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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023

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Due to the untimely death of Aaron C. Mattingly, the undersigned personal representative will sell the following, Moved for the continece of the Auction, located at 38250 New Market Turner Rd, Mechanicsville, St. Mary's Co., Maryland on:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 • 9:00 A.M.

CRANES: P&H T450 45 Ton 4-Axle Hydraulic Crane Truck, 4-Section Boom, 8,531 Hrs. – Well Maintained; P&H 45 Ton Lattice Boom Dragline/Crane, 36" Pads- TO BE SOLD OFFSITE- Selling Off Site in Leonardtown, MD, Approximately 20 Miles from Auction Site- Call Week of Auction for Inspection Drott 60 Crane- Rough

SCREENS & CONVEYORS- TO BE SOLD OFFSITE- Selling Off Site in Leonardtown, MD, Approximately 20 Miles from Auction Site- Call Week of Auction for Inspection:

Commander Power Screen 510 Screener, Deutz Diesel Engine; 80' Hydraulic Portable Conveyor w/24" Wide; 60' Stationary Hydraulic Conveyor w/30" Wide; Aggregate Screener, Deutz Diesel Engine; KPI-JCI Stationary 60' Conveyor w/30" Wide, Electric Powered; Western Electric 75Kw Engine Alternator Powered by Detroit Diesel, Power Boxes & 275 Gal. Tank Included
ARTICULATED END DUMP: 2012 Terex TA400 T/A Articulated End Dump, 4,166.2 Hrs. – Super Sharp

(5)HYDRAULIC EXCAVATORS: John Deere 350G LC Hydraulic Excavator, S/N – 1FF350GX-CFF811068, Aux. Hyd., Lemac Hyd. Thumb, 32" Tracks, 54" Bucket, Grapple, 3,788 Hrs. - Super Sharp; Caterpillar 320 CL Hydraulic Excavator, CAT Hyd. Thumb; Hitachi EX160LC Hydraulic Excavator, TAG 42" Exc. Bucket, Geith Manual Thumb, 7,317 Hrs.; John Deere 85D Rubber Track Hydraulic Excavator, S/N – 13KP002176, ECAB, Aux. Hyd., Backfill Blade, Accurate Hyd. Thumb; Caterpillar 304C-CR Rubber Track Hydraulic Excavator, ROPS w/ Roof, Aux. Hyd., Backfill Blade, 24" Digging Bucket, CAT Hyd. Thumb; (10)Various Excavator Buckets; Quick Tach for Excavator
(4)TRACK DOZERS: Komatsu D65PX Track Dozer, Factory Cab, P.A.T. Blade, 3-Rear Ripper – Super Sharp; Caterpillar D5G LGP Track Dozer, ECAB w/Air, P.A.T. Blade, 26" Tracks; Caterpillar D8H Track Dozer, Straight Blade w/Tilt, Not Running - Selling Off Site in Leonardtown, MD, Approximately 20 Miles from Auction Site- Call Week of Auction for Inspection; Caterpillar D8H Track Dozer- Many Parts Missing - Selling Off Site in Leonardtown, MD, Approximately 20 Miles from Auction Site- Call Week of Auction for Inspection

(2)RUBBER TIRE LOADERS: Caterpillar 980C Rubber Tire Loader, S/N – 63X05443, ECAB; Caterpillar 950B Rubber Tire Loader, S/N – 63R02536, ECAB, 3,167 Hrs.

(18)TRACK SKID LOADERS & ATTACHMENTS: Caterpillar 289C Two Speed Rubber Track Skid Loader, S/N – CAT0289CJIMP00718, ECAB, Aux. Hyd., Power Quick Tach, Weight Package, 3,810 Hrs.; Caterpillar 259B3 High Flow Two Speed Rubber Track Skid Loader, S/N – CAT0057ACMM00693, ECAB, Aux. Hyd., G.P. Bucket w/Bolt On Cutting Edge, 3,734 Hrs.; Caterpillar 257 Rubber Track Skid Loader, Aux. Hyd., G.P. Bucket; Caterpillar 16B Trencher; Caterpillar PR184 Landscape Rake, S/N – PRW00358; FFC 8" Skid Steer Blade; (2)Tomahawk 96" Material Buckets & Others; Tomahawk 84" Bucket; 73" Bucket & Other Buckets; Universal Grapple Bucket; Bradco Universal Rotary Mower; Concrete Universal Placement Bucket & Other Attachments.

TELESCOPIC FORKLIFT: Lull 1044C-54 Telescopic Forklift, S/N – 0160008539, Aux. Hydraulics w/Tilt, 6' Forks, Outriggers, 6,287 Hrs.

VIBRATORY ROLLER: REX SP-600 Vibratory Roller, OROPS w/ Roof, 48" Smooth Drum, 1,541 Hrs.

AIRPORT SNOW BLOWER: Idaho Norland Airport Snow Blower- Drove Approximately 20 Miles to Auction Site
TRACTORS & MOWER & 3 PT. ATTACHMENTS: John Deere 4720 4WD Tractor w/400X Loader, ECAB, Hyd. Outlets, John Deere Quick Tach 72" Bucket, 3 Pt. w/Top Link; McCormick Farmall 400 Tractor; John Deere M665 Zero Turn Mower, 2,027 Hrs.; Dixie Chopper Industrial Extreme Zero Turn Mower, 72" Cut; Turf Tiger Zero Turn Mower; Scag Turf Tiger Mower for Parts; Frontier RB2196H Blade, 3 Pt.; John Deere MX6 Rotary Mower, 3 Pt., Chain Package; John Deere OS 1058 Seeder, 3 Pt.- Like New; Post Hole Digger; John Deere Tiller; Quick Hitch; Jacobsen 3 Pt. Leaf Blower & Others Not Mentioned.

(2)LOWBOY ROAD TRACTORS: 2007 Mack CHN613 T/A Road Tractor, Mack Maxitorque 13 Sp. Trans., Wetline, Bulk Head- Super Sharp Well Maintained; 1994 Peterbilt 379 T/A Road Tractor, Eaton Fuller Manual Trans., Wetline, 1,238,980 – Odometer – Super Sharp- Well Maintained
50 TON DETACHABLE EQUIPMENT TRAILER: 2000 Fontaine 50 Ton TA Series Tri Axle Detachable Low Boy Trailer, 25' Well, Outriggers – Super Sharp

(5)TRI, TANDEM & SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCKS: 2005 Peterbilt 379 Tri Axle Dump Truck, CAT Engine, Manual Trans., 17' Steel Dump Body w/Cab Protector, Tarp & Hydraulic Tailgate, 411,595.7 Odometer, Needs Injector Work- Complete Restoration- Super Sharp (DT-2); 1999 Mack RD688S Tri Axle Dump Truck, Mack Diesel, 8 Sp. Trans., 16' Steel Dump Body, Cab Protector & Tarp, 516,215 Odometer (DT-6); 1997 Mack RD688S Tri Axle Dump Truck, Mack Diesel, Manual Trans., 16' Aluminum Dump Body, Cab Protector & Tarp, 578,523 Odometer (DT-5); 1986 Freightliner T/A Dump Truck, Diesel, 9 Sp. Trans. w/11' Steel Dump Body, Cab Protector & Tarp (DT-4); 2005 GMC C7500 S/A Dump Truck, Diesel w/12' Steel Dump Body, Cab Protector & Tarp (DT-3)
Dump Bodies: J&J Aluminum 17 1/2' Dump Body w/Cab Protector & Tarp

(5)SERVICE TRUCKS: 2020 Ford F550 XL Super Duty 4-Door Service Truck, Auto. Trans., Power Stroke Diesel, Reading 11' Service Body w/Fuel Tank, 17,524 Odometer - Same As New; 2006 International 4400 4X2 S/A Service Truck, Eaton Fuller 10 Sp. Trans., Adkins 16' Enclosed Utility Body, w/Miller Trailblazer 302 Air Pak Welder/Generator, Aluminum Fuel Tank, Hose Reels, Grease Tank, Acetylene Reels, Hose Reels, Vise, Pintle Hitch, 189,105 Odometer- Set-up Just Right- Like New (ST-2); 2005 GMC C5500 S/A Service Truck, Duramax Diesel, Knapeide 14' Utility Body w/Hobart Welder, Cutting Torch, Air Compressor, Fuel Tank – Well Maintained (ST-1); 2002 Ford F250XL 4X4 Super Duty Extended Cab Pickup, Auto. Trans., Power Stroke Diesel V-8 w/Rawson-Koenig 8' Utility Body, Pintle Hitch, Fuel Tank & Pump, Air Compressor; 1980 International S1854 S/A Utility Truck, Manual Trans. w/18' Utility Body & IMT 315A Crane- Parts Truck

(6)SUPPORT TRUCKS: 2000 Ford F450XL Super Duty S/A Flatbed Truck, w/Dejana 14' Stake Body, Under Body Diamond Plate Tool Box, 149,210 Odometer Showing; 1995 International 4900 S/A Truck, DT466, Stainless Steel Hydraulic Fertilizer/Salt Spreader, w/Valk 10' Snow Plow, 95,058 – Odometer Showing (DT-7); 1987 International S1900 S/A Vac Truck w/Dominator Tank; 1994 International 4900 S/A Rescue Truck, DT 466; 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 4X4 Pickup, Auto. Trans., Diamond Plate Tool Boxes, Weather Guard Fuel Tank; 1995 Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie SLT Pickup, Auto. Trans., Cummins Turbo Diesel, PW, PL, 224,329 – Odometer Showing

(19)TRAILERS & CONTAINERS: 2012 Loadmax 4ZECL342 T/A Gooseneck Trailer, 34' Hydraulic Tail, Underbody Tool Boxes; 2005 Bri Mar T/A Equipment Trailer, 16' Flat, 4' Dovetail w/Ramps; 2004 Trail King T/A Equipment Trailer, Air Brakes, 21' Flat, 6' Beaver Tail w/Ramp; 2004 Kauffman T/A Equipment Trailer, 14,000 GVWR, Electric Brakes, 19' Flat, 4' Beaver Tail w/Ramps; Interstate T/A 18' Enclosed Trailer, Side Door, Diesel Compressor, Air Tank w/Hose, Hose Reels, 23' Flat T/A Equipment Trailer, 5' Beaver Tail w/Ramps; 1989 Tag-a-long Equipment Trailer; Steel Demolition T/A 32' Dump Trailer w/Tarp; T/A Tank Trailer; (6)Dry Storage T/A Trailers- No Titles, 48', (2) 40' & 20' Sea Containers.

(4)ATVS: Polaris RZR XP 4 Off Road Utility Vehicle, 869 Miles- Like New; Polaris Ranger 6X6 Utility Vehicle, ECAB; Toro Workman, 939 Hrs.; John Deere 5-Wheel ATV- Parts

FARM EQUIPMENT: New Holland 1033 Stacklifter; John Deere F10 10' Transport Box Blade, Pull Type; John Deere Square Baler w/1/4 Turn Chute, Narrow Sweep; Hay Elevator; Wagon Running Gear & Other.

HEAVY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT: Thompson 9" Water Pump w/John Deere Diesel - Portable & Other Water Pump; Reince TM7 30X Straw Blower, S/N – 3193, Wisconsin Gas Engine – Portable; Ingersoll Rand 250 Air Compressor – Portable; Ingersoll Rand 185 Air Compressor, John Deere Diesel – Portable; Tailgate Spreader; Several Snow Plows including John Deere, Smart Shield, Western; Plow Harness; (2)John Deere Walk Behind Snow Blowers; Aluminum Ramps- Portable; Trench Boxes; (4) 14' X 8' X 1" Steel Road Plates & Others; Assortment of Steel, I-Beams, Etc. & Others.

SMALL CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT: Stihl Drill; Stihl Concrete Saw; Stihl Chain Saws & Others; Stihl Cutoff Saw; Honda GX160 Pump w/Hoses; Portable Lifts; Lift/Stand; Kinshofer Lift/ Fork Attachment; Steel Platforms & Ramps; Transits & Other Survey Equipment; SFP4000 Tamper & Other Tampers; Assortment of Ladders; Storage Racks; Various Size & Type Road Pipe; Plastic/ PVC Pipe Fittings & Pipe of All Kind, Etc.; Galvanized Culvert Pipe of Various Size; Aluminum Pipe; Black Hose; Spools of Rope; Rolls of Hose; Assortment of Road Signs; CAT Sign; Various Chains, Hooks; Assortment of Fuel Tanks, Barrels; Fuel Tank w/Pump; Century Poly Tank; (3)Concrete Transport Chutes; Aluminum Mats; (2)Lyon Cabinets & Other Nice Cabinets; Large & Small Cabinets of Bolts; Various Cutting Edges & Other Items Too Numerous To Mention.

TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT SELLING FOR PARTS OR SALVAGE: 1980 International Service Truck w/ Crane; Mack B Road Tractor (DT-1); Kenworth T/A Road Tractor w/Studio Sleeper- No Engine; Mack RD688S- Parts; Several Tri Axle Frames w/Motors- 1 w/Mack Engine, 1 w/CAT Engine; Several Truck Cabs; 1982 Jeep; Dresser A450E Grader, ECAB, Front Scarfire; Vermeer V-4430 Trencher & Others.

SHOP EQUIPMENT: Large Macimizer Class III Super Station Tool Box on Wheels & Other Tool Boxes; Edwards 55 Ton Jaws IV Hydraulic Ironworker, S/N – 20595599; Generators; Miller 252 Welder; Millermatic 211 Welder; Miller Bobcat 250 Welder; ESAB Multimaster 260 Welder; ESAB Powercut 1500 Plasma Cutter; Manley Shop Press; Hormak Parts Washer; Northstar & Waume 4-200T Pressure Washers & Others; Dayco Hydraulic Hose Maker; Snap On Transmission Jack & Other Transmission Jacks; Assortment of Floor Jacks; Assorted Bolt Bins w/Hardware & Parts; Do All Countourmatic 36 Band Saw; Clausing & Clarke Drill Presses; Jet Cut Saw; Jet Power Hack Saw; Jet Band/Cut Saw; Air Vantage 500 Air Compressor; Large Sand Blaster & Others; Torch Carts w/ Hoses & Gauges; Large Selection of Power Tools including: Milwaukee, DeWalt, SPK, Snap On, Power Built, SK, Skil, Cornwell, Bosch & Others; Large Variety of Tools- Mechanic, Testers, Large Open-End Mechanic Wrenches, C-Clamps, Hoses, Fittings, Connectors, Etc.; Snap-On Puller Set; Snap-On & Cornwell Tool Chest on Wheels; Battery Charger; Floor & Wall Mount Fans; Large Selection of Oil & Air Filters; Various Hose Reels- Air & Lubricant; Antifreeze/Coolant; Assortment of Misc. Equipment, Vehicle Parts, Truck Cab, Accessories, Various Truck Mufflers, Engine Blocks, Transmissions, Steel & Aluminum Fuel Tanks; Bullet Heater; New Tires; U-Bolts; Teeth; Straps; Hopper & Other Items- Virtually Impossible To List!

