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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

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CALVERT GETS A BIG CHILL

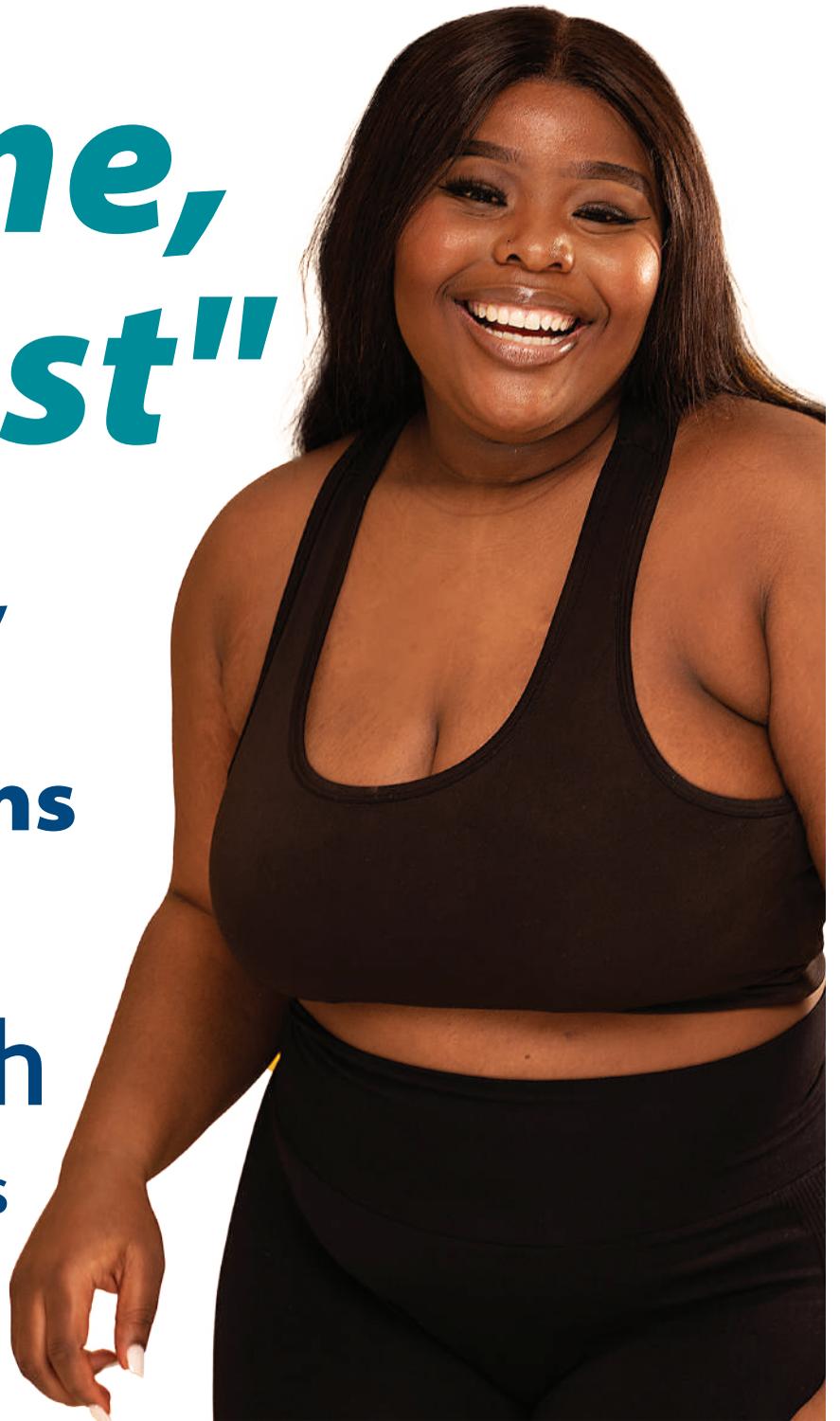
Photo by Roy Fedders

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“HE GENUINELY LOVES OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR PEOPLE.”
 CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER ON MARYLAND DELEGATE ADRIAN BOAFO



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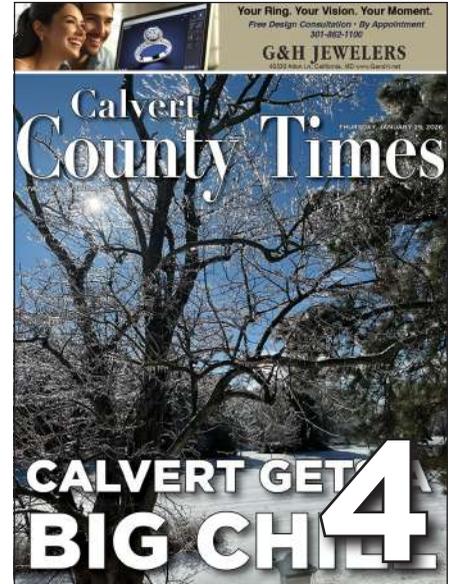
AN INDEPENDENT AGENT REPRESENTING ERIE INSURANCE GROUP



LOCAL 5
 Hoyer endorses state delegate as his replacement



COMMUNITY 7
 Gold medalist boxer to visit Prince Frederick



ON THE COVER
 County shares safety tips amid extreme cold

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JAN 29 Mostly Sunny Hi: 27° Lo: 12°	FRI, JAN 30 Partly Cloudy Hi: 27° Lo: 12°	SAT, JAN 31 Cloudy Hi: 24° Lo: 15°	SUN, FEB 1 Cloudy Hi: 27° Lo: 17°
MON, FEB 2 Mostly Sunny Hi: 36° Lo: 19°	TUE, FEB 3 Mostly Sunny Hi: 37° Lo: 21°	WED, FEB 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 39° Lo: 27°	THU, FEB 5 Partly Cloudy Hi: 40° Lo: 25°

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County Urges Residents to Stay Safe in Extreme Weather

Cold Weather Advisory in Effect Until 11 a.m., Jan. 29

In light of forecasted extreme temperatures, Calvert County reminds residents of the following safety tips and available resources.

If travel or outside activity is required:

- Keep warm and dry. Dress in layers to help trap heat and keep the body warm. Change out of wet clothing immediately.
- Watch for frostbite. Symptoms include loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Watch for hypothermia. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If symptoms are detected, get the victim to a warm location, remove wet clothing, warm the center of the body first, and give warm, non-alcoholic beverages if the victim is conscious. Get medical help immediately.

Additional safety items include:

- Stay off ice, including frozen bodies of water. No ice is safe 100% safe to walk on. It can be difficult to determine the thickness of ice, and the thickness is rarely uniform.
- Ensure heating sources are used

responsibly to prevent the risk of harmful side effects, including burns and carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Consider family members or neighbors with special needs and assist them in preparing for the winter weather.

Warming Centers

Community centers and library locations throughout the county are available during regular operating hours for people who need a warm, dry place to take temporary refuge from the cold. Residents who need transportation to a warming center outside of regular public transportation operating hours should call the Calvert County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at 410-535-2800 to request transportation assistance. For medical emergencies, including signs of hypothermia, call 911.

- Calvert Library Prince Frederick 850 Costley Way, Prince Frederick 410-535-0291
- Harriet E. Brown Community Center 901 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick 410-535-7080
- Northeast Community Center 4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach 410-257-2554
- Mt. Hope Community Center

104 Pushaw Station Rd., Sunderland 410-257-6770

- Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center 130 Auto Dr., Prince Frederick 410-414-8350
- Calvert Library Fairview Branch 8120 Southern Maryland Blvd., Owings 410-257-2101
- Southern Community Center 20 Appeal Ln., Lusby 410-586-1101
- Calvert Library Southern Branch 13920 H G Trueman Rd., Lusby 410-326-5289
- Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch 4100 5th St., North Beach 410-257-2411

The following locations are available 24/7:

- Maryland State Police Barrack "U" Lobby 210 Main St., Prince Frederick 410-535-1400
- Calvert County Detention Center Lobby 325 Stafford Rd., Prince Frederick 410-535-4300

Animal Safety Alert

The Department of Public Safety has issued an animal safety alert from Friday, Jan. 23, through Tuesday, Feb. 3. During this period,

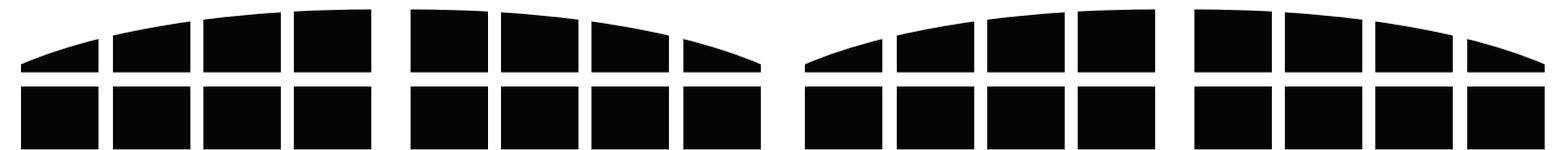
animal owners and custodians are required to take the following actions to protect pets and livestock:

- Dogs and cats should be brought inside. If a dog or cat is left outside, it must have free access to a solid structure that is heated or set against prevailing winds and allows the animal to maintain its core body temperature.
- Livestock and farm animals should have free access to shelter that allows them to maintain their core body temperature.
- Livestock and farm owners should provide additional food to help animals recover calories lost to cold weather.
- All animals outdoors must be continually monitored for signs of distress.
- All animals must have access to clean, unfrozen water at all times.

Failure to comply with these safety measures may result in penalties, including fines up to \$1,000 or 30 days in jail.

To report concerns, citizens may contact the Animal Control Division at 410-535-1600, ext. 2526, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours, concerns may be reported to the nonemergency line at 410-535-3491.

Press releases from Calvert County Government



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Delegate Earns Hoyer's Endorsement

Maryland Delegate Adrian Boafó has earned the endorsement of Maryland's senior statesman, Congressman Steny Hoyer.

Congressman Hoyer released the following statement:

"With deep respect for his character, admiration for his experience, and faith in his ability as a leader, I am proud to endorse Adrian Boafó for Representative of Maryland's Fifth District. "I have known Adrian for years. He is as warm as he is smart, as principled as he is pragmatic. He genuinely loves our community and our people.

