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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

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J.S.

TIKI BAR KICKS OFF ITS 46TH SEASON

Photo by J.S. Icaza with Solomons Island Photography

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 9	FRI, APR 10	SAT, APR 11	SUN, APR 12
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 42°	 Sunny Hi: 71° Lo: 56°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 70° Lo: 49°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 65° Lo: 54°
MON, APR 13	TUE, APR 14	WED, APR 15	THU, APR 16
 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 64°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 68°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 68°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 61°



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Data Center Moratorium Fails on 3-2 Vote

County Will Rely on Text Amendments for Protections

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The majority of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) have turned down a proposal advanced by Commissioner Mike Hart and supported by Commissioner Catherine Grasso for a two-year moratorium on data centers.

Instead, at the BOCC April 7 meeting the majority supported the plan of action articulated by Commissioner Mark Cox to control the data centers with restrictions in zoning ordinance text amendments. Those amendments, originally suggested by Cox and Commissioner Buddy Hance, are currently being considered by the planning commission. Noise restrictions and requiring an independent environmental impact study would be added before they come back to the commissioners for a hearing.

Although Hart's motion failed early in the more than three-hour session, he continued to argue for it in hopes of securing a third vote that never came.

At the end of the session on data centers, the commissioners heard multiple members of the public, both in person and virtually who criticized the decision to bypass the moratorium.

Hart's motion that failed: "I move the commissioner's direct staff to prepare and bring forward a draft ordinance implementing previously approved parameters for an

immediate temporary moratorium on the data center development for a period of 24 months. This moratorium shall apply to all approvals, permits, rezonings, site plan reviews, construction authorizations, and any other official actions related to a data center development until an independent, comprehensive environmental impact study evaluating land, air, and water impact is completed and presented to the public."

Prior to the vote, Hance wanted to know if any of the studies requested by Hart had already been done by the companies proposing the data centers. He responded, "Going back to what was requested when the Dominion (LNG) project was done, the community was very upset that even though Dominion had done those same things, the community had demanded its own independent one, but no one was ever made available or done for them. This is not to make the mistakes of the past."

Director of Planning and Zoning Jason Brinkley observed, "The planning commission can put certain reasonable, additional restrictions and requirements or requests."

Although Amazon Web Services (AWS) hasn't submitted a plan locally, they did submit a potential plan to the state that includes seven buildings at three sites at Calvert Cliffs. Natelli Holdings is proposing four buildings on county owned land.

Cox prevailed on a motion on how to use data center revenue. He said of the

Dominion LNG project, "We have not been fiscally responsible with that tax revenue from that facility. If you want to be totally honest, we have kids left behind from our CTA (Career and Technology Academy) school. We have school facilities that need some help. We have a hospital with needs in newly formed departments. We have communities out here that need support from the county, our shorelines, our septic needs.

"So, with that in mind of us being not fiscal with that money...I move that the board of county commissioners direct the county administrator and the CFO of the Department of Finance and Budget to conduct a feasibility study and develop a policy framework for the dedication of any additional tax revenue generated by any data center development. This study shall explore the legal and fixed fiscal mechanisms for allotting a portion of the revenue to:

- "Property tax relief, providing a direct reduction in the county real property tax for all residents.
- "Two, fiscal sustainability increase the county general fund (to) balance reserves to maintain a high credit rating and a rainy-day fund.
- "Three, educational investment to provide supplemental county contributions to the Calvert County Public schools to address capital and operational needs.
- "And four, community mitigation. Establish a fund for infrastructure, environmental and quality of life projects throughout our county."

Cox's motion passed with three votes, with Hart and Grasso abstaining.

Cox also prevailed in a motion to remove data center from the light industrial zones scattered throughout the county, thus effectively limiting them to the heavy industrial land in south county.

Throughout the meeting Hart continued to press his opinions, often punctuated by applause from the mostly partisan audience.

The next step comes next Wednesday, April 15 when the planning commission addresses the proposed text amendments.

During the public forum, most speakers supported the moratorium, including a spokesperson for the residents who live along Camp Conoy Road, which abuts the



Commissioner Mark Cox

Constellation (Calvert Cliffs) property.

John Kirkwood offered a unique perspective: "I worked on the draft environmental impact statements for Calvery Cliffs. I was a supervisor of the draft environmental impact statement for Bell Penn Unit One up in Susquehanna. And I just recently retired from completing the construction of Units 3 and 4 down in Georgia. And I was the lead regulatory affairs engineer for all the amendments we had to make to build the plans.

"And the thing that you've got to protect us from, there's a unique hazard to these data centers. And it's a heat island. The temperature could be as much as 17 degrees higher around the data center. And it's also a 500-megawatt load. I've gone through all the meetings, and I've seen the presentations that they have on the county website, and they're going to purchase the power in a manner of such that it won't raise our rates.

"You can't pull 500 megawatts off the PJM and not affect the price of electricity."

"The other hazard," he said, "is going to be how are they going to cool these things? I'm not real confident what I saw on the one that's going next to the Cliffs using the discharge from the power plant and the effect on the groundwater, particularly on our aquifer. Those are unique hazards that I really implore on the county to protect us, looking at these hazards."

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Bond Rating Budget Reserve Questioned

Decision Delayed on Capital Projects

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

One of the three national bond rating agencies is requiring a 35 percent cash reserves for government entities in order to get a Triple A bond rating. Having the highest bond rating gives Calvert County a lower interest rate when they go to the bond market.

Faced with decisions about whether to add some projects to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), one commissioner has questioned whether the bond rating is worth it when it means withholding monies for some needed projects or instead having to raise taxes.

Commissioner Mike Hart made the comments when his pet project, turf fields at the four high schools, appeared on a list of projects that may have to be withheld due to lack of money.

Danielle Russell, Capital Improvement Projects and Grants manager, told the county commissioners at their April 7 meeting, "Debt is not a standalone issue, it's one part of the county's overall budget. It directly affects our ability to fund services, maintain infrastructure, and manage taxes. And most importantly, the decisions we make today impact our financial flexibility in the future."

She added, "Debt is simply the county's version of a long-term loan similar to a mortgage, but unlike a household, we are borrowing to finance public infrastructure, things like schools, roads, and public safety facilities that serve the community for many years."

Russel said, "Using Fiscal Year 2027 as an example, debt service is anticipated to be roughly 4 percent of the county's overall expenditures, adding, "Debt decisions are not made in isolation. They're part of a broader plan of finance. That includes financial modeling, timing, market conditions, debt structure, and its impact on our credit rating. So, when we talk about debt, we are really talking about a long-term financial strategy, not a one-time decision."

Russell added, "Our fund balance, our reserves is a key driver of financial strength.

We're currently at around 37 percent of revenue, which slightly exceeds Moody's most conservative rating agency benchmark of 35 percent. This is a major reason we maintain our Triple A rating. Our fund balance contains three categories, committed, assigned, and unassigned funds. Committed is for our stabilization agreement. Assigned is for governance identified uses and unassigned is flexible and can be used for any lawful purpose."

The commissioners deferred a decision on several infrastructure projects to give staff time to do a cost-benefit analysis on the advantages of the higher reserve versus cost of deferring a project.

Those capital projects are:

- A new St. Leonard (fire and rescue) facility;
- Additional volunteer, fire, rescue, and EMS apparatus;
- Turf fields at all four-county high schools;
- The Armory Pavilion and
- Restoration work at the Cove Point Lighthouse.

"Each of these reflects a valid operational or community need," Russell said, adding, "The question is not whether these projects have merit. The question is how and when do they fit within our financial capacity."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso wanted an explanation of the bond rating, "I think the public sees \$145 million in fund balance and says, you've got the money. Could you explain why we really don't have the money and what that available fund balance is in there for, what could we possibly use that for?"

Mary Andes, director of budget, explained, "That committed \$35 million, that is set aside in case there's, God forbid, a horrible incident in the county that those funds are set aside to pay for that. The \$5 million is for compensated absences, I believe...has been set aside for quite some time. The assigned balance of \$4 million, those are the dollars that are available for use."

Achieving the Triple A bond rating puts Calvert in a select group. Russell said, "I believe the number right now is there's 54

municipalities, counties in the US that have a AAA rating."

Hart said, "So to keep Moody's (the bond rater) happy to stay on that track, every additional dollar that we gain in the budget, we are going to have to take 35 cents and basically park it."

Hart added, "If you want to stay on that path, and that's a philosophy and that's what the vote is, you are going to commit to having to put 35 percent of every additional dollar into an account. What do you do with it? You've already collected tax money from people. So, are you walking down a road where you're committed to either one, not doing as many projects, not funding as many things, or committing to raising taxes every year? So, what is it? Because our fund balance grew \$9 million last year...and we would have to take \$3 million of that and park it and just look at it when we could actually do a onetime purchase, which they used to call PayGo and what have you, take it from the general fund, buy it and be done with it, not paying interest on it or anything."

Hart said the county used to have a Double A bond rating and seemed to survive. He said Moody's is calling the shots and the other two bond rating agencies are considerably lower than 35 percent.

Grasso said, "I for one am glad we have this \$145 million, because for the public that doesn't know, we are about to give an additional \$6 million to the BOE. That means that over four years we've given \$40 million



Commissioner Mike Hart

to the BOE. We are about to incur teacher's retirements that will come down to us. It's a trickle-down effect because the federal government is sending more to the state. The state is sending more to the counties. This is an election year, and Governor Moore is going easy on us this year."

The county is currently doing debt financing at 15 years. Deputy County Administrator Stephen McGibbon said one option for the staff to consider is going to 20 years. He said, "I don't think it's a threat to your triple AAA rating."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Calvert County Prescription Medication

Take-Back Day

Saturday, April 25, 2026
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

No questions asked!

- Remove unused and expired medications from your home.
- Keep prescription medications from being abused.
- Prevention, treatment and recovery information will be available.
- Deter medication drug disposal packets will be available free of charge for county residents. The packets allow medications to be deactivated and thrown in your household trash. Limit of three packets per family, while supplies last.

Drop Off Locations:

Northeast Community Center
4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach

Southern Community Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby

24/7 Prescription Drug Drop Boxes located at:

Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO)
30 Church Street, Prince Frederick

CCSO District 1 Location
10500 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Dunkirk