WOOD SHOP EQUIPMENT: Grizzly DF-1237G Lathe, 12" Swing, 37" Center; Delta Planer; Band Saw; Hitachi Table Saw; Hitachi C12LSH Compound Miter Saw, Digital & Laser & Other Wood Shop Equipment.

OFFICE, HOUSEHOLD & MISCELLANEOUS: Misc. Office Furniture & Equipment; 3-Compartment Stainless Steel Sink; Dinette Set w/(4)Chairs; Misc. Furniture; Misc. Model Trains/Items; Bikes; Household Pots & Pans, Flatware, Pictures, Etc.; Senate Beer Thermometer; Budweiser Lighted; John Daniels Car Hood & Other Items.

(27) RIFLES, SHOTGUNS & HAND GUNS including: (3)Remington 870, Savage 209, Mossberg 395KB, Ruger 247, Ruger 223, (2)Ruger 10/22, Ruger 22 Lever Action, Ruger 22 Hornet, Browning 28, Browning Citori, (2)Marlin 35 Rem., CZ 177 Hornet, Kimber 84L 270 Win, Marlin 883, Rossi M88 38 Special, Beretta 21A 22, Ruger 22 Mark II Target, Ruger P89 9mm, S&W 500 Magnum w/Scope, FX FN45 w/Light, FN 45 w/Light, Romm 38 Special, Mag. Research Mountain Eagle, Carla Mattingly, Personal Representative

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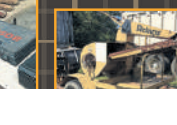
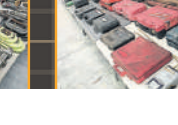
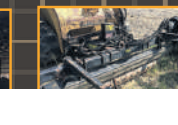
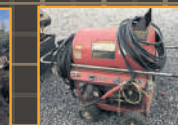
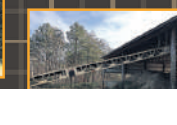
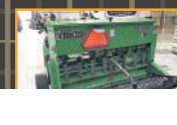
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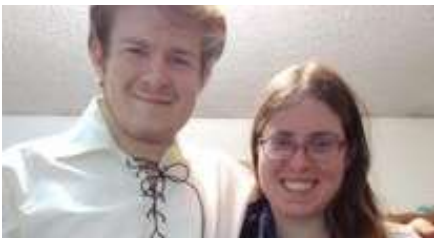
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“IT PUTS US IN A VERY CHALLENGING POSITION.”
 SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON RESTRICTED STATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION



LOCAL 7
 Fatal crash trial begins



LOCAL 7
 Schools want more education funding



ON THE COVER
 Higher property assessments mean tax increase

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JAN 19	FRI, JAN 20	SAT, JAN 21	SUN, JAN 22
 Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 44°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 51° Lo: 33°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 46° Lo: 32°	 PM Rain Hi: 45° Lo: 39°
MON, JAN 23	TUE, JAN 24	WED, JAN 25	THU, JAN 26
 AM Showers Hi: 49° Lo: 32°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 46° Lo: 38°	 Showers Hi: 49° Lo: 34°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 47° Lo: 29°

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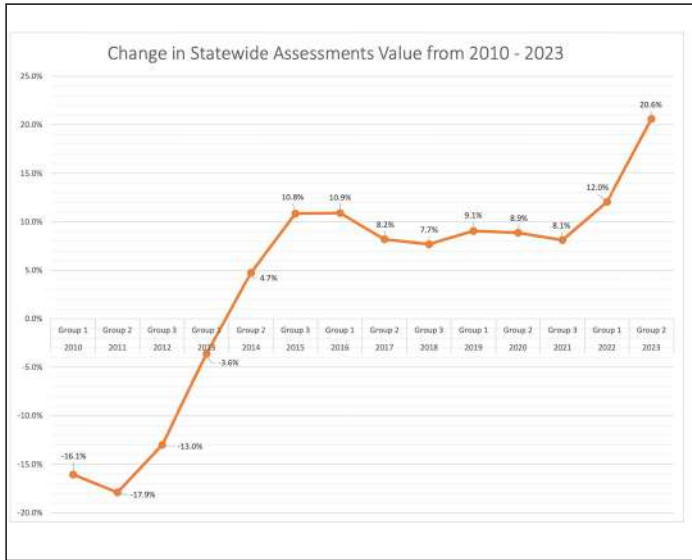
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Residents, Businesses Facing Higher Property Taxes



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The state's announcement just before the New Year that property value assessments had increased across Maryland by an average of 20.6 percent over the last three years has some worried about their increased property tax bill as a result.

The increased assessments will mean increased property tax bills for both residential and commercial properties.

In St. Mary's County residential properties rose in value by 18.3 percent and commercial properties rose 12.9 percent, the report stated.

In neighboring Calvert County, property values rose by 19.8 percent while commercial properties rose in value by 8.1 percent.

The increases were for the 2023 projected report compared to the report released in 2020.

"It's vitally important that everyone apply for the homestead tax credit," said County Commissioner Eric Colvin. "If they haven't applied for it they won't get it." The county's homestead tax credit applies to property owners and their primary residence and prevents the amount of property tax they pay each year from increasing more than 3 percent per year.

"Not everyone knows about it," Colvin said. "People are concerned about

their property taxes increasing and their assessments going up."

With inflation increasing the prices of most household goods and gas prices still high, Colvin said he hoped to find some way to provide tax relief in the county government budgeting process this year given that property taxes are rising.

"But there are a lot of increases in costs that we have to deal with," Colvin said. "We're looking at an increased bill for education costs and an increase from our newly elected State's Attorney [Jaymi Sterling]."

"We don't know what the sheriff's office request will be."

The county commissioner board is also waiting to hear from all other county departments and agencies as to their budget requests, which will likely also be increased.

Despite this, the commissioners have already committed to spending \$3.4 million of the \$10.4 million increase in tax revenues over last year's budget to give county employees a 4.5 percent cost of living adjustment pay increase.

Colvin was the sole vote in opposition to that vote taken at the Jan. 10 operating budget work session.

Matt Burgan, owner of a regional real estate brokerage, said the rise in assessments and tax rates will have negative effects here.

"Mortgages will go up..." Burgan said. "Essentially the cost of home ownership will increase."

Burgan said that about 20 percent of the homes he sells in St. Mary's County are owned by people who are looking to go somewhere else where the tax burden is not so great.

"For the community, though the impact is much greater," Burgan said. "When we disincentivize people to stay in communities by raising taxes and rates you can eventually lose tax payers," Burgan said. "When I talk to people in St. Mary's County who want to sell their home and I ask why they want to leave they tell me it's because of the taxes."

"They're selling to move to another state where the negative impacts of taxes aren't so profound."

The county's operation budget revenues this year are nearly \$290 million between property and income tax revenues according to the latest budget projections.

It is here that Colvin said there could be some hope of property tax relief, which could be achieved through going to a constant yield tax rate in which the rate would be adjusted to ensure the county collected the same amount in property tax receipts in fiscal 2024 as it did in fiscal 2023.

But this is something that the county commissioners have not done in at least the last decade.

"We get slightly more in revenue from income taxes than property taxes," Colvin said. "And that's mostly because of [the high-paying jobs] on the base."

County Treasurer Christine Kelly said the COVID-19 pandemic was one of the

main drivers behind the rise in property tax assessments as the real estate market saw significant activity during lockdowns.

"The real estate markets had been stagnant for years," Kelly explained. "There was a massive amount of changing deeds during COVID."

"People were bored, they were buying houses like crazy and taking the time to move."

Kelly said a sizeable number of people buying property and moving to St. Mary's came all the way from New England but kept their jobs there to continue to telecommute.

"We could barely keep up," Kelly said. "A lot of people were coming from outside the area and moving to St. Mary's."

"They wanted to get out of the cities."

Many of those residents in New England states often paid three to four times the level of property taxes that they now pay in St. Mary's, she said.

The rapid increase in sales of real estate across Maryland drove prices up, hence the increase in assessments by state authorities. "It's not driven by the state but by the markets," Kelly said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Table R-1
Residential and Commercial Full Cash Value Change
Value and Percent Change for Reassessment Group 2
January 1, 2020 Base Full Cash Values Compared To January 1, 2023 Reassessment Full Cash Values

Group 3 Jurisdiction	Residential			Commercial			Residential & Commercial Combined		
	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-23	% Change	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-23	% Change	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-23	% Change
Allegany	998,972,900	1,285,344,400	28.7%	265,688,000	276,337,500	4.0%	1,264,660,900	1,561,681,900	23.5%
Anne Arundel	25,831,471,250	30,794,331,100	19.2%	13,781,690,200	15,727,495,000	14.1%	39,613,161,450	46,521,826,100	17.4%
Baltimore City	8,423,091,957	10,470,410,300	24.3%	8,049,095,600	9,559,168,200	18.8%	16,472,187,557	20,029,578,500	21.6%
Baltimore	28,645,899,100	33,723,758,900	17.7%	12,052,070,300	13,637,048,700	13.2%	40,697,969,400	47,360,807,600	16.4%
Calvert	3,978,849,500	4,767,067,600	19.8%	352,055,900	380,540,800	8.1%	4,330,905,400	5,147,608,500	18.9%
Caroline	1,005,413,900	1,269,814,400	26.3%	195,155,700	213,773,500	9.5%	1,200,569,600	1,483,587,900	23.6%
Carroll	5,949,698,800	7,432,256,900	24.9%	496,058,200	555,636,200	12.0%	6,445,757,000	7,989,893,100	23.9%
Cecil	2,768,625,300	3,252,904,300	17.5%	557,414,100	761,204,700	36.6%	3,326,039,400	4,014,109,000	20.7%
Charles	4,545,997,600	5,949,740,500	30.9%	326,831,500	356,045,100	8.9%	4,872,829,100	6,305,785,600	29.4%
Dorchester	887,468,500	1,113,644,900	25.5%	346,548,400	380,821,700	9.9%	1,234,016,900	1,494,466,600	21.1%
Frederick	10,186,353,200	13,350,901,600	31.1%	1,820,662,300	2,203,855,300	21.0%	12,007,015,500	15,554,756,900	29.5%
Garrett	2,335,053,600	3,592,564,000	53.9%	222,104,000	262,446,400	18.2%	2,557,157,600	3,855,010,400	50.8%
Harford	3,968,193,800	11,667,771,400	17.1%	1,934,620,100	2,136,742,700	10.4%	11,902,813,900	13,804,514,100	16.0%
Howard	16,736,277,900	20,578,080,200	23.0%	5,116,831,300	5,741,520,500	12.2%	21,853,109,200	26,319,600,700	20.4%
Kent	1,180,143,800	1,359,904,200	15.2%	230,053,000	24,798,300	7.6%	1,203,196,800	1,384,702,500	15.1%
Montgomery	52,914,489,877	63,411,239,200	19.8%	18,138,198,600	21,665,069,100	19.4%	71,052,688,477	85,077,308,300	19.7%
Prince George's	36,676,385,700	45,667,598,800	24.5%	10,195,287,000	11,844,019,600	16.2%	46,871,672,700	57,511,618,400	22.7%
Queen Anne's	1,365,941,300	1,710,183,700	25.2%	122,184,700	136,379,400	13.3%	1,488,126,000	1,846,563,100	24.2%
St. Mary's	5,080,781,900	6,008,338,700	18.3%	469,999,900	530,467,800	12.9%	5,550,781,800	6,538,806,500	17.8%
Somerset	311,312,900	463,345,000	48.8%	70,328,900	71,951,100	2.3%	381,641,800	535,296,100	40.3%
Talbot	2,754,564,100	3,251,586,400	18.0%	168,679,900	208,407,600	23.6%	2,923,244,000	3,459,994,000	18.4%
Washington	2,756,224,000	3,770,278,100	36.8%	1,429,428,700	1,528,734,800	6.9%	4,185,652,700	5,298,012,900	26.6%
Wicomico	1,846,359,700	2,412,566,000	30.7%	914,997,300	1,026,350,900	12.2%	2,761,357,000	3,438,916,900	24.5%
Worcester	2,432,397,600	3,291,131,500	35.3%	650,051,800	742,192,500	14.2%	3,082,449,400	4,033,324,000	30.8%
TOTAL	229,579,968,184	280,594,762,100	22.2%	77,699,035,400	89,974,007,500	15.8%	307,279,003,584	370,568,769,600	20.6%

State Department of Assessments and Taxation
December 2022

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Defendant in Fiery, Fatal Crash On Trial

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer



Aleksandar Ivanchev

Aleksandar Ivanchev, the man accused of killing a young couple by crashing his vehicle into theirs at the Golden Beach Road intersection with Route 5 as he sped at upwards of 100 miles an hour north is facing

second-degree murder charges as well as negligent manslaughter charges in a trial that is expected to conclude Friday.

Ivanchev's trial began late in the afternoon on Jan. 17 after almost two years since the crash occurred that killed Melody Russell, 29, and Shawn Bailey, 27, a young pair who were engaged to be married.

The crash occurred on July 30, 2021 when Ivanchev's vehicle collided with the one Bailey and Russell were in and their vehicle burst into flames.

Ivanchev was badly injured in the crash and was eventually released from confinement to await trial.

Ivanchev's passport was confiscated;

he is originally from Bulgaria.

The trial has been postponed several times and Ivanchev has been in and out of incarceration since his initial confinement when he was arrested in March of 2021 for driving a vehicle — a tractor — near his St. Mary's City home to move firewood, according to police reports.

Ivanchev had been prohibited by court order from driving as a condition of his release.

Ivanchev's defense counsel has argued in court filings that he had suffered a head injury before the crash and that the injury contributed to or likely was the cause of the crash.

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Shawn Bailey and Melody Russell

Speaker Draws Criticism After LHS Talk



Jeff Yalden

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A well-known motivational speaker who specializes in talking to teenaged students about mental health and suicide prevention drew criticism from parents and students alike after a speech he gave at Leonardtown High School last week.

Several parents speaking out on social media regarding the event said their children reported the speaker — Jeff Yalden — told them that “self harm was OK, at least they were feeling something,” one parent wrote.

Another said their child had reported that Yalden had used the time to speak to them as a “trauma dump” about his own past relationship problems and only contributed to the students' anxiety.

