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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET

**Senator Named Acting
MSP Superintendent**

**Whole Blood to be Used
in Emergency Transports**

**Former CBL Head Named
'Admiral of the Bay'**

**AI TECH COMES TO
MAMMOGRAPHY**



STRENGTH IN *Every Step*

JOIN US
OCTOBER 18, 2025

Solomons Medical Center | 14090 H.G. Trueman Road | Solomons, MD

Registration opens at 7 a.m. | Race starts at 8:30 a.m.

CalvertHealth's 16th annual Breast Cancer 5K run/walk benefiting the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast care will be held on beautiful Solomons Island.

Support this year's 5K alongside friends, family and community members.

We are striving to make this year's event our most successful 5K yet, so don't miss out on the inspiration and fun.

5K Run/Walk: \$40 (before Oct. 10)

Fun Walk (about 1.5 mile loop!): \$40 (before Oct. 10)

Day of Race Registration: \$50

Thanks to our generous sponsor, **Seven Lands and Seas Travel**, when you sign up for the 2025 CalvertHealth Breast Cancer 5K, you're making a difference and earning a chance to **win a Viking Cruise valued up to \$10,000!** Each registration counts as an entry. The drawing will take place at the 5K—but you don't need to be present to claim your prize. *Must be 18 or older to win.*

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE &
REGISTER NOW!



For more information on the event or sponsorship opportunities, contact the Foundation Office at **410.414.4570** or email: foundation@calverthealthmed.org

Breast Cancer Death Rates

25.6
deaths/ 100,000 females

Compared to:

MD Counties
21

U.S. Counties
19.6



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Superintendent



ON THE COVER

Technology advances contribute to breast
cancer screening and treatment

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 16



Sunny
Hi: 63° Lo: 43°

FRI, OCT 17



Sunny
Hi: 63° Lo: 44°

SAT, OCT 18



Partly Cloudy
Hi: 69° Lo: 55°

SUN, OCT 19



Partly Cloudy
Hi: 74° Lo: 52°

MON, OCT 20



AM Showers
Hi: 65° Lo: 49°

TUE, OCT 21



Partly Cloudy
Hi: 68° Lo: 55°

WED, OCT 22



Mostly Sunny
Hi: 67° Lo: 50°

THU, OCT 23



Mostly Sunny
Hi: 65° Lo: 49°



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Agreement Provides Whole Blood for Emergency Transports

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved an agreement with a Northern Virginia hospital to supply whole blood for use in emergency transport.

According to a memo from Public Safety Director Dave McDowell, "In July 2022 the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) published an optional medical protocol for Advanced Level Service providers to provide whole blood to critical patients. This protocol must be approved and directed by the Jurisdictional Medical Director."

McDowell said, "Calvert County Advanced Life Support (CALS), Career EMS and Dr. (Jason) Finkelstein, the County's Jurisdictional Medical Director, have collaborated on a protocol to administer whole blood products to patients in Calvert County, using best practices from other Maryland jurisdictions. Calvert County's protocol has been approved by Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Systems for implementation. The purpose for this initiative is largely due to Calvert County's rural setting. Often this leads to extended transport times for critical patients. Allowing paramedic supervisors, the ability to carry whole blood ensures patients, with life threatening bleeding, can receive trans-

fusions sooner, greatly increasing chances of survival before reaching a trauma center.

"Dr. Finkelstein has coordinated with Inova Health Care Services to develop a memorandum of agreement to establish a source for Calvert County paramedic supervisors to have access to whole blood products. The agreement requires biannual mobile blood drives hosted and funded by Inova to occur in partnership with Calvert County, in an effort to sustain donations for the program."

McDowell added, "There is no additional fiscal impact associated with this program, as all costs are being funded by Calvert Advanced Life Support, which is funded by the Board of County Commissioners."

The county may have to provide some additional money after the two-year pilot funding by CALS.

McDowell told the commissioners, "Early intervention is critical when severe blood loss is present. Field transfusions within 35 minutes improved survivability by up to 60 percent, according to proven data from the American Surgeons Association."

The closest trauma center is Maryland Capital Region, which is approximately 35 miles by ground away. The next closest would-be Baltimore Shock Trauma and Johns Hopkins, and all those are in excess of 60 miles away.

McDowell said, "Currently the only tool we have to keep blood pressure up and keep

someone sustainable is what we call lactated ringers. It's a crystal solution. It does not transport oxygen. It does not have plasma, and it does not have red blood cells. So basically, what we do to someone that's hemorrhaging is we take what little bit of blood they may have, and we thin it out even more."

McDowell added, "O Positive whole blood contains those red blood cells, plasma, and platelets. Federal Drug Administration has approved the emergency use in life threatening situations where blood is needed immediately, and patient's blood type is unknown."

Dr. Finkelstein said, "You do have four different blood groups. So, you have A, B, AB, and then O. So typically, in the hospital, when you have enough time and a patient's relatively stable, they can type and screen these patients. It takes 30 minutes up to an hour to get the full antigen antibody. What the military has done, which has then led to the civilian side to do it, is they've built a process where basically they're extracting pretty much every antigen and antibody, where now you're left with O Positive, low titer. Low titer is that antibody antigen factor. So the studies have suggested that the reaction risk is extremely low, while not completely gone."

By not administering it, the alternative is death, he said.

The agreement with Inova provides a fresh supply every two weeks, delivered by



Public Safety Director Dave McDowell

them by courier.

Annual cost to CALS for the agreement is \$11,180.

The commissioners unanimously approved the program, making Calvert the fourth in the state to do so.

"I think you guys are here because you have to be. I see those reports you send us with the accidents on Route 4," said Commissioner Mike Hart.

The twice-yearly blood drives will be named after Deputy James Flint, who was seriously wounded while on duty and has fully recovered. The sheriff's office has agreed to assist in publicity for the blood drives.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Sen. Jackson Named Acting State Police Superintendent

Governor Wes Moore on Oct. 10 announced the appointment of Maryland State Senator Michael A. Jackson as acting superintendent of the Maryland Department of State Police. Jackson will assume the post as acting superintendent beginning Nov. 12, following the retirement of Col. Roland L. Butler on Nov. 1.

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel C. Pickett will serve as interim superintendent.

"Colonel Roland Butler is a true public servant in every sense of that phrase, and our state is safer because of his distinguished leadership," "During Colonel Butler's tenure at the helm of State Police, Maryland has become a national leader in crime reduction and public safety gains. He leaves behind a profound legacy as he enters retirement.

"And I also know Senator Michael A. Jackson—an exceptional public servant in his own right—will build on the foundation Colonel Butler laid. Together, we will continue our all-of-the-above approach to public safety, grounded in accountability, coordination, and partnership."

Col. Butler is retiring after more than 31 years in law enforcement. In addition to serving as Maryland Department of State Police Superintendent, he served as the Chairman of the Police Training Commission, Vice President of the Maryland Chief's Association, and the Vice Chair of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)

program. During his career Col. Butler also served as chief of the Maryland State Police Field Operations Bureau, where he led a patrol force of more than 1,000 troopers and investigative personnel assigned to 23 barracks. During his career, Col. Butler served in both line and supervisory positions as he was promoted through the ranks. He served on the superintendent's staff in the Maryland State Police Support Services Bureau Office of Equity and Inclusion, and in other positions throughout the Field Operations Bureau.

A lifelong public servant, Michael A. Jackson served 22 years with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office, including eight years as elected sheriff for Prince George's County and more than five years as Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #112 president.

Elected to the Maryland General Assembly in 2014, Jackson served as the state delegate for legislative district 27B from 2015-2021. While a member of the House of Delegates, he sat on the Appropriations Committee and served as vice chair in 2020. In January 2021 he was appointed and subsequently elected in November 2022 to represent district 27 in the State Senate. *the district includes the northern part of Calvert County). During his tenure, he has served as chair of the Pensions Subcommittee as well as the Public Safety, Transportation and Environment Subcommittee. He also served as the chair of

the Senate Veterans Caucus and as a member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

A recipient of numerous honors and awards, Jackson's name was entered into the Congressional Record for having established the first 24/7 Domestic Violence Intervention Unit in the Mid-Atlantic Region. He also directed the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute, the Leadership Development Institute, and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association.

Jackson is a United States Marine veteran and an alumnus of The Johns Hopkins University (M.S., Management); DeVry University (B.S., Technical Management/Electronic Engineering Technology); and St. Mary's Seminary and University (Graduate Certificate, Biblical Studies).

The appointment of Sen. Jackson leaves an opening in Senate District 27 that will be filled by Gov. Moore for the 2028 legislative session prior to the June 2027 Maryland primary election.

Current District 27B Del. Jeffrie Long has announced he is a candidate for the appointment. He issued the following statement

"For the past five years, Senator Michael Jackson has served the people of Maryland's 27th District with integrity, commitment, and an unwavering dedication to public service. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him on his well-deserved appointment



Sen. Michael A. Jackson

as Interim Superintendent of the Maryland State Police—a testament to his leadership and lifelong service to our state.

"As he embarks on this new chapter, I am inspired to continue the work of building stronger schools, safer communities, and a more equitable Maryland. With deep gratitude and a spirit of service, I intend to place my name in consideration to serve as the next State Senator for District 27. Our community deserves bold, compassionate leadership—and I am ready to answer that call."

Press releases from Office of Gov. Wes Moore and Office of Del. Jeffrie Long



CALVERT COUNTY INFORMATION & EVENTS

Calvert County Government will be responsible and accountable to all citizens of Calvert County; provide high quality, effective and efficient services; preserve Calvert County's environment, heritage and rural character; foster opportunities for responsible and sustainable residential growth and economic development; and support Calvert County's essential institutions and keep them strong.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are subject to change. Watch here: [YouTube](#) | [Meetings on Demand](#) | [Comcast channel 99 or 1070 HD](#)

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

Next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, 10 a.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Boards and Commissions Meetings

Meetings are held via Teams unless otherwise noted.
Meeting IDs and passwords are available at [calvertcountymd.gov](#).

SSWAC Q4 Public Input Session

Oct. 16, 2025, 6-7:30 p.m.

Environmental Commission

Oct. 27, 2025, 6-8 p.m.

Public Hearing:

Supplemental Budget Amendment BA2026-000204

Oct. 21, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick



UPCOMING COUNTY EVENTS



Calvert County will participate in **National Drug Take Back Day** on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Southern Community Center, located at 20 Appeal Lane in Lusby, and the Northeast Community Center, located at 4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave. in Chesapeake Beach.



Stay Connected with Calvert County Government News

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Whether you're looking for local events and activities, community resources or the top five things happening in county government, there's a newsletter for you:

Calvert Business Bulletin – News and updates from Economic Development

Calvert Currents – Updates from the County Commissioners

Caregiver Connections – Resources from the Office on Aging

Fresh Finds – Agricultural events and updates

Planning Perspective – News from Planning & Zoning

The Connection – Senior events and activities

Tidings – Local events and things to do

Veterans Affairs Commission – Veteran news and updates



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For upcoming events, news, newsletters and more, visit:

calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes



WE ARE MOVING!

Throughout October, Calvert County Government will be moving into the new Calvert Administration Building (CAB).

For more information and details on the move please go to calvertcountymd.gov/NewCAB.



Ghouls Just Wanna Have Homes

Adoption Promo - Oct. 21-31

There will be a spooky cauldron for the adopters to pull from - it will be waived fee, half off or a trick or treat bag of candy!

Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter - calvertcountyanimalshelter.com



Walktober is a month-long event focusing on promoting physical activity, particularly walking and raising awareness about pedestrian safety and health.

Thursday, Oct. 16

Physical Activity Challenge:
Set an extra goal, reset and recharge with movement!

Monday, Oct. 20

Red Ribbon Week:
Walk for wellness and awareness

Wednesday, Oct. 29

Halloween Week:
Wear a costume

Noon walks:

Ward Farm Park playground,
Hallowing Point Park pavilion, Solomons Town Center

Park pavilion,
King Memorial Park pavilion
CalvertHealth Medical Center

Annex parking lot

5 p.m. walks:

Ward Farm Park playground,
Hallowing Point Park pavilion, Solomons Town Center pavilion

North Beach boardwalk entrance,
Solomons Medical Center parking lot

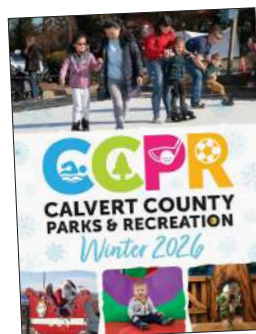


The Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning invites you to participate in public input meetings to learn about Town Center Master Plan surveys and share your feedback.