Maryland State Police, Barrack "U"
210 Main Street, Prince Frederick

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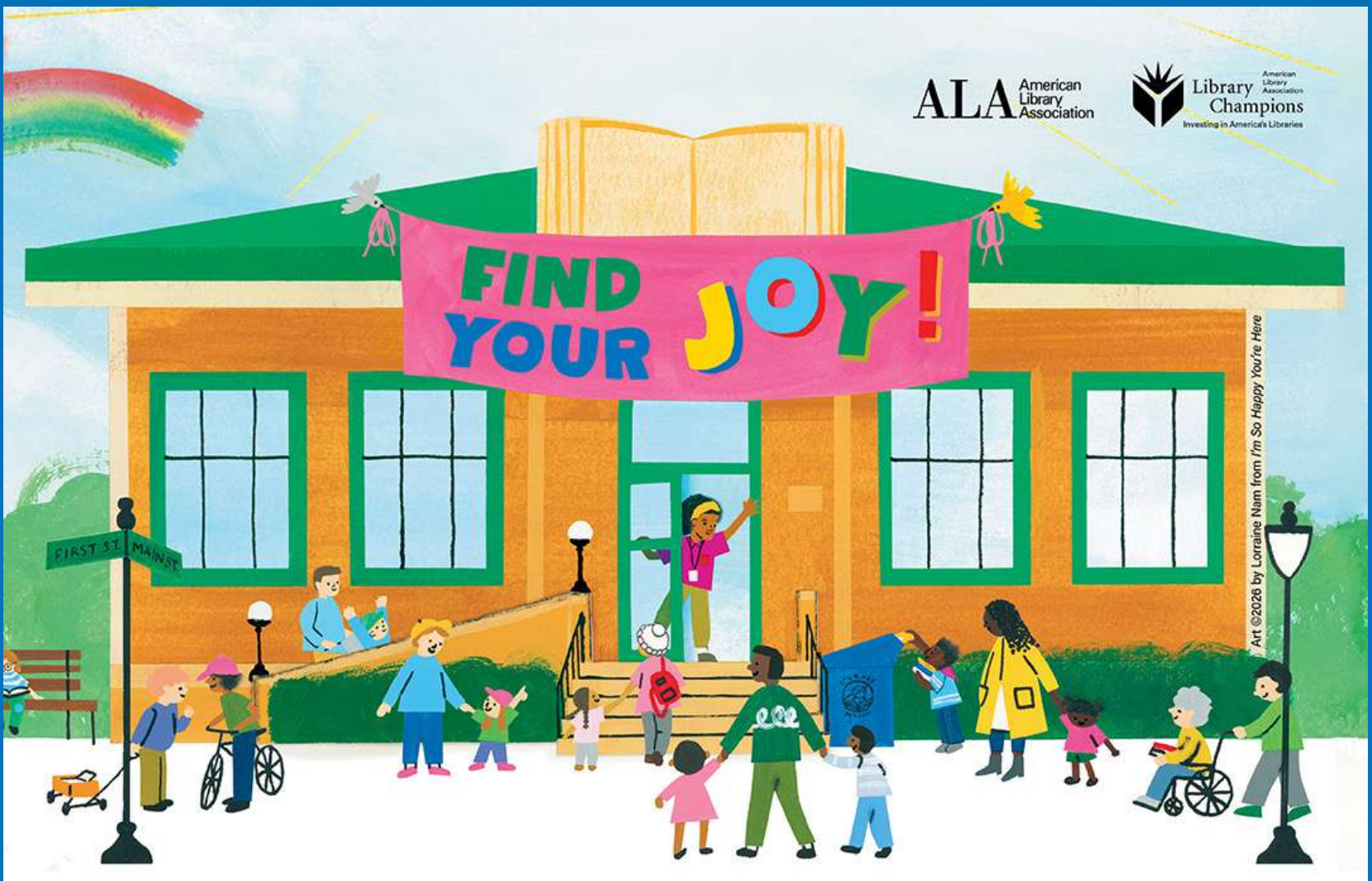
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Commissioners Recognize Those 'On the Spectrum'

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

April is Autism Awareness Month, and the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners marked the occasion on April 7th by issuing a proclamation during a presentation.

Christine Finamore said, "I'm a county employee. I'm also a mom of an adult with autism. He is in class. This is the first year he can't be here. It's a little strange. This is the 14th year of recognition in our community, and we truly appreciate your continued support."

She added, "Autism Spectrum Disorders or autism refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, communication, and repetitive behaviors. It's important to understand autism as a spectrum. It looks different for every individual. It's often accompanied by other fun challenges like sensory issues, gastrointestinal issues, seizures, sleep disorders, mental health concerns, such as anxiety, depression, and attention depression difficulties to name a few. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Autism affects approximately one in 31 children in the US today.

"Diagnosis is complex. There's no single medical test. Doctors rely on developmental behavior and observation. One of the most important things to remember is if you've met an individual with autism, you've met exactly one individual with autism. Some are able to fully self-advocate and live independently. Some are non-verbal.

That's why early screening and intervention is critical. If you have concerns about your child's development, please parents talk to your pediatrician. Talk to your child's teacher, talk to your daycare provider. That's how I learned a lot about autism. Learn the early signs.

"Speaking as a parent, I can tell you the process is overwhelming. It takes time. It's



intimidating. But if you take that first step, that's the best thing you can do. If a parent listening to this today is intimidated about talking to their teacher or going to their pediatrician, or going to their first IEP meeting, call me and I'll go with you."

Finamore observed, "Calvert County Public Schools is a fantastic resource. Our experience was great. We started with Infants and Toddlers and then Child Find programming, and then individualized education plans, also known as IEPs. Calvert County Parks and Recreation through therapeutic Recreation Programming, Pathfinders for autism is the largest autism resource center in Maryland. Calvert County Sheriff's Office is another great resource, and they've received training from organizations like Pathfinders. The ARC of Southern Maryland. These are just a few that have resources in Calvert County."

"Individuals with autism are smart, they're capable, they're coachable, they're employable," she insisted, using her son who works at the golf course as an example.

Ashton Felton, chairperson of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC), said "At this time, I think of the quote by Temple Grandin – 'The world needs minds of all kinds to work together.' Many different abilities, viewpoints and backgrounds are needed to have a rich and diverse community. SECAC is committed to

embodying this. We are parents, caregivers, CCPS teachers, support staff leaders and supervisors, related service providers and community resources that come together for one goal. And that is to improve the lives and education of children and young adults with disabilities in our community.

"We bridge communication gaps, facilitate meaningful conversations surrounding staffing supports and services, and assist in resource referrals if needed.

"Autism awareness and acceptance is not confined to one month out of the year. It's 24/7/365 for many families, including my own. I'm a mom of four. My eldest daughter is autistic. Through our own personal journey (it was) very overwhelming and in sharing journeys with many other families across Calvert (over) the years, it is profoundly important to remind you to foster a culture of inclusivity, understanding and support, as well as making sure your constituents have a fully funded school system. Ample ability for continuing and expanding parks and recreation programming. Shout out to therapeutic recreation and our first responders and health services staff equipped to aid the minds of all kinds in their home county, not in distant counties. It's important to ensure that there's a collaboration between county leaders and educational partners, like Infants and Toddlers, Child Find, and school system's staff, and secondary transition and job

development, and the disability resources that are local to Calvert.

"There is also the continual need to support welcoming and growth of businesses that support the disability community."

Joy Weir, with the Therapeutic Recreation of Calvert County Parks and Recreation, touted their swimming program. She said, "Many of you may hear about children with autism that wander towards the water. And according to the National Autism Association, children with autism are 160 times more likely to wander and drown because of not being able to swim or save themselves in water 160 times! That's just outrageous that that amount of children could drown with autism. So, we are committed in Calvert County to make sure that doesn't happen in our county. We have a wonderful group of swim instructors at the Aquatic Center that are dedicated to providing adaptive swim lessons. We provide 70 children of all ages."

Weir added, "Adaptive swim lessons aren't like just regular swim lessons. There are some children that don't like to be touched, some children that don't like the water and are very afraid of water. But our main goal is to make sure they are safe in and around the water, so we have no drownings in Calvert County."

Commissioner Mark Cox, who read the proclamation, said, "Autism spectrum disorder, ASD, or autism is the fastest growing serious development disability resulting from a neurological disorder, hindering a person's ability to communicate, respond to surroundings effectively, problem solve, and form relationships with others. Autism is referred as a disorder because it's in social interaction, verbal medical conditions, as well as restricted and repetitive behaviors. Autism can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and tension and issues with mental and medical health."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Routine Bridge Maintenance Scheduled

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will perform routine maintenance on two State-maintained bridges in southern Maryland this month.

The bridges are:

- Sunday morning April 12: MD 4 (Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge) bridge at the Calvert County/St. Mary's County line;
- Sunday morning April 26: MD 231 (Hallowing Point Road) bridge at the Calvert County/Charles County line.

In each instance, crews will close one lane at 6 a.m. and direct drivers using a flagging operation. The lane will open to traffic no later than 2 p.m. each afternoon, weather permitting. Drivers should plan extra driving time.

Maintenance crews will clean the drain-

age systems and the bridge decks (driving surface). Drivers will be guided using a flagging operation. Portable variable message signs will provide advanced notification of the work. Customers may contact the District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or 1-800-331-5603 with any questions.

The State Highway Administration is Serious About Safety. Pedestrians and motorists are urged to remain alert and avoid distractions when traveling through the work zone. Motorists should obey all posted speed limits. Motorists can dial #77 on their mobile devices for roadside assistance.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, news and travel information, visit roads.maryland.gov.

Press Release from MD SHA

Community Health Needs Assessment Now Open

Community Members Invited to Shape the Future of Health in Calvert County

CalvertHealth and The Calvert County Health Department, in partnership with community partners across the county, have officially launched the 2026 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Survey. The survey is open to individuals who live or work in Calvert County.

Conducted every three years, the Community Health Needs Assessment gathers valuable input from the community to better understand local health concerns, challenges and priorities. The results play a critical role in shaping health programs, funding decisions and community initiatives for the next three years.

Community members are encouraged to participate and share their perspectives.

Whether you live in Calvert County or work in the area, your voice is essential.

"The feedback we receive through this survey directly impacts how we plan and deliver services," said Kara Harrer, Associate Vice President, Ancillary Services at CalvertHealth. "We want to ensure that our efforts reflect the real needs of our community."

The brief survey takes just a few minutes to complete and will remain open through April 27.

To participate, visit: CalvertHealthMedicine.org/CHNA

Press release from CalvertHealth

Your Voice Shapes What Happens Next.

Take a Brief Survey to Help
Guide Health Priorities
in Calvert County!

Every three years, we ask Calvert residents and workers to share what matters most.

Your feedback helps guide funding decisions, community programs and health initiatives for the years ahead.

**If you live here.
If you work here.
We want to hear from you.**

**Complete the Community Health
Needs Assessment survey by April 27!
Scan or visit CalvertHealthMedicine.org/CHNA**



CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of March 16, 2026–March 22, 2026, Calvert County Sheriff’s Office Deputies responded to 2,224 calls for service throughout the community, including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 72
- Disorderly: 23
- Domestic: 29
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 28
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 1026
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 28
- Traffic Complaints: 71
- Traffic Stops: 359
- 911 Hang-Ups: 61

Damaged Property: 26-26381 On March 21, 2026, Deputy Armbruster responded to the 100 block of Calvert Beach Road in St. Leonard for a reported firearms complaint. The complainant advised that sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on March 20, an unknown individual fired a bullet through the front window of the residence. Upon arrival, deputies observed a hole in the upper left pane of the front window, next to the front door, consistent with a bullet strike. While inside the home, deputies located a hole in a kitchen cabinet directly in line with the window damage. The size of the hole and the number of items penetrated are consistent with a rifle round. No injuries were reported. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$400.00.

Damaged Property: 26-26537 On March 21, 2026, DFC Fleenor responded to a residence in the 700 block of Ox Bow Lane in Lusby for a report of property destruction. The complainant advised that an unknown individual had fired a BB gun at the front windows of the residence. Upon arrival, deputies observed a small brass BB lodged between the windowpanes. The estimated value of the damage is between \$300 and \$500.

Theft: 26-26075 On March 20, 2026, at approximately 10:26 a.m., DFC Lewis responded to 73 Sherry Lane, Prince

Frederick, MD, for a reported theft. The complainant advised that on March 19, 2026, at approximately 8:32 p.m., an unidentified male entered the establishment, took a bottle of D’Ussé Cognac and a bottle of Casamigos, and left the store without making payment. The suspect is described as a Black male wearing a black jacket and blue jeans. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$63.00.

Theft: 26-26250 On March 20, 2026, at approximately 9:24 p.m., DFC Claggett was dispatched to Giant, located at 10790 Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk, for a reported theft. The complainant advised that a male entered the store, retrieved a box of bananas, and dumped the contents onto the floor, leaving the box partially empty. The suspect then filled the box with various meats, including six packages of Beef Top Round, six London Broils, and twelve Salmon Fillets, totaling \$889.31. The suspect fled the store without paying and yelled profanities at a store associate while exiting. He was described as a black male, approximately 5’6” in height, weighing between 120–150 lbs., and wearing all black clothing. The suspect was observed entering a gold Hyundai before leaving the area. This case remains under investigation.