Yalden was hired to speak there using money from a student-led fundraiser, according to Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith.

The honorarium Yalden received was \$6,700, Smith said.

“No public funds were used to support this event,” Smith told The County Times. “As with any program or presentation, have mixed responses.

“Many teachers, parents and students

reported it was a valuable presentation and generated positive discussions with students about mental health while others have expressed concern.”

One parent said their child had reported Yalden told those assembled that “drug abuse is fine because it means you care.”

Yalden said he was being unfairly criticized and that what he said in some cases was either misheard or misinterpreted, especially the remarks he made about children harming themselves.

“Self-harm to me is a child asking for help and that's a good thing,” Yalden told The County Times. “What I say to them is that when a child comes to me and they are harming themselves I don't react [excitedly].

“That means they're feeling, they're asking for help but they don't know how.”

When children and teens can't talk about their problems or won't talk about them, Yalden said, they tend to act them out.

Yalden said he gave two talks at separate assemblies and was at Leonardtown High School the entire day.

“Would they have even let me stay after the first assembly if it was that bad?” Yalden asked. “Kids are going to hear what they want to hear.

“This is ridiculous and unfortunate; this is kids acting out and parents acting out.”

Yalden said he had been approached by several other schools in St. Mary's to speak to their students but the recent controversy over his Leonardtown High School visit meant he would likely not pursue other engagements here.

“I'm probably just going to stay out of the community,” Yalden said.

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MLK Speaker: Doing What Is Right Comes With a Cost



Chris Haley

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Martin Luther King, Jr., and his legacy of battling for civil rights, are much loved today 55 years after his assassination but his reputation was far worse in his day when he was carrying on the fight.

So said Chris Haley, historian and nephew of Roots author Alex Haley, to attendees of the MLK Day Prayer Breakfast at St. Mary's College of Maryland Jan. 16.

"We love his message, we love his story, now," Haley said. "But he was not universally liked.

"He was hated by many in this country."

King and his message of equality, both social and economic, which included the concept of basic, guaranteed income for all, were often maligned in the press.

King's 1967 speech against the Vietnam War was castigated by Life Magazine as a "demagogic slander that sounded like a script for Radio Hanoi," Haley said.

This was after King had won the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent protests against racism and discrimination in the United States.

But King proceeded with his movement, Haley said, despite the vitriol

pointed at him; he would be satisfied with nothing less than "radical change."

The Civil Rights Act, signed into law in 1964, was one such example but an additional act with the same name would be passed in 1968 further prohibiting discriminatory practices in public life.

It would become law as riots broke out immediately after King's shooting death in Memphis, Tenn. on April 4, 1968.

"How many claim to love Dr. King now, yet they despise current social justice programs?" Haley asked his audience. "Would they love him then?"

Following the example of King meant risking being rejected and even hated as

he was, said Haley.

"Those who are against change... hate that you are doing it at all," Haley said. "You may have to risk being hated a little to be respected a lot."

King wanted to press for change through the vote, Haley said, and King encouraged those seeking change to run for office despite the odds against them.

The candidacy alone meant that a long-repressed message would be made public.

"You may not win but at least you'll be heard," Haley said.

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Schools Looking For Additional \$25 Million in New Budget



Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Public School System is proposing a \$278.7 million budget for fiscal 2024 that would be comprised of local and state funds, or \$25.9 million more than the current fiscal 2023 budget.

The local share, which is now \$121.5 million would climb to \$130 million, according to the latest budget proposal from Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith for a local increase of about \$8.4 million.

The rest of the money for the budget would include a proposed \$141.7 million from the state and \$2.5 million from the federal government along with other sources to round out the final tally.

Smith told the St. Mary's County Board of Education at a Jan. 12 budget work session that the local increase was one of about 7 percent over the current year, which was commensurate with the economic reality of the day.

"That's an important number, we are seeking a 7 percent increase... that does align with what we have been seeing inflationary-wise," Smith said.

"It's not out of the norm."

When it comes to what the state would actually provide, the situation was different.

"We don't have state numbers yet," Smith said. "Nor do we have a way to appeal what the state will see fit to give us."

"This is a formula driven calculation."

Calling the state's formula under the relatively new "Blueprint for Education" funding "challenging, Smith said, it was based on enrollment but also the types

of students who were enrolled, particularly economically disadvantaged students or those who were speaking a primary language other than English.

The school system was expecting an increase of about 13 percent in funding from the state.

"That may happen, that may not happen," Smith said. "Hopefully we'll know by the end of next Friday [Jan. 20]."

Smith said the tenor of the budget work session held the same day by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County was concerning, as their allocations for the school system were barely over the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement.

The county's preliminary budget documents show that they had planned to give just \$122.5 million for county schools or only about \$1 million more than the current fiscal year.

It was just a fraction of the local increase the school system was hoping for.

"The county commissioners are not required to provide any funding over maintenance of effort," Smith said. "[That] is basically flat funding."

Under the current county plan, Smith said, county departments would increase their budgets by 4 percent per year with the school system getting less than 1 percent in fiscal 2024 and no increase in fiscal 2025.

"It's not on them [commissioners]," Smith said. "They are putting in place the numbers the state gave them to fund public schools."

"I cannot stress enough that the Blueprint funding does not make sense."

At this rate of funding, said Smith, there was no way the schools could fund higher teacher salaries and other education services demanded in the state plan "without more money."

"It puts us in a really challenging position," said Smith.

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Town Looks To Borrow Millions From The State

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Town of Leonardtown's project to expand and upgrade its waste water treatment plant on Van Wert Lane is estimated to cost \$19 million.

To that end the town council is seeking to borrow \$9 million from the state; Town Administrator Laschelle McKay brought an ordinance before the town at the Jan. 9 council meeting for their eventual approval of the bonding action.

The money would come from bonds sold by the Community Development Administration at the state level, Laschelle told council members while introducing Ordinance No. 214 for their consideration.

The ordinance must still go before a public hearing to be held in February before the council can vote on to approve or reject it.

"This money borrowed will be paid back through impact fees," said Mayor Dan Burris. "So, this does not affect the current residents."

Impact fees are monies collected on new construction in town to mitigate the increased use of public facilities such as water and sewage by more incoming town residents and businesses.

The project would increase the treatment plant's capacity to one million gallons treated per day; the town council voted in October to raise the impact fees associated with new development to \$18,000 per unit built.

Before that increase, the town's impact fees had rested at \$13,000 per unit since 2007, when the town needed to pay for an enhanced nutrient removal system to be installed at the plant.

That project, despite its significant cost, did not provide any increased treatment capacity.

The current plant can handle just 680,000 gallons of waste water a day.

The town has already exceeded 80 percent of the allowable capacity at the plant with the development currently in town.

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Dairy Queen Project Gets Final Approval

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A restaurant project that had raised initial opposition last year in Leonardtown received its final approval from the town's planning and zoning board this week with no one coming out to speak against it.

The planning and zoning board gave approval to the final site plan for a Dairy Queen to be built near the intersection of Washington Street and Route 5 through town immediately behind the Birdies convenience store once owned by the local Burch family.

The Burch family, still trading as Burchcoil, continues to own the carwash that stands behind the convenience store and plans to demolish it to make way for the new Dairy Queen.

The land upon which the restaurant would be built is 1.8 acres in size and is zoned in the commercial business category.

The restaurant would be 2,662 square feet in size, smaller than the more than

3,000-square-foot-in-size carwash facility, according to town planning documents.

The parking spaces allotted by the original plan totaled 42 but have been reduced to 39 by engineers working on the project to address concerns over access and exit lanes around the proposed business Town Planner Mike Bailey told board members.

The owners plan to provide an additional seven overflow parking spaces in cooperation with the Community Bank located in the same block by sharing a common connecting driveway.

The new business would also have a driveway.

The planning and zoning board also gave concept site approval for a new orthopedic medical facility and doctors office to be located at Leonard's Grant Parkway and Hollywood Road entering town.

The facility would be 69,172 square feet in size with two stories to act as office space for physicians.

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Artist's rendering of the orthopedic clinic



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Public Health Advisory: Rising Rates of COVID-19

Due to the recent rise in local cases of COVID-19 as well as sustained rates of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is recommending community members take measures to prevent the spread of illness. Symptoms of all three respiratory illnesses can include sore throat, headache, stuffy nose and fever.

Ongoing surveillance of local COVID-19 data by SMCHD has shown a recent increase in several key indicators including an increase in COVID-19 rates across all age groups, an increase in Community Transmission to High, and an increase in Community Level to Medium.

Community members are encouraged to take the following preventive measures to avoid contracting and spreading these illnesses:

Wear a more effective mask (such as N95 or KN95) in indoor public spaces or with large groups indoors. Free KN95 masks for both adults and children are available through SMCHD Health Hub and the St. Mary's County public libraries.

Stay up-to-date with vaccines, including this year's seasonal flu vaccine and updated bivalent version of the COVID-19 booster. SMCHD encourages annual flu vaccine for all persons age 6 months and older. Updated bivalent COVID-19 boosters have better coverage of circulating variants of COVID-19, and are currently approved for those age 6 months and older.

For more information or to make a COVID-19 vaccination appointment,

please visit smchd.org/covid-19-vaccine or call (301) 475-4330.

Get tested if you have symptoms of RSV, flu, or COVID-19. Testing allows community members to predict days they are most contagious, notify contacts who may have been exposed, and start appropriate treatment to prevent severe illness and spread of infection.

SMCHD offers a rapid test that checks for flu, COVID-19, and RSV in one nasal swab and uses the gold standard PCR technology. See smchd.org/covid-19-testing for current available hours and locations of rapid PCR testing.

"Preventive measures like more effective masking when in indoor public spaces and getting the new bivalent COVID-19 booster can help decrease the risk of severe illness and post-COVID conditions during this time of high community transmission," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "As other respiratory illnesses such as flu and RSV combine with COVID to strain our regional healthcare systems, we ask our residents to better protect themselves and others, including those community members who may be more vulnerable to severe illness."

For more information about COVID-19 symptoms, prevention, testing, and vaccines, visit: smchd.org/coronavirus.

For more information about the flu, including symptoms and prevention, visit: smchd.org/flu

For more information on RSV, visit: cdc.gov/rsv/index.html

Health Department Now Offering Rapid PCR Testing for STIs

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is now offering rapid PCR testing to detect sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in women. This new service allows detection of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis with 97% or greater accuracy. These infections are three of the most common and curable STIs. Receiving results within 30 minutes allows for patients and their partners to receive proper treatment during the same visit, eliminating the typical wait time of 7-14 days.

This advanced technology could significantly impact a woman's future health. STI testing and treatment is critical to resolving infections that can cause long term damage to women's reproductive system when left unaddressed.

Confidential testing and treatment of STIs is available at the SMCHD Health Clinic to individuals of any age. STI ser-

vices are provided free of charge to those age 19 and under. Services for those 20 years of age and older are billed to health insurance; for those without insurance, services are available on a sliding fee scale based on income and eligibility criteria.

"Sexually transmitted infections can have serious consequences if left undiagnosed or if treatment is delayed," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "This new testing resource will allow women to get diagnosed and treated more quickly, and give us a chance to get expedited treatment started for their partners, too."

For more information about STI testing or to make an appointment at the SMCHD Health Clinic, please visit smchd.org/health-clinic or call 301-475-4330.

Crisis Counseling Now Available at Health Hub



The St. Mary's County Health Department announces the launch of crisis evaluation and counseling services at the St. Mary's County Health Hub, located at 21625 Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. Services are available Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Health Hub provides the following crisis services to help individuals with substance use disorder and/or mental health needs move into stabilization and, ultimately, into recovery:

- Professional assessment of mental health and substance use recovery needs
- Crisis stabilization counseling
- Assistance in coordinating ongoing treatment with behavioral health professionals in the community
- Linkage to other needed community resources and supports
- Supportive connections to peers who have lived experiences with substance use and mental health recovery

Individuals who are in need of immediate assessment and counseling are able to walk in for assistance. Behavioral health professionals will focus on resolving the crisis the person is experiencing in a less intensive setting than a hospital and make connections to long term behavioral health counseling, medication

management and community resources. At this time, persons who are actively suicidal, homicidal, experiencing extreme psychosis, incapacitated or those who may need medical care and/or immediate medications should use medical emergency mechanisms such as hospital emergency departments. 9-1-1 can be utilized for those experiencing a medical emergency. 9-8-8 is the national suicide and crisis lifeline for 24/7 support.

"With these services, we are starting to address a major gap in our local behavioral health care system. This is especially important as community demand for treatment of mental health and substance use disorders outpaces local capacity," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "As we continue to build clinical services at the Health Hub, we anticipate expanding the types of mental health and substance use crises appropriate for the Hub setting. We will also work towards increasing the hours the facility is open."

Through a variety of community partners, the St. Mary's County Health Hub also offers additional services, including a harm reduction program, conflict mediation, and primary care clinic. To learn more about the Health Hub, currently available services and future plans, please visit smchd.org/hub.

Commissioners to Host Public Forum Jan. 31st

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will host a Public Forum on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the CSMC meeting room in the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown.

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

In lieu of in-person attendance, residents may also submit a video of their comments to publicmtgs@stmarysmd.com.

Video submissions must be three minutes or less in length and be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2023.

Anyone wishing to provide more detailed feedback to the CSMC can do so at any time via:

Email to: csmc@stmarysmd.com

Mail to: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Public Forums are televised live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 and streamed live on the St. Mary's County YouTube Channel.



PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

Pax River Prepares for Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain 2023



Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain (CSSC), the Navy's annual anti-terrorism, force protection (ATFP) exercise, will be underway Navywide – and at NAS Patuxent River – Feb. 6-17, 2023.

Conducted by U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), CSSC uses realistic drills and scenarios to enhance the readiness of Navy security forces and ensure seamless interoperability among the commands, other services, and agency partners.

"The exercise, which plays out over a two-week period, tests our Emergency Training Plan and pre-planned responses (PPR), and it's a continuation of training

for our security forces," explained Matt Nalley, Pax River's installation training officer. "It allows us to evaluate whether we have the correct procedures in place in the event of an emergency situation; and any drills involving an integrated response will show how well departments such as security, fire, emergency management, and

public works communicate and work with each other."

Week one's Citadel Shield focuses on installation-level training, and all scenarios will occur entirely within the Pax River fence line. In the past, those scenarios have included active shooter, hostage situation, gate runner, unmanned aerial surveillance, mass shooting, protesters at the gate, suspicious package, and release of a biological weapon, among others.