Owings Town Center Master Plan Public Input Meeting

Oct. 20, 2025, 6 p.m., 9870 Old Solomons Island Road, Owings, MD

Questions and comments may also be submitted in advance to Tay Harris, long range planner, at 410-535-1600, ext. 2333, or Tay.Harris@calvertcountymd.gov.



HEADS UP, CALVERT COUNTY!

Starting this winter, the Parks & Recreation Activity Guide will no longer be mailed to every household, but don't worry—the guide isn't going away!

Your feedback is always welcome and you can find the latest activity guide anytime at calvertcountymd.gov/ParksAndRecreation.

DISCOVER FALL FUN AT LOCAL FARMS

Learn more at CalvertAg.com/FarmFallFun



Breast Cancer Awareness Month: AI Comes to Mammography

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

This is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Any discussion about breast cancer quickly turns to the need for preventative screening. Patients are seeing progress in that area.

CalvertHealth Medical Center's Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast Care Nurse Practitioner Wendy Bosley explained, "About three years ago, the artificial intelligence (AI) came to breast imaging. So, it's a program called SAGE Diagnostic, which uses artificial intelligence in machine learning to read breast screening mammograms. So, it gives the patient about a hundred breast imagers looking at their mammogram as they make sure that they don't see anything that is changed in the imaging."

She said it doesn't necessarily preclude additional screening. But she said, "What it does is make sure that there's nothing a breast imager needs to focus on, and it can find subtle changes that would be difficult to see with the human eye. So, it's looking for subtle changes and then it's machine learning. So, it's learning what small changes end up being a malignancy."

Is it more accurate? She responded, "More accurate than a general radiologist? I don't know if it's more accurate than a breast specialist."

But it's getting there. And it'll continue to improve."

Bosley said, "All the governing bodies now agreed for an average risk female, breast imaging should start at the age of 40 and should be done annually. And then we follow the National Comprehensive Cancer (NCCN) guidelines, and we don't stop mammograms as long as you're healthy and active. So, we don't have an upper age limit for when we would recommend screening."

What does a nurse practitioner do at the cancer center? Bosley explained, "I see all benign breast disease. So, all the non-cancer issues. I see all the cancer patients when they're originally diagnosed with my surgeon, Dr. (Theodore) Tsangaris. I continue to follow all the surgical patients for their follow up visits and then start their screening program after surgery. So, we continue to follow them on a six month to one year basis after they have surgery for breast cancer."

To become a nurse practitioner "You have to first have a four-year degree, and then a board certification, and then you go back for an additional master's degree in some type of specialty. So, mine is a family nurse practitioner. So that means I can see patients of all ages. So that was a master's degree with about 600 hours of clinical time for the

additional training."

Bosley said, "Most of my experience has been in the oncology setting, and when I joined Calvert in 2021, I was hired to work in the medical oncology center and to work in the Breast Center. And as the Breast Center, I got increasingly busy. I chose to come over here full time and work with Dr. Tsangaris."

As to treatment, Bosley said, "There's lots of new advances in metastatic breast cancer treatment. For early breast cancer treatment, we're focusing on deescalating surgical care, and we have precision medicine with genomic testing that helps us predict if in a noninvasive breast cancer, if the patient needs radiation or doesn't. And that's a test called Decision RT."

"And then in the stage one and above breast cancer, we have precision medicine testing with either Oncotype or MammaPrint Blueprint, which helps determine if the patient based on the genomics and the tumor, the actual tumor itself, if they need chemotherapy or not. So, we're getting very precise and intentional in not overtreating or not undertreating patients."

At the Breast Center at CalvertHealth, she said, "Here we provide genetic testing. We do have a nurse navigator that manages the patient through diagnosis and the end of their treatment. We provide surgical consults for abnormal mammograms, anyone who has a breast symptom, this nipple discharge, breast pain, cyst abscess, infections, things like that. We treat all breast issues."

Her role is "making sure that the patient is coping and moving through the process with the anxiety that goes along with the diagnosis. Depression is very prevalent in cancer patients alone. So, making sure that any anxiety or depression is dealt with. A lot of counseling and listening to patients during their visit. We do a distress screening...when they're diagnosed, then that is monitored by the med for screenings to make sure that all the mental health issues are addressed."

"We do have social work as part of our team. We refer people to social work if they have outstanding issues."

Even the mammogram can be stressful.

What's generally the motivation to get that mammogram? "We definitely get referrals from past patients. That's probably one of our biggest referrals. Our imaging center definitely gives us a lot of referrals, patients that have had family history and have watched loved ones go through things more tend to be more proactive because they're concerned about any breast issues. And then, our primary care and GYN in the community are huge referrals for any-

one with any abnormalities or breast specialty things that they need addressed."

She's been doing it for 25 years. "The advances in oncology in general have been huge in the 25 years that I've been in oncology. So, it's amazing how far we've come."

At CalvertHealth, she said, "We treat patients as individuals, so you're not just a number when you come here. Patients get all of the guidelines; we follow guideline approved treatment plans. The nursing staff is so wonderful at getting to know the patients and knowing about them, and we've treated their family members."

"When you're in a small community, you have that ability to get to know not only the patients but their families. So, it's a different kind of care, but we follow all the same guideline standards, all the same medications that the bigger facilities offer. But there's just a more personal touch here at CalvertHealth."

In conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, CalvertHealth is holding its 16th Annual Breast Cancer 5K this Saturday, Oct. 18 in Solomons.

This year's event will once again feature two distances: a traditional 5K run/walk and a fun, untimed 1.5-mile walk along the scenic island—perfect for those who want to take in the views while showing their support.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast Care at the CalvertHealth Cancer Center and its continued affiliation with Duke Health, a national leader in cancer care. This partnership gives local patients access to groundbreaking clinical trials and research—close to home.

The first multidisciplinary breast center in Southern Maryland, the center for breast care provides patients with expert care and the most advanced breast health technology available.

With breast cancer incidence and mortality rates in Calvert County higher than both the state and national averages, the Breast Cancer 5K plays a vital role in sustaining breast care services locally. Since its start in 2010, the event has raised more than \$600,000 to support the life-changing work of the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast Care.

"The Breast Cancer 5K has grown into a cherished tradition in Southern Maryland," said Barry Friedman, Foundation Board vice chair and 5K committee chair. "It's a morning of remembrance, hope and unity—patients, caregivers, family, friends, co-workers, parishioners, classmates and neighbors all come together with a shared commitment to supporting breast cancer



Wendy Bosley

care right here in our community."

He added, "In 2024, we welcomed more than 1,000 participants for the first time in our history. Solomons Island was splashed with pink as participants gathered for this important cause, and we hope to see an even larger crowd in 2025. We all know someone who has been touched by breast cancer. Join us—form a team, walk with friends and be part of a tradition that is making a real difference."

Race check-in begins at 7 a.m., followed by the program at 8 a.m. at the Solomons Medical Office Building, 14090 Solomons Island Road.

Registration will be \$50 and remain open until race day. To register or learn more, visit CalvertHealthFoundation.org or call the Foundation Office at 410.414.4570.

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Man Sentenced to 65 Years for Rape

Daniel Joseph Bliss, 42, of Waldorf, pleaded guilty on Oct. 10 in Calvert County Circuit Court to three counts of second-degree rape and one count of sexual abuse of a minor. Judge Mark S. Chandler sentenced Bliss to 65 years of active incarceration, followed by probation with the requirement of lifetime registration as a sex offender.

Bliss will be required to serve one-half of his sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office received a report of suspected child abuse in August, 2024. Detective Mudd was assigned to the investigation. His investigation revealed that Bliss met the victim in 2020 when she was 14 years old. Bliss groomed her to gain her trust, but at the same time he was providing her with drugs and alcohol. She ultimately became addicted.

In 2020, when the victim was 16 years old and in the care and custody of Bliss, he provided her with alcohol and drugs and repeatedly raped her while she was incapacitated. The victim did not report the rape to law enforcement at that time, but she told three of her friends.

When law enforcement officers ultimately learned of the abuse, they obtained search



Daniel Joseph Bliss

warrants for Facebook messages between Bliss and the victim. In the messages, Bliss admitted to the rapes and apologized.

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

Press release from Calvert County State's Attorney

Commerce Secretary Visits Calvert

Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Harry Coker Jr. visited Calvert County Thursday, Sept. 25 for a full-day tour that highlighted the county's role in clean energy, agritourism, manufacturing and economic development.

The visit began with a tour of Constellation Energy's Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Lusby. The facility, which began operations in 1975, produces up to 1,790 megawatts of clean, carbon-free energy—enough to power more than 1.3 million homes—and provides approximately 700 jobs while contributing over \$22 million annually in local taxes.

The tour continued with a farm-to-table lunch at Tettimer's Rolling Acres Farm in Port Republic, followed by a driving tour of Prince Frederick. Stops included the nearly complete Calvert County Administration Building, the future Armory Pavilion and the Armory Square retail development, a project expected to create 300 new jobs.

The tour continued with a visit to Victor Stanley in Dunkirk, a manufacturer of durable, sustainable site furnishings that recently received the Maryland Manufacturing Stars Award.

The visit concluded in Chesapeake Beach at the Rod 'N' Reel Resort with a business roundtable listening session, followed by a guided tour of the new hotel and conference space and an informal networking reception



Maryland Commerce Secretary Harry Coker Jr.

at "The Dock."

The visit underscores the county's contributions to Maryland's economic growth and highlights the importance of supporting businesses of all sizes. By showcasing Calvert County's energy, agricultural, manufacturing and tourism sectors, the tour provided an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with the state and ensure continued investment in the region's economic future.

Press Release from Calvert County Government

Letter to the Editor: 'We Must Be Better Than This'

Citizens of Calvert County:

We are in the midst of Halloween season. You have probably noted different yard displays throughout the county. Look at this display which is in Lusby.

Do you find it humorous or offensive?

Yes, you are seeing two bound black figures hanging from trees. The display is on private property. When the homeowner was asked by sheriff's deputies to take it down, the homeowner's response was that it's a display that has been up for years.

The display has gravestones and yellow crime scene tape. Also, it has the two black figures covered in black plastic and bound by tape from head to feet. They are what catch your eye. In fact, you probably have to look twice before you notice the gravestones and the yellow crime tape.

Humorous or offensive?

When a photo of this display first appeared on social media, it was reported that this display was in the Chesapeake Ranch Club. It is not in the Ranch Club. It is on a neighborhood road which is on the west side of Route 2-4. It is amazing how we jump to initial conclusions about certain neighborhoods in our county.

Black and white county residents find this display to be offensive. Our local NAACP branch finds it offensive. Black and white NAACP members find it offensive.

We contacted the Sheriff, the president of the BOCC, and the Calvert State's Attorney and made them aware of the display and its exact location. They said it would be investigated. A deputy went to the location and eventually spoke to the homeowner. Reportedly, the homeowner responded that he would think about taking it down.

A year ago, there was another Halloween display with a hanging black figure. That was across the street from where our former black school superintendent and his family lived. That incident was investigated. Again,



it was on private property. It had a black plastic wrapped figure, bound from head to foot. It looked very similar to this year's two hanging figures in Lusby. Then, the sheriff's department questioned the homeowner, who responded that it was just a part of a Halloween display. Coincidence?

Humorous or offensive?

With this current display, Mr. Harvey, our State's Attorney, shared that it does not violate Maryland's hate crime statute, specifically Criminal Law Article, Section 10-305.1.

Also, Mr. Harvey shared that the scene

was photographed and entered in the Sheriff's CAD database. (CAD stands for Computer Aided Dispatch.) Since the display was on private property, no further legal action could be taken.

At last year's Optimist Holiday parade in Prince Frederick, a local towing company had the Grinch hanging from its towing hook. That photo was shared with the parade organizers, who responded that in the future they would be more diligent in monitoring what was displayed in the parade.

Humorous or offensive?

In June 1886, there was a lynching in Prince Frederick. This past September 2025, there were two men found hanging in Mississippi. One was a 21-year-old black student at Delta State University. The coroner's office ruled that the student committed suicide. His family is still seeking answers. The other was a white 35-year-old homeless man. His death is still being investigated.

