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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

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**Budget Process Starts
with Major Deficit**

**Federal Cuts Impact
Emergency Grants**

**Lusby Store Sells
Winning Lotto Ticket**



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“THERE’S NO WAY WE CAN TAKE \$20M OUT OF OUR BUDGET AND NOT HAVE AN IMPACT.”

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT BUDDY HANCE



LOCAL 4
County budget already faces deficit



LOCAL 7
More state funding for armory development



ON THE COVER
Bird flu may be contributing to rising egg prices

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 13 AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 56° Lo: 41°	FRI, MAR 14 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 44°	SAT, MAR 15 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 63° Lo: 55°	SUN, MAR 16 Thunderstorms Hi: 69° Lo: 52°
MON, MAR 17 AM Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 37°	TUE, MAR 18 Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 45°	WED, MAR 19 Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 52°	THU, MAR 20 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 63° Lo: 43°



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Budget Process Begins in a Deep Hole

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) begins to work on a budget that will be presented in late April for public hearing, their staff has presented them with a budget to begin massaging that has a \$15.4 million deficit. And that doesn't include an expected \$6 million in costs being passed down by the state and another possible \$6 million or more in state cuts that won't be clarified until the legislature ends its business next month.

The staff presentation, during a March 11 public hearing at which no spoke, caused Commissioner President Buddy Hance to send a pessimistic message.

Hance said, "We are not going to raise taxes. We did that last year. That's one of those things you've got to do once in a while, but you can't make a habit of that. And we are not going to use the fund balance as much as possible, which means to cut this budget, you all are going to feel it."

"I predict that in some way, shape or form, you're going to feel a reduction in county services. There's no way we can take \$20 million out of our budget and not have an impact on the services that you all see. Whether it's patching roads, when you can dump your trash, when a recreational center is open. We have to reduce our costs. Our goal is to protect staff as much as we can and not have reductions."

Hance added, "I can assure you that we

and staff are going to work as hard as we possibly can to balance this budget and you not feel impacts. But I don't see any way humanly possible that we can do that."

Several of the commissioners took a more optimistic approach. Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "I don't know if it's going to be that bad, but it's going to be bad when we start absorbing millions of dollars that we've not had to absorb in the past. But we'll get through it. We'll do what we have to do, and we'll work together."

Earlier Hance said, "I just want to remind everybody that this is the staff recommended budget. It's a list of their wants and what they believe are their needs. We have had no role in the development of this budget, and so tonight is the first time we get to see it as a board just like you. But this begins a process that'll take about six weeks, and I can assure you it will not look the same when we get done with it as it does tonight."

County Administrator Mark Willis said, "This year we are facing a budget shortfall driven by rising costs, economic shifts, reductions in federal and state funding, many of which are or may be passed down to local governments to absorb. And you can see that happening already. Like any household or business, we must balance our budget, our expenses with our revenues, and currently expenditures exceed available resources. While this presents challenges, it also provides an opportunity to access priorities and to make strategic adjustments to maintain essential services for residents

and businesses.

"This year, we have implemented a zero-based budgeting on approach where departments build their budgets from the ground up rather than relying on prior year allocations."

Director of Finance and Budget Bruce Miller said, "It should be emphasized that the recommended budget before you reflects the request from the departments that provide the same level of service as that provided for in Fiscal Year 25. It is our expectation that finance and budget will work with the county administrator's office and outside departments to identify expenditure reductions necessary to present a balance Board of County Commissioner budget."

"Additional objectives require aligning the use of county resources to BOCC priorities. These priorities include fiscal responsibility, public safety, and safe neighborhoods, education and youth development, land preservation, and maintaining the county's rural character, and finally, economic development."

Miller said, "The county's Fiscal Year 26 revenue projection decreased \$590,600. So essentially our revenues are flat, year-over-year. The primary reason for this decrease is the elimination of fund balance as a source of funds compared to Fiscal Year 25. But on the positive, the property tax increased by \$6 million, and this increase is due to increase of those valuations. Another increase is the account's income tax estimate. This estimate increased \$3.5 million over 25, and that's because of the rate increases impacted or



Director of Finance and Budget Bruce Miller

imposed in the Fiscal Year 25 budget process."

Property tax makes up 59 percent of the revenue and income taxes 31 percent.

The state-mandates Maintenance of Effort (MOE), which is the minimum education funding required from the county, has been reduced by the state, potentially impacting the amount of monies the county gives for education. At the hearing Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andraé Townsel presented the school board budget, previously reported on by The County Times.

The Staff Recommended Budget includes \$447,013,420 in revenues and \$65,721,859 in expenses.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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What's with the Price of Eggs?

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Those eggs for this year's Easter egg hunt may have to be plastic. The price of eggs is soaring. But don't blame politics cautioned Calvert County Commissioner President Buddy Hance. The politician is also a farmer and former secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, so he knows a little bit about it.

At the March 11 commissioner meeting, Hance said, "It's not Joe Biden's fault. It's avian influenza's fault. And this is a world-wide issue."

Hance explained, "Eggs are so high in the grocery store because when a chicken flock gets avian influenza, you have to depopulate the entire flock. They get rid of all of them to contain the spread. I read somewhere in some literature that last year, in this country alone, we depopulated 55 million layers. That's why eggs are eight or \$9 a dozen. It has nothing to do with political leadership or inflation. It's all about supply and demand."

Hance noted, "It takes 18 months to two years to build back that production without the flu, which is still around."

"What happened recently, a backyard flock that was identified in Montgomery County that had avian influenza," Hance said. "There is a process in the state of Maryland where you're supposed to register your backyard flocks with the Maryland Department of Agriculture." He said that was started when he was agriculture secretary.

"Why do I have to do that?" he asked. "I don't want the government to know what I have in my backyard." He answered, "The importance is when you have an outbreak of this, we know where the birds are, because they're all carriers, and you need to know where all birds are to contain the spread."

"It's a very unfortunate thing, I know, for people who have backyard flocks, they get attached to their birds. When they lose those birds, I know it's an emotional issue for them."



Commissioner President Buddy Hance

Hance observed, "For producers, it's a financial hit. And generally, they don't recognize that the flocks have it until their birds are almost ready to go out. So, a producer has spent four months raising these birds and the day or two before he gets paid for all of his work, they come in and if they test positive, they depopulate the whole entire flock, and he doesn't get paid."

Hance insisted, "It's very important that you register your backyard flocks so we know where the birds are, and we can help trace and track where avian influenza is."

Hance explained, "Ironically enough, there is a treatment to prevent avian influenza, but the European Union (EU) market won't buy chickens or eggs that have been treated. So, we can fix this tomorrow. And I think I heard the president say they're going to go ahead and do that. We can stop it tomorrow and allow producers to medicate their flocks, but then it would block us out of the EU market."

"It's a very tragic thing," he concluded. "We just ask that if you have a sick bird, please call the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5810."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Emergency Management Grant Freeze Impacts County

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A move by the Trump Administration to place some Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants on hold has left Calvert County in the lurch. The county has forward funded some of the projects in anticipation of receiving reimbursement for them and others are in the pipeline awaiting the funding.

Department of Public Safety Division Chief Michael Grierson said affected projects are:

- Hazard Mitigation Assistance unexpended funds of \$654,660.94
- Outstanding reimbursements of \$916,021.69
- Emergency Management Planning Grant outstanding reimbursements of \$164,777.64
- State Homeland Security Program outstanding reimbursements of \$38,797.90
- In progress funding of \$93,000.00
- Port Security Grant Program unexpended funds of \$600,000.

Public Safety Director Dave McDowell said, "We have been able to take advantage of FEMA grants to better people's lives throughout the county."

Among the projects included was the purchase and demolition of a half dozen properties along Calvert Cliffs that were in danger of falling into the Chesapeake Bay. Two have been demolished in anticipation of reimbursement from the federal government.

Grierson said, "The funding is all that's being held up right now. In other words, the process that we're going through, we can still work these projects, but it's the funding, the reimbursement right now is

what's being put on hold."

He added, "They're looking at two items that, when I read this (memo) here, they're looking at NGOs or non-government organizations who are the recipients, and they're also looking for non-congregate sheltering activities," adding, "I will say that the projects that we're talking about today and everything that Calvert has does not include either one of those. Just so you know."

He said, "The hold impacts multiple grants utilized by Emergency Management, and it may be some other grants that we're not aware of. This is moving very fast right now. We still are gaining information on some of these."

One of the projects potentially affected is the \$600,000 grant for the purchase of a fireboat for Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department. The boat has been ordered but it will take 18 months for delivery.

Barbara Warner, grant writer for the Department of Public Safety, said, "I do want to note that the Port Security grant program is not on the list right now," but she noted everything is on the table.

Impacted also are the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), which reimburse the county for a portion of staff time (EM Division Chief, EM Specialist, & EM Office Specialist). That amounts to about \$200,000 yearly. The commissioners agreed to continue to fund those in hopes the hold is lifted, but they voted to pause the signing of any other checks for the projects until more is known about the eventual outcome of the Trump Administration freeze.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Armory Project Gets Additional State Funding

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County has received an additional state grant for the redevelopment of the old National Guard Armory site in Prince Frederick.

The grant is for \$454,270.67 and brings the total amount received to more than \$2 million.

At a March 11 public hearing to add the grant monies to the county budget, Director of Economic Development Julie Oberg explained, "The Armory Site Development Project, initiated in FY 2019 by the Department of Economic Development, aims to construct an open-air, multi-use pavilion to promote economic growth and community engagement. To support this initiative, the project has received funding through the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund, overseen by the Maryland Department of Commerce and administered by the Tri-County Council. This fund is designed to stimulate economic activity, attract private sector investment, and create jobs in Maryland's rural regions.

"To further enhance the pavilion, the Department of Economic Development requested additional funding from the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for an ice rink and commercial kitchen upgrades. An additional \$454,270.67 has been awarded through the reallocation of these funds to Calvert County Government."

In accepting the grant, Commissioner Mike Hart said, "With all of the negativity out there, this is going to be really nice. I'm really happy. I can't wait. I'm excited."



Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland Executive Director John Hartline

Tri-County Council Executive Director John Hartline presented the check to the commissioners. He said the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund was started for "economic development in the rural areas so they could fully recover from the pandemic and the prior economic woes of 2008, nine and 10. Turns out that the rural areas were the slowest areas to recover. So, the governor decided, with a little help from a retiring Senator Edwards from Western Maryland, to give each one of the tri-county councils \$10 million to do projects in Southern Maryland to Tri-County Council put forward 29 projects. And one of those was suggested from Calvert County for the Armory Square."

Of the original monies, he said some was left over and Oberg jumped at the chance to fund the Armory project.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Town Invites Comment on Comprehensive Plan Update

The Town of North Beach will host an open house on Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at North Beach Town Hall, 8916 Chesapeake Avenue, as part of the town's update of the Comprehensive Plan update.

Maryland state law requires local governments to update their Comprehensive Plans every 10 years. This requirement, set by the Maryland Land Use Article, mandates that towns, cities, and counties review and revise their plans to reflect any changes in land use, demographics, housing needs, transportation, and other planning factors. The 10-year update cycle ensures that the plans stay current with evolving needs, state legislation, and community priorities.

"This is an important opportunity for the community to be directly involved and make sure the Comprehensive Plan update reflects the needs and values of our residents; your feedback is vital to that pro-

cess," said Mayor Mike Benton.

"Those who cannot attend will have the opportunity to provide feedback by email or on the town website. We want to make sure every town resident or business can provide feedback to accurately reflect local priorities," Benton said.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to attend the open house and provide feedback on this important initiative. For more information about the comprehensive plan update, contact Rick Crump, Director of Planning & Zoning, at 301-855-6681. To provide feedback by email, please do so by emailing info@northbeachmd.org. Find information on the Town of North Beach online at www.northbeachmd.org. Stay up to date with on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthBeachMaryland>.

