retirement. He taught the trade to two of his brothers-in-law Greg and Tony Quade. Wayne and his wife Barbara recently celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary. Wayne was a family man. He loved his children and grandchildren and then his great grandchildren. Wayne had his favorite place to sit at all the places he visited. Wayne enjoyed playing poker with his family on Friday nights, camping and hunting with the family in Western Maryland and later owning his place in Western Maryland in order to be close by to attend the Rocky Gap Music Festivals. Wayne and Barbara's idea of a vacation was annually visiting Aunt Nora Newell in Upstate NY or going to Rocky Gap. Wayne loved Country Music and enjoyed going to many of the concerts held in the Southern Maryland area.

The family will receive friends on Monday, June 10th, 2024, from 09:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Chris Whetlor officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Mark Morgan Jr., Bailey Morgan, Joey Letourneau, Danny Cronin, Justin Cronin, and Lucas Cronin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue

Squad and/or Hospice of St. Mary's.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

## David Kerr, 69



David Martin Kerr, age 69, of Fenton passed away May 21, 2024. A Celebration of David's Life will take place 3:00 PM Thursday, May 30, 2024, at Sharp

Funeral Homes Fenton Chapel 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Deacon Ron Kenney Officiating. Visitation 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Thursday. Memorial Contributions in David's memory would be appreciated to The American Red Cross Blood Drive or to The American Cancer Society.

David, a man whose laughter and love brightened the lives of all who knew him, was born April 11, 1955 in Chincoteague, VA, the son of Charles Albert and Bernice May (Hanson) Kerr. David graduated from Great Mills High School in Great Mills, MD. He started working in the Tobacco Fields in Maryland. He later worked at the Nuclear Power Plant in Calvert County, MD. David started his career at the age of 18 with The Grand Trunk Railroad in Pontiac in 1974. He later retired from CN Railroad in 2015.

David lived a life filled with joy, humor, and boundless love. More than anything, David cherished being a father and a grandfather. His children and grandchildren were the lights of his life, and he took immense pride in their achievements, always supporting them with his unwavering love and encouragement.

David had a unique gift for making people laugh. His sense of humor and quick wit brought joy to countless gatherings, turning ordinary moments into cherished memories. He was a beloved neighbor, forming deep friendships that became a second family to him. His door was always open, and his home was a place of warmth and laughter. He was a man of many talents and hobbies.

David loved taking cross-country trips and riding his Harley Davidson Motorcycle with his friends. Whether he was fishing, woodworking, breeding praying mantises, gardening, or birdwatching, David approached each activity with enthusiasm and curiosity. He was always eager to learn something new and to share his passions with those around him.

David was a respected and admired man, known for his kindness, generosity, and integrity. He was a wonderful father, brother, friend, partner, and grandparent, and an all-around extraordinary human being. His legacy of love, laughter, and kindness will continue to inspire and uplift us all.

David is survived by his daughters, Angela Kerr, and Amanda (David Parsley) Kerr; grandchildren, Cameron, Arianna, and

Ryder; siblings, Terry (Joe) Mattingly, and Michael (Melissa) Kerr; nephew, Warren Kerr; niece, Morgan Kerr; and the "Love of his Life", Cindy Rice and a host of friends and neighbors who will miss him dearly. David was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Bernice Kerr.

The family would like to thank everyone for their love and support during this difficult time. Rest in peace, Dave. Your laughter and love will forever echo in our hearts. Online tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).

## Alice Reichel, 81



Alice Cecelia Norris Reichel, 81, of Leonardtown, MD, died on May 30, 2024. She was born in Washington, D.C. on April 18, 1943 to the late Alice Virginia Day and Stephen

Hillery Johnson, Jr. After the death of her father during infancy, Alice was raised by her loving great-aunt Sarah Ada Burch and Robert Miller Beall, whom she called "mama" and "daddy." Alice moved back to the family homestead in Medley's Neck in the early 1950s, where she attended Father Andrew White School and St. Mary's Academy.

Alice is survived by her sister, Catherine V. Oden, and brother, Dennis W. Thorne (Cheryl). She was preceded in death by sisters, Marjorie "Margie" Roland Tessier, Marion "Nunzie" Nelson, and Jeannie "Puff" Marshall.

Alice met the love of her life, the late Carroll Ignatius "C.I." Norris, Sr., whom she married on February 21, 1959 at Our Lady's Chapel, Leonardtown, MD. She is survived by her children: Donna L. Bowles (James Aubrey "Junior"), Lois Ann Lacey (John "Johnny"), Shirley Ann Brooks, and Carroll Ignatius Norris, Jr., all of Hollywood, MD. She is predeceased by her children, Susan Marie Norris, James Carroll Norris, Alice Cecelia Norris, and son-in-law, David Allen Brooks, Sr.

