



Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

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PANTHERS STATE CHAMPS



THE LOVE STAR

THE NIGHT IS FULL OF ENDLESS WONDERS
THROUGH MY SLEEP THROUGH MY SLUMBERS
I SEE A STAR FAR UP ABOVE
A STAR THAT BRIGHTLY BEAMS OF LOVE

I THINK OF THE STAR OF OUR LORD
THE STAR THAT GLOWED, GLITTERED, AND SOARED
TO ALLURE MANKIND FROM OVER THE EARTH
TO THE PRINCE OF PEACE AT OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH

I BELIEVE THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM
THE STAR FROM WHENCE LOVE BEGAN
IS THAT STAR IN DREAM I SEE
FOR LOVE OF GOD, MANKIND, AND THEE

NOW THE END OF NIGHT HAS COME
SOON I SHALL ARISE AS ONE
WHO KNOWS THROUGH DREAM THOUGH IT HAS PASSED
THE LUSTER OF THE STAR SHALL LAST

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Created By: Richard Lord, MPA, BYU Romney Institute of Public Service and Ethics; Analyst-in-Charge, Criminal Alien Division, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (retired); Publisher of www.7thDistrict.org Bushwood, Maryland; and author of the ISBN novel www.BoonDOGgle.dog With Inspiration From

Read more of the extensive poetry in the novel [BoonDOGgle](http://www.BoonDOGgle.dog) available in all three St. Mary's County Libraries and from all online booksellers including Amazon and Barnes and Noble as noted in www.BoonDOGgle.dog

Spouse Nancy Lord Zearfoss, Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management, THE Ohio State University, member of a classic rock band KungFuzion, who last played at the St. Mary's County Oyster Festival and Port of Leonardtown Winery, is available for government sponsored & non-profit organization events; private parties Contact Nancy at 703-455-6616 & nzearfoss@gmail.com or EJ Allen at 423-483-1115 & 123ejallen@gmail.com

Band Pictured Above includes Dr. Nancy Zearfoss, St. Mary's County, keyboards & lead female vocals, EJ. Allen, Calvert County; A+ lead guitar & lead male vocals; Brian Sullivan, Calvert County, bass guitar & male vocals, & George Miles, Charles County, drums

Song List Includes: Hound Dog, Blue Suede Shoes, Kansas City, On The Road Again, Tulsa Time, Mustang Sally, Leroy Brown, Dock Of The Bay, Wagon Wheel, Black Velvet, Heartbreak Hotel, Pride And Joy, You Can't Always Get What You Want, Little Wing, Another Brick In The Wall, People Get Ready, Soul Shine, Honky Tonk Woman, Rainy Day Woman, I Shall Be Released, Heatwave, Maybelline, Can't You See, Before You Accuse Me, Over My Head, Gimme Shelter, Spooky, Dreams, You Ain't Going Nowhere, House Of The Rising Sun, Long Train Runin', Like A Rolling Stone, Folsom Prison, The Thrill Is Gone, Knockin' On Heaven's Door, Hey Joe, Black Magic Woman, Love Me Like A Man, Seminole Wind, My Dog Got Drunk And Stole My Pickup Truck (EJ Allen), and many more of your choice

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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	4	COMMUNITY	9
COPS & COURTS	8	CALENDAR	10

“HE’S A GENERATIONAL TALENT.”

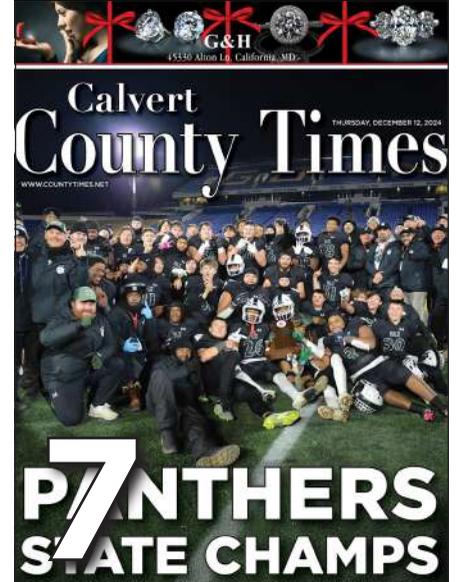
PATUXENT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL HEAD COACH STEVE CROUNSE ON HIS STATE CHAMPION TEAM’S QUARTERBACK EVAN BLOUIR



LOCAL 4
Town Administrator’s severance questioned



LOCAL 6
Calvert schools get their report cards



ON THE COVER 6
Patuxent High School takes state football championship

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, DEC 12	FRI, DEC 13	SAT, DEC 14	SUN, DEC 15
 Mostly Sunny Hi: 45° Lo: 29°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 42° Lo: 28°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 40° Lo: 31°	 Cloudy Hi: 49° Lo: 42°
MON, DEC 16	TUE, DEC 17	WED, DEC 18	THU, DEC 19
 AM Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 48°	 Showers Hi: 60° Lo: 39°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 49° Lo: 36°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 51° Lo: 35°

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Town Administrator's Severance Draws Controversy

Holly Wahl Praised by Mayor, Council

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Chesapeake Beach Town Administrator Holly Wahl will be resigning on Dec. 18, the day before new mayor Bruce Wahl (no relation) and a new town council take office.

At a special Dec. 4 meeting, the current council enacted an emergency ordinance providing the administrator with a six-month severance and all accrued vacation leave payable prior to her departure. Several citizens spoke at the meeting in opposition to the severance although there was much support for it, including a unanimous vote of the council.

Mayor-elect Wahl had said during the campaign that he would fire the administrator. Wahl said he was not surprised by the severance decision, although he said it was their right. Wahl said he was looking forward to the new administration, and that a new administrator would be announced at the Dec. 19 meeting. "I think the town will be well-served by it," he said.

In the resolution, "The Town agrees to hold Holly Wahl harmless in any future actions including all indemnification and attorneys' fees for any action that may be pursued against her." In return for the severance, she agreed not to sue the town. That was mentioned during comments by Mayor Pat Mahoney and several council members.

Mahoney, who chose not to seek re-election, said, "As mayor, it's my responsibility to protect our town and our coffers from liabilities both present and future. It is also my responsibility to nurture a thriving workforce to actively create and maintain a positive work environment where employees feel valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential leading to high engagement, productivity, and job satisfaction. Town Administrator Holly Wahl and I have done just that. I am most proud of her for that. Holly follows the law and the instructions of the town council under her leadership. These past eight years, the town is in sound fiscal position. Eight and a half years ago, our town administrator was wrongfully

terminated. He received a settlement, and the town is still paying for this mistake via higher insurance premiums with the Local Government Insurance Trust. Eight and a half years later, we're still paying for it."

Mahoney said the severance was in line with other such agreements nationwide. "Mrs. Wahl's employment with the town, based on Holly Wahl's quantified performance for the town and the defamation of her character and the performance of her duties, I believe what is proposed is perfectly on target."

"Wahl was the best hire that this town ever made. A woman of great integrity, who I admired to no end," he added.

Councilwoman Valerie Beaudin, who lost her bid to be mayor, said, "A previous firing of an employee went to court. We as a town lost that court case. We as a town are still paying for this action as a town annually. This removes that risk. I hope you understand that Holly is by far the best town administrator we have had, at least in my 20 years of service in this town."

Councilman Charles Fink, who lost his bid to return to the council, said, "This is what happens when we abandon civility. It's that simple," adding, "The things that were shared with me that were said about Holly on Facebook are abhorrent and shocking."

Councilman Greg Morris, who also lost a re-election bid, said, "Holly Wahl has been an outstanding administrator for this town for eight years and has brought this town into the 21st century."

One of the campaign issues was the water park. Councilwoman Elizabeth Hartman said, "If you're a town resident, maybe taxpayer dollars can go to paying for you to attend the park. But people from all over came and attended the park for dead cheap rates and taxpayers paid for it."

During the public comment period, Danuel Duvall, who lost the sixth and final council seat by three votes, presented a petition against the council taking emergency action. He said, "While we respect and acknowledge Ms. Wahl's contribution to the town, we firmly believe that the pas-

sage of this ordinance under an emergency ordinance does not align with the principles, transparency, fiscal responsibility, and the public trust that underpin our local government's reasons for operation."

However, Kathleen Berault, who won a council seat and was the former planning commission chair, praised Wahl and did not question the severance. "I just wanted to personally and professionally thank Holly Wahl for her service, for your professionalism, your availability, your responsiveness, your tenacity, and your knowledge."

Anthony Green, the winner of that sixth council seat, said, "I had a great conversation with Holly. I respect her as a person. I do, and I respect the sitting council and the mayor just as well. If I were in Holly's shoes and the incoming mayor ran on the platform saying that when we get in, you're going to have to be gone, I would secure my financial stability as well. I understand that, but what I don't understand is the idea of resigning and then receiving severance. If that is in fact what is happening because that's not a privilege that the rest of us receive. It kind of reeked of unfairness and honestly disdain for your constituents," adding, "It shows a sort of carelessness for the people of Chesapeake Beach to not have your ducks in a row and presenting this to the town.



Holly Wahl

The situation is being handled so sloppily is another scar in our town psyche."

At the same meeting, the outgoing council approved a transfer of \$51,000 from fund balance for a stormwater pump and \$300,000 for improvements to the Beach Elementary School tennis courts.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Seasons Greetings

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Annual Maryland School Report Card Released

In Calvert, One School Earns Five Stars, One Receives Two

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has released state, district, and school-level results for the 2024 Maryland School Report Card.

In Calvert, the elementary schools met the goals for “Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency,” but did not meet the goals in “Academic Achievement.”

Middle schools did not meet the goals in either of those two indicators.

For high schools, the goals were not met for those two indicators, in addition to the graduation rate.

All schools in Maryland are ranked with one to five stars. Only one school in Calvert, Mt. Harmony received five stars. And only one school, Southern Middle, received two stars. The rest received three or four. Here’s the list.

- Barstow Elementary: 3
- Beach Elementary: 4
- Calvert Elementary: 3
- Dowell Elementary: 4
- Huntingtown Elementary: 4
- Mount Harmony Elementary: 5
- Mutual Elementary: 4
- Patuxent Appeal Elementary Campus: 3
- Plum Point Elementary: 4
- St Leonard Elementary: 3
- Sunderland Elementary: 4
- Windy Hill Elementary: 4
- Calvert Middle: 4

- Mill Creek Middle: 3
- Northern Middle: 4
- Plum Point Middle: 3
- Southern Middle: 2
- Windy Hill Middle: 4
- Calvert High: 3
- Huntingtown High: 4
- Northern High: 4
- Patuxent High: 4

Maryland report card data indicates school performance under the Maryland Accountability System for the 2023-24 academic year. School ratings increased overall compared to the 2022-23 academic year. This year’s results showed that 41 percent of schools earned the top two ratings of four or five stars, and 83 percent received three or more stars. During the 2022-23 academic year, 38 percent of schools earned the top two ratings and 80 percent received three or more stars.