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of February 24, 2025 – March 2, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,012 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 54
- Disorderly: 5
- Domestic: 23
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 34
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 890
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 32
- Traffic Complaints: 58
- Traffic Stops: 446
- 911 Hang Ups: 54
- ARRESTS: 41



Tarvaris Tony Reid

Assault: 25-16557

On February 26, 2025, at approximately 10:19 p.m., DFC Claggett was conducting traffic enforcement on southbound Rt. 2 near Wayside Drive in Sunderland, when he observed a vehicle traveling at 70 mph in a 40 mph zone. Deputy Claggett initiated a traffic stop with lights and sirens activated, but the vehicle failed to stop and accelerated away at a high speed. The driver, increasing speeds, was traveling in the wrong lane against traffic, ran stop signs, and drove erratically through residential areas and onto school property at Mount Harmony Elementary School in an attempt to evade law enforcement. Deputies executed a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver, causing the vehicle to come to a rest at Skinner's Turn Rd and Industrial Ln. Following the maneuver, the suspect rammed two deputy's cruisers in an attempt to escape. The driver, **Tarvaris Tony Reid**, 47 of Owings, was placed into custody. Upon making contact with Reid, a strong odor of alcohol was emitting from his person. During a search of Reid's person, a pocketknife was found. Reid was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Assault – First Degree (2 counts, Felony) and Assault – Second Degree (2 counts), DWI, DUI, Fleeing and Eluding, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, and several other traffic-related charges.

CDS Violation 25-17430 On March 2, 2025, at 12:49 a.m., Sgt. Robshaw initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling 82 mph in a 55 mph zone along Rt. 4 and Lower Marlboro Road in Huntingtown. With lights and sirens activated, the driver failed to stop and accelerated over 100 mph. Deputies initiated a pursuit in the area of Rt.



Treasure Lee Muller



Treasure Lee Muller

4 and Walnut Creek as the suspect vehicle continued southbound through Prince Frederick at a high rate of speed. Deputies deployed stop sticks and successfully executed a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT), disabling the vehicle. The driver, **Treasure Lee Muller**, 41, of Glen Burnie, and passenger, **Jaleal Terrence Balogun**, 27, of Brooklyn Park, were escorted from the vehicle. As Muller exited, a brown bottle containing PCP and a \$5 bill with a white powdery residue fell from her pocket. A probable cause search of the vehicle uncovered several electronics, multiple glass smoking devices, push rods, bags of cocaine, 43 Buprenorphine strips, and a bottle of suspected Methadone. A search of Balogun's person revealed a capsule of crack cocaine in one sock, a baggie of crack in the other sock, and additional baggies of crack and heroin concealed in his underwear. Deputies also discovered a glass vial of pills containing heroin. Both Muller and Balogun were charged with CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute (PCP), CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute, CDS: Possession with Intent Narcotics, and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis. Additionally, Muller was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

Damaged Property: 25-17189 On March 1, 2025, Deputy Morgal responded to the 300 block of Yardley Drive in Prince Frederick, for the report of property destruction. The complainant reported damages to a fence to include a broken lock. The estimated value of damaged property is \$20.

Property Destruction/ Theft: 25-17196 On March 1, 2025, Master Deputy Burgraff responded to Flag Harbor Marina, located at 1565 Flag Harbor Blvd. in St. Leonard, for the report of property destruction and vandalism. The investigation revealed that on February 28, after 10 p.m., unknown suspects entered the boatyard on foot and vandalized the property. Several items, including lawn chairs, a picnic table, an aluminum boat, and a cooler, were thrown in the water. The suspects also stole fire extinguishers, a kayak, two dock carts, and a

flower pot. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$1,000.00, while the cost of the damages remains unknown.



Deontrae Montrell Morgan

Resisting Arrest: 25-17511 On March 2, at approximately 11:20 a.m., Deputy Grabill responded to a traffic complaint in the area of Rt. 2 and East Mount Harmony Road in Owings, for a vehicle with its front bumper hanging off driving erratically. A short time later, deputies observed the suspect vehicle, traveling south on Rt. 2 near Skinners Turn Road, crossing the solid yellow line multiple times. The vehicle was located in the public parking lot at Rt. 2 and Rt. 4, where deputies made contact with the driver, **Deontrae Montrell Morgan**, 31 of Lusby. Morgan refused to exit the vehicle when instructed and continued to resist. During a search of Morgan's person, he continued to fight the deputies. Morgan was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with DWI, DUI, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, Resisting/Interfering with Arrest, and other traffic-related charges.



Maurice Franklin Jacks

Telephone Misuse: 25-15862 On February 24, 2025, DFC Lewis responded to the Giant located at 655 N Solomons Island Rd. in Prince Frederick, for a reported case of telephone misuse. Investigation revealed that **Maurice Franklin Jacks**, 62 of Huntingtown, repeatedly called 911 without reporting an emergency. Jacks, who was intoxicated, was requesting a ride and would hang up after each call. When deputies arrived, he became irate and made multiple threats toward them. Jacks was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Telephone Misuse: Repeat Calls, Resisting/Interfering with Arrest, and Failure to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order.

Theft: 25-17190 On March 1, 2025, Deputy Parrott responded to the 1400 block of South Harbor Drive in St. Leonard, for a reported theft. The complainant reported his mailbox and a street sign had been stolen. Further investigation revealed the homeowner discovered his mailbox stuffed inside a sewer

line near his residence and had been damaged beyond repair. The estimated value of damaged property is \$150. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 25-17472 On March 2, 2025, Deputy Morgal responded to the 1800 block of Wilson Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised her purse was stolen from her locked van. Further investigation revealed the purse and its contents were discovered in a yard across the street from the victim. Twenty dollars in cash was missing from the wallet inside the purse. Nothing else appeared to be missing.

Theft: 25-17545 On March 2, 2025, Deputy Tunnell investigated the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) stole quarters from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 5100 block of Sea Fossil Drive in Huntingtown. The estimated value of stole property is under \$5.00.

Theft: 25-17517 On March 2, 2025, DFC Mister responded to the 900 block of Wilson Road in Huntingtown, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect stole money from an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway of the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$8.00.



Marvin Charles Dickerson, Jr.

Trespassing: 25-16103

On February 25, 2025, Deputy Morgal was patrolling the Prince Frederick area when he observed **Marvin Charles Dickerson, Jr.**, 40 of no fixed address, walking through the parking lot of the Safeway. Dickerson had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the Safeway. Dickerson was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Feb. 27 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick

1. CSPR-143116, **145 Adelina Business Office**, located at 145 Adelina Road, Prince Frederick, combining Parcel 120 and Parcel 250, Lot 2 for a total of 2.44 acres zoned Rural Commercial. Proposed remodeling of existing structure for use as an office and construction of a new 7,400-sf, two-story building for business-related storage with associated parking area required for the two buildings. This project will utilize private well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.
2. CSPR-143112, **CCIP Lot 3R**, located at 171 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, Lot 3R in the Calvert County Industrial Park, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed redevelopment of a portion of the 4.5-acre lot by demolishing the existing office and constructing a new two-story office building in its place. It is further proposed to repave the southern portion of the site and to construct a storage warehouse and wall to segregate parking between the storage building yard & adjacent flex space tenants. A total of 6,524 sf of new construction with a total disturbance of 1.2-acres is proposed and the amenities will utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.
3. CSPR-143186, **CCIP Lot 37 – Flex Space**, located at 5241 Cutter Court, Prince Frederick, Lot 37 in the Calvert County Industrial Park, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed development of 34,000-sf flex space comprised of fourteen tenant spaces with disturbed acreage of 2.75 acres. The amenities will utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted August 28, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett.
4. SPR-143255, **Armory Pavilion**, located on the 4.86-acre parcel at 175 Armory Road in Prince Frederick, MD and is zoned Prince Frederick Town Center/New Town Sub-Area. The project consists of an approximately 13,500-sf commercial pavilion and the associated infrastructure such as design-



nated parking areas, stormwater management systems, utility services, and other necessary site enhancements. The project proposes to utilize public water and sewer. The detailed site plan submittal was accepted December 18, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett.

5. CSPR-143253, **Cal. Gateway Business Center**, Lot12R (Town Center Place), located on the 4.04-acre parcel at 10380 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk, MD and is zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed development of two shell buildings containing 18,075 sf of proposed of retail space and 15,835 sf of flex space with disturbed acreage of 2.52 acres. The project proposes to utilize private water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted January 22, 2025. Agent: Atwell Group.
6. CSPR-143263, **Ward Farm Park Maintenance Building**, located on the 209-acre parcel at 10501 Ward Road in Dunkirk, MD and is zoned Farm & Forest District. The project consists of an approximately 8,000-sf maintenance building and equipment shed (accessory) to support park operations with disturbed acreage of 4 acres. The project proposes to utilize private water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted January 22, 2025. Agent: COA Barrett.

No **major subdivisions** are currently under review for Planning Commission consideration.

Please check next month's agenda for any new additions to this list

Concept submittals have been removed from this list. There is no assurance that those projects will reach Preliminary Plan status. If/when they do, they will be placed on this list under their Preliminary Plan project number.

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Two CTA Teachers Receive Top Statewide Honors

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) announces that Rick Villano and Robin Burns, both teachers at the Calvert Career and Technology Academy (CTA), have been recognized with top honors by the Maryland Career and Technical Administrators (MCTA) chapter of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE).

Rick Villano has been named the 2025 Maryland ACTE New Teacher of the Year, and Robin Burns has been named the 2025 Maryland ACTE Teacher of the Year, highlighting the outstanding quality of Calvert County Public Schools' Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Rick Villano, Electricity Teacher, has been transformative in growing the Electricity program at CTA. Villano stepped in during the 2023-24 school year and brought expertise and a renewed sense of purpose. In his first year, Villano achieved an extraordinary 100 percent graduation rate and 100% post-graduation placement rate, ensuring students are fully prepared for careers or further training. Drawing from his 40 years of experience as an electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Villano provides students with hands-on, industry-relevant instruction. He also mentored a first-year student to a second-place finish at the SkillsUSA state competition, highlighting his dedication to student growth and success.

Robin Burns, Networking and Cybersecurity Teacher, has made a remarkable impact on the Cybersecurity program in just her second year with Calvert County Public Schools. Through her leadership, the Program Advisory Committee (PAC),



CTA teachers, Rick Villano (left) and Robin Burns (right), received awards from the Maryland Career and Technical Administrators chapter of the Association for Career and Technical Education

which is a group of industry experts who advise a CTE program, has doubled in size, strengthening industry partnerships and enhancing real-world learning opportunities for students. Burns was instrumental in implementing a new Industry Recognized Credential (IRC), which led to a 75 percent increase in student certifications, ensuring her students graduate with the skills and credentials needed to succeed in a competitive workforce. Her innovative approach and commitment to excellence have positioned CTA's networking and cybersecurity program for long-term success.

Both Villano and Burns will advance to compete in the Northeast United States ACTE Region I competition this spring.

Press Release from CCPS

Winning \$392,970 FAST PLAY Ticket Sold in Calvert

Business Sells First Jackpot-Winning Fat Wallet Ticket

A lucky player just discovered the key to a fatter bank account after buying a \$392,970-winning *FAST PLAY Fat Wallet* ticket this afternoon in Lusby.

The progressive jackpot winning ticket was sold by Lusby Market Exxon, located at 11805 HG Trueman Road. The \$10 ticket has a progressive jackpot that starts at \$70,000 and increases with each sale until a winning ticket is sold. This is the first of 10 progressive jackpots won in the game, which went on sale July 1, 2024. Other prizes remaining range from \$10 to \$1,000.

The Southern Maryland retailer's wallet is also getting a little fatter. For selling a winning *FAST PLAY* ticket of \$100,000 or more, Lusby Market Exxon receives a

\$1,000 Lottery bonus.

The Lottery encourages the winner to sign the back of the ticket and keep it in a safe location until claiming the prize. Tickets for draw games expire 182 days after the drawing.

Instructions for claiming prizes are available on the How to Claim page of the Lottery website. Prizes of more than \$25,000 must be claimed through Lottery headquarters, either in person or by mail. Lottery headquarters is in the Montgomery Park Business Center, 1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 330, in Baltimore. An appointment is required to claim in person (no walk-ins). The appointment scheduling page shows all available appointment times.

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, Mar 13

Drop-in Craft Teen Night

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

We provide the supplies for painting, collage, button making, jewelry and more. Feel free to bring a project you're working on, or create something new. Pizza! For ages 13-18. No registration required. 410-535-0291. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

TACOS Teen Advisory Council of Students

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
5-6 p.m.