"Public service defines Adrian. As a member of my staff, he earned Marylanders' trust. It came as no surprise when Adrian's neighbors called on him to represent their interests on the Bowie City Council. Even though he was only 25, Adrian won his race handily because voters knew from experience that he was someone they could count on to resolve their problems.

"Marylanders were so pleased with his performance as Councilman and as Bowie's youngest Mayor Pro Tem in history that they elected him to the Maryland House of Delegates. He won that office without running on a ticket or as part of a slate of candidates. Delegates recognized his capacity for leadership and elected him to serve as Assistant Majority Leader.

"Today, there are Prince Georgians who have access to clean water, military families who are now protected from discrimination, workers who earn higher wages, and countless other Marylanders whose lives are better because of Adrian Boafó.

"Adrian delivers results. He will continue to do so as the Congressman from



Adrian Boafó

Maryland's Fifth District.

"I encourage my fellow Marylanders to support Adrian Boafó for Congress."

Del. Boafó released the following statement, full of gratitude for Hoyer's long legacy of service to Maryland and the country:

"Rep. Steny Hoyer's legacy of service and his ability to get things done for the people is awe inspiring. His endorsement and his confidence in my ability to represent our home in Washington means the world to me. Rep. Hoyer taught me – and so many public servants across the country – the importance of knowing your constituents, how to fight like hell to deliver for them, and how to work with anyone for the common good. I hope to take those lessons to Washington as we work to fortify a promising future for Maryland's Fifth District."

Press release

High School Graduation Rates Released

Calvert Highest, St. Mary's Lowest in So. MD

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released the 2025 statewide cohort high school graduation rate.

The 2025 four-year cohort graduation rate was 86.4 percent, maintaining the state's overall high position, although slightly lower than the 87.6 percent rate in 2024. Over the past year, rates increased for African American students, individuals from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and those with disabilities. The largest graduation rate decline was among multilingual learners.

In Southern Maryland, Calvert has the highest rate of 93.4 percent and St. Mary's was lowest at 90.01 percent. Charles was in the middle at 92.1 percent.

Calvert high schools graduation rates were as follows: Calvert: 87.4; Huntingtown, Northern, and Patuxent, 95.

In St. Mary's, the high school graduation rates were: Chopticon, 90.02; Great Mills, 83.05 and Leonardtown, 95.

"For all of us who work in education, the ultimate mark of student success is when they walk across the stage on graduation day. We are encouraged by the progress we see among African American students, students with disabilities, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds," said Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools. "These gains reflect the hard work of educators, families, and communities across Maryland to give every student the support they need to succeed."

There were 72,702 students statewide in the 2025 cohort; 62,842 received their diploma within four years. The graduation

rate for African American students rose to 85.8 percent in 2025 from 84.4 percent in 2024. For students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, the figure increased to 83 percent, up from 81.6 percent the previous year.

"While Maryland's graduation outcomes remain strong overall, the State Board is deeply concerned about declines among multilingual learners and Hispanic students," said Dr. Joshua Michael, State Board of Education President. "Heightened political tensions and fear around immigration enforcement erode students' sense of safety and belonging, disrupting learning and pathways to graduation."

The Maryland State Department of Education also released the five-year cohort graduation rate, which is the percentage of students who graduate within five years. Out of the 67,376 students who started ninth grade in the 2020-2021 school year, 89.2 percent graduated by the 2024-2025 school year, an increase from 87.4 percent the prior year.

Maryland's graduation rates follow a cohort of students from their freshman year through their senior year, as required by federal reporting standards. Since the 2020-2021 school year, four-year cohort rates have ranged from 85.8 percent (2023) to 87.6 percent (2024).

Statewide and local data on four-year and five-year cohort graduation rates, as well as the four-year cohort dropout rate, can be found on the Maryland Report Card website.

Press release from MSBE

State Funding Secured for Harriet E. Brown Statue Will Be Located at County Courthouse

Calvert County announces \$250,000 in funding has been secured from Gov. Wes Moore, with the support and advocacy of Delegate Jeffrie Long Jr., for the construction of a statue honoring Harriet E. Brown, a trailblazing Calvert County educator and civil rights pioneer.

The statue will be located in front of the Calvert County Circuit Courthouse at 175 Main St., Prince Frederick.

Brown was a courageous Calvert County schoolteacher whose fight for equal pay transformed education policy in Maryland and helped advance civil rights nationwide. Born in Baltimore in 1907, Brown earned degrees from Morgan State College and the University of Maryland. She continued teaching in Calvert County for more than 30 years and was known for her dignity, humility and strength. She lived to the age of 101 and passed away in 2009.

The Harriet E. Brown statue will serve as a lasting tribute to her role in advancing



Harriet E. Brown

equal pay, civil rights and educational justice and as a reminder of Calvert County's place in Maryland's civil rights history.

Press release from Calvert County Government

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of January 5, 2026 – January 11, 2026, Calvert County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to 2,348 calls for service throughout the community, including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 55
- Disorderly: 15
- Domestic: 33
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 42
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 1171
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 43
- Traffic Complaints: 49
- Traffic Stops: 374
- 911 Hang-Ups: 58
- ARRESTS: 57



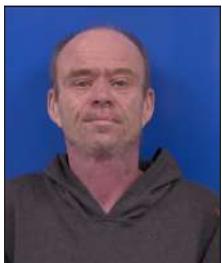
Courtney Jamal Gray

CDS Violation: 26-002153 On January 7, 2026, Det. DeLeon conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding along Solomons Island Road and Cove Point Road in Lusby. Det. DeLeon's K9 partner, Rico, conducted an open-air sniff of the vehicle resulting in a positive alert. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed cocaine residue and drug paraphernalia. The driver, identified as **Courtney Jamal Gray**, 35 of Westminster, was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Kevin Darnell Commodore

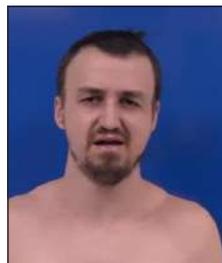
CDS Violation: 26-002611 On January 8, 2026, DFC Newton observed a wanted suspect at the Dash Inn gas station, located at 136 E. Chesapeake Beach Road in Owings. DFC Newton made contact with the suspect, identified as **Kevin Darnell Commodore**, 38, of Lusby, who was wanted on an open warrant. Commodore was taken into custody without incident. A search of Commodore's person and vehicle revealed several pieces of drug paraphernalia containing a white powdery residue. Commodore stated the substance was fentanyl. He was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was served with the outstanding warrant and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and CDS: Possession – Not Marijuana.



John Anthony Phipps

CDS Violation: 26-002488 On January 8, 2026, Deputy Grabill initiated a traffic stop in the area of Federal Oak Drive and N. Solomons Island Road in Sunderland after recognizing the driver as someone previously stopped twice for driving without a valid license. The driver was identified as

John Anthony Phipps, 52, of Chesapeake Beach, who advised he did not possess a valid driver's license. Phipps was issued a citation for driving without a license and was asked to exit the vehicle to switch drivers with his passenger. As he exited the vehicle, a crack pipe fell to the pavement; the pipe was burned on both ends. A search of Phipps' person revealed additional drug paraphernalia containing suspected crack cocaine residue and crack cocaine inside a paper fold. Phipps was taken into custody without incident, transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, and charged with CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Elvis Ray Brien

Disorderly: 26-002016 On January 6, 2026, Deputy Armbruster responded to a report of a disorderly subject at the Quality Inn, located at 255 Lore Road in Solomons. Investigation revealed **Elvis Ray Brien**, 35 of Lexington Park, entered the business yelling profanities and kicking hotel room doors in an attempt to gain entry. Upon contact, Deputy Armbruster detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from Brien. Due to his disorderly behavior causing a disturbance of the public peace, Brien was placed under arrest and charged with Disorderly Conduct and issued a trespass notice for the property.



Amy Michelle Drye

Disorderly: 26-003149 On January 9, 2026, DFC Sturdivant responded to a report of a disorderly individual at Sunderland Wine and Spirits, located at 44 Dalrymple Road in Sunderland. The individual, identified as **Amy Michelle Drye**, 46 of Sunderland, was found to be intoxicated and causing a disturbance. She was issued a trespass warning and transported home. Later that evening, deputies observed Drye attempt to enter and operate a vehicle at 2&4 Liquors in Huntingtown while still intoxicated. Drye was subsequently transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Intoxicated Endangerment, Intoxicated Public Disturbance, and Disorderly Conduct.

Theft: 26-001556 On January 5, 2026, Deputy Brown responded to West Marine, located at 14030 HG Trueman Rd., in Solomons, for a reported theft. Investigation revealed two white males entered the store, and one was observed concealing a black Salty Crew jacket in his coveralls and leaving without paying. Both suspects were seen leaving in an older blue Dodge pickup truck. The estimated value of the stolen items is \$200.

Theft: 26-001552 On January 5, 2026, Deputy Brown responded to the 4200 block of Saint Leonard Road, in St. Leonard, for a reported theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect stole his trot line winder and the oil drain plug bolt from his boat motor. The estimated value of stolen property is \$2,760.



Gina Patricia Kennedy

Theft: 26-003060 On January 9, 2026, Deputy H. Jones responded to Giant, located at 655 N. Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, for a reported theft. Investigation revealed **Gina Patricia Kennedy**, 37, of Lusby, stole \$877.25 in merchandise, including detergent pods, cleaning products, and a bag containing steaks, shrimp, and salmon. Kennedy was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Theft: \$100 to under \$1,500 – Shoplifting, Fraud – Per Identification to Avoid Prosecution, and Trespassing: Private Property.

Trespassing: 25-002726 On January 8, 2026, at approximately 5:32 p.m., DFC T. Bowen responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office in Prince Frederick for a



Victor Percy Sanders

report of a suspicious person. The complainant advised that her daughters were working out at Planet Fitness when a male approached her juvenile daughter and spoke to her inappropriately. Deputies responded to Planet Fitness and located the suspect, identified as **Victor Percy Sanders**, 36, of Prince Frederick, seated on a couch near the tanning area and watching females enter the tanning rooms. Sanders had previously been trespassed indefinitely from the property. He was taken into custody, transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, and charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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

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Honor a World War II Veteran with a Memorial Paver



The Calvert County Department of Public Works, General Services Division, invites citizens to honor a World War II veteran with a memorial brick on the Veterans Patio at the "On Watch" memorial statue in Solomons.

