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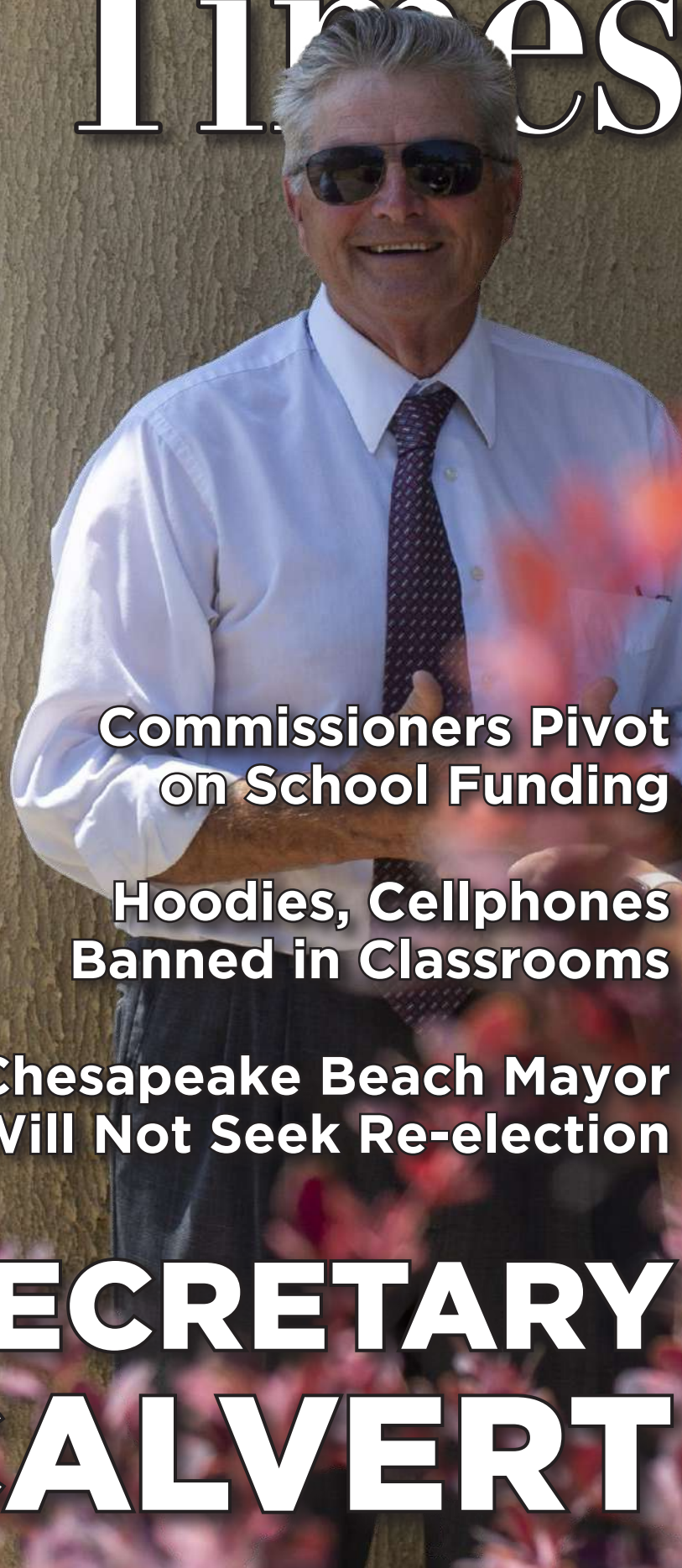
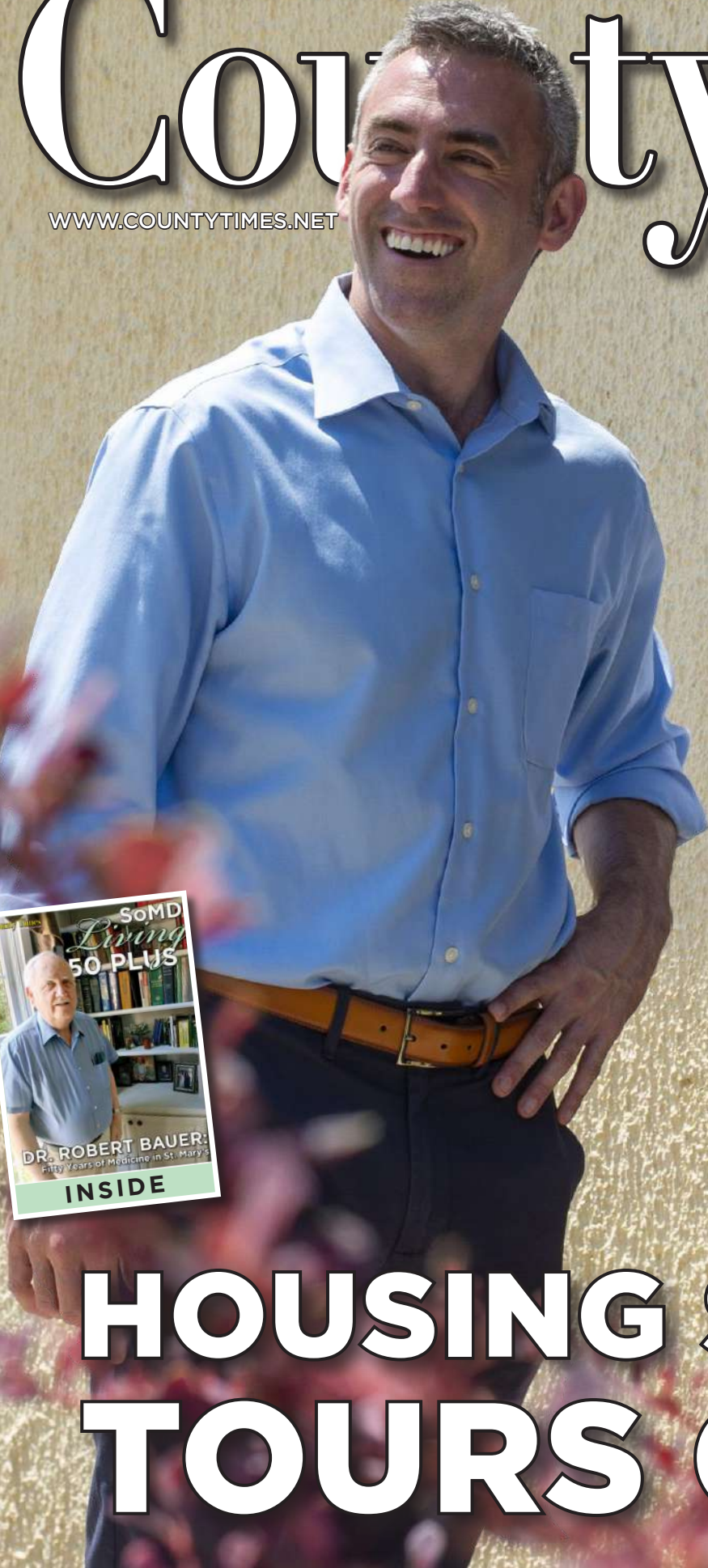
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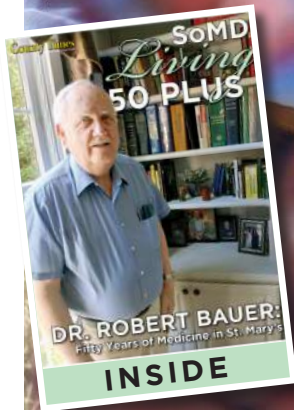
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**Commissioners Pivot
on School Funding**

**Hoodies, Cellphones
Banned in Classrooms**

**Chesapeake Beach Mayor
Will Not Seek Re-election**



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“THIS IS THE MOST AWFUL THING I HAVE EXPERIENCED IN MY LIFETIME.”

COMMISSIONER VP CATHERINE GRASSO ON THE SCHOOL SYSTEM'S BUDGETING.



LOCAL 4
County gives schools additional \$10 million



LOCAL 5
Hoodies, cellphones banned from classrooms



ON THE COVER
Calvert gets a visit from state housing secretary

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUN 20 Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 68°	FRI, JUN 21 Sunny Hi: 91° Lo: 72°	SAT, JUN 22 Mostly Sunny Hi: 94° Lo: 76°	SUN, JUN 23 Partly Cloudy Hi: 96° Lo: 77°
MON, JUN 24 Isolated Storms Hi: 92° Lo: 69°	TUE, JUN 25 Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 70°	WED, JUN 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 92° Lo: 73°	THU, JUN 27 Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 71°

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Schools Get Additional \$10 Million

Commissioners Pivot During Emergency Meeting

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), in a dramatic reversal, has voted to give the county public schools the additional \$10 million that had been requested by the school board and superintendent. The unanimous vote came during a hastily called emergency late night meeting on June 12.

Just the day before the BOCC had modified an earlier decision that still ratified giving the school system only \$3.5 million over maintenance of effort, which amounted to only \$1 million more than the school board's current budget.

The decision came after some strident comments on both sides during the more than hour-long meeting. School Board President Antoine White said about the board using \$20 million of their reserve to balance the budget, "We're here now and you are asking us to use just about, we are going to be down through our last penny. We are willing to do that because we do care about the students and the staff and everyone with the county in which you guys were elected to do the same thing. So, with the motion that was put on last week, that was just ridiculous. I mean, I don't care what letter's behind your name that made absolutely no sense."

Later, Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "In my previous life. I worked up on the Hill. I met with staffers; I managed budgets. I was there with the budget committee. I have never seen a budget submitted like this."

Grasso added, "This is the most awful thing I have experienced in my lifetime. This is Bush League, and you have the lives and the livelihoods of children and teachers at your fingertips."

School Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel promised that with the additional \$10 million there would be no staff cuts and that promise was made part of the motion. After the commissioners had voted the day before to not fund what the school board requested, Townsel met with staff to warn about extensive staff and program cuts. He said with the additional monies all of that was off the table, including the elimination of middle school athletics, which had drawn considerable criticism.

Townsel said, "Our Board of Education approved a budget of a \$10 million ask. When I came to the county commissioners, I asked for the \$10 million. We've done everything in our power to cut as much as we possibly can without cutting people and jobs. Unfortunately, we're at a space where we need \$10 million to keep individual Calvert County Public Schools employees. We've been as creative as we, as we possibly can. We're digging deep into our fund



School Board President Antoine White

balance using more than 80 percent of it to cover \$25 million reduction in state and county aid."

Townsel added, "When we look at the same inflation that the county has, we have those same exact inflation. We pay the same utilities, same gas. So, the ask is legitimate. And from day one, we've had possible cuts worth of \$10 million to balance our budget. And in reality, even though I'm saying a balance budget, it did not balance because we're using fund balance to get it to zero."

During the course of the meeting the agenda item for the school board's meeting the next day that proposed using almost \$1 million for new replacement laptop computers for high school freshmen became a continuing point of contention (see separate story). But with the additional \$10 million from the county in their pockets, they did vote 3-2 to buy those computers instead of a five-year lease. That money will come from the existing fiscal year's fund balance, according to the school system's Chief Financial Officer Scott Johnson.

Commissioner Mike Hart during the discussion relayed concerns that the commissioners' decision this year would continue to have a snowball effect in future years further eroding the county's fund balance which will be used to make up the extra monies being given to the schools. That comes on top of the income and property tax hikes agreed to to get to that point. Current fund balance is \$84 million.

Hart noted it wasn't good policy to use fund balances for recurring costs. He added, "It gets a feel like teachers are the bargaining tool, the concept that to lay off a teacher in a county like this cannot ever be on the table. I think that's the one thing that's got the hair up on the back of my neck. We can get this budget done without being on the back of an educator."

After the decision the floor was opened



Commissioner Vice President Catherine Grasso

for public comment. Dr. Christie Harris, principal of Calvert Elementary School, said, "When we met with Dr. Townsel and he reviewed the potential for these budget cuts, I just thought about how detrimental this would be to our students as well as our staff. Our teachers, our support staff, our administrators work really hard every single day to meet the needs of our students and make sure that they're getting the service that they need. And we would not be able to do that without this funding that you're now able to provide for us."

Cindy Yo, chair of the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee, said,

"Funding our educational system to its best and highest ability is the one thing that all citizens want, for our children and for our county's future. I would like to say that I've been watching the budget process from both sides. I'm not on the board or I'm not a county commissioner, just a resident. And it seems to me that there have been a lot of delays and issues on both sides. So, I think that maybe the next budget process, both sides could get together a little earlier, try to work on this and make it a little smoother."

Claire Hill of Huntingtown said, "Thank you for giving to our schools the money to keep our home values current and above my neighboring counties, for keeping the crime lower than other counties, because if my schools are stellar, our crime goes down, my home value is worth more. My neighbors are more personable, and I know one another. I don't work for the government, nor do I work for the CCPS. So, I have the ability to say things that the employees can't. You have to stop, county commissioners, playing games with the BOE. It's not to your advantage, to the citizens who look at the committees trying to withhold money or play political games."

She added, "So stop the bickering and let's act like adults. It's really hurtful to the citizens. We want to vote for a county commissioner who's going to take care of our students, our business employer, and our community."

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School Board Says Hoodies Down in School

Cell Phones Must Be Powered Down in Class

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education has voted to require hooded garments to have their hood down while students are in school. The decision by three votes with two abstentions, came at the board's June 13 meeting at which they also ratified the ban on cell phones and smart watches in the classroom. In classrooms the cell phones and wristwatches must be out of sight and powered down.

The changes came among a number of overall modifications to the school system's code of conduct which then passed at the same meeting.

The hoodie ban followed a survey of staff which showed overwhelming support for it. That survey came at the insistence of board member Lisa Grenis. The board had previously resisted such a ban, but the staff response seemed to push the majority over the threshold.

Director of Student Services Cecelia Lewis said the survey had 288 support staff respondents, or 34 percent, and 1,286 teacher respondents, or 64 percent. Administrative or supervisory staff had 107 respondents, or 71 percent.

Twelve questions were asked, several of which gave the opportunity to elaborate their feelings. One of them asked, "How significant does a student wearing a hood

impact the learner." Lewis said "353 or 28 percent say that there is no impact or slight impact on the student's learning; 368 or 29 percent believe there's a moderate impact; 463 or 36 percent believe there's an extreme impact; and 87 or seven percent have an unsure opinion about the impact on the individual's, student's learning."

Grenis felt the respondents who had no opinion should be eliminated which would have made the percentage against hoodies higher.

Lewis gave some of the common themes in the written answers about hoodies. She said, "Many argue that hoods should not be allowed due to safety concerns. When students wear hoods, their faces are partially or completely covered, making it difficult to identify them or monitor their behavior."

"Concerns related to respect and distraction — Hoods can be distracting, leading to disengagement and reduced focus in the classroom."

"Comfort in individual — Individuality was a theme. Some argue that hoods provide comfort and a sense of security for students. Allowing hoods may help students feel more at ease."

"There were quite a few comments related to age and context. The appropriateness of hoods varies by age group; elementary students wearing hoods that don't pose the same challenges as middle or high school students."

"And there were several comments about balancing safety and individual rights of

expression. Balancing safety measures with individual rights is important. Ideally, we can find a balance that ensures safety without infringing on students' comfort or individuality."

In making the motion to ban hoodies in school, Grenis clarified, "I'm just talking about the hood on the head. They can wear hoodies to school. If you refer to the sweatshirt, I'm just saying the hood cannot be pulled up over the head."

New Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Grace Minakowski said, "I want to just restate that I am concerned with the effects on learning for students. And I'm not here to say that there's no effect on learning. because that would be naive and simply not the case. But I think we would also want to consider waiting till the start of the school year to see are hoods still causing a huge effect on learning and trying to get also some student perspective because there is no student perspective represented here. And I think that is equally important."

Students were not surveyed because former SMOB Joran Hayes said that was not necessary because student opinion was already known.

The schools' safety director Larry Titus said, "I have to agree with Ms. Grenis, identifying a student with the hood on, and I should not only say a student but any individual, makes it extremely difficult for administrators and for our camera surveil-



lance. We've had situations at our schools where individuals had come in who were prior graduate students, or even intruders wearing hoodies that blend right in with the other students. And there was no way of identifying them."

The two abstentions to the motion introduced by Grenis were Board President Antoine White and Board Vice President Inez Claggett. The subsequent motion for the overall code of conduct changes including cell phone and smart watches passed unanimously. The policy takes effect at the beginning of the upcoming school year.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Man Who Shot Deputy Convicted of Attempted Murder

Sheriff Reacts to Verdict

A Calvert County jury has convicted Brandon Alexander Turner, 22, of Greenbelt, with attempted first-degree murder of Master Deputy Sheriff James Flynt. The jury also convicted Turner of first-degree assault on Deputies Anthony Aranda and Tyler Bowen, as well as illegal use of a firearm in connection with these offenses. The verdicts were returned on the evening of June 11, 2024, following a seven-day trial.

On December 17, 2022, Turner stopped his vehicle on MD Route 4 near Yellow Bank Road in Dunkirk. When deputies approached the vehicle, Turner fled, leading police on an 8-mile pursuit at speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. During the chase, Turner fired multiple shots at the deputies. The chase ended near the Walnut Creek subdivision when Deputy Flynt was able to force Turner's vehicle to crash. Deputy Flynt exited his vehicle and ordered Turner to drop his gun. Turner fired 2 shots, striking Deputy Flynt in the right leg, severing his femoral artery. Due to extraordinary life-saving measures by Sheriff's deputies, EMT's, Paramedic Adam Weiss, and ER staff at Calvert Health Medical Center, Deputy Flynt survived. Turner was apprehended after he fled and was found hiding in the woods.

Sentencing is scheduled on October 11, 2024, before the Honorable Andrew S. Rappaport. Turner is facing a sentence well in excess of life imprisonment.

This case was prosecuted by Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey and Deputy State's Attorney Timothy Maher.

Sheriff Ricky Cox said, "I just wanted to take a moment and thank everyone involved in the prosecution of the evil perpetrator

who decided to come to Calvert County and shoot at your deputies. On December 17th 2022, at around 9:30 p.m. Brandon Turner of Greenbelt was stopped for a traffic violation. Instead of completing the traffic stop, he decided to flee and involve our deputies in a vehicle pursuit. While fleeing down the highway, he began to shoot recklessly and indiscriminately at deputies, putting their lives and the lives of citizens in danger.

"Our deputies did not waiver, instead they continued the pursuit and eventually disabled the suspect's vehicle. The suspect still refused to surrender and exited his vehicle firing several shots, critically striking Master Deputy Flynt. Master Deputy Flynt was able to administer a tourniquet to himself before losing consciousness. Other deputies dragged him behind cover and they, along with responding Calvert County EMS personnel, performed additional lifesaving measures. Our deputies continued to return fire, striking the suspect who cowardly ran into the nearby woods of a residential neighborhood. He was eventually captured, rendered emergency aid, and taken into custody.

"Deputy Flynt was quickly transported to CalvertHealth Medical Center. I personally watched those heroes in the emergency room go to work on him. Responding deputies, EMS personnel, and hospital staff undoubtedly saved his life that night, but Master Deputy Flynt was not totally out of the woods. Once stabilized he was flown to MedStar Washington Hospital Center. He faced several surgeries and didn't know for a few days if they could save his leg. Our deputies and correctional deputies stayed with him 24/7 as he was recovering. Once he

recovered enough to be released, we brought him home. In true Calvert County fashion, the citizens welcomed him home with a roadside reception that spanned miles. Due to the severity of his injuries, we didn't know if Master Deputy Flynt would ever make it back to full duty. However, after several surgeries, lots of painful rehabilitation, and an exercise of true determination, I am proud to say he is back to full duty; working and doing the job he loves.

"The support he received from the citizens of Calvert County was amazing. It was so amazing our States Attorney, Bob Harvey, was concerned it could affect the trial and asked us to do our best to quiet the wave of support from inside and outside of the office. This is one of the hardest things I have had to do as the Sheriff. Having been a combat veteran, I can tell you without a doubt, the things I saw on the body cameras amazed me. Not that I expected any different, but you never know how people will react in the line of fire. Our deputies executed flawlessly and without hesitation. They worked to eliminate the threat to our citizens without concern for themselves. I could not be more proud of the men and women of this department.

"The trial finally started last week for Mr. Turner. I watched every day of the trial and can tell you State's Attorney Bob Harvey and his staff are amazing. He put on a trial that did not allow any of the blame to be shifted from anywhere but where it belonged, Mr. Turner. He was found guilty by a jury for attempted first-degree murder, multiple counts of first-degree assault, and several other charges. I would like to thank the jury for their time and dedication in rendering a just verdict. The



Brandon Alexander Turner

sentencing will take place in October.

"I say all this to tell you what I already knew. We have the absolute best deputies, emergency medical staff, volunteers, dispatchers, States Attorney's Office, and civilian staff in the world. But, what makes the job worthwhile is the support that is shown on a regular basis from the Citizens of Calvert County. Your support allows us to do our job and do our job the way it should be done.

"We will continue to send the message that if you commit crimes in Calvert County, we will do everything in our power to hold you accountable. Please continue to pray for all of our first responders and may the Lord continue to bless Calvert County!"

Press release from CCSO and State's Attorney's office

School Union President Criticizes Board Member

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

President of the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff [CAESS] Stacy Tayman criticized Board of Education member Lisa Grenis at the June 18 school board meeting for comments she made the night before at the county commissioners' emergency budget meeting [see separate story].

Tayman's criticism was apparently over Grenis' comments about the purchase of replacement laptops for incoming high school freshmen.

Grenis said, "We are in a budget freeze. Money is continuing to be spent when we're looking at almost a million dollars for computers during a budget freeze. I don't understand the logic in it. I personally believe we invest in good people, not good stuff. And keeping our teachers is what we need to do. And if that means sacrificing good computers for staff, that's what we need to do. If you're talking about dealing with here and now, you can't get more here and now than tomorrow's budget when we're looking at close to a million dollars for computers that could be going to staff. I also want to remind everyone that, in my opinion, this budget process has been



CAESS President Stacy Tayman

incomplete and poorly managed, and an audit was suggested last fall, which could have had us in a very different position."

The school system's Chief Financial Officer Scott Johnson was asked if there was a spending freeze. He responded, "We have what some have termed a spending freeze. However, I would point out that it would be infeasible for a school district to have a complete and inflexible solid spending freeze where we couldn't purchase replacement LED batteries. We couldn't have septic tanks pumped, we couldn't have other essential purchases of ser-



School Board member Lisa Grenis

vices authorized. So periodically I do request for some of my colleague's requesting approval for an exception to the purchase pause. And those are granted on a case-by-case basis."

Grenis then asked Johnson how many people were in his department. Johnson responded, "I'll be sending a memo to respond to your questions that you emailed a few days ago."

Grenis then said, "Eight new computers were purchased for his department. And my understanding is there are about 13 staff members in there and they all fell during the spending freeze."

School Board President Antoine White responded, "This matter has been discussed and answered within our system."

Grenis responded, "Not to my satisfaction."

Commissioner Mike Hart said, "For 10 years, I've heard they can't stand back and forth. I agree back and forth is immaterial, but we should be able to say anything we need to say. And with Ms. Grenis saying that, there should be nothing that we can't talk about."

At the June 18 meeting, Tayman said, "Ms. Grenis, I don't know what you were thinking. Your behavior was embarrassing, and it reflected on all of us here at Calvert County Public Schools. I would like to respectfully recommend that you better vet your sources and to look into an issue before just exploiting it. We have professionals that do this work, and we are at the ready with a phone call to clarify, to have a conversation. Unfortunately, you and I have never had a conversation, but we are here, and we can help you in this journey. But last night, as the talks were progressing, you spoke out like a petulant child who was not getting her way with one parent. So, you went to another one. You represent us and you embarrassed us."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Chesapeake Beach Mayor Will Not Seek Re-election

During the June 12 Chesapeake Beach Town Council work session, Mayor Patrick “Irish” Mahoney announced that he would not be seeking re-election in 2024.

Mayor Mahoney provided some history to his time as an elected official in the Town of Chesapeake Beach, starting in 1996 at the youthful age of 42, when he was elected to the town council for the first time. Now, 28 years later, having served five terms as a member of town council and two terms as mayor, Mahoney conveyed that he is proud that he can say to anyone who asks that he has wholeheartedly done everything in his power to serve Town residents.

“As I prepare to celebrate my 70th birthday later this year, I’ve decided that what is best for my family, myself, and the town that I love is not to run for office in 2024. This decision has come with tremendous thought and consideration. Much of my consideration was my strong desire to ensure that the Town continues the same progress it has seen during my leadership; however, my wife and I are happy, healthy, entering our golden years, and looking forward to traveling with friends, spending more time with our family and loved ones. I trust that come November, our town residents will have paid close attention to who is running for the Office of Mayor, and I have full confidence in our town residents for this critical decision. I am announcing my decision early so that citizens are aware,” stated Mayor Mahoney.

Mayor Mahoney cited some of his many accomplishments over the past eight years of his leadership as the highest honor and privilege of his lifetime.

Some of the accomplishments Mahoney highlighted under his two terms as mayor, include:

- a reduction of debt by over \$7.5M;
- a reduction of property taxes by

\$516,765;

- increased police coverage dedicated to the Town of Chesapeake Beach;
- returned the public boat ramps to the public by terminating a privately held agreement that did not benefit the public, now hosting over 7,000 recreational boaters annually at the center of our Town — visitors to the ramps frequent our local businesses, tackle shops, and restaurants;
- adopted the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which genuinely reflects citizens’ desires to limit development in flood-prone areas, restrict building heights, decrease density and preserve our small-town charm, and protect our natural resources by zoning over 300 acres of critically sensitive land and wildlife habitat in resource conservation (RC) districts.

Mayor Mahoney summarized that “these are just some of the actions of this town council and town administration that have rerouted the direction of the town, from the days of the old where town taxpayer dollars and resources subsidized privately-owned special interests to the days of a new town that operates with tax dollars and resources supporting town citizens and businesses where everyone pays their fair share, policies are applied evenly and relatively no matter who they are.”

Mahoney noted that making changes of this size requires “a fantastic team dedicated to serving town residents.” He credited the town’s successes during his leadership to his “Operation’s Team” (town hall staff/contractors) and the town’s legislative team (town council and citizen boards, commissions, and volunteer committees).

The Mayor highlighted his Operations Team, “led by a true professional, Town Administrator Holly Wahl,” stating that “hiring Holly as the town’s first-ever professional Town Administrator was my first

and wisest move.”

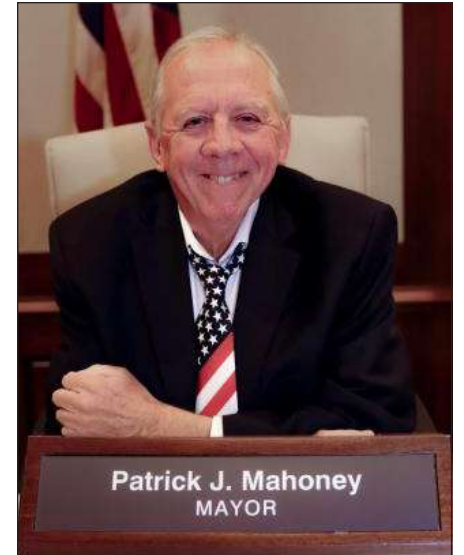
He said, “By professional, I mean a town administrator who is trained to think objectively, is willing to make hard decisions for the benefit of all town residents, a leader who works to ensure we retain our dedicated staff, providing them with the resources and support needed to remain mission-driven to serve you and most importantly to provide transparency and engagement for our citizenry. The town administrator plays a vital role in the success of our town staff in carrying out legislative priorities with efficiency.

“A true testament to this is our team of highly trained and competent staff from our Town Treasurer, Brittany Moran, who is the Town’s first Certified Public Accountant (CPA), our certified water and wastewater operators, and their leaders, Jay Berry and Josh Stinnett, to our ever-expanding volunteer participation co-producing governmental functions, volunteers who would not be so giving of their time if their efforts were wasted, overlooked or unheard. Her Senior staff and their employees are truly the backbone of all our success.”

“You, the citizens, gave me six citizen leaders each term to work collaboratively with, and I’m confident each of the current six council members is ready to step up to be your next mayor like I was eight years ago,” stated Mayor Mahoney as he individually addressed each town council member.

The mayor closed with his focus when he began his first term as mayor 8 years ago, with a priority to recruit a system of future leaders for the town’s various volunteer boards, commissions and committees, with the mayor commenting that he designed this system, “so they would be ready to step up,” adding, “Well, that day has come.”

Mayor Mahoney called for citizens to “please pay attention this coming elec-



tion,” adding, “Do you want to go back to the old days when certain elected officials fought long into the night over funding for Christmas decorations while prioritizing subsidizing their special interest friends, or do you want leaders like we have currently who invest in your Town, cut taxes each year and pay off town debt? I think the choice is clear; we must not go backward”.

Mayor Mahoney concluded that “it has been the honor of my lifetime to wake every morning knowing my job was to serve the men, women, and children who live within the town limits and to end my day, look in the mirror knowing in my heart that I did just that to the best of my ability. Thank you for bringing such honor and joy into my life.”

After the mayor’s announcement, Councilman Larry Jaworski led the Town Council and audience in a standing ovation for him.

Release from the Town of Chesapeake Beach

State Secretary Visits Calvert

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day visited parts of Huntingtown and Prince Frederick on Tuesday to learn more about Calvert County and shared goals.

Calvert County was the 10th stop in DHCD’s Day Trip series. The tours started in September 2023 to provide opportunities for DHCD to see the projects the agency has invested in and learn about the priorities of the community.

In a span from Fiscal Year 2020-24, DHCD invested more than \$41 million to provide affordable housing, revitalize neighborhoods and community businesses, improve internet services and support homeless services in Calvert County.

“The places we visited today show how collaboration between the state and local officials benefits the overall community,” said Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day. “No one knows Calvert County better than the people who live and work here and DHCD is ready to support its leadership to advance the area’s continued growth and



Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day (L) with Calvert County Commissioner President Earl F. “Buddy” Hance (R).

to ensure this will be Maryland’s decade.”

“Calvert County is addressing housing challenges head-on, fostering smart development that enhances economic prospects and ensures accessible, quality housing,” said Calvert County Commissioner President Earl F. “Buddy” Hance. “We are especially grateful for the support and collaboration of Secretary Day and his staff from the Department of

Housing and Community Development. Their recent visit facilitated productive conversations with our staff and community partners, reinforcing our shared commitment to tackling these vital issues together.”