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books, information, and form community. TACOS meets monthly to help us with our events and services planning. 410-535-0291. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Mar 15

St. Patrick's Day Leprechaun Hunt

American Chestnut Land Trust
676 Double Oak Road, Prince Frederick
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Attendees use a scavenger hunt to search for "shoes with clues". Find and solve all the clues, and receive your treasure! Plus games, crafts, and more! Based on the book, *The Story of the Leprechaun* by Katherine Tegen and illustrated by Sally Anne Lambert (Images used with permission from the author.)

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
12-3 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Pop-in with Poppie

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30-2:30 p.m.

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

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: Reduce, Reuse, Reassemble

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9-11 a.m.

Bring your gently used puzzles and exchange them for new-to-you challenges. It's a fun, eco-friendly way to refresh your collection and connect with fellow puzzle enthusiasts. Registration is not required but will let us know who is interested in other puzzling events! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Mar 16

Bayside History Winter Lectures: Hotels & Boarding Houses of Calvert County

North Beach Town Hall
1-2 p.m.

Co-sponsored by Calvert Library, Bayside History Museum and John Hanson Chapter NSDAR. Hotels and Boarding Houses of Calvert County by Grace Mary Brady, where people stayed and what they did when they came to Calvert County. 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Beyond the Displays: Artifact Stories

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30-2:30 p.m.

Join Lori for an insightful exploration of the museum's artifacts, uncovering their origins and significance. Discover the history behind

the emblem from a paddle wheel boat, the tools found in the blacksmith shop, and the Gov. R. M. McLane name board. Hear captivating stories about WWII's impact on the Solomons community and uncover hidden pictures within the museum murals. It's a unique opportunity to delve into local history and see these artifacts in a new light. Learn something new every tour. Included with museum admission.

Tue, Mar 18

English Conversation Hour

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Are you trying to learn or be more confident in conversational English? Do you enjoy talking to others? Would you like to get to know your community better at the same time? Then the English Conversation Hour is for you! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Dine Out Book Discussion

Baia Coastal Italian
6-8 p.m.

Join us to discuss *Intimacies* by Katie Kitamura. Dinner at 6pm with book discussion at 7pm. Come for dinner, the discussion, or both! 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Mar 19

Books in Bloom Exhibit

Calvert Library (All Locations)

Come enjoy the book-inspired floral arrangements created by Calvert Garden Club and members of the community that will be on display at all library locations. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

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

Join us to discuss *The Cemetery of Untold Stories* by Julia Alvarez, an inventive and emotional novel about storytelling itself. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Changing Careers Workshop

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

Learn how to navigate the process of changing your career path. Identify your strengths and transferable skills. Learn how to begin the career-change process efficiently and effectively. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Mar 20

Little Minnows

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

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

Upcoming

Maritime Performance Series

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, March 21
7 p.m.

Lady Di has been performing regular engagements around the DMV region since 2004, steeped in the spirit of straight-ahead jazz. With her band the Daly News, she also delves into the soulful infusion of the blues and occasional bossa nova. Each tune is infused with a passion for the material and a witty energy that leaves the audience wanting more. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery s; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online, up to one day prior, and \$25 the day of the concert, online and at the door.

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

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



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Expression of recognition
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. An iPad is one
- 18. Adult beverage
- 19. Manning and Wallach are two
- 20. Makes a petty verbal attack
- 21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Wristwatches
- 26. Body part
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted
- 32. Turkish honorific title
- 33. Yell
- 34. Historic Alabama city
- 39. Cub
- 42. Type of sea bass dish
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Former OSS
- 51. Open spaces in a forest
- 56. Innermost brain membranes
- 57. Fortune
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. Doomed queen Boleyn
- 60. Peyton's little brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Scottish tax
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. An increase in price or value

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Works of body art
- 2. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 3. A desert in Asia
- 4. Eat greedily
- 5. Doomed French queen
- 6. Beat
- 7. One who survives on blood
- 8. As a consequence
- 9. Counted on
- 10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science
- 11. Unclean
- 13. One who does not drink
- 17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
- 24. __ student, learns healing
- 25. Bacterial skin infection
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What one says on a wedding day
- 28. Crony
- 29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
- 35. Unit of length
- 36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
- 41. Statements that something is untrue
- 42. Greek alphabet letter
- 43. Suspends from above
- 44. Popular types of cigars
- 45. Girls
- 47. U.S. philosopher and logician
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Form of Persian
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Trigonometric function

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MARCH 6 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.

Fri, Mar 14

Lenten fish/Shrimp dinners

St. George Catholic Church
19199 St Georges Church Rd., Valley Lee
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Fresh fried catfish or Steamed Shrimp dinner with side of Pancit, French fries, soup or fried fritters! \$20 each, every Friday for lent! Hope to see you soon!

Sat, Mar 15

Pitch Tournament

St. Mary's County Elks Lodge #2092
22649 FDR Blvd., California
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sign-up at 6pm, games start at 7pm.
\$20 buy-in/\$1 go back. Proceeds ben-

efit St. Mary's County Elks Lodge #2092. Contact Mary with questions at maryvaughn0521@gmail.com

St Patrick's Dinner and Dance

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
28165 Hills Club Rd., Mechanicsville
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Ham, potato, & abbage buffet dinner at 6 p.m., live music by Southern Traditions Band 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$25.00

For reservations call Mary Ellen at 301-904-9078. BYOB. We will have a 50/50 and pull tabs for purchase

Poker at HVRS

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
43256 Rescue Ln., Hollywood
6 p.m. to midnight

Texas Hold'Em, \$85.00 buy-in for \$20k in

chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 5 pm, tournament starts at 6pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase. Chance at 50/50 included in your buy-in. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided. Late Entries permitted until 1st break, approx. 7 pm cut off. No rebuys allowed. Please note this event is at the rescue squad, not the fire house.

Sun, Mar 16

Drive-Thru Seafood Dinner

Holy Angels Catholic Church
21340 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
11 a.m. until sold out.

Menu: fried oysters, steamed spiced shrimp and fried chicken, plus parsley potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, pickled beets and a roll. \$30

We will have a bake table also. Please call 301-769-3332 with any questions.

Upcoming

The Band of Brothers of SOMD, Inc. PTSD/Suicide Prevention Group

The Flashback Restaurant
21797 Coral Dr N, Lexington Park
Saturday, March 22
9 a.m.

The members of Band of Brothers having been assisting Veterans for more than nine years and haven't lost anyone to suicide. Need assistance? Let us help. Contact: President Nick Gravelle (301) 481-6752. PTSD is a family illness, please bring your spouse. Thank you for your service.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Book Show & Tell

Looking for new books to read? Have a great book that you can't stop recommending to others? Come join us for our first Book Show & Tell for adult readers! Leonardtown Library on Thursday, March 13 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to share a book they've enjoyed is invited to speak for up to 5 minutes on a book of their choosing. Participants are also free to just listen and jot down new titles for their TBR list. No one is required to share if they do not want to. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Citizen Science: Daytime Star Party

Enjoy a Saturday morning with Southern Maryland Astronomical Society (SMAS)! The members of SMAS volunteer their talent, time, and telescopes to spread a love of astronomy to Lexington Park Library on Saturday, March 15 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. We will have an observing start time of 10 a.m. The SMAS Program Coordinator will review "Daytime Star Party Tips." This event will be outside the whole time for solar and/or terrestrial views. Please prepare for spending the entire time outside. If it is actively raining, we will do indoor hands-on activities. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Puzzlemania! Jigsaw Puzzle Competition & Swap

Want to try speed puzzling? Form a team of two or three, and see how fast that team can be! Leonardtown Library on Saturday, March 15 from 1 - 3:30 p.m. All teams will go head-to-head to see who can complete their copy of a 500 piece puzzle first! Prizes awarded. Teams are made up of 2-3 people, all of which need to be age 16 or older, and registration is required for the team event. Only one team member should register for the team. In addition to the competition, we'll be having a puzzle swap and casual puzzle games and activities for all ages. Bring any puzzles you're ready to part with and pick up a new one here. No registration is required for the puzzle swap, just drop in when you can.

Origami Workshop

Come join us for an opportunity to learn how to fold origami creations out of paper! Learn how to fold cats, cranes, frogs, hearts, and more. Origami paper and instructions will be available. Registration is required for this event. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Lexington Park Library on Sunday, March 16 from 2 - 3 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org

Estate Planning

Join Williams, McClernan, & Stack LLC for an overview of estate planning basics

and to have your questions answered. Have you ever wondered about the difference between a will and an estate? Or what a power of attorney or advanced directive is? This seminar will go over what these estate planning tools are and how to best use them. And make sure you bring your questions! Please note: This event is not a legal consultation. Williams, McClernan, & Stack LLC will answer general questions, but cannot provide legal advice during this seminar. Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, March 18 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Introduction to Zoom: Videoconferencing Basics

Have you heard of Zoom? Want to learn more? Complete this workshop to get a \$10 gift card! This in-person workshop is for those who have some experience setting up personal accounts online and are interested in video conferencing. It will support attendees to create an account on the popular video conferencing platform (Zoom) and build confidence when using features of the platform in an online meeting. Gift cards are available on a first-come, first-served basis. This event is provided with support from AT&T, Public Library Association, and Maria Barga, Tech Educator with the University of Maryland Extension. Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, March 18 - 6 - 7:30

p.m. Register by calling the Lexington Park Library or on www.stmalib.org.

Introduction to Canva: A Graphic Design Tool

Learn to create polished posters and flyers like a pro! Join us for this introductory class to learn how to use Canva, a free, web-based graphic-design tool. We'll get you started with Canva and cover the basics of creating your own promotional flyer. Computer Skills needed for this class: Advanced mouse and keyboard abilities. Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, March 19 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Perks Partners

St. Mary's County Library is excited to announce a partnership opportunity for businesses! Through our Perks Partners program, the Library will spread the word about your business through our network, including social media, in-library messaging, and email messaging. In return, your business will offer a 10% discount to library card holders. Perks Partners are welcome to sign up on the Library website: <https://www.stmalib.org/about-us/perks-partners/>. After you sign up online, a library staff person will contact you to bring you a window decal to display in your place of business.

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.

Robert Wynn, 72



Robert Jason Wynn, 72, of Lexington Park, MD, formerly of San Diego, CA, passed away on February 25, 2025, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on September 7, 1952, in Kingsville, TX, he was the son of the late Mary Gaynell Smith and Haskell Ray Wynn. Robert was the loving husband of the late Esther Jane Wynn, whom he married on November 10, 1979, in San Diego, CA, and who preceded him in death on November 24, 2024. He is survived by his son, Jason Gage Wynn, of California, MD, his siblings, Jim R. Wynn of Canyon Lake, TX and Ruth Powers of Dallas, TX.

Robert graduated from Pleasanton High School in 1971 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1988 from National University. He moved from San Diego, CA to St. Mary's County, MD in 1992.

Robert worked for Dyncorp and then the Computer Science Corporation as a Program Manager for 30 years, retiring in 2008. He served in the United States Navy as a Petty Officer 3rd Class for six years, from January 28, 1972 to January 27, 1978. He served aboard the USS Guitarro and earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Navy Expeditionary Medal.

He was a husband, father, brother, uncle, and cousin, but mostly Robert was a kind and gentle soul who had a wonderful sense of humor. He was a man who responded to God's call to be a caregiver for his loving wife the last 10 years of her life.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 5, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM in

the funeral home chapel with Chaplain Chris Whetlor officiating. Interment will be private.

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.

Randy Powell, 72



Randy Boyd Powell, 72 of Avenue, MD passed away on February 26, 2025, peacefully at home with his wife by his side. He was born on September 10, 1952, in Arnett, West Virginia. He moved to St. Mary's County, MD when he was 11. Randy was a graduate of Great Mills High School in Great Mills, MD and enlisted in the United States Navy in 1970. He was on active duty in the Navy from 1970 until 1977.