The monument, unveiled in August 2007, is located at 14485 Dowell Road in Solomons and commemorates those who served the United States during World War II at the Solomons Amphibious Training Base. This facility was the nation's first amphibious training facility and was active from 1942-45.

The cost of each brick is \$100 and is tax deductible. An application is available online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/OnWatch and the campaign runs through May 1, 2026. Purchasers will be notified when engraving and installation are complete. Funds from the paver purchases go toward the memorial brick campaign and are used for maintenance and care of the statue and grounds. For more information about the project, contact Carter Burchinal at 410-535-1600, ext. 2565 or by email at Carter.Burchinal@calvertcountymd.gov.

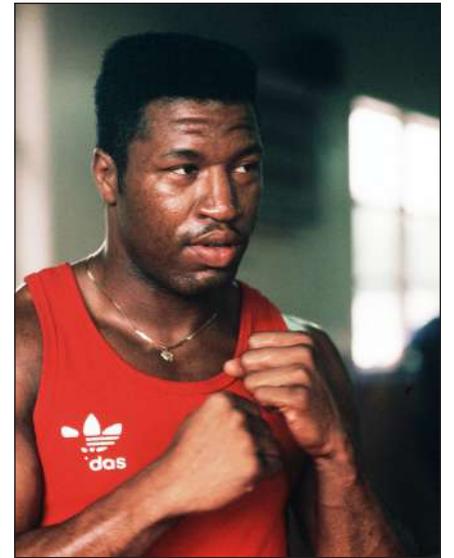
Olympic Gold Medalist, Heavyweight Champ to Visit Prince Frederick

On January 31st, Southern Maryland will host a rare piece of American sporting history. Knowledge Boxing Center is proud to announce a special appearance by the legendary Ray Mercer, a man whose career defines the word "Champion" both as a world-class athlete and a patriot.

Ray Mercer holds a unique and prestigious place in the record books as the last American Heavyweight to win an Olympic Gold Medal. In addition to his global sports icon status, Mercer is a U.S. Army Veteran, making his visit a significant event for both the local athletic community and the region's many military families.

"It is an incredibly rare honor to have a global sports icon and a brother-in-arms visiting our community," said Knowledge Boxing Center Head Coach, Daryl Hinmon. "Opportunities like this don't come to Southern Maryland often. We want everyone to come out and shake the hand of a man who reached the absolute pinnacle of the boxing world while representing the Red, White, and Blue."

Ray Mercer (Olympic Gold Medalist, U.S. Army Veteran & World Heavyweight Champion) will be at 2400 Solomons Island Road South, Prince Frederick on Jan. 31 at 3 p.m.



Ray Mercer

Knowledge Boxing Center is dedicated to the development of the Southern Maryland community through the sport of boxing. They provide a professional environment for people of all levels improve their physical and mental strength.

Press release from Knowledge Boxing Center



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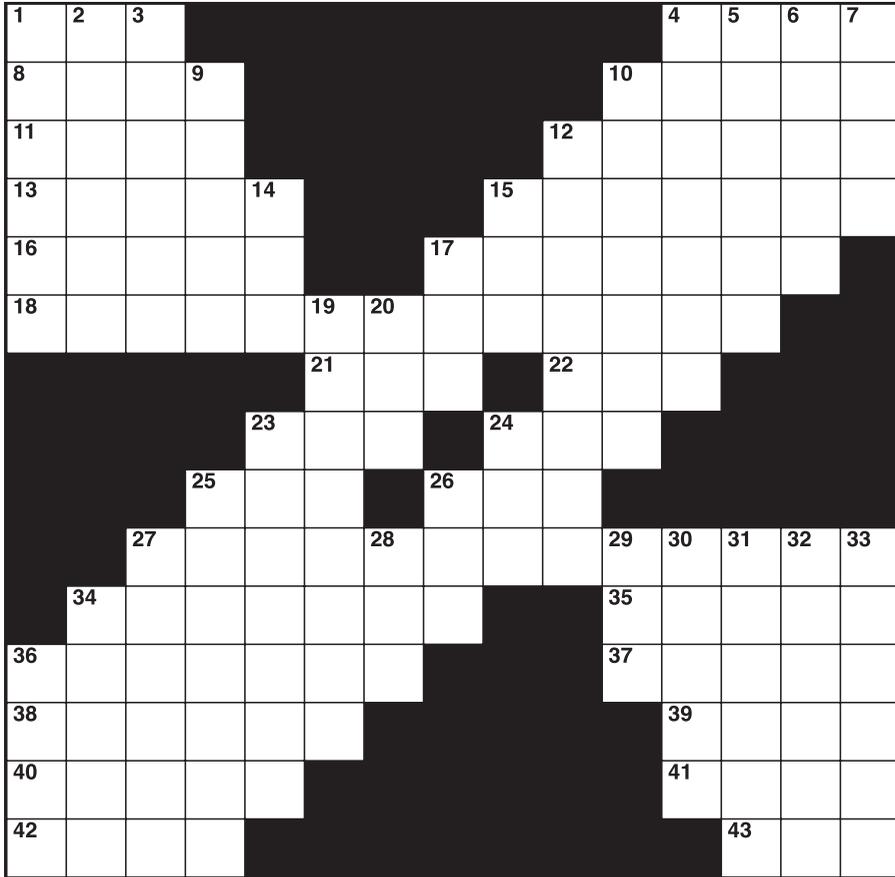
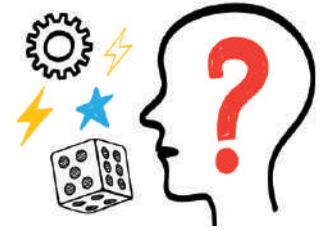
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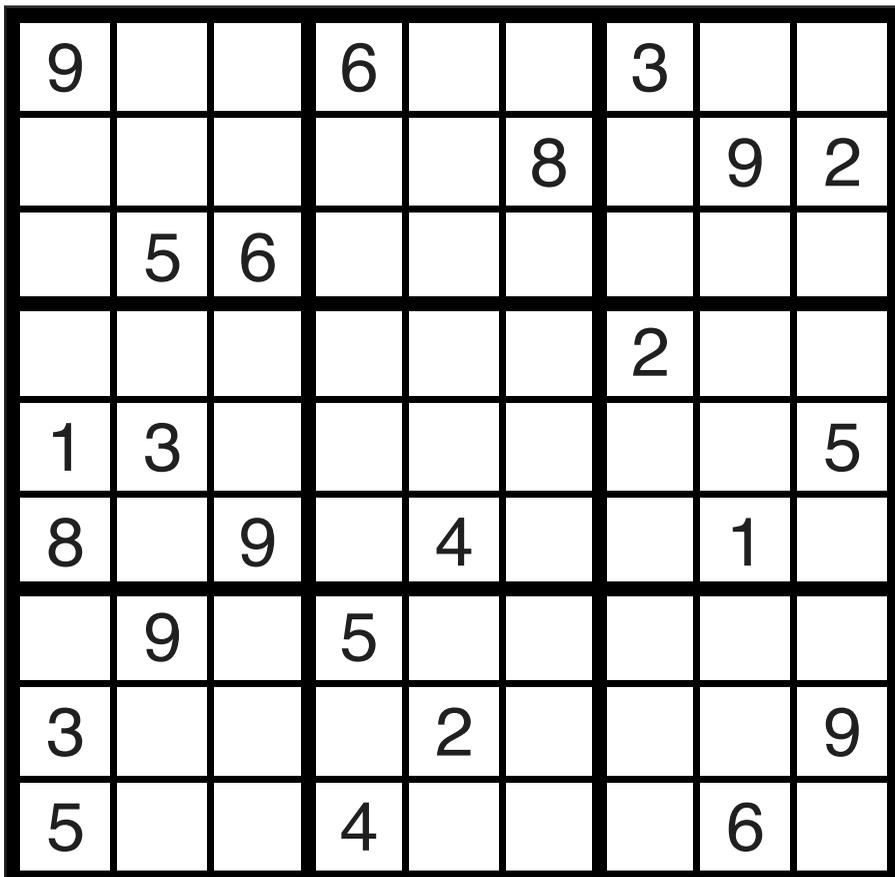


CLUES ACROSS

1. One point south of due east
4. Coagulated blood
8. Fortifying ditch
10. Devotee of Hinduism
11. Trunk of a tree
12. Bank note
13. Capital of Guam
15. Study again
16. Covered with hoarfrost
17. Opening
18. Legendary Rolling Stone
21. Stray
22. Computer storing system
23. Signal
24. Pitching statistic
25. Human being
26. Malaysian isthmus
27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
34. A gland
35. Bluish greens
36. Endangered
37. Three-dimensional
38. In a way, precipitated
39. God associated with dissolution
40. Blemished
41. Flow or leak slowly
42. Disco legends The Bee __
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to board
2. Get down
3. Highly seasoned sausage
4. First day of month
5. Eurasian shrubs
6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
7. Small lake
9. Belief
10. Sunrooms
12. Metric weight unit
14. Vasopressin
15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
17. One-time family room staple
19. Got back together
20. Anger
23. Sang merrily
24. Sea eagle
25. Military men
26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
27. Found in the sea
28. Protects from weather
29. Type of medicine
30. City along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away
34. Lack of disunity
36. One-time European Commission officer



JANUARY 22 SOLUTIONS

3	6	7	2	1	4	9	5	8
2	8	4	6	5	9	3	7	1
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6	5	8	1	2	4	3	9	7
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To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.

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★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



Introduction to Ancestry.com Library Edition

Interested in starting your genealogical research but do not know how to start? Join us as we provide an overview of Ancestry Library Edition, a free service available at St. Mary's County Library. During this introductory class, we will offer answers and clarification, along with a tutorial of how to use Ancestry to research one's own genealogy and family history. We will cover understanding the sources provided, identifying where to acquire more information, and learning how to get started using Ancestry. Leonardtown Library on Friday, January 30 from 2 - 4 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Murder in the Library—with a Candlestick! Or a Wrench!