In February, Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools announced the formation of an Assessment and Accountability Task Force to examine the state’s assessment and accountability systems to strengthen connections between school ratings and student achievement.

“Over the last five years, the Maryland School Report Card has provided insight into factors that influence school success and student achievement,” said Dr. Wright. “However, as we move forward, we will be exploring ways to ensure that our accountability system evaluates schools in clear,

streamlined ways that educators, administrators and families can easily understand.”

“We are encouraged to see growth and an increase in schools demonstrating four- and five-star ratings and the number on the Maryland Report Card indicating progress in school quality and student achievement in public schools,” said Dr. Joshua Michael, State Board President. “The Board is committed to improving transparency and accountability through the Maryland Report Card to better answer the question, ‘How are our public schools doing?’”

School star ratings are based on multiple indicators, including non-academic measures. Elementary and middle school indicators are: Academic Achievement, Academic Progress, Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency, and School Quality and Student Success.

High school indicators are: Academic Achievement, Graduation Rate, Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency, Readiness for Postsecondary Success, and School Quality and Student Success. Schools earn between one and five stars based on the percentage of points earned across indicators.

Recommendations from the 30-member task force — composed of key Maryland education stakeholders and led by the non-profit National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment — were shared during Tuesday Nov.3 meeting:

Create a single coherent system that

meets federal requirements and reflects state priorities.

Explore ways to streamline and simplify the system without diminishing quality or comprehensiveness.

Support meaningful comparisons of school performance but explore ways to offer limited flexibility.

Prioritize implementing changes to the system but provide longitudinal comparability where possible.

The accountability system recommendations include basing the Academic Achievement indicator exclusively on English language arts and mathematics proficiency; adopting a student growth measure; continuing to include only the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and five-year extended graduation rate; and developing a framework that builds on the current definition of College and Career Readiness while incentivizing additional post-high school opportunities. The task force also recommended establishing common performance levels for indicators, such as a scale of one to four.

As Maryland moves towards implementing a new assessment system by the 2026-27 school year, the task force recommended prioritizing clarity and coherence in reporting results, and helping schools and districts leverage assessment results through comprehensive communications.

Information from MSFE press release

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Patuxent Panthers are State Champs

Football Team Takes Down Perennial Powerhouse



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Dunbar High School Poets had won 51 straight football games and three straight state titles when they faced the Patuxent High School Panthers for the Maryland Class 2A/1A championship on Dec. 6 at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium in Annapolis.

It is a testament to how far the Panther program had come that coach Steve Crownse and his team prevailed 8-6 to bring home the state title to southern Calvert County.

The Panthers' winning touchdown was scored on a 71-yard pass from Evan Blouir to Keiden Gutierrez.

Crownse explained the first quarter play that won the game for the Panthers. "The winning touchdown was a double post. We had Keiden Gutierrez split out, and Evan dropped back, bought a second in the pocket, threw the ball about 50 yards in the air and hit Keiden in stride. And we got on the board first and then went for a two-point conversion and Evan ran an outside zone play and the score put us up eight-nothing. And then the defense held, held, held the rest of the game."

But it was a balanced attack that prevailed throughout the perfect season, he said. "I think that we played complimentary football all year, and we really played great compli-

mentary football in the playoffs so that when the offense was clicking, we picked up for the defense; when the offense was struggling, the defense would pick up their game. So, I think it was a combination of both all year. We were an offense at average of 45 points a game and a defense that only allowed 12 points a game. So, I don't think you can put it on one side or the other. And we have a lot of kids that play on both sides."

He added, "In this case we're playing against Dunbar who had a 51-game winning streak and had won the last three state titles. And they have a lot of great athletes and Division One talent on their team, and we just had to figure it out. And we did."

Crownse is proud of his star quarterback. "There are no words that can put his impact on Panther's football. It goes back to his sophomore year when he was thrust into the starting role week two and led us to a state championship appearance in 2022, and then got us back to the semi-finals in 2023. This is a kid who's accounted for over 11,000 yards passing and rushing. This season, he had over 2,200 yards rushing and over 2,600 yards passing. You're not going to see that from a high school kid. He's a generational talent. We may never see another kid that makes that much of an impact. But, you know, he set the bar and now we got kids that are going to try to chase that. So,

that's good for us as a program. Evan, he's an incredible athlete, an incredible young man, an incredible student. He's the whole, he's a total package and that's evident."

As to Blouir's future, Crownse said, "He signed today (Dec. 11) with the United States Naval Academy. We're going to send one of our best. He's going to become an officer, and he is going to get to play football for four years and it couldn't have happened to a better kid or a better family. He is just an exemplary young man."

Crownse noted that Blouir "wanted to beat Dunbar. They had beaten us two years in a row. And this was his white whale."

The win is big for the community, he said. "We're a very tight-knit community. A lot of hardworking people, and not very big, but we seem to find kids that want to play a very tough, aggressive style of football. Kids that buy into the expectations and the commitment level that we asked for beginning in January, going all the way through December. We play for our community, and they show up for us, and it's very important for us to represent the name on the chest, our high school, all the students, the administration, all the faculty, and then all the people in the community that have had a role in these kids' lives growing up, whether it be in youth football or any kind of youth sports or, or youth activities. We're really tied into

representing our community. It means an awful lot to us."

Crownse is proud of his assistants. "I've been coaching for 32 years, and this is one of the best groups that I've had. We have a great combination of older, experienced coaches mixed in with high energy young coaches. And, it was just a perfect formula, perfect chemistry, for what we needed to do, how we identified with our athletes, how we bonded with them."

Crownse said, "I came to Patuxent in 2002 as the head coach. After the 2016 season, I coached at Northern for three years. Then I went two years at DeMatha Catholic as the offensive coordinator. And then in 2022 I returned to Patuxent to be the head coach again."

How does he rank this year's championship experience? "This is a 14 and 0 undefeated season. We knocked off Dunbar on a 51-game winning streak and was the three-time defending state champion. So, this one's got to number one. But the one in 2015 (the other Patuxent state championship), my son was the quarterback. We had a great relationship with that group, and that was our first one. So that one's got to be 1-B."

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of November 25, 2024 – December 1, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,975 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 50
- Disorderly: 10
- Domestic: 24
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 39
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 855
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 18
- Traffic Complaints: 58
- Traffic Stops: 512
- 911 Hang-Ups: 61
- ARRESTS: 22

Damaged Property: 24-91305 On November 25, 2024, DFC Crum responded to Lord Calvert Bowl located at 2275 North Solomons Island Road in Huntingtown, for a reported alarm. Upon arrival, Deputy Crum observed the rear door frame was bent and damaged. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500.



Erin Nicole Stahl

CDS Violation: 24-91920 On November 27, 2024, Deputy Campbell responded to the Calvert County Detention Center at 325 Stafford Road in Prince Frederick for a reported Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) violation. Upon arrival, Deputy Campbell met with Correctional Deputies, who stated that **Erin Nicole Stahl**, 36, of Lusby, was found in possession of a pill and crushed pill fragments while seated in the court holding room. Stahl admitted the pills were Adderall. She was subsequently charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement, and Possessing/Receiving CDS While Confined.



Jarvis Jerome James

Fleeing and Eluding: 24-92936 On November 30, 2024, at approximately 11:19 p.m., Deputy Lee observed a vehicle swerving all over the roadway and initiated a traffic stop in the area of Rt. 260 and Brickhouse Road in Dunkirk. Upon making contact with the driver, **Jarvis Jerome James**, 52 of Glenn Dale, a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was emitting from his person. James was asked to perform a series of field sobriety tests. Investigation revealed James was not able to safely operate a motor vehicle and would be transported to the Calvert County Detention Center for DUI and



Jermain Delton James

other related traffic charges. During the stop, signs of impairment were observed and passenger, **Jermain Delton James**, 46 of Upper Marlboro, was told to call for a ride. Jermain got into the driver's seat and fled the traffic stop. Jermain was apprehended following a brief pursuit and arrested for DUI, DWI, Fleeing and Eluding, and Malicious Destruction of Property Value \$1,000+.

Theft: 24-91626 On November 26, 2024, Deputy Morrison responded to the 1200 block of Harmony Lane in Owings, for the reported theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect stole the handicap placard from her vehicle while parked in a parking lot near Town Center Blvd in Dunkirk. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.



Eljae Javaughn Sutton

Weapons Violation: 24-91304 On November 25, 2024, members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) observed a wanted individual operating a vehicle traveling NB Rt. 4 in the area of Broomes Island Road in Port Republic, and conducted a felony traffic stop. Contact was made with the driver, **Eljae Javaughn Sutton**, 25 of Prince Frederick. During a search incident to arrest, a spring-loaded switchblade knife was located on Sutton's person. K9 Zeus conducted an open-air sniff of the vehicle resulting in a positive alert. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed three cell phones, a 17 round extended handgun magazine, a single rifle round, a rifle grip, and a handgun holster. Sutton is prohibited from possessing ammunition due to a prior disqualifying conviction. Sutton was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Concealing a Dangerous Weapon and Illegal Possession of Ammunition.

Editor's Note: The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (410) 535-2800 and reference the case number provided. Citizens may remain anonymous thru the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov

Fatal Dunkirk Crash Claims D.C. Man's Life

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Patrol Bureau and Crash Reconstruction Unit responded on Dec. 9 at approximately 2:23 p.m. to a serious single-vehicle crash in the area of MD Rt. 4 and Cedarwood Lane in Dunkirk.

A preliminary investigation revealed a GMC Yukon was traveling southbound on MD Rt. 4 in the area of Lyons Creek Road. Witness statements and evidence at the scene indicate the GMC drifted off the road, striking a speed limit sign in the grassy area to the right of SB Rt. 4. The vehicle then returned to the roadway and continued swerving between lanes while traveling at a high rate of speed, according to witnesses. Near Ashwood Drive, the GMC Yukon crossed the grassy center median and the northbound lanes of Rt. 4 before leaving the roadway again. The

vehicle ultimately came to a rest after striking a tree in the grassy area off northbound Rt. 4, near Cedarwood Lane.

The driver, Andrew Francis Evans II, 43, of Washington, D.C., was pronounced deceased at the scene. Vehicle speed and a possible medical event are believed to have been contributing factors in the crash.

Deputy Anna Morrison of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Crash Reconstruction Team is investigating the incident. Anyone who witnessed the collision or events leading up to it is urged to contact Deputy Morrison at 410-535-2800 or via email at Anna.Morrison@calvertcountymd.gov. Please reference case number 24-95532.

Press release from CCSO

Law Enforcement Hosts Shop with a Cop

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), joined by Troopers from the Maryland State Police (MSP), Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal, on Saturday, Dec. 7, brought holiday cheer to our community during the 18th Annual Calvert Shop with a Cop event.

This heartwarming program, sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 109, and the Optimist Club of Calvert, pairs underprivileged children with local officers for a day of festive fun and gift shopping for themselves and their loved ones.