Tuesday’s tour began in Huntingtown, where Secretary Day and senior staff visited the End Hunger food warehouse. End Hunger received a Community Development

Block Grant to help construct the facility that provides food for people in need across Southern Maryland. Funded federally and administered in Maryland by DHCD, CDBG helps strengthen communities by expanding affordable housing opportunities, creating jobs, stabilizing neighborhoods and improving the overall quality of life.

Later that morning, Secretary Day presented a check to Calvert County officials to celebrate a grant of \$100,000 from one of DHCD’s State Revitalization Programs in support of the Armory Square site in Prince Frederick. Funding through the State Revitalization Programs are primarily used to help with expenses associated with capital projects.

Once complete, Armory Square will serve as a multi-use pavilion that will support a walkable community, farmers market and event space.

The tour also featured a walk through Prince Frederick’s Main Street area before concluding with a community stakeholders meeting at the College of Southern Maryland.

Press Release from MD DECD

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of June 3, 2024 – June 9, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,831 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 62
- Disorderly: 23
- Domestic: 29
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 60
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 780
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 26
- Traffic Complaints: 73
- 911 Hang Ups: 77
- ARRESTS: 38



Mark Emery Cress, Jr.

CDS Violation: 24-44293 On June 5, 2024, Deputy R. Contic responded to the intersection of Rt. 2 and Kent Road in Sunderland, for the report of a suspicious person. Upon arrival, contact was made with **Mark**

Emery Cress, Jr., 41 of no fixed address. Deputies had responded to two prior calls that evening involving Cress. Cress was offered a ride but required a search of his person before entering the deputy's vehicle. A search of Cress's person revealed a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) including a Suboxone film package that contained residue. Cress was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Kyle Natalie Thomas

CDS Violation: 24-44564 On June 6, 2024, Deputy Chase initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle after observing multiple traffic violations along Robshire Manor Road in Huntingtown.

Further investigation revealed **Kyle Natalie Thomas**, 39 of Huntingtown, admitted to taking heroin earlier in the day and advised deputies a bag of heroin was inside the vehicle. A

vehicle search revealed controlled dangerous substances inside the vehicle. Thomas was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Jamaal Ali Ramsey

CDS Violation: 24-44718 On June 7, 2024, Det. Hudson initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle with improper registration on Rt. 260 and Harrison Blvd. in Chesapeake Beach. Contact was made with

the driver, **Jamaal Ali Ramsey**, 46 of SE Washington DC., who advised he did not possess a valid driver's license or registration card. Further investigation revealed K9 Kodak conducted a K9 sniff of the vehicle resulting in a positive alert. A vehicle search revealed clear capsules containing MDMA, a BB Gun, clear containers of suspected PCP, two scales, and a "Special Police" badge. Ramsey was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Lorenzo Cordell Mackall

CDS Violation: 24-44903 On June 8, 2024, Deputy Hill responded to Ulta Beauty located at 845 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a suspicious person. Upon arrival, contact was

made with **Lorenzo Cordell Mackall**, 36 of no fixed address. Further investigation revealed Mackall was possessing drug paraphernalia. Mackall advised deputies he had used narcotics earlier in the day. Mackall was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

CDS Violation: 24-45186 On June 9, 2024, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the 6500 block of 11th Street in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a person asleep behind the



Linda Diane Stokes

wheel of a vehicle. Deputies arrived on scene and observed **Linda Diane Stokes**, 29 of Chesapeake Beach, passed out with her foot on the brake and the vehicle still in drive. Stokes advised deputies she had used Heroin, a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) before leaving the house. Further investigation revealed CDS paraphernalia covered in a white powdery residue was found inside the vehicle. Stokes was arrested and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.

Damaged Property: 24-43971 On June 4, 2024, DFC Strong responded to the 3600 block on 28th Street in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised a trailer parked outside the residence had been damaged as several small dents were observed. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.



Devean Michael Gemoya

Disorderly Conduct: 24-44358 On June 6, 2024, Cpl. Naughton responded to the Rod N Reel Resort located at 4160 Mears Avenue in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a disorderly subject.

Contact was made with **Devean Michael Gemoya**, 20 of St. Leonard. Gemoya was underage and refused to leave the establishment after multiple requests. Gemoya was yelling and screaming causing a disturbance in front of other patrons. Gemoya was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Trespassing-Private Property, and Failure to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order of a Law Enforcement Officer.

Theft: 24-43659 On June 3, 2024, Deputy Parrott responded to the Solomons Nursing

Home at 13325 Dowell Road in Solomons, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised \$40 was stolen from his wallet sometime between May 5 and June 2, after it was left in an unlocked drawer. The total value of stolen property is \$40.00.

Theft: 24-43922 On June 4, 2024, Deputy Parrott responded to the 11800 block of HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between May 30 and June 3, multiple prescription medications, wrenches, and coins were taken from his unlocked vehicle while parked in the 600 block of Field Road in Lusby. The estimated value of stolen property is \$87.00.

Theft: 24-45012 On June 8, 2024, Deputy Campbell responded to the 4000 block of Hidden Hill Drive in Huntingtown, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between June 7 at 6:30 p.m. and June 8 at 9:30 a.m., an unknown subject(s) stole two Board of Education campaign signs from the victim's property. The estimated value of stolen property is \$20.00.

Theft: 24-45270 On June 9, 2024, Deputy Parrott responded to the Flag Harbor Marina located at 1565 Flag Harbor Blvd in St. Leonard, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised several boat parts and accessories had been stolen from his boatyard at various times. The stolen items include a Mercury 20hp boat motor, a wrench set, an engine mount, a boat prop, and an I-beam. The total value of stolen property is \$2,500.00.

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

Guilty Plea Entered for First-Degree Assault

Stephen Louis Betz pleaded guilty in Calvert County Circuit Court on June 17 to first-degree assault and reckless endangerment. Sentencing is scheduled for September 13, 2024, before Judge Mark S. Chandlee. Betz is facing a maximum punishment of 25 years incarceration.

On September 10, 2023, Betz and two other unidentified males entered a home in Owings and confronted the residents about alleged stolen medication. An argument ensued and one of the unidentified men displayed a firearm. The argument continued outside the home where shots were fired, striking the victim and a neighboring house. Investigators determined

that Betz brought the gunman to the scene in an effort to collect money that he thought was owed to him.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Allison S. Walton.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney



Stephen Louis Betz

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Fri, Jun 21

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
and Calvert Library Twin Beaches
4100 5th St., North Beach
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Jun 22

Toy Boat Building

Calvert Marine Museum
1 – 4 p.m.

Make a toy boat from wood under the Corbin Nature Pavilion! Space and materials are limited. Visitors will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. For ages 5 and up. Museum admission applies; In addition, a donation of \$2 per boat is requested. Sponsored by the Patuxent Small Craft Guild.

Sun, Jun 23

Sunday Afternoons with Poppie

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30–2:30 p.m.

Make your Sunday afternoon memorable by coming to visit with our very own Pop Star “Poppie,” our Virginia Opossum. You can join the Poppie paparazzi in the museum lobby with one of our educational interpreters, learn all kinds of fun possum facts, and visit our Museum Store for possum fan gear. Since the welfare of our animals is our primary concern, Poppie’s ability to visit with her adoring public may occasionally be subject to change on short notice.

Tue, Jun 25

Equity in History Teacher Institute

Calvert Marine Museum
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join fellow educators to learn about local resources that apply MSDE teaching standards for teaching the history of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color across Southern Maryland. The Equity in History Institute will be offered once at two other locations. Register for the one that works best for you. Choose a date and location that works for you. Institute is free with lunch included, but you must register in advance. Each institute will feature: Hands on experience with a new website providing in-depth searchable access to the history of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color across Southern Maryland. Geared to MSDE teaching standards. Learning about local Southern Maryland history and sign posts from local historian and archaeologist Dr. Julie King. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Harvest Your Dreams Workshop

The Barns at New Market
Charlotte Hall
5-8 p.m.

The Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC), a division of TCCSMD, is excited to announce a transformative workshop aimed at empowering farmers and small agricultural business owners for success. The workshop is free. Spaces are limited, please RSVP now to secure your spot. Included is a complimentary dinner while networking with fellow farmers and entrepreneurs.

Tween Summer Book Fest

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
6-7 p.m.

Join other book lovers during this fun summer book club! Each month we will read a new book and come together to discuss, play games and do activities. Did we mention there will be snacks?! The first ten (10) registrants get a copy of the book to keep! Contact your library branch at 410-535-0291 to pick up your book at least one week before the event. June’s book is the novel *Make a Move, Sunny Park!* by Jessica Kim. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jun 26

Job Seeker Resources – Skillbuilders

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment and Job Service representatives will be in person at Calvert Library Fairview to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk-ins welcome on June 26th. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Professional Interview Workshop

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Participants will learn professional techniques and the importance of effective interviewing. This workshop will teach you best practices for enhancing your interviewing skills by providing insight on dress attire, appropriate attitude, and professional etiquette and presentation. Virtual interview techniques are also discussed. More job-seeker help is available on mwejobs.maryland.gov. If you have questions or need more information about resources available, please contact Cheryl Thorne at Maryland Department of Labor (cheryl.thorne@maryland.gov). 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Hidden History of Southern Maryland

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6-8 p.m.

Celebrate Pride month with Calvert Library and discover the fabulous, if lesser known, hallmarks of Southern Maryland’s LGBTQ+ history and culture! 410-535-0291. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Jun 27

Little Minnows: Animals with a Hard Shell

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

For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum’s three themes. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Upcoming

Boyz II Men perform LIVE

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, June 28
7 p.m.

The iconic trio that has captivated audiences for over three decades, will perform LIVE at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. Gates open at 5 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$59 - \$99 (additional fees apply).

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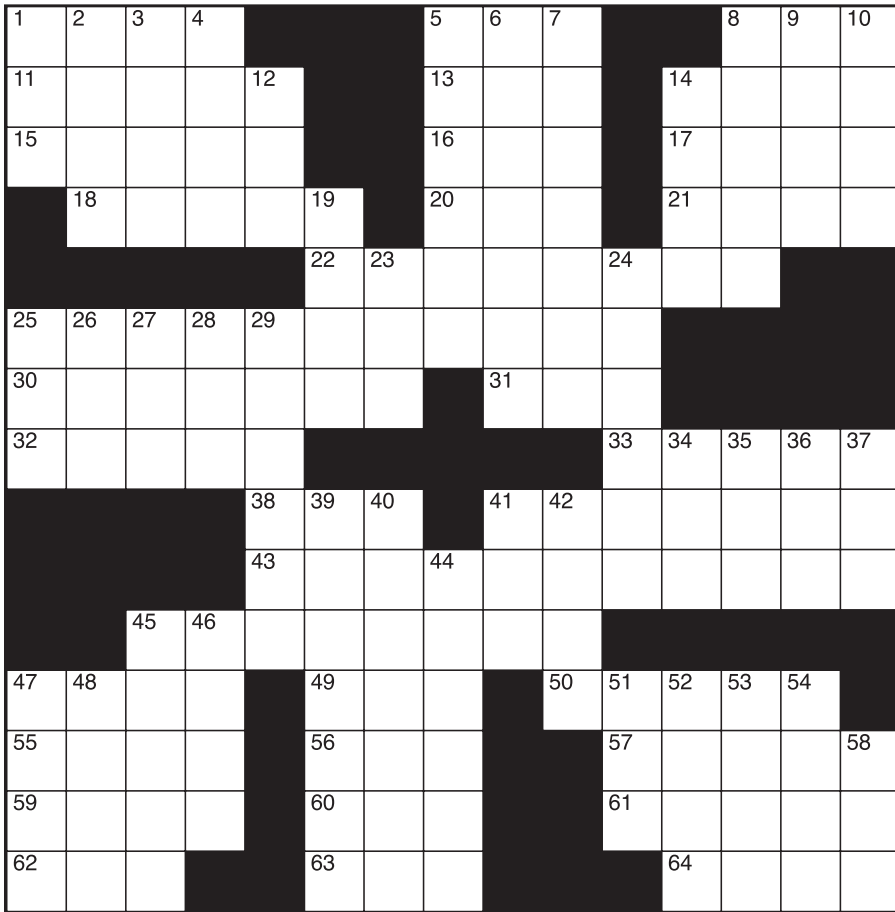
The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary’s and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies 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

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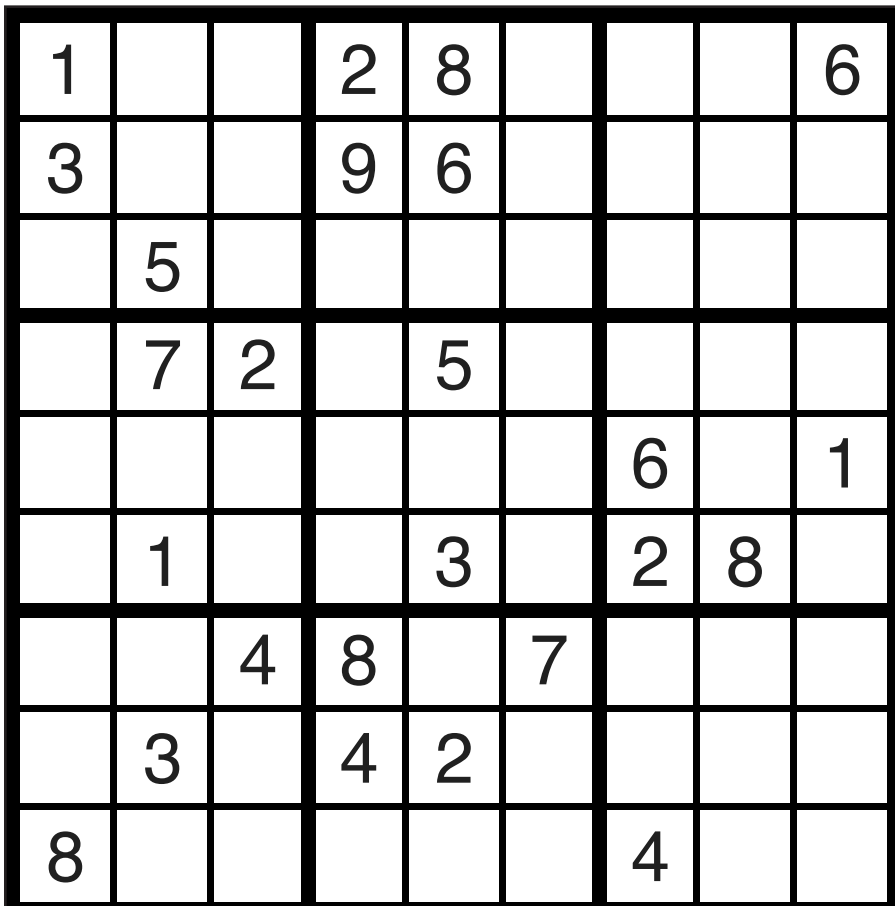


CLUES ACROSS

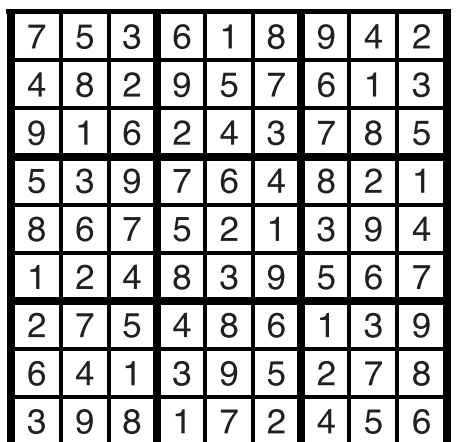
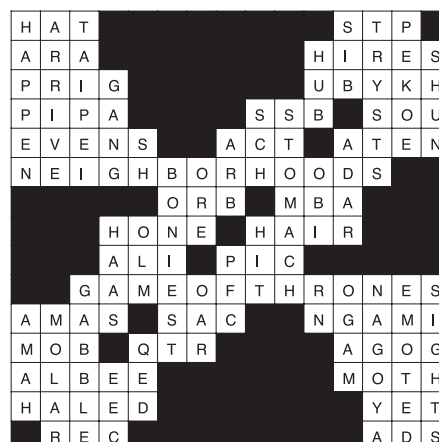
- 1. Breezed through
- 5. Supervises interstate commerce
- 8. Unruly group
- 11. Backs away from
- 13. Expression of understanding
- 14. Have concern for
- 15. Monetary units
- 16. Congressman (abbr.)
- 17. Iranian city
- 18. Eating houses
- 20. 2,000 lbs.
- 21. Grandmother
- 22. They include North, South and Central
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine
- 32. One who unloads cages
- 33. Another term for sesame
- 38. Formally forbid
- 41. Make clear
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Get through
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Decameter
- 50. Type of sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: ___ pai dong
- 63. Termination point
- 64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sign language
- 2. In style
- 3. Helsinki neighborhood
- 4. Unable to hear
- 5. More rapid
- 6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- 7. In a cagy way
- 8. Kate and Rooney are two
- 9. Algerian port
- 10. Community in Ladakh
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Town in Galilee
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Italian impressionist painter
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Chest muscle (slang)
- 26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
- 34. Baseball stat
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Popular sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Unlikely to provoke dissent
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Domesticated house pet
- 42. Untruths
- 44. Set out to attract
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Genus of flowering plants
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. River in central Europe
- 54. Harness
- 58. Father



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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Jun 21

“Sin and Scandal” at St. Mary’s—An Adults Only Tour

Godiah Spray Plantation
47621 Old Cove Rd., St. Mary’s City
5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

FRI.OR SAT. Tours: 5-6pm; 6:30-7:30pm. Vignettes & stories based on court records of 17th-century Maryland, with frank talk of sexuality, infidelity, and hot-button topics from documented cases of the time, featuring a pair of young lovers determined to spend their lives together no matter the cost. For ages 18+. www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events/sin-and-scandal-at-st-marys/

Cost: \$20 (\$15 for members). Limited space—Registration is REQUIRED with full payment at: hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov, 301-994-4371.

Sat, Jun 22

Amateur Radio Field Day

Historic Sotterley Plantation
44330 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood
2:30 p.m. to 10p.m.

Sponsored by the American Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL). This event is open to the public and all are welcome to come by and learn about the oldest communications hobby that is still in active use today. HAM RADIO operators work in Search and Rescue, military, emergency management, digital, and aerospace. It is also a Scouting merit badge! We will be at the barn across from the main parking area at Historic Sotterley. Come enjoy a beautiful day in Southern MD! www.sotterley.org

Sun, Jun 23

77th Church Anniversary

First Missionary Baptist Church
46370 Pegg Ln., Lexington Park
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You are cordially invited to join us! First Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Roderick W. McClanahan, will celebrate its 77th Church Anniversary on June 23, 2024, during the 10:00am Divine Worship. Our Guest Preacher will be Pastor Gloria Savoy of Zion Baptist Church, Welcome, MD.

The occasion will be held in the church Sanctuary; as well as virtually. The virtual phone number is 617-691-8533 or virtual meeting ID: join.freeconferencecall.com/fmbc0.

For additional information please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388, and we are located at 46370 Pegg Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

Sacred Heart Church Annual June Drive-Thru Dinner

Sacred Heart Church
23080 Maddox Rd., Bushwood
11 a.m. to 2p.m.

Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood will be hosting their Annual June Drive-Thru Dinner on Sunday, June 23rd. Menu includes: Crab Cakes, Fried Chicken, Country Ham, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Pickled Beets & Rolls. Price is \$30 per dinner cash or check only. There will be a Baked Goods Table available.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Book Swap and Reading Log Workshop

Bring a gently used book (no more than three items please) to the Lexington Park Library on Saturday, June 22 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. and leave with a new (to you) book! You'll also learn how to make your very own book log and make one to take home! You'll have a chance to discuss books with other readers and everyone will have a new book to bring home with them. Light refreshments provided. No registration.

Art Night for Kids

Join us at Leonardtown Library for our summer art series! This summer, we'll have art programs for kids to show them pieces of art from around the world and the art techniques used. After, they'll have a chance to recreate the piece, or use it as inspiration to make their own unique piece of art! The first art piece that we'll study and try to recreate will be Under the Wave of Kanagawa by Katsushika Hokusai, and we will be making foam block prints on Monday, June 24 from 6 - 7 p.m.

An Epic Story Adventure: Summer Performer

Wolf Trap Teaching Artist Ali Oliver-Krueger leads an interactive theater experience!

We'll use our voices, bodies, imagination, & cooperation to create epic stories & imaginary voyages together. Two sessions will be held on Monday, June 24. The first will be held at Leonardtown Library at 10:30 a.m., second session will be at Mechanicsville Elementary School at 2 p.m. Most seating will be on the floor. Summer Performing Arts events are supported in part by a grant from the St. Mary's County Arts Council.

Tie Dye Block Party

It's hip. It's happening at all three Library locations on Friday, June 28 at 10 a.m. It's a tie-dye block party. Join us and make your very own groovy garment. Ages 8 to 18. The Library will supply 1 cotton bandana per person to tie-dye, but you are welcome to bring 1 additional item (tee, bag, hat, etc.) if you'd like. You will have 20 minutes to complete your tie-dye project. Register on www.stmalib.org for an appointment. Each appointment is for one participant only. Wear something you won't mind getting messy.

Bridgerton Whodunit Party

Did you binge all of Season 3 of Bridgerton already and now you can't wait for more? Come participate in a mystery party themed around the fan-favorite regency romance at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, June 29 from 10 a.m. - 12

p.m. Participants will be contacted the day before the program and assigned a unique character inspired by the Bridgerton book series by Julia Quinn and Netflix television adaptation. Feel free to come in period-inspired attire or costumes if you would like (some of the characters may even allow you to use your best fake accent if you chose). You will then mill about the parlor, chat with other guests, enjoy tea and snacks, and, of course, attempt to uncover who Lady Whistledown could be and why they are spreading gossip and rumors throughout the Ton. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Community Chess Day

An all-ages chess social hang-out! Drop in and out to play as needed, no experience required. Staff will be available to assist those who haven't played before. Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, June 29 from 2 - 4 p.m. Small chess guides will be available for each player for reference. Chess boards will be provided by the library, but feel free to bring your favorite set. No registration.

Library Holiday Closures

All locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. All locations will be open regular business hours on Friday, July 5.

Tabletop Hangout

Saturday Afternoon Tabletop Gaming Hangout! Open tables to play card games, TTRPGs, tabletop games and more at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, July 6 from 1 - 4 p.m. The library will provide a small amount of games, but you can bring your own and play with folks new and old! If you're interested in running a game for the community, fill out the form here and we'll make sure it's noted in the description below! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Adult Crafternoon: Paper Plate Printmaking

Do you love making art and trying out new projects? Come hang out and make crafts without the pressure to be perfect at Leonardtown Library on Monday, July 8 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. This month we'll try out printmaking with plates and paint! Come with a design in mind or use one of ours. All participants will leave with their plate/matrix and all of the prints that they made during the program. Materials will be provided. This program is meant for adults, but no prior skills in printmaking are needed. Register on www.stmalib.org.

In Remembrance

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to aldailey@countytimes.net by noon on Tuesdays for publication on Thursdays. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

Pat Riegel, 89



Patricia Jane (Flynn) Riegel, 89, passed away peacefully at home in the company of her family on May 31st, 2024.

Born September 9th, 1934, to Joseph and Irene Flynn

in Queens, NY, Pat had many interests, to include history, music, literature, needlepoint, and Catholicism. She graduated from Bethesda Chevy Chase High School in 1952. In 1956, she graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelors Degree in English with a minor in psychology. Pat earned her Masters in Career Counseling from Chapman College in 1981. Her lifelong Catholic faith was central to her character and her approach to service of others. In 2002, she completed a four-year course in Biblical Studies from the Archdiocese of Denver.

The day after graduation from UMD, Pat married Bob Riegel, and began her career as an Air Force wife. Her ability to pick up, move, and plug into new communities as a natural leader served her and her family well. Pat was recognized as Military Wife of the Year at Little Rock Air Force Base in 1973 for her work in the community. In addition to being a Girl Scout troop leader in four councils, and Tres Condados Girl Scout Council President, Pat was a Eucharistic Minister and lector for eight parishes for over 50 years. She was a docent and past-president of volunteers at two living-history parks: Prelado de los Tesoros at La Purisima State Historic Park in Lompoc, California and Four Mile Historic Park in Denver, Colorado. Pat was an active member and president of the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of the American Association of University Women for several years. She also served in several leadership roles for the Denver Symphony Guild. As a parent, Pat was supportive without being over-bearing, loving without being smothering, and understanding without being overly permissive. As a wife of nearly 68 years, she was a dedicated life partner and one half of a perfect pair.

Pat loved her dogs. She treated her dachshunds like ankle-height indulged children. They were well cared for and returned her affection. Fritz stayed close to her in her final days, and when he was no longer allowed to lie in bed with her, he took up residence under her bed to stay close.

Pat is survived by her husband, Lt. Col Robert W. Riegel, USAF (retired), her children Kathleen (Peter) Hayes of Oakland, CA, Alison (Brian) Robinson of Leonardtown, MD, Margaret (Karl Petermann) Riegel of Oakland, CA, Jennifer (Roger) Johnson of Leonardtown, MD, and Robert (Anne) of Colorado Springs, CO, 15 grandchildren, and a growing roster of over 17 great grandchildren. Pat was predeceased by her parents and by her sister, Kathleen Flynn, of Orlando, FL.

We cherish the handmade treasures she gifted to each of us over the years, and we will

strive to be a living testimony to her good life. A Memorial Mass will be held at Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Church in Leonardtown, MD on June 24th, 2024 at 11 A.M. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Denver Symphony Guild Gold Circle at <http://coloradosymphonyguild.org/support-us>.

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

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

Berda Everson, 74



Berda Jean Everson, 74, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on June 15, 2024. Born on July 12, 1949, in Bryan, Ohio, Berda was the beloved daughter of David Sr. and Dominga

Maldonado.

After graduating high school in Texas, Berda began a fulfilling career journey in Washington, DC, starting at The National Association of Letter Carriers and later bringing her talents to The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. Later in life, she transitioned to a position in the St. Mary's County Public School District, where her presence left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of meeting her.

On April 21, 1969, Berda married the love of her life, Richard Everson, Sr. Their enduring marriage was blessed with two children: Richard Everson, Jr. of Mechanicsville, MD, and Rhonda Everson of Alexandria, VA. Together they created a family that was the center of her world.

Berda retired in 2008, allowing her more time to pursue her many hobbies. She found joy in cooking, quilting, ceramics, and listening to music. Above all, she prioritized spending time with her family and creating cherished memories with her loved ones.

Berda was preceded in death by her parents David Sr. and Dominga Maldonado, along with her siblings Joseph Maldonado, Angelita Maldonado, Roberto Maldonado, and Johnnie Maldonado.

Berda is survived by her beloved husband, Richard; her children, Richard Jr. and Rhonda; her granddaughter Natalie McClure (Dustin) of Maryland. She is also survived by her siblings: Stella Sanchez (TX), Gloria Maldonado (MD), David Maldonado (TX), Ernestine Zawitkowski (TX), Joe Maldonado (AL), and Kathy Maldonado (NC).

On Friday, June 21, 2024, the family will receive friends for the visitation from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm with prayers at 7:00 pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD. A mass officiated by Father Michael Tietjen will be held the following day on the 22nd at Immaculate Conception Church, 28297 Old Village Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. Interment will follow after

the service at Queen of Peace Cemetery, 38888 Dr. Johnson Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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

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

Berda's warmth, generosity, and love for her family will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Michael Lizbinski, 81



Michael Joseph Lizbinski, Sr., 81, passed away peacefully at his river-view home in Breton Beach in the loving care of his wife, Sarah Lizbinski, and son,

Michael Lizbinski, Jr. He was born in Kelyares, Pennsylvania to Mary (Wojslaw) Lizbinski and Adam Lizbinski on December 18, 1942. His parents came from Poland, his father was a coal miner and his mother a homemaker. He was one of many closely-knit brothers and sisters. He and his siblings performed many family chores together including walking long distances in the mountains to pick huckleberries. He and his family attended the Polish National Catholic Church and he sang in the choir. He fixed things around the home for his mother and enjoyed deer hunting and riding his dirt bike on the mountain trails. He was a member of a Little League baseball team of strong coal miner sons who made it to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

He graduated from high school in McAdoo, Pennsylvania and attended Penn State- Hazleton Campus and later Penn State-Main Campus where he graduated with a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. He spent his career as an electrical engineer and software engineer at Westinghouse, Baltimore, Maryland, Naval Air Development Center (NADC), Warminster, Pennsylvania, where he obtained an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from The George Washington University, and Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), Patuxent River, Maryland where he retired in 2002.

Michael Lizbinski, Sr. married Sarah Van Dyke Lizbinski in 1977 and they had two wedding ceremonies, one for his family in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania and one for her family in Bel Air, Maryland. Michael, Jr. was born in 1978.

During his twenty years with NADC in Warminster, he and his family lived in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. During this time he was an assistant baseball coach of youth teams. Whenever the head coach would go away for an extended time, Mike Sr. would take over as head coach and the previously mediocre team would suddenly go on a winning streak! He also enjoyed auto and home maintenance, including tinkering with small engines. In addition he liked to design and build unique, fun toy projects like a fris-

bee-launcher made using a 1950's era egg beater, a fully functioning toy crane for his son's sandbox, a wooden jungle-gym, a "Spirit of St. Louis" model airplane, and a pendulum clock that swung back and forth using electromagnets. He enjoyed listening to Polish-American polka records and would oftentimes sing along to the music.

He retired to his Breton Beach, Leonardtown, home in 2002 and enjoyed maintaining his small crabbing boat and out-board motor. He and a close friend enjoyed crabbing with a trotline on Breton Bay and they would occasionally trailer their boats to Benedict, Maryland to crab in the Patuxent River. Upon returning from a day of crabbing, he would steam the day's catch on his screened-in porch and enjoy eating the crabs with family and friends. He enjoyed the company of close friends that he made in the Breton Beach community.

He especially enjoyed using his trusty chainsaw along with a log-splitter to cut firewood for his wood-burning stove. He continued repair and maintenance projects around his home such as fixing his laundry washer and dryer, and keeping outdoor power equipment including his riding lawnmower in working order. He also planted flowers, shrubs, and trees around his yard and enjoyed collecting, processing, and eating chestnuts from his chestnut trees.

He and his wife Sarah were married for forty-six years. They watched the show "Jeopardy!" together every night and kept score to see who could get more questions correct. He was a dedicated husband, father, and family man.

During a Christmas Eve service at FSCC that he attended with his family, Pastor Stan Cardwell's sermon touched Mike Sr.'s heart and he started attending FSCC regularly. He attended FSCC for many years and has made many good friends here. He enjoyed talking with friends and was knowledgeable about a wide-range of topics. He enjoyed coming to church and, picking up on his Polish National Catholic choir background, enjoyed singing the traditional hymns at FSCC. His faith in God and the reassurance of his family helped him through his last days. What a joy it is to know that he has been released from his pain and that he is now with Christ in heaven!

He is survived by his loving wife, Sarah Lizbinski (Leonardtown), son Michael Lizbinski, Jr. (Leonardtown), daughter-in-law Laura Lizbinski (Leonardtown), brother Chester Lizbinski (Conyngham, PA), sister-in-law Cathy Lizbinski (Conyngham, PA) and many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews.

The family will received friends on Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 10am to 11am with a funeral service starting at 11am celebrated by Pastor Chris Owens all at First Saints Community Church, 25550 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



June Journal

I have already said, and heard a few people say, “Oh my gosh half of the year is already over” or “Where did the first part of the year go” or “Where has June gone”. All of these statements are true, half a year is gone and I’m not sure where it went. Last Monday after I had my Driver’s License renewed for another 8 years, which hopefully I will still be here for when I hit 71, I made an impromptu stop at one of my favorite places when I have the time: The Loveville Produce Auction. It just takes any stress out of me. I was especially happy because one of my bestest friends, Karen, was sitting in one of the chairs bidding on fresh fruits and veggies. Sometimes spontaneous times with good friends are the best. And it’s always good to see Mike and Connie Stauffer who are always in good cheer and who are always smiling when handling the smaller auction side. I bid on a bunch of items and came home with two huge boxes of fruit and vegetables, a purple Impatien hanging plant (I sometimes get Impatiens and Petunias mixed up though). And somehow, I ended up coming home with four small fruit pies too. I wanted that cherry pie badly – I was so hungry. The first thing I did when I got home was get a slice of that cherry pie with the beautifully designed crust (It was delicious Carolyn – hope I got your name right, I was so anxious to eat that pie that I didn’t write anything down).



Right now, Robert and I are in birthday week; his birthday was Tuesday and mine is Saturday. Tuesday, Robert’s daughter took us to The Lighthouse for dinner with two of our grandchildren, and the granddaughter’s boyfriend. It was a breezy, beautiful night on the outside deck where everyone enjoyed crabcakes, seafood dinners, and I had my beloved softshell crab sandwich. Robert was brought out a delicious chocolate filled brownie with Ice cream and whipped cream and a candle (along with 6 spoons). As for my birthday on Saturday, the way the weather is looking with brutally hot temperatures, this may be a stay at home birthday...well, unless I am taken out for dinner somewhere when it is cooler in the evening.

I hope all the dad’s had a nice Father’s Day. The weather was beautiful. Robert’s daughter and boyfriend had us over for crabs, hot dogs, and Brats and lots of extras on Sunday. It was a picture perfect day. I was the diehard eating every last crab like usual. There is nothing like eating crabs and staring out at the water. Miss Mindy, the crazy hound dog loved it as well. I’ve added the photo of our end of the day in the swinging bench with Mindy between us. I look like Lily Tomlin’s character Edith Ann on Rowan and Martin’s Laugh In with my (Pale) legs not touching the ground. It was windy out but that helped to keep some of the bugs away. I can’t believe how those tiny, no-see-um gnats bite so hard.

Monday evening and Tuesday, we had the honor of attending the prayers and funeral service of a much beloved local man, Joseph Owens, up here in Mechanicsville. It was a beautiful prayer service where his daughter-in-law Christine gave a lovely eulogy touching on so many facets of Mr. Owens life. The poem by Wes Ryce brought tears to everyone in attendance as did the singing and playing of guitar of Wes and the singing of his daughter Karlee. They also played at the funeral service at the church and at the reception afterwards at Rita B’s The Belmont.

Mr. Owens was often seen, along with his sweet wife, out in their large flower garden no matter what the temperature at their home on Mechanicsville Road. I, and many others, bought a lot of mums from them, and Mr. Owens would place each one in a box and load it in the back of my car. He told me that the mums were what helped pay for all the grandkids Christmas presents. And if the Owens weren’t at home you could pick a flower bouquet from inside the garage and leave the money by the honor system. Mr. Owens was a much respected and admired man throughout the county. He will be missed.

Well, I hope the rest of June, and the other half of this year, is good to you.

To each new day’s adventure, Shelby

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Avoid these estate planning mistakes

By the time you reach retirement age, you may have accumulated a 401(k), IRA and other investment accounts, along with insurance policies and physical properties. You’ll use some of these assets to support your retirement, but the rest may end up in your estate — which is why an estate plan is so important.

So, to leave a legacy for your family and those philanthropic groups you support, you need a comprehensive estate plan — and you need to avoid making mistakes. Here are some of the most common ones:

- Procrastinating – Estate planning, and its implications about our mortality, may not be a pleasant topic to think about. Yet, putting off your estate plans can be risky. If you were to pass away or become incapacitated without doing any estate planning, the results could be costly for your loved ones. One possible consequence: If you haven’t at least created a basic, simple will, the courts could decide how to divide and distribute your assets, and they may do so in a way you wouldn’t want.
- Not updating wills and other documents – Drafting a will and other legal documents, such as a living trust, is an important step in your estate planning. But you shouldn’t just create these arrangements and forget about them. Changes in your life and among your loved ones — deaths, divorce, remarriage, new children and more — may result in the need for you to update your estate plans, so it’s a good idea to review them periodically.
- Not updating beneficiaries – Similar to updating your will to reflect changes in your life and family situation, you may also need to update the beneficiaries listed on your financial accounts and insurance policies. These designations carry a lot of weight and can even supersede instructions in your will, so you’ll need to make sure they are current and accurate.
- Not properly titling assets in a trust – Depending on your situation, you may benefit from establishing a living trust, which may allow your estate to avoid the time-consuming and expensive process of probate. A living trust also helps give you control over how, and when, you want your assets distributed. However, you need to retitle your assets in the name of the trust for the trust to be effective.
- Not choosing the right executor – An executor carries out your wishes based on the instructions you’ve given in your will or trust documents. But fulfilling an executor’s duties is not as simple as, say, following a recipe for a basic meal. Consequently, while you might just want to pick a close family member as executor, you need to be sure this person is competent, good with details and won’t be overwhelmed by the financial and legal issues involved in settling an estate. If your initial choice doesn’t have these skills, you may need to find a responsible person outside the family.

Finally, here’s one more mistake: going it alone. Estate planning is not a do-it-yourself activity. To help ensure your estate plan addresses all the issues involved, you’ll need to work with a legal advisor, and possibly your tax and financial professionals, too.

Devoting the necessary time and effort can help you avoid many of the mistakes that threaten the effectiveness of estate plans — and the fewer mistakes you make, the better off your beneficiaries can be.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

PMA-272 Welcomes New Leadership

The Advanced Tactical Aircraft Protection Systems Program Office (PMA-272) welcomed new leadership when Col. Russell A. "Bubba" Strange assumed command as program manager from Brig. Gen. Tamara Campbell during a change of command ceremony June 11 at the Rear Adm. William A. Moffett Building at NAS Patuxent River.

PMA-272 manages the development, acquisition, and sustainment of operational advances in aircraft survivability equipment.

Recently pinned as brigadier general, Campbell, served as the program manager since August 2020, taking the lead amid the COVID pandemic.

"It underscored the dynamic changes we experienced as a program office over the past four years," she said.

Looking back on her time as program manager, Campbell lauded the 272 team for their resilience and the way they supported one another inside and outside the office.

"We went through some very hard times during COVID and afterwards, and lost some close friends and co-workers," she said. "This team showed up for each other each and every day."

Campbell added that maintaining focus on the basics – cost, schedule and performance – and redoubling efforts to build



strong stakeholder relationships enabled the team to overcome the challenges of loss and the changing fiscal environment.

"The strength of a team is not how they react in good times, but how they recover from adversity," she said. "This team is strong and continues to ensure that our Sailors and Marines can fly fearlessly!"

The program unveiled numerous initiatives to advance the development of Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE) designed to increase advocacy and understanding for key ASE programs moving forward. These

included an ASE Strategy for the Future, the Joint Airborne Mission Survivability (JAMS) initiative, and the PMA-272 Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence concept.

Campbell's support of cradle-to-grave development, testing and evaluation, and fielding of Air Expendable Countermeasures (AECM), included the development, testing and fielding of new advanced countermeasures including the MJU-76/B, MJU-77/B, MJU-78/B and RR-203.

Campbell's next assignment is Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command.

Strange said he's looking forward to joining the 272 team and "being in the arena with a phenomenal team providing critical capability to those who are defending our way of life."

Strange, a graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Quantitative Economics and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Shortly after, he earned his Naval Flight Officer wings, completed EA-6B Prowler Fleet Replacement Squadron training, and was designated an Electronic Countermeasures Officer.

His NAVAIR assignments include: two tours with the Airborne Electronic Attack Systems Program Office (PMA-234) as the Military Deputy Integrated Product Team Lead (IPTL) of the AN/ALQ-231 Intrepid Tiger II and then as the Deputy Program Manager of both Airborne Electronic Attack Products and EA-6B; the Navy and Marine Corps Small Tactical Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) Program Office (PMA-263) as the Military Medium UAS IPTL for RQ-21A Blackjack and Unmanned Logistics Systems – Air; and the H-53 Heavy Lift Helicopters Program Office (PMA-261) as the Deputy Program Manager of the CH-53K.

Pet

of the Week

MEET SCRAPPY

If you want to really be happy, then you need to come and meet our Scrappy!

Hi, my name is Scrappy. I'm a 2-MONTH-OLD black kitten who's ready to bring some SERIOUS FUN to your life! I'm a little guy who is an avid toy wrestler, always ready to take down my next plush opponent. I'm also a SOCIAL BUTTERFLY who loves hanging out with other kittens and my purr is so DELIGHTFUL it'll make you grin from ear to ear. If you're looking for a TINY, FURRY ENTERTAINER to join YOUR FAMILY, then I'm definitely your man! Please come meet me and get ready for NON-STOP PURRS and playtime! Our adoption hours are Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm.

BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>

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Continued from page 7

In July, learn how to take and record your blood pressure and oxygen levels. In August, learn how to remain hydrated during summer activities. Advance registration is required.

Sun-Sensational Soiree with Bushmill Band

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Friday, August 23
Doors Open: 11 a.m.
Lunch Served: 11:30 a.m.
Performance: 12 p.m.
Cost: \$7 for those under the age of 60
By donation for those ages 60 and up

Come celebrate and have a Sun-Sensational time with friends and the sounds of the local Bushmill Band. The Bushmill Band is an acoustic, 4-piece band featuring guitar, banjo, dobro, and bass, playing folk, bluegrass, and old-time country. Advance registration is required.

Yarn Summer Wreath

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Thursday, July 11
1 p.m.
Cost: \$7

Come join us to create a beautiful summer themed yarn wreath. You will use yarn, embellishments, and flowers to create a delightful door wreath for the summer. All supplies provided. Color scheme and embellishments will vary person to person based on selections made during class. Advance registration required.

Loffler Appreciation Day

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Friday, July 19
1-4 p.m.
Cost: Free

Visit the Loffler Senior Activity Center and see what we have been up to. Feel free to bring the whole family, all ages are welcome. There will be live music by our very own Loffler Sunshine Singers and from a local band, called Folk Salad. There will be face painting, corn hole, classic cars, and line dancing lessons. Loffler Senior Activity Center offers art classes, exercise classes, games, social groups, arts and crafts, and so much more. Many of these activity leaders will be on site to answer any questions you may have. We will also feature St. Mary's County government agencies that provide support to senior citizens. The Salted Scoop Ice Cream truck will also be on site from 1-3 p.m. Payments will be handled at the food truck. Come and join in on the fun!

Art with Jamie

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, August 13 & 27- Color Theory
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: \$25 per session, supplies included

You will create a personal color wheel that

will guide you in all your art ambitions. Then you will use your knowledge of all the colors to create beautiful one-of-a-kind landscape collage that will be ready to frame. This is a great refresher course for all of artists out there, but also a wonderful jump into the arts for beginners. Advance registration required.

Zen Barre® Class – Yoga, Ballet, & more!

Northern Senior Activity Center
Mondays, July 8-29 (4-sessions)
11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Cost: \$38 for series

Join certified instructor Paty Massón for this new fitness series! Zen Barre® is an effective choice for building muscular strength, particularly in your legs, glutes, and core, while helping with balance and flexibility. This low impact exercise is considered a cardiovascular practice which improves bone density and metabolism. It's a fun way to stretch your muscles and ligaments to boost your mental wellness by coordinating music and movements. It's also a mixture of yoga and ballet which uplifts mood and stimulates memory. IMPORTANT: This is recommended for people who can exercise standing up and want to improve balance, flexibility, and strength. It will include usage of the barre, mats, and balancing balls.

Smooth Sounds of Freedom! with Bruce Thomas

Northern Senior Activity Center
Thursday, July 11
11-12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5 for snacks, entertainment, & prize fee
Regular lunch fees apply

Happy birthday, USA! Join us for this post-Independence Day themed celebration. Enjoy a delicious BBQ cookout-style lunch meal with snacks, drinks & desserts. Listen to great entertainment from musical guest Bruce Thomas. Lunch fees collected upon arrival – payable by cash, card, or check.

Art Pottery: Sun OR Green Woman Face

Northern Senior Activity Center
Fridays, July 12 & 26
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: \$10

Pottery craftswoman, Pam King, will instruct the crafting of a decorative face with a Sun OR "Green Woman" design for fun in the garden or home!

Genealogy: U.S. Census Documents

Northern Senior Activity Center
Monday, July 15
10-11 a.m.
Cost: Free

Join local family-heritage enthusiast, Louise McDonald, for this free & informative event! Louise will provide an overview of the unique aspects of U.S. Census Bureau data, plus important things to be aware of

when using their database. This session begins with a presentation then progresses to a workshop environment of discussion and assistance. No prerequisite genealogy class or prior knowledge needed.

Living Well with Chronic Conditions

Northern Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, July 16-August 20
(6-sessions)
1-3:30 p.m.
Cost: Free

Start caring for yourself and improving your life while dealing with a chronic health condition. This evidence-based program was developed by Stanford University to help people with chronic conditions take charge of their life through self-management skills—such as dealing with depression and fatigue, pain management, working with health care providers and more. There is no charge for taking this series; however, a commitment to regular attendance is needed for good results.

LSVT-BIG®: Parkinson's, Balance, & Mobility

Northern Senior Activity Center
Thursday, July 18
10-11 a.m.
Cost: Free

Jennifer Whelan of NovaCare Rehabilitation (Leondartown) is visiting to provide information on LSVT-BIG® (Lee Silverman Voice Treatment) therapy, which is used for Parkinson's patients, as well as seniors who have balance, mobility, and gait issues. Ms. Whelan will also discuss exercises that can be utilized by everyone.

Cupcake Decorating with Sweetheart Cupcakes

Northern Senior Activity Center
Friday, July 19
1-2 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Join Rebecca of Sweetheart Cupcakes to learn how to decorate cupcakes for events, holidays, or just for fun! You will complete 2 cupcakes with a summer theme. Supplies will be provided.

Drums Alive®: Golden Beats®

Northern Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, August 6-September 10
(6-sessions)
2-3 p.m.
Cost: \$12 for series

Drums Alive® uses drumming, music, and movement, to make the most of health and wellness in a fun & engaging way. Golden Beats® emphasizes & enhances the fitness and lives of older adults – stimulating those young at heart. This version will be less intensive and accommodating to most participants. Seated only. Great for first timers or returning participants! Program Specialist and certified trainer Keilan Ruppert will lead this program for a limited group over the course of 6 weeks.

Northern Stars Movie Club: Yesterday

Northern Senior Activity Center
Monday, August 12
1-3:15 p.m.
Cost: Free

Get your snacks and popcorn ready! This bi-monthly film club, led by Program Specialist Keilan Ruppert, explores classic and modern movies. The club reviews each film based on specific criteria, then assigns a rating using 1 to 5 "Northern stars." This month's film selection is *Yesterday* (2019, Romantic Comedy/Musical, PG-13, 1 hr. 57 min.) "After a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed. Performing songs by the greatest band in history to a world that has never heard them, Jack becomes an overnight sensation with a little help from his agent."

Floral Design with Local, Seasonal Blooms

Northern Senior Activity Center
Thursday, August 15
1-3 p.m.
Cost: \$35 (fee partially sponsored)

Join Florist Ian Tresselt to explore the world of summer blooms grown by farmers in our tri-county region. Whether you want to elevate your design skills or learn how to build an arrangement for the first time, this workshop is for you. During this hands on experience, you'll learn ways to prepare vessels for flowers, how to cut flowers to enhance their longevity, as well as the basic building blocks of a designed arrangement. Participants will leave the workshop with a beautiful arrangement to enjoy at home. All tools and vases will be provided. See page 24 for how to register. Photo Credit: Melissa Barrick Creative Co.

Basket Weaving: Summer Bucket Basket

Northern Senior Activity Center
Friday, August 23
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cost: \$30

Experienced basket artisan Pam King will guide you through the creation of a summer-bucket basket! Perfect for home décor, or as a handmade gift for a loved one.

Line Dancing with Geneva

Northern Senior Activity Center
Monday, August 26
1-3 p.m.
Cost: Free

Experienced line dancing instructor Geneva Leon will be visiting to teach new dances. This class is ideal for everyone, whether you are a seasoned dancer or new to line dancing. Seasoned dancers can learn new moves to practice with their friends and new dancers can meet a whole crew of fun-loving dancers.

card books. When you come, we'll provide "How to Play American 500" information, which we'll use to teach you how to play, if needed.

We look forward to a fun time! Please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080, if you are interested in joining this group.

Basic Photography Class

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Mondays, August 5, 12, 19, 26
1-3 p.m.
Cost: Free

Dean Newman will teach you basic photography skills using a digital camera. Participants are encouraged to bring their digital cameras to learn camera functions and essentials of basic photography. Advance registration is required.

Sweetheart Cupcake Decorating Class

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, July 2
1 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Join Rebecca of Sweetheart Cupcakes to learn a variety of techniques to decorate cupcakes. You will complete 2 cupcakes with a July 4th theme! Supplies will be provided. Advance registration is required.

Iris Folding Projects – Water Can & Butterfly

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, August 20
1 p.m.
Cost: Free

Join Toni as she guides you through creating two Iris Folding projects for your garden. A watering can and a butterfly card ready for you to take home and add a personalized message. Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite scissors. Advance registration is required.

Crafts with Chris - Wine Glass Painting

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, July 16
1 p.m.
Cost: \$5

Join artist, Chris Sisk, to create a lovely painted wine glass just in time for the picnic season. All skill levels are welcome. Supplies will be provided. Advance registration is required.

Make a Dream Catcher with Toni

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, August 27
1 p.m.
Cost: Free

People all around the world regard dream catchers as beautiful and interesting objects. Using donated crocheted doilies you will create a unique dreamcatcher. Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite scissors. Advance registration is required.

Crafts with Penny B - Beach themed Wine Bottle with Lights

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Thursday, July 25
1 p.m.
Cost: \$20

Penny brings her unique artistic touch to a wine bottle to create beach theme décor. The shells may vary based on selection available. All supplies will be provided. Advance registration is required.

ClearCaptions

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Thursday, August 1
1 p.m.
Cost: Free

Come learn how ClearCaptions is available to qualified, hard-of-hearing U.S. residents at no cost as part of the Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Available for home and mobile device calling. Advance registration is required.

Movie Madness

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Thursdays, July 18 & August 15
1 p.m.
Cost: Free
Optional snack pack purchase: \$3

Come join us on the third Thursday of the month to enjoy a movie. There is no charge for the movie, but there will be snack packs available for purchase. You can also bring your own snacks! Advance registration is required.

- July: *Casablanca* (PG)
A cynical expatriate American cafe owner struggles to decide whether to help his former lover and her fugitive husband escape the Nazis in French Morocco.
- August: *Mama Mia* (PG-13)
Set on a colorful Greek island, the plot serves as a background for a wealth of ABBA songs.

Oasis Senior Resources: Planning for Aging and Safety in our Homes.

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, July 23
1 p.m.
Cost: Free

Join Oasis Senior Advisor Darlene Seller, RN, to learn and discuss ways to plan to stay in your home longer and safely. The goal of aging in place is to live safely and independently as possible in your chosen home setting. Advance registration is required.

Health Watch

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Wednesday, July 17: *How to Take Your Blood Pressure & Pulse Oximeter Readings*
Wednesday, August 21: *Preventing Dehydration*
9:30 a.m.
Cost: Free

Continued on page 8

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Or thinking about buying
or selling your home?



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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

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

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysCountyMD.gov/aging for the most up-to-date information. To register for activities online, visit StMarysCountyMD.gov/aging and click on the View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs button.

Embroidery Card-Making Class

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, July 2 & August 6
1:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5

This method of card-making is used to create stunning gifts or greeting cards that will be suitable for framing. The technique uses single-strand embroidery thread and a fine needle to make line designs on quality card stock. This would be a great opportunity to make personalized cards for those important people in your life! Omega will teach you everything you need to know to create these cards. Bring your scissors, tape, and a needle. The price includes the material to make the card. Advanced registration is required.

Watercolor with T.L. Ford

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, July 9 & August 13
1:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25

Would you like to learn how to paint with watercolor on a smaller scale? Come join T.L. Ford of Cattail.Nu, LLC, as she teaches you the basics of watercolor painting in a relaxing, informal setting. No experience or drawing skills are necessary and everything you need is provided! Advanced registration is required.

Book Discussion Group

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Wednesdays, July 10 & August 14
11 a.m.
Cost: Free

We want you to join us! If you love reading and sharing your thoughts about what you've read, this is the group for you!

- July: *The Forgotten Room*
1945: When critically wounded Captain Cooper Ravenel is brought to a private hospital on Manhattan's Upper East Side, young Dr. Kate Schuyler is drawn into a complex mystery that connects three generations of women in her family to a single extraordinary room in a Gilded Age mansion.
- August: *Two Nights in Lisbon*
You think you know a person...Ariel Pryce wakes up in Lisbon, alone. Her husband is gone—no warning, no note, not answering his phone. Something is wrong.

Evening with the Bushmill Band

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Wednesday, July 10
5:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
Optional snack pack purchase: \$3

Come join us and enjoy the musical styles of the local Bushmill Band. Their music will get your toe tapping and your hands clapping! There is no charge for this program, but there will be snack packs available for purchase. You can bring your dinner, but a meal will not be provided. Advance registration is required.

Presented by Hope & Healing

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, July 16: *Age-related Memory Loss and Coping*
Tuesday, August 20: *Sleep Health*
1 p.m.
Cost: \$5 (suggested donation)

As we age life's events can often become overwhelming, both mentally as well as physically. Especially during this time, it's even more important to take care of your mental wellness. Advance sign-up is required and a suggested donation of \$5 for each series is requested.

Kickboxing with Geno

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, July 16-August 6
2 p.m.
Cost: \$40

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

Sunnyside Floral Arranging

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Wednesday, July 17
4 p.m.
Cost: \$45

Would you like a beautiful handmade arrangement for your home or to give to a loved one? Shelley Russell, owner, and lead designer of Sunnyside Florals will be instructing the class. Shelley grows her own flowers and plants locally here in Southern Maryland. Explore the basics of floral arrangement and design in this hands-on session with Shelley. All supplies provided. Advance registration is required.

Movie Nights

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Thursdays, July 18 & August 15
5:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
Optional snack pack purchase: \$3

Join us in the dining room on the third Thursday of the month to enjoy a movie on the large screen! There is no charge for this program, but there will be snack packs available for purchase. You can bring your dinner, but a meal will not be provided. Advance registration is required.

- July: *Mrs. Doubtfire* (PG-13)
Troubled that he has little access to his children, divorced Daniel Hillard (Robin Williams) hatches an elaborate plan. With help from his creative brother Frank (Harvey Fierstein), he dresses as an older British woman and convinces his ex-wife, Miranda (Sally Field), to hire him as a nanny.
- August: *To Catch a Thief* (PG)
Notorious cat burglar John Robie (Cary Grant) has long since retired to tend vineyards on the French Riviera. When a series of robberies is committed in his style, John must clear his name.

Luncheon with Folk Salad

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, July 23
Doors Open: 11:30 a.m.
Lunch Served: 12 p.m.
Performance: 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$7 for those under the age of 60
By donation for those ages 60 and up

Folk Salad is an eclectic, acoustic band that performs a wide variety of light pop, oldies, folk, and originals. They've performed at many Southern Maryland locations and events since 2009. Their music will get your feet moving! Advanced registration is required. Please visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging and click on the "View Sign Up for Activities and Programs" button for this special luncheon.

Hearing Screenings with Jacobs Audiology

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Wednesday, July 24
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: Free

Jacobs Audiology will be here to do hearing screenings. They will answer any questions you may have about hearing loss as well as offering hearing screenings. Advance registration is required.

Virtual Reality 101

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Friday, July 26

10 a.m.
Cost: Free

Have you ever wanted to see the Eiffel Tower and otherworldly landmarks without the expense? Maybe you want to expand your brain power. Come join our volunteer Keegan Creswell as he teaches you how to use a virtual reality headset. This class will teach you the basics! No experience is needed, but space is limited to provide the ability to assist. Please wear comfortable clothes. Advance registration is required.

Luncheon with Drama Speaks

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, August 13
Doors Open: 11:30 a.m.
Lunch Served: 12 p.m.
Performance: 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$7 for those under the age of 60
By donation for those ages 60 and up

Drama Speaks is Garvey Senior Activity Center's very own Reader's Theater group. Join us for lunch and enjoy the humor of Drama Speaks. Advanced registration is required. Please visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging and click on the "View Sign Up for Activities and Programs" button for this special luncheon.

Iris Folding Cards: Butterfly & Watering Can

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Wednesday, August 21
1:30 p.m.
Cost: Free

Create two Iris Folding projects, for your summer garden. A watering can and a butterfly card are ready for you to take home and add a personalized message. By arranging and layering strips of paper you will create two crafts while learning the art of Iris Folding. Iris folding is done by arranging and layering strips of paper or fabric in a spiraled pattern that resembles the iris of a camera lens—that's how this craft got its name. Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite scissors. Advanced registration is required.

Come Play American 500 Cards!

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Cost: Free

Come join our American 500 card group! American 500 is a fun card game, which you generally play in groups of 4, with 2x2 playing as partners (can play with 2 to 6 players).

It has similarities to Bridge and Euchre, but the good news, it is less complex than Bridge. There are several versions (with varying rules) of American 500 Cards on websites (such as Trickstercards.com) and in

Travel Opportunities for Retirees

Retirement provides individuals with ample time to engage in activities they enjoy. Many seniors spend that newfound free time relaxing and seeing the sights.

Seniors are a travel-friendly demographic. The World Tourism Organization says that, in 1999, more than 593 million international travelers were age 60 years and older. Seniors are projected to take two billion trips annually by 2050. As Baby Boomers and Generation Xers continue to retire, a larger portion of the overall population will have time to travel.

When seniors plan trips, they have many ways to get around in style.



Cruising

Cruising can be an ideal way for older adults to travel. Cruise ships depart from ports across the world and travelers can choose from an array of itineraries. People can travel on cruises that are at sea for as few as three to five days to others that are out for weeks at a time.

One reason seniors enjoy cruising is because it's all-inclusive with little extra planning required. Step aboard a cruise ship and enjoy a floating hotel complete with food, lodging, entertainment, shopping, gambling, and much more. Organized excursions at ports of call can add to the thrill of cruising.

Guided tours

Escorted tours are another option seniors may want to consider. By working with reputable tour operators, seniors can engage in affordable, safe and comfortable tours

via bus, train or other modes of travel. Tour companies take the work out of the trips by handling the details and showcasing the best locales. Tour experts know when to schedule meals and sightseeing to avoid the crowds so that everyone can sit back and relax on their adventures.

RV excursions

Travel by recreational vehicle is a great way for individuals with time on their hands to see the sights up close and personal. When RVing, the time spent traveling is the adventure, and the destination is simply the cherry on top.

The RV industry exploded during the pandemic because it provided a safe way to enjoy a vacation and get away from home. MARVAC Michigan RV & Campgrounds says currently more than nine million house-

holds own an RV in the United States. There's no age limit to buying an RV, although the RV Industry Association says the average owner is 48-years-old and married.

RV-friendly campsites and parks enable travelers to mingle with each other, providing affordable and fun ways to travel.

Timeshares

Seniors who got in on the timeshare bandwagon early in life can choose to enjoy their travel years even further. The timeshare model enables buyers to purchase the right to use particular homes, condos, hotel rooms, resorts, or other accommodations for specific periods of time. For example, some timeshare agreements are for one week each year in a designated location. Seniors with more time on their hands may want to revisit

timeshare agreements to increase the frequency in which they can use properties or to find timeshare companies that enable swapping properties with others so that different locales can be enjoyed.

Visiting family

Retirees may aspire to spend more time with family members who do not live nearby. Families may want to consider mother-daughter residences or properties with small guest houses so that seniors can stay in the residences when visiting but have some privacy at the same time.

Seniors have many travel options, and retirement is the ideal time to get out and enjoy time away from home.

Are you looking for a Volunteer Opportunity?

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of St. Mary's County is seeking volunteers like you! RSVP connects persons 55 years of age and older to rewarding, challenging, and fulfilling volunteer opportunities within local county agencies, non-profit groups, and community organizations.

Come join our team!

Volunteer opportunities include:

A Community that Shares (ACTS)



Volunteers receive, repair, and distribute donated medical equipment to those in need. ACTS is currently seeking volunteers to serve on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Northern, Loffler, & Garvey Senior Activity Centers



The Senior Activity Centers have many volunteering opportunities such as daytime and evening activity leaders for art classes, monthly decoration of bulletin boards, dance classes, card groups and book discussion.

Senior Rides Program



Volunteers provide seniors with transportation to medical appointments, social engagements, and grocery shopping.

RSVP works with 30 organizations within St. Mary's County and offer 35 different volunteering stations. To learn more, please contact RSVP Program Manager, Monika Williams at 301-475-4200, ext. 1653, or RSVP@stmaryscountymd.gov



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Senior-Friendly Interior Renovations



Grab bars in bathrooms can make homes safer for seniors with limited mobility.

Home is where the heart is. That sentiment may be especially true for seniors who have spent decades living in their homes. A lot of hard work goes into home ownership, and seniors who have lived in the same space for a while undoubtedly have countless memories within the walls of their homes.

A lifetime of experiences in a home can make it hard to leave, but many seniors experience diminished mobility as they age. Mobility issues can make it hard for seniors to traverse their homes, but aging homeowners can make various renovations to make a home more accessible.

- Revamp entryways and staircases. A 2020 study of 1,000 adults in the United Kingdom found that 28 percent of individuals age 65 and older who don't exercise regularly struggle with activities like walking up stairs. The study, commissioned by Total Fitness, also found that 14 percent of men and women over 65 who regularly engage in moderate exercise still find it challenging to climb up and down a flight of stairs. Seniors facing similar challenges can install a ramp at their home's entryway so they can comfortably go in and out. Inside, a chair lift can ensure seniors are not struggling to move from one floor to another.
- Raise the outlets throughout the home. They're easily overlooked, but outlets, particularly those outside the kitchen, tend to be close to the floor. AARP notes that's no accident, as outlets are generally placed at a height equal to the length of a hammer to save time with measuring when buildings are being constructed. Outlets close to the floor can be difficult for seniors with mobility issues to reach. Relocating the outlets a little higher off the floor is not an expensive renovation, but it

can make a home more accessible for seniors who have difficulty bending down or getting down on one knee.

- Install door knob extensions. Verywell Health notes that nearly half of all people age 65 and older have arthritis or another rheumatic condition. Arthritis can make it difficult for seniors to grip and turn door knobs. Door knob extensions can make it easier for seniors with arthritis to open the doors in their homes. Such extensions are roughly five-inch levers that can be installed over an existing door knob, making it easier to grab and pull down. Extensions save seniors the hassle of turning the knob, which some may find painful and almost impossible.
- Renovate the bathroom. Bathroom renovation projects can be costly, but seniors with mobility issues should know that bathrooms can pose a particularly dangerous threat. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that roughly three million older adults are treated for fall injuries in emergency departments each year. A 2019 analysis published in The Journals of Gerontology noted that 22 percent of in-home falls resulted in a change in the person's walking ability. Replacing a step-over shower with a zero-step alternative can make it easier for seniors with mobility issues to get in and out of the shower, thus reducing their risk for falls. Grab bars along shower walls and a chair inside the shower can make it easier to bathe and towel off safely.

Seniors with mobility issues can make their homes more accommodating through an assortment of simple, yet effective renovations.



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Changes That Could Arise from the "Silver Tsunami"



A report from the International Monetary Fund in the summer of 2023 indicated that a new challenge awaits the world in the coming years. The global population increased by one billion people between 2010 and 2022. That remarkable increase saw the world surpass the eight billion people mark in November of 2022.

Despite a sharp increase in the global population in such a short period of time, the IMF asserts that the population boom is not the most formidable demographic challenge facing the world. The IMF defines population aging as the most formidable challenge.

Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate roughly 56 million Americans had reached age 65 by 2020, which marked a nearly 39 percent increase since 2010. Widely referred to as the "silver tsunami," a term credited to the AARP, the increase in the number of individuals age 65 and older could lead to some unique changes in countries across the globe.

- **Strain on public programs:** An aging population could stretch government resources thin in the decades to come. In fact, a 2018 report from the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy noted that the federal government could face considerable challenges as more of its budget is allocated to age entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare. That problem may not prove unique to the United States, as the United Nations estimates that the elderly population in Europe is expected to account for around 30 percent of all residents by 2050. Though entitlement programs differ from country to country, finding ways to successfully manage the silver tsunami could be imperative to various nations' financial stability in the decades to come.
- **Increased recreation spending:** Sixty-five has traditionally been viewed as retirement age, and that remains an

unofficial bar for individuals living in countries like the United States that have increased their official retirement age. Though an uptick in the aging population is often framed in terms of the challenges countries will face, that increase also could present some opportunities. For example, a recent AARP Longevity Economy Outlook report noted that people 50 and older account for the most spending on recreation and culture of any demographic. That could prove beneficial to businesses and regions that cater to consumers interested in recreation.

- **Employment opportunities:** The AARP also noted the role the 50 and older population plays in supporting jobs. In 2020, the demographic of people 50 and older supported roughly one-third of the world's jobs and generated \$23 trillion in labor income with its spending on goods and services. Estimates from the AARP indicate that individuals age 50 and older will support 1.5 billion jobs across the globe by 2050. The labor income impact by then will more than double to \$53 billion.
- **Employment challenges:** Though the silver tsunami could help to maintain existing jobs and create plenty of new ones, employers might find it difficult to fill those positions. As more of the global population reaches retirement age, it bears noting that more workers will retire. Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute note that the manufacturing sector will need to fill 2.5 million job openings related to retirements between 2020 and 2030. That could prove a sizable challenge, as the aging population is increasing at a time when the young population is decreasing.

The aging population is increasing, which could lead to a number of opportunities and challenges in the decades to come.

Information & Resources For Older Adults

Aging & Disability Resource Center

23115 Leonard Hall Drive
Leonardtown, MD
301-475-4200, ext. 1057

Garvey Senior Activity Center

23630 Hayden Farm Ln,
Leonardtown, MD
301-475-4200, ext. 1064

Northern Senior Activity Center

29655 Charlotte Hall Rd,
Charlotte Hall, MD
301-475-4200, ext. 3104

Loffler Senior Activity Center

21905 Chancellors Run Rd,
Great Mills, MD
301.475.4200, ext. 1654



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Family Doctor Recounts 50 Years of Practicing Medicine in St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dr. Robert Bauer, 78, retired from practicing medicine in St. Mary's County about five years ago but he still pines for a time when patient and doctor were closer and providing care was more important than a business bottom line.

He's written a book about his life practicing medicine for the past half-century in St. Mary's County, telling the story of the way it was here when patients in dire distress would still call their family doctor first to see if they should go to the emergency room.

Growing up in rural Pennsylvania in a town called New Berlinville, he came from modest beginnings — his parents only had a freshmen level of high school education — to graduate from the University of Maryland Medical School in 1972, he got there on a football scholarship.

While he was training there, he was recruited by Dr. J. Roy Guyther, a well-known local physician who was teaching there, to work in St. Mary's.

"I always wanted to go into rural medicine," Bauer told The County Times. "What Dr. Guyther said was: 'Come to St. Mary's County, give it a chance.'"

He did and he soon found that the then-much smaller community would depend heavily upon him and the core group of



doctors with whom he was working.

Along with Dr. Guyther were Dr. Eugene Guazzo, Dr. David Mossman and Dr. Leon Berube, he said.

He estimated that during his formative years here that there were perhaps 20 physicians of various specialties but the family doctors often received the most work.

There was no support for them, Bauer said, including no pediatricians and no internist except one who was available at Patuxent River Naval Air Station who could provide some help.

But patients had developed such a bond with their primary care doctors that they actually risked their own lives when they were in distress to receive care from them and no one else.

In one instance a patient of his was experiencing heart attack symptoms while on the job in Washington, D.C., Bauer wrote in his book, that he drove all the way down to his practice in Mechanicsville to see him personally.

"I told him he shouldn't have done that," Bauer said humorously. "He passed numerous hospitals on the way down here."

The patient eventually was transferred back to a hospital in the District for treatment.

"We took care of you at St. Mary's Hospital unless you had to be transferred," Bauer said.

Bauer could have gone on practice medicine anywhere but he chose to stay in St. Mary's and raise a family.

His daughter, Dr. Karen Bauer, carries on her father's legacy as a family doctor here as well.

She is a graduate of St. Mary's Ryken High School and also head of care for Hospice of St. Mary's.

Medicine changed locally with the arrival

of the Shah family in the late 1970s, Bauer said, bringing numerous other doctors to St. Mary's to forge their practices, many of them in needful specialties like cardiology and neo-natal care.

"We had really good, well-trained doctors," Bauer said of the early days of his career.

There are now about 300 physicians here, Bauer said, of all kinds with the kind of medical technology he and his colleagues would have been jealous of in their day but nothing replaces the relationship between doctor and patient.

"Family relationships are important," Bauer said. "If you talk to them, 90 percent of the time they'll tell you what the problem is."

Bauer has also taught students coming through medical school, trying to persuade them to pursue family medicine; it's a focus that requires a desire to help people as much or more than making money.

"I want to show them how a rural area can be an option," Bauer said. "They can become family specialists, like family surgeons, obstetricians and gynecologists and internists."

Now the doctor is also a patient and he has advice for those his age who want to maintain their health.

"Find a good primary care physician for your family and be proactive about your health," Bauer said. "If you don't tell people what's wrong with you how are they going to know?"

"Follow proactive measures."

The way medicine is practiced now, Bauer said, with more of a business model, getting the attention needed can be difficult.

"It's just sad that you have trouble communicating with physicians now," Bauer said. "Access to care is important."

Bauer hopes that people will read his book, titled: "From the Locker Room to the Waiting Room: My Life in Medicine" and call for a return to a simpler way of providing care, leveraging technology but emphasizing personal attention for patients.

That is the sort of medicine the people of St. Mary's County deserve, he said.

"I can't tell you how lucky I've been to know the people of St. Mary's County," Bauer said.

Bauer's book is available on E-Book, at Barnes and Noble and on Amazon.

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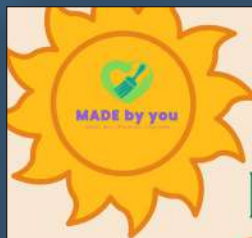
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Letters to the Editor

Our students deserve safe schools

The recent student arrest data for St. Mary's County Public Schools is very concerning. 175 students were arrested during the 2022-2023 school year. 65 of those arrests were for fighting, 51 were for attacks on students, and 19 were for attacks on adults. However, these numbers don't show the full weight of how school safety impacts student outcomes.

The suspension rates for SMCPs were also fairly high in the 2022-2023 school year. Chopticon had 185 suspensions, Great Mills High had 351, Esperanza Middle had 345, and Spring Ridge Middle had 501. The majority of these suspensions were due to fighting, followed by class disruptions. The missing data point is how many students missed out on instruction time because of these incidents.

If your school environment is constantly

unsafe, how can you learn? If our teachers, paraeducators, and bus drivers are constantly on edge, how can they fulfill their duties? I strongly believe that students who repeatedly get into violent fights should not continually be returned to the classroom. Since the beginning of my campaign, I have advocated for an alternative school program for students who continually put other students, staff, and teacher's safety at risk. Other counties in the state have successful alternative school programs for at-risk students, St. Mary's should have the same. Our students deserve to learn in a safe school.

Josh Guy
Candidate, Board of Education At-Large

An open letter to Mary Washington and Cathy Allen

I hope this letter finds you both well. I am writing to express my concerns regarding your tenure as members of the Board of Education. While I deeply respect your dedication to our community and the time you both have invested in serving on the board, I feel this needs to be said.

There are highly qualified candidates running against the both of you for the positions on the board. After carefully considering all candidates' qualifications and visions for the future of our education system, I am compelled to voice my belief that their candidacy represents a significant opportunity for positive change within our district. I urge you to take a look at both candidates to confirm that what I am saying is true.

While I acknowledge the contributions you both have made during your time as a board members, I cannot overlook the pressing need for fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to address the challenges facing our schools. It is my sincere belief that the candidates running against you possesses the necessary expertise,

passion, and dedication to lead our education system forward in a manner that benefits all students, teachers, and families.

I understand that discussing these matters can be uncomfortable, but it is essential to prioritize the best interests of our community and its future. Therefore, I urge you both to research the candidates and reflect on your tenure as a board members to consider whether stepping aside in favor of the more qualified candidate would ultimately serve the greater good.

Please know that this letter is written with the utmost respect for your service and commitment to our schools. I genuinely believe that by making room for new leadership, we can foster positive change and ensure a brighter future for generations to come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective. I look forward to seeing the outcome of the upcoming election and remain hopeful for the continued progress of our education system.

Angela Wathen

Endorsing Brandie Edelen

Thanks for your coverage of the recent SMC school board candidate debates. Although I was one of the losing candidates at the primary level, there was one issue emphasized by nearly all the candidates: The major concern of students, parents and teachers about the continuing dangerous violence among students that is not adequately being deterred by current School Administration policies.

Such failure to protect students and teachers is exacerbated by the continuing prevalence of mind-altering drug use and trafficking in SMC schools as has been confirmed in periodic student behavioral surveys, and in frequent news accounts such as the referenced news article, "St. Mary's Leads SOMD in Student Arrests."

As frequently publicized by our SMC Health Officer Dr. Meena Brewster, such illicit teen drug use can contribute to violence-inducing psychosis among some marijuana-using students. And such violence can become a major impediment to full student attendance and teacher recruitment.

With my long-time experience in obtaining federal government approval of the health-screening strategy of Random Student

Drug Testing (RSDT) in the early 1980s, I have frequently provided documentation of the legality and effectiveness of RSDT to school officials throughout the nation as a founding member of the Nancy Reagan parents' drug prevention movement. I was recognized for that work by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) at their 8/24/02 Washington D.C. press conference.

With that background of mine, I herein join former candidate Angela Wathen's endorsement of at-large SMC school board candidate Brandie Edelen.

Brandie Edelen has the best educational credentials and related high-level experience needed to convince the current School Administration and the other members of the School Board to give fair consideration to adopting RSDT as a major initiative toward ridding SMC schools of the dangerous plague of drug addiction and related violence that have inundated and intimidated parents, teachers and schoolchildren for the past several decades.

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Seafood Business Coming to Hollywood

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The rapid construction of a new, two-story building on Mervell Dean Road in Hollywood presages the coming of a new restaurant style business in Hollywood, The County Times has learned.

The new business, according to county planning documents, has been referred to as Shriver's Restaurant, and replaces the older building that once housed the Picker's Paradise antique and curio shop there.

Don Cropp, of Colony Builders, is the construction contractor on the site.

Rusty and Nick Shriver, the owners of the Lighthouse Restaurant and Dock Bar on Solomons Island in neighboring Calvert County, purchased the property from Joe and Sherri St. Clair a few years ago.

The Shriver brothers also operated the Clarke's Landing Restaurant here in St. Mary's for 16 years.

Social media posts from the Shriver brothers show they have a final name in store for their new enterprise: One Eyed Jack's Seafood Market and Deli.

"This is an homage to our father," said Rusty Shriver. "He taught us everything about business and work ethic."

The logo of the new business is of a squinting older man wearing a bucket cap and sporting an eye patch over his right eye.

Their social media page describes the



coming business as a family owned and operated seafood market & deli offering fresh seafood and gourmet deli sandwiches.

"You'll be able to get steamed hard crabs, fresh fish selections to cook at home, uncooked crab cakes and various sized steamed shrimp and shellfish to go," Rusty said. "We'll also have steamed and fried seafood platters to go."

Soups and sides will also be available to compliment what he called "generously portioned" sandwiches that will be available on their menu.

"I want you to get an overstuffed sandwich," Rusty said. "We've done this for years in a restaurant setting, now we're doing it in a carry-out format."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Sheriff's Office Conducting Death Investigation

On Thursday, June 13, Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 report of a subject not breathing. Upon arriving at the scene at the 21000 block of FDR Boulevard in Lexington Park, the deceased body of a woman, identified as Erica Christina Drinks, 52, was found in a shed on the property.