Solve a series of riddles, puzzles, and challenges to discover "whodunnit" in a casual, self-paced immersive experience. Choose to solve solo or in a small group! Lexington Park Library

on Saturday, January 31 from 2 - 4 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Christylez Bacon: Black History Month Celebration

Join Grammy-nominated progressive hip-hop artist and multi-instrumentalist Christylez Bacon for a high-energy performance celebrating Black History Month! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, February 7 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Register on www.stmalib.org. Christylez combines rhyming, storytelling, and call and response choruses with diverse instruments (djembe, acoustic guitar, human beatbox) to deliver a message of cultural acceptance and unification blending traditional elements of musical styles from jazz to hip-hop. This Black History Month special event is presented in partnership with the NAACP St. Mary's County Branch 7025 and the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions.

Artist's Workspace

Looking for a space to work on your art?

Bring your writing, drawing, and other art materials and come work with us! The following makerspace equipment will be available for open use during this time: Cricut Maker, a button maker, Cricut Mug Press, 3D pens, and our Memory Lab. This program is intended for ages 16+. Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, February 4 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Veterans Book Group

A book discussion series for veterans led by Vietnam Veteran Wayne Karlin. Registration required on www.stmalib.org; space is limited. This book discussion series is tailored for veterans and their families. Service members of all eras, their spouses, and adult children are welcome. Author and retired college professor Wayne Karlin will lead us through conversations about books written in very different styles but connected by themes of war, courage, love, honor, and trauma. Meetings will be held at Lexington Park Library on the

first Saturday of the month from 2-4 p.m. This month the Group will meet on Saturday, February 7. Supplies are limited; participants may pick up a copy of the book one month before the meetings.

Roadside Native Plants

Tired of overlooking the beauty right outside your window? Barbara Martín of the St. Mary's County Garden Club will show you why plant identification is a rewarding skill! This discussion focuses on various native plants commonly found in areas like roadsides and old fields. You'll gain a practical understanding of basic botany and learn how to apply this knowledge to the plants in your own yard. Barbara will share photos of unique local finds and discuss how these resilient natives can contribute to a healthier home landscape. Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, February 10 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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In Remembrance

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

Joyce Alvey, 79



Joyce Copsey Alvey, 79, of St. Mary's County, Maryland, passed away on Monday, January 26, 2026, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown. She

was born on May 26, 1946, in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Joyce was the daughter of the late Clements W. Copsey, Sr., and Mary Rainwater Copsey. She grew up on the shores of Horse Landing, Mechanicsville, where she learned early the value of hard work and family. As a teenager, she worked alongside her parents and siblings selling crabs and seafood her father caught from the river. Those early years helped lead to the family's establishment of Copsey Seafood Restaurant in Mechanicsville that her two brothers continued for over 35 years.

After completing her education, Joyce began a long and dedicated career in federal service. She traveled for work at Buzzard Point in Washington, D.C., for a few years then joined the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, where she served for more than 30 years before retiring. Joyce was known for her steady work ethic, her telling stories of growing up St. Mary's County, and her gift for telling stories about the county and the people who call it home.

Joyce was a devoted wife and mother. She shared more than 20 loving years of marriage with her husband, Roger G. Alvey, Sr. Together they built a life rooted in respect, partnership, and laughter. Joyce loved to laugh at every chance she got—often with Roger being the primary instigator of the laughter. She spent her entire life in St. Mary's County.

In addition to her husband, Joyce is survived by her children, Debbie Bohle

(Cindy) and Becky Bohle (Ambrose) of Mechanicsville; her two sisters; Bernice Newton of Mechanicsville, and Elaine Gass (Steve) of Hollywood; and her sister-in-law, Judy Copsey of Mechanicsville. Additionally, she is survived by Roger's children; Roger Alvey, Jr. (Peggy) of Avenue, Brenda Alvey (Joe) of Mechanicsville, Hank Alvey (Missy) of Mechanicsville, Debbie Demarr (Bobby) of Mechanicsville, Dianna Threatt (Kevin) of Lexington Park, and Maria Burch (Brenden) of Great Mills.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Irene Virginia Hill (Jimmy) and two brothers, Clements William "Dagger" Copsey, Jr. (Gloria), and Roger Wayne Copsey.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow at LaPlata United Methodist Church Cemetery, Dentsville, 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.

Margaret Jarboe, 89



Margaret Elizabeth (Shank) Jarboe, age 89, of St. Mary's City, Maryland, passed away on January 25, 2026. She was born in Riverdale, Maryland on August 14, 1936,

the first child of Ruth Mary and Hughes Shank. Margaret spent her childhood in Riverdale with her parents, younger brother David Shank, and devoted aunt and uncle, Elizabeth & James Shank. Margaret attended college at the University of Maryland, where

she met and married the love of her life, James Patrick Jarboe. The couple moved to Baltimore to complete Pat's medical internship and then to St. Mary's County where they set up their home. Margaret and Pat had six children, Karen Mumbert (Don), Barbara Brunner (Bob), Christopher Scott Jarboe, Kathleen Cantwell (Chris), Thomas Jarboe (Shannon), and Jessica Crandall (Fred). Margaret was blessed with 17 grandchildren: David Mumbert (Kate), Rachel Faruque (Imraan), Daniel Mumbert (Felicia), Hannah Mumbert, Kelly Schmidt (Allen), Ash Brunner, Camden Cantwell (Leah), Kent Cantwell (Heather), Corene Reese (Zach), Curtis Cantwell, Nick Jarboe, Christian Jarboe (Kate), Luke Jarboe, Alec Crandall (McKenzie), Elizabeth Crandall, Matthew Crandall, Lauren Crandall, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Margaret was pre-deceased by her husband, Pat Jarboe, and her son Christopher Scott Jarboe.

Margaret & Pat lived most of their 53-year marriage on the St. Mary's River. Margaret made their home a central part of the neighborhood, where children came to play and stay for meals and overnight. Margaret used her time raising children, supporting her church family at Church of the Ascension, and volunteering for various county groups including Little Flower School, Birthright of Southern Maryland, Three Oaks, Hospice, and Historic St. Mary's City. Margaret also worked at Pat's office doing the necessary and frustrating duty of processing health insurance for patients. In their free time, Margaret and Pat enjoyed getting together with friends and boating on the Maggie Fast-step.

Margaret was a great lover of music, attending concerts whenever possible and singing in the church choir for many years. She is remembered with love by family and friends for her humble nature, love of God, and compassionate heart. She was the great pray-er of our family, carrying her children's and grandchildren's concerns to our Lord & Savior. We are grateful to all of the caretakers who have supported Margaret and her family in the last few years with such love and care.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Church of the Ascension (21641 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park, MD 20653) or the Cosmic Symphony (P.O. Box 1323 California, MD 20619, <https://cosmicsymphony.org>).

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 29, 2026 from 4pm to 6pm with a Prayer Service at 5:30pm celebrated by Rev. Greg Sylar at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. The funeral is planned for Friday, January 30, 2026 at 11am at the Church of the Ascension in Lexington Park, MD. Interment will be private at St. James Cemetery.

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

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

Ray Ballew, 86



Raymond "Ray" Aaron Ballew, Sr., age 86, of Hollywood, Maryland, passed away peacefully at his home on January 19, 2026, surrounded by loved

ones. He was born on October 4, 1939, in Washington, D.C., to the late Raymond Watson Ballew and Margaret White Ballew.

Ray was the beloved husband of Kay "Sue" Sturgess Ballew, whom he married on August 5, 1966. He was a devoted father to Ray Ballew, Jr. (Lisa Clark) of Hollywood, MD, and the late Carol Ballew Porter (the late Mark Porter). He was a proud grandfather to twins Daniel Ballew and Darren Ballew (Aly), and a cherished great-grandfather to multiple great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his brother, Robert Ballew of Maine, and was preceded in death by his sister, Nancy Ballew Cullins.

Ray spent his career in the plumbing trade, beginning at age 17 with Warner Plumbing, where he worked for over 20 years and became a respected manager. He purchased the plumbing business in Suitland, Maryland, operating RayMar Plumbing until his recent retirement. Ray was known for his strong work ethic, mechanical skill, and extremely fair treatment of his employees.

A lifelong resident of the Washington, D.C. and Southern Maryland area, Ray had a deep love for the water and the outdoors. He and Sue built their waterfront home on Half Pone Point near the family home in 1980, creating decades of cherished memories with family and friends. He enjoyed boating, fishing, camping, RV travel, classic movies, and the companionship of his dogs.

Ray will be fondly remembered as a kind, generous, and hardworking man who loved his family deeply and greeted everyone with a warm smile—often while driving his golf cart around "the Point." The family extends heartfelt thanks to Hospice of St. Mary's County for their compassionate care and support.

The family will receive friends on Friday, January 30, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at MattingleyGardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, Maryland. A funeral service will follow at 11:00 AM in the funeral home chapel, officiated by Rev. Gwen Banks. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Following the burial, the family invites all friends and loved ones to join them for lunch at the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad, Hollywood, 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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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



Details, Details

By Shelby Opperman
Contributing Writer

Yes, you've heard it before: "Men are different than women", you know, the whole Mars vs. Venus thing. And you know what? "They" are right. Just as one of a million examples: Robert goes to his physical therapy appointment and to do other errands, and I ask when he gets home, "How did therapy go?" I get back, "Good, it was fine". Hmmm, no chit chat about what the exercises are or who all you saw out on the errands. I go to a doctor's appointment, errands, the convenience center, and I describe everybody and everything. I tell him who I saw, what is going on in their lives (if its not a confidence naturally). I talk about the progress in Charlotte Hall on all the new businesses, and how busy the stores were, and how nice the clerks were. And about how nice people are in general, male and female, when they sometimes just take the trash bags right out of my hands to dump them, or a month back when a teen came over to my car at the California Walmart and helped me put my packages in the car. Even his grandparents came over and helped. I must have looked pretty bad that day, but I was grateful.