The day began with patrol vehicles transforming into holiday sleighs, chauffeuring the children from their homes to Prince Frederick. Outback Steakhouse hosted a delicious breakfast, where Santa Claus and The Grinch made surprise appearances, spreading Christmas magic to all. After breakfast, the children were escorted in a procession of lights and sirens to Walmart for a shopping spree, their smiles lighting up the holiday season.

Santa's helpers at the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department worked their wrapping magic to ensure each gift was perfectly packaged, ready for Christmas morning.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office



extends their deepest gratitude to Outback Steakhouse for providing a scrumptious breakfast and lunch, the Optimist Club of Calvert County, Calvert FOP, Walmart, Pros Fore Clothes Foundation, Children's Aid, Inc., CCSO civilian staff, and the many community partners and sponsors whose generosity made this magical day possible.

This event was the perfect kickoff to the holiday season, bringing joy and hope to the children and families in our community.

Press Release from CCSO



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Winning \$50,000 Scratch-Off Sold in Chesapeake Beach

The latest *Powerball* jackpot of \$256 million was won in Saturday night's drawing on a ticket sold in Queens, New York, but in Maryland the rolling jackpot game generated three wins at the \$50,000 level last week.

Included among the winners in Maryland was a \$50,000 Cash Scratch-Off ticket sold at Twin Beach Convenient Mart, 8426 Bayside Road, Chesapeake Beach.

It was like every other day, just his typical morning, an Anne Arundel County man told Lottery officials earlier this week. He went to the store, bought his daily game tickets and one scratch-off and returned home, just as he always does. The \$50,000 top prize that entered the story a few minutes later is what made the day anything but ordinary.

"I've been playing *\$50,000 Cash* for a few weeks now," the retired mechanical engineer explained. He selects a particular scratch-off, plays it for a while to see if he has any luck, and then moves on to the next instant ticket. "I've been doing pretty well with it, but I was not ready for this."

Scratching his *\$50,000 Cash* game soon after returning home, the anonymous player was shocked to see the match that delivered his top-prize win. "I've played this game every day for weeks, so I know exactly how it works. But still, I was sure that I must be reading it wrong."

Quickly calling a family member who lives nearby, he said, without thinking, "I have something I need to tell you..." which could be a scary thing to hear from a loved one. "I realized how that sounded so I told them the good news fast to calm their worries."

A resident of a small town south of Shady Side, the loyal player said he will put his *\$50,000 Cash* winnings in the bank. "Retirement costs money, you know."

The \$20 scratch-off debuted in December 2022 with 160 top prizes. This win was the

92nd, leaving 68 more \$50,000 prizes in circulation. With all of those top prizes still available, as well as 78 \$5,000 second-tier prizes, our winner suggested that he may not be ready to move on from *\$50,000 Cash* just yet.

If he does decide to stick with his lucky ticket, our winner may also stick with his lucky Lottery store in Chesapeake Beach. The owners of the Calvert County convenience store are also winners. They received a \$500 Lottery bonus for selling the top-prize winning instant ticket.

While the New York *Powerball* win resulted in the jackpot being reset to \$20 million, the *Mega Millions* jackpot is still rolling, with an estimated annuity value of \$670 million (cash value \$317.8 million) for the drawing on Dec. 13.

Across the state, and across all games, the Maryland Lottery paid nearly \$32.2 million in prizes during the week of Dec. 2-8, including 42 tickets worth \$10,000 or more that were sold or redeemed in that seven-day span.

Winners are encouraged to sign the backs of tickets and keep winning tickets in a safe location. Tickets for draw games expire 182 days after the drawing. *FAST PLAY* tickets expire 182 days after purchase. The last date to claim for scratch-offs is posted on the scratch-offs page.

Winners of prizes larger than \$25,000 must redeem tickets at the Maryland Lottery Customer Resource Center in Baltimore, which is open by appointment only. Prizes up to \$25,000 can be claimed at the cashier window of any of the six casinos in Maryland. Prizes up to \$5,000 can be claimed at any of more than 400 Expanded Cashing Authority Program (XCAP) locations. All Maryland Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem tickets worth up to and including \$600. More information is available on the How to Claim page of the Lottery website.



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100 Nativity Scenes on Display in St. Leonard



Through Jan. 5 the public is cordially invited to view the 100 nativity scenes at the pavilion in the parking lot of the Chesapeake Market Place in St. Leonard. The displays are open to the public and free of charge to view. Marketplace hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. through 9 a.m. The marketplace is located at 5015 St. Leonard Road in St. Leonard.

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Dec 12

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way & Zoom
6:30-8 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeannette Findley & JC Hooker. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Teen Craft Night

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
6-7:30 p.m.

We will be making mini terrariums, cards, and other crafts! For ages 13-17. Free event! Please register, limited space. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Dec 14

19th Annual Christmas Market

All Saints Episcopal Church
100 Lower Marlboro Rd., Sunderland
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Expert craftsmen with sensational gifts for your holiday giving, homemade gourmet cocoa and Glühwein, music, home-baked goods, a silent auction and lunch make this Christmas Market the place to be! Visit two levels in the Parish Hall and outside. Bring your red, green or blue mug from previous years to buy beverage refills. Rain, snow or shine! Free admission & parking. Proceeds benefit parish & community projects. 410-231-8150

Carolina Snowflakes Workshop

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: \$20/person

Create your own decorative Carolina snowflake using flat reed or ash. A delicate creation perfect for the holiday season. Appropriate for ages 12 and up.

Home for the Holidays Celebration

Downtown Prince Frederick and King Memorial Park
Parade 10 a.m. to noon
Holiday festivities noon to 3 p.m.

Enjoy children's activities and games, food trucks, music, photos with Santa and more! Hosted by Calvert County Parks & Recreation.

43rd Annual Solomons Christmas Walk & Lighted Boat Parade

Solomons
12:30-9 p.m.

Pictures with Santa, live music and dance performances, vendor fair, street parade, and more! for a full schedule of events, visit SolomonsMaryland.org

Sun, Dec 15

Southern Maryland Bluegrass

Calvert Elks Lodge
1015 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
2 p.m.

The series continues with yet another Grand Ole Opry Star. Celebrated banjo player and radio broadcaster, Joe Mullins and his Radio Ramblers

Cold Full Moon Hike

Kings Landing Park
3255 Kings Landing Rd., Huntingtown
4-5:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5

Step into the night at Kings Landing Park and embrace the enchantment of our final full moon hike of the season. Whether you're a seasoned night hiker or a first timer, come discover the allure of the night and make memories that will linger long after the moon sets. These hikes are NOT stroller friendly, but infants and toddlers in backpacks are welcome.

Tue, Dec 17

Tween Switch

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch

4100 5th St., North Beach
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Have fun and make friends at this electronic twist on game night! Play games using the Nintendo Switch on our giant screen in Meeting Room West. This program is for tweens ages 8-12 years old. Registration is not required. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

Calvert Library
8-9 p.m.

Join us this month to discuss *The Guncl* by Steven Rowley. Link to discussion will be sent out morning of event for all registrants. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Dec 18

Book Discussion

Calvert Library Fairview Branch, Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings, & Zoom, 2-3 p.m.

Join us as we discuss Jane Austen's classic, *Persuasion*, a story of a second chance at true love. Register in advance to receive the Zoom link via email if you wish to attend virtually. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Library Art League: Button Making

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Draw a picture, make a collage, then turn them into cool buttons you can wear! For artists ages 10-18. Registration required. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Thu, Dec 19

Little Minnows

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

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

Ongoing

Annamarie Garden in Lights

Annamarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons
Through January 1, 2025.

A must-see holiday tradition for the entire family! Enjoy a stroll through the gardens to see the magical holiday lights display. In addition there will be holiday shopping, festive exhibits and food available for purchase at food trucks on-site. Advanced times-entry tickets are required for members and non-members! Check website for special nights and food truck schedule TBD. Closed on some evenings, please check website for updated schedule. This is a rain or shine event!

Upcoming

Christmas Open House

Port Republic One Room Schoolhouse and Christ Church
Sunday, December 22
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Come and celebrate an Old Fashioned Christmas in the original Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse, which will be decorated for the holidays on the grounds of historic Christ Church. Visit with Santa in the schoolhouse and enjoy making crafts. Enjoy Christmas music and our guest pianist. Within easy walking distance, the Parish Hall will be open for refreshments and additional seasonal crafts. Christmas Attic Treasures will be for sale at the Parish Hall. Historic Christ Church will offer tours and there will be a treat for children who find the church mouse. <https://calvertoneroomschool.org/events>

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

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



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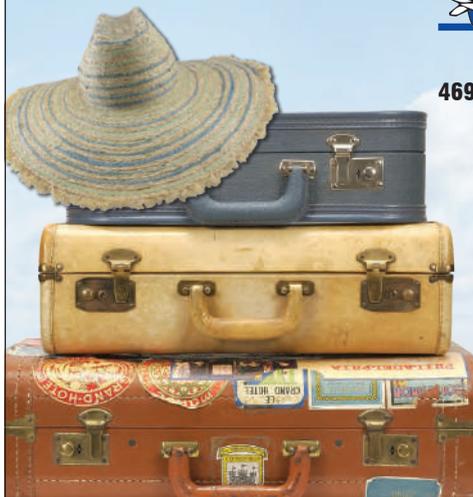
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Thou ___ do it
6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
9. Brainstem part
13. Town in New York state
14. Little (Spanish)
15. Continent
16. Retch
17. Short-billed rails
18. Small period of time (abbr.)
19. Confused
21. A team needs one
22. Woman in ancient times
23. Republican Party
24. Spanish be
25. "The Godfather" character Johnny
28. Not around
29. City in Zambia
31. A type of beginning
33. Numb
36. Gurus
38. Small, gray-headed crow
39. Vehicle type
41. Disorders
44. One point east of southeast
45. Indian soldier
46. Tree type
48. Midway between south and southeast
49. It cools your home
51. Corn comes on it
52. Ship's deck
54. A way to bake
56. Improvised
60. Butterfly genus
61. Baseball fields have them
62. Designated space
63. Discharge
64. Two of something
65. Once more
66. Part of your face
67. Tax collector
68. Cassia tree

CLUES DOWN

1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
2. Wings
3. Overly studious person
4. They protect your valuables
5. The Volunteer State
6. Non-hydraulic cement
7. Horse mackerel
8. Jackson and Diddley are two
9. Splendid displays
10. Mountain in NE Greece
11. A daughter or your brother or sister
12. German surname
14. Having more than one husband at a time
17. Romanian city
20. Energy
21. Makes less hot
23. Gas diffusion electrode
25. Former CIA
26. Set an example for others
27. Support of a particular person
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Mountain range
32. Violate the sanctity of something
34. Supervises flying
35. Talks
37. Persian male given name
40. Born of
42. Forcibly take one's possessions
43. Discounts
47. Knockouts
49. Posh Colorado destination
50. Form of therapy
52. British rock band
53. Type of virus (abbr.)
55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
56. Volcanic crater
57. Middle Eastern nation
58. Sinn ___, Irish organization
59. Ethiopian lake
61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
65. Equally

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DECEMBER 5 SOLUTIONS

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Dec 12

Christmas Ornament & Cookie Exchange

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ladies, it is with great anticipation that we invite you to immerse yourselves in a delightful evening at our esteemed Annual Christmas Ornament & Cookie Exchange, to be held on Thursday, December 12th, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. within the welcoming walls of the Fellowship Hall at Patuxent Presbyterian Church. This year's gathering promises an array of festive activities, including our cherished ornament exchange and a brand-new engaging game designed for everyone's delight. To add a touch of merriment, we extend a warm invitation for you to showcase your most exquisite holiday sweater! Prizes await the most remarkable displays. Kindly bring a new, wrapped Christmas ornament for the joyous exchange! For the cookie swap, craft 2-3 dozen of your most delicious cookies to share with fellow attendees. Should baking not be your forte, fret not—feel free to skip

the baking but make sure to bring an ornament to exchange. As part of our Mission Outreach, we are collecting socks, mittens, scarves, or hats to be distributed to guests in need at WARM and the Three Oaks Shelter. Your contribution will bring warmth and comfort to those less fortunate during this season of goodwill. We eagerly anticipate the joy of celebrating the holiday season with each one of you! To learn more about our church, please visit: www.paxpres.com.