Theft: 26-26354 On March 21, 2026, at approximately 9:16 a.m., Deputy Parrott responded to the 8600 block of Baywalk Square in Chesapeake Beach for a reported theft. The complainant reported that an iPhone 17 had been delivered via FedEx; however, when the package was opened, it was found to be empty. The phone’s estimated value was \$1,250.00. Later that same day, Deputy Parrott responded to the 2200 block of 5th Street in Owings for a second reported theft. In this incident, the complainant also reported ordering an iPhone 17 delivered by FedEx, and upon opening the package, discovered it was empty. The estimated value of the phone was \$1,470.00. This case remains under investigation.



Robert Lee Andujar



Joshua Dillard Andujar

Theft: 26-26245 On March 20 at approximately 9:06 a.m., DFC Crum responded to Walmart, located at 50 North Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for a reported theft. An investigation revealed that **Robert Lee Andujar**, 46, of Lusby, and his son, **Joshua Dillard Andujar**, 23, of Lusby, were observed stealing merchandise from the store. Deputies made contact with Joshua inside the store, where multiple unopened packs of NFL cards were located in his pockets. Contact was then made with Robert at his vehicle. In plain view, deputies observed multiple opened and unopened packs of NFL cards inside the vehicle. Deputies also observed a rolled dollar bill covered in a white powdery substance. Robert advised that the substance was heroin and fentanyl. Both individuals were placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Joshua Dillard Andujar

was charged with Theft: \$100 to under \$1,500 (Shoplifting). Robert Lee Andujar was charged with Theft: Less than \$100 and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

Theft: 26-26478 On March 21, 2026, DFC Crum responded to the Giant located at 655 North Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick for a reported theft. The complainant advised that at approximately 4:15 p.m., a male suspect exited the store with a shopping cart filled with merchandise. The items included multiple Tide detergent canisters and three 12-packs of Bounty paper towels. The suspect was described as a white male, approximately 5’11” tall, weighing around 160 lbs., and wearing light blue jeans, a gray sweatshirt, and a white cap. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$435.00. This case remains under investigation.

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

Prince Frederick Woman Dies in Harwood Accident

By Tim Flaherty
Contributing Writer

A Prince Frederick woman died of injuries sustained in a traffic accident in Harwood on Tuesday morning. Anne Arundel County Police say 54-year-old Regina Ann Hicks was declared dead after she was transported to a hospital. Two other people involved in the incident were taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

According to police, Hicks’ 2010 Nissan Xterra was in the northbound lanes of Solomons Island Road at about 7:20am when her vehicle was struck from behind by a 2021 Dodge Challenger driven by a 19-year old man from West River. The impact forced the Nissan into the southbound lane where it was struck head-on by a 2019 Toyota 4Runner

operated by a 30-year-old Chesapeake Beach woman. Police have declined, so far, to identify the two injured drivers.

The accident occurred just south of Polling House Road. Traffic was snarled in southern Anne Arundel County for much of the morning, as police closed Solomons Island Road in both directions for more than two and a half hours.

A police accident reconstruction team was summoned to investigate. Anne Arundel County Police Department spokesperson Justin Mulcahy said that as of Wednesday afternoon, the investigation into the wreck was still continuing and no charges have been filed.

Submitted by Tim Flaherty from press release and Justin Mulcahy

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Camp Invention Coming to St. Leonard Elementary



In Camp Invention's Make Waves experience, children ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention by creating prototypes, pitching their products and building a billboard boat.

Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to St. Leonard Elementary School the week of June 22, 2026 - June 25.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship — all in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features new curricula inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors — the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Spark program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

- **Space Morphers™:** Kids build a DIY rocket and launch an epic mission to transform a new planet's atmosphere, terrain and ecosystem. After a high-energy Rover Race to collect samples and data, they grow dazzling crystal trees and hatch a mysterious animal egg in a Space Lab.
- **Make Waves™:** Campers ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention! Inspired by a surfer's journey, they create prototypes, pitch their innovative products to hook investors

and build a billboard boat to set sail and "make waves" in the market.

- **Fur-ensics™:** Kids sharpen their animal detective skills with Cap E. Bara and a fleet of robotic capybaras. They investigate a trail of footprints, collect bits of fluffy fur and examine suspicious splatters before forensically analyzing evidence that has a surprising twist.
- **The Infringers™:** Campers use their invention superpowers to solve challenges in their community and around the world. They miniaturize top-secret innovations, safeguard their designs using cryptography and protect their intellectual property from the Infringers.

"I love that this camp lets my kids step out of the usual roles that they have at home and in school, and explore different parts of themselves," said the parent of 2025 Camp Invention campers. "At camp my son learns to be more creative and my daughter learns to be more independent."

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 147,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts across the nation.

For more information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

Press release from Inventor's Hall of Fame

Tiki Bar Grand Opening Promises Music, Food, and Fun



Photo by J.S. Icaza with Solomons Island Photography

By Vada Mercer
Contributing Writer

The Solomons Tiki Bar and Grill will celebrate the start of its 46th season with a weekend of live music, food and festivities, continuing a decades-long tradition along the waterfront.

Since 1980, the Tiki Bar has marked the third week of April as its kickoff to summer. This year, celebrations begin Friday, April 17 with an opening ceremony featuring the venue's proclamation from a tiki god.

In addition to the reopening of the open-air bar, the venue is debuting renovations to its restaurant, including an updated venue with new food and drink options.

The weekend's live music lineup features several well-known local acts. Among the highlights is No Green Jellybeenz, a rock and cover band set to reunite for their first performance since 2024.

"Sunday, the main draw is the Reagan Years. We've had them come and play for the last 5 or 6 years," said Tiki Bar and Grill owner Gary Ouellette. "They're the top two or three bands that draw in this area. For people that like 80s music, they're as good as it gets."

With a mix of live entertainment and updated dining options, the Tiki Bar and Grill's grand opening weekend is expected to bring the community together to mark the start of summer.

County to Participate in Drug Take Back Day

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

The Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA), Calvert County Health Department, Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and Maryland State Police, Barrack U, are partnering to sponsor the countywide collection events.

National Drug Take Back Day is a national campaign promoted by the Drug Enforcement Administration to reduce the risk of misuse by encouraging residents to clear out unused and expired medications.

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 CAASA will be on hand to assist with collection and provide resource information.

For those unable to participate on April 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
- CCSO Dunkirk Station, 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd., Dunkirk
- Maryland State Police, Barrack U, 210 Main St., Prince Frederick

For more information, contact CAASA at 410-535-3733. For treatment and recovery information visit www.hope4calvert.org or contact Calvert County Behavioral Health at 410-535-3079.

Press release from Calvert County Government

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Fri, Apr 10

League of Women Voters: Voter Registration

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

Get registered to vote! A representative of the League of Women Voters will be available to help you with registration. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Apr 11

Bake Sale

Snead's ACE Hardware
1750 Prosper Ln., Owings
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Stop by and pick up some homemade treats for you and your pup. All proceeds will benefit the Humane Society of Calvert County.

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Mt. Hope Convenience Center
96 Pushaw Station Road, Sunderland
8 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine.

Hazardous household products are common in many homes and must be disposed of properly to prevent dangerous chemical reactions, fires, burns, harmful vapors or groundwater contamination. A substance is considered hazardous if it is corrosive or toxic, ignites easily, reacts or explodes when mixed with other substances. Acceptable waste items include auto and floor care products, pesticides, gasoline, fertilizers and more. To determine if a product is hazardous, check the label for warning words or symbols such as caution, danger, poison or toxic. Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. Proof of residency is required. There is no limit on the amount of material residents may bring to the event. www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/HazardousWaste or call the Calvert County Solid Waste Division at 410-326-0210.

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

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

Bring your gently used puzzles and exchange them for new-to-you challenges. It's a fun, eco-friendly way to refresh your collection and connect with fellow puzzle enthusiasts. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Garden Smarter: Bay-Wise Reimagined

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
10-11:30 a.m.

Every Marylander lives within a watershed and has a role to play in caring for

the land, water, air, wildlife, and each other. Every action we take, every small positive change we make to improve water quality, soil health, and habitat counts in a big way. Learn about the actions you can take in your yard using the newly updated Bay-Wise Living Landscapes Metric. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Spring into Baskets & Planters

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
2:30-3:30 p.m.

Join Chesapeake Garden Club and Calvert Library to celebrate Spring! Children will create a paper flower May basket. All ages will enjoy a demonstration on making a traditional May Basket along with steps for preparing a successful outdoor planter. Children must be accompanied adult. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mon, Apr 13

Book Discussion

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

The Many Lives of Mama Love by Lara Love Hardin. 6. New York Times bestselling author Lara Love Hardin recounts her slide from soccer mom to opioid addict to jail-house shot caller and her unlikely comeback as a highly successful ghostwriter in this harrowing, hilarious, no-holds-barred memoir. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Apr 14

SEEDCO- Maryland Health Connection

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Got health coverage? SEEDCO can help you get it! Maryland Health Connection offers no-cost and low-cost health insurance. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Kindergarten Gear Up

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2-3 p.m.

Join us for an 7-week program designed to help prepare kids and their caregivers to start school in the upcoming year. Registration is required, and it is asked that you attend all sessions. This program is a partnership with Calvert County Public Schools. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Astronomy Night

Calvert Library Fairview Branch

Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
7:45-8:45 p.m.

Come see what the night sky has to offer in the field behind Fairview. Learn about the equipment used to view the sky from the Astronomy Club of Southern Maryland. All ages welcome. Outdoor only event, weather permitting. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Apr 15

Fairview Book Discussion

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

"Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President" by Candice Millard. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Maritime Performance Series: Music of the American Revolution

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, April 17
7-9 p.m.

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's War for Independence with performances of special period music by renowned music historians David and Ginger Hildebrand. Donned in period attire, David and Ginger will perform patriotic songs, ballads, dance tunes, and theater songs known by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and others. The Hildebrands will explain and demonstrate their instruments, including the hammered dulcimer, violin, and Spanish and English guitars—interpreting various musical traditions, featuring both the formal and less refined aspects of music in early America. Doors open at 6 p.m. with beverages available for purchase. Tickets are \$20 online up to one day in advance, and \$25 online or at the door on concert day.

Otter Trot 5K

Calvert Marine Museum
Saturday, April 18
8 a.m.

The Calvert Marine Museum Society will host the third annual timed race that welcomes runners and walkers of all levels for a morning of "otterly" awesome fun in support of the Calvert Marine Museum. Whether you're sprinting, strolling, or just really into otters, this timed race is for you. Race fees are \$35 for Calvert Marine Museum members (with discount code), plus service fee, and \$45 for non-members, plus service fee. Register here: Calvert Marine Museum Society Otter Trot 5K

Pet Loss Workshop

Perfect Pet Resort
840 W. Bay Front Road, Lothian
Saturday, April 18
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For many, pets are cherished family members. When they die, the grief can be profound, but is too often pushed aside or minimized. This workshop creates a safe, understanding space where participants can honor their bond, share their stories and learn practical ways to navigate their grief. Led by grief experts, the workshop includes a welcome, guided time to share individual experiences, an introduction to the grief process, a brief nature walk focused on healing and connection and a discussion of healthy coping strategies.

Chesapeake Life Center registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Southern Maryland Bluegrass Series

Calvert Elks
1015 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
Sunday April 19
Doors open at Noon and the show starts at 2:00 PM, tickets are \$23.00.

Special Consensus is a band that may not be familiar to the Southern Maryland Bluegrass audience, but they have been on the Bluegrass scene, marking their 50th anniversary. Their sound is grounded in a deep appreciation of Bluegrass music. They have the drive and harmonies of traditional Bluegrass, but with a contemporary sound deeply rooted in tradition. For more information, visit www.somdbluegrass.com or call 301-737-3004. Food will be available for sale from Noon til 2 pm and the show starts at 2 pm.