I realize my husband probably quits listening after the first five words, but for me its important (for some reason) to deconstruct my day. I don't know why. I didn't used to be like this. I didn't tell anybody anything. I was relatively silent for many years. Maybe all my retail training from Camp Springs Memco to Peebles, to waitressing and cocktail waitressing and then going into service/retail in the picture framing industry helped give me some confidence in speaking to people. Of course, as you can tell, it is easier for me to get my thoughts out through the keyboard or by writing.

If you are exhausted yet, well I imagine that's how my husband might feel after my weekly errand loops. But it is his fault. Our first few years of marriage he would constantly ask, "What are you thinking about" or "Why aren't you talking?" I would have a million things going around in my head but couldn't get things out in the right way. I didn't know where to start. I had to really make a conscious effort to open up and share my thoughts and feelings with another person. I'm so glad I did. Now you know who to blame for my wandering aimless mind and how so much ends up in this column. So, next time you see my husband Robert you can either tell him thanks a lot, or please make her stop!

An update on our Mindy: Many of you probably know from Facebook, that our sweet Mindy the crazy hound dog passed away on Saturday the 24th, just 3 days shy of her 10th birthday. That awful cancer took her from us, and as any pet lover knows, it is always way too soon. Cancer is awful for children, adults, and our wonderful pets. If you read my last column you know we took her to the oncologist in Bowie at Three Notch Veterinary's encouragement. You never know if there may be a treatment, but there really was nothing that wouldn't make our Mindy any better and would likely make her more miserable than she already was. If you can't even eat or drink, its not fun. But our girl Mindy kissed our hands and wagged her tail right up until the final seconds; still wanting us to be happy and let us know that she was our good girl forever. I know this happens every day and I have so many friends just having gone through this or going through it now. I'm so sorry because every pet is so loving. Thank you for all the kind messages. I've added my favorite summer photo of Mindy in her favorite spot in the yard. I miss you sweet Mindy Girl. For now, your fluffy bed is still out. I'm not quite ready for completely letting go. There has been a female cardinal that's been at the window every day who is just like you and is letting me know she wants in and pointedly stares at me and your bed. Maybe if I just open the window...

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Shelby

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New tax laws for 2026 that you should know

The new year brings more than resolutions and fresh starts; it also ushers in several tax changes that could affect your wallet. Whether you're saving for retirement, funding your child's education or supporting your favorite charity, here's are a few things you need to know about the tax landscape in 2026.

More room to save for retirement and healthcare

There's good news for savers: Contribution limits for retirement accounts are going up. If you're under 50, you can now contribute up to \$7,500 to an IRA, which is up from \$7,000 in 2025. Those 50 and older can contribute an additional \$1,100, for a total of \$8,600.

The limits for 401(k), 403(b) and governmental 457(b) plans are also increasing, with workers younger than 50 able to defer up to \$24,500. Visit IRS.gov and search "401k limit increases" for an article outlining the details.

Health savings account limits are rising too. In 2026, individual coverage increased to \$4,400 and family coverage to \$8,750. If you are age 55 or older and are not enrolled in Medicare, you can contribute an additional \$1,000 as a catch-up contribution.

The start of the year is an ideal time to review your contributions and consider increasing them, even by small amounts which can add up over time.

A catch-up rule for high earners

If you're 50 or older and earned more than \$150,000 last year, there's a new wrinkle in your retirement planning. You can still make catch-up contributions to your workplace retirement plan, but they must now be Roth contributions rather than traditional pre-tax contributions. This includes 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans.

While you won't get an immediate tax break, Roth contributions offer tax-free income in retirement and can provide a tax-free legacy for your heirs.

Expanded benefits for 529 education plans

Families using 529 plans to cover K-12 expenses will see the annual federal distribution limit double from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per student. The definition of qualifying expenses has also expanded to include curriculum, books, certain tutoring expenses and testing fees.

This change provides more flexibility for families with overfunded plans and increases options for managing education costs across multiple children or beneficiaries.

New charitable giving provisions

The rules around charitable deductions are shifting in two directions. Taxpayers who take the standard deduction can now deduct up to \$1,000 in cash donations (\$2,000 for joint filers) to qualified organizations.

However, those who itemize deductions face a new threshold: only charitable contributions exceeding 0.5% of adjusted gross income are now deductible. Donors may want to consider bunching strategies or using donor-advised funds to maximize their tax benefits.

Getting help

Navigating these tax changes can be challenging, but you don't have to go it them alone. A qualified financial advisor and tax professional can help you understand how these and other changes affect your specific situation. Together, you can develop strategies to make the most of new opportunities while minimizing your tax burden.

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

A View From The BLEACHERS



This Isn't Working

By Ronald N. Guy, Jr.
Contributing Writer

It's a Wednesday evening in the dead of winter. The fatigue of a work week is setting in. A pending weather event, promising to deliver the full wintery mix menu has largely and intentionally been ignored to this point, but the list of necessary preparations is starting to creep into a resistant mind.

The car speakers blare sports radio; the listener, distracted by the dread of Old Man Winter's coming assault, and the mental fog of inadequate sleep and insufficient caffeine, barely notices.

"Blah, blah blah... Washington Nationals... blah, blah, blah... trade... blah, blah, blah... MacKenzie Gore."

What? I'm up. I'm alert. What did he say?

The words were like a double espresso shot or an adrenaline-inducing Vivarin pill that was clutch during college exam week. The haze evaporated. My brain was like a car merging off a slow single-line highway onto the beltway. Pedal down. Catch the flow. Now I was up to speed and following the conversation. The gist: The Nationals had traded Gore, last season's opening day starter and one-time cornerstone of the franchise's rebuild, to the Texas Rangers (the one-time Washington Senators) for five prospects.

Five prospects? This is like walking into a bank with a Hamilton and asking for 10 Washingtons in return; the fatter wallet just feels better, I guess. If President of Baseball Operations Paul Toboni was shopping on the Monopoly board, he settled for all the utilities and railroads (six assets, if memory serves) instead of Park Place and Boardwalk. A wise move? The verdict won't be known for years.

Two days later, I'm sitting in my man-loft as these words rifle across the screen. To my left, there's a curly "W" and a commemorative 2019 World Series plaque on the wall. Overhead, a few feet in front of the television, is a brown smudge on the ceiling. In October 2019, I was nervously spinning a football in my hands when Howie Kendrick stepped to the plate in the tenth inning of Game 5 (deciding game) of the NLDS against the Dodgers. The score was tied 3-3. Adam Eaton led off with a walk. Anthony Rendon doubled. Juan Soto was intentionally walked to load the bases. Kendrick was next up. On an 0-1 count he barreled a fastball. Camera pans to the Cody Bellinger in center field; he's drifting back, then slows as the ball lands over the fence. I leap, swinging the football through the air and scrap the ceiling. There were, of course, more Nationals and Kendrick heroics to come that October. As for the smudge, it will never be removed. Never.

Since that World Series title in 2019, the Nationals have traded Max Scherzer, Trea Turner, and Juan Soto, and have been one of the worst teams in baseball. The combination of trade assets and draft picks should, at this point, have had the Nats ready to compete at a high level again. They are not. Last season's debacle cost manager Dave Martinez and GM Mike Rizzo their jobs. Toboni, Rizzo's replacement, assessed the inherited roster and farm system and determined more assets were required. So, Gore, acquired in the Soto trade and one-time cornerstone of the next great chapter for Nats baseball, was shown the door. It was clear evidence that the team is still, after six atrocious seasons and the same number of drafts and free agency periods, woefully talent-deficient. The Nats are now rebuilding the rebuild.

Lovely. And by lovely, I mean frustrating and soul-crushing. But it's impossible to argue against Toboni's assessment. This... whatever you want to call the Nats' post-2019 reboot... isn't working. The team is terrible. Prospects have failed to progress. The ownership, apparently waiting for the right time to sell, spends like a yard sale warrior. MLB is facing a lengthy lockout in 2027 that will wreak havoc. Add it up and, painful as it is, Toboni's decision to tear it down... again... is spot on: Staying wed to Plan A, doubling down on a bad hand - in poker, sports and life - no matter how convenient or hope-sustaining in the short-term, will only deliver an unsatisfying outcome.

Here's to Plan B, then, and more victorious marks on ceilings... someday.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

Journalist to Deliver Bradley Lecture

Acclaimed journalist, author and professor Rachel Swarns will deliver the Benjamin C. Bradley Distinguished Lecture in Journalism on the topic of her critically acclaimed book, *The 272: The Families Who Were Enslaved and Sold to Build the American Catholic Church*, on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center on the College's campus.

Presented by the Center for the Study of Democracy, a joint initiative of St. Mary's College of Maryland, Historic St. Mary's City and The Patuxent Partnership, this event is free of charge and open to the public.

The Bradley Lecture Series is a signature event of the Center for the Study of Democracy and supports the Center's mission to explore issues of democracy, liberty and justice.

Swarns' book emerged from her reporting at the New York Times and focuses on Georgetown and the Catholic Church and their roots in slavery. In 2023, a group of descendants of "The 272" visited the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland, SMCM's award-winning tribute to the enslaved that was inspired by the discovery of archaeological evidence of slave quarters on the College's campus in 2016.

Established by former Washington Post executive editor and College trustee Benjamin Bradley, this lecture series has brought many notable journalists to St. Mary's College. Bradley established this series to bring leading journalists to campus who carry on his legacy of commitment to a free press in a democratic society.

Swarns served as a full-time reporter and correspondent at the Times for 22 years and currently writes about race and history as a contributing writer.

At the New York Times, Swarns has reported from Russia, Cuba, Guatemala and southern Africa, where she served as the Times' Johannesburg bureau chief. She has covered immigration, presidential politics and Michelle Obama and her role in



Rachel Swarns

the Obama White House. She also served as a Metro columnist in New York City. As a senior writer for the paper, she helped to lead and innovate on coverage of issues of race and ethnicity.

In 2018, Swarns joined New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, where she is a tenured professor whose research focuses on American slavery and its legacies. At the Institute, she serves as the director of undergraduate studies and the director of "Hidden Legacies: Slavery, Race and the Making of 21st Century America," a research initiative that seeks to deepen Americans' understanding of the connections between slavery and contemporary institutions.

The 272 was one of the notable books of 2023 by The New York Times Book Review, the New Yorker, Time magazine, The Washington Post, the Chicago Public Library and Kirkus Reviews. It also won a 2024 American Book Award and a 2024 PROSE Award from the Association of American Publishers and was longlisted for the 2024 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction.