Yard Sale

44078 St. Andrews Church Road
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Friday 8-5, and Saturday 8-1. Inside the parish hall and outside for furniture and larger items. We have new and very nice items that were donated. Something for everyone!

Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical

Three Notch Theatre
21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald

Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical is the captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. With book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, Matilda has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages around the world.

Sat, Dec 14

Designer Purse Bingo

Mechanicsville VFD
28165 Hills Club Rd., Mechanicsville
12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Come join us for an afternoon of bingo fun filled with chances to win designer purses, raffles, door prizes and more!

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Proceeds will benefit the Southern Maryland Boot Scooters Walk to End Alzheimer's, The Leonardtown Church of the Nazarene and the Immaculate

Conception Catholic Church.

Sun, Dec 15

Breakfast with Santa

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Loretto Hall
37575 Chaptico Rd., Chaptico
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Breakfast menu- bacon, eggs, sausage, home fries, eggs, pancakes, french toast, juice and coffee.

Adults-\$12, 6-12 yrs- \$6, 5 yrs and under -free

Holly Jolly Fundraiser

Gracie's Guys and Gals Dance Studio
44150 Airport View Dr., Hollywood
2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Jingles, our favorite horse, will have lots of jokes to share during the show. Popsicles, Beethoven, Peggy Pig, Ellie, Santa Mouse, Fred and Ginger Bread and Max can't wait to dance and sing for you.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Introduction to Microsoft Word

Would you like to know how to use the computer to write letters or other types of documents? Join us at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, December 14 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. for this introductory class to learn how to use Microsoft Word. We'll get you started with Word and cover the basics of creating documents. This class does not result in Microsoft certification. Computer Skills needed for this class: Advanced mouse and keyboard abilities. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Jólabókaflód (The Yule Book Flood)

Celebrate the Icelandic holiday of Jólabókaflód, the Yule Book Flood,

with us at Leonardtown Library on Friday, December 20 from 2 - 4 p.m. Take a book and leave a book in our community book exchange, plus enjoy reading, snacks, and relaxing activities in our cozy space. The Jólabókaflód tradition started during World War II, when paper was one of the few commodities not rationed during the war. Icelanders exchanged books around the holidays, as gifts and other materials were hard to come by. For more information on this tradition, take a look at the Jólabókaflód website!

Piñata Decorating! ¡Decoración de piñatas!

Want to learn how a Piñata is made? Come decorate a Piñata with us! A Piñata is a container typically made of papier-mâché and tissue paper filled with

candy or treats that can be hit with a stick to break. One papier-mâché Piñata will be provided per family registration. Decorate and take it home with you! Lexington Park Library, Saturday, December 21 from 2:30 - 4 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Lotería - Bingo for Everyone! Bilingual Bingo

It's a family event! All ages can have fun learning Spanish while playing Lotería, a fun Bingo game. Fun prizes for the winners! Join us for a morning of Lotería (Mexican Bingo) for all ages! The bingo boards have colorful pictures with Spanish words labeling the picture. Pictures will be called in Spanish and translated to English, giving you an opportunity to learn new Spanish or English words!

Lexington Park Library, Saturday, December 21 from 10 - 11 a.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

St. Mary's County Library Holiday Closures

All locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Monday, December 23 - Wednesday, December 25. All locations will be open on Thursday, December 26.

Lego Mania

We supply the "bricks," you bring the imagination. Come build something amazing with our LEGO and Duplo pieces! Lexington Park Library, Friday, December 27 from 2 - 3 p.m. No registration.

to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 11:00 AM in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD, with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow at Our Lady's at Medley's Neck Church Cemetery, Leonardtown, MD.

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

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

Sandy Payne, 73



Sandra "Sandy" Lee (Brosdal) Payne, 73 of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully on November 30, 2024, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown,

Maryland with her daughters, a granddaughter and husband at her bedside after courageously battling several health issues for many years, most recently cancer.

Sandy was born on June 8, 1951, in Mineola, NY to the late Kenneth Brosdal (a Pan American Airways captain), and Marjorie (Larson) Brosdal. She graduated from Northport High School in Northport, NY in 1969, where she sang in the chorus along with Patti LuPone. She went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Dowling College and a master's degree from Adelphi University. She took her first teaching job in Jacksonville, Florida where she met a young Navy sailor, Mike Payne. She married her loving husband, Michael Payne, on May 6, 1978. They spent over 46 wonderful years together. Together they lived in various locations throughout the US including Virginia Beach, VA, where Lee was born in Norfolk; Layton, UT where Margo was born; Lexington Park, MD; San Diego, CA; then returning to Maryland where they lived in Leonardtown (Breton Bay) for the past 36 years.

Sandy was a Special Education Elementary School teacher with St. Mary's County Public Schools for 20 years, teaching at Green Holly and White Marsh elementary schools before retiring in 2007. She had a big heart for working with children, particularly those with special needs. She enjoyed gardening and photography; she maintained the most beautiful flower gardens around her home and was Treasurer of the Society Hill Garden Club of Breton Bay. She was a mentor to many young ladies as a Girl Scout Leader for 10 years. She had a deep love for all animals and was a mom to many rescue animals over the years including dogs, cats, and even mice. One of her favorite hobbies was feeding the birds, deer, squirrels and other wildlife that visited her daily.

Sandy loved her family and loved to visit them as much as her health would allow. She cherished her visits to Sand Lake and Duluth, Minnesota and Long Island, New York to visit her family.

Sandy is survived by her husband Leonardtown Lion Mike (Command Master Chief, U.S. Navy Reserve Retired); daughter Lee (Greg, Captain, U.S. Navy) Machi and their children Adam and Lena of California,

MD; daughter Margo (Patrick) O'Rear of California, MD and their children Jon, Kyle, Lillian, Annika, Brynna and Braden; stepson Michael (Tami) Payne, Jr. of Pflugerville, TX and their children and grandchildren Stephanie, Christopher, Samantha, Troy, Claire, Michael III, Alivia, Avery, and Aria; her brothers Charles (Mary Lou) Brosdal of Nissequogue, NY and Gordon Brosdal of Miller Place, NY; and many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her sister Frances Larkin.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 6:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at Northport Rural Cemetery, 23 Sandy Hollow Road, Northport, NY 11768.

Memorial contributions may be made to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer Research Center, St. Joseph's Indian School, or St. Labre Indian School.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Kathy Fuller, 72



Cynthia Kay "Kathy" Fuller of Loveville, MD, passed away on December 8, 2024. She was born on May 9, 1952, in Jacksonville, FL, to her parents, the late

Robert Dale and Kathleen (Harris) Helget.

Kathy is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 53 years, Joseph Daniel "Danny" Fuller and her two sons, Donald E "Donny" Fuller and wife Angel of Mountain Lake Park, MD and Charles Robert "Bobby" Fuller and wife Lisa of Fredericksburg, VA. She will be missed by her grandchildren, Andrew Isom-Fuller and wife Hallie, Joseph R. Fuller, and step-grandchildren Alex Belako and Katie Hammonds. She is also survived by her brother-in-law Eddie Fuller, his wife Sharon (Hayden) Fuller, and their family.

Kathy worked as an accountant and controller at Patuxent Naval Air Station. She enjoyed playing BINGO on Friday nights and attending Knights of Columbus social events with her husband, Danny. She always enjoyed visiting with family and hugging her grandchildren. She will forever live on in the memories we cherish and the love we shared.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with the Knights of Columbus Rosary recitation at 7:00 PM, followed by prayers by Father David Beaubien in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 9:30 AM in St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Leonardtown, MD. Interment will be private.

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

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

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



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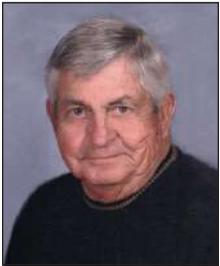
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In Remembrance

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

Larry Trader, 87



Larry James Trader, Sr., 87, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, with his loving family at his side.

He was born on July 1, 1937 in Parkersburg, WV to the late Frank Trader and Eva Jane Thompson Trader.

Larry grew up in several small towns in western West Virginia and is a 1955 graduate of Spencer High School in Spencer, WV. On June 4, 1957 he enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country until his Honorable Discharge in June 1960. In 1960 he began his career with the Department of Defense at the Washington Navy Yard which led to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida and finally to Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, where he retired in 1993 after 36 dedicated years as a skilled Logistics Analyst. On May 12, 1962 he married his beloved wife, Bonnie Jean Trader at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Cheverly, MD. Together they celebrated over 62 years of marriage with three sons filled with many wonderful memories spent as a family. As his sons grew up, he coached sports and enjoyed watching their games. He enjoyed time spent travelling, fishing, bowling, camping trips, and play-

ing golf. After retiring, he and Bonnie spent their winters in Florida enjoying the warm weather, but always came home in the spring to be near their growing family and enjoy their grandchildren and great-grandchildren and spend time with family at their condo in Ocean City. He is a long-time member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

Larry is survived by his loving wife, Bonnie and sons: Larry Trader, Jr. (Valerie) of Leonardtown, MD, Steven Trader (Lisa) of Ridgeley, WV, Michael Trader of Leonardtown, MD, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his siblings, Glenna Kincaid, Mabel Stalnaker, Virginia Mahoney, Paul Trader and Frank Trader.

Family will receive friends on Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with a Service celebrated by Reverend Edward Hegnauer at 11:00 a.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery, 21370 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Memorial contributions may be made in Larry's name to Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD and Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

Isobel Ricketts, 94



Isobel Ingalls Ricketts, 94, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at her home with her husband at her side.