This is 2025. Maybe some folks in our county are not aware of the history of lynching in our county, state and nation. Maybe they are aware, and they decide to go ahead with their plans anyway. On the first weekend in October, there were two hanging figures in the Lusby display. By the second weekend in October, there were five figures – four black and one white. So much for the homeowner thinking about taking it down.

There never was, nor is, anything humorous about lynchings, nor about depictions of lynchings. Lynchings were, and are, cruel violent acts of terror.

Suicide by hanging is a final act of desperation and hopelessness. According to 2023 data from the CDC, mental illness in the form of depression ranks second as the cause for suicide.

These hanging displays are very offensive to our citizens of color. Plus, they are offensive to any families who have had a member commit suicide by hanging.

We have much work yet to do in Calvert County. We must be better than this.

*Debora Harris, President,
NAACP – Calvert
Michael Hawkins, 1st Vice President,
NAACP – Calvert
Joyce Freeland, 2nd Vice President,
NAACP – Calvert
Art Simpson, 3rd Vice President,
NAACP – Calvert
Mike Shisler, Education chair,
NAACP – Calvert*

What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Oct. 15 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 and Zoom/call-in, live stream.

1. 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

2. 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
3. CSPR-143260, **Westside on Main**, located on about 3.8-acres of combined parcels at 305 & 445 Main Street in Prince Frederick, MD and is zoned Town Center. The project con-

sists of 66,680 sf of newly constructed townhomes and office building with disturbed acreage of 3.05 acres. The project proposes to utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted January 22, 2025. Agent: COA Barrett

4. CSPR-143276, **Meadow Run Gun Range**, located on the 11.86-acre parcel at 7625 Meadow Run Lane in Owings, MD and is zoned Light Industrial. The project consists of an approximately 61,000 sf indoor gun range with disturbed acreage of 10 acres. The project proposes to utilize private water and septic. The concept submittal was accepted February 26, 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.

Former CBL Head Named 'Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay'

Governor Wes Moore has commissioned Solomons resident and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Professor Thomas Miller as the 111th Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay. He is former president of Chesapeake Biological Lab.

The Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay is a lifetime achievement award bestowed upon individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to the conservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Governor Moore presented the award to Miller during a ceremony at the Board of Public Works meeting on Oct. 1.

"Thomas Miller has dedicated his career to understanding and applying the best science available to support Maryland's fisheries and the ecosystem," said Governor Moore. "His work has helped to bring together the cooperative crab fishery that we have today in the Chesapeake Bay. The studies and policy discussions developed by Professor Miller are informing how we manage changing conditions in the Bay caused by climate change and invasive predators. His work will help ensure we have a sustainable long-term future for blue crabs as well as other culturally and economically important Chesapeake Bay species."

Miller, who has served as a professor at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons since 1994, has played a key role in developing the modern scientific understanding and management of Maryland's

recreational and commercial fisheries. He joined the laboratory in 1994 as an assistant professor and quickly became involved in emerging discussions about how Maryland and Virginia can better cooperate to manage the Chesapeake Bay's blue crab fishery using scientific surveys and data.

In 2000 and 2001, Miller served on the Bi-State Blue Crab Advisory Committee where he led meetings of researchers that reached a consensus that increasing fishing pressure could threaten the long-term viability of blue crabs in the Chesapeake. The 2001 Action Plan that came from the committee's work was the first to call for the Bay-wide thresholds on the blue crab fishery that Maryland and Virginia now use to prevent overfishing.

Since then, Miller has been recognized as a leader in Chesapeake Bay research. His insights have helped inform management approaches for key Bay species such as menhaden and dolphins as well as blue crabs.

Miller has long used his scientific expertise as a way to inform policymakers and find solutions to complex fisheries issues. He currently serves on the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and as a scientific advisor to a number of federal and state agencies.

Press release from MD DNR



Maryland DNR Secretary Josh Kurtz and Governor Wes Moore present Professor Thomas Miller with the 'Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay' Award. Photo by Polly Irungu, Office of the Governor.

College of Southern Maryland and Towson University Sign Transfer Agreement

College of Southern Maryland (CSM) and Towson University (TU) have partnered to increase educational pathways for students in our region.

On Sept. 29 Yolanda Wilson, Ed.D., College of Southern Maryland President, and Mark R. Ginsberg, Ph.D., Towson University President, signed a General Admissions and Reverse Transfer Agreement that creates a seamless transition for students enrolled at CSM with guaranteed admission to TU upon completing an associate degree.

"This partnership with Towson University ensures opportunities for our students to seamlessly transfer to a nationally recognized, public university to complete their undergraduate degrees," says CSM President Yolanda Wilson. "This is yet another pathway for our graduates to continue the outstanding education they have found at CSM."

Recognized nationally for student success and inclusive excellence, TU is a destination for more than 25 percent of students who transfer to a four-year university in Maryland.

"Towson University is proud to further enhance our partnership with the College of Southern Maryland to provide seamless access to TU, among the most respected and top ranked public universities in our state," says TU President Mark R. Ginsberg. "At TU, we strive to make education accessible for all, and this agreement is the perfect



From left: Dr. Tracy Harris, Vice President, Student Excellence and Success, CSM; Dr. Yolanda Wilson, President, CSM; Dr. Mark Ginsberg, President, Towson University, and Dr. Boyd Bradshaw, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Towson University

example of that promise. Pathways such as this will benefit all of Maryland as we continue to serve as an engine for opportunity, innovation and workforce development for our state."

As part of the agreement, TU will accept up to 64 semester credits completed at CSM. The goal of the partnership is to boost momentum for CSM students to earn their associate's degree and continue to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Ginsberg said together with CSM, they are creating a model where students can suc-

ceed academically, socially, and emotionally. "Over a third of our students transfer from community colleges. You have to be very deliberate and intentional in providing services and programs to meet their needs," Ginsberg said. "This agreement formalizes the vision to help students seamlessly transfer so that they don't lose the three things that transfer students often lose: time, credits, and money."

CSM students who transfer before earning their associate degree can take advantage of reverse transfer, which is a part of the agree-

ment. Through reverse transfer, these students can apply credits earned at TU toward completing their associate degree with CSM.

During the signing event, Dr. Wilson said reverse transfer is a unique element of the agreement. "It's a win-win for a student to be able to earn a stackable credential if deciding to transfer early, and have both an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree," she said.

To learn more about the agreement, visit the CSM Transfer Services webpage.

Press release from CSM

Twin Beaches Library Celebrates New Mural



Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch is unveiling a vibrant new addition to its exterior—a ceramic tile mural that celebrates the community's deep connection to the Chesapeake Bay.

Titled *The World is Our Oyster, and the Oyster is Our World*, the mural spans the west and south sides of the library exterior along Chesapeake Avenue and 5th Street, offering a colorful and tactile experience for visitors. The community is invited to the dedication, which will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 2:30 p.m. and you can register at <https://calvertlibrary.libnet.info/event/14689602>

The mural was designed and handcrafted by local ceramic artist Parran Collery, using a relief-sculpting process that adds texture and dimension to the bay creatures featured. This creative approach ensures both sighted and low-vision visitors can engage with the artwork.

"This mural is more than decoration—it's a celebration of our environment, our community, and our shared story," said Carrie Willson, executive director of Calvert Library. "We saw how beloved the mural at our Prince Frederick location became, and we knew the Twin Beaches community would embrace this meaningful public art. It's beautiful, yes—but it's also educational and interactive."

The project was made possible through a Public Art Across Maryland grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, with additional support from the Calvert Library Foundation, Friends of Calvert Library, the Town of Chesapeake Beach (through the Green Team and Chesapeake Beach

Oyster Cultivation Society), and the Town of North Beach. Scott Deacon, president of the Calvert Library Foundation, shared, "The community was incredibly generous in supporting the creation of this library, and we're proud to help wrap this gift in something so striking and symbolic."

To deepen the educational impact, the library will offer an interactive activity pamphlet that invites visitors to explore the mural and details more closely.

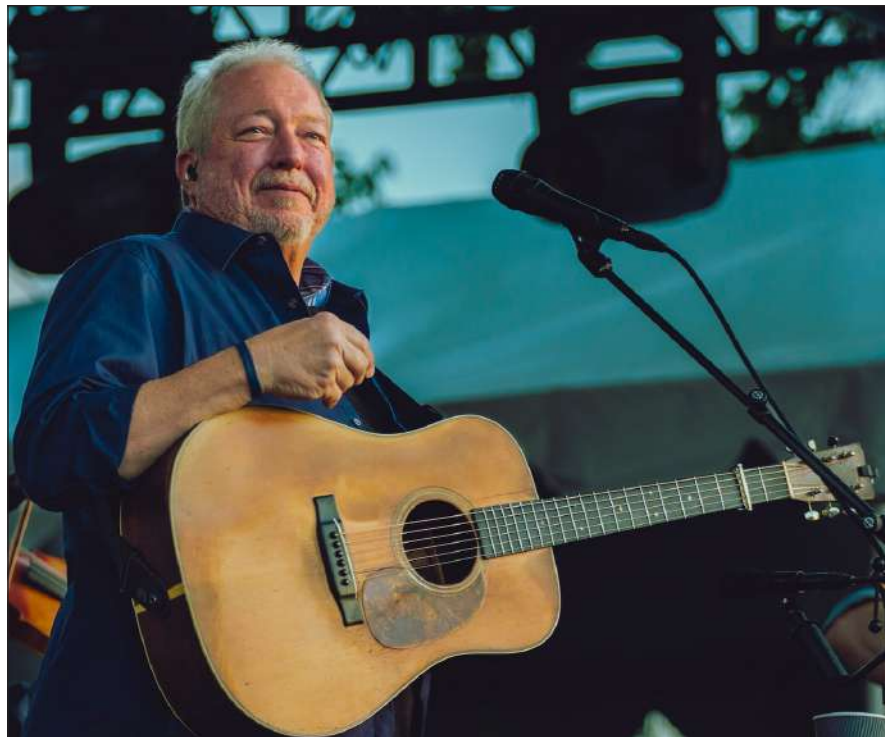
The community was not only involved in funding this art but also participated in "Oyster Day: Sustainable Maryland" which featured tile-making workshops, oyster shell painting, a live oyster tank and an oyster talk by local environmentalist Ryan St. Laurent. Branch Manager Melissa Gray said, "This project is a powerful reflection of our community's deep connection to the Chesapeake Bay. We're proud to showcase such a beautiful reminder of its significance and the role it plays in our lives."

Artist Parran Collery is known for her public art throughout the Maryland-DC-Virginia region, including mosaic murals for the DC H Street Revitalization Project, the Calvert Animal Welfare League, Caroline County Council of Arts and the Annmarie Arts Center. Her work also includes sculptures in Leonardtown and Frederick, as well as the mural at Calvert Library Prince Frederick.

For more information, contact Robyn Truslow, Public Relations Coordinator for Calvert Library at 410-535-0291 or robyn.truslow@calvertlibrary.info.

Press Release from Calvert Library

Russell Moore Returns After Touring with Allison Krauss



Russell Moore

Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out will headline the second concert of the season at the Southern Maryland Bluegrass Concert Series, held at the Calvert Elks in Prince Frederick on Sunday, November 9, beginning at 2 p.m.

Early in 2025, Allison Krauss personally invited Russell Moore to join her upcoming Bluegrass tour as guitarist and lead vocalist role previously held by Dan Tyminski for 29 years. For the past six months, Russell Moore toured nationwide with Allison Krauss & Union Station, performing in major cities across the country.

Now that the six-month Allison Krauss & Union Station tour has concluded, Russell Moore is well-rested and back to performing with his own band, IIIrd Tyme Out. One of his first shows following the tour will be at Calvert Elks Lodge #2620 in Prince Frederick on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

Entering its fourth year as Southern Maryland's leading live Bluegrass venue, the remainder of the concert series will feature today's top artists. Alongside Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out, the lineup also includes High Fidelity, The Kody Norris Show, The Po' Ramblin' Boys, The Country Gentlemen Show featuring Calvert County's Mike Phipps, and Special Consensus. Tickets for the November 9 Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out performance are available now.

For over 30 years, Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out have toured and released outstanding, original Bluegrass music. After spending formative years as a member of *Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver* (and recording some legendary Bluegrass music), Russell Moore founded IIIrd Tyme Out in 1991, helping usher in a new era of youthful, energetic Bluegrass with a unique sound that has endured well into the 21st century. Three decades later, Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out are one of Bluegrass music's most-awarded touring bands, with over fifty industry accolades to their credit.