Fairy & Gnome Home Festival

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
Sunday, April 19
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

It's fairy and gnome season at Annmarie! Families are invited to enjoy a magical day of nature play while traveling through the realms of Annmarie Garden, discovering an enchanting variety of activities along the way. Guests can meet fairy friends, search for hidden gnome homes, create crafts, ride a unicorn, and explore the garden's natural spaces. This immersive, imagination-filled event offers an over-the-top day of creative fun for families. Food and drink vendors will be on site. Advance tickets required; \$12/person (\$17 at the gate, if not sold out), Kids 2 & under free; AMG Members free. Unicorn rides require advance separate purchase. Reduced price admission tickets available for SNAP card holders. Rain or shine event; no pets; no smoking. Learn more at www.annmariegarden.org.

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

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



County Times
ST. MARY'S • CALVERT

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

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.

Sat, Apr 11

Bald Eagle Nest Photography Walk

Historic Sotterley
44300 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood
9 a.m.-12 Noon

Experience and capture the beauty of birds and other wildlife on an excursion at Historic Sotterley's scenic Patuxent River property led by Ken Barlow.

The walk will primarily focus on camera techniques, but birds & other wildlife may be discussed as appropriate.

This walk will be between 1 to 2 miles along the various paths at Sotterley which will be a combination of brick walkway, gravel paths, wood chip paths, and limited grass paths. It is highly recommended to wear appropriate shoes and clothing for the weather and conditions.

Register here: www.eventbrite.com/e/bald-eagle-nest-photography-walk-registration-1982542777817

Tavern Night at Rebels & Redcoats America 250th

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
5-8 p.m.

Step back into an 18th-century tavern and raise a glass to revolution! An immersive

evening of music, merriment and mischief as we celebrate America's 250th birthday the way our founders would have—at the tavern. Expect laughter, lively debate, and a few loyalist side-eyes as the night unfolds.

Costumes encouraged. Allegiances optional. Toasts mandatory.

Tickets are limited (AND REQUIRED): Secure yours before they disappear like a full tankard. Tickets will include your first drink on the house and a limited edition commemorative pin.

TICKETS: TavernNightSOMD250.eventbrite.com

22695 Washington St, Leonardtown
12 Noon-4 p.m.

Come down for fundraiser presented by the Great Mills High School SGA! Enjoy local music and art with free entry and support our growing organization by donating, purchasing merchandise, and showing community support through your presence!

Pages in the Park

Port of Leonardtown Winery Park
1-3 p.m.

A relaxed, drop-in reading gathering hosted in partnership with the Mobile Library. Families and book lovers of all ages are invited to bring their favorite book and enjoy a peaceful hour of reading together in the park. Bring a blanket or chairs, pack some snacks, and settle in to enjoy the serene energy of shared stories in the open air. For more information, visit: www.visitleonardtownmd.com/events or call 301-475-9791 or email aris.molina@leonardtownmd.gov

Mervell Dean Rd., Hollywood
6:30 p.m.

Monthly guild meetings s are the second Monday of every month and feature guest speakers, show and tells, and other fun activities. Pax River Quilters Guild is a non-profit organization devoted to philanthropic quilting projects and promoting the skill of quilting. New members of all skill levels are welcome. For questions, email: prqgsomd@gmail.com

Sun, Apr 12

Car Show

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$20 entry fee. Beer, food trucks, raffles, door prizes, music.

Dash plaques for first 50 entries, "Top 30" trophies awarded and "Best in Show" winner.

Downpour Music Festival (GMHS SGA)

The Rex

Mon, Apr 13

Pax River Quilters

Hollywood United Methodist Church,

Ongoing

North End Gallery's April Show

North End Gallery
41652 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown
Through April 26

Kennie Mauche - A Solo Exhibition. Active both en Plein Air and in the studio, Kennie "paints to see, to connect and share the beauty of the light that surrounds us all."

Open Sundays 11-4pm, Tuesdays thru Saturdays 11-5pm

For more information about Kennie and her art: <https://www.kenniemauche.com>

Show lead contact: Bea Poulin, president. northendgallery@gmail.com

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Expungement Day

Williams, McClernan & Stack LLC will offer free legal help to those seeking Maryland expungements of criminal records. Appointments will be at Lexington Park Library on Friday, April 10 from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Appointments will last approximately 20 minutes. Please bring any paperwork relating to the case if the case was dismissed because the lawyers will be unable to see it on CaseSearch. Please note: registration information will be shared with Williams, McClernan, & Stack so that the attorney can assist you during your appointment. Register on www.stmalib.org. Maryland expungements only.

Life-Sized Board Games

Celebrate National Board Game Day at the library! Play life-sized versions of your favorite board games, including Jenga, Sorry, checkers, Uno, and more. Feel free to drop in and out of the meeting room during the program

time; no registration required. This event is for all ages. Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, April 11 from 2 - 4 p.m. No registration.

Pages in the Park

Spend an afternoon at Port of Leonardtown Park on Sunday, April 12 from 1 - 3 p.m. reading and crafting! Pack your own picnic, bring a book to exchange (or not), craft mini books, and enter a raffle to win a mini book cart. Share, relax, or simply enjoy the atmosphere your way. Feel free to pack your own full picnic, along with a blanket or chairs, and settle in for a peaceful afternoon in the park. You can create your own mini books, browse selections from the Mobile Library, and pick up free children's books from the Friends of the Library while supplies last. Swap titles if you'd like-bring a book, take a book, or just browse with no pressure. However you spend it, it's a chance to slow down, unplug, and enjoy a good book in good company. This is a

weather-dependent event. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Ink Knows No Borders Poetry Workshops

Poetry writing workshops inspired by collection of poems "Ink Knows No Borders". We will examine selections from Ink Knows No Borders, edited by Patrice Vecchione and Alyssa Raymond, and use those poems as a catalyst for exploring the immigrant and refugee experience through poetry. Selections will be read and reflection will be facilitated by Dr. José R. Ballesteros, Professor of International Languages and Cultures and Interim Co-director of Equity Programming at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Participants are encouraged to reflect and write based on their own experiences, opinions, and beliefs. All are welcome! No previous poetry experience is necessary. Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, April 14. Teen session from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Adult session from 6 - 7

p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Big & Little Yoga Class

Bring your littles along to this Big & Little yoga class taught by Kathy Therrien! Children ages 3 to 10 are invited to join their caregivers at this morning yoga session. Mats will be available, but please feel free to bring your own yoga mat or a beach towel to use. Lexington Park Library on Friday, April 17 from 9 - 10:30 a.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

The Family Dance Party

DJ Oso Rock (and his hype girl Ms. Tess) present a half hour of family friendly bangers! The only rule is: you can't stop dancing! (unless you get really tired, then you can take a brief break!) Please be advised this program will include loud music, flashing lights, and a lot of movement! Leonardtown Library on Wednesday, April 15, 10 - 10:30 a.m. No registration.

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.

Paddy, 97



Our Mom, born Paddy Belle Chavis in December of 1928, started trotting around her neighborhood when just toddling making friends at every house. She continued that trend until March 5, 2026 at 97 years.

She met our Dad Henry Zollinhofer when he was delivering newspapers in their teens. That blossomed into a happy family with four kids, Sherry, Darling, Wendy (Denny), and Duncan (whom we lost at the age of 10). Moving right along, seems she got more joys as her family grew to grands, Brian, Kristi, Kelli, Cinnamon (whom we also lost very young), Desiree, Kori and Sierra. Oh my goodness! You guessed it! Another generation, and, yes, another! Wow! At 97 she had 25 living grands, greats and great greats, plus spouses! And, please! Do not forget her nieces, nephews, and in-laws whom she considered practically her own and adored with all her heart.

When older, but not old, a handsome gent, Al Borrelli danced into her heart for a second marriage.

You know, she loved so many people by

the time she was 97 that it must've been rather like a helium balloon in her heart and she just sort of floated off to heaven!

By the way, she loved you too! And, so do we!

Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 am Summer Breeze Farm, 20620 Point Lookout Rd. Lexington Park MD 20653.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made, in memory of Paddy, to Cornerstone PCA Missions. PO Box 783 California, MD 20619.

Eddie Foster, 88



Lewis Edward "Eddie" Foster, 88, of Waldorf, Maryland, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2026, at his farm surrounded by family.

Born on February 16, 1938, in Mount Fair, Virginia. Eddie was the son of Henry Nelson Foster and Ethel Mae (Garrison) Foster. He later made his home in Southern Maryland, where he lived for over 60 years and became a well known and respected member of the community.

In 1959, Eddie married the love of his life, Norma Jean "Jeanie" Foster, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Their marriage

was a true partnership spanning decades, filled with devotion, shared memories, and unwavering support. Together, they built a loving family and a life centered on hard work and togetherness.

Eddie was a dedicated businessman and livestock trader. Alongside his wife Jeanie, he proudly owned and operated Marlboro Trading Post, which they grew as a successful family business through years of hard work and dedication. Eddie was admired for his strong work ethic, tough negotiating, independence, and commitment to providing for his family.

Eddie is survived by his beloved wife, Jeanie, his son, Gregory Allen Foster, grandchildren, Kimberly Hedrick (Nathan) and Kristopher Foster (Jenna), as well as his great grandchildren, Lily Hedrick, Lila Hedrick, Jase Foster, and Lexi Hedrick (baby sister). He loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren deeply. He is also survived by his longtime close friend, Melvin Richards, and many extended family members and dear friends who will cherish his memory forever.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Ethel; his siblings, James R. Barnette (Ruth), Ethel Marie Barnette Herring (Roy), Lawrence Melvin Foster (Joyce), Catherine Louise Foster Dudley (Hunter), Sarah Frances Foster Morris,

Henry Nelson Foster, Jr., and Ella Jo Foster Yancey; and his beloved daughter in law, Diane Foster.

Eddie will be remembered for his fierce independence and the strong work ethic that defined his life as a dedicated businessman and livestock trader. Beyond his work, he found his greatest joy and deepest peace in his family. His legacy lives on through the generations he helped shape, marked by his tough spirit and quiet kindness.

Visitation will be held on Friday, April 10, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a Funeral Service beginning at 12:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will take place at 1:15 p.m. at Charles Memorial Gardens in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Pallbearers: Kris Foster, Nathan Hedrick, Mike Dawson, Jud Talbert, Ronnie Sutphin, Eddie Sutphin.

Honorary Pallbearers: Matt Peacher, Chuck Harrod, Marin Stevens, Ronnie Long, Jase Foster, Bently Dawson, & Braxton Dawson.