Born in Leonardtown on February 3, 1930, she was the loving daughter of Edgar Terry Ingalls and Agnes Marie Griffin Ingalls.

Isobel was a St. Mary's County native but moved to Potomac, MD with her family where she graduated from Richard Montgomery High School in 1947. She continued her education at George Washington College. On June 15, 1952, she married the love of her life Martel Ricketts in a double wedding ceremony that they shared with their identical twins. Her identical twin sister, Elizabeth (Betty) Ingalls Ricketts married Martel's twin brother, C. Mackall Ricketts. Twins married twins. They celebrated over 72 years of marriage. Together the two sets of twins shared a harmonious lifetime of friendship and enjoyed every moment of their unique bond together. When the four moved back to Leonardtown together in 1995, they even owned a 26-foot Bayliner together named the "ISOBETH".

Isobel began working at a young age. At 15 she began modelling for Woodward and Lothrop and Garfinkel's. In her adult years she worked for Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO) as an Index operator. Following that, she was an instructional aide at Beverly Farms Elementary School in Rockville, MD. To this day many remember her as one of "the playground ladies". Her last job was as an instructional aide at Banneker Elementary. Isobel loved children and enjoyed working with them. She shared those careers with her twin sister, Betty. Next came her volunteer work in the Leonardtown community. As a member of the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary she was involved in many events that supported the hospital. She was also very active in assisting residents at the St. Mary's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Isobel made her family her top priority. She chose to focus on her children and their needs rather than returning to school for her teaching credentials. In 1994, the twin couples appeared on the Phil Donahue Show, Australian Show, and CBS This Morning. They also made a television commercial for Sears. Then the two women appeared on the Jenny Jones Show. Their story was also covered by Scott Simon on National Public Radio.

Her hobbies included collecting twin antique dolls, designing and crafting cloth dolls, and was a member of the Dollology Club of Washington D.C. She also loved to sew. Once retired, the four twins travelled abroad to England, Italy, Scotland, Greece, Germany, Ireland, and France. They made eight trips to Europe with the Maryland Alumni Association and later spent five years cruising the Mississippi and Ohio with River Barge Excursions.

In addition to her husband Marty, Isobel is survived by her three children, Byron Ricketts (Judy), Tara Hofmann, Darrel Ricketts (Courtney) eight grandchildren, Hannah Hofmann, Brendon Ricketts, Ashleigh Hofmann Bouchard, Ayme Ricketts, Charles "Chad" Hofmann, Austin Grey Hofmann, K. Payden Ricketts, S. Dane Ricketts, and six great grandchildren, Nathaniel Watson, Luca Watson, Zane Bouchard, Savannah Bouchard, Belle Ricketts, and Cameron "Cam" Ricketts.

She is preceded in death by her twin sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Ingalls Ricketts, her brother-in-law, Clifford Mackall Ricketts and brother, Huntley H. Ingalls.

Family will receive friends for Isobel's Life Celebration on Monday, December 16, 2024 from 10:30AM to 11:30AM, with a service at 11:30AM at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will be at Potomac United Methodist Church Cemetery, Potomac, MD on a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made in Isobel's name to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or the Alzheimers Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave. Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

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

Flora Nicholas, 74



Flora Pritchard Nicholas, 74, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on December 5, 2024, in Hollywood, MD. Born on November 29, 1950, in Leonardtown,

MD, she was the daughter of the late Helen Isabel Combs and the late Edwin Granger Pritchard, Sr. Flora was the loving wife of William Francis Nicholas, whom she married in Our Lady's Church, Leonardtown, MD, on April 7, 1979. She is survived by her daughter, Katie Zbrudzewski (Matt), her brother, Edwin G. Pritchard, Jr. (Donna), her nieces Jennifer Haelewyn (Doug) and Kelly Aves, and her nephew, Brian Pritchard (Tracy). In addition to her parents, Flora was preceded in death by her brother, William Pritchard, and her nephew, Christopher Pritchard.

Flora was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and knew from a very young age that she wanted to be a teacher. She graduated from Chopticon High School in 1968 and went on to earn her B.A. in education in 1972 then her Master's in education in 1980, both from the University of Maryland. Flora was a Reading Resource Specialist/Librarian for St. Mary's County Public Schools and St. John's Catholic School for 37 years, retiring in 2009. She enjoyed reading, traveling, and visiting colonial homes. Flora was a member of the Maryland State Teachers Association and the SMC Retired Teachers Association.

The family will receive friends on Monday, December 16, 2024, from 5:00 PM



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A View From The BLEACHERS



NOT YOUR DAY

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

I walked into my freshman homeroom on 12 January 1987 tired and grumpy. I did not want to be there. Not that I ever wanted to be there, you know, because it was school. But this was next-level resistance. The rude alarm, the morning preparation, the drive to school, the cold January weather – it all added to my irritation. With zero effort to control my non-verbals, I plopped into my desk and pouted.

My homeroom teacher approached with caution. He possessed a personal knowledge of his students that provided a solid hunch as to what was bothering me on that dreadful morning. He cut right to the chase, knowing I was in no mood for generic questioning about my mood. Referring to the Washington's 17-0 loss to the New York Giants in the NFC Championship Game the day before, he offered a direct, "Tough game, huh?". I needed the opening. This being the days long before Twitter or group chats, the emotional rage has been boiling in my brain without a release valve for about 12 hours at this point. Sleep hadn't provided relief as the consequence of the outcome had permeated my subconscious.

The simple question triggered a flow of frustrations, what if's, officiating gripes, grievances over player performances and general despair over how far the Burgundy and Gold had come only to lose to the Giants, Washington's primary rival in the NFC East at that point. My teacher listened, and acknowledging my feelings without arguing any points. He noted that he shared my disappointment and then pivoted to the positives: they team had come far, had a strong roster, excellent coaching and, in all likelihood, would be in the Super Bowl mix for years to come. Then, before turning back to his homeroom duties at the cusp of another school day, he said, "You know, Ron, sometimes it's just not your day."

At that moment, and for years after, that summation stuck in my craw. It felt so submissive, like a lame excuse after getting defeated. It implied that the loser didn't do anything wrong, that they gave their all and it was just the forces of the universe that had conspired against them to produce this unfortunate outcome. Could I use this in my own adolescent life? Sorry for wrecking your truck, dad, it just wasn't my day on the road. Hey, mom, I know I flunked calculus, but, you know, it just wasn't my semester. Apologies for tanking that presentation, boss, Tuesdays on cloudy days when the temperature is below 50 degrees just doesn't jive with my psyche.

The years since that long ago January day have proven my teacher correct. The 1986-87 season was the Giants' year, not Washington's; it was the culmination of an impressive crescendo from a three-win Giants team in 1983, to 14 regular season wins in 1986 and a Super Bowl victory in January 1987. My initial disdain for my teacher's explanation – that it just wasn't our day – and my snap judgement that it was nothing more than personal therapy talk for not getting it done, was flat wrong.

What he knew that day was that competition is impossibly complex and the verdict – winning or losing – is comprised of tangled web of variables, some controllable, some not. Physical effort, film study, pre- and in-game strategy certainly influence a game's outcome. But so does a fingertip on an otherwise perfect pass, an untimely gust of wind, the fickle bounce of a loose ball, an untimely injury, the alignment of a locker room and emotional state of a team. The answer to who won is always clear; why they won, well, that's a lot more complicated.

That long-ago homeroom lesson has come to mind many times in the decades since. Like sports, life is complex. Every situation, be it personal or professional, is influenced by a myriad of factors. Regardless of effort or intention, sometimes it just won't be your day. That doesn't mean you're a failure, or that success is beyond your grasp; it only means that you fell short in that moment.

Hmm...maybe school wasn't so bad after all.
Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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December 15th 2024

2 PM Show:

- Doors @ 1:30 PM; Dinner after show

5 PM Show: **(SOLD OUT)**

- Doors @ 4 PM for dinner
- Doors @ 4:30 PM for show only

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Jingles, our favorite horse, will have lots of jokes to share during the show! Popsicles, Beethoven, Peggy Pig, Ellie, Santa Mouse, Fred and Ginger Bread and Max can't wait to dance and sing for you. National Champions, GG Show Troupe, will also be performing.

Tickets go on sale at Gracie's studio the week of November 18th 5-8 PM, Monday-Thursday. More info email: hollyjollyshow@aol.com or call 301-475-5265.

Two Ticket Options:

1. \$15 - includes dinner: hotdog, chips, beverage, 1 hr show & face painting, make your own ornament, and visit Santa and friends.
2. \$10 - 1 hr Show Option Only - and includes the above except for dinner.
3. Santa arrives around 6:00 pm
4. Kids under 2 are free, sit on lap.

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[Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)



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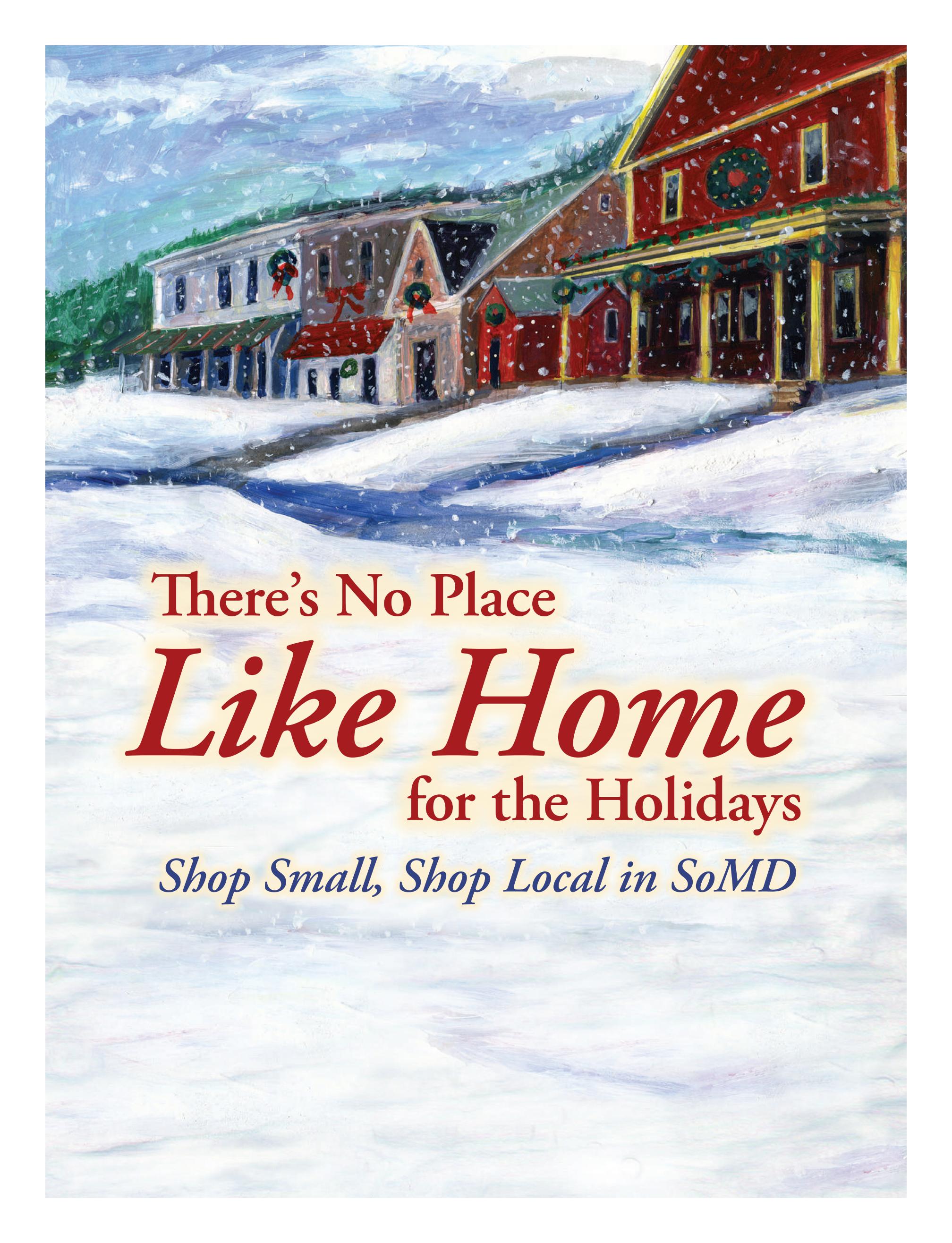
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Photos courtesy of St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office