In 2019, Moore received his sixth Male Vocalist of the Year award from the International Bluegrass Music Association, maintaining the record as the most awarded in that category. With eighteen albums and countless miles behind them, Moore is excited for the band's 34th year of performing.

Russell Moore shared, "Returning to IIIrd Tyme Out always feels like coming home. We can't wait to bring our music to Southern Maryland's enthusiastic Bluegrass fans."

Tickets for the November 9 show are \$23 per person, with advance purchase available. For more information, visit www.somdbluegrass.com or call 301-737-3004.

Press release



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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Oct 16

Proven Program to Prevent or Delay Diabetes

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
10-11 a.m. and Zoom, 7 p.m.

Take charge of your health! Join our free, fun and supportive year-long diabetes prevention program for those at risk of diabetes or looking to lose weight. Learn how small changes in eating, activity, and mindset can lead to big results. Presented in partnership with the Calvert County Health Department. To register or learn more information, call 410-535-5400 x514. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Oct 18

Lower Marlboro Freedom Day

Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church
6519 Lower Marlboro Lane, Owings

Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road, Owings
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Commemorates the freedom of those who escaped slavery with the help of the British during the War of 1812. Festivities include a walking tour, speakers, entertainment, food and exhibits. For more information visit www.calvertcountymd.gov/LowerMarlboroFreedomDay or contact Natural Resources Division Chief Karyn Molines at 410-535-5327 or by email at karyn.molines@calvertcountymd.gov.

Craft and Vendor Show/ Treasure Trove Yard Sale

Huntingtown United Methodist Church
4020 Hunting Creek Rd., Huntingtown
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Join us for a showcase of some of the most talented crafters in the community! It's a perfect opportunity to kick off your holiday shopping. Additionally, don't miss our new feature—the Treasure Trove Yard Sale—where you might find a hidden gem to take home!

Halloween in the Garden

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Celebrate Halloween with a family-friendly day of trick-or-treating, games, and fall fun. More than 60 local businesses and organizations will be handing out treats as the garden transforms with festive décor, selfie spots, and spooky surprises. Families can enjoy a DJ dance party, creepy crafts, pumpkin races, scarecrow building, a fall maze, and the last chance for fossil and gemstone mining at the sluice. Food trucks will be on site, including Calvert Kettle Corn, Grizzly Mountain Grill, Lameera Ice Cream, Nicoletti's, Sip n Klatsch, The Sipping Station, and more. Costumes encouraged for a spooktacular day!

Get tickets in advance before it sells out (skip the line and save \$):

www.annmariegarden.org/annmarie2/content/halloween-garden

Bluegrass & Acoustic Music Festival

Waters Memorial UMC
5400 Mackall Road, St. Leonard
12 Noon-5 p.m.

Five bands: 15 Strings; The Port Tobacco Pickers; Justus2; The Unclouded Day; Cuzn's Harmony, featuring Jay Armsworthy
Four food trucks: K's Lunchbox (authentic Mexican dishes); Cutty's Rock & Ribs (smoked ribs & rockfish); Hance Funnel Cakes; Calvert Ice Shack

This is a free family-friendly event. No smoking or alcohol permitted.

A free-will donation will be accepted to support Calvert Hospice, located in Prince Frederick

Sun, Oct 19

Animal Mask-Making Workshop

Calvert Marine Museum
1-4 p.m.

Get creative at the Calvert Marine Museum's Animal Mask-Making Workshop—designed just for tweens and teens! Inspired by one of our educator's passion for *commedia* mask-making, this workshop invites participants

to explore the museum's fascinating animals up close before heading to the classroom to create their own unique mask. Choose from an otter, lionfish, or seahorse—or put your own artistic twist on it! Cost is \$25 per person; all supplies and light snacks are provided.

Mon, Oct 20

Proven Program to Prevent or Delay Diabetes

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

Take charge of your health! Join our free, fun and supportive year-long diabetes prevention program for those at risk of diabetes or looking to lose weight. Learn how small changes in eating, activity, and mindset can lead to big results. Connect with others, build healthy habits, and reduce your risk together. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Oct 21

Dine Out Book Discussion

Neptune's Seafood Pub
North Beach
6-8 p.m.

Join us to discuss Virginia Woolf's "Mrs. Dalloway." The book is 100 years old this year! <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Trailblazer in Space: A Chat with Astronaut Col. Gregory

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

Meet astronaut Col. Frederick D. Gregory—pilot, space pioneer and the first African American to command a Space Shuttle. Hear his story of courage, leadership and breaking barriers. More than a talk, hear from someone who's pushed the boundaries of possibility. Whether you're passionate about space, aviation, science or leadership, his story will leave you thinking big-

ger about your own future. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Open House & Fall Fundraiser

Pets with Disabilities
635 Clay Hammond Rd., Prince Frederick
Saturday, Oct. 25, Noon to 4 p.m.

Raffles, entertainment, food & drink, trail walks! Meet our adoptable dogs and our former pups that have gone to their furever home, Admission is free! Family and friendly spayed and neutered dogs welcome! 443.624.9270; petswithdisabilities.org

Drug Take Back Day

Southern Community Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby

Northeast Community Center
4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach
Saturday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Calvert County will participate in National Drug Take Back Day. Residents are encouraged to safely dispose of unused or expired medications by dropping them off at either location. Medications should be in their original packaging to allow for easy disposal. Law enforcement officers and volunteers from the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA) and Calvert County Behavioral Health will be on hand to assist with collection and provide resource information. For those unable to participate on Oct. 25, three 24/7 medication drop boxes are available year-round at the following locations:

- Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), 30 Church St., Prince Frederick
 - Maryland State Police, Barrack U, 210 Main St. Prince Frederick
 - CCSO Dunkirk Station, 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd., Dunkirk
- For more information, contact CAASA at 410-535-3733.

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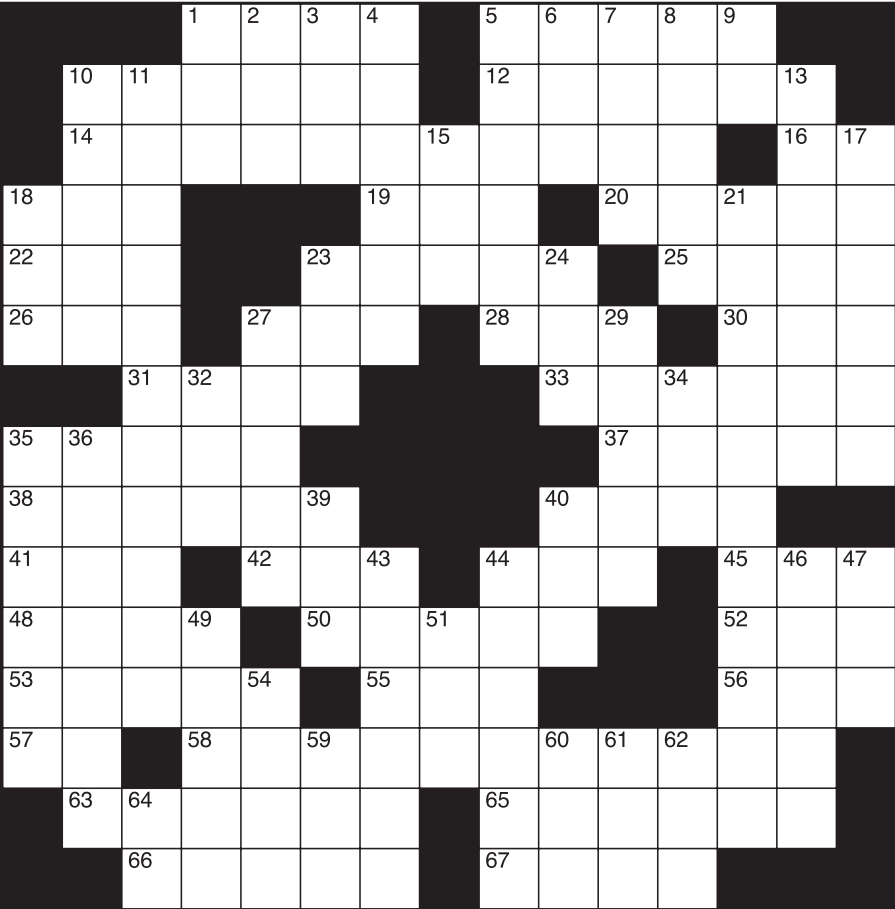
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County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Native American people of CA

5. Long periods of time (Brit.)

10. Classroom tool

12. Rods

14. One who renews

16. They start the alphabet

18. Periodical (slang)

19. Smooth singer Cole

20. Dorsal sclerites in insects

22. One from Utah

23. The world of the dead

25. Singer Redding

26. Mafia head

27. Wrongly

28. Unhappy

30. Anger

31. Dark olive black

33. Places to sit and eat

35. Made a mistake

37. Damp

38. Banned fuel type

40. Actor Damon

41. What thespians do

42. A polite address for a woman

44. Disallow

45. Swiss river

48. A banana has one

50. Afrikaans

52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

53. Agave

55. Journalist Tarbell

56. One-time tech leader

57. Incidentally (abbr.)

58. Intestinal bacterium

63. Loose sheaths around the spinal cord

65. Accompanies nook

66. Vogue

67. Highly excited
1. Witch

2. Utilize

3. Writing utensil

4. Where rockers work

5. Becomes less intense

6. Consume

7. Type of catfish

8. "Horsetown, U.S.A."

9. Atomic #50

10. The Muse of lyric poetry

11. Brings back to life

13. Humorous critiques

15. Cool!

17. Worst

18. Wet dirt

21. Useful

23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity

24. High schoolers' test

27. Internet device

29. City in India

32. A place to rest

34. Chat responder

35. A way to move on

36. What consumers are given

39. Digital audiotape

40. More (Spanish)

43. Disfigured

44. White (Spanish)

46. Church building

47. Georgia rockers

49. Surgeon's tool

51. "Much __ about nothing"

54. Make by braiding

59. Local area network

60. Unit of work

61. Indigenous person of Thailand

62. Liquefied natural gas

64. Distance to top

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SEPTEMBER 25 SOLUTIONS

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1	4	2	5	7	8	3	6	9
5	8	9	4	3	6	7	1	2
9	1	3	7	4	5	2	8	6
2	5	4	8	6	9	1	3	7
8	7	6	3	1	2	5	9	4

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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, Oct 17

Blazin' Keys

Ridge Volunteer Fire Department
13820 Point Lookout Road, Ridge
6-9 p.m.

Experience high-energy live music, interactive dueling pianos show to engage audience members as much as possible.

Doors open at 5 p.m. Beer & wine with food concessions will be for sale by Ridge VFD Auxiliary. Must be 18 & over to attend, 21 to drink (ID's will be checked at the door)

Tickets \$30 per person.
Contact rvfdaux@ridgevfd.org

Vampire Manor

Historic St. Mary's City
6-10 p.m.

When the sun sets on Historic St. Mary's City, the veil lifts—and the manor awakens. Vampire Manor is a 21+ immersive evening of elegance, eeriness, and unearthly entertainment. Come dressed to kill for a night filled with gothic glamour, indulgent bites, and blood-pumping revelry.

Vampire, party of one \$90
Vampire date night (two tickets) \$160
More info www.hsmcevents.com/vampire-manor

Annual Public Auction

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
Auction begins at 6 p.m.

The Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary will host this event. Moose

Lodge will be selling food.

Sat, Oct 18

Band of Brothers Meeting

Flashback Restaurant
21797 Coral Dr. N., Lexington Park
9 a.m.

PTSD/Suicide Prevention Group of So. Maryland p offers support for all Veterans in need of our services, as well as support for the local community.

We provide help with VA Military Compensation Claims by appointment.

Our method is derived from our military experiences when we were surrounded by others who think and dressed as needed to work together to survive. For more info call (301) 481-6752.

Beer, Brats, and Bingo

Little Flower School
Great Mills
4:30 p.m.

A night of fun, food, and fabulous prizes! Little Flower School invites you to raise a stein and celebrate the season at its first annual Beer, Brats, and Bingo event. This adults-only evening blends the cozy charm of fall with the lively spirit of Oktoberfest—complete with sizzling brats, frosty brews, and high-stakes bingo!