In addition to hearing sirens or seeing emergency vehicles on the road responding to drills in progress, Pax personnel can expect to receive advance emergency response notifications multiple times over a number of days and might,

at times, be inconvenienced.

"We do our best to minimize disruption, but personnel might experience gate delays or temporary changes in traffic or parking patterns as the different scenarios play out," Nalley noted.

The Solid Curtain portion, occurring during the second week, is a national-level exercise centered on command, control, and communications between all echelons Navy wide where everything that happens at one installation affects every other installation, even if only in a minor way.

For instance, if leadership – NORTHCOM, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, or CNIC – sees trends or incidents going on in one or more areas that they feel may also impact a different area, they can selectively put installations, regions or the entire NORTHCOM area of responsibility into a heightened force protection condition.

"That might again prompt further delays, closures, and emergency notifications at Pax," Nalley said. "We ask people for their patience and remind them that the ultimate purpose of these training exercises is to ensure the protection of those who work and live onboard the installation."

NAS Patuxent River leadership is especially aware of base impacts after last year's CS/SC exercise.

"While there were inconveniences, we learned some valuable lessons during last year's exercise, particularly about traffic flow off base in an emergency,"

added Nalley. "We are committed to the philosophy of 'train like you fight,' so we'll be exercising that scenario again with additional information regarding base evacuation zones to ease the flow of traffic off base."

With any increase in FPCON, gates will close to protect the base and our occupants. If Pax elevates the FPCON during the workday, the base intends to conduct an ordered departure, offering the workforce an opportunity to evacuate in an orderly fashion. While Pax River can utilize a "training time out" to pause the scenario locally for emergencies and unforeseen circumstances- real world events will not afford that opportunity. Personnel on base during these exercises are asked to be prepared for major delays as a precaution.

"We want to be as upfront as possible to our mission partners and residents; anticipate the intersection of Taxiway Alpha and Cedar Point road will be closed at some point during the second week of the exercise – the week of Feb. 13 – as driven by U.S. Fleet Forces' direction to elevate the Force Protection Condition to Charlie. Telework during these days is highly encouraged to avoid major traffic issues," said NAS Patuxent River Commanding Officer Capt. Derrick Kingsley.

Personnel are also encouraged to check notifications posted on the NAS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NASPaxRiver and Twitter @NASPaxRiverPAO.

Soldier at the Helm: Navy Test Pilot School Gets Army Commander

The U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) changed command during a ceremony at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Jan. 12.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Aaron Kia relieved U.S. Navy Cmdr. Jeremy DeBons during an airborne change of command ceremony officiated by Naval Test Wing Atlantic Commodore, Capt. Elizabeth Somerville. Kia is the third Army commander in the school's history.

"Kia is unquestionably the right person to take the reins," Somerville said. "I have every bit of confidence in Aaron to lead this team and continue to evolve this schoolhouse – to deliver that incredibly crucial asset – the critically thinking tester – to our test commands within the Navy, Army, Air Force, and partner nations."

During the ceremony, DeBons flew a

U6-A Beaver with Somerville while Kia flew a UH-72 Lakota. The aircraft conducted a pass as Kia relieved DeBons of command.

Kia is the school's 51st headmaster and rated in several helicopters including the UH-60 Blackhawk, UH-72, and the AH-64 Apache. Before spending the last 18 months as the school's executive officer, he tested aircraft at the Redstone Test Center, the Army's dedicated test and evaluation command. The Class 145 alum now commands more than 300 personnel, including members from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Department of Defense civilians, contractors, and foreign service members.

"To the USNTPS staff and students, it has been an incredible 18 months serving as your executive officer," Kia said. "There is no other command in all the

military services as diverse, competent, and committed as you. I am confident in your ability to propel the aviation enterprise into the future and I look forward to serving as your commanding officer."

DeBons, an F/A-18 Hornet pilot, took command of the school in 2021 and is credited with implementing an abbreviated course designed for civilian flight engineers among other achievements.

"To the USNTPS staff and students: I admit it is strange standing before you now that I am no longer your commanding officer," said DeBons. "It has been an incredible tour for me as you've far exceeded expectations at every turn. You - meaning admin, ops, maintenance, safety, simulator lab, instrumentation, facilities, support staff, academic and flight instructors, short course, military, civilian, and contractors. You have

made this the most rewarding job and you made this the best squadron in the Navy... and the Army. Your professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm are unmatched. It shows in all that you do."

Kia inherits a schoolhouse designed to train pilots and engineers to develop, test, and evaluate aircraft. The school is the only domestic source of rotary test pilots and serves as the Army's dedicated test pilot school. It's graduated nearly 100 American and European astronauts to date. USNTPS is a component of Naval Test Wing Atlantic, test wing under Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division in Patuxent River, Maryland. NAWCAD advances capability and operational readiness for naval aviation.

V-22 Program Office Recognizes 40 Years of Collaboration



Forty years ago this month, the Department of Navy (DoN) took control of what is now known as the V-22 Joint Program Office (PMA-275), responsible for the cradle-to-grave acquisition, sustainment, development and production of the venerable tiltrotor aircraft.

With more than 700,000 flight hours under its articulating halos, the V-22 Osprey is a military marvel, providing unmatched capabilities to the U.S. Marines, Navy, Air Force and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

“Not a single flight hour, from the first to most recent, would have been possible without the leadership, innovation and partnerships developed in this joint program office,” said Col. Brian Taylor, PMA-275 program manager. “As the thirteenth leader in this role, I walked through the door to a well-established and exceptional team, cross collaborating to ensure the V-22 remains ready, reliable, relevant and safe through the 2050s.”

Following the failure of Operation Eagle Claw in 1980 – the attempted and then aborted mission to rescue 53 U.S. embassy staff members in Tehran – the Defense Department saw the need for an aircraft that could support long-range, high-speed missions utilizing vertical take-offs and landings. As a result, the department initiated the establishment of the advanced vertical lift program.

In December 1982, executive leaders transferred the newly formed program, originally led by the Army, to the DoN and established the Joint Services Advanced Vertical Lift (JVX) program. A few years later, it would become the V-22 Osprey program.

As a first of its kind, the V-22 came with a complex development and testing program, integrating unprecedented technology and propulsion elements. Following first flight in 1989, the development program continued to refine the design with the Marine Corps variant, MV-22, beginning operation in 2000 and

fielding in 2007. Not long after, in 2009, the Air Force declared Initial Operating Capability for its variant, the CV-22.

Over the last 10 years, the V-22’s aperture widened, welcoming the U.S. Navy (CMV-22B) and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force to its portfolio, increasing the aircraft’s global impact. Today, the Osprey’s mission has grown and includes medium-lift assault support, long-range infiltration / exfiltration, at-sea cargo resupply, combat logistics, medical evacuation and more.

By acknowledging the operational success of the V-22, the program also recognizes the challenges and adversity faced throughout its development, all providing the lessons and experience required to build and maintain the aircraft’s relevance for decades to come.

“The warfighters who fly, maintain and rely on the aircraft, deserve nothing less,” said Taylor. “As a program, we keep those lost during mishaps in our memory; their sacrifice to this nation cannot be overstated.”

As a joint program office, PMA-275 works with representatives from all service branches and its international partner, Japan, that fly and maintain the aircraft. In addition, it works closely with its industry partners, from original equipment manufacturers Bell-Boeing, Rolls-Royce, and Raytheon to the hundreds of suppliers keeping the aircraft flying. Keeping these partnerships strong, both within the Defense Department and industry, ensures that all V-22 stakeholders are informed and ready to work together on all aspects of the program, from emergent to day-to-day tasks.

“For example, during the recent CV-22 safety standdown as a result of hard clutch engagement [HCE] events, the joint program and industry quickly came together and partnered with AFSOC [Air Force Special Operations Command] to establish a way forward,” said Taylor. “Within a matter of days, an action plan was established, resulting in execution of advanced training and adjusted flying parameters across the customer base, contributing to AFSOC’s decision to put the CV-22 back into flight.”

The V-22 user community, from all branches of service, continue to work closely together with the common goal of finding the root cause of HCE incidents and options to mitigate the phenomenon.

“The V-22 is one of the most complex aircraft in the world; the joint team, both government and industry, responsible for its development and sustainment, is committed to ensuring our aircrews have the safest, most reliable platform possible,” Taylor explains. “We will always challenge ourselves to make the Osprey better, every day.”

With a service life through the 2050s, PMA-275 will continue its mission for decades to come.



MARYLAND JOB FAIRS

Patuxent River – January 24

IN-PERSON – 3PM-7PM

Bay District VFD Social Hall

46900 S. Shangri-La Dr.

Lexington Park, MD 20653

VIRTUAL – 4PM-7PM

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/dobX58>

Andrews AFB – January 26

IN-PERSON – 10AM-2PM

459 ARW Wing Auditorium

3755 Patrick Ave. 20762

(Use GPS for directions)

Deadline for requesting base access approval is Fri, Jan 20th.

VIRTUAL – 11AM-2PM

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/xKbYldFREE>

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Willows Recreation Center

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 LEXINGTON PARK, MD BOUTS START AT 3:00PM

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Winter Turkey Season Opens Jan. 19



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces the opening of the winter turkey season, which runs statewide from Jan. 19-21 for hunters who did not harvest a turkey during the 2022 fall season.

Hunting hours are from one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset. The bag limit is one turkey of either sex.

“Although wild turkeys are common throughout much of the state, populations have greatly increased in certain areas,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. “The population growth over the last decade in the central region has been remarkable. The winter season can provide an exciting

opportunity to get outdoors during a time of year when other hunting seasons are coming to a close.”

During the winter turkey season, hunters may only use shotguns loaded with No. 4 shot or smaller, crossbows, vertical bows, or air guns that shoot arrows or bolts.

Hunters are reminded that it is illegal to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait. Hunters are required to check in their harvest via phone at 888-800-0121, online, or via the department’s mobile app.

The Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping provides information about winter turkey hunting, including season open dates and regulations.

Storewide Winter Furniture SALE

EVERYTHING'S ON SALE!

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 Now through January 29, 2023

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1978 Dove Hauled Out for the Final Time



After 44 years of service, the 1978 Dove was hauled out of the St. Mary's River for the final time on February 17, 2023. Designed by William Avery Baker (deceased) and built in Cambridge, Maryland by James B. Richardson (deceased), the ship was based on the small merchant vessel that sailed to the Maryland colony in the 1600s. 1978 Dove

is owned by the state of Maryland and operated and maintained by the Historic St. Mary's City Commission.

1978 Dove served as the floating ambassador for Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC), occasionally traveling to different ports of call in Maryland. When not on outreach trips, the ship was an outdoor exhibit at the living history museum. The age and natural deterioration of 1978 Dove necessitated HSMC to commission the design, construction and launch of a new Maryland Dove. Built in full view of the public at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

in St. Michael's, Maryland, the new ship was launched in the summer of 2022.

After careful consideration and examination of the ship in winter 2022, HSMC staff determined 1978 Dove should be taken out of the St. Mary's River one final time. Historic St. Mary's City Commission is actively pursuing alternatives to make the best use of 1978 Dove.

Commission for Women Seeks Nominations

The St. Mary's County Commission for Women is pleased to announce the annual Women's History Month brunch and awards ceremony, which will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Braddock Hall & Conference Center, Bay District Volunteer Fire Department (doors open at 10:30 a.m.). This annual event celebrates and recognizes the accomplishments of women and girls in our county.

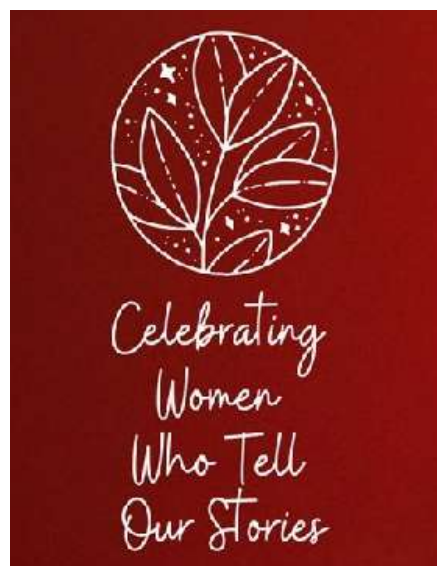
This year's event theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories". St. Mary's County is fortunate to have many women and girls in our community who have made a positive impact through volunteer service. We invite you to help us celebrate their accomplishments!

Nominations are now open for the "Woman of the Year" and "Woman of Tomorrow" awards. Deadline to submit nominations is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023.

For event information, tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or to submit a nomination, please visit stmarysmd.com/cwawards. For questions, please

call (301) 475-4200, ext.1680.

Event proceeds support the Jane Hale-Sypher scholarship fund through the College of Southern Maryland, which was established to help returning non-traditional students to further their educational goals.



St. Clement's Island Museum to Host Annual Appraiser Fair

You may have an attic full of hidden treasures and not even know it! Meet with expert appraisers as they determine the value of your prized possessions at the annual Appraiser Fair on Saturday, January 28, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the St. Clement's Island Museum.

The Appraiser's Fair provides an opportunity for the public to learn the value of their heirlooms and how to properly care for them. Appraisers will be available to offer oral appraisal to members of the public for the following categories: fine arts, dolls, coins, and currency. The fine arts category includes ceramics, pottery, glassware, artwork/paintings, music boxes and small furniture pieces. Items in this category are limited to two items per person at a fee of \$5 per item. Other category fees are \$5 each. Cash, credit card, and check are accepted.

The featured appraisers come from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines. The "fine arts" appraisers include Dorie Lear, a certified auction house appraiser; Henry Lane Hull, proprietor of Commonwealth Antiques and Appraisals; and Bill Curry, proprietor of Hammer's Antiques and Collectibles. William Parron, proprietor of the Bill

Parron Coin Co, will be available to appraise coins and currency. Linda Neeley of the Black-eyed Susan Doll Club of Southern Maryland will appraise dolls.

The public will be seen on a first come first served basis and are encouraged to only bring items that can be hand-carried. Items that do not fit these categories will not be accepted for appraisal. Appraisals are not certified; however, one can make arrangements for a certified appraisal at a later date and time. The public may experience long wait times for fine art appraisers.

Those who are members of the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums will enjoy two free tickets good for two appraisals. Friends' members enjoy these and many other benefits throughout the year and at museum events, so be sure to join the Friends now and support local historic preservation.

St. Clement's Island Museum is located at 38370 Point Breeze Road, Colton's Point, MD 20626. Call (301) 769-2222 or visit [Facebook.com/SCI-Museum](https://www.facebook.com/SCI-Museum) for more information. The museum is open seven days a week, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pet OF THE WEEK MEET CALI



Did you know the word Homeowner has the word Meow in it? Home is where the Cat is!