She is survived by ten grandchildren: Lisa Bowles Cooksey (Charlie) of Hollywood, MD, Robert S. "Bobby" Lacey, Sr. (Stacey Wathen) of Mechanicsville, MD, Angela "Angie" Lacey Tennyson (Steve) of Hollywood, MD, James "Jamie" A. Bowles (Rebecca) of Hollywood, MD, Justin D. Norris (Ben Fineman) of Burbank, CA, Steven A. Brooks (Samantha "Sam"), of Hollywood, MD, Samantha Norris Barnett (Chris) of Lusby, MD, David M. Foley of Leonardtown, MD, Alexander "Alex" Woodburn of Hollywood, MD, and Payton M. Norris of Mechanicsville, MD.

Alice is also survived by ten great-grandchildren: Charles "C.J." Cooksey, Jr. (Alexis), Carlee Cooksey, Robert S. "Robby" Lacey, Jr., Laci Tennyson, Stephen "S.J." Tennyson, Jr., Aubrey Bowles, Noah Bowles, Faith A. Brooks, Camden Brooks, and Piper Brooks. She also welcomed her

# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind by Shelby Oppermann



## Wish I Didn't Know Now What I Didn't Know Then

As Bob Seger sang in his 1980 song *Against the Wind*, “Wish I didn’t know now what I didn’t know then” I tend to think more of all the music stars and groups of the 60s and 70s who I always thought loved working with each other and enjoyed playing their music on stage (the old Pollyanna, as my husband calls it, coming out again). Of course, Seger was singing, at least in the beginning of the song, about a girl named Janey whom he said was the queen of his nights. And Janey, in turn, promised that their relationship or love would never end, but of course it did, and in the song they each moved on in life.



It seems that as all the musicians have gotten older it always comes out either by book or in tv interviews how they didn’t get along with their fellow band members. I remember how I was a bit disappointed to read Micky Dolenz of The Monkees’s autobiography called: “I’m a Believer: My Life of Monkees, Music, and Madness” which came out in 2004. It wasn’t that they didn’t get along, it was more that my clean cut illusions had been shattered a bit. Probably just my 7 year old illusions really.

I guess I have been thinking about this a lot lately because of the publicity with Hall and Oates and their musical break up. I wish I didn’t know about this, and I don’t want to think about it when I listen to the amazing body of work they have created. I said to my husband that I am so glad we were able to see them play together a few years ago. The same goes for Journey who we saw in concert last year with Toto. I had heard over the years about bad feelings when Steve Perry left Journey and there might be some recent troubles, but when I found out that two of the members actually hated each other, were in litigation, and wouldn’t speak at all not long before we saw them it did put a damper on the concert experience for me.

We just saw Heart last month and I was so glad that Ann and Nancy Wilson had reunited the band for their 50th anniversary tour. I’m sure that sisters can have issues whether they are in a band or not. But it made my heart glad to see Heart together again. You can see that in our photo.

When I saw the documentary about the Eagles, especially the part where Glenn Frey and Randy Meisner got in a physical fight after a concert because of the song “Take it to the Limit” that really hurt. Meisner said later, “I was always kind of shy... They wanted me to stand in the middle of the stage to sing ‘Take It to the Limit,’ but I liked to be out of the spotlight. One night in Knoxville, I stayed up late and got the flu. We did two or three encores, and Glenn wanted another one. I told them I couldn’t do it, and we got into a spat. That was the end... I really felt like I was a member of the group, not a part of it. The whole thing started to end when we started taking separate limos.”

On the other hand, it is wonderful when you hear the members of America for instance go on interviews and say how happy they have been together all these years, and it shows when they are in concert too. So, I am debating whether to listen to a favorite America song after writing or whether to stay in the mood of the column and listen to *Against the Wind*. I think I’ll do both and pretend I know nothing I don’t want to know.

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®

### Financial tips for widows and widowers

Losing a spouse is one of the most painful experiences anyone can have. Unfortunately, widows and widowers have to deal with more than just the emotional trauma — they also must consider a range of financial issues. If you’ve recently been widowed, what financial moves should you consider?

For starters, don’t rush into any major decisions. If you’re still in the grieving process, you are unlikely to be in the best shape to make significant choices affecting your finances and your life.

But once you feel ready to look at your situation objectively and make appropriate choices, consider the following steps:

- **Review your finances.** Look at your entire financial picture — your assets, investments, debts and income. If you and your spouse had communicated well about your finances, and you shared decisions, you hopefully won’t encounter any big surprises. But if your spouse was the partner who mostly handled financial matters, you may need to get up to speed quickly on what you have and what you owe. And if your spouse had provided a large amount of your household income, you will also need to determine what changes you may need to make to your lifestyle.
- **Address insurance issues.** If you will receive a death benefit from your spouse’s insurance policy, what will you do with the money? It may prove helpful in funding your own retirement or meeting other financial goals. But you’ll also want to be clear about what other beneficiaries, such as your children, might receive. And while you’re looking at insurance, you also might want to look at your own policies — do you need to change beneficiaries?
- **Review your Social Security options.** If you are at least 60 and you were married at least nine months, you may be entitled to Social Security survivor benefits. (If you remarry before age 60, you typically cannot receive survivor benefits, but you can reinstate them if this subsequent marriage ends.) The amount of your survivor’s benefits depends on your age and the age of your deceased spouse. You can’t claim your deceased spouse’s benefits along with your own retirement benefits, so if you qualify for survivor and retirement benefits, you’ll receive the larger amount. Depending on your situation, you might come out ahead by delaying your retirement benefits, giving them the chance to grow, while you accept survivor benefits. For more details on receiving Social Security benefits, visit the Social Security Administration’s website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).
- **Review your estate plans.** The death of a spouse can certainly affect your family’s estate plans. So, it’s a good idea to review these plans to see what changes, if any, need to be made. When conducting this review, you’ll benefit from working with an estate-planning professional.

Finally, keep in mind that you don’t have to go it alone during this difficult time. If you’re already working with a financial professional, they can help. If you aren’t currently working with one, now might be the time to start. By looking at your finances and your family situation holistically, a financial professional can provide guidance that can help ease the stress you are naturally feeling.

Few events are as sad as losing a spouse. But when you feel ready, start taking the steps necessary to continue forward on your life’s journey.

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

*Contributed by David McDonough*

*Financial Advisor at Edward Jones*

*Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302*

*Leonardtown, MD 20650*

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# Edward Jones®

# Public Schools Announce Summer Meal Program

St. Mary's County Public Schools' (SMCPS) Judy Center Early Learning Hubs and Food and Nutrition Services is pleased to announce its free summer meals program in partnership with the St. Mary's County Library, the Department of Social Services, and a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. Children and their families will be able to access a free and nutritious meal Monday-Friday for 10 weeks during the summer. Meals for children 18 and under are free. The cost of meals for adults accompanying their children will be covered by the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services.

Beginning on Monday, June 10, 2024, to Friday, July 5, 2024, all Fridays in July, and again on August 2, 2024, to August 16, 2024, the Lexington Park Library will host Lunch at the Library. Students and their families may visit the library from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. to receive a nutritious meal.

Beginning on Monday, July 8, 2024, to Thursday, August 1, 2024, the SMCPS' Judy Center Lunch and Learn will operate at Lexington Park Elementary School (LPES) from 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Meals will be served at the Lexington Park Library on Fridays in July. Children and their parents/guardians may visit the site for a nutritious meal and a fun learning activity provided by Judy Center staff and their

partners. Schools are closed on Fridays in July and families will have access to Lunch at the Library from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Beginning on Monday, June 10, 2024, and ending on August 12, 2024, Food and Nutrition Services will provide breakfast and lunch 5-day meal packs for children 18 and under weekly on Mondays at four locations with two pick-up times. Meal packs will be available to children who are not participating in Lunch and Learn or Title I Summer School programs where meals are provided. Pre-registration is required to receive these meals. Pick-ups will be at the following locations on Mondays from June 10-August 12, 2024, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

- Chopticon High School  
2530 Colton Point Road  
Morganza, MD 20660
- Leonardtown High School  
23995 Point Lookout Road  
Leonardtown, MD 20650
- Oakville Elementary School  
26410 Three Notch Road  
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
- Spring Ridge Middle School  
19856 Three Notch Road  
Lexington Park, MD 20653

For additional information regarding lunch, please contact Food and Nutrition Services at [foodservice@smcps.org](mailto:foodservice@smcps.org).

# Citizens Take Care of Great Mills Road



For the third year in a row, residents gathered to help clean up Great Mills Road, one of the busiest in the county, and remove trash that had accumulated there. Some who volunteered said they noticed a somewhat smaller amount of trash on the road than in prior year's outings. Photos by Ceandra Scott

## Sacred Heart Church

### ANNUAL JUNE

# Drive-Thru Dinner

23080 MADDOX ROAD, BUSHWOOD, MARYLAND 20618

## Sunday, June 23, 2024

11:00 a.m. 'til Sold-Out

MENU:

**Crab Cakes**
**Fried Chicken**
**Country Ham**

\$30.00

(Make Checks Payable to:  
Sacred Heart Church)  
**Cash or Checks Only**  
(Sorry, No Credit Card Service Available)

Potato Salad, Cole  
Slaw, Green Beans,  
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Some are free!

## Saturday

June 8<sup>th</sup> 7am-3pm

Bake Sale

Multi-Family Yard Sale

Farm Fresh Vegetable Stand

41360 Friendship Ct. Mechanicsville, MD 20659  
(Off Route 235 In Oakville - Follow the signs)

# HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



## Saturday, June 8

**9 a.m. - 10 a.m.** Zumba class at Port of Leonardtown Park with Zumba Fitness Around Town

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center

**11 a.m. - 7 p.m.** St. Mary's County Crab Festival sponsored by the Leonardtown Lions Club at St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

**2 p.m.** Knowledge Boxing at The Rex Theatre

**4 p.m. - 7 p.m.** Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Bootleggers with Hicks Family Charcuterie on site

**5 p.m. - 7 p.m.** MADE by You Open Studio

**5 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley

**5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.** Hometown Heroes Celebration in Leonardtown Square to honor and celebrate our local first responders - FREE concert with Red Dirt Revolution starting at 7 p.m.