Eddie will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

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

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



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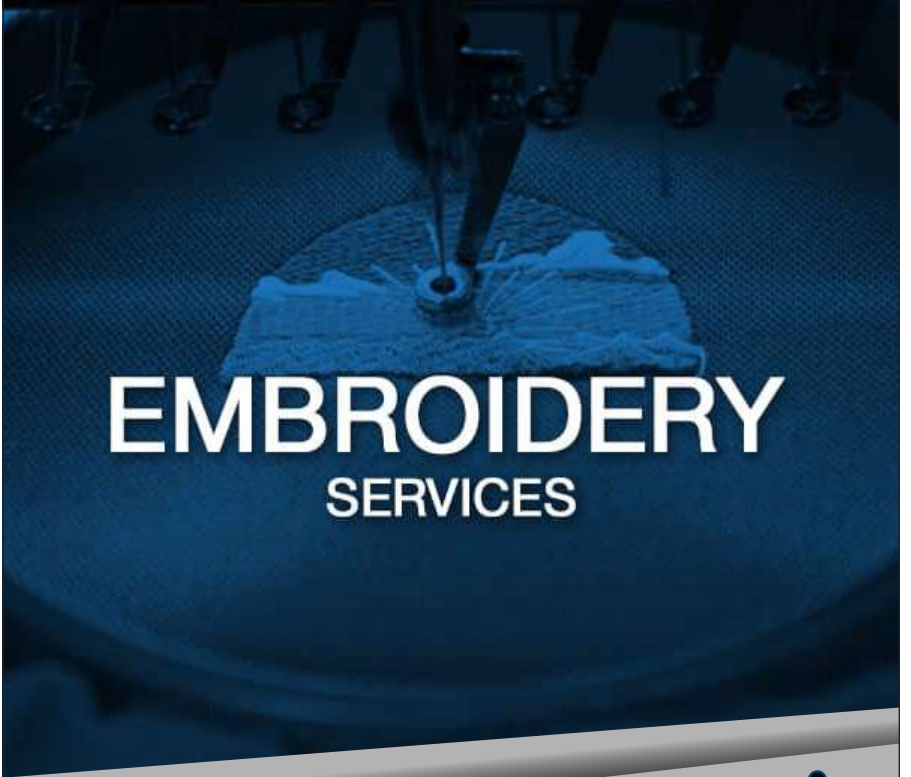
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A View From The BLEACHERS



Concurrent Truths

By Ronald N. Guy, Jr.
Contributing Writer

He made his debut in August 1996. As phenom-introductions go, this one was and is near the top of the list. He was just 20, barely eligible to vote and not yet of age to drink, but the buzz around his game had been building for years, even back to his childhood. He was daring when at play, executing shots few others would even attempt. His intelligence was obvious. He had charisma to burn – a bright, disarming and infectious smile that was the perfect façade for the ruthless competitor burning within. And that he was multi-racial, in a sport dominated by white guys and that conducted itself as an insulated fraternity, solidified his promise as a once-in-a-generation game-changer.

An astonishing 30 years later, it is inarguable that Tiger Woods lived up to every bit of the hype and became, at a minimum, the greatest golfer of his generation. His resume includes 82 PGA tour wins, 11 PGA Player of the Year awards, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and 15 major championships. For those who witnessed it, closed eyes prompt all sorts of dynamic images: Sunday red and black attire, insane shots, raised trophies, green jackets, walking puts in with a confident finger point and that trademark fist pump. Woods has been a sports fan's dream. But Woods the human, the guy off the course, has been harder to understand, difficult to process at several points in his career and, frankly, quite the opposite of the athletic inspiration he's been with a club in his hand.

An admission: I'm compromised regarding Woods. We are of similar vintage, and for the last three decades I have rooted for him to shake up the golf world's established order, to break Jack Nicklaus's record of 18 majors and to go down as the greatest golfer of all time. It's a Gen-X thing, but likely similar to any sports fan rooting for a premiere athlete of similar generational persuasions. More broadly, I'm greedy. I grew up watching Michael Jordan. I've seen the entire careers of Jerry Rice, Tom Brady and Wayne Gretzky. I saw Barry Bonds hit 73 home runs in a season, the best offensive baseball performance science could create (allegedly...wink, wink). So yeah, add Woods to the list. The more potential GOATs I get to witness in my lifetime, the better.

Needless to say, it's been a choppy ride aboard the U.S.S. Tiger. Mixed in with all the on-course success and amazing comebacks from an unimaginable number of injuries, there was the serial adultery and embarrassing end to his marriage, the odd obsession with military training (for golf, dude?), a reckless accident that nearly cost him his right leg, if not his life, and now another rollover accident where he was found in possession of prescription pain medications, arrested and charged with DUI. Expressions of support, from players past and present and the PGA itself, flowed after Woods's latest transgression, an acknowledgement that he is a man likely battling serious demons.

Nick Faldo, a six-time major champion in his own right, took a different approach. Faldo noted Woods's need for help and his struggle with constant pain. But he said the quiet stuff out loud, noting Woods's lack of personal responsibility and self-inflicted harm, and questioning whether professional golf should be quick to welcome back its prodigal son...again...down the road.

I share Faldo's perspective. I wish Woods success in his recovery and a return to physical and emotional health. However, there's a clear behavioral pattern. The days of default-apologizing for Woods and conveniently separating the player from the person are over. One Tiger can't be enjoyed without being deeply troubled by the other. The player should carry the burden of the flawed human; the sins of the flawed human should not be absolved by the player's greatness.

In a world that often demands a clear choice (pick a side), ignores gray areas, nuance and context, Woods provides evidence of life's complexities, situations that require deep thought, the ability to change strong opinions when confronted with additional facts - and the co-existence of concurrent, multiple truths.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Four stages of raising money-smart kids

Good financial habits are a little like brushing your teeth. When you learn them early, they become second nature, and you carry them with you for life. And while money can feel complicated, especially today, the foundation starts simply.

Parents can begin the conversation with very young children, and young adults can build on those basics as they take on more responsibility. Step by step, these habits create confidence that helps build longterm financial security and a more fulfilling life.

The following are the four key stages of financial growth.

- **Stage 1:** For very young children, the goal is to make money feel simple and manageable. A great place to start is with three jars labeled "Spend," "Save" and "Share." When kids can actually see their money grow or shrink, the idea starts to make sense. Saving also introduces them to goalsetting, and working toward paying for a small toy or outing teaches patience. Most important, you're helping your children see money as a tool they can understand easily and use with confidence.
- **Stage 2:** If you have tweens (children roughly 9 to 12 years old), they're usually ready for slightly bigger financial ideas. This is a great time for them to earn money through chores or small jobs, helping them see the connection between effort and reward and building a sense of ownership. Conversations about needs versus wants also become more meaningful, because kids are now making real choices with money they earned themselves. Your tween may be ready for a simple savings account to watch their savings grow, or a reloadable cash card for spending.
- **Stage 3:** By the time teens reach high school or young adulthood, budgeting becomes essential. This doesn't need to be overly strict or complicated. A simple system that helps them track deposits and withdrawals can make all the difference. Whether they use an app, a paper notebook or a spreadsheet, the real goal is awareness. Teenagers also benefit from learning how credit works. Understanding how to build a healthy credit score and how to use credit wisely protects them from costly mistakes in later life.
- **Stage 4:** Then come the early working years, when habits shift from learning to building. One of the smartest steps at this stage is paying yourself first. Automatic transfers to savings or retirement accounts help establish stability without extra effort. Even small retirement contributions matter more than most people realize, because time allows compounding to do the heavy lifting. This is also when young adults can start organizing their money into different buckets for rent, automobile payments, emergencies, retirement and everyday spending. These habits help lay the groundwork for financial freedom down the road.

Throughout every stage, the theme is confidence. Each small success creates a sense of control and each good habit makes the next one easier. Over time, these habits turn into a lifetime of financial security and fulfillment. When you start strong and stay consistent, money becomes a tool that helps your children support the lives they want.

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

'Rebels & Redcoats' Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary

Coming to Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and St. George Island



St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, in coordination with the Southern Maryland 250th Committee, Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, Visit St. Mary's MD, Maryland Public Television, and numerous Southern Maryland civic organizations, is proud to present *Rebels & Redcoats: A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event*, taking place this Saturday and Sunday, April 11–12, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park and St. George Island.

Rebels & Redcoats is a free, family-friendly event commemorating the American War for Independence as it unfolded in St. Mary's County and across Southern Maryland. The event will be held near the site of the Battle of St. George Island—the only Revolutionary War battle to occur in Maryland—and is part of the broader celebration of America's 250th anniversary in 2026.

Exhibits and displays from organizations highlighting local 18th-century history will be featured, along with musket and cannon fire demonstrations, food trucks, educational and period programming, children's and family activities, reenactors, a period encampment, military demonstrations, live-fire drills, boat cruises, and more for all ages.

Visitors can experience life in camp for Maryland's Revolutionary War soldiers and militiamen as the nation begins its 250th anniversary commemoration. Explore encampments, learn what soldiers wore and

carried, join a militia rifle drill, and enjoy military music and other period activities.

Event parking will be off-site at Piney Point Elementary School, with free shuttles transporting visitors to Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and St. George Island from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

To mark the final year of this event, a special, ticketed Tavern Night will be held Saturday evening. Step back into an 18th-century tavern and raise a glass to revolution. *Rebels & Redcoats Tavern Night* offers an immersive evening of music, merriment, and mischief as we celebrate America's 250th birthday the way our founders would have—at the tavern. Tickets and information are available at: <https://TavernNightSOMD250.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, please call Piney Point Lighthouse Museum at (301) 994-1471 or visit www.Facebook.com/1836Light.

This event is part of the Southern Maryland Semiquincentennial, Maryland's 250th and America 250th celebrations, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding. Event made possible by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County Museum Division, Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, Maryland Public Television, Visit St. Mary's MD, Southern Maryland Semi Quincentennial Committee, and other area civic organizations.

Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division

Fill Out an Advance Health Care Directive at Law Day

Do you have an Advance Health Care Directive? Is it up to date? If you answered no – sign up for Law Day to meet with an attorney and fill one out, free of charge!

Law Day will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at four locations:

- **Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) Office**
41780 Baldrige St., Leonardtown
(301) 475-4200, ext. 1074
- **Garvey Senior Activity Center**
23630 Hayden Farm Ln., Leonardtown
(301) 475-4200, ext. 1080
- **Loffler Senior Activity Center**
21905 Chancellors Run Rd., Great Mills
(301) 475-4200, ext. 1658
- **Northern Senior Activity Center**
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd., Charlotte Hall
(301) 475-4200, ext. 3101

Registration is required; please register at the location where you plan to participate.

All participating attorneys are members of the St. Mary's County Bar Association and are donating their time for Law Day.

Please note the legal support provided at this event is limited to Advance Care Directives ONLY.

An Advance Health Care Directive:

- Names your Health Care Agent, the

person(s) who will make your health care decisions.

- Determines when your Agent's power becomes effective.
- States your decisions relating to life-sustaining procedures if you are unable to give instructions regarding your care due to an end-of-life condition.
- Can be customized with your personal instructions and statements.
- Determines pain relief measures to relieve pain and suffering.
- States your wishes concerning organ donation or the donation of your body.
- States your desires and preferences regarding funeral and burial, cremation, memorial service, or other final instructions.

For more information, please contact Nicoletta Pollice, DAHS Community Programs & Outreach Manager at Nicoletta.Pollice@stmaryscountymd.gov or (301) 475-4200, ext. 1074.

Learn more about DAHS programs and services at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or follow them on social media at Facebook.com/SMCDAHS.

Press release from SMCG

Eight Veterans Honored with Quilts of Valor



Receiving their quilts at the American Legion in Hughesville, from left to right: Arnold Hympreys (U.S. Army, 4yrs), Richard Moore (U.S. Navy, 20 yrs), Noel Aston (U.S. Marines, 23yrs), Richard Edelen (U.S. Army, 6 yrs), Roy Hannah (U.S. Air Force, 4yrs), Andrew Cusick, (U.S. Navy, 6yrs) and Frances Crowningshield (U.S. Navy, 5yrs).

PAX Sound of Freedom awarded Quilts of Valor to our servicemen on March 21, 2026 at 2pm at the American Legion, Hughesville, MD, quilts were awarded to seven veterans. In addition, one Quilt of Valor was awarded at a private presentation at 6:30pm at the American Legion, Ridge, MD.

Those who served in the U.S. armed forces are entitled to receive a Quilt of Valor. If you have any questions about Quilts of Valor or are interested in helping the local group produce quilts or nominating a service member, please contact PAX Sound of Freedom Group Leader, Debbie Felton at 443-745-0647. For additional information about the history of Quilt of Valor go to <https://www.qovf.org>.



Charles Simms (U.S. Navy, 23 yrs) receiving his quilt at the American Legion in Ridge.