During his time in the Navy, he served with Fighter Squadron 11 out of NAS Oceana, VA and deployed onboard the USS Forrestal (CVA-59). He was a plane captain for the F-4 J Phantom jets and was Final Cat Checker for his final cruise in 1974. He served his last two years of active duty as the Senior Maintenance Technician for the OV-10 Bronco aircraft at the Strike Aircraft Test Directorate at Patuxent River, MD. After leaving the Navy, Randy began employment at DynCorp and was the Airframes Shift Supervisor at the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River. He was responsible for maintenance performed on all of the fixed wing aircraft operated by the test pilots during their courses of instruction. He began his civil service career in 1981. His first assignment was at Public Works at Patuxent River and then in 1983, he moved to NAS Whidbey Island in support of the U.S. Navy Metrology and Calibration Program where

he served as a Type I Laboratory Metrologist. In 1986, Randy moved to NAS Lakehurst and worked at the Test Department, Naval Air Engineering Center. He was certified as a Type I/II Level Metrologist and was responsible for the construction and operation of the thermometry laboratory in support of the U.S. Naval Metrology and Calibration Program for facilities both ashore and afloat. Still at Lakehurst in 1992, Randy began his Foreign Military Sales career as the Support Equipment Acquisition Manager for the Finland F-18 Program. In 1997, Randy made his final move back to St. Mary's County to serve as the Deputy Program Manager of the Finland F-18 Foreign Military Sales program until he was selected as the Program Manager in 1999. In 2006, Randy was selected as the Deputy Program Manager of F/A-18 International Programs and served in that position until September 2014 when he retired from the Federal Government with more than 40 years of service. He was presented with the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service award in 2013 for his work as the F/A-18 International Business and Foreign Military Sales manager. After retiring from the Federal Government, Randy went to work for a defense contractor in California, MD for six years and officially retired in 2020.

Randy loved when the weather was warm and spent the majority of his time at home in his garage. He was an avid lover of his-

toric cars and Harley Davidsons and had a collection of both. He enjoyed showing his cars and talking to people at shows. He was mechanically inclined and could fix anything that his wife could break. As a true logistician, he always had spare parts at hand. Randy was a lifelong fan of the Baltimore Orioles and the Washington Redskins.

Randy is survived by his wife of 24 years, Katherine (nee Fuchs); son Michael (wife, Nancy) Powell, of Scotland MD; grandson Calvin Powell, of Scotland MD; stepmother Bonnie Powell, of Hollywood MD; brothers Bud James (wife, Laurie) of Lumberton, TX and Sean Powell of Hollywood, MD; and his beloved beagle Molly. He was preceded in death by his parents, Patty Lee Dean and Claude Holloman Powell; sister Donetta "Cricket" Powell and his beloved beagle Daisy.

The family invites friends to a life Celebration on Friday, March 14, 2025, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A memorial gathering will begin at 12:00pm followed by a service starting at 2:00pm.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's or any animal rescue.

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

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Wanderings

of an *Aimless Mind*
by Shelby Oppermann



Oh, This and That

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather. It seemed like such a long winter. A few days ago, I put on the heavy duty waterproof gloves and planted four tall periwinkle blue Phlox in some barrels by the firepit area. The flowers smell beautiful, like a strong rose. The next morning, I went out to water the flowers again... there were no flowers in one of the barrels! And then I realized why all the euonymus



bushes were bare on their bottom halves. I was a little speechless. My husband was outside raking, and I yelled over to him that the darn deer had wiped out my beautiful flowers. I love deer when I see them, but they are "darn deer" when they are in our yard. For the next hour, all my husband and I could do was shake our heads and laugh a bit. What can you do?

Lots of different things have filled our time in the last few weeks. One really fun event we went to on February 22nd with friends was the Our Lady Star of the Sea Father Alexander Gala's The Roaring 20s night at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. Father Alexander was born in 1872 and ordained to the Catholic priesthood in 1912 and was named as the first resident Pastor to Solomons in 1920. Father Alexander passed away in 1946, but had a very large impact on his parish, even today. Our Lady Star of the Sea Academy opened in 1933 and is still going strong today. The event gave out lots of awards and raised funds to rebuild their pre-school buildings. It was so much fun seeing the women in flapper dresses, and the men in fedoras, suits, and vests. There was even a Keystone Cop. The DJ played music from every decade and a photo booth was there to capture the memories. Unfortunately, my flapper dress didn't arrive until a few days ago, so I made do on the event night with a decades old long floral dress with a glittery shawl. I felt like I looked like my grandmother from the 20s, but that's okay since I am a grandmother after all. I did wear my grandmother's charm bracelet from the 1920's.

We have had a few trips to Baltimore for doctors' appointments & procedures and always enjoy visiting our favorite restaurants or finding new areas to visit. After two of the visits, we ate in Fell's Point in the renovated Broadway Market (originally called Fell's Point Market) which consists of two large buildings which date back to 1786 and was one of the first public markets in Baltimore. We ate at The Choptank in the back building one visit which had amazing fried oysters. And the second visit we ate in the first building which has lots of little cafes inside. We heard that Vikki's Fells Point Deli had great Italian cold cut subs - which they did, but it still wasn't that special taste that my husband remembers from Gallo's Deli in District Heights in PG County where we grew up. So last week he and his son decided they would go to Gallos and get their beloved subs with the really hard sub rolls and then ride around the Hillside area where my husband lived as a teen.

My husband has also been wanting the old style large hot pretzels he had as a boy when visiting his grandparents in Philly. A week or so ago, we stopped by the new Coffee Run Bakery near Race-N In on Rt. 234/Budds Creek Rd. because we heard through our neighborhood Facebook group about how good the pretzels and everything was there. I'm personally not a big pretzel fan, but once we got inside and Ben started opening all the steam table tops on all the different types of pretzels my stomach started growling. What got me was the aroma of the pretzel dogs. We purchased a selection of items from pretzels to donuts. They also have tables full of pies and treats and homemade chow chow and other items. We got in the car, and I don't think we were even out of the parking lot when we started eating. Robert was in heaven with his big pretzel, and I know I finished my pretzel dog before we were even back out on 234. Then I started on a Boston Cream donut, and Robert looked hurt and said, "I thought we were going to wait and have a donut moment together?" I replied, "I did have a donut moment, and it was amazing".

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

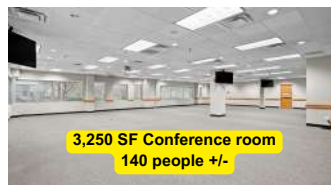
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Reservations Open for Women's History Awards Brunch

The St. Mary's County Commission for Women (CFW) is hosting their annual Women's History Month Brunch & Awards Ceremony to recognize the accomplishments of women and girls in our community. This event will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at the White Rose, located at 21030 Point Lookout Road in Callaway; doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Ticket reservations may be made by calling (301) 475-4200, ext. 1680, or by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/cwawards; the deadline for reservations is March 19, 2025.

Each year, four awards are presented: the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement and Hometown Shero awards (selected by CFW), and the Woman of the Year and Tomorrow's Woman awards (community nomination; selected by independent panel of judges).

We are pleased to announce that the 2025 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to Charlottis Woodley, a longtime advocate for education and community empowerment. The 2025

Hometown Shero Award will be presented to Norma Pipkin and Marta Kelsey to recognize their many years of service to the community. The keynote speaker for the event is Dr. Yolanda Wilson, president of the College of Southern Maryland.

About the St. Mary's County Commission for Women

The St. Mary's County Commission for Women (CFW) champions women's issues and concerns. The CFW was created to address matters of specific concern to women in the areas of employment, education, health, public office, family, and legal rights. This very active group stays busy in our community reaching out to women in many walks of life. In addition, each year the CFW takes the time to recognize female volunteers who represent the backbone of our community. The members are appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and report to them the areas of concern to women in our community. Learn more at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/CW.

Jazz & Seafood Festival Announces Lineup for 25th Anniversary

The Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, a premier Mid-Atlantic jazz event, is thrilled to announce its 25th "silver anniversary" celebration, a four-day extravaganza of nationally acclaimed jazz artists, delectable Southern Maryland seafood and breathtaking Potomac River views. From July 10-13, 2025, St. Mary's County, Maryland, will come alive with music, food and fun for jazz enthusiasts.

This award-winning festival, known for showcasing Southern Maryland's culinary treasures alongside world-class jazz talent, has drawn nearly 1,000 attendees annually for a quarter of a century. Celebrating its silver anniversary, the 25th Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival promises an unforgettable experience.

Festival highlights include:

- Thursday, July 10 (6 p.m. – 9 p.m.): "A Jazz at Sunset Affair on the Potomac" at Piney Point Lighthouse. Enjoy live music by Higher Standards, local wines, seafood hors d'oeuvres and dancing under the stars. Tickets are \$85 per person.
- Friday, July 11 (5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.): "Artful Harmonies: A Plein Air Celebration" at St. Clement's Island Museum. Artists can capture the beauty of the museum grounds for \$10 per artist. Later that evening, a free "Jazz in the Neighborhood" concert will take place on the museum lawn, headlined by the sensational U.S. Navy Band, The Commodores, with a special opening performance by

the St. Mary's Ryken Jazz Band. Food trucks and vendors will be on site.

- Saturday, July 12 (12 p.m. – 7 p.m.): The Main Event at St. Clement's Island Museum features performances by Casual Groove, Rebecca Jade, Andréa Lisa, and Chelsey Green. Enjoy a wide selection of seafood and Southern Maryland cuisine, shop at jazzy vendor booths, and take a free water taxi to St. Clement's Island. Free admission to the museum is included. Tickets are \$75 for general admission and \$95 for VIP.
- Sunday, July 13 (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.): Enjoy a delightful jazz brunch & optional golf experience at the scenic Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course featuring live jazz music and great food. Tickets are \$50 per person / \$90 per couple.
- Sunday, July 13 (various times during the day): Enhance your festival experience with a two-hour jazz cruise on the Potomac. Three exclusive cruises will depart from St. Clement's Island Museum, each featuring unique food, beverages, and live music by Sax Appeal. Tickets are \$85 per person, with only 15 spots available per cruise.

General admission, VIP tickets, tickets to all events, including the jazz cruise are available at www.PotomacJazzFest.com. Stay updated on festival details by following the event's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum/events.

Celebrate Maryland Day at the State's Birthplace

St. Clement's Island Museum Hosting a Full Day of Fun

On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, "Maryland Day," the public is encouraged to celebrate the founding of Maryland at the state's birthplace, St. Clement's Island. St. Clement's Island Museum will offer a full day of fun from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., including free museum admission, kids' activities, free water taxi rides (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.), lighthouse tours, a food truck, and special exhibits. The event will also include a public ceremony (2 p.m.) held on the mainland and a public Mass on the island (10 a.m.) commemorating the first Mass said in the English-speaking New World.

Maryland Day commemorates the first landing of English colonists on St. Clement's Island on March 25, 1634 – a significant part of St. Mary's County's and the State of Maryland's story. The St. Clement's Island Museum, which sits just a half mile from the island from which it takes its name, is under the care of the St. Mary's County Museum Division and interprets the fascinating stories of the island and surrounding Colton's Point from colonial times until the present.

"Maryland Day is the most important event in our program year, since it marks the beginning of both St. Mary's County and the state of Maryland in 1634," says Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. "On this day, we honor the meeting of two cultures – the newly-arrived English and the native Piscataway – and the friendship and collaboration that ensued. It is also a day on which we celebrate Maryland's religious history and its place in the development of the statutes of religious freedom that are so pivotal in this country's history."

Celebrating Maryland Day at St. Clement's Island Museum

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with Mass on St. Clement's Island, featuring students from Father Andrew White, S.J. School in Leonardtown, who will serve as the choir and cantors.

At 2 p.m., the official Maryland Day Ceremony will take place on the mainland at the museum, featuring James Randy Guy, President of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County; Piscataway Tribal Leader Francis Gray; and other dignitaries. The ceremony will also feature an interpreter portraying Father Andrew White, S.J., who will make the yearly ceremonial presentation of gifts from the English to the Indigenous Peoples. A small public reception will follow the ceremony.

Back on the mainland, a food truck will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the public. Attendees are encouraged to explore the museum, as admission is waived for the day. As a bonus, the museum will also display the plans for the new St. Clement's Island Museum building facility for the public.

Also, starting on Maryland Day, the museum officially kicks off water taxi operation to St. Clement's Island State Park. Boat rides occur most days through October 31, visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/watertaxi for more information.