**6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.** Sunset Cruise with Fish the Bay Charters at the Leonardtown Wharf

## Sunday, June 9

**8 a.m. - 9 a.m.** Rise + Shine Yoga at the Leonardtown Wharf led by Evolve instructors

**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Sunday Brunch at Social Coffeehouse

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center

**2 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Gloria's Imagination with Scratch Mobile food truck on site

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# JUNE 7-9



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## Weekend Specials

The Good Earth Natural Food Store is offering **"The Thirst Responder" smoothie** with their version of cherry Limeade with coconut water, lime juice, cherries and strawberries

Happy & Zen Crystals **FREE Blue Lace crystal** giveaway with any purchase throughout June

**Specials & Sales** throughout Shepherd's Old Field Market



## Friday, June 7

**10 a.m. - 7 p.m.** Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center for FREE tours and extended hours for First Friday

**12 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Method Madness Day at the Leonardtown Wharf

**5 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Audience Participation Drum Circle on the St. Mary's County Arts Council Lawn

**5 p.m. - 7 p.m.** Make your own unique tiny book at Elsewise Art

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Opening Reception for "Snap Tattoo" gallery at St. Mary's County Arts Council

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Business Story Walk with the Mobile Library in LTown Alley

**5 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley

**5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery with Breslin & The Swamp Geezers with Linda's on the Go food truck on site

**6 p.m.** Midgets with Attitude Wrestling at The Rex Theatre

**6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Live music in Leonardtown Square with James Cornett

**6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Parent's Night Out at MADE by You

**6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** First Friday June Caricature Night at The Yellow Line Art Studio

**7 p.m.** Midget After Party with DJ C-Note at The Rex Theatre

**7 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Karaoke at Social Coffeehouse hosted by DJ Ernie and Invincible Entertainment



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# 2023 Aquaculture Leases Produce Record Oyster Yield



Maryland's growing shellfish aquaculture operations harvested a record 94,286 bushels of oysters in 2023, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources reported.

"Though the shellfish aquaculture harvest is small in comparison to the public fishery, it is growing steadily and the farmer's product is available throughout the year," said Brian R. Callam, Ph.D., director of DNR's Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division.

In Maryland, shellfish farming businesses can hold submerged land leases (growing shellfish directly on the seafloor) and/or water column leases (growing shellfish in cages or other containers in the water). Maryland currently leases 7,478 acres of state waters to 466 commercial shellfish

operations. Of that total, 6,964.32 acres is for submerged land leases and 514.16 acres of water column leases.

In 2023, submerged land leases yielded 66.6 percent of the harvest, and water column leases accounted for 33.4% of the total 2023 harvest.

The state's farmed oyster harvest total for 2023 surpassed the 2022 total of 94,257 bushels. By comparison, the state's public oyster fishery by comparison harvested 548,558 bushels during its 2021-2022 season and 722,850 bushels in the 2022-2023 season.

The estimated economic impact of Maryland's shellfish aquaculture is more than \$13 million per year. Anyone interested in learning more should visit the program's website.

# \$5M Grant Awarded to Continue Operations at the Health Hub

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) has been awarded \$5 million in grant funding through the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) Health Equity Resource Communities (HERC) program, which aims to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes in underserved communities. Funding will be spread out over five years to help sustain operations at the St. Mary's County Health Hub, including behavioral health walk-in crisis services and a variety of programs to promote health and wellness for St. Mary's County community members.

SMCHD is one of eleven grant awardees in the state; CHRC received 59 eligible applications. The new HERC funding builds upon the success of prior grant funding SMCHD had received from CHRC, and is made available under the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act approved by the Maryland General Assembly in 2021.

The Health Hub currently offers walk-in evaluations of mental health and addiction, crisis counseling, primary care medical

services, and many additional community services that address the non-medical parts of people's lives affecting their health. The Health Hub team also helps people connect to health and wellness services in the community that they may need.

"This new HERC grant is critical to continuing services at the Health Hub. While our prior grant funding was ending we were able to demonstrate the incredible value of what the Health Hub team does for our community," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "The Health Hub is a collaboration of our whole agency team and many community partners. It improves access to health care, is a major resource for a person in crisis, and helps people succeed in both health and overall wellness. We are so grateful for this support from CHRC to continue serving our St. Mary's County community members."

To learn more about the St. Mary's County Health Hub, visit [hub.smchd.org](http://hub.smchd.org).

To learn more about the CHRC, please visit [health.maryland.gov/mchrc](http://health.maryland.gov/mchrc).