Doors open at 4:30 p.m., with bingo games kicking off at 6 p.m. attendees must be 21 years or older to enter.

Advanced tickets are \$50 per person and include reserved seating, all regular and spe-

cial bingo games, grand prize game entry, dinner plate featuring authentic German fare, two draft beers (21+ only), a water bottle, and a door prize ticket.

Gather your crew, don your best flannel or lederhosen, and reserve a full table for six! Seating is limited, so secure your spot early. To purchase tickets, visit the official event page at <https://www.littleflowercatholic.org/beer-brats-and-bingo>.

For questions, email littleflowerschoolbingo@gmail.com.

Lost City Trick-or-Treat

Historic St. Mary's City
5-8 p.m.

Step into the Lost City, a spooky (but not scary!) trick-or-treating adventure set in the historic Town Center at Historic St. Mary's City. This family-friendly event is perfect for little goblins and ghouls looking for Halloween fun in a safe and scenic setting. Costumes are encouraged for kids and grown-ups alike!

Last entry is at 7:30 p.m. Activities conclude at 8:00 p.m. Free parking in the State House lot (GPS: 47418 Old State House Rd, St. Mary's City, MD 20686)

For more details, visit HSMCdighistory.org/visit/calendar or call 301-994-4370.

Sun, Oct 19

Craft and Vendor Fair

Mechanicsville Moose 495
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Over 40 vendors to benefit Clements Cuties

in memory of Peyton Greer. Food will be available along with basket raffles.

Monster Mash Bash

Leonardtown Wharf
1-4 p.m.

Get ready for a fang-tastic night of Halloween fun at the Monster Mash Bash, where ghosts, goblins, and ghouls of all ages are invited to join the festivities! This Halloween extravaganza is packed with activities, treats, and entertainment that will make your spooky season unforgettable.

For more information, please reach out at 301-475-9791

Mon, Oct 20

Why They Don't Just Leave

Lexington Park Library
21677 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park
5-7 p.m.

Join the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy for an important conversation about healthy relationships and the resources available to survivors of Intimate Partner Violence here in Southern Maryland.

Light refreshment will be provided. FREE Registration: forms.gle/RrCNCL8NVg9Arp7U9

For more information, please reach out to stmaryspartnership@gmail.com.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

Milestones & Memories: Preserving Our Past

In honor of our library's 75th anniversary, learn the importance of preserving your family's personal histories! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, October 18 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Explore the library's Memory Lab where you can digitize your cherished memories. Discover how to contribute your stories to our community's collective history through oral storytelling and memorabilia collection. Learn how you can conduct your own oral history project to share your family history with future generations. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Fall in the Front Yard: Master Gardener Guided Exploration

Explore the garden and go on guided nature walks with a Master Gardener! Leonardtown Library on Saturday, October 18 from 10 - 12 p.m. A St. Mary's County Master Gardener will take groups of kids with their parents into the garden and around the outside of the Library to observe and explore nature and our surroundings. We will learn about trees changing color, seeds sleeping in the ground and what they will grow into, pollinators and the lives that live in the garden. She will show and teach use of various tools and explain their importance for observation and education. No registration.

Headshots at the Library

Get a FREE headshot taken at our Library! Leonardtown Library on Friday, October 17 from 2 - 4 p.m. Want to give your personal branding a boost? Here's your chance to get a free, polished digital headshot to use your way: LinkedIn, Teams, work email, personal and business marketing, announcements, and social media. Grab an appointment time while they last! Recommended attire includes neutral colors and to avoid clothing with logos. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Cardboard Cat Cabins & Castles

Use cardboard to make adorable and impressive castles or cabins for your fe-

line friends to enjoy! Lexington Park Library on Sunday, October 19 from 1 - 3 p.m. Using the Library's ChompSaw, a child-safe specialized saw for cutting cardboard, and some other child-safe cutting tools, participants will be given a starter design and then be encouraged to improve and experiment with designs of their own. Through trial-and-error testing, learn what goes into engineering to create more effective supports, and work together to share and implement ideas. Register on www.stmalib.org.



In Remembrance

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

Genevieve Thompson, 68



Agnes "Genevieve" Thompson, 68, of Mechanicsville, Maryland passed away peacefully on October 10, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Born February 13, 1957, in Leonardtown, Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Rodolph and Jennie Welch.

A lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland, Genevieve married her beloved husband of 44 years, Everett Eugene "Tommy" Thompson on September 4, 1976, for whom preceded her in death on May 23, 2020. Tommy and Genevieve shared a deep and enduring love that was an inspiration to all who knew them, bringing comfort that they are reunited in eternal rest.

In addition, Genevieve was predeceased by her brother, Paul Vincent Welch and sister Linda Elizabeth Hanson.

Genevieve is survived by her sons: Curtis Thompson (Melissa), Brian Thompson (Melinda), Kevin Thompson; daughter Jennilee Hancock (James); grandchildren: Bryce, Breanna, Owen, Chloe, Hollie, Abby, Madison and Mason; brothers, Gary Welch (Vern), John Welch (Loretta); sisters, Maryanne Stine, Edith Davis, Arleen Oliver (Henry), Joan Smythers (Dick) Joyce Oliver

(Mike), as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family

Genevieve enjoyed taking pictures, planting flowers, and bird watching. Her favorite birds were Finches and Cardinals. When she wasn't outside, she enjoyed watching QVC, HSN, Hallmark movies and baking competitions. She loved playing loud music and was Dolly Parton's biggest fan. Her greatest love was spending time with her family and grandchildren who lovingly called her MawMaw. Genevieve never met a stranger. Cheerfully calling you "Honey Bunny". Her personality could light up the darkest of rooms. With her flair for style and matching jewelry, she was one of a kind, a beautiful, loving soul, inside and out.

Family will receive friends for Genevieve's Life Celebration on Friday October 17, 2025 10:00am – 12:00pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650. Interment will immediately follow at Charles Memorial Gardens 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, Maryland. 20650.

Serving as pallbearers will be Adam Oliver, Robert Oliver, Kevin Lake, Robert Allen Oliver, Daniel Oliver and Jason Welch.

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

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

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

Donna Dixon, 76



Donna Marie Dixon of Helen, MD passed away peacefully at her home on October 11, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Born on August 31, 1949, in

Washington, DC, she was the daughter of the late Eugene (Geno) Gallerizzo and the late Betty Gallerizzo (DiGuilio). Donna was the devoted wife of the late William "Bill" Dixon, whom she married on November 30, 1968, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, in Washington, DC.

Donna is survived by her children, Cindy Dixon and Billy Dixon, her granddaughter Lauren Dixon Link (Rob), great-grandson Grayson Link, and her beloved dogs, Mallo and Toby--whom she adored as they remained at her side day and night. She also leaves behind her siblings Patricia Balser, Dolores Price (Eddie), Steven Gallerizzo (Carol), and Chris Gallerizzo, and a host of nieces and nephews, aunts, and cousins, who were all very dear to her heart. In addition to her husband and parents, Donna was predeceased by her brother-in-law Bartley Balser, and niece Michele Balser Lackner.

Before losing her mobility, you would most often find Donna working in her yard spending countless hours tending to her flowerbeds and garden. Like her father, she had a green thumb and cared for her plants meticulously. She was the best cook and everything she made was no less than delicious, especially when she baked for the holidays. Christmas was always her favorite time of year, and she would deck every hall possible. She was particular about decorating the tree and ensured every ornament was strategically and symmetrically placed (which usually meant everyone just watched her work her decorating magic!) The tree always looked perfect and made the home feel like Christmas.

Donna was a former member of the Mechanicsville Optimist Club before her mobility issues no longer allowed her to do so. She loved volunteering to help give back to the youth in our local community. She especially loved wrapping gifts at the annual Shop with a Cop event at Christmastime and could not wait to hear the stories told by the children about the gifts they were wrapping.

Donna loved group chats with family members and always looked forward to those conversations with siblings and cousins. Reminiscing about stories from her childhood growing up in a large Italian family brought her much joy, and she would share those stories every chance she could with anyone who would listen. But her greatest joy was her beloved dogs over the years, most recently her two little dogs Mallo and Toby, and her beloved Bichon, Wally, before that who was with her for almost 18 years. No animal was ever a stranger to her, nor were they ever left unattended or cared for.

Above all, Donna was a devout Catholic, and her faith was very important to her. She had a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother and prayed the rosary, among many other prayers and novenas daily. She instilled those same values in her children and granddaughter. Donna has left us with beautiful memories, too many to count, and her love will continue to guide us as she now rests among the angels.

The family will receive friends on Monday, October 20, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 10:00 AM at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD, with Father Drew officiating. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Cemetery, Helen, MD.

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

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



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A View From The BLEACHERS



Regrettable Holtz-ian Wisdom

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

Welcome to the bleachers, my friend. I see you have you come fully loaded with cheese-drenched nachos and the largest beer available for sale. And neither was spilled while walking up the steep, quadriceps-burning stairs. Well done. Before you take a seat and settle in, a warning: This week's View contains references to bodily injury that may be disturbing for some readers. I understand if this causes you to recoil, abort and scurry for another section among this vast and sparsely populated expanse of cheap seats. While pondering your course (with The Clash's "Should I stay or should I go now" playing in the background), let me offer additional context: I'll keep it firmly in the PG range — no attempt to pay homage to Freddy Kruger's, Jason's or Michael Myers's best work. Take a chance. 'Tis the season for a little horror, right? Give me five minutes.

Still here, eh? Be it bravery or boredom, it's appreciated. Onward...

Quick observation from the first quarter of the NFL season: The reality of this brutal sport has many teams scrambling to save their seasons. The Commanders played Atlanta a few weeks ago with a half-dozen starters out, including QB Jaden Daniels. The 49ers are a MASH unit again this year: Nick Bosa down with another ACL tear, QB Brock Purdy is nursing multiple injuries and last week All Pro LB Fred Warner's season is over after his ankle bent in a way that indicated massive carnage. The Bengals are melting down with QB Joe Burrow out for much of the season with a busted toe. Giants WR Malik Nabors tore his ACL. Chargers RB Najee Harris tore his Achilles and LB Khalil Mack's elbow dislocated for all to see. Miami WR Tyreek Hill's career is in the balance after a grotesque knee injury. And then there's the Ravens. Sheesh. This year-over-year beacon of stability is a hot mess. The defense is decimated. QB Lamar Jackson is out. They sit at 1-5 as of this writing, a consequence of attrition and a schedule so obnoxious that it would be offensive to simply call it brutal.

The beauty of competition at this level is no one external to the impacted organization cares about the misfortune. There is no mercy for any squad. Every team faces challenges, many bordering on unfair. Regardless, the games keep coming. Jobs and careers hang in the balance. As Lou Holtz and others have said, "Never tell your problems to anyone...80% don't care and 20% are glad you have them." Harsh, but spot on for the NFL. How close it is to everyday life? Hold that thought.

Ravens RB Derrick Henry gave a somber locker room interview in the aftermath of the team's devastating 44-10 home defeat to the Texans a couple weeks ago that provided a window into the mentality of a player and team in a dark place. He spoke to staying unified and focused on the team's ultimate goal by saying "It's easy to point the finger when everything is going bad." He said, "...as a whole we all need to be better" and took direct personal responsibility adding, "I need to be better." Acknowledging the relentlessness of the season, the responsibility to his teammates and giving up not even being an option, he said they would simply get back to work on Monday.

On the surface, the talk of collective and individual improvement, introspection, a commitment to hard work, finding solutions to complex issues, and no space for blame are all par-for-the-course clichés of team sports. I used to think this mentality was born from an innate, common human trait that team sports simply developed into a cultural cornerstone. Looking around these days, Henry's words sound like a rare approach to life, not just scripted sports-speak. Faced with adversity, the play now is too often a responsibility-deflecting finger-point, sacrifice only with clear personal gain and a proud disregard for a common cause that requires collective compromise. It all makes Holtz's quote about problems seem less like a coach's truth and more like a cold social paradigm requiring regular confrontation.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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Making the most of Medicare open enrollment

When you turn 65, Medicare becomes a vital part of your health care coverage. But signing up is just the beginning. Many people don't realize that Medicare isn't a "set it and forget it" program. In fact, you have the opportunity — and often the need — to review and adjust your coverage every single year.

The annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 each year, is your chance to take a fresh look at your health care needs and make sure your Medicare plan still fits your life. Then you can determine whether your medical and prescription plans need to be switched or dropped.