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2990 Parker's Creek Road | Port Republic
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Free Spring Market tasting event! | April 18 | 9am-3pm



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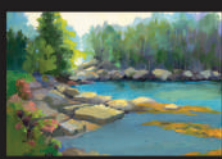
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MEET JUJU

Hi, I'm Juju, an 8-year-old couch potato and I have a very specific life plan: go for a nice walk, come home, and immediately melt into the couch like a sleepy marshmallow. I'm a big fan of butt scratches, full body massages, and quality TV time with my person, preferably while doing absolutely nothing productive together. If you're looking for a low-key best friend who will happily join you in your daily routine of relaxing, snacking, and being adored, then this girl is ready to move in and take over your living room. Please come meet me during adoption hours, Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. I'll be watching for you! To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



MEET 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



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<https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Aging/SeniorRides>

When Clutter Becomes a Safety Emergency

Understanding Hoarding, Fire Risk, and Getting Help

Several recent fires in St. Mary's County have involved severe hoarding conditions, including incidents in Leonardtown, Mechanicsville, and Scotland, as well as a fatal fire earlier this year. In those cases, cluttered interiors slowed access, delayed firefighting operations, and created more dangerous conditions for both residents and first responders.

Hoarding is not simply a housekeeping issue. It is a recognized mental health condition that involves persistent difficulty discarding possessions, even when the accumulation makes a home unsafe or no longer fully usable. Experts estimate that hoarding disorder affects approximately 2-3% of the population, with higher rates among older adults. The condition often becomes more severe over time without support or treatment.

This becomes especially dangerous when fire is involved. Excess belongings can block doors, hallways, and windows, limiting escape routes and trapping occupants inside. Heavy clutter increases the amount of fuel available to a fire, allowing it to grow faster and burn hotter. It can also hide fire extension within walls or beneath piles of materials, making it more difficult for firefighters to locate and extinguish the fire.

For firefighters, hoarding conditions significantly change how emergencies are handled. Search operations become slower and more hazardous as crews must navigate narrow pathways, unstable piles, and blocked rooms. These conditions can delay locating victims who may be trapped inside. Clutter can conceal structural hazards such as weakened floors, increasing the risk of injury to responders. Fires in hoarded homes often require more personnel, more equipment, and more time to safely bring under control.

National data highlights the seriousness of this issue. While hoarding-related fires represent a relatively small percentage of total residential fires, they account for a disproportionately high number of fire-related deaths. In one study, hoarding fires were linked to nearly a quarter of preventable residential fire fatalities. Additional national data shows thousands of clutter-related fires over recent years, resulting in over a thousand injuries to both civilians and firefighters, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars in property loss.

Hoarding conditions also impact emergency medical services. Even without a fire, EMS crews may face significant challenges when responding to homes with excessive clutter.

Narrow or blocked access points can delay reaching a patient, and confined spaces can make it difficult to provide care or safely remove someone from the home. These delays can be critical during medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, breathing problems, or serious falls.

It is important to approach this issue with compassion. Hoarding disorder is a behavioral health condition - not a personal failure. Many individuals feel overwhelmed, embarrassed, or unsure where to begin, which can prevent them from seeking help.

Family members and loved ones also play an important role. In many cases, it can be difficult for someone experiencing hoarding conditions to reach out for help on their own. If you are concerned about a family member, friend, or neighbor, offering support and gently encouraging them to seek assistance can make a meaningful difference. Families can also reach out to local behavioral health providers, community services, or healthcare professionals for guidance on how to help a loved one in a respectful and supportive way.

Effective treatments are available, including therapy that helps individuals develop safer habits, reduce clutter, and improve decision-making. Residents in St. Mary's County who may be struggling, or who are concerned about a loved one, are encouraged to seek help through local behavioral health services, healthcare providers, or community support programs. Resources are available to assist individuals in creating safer living environments while addressing the underlying causes of hoarding.

Fire and EMS personnel are committed to protecting the community, but safety starts at home. Reducing clutter, keeping exits clear, and seeking help early can make a life-saving difference.

Fire Prevention Tip: Keep all exits—doors and windows—clear and accessible at all times. In an emergency, having a clear path out can save your life.

Press release from Bay District Volunteer Fire Department

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NAVAL AIR STATION
PATUXENT RIVER *News*

NMRTC Patuxent River Sharpens Corpsmen's Skills with Suture Lab



Lt. j.g. Alisha Deschenes provides hands-on guidance to (from left) Hospitalman Apprentice Kaitlyn Lewis, Hospitalman Apprentice Andrew Perry, and Hospitalman Apprentice Elisa Medina Moya during a suture lab at Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Patuxent River.

Hospital Corpsmen from Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Patuxent River, joined by their counterparts from Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit (NMRTU) Dahlgren and NMRTC Detachments Indian Head and Joint Base Andrews, recently participated in a comprehensive suture lab.

The training focused on a variety of wound closure techniques, directly supporting the core mission of Navy Medicine: ensuring a medically ready force and a ready medical force. The hands-on lab provided crucial practice for the corpsmen, who are often the first to treat injuries in clinical and operational settings.

"Investing time in skills-based training such as this wound assessment and suture skills event reinforces our commitment to developing competent and confident medical professionals who are ready to support warfighters and the mission," said Capt. Ken Radford. As commanding officer of NMRTC Patuxent River, Radford is responsible to Navy Medicine for the readiness of the medical force. In his dual role as director of Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River, he is responsible to the Defense Health Agency for the delivery of healthcare to all eligible beneficiaries. "This suture lab is a perfect example of how we are investing in our corpsmen," Radford added, "giving them

the critical skills they need to save lives in any environment, from the battlefield to our clinics here at home."

Led by experienced medical providers from the command's clinics, the training featured a presentation on various suturing types and the key differences between suturing in a clinical setting versus in the field. Following the instruction, the corpsmen rotated through practical application labs where they practiced wound management procedures on pigs' feet, which are used in training because their skin closely mimics human tissue. The training covered simple interrupted sutures, surgical staples, and tissue adhesives.

The event's hands-on, realistic approach was made possible by the command's Staff Education and Training (SEAT) team led by Hospital Corpsman First Class Erlande Alcius. "This hands-on training was months in the making and would not have been possible without the incredible support from SEAT and our provider subject matter experts volunteering their time and talent to teach our corpsman and staff," said Radford.

Through this training, NMRTC Patuxent River and its associated commands are building a proficient medical team, ready to provide superior care to the warfighter and ensure the lethality of the naval force.



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They Said Yes!

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

Sidney Hunter Clark, 23, Lexington Park, MD
Kileigh-Ann Marie Magat, 24, Lexington Park, MD

Kristina Elise Dube, 24, Piney Point, MD
Dylan James Wojciechowski, 25, Piney Point, MD

Ashley Nicole Mcdougall, 33, Lexington Park, MD
Michael Anthony Applegate, 33, Lexington Park, MD

Bradley Taylor Varvel, 61, Great Mills, MD
Lynne Prenatt Molina, 63, Great Mills, MD

Samara Marquetta Weems, 35, Lexington Park, MD
Samuel Cordova, 59, Manassas, VA

Tanelle Andrea Cole, 27, Lusby, MD
Tyree Jamal Stewart, 30, Lusby, MD

Taylor Millar Cohen, 28, California, MD
Brandon Alan Dennee, 30, California, MD

Melvon Debray Thomas, Sr., 19, Great Mills, MD
Jaylynn Avionna Renee Bozman, 18, Great Mills, MD

Jessica Lynn May, 34, Leonardtown, MD
Tyler Allen Dameron, 30, Dameron, MD

Clyde Zimmerman Stauffer, 23, Leonardtown, MD
Cynthia Dawn Stauffer, 20, Mechanicsville, MD

Samuel Stauffer Martin, 21, Leonardtown, MD
Debra S Stauffer, 20, Leonardtown, MD

Alisan Hailey Jacobs, 28, Lexington Park, MD
Donald Christopher Thomas, Jr., 31, Lexington Park, MD

Kaylee Michelle Howe, 23, Leonardtown, MD
Preston Clay Estevez, 26, Chaptico, MD

Kevin Patrick Pachas, 59, Solomons, MD
Paige Anne Smith, 60, Solomons, MD

Benjamin Scott Coon, Jr., 37, Linthicum Heights, MD
Melissa Erin Gromer, 30, Linthicum Heights, MD

Victor Alan Wathen, 69, Leonardtown, MD
Maria Louisa Comulada, 50, Leonardtown, MD

Elizabeth May Thornton, 65, Hughesville, MD
Jonathan Edward Beasley, 67, Hughesville, MD

Chester Brubacher, 23, Mechanicsville, MD
Jennetta Stauffer Weaver, 20, Leonardtown, MD

Dyllionn Loukous Clarke, 21, Hollywood, MD
Stephanie Jacqueline Wenuna Jones, 20, Hollywood, MD

Donte Adrian Smith, 40, Lexington Park, MD
Meghan Estelle White, 47, Lexington Park, MD

Michael Anthony Murphy, 58, Hughesville, MD
Joyce Lee Ferguson, 61, Lothian, MD

Victoria Elizabeth Parks, 30, Odenton, MD
Robert Andrew Hering, 29, Odenton, MD

David Francis Turner, 38, Waldorf, MD
Amber Renee Robey, 46, Great Mills, MD

Tera Nicole Johnson, 26, Leonardtown, MD
Walter Gordon Lent, 30, Loveville, MD

Alyssa Marie Vasquez, 30, Mechanicsville, MD
Garrett Delisle Deen, 30, Mechanicsville, MD

Savannah Katelyn Roberts, 20, Lexington Park, MD
Bryn Terquoi Graves, 21, Lexington Park, MD

Mary Carla Emory, 40, Hollywood, MD
Joseph Ryan Hering, 40, Hollywood, MD

Jessica Nicole Butler, 27, Mechanicsville, MD
Allan Wayne Dyson, 27, Mechanicsville, MD

Luke Alexander Seep, 23, Leonardtown, MD
Kaitlyn Ashley Gardiner, 22, Millersville, MD

Jacob Alan Cullison, 35, Piney Point, MD
Emily Frances Maldonado, 45, Piney Point, MD

Noah Abdiel Perez, 21, Lexington Park, MD
Alexis Maria Armout, 20, Lexington Park, MD

Camryn Ruth Leavy, 24, Lusby, MD
Austin Scott Lord, 24, Lusby, MD

Michael Craig Bartley, 60, Mechanicsville, MD
Barbara Ann Randles, 60, Mechanicsville, MD

Kylie Elizabeth Wade, 25, Mechanicsville, MD
Kenneth Wayne Fetters, Jr., 27, Mechanicsville, MD



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MARK & AMY

Email-Based Payment Scam Warning Issued

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is warning residents and businesses about an ongoing financial crime trend involving fraudulent emails that mimic legitimate business transactions.

In reported cases, victims are engaged in legitimate business dealings with a company and communicate via email. During those exchanges, an unknown individual sends a fraudulent email that appears to be from the legitimate business. The email typically includes instructions to pay an expected invoice, often directing the victim to send funds via wire transfer.

Believing the request to be legitimate, victims send payments to what they think is the business, but the funds are sent to an unknown third party. The fraud is often not discovered until several days later, when the victim or the business follows up on the payment status.

To help prevent this type of fraud, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office encourages the public to take the following steps:

- Slow down and review payment emails carefully. Look closely at the sender's email address, as fraudulent messages may appear legitimate but often differ by a single character.

- Verify payment instructions before sending funds. Always confirm requests through a separate, trusted method, such as calling the business using a known phone number.
- Pause when messages create urgency. Be cautious of emails that pressure you to act immediately. Take time to evaluate the request before responding.
- Check sender details closely. Ensure the "from" and "reply-to" email addresses match and are consistent with the legitimate business.
- Inspect links before clicking. Hover over links to confirm they lead to the correct and legitimate website before opening them.

Anyone who believes they have been a victim of this scam should immediately contact their bank to attempt to stop the transaction. Victims are also encouraged to report the incident to the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office so the matter can be investigated.

For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergency assistance, contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008.

Press release from SMCSO

Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-CV-26-000278

Steven Gingery, Jr.
c/o Cornerstone Law, LLC
Plaintiff

vs.

Jacqueline R. Mitchell

Mill Point Improvement Association, Inc.

St. Mary's County, Maryland
s/o County Attorney

State of Maryland
s/o Attorney General

All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the property situate and lying in **St. Mary's County** and known as **SUNSET DR (LOTS 2 & 3)**

Unknown Owner of the property described as follows: Property Tax ID **04-001702** on the Tax Roll of **St. Mary's County**, the unknown owner's heirs, devisees, and personal representatives and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right, title and interest in the property.

Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property (hereafter the "Property") described below in the State of Maryland, sold by the Collector of Taxes for St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland to the Plaintiff in this proceeding:

Sunset Dr (Lots 2 & 3), Chaptico, MD 20621
LOTS NUMBER 2 AND 3, IN BLOCK LETTERED "J", OF MILL POINT SHORES, ACCORDING TO A PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK C.B.G. NO. 1, FOLIO 35, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND; 04-001702
Deed Reference: 02893/627

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid although more than six (6) months (or nine months if the Property was listed as a Principal Residence by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation on the date of the sale) from the date of sale have expired.

It is thereupon this 31st day of March, 2026, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary County, **ORDERED**, that notice be given by the insertion of a copy of this Order in some newspaper having general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for three successive weeks on or before the 31st day of May, 2026, warning all persons interested in the Property listed above to appear in this Court by the 31st day of May, 2026, and redeem the Property described above and answer the Complaint or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the Property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Debra J. Burch
Circuit Court of Maryland for St. Mary's County



Letters to the Editor

'Stay out of it'

I write to express my concern and that of others regarding this year's Republican primary election.

The St. Mary's Republican Club announced it will—for the first time—endorse candidates in the Republican primary election. According to the club, "Our members believe this endorsement will carry significant influence, as many voters rely on trusted local organizations when making their final decisions – particularly during the Primary when multiple candidates are competing for support."

The club's endorsements will follow a candidates' forum on April 25 with attendance mandatory to be considered for endorsement. The announcement states, "Following the forum, we plan to distribute endorsement materials during Early Voting and on Election Day, and Club members will be actively working the polls to promote endorsed candidates."

It is presumptuous of the club to assume it is a "trusted local organization" amongst 33,401 registered Republicans, of which the club's membership is insignificant. Perhaps the ulterior motive of the endorsements is to promote the club.

Supposedly, "when multiple candidates are competing for support," the club is opti-

mal to scrutinize the candidates, relieve Republicans of the time and trouble, and tell them who to vote for, which may infer that voters lack critical thinking skills.

What is the club's litmus test for its approval and endorsement? Will it be their opinion of a candidate's electability, or conformity with ideology? Perhaps it will be outright favoritism. Obviously, the intent is to hinder and defeat those Republican candidates they do not like.

During the primary election, the non-endorsed candidates will have the club as an added opponent. What if non-endorsed candidates win in the primary; will the club withhold its support in the general election against Democrats?

The idea of the club endorsing candidates is ill-conceived. It will instill disunity and may also render Republican candidates more vulnerable to Democrats.

Voters in primary elections choose candidates they believe have the best chance of defeating the opposition. The Republican Club should stay out of it and respect the autonomy of voters to decide for themselves.

*Brandie Edelen
Mechanicville, MD*

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

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



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New Honda Dealership Coming to California

Owned by 4th Generation Virginia Company

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Wondering what's going on with that land now being cleared near the busy Routes 235 and 4 intersection in California? Carter-Myers Automotive (CMA) is constructing a new Honda dealership there.

Carter-Myers is a 4th generation company, according to John Osborne, who will be general manager of the new dealership.

The company started as a hardware store in Richmond, Va. and secured a Ford dealership in 1924. They've been in the automotive business ever since, now having 26 dealerships, largely in Virginia.

In October of 2025, CMA purchased Toyota and Hyundai of Lexington Park, two dealerships on Route 235 closer to

Lexington Park. They were the company's first dealerships in Maryland.

Osborne is general manager of those two locations as well. Honda of Lexington Park will be CMA's 27th dealership.

The Honda operation, both sales and service, will be in one 30,428-square-foot building. It is scheduled to open early next year.

Osborne said the new dealership will use market-based pricing as the Toyota and Hyundai dealerships do, giving consumers the lowest price possible.

The company purchased the strategic piece of property from the Aldridge family, which owned the former Aldridge Ford in Lexington Park.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Commissioners, School Board Set Joint Meeting

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) and the St. Mary's County Board of Education (BOE) will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the CSMC Meeting Room, on the 1st floor of the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown.

"These joint meetings are an important opportunity for the Commissioners and the Board of Education to come together in open discussion about the issues that matter most to our students and families," said Randy Guy, CSMC President.

The joint meeting will feature discussion on the following topics:

- Negotiated Agreements
- Maryland Apprenticeship Program
- Southern Maryland Summit 2026: The Teacher Preparation Pipeline

• Redistricting Summary

This meeting is open to the public and can be viewed live on TV Channel 95 or on-demand at www.youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov. CSMC decisions and related documents are available on the SMCG website, by clicking *Board Documents* from the home page.

Information on the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, including meeting schedules, minutes, and more is available at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/csmc.

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

Press Release from SMCG

Email Scam Impersonates Planning Commission

St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) is warning residents of a scam involving fraudulent emails requesting payment of "Application Review and Approval Fees" to the St. Mary's County Planning Commission.

The Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) has received reports of fraudulent emails claiming to be from the St. Mary's County Planning Commission. These messages reference specific properties or projects, indicating that an application has been reviewed and is ready for approval pending payment of a fee, and directs recipients to reply for wire transfer instructions and submit payment to proceed.

The emails originate from non-St. Mary's County Government email addresses, including "Dept.St.Marys.County_Commission@usa.com". Official communi-

cations from St. Mary's County Government will always come from an address ending in "@stmaryscountymd.gov".

These emails are fraudulent and are not associated with St. Mary's County Government, LUGM, or the St. Mary's County Planning Commission.

Residents who receive this type of message should disregard it. If you have questions about fees or payments related to your project or application, contact the Department of Land Use & Growth Management directly to verify.

Individuals who believe they have been targeted and have sent payment should contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at (301) 475-8008 to report.

Press Release from SMCG

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<p>Primrose STARTING AT \$4⁹⁹ each</p>	<p>Spring 6" Pansy's Premium 5 or more \$6⁴⁹ each</p>
<p>Spring 4.5" Pansy's Mix Colors \$3⁷⁵ each</p>	<p>Blooming Spring Bulbs In Pots STARTING AT \$6⁹⁹ each</p>

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April 17, 2026

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www.smcm.edu/celebrate



Congratulations to Rhonda Phillips on her inauguration as the eighth president of St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Two Arrested Following Myrtle Point Park Shooting

At approximately 6:53 p.m. on April 1, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to Myrtle Point Park for reports of shots fired. When deputies arrived, they located and detained several individuals in the area.

While securing the scene and interviewing individuals, deputies made contact with a 17-year-old juvenile who was found to be in possession of a Glock 23 .40-caliber handgun. The juvenile was taken into custody without incident.

The juvenile was charged with carrying a handgun upon their person, carrying a loaded handgun on their person, possession of a firearm by a minor, and reckless endangerment.

Juveniles are not publicly identified due to legal protections.

As the investigation continued, detectives identified Armonie Josiah Jordan, 18, of California as a suspect, and an arrest warrant was issued charging him with five counts, including:

- Illegal possession of a regulated firearm, Handgun on person,
- Loaded handgun on person,
- Illegal possession of ammunition and
- Reckless endangerment.

Jordan was arrested without incident Thursday night April 2 and was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown to await a bond hearing.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Detective Warren Forinash at 301-475-4200, ext. 8072, or by email at Warren.Forinash@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also submit tips anonymously:



Armonie Josiah Jordan

- Text 847411: start your message with "SMCSO", add a space, and then your tip.
- Online: Submit a tip through the Sheriff's Office website at www.FirstSheriff.com/tips.
- App: Send a tip directly through the SMCSO app. Download the free app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- Phone: For those who prefer to make a phone call, tips can also be shared through the Crime Solvers line at 301-475-3333.

With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

Press release from SMCSO

Routine Bridge Maintenance Scheduled

Flagging Operation Will Guide Drivers

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will perform routine maintenance on two State-maintained bridges in southern Maryland this month.

The bridges are:

- Sunday morning April 12: MD 4 (Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge) bridge at the Calvert County/St. Mary's County line;
- Sunday morning April 26: MD 231 (Hallowing Point Road) bridge at the Calvert County/Charles County line.

In each instance, crews will close one lane at 6 a.m. and direct drivers using a flagging operation. The lane will open to traffic no later than 2 p.m. each afternoon, weather permitting. Drivers should plan extra driving time.

Maintenance crews will clean the drain-

age systems and the bridge decks (driving surface). Drivers will be guided using a flagging operation. Portable variable message signs will provide advanced notification of the work. Customers may contact the District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or 1-800-331-5603 with any questions.

The State Highway Administration is Serious About Safety. Pedestrians and motorists are urged to remain alert and avoid distractions when traveling through the work zone. Motorists should obey all posted speed limits. Motorists can dial #77 on their mobile devices for roadside assistance.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, news and travel information, visit roads.maryland.gov.

Press Release from MD SHA

Sheriff's Office Investigating Vehicle Break-Ins

On April 7, deputies responded to more than two dozen reports of vehicle break-ins and thefts in neighborhoods surrounding Chancellors Run Road in Great Mills.

Home surveillance footage captured multiple incidents. The videos appear to show four individuals wearing dark clothing and masks moving from vehicle to vehicle, pulling door handles. In many cases, the vehicles were unlocked, and the suspects took cash and other personal items.

Deputies believe the incidents occurred during overnight hours and appear to follow a pattern of individuals targeting unsecured vehicles.

Residents are encouraged to lock their vehicles, remove valuables, and immediately report any suspicious activity.

Anyone with information or needing to file a report is asked to contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008.

Crime Solvers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to arrests in these cases.

To submit a tip anonymously:

- Text 847411: start your message with "SMCSO", add a space, and then your tip.
- Online: Submit a tip through the Sheriff's Office website at www.FirstSheriff.com/tips.



Photo by Ceandra Scott

- App: Send a tip directly through the SMCSO app. Download the free app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- Phone: For those who prefer to make a phone call, tips can also be shared through the Crime Solvers line at 301-475-3333.

With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

Press release from SMCSO

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APRIL 11 – 12, 2026
10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

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Interact with the members of The First Maryland Regiment, costumed history reenactors who will be staging an encampment demonstrating Colonial era drilling, weapons, cooking, living quarters, music and more.

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



www.museums.stmarys.com

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BOTH DAYS

- Military Drills in camp
- Narrated Boat Tour (ticket required)
- Story Time with Leonardtown Library
- Musket and cannon firing demonstrations from the beach
- 18th century brewing and other demonstrations

- 18th century music by David & Ginger Hildebrand
- Distaff cooking in Military camps | Period vendors
- Modern Exhibitors and Food trucks
- Games and other 18th century activities
- MPT Video Excerpts from The American Revolution by Ken Burns
- Continuous bus service from parking lot to both event sites

- Meet Lord Dunmore
- Cannon firing demonstrations from shipboard
- Exhibit of 18th century objects found on St. George Island

SATURDAY ONLY

- 18th century music by Music of the Regiment
- 18th century Tavern Night (ticket required)

SUNDAY ONLY

- DAR Marker dedication

Items in **BLUE** take place at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
Items in **YELLOW** take place on St. George Island
Items in **WHITE** take place on both sites

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CSM Back in Expansion Mode

President Emphasizes Workforce Development



CSM's Leonardtown campus



CSM President Dr. Yolanda Wilson

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Like most higher education institutions, the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) was hit hard by the pandemic and had to slough their way back to normalcy. Their enrollment is finally back to pre-pandemic levels, according to CSM President Dr. Yolanda Wilson. The increase this past fall was 7.7 percent.