# Pet of the Week MEET CAMEL & PATCHES



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Isaiah 40:31

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1.75 Liter  
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Vodka**  
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1.75L  
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750 ml, Pinot Grigio  
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# Man Charged with Arson After Setting Hotel Room on Fire

A Leonardtown man was arrested after setting a hotel room on fire yesterday evening, displacing 46 guests and causing three-quarters of a million dollars in damage.

Just after 8:00 p.m. on June 3, 2024, St. Mary's Sheriff's Office responded to the Super Eight Motel at 22801 Three Notch Road in California for a reported disturbance. An employee called 911 and reported the occupants of room 310 were arguing and causing a disturbance. They also reported they had broken the windows and barricaded the door.

Deputies arrived within minutes and observed Anthony Cleaver Mason, 64, inside the room attempting to start a fire. Deputies activated the fire alarm and began evacuating the motel while requesting the fire department.

Forty-eight firefighters from various departments, including Bay District, Hollywood, NAS Patuxent River, Leonardtown, Ridge, Valley Lee, and Solomons, responded and discovered fire showing, along with multiple people injured after jumping from the third floor.

One adult female and her child were assisted out of the hotel, where the female then suffered a medical emergency. She was transported to an area hospital. The child was evaluated and released into family custody.



Anthony Cleaver Mason

Deputies placed Mason into custody on the scene, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal was requested to investigate. Deputy State Fire Marshals concluded Mason was responsible and that the fire caused an estimated \$750,000 in damages.

Mason was charged with two counts of second-degree arson, reckless endangerment, and malicious burning first-degree.

He is currently being held at the St. Mary's County Detention Center without bond.

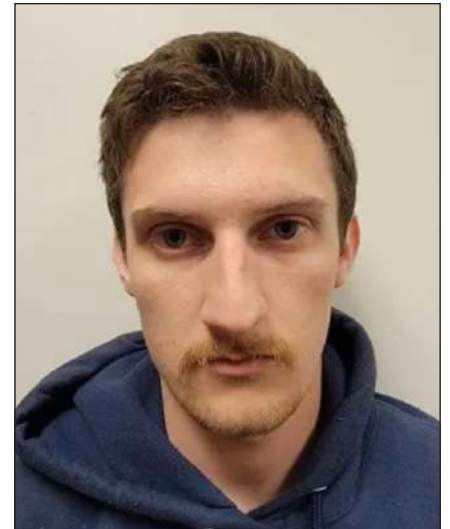
# St. Mary's Man Sentenced on Child Pornography Charges

Nathan S. Lindgren, 28, of Lexington Park, was sentenced on May 24, 2024, to 12 years in prison for possession and distribution of child pornography. The sentence was imposed by Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee.

On March 9, 2021, the Maryland State Police Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force received a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) that someone was distributing child exploitation material. Investigation led police to Lindgren.

Search warrants were obtained for Lindgren's person, vehicle, and residence. Upon execution of these warrants, police recovered Lindgren's cell phone which contained multiple images of child pornography. Lindgren admitted that he used the cell phone to distribute these images.

Upon release from prison, Lindgren will be on 5 years of supervised probation. He will also be required to register as a sex offender.



Nathan Lindgren

This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero.

# Card Skimmer Found at Local Business



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office seeks assistance identifying and locating the individuals shown in these pictures in connection with the discovery of a card skimming device found at the Dollar General Store in Charlotte Hall in May.

If you know who these individuals are, please contact Deputy Anthony Cucinotta at Anthony.Cucinotta@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 8174. Please reference case number 27790-24.

## Legal Notice

### COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

The 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be available July 1, 2024 to Town residents and the public at the Town Hall office, 22670 Washington St. Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and at the Leonardtown Post Office, 22735 Washington Street and is also available online at <http://leonardtown.somd.com> under Town Government, Water Quality Reports.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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# Commissioner Warns on State Credit Downgrade

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Last week one of three major bond rating agencies issued a negative outlook on the state's fiscal health, leading Commissioner Mike Hewitt to say the county should be watchful of how the state's economy behaves.

"Moody's downgraded Maryland's bonds to negative," Hewitt said at the June 4 business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "They [the state] still has a triple A bond rating but they [Moody's] said what's going on... is they are concerned about the structural deficits that are being built in by the new governor [Wes Moore.]"

Moore has claimed that the state's fiscal outlook was already on the decline before he took office, while former governor Larry Hogan, who is seeking a U.S. Senate seat, has fired back saying his administration left a \$5 billion surplus.

"Obviously we want to keep an eye on our bond ratings because that affects our borrowing rates," Hewitt said. "But these are

big decisions and to see Maryland go to a negative bond rating... is concerning to me."

The statement from Moody's reads: "The negative outlook incorporates difficulties Maryland will face to achieve balanced financial operations in coming years without sacrificing service delivery goals or adding to the weight of the state government's burden on individual and corporate taxpayers."

The ratings agency stated that Maryland's Blueprint for Education reform package was a cause of concern because of its sheer cost.