Just like your health can change from year to year, so can Medicare plans. Insurance companies may adjust their coverage and costs or even discontinue certain plans entirely. By taking time during the open enrollment period to compare your options, you might discover a plan that saves money, offers better coverage or both.

As a reminder, you have several options when it comes to your Medicare coverage.

- *Original Medicare (Parts A and B)* covers hospital stays and medical services such as doctor visits. Part A typically comes with no monthly premium if you've worked for at least 10 years. Part B requires monthly premiums — \$206.50 or more in 2026, depending on your income. They may also be copays and deductibles.
- *Medicare Advantage (Part C)* offers an all-in-one alternative to Original Medicare. These plans are offered by private insurance companies. They often bundle together hospital, medical and prescription drug coverage. They may also include extra benefits like vision, dental and wellness programs that Original Medicare doesn't cover.
- *Medicare Part D* provides standalone prescription drug coverage for those who stick with Original Medicare.
- *Medicare Supplement (Medigap)* policies help cover the out-of-pocket costs that Original Medicare doesn't pay, such as copayments and deductibles.

When shopping for Medicare plans, there are several important areas you should consider to determine which options are right for you:

- *Out-of-pocket costs* such as monthly premiums, deductibles, copayments and any other expenses Medicare doesn't cover. Sometimes a plan with a higher premium saves you money overall because of lower copays.
- *Prescription drug coverage* deserves special attention. All Medicare plans for 2026 will include a \$2,100 cap on what you pay out of pocket for covered prescription drugs, up from \$2,000 in 2025. However, this cap only applies to drugs that your plan covers, making it crucial to verify your medications are included.
- *Your health care needs* for the coming year matter too. Do you have surgeries planned? New health conditions to manage? You'll want to make sure your potential plan covers the care you expect to need.
- *Travel plans* can also influence your choice. Original Medicare typically doesn't cover services overseas, so frequent travelers might want supplemental coverage for emergencies abroad.

If you don't make any changes during open enrollment, you'll likely be automatically reenrolled in your current plan for the following year, as long as it's still available and you continue paying required premiums.

Don't let your Medicare plan run on autopilot. Take advantage of the annual open enrollment period — between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7 — to ensure your coverage continues to serve you well in the year ahead.

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

Contributed by David McDonough, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302, Leonardtown, MD 20650 301 997 1707

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Roots & Rhythms Oktoberfest Delivers an Unforgettable Weekend



The inaugural Roots & Rhythms Oktoberfest, held at Thomas Family Farm, celebrated the best of Southern Maryland's culture, food, and music this past Saturday.

From soulful live performances and artisan vendors to mouthwatering bites and family-friendly fun, the festival lived up to its promise — blending roots, rhythms, and togetherness into one vibrant fall experience.

A highlight of the day came from St. Mary's County's own powerhouse vocalist, Latrice Carr, who brought the crowd to its feet with an electrifying performance. Carr, who opened for Boyz II Men last year, delivered a dynamic set that captured the heart and soul of the event.

Festivalgoers browsed handcrafted goods, savored local cuisine and indulged in sweet desserts while enjoying a day filled with laughter and live music. The mix of

creativity, culture and community connection made the first Roots & Rhythms Oktoberfest an instant success.

"We couldn't have asked for better weather, a better turnout, or a better crowd," said Leandra Thomas, owner of Thomas Family Farm and proud host of the event. "Seeing families, friends, and local vendors come together like this reminds us why community events matter. This is just the beginning — and we're already planning for an even bigger celebration next year."

Plans are already underway for the 2026 Roots & Rhythms Oktoberfest, scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026, promising to return with more vendors, performances, and new attractions.

Follow @rootsandrhythmsfest on Facebook and Instagram for photo galleries, highlights and updates on next year's lineup.

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MEET HEGGIE

Heggie is a handsome boy with a silky white coat. He's a little reserved at first but quickly warms up into a loving, loyal companion. Visit www.animalrelieffund.org or stop by the Well Pet Clinic in Lexington Park during adoption days—Saturdays, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.—to meet him!



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Oyster Festival: A St. Mary's County Tradition

By Veda Mercer
Contributing Writer

For nearly six decades, the Lexington Park Rotary Club has turned its love of oysters into one of St. Mary's County's biggest fundraisers.

The 59th Annual U.S. Oyster Festival will bring families together through food, activities and music Sept. 18 and 19 at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, with a new kickoff event on Sept. 17 titled Shuckengröv. The 21+ party will go from 6 to 10 p.m. and cost \$5 to enter. Attendees can enjoy ticket giveaways, live music, free beer tasting and a free raw oyster bar provided by the Big Oyster Brewing Company.

Guests also have a chance to meet the shucking championship competitors attending the party. Shucking competitions will take place at 2 p.m. on both festival days, including an amateur competition that costs \$10 to enter.

Sunday will feature the U.S. National Oyster Shucking Championship, and the winner will go on to represent America at the World Oyster Opening Championship held in Galway, Ireland.

Though you can find an oyster cooked any way you'd imagine at the festival, it's a great event for anyone who loves food. With a variety of vendors, attendees can enjoy anything from cream of crab soup to St. Mary's very own stuffed ham.

Alongside the delicious food, there will be over 100 vendors and exhibitors sell-



ing things like jewelry, t-shirts, and more. The Woman's Club will be in the Flower Building with silent auctions, baked and handcrafted goods, and what they describe as "an emporium of gently used treasures available at your price."

Proceeds from these items will go towards providing scholarships to local students.

Educational exhibits will highlight conservation, one of the Rotary Club's core focuses. A pop-up museum will share the history of the Oyster Wars, while another will demonstrate oyster shell recycling.

The Chesapeake Mermaid will also return, teaching kids about the Chesapeake Bay through storytelling sessions followed by meet and greet and photo opportunities.

"None of us would be here if we didn't

have that Chesapeake Bay," said an event organizer, who underscored that conservation is at the heart of the festival.

Proceeds from the event fund scholarships, grants to local nonprofits, and community projects. In the past, the Lexington Park Rotary Club's efforts have supported initiatives like establishing a food bank in Great Mills and expanding mental health outreach programs through the St. Mary's County Health Department.

The festival allows the club to give back over \$100,000 to the community each year. When deciding where these funds go, the Rotary Club dedicates time to researching what issues are affecting the community the most. Using statistics from the Health Department and Social Services, a charity

director is able to put together an annual report that tells the club what they need to focus on.

Many charitable organizations help make the Oyster Festival possible, and they will be on-site providing information about their work and raising funds through various activities.

This year's festival will also feature a new covered music stage near the food court, giving guests a place to sit back and enjoy live performances while sampling local dishes. On Saturday, bands performing include the Bootleggers, Whiskers, One Trick Pony, Funkzilla, and the Myles Deep Band. Sunday's lineup features the Blair Ritch Project, Reluctant Jazz Band, the West Mob Band, and HydraFX.

On top of the all-day live music, there will be additional performances held at the community center from Gracie's Guys and Gals dance studio, contra dancers from the Southern Maryland Traditional Music and Dance organization, and the Great Mills High School chamber orchestra.

The U.S. Oyster Festival is about more than seafood; with multiple local philanthropic groups behind the event, the festival is about community. "A lot of people think that the festival only serves oysters, but there's all kinds of food there, so people who don't eat oysters, they'll have a really good time and eat," Julie Randall, the Rotary Club's charity director and Oyster Festival's "royal oyster" said. "We've tried to make sure that there's something there for everybody."

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Letters to the Editor

The has-beens and the wanna-bes

The 2026 election campaign for local offices in St. Mary's County has begun. These include the county commissioners, state's attorney, sheriff, and board of education members.

Irrespective of political party affiliation or unaffiliated, there are two categories of candidates: the "has-beens" – prior office-holders/present incumbents – and "wannabes" – change agents. The has-beens have a record to either their credit or detriment. The wannabes have ambitions and motivations to promote or conceal.

Irrespective of the category, the candidates seek to convince voters to vote for them. The basic, taken-for-granted, approach is ideological party loyalty and party-line voting, wherein political polarization is sufficient reason to vote for or against candidates. However, when the associated political party at the federal and/or state level imparts negativity-by-association, it is common for local candidates to pretend to be somewhat different.

The standard vote-getting approach is for candidates to sell themselves through political advertisements, not unlike retail sales of merchandise. For example, they choose a campaign theme that serves as a distinctive and memorable brand name. They post an abundance of road signs to gain name recognition.

Candidates promote personal reasons to vote for them, such as being a county native, their educational/employment background, military/community service, and familial attributes. They provide virtue signaling such as "giving back to the community" and "dedicated to community service."

Social media is used to foster popularity contests and distract attention away from contentious issues. They propose policies

that will hopefully resonate with voters. For example, there are generalizations such as "preserve the county's rural character," "lower taxes," "maintain progress," "represent taxpayers," and "it's all about the children." What is obviously lacking in platitudes is any details. They seek endorsements to provide public validation of their supposed credibility and influence less informed voters. However, they risk a voter backlash if the endorser is controversial and self-serving.

Candidates for county commissioner and the board of education commonly state what they will "do," if elected, which is misleading in that board members have no individual authority, unlike the state's attorney and sheriff. Pertinent is what they will "support" doing. It is common to find some candidates who will do and say anything to get elected. If necessary, either directly or through surrogates, they will engage in negative politics against an opponent.

Candidates are all about appearing as they wish people to see them, even if it is nothing like what they really are, and even if they are saying the exact opposite of what they will eventually do. They are expecting that few voters will see through their appearances.

In my opinion, the central issue in the 2026 election is "quality of life," which consists of the living conditions, such as the cost-of-living, public safety, and proficient public schools. How will the county commissioners, state's attorney, sheriff, and board of education improve the quality of life in St. Mary's County? No other issue is of greater importance.

Brandie Edelen
Mechanicsville

Seeking a kidney donor

I hope this message finds you well. I'm reaching out not with a business request, but with a deeply personal one that affects someone very close to our company family.

Our colleague and friend, Mark Cullison, has been courageously battling kidney disease since 2023. He recently began dialysis, and after much encouragement, he has agreed to let us reach out beyond our immediate circle in hopes of finding a living kidney donor.

A living donor could give Mark the incredible gift of restored health and many more years with his family and the work he loves. Finding a match often depends on spreading the word as widely as possible — and that's where we need your help.

We ask that you please consider sharing Mark's story and this need with your employees, families, and communities.

The more people who know, the greater the chance of finding a life-saving match.

Anyone interested in learning more can:

- Call 410-614-9345 to speak directly with the Johns Hopkins transplant coordinator, or
- Complete a donor candidate form online: hopkinsmedicine.org/transplant/programs/kidney/living-donors

For additional information, you can also review the Living Donor Handbook.

On behalf of everyone here, thank you for taking the time to read and share this message. Your compassion and support could truly help change — and save — a life.

With sincere gratitude,

Karen Siebert
President & CFO
Great Mills Trading Post

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

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

County Times
ST. MARY'S • CALVERT

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It's not too late to become a sponsor! Visit seekingshelter.com/donate or contact Brenda Myers at (760) 902-8648 or Brenda@seekingshelter.com

Arrest Made in Leonardtown Shooting

At around 2 a.m. on Saturday, October 11, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to reports of a large fight involving multiple individuals in the parking lot of an establishment in the 25000 block of Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown. While enroute, additional reports were received of shots being fired.

When deputies arrived, they found the crowd dispersing and individuals fleeing the area. Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division responded and assumed the investigation.

A short time later, two victims with gunshot wounds were reported at a nearby hospital with apparent non-life-threatening injuries.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office determined that the altercation leading to the shooting in Leonardtown began inside Action Lounge and Billiards and then spilled into the parking lot, where shots were fired.

Following an investigation, detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division identified a suspect. They executed a search warrant at approximately 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, at a residence in the 44000 block of Mane Pooh Lane in Leonardtown. During the search, detectives recovered a Glock 9mm, believed to have been used in the incident.

Shaekwon Talib Jackson, 24, of Lexington Park, was arrested in connection with the case and charged with 19 counts, including:

- Four counts of attempted first-degree murder
- Four counts of attempted second-degree murder



Shaekwon Talib Jackson

- Four counts of assault first-degree
- Four counts of assault second-degree
- Use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence
- Wear/carry of a loaded handgun on or about their person
- Wear a handgun on or about their person

Jackson was transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown to await a bond hearing.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate the incident. Anyone with information related to this case is asked to contact Detective Warren Forinash at 301-475-4200, ext. 8072, or email Warren.Forinash@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Press release from SMCSO

Card Skimming Device Found at Leonardtown Store

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office recovered a card skimming device found attached to a point-of-sale terminal at the Family Dollar Store on Merchants Lane in Leonardtown on Thursday, Oct. 9.