Press release from SMCM

Leonardtown to Host Wedding Expo

Love is in the air in Leonardtown! Leonardtown is thrilled to announce it will host its first-ever Wedding Expo on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 12 to 3 p.m.

Hosted by Bella Bridal Company and the Leonardtown Business Association, this premier event will showcase everything couples need to plan their perfect day. The Expo will take place across several beloved local venues — The Fenwick Inn, The Vault, and The Inn at Leonardtown — each featuring a variety of talented wedding vendors, from florists and photographers to caterers, planners, and more.

Attendees can explore wedding trends, connect with professionals, and get inspired to create their dream ceremony and reception.

Whether you're newly engaged or just starting to plan, this event promises to make your journey to "I do" both exciting and unforgettable.

"Leonardtown provides an idyllic setting for weddings and celebrations," said a representative from the Leonardtown Business Association. "We're delighted to bring the community and local businesses together to help couples start their forever in Leonardtown."

Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend.

For event details and attendee registration please visit, www.VisitLeonardtownMd.com/weddingexpo

Press release from Leonardtown

Celebrate Black History at the USCT Interpretive Center

Explore Stories of Local African Americans

The public is encouraged to head to the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Interpretive Center in Lexington Park to explore the profound and significant contributions of African Americans in St. Mary's County this February, in honor of Black History Month.

USCT Interpretive Center exhibits will be open and free to the public, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. every Wednesday and Saturday in February: February 4, 7, 10, 14, 18, 21, 25 & 28.

Inside the USCT Interpretive Center, visitors can learn about two St. Mary's County Congressional Medal of Honor recipients who served in the 38th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Colored Troops and fought for the Union during the Civil War. These two men received the Medal of Honor for their valor and bravery at the Battle of New Market Heights, Virginia, in 1864. On the trail between the Interpretive Center in Lexington Manor Passive Park and John G. Lancaster Park, you can learn about the Civil War era in St. Mary's County and the African American troops on interpretive panels that lead to the statue of the soldier.

Staff will be available to answer questions and provide information on these



amazing stories.

The U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center is located in Lexington Manor Passive Park at 21675 S. Coral Drive in Lexington Park, Maryland. For more information, call (301) 769-2222 or visit www.Facebook.com/USCTCenter and click on "Events".

Press release from St. Mary's County Museum Division

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MEET JAXX

Jaxx is a 2.5-year-old Pit Bull Terrier who has been waiting far too long, and we truly don't understand why. He's sweet, affectionate, eager to learn, and has that perfect mix of playful energy and snuggly charm. If you've ever wanted a dog who can make you laugh, keep you company, and love you endlessly, Jaxx is your guy. If you are interested in meeting with Jaxx or learning more about him please contact Animal Relief Fund (ARF) at 301-866-0303 or visit www.animalrelieffund.org

Knott Family Center Dedicated at St. Mary's Caring

Marks Major Expansion of Community Support Services

By George Alexander
Contributing Writer

Community leaders, nonprofit partners, and members of the Knott family gathered January 21, for the official dedication of the Knott Family Center at St. Mary's Caring, celebrating a transformative expansion of health and social services for residents of St. Mary's County. The ceremony honored the legacy of the late "Bubby" Knott, whose 2022 donation of the building made the center possible.

The event formally renamed the Great Mills facility in Knott's memory and highlighted a growing collaboration between St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen, the Maryland Department of Social Services, and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital—all now sharing space under one roof to better serve vulnerable families.

St. Mary's Caring has operated at the site since 2022, providing warm meals, groceries, and essential assistance. With the new partnerships, the Knott Family Center now offers:

- On-site community health advocates from MedStar
- Blood pressure screenings and dietitian consultations
- A satellite office for the Department of Social Services
- Access to benefit applications, includ-



Photo by Ceandra Scott

- ing SNAP
- Support for residents facing homelessness or domestic violence

Officials say the co-location model removes barriers for residents who may struggle to reach services elsewhere in the county.

County Commissioner Eric Colvin called the center "the pinnacle of what we want to see in partnership," noting that residents who come for meals can now access mul-

iple services in one convenient location. Commissioner Scott Ostrow emphasized that the center exists because of Knott's generosity. "Bubby Knott is the reason this is here," he said. "His legacy lives on by making it possible to serve the community through St. Mary's Caring and the other organizations now sharing this space." Commissioner Mike Hewitt reflected on the building's transformation from its former life as the Brass Rail into a hub of support. "This

is a perfect example of taking something that had its good times and letting it mature into something bigger and better," he said.

Knott's daughters, Karen Siebert and Bobbie Goddard, spoke about their father's lifelong commitment to helping others—often anonymously. They said donating the building outright to St. Mary's Caring aligned perfectly with his values.

"He was a silent giver," Siebert said. "For everything people know about, there were many more things he did that people will never know about."

Executive Director Kristine Millen described the donation as a "beautiful miracle" that allowed the soup kitchen to grow into a broader community resource. She emphasized that many residents served by St. Mary's Caring cannot easily travel to Leonardtown for services, making the center's location essential.

"I hope this is a place of hope, and it all starts with food," Millen said. "Once you have food, you can start thinking beyond a hungry tummy."

The Knott Family Center now stands as a testament to what can be achieved when philanthropy, public agencies, and health-care providers work together. With expanded services and a mission rooted in compassion, the center is poised to strengthen support for families across St. Mary's County for years to come.

County Organizations Provide Aid Through Winter Weather



The St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, Three Oaks Center, St. Mary's Caring, and WARM provided food, warm clothing and shelter for those in need throughout last week's snow storm. Photos by Ceandra Scott.



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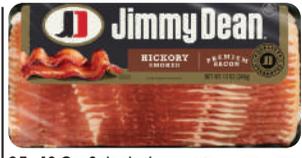
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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Navy Demonstrates AI-Enabled Autonomy for Future Collaborative Combat Aircraft

The U.S. Navy recently completed a second successful demonstration advancing multi-platform coordination of autonomous systems, an essential step toward developing future Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA).

The Dec. 11 event at Point Mugu Sea Range in California focused on maturing manned-unmanned teaming capabilities for CCA, which are intended to extend the reach of carrier air wings and deliver scalable, cost-effective platforms capable of operating in contested environments.

"This demonstration is an important step toward advancing autonomous capabilities for the fleet," said Rear Adm. Tony Rossi, Program Executive Officer for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons (PEO U&W). "Integrating AI-enabled autonomy across manned and unmanned platforms will be critical as the Navy develops next-generation air wing concepts and prepares for more complex operational environments."

PEO U&W's Aerial Targets (PMA-208) and Strike Planning and Execution Systems (PMA-281) program offices led the effort with industry partners Shield AI, Kratos, and CTSI. Shield AI served as lead systems integrator and mission autonomy provider, overseeing platform modifications, payload integration, and technical coordina-



The U.S. Navy's BQM-177A subsonic aerial target launches autonomously from a simulated platform during a Dec. 11 demonstration at Point Mugu Sea Range, California. (U.S. Navy photo)

tion across government and industry. Kratos supplied the aircraft, and CTSI delivered the mission planning and pilot-vehicle interface front end.

During the demonstration, two BQM-177A subsonic aerial targets were flown autonomously using Shield AI's Hivemind software and connected to a Live Virtual Constructive (LVC) environment. This environment included a virtual F/A-18 and two simulated adversary aircraft, allowing real and simulated assets to operate together in the same scenario.

In this setup, the virtual F/A-18 acted as the mission lead, directing the BQM-177As

to defend designated Combat Air Patrol locations. When the simulated adversary aircraft attempted to move into those areas and threaten U.S. forces, the autonomously controlled BQM-177As responded according to their mission tasking.

The event also marked major progress in implementing the Navy's Autonomy Government Reference Architecture (A-GRA) interfaces, which is key to improving interoperability and accelerating the integration of mission autonomy across future unmanned naval platforms.

"The fact that this is the first time we're flying a fully autonomous aircraft in execu-

tion of a mission beyond the visual range of the remote-control operator is laying the foundation for allowing autonomous mission planning in the future," said Veronica Wesson, PMA-281 special projects integrated program team lead. "Being able to accomplish all of this over only a 16-month period using the new agile methods of contracting was a great experience."

This event builds on an August demonstration in which the Navy and Shield AI validated the foundational Advanced Vehicle Control Laws (AVCL) and basic autonomous behaviors required for autonomous control of the BQM-177A.

The Navy and Shield AI plan to conduct additional development and fleet exercises in 2026 and beyond. The use of surrogate platforms like the BQM-177A allows for rapid testing and improvement, providing a cost-effective alternative to operational platforms during early development phases. This approach validates that surrogate platforms accelerate the autonomy testing cycle, ensuring the system can handle real-world conditions, enabling continuous improvement in a cost-efficient and iterative manner.

PMA-208 and PMA-281 fall under the PEO (U&W) and play critical roles in delivering advanced capabilities to the fleet.

NAWCAD WOLF Innovation Ensures Radar System Readiness

Innovation at the Naval Aviation Warfare Center Aircraft Division Webster Outlying Field (NAWCAD WOLF) Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems (ATC&LS) division is saving time and money for the warfighter by providing organic sustainment services for the Navy's primary Shipboard ATC air surveillance radar system, the AN/SPN-43C, in support of the Naval Air Traffic Management Systems Program Office (PMA-213).

Faced with diminishing support from the original equipment manufacturer for the aging AN/SPN-43 radar system—a cornerstone of U.S. Navy aircraft carrier operations since the 1960s—NAWCAD WOLF developed advanced in-house capabilities to repair and overhaul critical components. These efforts have addressed obsolescence challenges head-on, keeping the radar system reliable and effective in supporting complex flight operations.

"Ensuring the operational readiness of our critical systems is a top priority for the Navy, and the AN/SPN-43 radar system is no exception," said Capt. Walter Massenburg, PMA-213 program manager. "The innovative efforts of NAWCAD WOLF exemplify the dedication and ingenuity required to sustain mission-critical capabilities in the face of obsolescence challenges. Their proactive



approach not only extends the service life of this essential system but also reinforces the Navy's commitment to maintaining mission readiness and operational excellence."