Hello, my name is Cali. My Shelter Resume states that I'm a VERY LOVING CAT... until I decide I'm done, and then I can get just a little bit spicy, a clear cat signal that I need some alone time to recharge. We've all been there, right? The shelter gang feels I'll do best with an adopter who can spend some time figuring me out, learning what I like and don't like and giving me space when I need to be alone. I'm JUST ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL and only about 1 1/2 YEARS OLD. I PROMISE I will be an AWESOME COMPANION for the RIGHT FAMILY. I can't wait to meet YOU so email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt, you are literally saving a life. OPT TO ADOPT!

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



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.

Marie Rowe, 88



Marie Vallandingham Rowe, 88, of Clements MD peacefully passed away on January 10, 2023 at her home surrounded by her loving family. Born on November 16, 1934 in Clements, MD, she was the daughter of Stephen Lawrence Vallandingham, Sr. and Julia Marie Bowles Vallandingham.

She was a loving wife to John Imirie Rowe, who preceded her in death June 24, 2015. They were married at St. Jo-

seph's Catholic Church in Morganza, MD on September 17, 1955. Together they celebrated 59 wonderful years before his passing. They are now reunited together in heaven to spend eternity together.

Marie was a woman of grace. She was known by many and loved by all. Her words were sincere and genuine, and she always had a special way of making someone feel accepted and loved for who they were. Marie was dedicated to her faith, and was selfless, caring and loyal to her family and friends whom some affectionately knew her as Nanny or Aunt Sissie. She was the church organist at St. Francis Xavier Church for many decades. A testament to her loyal and caring nature proved true when she returned home from Chevy Chase, MD in 1968 to care for her parents. After the passing of her parents she took on the role of running the family farm.

Marie is survived by her two children Lawrence Imirie Rowe (Janet), and Stephanie Rowe; four grandchildren: Kelly Trossbach (John), Elizabeth Rowe (Josh), Heather Welch (Alex) and Megan Gardiner (John); and five great-grandchildren: Madison Trossbach, Layla Alley, Cheyenne Trossbach, Elena Alley, and Ryleigh Trossbach.

The family will receive friends for Marie's visitation on Monday, January 16,

2023 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., with prayers recited at 7 p.m. at Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Fr. Andrew Royals on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church 29119 Point Lookout Rd. Morganza, MD 20660. A private interment will follow at the Vallandingham Family Cemetery in Clements, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be John Trossbach, John Gardiner, Lawrence Rowe, Tommy Bowles, John Bailey, and Jack Johnson. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be her five great-granddaughters affectingly known as her GG's.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Mary Lou Gough Food Pantry, 37575 Chaptico Rd. Chaptico MD; St. Joseph's Catholic Church 29119 Point Lookout Rd. Morganza MD; and Hospice of St. Mary's P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown MD.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Alice McDowell, 77



Alice Kay McDowell, 77, of California, Maryland passed away, going home to her Savior, on January 10, 2023, at St. Mary's Nursing Center, Leonardtown, Maryland, after a long illness from Parkinson's Disease.

She was born in Steubenville, Ohio to Paul and Blanche Martin.

I Peter 3:4 states, "but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit," and epitomizes the life and character of Alice McDowell.

After graduating from Wintersville High School, Alice moved to Columbus, Ohio, attending and graduating from Columbus Business University. She worked several secretarial positions in Columbus and Dayton during her lifetime. While living in Columbus, she married William McDowell after meeting through InterVarsity Fellowship. They married and celebrated over 54 faithful years together—mostly in Huber Heights, Ohio.

She served for many years as an accompanist on piano, organ, and keyboard at her children's grade school and at the churches to which she belonged, most memorably at Grace Bible Church. Her love of sewing led to her working at JoAnn Fabrics. Following that, she was employed in the insurance industry by Schneider, Meixner, & Company of Dayton and retired as a Benefits Specialist from Brady Ware in 2012. In her free time and retirement, she will be remembered for volunteering at her children's schools, for her love of her dog, Biscuit, and for line dancing. Alice and Bill became members of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church of Lexington Park after their move to Maryland.

She was a beloved wife, a wonderful mother, and a treasured friend.

In addition to her husband, Alice is survived by her daughters, Christy (Christopher) Lardner of California, Maryland, and Kara (Nathan) Kennedy of Fairbanks, Alaska; her son, Paul (Melanie) McDowell of Jupiter, Florida; her step-sisters, Barb Walters of Dover, Ohio, and Nanci (Robert) Dickens of Gahanna, Ohio; Cousin Becky Goleno of Wintersville, Ohio; two grandchildren, Eileen and Josiah Lardner; and many other extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents and her stepmother, Dorothy Blickensderfer.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 3:00 PM at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, 23101 Town Creek Drive, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653. Interment will be held at a later date at Fort Steuben Burial Estates, Wintersville, Ohio.

Additional information, links for gifts in lieu of flowers, and opportunities for condolences to the family may be found at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.



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A View From The BLEACHERS



20/20 IN 2023?

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Father Andrew White School, circa early-to-mid 1980s. I was an average student; no academic records were threatened during my navigation of grade school. But there was no reason for my parents to worry that they'd be supporting my lost soul well into adulthood (they might disagree and may have supporting evidence).

Reading was...an effort. Books were overwhelming. Short adventure stories were fine, but if not for required book reports, not a word of those would have been read. What played to my strengths? Sports Illustrated. The Washington Post's sports page. The Sporting News. Sport magazine.

Notice a trend?

Our class visited the school library weekly. Books were stacked floor-to-ceiling wrapping around the room's perimeter. Encyclopedias, classics, biographies, adventures, history – everything imaginable was available to our absorbent minds. To my young eyes, it was a room of knowledge waiting to be consumed. The problem was almost none of it interested me - not in an organic, I'm reading this by choice and not obligation kind of way.

There was one alluring spot. It occupied only a few shelves of a single section in this literary labyrinth. Here resided non-fiction sports books – the greatest quarterbacks and running backs, toughest boxers, tennis champions, NFL and MLB history, biographies and historical statistics. It had it all. Angels would sing and the books would glow as I and a few similarly wired buddies approached it. I devoured every selection during my FAW tour, some more than once.

The recent death of soccer icon Pelé brought back memories of these childhood library visits. It was there that I discovered the Brazilian soccer great after checking out a book featuring the game's best players. With three World Cup titles to his credit and a short but impactful stint with the New York Cosmos late in his career, my young mind quickly concluded that Pelé was the greatest to roam the pitch.

Barbara Walters's passing last week cued more memories. The news didn't interest me much as a young lad, but I knew that if Walters was interviewing a person, it mattered. Walters was an absolute giant of journalism for

decades and the long-running evening show 20/20 that she co-hosted with Hugh Downs was must-see television in the 1980s.

Pelé, Walters, and Franco Harris and Dave Butz recently – I have reached the bend in life where final farewells to childhood icons, many of whom first appeared in those dusty library books, are too common.

The world acquires information quite differently now. Books are available on-demand. Library trips are optional. Printed sports pages and magazines are virtually obsolete. And getting news via a weekly primetime show seems hopelessly antiquated. But are we better informed? Is our understanding of the past more developed? Is our vision into the future any closer to 20/20?

Three years ago, the answer could have been a defensible "maybe". Remember New Year's 2020? There were just whispers about unique virus detected in China. Most earthlings had never experienced a pandemic. Health systems hadn't been stressed to the breaking point. America had never been shuddered. It was all beyond imagination. Not anymore. Reality has a way of exposing our blind spots or, as George Will noted, "The future has a way of arriving unannounced."

So, what awaits in 2023? Sports will be dynamic, as always. Locally, the Nats and (if there is a merciful God) the Commanders will have new owners. Lamar Jackson and the Ravens face a contract standoff. Will the Orioles continue to improve? Do the aging and fragile Caps have another Stanley Cup run in them? Tom Brady is set for another free agency tour. The transfer portal will wreak havoc on college sports. The only certainties: there will be magic, incredible feats, and inexplicable endings that produce profound disappointment and unrestrained joy. The details are far from clear, a truth that holds for all aspects of life. And that's okay. If COVID left us with anything, it is the wisdom to know that the future is something to be encountered and experienced more than predicted with anything approaching 20/20 foresight.

All the best to you and yours in 2023.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Identity Needed for Theft Suspects



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identities of the two men pictured in a theft investigation. On Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at 4 pm, the two suspects entered the Dollar General in Leonardtown. One suspect brought items to the register, including a large number of gift cards, while the other stood nearby to distract the cashier. The first suspect then obtained goods by manipulating the register while the second suspect intentionally distracted the cashier.

The two suspects used the same tactics on the same day at 9:15 am at the Dollar General store on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park.

Anyone with information about the identities of the suspects or this incident is asked to call Deputy James Morgan at 301-475-4200, ext. 78170 or email james.morgan@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 65969-22. Or call Deputy Christopher Truss at 301-475-4200, ext. 78039 or email christopher.truss@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 66092-22

Counterfeit Suspect Sought



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person pictured in a counterfeit investigation. On Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, at 11:10 am,

the suspect passed a counterfeit \$100 bill at the Optimal Vapor store in Lexington Park. The suspect received merchandise and cash back from the counterfeit bill.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy David Katulich at 301-475-4200, ext. 78164 or email david.katulich@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 64366-22

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

Identity Needed for Property Destruction Suspect



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the female pictured in a property destruction investigation. On Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022, at 7 pm, the pictured suspect would not provide proper identification to purchase

alcohol at the St. Mary's Fine Wine and Spirits in Great Mills. Denied the purchase, the suspect then knocked over a case of beer when exiting the store, breaking the merchandise.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy Alexander Tasciotti at 301-475-4200, ext. 78163 or email alexander.tasciotti@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 65491-22

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

Traffic Stop Yields Warrant Arrest for Firearm Charges



firearm charges.

On Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, Deputy Casey Hill was operating radar at the intersection of Pegg Road and Westbury Boulevard in Lexington Park when he observed a black 2021 Mitsubishi Outlander that appeared to be operating faster than the posted speed limit. Deputy Hill informed Deputy Devin Absher of the

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Patrol deputies made a traffic stop this week resulting in the arrest of a Lexington Park man wanted on a warrant for

vehicle's speed and a traffic stop was initiated.

It was determined the operator, Charles Henry Thompson Jr., age 29 of Lexington Park, was wanted on an active warrant for Second-Degree Assault, Firearm Possession with a Felony Conviction, Reckless Endangerment and Loaded Handgun on Person from an incident on Dec. 29, 2022 at the 46700 block of Marshall Boulevard in Lexington Park.

Thompson was taken into custody by deputies and in a search of the vehicle, cocaine in the form of two solid rocks, also known as crack, were located in the vehicle. Thompson was also charged with CDS Possession: Cocaine.

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jan 19, 2023

Forrest Center Tech Expo

24005 Point Lookout Road,
Leonardtwn

The following sessions will be available for students to visit their three favorite programs.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Session 1: 5:45-6:00 p.m.
Session 2: 6:05-6:20 p.m.
Session 3: 6:25-6:40 p.m.
Session 4: 6:45-7:00 p.m.
Session 5: 7:05-7:20 p.m.

Q&A with Counselors and additional time to visit programs: 7:30-8:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Forrest Center Tech Expo is to familiarize students and parents with Career and Technology Education (CTE) career options offered by the St. Mary's County Public Schools. This is an opportunity to meet the staff at the Forrest Center and to learn about the 21 complete programs as well as our six elective classes. High school counselors will be available to answer questions about career clusters and to assist students in planning their academic pathway.

For more information, visit the Forrest Center website, schools.smcps.org/tech or email questions to techcenter@smcps.

org. In the event of inclement weather, the alternate date for the Forrest Center Tech Expo will be Thursday, January 26, 2023.

The Forrest Center is located directly across from the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds.

St. Mary's Co. Public Schools' Ethics Panel Mtg

23160 Moakley Street, Leonardtown
4p.m. to 5p.m.

For more information, call 301-475-5511, ext. 32178.

Sat, Jan 21, 2023

Texas Hold'Em @ HVRS

23469 Rescue Lane, Hollywood
6p.m. to midnight

\$85.00 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 5 pm, tournament starts at 6pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase.

See www.hvrs.org for more info. Chance for 50/50 included in your buy-in. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided. Late Entries permitted

until 1st break, approx. 7 pm cut off. No rebuys allowed. Pull tabs for sale as well. **We will now have an ATM on site.**

****PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS AT THE RESCUE SQUAD, NOT THE FIRE HOUSE****

Mon, Jan 23, 2023

SMADC's Farmer Open House

15045 Burnt Store Road, Hughesville
Noon to 5:30 p.m.

Come connect with experts in the ag industry, network with the farming community, & find helpful resources for your business.

Farmers and producers of the regional and broader Maryland agricultural community (urban, rural, equine, livestock, and other farming enterprises), farmers market managers, and marketing professionals are invited drop by and visit with the SMADC team to network, exchange information and ideas, and connect with additional resources.

The Open House is an informal opportunity for established and beginning farmers and those thinking about starting a farm to benefit from SMADC's staff expertise and get answers to questions

across a broad range of topics and interests from beginner farmer "where do I start?" advice, to guidance on agritourism, regulatory issues, marketing, meat processing and value-added production, food access and nutrition programs and more.

To make an appointment with a SMADC staff member email: info@smadc.com, or call Susan McQuilkin (240) 528-8850, Ex. 327. Learn more about SMADC's Farmer Resources at www.SMADC.com.

Wed, Jan 25, 2023

Little Flower School: Spirit Night at Panda Express

Panda Express:
44980 Saint Andrews Church Road,
California
10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Help support LFS athletics including basketball, cheer, and volleyball. Little Flower School Athletics 20% of event sales will be donated.

Bring paper flyer or show it on your smartphone.

www.pandaexpress.com, or the App.
Enter 349188 in the fundraiser code box

St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1080
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysMD.com/aging for the most up-to-date information.

Sing With Us

The Loffler Sunshine Singers has resumed meeting weekly. If you love music and singing, you may want to consider singing with us! Our director, Joyce Haderly has been leading choirs for decades and has brought out the very best in this newly formed group. We are further graced by piano accompaniment (Tina Watts) and two guitarists (Mary DeLima and Mary Ludwig). We look forward to enjoying the companionship and uplifting of spirits that comes from singing. If you are interested in being a part of this, email Sheila.Graziano@stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200, ext. 1658.

Winter Gardening and Activities with Theresa

You don't need garden space to enjoy winter gardening! Let Theresa Rohaly

bring you indoors for a multitude of nature-based activities throughout the winter months. There will be weekly discussions about the different plant materials, gardening experiences, plus making something to take home. You can look forward to making a succulent terrarium, a variety of indoor mini gardens, insect hotels, wildflower seed balls, pressed flower bookmarks, and more! All materials will be supplied. These sessions will take place at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Theresa is a former special education teacher who is now doing an internship to achieve her horticulture certification through the University of Florida. Because this is an internship, this series is being offered to you for free at this time! Register at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line

at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. 12 Sessions total. For more information contact Sheila.Graziano@stmaryscountymd.gov

Want to Try Mah Jong?

Are you interested in helping a Mah Jong group get started at the Loffler Senior Activity Center OR have you always wanted to learn how to play? We are looking for experienced as well as learning players! If you are one of these and want to get in on this opportunity, there will be an initial gathering on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 10 a.m. Leslie Farrior is an experienced player who will be coordinating play. Games will take place on the first, third, and fourth Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. Drop ins welcome. For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1658.

Timing Your Reverse Mortgage

When is the right time to apply for a reverse mortgage? When is it too late? Local consultant, Robbie Loker, will explain how reverse mortgages work in her informative presentation at Northern Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 1-3 p.m. Discover the amount of borrowed funds you can receive, and criteria for qualifying. Participants will also gain a basic understanding of the myths & misconceptions of reverse mortgages and learn the right questions to ask. To register for this free event, click the "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs" button at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Not invited
- 6. Whale ship captain
- 10. One point south of southwest
- 14. Small cavity in a rock
- 15. Recidivists
- 17. City of Angels hoopster
- 19. A way to mark with one's signature
- 20. OJ trial judge
- 21. Rice cooked in broth
- 22. One point east of due south
- 23. One point east of southeast
- 24. Complements an entree
- 26. Grouped by twos
- 29. Disfigure
- 31. Woods
- 32. Political action committee
- 34. Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
- 35. Kin groups
- 37. Philippine Island
- 38. Contrary to
- 39. Bluish-gray fur
- 40. Comprehend the written word
- 41. Natural depressions
- 43. Felines
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancake made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Foot (Latin)
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Monetary units of Peru
- 59. Greek war god
- 61. High points

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Green and yellow citrus fruit
- 2. A bright color
- 3. Thicket
- 4. Journalist Tarbell
- 5. A place to work or relax
- 6. Sharp mountain ridge
- 7. Helicopter
- 8. Mimic
- 9. Suggests
- 10. More musty
- 11. Large, flightless rail
- 12. Make beer
- 13. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 16. People who can account for you
- 18. Taunt
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. Cover the entirety of
- 24. Kids' favorite visitor
- 25. A way to save for retirement
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. C. China mountain range
- 29. Type of sandwich
- 30. Team
- 31. Paddle
- 33. Partly digested food
- 35. Most cagey
- 36. Shoppers make one
- 37. Cathode-ray tube
- 39. Food supplies
- 42. Backbones
- 43. Concern
- 44. Blood group
- 46. Broadway songwriter Sammy
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Deity of a monotheistic cult
- 50. Type of bread
- 51. S. Nigerian people
- 52. Scottish tax
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian city
- 55. Hide of a young animal
- 56. Midway between north and northeast

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jan 19

FREE Quit Tobacco Classes

Calvert County Health Department
975 Solomons Island Road, Prince
Frederick, 6-7 p.m.

Free classes to assist with quitting tobacco or vaping. January 12 through March 2. One hour a week for eight weeks. Medication aids are free if insurance doesn't pay. Group support is especially valuable. Registration required: email: jane.dodds@maryland.gov, call: 410-535-5400, ext. 359, or visit calvert.health.org

S.T.E.A.M. PUNKS

Calvert Library Southern Branch,
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solo-
mons, 6-7 p.m.

Question, Discover and Explore! Experience new technology and techniques as we adventure with science, engineering, math and the arts! This month we'll be getting creative with some household supplies to make marbled paper. For artists in grades K to 7. Registration required, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

TACOS Teen Advisory Council of Students

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

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books and information. TACOS meets from September through May, to help us with our events and services planning. Join us on the third Thursday! Receive 1 Service Learning hour for each meeting attended. Email Tori for more information, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jan 20

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, 1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Writers by the Bay

Calvert Library (online), 7-9 p.m.

Looking for a writers' group? All writers and would-be writers are welcome to come for critique & camaraderie. Please register by the day before the event in order to receive the link the evening of the event. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Annual Seed Swap

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Want to get a head start in your garden? Here is a free program to share and get access to FREE seeds. Do you have any seeds that you wish to share? Don't have seed? No problem. This a great fun event to network with other gardeners, try something new, learn new gardening tips & tricks and share & gather seeds with others., 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Jan 21

Free Paper Shredding Events

Northern Middle School
2954 Chaneyville Road in Owings
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, will host free paper shredding events for county residents and businesses. Shredding documents helps prevent identity theft by destroying confidential or sensitive information.

Proof of residency or business location is required. All paper must be removed from plastic bags and cardboard boxes prior to shredding. Paper clips and staples are acceptable. Binders and binder clips are not acceptable. Businesses are permitted up to five banker boxes of paper per business (or the equivalent volume of five banker boxes in alternate containers). There is no limit for residents. Certificates of destruction will be provided if requested.

Shredding events are held monthly. For information about other recycling events, contact the Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, at 410-326-0210 or visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Recycle.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

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

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register, 410-535-0291 or 301-

855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Family Game Day

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solo-
mons, 1-4 p.m.

Drop-in to play board and card games in the meeting room. Choose from our selection of classic and new games, or bring your own. We have Happy Salmon, Yahtzee, Doomlings, Sorry!, What Do You Meme Family?, Game of Thrones Monopoly, Jenga Giant, chess, Last Word, and more. Children, teens, and their families are all welcome! Free hot chocolate and donuts! Registration not required, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mon, Jan 23

Expungement Workshop

Calvert Library online, 5-6 p.m.

If you have ever been arrested in Maryland, you may have a criminal record even if you were not convicted. The good news is expunging your criminal record is a relatively simple process. In this presentation you will learn the basic rules of expungement and how to file for one yourself. This program is a part of Career Success Month: Legal Support and more hosted by Maryland Public Libraries, focused on Business, Career, and Legal support to assist jobseekers and entrepreneurs. Brought to you by Worcester County Library and Maryland Volunteers Lawyer Service. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mechanical Mondays

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

Become a scientist and explore topics related to STEAM on the first and third Monday each month! Build, code, count, and create with different activities each session. Registration required. Intended for scientists in grades K-2, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Investigation Station

Calvert Library Twin Beaches
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake
Beach, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Question, Discover, and Explore! Investigate science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) with dynamic books, experiments, and other

fun, hands-on activities. For technicians in grades 3-7. Registration required, 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Monday Night Movie Musings

Calvert Library, (Zoom), 7-8 p.m.

This month's movie is: "Secret of the Kells." It is available on Kanopy through Calvert Library. Watch the movie prior to the Zoom event and join us for a lively discussion on Monday night. Please register to receive an emailed link to the Zoom event an hour before it begins. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jan 25

Working Wednesdays - Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment, and Job Service representatives will be in person at Calvert Library, Prince Frederick to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sleepy Stuffies Storytime

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

Wear your jammies and bring your favorite stuffed animal as we wind down from our busy day! We'll begin by getting our wiggles out and then snuggle up for stories and songs. Suggested for children 0-5. Older siblings are welcome to attend. Please register, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, January 26

Little Minnows

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

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

CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of January 2 – January 8, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,467 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-1198

On January 6, 2023, Deputy Strong responded to the 12200 block of Bandera Lane in Lusby, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) had tampered with the victim's AC unit and drained all the freon. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$248.86.

Theft: 23-0822

On January 4, 2023, Deputy Sylver received report of a theft from the 3000 block of Lighthouse Blvd. in Lusby. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) stole a Stihl weed wacker from the victim's garage. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$300.00.

Theft: 23-0787

On January 4, 2023, Deputy McCourt received report of a theft that occurred in the 300 block of Overlook Drive in Prince Frederick. The complainant advised the rear registration plate had been stolen from the victim's vehicle sometime between Jan. 3 and Jan. 4. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$100.00.

Theft: 23-1292

On January 6, 2023, Deputy Strong responded to the 100 block of Laurel Lane in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between Jan. 2 and Jan. 6, an unknown suspect (s) stole the front registration plate from the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.00.

Theft: 23-1270

On January 6, 2023, Deputy Wilder responded to Sneades Ace Home Center located at 11861 H.G. Trueman Road in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised two suspects entered the store and proceeded to each grab a 3 pack of Dewalt rechargeable, lithium batteries. The suspects concealed the batteries on their person and exited the store, past all points of sale without paying for the merchandise. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$600.

Theft: 23-1448

On January 7, 2023, M/DFC Wood responded to the 300 block of White-tail Drive in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 12:15 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Jan. 7, an unknown suspect (s) stole a Champion 4000w generator from the bed of the victim's truck parked in the driveway of the residence. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$479.99.

ARRESTS



On January 3, 2023, DFC Ostaz-eski responded to the area of Hallowing Point Road and Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick for a report of a traffic complaint. The suspect vehicle was observed passing on the shoulder, following too closely, and swerving from lane to lane nearly striking other vehicles. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver, **Brian Keith Aicher**, 57 of Mechanicsville, was incoherent. Aicher began throwing himself about the vehicle and flinging his arms around becoming increasingly agitated. A vehicle search revealed a burnt glass smoking device (crack pipe) with a white powdery residue (suspected crack cocaine). Aicher was escorted to a patrol vehicle where he began to headbutt the side of the vehicle causing property damage. Aicher was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Malicious Destruction of Property Value \$1000+, Reckless Driving, and Negligent Driving amongst other traffic-related charges.



On January 8, 2023, Deputy Ashley conducted a traffic stop on N. Solomons Island Road at Plum Point Road in Huntingtown. Upon making contact with the driver, **Sven Andrew Parker**, 29 of Upper Marlboro, Parker fled on foot from the vehicle. A 911 call received from a citizen advised a suspect matching Parker's description was banging on the caller's front door. Deputies responded to the caller's residence in the 2200 block of N. Solomons Island Road where Parker was located and placed into police custody. Parker was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Obstructing and Hindering, Failure to Obey a Reasonable and Lawful Order of a Law Enforcement Officer, and other traffic-related charges.

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

Suspect Sought in Hardware Store Robbery

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating a theft that occurred at the Sneade's Ace Home Center located at 11861 HG Trueman Road in Lusby. The theft occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 10 around 10:00 a.m.

Investigation revealed the female suspect pictured entered the power tool aisle and placed a Dewalt cordless drill and a three-pack of Dewalt rechargeable batteries into a multi-colored bookbag. She was seen leaving the store with an adult black male in a gray/silver Lincoln Navigator.

Anyone with information pertaining to this incident or suspects is asked to contact DFC Wilder at Herschel. Wilder@calvertcountymd.gov. Please refer to case number 23-2469.

Citizens may remain anonymous thru the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov.



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Editor's Note

The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.



MARYLAND JOB FAIRS

Patuxent River – January 24

IN-PERSON – 3PM-7PM

Bay District VFD Social Hall
46900 S. Shangri-La Dr.
Lexington Park, MD 20653

VIRTUAL – 4PM-7PM

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/dobX58>

Andrews AFB – January 26

IN-PERSON – 10AM-2PM

459 ARW Wing Auditorium
3755 Patrick Ave. 20762
(Use GPS for directions)

Deadline for requesting base access approval is Fri, Jan 20th.

VIRTUAL – 11AM-2PM

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/xKbYldFREE>

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Questions? 434-263-5102 or
janet.giles@jobzoneonline.com

Traffic Alert: MD 2/4 Guardrail Work

MDOT SHA Beginning Traffic Barrier Replacement Project- Drivers Should Remain Alert for Daytime Shoulder & Single Lane Closures

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is installing new, upgraded traffic barriers along two sections of MD 2/4 (Solomons Island Road) in Calvert County. Starting next week, crews will work at locations along MD 2/4 between Old Field Lane and north of MD 765 (St. Leonard Road), as well as on MD 2/4 between Mountain Trail and Parran Road. Motorists can expect shoulder and occasional off-peak single-lane closures between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays.

Crews will begin along the outside shoulders of southbound MD 2/4, then move to northbound MD 2/4. The contractor will then begin work within the median of the two segments. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023, weather permitting. Portable vari-

able message signs, temporary traffic signs, cones and barrels will guide motorists through the work zone.

MDOT SHA contractor Long Fence Company of Ijamsville will perform the work. Customers who have questions about this work may contact the MDOT SHA District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or toll-free at 1-800-331-5603.

Maryland's Move Over Law requires motorists to make a lane change or slow down when approaching any stopped, standing, or parked vehicle displaying hazard warning lights, road flares, or other caution signals. The expanded law is in place to protect emergency responders and motorists who encounter a roadside emergency.

For a list of all major MDOT SHA projects, go to Project Portal. Visit our homepage at <http://ow.ly/Xtj650MpkHV>. For a look at real-time traffic conditions, go to <http://ow.ly/9AAZ50MpkHW>. #MDtraffic

Mt. Hope Community Center to Close from Jan. 26 to Feb. 16



The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation advises citizens that the Mt. Hope Community Center will temporarily close on Thursday, Jan. 26,

2023, through Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, for removal of the out-of-service communications tower. Normal hours of operation will resume Friday, Feb. 17, 2023. Mt. Hope Community Center is located at 104 Pushaw Station Road in Sunderland.

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks and follow @CalvertCountyParksandRec on Instagram.



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North Beach Vandalism Under Investigation



The Town of North Beach and Calvert County Sheriff's Office are seeking information regarding cases of recent vandalism.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is investigating a case of vandalism and property destruction at Wetlands Overlook Park. The vandalism occurred sometime between late October and November of 2022.

Last week, spray paintings similar to those at Wetlands Overlook Park were found behind the Bayside History

Museum.

Anyone with information about either case or possible suspects is asked to please contact Det. T. Buckler at Thomas.Buckler@calvertcountymd.gov. Citizens may remain anonymous through 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.

Poppie the Possum Makes Museum Debut



The Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) welcomes a new species to its Estuarine Biology Department! Poppie, the Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), came from a wildlife rehabilitation facility after being separated from her mother and siblings as a tiny juvenile. When she arrived at the museum at approximately three months old, she was only half a pound and is now a healthy 6.28 lbs.

Poppie will live behind the scenes at the museum but will be making appearances during educational programs

throughout the year. On Friday, January 27, we invite the public to a 'creature feature' starring Poppie at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. This 15-minute demonstration will be held in the Harms Gallery and is included with museum admission. Guests will have the opportunity to observe Poppie while learning fun facts about her habitat, diet, and adaptations. There will also be an opportunity for questions.

You may be wondering, "Why does the Estuarine Biology Department have an opossum... when they aren't aquatic?" While that is true, opossums aren't aquatic, they are still important animals around the bay's estuarine environment. In CMM's basin, you can see animal tracks when the tide is low. Many animals like opossums, herons, and raccoons, come through searching for animals or carrion left behind when the tide goes out.

CalvertHealth Names New Chief Nursing Officer

CalvertHealth is pleased to announce Melissa Hall, RN, BSN, MSN, FNP has been selected as Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President, Clinical Affairs. Hall had more than 20 years experience as a bedside nurse and family nurse practitioner before transitioning to nurse informatics and healthcare administration. In her new role, Hall will have leadership and fiscal oversight of nursing; emergency department; intensive care unit; behavioral health; case management; surgical services; wound care; and patient, family and volunteer services.

"This is a pivotal leadership position for CalvertHealth," said CEO and President Dean Teague. "And Melissa was the natural choice. Her combined nursing and IT experience will support our continued focus to provide the best possible care for our patients and innovate in the future as health care continues to evolve," added Teague.

Hall began her career at CalvertHealth in 2014 after she and her husband relocated from Northern California. She served as the Deputy Chief Information Officer and was promoted to Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice President of Information Services in 2021. Hall quickly took on additional responsibility overseeing clinical services such as radiology, laboratory, rehabilitation, pharmacy and more. When the Chief Nursing Officer position became available, Hall knew it was the right fit for her and an opportunity to combine her expertise in all aspects of nursing.

"CalvertHealth has a strong reputation as a great place for nurses to work, and I have experienced it for myself during my tenure here. Helping our nursing and clinical teams make a difference for our patients is an exciting adventure for me,"



said Hall. "I look forward to seeing what we will achieve together, continuing to grow our nursing practice in a way that supports high-quality care."

Hall resides in Huntingtown with her husband, Aaron and two Great Danes.

CalvertHealth is an independent, not-for-profit, community health system located in Prince Frederick, Maryland. Founded in 1919, CalvertHealth has been taking care of Southern Maryland families for more than a century. In addition to the 80-licensed bed medical center on the medical center campus, medical office buildings in Dunkirk, Twin Beaches, Prince Frederick and Solomons ensure that quality care is no more than 15 minutes from anywhere in Calvert County. CalvertHealth's trusted team provides residents with safe, high-quality health care and promotes wellness for a healthy community.

January is Radon Gas Awareness Month

January is recognized as Radon Gas Awareness Month in Calvert County. The Board of County Commissioners, Department of Planning & Zoning and Environmental Commission are encouraging county residents to check levels of radon gas in their homes and teach others how to test for radon.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that builds up in homes over time. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an estimated 1 in 15 homes in the United States have high levels of radon. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer and is estimated to cause about 21,000 deaths each year in the United States. Some areas of Maryland have soil that makes radon exposure

more likely. Basements and first floors are at the highest risk because they are closest to the ground.

Testing is the only way to detect and measure levels of radon in a home. Home radon test kits are simple, inexpensive and can help save lives. Maryland residents may order discounted radon test kits online from the Maryland Department of Health and Department of the Environment. If elevated radon levels are found, please seek gas reduction guidance from a certified radon mitigation professional.

For more information, visit the Environmental Commission website for frequently asked questions and Maryland radon facts.

What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Jan. 18 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

CSPR-142795, **Calvert Gateway**, Lot 12R, Retail Building 'A,' located at 10380 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk, on a 4.04-acre lot, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 15,493-square-foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted February 23, 2022. Agent: Bay Engineering

CSPR-142828, **Magnolia Ridge West**, located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, on multiple parcels totaling 24.497 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. Proposed approximately 91,000 square feet creating 79 townhomes. This project is on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted April 27, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates

CSPR-142842, **Sunset Terrace Con-**

dominiums, Mixed Use, located at 14474 & 14478 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .42 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 19,191-square-foot, three-story building for mixed use: 1,000-square-foot commercial retail space and 18,191-square-foot for eight condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

CSPR-142856, **Solomons Condominiums**, located at 14516 & 14518 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .67 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 34,483-square-foot, four-story building for mixed use: 2,450-square-foot commercial retail space and 32,033 square feet for 13 multi-family condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is in the Critical Area and on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates

CSPR-142881, **Prince Frederick Town Center South, Shopping Plaza**, located on South Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, on 115-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Forest District. This project will have private water but will utilize public sewer. Proposed 75,099

square feet of disturbance for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

CSPR-142871, **Calvert Hills - Phase II**, located on Calvert Hills Road, Prince Frederick on a 2.33-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village. This project is proposed for 35 apartment units, served by public water & sewer, to complete the development that started with Calvert Hills - Phase I. The concept submittal was accepted October 26, 2022. Agent: Bay Engineering.

CSPR-142896, **Dunkirk Business Center**, located on Keith Lane, Owings on a 1.15-acre parcel, zoned I-1 Light Industrial. Proposed 9,750-square-foot, one-story building for flex space. The project will have private water and septic. The concept submittal was accepted October 26, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates.

The following Major Subdivision Proposed Project List for Upcoming Review was also submitted at the same meeting.

1) SD-142770, **Lusby Villas**, Lot 1, located on Lusby Parkway in Lusby. One commercial lot proposed on one

parcel consisting of 24.87 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District, Tier I. The Preliminary Plan submittal was accepted January 26, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates

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

Information provided by Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.



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School Support Staff Seek 'Blueprint' Parity

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert's educational support staff say they would like to be treated equally in the implementation of the state's education reform, known as the "Blueprint."

Stacy Tayman, president of the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff (CAESS), stated at the school board's Jan. 12 meeting, "The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is here. The implementation plan is due in a matter of weeks, and it requires a lot of compliance. A recent press release detailed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between CCPS (Calvert County Public Schools) and the Calvert Education Association (CEA). That detailed upcoming pay increases that keeps CCPS in compliance with the Blueprint. CCPS has stated that they will not do the same for support staff because there is no requirement to do so. However, in the MOU that was signed with CEA, there are staff who will be receiving the increases who are not required to do so. The press release went out several days before the winter break and went over like a lead balloon with our ESP (education support professionals)."

Tayman added, "Where I think CCPS is missing the mark is that the Blueprint is less about compliance and more about a vision where we want our school system to be. We cannot view the Blueprint superficially. There's much more to it than just what appears in the ink. Only working to ensure compliance blurs the vision of the bigger picture. It is narrow sighted to even begin implementation when we have not ensured the foundation of this school system. Our education support professionals are secure and strong enough to handle it."

"For example, the very department that is going to be processing a lot of the new requirements and the salary implementation for the teachers through the Blueprint, is currently reducing the hours of their support staff one position at a time through vacancy postings. They're already understaffed and they're now taking away staff hours."

Tayman observed, "We have instructional assistants who barely have worked in their assigned roles due to having to cover classes. Instructional assistants are to support the delivered instruction so that all students have equitable access to learning. When they're removed, the service is halted. Student success is directly impacted by the instructional assistants who support them."

She also noted that in December safety advocates called for one for every middle school instead of having one staffer share two schools.

Tayman said, "We also had bus assistants who had their hours reduced because for midday runs, they trained

IA's (instructional assistants) to do their duties. We have building service workers who take leave and don't have it covered, so their co-workers are not only doing their own assignment, they're doing the assignments of their co-workers. What are we doing? We're manipulating job descriptions and duties to patch the cracks in our foundation, and it's not going to hold."

Michelle LeClair, a 16-year ESP with the school system, and now the administrative secretary for Dowell Elementary School, also spoke. She said, "Based on my experiences in my current position, CCPs secretaries are struggling, and we need your help. Our duties have evolved over the years, and we have assumed many new responsibilities, all without comparable pay increases or workload considerations. There is little to no professional training provided. We rely on one another or the occasional video tutorial to learn the multitude of software required to do our jobs. We are required to understand and enforce legal requirements as they pertain to highly sensitive information that we safeguard. However, there is no continuous professional development to ensure compliance or consistency. Other duties as assigned seem to have no boundaries."

"School-based secretaries create master schedules. We ensure classroom coverage. We monitor students who are fulfilling behavior consequences without behavior specific training. We orchestrate dismissals, which includes the safe and lawful release of students to properly identified adults, all while juggling the ever-changing demands of our daily responsibilities."

"We work longer than our contracted hours without compensation. Our buildings are settled, and the students are safe before we depart. We are not wired to walk out when the clock announces the end of our day. However, this commitment to the students and staff is taken advantage of."

Tayman urged the board to include the support staff in the MOU along with the teachers. She said, "We have proven time and again that the school day does not happen without us. We're the first in and the last out. We are here. We are always here, and we were the ones in the buildings when nobody else was during the pandemic. We are doing the work. Without us, the Blueprint implementation will be difficult if not unattainable. To only say that salary increases will be proposed and similar is not enough. We deserve the investment, and we deserve a memorandum of understanding."

Newly elected board President Inez Claggett said she for one supports the CAESS position.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

How to Handle Inherited IRAs

from the Law Office of Lynda J. Striegel

Mistakes are common when handling IRAs and one wrong move and the entire IRA will be taxed rather than tax-deferred.

An IRA provides you with a long-term tax shelter. The money you contribute to the IRA is invested in mutual funds and the earnings on the money, dividends, interest and capital gains grow tax-deferred. With traditional IRAs, your heirs will owe income taxes when they take money out of the account. With Roth IRAs, you have already paid taxes on the money you contribute so your heirs will not owe income taxes when they take money out of the account.

There are two ages that you need to keep in mind about IRAs-59 ½ and 73. Anyone who holds an IRA and is under age 59 ½, has to pay a 10% penalty if they take the money out the IRA. And, anyone who is at and over age 73 must take a "minimum required distribution" of assets in the IRA account and pay tax on the amount distributed. This is an increase in the age produced by the SECURE ACT 2.0.

The best strategy for you and your heirs is to leave the money in the IRA and allow it to grow tax-deferred. But, what happens when someone dies and leaves you an IRA account?

Spouses have an advantage with IRA accounts. John and Mary Doe are married and John has a traditional IRA account that he leaves to Mary as his beneficiary when he dies. John dies and Mary inherits the IRA. What should she do? Mary can cash out the IRA and pay income tax. She can choose to put John's IRA in her own name, she can keep the IRA in John's name and then re-title the IRA into her own name when she is over 59 ½, or she can disclaim the IRA entirely.

- Mary needs the money from the IRA and is willing to pay the income tax to access it. Mary can cash out John's IRA and pay incomes taxes on the entire amount (OR, OVER A TEN-YEAR LIQUIDATION PERIOD).
- If Mary doesn't need to access the money and she wants to keep the assets tax deferred for as long as possible, Mary should put the assets into her own name. By doing so, the age restrictions will apply to Mary, not John. This makes sense especially if John was over 73 and had already started to take the minimum required distributions. If Mary is under 73 and rolls the IRA into another IRA in her sole name, she will not have to take the minimum required distributions that John was taking until she reaches age 73.
- If Mary is under age 59 ½ and needs to access the money from John's IRA, Mary should transfer the assets into an inherited IRA. This means John is still counted as the owner of the IRA and the age3 restrictions apply to him, not Mary. The inherited IRA account should be re-titled as follows: "John Doe IRA (deceased April 1, 2015) for the benefit of Mary Doe, beneficiary." Mary will still control the IRA assets but they will not be in her sole name. They will remain in John's name as an inherited IRA. Because of that, Mary can withdraw assets from the IRA without penalty even when she is under age 59 ½ (because John was older than 59 ½ and the IRA is still in John's name). However, to take maximum advantage of the age rules, when Mary reaches 59 ½, she should again re-title the IRA again, this time to put it into her own name so that she doesn't have to take a minimum distribution until she reaches age 73.
- Suppose Mary doesn't need to rely on the minimum distributions from John's IRA to pay her living expenses. She can roll John's IRA into an IRA in her own name and then roll her own IRA into a ROTH IRA.

What if you are a child inheriting an IRA from a parent? You do not have the choice of rolling the money into an IRA in your own name. That benefit is just for spouses.

David Doe's choices are to cash out the IRA or to create an inherited IRA. He can cash out the IRA, in which case he must pay income tax on the entire IRA account and he will lose the ability of an IRA to accumulate assets tax-deferred. Or, he can choose to re-title the account as an inherited IRA, as follows: "Mary Doe IRA (deceased April 1, 2015) for the benefit of David Doe, beneficiary." Every year, David will be required to make a minimum withdrawal, but can take more if he wants. Withdrawals are taxed, the rest accumulates tax-deferred.

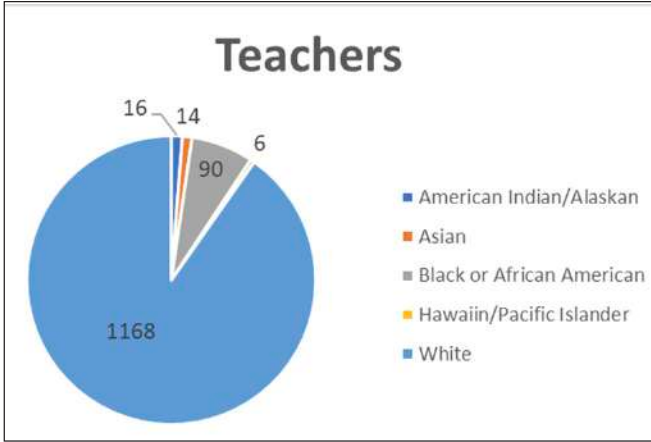
A 401(k) can be inherited and re-titled as an inherited IRA. If a parent leaves his or her IRA or 401(k) to multiple children, each child must re-title his or her portion as an inherited IRA.

The moral of this story is that dealing with IRA, ROTH IRA, 401(k) and other retirement accounts after a person dies, is tricky and you need to educate yourself on your choices so that you make a decision that is wise for yourself and your loved ones. In this case especially, you should check with a financial advisor as soon as possible after a death to ensure you are following the correct procedures no matter what you choose.

To learn more about estate planning, join me at a free seminar on the third Wednesday of every month at 11am in our offices at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your space. See you then.

Black Teachers Still Lag Behind Student Percentages

Recent Improvements Reported to School Board



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

While some progress has been made in recent years, the percentage of African American teachers in Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) still lags way behind the percentage of African American students.