Keep your family safe this holiday season

Here are a few simple tips to remember to keep safety in mind.

LIVE TREE: Make sure it always has an adequate amount of water, and keep it away from any heat source.

ARTIFICIAL TREE: Choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.

Make sure the Christmas tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.

Avoid using candles; they are a primary cause of house fires during the holidays.



SMECO cares about your safety. Have a safe and fun-filled holiday.



Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards.

Never nail, tack, or stress wiring when hanging lights; keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.

Don't use frayed or damaged electric cords, and never use electric lights on a metallic tree.

Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.

In homes with small children and pets, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations.

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52-Oz.
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11.98



32-Oz., Party Tray
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8-In.
Baked
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8-Inch
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750mL
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750mL
Ecco Domani
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750mL
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750mL
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Line 39
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Second Half of Maryland's Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season Opens December 21

The second part of Maryland's split muzzleloader deer hunting season will open Dec. 21 and run through Jan. 4. The first half of the split season was held in October. Hunters may use muzzleloading firearms to harvest sika and white-tailed deer during this time.

"The late muzzleloader season provides hunters with another opportunity to pursue one of their favorite pastimes," Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Karina Stonesifer said. "Many hunters like the added challenge of the colder temperatures and style of weapons that must be used. The season gives hunters the chance to put additional venison in the freezer and it greatly assists with managing the state's deer population."

DNR encourages hunters to consult the 2024-2025 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping for information on bag limits, registration procedures, and other regulations. Hunters are also reminded that an

antler-point restriction remains in effect. Deer hunters may harvest one antlered white-tailed deer within the yearly bag limit that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. Any additional antlered deer taken within the established bag limit must meet the minimum point restriction. Licensed junior hunters and apprentice license holders, 16 years of age or younger, are exempt from this restriction.

Hunters are reminded that if they intend to pursue sika deer, they must purchase a sika hunting stamp in addition to the muzzleloader stamp. Sika stamps may be purchased online through the department's online licensing website, at a licensing agent, or by calling DNR Licensing and Registration services at 866-344-8889. The sika deer muzzleloader season bag limit is three with no more than one being antlered. An antlered sika is defined as a deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline.

The sika deer muzzleloader season is open in every county.

During muzzleloader season, Maryland requires deer hunters and their companions to wear daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink in one of the following manners: a cap of solid fluorescent daylight orange or pink, a vest or jacket containing back and front panels of at least 250 square inches of fluorescent daylight orange or pink, or an outer garment of camouflage daylight fluorescent orange or pink worn above the waist and containing at least 50 percent daylight fluorescent color.

Hunters should carefully inspect all tree stands and always wear a full-body safety harness while in the stand and while climbing in or out. The department strongly recommends using a sliding knot, commonly known as a prusik knot, attached to a line that is secured above the stand that allows the hunter to be safely tethered to the tree as soon as they leave the ground.



Photo by Penny Ingles, submitted to the Maryland DNR Photo Contest

Hunters are encouraged to help others by donating deer taken in Maryland. A state tax credit offers hunters an incentive for donated deer. Other local or state programs are also available so hunters should check with their deer processors.

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DNR Offering Free Environmental Seminars



Donna Morrow, Clean Marina Coordinator for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, leads a seminar at a marina. Maryland Department of Natural Resources photo.

Marina, boatyard, and yacht club operators are invited to attend a free seminar in January 2025 to learn about best practices to protect our waters and how to earn a Maryland Clean Marina designation.

Seminars will also present information on departmental grants and assistance for marinas, a review of the General Permit for Discharges from Marinas, and new fuel regulations.

Marina managers can learn more about the Clean Marina Initiative at any of these upcoming workshops. All seminars will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with morning refreshments provided. An optional tour of a hosting or adjacent Clean Marina will follow:

- Eastern Shore: Jan. 22 at Haven Harbour South, 21144 Green Lane, Rock Hall
- Southern Maryland: Jan. 24 at Southern Maryland Sailing Association, 14490 Solomons Island Road, Solomons
- Central Maryland: Jan. 28 at "Pip" Moyer Recreation Center, 273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis

The Maryland Clean Marina Initiative recognizes and promotes environmentally

responsible boating facilities. The program is coordinated by the Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the Marine Trades Association of Maryland. Certified Clean Marinas meet all environmental regulatory requirements and adopt additional best practices from the Maryland Clean Marina Guidebook, which DNR confirms through a site visit every three years.

"This program balances the realities of marina management with environmental protection," said Donna Morrow, Clean Marina Coordinator for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "Certified Clean Marinas will enjoy cleaner water, cost savings, more responsible customers, and positive publicity. There are currently 144 certified Maryland Clean Marinas and Partners, and dozens of other states have replicated Maryland's program."

There is no cost to attend the seminars but advanced registration is requested as space is limited. Registration as well as program information and a list of current Maryland Clean Marinas is available on the program website. Contact donna.morrow@maryland.gov with questions.

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Holiday Silent Auction to Benefit Museums

The Friends of the St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, the non-profit organization that supports the museums and historic sites overseen by the St. Mary's County Museum Division, is holding a silent auction at the St. Clement's Island Museum this holiday season for a fully furnished, hand-crafted dollhouse with 20 collectible Kelly dolls.

Bidding starts at \$100 and subsequent bids must be made in increments of at least \$10. A reserve price must be met to win. Bids are to be made in person, during the museum's regular hours of operation, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily (closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day). Participants can request email notifications if they are outbid.

This beautifully designed house is ideal for children or anyone young at heart. The winner will be announced on December 31, 2025. All funds raised from the auction will support St. Mary's County Museum Division programs.

If you're looking for holiday fun this December, the St. Mary's County Museum Division is pleased to present special events and exhibits during the holiday season at each historic site.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum

Holiday Exhibit at Piney Point (daily from Sunday, December 1, 2024, until Sunday, January 5, 2025, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.): Join us for a family friendly holiday exhibit where visitors can tour the museum, lighthouse, and historic park. Admission is \$7.00 for adults; \$3.50 for seniors, students, and military; and 5 and under free. The Museum Store will be open during museum hours for holiday shopping. Exhibits are closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

St. Clement's Island Museum

Christmas Doll & Train Exhibit (daily from December 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025,

from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.): Families can enjoy a holiday exhibit of antique and collectible dolls like Barbie and American Girl, classic trains, and other vintage toys in this festive holiday display. The cost for this exhibit is \$3.00 Adults, \$2.00 Seniors and Military, \$1.50 Children, and 5 and under are free. The Museum Store will be open during museum hours for holiday shopping. Exhibits are closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Old Jail Museum

Exhibit & Holiday Shopping (daily from 10 – 5 p.m.). Come take a tour of this fascinating historic site or shop at the Museum Store for a variety of unique and local gifts. Admission is free; site is closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center at Lexington Manor Passive Park

Holiday Storytime & Cookies with Santa & Mrs. Claus (December 15, 2024, from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.). Join us for a free and festive Open House for all ages, featuring Christmas story times with Santa and Mrs. Claus at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., festive coloring activities, and holiday refreshments! Attendees can also explore the interpretive center exhibits. Admission is free.

For more information on hours of operation, programs, events, admission prices, and more, following our museums on Facebook at:

- St. Clement's Island Museum: Facebook.com/SCIMuseum
- Old Jail Museum & Visitor Center: Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: Facebook.com/1836Light
- U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center: Facebook.com/USCTCenter

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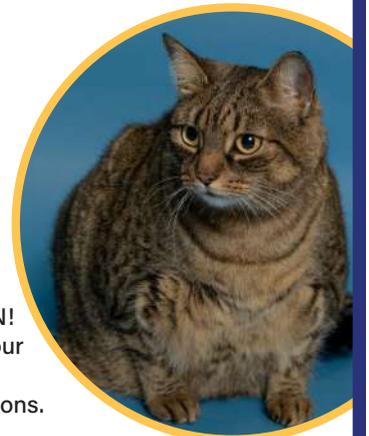
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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

From Lacrosse Pro to LEO: The Journey of Craig Day Marvin

Craig Day Marvin is no stranger to running down adversaries. As a Navy Master-at-Arms, he has trained physically and mentally to engage with numbers of opponents. But prior to doing standing a security watch, he was doing it on the lacrosse. The security specialist with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Four Detachment Patuxent River has a profound love for the sport of lacrosse which he plays professionally, but also shares a personal connection to.

"I have been playing lacrosse since I could hold a stick," Marvin claims. "I am Mohawk & Wolf Clan from Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation [Akwesasne] from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy [People of the longhouse] in upstate New York and Canada. It's part of my heritage and called the Creators Game and when we are born, we are given a miniature wooden lacrosse stick, and it is put in our cradle. It is a medicine game for us as we play it for the creator and healing purposes."