For more information regarding Maryland Day at St. Clement's Island Museum, please call the museum at (301) 769-2222. For hours of operation, programs, admission prices and more, visit Facebook.com/SCIMuseum or museums.stmarysmd.com

LHS Basketball Advances in State Playoffs



The Leonardtown High School boys' basketball team will advance in state playoffs after winning their regional game against Bowie High School on March 7. The final score was 57 to 41. Photo by Ceandra Scott.

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Shepherd's Old Field Market
 www.shepherdsoldfield.com
 shepherds_old_field_market

Continued from page 5

and crafting a bird or bat box. Upon completion of the program, each participant will receive a unique "Junior Historian" badge to commemorate their achievements.

The cost is \$75 per child, and spaces are limited to just 12 participants. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity for your child to join the adventure!

Plant Swap

Saturday, April 19, 9:30 AM to 11 AM
Historic St. Mary's City
 47414 Old State House Rd.,
 St. Mary's City
 Admission: Free

Green thumbs unite! HSMC is hosting a plant swap party, and guess what? You're on our VIP list. Picture a meet-up, but instead of exchanging names, we're swapping seeds, cuttings, and your go-to gardening gear at the Margaret Brent Pavilion. Rain or shine, it's time to let your garden grow!

Unnecessary Farce

Friday, April 25, 8 PM
The Newtowne Players Theater
 21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
 Admission: Adults \$20; Seniors/
 Students/Military \$17; Children (12 and
 under) \$15; Children (5 and under)
 FREE

Two cops. Three crooks. Eight doors. Go. In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor is supposed to meet with his female accountant, while in the room next-door, two undercover cops wait to catch the meeting on videotape. But there's some confusion as to who's in which room, who's being videotaped, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man, and why the accountant keeps taking off her clothes.

April 25 - May 11, performance days and times:

Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.
 Sunday, 3:00 p.m.

Dinner & A Cruise Series

Sunday, April 27, 3 PM to 6 PM
St. Clements Island Museum
 38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point
 Admission: \$85 per person,
 \$160 per couple

Enjoy cool breezes during a fun evening of cruising on the St. Clement's Island Water Taxi and delicious seafood dinner and beverage service catered at Potomac Gardens.

The water tour will include a guided presentation about an environmental topic. The event will begin and end at St. Clement's Island Museum where the water taxi will pick up guests. Dinner and dessert reception will be served at Potomac Gardens.

Book in advance on Eventbrite. Cruises are capped at 20 people and tend to sell out! Ages 21+ only.

Southern Maryland Spring Festival

Thursday, May 1 - Sunday, May 4
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
 42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
 Admission: \$6 for General Admission

For over 25 years, the Southern Maryland Spring Festival has enjoyed bringing people together for a weekend of family fun with carnival rides, entertainment, food, yard sale, crafters and much more! This fun-filled, family-oriented event is a popular local event for the community and visitors alike as the festival showcases many St. Mary's County local talents and businesses. Along with the usual carnival attractions, check out a local tractor pull, a comedy show, a vehicle exhibition or local dancers and singers if you're seeking amusement. There's also a massive indoor yard sale and see farm animals and a John Deere toy collection.

Holy Face Church in Great Mills, MD is the proud sponsor of the Southern Maryland Spring Festival.

The following are the festival days and hours:

5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, May 1st (Carnival Only Night)
 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, May 2nd
 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, May 3rd
 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 4th

MarylandFest

Saturday, May 3, 12 PM to 6 PM
Historic St. Mary's City
 47418 Old State House Rd.,
 St. Mary's City

Focusing on all things Maryland, MarylandFest will have children's activities and crafts, live music, beer, food, and wine vendors, a sports zone, and craft vendors. This isn't simply an event. This is Maryland.

Southern Maryland Heritage Festival

Saturday, May 17 - Sunday, May 18
Historic Sotterley
 44300 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood
 Admission: One-day entrance \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate; Two-day entrance \$18 in advance, \$25 at the gate; Children 12 & Under: FREE
 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Southern Maryland Heritage Festival returns for its 2nd year, celebrating local food, culture, and history. The 2-day festival offers opportunities to explore regional heritage through food sampling, artisanal shopping, historical exhibits, and diverse musical performances, with family-friendly activities including a dedicated kids' area.

New this year: Boondocking at Southern Maryland Heritage Festival! For the first time this year, the Southern Maryland Heritage Festival will allow 2 nights of on-site RV camping (May 16 & 17). Guests will be able to fully immerse themselves in the beauty of Sotterley and the festival experience.

Camping Registration costs \$100 and includes 2 adult two-day tickets to the festival. To reserve your spot, contact Sotterleyfest@gmail.com.




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Something there for everyone!

Upcoming Special Events

- April 5 First Saturday of the Month featuring local vendors
- April 12 Easter Extravaganza with the Easter Bunny & local vendors
- April 12 Mad Hatter's Tea Party 12pm and 2pm
- May 3 First Saturday of the Month featuring local vendors
- May 4 Spring Open Market featuring local vendors
- May 10 Mom's Day Out featuring local vendors
- May 10 Mom's Day Out Flower Workshop

Find us on Facebook for more information!



MARYLANDFEST WILL FEATURE:

- Somd Blue Crabs mascot Pinch |
- Children's bounce zone | Spring crafts |
- Maryland-based artisan vendors |
- Beer, wine, & spirits | Maypole dance |
- Traditional Morris Dancing |
- Live music 8Ohms Band and Andrew Bell |
- Maryland pride contest

AND MORE!!



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Info

**MARYLANDFEST, MAY 3
HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY
47414 Old State House Road
St. Mary's City, Maryland**

Continued from page 3

vendors, food trucks, live music, demonstrations, activities, Community Gardens open house and so much more!

Parking will be available at adjacent Lancaster Park located off Willows Road in Lexington Park, MD.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Saturday, March 29, 2 PM to 4 PM
Pier450
48342 Wynne Rd., Ridge
Admission: \$36

Don't be late for this VERY important date! A Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Pier450. A proper tea with sweets and savories and not just a little bit of whimsy. Dress code: MAD, of course! Hats and other (slightly ridiculous) finery encouraged.

Rebels & Redcoats: A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event

Saturday, April 5, 10 AM to 5 PM
Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
44720 Lighthouse Rd., Piney Point
Admission: Free

Don't miss this free family fun event commemorating the American War for Independence as it happened in St. Mary's County. This event is being held on land at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum near the site of the Battle of St. George Island – the only Revolutionary War battle to occur in Maryland!

Experience life in camp for Maryland's Revolutionary War soldiers and militiamen as

we begin the celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. Visit their tents, learn about what they wore and carried, join the militia for a rifle drill, and listen to military music.

Exhibits and displays by other organizations related to our local 18th-century history will also be on hand, along with food trucks, a beer truck, educational and period programming, kids and family activities, reenactments, period encampments, military demonstrations and much more.

Due to limited parking on site, event parking will be off-site at Piney Point Elementary and free shuttles will transport visitors to the event site at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum.

This event is part of the Southern Maryland Semiquincentennial, Maryland's 250th and America 250th celebrations, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding.

Fishing & Outdoor Adventure Fair

Saturday, April 5, 8 AM to 3 PM
Sunday, April 6, 8 AM to 2 PM
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
Admission: \$5 cash only at entrance;
Kids 12 and under are free

Fishing and outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy this family-friendly event! Learn from local captains at various seminars and browse vendors for all your gear needs including rods/reels, lures, umbrellas, tackle, outdoor sports gear, outdoor-inspired art, and more. Kids can enjoy a casting contest and adults can enter for door prizes. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

First Landing Wine & Arts Festival

Saturday, April 12, 10 AM to 5 PM
St. Clement's Island Museum
38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point
Admission: Free

Enjoy wine by the glass or purchase a bottle from St. Mary's County wineries and craft beverage makers, all while browsing locally crafted items and more on museum grounds. It's an event for the whole family, including food vendors and family-friendly activities.

Learn the story of the first landing and the beginnings of Maryland in the museum or take a water taxi ride over to the St. Clement's Island State Park (regular admission applies), where the original "First Landing" took place in 1634.

Event admission is FREE – there are various costs for food, museum admission, water taxi rides or any vendor or wine purchases. Official First Landing Wine Trail glasses will be available for purchase in the museum store, along with other great local items.

Museum admission and water taxi rides are available for a small fee.

Event is rain or shine.

Easter Egg Festival

Saturday, April 12, 11:30 AM to 4 PM
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
Admission: \$5

Don't miss this Southern Maryland spring staple, featuring the Easter Bunny, egg hunts for ages up to 12, live entertainment, free arts and crafts, face painting, delicious local food options, and shopping from area vendors!

For a \$5.00 fee, attendees can participate in the egg hunt, visit with the Easter Bunny and Mrs. Cottontail, enjoy face painting, and participate in a variety of other bunny-approved activities.

Yard Sale to Benefit Stained Glass Restoration Project

Saturday, April 12, 8 AM to 12 PM
Hollywood United Methodist Church
24422 Mervell Dean Rd., Hollywood

Hollywood UMC is holding a yard sale in the church hall to help raise funds to continue the restoration project of our historic stained glass windows. A large variety of items will be available including household and kitchen goods, baby and kid items, gardening, hobby and craft items. Come find a treasure and help us restore our treasured windows!

Junior Historians

Monday, April 14 – Thursday, April 17
Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
44720 Lighthouse Rd., Piney Point
Admission: \$75 for the week

Designed for children aged 7 to 10, this program offers an exciting blend of outdoor exploration and hands-on history lessons. Our young adventurers will discover the past in a whole new way as they explore local history and nature. Join us for a fantastic combination of learning, history, and outdoor activities! Activities will include, but are not limited to, a hands-on archaeological dig, creating a river model, fishing,

Continued on page 7

Southern Maryland HERITAGE FESTIVAL

May 17 & 18

**Exhibits - Artisan Vendors
Food Trucks - Live Music**

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SPRING EVENTS AT ST. MARY'S MUSEUMS

DISCOVER HISTORY AND HERITAGE FOR ALL AGES



Maryland Day

at St. Clement's Island Museum



Celebrate Maryland Where It All Began • Tuesday, March 25 • 10am-5pm
For more info, visit [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) or call 301-769-2222



In 1776, history was made when Marylanders repelled the British Army on St. George's Island. Relive history at this **FREE** special event.



Saturday, April 5th • 10am-4pm • Piney Point Lighthouse
For more info, visit [Facebook.com/1836Light](https://www.facebook.com/1836Light) or call 301-994-1471

5th Annual First Landing Wine & Arts Festival

Sample local wines and other craft beverages on the shores of the beautiful Potomac River

Saturday, April 12th • 10am-5pm • St. Clement's Island Museum
For more info, visit [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) or call 301-769-2222



The forgotten tragedy on the Potomac...

BLACK DIAMOND DISASTER



An American Civil War Event Weekend • April 26 & 27 • St. Clement's Island Museum
For more info, visit [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) or call 301-769-2222



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. MARY'S COUNTY MUSEUMS,
VISIT [MUSEUMS.STMARYSMD.COM](https://www.museums.stmarysmd.com)



Southern Maryland Spring Events

Saint Mary's Marketplace Grand Opening

Saturday, March 15, 9 AM to 4 PM
23976 Point Lookout Rd., Leonardtown
Admission: Free

Shop locally at one the newest places in Leonardtown! Come by to enter for your chance to win one of several gift baskets filled with gift certificates and items from our very own artisans as well as gift cards and items from other local small businesses such as Town Market, Social Coffeehouse and Cocktail Bar, The Slice House, Viking Axe Throwing, The Slated Scoop, Heritage Chocolates, Kneaded Baking Co and more! Drawing will be held on March 15th @ 3pm

The Reagan Years in Concert

Friday, March 21, 7 PM to 9 PM
Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center
47855 College Dr., St. Mary's City
Admission: \$15

The East Coast's Original 80s tribute band

is returning to the Dodge Performing Arts Center for another EPIC performance!! The Reagan Years pioneered the 80's multi-genre tribute. Don't miss the biggest '80's party of 2025!

The Reagan Years recreates the sounds of the 1980s; Talented musicians with very diverse vocal abilities enables this group to replicate uncanny versions of the Pop, Rock, New Wave and Heavy Metal hits of the M-TV Era.