U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, who represents Maryland's 1st Congressional District, said the downgrade was a serious warning.

"For the first time since 2011, Moody's downgraded Maryland's fiscal outlook from stable to negative because of our state's out-of-control spending, tax increases, and record deficits," Harris said in a social media post. "This is a sobering outlook and it's time for Maryland to get its fiscal house in order."

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

# Pegg Road Sidewalk Improvements Coming

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week approved the use of nearly a quarter-million dollars in federal funding for sidewalk improvements for pedestrian use along Pegg Road in Lexington Park.

Gary Whipple, deputy director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, told commissioners that the federal funds were administered by the State Highway Administration.

The commissioners sought the funding back in 2022 as a congressional earmark, or targeted spending appropriation.

"This project will provide a safe sidewalk system for pedestrians traveling along Pegg Road," Whipple said. "It's actually already fully funded in the Capital Improvement Budget."

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$300,000, according to county documents, with the federal funds to account for 80 percent of the project with the county paying for 20 percent.

The scope of the project runs along Pegg

Road from its intersection with Route 235 down to Ronald Drive, Whipple said.

"So that's our first phase," Whipple said, noting that the county's planning for the project must be submitted to the state by May of 2026. "We've already cleared the environmental work."

The second phase of the project will go from the Jarboesville Bridge to the Westbury community.

Whipple told commissioners that the public works department has already made good progress on preparing to begin the project, with the plans already submitted in April.

"We're already well ahead of the game on getting the plans approved," Whipple said.

Whipple responded to Commissioner Eric Colvin's question about the possibility of speeding up the project ahead of federal requirements in the affirmative.

"It's on our schedule," Whipple told Colvin. "So, yes."

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The graphic features the St. Mary's County Maryland seal on the left, which includes the text "ST. MARY'S COUNTY MARYLAND" and "1637". The background is a collage of American flags. On the right side, there are three vertical photo strips: the top one shows a group of young women in red and white outfits; the middle one shows a marching band with many flags; the bottom one shows a large fire burning.

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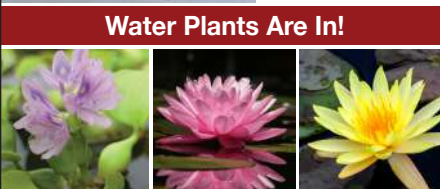
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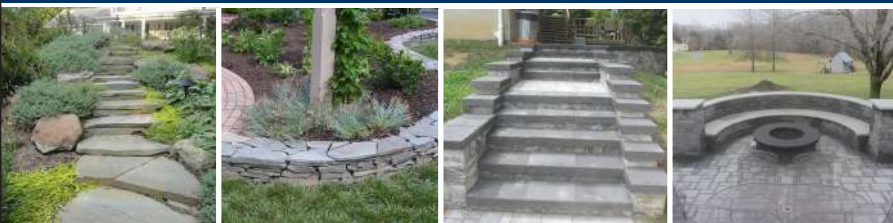


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# Town Seeks to Annex Properties

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Town of Leonardtown is set to annex land near the intersection of Route 5 and St. Andrews Church Road and three other, smaller parcels bordering the Cedar Lane Senior Living Community into the town limits.

The property at the Route 5 intersection is 19.51 acres in size and is the subject of a petition from owners Alfred and Joan Mattingly to have the town annex their land.

According to a letter of support for the annexation from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the town is looking to use the large parcel to zone it for institutional office use [I-O zoning] from its current designation for residential low density.

"The town... states there are no definite proposals for the future use of this property at this time but notes the large property bordering it to the east is currently slated for development of a memory care facility and that the property owners believe a further 'medical type facility' could be a 'good fit for the area,'" the commissioner letter states. "[The town] also notes the Leonardtown

Volunteer Fire Department has "shown an interest" in the property for relocation of its current facilities. Such uses appear to be generally allowed in an R-L district as either limited or conditional uses."

The three smaller parcels the town seeks to annex into its limits came from another petition, this time from the Cedar Lane Senior Living Community III, Inc.

"[The town stated] Cedar Lane purchased the parcels for the purpose of expanding their current facilities to meet demand and the annexation plan specifies the parcels will be developed to allow a new four-story, age-restricted living facility consisting of seventy (70) new units," according to the county documents. "This use would appear to be allowed under R-L zoning as a conditional use."

Town Administrator Laschelle McKay said the annexation of the Cedar Lane properties was necessary for proper servicing of the new construction.

"In order to have water and sewer they need to come into the town," she said of the new parcels. "It just makes sense."

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

# Lions Club Crab Fest This Saturday

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Leonardtown Lions' Club will hold its 38th annual Crab Festival June 8 at the county fairgrounds in Leonardtown.

The event is the central fundraiser for Leonardtown Lions Club each year and attendees can expect to find plenty of steamed hard crabs, crab soups, crab cakes and other seafood dishes for purchase.

Also, on hand at the event will be items made by local crafters, many of them made in the theme of the Maryland Blue Crab, as well as local music and entertainment artists.