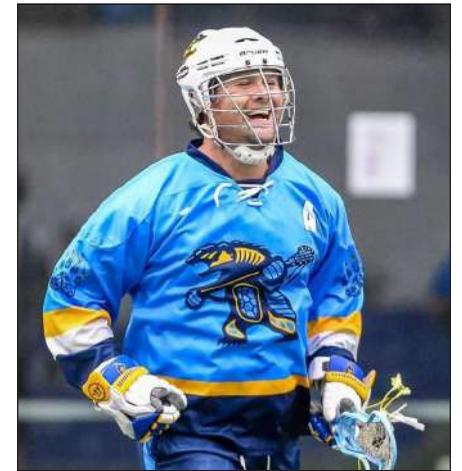
Marvin has had many years' experience with the sport, playing in leagues since he was 12 in New York, and rising through the

competitive ranks. He earned bronze playing in 2002 The North American Indigenous Games in Winnipeg, Canada, before going semi-pro with the Canadian-American (CAN-AM) Lacrosse League's Senior B league Onondaga Redhawks and the National Lacrosse League Rochester Knighthawks. CAN-AM Allegany Arrows, and eventually becoming an owner-manager of the CAN-AM Rochester Greywolves team.

"In 2016 I was asked to manage and coach the Pinewoods Smoke CAN-AM team where I ended up playing as well," said Marvin. "I assembled a winning team making it to the Championship both seasons only to fall short to the Native Sons both times. At this time, I was starting a family and at 35 I decided to retire and hang my gloves up."

In addition to lacrosse, Marvin had also established himself in the field of graphic design, working in the industry for 19 years before changing course.

"I felt it was time to make a change and do something that would benefit myself and family long term," said Marvin, "and I had a



great job set up and was waiting to start my new career, then the 2020 pandemic hit, and my new job decided to shut down and work with minimal manning. At this point days turned to weeks then months and I needed to make moves; nobody was hiring for what I was looking for and I needed so I looked into the military. I have a long military family tree tracing back to the Civil War and my dad being a Marine and an uncle who was a Mohawk Code Talker in WW2. I always wanted to join the armed forces, but I had a career and at this point in my life I thought I was too old, but there I was shipping out to Boot Camp in April of 2021 at age 38."

Despite being an older recruit, Marvin thrived in Navy life, even drawing parallels between his old passion and new career.

"I was looking for health benefits, retirement plan and job security, and ultimately joining the Navy gave me pride and to serve a greater purpose and honor the warriors that came before me, said Marvin. "Like the Navy and team sorts, you have to work together, communicate and execute the play/mission to be successful."

Marvin enjoyed his new role in the Navy, but still felt something was missing from his civilian life.

"After Joining I would see be driving by

a park or a school and see kids play and I would remember how I felt when I was that age, and the joy that the medicine game gave me, said Marvin. "So, when I knew I was coming back to the East Coast especially Maryland which is a hotbed for lacrosse, I knew I would have an opportunity to play again. After speaking to a few of my contacts in the league office I was referred to the four teams in Mid-Atlantic Division of the North American Box Lacrosse League and I had two teams reach out wanting to take a look at me. Ultimately, I decided to go with Virginia as they understood I was active-duty Navy and offered to work together with my schedule."

He has since been called up to the Senior A Virginia Golden Bears team since rejoining the sport. Now 40 and considered a veteran player, Marvin relishes the opportunity to not only play but mentor on and off the field.

"Being older and having life experience I'm able to mentor and give advice to my junior Sailors so they can become good leaders, and being a veteran player and I feel that translates to the field as well knowing I can communicate to my teammates when, where and what to do to execute all aspects of the game."

Season's Greetings

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Sheriff's Office Seeks Theft Suspect

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office requests help to identify and locate the individual shown in this photo who, after threatening an employee, left a retail establishment without paying for an item.

If you recognize this individual or have information about this incident, please contact Deputy Helen Deitrich at Helen.Deitrich@stmaryscountymd.gov. Please reference case number 2024-72764.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or text Crime Solvers at 274637. In the message block, type "Tip239" 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, and you may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.



Commissioners Announce 2025 Public Forum Schedule

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) are pleased to announce the following Public Forums for 2025:

- January 7, 2025
- May 6, 2025
- July 29, 2025
- November 4, 2025

All Public Forums begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the CSMC Meeting Room, located in the Chesapeake Building at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown.

Public Forums allow residents to speak directly to the Commissioners on topics of their choosing. Residents may offer appreciation, questions, or suggestions in a mutually respectful format. Those wishing to speak at the forum will receive up to three minutes to address the Commissioners.

For those unable to attend in person, feedback can also be submitted to the CSMC at any time via:

- Email: CSMC@stmaryscountymd.gov
- Mail: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, PO Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650

The CSMC are dedicated to ensuring equal access and participation for all res-

idents. Individuals requiring accommodation for disabilities, special needs, or language support services are encouraged to contact the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1340 at least three days in advance of the forum, so that arrangements can be made.

Public Forums are broadcast live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 and streamed online at YouTube.com/@StMarysCoGov for those wishing to watch remotely.

In addition to these Public Forums, the annual Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for April 22, 2025, at Leonardtown High School. Residents are encouraged to attend and provide input on the budget at that time. Visit <https://bit.ly/SMCG-FY26-Budget> to view the budget schedule, watch meeting videos, and more!

The Commissioners encourage all community members to take advantage of these opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and contribute to the betterment of St. Mary's County. For more information on the CSMC, visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/csmc.



Letters to the Editor

Hope springs eternal

With the November election firmly in the rear-view mirror, it's time for some retrospection and consideration of what it portends for Marylanders and St. Mary's County residents.

There were in essence three elections in one: the National (President, Senate, House), the State (Question 1), and the County (School Board and Judges).

In the National election St. Mary's was true to form, casting strong majority votes for the Republican candidates. But when it came to the State and local elections, a very large number of St. Mary's voters cast off the Red and put on the Blue.

Although ostensibly non-partisan, the School Board contest was between the old guard, settled into the position for dozens of years, and the new guard, change agents for better school policies and positions. St. Mary's voters opted to maintain the status quo, in opposition to their National vote.

So here we are, same old policies, same old lackluster school performance. Maintaining the status quo and business as usual will have predictable results. Attendance will continue to decline, costs will continue to soar, with the same dismal academic performance across the county. It could be the voters were so engrossed with the National election (especially President), that they didn't give the local races much thought. Or it could be the voters are satisfied with the public school's performance.

But with only 33 and 57 percent of students showing proficiency at grade level in math and English respectively, I fail to see how this could be so.

Regarding Question 1, which passed overwhelmingly, the results again contrast with the results of the National election. True, Trump never made an issue of abortion other than wanting it handled at the state level. So here was our state's opportunity. As in the county election, St. Mary's voters seemed to switch their preference from Red to Blue when considering this question. After all, unlimited abortion, at any time and for any reason is hardly a Republican talking point. As a matter of fact, it is a platform that Kamala Harris campaigned on.

I fear we will see the day when we regret amending the Maryland Constitution in this manner. In short order this amendment will be weaponized against Maryland families in ways they did not anticipate. And parents will find their ability to raise their children according to their own beliefs countermanded by the State.

I am hopeful and happy about the opportunities that lie ahead for our Nation. Not so much for our State and County educational system. But I can always hope. Hope springs eternal.

*John G. Dumler
Mechanicsville, MD*

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your name & town of residence.

Email: aldailey@countytimes.net
P.O. Box 250 Hollywood, MD 20636

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF CLAIM FOR ABANDONED VESSEL

Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has apparently been abandoned for over 180 days on the property of Reliable Marine, 13994 HG Trueman Rd, Solomons, MD, 301-862-2768. The vessel is described as: 14 Foot Carolina Skiff; Year 1996; Hull No.; EKHF 0786K596; Vessel No. MD 4346 BC.

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By Guy Leonard
 Staff Writer

They've only been to St. Mary's a handful of times but the iconic Budweiser Clydesdale draft horses will make special deliveries to businesses in Leonardtown tomorrow and then grace the Suttler Post Farm in Mechanicsville for their weekend hospice benefit event.

"We had to put in the request as a distributor to bring them down here," said Glenn Guy of Guy Distributing. "We worked it out so they could be in Leonardtown on Friday."

The Clydesdales will be in the square from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 13 to make ceremonial deliveries to Olde Town Pub, The Slice House, The Rex, Sweetbay Restaurant and Bar, Antoinette's Garden and Social Coffeehouse.

Parking in the upper square and at the delivery points will not be available from the time the Clydesdales arrive until they are set to leave, according to the town government.

Sean Coogan, owner of the Social Coffeehouse, said the arrival of the Clydesdales would bring much visibility to the town.

"Plus, it's a cool deal to have the Clydesdales here... it's going to be a good time."

Clydesdales are draft horses that are known for their size and sheer strength; they can dwarf many horses.

Guy said the last time the Budweiser Clydesdales were in St. Mary's was for the Veterans Day parade about 20 years ago; the first time they came was in 1956, he said, for an appearance at the county fair.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Child Care Project to Move Ahead at Leonard Hall



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

On a split vote the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved plans to use the soon-to-be-vacated Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy as a day care center for the children of county employees.

The voting majority — save Commissioner Eric Colvin and Commissioner Scott Ostrow — authorized the use of \$1.3 million in taxpayer money to renovate the aging building to make way for the children to be cared for there.

The commissioners had considered building a modular, new structure on the grounds of the county government campus in Leonardtown but decided to move ahead with the Leonard Hall building renovation largely due to its providing greater space to expand the number of children there.

The push to build such a facility started with a desire to recruit and retain as county employees by providing them with an extra benefit.

While taxpayer money is being spent for the renovation, county employees will have to pay for the service as the county intends

to run the facility as an enterprise fund, much the same way the Wicomico Shores public golf course is run.

The county would also use money borrowed from bond sales to fund the project.

"I think the child care facility is an excellent facility," said Colvin. "I just don't like this plan; the original plan used entirely fund balance and now we're going to be using bond authority that the county citizens are going to be paying for 20 years to pay off."

"I just can't support the path for this plan." Speaking during the ending portion of the meeting, Ostrow said he had issues with the procurement process, specifically the awarding of the contract to Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc. which is a national group with an office in Prince Frederick.

"The childcare [facility] is a great idea in and of itself," Ostrow said. "I still believe the price tag of it is way too high... I think our procurement process needs to be looked at little closer."

"We need to have ways where local companies have the ability to bid on this."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



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Commissioners Pull Out of RAC Project

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

After years of planning, projected cost increases and attempts at redefining the scope of the project, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted to terminate the construction of the much-anticipated Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) in the North County.

This week's unanimous decision came in conjunction with the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission and the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland both agreeing to terminate their interests in the project as well.

The RAC was supposed to be a facility where local meat producers could get their beef, pork and poultry processed and packaged for sale and in the process reduce their costs by eliminating the need to take their products to a U.S.D.A certified facility out of state.

But delays soon crept into the project schedule with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the realization that the county-owned site at the convenience center was not suitable for various reasons.

"As we sit here today a regional agricultural center is in development under private ownership that will fill the need," said Department of Economic Development Director Chris Kaselemis. "And no county tax dollars are involved in that."

Kaselemis said no county funds have yet been used in pursuit of the now-defunct project and that its elimination frees up about \$2.6 million in bonding authority the county has for other construction projects."

The costs for the RAC project had ballooned in recent years from about \$2 million



to more than \$8 million.