HSMC Spring Opening Celebration

Saturday, March 22, 10 AM to 4 PM
Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City
Admission: Free

Celebrate spring and the beginning of a new season at HSMC! Free admission for the day, with all activities and demonstrations included. Highlights to include historic clothing and hearth cooking demonstrations, a gunnery demonstration on the Maryland Dove, and a performance by the Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers.

Maryland Day

Tuesday, March 25, 10 AM to 5 PM
St. Clement's Island Museum
38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point
Admission: Free

Celebrate the founding of Maryland at the state's birthplace at St. Clement's Island Museum with FREE admission to the museum all day (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), FREE water taxi rides, official ceremony featuring guest speakers and program - including the exchange of ceremonial gifts between the Piscataway and the English settlers (2:00 p.m.) and more. A commemorative mass on St. Clement's Island will occur at 10:00 a.m.

Activities During the Day:

- Commemoration Mass on St. Clement's Island (10AM)
- Official Commemoration Ceremony at museum (2PM)
- Farm.Fork.Soul Food Truck
- Activities regarding indigenous (Piscataway) uses of various materials (and possibly incorporate how teaching

these practices to the settlers helped them to survive).

- A guided boat ride and short, low impact hike on St. Clements Island. The boat ride will focus on "what's under the Potomac" and short hike focusing on history and ecological significance of the island (12pm and 3PM)
- Historic St. Mary's City exhibitor
- Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums exhibitor

This event commemorates the first landing of the colonists on St. Clement's Island – a significant part of the island's, St. Mary's County's and the State of Maryland's story.

Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday, March 29, 12 PM to 4 PM
Lexington Manor Passive Park
21675 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
Admission: Free

Join us for a free family fun day at Lexington Manor Passive Park. The day will feature

Continued on page 5



Nancy R. & Norton T.
DODGE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
St. Mary's College of Maryland

**FRIDAY, MAR. 21
@ 7 P.M.**

The East Coast's Original 80s tribute band replicates uncanny versions of Pop, Rock, New Wave and Heavy Metal hits of the MTV Era!

**Tickets \$15
Free Parking**



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COLLEGE of MARYLAND
The National Public Honors College

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2018 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF
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2014 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
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2023 MAZDA CX-30 2.5 S
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2022 FORD ESCAPE
 Stock #: JA23199 **\$22,889**



2021 FORD EDGE
 Stock #: JA62336 **\$23,500**



Don't miss the **CAR SHOW AT THE LEONARDTOWN FORD USED CAR CENTER!**

MARCH 23RD - 11AM TO 4PM

26322 Point Lookout Rd. Leonardtown MD 20650.

Just south of the main Leonardtown Ford building on Route 5

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2025
*Spring
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Your guide to Spring fun
in Southern Maryland

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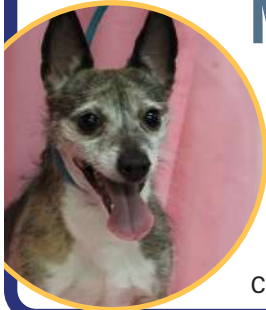
I'm a 1-year-old neutered boy who loves my comfort items—except instead of a security blanket, I am the blanket! My fur is so soft that you may question if you're petting a cloud, a marshmallow, or the concept of coziness itself! I'm searching for my forever home where I can lounge, purr, and be your personal heating blanket! Adopt me today! Hours are Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm.

Meet my friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



MEET MAX

The 5 year old Jack Russell Mix who is looking for a comfy bed to sleep in and a human to call their own! Max has been doing great with many dogs of different sizes and personalities! He would do best in a home with no kids. Are you interested in giving Max his Furever home? Go online and fill out an application at www.animalrelieffund.org, call 301-866-0303 or stop by Saturdays at the Well Pet Clinic for adoption days between 11am-2pm!



Carver Community Arts Center & Makerspace Project Announced



St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P), in partnership with the St. Mary's County Arts Council (SMCAC) and PaxSpace, is excited to announce the Carver Community Arts Center & Makerspace project. This dynamic new facility, which will be located in the east wing of Carver Recreation Center, will provide an innovative 5,000-square-foot space for artistic and creative pursuits, offering expanded opportunities for the community to engage in the arts and technology.

The initiative, spearheaded by SMCAC, Recreation & Parks, and PaxSpace, emerged from a vision to transform a portion of the Carver facility into a hub for creativity and innovation. The project was made possible through collaborative efforts and key grant funding, including a \$100,000 Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program grant award from TEDCO secured by PaxSpace for relocation and equipment purchases and a \$450,000 grant from the Maryland State Arts Council's Arts Capital Grant program—the highest-scoring application among 56 submissions statewide. Strengthening the grant application, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County entered into a lease agreement with SMCAC for the space, and letters of support from the Commissioners and Delegate Brian Crosby demonstrated strong backing from key local leaders.

"This project represents a significant investment in arts and innovation for St. Mary's County, filling a critical gap as we previously had no public facilities of this kind," said Susie Glauner, Executive Director of the St. Mary's County Arts Council. "The Carver Community Arts Center & Makerspace will provide new and different opportunities to engage youth, teens, and families—an area of significant need in our community. We are thrilled to partner with PaxSpace and the Department of Recreation and Parks to bring this vision to life."

The Carver Community Arts Center & Makerspace will build upon PaxSpace's existing offerings while introducing new amenities, including:

- A pottery and glazing studio with wheels and kilns
- Stained and fused glass workshop and a small metalworking area for jewelry making
- Enhanced fiber arts equipment
- Upgraded woodworking and metalworking tools
- Expanded 3D printing and laser cutting technology

TruHome Builders Inc. has been selected as the contractor for the project, with construction set to begin once funding is disbursed from the state. The facility is anticipated to open by the end of fall 2025, contingent on state approval processes. Once operational, the Department of Recreation and Parks will coordinate youth and adult course offerings to maximize community engagement.

"The Carver Community Arts Center & Makerspace will be a game-changer for creative minds in St. Mary's County," said Jennifer Elmore, PaxSpace board member. "This new space will allow us to grow our programs, foster innovation, and provide hands-on learning experiences."

Commissioner President Randy Guy also expressed strong support for the project, stating, "The Carver Community Arts Center & Makerspace is a prime example of how collaboration between county government, local organizations, and the arts community can result in meaningful opportunities for our residents. We are grateful for the dedication of our team in Recreation and Parks and our partners at the St. Mary's County Arts Council and PaxSpace for working to make this vision a reality. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are proud to support this initiative, especially following our unanimous vote on January 14 to designate the St. Mary's County Arts Council as the official Arts Agency for St. Mary's."

Follow the project partners on social media and stay tuned for updates at:

- [instagram.com/stmarysrecandparks](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysrecandparks)
- [facebook.com/stmarysmdrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmdrecreation)
- [facebook.com/smcartsCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil)
- [facebook.com/paxspace](https://www.facebook.com/paxspace)

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SPRING Drive-Thru Seafood Dinner

SUNDAY
MARCH 16, 2025
11:00 AM – SOLD OUT

THERE WILL BE A CAKE TABLE WITH A SELECTION OF DELICIOUS HOME-BAKED CAKES FOR SALE

COST: \$30.00

MENU:
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Swiss Cheese

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61-Oz.
Double Layer
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8-In., Reg. Or Rhubarb
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8-Pack
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Vodka

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1.75L
Tanqueray
Gin

36.99



1.75L
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1858 Whiskey

18.49



750ml
Redemption Surlee
Straight Rye Whiskey

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Malibu Rum

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22.99



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9.49



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750ml
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15.49



Wine of the Month

750ml
Dark Horse
Wine

8.49





NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Marine Corps MQ-9 Reapers Enhanced with Advanced Payload Upgrade

The Navy's MQ-9 Reaper test squadron at Pax River received the first SkyTower II (STII) pod in preparation for the system's initial operational capability (IOC) next year.

Air Test and Evaluation (UX) 24 loaded the new pod onto the aircraft Feb. 25, conducting initial power on checks, the first step into integrating the new capability into the aircraft platform.

"The program is excited to deliver SkyTower II for testing, marking a major milestone in our development journey," said Capt. Dennis Monagle, Multi-Mission Tactical UAS program manager. "Over the past two years, we've partnered with GALT, a small business prime vendor, to rapidly develop this unique capability using middle-tier acquisition, accelerating innovation for the warfighter. With robust system and integration testing now underway, we remain on track to achieve initial operating capability this year, delivering critical capability to the U.S. Marine Corps and the joint forces."

STII is an airborne network extension pod that enhances cross-domain communication capabilities and links communications



An MQ-9 Reaper is upgraded with SkyTower II Pod that will be deployed to Marine Corps' squadron next year to enhance operational capability. (U.S. Navy photo)

between disparate forces. It is required to execute the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) concept of operations by providing tactically relevant operational communications and data sharing capabilities with many forces in support of the

MQ-9 Reapers' operational mission.

UX-24 also completed a fit check of the MQ-9 in the large anechoic chamber at Pax River in late February. The team conducted a number of tests and hoisted the aircraft for the first time as a risk reduction for upcoming

ing program efforts. The tests proved the ability to safely hang the aircraft while providing power, cooling and satellite link with the aircraft for communications, command and control.

Over the next several months, UX-24 will conduct final test events before delivering the upgraded MQ-9s to the fleet.

"The team has been able to accomplish a lot of work in a very compressed timeline by developing and executing these test plans for the chamber event and STII testing," said Cmdr. Lauren Lawson, MQ-9 government flight test director. "The dedication shown and technical challenges they've overcome to conduct this critical testing to help develop the best product possible to support the Marines is truly commendable."

VMU-3 is currently flying MQ-9's in the theater today and will be the first to deploy with this new system in 2026.

The MQ-9 Reaper provides Marines with a long-range ISR capability in support of maritime domain awareness and expeditionary advanced based operations in contested environments.

Navy's Carrier Airwing Flies Further with Hercules' New Tanker Approval

The Navy Reserve's KC-130T Hercules fleet, upgraded with the NP200 propeller system, is cleared to aurally refuel a significantly wider range of aircraft across the carrier airwing following envelope expansion testing at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) which concluded in early 2025.

The test effort expands Hercules' mission – and that of the Navy's fleet reserve, which exclusively operates the aircraft – beyond its primary focus on logistics and cargo transport.

"Prior to this testing we only had a single aircraft cleared for refueling from the upgraded KC-130T," said NAWCAD's developmental test wing Commodore Capt. Elizabeth Somerville. "This advanced capability gives us flexibility in any future conflict."

Naval aviation's F-35B/C, F/A-18, EA-18, CH-53K, CH-47, H-60s and AV-8B were cleared for air-to-air refueling from

KC-130T after testing by NAWCAD federal government engineers, testers, and military test pilots from Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 20 along with industry partners who worked to make sure Hercules could safely refuel the aircraft with its upgraded NP2000 propeller system.

"If we look forward to any future fight, it's going to take intense collaboration between all of the forces: Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard," said Somerville. "Any resource that provides fuel airborne is going to be invaluable to all assets that are flying."

The test effort significantly increases naval aviation's operational reach and flexibility, as well as several international allies, following a request by U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The K-130T Hercules is a multi-role, long-range, land-based tactical aircraft that provides logistical support to fleet operating forces.



A U.S. Navy Reserve KC-130T refuels an EA-18G Growler in the skies over Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland during testing that enabled the service's fleet of Hercules aircraft to aurally refuel a significantly expanded number of aircraft in early 2025.

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Frozen Or Prev. Frozen Fresh Pork Tenderloins **1.98^{lb.}**

85% Lean, Family Pack Fresh Ground Round **4.98^{lb.}**

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16-Oz., Reg. Or Thick Gwaltney Bologna **2.18**

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Farm Fresh Green Cabbage **.44^{lb.}**

Sweet Plump White Seedless Grapes **1.78^{lb.}**

5-Lb. Bag, Creamy Red Potatoes **2/\$5**

Tart And Crisp Granny Smith Apples **1.48^{lb.}**

Extra Large Green Bell Peppers **.88**

3-Lb. Bag, Seedless Cara Cara Red Navel Oranges **3.98**

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<p>28 To 32-Oz., Selected Waffle Or Hungry Jack Pancake Mix 2.58</p>	<p>24-Oz., Selected Hungry Jack Syrup 3.78</p>	<p>15-Oz., Selected Libby's Country Sausage Gravy 1.58</p>	<p>7 To 9-Oz., Selected Jimmy Dean Breakfast Bowls 2.78</p>	<p>6 To 15-Oz., Selected Doritos Chips 2/\$7</p>

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Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Ordinance No. 227

The Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 4:15 p.m. in the Town Office located at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing is to present for public review the Leonardtown 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update. Copies of the documents are available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office on the Town website at <https://leonardtown.somd.com/> under the Government tab.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. on March 17, 2025, to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE TO BIDDERS Lawn Maintenance Contract

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of Leonardtown will be accepting bids for lawn maintenance of its public facilities for three years beginning July 1, 2025, with two one-year options.