A key element of NAWCAD WOLF's initiative is the complete overhaul of the AN/SPN-43C pedestal and antenna assembly—a critical subsystem responsible for the precise rotation and stabilization of the radar antenna. Historically a major source of system downtime and maintenance challenges, the pedestal underwent a transformative process involving full disassembly, detailed inspec-

tions, repair or replacement of worn components, and reassembly, followed by rigorous testing to ensure peak performance. This proactive maintenance strategy has extended the service life of the AN/SPN-43C, reduced catastrophic failures within the pedestal by 70 percent, and significantly improved system reliability while lowering maintenance costs.

"We continuously refine our processes to increase project efficiency with testing and minimizing outsourcing while developing methods to keep repairs organic," said AN/SPN-43C government project lead, Tom

Ackerson. "With our government team providing organic in-service engineering support, we keep both the repair time and cost low."

NAWCAD WOLF also acquired, at no cost, data rights for vital radar receiver components, enabling the team to independently manufacture, repair and modify these parts. This capability mitigates the risk of obsolescence and ensures a reliable supply of spare components, further enhancing the system's sustainability.

Today, NAWCAD WOLF performs the majority of all repair and overhaul activities for the AN/SPN-43C organically, in-house. This capability reduces reliance on external vendors, shortens turnaround times, and provides greater control over quality and cost.

"The ATC&LS division serves as organic repair depot for 92 items in support of the AN/SPN-43C radar," said NAWCAD WOLF executive director, Blaine Summers. "The ability to repair these items versus procuring new items provides a great cost savings to PMA-213 and the Navy."

By sustaining the AN/SPN-43C's operational readiness, NAWCAD WOLF ensures the system remains effective until its planned replacement, the AN/SPN-50, is fully fielded in the coming years.

High School Graduation Rates Released

Calvert Highest, St. Mary's Lowest in So. MD

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released the 2025 state-wide cohort high school graduation rate.

The 2025 four-year cohort graduation rate was 86.4 percent, maintaining the state's overall high position, although slightly lower than the 87.6 percent rate in 2024. Over the past year, rates increased for African American students, individuals from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and those with disabilities. The largest graduation rate decline was among multilingual learners.

In Southern Maryland, Calvert has the highest rate of 93.4 percent and St. Mary's was lowest at 90.01 percent. Charles was in the middle at 92.1 percent.

Calvert high schools graduation rates were as follows: Calvert: 87.4; Huntingtown, Northern, and Patuxent, 95.

In St. Mary's, the high school graduation rates were: Chopticon, 90.02; Great Mills, 83.05 and Leonardtown, 95.

"For all of us who work in education, the ultimate mark of student success is when they walk across the stage on graduation day. We are encouraged by the progress we see among African American students, students with disabilities, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds," said Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools. "These gains reflect the hard work of educators, families, and communities across Maryland to give every student the support they need to succeed."

There were 72,702 students statewide in the 2025 cohort; 62,842 received their diploma within four years. The graduation

rate for African American students rose to 85.8 percent in 2025 from 84.4 percent in 2024. For students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, the figure increased to 83 percent, up from 81.6 percent the previous year.

"While Maryland's graduation outcomes remain strong overall, the State Board is deeply concerned about declines among multilingual learners and Hispanic students," said Dr. Joshua Michael, State Board of Education President. "Heightened political tensions and fear around immigration enforcement erode students' sense of safety and belonging, disrupting learning and pathways to graduation."

The Maryland State Department of Education also released the five-year cohort graduation rate, which is the percentage of students who graduate within five years. Out of the 67,376 students who started ninth grade in the 2020-2021 school year, 89.2 percent graduated by the 2024-2025 school year, an increase from 87.4 percent the prior year.

Maryland's graduation rates follow a cohort of students from their freshman year through their senior year, as required by federal reporting standards. Since the 2020-2021 school year, four-year cohort rates have ranged from 85.8 percent (2023) to 87.6 percent (2024).

Statewide and local data on four-year and five-year cohort graduation rates, as well as the four-year cohort dropout rate, can be found on the Maryland Report Card website.

Press release from MSBE

Delegate Earns Hoyer's Endorsement

Maryland Delegate Adrian Boafó has earned the endorsement of Maryland's senior statesman, Congressman Steny Hoyer.

Congressman Hoyer released the following statement:

"With deep respect for his character, admiration for his experience, and faith in his ability as a leader, I am proud to endorse Adrian Boafó for Representative of Maryland's Fifth District. "I have known Adrian for years. He is as warm as he is smart, as principled as he is pragmatic. He genuinely loves our community and our people.

"Public service defines Adrian. As a member of my staff, he earned Marylanders' trust. It came as no surprise when Adrian's neighbors called on him to represent their interests on the Bowie City Council. Even though he was only 25, Adrian won his race handily because voters knew from experience that he was someone they could count on to resolve their problems.

"Marylanders were so pleased with his performance as Councilman and as Bowie's youngest Mayor Pro Tem in history that they elected him to the Maryland House of Delegates. He won that office without running on a ticket or as part of a slate of candidates. Delegates recognized his capacity for leadership and elected him to serve as Assistant Majority Leader.

"Today, there are Prince Georgians who have access to clean water, military families who are now protected from discrimination, workers who earn higher wages, and countless other Marylanders whose lives are better because of Adrian Boafó.

"Adrian delivers results. He will continue to do so as the Congressman from



Adrian Boafó

Maryland's Fifth District.

"I encourage my fellow Marylanders to support Adrian Boafó for Congress."

Del. Boafó released the following statement, full of gratitude for Hoyer's long legacy of service to Maryland and the country:

"Rep. Steny Hoyer's legacy of service and his ability to get things done for the people is awe inspiring. His endorsement and his confidence in my ability to represent our home in Washington means the world to me. Rep. Hoyer taught me – and so many public servants across the country – the importance of knowing your constituents, how to fight like hell to deliver for them, and how to work with anyone for the common good. I hope to take those lessons to Washington as we work to fortify a promising future for Maryland's Fifth District."

Press release

Public Warming Centers Available Through January 30

Support & Shelter Available for Those in Need

St. Mary's County, Maryland is currently under a Cold Weather Advisory through January 28, 2026. Due to extreme cold in the forecast, St. Mary's County Government is announcing the availability of warming centers for the public from Tuesday, January 27, 2026, through Friday, January 30, 2026. Residents who need to take refuge in a warm place can go to one of the following locations:

- **Charlotte Hall Library**
37600 New Market Rd., Charlotte Hall
9 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Monday – Thursday)
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Friday – Saturday)
- **Garvey Senior Activity Center**
23630 Hayden Farm Ln., Leonardtown
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Monday – Thursday)
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Friday)
- **Leonardtown Library**
23630 Hayden Farm Ln., Leonardtown
9 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Monday – Thursday)

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Friday – Saturday)

- **Lexington Park Library**
21677 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park
9 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Monday – Thursday)
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Friday – Saturday)
1 p.m. – 5 p.m. (Sunday)
- **Loffler Senior Activity Center**
21905 Chancellor's Run Rd., Great Mills
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
- **Northern Senior Activity Center**
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd., Charlotte Hall
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
- **St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen**
20331 Point Lookout Rd., Great Mills
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Saturday)
- **Three Oaks Center**
46905 Lei Dr., Lexington Park
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Monday – Friday)

Note: Times listed above are normal

business hours and may change. Centers are located in public facilities; if St. Mary's County Government administrative offices close due to inclement weather, these warming center locations will follow those operations and will also be closed.

The Wrapping Arms 'Round Many (WARM) program offers emergency overnight shelter for those in need during the coldest months of the year. Questions or referrals for WARM services should be directed to the Three Oaks Center at (240) 577-0702.

Additionally, the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services (DSS) provides support to meet the housing needs of high-risk community members, including individuals experiencing homelessness. If community members have concerns about shelter, please contact DSS at (240) 895-

7000 for assistance.

Visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather for tips on staying safe during extreme cold. Always remember to check on your neighbors and loved ones, especially if they are elderly or have functional needs.

Knowing what to do before, during, and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count. To learn about potential disasters and hazards, and how to be prepared and stay informed, please visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/es.

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

Press release from St. Mary's County Government



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NTSB Release Findings on Deadly Mid-Air Plane Crash



Andrew Eaves



Alexander Huffman



Jesse Pitcher



Charles McDaniel



Jonathan Boyd



Michael Stovall



Robert Prewitt



Steven Johnson



Thomas Clagett

By George Alexander
Contributing Writer

One year after the tragic mid-air collision over the Washington, D.C. region that claimed the lives of several Southern Maryland men, federal investigators, aviation officials, and family members gathered this week for a detailed briefing on the official findings of the crash.

The meeting, held just days before the one-year anniversary of the January 29, 2025 accident, provided the first full public explanation of what led to the catastrophic collision that stunned families across St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles counties.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board's final report, the crash was caused by a combination of pilot miscommunication, air-traffic control sequencing

errors, and limited visibility during a period of rapidly changing weather conditions.

Investigators said the two aircraft — a privately operated twin-engine plane carrying several Southern Maryland residents and a smaller single-engine aircraft on approach to a regional airport — converged on the same airspace after receiving conflicting instructions.

The NTSB cited:

- Incorrect altitude assignments issued within seconds of each other
- Failure of one aircraft to maintain assigned heading
- Reduced situational awareness due to cloud cover and glare
- A breakdown in radio communication clarity during a congested traffic period

The combination of these factors left both pilots with less than 10 seconds to react —

not enough time to avoid impact.

For the families of the Southern Maryland men who perished, the briefing was emotional but necessary. Several relatives attended in person, while others joined virtually.

Officials emphasized that the victims were not at fault, noting that both pilots were operating within the instructions they believed they had been given.

One family member, speaking after the meeting, said the findings “finally give us answers, even if they're painful.”

The NTSB outlined several recommendations aimed at preventing similar tragedies, including:

- Improved controller training for high-density airspace
- Enhanced collision-avoidance technology for small aircraft
- Clearer standardized phraseology for

altitude and heading changes

- Expanded use of real-time weather visibility alerts

Federal aviation officials said some of these measures are already being implemented.