Detectives from the Criminal Investiga-

tions Division have assumed the case, and the preliminary investigation suggests no foul play. The body has been sent to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore for an autopsy.

Anyone with information relating to this case is asked to contact Detective Benjamin Raley at 301-475-4200, ext. 8076, or by email at Benjamin.Raley@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Deputies Investigating Multiple Thefts from Motor Vehicles

Residents Reminded to Lock Cars

During the overnight hours of Tuesday, June 18, several motor vehicles in neighborhoods surrounding Chancellors Run Road in Great Mills were entered, and items were stolen. Many of these cars were left unlocked.

Video surveillance from residences in the area shows what appears to be the same three individuals entering or attempting to enter several different cars. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is actively investigating these incidents.

The Sheriff's Office urges residents to take precautions to prevent further incidents. We remind everyone to lock their cars, even when parked in driveways or in front of homes. Unlocked cars are easy

targets for thieves. Taking a few seconds to secure your vehicle can save you from potential theft and loss.

Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact Deputy Richard Stillwell at Richard.Stillwell@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 8183.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime Solvers at 274637. Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown. With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

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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.

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Governor Moore Signs Executive Order Pardoning 175,000 Cannabis Convictions

Governor Wes Moore this week signed a historic executive order pardoning 175,000 Maryland convictions related to the possession of cannabis, including convictions for misdemeanor possession of cannabis and certain convictions for misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. The order represents the largest pardon for misdemeanor cannabis possession charges for any state in the country and the inclusion of paraphernalia makes Maryland the first state to take such action.

“Maryland made history when we legalized cannabis by referendum. But we cannot celebrate the benefits of legalization while forgetting the consequences of criminalization. No Marylander should face barriers to housing, employment, or education based on convictions for conduct that is no longer illegal,” said Gov. Moore. “Today, we take a big step forward toward ensuring equal justice for all. But this won’t be our last effort. We must continue to move in partnership to build a state and society that is more equitable, more just, and leaves no one behind.”

The governor’s pardon follows the constitutional amendment passed during Maryland’s 2022 legislative session that legalized adult use and possession of cannabis and was overwhelmingly approved by popular referendum. Of the 175,000 pardons issued, more than 150,000 represent misdemeanor convictions for simple cannabis possession and more than 18,000 represent misdemeanor convictions for use or posses-



Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor Wes Moore

sion with intent to use drug paraphernalia.

Eligibility criteria for the pardons include:

- Convictions for misdemeanor possession of cannabis or misdemeanor use or possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia;
- Convictions for misdemeanor use or possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia were in cases associated with misdemeanor cannabis possession and no other charges were incurred;
- Related disposition of guilty or probation before judgment;
- Charges occurring prior to January 1,

2023, when possession of personal use amount of cannabis was decriminalized.

“The enforcement of cannabis laws has disproportionately and overwhelmingly burdened communities of color. Opportunities were denied because those who were convicted faced steep obstacles to jobs, education, and housing,” said Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown. “Governor Moore’s pardons will remove these barriers and enable thousands of Marylanders to lead productive lives without the impediments created by their prior convictions. I thank Governor Moore for his bold and decisive

action in the name of fairness and equity.”

As a result of the executive order, the Maryland Judiciary will ensure that each individual’s electronic docket is updated with an entry indicating that the conviction has been pardoned by the governor. The process is expected to take approximately two weeks.

Governor Moore’s executive order also directs the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to develop a process to indicate on an individual’s criminal record that the conviction was pardoned. This process is expected to take approximately 10 months to complete.

Anyone who is eligible for a pardon but who was not included in the mass pardon may apply for a pardon through the regular application process—as may be the case for individuals whose convictions pre-date electronically available record formats. To apply for a pardon, visit dpscs.state.md.us/publicservs/pdfs/Application-for-Pardon-Revised.pdf.

A pardon is different from an expungement. Though the Maryland Judiciary will make a note on the record that the offense has been pardoned, it will still appear on the individual’s record. Expungement is the process by which a criminal conviction is destroyed and removed completely from the public record. Individuals who want to remove a conviction from public records must file for an expungement. Learn more about filing for expungement at mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/expungement.



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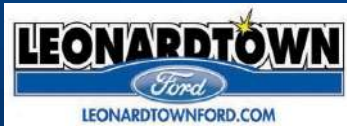


CONTESTS



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St. Mary's Paratrooper Reenacts D-Day Jump in Normandy

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

U.S. Army Capt. Patrick Bauk, a 2010 graduate of Leonardtown High School and West Point graduate who grew up here in St. Mary's County dropped with more than 1,000 other paratroopers from all over the world June 9 to commemorate the invasion of Europe by the Allied Powers during World War II.

On June 6, 1944, allied paratroopers, including the 101st Airborne Division, of which Bauk was once a member, dropped into Normandy coast in France under cover of night but under fire to begin the liberation of the Nazi occupied territory.

Paratroopers were first dropped into the combat zone to disrupt operations behind enemy lines and pave the way for the main invasion on the Atlantic coast.

Their mission also included capturing key bridges and routes to allow invasion forces to flow inland.

The latest jump into Normandy commemorated the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Bauk's family, including his mother and father, joined him in France for the commemorative airborne drop.

They toured many of the battle sites long committed to history, Omaha Beach, Pegasus Bridge, St. Mere Eglise, Point du Hoc, and Carentan; all places that either the 101st Airborne, British paratroopers or U.S. Army Rangers fought their way inland.

Bauk said he was able to secure a seat on a French aircraft and use their parachute to make the 1,000-foot jump.

They took off from France — about 1,300 paratroopers in all, he said — flew to Great Britain to bring British planes into the formation and head back to jump over Normandy using the original invasion route.

"In 1944 they were making the jump from about 400-to-500 feet," Bauk told The County Times. "The ground comes up in a hurry."

Since he jumped with the French, Bauk was awarded a set of French jump wings for his time with them.

Bauk, who is now assigned to Special Operations Command, South, in Florida,



An image captured mid-jump by Capt. Patrick Bauk's helmet camera

said he was amazed at the welcome he got from the French in Normandy.

"People were telling me 'Thank you,'" Bauk said after they saw him in his uniform. "I wasn't even there but they really care that much; the legacy has lived on."

Joining the 101st Airborne Division was Bauk's first choice upon graduating from West Point, he said, fully aware of the unit's history.

"It's a special unit for sure," said Bauk. Everywhere he and his family went in the coastal towns of Normandy they were met by monuments erected by the local people to the invasion.

"Everywhere you looked there was some monument to see," Bauk said. "That was incredible to see."

On the day of the parachute drop alone there was a near equivalent to the population of St. Mary's that had come to celebrate.

"There were 100,000 people who had come out to the drop zone just to watch," Bauk said. "They came from all over the world and that's just on a random Sunday

in June."

Bauk's mother, Joan, said she was amazed at the sense of history that pervaded the entire Normandy region when they arrived there May 31 in preparation for the anniversary.

She and her husband, Dr. Daniel Bauk, had decided to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary there as well.

"It was amazing," she said. "We never sat down... every day we just did something different."

"We just lucked into all these things you couldn't see if you were just on a tour."

His father said they were able to sit in the gun pits left on the beach that the soldiers landing there had to face.

"It was wonderful to walk the ground history was made on," Daniel Bauk said. "To see it... was remarkable."

"To watch Patrick make the jump was just icing on the cake; we're very proud of him."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Capt. Bauk with his family in Normandy

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New Rule Could Impact Veteran Firefighters

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A new rule proposed by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) could result in firefighters essentially losing their certifications, county Department of Emergency Services Jennifer Aubert-Utz told members of the county's Emergency Services Board last week.

Back in February, OSHA proposed a new rule to protect emergency responders, which would provide updated health and safety protections for firefighters, emergency medical service providers, and technical search and rescuers.

It could also require many firefighters who received their certifications before the updating of the standards in 2019 to have to recertify, Aubert-Utz said.

"OSHA doesn't have jurisdiction over the state of Maryland but Maryland is a state plan state that operates under the authority of OSHA," Aubert-Utz said. "The requirement is that they are at least as effective as the OSHA standard."

The proposed rule changes are "structured to enhance the health and safety of the fire service."

"But some of the concerns outlined could be challenging, especially to an all-volunteer service," Aubert-Utz said.

The proposed new standards would require fire companies to promulgate pre-in-



DES Director Jennifer Aubert-Utz

cident plans "for all facilities in the county," she said.

The proposal draws from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requirements, said Aubert-Utz, including the NFPA Firefighter I standard of 2019.

"Practically, that means that all of us who are in the room who are firefighters would no longer be certified under the old standards," Aubert-Utz said.

The rule has yet to be voted on by the U.S. Congress, she said, and there is a comment period in which jurisdictions can make their concerns known to OSHA.

July 22 was the end date for that comment period, she said during the June 12 business meeting of the advisory board.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Fire/EMS Cadet Program Praised for Successes

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

With the recent graduation of eight high school students from the county's Fire/EMS Cadet Program, leaders in the emergency preparedness community are cheering the program's success in adding much needed help in medical and fire response.

Members of the county's Emergency Service Board, which oversees the operations of fire and EMS companies locally, said the program offered a definite path for young people looking for a good career and a way to serve their community.

"We have eight new EMTs in our community," said program coordinator Kelly Bell during the June 12 advisory committee meeting in Leonardtown. "These are wonderful numbers; it's been a struggle in the previous year.

"That success rate wasn't there."

Kelly said 13 new students have signed on to the program for training to become emergency medical technicians and 12 to become firefighters.

Students in the cadet program work with professionals in their chosen fields along

with classroom instruction time to hone their emergency response skills.

"Every rescue squad opened their doors," Bell said. "There are many mentors to these students.

"It's career personnel, it's volunteer personnel; the students couldn't do it without that mentorship."

Department of Emergency Services Director Jennifer Aubert-Utz said the program gave young people an advantage in personal growth.

"A lot of these students grow exponentially through this program because of that exposure to helping people in their time of need," Aubert-Utz said.

Bell confirmed that 67 percent of the students who have gone through the program were still in a fire or EMS career and some had even gone on to become chiefs of departments.

"We're offering them a real path forward for kids that five years ago we couldn't do," said Sean Davidson, the county's rescue services chief. "We're setting them on a career path."

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- Process impoundment paperwork and maintain compliance with all requirements for the laws of towing and impoundment
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- Cash and deposit management

Pay & Benefits:

- Pay negotiable based on experience and training pace
- Dental insurance
- Health insurance
- Paid time off

New Primary Care Provider Coming to St. Mary's



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Greater Baden Medical Services (GBMS), a primary care provider that has long helped those struggling to gain access to affordable, quality health care will build a permanent presence in St. Mary's County now, county chief health officer Dr. Meena Brewster announced late last week.

"The southern part of the county has long been designated a Health Professional Shortage Area for primary care," said Brewster. "Establishing a primary care federally-qualified health center in this shortage area is a major step forward for our county."

"It will improve primary care access for our community members, including those who are uninsured."

The local health department already partners with GBMS to operate its health hub located on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park next to Church of the Ascension.

The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) indicates the southern portion of the county has a primary care provider ratio of less than 1 per 3,500 residents, Brewster said.

The HRSA indicates that the region needs 7.3 full time medical practitioners for every 3,500 residents to reach its ideal ratio.

"GBMS is so pleased with our partnership with [St. Mary's County] and the other hub partners which have led to the growth and now expansion of the hub," said Dr. Chris DeMarco, CEO of Greater Baden Medical Services. "With the new site, GBMS will add three more exam rooms and another clinician to expand access to quality care

in the community,"

GBMS accepts commercial insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare. For the uninsured, GBMS will establish a sliding-scale payment based on the patients' income, Brewster said.

"This will not be an emergency room service; however, GBMS may be able to accommodate walk-in appointments," Brewster said. "This is a significant step forward in improving access to primary care for our residents."

The new location will offer primary care health services for adults and children, including, but not limited to, well-check visits, well-women's exams, annual physicals, school and camp physicals, STD screening, chronic disease management for conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, behavioral health, referral for infectious diseases such as hepatitis and HIV, and a 340b pharmacy program that reduces medication costs for patients. The new clinic is expected to be established this winter and will serve both adults and children and will be located at 21729 Great Mills Road, Suite C, Lexington Park.

GBMS is a non-profit organization that provides primary and preventive care services for both insured and uninsured patients. GBMS provides services to underserved individuals in three Maryland counties – Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's.

The provider currently operates a clinic four days a week, excluding Wednesdays, on Moakley Street in Leonardtown as well as the health hub in Lexington Park.

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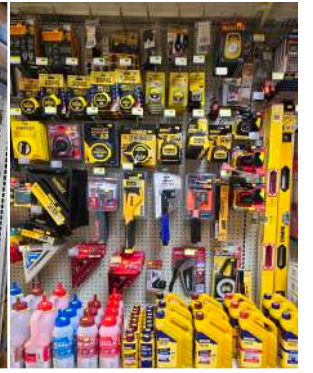
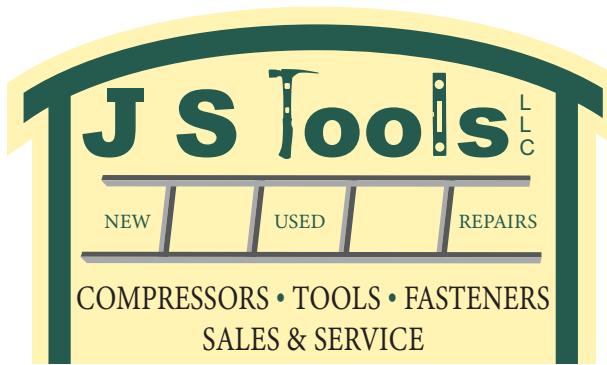
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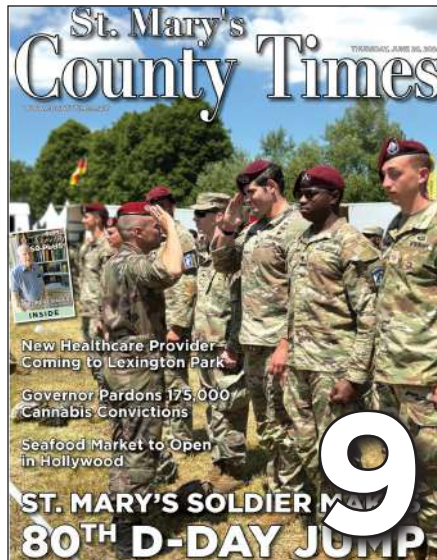
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“THE GROUND COMES UP IN A HURRY.”

CAPT. PATRICK BAUK ON HIS PARACHUTE JUMP INTO NORMANDY 80 YEARS AFTER D-DAY.



LOCAL 5
New primary care provider coming this winter



LOCAL 12
Seafood carryout planned for Hollywood

ON THE COVER 9
A local family watched their son make the jump into Normandy to commemorate D-Day

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MON, JUN 24	TUE, JUN 25	WED, JUN 26	THU, JUN 27
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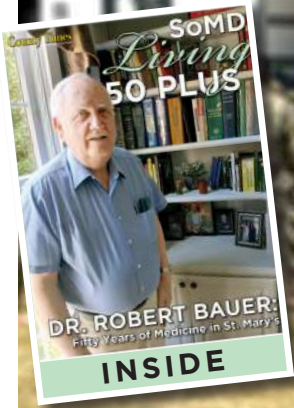
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