Interested bidders may obtain a bid package from the Town Office located at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Sealed bids, addressed to the Procurement Manager and marked "Sealed bid for Lawn Maintenance", will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 1, 2025, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Please call 301-475-9791 or email beth.sandberg@leonardtownmd.gov with any questions.

The Commissioners of Leonardtown reserve the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, and to accept any proposal deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

Man Sentenced to 50 Years in Prison for 1,700 Pills of Fentanyl

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that John Thomas Hess, 33, of St. Inigoes, Maryland, was sentenced to 85 years in prison, with 50 years of active incarceration for the importation and distribution of large amounts of fentanyl.

Hess led and organized a large-scale drug operation that funneled fentanyl throughout St. Mary's County. During an extensive investigation, law enforcement officers seized over 1,700 pills containing fentanyl. As little as two milligrams of fentanyl have proven to be lethal. The amount Hess possessed could have caused catastrophic harm with the ability to endanger thousands of lives.

"The deadly impact of fentanyl continues to devastate families in St. Mary's County, our state, and across our country," said State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling. "I promised our community that our office would prosecute cases involving opioids, such as heroin and fentanyl aggressively. We remain unwavering in our commitment to holding drug traffickers accountable and preventing this poison from destroying lives in our community. I would like to commend the law enforcement officers whose diligence and hard work ensured that these deadly pills never reached the streets in our community."

In addition to the large amounts of fentanyl recovered, officers also seized cocaine



John Thomas Hess

and cash further underscoring the dangerous scale of Hess's drug enterprise.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Lisa Ridge, Chief of the Narcotics Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Corporal James Warrick of the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division and Detective Stephen Bowlan of the Calvert County Sheriff's Department were the lead investigators.

The Honorable Joseph Staloni presided over the case.

Traffic Stop Leads to Multiple Firearms Charges

Deputies from the Criminal Intelligence Unit of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office recovered a loaded unserialized firearm and arrested a suspect following a traffic stop on Monday, March 10, 2025.

Deputies initiated the stop on a white 2011 Kia Forte traveling on Great Mills Road for operating without brake lights. During the stop, deputies identified Pernell Maddox, a passenger in the vehicle, 20, of no fixed address, who is known to law enforcement. A search of Maddox led to the discovery of a loaded, unserialized Polymer 80 9mm handgun in the waistband of his pants.

Maddox was taken into custody and charged with multiple firearm-related offenses, including:

- Knowingly possessing a regulated firearm after being convicted of a disqualifying crime
- Two counts of wearing a loaded handgun in a vehicle on public roads
- Two counts of wearing a loaded handgun on his person
- Unlawfully possessing an unserialized firearm



Pernell Maddox

- Possession of a regulated firearm while under the age of 21
- Possession of ammunition while prohibited from possessing a regulated firearm

Maddox was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, where he is being held without bond.

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Woman Convicted in Fatal Drunk Driving Crash

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Ashley Nicole Nolan, 28, of Lexington Park, Maryland, has been convicted of felony negligent manslaughter for a fatal drunk driving collision that claimed the life of one minor child and seriously injured two others. Nolan faces a maximum sentence of 22 years in prison.



Ashley Nicole Nolan

Nolan has been convicted of the following six offenses:

- Grossly negligent manslaughter by motor vehicle (10-year maximum penalty);
- Life threatening injury while driving under the influence (three-year maximum penalty);
- Life threatening injury while driving under the influence (three-year maximum penalty);
- Driving under the influence of alcohol, per se, while transporting a minor (two-year maximum penalty);
- Driving under the influence of alcohol, per se, while transporting a minor (two-year maximum penalty); and
- Driving under the influence of alcohol, per se, while transporting a minor (two-year maximum penalty).

Nolan will continue to be held without

bond pending a sentencing hearing.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Michael McGraw prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Corporal Dale Reppel of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator. The Collision Reconstruction Unit of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office assisted with the investigation.

The Honorable Joseph Stanalonis presided over the case.

Social Media Creator Charged with Arson in St. Mary's County

The social media creator arrested recently for illegally setting fires in Charles County was arrested March 5 in St. Mary's County on nearly identical charges.

Joshua Christian-Stanley Jackson, charged with setting fire to a vacant commercial property and making a false 911 call in Charles County, was arrested in connection with a new arson case and false 911 call in St. Mary's County. Jackson was released from Charles County Detention Center on home detention.



Joshua Christian-Stanley Jackson

Jackson was taken into custody without incident and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center, where he faces charges of second-degree arson, second-degree malicious burning, malicious destruction of property, and making a false 911 call.

Investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal determined that Jackson was responsible for setting fire to the exterior of a vacant home located on Maddox Road in Chaptico on February 14, 2025, just before 11:00 p.m. Deputy State Fire Marshals discovered Jackson had been the reporting party for the incident.

In addition to the arson-related charges, investigators determined Jackson made a false 911 call to report a motor vehicle accident on Three Notch Road in Hollywood

late last year. This call was determined to be unfounded. Jackson made the false report to position himself to record emergency responders as they attended to the scene. He later monetized the footage by posting it on multiple social media pages.

As part of an ongoing investigation, Deputy State Fire Marshals are reviewing additional fire incidents and several other false 911 calls within Calvert County, and additional charges could follow.

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High School Graduation Rate Hovers at 90 percent

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The latest data on the number of high school students who graduate in four years' time in St. Mary's shows that roughly nine out of 10 students are able to accomplish that goal on average, beating out the state graduation average of 87.6 percent for the 2024 school year.

But the numbers show a slight decrease in the graduation rate compared against 2023 numbers, where 91 percent of St. Mary's seniors successfully completed a four-year course of study.

"In 2024 the graduation rate did decrease slight but it was by less than half of a percentage point," reported Tammy Burr, supervisor of assessments, to the St. Mary's County Board of Education. "

Overall the graduation rates compared to school years from 2014 through 2019 have diminished; for the prior five year period, graduation rates hovered between 93 and 94 percent, according to school system data.

Leonardtown High School had the highest graduation rate at 95.6 percent, followed closely by Chopticon High School at 92.8 percent.

Great Mills High School's graduation rate was much lower at just 84 percent.

"It's important to remember that the stu-

dents in school year 2024 were freshmen during the [COVID-19] pandemic," Burr said. "They missed a large part of their freshman year."

In 2019, the year before the pandemic started in Maryland, the graduation rate for Great Mills High School had reached its highest level in 12 years of 92.99 percent, according to the latest school data.

It dropped precipitously there after more than the other two high schools.

School board member Mary Washington said she was anxious to see what strategies the administration would conceive to narrow the achievement gap in high school graduation rates.

"I worked in a Department of Defense school in Germany and there was no achievement gap," Washington said. "That was in the 1970s... so it is possible to eliminate the achievement gap."

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said the single greatest factor, with which the school system continued to struggle to ensure graduation on time, was regular attendance to class.

"Period, full stop, that's it," Smith said. "Parents, that is your primary responsibility is to make sure than your child gets on the big yellow bus every single day."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Water Storage Tanks to Improve Emergency Response Capabilities



St. Mary's County Government's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) has installed the first 30,000-gallon water storage tank to support local fire departments in emergency response efforts. The tank was placed on Thursday, March 6, 2025, in the Porto Bello Subdivision in Callaway, as part of a multiyear capital project in partnership with local fire departments.

This initiative will enhance emergency water access by installing water storage tanks and dry hydrants in more isolated regions of the county that are not served by the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission (MetCom). The project aims to reduce fire risks and improve emergency response capabilities in our community.

"These water tanks and hydrants will provide a critical resource for our fire departments in areas that do not have public water service," said Jennifer Utz, Director of the St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services. "The County is committed to supporting our emergency

responders and ensuring our residents have the resources they need to stay safe. We are grateful for the support and work being done by our Department of Public Works & Transportation to make this a reality."

The 30,000-gallon tanks, measuring 10 feet wide by 54 feet long, will be strategically placed in areas of the County where water access is limited. The next tank will be installed at the Ridge Firehouse's carnival grounds. The County is working with the local fire department planning team to identify the best sites in terms of location and ability to obtain property access.

For more information about this project, please contact the Department of Public Works & Transportation at (301) 475-4200 x3565 or by email to gary.whipple@stmaryscountymd.gov.

For more information on St. Mary's County Government, please visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov or follow us on Facebook, X, and Instagram for regular updates.

New Members Sought for Boards, Commissions

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are seeking applications from residents who are interested in serving on a local Board, Committee, or Commission. Volunteering to serve as a member of these groups is an excellent way to meet new people while contributing to the successful operation and development of our community!

Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/boards for board descriptions and to complete the online application. All applications must include a resume and be submitted by March 24, 2025.

Current vacancies:

- Airport Advisory Board
- Board of Trustees Museum Division
- Commission for People with Disabilities
- Commission for Women

- Commission on Aging
- Economic Development Commission
- Ethics Commission (alternate member)
- Human Relations Commission
- Social Services Board

Please note the following, additional vacancies have special requirements:

- Electrical Examiners Board – Must be a master electrician.
- Historic Preservation Commission – Discipline of architecture, architectural history, history or archaeology.
- Metropolitan Commission Board – Must reside in the 1st district.

Interested residents can complete the online application at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/boards or call Diane Gleissner at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1707 for more information.

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Cicada Invasion Won't Happen This Year

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Recent media reports have stated that Brood No. 14 of cicadas, the bumbling, buzzing red-eyed winged insects that spring from the ground every 13 to 17 years, would hit Maryland in 2025.

Now, a top entomologist is saying the much-anticipated emergence of cicadas will pass the region by this year.

Last year there was an extremely rare event involving cicadas in which two separate broods, groups of insects that usually emerge at separate times, emerged together in what University of Maryland entomologist Dr. Michael Raupp called a "cicadapalooza."

In an interview with News Nation, Raupp said the last time two cicada broods emerged simultaneously was in 1803 when then-President Thomas Jefferson completed the Louisiana Purchase.

The emergence last year centered mainly in the area of Illinois but some also emerged in Maryland, according to Ben Beale, lead advisor at the University of Maryland's Agricultural Extension office which operates in St. Mary's County.

"There was only a small sliver of them that came up in Ridge," Beale told The County Times.

When millions or more of cicadas emerge from their long maturation cycle underground, they can be immediately known



by the screeching, droning sound they make.

Raupp said the song of cicadas is one of the loudest sounds in the natural world, approaching 100 decibels; one of the few calls louder is whale song.

Despite their fearsome appearance and size, cicadas are essentially harmless to humans, pets and crops.

Once they emerge their only mission, Beale said, "is to mate, lay eggs and die."

The time they spend underground in their larval stage they take in sustenance from the roots of plants until they emerge and begin their mating cycle.

Once impregnated, females lay their eggs inside of branches of trees near the tips where they grow until they can drop to the ground and burrow back into the earth at the base of trees to begin the cycle over once again.

The emergence of cicadas is also a huge increase in the food source for certain animals such as birds and snakes, Beale said, which also see an increase in their populations with the cicada emergence because food has become so much more abundant so quickly.

Once they have died, millions of cicada

carcasses litter they ground where they have fallen, along with shed exoskeletons of their skin.