The annual event also hosts a classic car show and features inflatable play areas for children, according to the Leonardtown Lions Club.

The main attraction of the event, though,

will be the annual crab picking contest and crab races.

George Kirby, public relations manager for the Lions Club, said several past competitors said this year will feature a new musical act, The Reagan Years, as well as an increase in ticket prices from \$7 to \$10 for entry.

Cash rewards and medals will be given to top performers in the crab picking competition, Kirby said.

The Leonardtown Lions Club is a service organization that raises funds to provide vision and hearing screenings for the needy. They also help provide glasses and hearing aids for those with declining senses.

"We're making the commitment to the community that we're about being where the need is," Kirby said.

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# Commissioners Briefed on Avian Flu

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The infectious disease known as H5N1, or more commonly referred to as the avian flu, is a rising public health problem, said County Health Officer Dr. Meena Brewster this week.

But the avian flu has the ability to infect mammalian species, Brewster said, including humans, which could have an adverse effect on the significant agricultural operations here in St. Mary's County.

There are nine states that have reported bovine dairy herds that have been infected with the avian flu, Brewster said, though that has yet to be reported in Maryland.

The closest states with infected dairy herds are Ohio and North Carolina.

"It's largely an infection that impacts wild birds, particularly water birds," Brewster said during the June 4 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "And it has also for many times infected commercial poultry and backyard flocks such as backyard chickens."

Brewster said the health department was concerned with the disease because of its potential to infect humans.

"We're trying to prevent it becoming a larger issue affecting people," Brewster said.

There are currently just four people infected with the avian flu in the United States, Brewster said.

"There are no cases in Maryland," Brewster said, noting there were always caveats. "We always assume there's some level of infection we're not aware of."

Those most at risk of contracting the disease are people exposed to infected, or possibly infected, poultry or dairy herds, Brewster said.

There are roughly 25 dairy herds in St. Mary's, she said, with between 30 to 40 cattle each.

In birds, the disease is highly contagious, Brewster said, and often leads to severe illness and even death.

The symptoms tend to be less severe in mammals and humans, she said, but the



County Health Officer Dr. Meena Brewster

potential for severe illness and fatality are still present.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said he maintains a flock of backyard chickens and that anyone who does so "should practice good biosecurity."

"This is real," Colvin said. "No one wants to put down their whole flock of birds."

Conjunctivitis, or reddening and tearing of the eyes, is a prominent symptom of the disease, Brewster said.

Milk from infected cows can still be safely had, she said, once it is pasteurized as the process kills viruses such as H5N1. Commercial meat from infected animals should also be cooked properly to internal temperatures that ensure the virus is also killed off, Brewster said.

"That meat is not getting into the commercial food supply," Brewster noted, saying that monitoring for infected animals is now elevated to ensure it does not enter the food supply chain.

Consumption of raw milk and cheeses, those which are not pasteurized, present the highest risk of exposure, Brewster said.

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\*This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0001-05-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.\*

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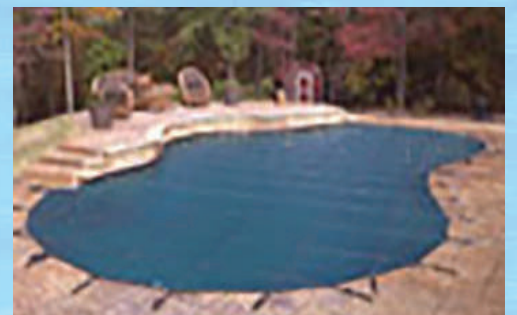
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# Demolition Underway at Tulagi Place



Demolition of the vacant firehouse on South Coral Drive



Fire apparatus at the old Station 3, circa 1960. Photo courtesy of Bay District Volunteer Fire Department.

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The old fire house that housed the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department in the heart of Lexington Park is no more.

It was torn down June 4 to make way for redevelopment of the property to allow for a Royal Farms convenience store and fueling center.

The Bay District volunteers issued a statement on the fate of their long-vacant station.

“This station has been a cornerstone of our community, witnessing countless acts of bravery, service, and camaraderie,” the statement reads. “As we say goodbye to this beloved building, we reflect on the countless memories and the dedication of all the firefighters who called it their second home.”

The volunteers now operate out of two stations, one located near to the old site on Shangri-La Drive and the other on FDR Boulevard at the intersection with Chancellors Run Road.

Del. Todd Morgan (R-Dist. 29C) lamented the loss of the old, iconic building but said that progress moved ever onward.

“The old fire house is monumental in

the history of Lexington Park,” Morgan told The County Times. “But they outgrew their facility.”

Apparatus only grew bigger as the years went on, Morgan said, and the number of volunteers grew, as well as did the needs of their first due area.

“It’s sad to see it go but it’s progress and the redevelopment of Lexington Park,” said Morgan.