During a staff update of the CCPS Strategic Plan's priority area on "workforce," Director of Human Resources Zach Seawell said, "Workforce focuses on the recruitment, hiring, support, and retention of high-quality staff. Calvert County Public Schools prides itself on having the best teachers and the best staff in the state

of Maryland in order to deliver the highest quality instruction to all of our students. We recognize the importance of a diverse and high-quality staff and the impact that both of these have on the achievement of our students."

Seawell added, "When looking at the diversity of our workforce, our goal

is for our workforce to be reflective of the students that we serve. As we have shared in the past, research shows that having a diverse teacher workforce benefits all students and minority students specifically are more successful, and the performance increases in classes that are taught by minority teachers."

Seawell reported that the percentage of African American support staff and administrators closely mirrors the student population. But there is only seven percent of the teacher workforce who are black, compared to almost twice as many, or 13.8 percent of the students.

"It is our responsibility and our obligation to our students to recognize this

research and make efforts to increase our minority teacher workforce to match our student demographics," Seawell said.

The teacher category includes mostly classroom teachers, but also includes other certificated employees such as school counselors, speech language pathologists, school psychologists, and other certificated staff.

Seawell reported, "Over the past three years, we have shown improvements in our minority teacher hiring, going from a minority teacher hiring percentage of nine percent in fiscal year 2021 to 11.7 percent in fiscal year 2022 and to 13.9 in fiscal year 2023. So, we are showing improvement and we are optimistic that we'll continue to see this growth with the implementation of our action plan. Last year, we worked with an outside agency, WestEd, to develop a detailed plan to assist us in our minority teacher hiring efforts."

Cecilia Lewis, supervisor of Human Resources, said the school systems data collection efforts are hampered by "the number of candidates who chose not to respond to the ethnicity, race, or gender options on their applications as these designations are voluntary per the Equal Employment Opportunity Act." Of 916 applicants in the last year, 99 were African American but 201 elected not to respond.

Of those 99, 60 position interviews took place with 24 hiring offers and 19 were eventually hired, Lewis said.

Lewis reported, "For the 2022-23 school year, CCPS offered 51 contingent contracts from February through May, and we started the school year with only 13 certificated openings system-wide with 7.5 of those in special education. This translates to a 1.1 percent vacancy, which is far below what many surrounding school systems experience to start a school year."

During the presentation, new board member Jana Post asked, "Of all the applications that are submitted, do we interview every qualified individual that submits an application or are we only interviewing the minority candidates because those are targeted?"

Lewis said, "We do not interview everyone that's qualified, in general just because of the numbers. Depending on the position there's not the possibility to do so. So, we identify the most qualified and then we rank them."

The full presentation is available for viewing under the board's Jan. 13 agenda in Board Docs and a video of the meeting is available for viewing.

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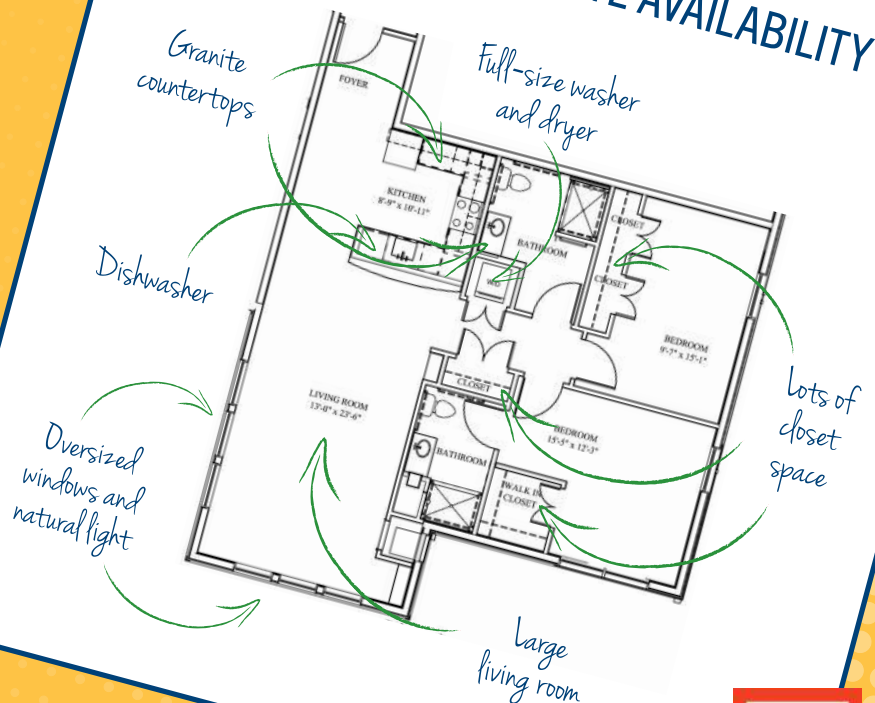
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Commissioners Meet with County Delegation

Seven Bills Presented for Introduction



Delegates Todd Morgan (l) and Jeffrie Long hold county seals presented to them by the county commissioners. Photo courtesy Calvert PIO.

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With the 2023 Maryland General Assembly session already underway, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met with the county's legislative delegation on Jan. 13. The purpose of the meeting was to present the county's seven-item legislative package to the delegation. The meeting was later than normal because of the November election, which produced three new commissioners and two new legislators.

Senators Michael Jackson (D: 27) and Jack Bailey (R:29) and Delegates Jeffrie Long (D: 27B) and Todd Morgan (R: 29C) appeared in person. Delegate Mark Fisher's aide, who said the delegate was running late, appeared on Zoom. The commissioners presented the newcomers, Dels. Long and Morgan, a county seal to hang in their Annapolis offices.

None of the seven proposed pieces of legislation drew any controversy during the half-hour meeting. Earlier in the

week the BOCC had rejected a proposal by Planning and Zoning and Finance and Budget departments to remove the requirement that legal notices be published in a newspaper and instead to allow posting on the county website. Several of the commissioners said some citizens did not have access to the internet.

Long, whose district includes North and Chesapeake Beach, Dunkirk, Owings and a portion of Sunderland, said he had "extensive experience working in the General Assembly. And so I'm here to work in partnership with this delegation to serve the needs of our community."

Long worked for the late Senator Mike Miller.

Morgan, who represents lower Calvert and middle St. Mary's said he has spent the last 12 years as a St. Mary's County commissioner. He said, "I get to be your delegate and am happy to be here."

Both Jackson and Bailey said they had been assigned to the important Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, which can be instrumental in directing state

funding towards Calvert's way.

The legislative package, as presented by County Attorney John Norris, is:

#1: Public Safety is requesting the following LOSAP (for volunteer first responders) Amendments:

- Change LOSAP burial benefit to death benefit and increase benefit from \$6,000 to \$10,000;
- Increase LOSAP line of duty death benefit from \$6,000 to \$10,000;
- Authorize the Board of County Commissioners to approve an increase in payment of benefit amount received by qualified volunteers that corresponds to the percentage of cost-of-living increase afforded to County employees.

#2: Public Safety/Animal Control Division is requesting changes be made to the current rabies reporting requirements.

#3: Parks and Recreation is requesting an amendment to Md. Ann. Code, Tax – General Art., § 2-202, modifying language pertaining to Gaming Revenue.

#4: Finance & Budget is requesting authority to create a Local Preference.

#5: The County Attorney is requesting authority for the State's Attorney to appoint the County Attorney to enforce civil citations.

#6: The County Attorney is requesting legislation that authorizes the Vice-President of the Board of County Commissioners to act on behalf of the President upon written delegation of authority from the President, or the removal, death, resignation, or disability of the President.

#7: The County Commissioners seek

legislation authorizing the County to regulate the solicitation of money within public rights-of-way by adding Calvert to the existing law within the Transportation Article applicable in Allegany and Cecil counties.

Regarding the length-of-service awards program, Norris explained, "They are entitled to a burial benefit today, though that may be covered by other sources. So, they're converting from a burial benefit to a death benefit."

Regarding gaming revenue, Norris said, "It was brought to our attention by Delegate Fisher last session that there is money left on the table that the county could qualify for an additional two percent of the state admissions and amusement tax from electronic bingo. This request is to renew last session's what would've been an amendment at that time so that the county would, instead of getting the four-percent receives today through the Calvert Youth and Opportunities Fund, we would bring it up to six percent total amusement tax collected in electronic bingo in Calvert County for the beaches. And the county totals 35 percent, which is equal to what is collected in the Anne Arundel County."

Sen. Jackson said, "We did have this in last year. It got tangled up at the end and didn't quite make it through. We thought we had an agreement, but as you know things get jumbled sometimes. So we've reintroduced the bill to make sure we'll work with you all to see that it gets through this year."

The local preference bill would be enabling legislation to allow the BOCC to work with the business community to develop the details.

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Expanded Veteran's Property Tax Credit Proposed

Public Hearing to be Scheduled

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is moving ahead with a public hearing to consider implementing an expanded property tax credit for veterans.

Based on a recommendation from the county's Veteran's Affairs Committee, the tax credit would cover four groups that could be eligible for property tax relief:

Group 1 -- Gold Star and Surviving Spouses (not remarried);

Group 2 -- 75-99 percent disabled;

Group 3 -- 50-74 percent disabled; and

Group 4 -- 1-49 percent disabled.

The county currently has a tax credit

for veterans who are 100 percent disabled.

After hearing from Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Brandon Temple at the Jan. 10 BOCC meeting, the commissioners decided to take to public hearing only tax credits for veterans in groups 2 and 3 for only those with adjusted gross income of less than \$100,000.

Temple explained for levels 2 and 3, "As state law is applied right now, there is no need for enabling legislation for those who make an adjusted gross income (AGI) in the previous tax year of less than \$100,000. So, the estimated 55 percent, what we think is estimated participation, is based on the fact that we have Maryland State data that shows that about 45 percent of our veterans make over \$100,000 a year. So if we ap-

ply these tax credits to a level two and three, keeping what the state has at a less than AGI and the previous tax year of \$100,000, we wouldn't have to go for enabling legislation on those two items."

Temple added, "That's the recommendation that I would give to the board because this is what other counties are doing and it is something we can do here without having to go back to Annapolis ask for their help and new legislation. Two, as you know, we live in one of the most progressively political states in the country and I do not believe that they're going to be in for the General Assembly giving tax credits to those who make six figures or more a year. And this can be bogged down in legislation and in the General Assembly for years and years when we can do it the way the state has

already laid it out and do it now. And that'll also reduce that overall funding level that was discussed earlier."

Director of Finance and Budget Sharon Strand told the BOCC, "The Veteran's tax credit could average \$1.95 million with a 10-year cost of \$19.54 million using 100-percent participation rate. If authorized, the Veteran's tax credit would reduce General Fund Revenues in addition to the tax credits already provided. Estimates would be refined during a public hearing on any option selected to go forward."

After the commissioners decided to limit the credit to those making less than \$100,000, Stand revised her annual estimate down to \$800,000.

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New School Board Members Attend First Meeting

Grenis, Post Sworn In



Inez Claggett was elected board president for the next year and Antoine White as vice president. Photo courtesy Calvert County Public Schools.

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

New Calvert County Board of Education members Lisa Grenis and Jana Post were sworn in by Clerk of the Circuit Court Kathy Smith before the board's Jan. 12 meeting.

At the close of the meeting, the new members made comments. Grenis said, "I'd like to thank everyone for coming out today, especially the parents who are either here personally or listening virtually. I want you to know that you're an integral part of your child's education, and it's important that you are actively involved and aware of the decisions that this board makes."

Grenis added, "We don't have data

showing the performance of Calvert County specifically, but I can tell you statewide, Maryland is in an academic crisis. Sixty-nine percent of 4th graders and 75 percent of 8th graders are at or below basic achievement in reading and math. Those are state levels. Our children are within that."

Grenis said, "We need to discuss any issues that interfere with their education. We need our teachers and support staff to be fully supported, and we need these positions filled. Our schools need to address any issues that interfere with academic achievement. It requires our schools to teach the core subjects, maintain high academic standards, train, retain, and properly compensate our teachers and support staff. And we need to support them with discipline."

"I'm honored to have a voice and a vote in the future of Calvert County Public Schools," she concluded.

Post said, "I want to thank everyone for coming out and supporting all of us today. It would be amazing if we could have this kind of turnout every Thursday."

She said she attended the recent Tri-County Band Concert. "It was amazing to see the middle schoolers and then to see the high schoolers and how wonderful a progression it is. And it's amazing to see so

many children involved. I was astounded at the number of teachers and volunteers that it took to pull that event off, much like it does every single day, when we go to school, we come home from school and every single extracurricular activity. So, while I applaud the children for all of their hard work today, I'm going to applaud all of the adults that are continuously working to make these children better people and to educate them. And I look forward to serving you guys."

During the public comment, a spokesperson for a parents group that supported Grenis and Post, Melissa Goshorn, reminded the newcomers of why they were elected.

Goshorn said, "I just want to welcome both Lisa and Jana. I obviously am so excited to have you here and I think that I speak on behalf of a lot of parents in this community. We are blessed, we are excited, we are happy, and we just wish you all of our blessings as you start this process."

"At the same time, I think that it would be important for me to maybe state a couple of the things that I've addressed in the past when you were not on the board. They remain unhandled and you'll probably hear me speak about them again in the future until they are. So, a few of the things that I think we need to focus on as you guys kind of get your feet wet is the library policy with

both the books and our libraries.

"I think that the policy to get a book in the library is one that requires a single librarian to make a decision. But to get a book out of the library, we need to involve a large number of people, a large amount of time, and in some cases additional investment to read the books."

Goshorn added, "I also think that we need to really look at our sexual health curriculum. It seems to be getting worse. I don't know that it's been created with sexual therapists involved or other sexual health professionals to ensure that the way in which we are teaching our children is not doing them harm."

Goshorn brought up an issue that has been raised repeatedly over the past four years by parents, teachers and students. "We have a major behavioral problem in our schools. Our teachers are not getting the training that they need to keep themselves and the other students safe. So, I think we need to prioritize that training. And I also think that we need to really step it up on enforcing our code of conduct as it relates to drugs in our schools."

During the meeting, Inez Claggett was elected board president and Antoine White the new vice president. Post and Grenis abstained in the vote. The board officers are elected yearly.

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Commissioners meet with delegation



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Two new school board members are sworn in



LOCAL 7
New projects planned for Calvert

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MON, JAN 23 Partly Cloudy Hi: 48° Lo: 32°	TUE, JAN 24 Partly Cloudy Hi: 45° Lo: 38°	WED, JAN 25 Showers Hi: 48° Lo: 34°	THU, JAN 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 46° Lo: 29°

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