The next time St. Mary's County is set to see cicadas is in 2030 when members of what is known as Brood No. 2 are scheduled to emerge; Brood No. 14 is expected to emerge this year in the far west reaches of Virginia, most of West Virginia and central Pennsylvania.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

ST. MARYS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES

MEDICARE MINUTE PRESENTATIONS

MARCH
26 | MEDICARE PREMIUM-RELATED APPEALS AND TROUBLESHOOTING

APRIL
30 | LOWERING YOUR MEDICARE PART D COSTS

MAY
28 | MEDICARE PART B VS. MEDICARE PART D DRUGS

JUNE
25 | MEDICARE AND DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

JULY
30 | MEDICARE AND EMPLOYER COVERAGE

AUG
27 | CHOOSING BETWEEN ORIGINAL MEDICARE AND MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

SEPT
24 | MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT POLICIES

OCT
29 | FALL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

NOV
19 | PREPARING FOR FUTURE HEALTH CARE NEEDS

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Anxiety Grows Over Potential Federal Layoffs



Photo by Ceandra Scott

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Last week demonstrators picketed outside Gate No. 2 of Patuxent River Naval Air Station in support of federal workers who are increasingly in the crosshairs of the Trump administration for layoffs to trim down the federal government and contain costs.

Signs read “Federal Workers are Heroes” and “Thank You Federal Workers and Veterans” while protestors chanted “Hey, hey, ho, ho Elon Musk has got to go,” venting anger at the titular head of the Department of Government Efficiency which is rapidly advising the president on which jobs to eliminate, often times in what seems to some in an indiscriminate manner.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow said he spent much of his week in contact with base officials over concerns of a looming government shutdown on top of more defense-related federal layoffs.

“I’ve had a lot of people reach out to me concerned about possible RIFs (reductions in force)... there’s still a lot to be decided,” Ostrow said during the Mar 11 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County. “I know some [probationary employees] have been terminated.

“NAS [Patuxent River] has terminated some of their probationary employees, the number I do not know.

“But still, at this time, no RIFs have occurred at the airbase in the county.”

A reduction in force differs from terminating probationary employees, Ostrow said, because the action does away with the employee’s position and does not allow for them to be rehired. “They’re not even allowed to contract that position out,” Ostrow said. “So, it’s very different.

Del. Todd Morgan (R-Dist. 29C), who works for a defense contractor here in St. Mary’s, said the Navy is currently sending list of names to the Office of the Secretary of Defense of employees they want to exempt from any layoffs.

The Navy will make the case for those exemptions as well, Morgan told The

County Times.

“After speaking with a very high-ranking officer on base on Monday, there are no layoffs yet,” Morgan said. “Nobody knows anything yet because all the paperwork on individuals [the Navy wants to exempt from layoffs] is going to [the Office of Secretary of Defense.]”

Morgan said he did not know when to expect word from The Pentagon about any layoffs locally.

According to a briefing presentation to the Maryland General Assembly from the Board of Revenue Estimates this week, about 22 percent of all wages in St. Mary’s County come from the federal government.

There are more than 10,000 such employees here, the highest concentration in Southern Maryland.

The average salary for federal employees here is \$126,798, according to the state briefing.

There have been, however, 1,000 federal contract-related layoffs in Maryland as of February of this year, the briefing revealed.

The state’s data revealed there have been 11,619 announced layoffs and “position changes” in Maryland so far this year.

Morgan held out hope that Patuxent River NAS could weather the storm of federal downsizing.

“Patuxent River NAS and Webster Field are probably in a better position than most other places in Maryland,” Morgan said. “We provide direct fleet support, training and equipment for the warfighter and vital research and development and test and evaluation for critical weapons systems. “My hope is that the Patuxent River [NAS] workforce remains intact.

“No constituents have called my office about their jobs at Pax River in the last two weeks.”

Morgan said that while layoffs may come, President Trump has put more spending into the continuing resolution budget bill currently before Congress, as maintaining a strong defense is one of his stated priorities.

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Congratulations to the happy couples who applied for marriage licenses in St. Mary's County during the month of February. Best wishes to all!

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Anya Celaine Jordan, 19, Tall Timbers, MD

Elizabeth Carol Mitchell, 27, Charlotte Hall, MD
Bradley Christian Blunier, 27, Charlotte Hall, MD

Ellie Lynn Heath, 26, Great Mills, MD
Zachary Michael Culver, 25, Great Mills, MD

James Benson Jordan, 29, California, MD
Virginia May Tolbert, 30, Leonardtown, MD

Sierra Grace Haynes, 30, Mechanicsville, MD
Dylan Charles Waughman, 29, Mechanicsville, MD

Michael Edward Davis, 41, California, MD
Kathleen Ariel Rose Guyther, 41, California, MD

William Bernard Weeks, Jr., 56, Hollywood, MD
Frances Helene Settler, 47, Hollywood, MD

Ashley Maria Madariaga, 32, Lusby, MD
Collin Joseph Combs, 31, Laplata, MD

Jesse Harmon Cheadle, 47, Mechanicsville, MD
Kathryn Elizabeth Beirne, 35, Mechanicsville, MD

Amy Lynn Williams, 28, Lexington Park, MD
Joshua Lee Quade, 32, Lexington Park, MD

Simrik Sindhu Bastakoti, 28, Derwood, MD
Nicholas James Rehm, 27, Derwood, MD

Laura Lakrisha Wright, 27, Lexington Park, MD
Eric George Fair, 29, Lexington Park, MD

Chavonte Nicole Johnson, 33, Lexington Park, MD
Carlos Douglas White, 40, Lexington Park, MD

Jamie Lynn Turner, 20, Lusby, MD
Le'khi Carnell Eddins, 20, Richmond, VA

Jami Lynn Kurker, 37, California, MD
Vincent Steele Green, 37, California, MD

Vanessa Marie Careiro, 39, California, MD
Nathaniel Lee Ross, 40, California, MD

Bridget Marie Copp, 26, Lexington Park, MD
James Calvin Young, Jr., 26, Lexington Park, MD

Judy Ann Young, 61, Mechanicsville, MD
Paul Eugene Mcgowan, 64, Mechanicsville, MD

Briana Lynn King, 22, Leonardtown, MD
Christopher Michele Johann, 27, Leonardtown, MD

Modesty Simone Medley, 27, Lexington Park, MD
Terence Edward Thomas, 28, Friendship, MD

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Jolyssa Rylie Quade, 21, Lexington Park, MD

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Commissioners Approve Sale of \$30 Million in Bonds

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

To fund already-approved capital construction projects, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously this week to approve the sale of \$30 million in general obligation bonds.

This iteration of bonding authority is not the iteration that commissioners have been seeking for \$71 million most recently from the county delegation of state-level elected leaders, which has since been cut to \$56 million in the Annapolis legislature.

It is the first sale of bonds, said Joy Sapp, county Deputy Director of Finance, since October of 2023.

Sapp, at the March 11 commissioners' business meeting, told local elected leaders the interest rate on the bonds to be sold is 3.76 percent; that translates into an annual

interest payment of \$2.1 million in debt service for the next 20 years.

The first such payment will be due December of this year.

"This was already part of the plan that these [projects] would be funded this way," said Commissioner Eric Colvin. "This is nothing new."

Some of the projects the \$30 million will fund include \$4.1 million for improvements to the St. Mary's County Airport, \$11.8 million for roadway safety improvements, \$6.1 million for modernizing Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School, \$2.7 million for work on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system at Piney Point Elementary School and \$1.6 million for replacing various box culverts, according to county finance documents.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Business Service Tax Up for Debate in Annapolis

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Businesses are already crying foul over a proposed new tax on service transactions between businesses of 2.5 percent — HB 1554 — that opponents complain was introduced late in the session, thus pushing key vetting rules for legislation.

"Maryland is facing yet another self-inflicted budget deficit," wrote Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A). "But instead of focusing on fostering economic growth, Democrats are proposing a new tax that will only harm small businesses and consumers."

"Imposing a 2.5 percent business-to-business tax will only hinder our state's economic progress; at best, it will result in higher prices for consumers. At worst, it will drive businesses out of Maryland entirely."

The bill was up for debate in the Ways and Means committee of the House of Delegates this week.

The bill was introduced last week by Montgomery County Delegate David Moon (D-Dist. 20).

"Delegate Moon has never seen a tax he didn't like," said Commissioner Eric Colvin at the Commissioners of St. Mary's County business meeting March 4 upon hearing of

the bill's existence. "That man loves taxes."

In last year's legislative session, Moon proposed a 6 percent service tax on all services statewide, from haircuts to oil changes.

That bill was not successful.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce has come out in opposition to the bill, stating that: "Maryland's business community is at a breaking point. This proposed 2.5 percent tax on business services is the latest in a series of proposals that treat businesses as revenue sources rather than partners in growing the economy."

The Maryland chamber argued that the tax could cost some businesses \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually, with some reporting it would completely erode profit margins. "One business warned it could result in \$400,000 to \$500,000 in cumulative costs," a statement from the chamber reads.

"Business owners — from major associations to small businesses — are united in opposition," the chamber's statement continued. "This tax forces businesses to make impossible choices: cut staff, raise prices, or relocate."

"Many see it as the final straw after years of being treated as 'budget-fixing ATMs.'"

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MIR Owners Say Track Not for Sale

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Maryland International Raceway (MIR) in Budd's Creek will not be sold to an international racing umbrella organization, the ownership of the track has said, despite claims by the other party that MIR is one of seven tracks they wish to acquire.

"In response to a post from IHRA on Friday, March 7 that Maryland International Raceway was being acquired by IHRA, MIR would like to make it clear that the track is not being acquired by IHRA," the statement on MIR's website reads. "The inclusion of MIR as one of the multiple racetracks being acquired by IHRA was an error.

"MIR was not made aware of the content of the post until after it had been released. To reiterate, MIR is not selling the track to IHRA. MIR has requested that IHRA clarify its post to remove MIR as one of the listed racetracks being acquired by IHRA."

Despite MIR's demands of IHRA, the umbrella organization has yet to make a retraction either on its website or on its social media presence.

"It was previously announced that MIR will be working with IHRA on the return of the President's Cup Nationals on Aug 8-9 to MIR, and MIR remains enthusiastic about continuing to work with IHRA on this exciting event," MIR's statement reads. "MIR remains sanctioned by WDRA (World Drag Racing Association) and has their full sup-



port on this collaboration."

Jennifer Hunt, general manager at MIR said the statement released by the owners of the track, the Miller Family, led by Royce Miller, was the only statement they were providing at this time.

"That's it and it's the truth," Hunt told The County Times in a March 12 phone interview.

She offered no explanation as to how IHRA came to the conclusion that the track was up for sale.

The statement from IHRA put out last

week states: "I am proud to announce that the International Hot Rod Association is purchasing seven legendary racing facilities as of today," said Darryl Cuttell, owner of IHRA. "This is just the beginning of growing IHRA into a global leader in sports and entertainment."

Cuttell said in the release that IHRA has agreed "in principle" to purchase MIR and six other such facilities in the Carolinas, Michigan and Ohio.

Cuttell's release also stated that the purchase of the property in Budd's Creek would

coincide with IHRA's purchase of several event brands that would boost the schedule of races at MIR and its other prospective purchases.

"The IHRA has also agreed in principle to purchasing, hosting, and partnering with some of the most successful and popular racing series in the entire world," Cuttell stated. "These events will combine music, entertainment, and All-American family fun!"

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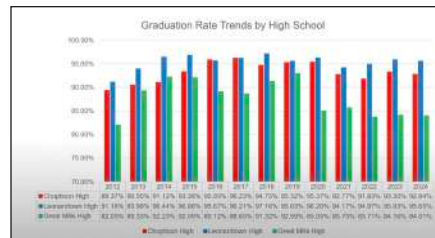
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COMMISSIONER ERIC COLVIN ON MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEL. DAVID MOON'S SUPPORT OF THE BUSINESS TO BUSINESS TAX BILL.



LOCAL 9
Cicada invasion will skip St. Mary's



LOCAL 10
Graduation rate dips slightly



ON THE COVER
Demonstrators picket in support of federal workers, against layoffs

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 13 AM Fog/PM Sun Hi: 57° Lo: 41°	FRI, MAR 14 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 44°	SAT, MAR 15 Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 56°	SUN, MAR 16 Thunderstorms Hi: 70° Lo: 52°
MON, MAR 17 AM Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 37°	TUE, MAR 18 Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 45°	WED, MAR 19 Partly Cloudy Hi: 70° Lo: 52°	THU, MAR 20 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 42°

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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

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ANXIETY GROWS OVER FEDERAL LAYOFFS

Photo by Ceandra Scott