The crash deeply affected families across Southern Maryland where the victims were well-known as business owners, volunteers, and longtime residents. Several local churches held remembrance services this week, and flags at multiple county buildings were lowered in their honor.

As the anniversary passes, the release of the final report brings a measure of closure — and a renewed commitment to improving aviation safety so that such a tragedy is never repeated.

State Approves Funds to Protect 56.7 Acres Along McKay's Cove

By George Alexander
Contributing Writer

A 56.7-acre expanse of forest and farmland along McKay's Cove will now be permanently preserved, following the approval of more than \$405,000 in Maryland Rural Legacy Program funds. The decision, finalized this week by the Maryland Board of Public Works, marks another significant investment in protecting Southern Maryland's natural landscapes and working agricultural heritage.

The funding was awarded to the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Board, which will acquire a conservation easement on the Keeton property, located within the Mattapani Rural Legacy Area. The easement ensures the land will remain undeveloped, safeguarding both its ecological value and its role in the county's rural character.

The Keeton property includes a mix of productive farmland, mature forest, and approximately 2,800 feet of shoreline along McKay's Cove, a tributary of the Potomac River. The easement will protect vegetative buffers, wildlife habitat, and water quality in a region recognized for its environmental significance.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources notes that the Mattapani Rural Legacy Area contains some of the most pristine estuarine environments on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay. Conservation



in this area also provides a natural buffer for Naval Air Station Patuxent River, helping maintain compatible land use around the installation.

The total easement value is listed at \$488,300.40, or roughly \$8,612 per acre. Funding includes a 25 percent local match from St. Mary's County totaling \$122,075.10, demonstrating continued county support for long-term land preservation.

Additional administrative and compliance costs bring the total project investment

to just over \$39,000

This latest approval adds to a growing portfolio of protected land in the Mattapani Rural Legacy Area. The state previously invested \$1.45 million in 2021 and \$570,201 in 2022 for similar easement acquisitions, steadily expanding the network of preserved farmland, wetlands, and forest.

Since its designation in 2006, the Mattapani Rural Legacy Area has become a model for collaborative conservation, supported by partnerships among the Navy,

DNR, St. Mary's County, and the Southern Maryland RC&D Board.

By securing the Keeton property under permanent conservation, state and local officials say they are protecting not only natural resources but also the rural identity that defines southern St. Mary's County.

The easement ensures that the land — its fields, forests, and shoreline — will remain intact for future generations, contributing to cleaner waterways, healthier ecosystems, and a stronger agricultural landscape.

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Potomac Sewage Spill 'One of the Biggest' in U.S. History, Says Riverkeeper

MD Officials Say No Adverse Impact on St. Mary's is Apparent

By Tim Flaherty
Contributing Writer

Maryland environmental officials say there is no immediate adverse impact on St. Mary's County waterways because of last week's major sewage spill on the Potomac River in Montgomery County.

However, Dean Naujoks, the Potomac Riverkeeper with the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, said everyone along the river should be concerned. "This is one of the biggest raw sewage spills, that I'm aware of, in US history," he told the County Times on Wednesday.

Last week, a major sewage line that carries raw sewage from Northern Virginia and Montgomery County to the Blue Plains treatment plant in Washington, DC, ruptured near the Clara Barton Parkway within the C&O Canal National Historic Park. Raw sewage, estimated to be more than 300 million gallons worth as of this Wednesday, has flowed into the Potomac River at a point near Swainson Island. Crews from DC Water have worked to direct the flow into a dry portion of the old C&D Canal and back into the sewer system. Crews have been hampered by the extreme winter weather but reported this week they have almost stemmed the flow into the Potomac.

Water samples collected near Lockhouse 10 along the Potomac River revealed *E. coli* concentrations nearly 12,000 times higher than limits considered safe for human contact, according to the Riverkeeper group.

Residents in Loudon and Fairfax counties, Virginia, and Montgomery County, Maryland, have been asked to reduce the number of toilet flushes they perform to help ease the situation.

"I just don't think anybody knows what type of impact this will have on the



A researcher with Potomac Riverkeeper Network takes a sample of water flowing into the Potomac River near the site of last week's raw sewage spill in Montgomery County. Photos by Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Potomac River," Naujoks said. "There may be a delayed release because a lot of this is bound up tight in the ice. No. Does that lead to algae blooms later or low dissolved oxygen levels? I think it remains to be seen what type of impact this might have."

As a precaution, shellfish harvesting is currently prohibited by the State of Maryland on the Potomac River between the Port Tobacco River and the Rt. 301 Bridge in Charles County.

"At this time," said Jay Apperson from the Maryland Department of the Environment on Wednesday, "we have no evidence that shellfish outside of the defined emergency closure area have been affected." Apperson explained that the state has used a computer simulation to establish shell fishing areas that might be affected by the spill, and he



A National Park Service sign warns visitors away from a stream leading to the Potomac River in the C&O Canal Historic National Historic Park in Montgomery County.

stressed the closure was made out of an abundance of caution. "We're also planning to collect water samples in shellfish harvesting areas this week once boat ramps can be accessed."

Naujoks expressed displeasure that Potomac Riverkeeper Network, a watchdog non-profit that promotes clean water and safe environmental practices in the Potomac and Shenandoah watersheds, has been the only organization doing actual water testing on the Potomac in the wake of the spill. "My frustration is that... we are the only ones out here sampling." He said. "We haven't even gotten DC to issue a public health advisory, and they are only five miles from a 300-million-gallon sewage spill."

He went on to say that more data is needed in the wake of this unprecedented

event. "We are only sampling down to National Harbor, right by the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. It's only 100 miles down to the Bay. What happens to this sewage in two weeks? Or in two months? I don't know," Naujoks said. "This is unprecedented."

Naujoks also expressed concern that DC Water, a public utility that serves water and sewer customers in the District of Columbia and close-in suburbs, appears to be directing the clean-up response. "DC Water, who is responsible for this massive sewage spill, is the one who's coordinating and leading all the agencies, including the EPA, on the response. DC Water has a vested interest in making this go away. I think it's a real problem. They are not a public health agency. I want the public health agencies to step up and do their jobs."

Naujoks did credit the Maryland Department of the Environment for taking the precautionary measure to close the shell fishing areas in Charles County. "I thought it was a good call to be protective of public health. We would just need a lot more information and data."

Naujoks also said environmentalists from the University of Maryland have also been taking water quality measurements alongside the Riverkeepers this week.

When asked how concerned watermen and waterfront residents in St. Mary's County should be, he said, "I think people have the right to feel concerned. I would just urge people to contact, the Maryland Department of Public Health, or an elected official, specifically, and asked for additional samples downriver. Potomac Riverkeeper Network cannot be responsible for all the data and information that comes out."

Apperson, the state spokesman, said there is no threat to drinking water in wake of the accident.

Commissioners Tackle Public Safety, Land Use and Transit

By George Alexander
Contributing Writer

The St. Mary's County Commissioners convened for their first full business meeting of 2026 on Tuesday, January 27, at 11am due to weather-related delays earlier in the morning. County operations were on liberal leave, and several county offices opened late because of a Cold Weather Advisory, but the board met its quorum and moved through a substantial agenda of proclamations, policy decisions, planning discussions and legal updates.

After the invocation the Commissioners approved the consent agenda and turned to a formal proclamation recognizing National Burn Awareness Week, emphasizing community education, fire prevention and the contributions of emergency responders and medical personnel. Commissioner Mike

Alderson delivered the proclamation underscoring the importance of Burn Prevention at home, work and recreational settings.

The commissioners acted on two key departmental requests:

Fire Tax Public Hearing Authorization: The Department of Finance requested — and the Commission approved — authorization for the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department to hold a public hearing on February 24, 2026 to consider an increase in the fire tax rate, a pivotal part of funding volunteer fire services countywide.

Land Use Text Amendment: The Department of Land Use & Growth Management sought approval to schedule a public hearing on, a proposed amendment to allow in the Resource Conservation Area (RCA) Critical Area Overlay District — a change that could affect development and conservation designations in environmen-

tally sensitive zones.

During the County Administrator's portion of the meeting, Commissioners heard updates and took actions on a variety of operational and strategic issues:

Draft Agendas: The board reviewed tentative agendas for upcoming meetings on February 3 and February 10, 2026, keeping the Commission's work schedule on track.

School Capacity Briefing: Staff from Land Use & Growth Management provided a briefing on adequate public facilities and school capacity, a planning issue tied to growth and future capital projects.

Airport Grant Award: Commissioners approved acceptance of the State Bond Bill Grant (24-418) for improvements at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport, supporting ongoing infrastructure development and operational readiness.

Transit Safety Plan: The board endorsed

the St. Mary's Transit System (STS) Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) annual update, a federally required safety framework for county transit services.

Property and Sidewalk Agreements: Two option contracts with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) were approved that allow for the disposition of real property at the Governmental Center and Board of Elections sites to facilitate future sidewalk improvements.

Community Reinvestment Discussion: Commissioners engaged in a preliminary discussion on the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund, a topic tied to economic development and local revitalization efforts.

Following the administrator's briefings, the Office of the County Attorney delivered a legislative update, outlining proposed state and local legal issues affecting county governance.

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“THE PINNACLE OF WHAT WE WANT TO SEE IN PARTNERSHIP”

COMMISSIONER ERIC COLVIN ON MULTI-ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIP AT THE NEWLY-DEDICATED KNOTT FAMILY CENTER



LOCAL 3
Massive sewage spill in Montgomery County contaminate Potomac River



LOCAL 5
NTSB releases findings on last year's Washington, D.C. plane crash



ON THE COVER
Community resource facility dedicated in memory of Bubby Knott

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JAN 29 Mostly Sunny Hi: 28° Lo: 12°	FRI, JAN 30 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 27° Lo: 13°	SAT, JAN 31 Cloudy Hi: 24° Lo: 15°	SUN, FEB 1 Cloudy Hi: 27° Lo: 17°
MON, FEB 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 36° Lo: 19°	TUE, FEB 3 Mostly Sunny Hi: 37° Lo: 21°	WED, FEB 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 39° Lo: 28°	THU, FEB 5 Partly Cloudy Hi: 41° Lo: 25°



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Photo by Ceandra Scott