This overlay skimmer was placed on top of a legitimate card reader and is designed to look identical to the real terminal while secretly storing customers' card information.

What to do:

- Always tug gently on card readers or keypads before use. If it feels loose, bulky, or looks out of place, report it immediately.
- If you shopped at this location recently, check your bank or credit card statements for unauthorized transactions.
- Report any suspicious activity to the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008.
- Stay alert and help protect your personal and financial information.



Press release from SMCSO



Join us for a wicked good time at our
Halloween Spooktacular!



October 25th
4:30 PM to 7 PM

Come in your best costume and get ready to enjoy games, face painting, a petting zoo, and of course, candy!

Meet the State Police, Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and the Sheriff's Department as they join in on the festivities!

Brinsfield Funeral Home
22955 Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650

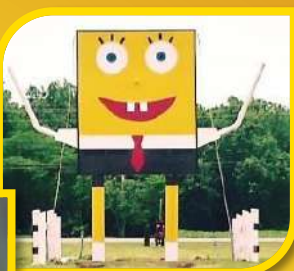
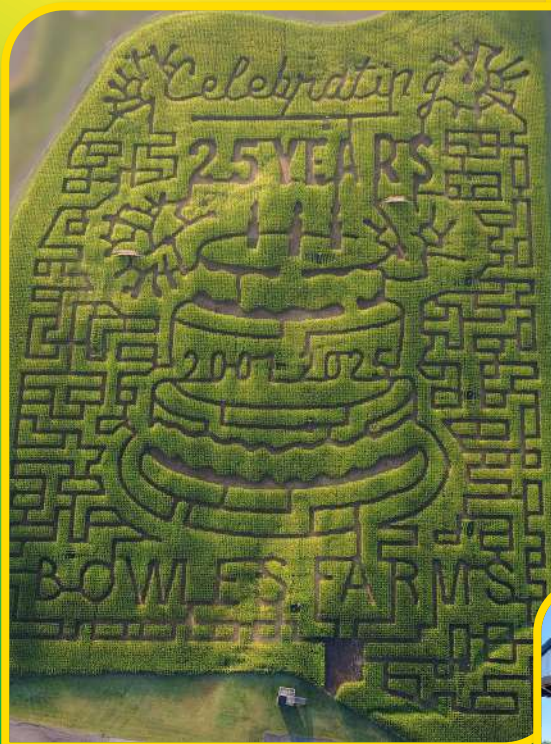


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What's Happening this Weekend:

Classic Truck Show (Sat., Oct. 18, 10am-3pm):
Baltimore-Washington American Truck Historical Society Fall Gathering. Show off your classic vehicle and enjoy a Fall day at the farm.



Antique Tractor Pull (Sun., Oct. 19, 10am):
Weight classes 2,500 to 5,500 lbs and 6,000 to 10,500 lbs

**Fall Season runs through
Sunday, October 26th**

Saturdays: 10:00am – 6:00pm

Sundays: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Admission: \$15 per person (kids 3 & under free)

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Man Sentenced for Sexual Abuse of a Child

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced on Oct. 14 that Crosby Dawson, 42, of Leonardtown was sentenced to 65 years in prison with 35 years of active incarceration, ordered to lifetime sexual offender supervision, and required to register as a sex offender for life, for the sexual abuse and rape of a child.

Following a multi-day jury trial in September 2024, a St. Mary's County jury convicted Dawson of all charges involving the sexual abuse and rape of a minor under the age of 14, which occurred during a period between 2022 to 2023.

"The child provided crucial evidence to the investigators, which led to the successful prosecution of this case," said Sterling. "I am amazed by the young victim's incredible courage to confront the abuser. Protecting the most vulnerable members of our community is among our office's highest priority."

The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines recommended a sentence of 30 to 54 years in prison. The state requested the court to impose a sentence above the guideline range, asking for the maximum sentence of 65 years in prison. The court sentenced the defendant to 65 years in prison with 35 years of active incarceration.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Mimi Zhuravitsky, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, handled the sentencing hearing on



Crosby Dawson

behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Kortnie Marsch of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, Nichole Moneymaker of the St. Mary's County Child Protective Services Division, and members of the Child Advocacy Center assisted in the successful investigation of the case.

The Honorable Joseph M. Staloni presided over the case.

*Press release from St. Mary's County
State's Attorney*

Handgun Recovered Following Traffic Stop

Patrol deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office recovered a loaded handgun following a traffic stop in Lexington Park on the night of Oct. 8. At approximately 10:30 p.m. deputies conducting proactive patrols along Great Mills Road observed a vehicle traveling with a passenger-side headlight out and attempted to initiate a traffic stop near the intersection of Great Mills Road and Pacific Drive.

The driver failed to stop immediately and continued driving until reaching the 21000 block of Liberty Street. Deputies made contact with the driver, identified as Marquis Deangelo Barnes, 36, of Lexington Park, and determined that his driver's license was suspended.

Deputies detected a strong odor of alcohol, and Barnes admitted to consuming alcohol but refused to perform standardized field sobriety tests. He was placed under arrest.

During a search of the vehicle, deputies located two bottles of liquor: a miniature bottle and a partially full bottle, as well as a loaded and chambered Taurus .40-caliber handgun. Further investigation revealed that Barnes is prohibited from possessing firearms due to prior disqualifying convictions and an active protective order.

Barnes was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with the following:

- Knowingly possessing a regulated firearm after being convicted of a disqualifying crime



Marquis Deangelo Barnes

- Possession of ammunition after being prohibited from possessing a regulated firearm
- Carrying a handgun in a vehicle on public roads
- Carrying a loaded handgun in a vehicle on public roads
- Failure to comply with a court order to surrender firearms to law enforcement.

He was also cited for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol, and related traffic violations.

Barnes is currently being held without bond.

Press release from SMCSO

School Board Okays Spending Plan for Fund Balance

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

“I really don’t want to have a dollar unspent,” said School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith at the Oct. 8 St. Mary’s County Board of Education meeting.

Earlier in the meeting, the school board, during the presentation of the audit for the previous fiscal year, learned that they had a \$21 million fund balance, due to investment income, and salary and health insurance savings.

The board was told that of that \$21 million, \$19.2 million was restricted and thus committed, leaving \$1.8 million uncommitted and available for spending.

Chief Financial Officer Tammy McCourt said, “On the expenditure side, our actual, on a budgetary basis, was \$283.9 million. Our significant variance areas were under instructional salaries with a budgetary variance of \$1.9 million and associated fixed charges with a budgetary variance of \$3 million. In total, our expenditure variance totaled \$8.6 million, and we came within 97 percent of the budget.”

McCourt presented a proposal, developed by Smith and staff, for spending that \$1.8 million. It was:

- Lexington Park ES media center roof replacement: \$195,700
 - Leonardtown HS Fume hood rooftop replacement: \$100,000
 - Various Sites RTU/AHU Replacement: \$250,000
 - Various Sites Re-calibrate the full HVAC system: \$80,000
 - Various Sites HVAC system coil cleaning: \$224,000
 - Division of Supporting Services Chiller replacement: \$133,015
 - Benjamin Banneker ES BBES Oil Tank and Lift Station Replacement: \$167,862
 - Division of Supporting Services Oil Tank and Lift Station Replacement: \$74,543
 - Hollywood ES Chilled water pipe hanger repairs: \$150,000
 - Various Sites Air scrubbers and dehumidifiers: \$112,000
 - Oakville ES Septic Drain Field: \$200,000
 - Various Sites Relocatable repair and demo construction: \$100,000
 - Various Sites Digital Signage: \$100,000
 - Total: \$1,887,120
- The school board unanimously approved the funding plan which will now go to the county commissioners for consideration.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Hoyer Reacts to Federal Reductions in Force

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) has released a statement following reports that the Trump Administration has begun another round of Reductions in Force (RIFs) at federal agencies:

“Every American ought to be outraged to hear that Donald Trump and Russell Vought have started mass Reductions in Force (RIFs) at various agencies across the federal government. This illegal purge is part of Vought’s stated mission to treat federal workers as ‘villains’ and to ‘put them in trauma.’ These nonpartisan federal employees have devoted their careers to keeping the American people safe, healthy, and prosperous. They provide vital services to Americans across the country every single day.

“Trump is casting them aside without a second thought.

“This administration and its MAGA majorities in Congress don’t want to reopen the federal government; they are currently working to dismantle it entirely. Even as Trump lays waste to vital federal agencies and millions of Americans brace for skyrocketing health care costs when the Affordable Care Act premiums expire, House Republicans are nowhere to be found. For two weeks, Speaker Johnson has told Republican Members not to return to Washington to work with Democrats on a commonsense solution. He recently



Congressman Steny Hoyer

announced he will keep the House out of session for a third week. Our democracy, our federal workers, and the American people they serve each and every day cannot afford to wait that long.

“I urge my Republican colleagues to stop hiding and instead do what their constituents elected them to do: govern. Come back to Washington. Help us save Americans’ health care rather than let their premiums soar by double digit percentages. Be on the people’s side.”

Press release from Office of Rep. Steny Hoyer

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8x15	\$6.70	16x20	\$16.80	12x12	\$15.35			12x16	\$29.10	30x60	\$229.40
8x18	\$7.55	20x20	\$20.95	12x16	\$20.50			12x20	\$34.85	40x60	\$305.85
8x20	\$8.40	20x30	\$31.45	12x20	\$25.60			12x25	\$43.55		
9x12	\$6.00	20x35	\$35.15	12x25	\$32.00						
10x12	\$6.70	20x40	\$40.15	15x20	\$32.00						
10x15	\$7.90	24x36	\$43.35	15x25	\$38.35						
10x16	\$8.40	25x45	\$56.45	16x20	\$34.15						
10x20	\$10.50	30x40	\$60.20	20x20	\$40.85						
12x12	\$7.55	30x60	\$82.30	20x25	\$51.10						
12x14	\$8.80	40x50	\$91.45	20x30	\$61.30						
12x16	\$10.10	40x60	\$109.75	20x35	\$65.20						
12x20	\$12.60			20x40	\$74.50						

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LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

MedStar St. Mary's Offers Advances in Breast Cancer Detection, Treatment

Hospital Celebrates Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

This is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. If there's one message that those involved in the care and treatment of breast cancer patients, including those at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, would like to get out is the need for screening.

Dr. Kelly Fritz has been a breast surgeon at MedStar St. Mary's Health since 1997. She does mastectomies. But she said, "Not everybody needs that. Nowadays, a lot of people are heeding the warning and getting their mammogram and catching things when they're really small and they don't necessarily need a mastectomy."

Fritz added, "The nice thing is now we have a lot more things that we can offer patients than we did back in the day. And one of the keys to being able to have more options is to catch breast cancer early. So really the main thing is doing your screening mammogram and catching it when it's small before it's big enough to feel on your self-exam."

She added, "When we catch it on a mammogram and it's confined to just the breast, people have an excellent prognosis. Their five-year survival rate is 99 percent. Once it gets into the lymph nodes in your armpit, that drops down to 87 percent. And if it spreads elsewhere in your body, like brain, bone, lung, liver, then it's down to 32 percent."

"So, we really encourage everybody to do their screening mammogram and catch it when it's small, when you have an excellent prognosis, because currently in the United States, one in eight women will get breast cancer in some form sometime in their life. It's the second most common cancer behind skin cancer. But it's the second cause of cancer death behind lung cancer."

Dr. Minal Shah, hematologist and oncologist at MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital agreed on the need for screening. "I think for every cancer the key is prevention and early detection."

Dr. Shah said, "I would say in some people there's a higher risk, and if you're aware about that, you're going to do screening somewhat differently than standard risk cases. So, in women with family history of breast cancer or if they have a known genetic mutation such as BRCA 1 or 2, and there are several others that run in the family. Younger patients who are exposed to chest radiation for other illnesses such as Hodgkins's lymphoma or something to treat thyroid illnesses. So, if they were exposed to radiation, then their risk is much higher."