When the concept site plan for the Royal Farms store first came to public attention, it faced serious backlash from the public over concerns that historic buildings would be destroyed to make way for another gas station on Route 235 that would only serve to make an already troubled intersection congested with even more traffic.

Morgan was not sure what the impact of the new Royal Farms would be, sitting directly across from Gate 2 of Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

“The jury is out,” Morgan said. “But something had to be done at that corner.

“That property has been on the market... for as long as I can remember.”

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

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# St. Mary's Leads SOMD in Student Arrests

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The latest data from the Maryland State Department of Education shows that St. Mary's County has the second highest number of students arrested in the state with 175 students charged for the 2022 to 2023 school year.

The county with the highest number of students arrested was Wicomico with 204.

St. Mary's leads Southern Maryland in student arrests, too, though Calvert County arrested almost as many students with 168 charged.

By contrast, Charles County arrested just 61 students for the 2022 to 2023 school year, the state's data showed.

The state's largest school systems — in Montgomery and Prince Georges' counties — each arrested only 56 students, while Baltimore City schools arrested only 26 students.

School-related arrests refer to an arrest of a student for any activity conducted on school grounds, during off-campus school activities, including while taking school transportation, or due to a referral by any school official, the state reported.

Locally the highest numbers of arrests occurred at Great Mills High School with

58, with the second highest at Leonardtown High School with 36. Chopticon High School had 30 arrests of students.

There were no arrests of elementary level students but the remainder of arrests took place in the middle schools: there were 12 arrests at Spring Ridge, eight at Leonardtown, 25 at Margaret Brent and six at Esperanza middle schools.

In all there were 124 high school student arrests and 51 arrests between middle schools.

The gender split on arrests was almost two-to-one with 112 males arrested to 63 females, the state's data showed.

Black or African-American students made up the majority of arrests by far with 92, while white students accounted for 49 arrests.

Hispanics accounted for just 11 arrests and only one Asian was arrested, the state reported.

Freshmen in high school had 56 arrests, while there were 43 sophomore-level arrests; eighth graders accounted for 41 arrests, according to the report.

There were just 21 arrests in the junior level and only three at the senior level.

There were 11 seventh graders arrested, the report showed.

All but one of the 175 arrests resulted in an out-of-school suspension, the data showed.

All of the arrests were physical ones, the data showed, and not from a paper generated complaint.

The vast majority of the suspensions were the result of either fighting or attacking another student.

There were 65 arrests for fighting, the data showed, and 51 for attacking a student; there were also 19 arrests for assaulting a teacher.

Local law officers said that the numbers showed that they and the school system were dedicated to enforcing the law in schools, though arrests did not always turn out to be a situation in which a student was handcuffed.

Many times a student could be written up with a criminal referral that was sent to the state's Department of Juvenile Services, which Capt. Richard Russell called "a clearing house" for juvenile justice matters.

"We're committed to policing the schools but the Board of Education is also committed to us [the sheriff's office]," Russell told The County Times. "Our numbers are more consistent than some of the other school districts."

Russell said that while the numbers may appear to show that there are greater student behavior problems in smaller school districts, it seemed unlikely that only 56 students would receive an arrest or referral to DJS in either Prince George's or

Montgomery counties, which have vastly larger school systems.

For instance, there are a little more than 113,000 students in Prince George's County schools, while Montgomery County has just over 160,000 students.

Both school districts have more students than the entire population of St. Mary's County.

Russell said it appeared St. Mary's County was stricter in enforcing the law in schools than some other jurisdictions.

"There does seem to be a disconnect [in the arrest numbers] that needs further scrutiny by the state," Russell said.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said an extensive memorandum of understanding [MOU] between the school system and the sheriff's office requires the school system to inform the sheriff's office immediately if there is a report of a crime in a school.

"[St. Mary's schools] enrollment was 17,493, so this represents 1 percent of our student population," Smith said of the number of arrests. "Of the 175 reported arrests, 165 students were returned to school, one student was transferred, and nine were placed in juvenile placement or detention."

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

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- Volunteers



Jaymi Sterling  
State's Attorney for St. Mary's County

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**“OF THE 175 REPORTED ARRESTS, 165 STUDENTS WERE RETURNED TO SCHOOL.”**

SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON RECENT DATA ON STUDENT ARRESTS



**LOCAL 9**  
Commissioners briefed on avian flu



**LOCAL 12**  
Suspect arrested in Super 8 fire



**ON THE COVER 7**  
Demolition of Tulagi Place underway

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUN 6	FRI, JUN 7	SAT, JUN 8	SUN, JUN 9
 PM Thunderstorm Hi: 86° Lo: 65°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 61°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 64°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 64°
MON, JUN 10	TUE, JUN 11	WED, JUN 12	THU, JUN 13
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 62°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 61°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 65°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 67°

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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

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**St. Mary's Leads SoMD  
in Student Arrests**

**Commissioners Briefed  
on Avian Flu Risks**

**Sidewalk Improvements  
Planned for Pegg Road**

# OUT WITH THE OLD...