The facility the county is now putting its hope in is a Mechanicsville-sited — the Stauffer Butcher Barn — that processes meat but is not yet able to sell to the public as they are not U.S.D.A certified.

"They're working towards that," Kaselemis said.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt was hopeful for the future of local agriculture despite this apparent setback.

"But the great news here is that we're going to get a [meat] processor here is St. Mary's County," said Hewitt. "When they county was doing the RAC, we were going to be competing with people like this."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Earhart to Serve on Town Planning Commission

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Town Councilmember Heather Earhart, who previously served on the town's planning commission, will now serve on both boards.

Leonardtown Mayor Dan Burris, under the authority granted him by the town charter, appointed Earhart to serve as alternate on the town planning commission during the Dec. town council business meeting.

Town Administrator Laschelle McKay explained that town council members have served as alternates on the planning and zoning board before when there were not enough members to form a quorum.

"We've had few times we've had to cancel... because we did not have enough people there," McKay said.

Earhart accepted the appointment which she will hold concurrently with her seat on the town council.



Council Member Heather Earhart

The December meeting of the town planning and zoning has already been cancelled, according to the latest announcement from the town government, because there were no new cases to review.

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St. Mary's Scores Biggest Ever Drug Bust

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sheriff's deputies operating undercover have seized the largest amount of drugs ever in St. Mary's County, the agency reported with nearly 50 pounds of narcotics — including fentanyl — confiscated, coming in at an estimated value of \$2.1 million.

Sheriff Steve Hall said this latest seizure, which is the third major drug confiscation in the last two years by his deputies, will have a significant impact on the ability of users to get illicit narcotics locally.

"It's been a hell of a good couple of years for us," Hall told The County Times. "It shows our deputies' dedication to rid our community of this stuff."

According to the sheriff's office, in the early morning of Dec. 5, detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division executed a search and seizure warrant at a residence in the 45000 block of Daugherty Court in Great Mills. During the search, deputies recovered over \$75,000 in U.S. currency and two firearms. A subsequent search of a second residence in the 24000 block of Old Hollywood Road in Hollywood uncovered significant quantities of controlled dangerous substances including more than 200 individually packaged bags of drugs, indicative of high-volume, street-level distribution and bulk quantities of drugs, indicative of high-level narcotics trafficking, the sheriff's office stated.

Investigators also seized drug paraphernalia and four vehicles.

Antwian Marquis Johnson faces 12 charges, including two counts each of drug possession — large amount, drug possession with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime, drug possession — not cannabis, and drugs — proceeds from offense, and one count each



Antwian Marquis Johnson

of drugs— production equipment and possession of a firearm after being convicted of a disqualifying crime.

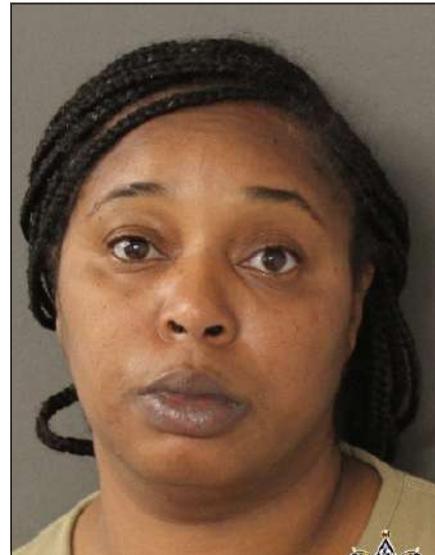
Shannon Marie Johnson is charged with nine offenses, including two counts each of drug possession — large amount, drugs — proceeds from offense, conspiracy to possess drugs with intent to distribute, and drug possession — not cannabis, and one count of drugs — common nuisance for keeping a vehicle for the purpose of illegally administering CDS.

Both are incarcerated at the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown.

In all detectives seized 47 pounds of various drugs including cocaine, crack cocaine and fentanyl.

The amount of drugs seized was both cause for celebration, Hall said, but also concern.

"There's almost an equal level of those willing to push this down into our commu-



Shannon Marie Johnson

nities [as deputies are willing to combat it,]" Hall said. "We're in a battle.

"At this level... you just begin to think how far out it would've gone into the community."

The nature of the work of law enforcement, Hall said, meant that officers save lives they would never really know about just by the crime and drugs they interdict.

"You'll never know what tragedy would've occurred," Hall said.

And the tragedy is just one possible use of narcotics away, Hall said, with the presence of fentanyl being cut in with virtually all other street drugs.

"Fentanyl is being put in everything," Hall said. "Fentanyl is used as an additive to keep the addicts coming back."

But if the dosage is too high, a mistake easily made, it becomes lethal.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid used to treat pain, often in terminal cancer



Sheriff's Office K9 Maia with the results of the Dec. 5 search & seizure

patients, but can be assembled on the street from relatively easy-to-procure pre-cursor chemicals.

It is regarded as perhaps 100 times more powerful than morphine or other prescription opioids.

Hall said the seizure would "absolutely have an effect on the available drugs in the county."

"This translates into saved lives."

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the most recent case, Hall said, was what the sheer amount of drugs in one place in the county meant.

"The scary part... is that level means there was a market for it," Hall said. "That's not just for St. Mary's, but the rest of Southern Maryland as well.

"I'm thrilled we got it off the street."

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School Report Card Shows Little Progress

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The latest report on student achievement from taking standardized tests (the MCAP or Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program) shows that St. Mary's students in all three major grade levels continue to make some slow, steady progress academically but not enough in most cases to meet the established yearly improvement goal for each school or each grade level.

The data for the 2023 to 2024 school year released by the state shows that St. Mary's public elementary schools showed some academic improvements as a group but did

not enough to meet a yearly gains goal; the scoring system for the MCAP is based on points and expressed as a maximum five-star rating, which is based on academic achievement but also a school's overall performance in providing a safe and conducive learning environment and a desire to move forward collectively.

Of the 20 academic achievement points elementary schools could have earned to reach academic achievement goals, they earned just 10.3 overall, the data showed.

The prior school year, state education department data shows, elementary schools actually fared a little better overall by meeting their yearly goal for progress in achiev-

ing English language proficiency.

Middle schools did not fare any better this academic year, according to the latest data.

They also saw some academic improvement but not enough to reach annual goals; they also saw gains in school quality and student success, according to the report.

High schools did not show any gains in academic achievement this school year, the report stated, though they did show improvement in graduation rate.

They also achieved some progress in attaining what the report called "readiness for post-secondary success) as well as school quality and student success.

There was also an increase in graduation

rates, which was an improvement over the past school year, the data showed.

Most elementary schools in St. Mary's scored a four-star rating out of a possible five stars; White Marsh Elementary School made the five-star rating as did Capt. Walter Francis Duke Elementary School.

Spring Ridge Middle School got only a two-star rating while Chesapeake Charter School, which has both elementary and middle school grades, received a four-star rating.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	5	COLUMNISTS	25
LETTERS	11	OBITUARIES	26
COMMUNITY	12	CALENDARS	28

“I’M THRILLED WE GOT IT OFF THE STREET.”

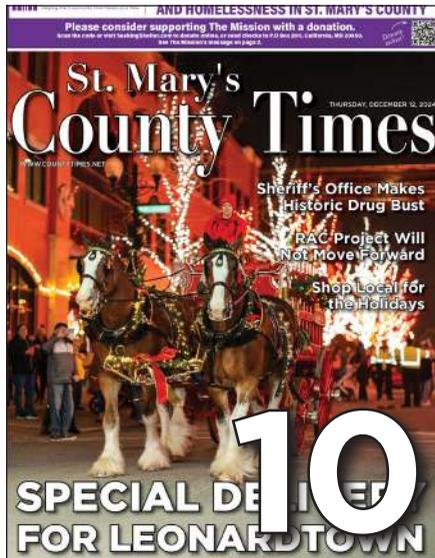
SHERIFF STEVE HALL ON THE AGENCY’S LATEST DRUG BUST



LOCAL 5
Sheriff’s office makes \$2.1 million drug bust



LOCAL 7
Commissioners kill RAC project



ON THE COVER
After almost 20 years, the Budweiser Clydesdales are coming back to Leonardtown

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MON, DEC 16 AM Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 48°	TUE, DEC 17 AM Showers Hi: 61° Lo: 38°	WED, DEC 18 Mostly Sunny Hi: 50° Lo: 35°	THU, DEC 19 PM Showers Hi: 51° Lo: 34°

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The Mission is changing and saving lives. This past year, The Mission served more than 10,000 meals and sheltered or provided a bed to many local St. Mary's County folks, including veterans. The Steve L. Kessler Center, a private temporary vocational shelter for single men and women, serves those who are serious about turning their lives around. It also temporarily shelters those who are homeless because of losing a job. For many, The Mission is the only local available resource.

The Mission purchased 5 years ago a building for its new headquarters through a Community (Go-Fund-Me) campaign. The Robert E. Myers Center finally opens in Jan-Feb 2025. This facility will be a place for individuals to get off the streets during the day, take showers, wash clothes, get counseling and attend life skills classes. It will house offices, a chapel, and a food pantry. A total renovation of this property has been under way for a little over 5 years. Paid for again by the community at large, it's been a long task because we have taken on as little debt as possible, so that our ministry doesn't take too much to operate. We have only one full-time employee and two part-time employees. The Mission is almost solely run by volunteers. ***None of its executive staff is paid.***

PLEASE SUPPORT The Mission with a Holiday/End of Year Donation to meet the needs of those we serve. More than 95% of The Mission's yearly budget comes from the community. That's a lot of \$50, \$100, and \$250 individual donations. Some said many years ago that it would be impossible to have a privately run community ministry, solely supported by the residents of St. Mary's County, but the generosity of the County has proven them wrong.

THANK YOU in advance for your consideration in supporting those who come to us and are ready to change their lives and move forward. We are devoted to serving the homeless and working poor of St. Mary's County and spreading the good news and love of Jesus Christ.

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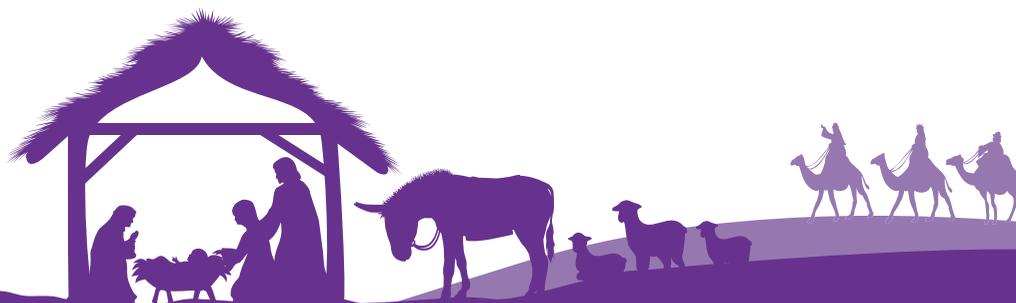
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Executive Director/Founder, The Mission
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