Dr. Wilson gave a briefing to the county commissioners on March 24. For county students, she said, "The headcount reflects a growing number of students enrolled from St. Mary's County for Fiscal Year 2025. This includes 2,086 credit students, which represent 26 percent of all CSM students. Credit students are the ones that are degree-seeking.

"And then 1,646 continuing education students. Those are the students that are looking for workforce pathways and credentials. And that represents 22 percent of all of our students. When we consider retention, over the last three years, St. Mary's enrollment for all students has increased by three percent from 3,551 in Fiscal Year '23 to 3,646 in Fiscal Year '25.

"And as we examine mobility, St. Mary's County students represented 29 percent of all CSMs degree and certificate recipients in Fiscal Year of 2025. So, St. Mary's County had 475 degree and certificate recipients last year, quantifying at 29 percent. And for the last three years, on average, the percent of degree recipients from St. Mary's County was 31 percent."

Dr. Wilson emphasized the importance of conforming to the workforce needs of the county, particularly as it relates to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. And she also shared concerns about funding at the state level.

She said, "One was the removal of the hold harmless provision, and the other was the three-percent cap that was placed on annual

increases, from Fiscal Year 27 through Fiscal Year 29. That's what's being proposed. When the hold harmless was removed last year, CSM saw funding cuts in spite of the fact that we have growing enrollment.

"Our funding was dropped by \$851,287. Now, we're thankful because we received a \$300,000 supplemental grant in Fiscal Year '26. But the challenge is that each year's calculation builds off of the previous year's lower base. So, the loss continues to ripple forward. So now the three-percent cap that's being proposed makes it even harder to recover."

She added, "Based on our improved enrollment and retention, keeping the students that we have, CSM should receive \$21.27 million from the state in Fiscal Year '27, which would've been nearly a \$1.49 million increase.

"But because of that three percent cap, we won't see the \$1.49 million increase. What we're going to receive is \$896,000 less than that amount. So, we'll get about \$597,000 in total."

Maryland has the highest-ranking community college systems and CSM ranks sixth of the 16 community colleges in Maryland. That puts CSM at 40th nationwide.

She observed, "Our affordability is a direct nod to your county's investment, which helps us to keep tuition steady for our students."

Regarding the notion to raise tuition to make up for the funding cuts, she said, "We have intentionally chosen to keep our tuition flat for the past three years," adding, "When I asked the team to look at our tuition rates in comparison to our other sister institutions, there's 16 of us in the state. We are among the highest already. So, when I came on board, we were already among the highest tuition rates because CSM had increased it prior to my arrival. So, we charge \$140. This is tuition now, not fees, tuition \$140 per credit. The highest rate in the state is \$144

per credit. So, we're already in the top tier in comparison. So, we're really sensitive to the fact that if we raise it more than we'll probably be in the top in the state."

On workforce development, she said, "We're honored to be among Maryland's community colleges that are offering that cyber workforce accelerator program right here in Leonardtown. We had our cyber range training with our ribbon cutting last spring. We've already had 26 enrollees in that program, 17 training completions and 14 who've passed a security operator analyst one (SAL1) certification. So, they can go directly into the workforce."

She said CSM has received a designation as a military-spouse-friendly institution and that has been shown with 1,100 students who have that military affiliation.

Dr. Wilson singled out the approval of the two-year degree program in Aviation Maintenance Technology. "We have two certifications. One of those certifications is the power plant. The other one is the airframe. So, for a student, we call those stackable credentials. A student can come in and decide they don't have time to do the two-year degree, but they want to get the power plant certification. They want to get the airframe certification. Those are still employable certifications, or they can continue and get the entire degree."

The program was put together with the help of 30 community and industry advisors and the assistance of a community college in Florida, which has the program. CSM's will be the first in the state when commences next year.

"And we're going to launch it at our Center for Trades and Energy Training in Hughesville," Dr. Wilson said, "where we already have our skilled trades there. This will give us a degree program anchored at that space."

She said they received a \$997,000 federal

earmark for the program and an additional earmark of \$732,000 for their wastewater treatment program. Both were secured by senators Van Hollen and Alsobrooks.

Dr. Wilson also reported the re-accreditation of their registered and licensed Practical Nursing programs. Noting the shortage of nurses, she said, "We have a wait list for our nursing program...about 35 to 40 students. We also have a huge demand in our region for nurses," adding, "Part of the challenge historically has been finding enough clinical locations to be able to put our students into these sites."

She related, "One of every 47 jobs in Southern Maryland are supported by CSM and its students. One out of 47 CSM alumni working in the region contribute \$223 million in added income."

Student Valeria Cervantes Corona of Great Mills thanked the commissioners for their funding and the college for giving her the opportunity to earn a degree in electrical engineering.

"What brought me to CSM was the fact that higher education fell within reach," she said. "I'm the kind of student who learns best when I ask questions, build relationships with my professors, and feel like I'm part of a community. And CSM offered exactly that. The small class sizes, the hands-on faculty, and the ability to stay close to home made pursuing engineering not only possible, but realistic."

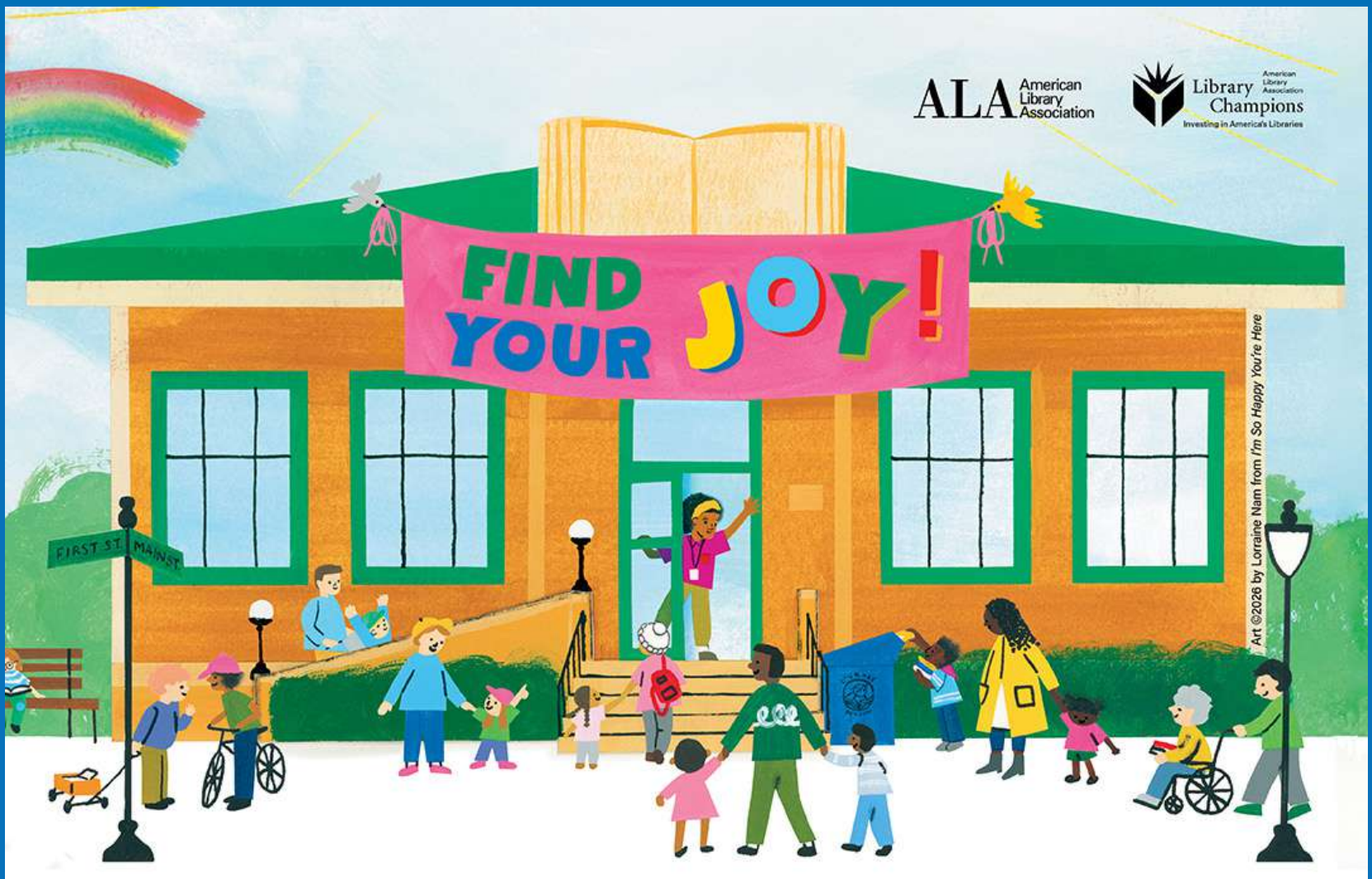
"As a first-generation college student," she said, "it removed the financial pressure that can push students away from STEM fields and opened a door."

"CSM isn't just college, it's a launching point. It's a place where students from all backgrounds can gain skills, confidence, and opportunities to move forward," Corona said.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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April 19–25, 2026



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“CSM ISN'T JUST COLLEGE, IT'S A LAUNCHING POINT.”

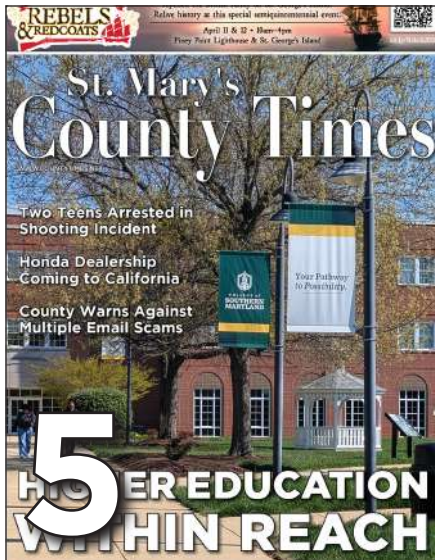
ENGINEERING STUDENT VALERIA CERVANTES CORONA



LOCAL 5
Deputies respond to rash of vehicle break-ins



COMMUNITY 18
Rebels & Redcoats brings history alive



ON THE COVER
CSM president shares updates on pandemic recovery, workforce development, and more

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 9	FRI, APR 10	SAT, APR 11	SUN, APR 12
Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 43°	Sunny Hi: 71° Lo: 55°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 49°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 66° Lo: 55°
MON, APR 13	TUE, APR 14	WED, APR 15	THU, APR 16
Mostly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 65°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 68°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 67°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 56°



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46th ANNIVERSARY

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!

SOLOMONS ISLAND, MD

TIKI BAR

EST. 1980

APRIL 17-19, 2026

Friday 4/17 Justin Taylor 12pm

Uncle Jesse 4pm

Doc Martin & The Flannels 7pm

Saturday 4/18 Sons of Pirates 11am

No Green Jellybeenz 3pm

New Normal 7pm

Sunday 4/19 Wesley Spangles 12pm

The Reagan Years 4pm

SAVE THE DATES



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

April 11 & 12 • 10am–4pm
Piney Point Lighthouse & St. George's Island



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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

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