"Birth control pills or contraceptive medication used over a period of several years does increase the risk. So essentially family history, known genetic mutation, radiation, and there are several that you can use to calculate your risk of having breast cancer lifetime risk."

Dr. Shah observed, "There's something called Gale Model Risk...that takes into account a lot of risk factors, like even details like how early did you start your periods? What was your age at first pregnancy; older



Dr. Minal Shah, center front, with team members at MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

than 30 years matters if you became menopausal at a later age, older than 55. Family history, if you had any previous breast lesions. So, there are some lesions that are not breast cancer yet, that if you detect them, then there's increased risk. Like there's something called typical ductal hyperplasia, ductal carcinoma c2, lobular carcinoma c2. Some of these are predisposed, or in the spectrum of disease picked up earlier. We know that these people are at higher risk. So, you do not only do a screen at an earlier age, or you add other modalities, not only the screening mammogram, but you could add an MRI, you could add breast ultrasound."

Dr. Shah noted, "A lot now is known about dense breasts," adding, "Women with breasts that have more density are at increased risk of breast cancer and are difficult to detect. So, if you know that a person has a higher risk, then you not only screen them differently, but then there are some risks that are used. So, people have known genetic factors, they consider preventative surgery, and there are medications that we use to treat breast cancer. Some of these hormonal or endocrine medications are used early on to prevent breast cancer."

She was asked how big a predictor is genetics. She said, "I would say about 10 to 15 percent of patients with breast cancer could have a genetically driven breast cancer. It's not very large numbers, but 10 to 15 percent is still great. And some of these mutations are associated with more aggressive cancers. If you've heard about Triple Negative breast cancer, we see BRCA 1 and 2 mutations have more aggressive breast cancer, chances of that could be as high as 70 percent."

Dr. Shah observed, "We all now have digital mammogram, but we used to have mammograms, the most current mammograms called 3D mammogram or IS. And now we read another layer on top of this, which is called an AI assisted mammogram. So, AI helps radiologists, it's like a second eye to the radiologist and they help detect more accurately and less false positives and less callbacks to the patient. So that's another additional way that is a newer technique. We have MRIs that we're doing more and more intense cases and ultrasound."

"There is something called contrast

enhanced mammogram. We don't use it commonly, that's like a replacement for MRI if somebody cannot have MRI because they have a pacemaker or a defibrillator or some other cause."

"There's also improvement in more genetic techniques. We now know about more and different gene mutations that can increase risk of breast cancer. We used to mainly know about RECA 1 and RECA 2. Now there are 20 plus different genes we're detecting. So, the biopsy techniques have also improved. We do biopsies, with guidance, whenever imaging picked up the abnormality in the mammogram. So, you could do a biopsy with ultrasound, mammogram, or MRI."

Dr. Shah reported, "There was a recent survey, I think MedStar did it, that showed that about 60 percent of women who were part of the survey felt confident that adding AI to help the radiologist was a good idea. And it definitely relieved some of the anxiety on callback days diagnostic and fear as to what's going on? Is it cancer? Is it not cancer? So, adding that other additional tool helps to more accurately diagnose and also reduce some of the false positives."

Dr. Fritz said, "There are multiple causes for breast cancer. There are things that put you at a higher risk, (like) being born a woman. Men can get breast cancer too, but it's mainly in women. Men make up only less than one percent of our patient population for breast cancer patients. As you get older, your risk gets higher. Caucasian women are at the highest risks, although Black women are predisposed to get the disease early."

"Mainly there are multiple different genetic disorders that put people at higher risk, like BRCA 1, BRCA 2 genes. But family history of having someone with breast cancer puts you at a higher risk. People who never had children, had children later, are at a higher risk. Starting your periods early, ending your periods late, anything that increases the amount of estrogen exposure over time will increase your risk."

As to genetic testing, she said, "For people who have a really strong family history, like if they have two first degree relatives with breast cancer, we recommend that they get genetic testing. Or if they have pancreatic cancer or ovarian cancer in the family, we



Dr. Kelly Fritz

recommend they get genetic testing because those people have a higher risk of having a BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 gene in the family."

"The other things that will put people at a higher risk is if they have male breast cancer in the family, that's a much higher risk for BRCA abnormal or people who are of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage. But we also recommend that patients when they get breast cancer, that they get tested especially if they're at a younger age or have an aggressive form or recurrent breast cancer."

The surgeon said, "Generally, most treatment paradigms usually do have surgery because we do need to take the focus of the cancer out. But nowadays we can do a lot less aggressive surgery than they used to do decades ago. Pretty much current state of the art is that you can either get a mastectomy or a lumpectomy with radiation. Now people who are older or who have smaller tumors, that are not as aggressive, sometimes they don't necessarily need radiation, but for the most part, younger women will end up with a lumpectomy with radiation or a mastectomy, their choice. Most people do go with the breast conserving treatment where we just take the mass out and do radiation to the breast. They do very well."

She added, "There's other things that patients will get if they have estrogen sensitive cancers, which about 70 percent of the breast cancer we see are estrogen sensitive. The medical oncologist will choose an anti-estrogen pill, an estrogen blocker for them that cuts the risk of their cancer coming back in half. The radiation therapy that gets done after their lumpectomy also reduces their risk of a recurrence. So, most people don't necessarily need to have a mastectomy. In fact, some people, if they choose to, can have a mastopexy, like a breast lift and we can do a breast production lift while we do their cancer surgery and then the only scars they have are the scars that you would normally have from a reduction. Some people, if they have smaller breasts, we can do a tissue flap or a plastic surgeon... takes a piece of tissue from underneath of their armpit and fills in the cavity with it so that they have better cosmetic outcome."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Sunday, October 19 11am - 6pm

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

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SMCM Trustees Approve Immigration Enforcement Policy



The SMCM Board of Trustees, October 2025. Photo courtesy of St. Mary's College of Maryland.

During their regular October meeting, the St. Mary's College Board of Trustees approved a new state-mandated Immigration Enforcement Policy.

The board also heard a report from President Rhonda Phillips on her first 100 days at the College, during which she engaged in a "listening tour" that saw her meet with hundreds of students, faculty, staff and other college stakeholders, on campus and throughout Maryland.

Action was taken on budget-related proposals and mandatory state reports as delineated in the agenda; all action items were approved.

"In a challenging time for higher education, St. Mary's College is thriving on many fronts," said John J. Bell '95, chair of the Board of Trustees. "Yet there is always more we can do to support current and future students as we live our mission—to make an exceptional liberal arts education accessible to talented students from Maryland and beyond—regardless of background or circumstance."

In the light of unprecedented and far-reaching federal enforcement policies that have caught up legal residents, the General Assembly enacted the HB 1222 (Maryland Values Act). Provisions of the bill require state colleges and universities

to develop policies to restrict federal access to areas not accessible to the general public.

"This policy was drafted in accordance with state law, feedback from the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate and Student Government Association, and in the spirit of the St. Mary's Way," said President Phillips. "Although there is a great deal of uncertainty and concern, this policy is intended to provide a practical, legal framework to keep our community safe on campus."

Items discussed during the meeting included a proposal for a new Master of Arts degree in counseling and clinical psychology, Title II accessibility requirements coming in spring 2026, restructuring of the Office of Inclusion and Belonging and numerous other updates outlined in the board agenda.

"With our national ranking in the top five public liberal arts colleges, we're punching far above our weight with our reputation, with our accomplishments," said President Phillips. "Through my listening tour these first 100 days, I felt if I can meet as many members of our extended community as possible, their thoughts on our college will help me keep us moving forward."

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School Enrollment Continues to Plunge

School System Adopts Zero-Based Budgeting

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Enrollment in St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) continues to drop.

Deputy Superintendent of Fiscal and Supporting Services Tammy McCourt told the school board at their Oct. 8 meeting, "Unfortunately, our enrollment is down again for Fiscal 2027," adding, "The enrollment last school year was 16,370, representing a decrease last school year of 329 students. The estimated enrollment for the current school year is 16,171, representing a decrease of 199 students."

McCourt noted, "The three-year rolling average pertains to maintenance of effort for purposes of our local funding support as well as our state funding support. The good news is that our three-year rolling average is higher by 16 students. The bad news is that there's a greater change on our three-year rolling average of a decrease of 227 students."

One change to the positive, McCourt said, "The current school year pre-K funding is increasing to \$19,950, a 38 percent increase."

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith observed, "You might ask why": adding, "I can't tell you. That's just the way the law is written, that somehow, pre-K children became almost \$5,000 more expensive in 2027."

Smith added, "They reduced funding by 1 percent for economically disadvantaged kids and...and increased multi-language learners by 1 percent. The rationale behind any of this...when we try to discuss it, it seems to get lost in the sauce."

McCourt also noted that the future of federal funding that flows through the state is very uncertain.

So, while the formula for per pupil funding is up in certain categories (and down in others), because of the enrollment reduction, the overall funding received next year from the state will decline. That has led staff to be required to scrutinize the budget more closely.

McCourt explained, "Back in 2024, when Dr. Smith and I started working together in our respective roles, the school system did what was called incremental budgeting," adding that "meant that if you received a certain dollar amount in a departmental budget this year, we would increase that by 1 percent, 2 percent cost of living adjustment increase. And that became your new budget for the next fiscal year. At that time, we said we've got some financial concerns in 2025. As we embarked upon developing the 2026 budget, we need to take a different approach. We really needed to dive into the details. So, we adopted a modified zero-based budgeting approach."

That included doing things like considering each teacher's salary instead of averaging them. Other departments were also more

closely scrutinized.

McCourt said, "We're finding now because of all of these uncertainties, is that we need to really fully embrace a zero-based budgeting approach."

"What we're going to be doing is applying this (zero-based budgeting) across the school district and taking a deeper data analytical approach in all areas, truly assessing the return on investment."

She added, "We already have done this in many areas, but we're continuing to do it but at a much deeper level, analyzing the utilization of software, analyzing the effectiveness of instructional materials. So, curriculum instruction will be looking at their software instruction packages. Is it producing the outcome for students that we need?"

"We're looking at maintaining, eliminating, or perhaps changing processes, reviewing all of our internal processes, evaluating processes for duplication, reviewing our programs and service delivery models. The number of print jobs and the number of jobs that are circulating through there. Do we need to print all of these? Are we printing the things that we need to be printing?"

"We're analyzing our custodial contracts to allow for greater cost efficiencies and most importantly, it's increasing collaboration."

"We've been building on this for 10 years now and it has not been an easy undertaking, but our directors understand that this has to be a collaboration and collaboration with your own teammates within their department as well as across departments. It includes an in-depth operational insight into our decision makers' consideration of alternative approaches. The way we did the business yesterday is not necessarily the way we need to do business tomorrow."

Department heads are currently working on their budgets using zero-based budgeting and will present them to McCourt's office by the end of this month. That will be finalized and will become the basis for the superintendent's budget released in January. The board will go over that and finalize the budget to be presented to the commissioners in February.

Smith said, "The one thing to recognize with our budget though, salaries, benefits contracted services make up over 90 percent of our budget. So, we're already doing zero-based with emphasis on salaries and benefits and to an extent contracted services. We are trying to squeeze every little bit out of that last remaining part with zero based budgeting. So, we're pretty much lean and mean. We're going to continue down that very same path. So, a lot of things are going on. And the one thing that we do know is we have to be as efficient as we can possibly be, and we have to make sure that what we're doing is actually netting the results that we want them to net."

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“WE ARE TRYING TO SQUEEZE EVERY LITTLE BIT...WITH ZERO-BASED BUDGETING.”

SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON THE 10 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET THAT'S NOT SALARIES, BENEFITS AND CONTRACTED SERVICES.



LOCAL 9
School board approves plan for fund balance



LOCAL 11
Arrest made in Leonardtown shooting



ON THE COVER
MedStar St. Mary's offers the latest advancements in cancer detection

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 16	FRI, OCT 17	SAT, OCT 18	SUN, OCT 19
Sunny Hi: 64° Lo: 43°	Sunny Hi: 64° Lo: 44°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 55°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 52°
MON, OCT 20	TUE, OCT 21	WED, OCT 22	THU, OCT 23
AM Showers Hi: 65° Lo: 48°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 55°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 68° Lo: 49°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 65° Lo: 48°



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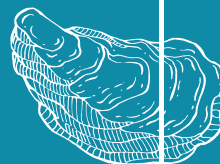
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NEW TECH AIDS THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER