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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET

**Willows Recreation
Center to Close**

**Great Mills Homicide
Under Investigation**

**County to Distribute
Free Computers**

**DISTRACTED DRIVERS,
DANGEROUS ROADS**

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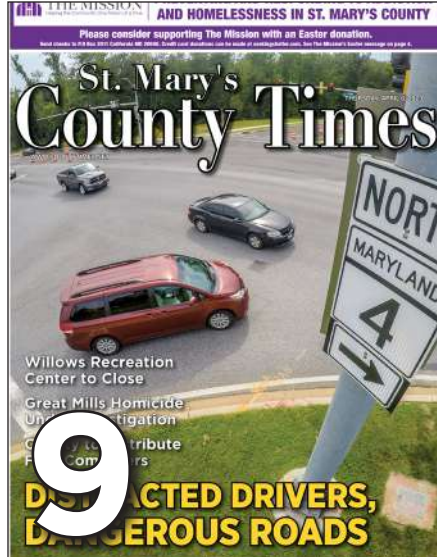
“THERE’S NO MORE IMPORTANT SOCIAL CONTRACT THAN THAT BETWEEN DRIVERS. EACH ONE IS HOPING THE OTHER HAS THEIR SAFETY IN MIND.”
SHERIFF STEVE HALL ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DEFENSIVE DRIVING



LOCAL 5
Burial site of former governor may have been found



LOCAL 7
County interested in Willows Recreation Center



9 ON THE COVER
April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, APR 6</p> <p>PM Thunderstorms Hi: 82° Lo: 50°</p>	<p>FRI, APR 7</p> <p>Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 46°</p>	<p>SAT, APR 8</p> <p>Cloudy Hi: 51° Lo: 39°</p>	<p>SUN, APR 9</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 59° Lo: 41°</p>
<p>MON, APR 10</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 44°</p>	<p>TUE, APR 11</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 49°</p>	<p>WED, APR 12</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 53°</p>	<p>THU, APR 13</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 56°</p>



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Easter is so often considered to be a social holiday, a time to get together with friends and family, maybe go to church. We long for the upcoming and mourn the past when we join together and are in relationship with those we love and call friends. But as of late, it is more and more difficult to find that sort of relationship and to connect with those whom we love. Sure, we may have hundreds of friends and followers on various social medias, but we have lost the genuine emotional connection that has been traditionally paired with these relationships. I, personally, often find myself yearning for the times, primarily in my youth, when I had someone to reach out to when I was in need, whether for help or simply for good company.

When I am occasioned with the yearning for friendship and find myself lacking, I turn in my Bible to John 15, verses 14 and 15, where Jesus states that those who follow in His commands have been made **friends** with Him. Indeed, those who accept His calls for relationship, their need for salvation, and open the door of the heart, on which the Lord is always knocking, may have friendship with the God of creation. Furthermore, in the same chapter, He states that we can, and ought to, abide in Him such that He will abide in us. He promised that we will always have access to God, and that we can always lean on Him, especially when we are in need.

In John 3:16, a fairly popular passage, we see that "...God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." [ESV] But the less often quoted 3:17 goes a step further, declaring that Christ was not sent "...to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." [ESV] Verse 18 explains without Christ we are already condemned, which is made obvious by the strain and struggle of a broken world which seems continually fracturing.

Back in John 15:3 Jesus tells His disciples that they have been made clean by His words, and this is a picture of His greatest purpose, to heal us amidst our struggles and provide us with a relationship directly with Him, the Lord. He is waiting to provide us with the relationship for which we so desperately yearn, relationship unfettered, to heal us with His words and His Spirit. He does not need you to join a church or 'get to a better place' first, He is not asking for your perfection — **He is simply in the waits for someone who needs a friend in Him.**

If you any questions please contact us!

Thank you for a minute of your time this busy Easter season,

Spencer Arthur



THE MISSION

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seekingshelter.com

The Search for Governor's Burial Site at Sotterley



Professor Julie King and archaeology student Garrett Terner at a dig site near Historic Sotterley

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Archaeologists digging on land that was once part of the Sotterley plantation in Hollywood are hopeful they have found the burial site of Maryland Gov. George Plater, who briefly served from 1791 to 1792 before dying in office.

For centuries his burial site has been a mystery, but one local lawyer and amateur historian — Sam Baldwin — says he is certain that Plater is buried on land that was his long-ago birthplace and home.

“It’s a reminder that history’s been hidden but it’s there if you look for it,” Baldwin told The County Times, noting finding Plater’s grave would be a larger connection to the county’s part in the founding of the country as it is today.

“It’s a way to remind people this county’s history goes back centuries and a played a part in the Revolutionary War.”

Julie King, an anthropologist and archaeologist at St. Mary’s College of Maryland has, along with two students, has excavated a small site in an open field just outside the modern-day property footprint of Historic Sotterley Plantation after ground penetrating radar found an anomaly there.

More than a year ago, King helped organize the beginning of the dig in hopes of finding what Baldwin believed to be there.

The more she heard of the story, and of some written references to Plater’s grave being on land that was once part of the larger Sotterley plantation, she began to see more potential for the site to yield real findings.

In a field that has seemingly no artifacts buried there of significant size there is one concentration of three objects that could be human burials, King said, with one of them being Gov. Plater.

After further widening of the dig site, King said she can confirm there are two graves there; the finding gives her even more hope that she and her team of student

archaeologists have found what they are looking for.

Plans to actually dig up those graves, though, would only be done as part of a “much larger community conversation,” King said.

“That would have to be approached really carefully and cautiously,” King continued.

“We’re all really excited it’s a chance it’s the governor,” King said.

Plater is a significant historical figure in St. Mary’s County as he was a central figure in the American Revolution.

He was a member of the House of Delegates in 1758, a judge in the provincial court and a member of the Governor’s Council.

He was also a naval officer of the Patuxent, according to a historical primer from Sotterley, and also served on the Council of Safety of Maryland, which coordinated all of the actions related to resisting the British before and during the Revolutionary War.

Plater went on to serve in the Maryland State Senate and the Continental Congress and as a member of the convention to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

Baldwin is set to give a public talk at the county government headquarters on Leonard Hall Drive in Leonardtown on April 20.

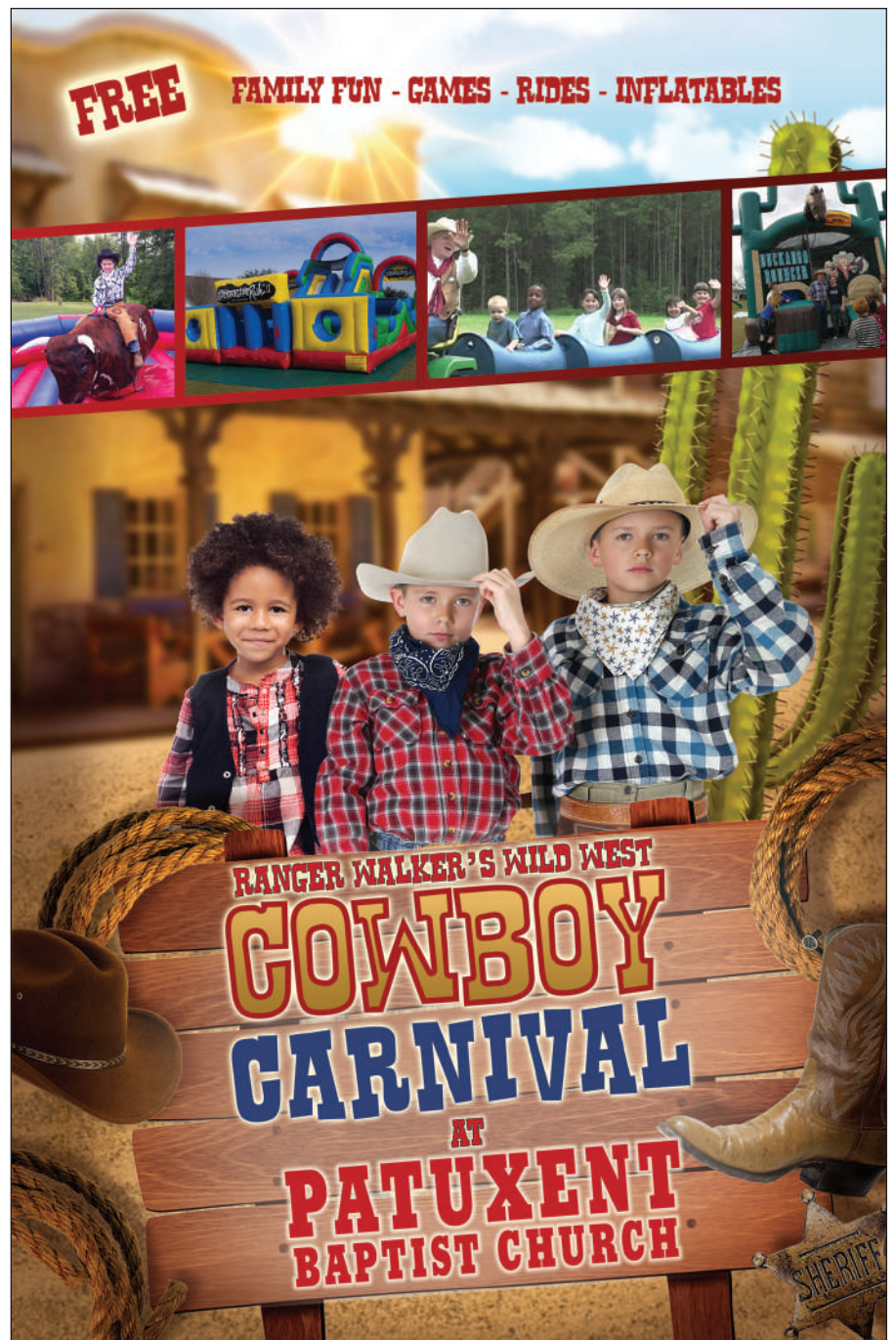
He maintains his certainty that the site holds the Revolutionary War-era governor.

“If she’s [King] excited that means there’s something there,” Baldwin said. “There are two bodies there and they say that [Gov. Plater’s] wife died before him.”

Baldwin said that before he died, local historian Pete Himmelheber was able to search through the Maryland State Archives and a find deed reference stating Plater was buried at Sotterley.

“I give a lot of credit to Pete,” Baldwin said. “Once he gave me that, there was no doubt.”

guyleonard@countytimes.net



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Willows Recreation Center Closing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The management of the Willows Recreation Center in Lexington Park, perhaps the county's largest privately-owned indoor sports and community event facility, has announced that the facility will close at the end of April.

"Willows Recreation Center is permanently closing on [April 30, 2023] an announcement to its members reads "Our hours for the month of April 2023 will be based on events.

"We will not be open from 8am to 3pm. We will be open from 3pm to 9pm Monday to Thursday for drop-in sports. Tuesday is basketball from 7-9pm, Wednesday futsal 7-9pm, Thursday dodgeball and volleyball 7-9pm. We will be closed on Fridays except for private events. Saturday and Sunday will be based on events with hours generally on Saturday 9a.m. to 5p.m. and Sunday 9:30a.m. to 5p.m. Saturday and Sunday hours may change based on events. Thank you for all of your support the last [three-plus] years! We've had fun!"

The announcement of the closing opened up speculation about what might move into the space; the county has been expanding its recreational offerings to residents

The county is already pursuing a public-private partnership with the YMCA of

the Chesapeake to place a YMCA next to the public swimming pool on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park.

"I would like, maybe, for us to open the conversation whether... we can talk to the YMCA of the Chesapeake and say 'You have a turn-key solution right there,'" said Commissioner Mike Alderson in response to the news.

"You already have a building; you can put your programs in there and see what happens."

Such a deal would relieve the county of the need to use \$15 million in bonding authority from the state — a bill, which is believed will pass in the General Assembly — to construct the facility on Great Mills Road.

It would also relieve the YMCA of its obligation to raise \$4 million in private funding to aid in that project in an agreement from last year with the county commissioners. "We're disappointed they couldn't make it," Alderson said. "But they're a private business and subject to the whims of the market."

Hewitt said the county has yet to buy the



property, though rumors are already circulating that it had.

"Are we interested in it?" Hewitt said. "Yes, we are."

"The initial price was \$5.7 million and that dropped to \$5.4 million; it's a lot of money."

Hewitt said he was still supportive of putting the YMCA on Great Mills Road as the county had done much work to make that option viable; it would also allow the county to avoid paying continued maintenance costs on the pool since the YMCA

would take over the operations there.

"I do think it would be a great addition for our gymnastics program," said Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy, confirming that the county is interested in examining the property for potential purchase. "We'll have to see; all of this is being discussed now as we sit here."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Murder Defendant Has 20 Year Drug Conspiracy Sentence

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Darryl Parks Jr., 29, the Washington, D.C. man charged with the murder of a transgender, teen-aged woman in the parking lot of a Mechanicsville bar and grill had a 20-year suspended prison sentence after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances, on-line Maryland judiciary records show, from a court case in Charles County in 2017.

When he pleaded guilty to that charge, Judge William R. Greer, Jr. suspended all of his sentence except nine months of incarceration and five years of supervised probation.

Parks is alleged to have waited outside Big Dog's Paradise in a vehicle with a woman — identified as Erin Battle, his longtime girlfriend — and fired two shots into the chest of the victim, Isaiah Alexander Woodland, 18, of Lexington Park, after the victim exited the establishment in the early morning hours of March 24.

Woodland went by the name of Tasiyah Woodland and identified as a woman.

Four days after the shooting local detectives working with Metropolitan Police Department personnel located and arrested Parks in the District.

He has since been extradited to St.

Mary's County and faces first-and-second-degree murder charges as well as several other counts.

According to charging documents filed against Parks in county District Court, he had been involved in an altercation with Woodland at the same establishment one month ago.

Witnesses to the shooting say they heard Battle, who was sitting in the passenger seat of the car in which Parks was the alleged driver, say either "shoot him" or "do it" and then saw the male driver fire at the victim through the passenger side window.

Charging documents state that the victim jumped into a witness's car, which fled the scene and pulled over onto the shoulder of Three Notch Road a short distance away where Woodland was found deceased.

Court papers stated that witnesses said the suspect vehicle pursued the victim's vehicle at a high rate of speed and an occupant fired several more rounds towards the victim and witness.

Witnesses said they identified the driver of the suspect vehicle as "Dee," a witness who viewed a photo lineup also identified Parks as the one who shot Woodland, charging papers stated.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Sheriff Warns Against Distracted Driving

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sheriff Steve Hall said motorists can expect to see more sheriff's deputies on county roads this spring.

It's all part of April being Distracted Driving Awareness Month, he said, and — in large part — a continued effort to maintain certain gains in traffic safety metrics.

That includes a decline in fatalities on the roadways in St. Mary's.

"There's no more important social contract than that between drivers," Hall told The County Times. "Each one is hoping the other has their safety in mind."

But statistics show that St. Mary's County can still be a dangerous place to drive.

The numbers of total crashes differ between the sheriff's office and ones recently shared by the county's Department of Public Works and Transportation at a transportation planning committee meeting — but they show that traffic crashes happen by the thousands here each year.

Preliminary crash statistics compiled by the sheriff's office for 2021 shows there were 1,764 such crashes but that number dropped slightly to 1,750 crashes in 2022.

What Hall focused on the most was the drop in fatalities in the past two years.

There were 15 traffic fatalities in 2021 and nine in 2022, he said.

"That's a big concern of ours," Hall said. "The other traffic numbers are down but it's negligible."

The numbers of crashes that resulted in physical injury, and not just property damage, was 508 in 2021 and down slightly in 2022 to 497.

Information compiled by the public works department showed that there were a total of 2,790 crashes between 2016 and 2020 with an average of about 560 crashes per year.

That resulted in an average of five fatalities per year and 200 crashes resulting in injuries per year.

But Chang Li, transportation engineer with the county, told the local transportation planning committee last week that that crash data was compiled only from a state-wide data base, which meant that county roads and smaller local roads were not part of the database.

Which meant the average number of crashes was far worse in St. Mary's than is

recorded by some.

"We've got to do better," Hall said.

But Hall wasn't talking about the sheriff's office deputies working the roads to keep order in traffic; he was talking about all motorists getting behind the wheel every day.

While the number of homicides has increased in recent years as have certain violent crimes, the number of fatalities on county roads — many of which can be attributed to a combination of distracted driving and speed, Hall said — far outweigh those criminally violent deaths.

The only other category of such fatalities that is higher is death by opioid overdose.

"It's much more dangerous to drive your car anywhere in the county," Hall said. "You have more chance of getting injured driving your car."

Driving is also, perhaps, the most critical thing a person can do each day that can impact on the safety of others.

"It's the most important thing you do because of the time you spend doing it," said Hall.

The sheriff said he anticipates that this could be the most active summer from a driving perspective since the COVID-19 pandemic was in full force.

"This is going to be a fully open season for travel compared to the last two or three years," Hall said. "So, you have to plan ahead and prepare for other drivers."

"Your plans to go to grandma's house aren't more important than the other family's plans to go to the beach."

Hall said a considered dose of empathy for other drivers before setting out on a trip would be helpful in people being less distracted when they drive.

"When someone cuts you off, think about how you feel about what just happened," Hall said. "That feeling is mutual."

"We're all better off for it."

One of the chief distractors of the modern driver is the cell phone, the sheriff said, which will be one of the things the increased numbers of deputies on traffic duty will be looking for on patrol.

State law forbids the use of a cell phone in a car by the driver without the aid of some sort of hands-free device.

"The phone cannot be in your hand," Hall reminded. "Your imagination is your only limitation" in finding a hands-free device.

Keeping the volume of music or other media in the car down is also important, Hall

said, as it can distract a driver from what's going on around them.

"You have to be able to hear that emergency vehicle coming," Hall said. "Or those screeching tires or somebody yelling."

"You have to be fully engaged in what you're doing."

The county's data shows that any business intersection along Route 235 is the most likely to see a traffic collision and thus can be considered among the county's most dangerous intersections.

The Route 235 intersections with Patuxent Beach Road, Chancellors Run Road and Golden Beach Road are listed by the county as the most dangerous, county public works data showed.

The most dangerous roadways continue to be Route 235 and Route 5, collectively

known as Three Notch Road.

The sheriff's office lists the intersection of Route 235 and First Colony Boulevard as its No. 1 dangerous intersection with 148 collisions in 2022, second is Patuxent Beach Road with 83 collisions, and Miramar Way and Town Creek Drive coming in at No. 3 with 75 collisions.

Hall said nothing can compensate for controlling speed while driving, which can increase significantly when a driver is distracted.

"If you don't speed it opens up so many more options to avoid calamity," Hall said. "You need to have a heightened awareness of defensive driving."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's Most Dangerous Intersections

Intersection	Total Accidents
Three Notch Road at Entrances to Businesses	47
Three Notch Road at Patuxent Beach Road	43
Three Notch Road at Chancellors Run Road	40
Three Notch Road at Golden Beach Road	31
Three Notch Road at Thompson's Corner Road	27
Three Notch Road at First Colony Road	25
Point Lookout Road at Patuxent Beach Road	23
Three Notch Road at Piney Point Road	23
Three Notch Road at Pegg Road	22
Three Notch Road at Town Creek Drive	21
Three Notch Road at New Market Turner Road	21
Patuxent Beach Road at Three Notch Road	20
Great Mills Road at Shangri La Drive	20
Three Notch Road at Maple Road	19
Great Mills Road at Old Rolling Road	19
Three Notch Road at Exploration Park Drive	18
Point Lookout Road at Entrances to Businesses	18
Three Notch Road at Wildewood BLVD	17
Point Lookout Road at Hollywood Road	16
Three Notch Road at Rue Purchase Road	16
Loveville Road at Bishop Road	15

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County Wins Grant To Give Away 4,500 Computers

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county has been awarded \$27,000 in grant money from the state that will allow it to distribute 4,500 Chrome Book laptop computers to eligible county residents.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved the grant award unanimously at their regular business meeting April 4 in Leonardtown.

The total cost of the computers has been valued by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the awarders of the grant money, at just under \$900,000.

Bob Kelly, director of the Department of Information Technology, told commissioners this week that the application for the grant award took place back in December.

The laptop computers will be distributed to families — one per family, Kelly said — who are not able to afford one.

"Many of them are low income, some of them are seniors," Kelly said. "So there's an eligibility requirement."

The county will work with community partners such as the NAACP to help distribute the laptops, which are able to be connected to the internet when delivered.

The computers come from the state Office of Statewide Broadband.

"We have six months to distribute these," Kelly said. "Most of what our number [of eligible residents] is based upon is free and reduced [cost] meal students in St. Mary's County public schools."

The St. Mary's County Housing Authority and the Office of Human Services also provided some numbers of eligible residents, Kelly said.

"There's also some opportunity for some disabled veterans to get some, also," he said.

Kelly told Commissioner Mike Hewitt that the county — due to commissioners' expenditures of American Rescue Program funding — has been able to achieve 96 percent connectivity to the internet in the past several years.

Hewitt had asked about how far the connectivity for the new, free computers would go in St. Mary's.

This program, Kelly said, gave certain families a device they could use to take advantage of that connectivity they otherwise would not have.

"This is the next step in making sure folks are connected and able to get the resources available to them that the internet provides," said Kelly.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Homicide in Great Mills Under Investigation

On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:37 pm, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the parking lot of the Great Mills Sheetz at the 20700 block of Old Great Mills Road for a report of shots fired. A short time later, deputies also responded to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown for a report of a victim who arrived with multiple gunshot wounds. The victim, identified as Marcus Anthony Day, age 26 of Leonardtown, was pronounced deceased.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office's Criminal Investigations Division is continuing the investigation.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Andrew Burgess at 301-475-4200, ext.

78041 or email andrew.burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Anyone with cellphone video or images who was present at the scene is urged to visit the Sheriff's Office's Citizen Upload Video Evidence Portal at <https://www.firstsheriff.com/uploadevidence/>. Videos and photos can be provided anonymously through the portal.

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.

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This fundraising effort supports the So. Md. ROOTS Youth Group's High School Pilgrimage to St. Clement's Island. It allows participants to share in a spiritual journey that focuses on Faith, Family and Community. Businesses and individuals interested in supporting or participating in this community effort are encouraged to contact Theresa Friess at southernmarylandroots@gmail.com or visit www.southernmarylandroots.org

Mark your calendar! So. Md. Spring Auction
Saturday, May 13, 4 pm
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County Supported Bills Head Towards Passage Free Child Seat Installation on April 13

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Several bills in the General Assembly that have the support of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County appear to be poised to pass in the final days of the legislative session, said Assistant County Attorney John Houser this week at the commissioners' business meeting of Apr. 4.

"We're just at this point waiting to see what's crossing the finish line and what doesn't," Houser told Commissioner Eric Colvin, who pointed out the weekly reports on happenings in Annapolis on bills that concerned St. Mary's were growing thinner.

The final day of the General Assembly — Sine Die — is April 10.

"There has been movement and generally everything the commissioners supported as far as local bills go seems to be headed to passage in some form or another," Houser said.

Four county-supported bills that have passed the House of Delegates and have been heard in the Senate as of March 29 include an extension of the sunset provision for the transfer tax, a provision that would allow "certain gaming events" — for example small stakes card games — to be played in county senior centers, clarification of legal language pertaining to the Metropolitan Commission, and a measure for a report for finding county roads upon which unregistered golf carts can be driven, have all fared well, if slowly, in committees,

Houser said.

Houser said of the three competing bonding authority bills in the assembly — which are designed to give the commissioners the authority to borrow money to finance public construction projects — one is likely to pass through to become law.

The Republican members of the county delegation have proffered two bills, one for \$41 million for a litany of projects, and another for \$15 million for construction of the much-anticipated YMCA on Great Mills Road.

But the GOP-supported bill holds the \$15 million back from commissioners until the YMCA is able to raise \$4 million in private funds to aid in construction.

A competing bill entered by Democrat Del. Brian Crosby would simply authorize the commissioners to borrow the full, original request of \$56 million.

"The delegation considers this must-pass legislation in one form or another," Houser said. "It's going to be figured out over the course of this week."

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said he had spoken with Sen. Jack Bailey about the two GOP-backed bond bills that passed the Senate and are now in the House for hearings.

"He expects it not to come out looking exactly like his bill but he's going to support the bill that comes out," said Hewitt. "That's a good sign."

"I'm encouraged by what I heard."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Is your child safety seat installed correctly? Not Sure? Are you about to become a parent? Let a National Certified Child Safety Seat technician teach you how to install your seat correctly and safely.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and its community partners are hosting another free child safety seat installation event. Deputies and trained personnel will install child safety seats on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad at 21685 FDR Blvd. in Lexington Park, next to the Lexington Park Library.

The installation event runs from 3pm to

6pm. Appointments are preferred.

Sign up for an installation appointment at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a054caba729a3f49-january#/>

Please:

1. Schedule one appointment per child. Important! If you have more than one child, make another appointment during the next time slot (i.e. 3 pm for child #1 and 3:30 pm for child #2).
2. For a successful appointment, PRE-INSTALL your car seat(s) to the best of your ability and bring both the car seat and vehicle manuals.

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Navy's New Hearing Protection: Made-to-Measure for Every Sailor



Naval aviation now has a better solution to the Defense Department's most reported injury, noise-induced hearing loss, thanks to research and development at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD).

Using digital-imaging technology, NAWCAD is developing a novel process to fit and provide service members custom hearing protection more efficiently and with less risk. The improved process is safer than today's current process—which uses silicone injections—and will cut delivery time by at least 50%.

"Hearing damage is a readiness issue, but earns less attention because it is invisible and happens gradually over time," said Lt. Cmdr. Kyle Shepard, NAWCAD's resident audiologist and research lead. "Service members can compensate with hearing loss until one day they struggle to communicate from the cockpit or maintain situational awareness on the flight line or battlefield—we want to prevent that."

Hearing damage affects at least 10% of the military according to data from the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center. Tinnitus and hearing loss is the U.S. military's first and second most-reported disability. Using imaging scanners and 3D printers, the improved process would provide the opportunity to quickly fit any service member with custom hearing protection.

"Several large medical commands are already using 3D printers with biomedical materials," said Shepard. "The missing pieces are a digital ear scanner and imaging software to make custom hearing protection in-house."

The digital scanner features a small probe inserted into the sailor's ear to capture an image of the ear canal. Using specialized software, the image next gets converted to a 3D printer blue print. Once the image is converted, 3D printers can build custom-fitting hearing protection in minutes.

A 2006 study by NAWCAD showed that flight deck personnel typically do not insert foam earplugs correctly resulting in high

risk for noise-induced hearing damage.

"We've seen that custom earplugs can provide improved consistency and sometimes better attenuation than standard earplugs because they conform to ear anatomy—they're much easier to insert with less fit variability too," said Shepard. "In addition, custom earplugs are an excellent option for aviators and ground crews using internal communication radios underneath of helmets or headsets."

3D scanning offers a significant improvement to the Navy's current production process for custom hearing protection, which involves injecting silicone into the ear canal, waiting for it to set, and then carefully extracting the molds. This is tedious and sometimes painful for sailors with irregular ear canals, sensitive ears, or other anatomical challenges. Manufacturers can then take weeks to months to receive, produce and return the earplugs. The digital scanner is minimally invasive and makes custom hearing protection more precise, protective and comfortable because it can image deeper into an ear canal providing a better fit. Alongside 3D printers, the scanners will enable the Navy to print custom hearing protection in house.

Shepard and the team of engineers at NAWCAD have nearly completed a training program to certify users for the 3D scanner, which will make the fitting process available to most medical and safety professionals including flight physicians, safety officers and corpsmen.

Partner services including the Army and Air Force are already interested in scaling custom hearing protection.

Shepard and NAWCAD's aeromedical engineers are ready to support any command interested in getting in touch to see how they can start offering custom hearing protection to their warfighters today.

"Let's start getting after defense's most reported injury," said Shepard. "Reach out to me so we can get these scanners and training out there and expand the care our service members need."



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April 7

First
Friday
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First Friday Itinerary

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Antoinette's Garden

Brunch – facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. The Old Jail Museum & Visitor's Center

Open with extended hours for First Friday – facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Shepherd's Old Field Market

Specials throughout the Market – shepherdsoldfield.com

12 p.m. - 12 a.m. Viking Axe Throwing

At the Brudergarten in Shepherd's Old Field Market – facebook.com/vikingaxethrowingandrentals

12 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Yellow Line Studio

Funny Little Valentine Pop Up Shop – facebook.com/theyellowline.co

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. North End Gallery

Opening Reception for the Eyewitness Art Show featuring field and studio paintings by Alison Barry and Freeman Dodsworth – facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. St. Mary's County Arts Council

Opening Reception for an in-house guest art show featuring the work of students from the St. Mary's Ryken National Art Honors Society – facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery

Live music featuring Shortcut Sunny, food by Linda's on the Go Food Truck, and the return of POL's wine slushies – facebook.com/portoftownwine

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Board & Brush

Pick Your Project Workshop (for 16+) – boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design

Kids Open Studio – facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design

Open Studio for teens to adults – facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

The information included here is accurate at the time of printing, and is subject to change. Please visit the event page for current information.

Get to Know



Leonardtown



Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open Houses May 6 • 11AM-2PM

Learn more about one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses and its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County
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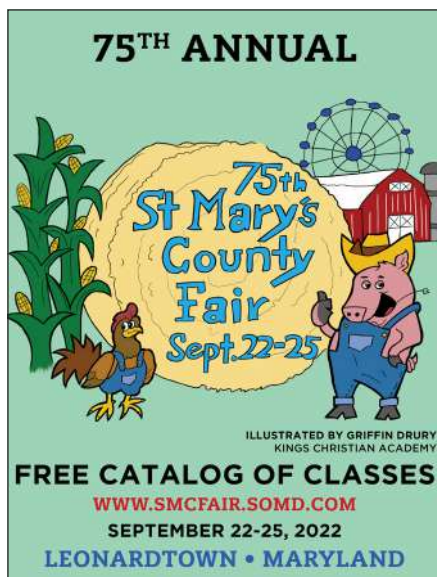
Design Competition Open for County Fair Catalog Cover

St Mary's students in grades 5-12 are invited to submit a design for the cover of the St Mary's County Fair Catalog. Home schooled students are included in this contest. The winning designer will receive \$100 and the second designer will receive \$50 on opening night of the Fair.

Mail your black and white drawing to:
St. Mary's Co Fair President John Richards
20370 White Point Rd
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Submissions must be sent before the end of the school year. Please include your name, school and phone number on the back of your entry.

The Catalog lists all of the categories you may enter and the premiums you may win at the Fair. It will be on news stands and distributed through County Libraries during August and September. Visit the Fair web site at www.SMCFair.somd.com to learn more about the Fair which will be September 21-24 this year.



2022's winning design by Griffin Drury of Kings Christian Academy

County Government Operations for Easter



All St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Friday, April 7, 2023, in observance of the Good Friday holiday. Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Monday, April 10, 2023.

The April 7 closure includes:

- All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler, and Northern) and there will be no home-delivered meals
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS)

The following SMCG operations will be open on April 7:

- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill (regular hours)
- Department of Recreation & Parks school programs and facilities (regular hours)

- The St. Clements Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the Old Jail Museum (open for visitors from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- All three St. Mary's County libraries (regular hours)
- The Wicomico Shores Golf Course (open 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) and the Riverview Restaurant (open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Additionally, the following SMCG operations will be CLOSED on Sunday, April 9:

- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill
- The Lexington Park Library
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS)

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, please visit: stmary-countymd.gov.

Legal Notice

Authorization is being requested from the State's Attorney's Office for St. Mary's County, Maryland to remove the remains of Kelly Marie Farrell, currently interred in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Leonardtown, Maryland, Section 506-3; Lot 98; Grave #3, and to reinter said remains in the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Compton, Maryland, Section 508-1; Lot 3; Grave #21. This relocation is being made to relocate the deceased to the family plot. James O. Farrell and Linda R. Farrell, the parents of Kelly Marie Farrell, are making the request. Any interested party should contact Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A. at 301-475-8500 prior to April 24, 2023.

Dinner & Cruise Series Returns at St. Clement's Island Museum

The St. Mary's County Museum Division is pleased to announce the 2023 Dinner and a Cruise Series. These themed cruises offer visitors the opportunity to enjoy a fun evening of cruising on the St. Clement's Island Water Taxi, a delicious seafood dinner at waterside Morris Point Restaurant, and a dessert reception at St. Clement's Island Museum.

The run of seven cruises kicks off on April 23, 2023 from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. highlighting the theme, "The Civil War and St. Clement's Island" as part of the Black Diamond Disaster commemoration weekend. The tour will include a guided presentation about St. Clement's Island's interesting role during the American Civil War.

The six other cruises occur monthly from June to October, highlighting the following themes:

- **Sunday, May 11, 2023**
"History Beneath the Chesapeake"
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- **Sunday, June 11, 2023**
"Inside Blackistone Lighthouse"
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- **Sunday, July 16, 2023**
"The Piscataway"
3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, August 6, 2023**

"Inside the Blackistone Lighthouse"
3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

- **Sunday, September 10, 2023**
"World War II on the Potomac"
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- **Sunday, October 15, 2023** will feature an environmental topic 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

"Since we started these cruises in 2019, they have always sold out quickly," said Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. "We are excited to bring this fun and informative series back this season with seven scheduled cruises. Keep in mind that seats are limited to 20 per cruise, so get your tickets fast before we sell out!"

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 per couple, and include the boat ride, water tour, dessert reception at St. Clement's Island Museum, and dinner at Morris Point Restaurant.

For more information or to reserve your ticket, visit: DinnerAndACruise.eventbrite.com (scroll down for all available dates) or call St. Clement's Island Museum at (301) 769-2222. Like, follow, and stay up to date with Museum events online at: [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum).

Pet

🐾

OF THE WEEK

MEET SWEET POTATO PIE



The best kind of friends are Fur Friends! And some times the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.

Hello, my name is Sweet Potato Pie and I'm here still waiting for a new home. My Shelter Pals say I'm a VERY SOCIAL, FRIENDLY guinea pig. I'm just one of many guinea pigs available right now, and I'd really like to be adopted so I can get lots of YOUR attention. If you're looking for a LOW COST, LOW MAINTENANCE, bundle of PURE LOVE to be your FOREVER FUR FRIEND then please stop by to meet me during adoption hours Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And always opt to ADOPT, don't shop!

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>



Museum Division Awarded Grant to Buy Accessible Water Taxi



The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are pleased to announce that the St. Mary's County Museum Division has been awarded \$219,000 in grant funds by the Maryland Department of Commerce to purchase a new water taxi. The new water taxi will provide reliable rides for visitors to St. Clement's Island State Park and will be accessible from pier to boat for wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, etc.

The Museum Division is one of nine recipients from across the state, announced by Governor Moore on March 2, 2023. Projects submitted by Historic Sotterley and the Town of Leonardtown were also

selected. The Department of Commerce received nearly 30 project applications for this program and anticipates making additional funding announcements in the future.

"Congratulations to our Museum Division, and to our partners at Historic Sotterley and the Town of Leonardtown," said Commissioner President Guy. "These projects will not only support local tourism efforts but will also deliver needed improvements to help us better serve our residents."

"The water taxi is one of our most popular attractions at St. Clement's Island Museum," said Arthur Shepherd, Director of Recreation & Parks. "This funding will help us to ensure that this unique experience is accessible for more residents and visitors."

The St. Clement's Island Museum water taxi resumed seasonal operations on Maryland Day, March 25, 2023. For more information regarding hours of operation, programs, admission prices and more, please visit Museum.StMarysMD.com or Facebook.com/SCIMuseum.

Farmers Markets Open for the 2023 Season



St. Mary's County Government encourages all community members to visit The Barns at New Market, Home Grown Farm Market, and the California Farmers Market this season for locally grown and locally made products ranging from eggs, meats, and cheeses to soap, craft beverages, and baked goods.

Home Grown Farm Market

Now open for the season
Hours: Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Location: 21078 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park
Information: facebook.com/homegrownfarmmarket

The Barns at New Market

Now open for the season
Hours: Saturday through Monday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Value added market opens for the sea-

son on April 16th.
Hours: Sundays from noon – 4 p.m.
Location: 29133 Thompson Corner Road, Mechanicsville
Information: facebook.com/TheBarnsAtNewMarket

California Farmers Market

Opens for the season on Saturday, April 30th
Hours: Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Location: BAE parking lot at the intersection of Rt. 235 and Town Creek Drive, California
Information: facebook.com/CaliforniaBAEFarmersMarket

Questions may be directed to the Department of Economic Development, via email to lisa.ledman@stmaryscountymd.gov or by calling (240) 309-4022.



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In Remembrance

Mary O'Hara, 83



Mary "Alberta" O'Hara, 83, of Hollywood, MD peacefully passed to be with her Lord on March 27, 2023, with her 2 daughters and son-in-law by her side.

Born February 28, 1940, to the late James Roland and Mary Eva (Tippett) Higgs.

Alberta is survived by her two girls, Charlene Cusic (son-in-law Kevin) and Terri Ferguson.

One of her best gifts in life was getting to be called MawMaw. She was very proud of that title and telling everyone she could how proud she was of her grandchildren. She left them with many memories and traditions (cookie night and dyeing easter eggs) to carry on. She is survived by her grandchildren Ashley Raley (Scott), Christopher Cusic (Rachel) and Hunter Bowles. Her great grandchildren Landon Raley, Colson Raley and Maddox Cusic.

She was a lifelong St. Mary's County resident and drove a bus for the St. Mary's County Public School system for over 40 years.

She was famous for her Halloween costumes. She took great pride in coming up with the perfect costumes to dress up in for her grandchildren, Halloween parties hosted by family friends, and The Hair Company. You never knew what to expect from her!

Alberta always liked to look her best; she could be found most Fridays at The Hair Company in Leonardtown. She was always treated like a queen and family when she was there, especially by Brooke, Dana, and Presley.

A woman of faith she was a member of the Leonardtown Church of the Nazarene. They welcomed her with open arms, and she formed many friendships while there.

She loved all her family and friends dearly. She treasured all the time spent with them, phone calls, visits, letters, and cards over the years. She leaves us with many memories of her amazing smile and laughter that could fill a room.

She was preceded in death by her husband Rufus "Butch" O'Hara, brothers Allie Higgs (Audrey) and Wilson Higgs (Agnes), sisters Maude Jones (Billy) and Doris Dearstine. Doris and Alberta had a special bond, they were truly best friends.

Pallbearers - Kevin Cusic, Christopher Cusic, Scott Raley, Jeff Dearstine, Valerie Cole and Willie Gray.

Honorary pallbearers - Hunter Bowles, Landon Raley, Colson Raley and Maddox Cusic.

The family will receive friends on Monday, April 3, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-

Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM with Pastor

Michael Curley officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD.

The family would like to thank her caregivers, Connie, Tammy, Crystal, Renee, Arlene, Mary and Pam for the great care and friendship over the last few years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Leonardtown Church of the Nazarene P.O. Box 1110, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or ACTS P.O. Box 54, Bushwood, MD 20618.

Xavier Woodland



Thomas Xavier Woodland, native of Oakville, MD and the son of the late James and Veronica Woodland passed away on March 13, 2023 in Queens, NY. Private services

were held in Queens, NY on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

Xavier was preceded in death by his sister, Shirley Bond and brothers, James Floyd (Boots) and Warren Woodland.

Xavier is survived by his siblings, Lillian Stevens, Oakville, MD; Mildred Stevenson and Genevieve Stevens, Washington, DC; and Zelma (Randolph) Thompson Bryans Road, MD; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Joseph Benjamin Baker Sr. 8/3/1941 – 4/4/2022

*A million times we needed you
and a million times we've cried.
If love alone could have saved you,
you never would have died.
In life we loved you dearly
and in death we love you still.
In our hearts you hold a place
no one else will ever fill.*

It broke our hearts to lose you and feels a part of us went with you the day God took you home. Continue to rest in peace to the best husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Your loving wife and family



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				30 BOS 2:10PM	31 BOS 4:10PM	1 BOS 4:05PM
2 BOS 1:35PM	3 TEX 8:05PM	4 TEX 8:05PM	5 TEX 2:05PM	6 NYY 3:05PM	7	8 NYY 7:05PM
9 NYY 1:35PM	10 OAK 6:35PM	11 OAK 6:35PM	12 OAK 6:35PM	13 OAK 1:05PM	14 CWS 7:10PM	15 CWS 2:10PM
16 CWS 2:10PM		18 WSH 7:05PM	19 WSH 7:05PM		21 DET 7:05PM	22 DET 7:05PM
23 DET 1:35PM	24 BOS 6:35PM	25 BOS 6:35PM	26 BOS 1:05PM	27 DET 6:40PM	28 DET 6:40PM	29 DET 1:10PM
30 DET 1:40PM						

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 MIN 4:05PM
2 MIN 12:05PM	3 NYY 7:05PM	4 NYY 1:05PM	5 NYY 7:05PM	6 NYY 7:05PM	7 MIN 8:10PM	8 MIN 2:10PM
9 MIN 2:10PM	MLB ALL-STAR BREAK				14 MIA 7:05PM	15 MIA 7:05PM
16 MIA 1:35PM	17 LAD 7:05PM	18 LAD 7:05PM	19 LAD 1:05PM	20 TB 6:40PM	21 TB 6:40PM	22 TB 4:10PM
23 TB 1:40PM	24 PHI 6:40PM	25 PHI 6:40PM	26 PHI 6:05PM		28 NYY 7:05PM	29 NYY 7:05PM
30 NYY 1:35PM	31 TOR 7:07PM					

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		2 KC 7:40PM	3 KC 7:40PM	4 KC 2:10PM	5 ATL 7:20PM	6 ATL 7:15PM
7 ATL 11:35AM	8 TB 6:35PM	9 TB 6:35PM	10 TB 6:35PM		12 PIT 7:05PM	13 PIT 7:05PM
14 PIT 1:35PM	15 LAA 6:35PM	16 LAA 6:35PM	17 LAA 6:35PM	18 LAA 12:35PM	19 TOR 7:07PM	20 TOR 3:07PM
21 TOR 1:37PM		23 NYY 7:05PM	24 NYY 7:05PM	25 NYY 7:05PM	26 TEX 7:05PM	27 TEX 4:05PM
28 TEX 1:35PM	29 CLE 1:05PM	30 CLE 7:05PM	31 CLE 3:05PM			

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 TOR 7:07PM	2 TOR 7:07PM	3 TOR 3:07PM	4 NYM 7:05PM	5 NYM 7:05PM
6 NYM 1:35PM		8 HOU 7:05PM	9 HOU 7:05PM	10 HOU 12:35PM	11 SEA 10:10PM	12 SEA 9:40PM
13 SEA 4:10PM	14 SD 9:40PM	15 SD 9:40PM	16 SD 8:40PM		18 OAK 9:40PM	19 OAK 9:07PM
20 OAK 4:07PM		22 TOR 7:05PM	23 TOR 7:05PM	24 TOR 7:05PM	25 COL 7:05PM	26 COL 7:05PM
27 COL 1:35PM	28 CWS 7:05PM	29 CWS 7:05PM	30 CWS 1:05PM			

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 SF 10:15PM	3 SF 10:05PM
4 SF 4:05PM		6 MIL 7:40PM	7 MIL 7:40PM	8 MIL 2:10PM	9 KC 7:05PM	10 KC 4:05PM
11 KC 1:35PM		13 TOR 7:05PM	14 TOR 7:05PM	15 TOR 1:05PM	16 CHC 2:20PM	17 CHC 2:20PM
18 CHC 1:05PM		20 TB 6:40PM	21 TB 12:10PM		23 SEA 7:05PM	24 SEA 4:05PM
25 SEA 1:35PM	26 CIN 7:05PM	27 CIN 7:05PM	28 CIN 7:05PM		30 MIN 7:05PM	

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 ARI 9:40PM	2 ARI 8:10PM
3 ARI 4:10PM	4 LAA 9:38PM	5 LAA 9:38PM	6 LAA 9:38PM		8 BOS 7:10PM	9 BOS 4:10PM
10 BOS 1:35PM	11 STL 6:35PM	12 STL 6:35PM	13 STL 6:35PM	14 TB 6:35PM	15 TB 7:05PM	16 TB 7:05PM
17 TB 1:35PM	18 HOU 8:10PM	19 HOU 8:10PM	20 HOU 2:10PM	21 CLE 7:10PM	22 CLE 7:10PM	23 CLE 6:10PM
24 CLE 1:40PM		26 WSH 6:35PM	27 WSH 6:35PM	28 BOS 6:35PM	29 BOS 7:05PM	30 BOS 7:05PM
1 BOS 3:05PM						

HOME AWAY
[ORIOLES.COM/SCHEDULE](http://orioles.com/schedule)
*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

What should you know about IRA rollovers?

If you've been contributing to an IRA, you've chosen a great way to save and invest for retirement. All IRAs have potential tax benefits and a range of investment possibilities, but not all IRA providers offer the same features. So, if you decide that your current IRA provider is charging higher fees than you'd like, or perhaps doesn't offer as many investment choices as you want, then you might choose to move your IRA assets to another provider. How should you go about making this switch?

Here are some options to consider:

- **Trustee-to-trustee transfer or direct rollover** – You can ask the financial institution holding your IRA to move the money directly to another IRA. No taxes will be withheld from the amount transferred at the time of the transfer. This method is generally hassle-free, but some IRA sponsors will still only mail the check to your address of record, so you'd have to forward it to your new IRA.
- **Indirect rollover** – If you take an indirect rollover, also known as a 60-day rollover, the assets from your existing IRA will be liquidated and the custodian or plan sponsor will send you a check or deposit the funds directly into your bank or brokerage account. This payment may be subject to withholding for federal taxes, and possibly state taxes, unless you opt out of withholding. You have 60 calendar days from the time the funds were withdrawn to deposit the money, including any amount withheld, into a new IRA. If you miss this 60-day deadline, the withdrawal may be taxable at your personal income tax rate, and it could also be subject to an early withdrawal penalty if you're younger than 59 ½.

Given the immediate withholding and the possibility of further taxes if you don't move the money into a new IRA before the 60 days are up, you've got much to consider before initiating an indirect rollover. Consequently, you should consult with a financial advisor and tax professional before you make this type of move.

In addition to a rollover from an existing IRA, you may someday want to move the money from your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan to an IRA. This can occur when you retire or change jobs, although if you do take on another job, you might have the options of leaving your 401(k) with your former employer or rolling it over into your new employer's plan. However, if you do want to move your 401(k) funds into an IRA, you can make what's known as a direct rollover, in which the administrator of your old retirement plan will send you a check made payable to the custodian of your IRA. No taxes will be withheld, but you need to get the funds transferred within 60 days to avoid any potential tax issues.

You spend years contributing to your IRA and 401(k) — and for good reason. So, when it's time to move that money, be careful and consider getting help from your financial and tax professionals. These funds can play a big role in your retirement income, so manage them wisely.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302

Leonardtown, MD 20650

301 997 1707

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Hey, Hey, It's the Monkee!



Finally, it is happening. Tonight, Wednesday night, my husband and I are going to see The Monkees, well really it is only the remaining Monkee, Micky Dolenz. The concert will be at a venue I've never been to before: Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis. The beautiful building was built in 1932 and was once Annapolis High School, but the high school moved to Riva Road in 1979. The Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts was then "established in 1979 as a groundbreaking public/private partnership with Anne Arundel

County Public Schools (AACPS) that transformed the vacated and beautiful Annapolis High School building into a vibrant home for the arts to be shared by all, MD Hall now serves more than 100,000 people a year." It sounds very similar to our local Annapolis Gardens arts and venue center.

We will stay overnight at a local hotel, so we don't have to drive home late. My husband said we will find a nice brunch somewhere Thursday. I want to go back into Maryland Hall before we leave because there are lots of art studios, classes, and an art store and framing area it says on the website. A nice trip to the historic waterfront area in Annapolis would be nice too. We spent half of our honeymoon 22 years ago in one of the historic bed and breakfasts. Annapolis is such a beautiful town.

I am getting ready to call Rams Head on Stage (the company who is charge of the ticket sales for concerts at the 725 seat main theatre at Maryland Hall) and find out if I can bring my favorite Monkees album, More of the Monkees, that my brother bought me when it came out in early 1967. Maybe there will be an opportunity for Micky Dolenz to sign it. I still love that album just as much now; in fact, I have it playing on the computer while typing. The Kind of Girl I could Love sung by Michael Nesmith is and has always been my favorite. It is really hard to type while I am dancing in my office chair. The attached old photo of me twirling my favorite hippy, gypsy dress back in the 60s should give you an idea how excited I am.

I know the members of The Monkees have been maligned over the years as not being a "real band" though they did all sing, play instruments, and recorded later albums with all their own music. By late 1966 through 1969 The Monkees also geared their songs into the psychedelic genre with Love is Only Sleeping as a good example of this, and the album Summer of Love. Their movie Head is a 1968 American psychedelic satirical musical adventure comedy film written and produced by Jack Nicholson and Bob Rafelson which is very unusual to say the least. I never got into the later music as much as what I heard on The Monkees TV show. I don't think I ever missed an episode.

Last time I had tickets to see The Monkees was in 2011. They were all still alive and I was really excited about that concert, but unfortunately it coincided with my husband in the hospital being treated for four tickborne illnesses. He kept telling me "Go to the concert", yeah, like I was really going to go to the concert with him curled up in a ball in a hospital room with fevers, chills, and dangerously low blood pressure. And his mother was at the other end of the wing also ill. No, that would not have been good form. In early 2012, Davey Jones was the first to pass, then Peter Tork in 2019, and Michael Nesmith in 2021. Micky Dolenz, former child actor most notably of Circus Boy, and drummer of The Monkees is still keeping The Monkee flame going strong.

I guess I better go pack my overnight bag and hunt for my album, though I do have More of The Monkees on CD as well, though that's not the same as having your favorite childhood album signed. Maybe I should go through my 45s...yes I have kept them too. I just called Rams Head and was told that I could bring an album or something to be signed. Yay! Please let me find my album.

And Happy Easter week to all.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook.

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.

Community Shred & Medication Take Back Day

Do you have paper documents with personal information that you'd like to purge? Or do you have unused, unwanted, or expired medications in your cabinets? This is your chance to dispose of them safely at the Community Shred & Medication Take Back Day! This event will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Department of Aging & Human Services, located at 41780 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, MD.

This event is a cooperative effort between the Department of Aging & Human Services, the St. Mary's County Health Department, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, and the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works & Transportation. Shredding services, medication collection, and safe disposal of medical sharps will be offered, all free of charge!

For more information, contact Community Programs & Outreach Manager Sarah Miller at sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 1073.

What is the Supply Chain?

In the news we all hear that the supply chain caused the empty shelves or a delay in the release of a new car or product. Ever wonder what this really means? Come join us for a discussion on what is the supply chain and understand what it all means to us as consumers. Take the journey to follow a product/commodity through the network, the processes involved and steps until it

arrives on our shelves. This presentation will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity

Center on Tuesday, April 11, 2:30-3:30 p.m. The cost is \$5. To register online, visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging. Select "View and Sign Up for Activities and Programs". Then click "LIFE". For assistance with registration, call 301-475-4200, ext. 5433.

Card Making Class

Would you like to make handmade cards to give to your loved ones? Are you looking for a new hobby or social activity? Come to Garvey Senior Activity Center for a beginner friendly card making class. Materials and instruction will be provided. You will have a variety of punches, stamps, embellishments, and more to create your cards. Cost for the class is \$4. Class will be held on Tuesday, April 11, at 6 p.m. You can now use the online registration at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". Please call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

Insurance 101

The Maryland Insurance Administration will offer a free presentation- *Insurance 101*- at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, April 12, at 10 a.m. The primary role of the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is to protect consumers from illegal insurance practices by ensuring that insurers and producers that operate in Maryland act in accordance with State insurance laws. Find out what you need to know about insurance and the many types available from the agency that is designed to protect you. Register for this

presentation at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. Limited seating available.

Painted Flowerpots

Paint a spring flowerpot! Class is beginner friendly, and no experience is required. All materials will be provided. Class will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, April 12, at 6 p.m. The cost for the class is \$10. You can now use the online registration at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". Please call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

Coffee with the Sheriff

Would you like to know more about the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office or discuss issues that affect public/personal safety? Enjoy a cup of coffee at Northern Senior Activity Center on Thursday, April 13, from 10-11:30 a.m. and meet Sheriff Steven A. Hall face-to-face in a relaxed group setting. Sheriff Hall will give a brief presentation, followed by a Q&A session. To register for this free event, visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

April Health Watch: Spring Gardening Safety

Safety in gardening will be the Health Watch topic at the Loffler Senior Activity

Center on Wednesday, April 19, at 9:30 a.m. Nature is emerging from the long sleep- time to enjoy early gardening! But watch out- grass and flowers are not the only things waking up! Be on the lookout for dangerous creatures and while you're at it- watch your back, not just for creatures but for safe movement practices as well! Advance registration is required for this presentation. Go to www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

Painted Flower Wine Glasses

In this class we will hand paint wine glasses to look like flowers using the stem of the glass as the stem of the flower. The class is beginner friendly, and no experience is required. All materials will be provided. Class will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, April 19, at 6 p.m. Cost for the class is \$10. You can now use the online registration at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". Please call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

Loffler Book Club

During the month of April read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Discussion will take place on May 5, 2 p.m. at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Contact Sheila.Graziano@stmaryscountymd.gov if you wish your e-mail address to be added to the book club contact list.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Library Closed for Easter

Lexington Park Library will be closed on Sunday, April 9 in observance of Easter. All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be open regular business hours on Monday, April 10.

Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Book Sale

Friday, April 14 - Sunday, April 16 at St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Annual Spring Book Sale offers thousands of gently used books at amazing prices! Cash, check, credit cards accepted.

Friday, April 14, 12 - 8 p.m. (Members Only - Not a member? Join today on <https://folstmalib.wildapricot.org/> or join at the door!)

Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 16, 12 - 4 p.m.

Plant for Pollinators in Your Home Garden

Join us as Chris Pax, designer of Leonardtown Library's Front Yard, shares strategies for using native plants at home to create pollinator friendly yards from spring to fall. If you're thinking about beautifying your yard, learn how to incorporate native plants that will benefit the birds, butterflies and bees that depend

on them. Join us at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, April 15 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Introduction to 3D Printing

Have you ever wanted something 3D printed at the library, but weren't sure how? Now is your chance to learn! Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, April 11 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. This introductory course will cover the basics of how a 3D printer works and how to use PrusaSlicer software. Learn how to find ready-to-print files online and submit them to the Library for printing. No prior experience is needed. This is an in-person class held in the Computer Lab and Makerspace. Reg-

ister on www.stmalib.org

You Belong at the Library

Join us at Charlotte Hall Library on Monday, April 17 from 10 - 11 a.m. to complete a fun arts and crafts project! This event is intended for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities as well as their friends, family, and caregivers. You Belong at the Library meets on the third Monday of the month. Please register each person who will be attending. Register on www.stmalib.org to reserve your spot and receive a reminder email. Walk-ins welcome as space allows.

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, Apr 6

Mahjong is on!

Loffler Senior Activity Center
21905 Chancellors Run Rd, Great Mills
10 a.m. to Noon
Cost: Free

We've started a Mahjong group and will welcome learning as well as experienced players. Games take place on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. If interested, leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660 or e-mail Sheila.Graziano@stmaryscountymd.gov. For more info: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301-481-6625 for more information. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

Fri, Apr 7

Drive Thru Fried Shrimp Dinner

Seventh District Firehouse
21660 Colton Pt. Rd., Avenue
5p.m. to 7 p.m.

Menu will include eight Fried Shrimp, Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Sauce, Corn Bread and Dessert. \$20.00 per meal.

The auxiliary will also be selling raffle tickets at this event on a 28-inch Blackstone Griddle Air Fryer Combo with a cooler full of picnic supplies. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Will be raffled July 1st.

Thanks in advance for your support!
Check your Smoke Alarm! Stay Safe!

Sat, Apr 8

Contra Dance

37497 Zach Fowler Road, Chaptico
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Come out to swing, promenade, and do-si-do to lively jigs, reels and waltzes played by the So. MD Open Band. A caller will teach and call the dances. Dance work-

shop at 7:00 PM. Dance begins at 7:30 PM. No partner required. Beginners welcome.

Sun, Apr 9

Easter Sunrise Service

Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Road
At the lighthouse
6:30 a.m.

Join Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church for our annual Easter Sunrise Service and then stay around for food and an egg hunt.

Also come to the church at 9463 HG Trueman Road, Lusby at 10:30 a.m. for our Easter Festival Worship. Brunch and an egg hunt will follow. All are welcome!

Mon, Apr 10

Pax River Quilters Guild Meeting

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church
20850 Langley Road, Lexington Park
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Pax River Quilters Guild will host its monthly meeting which will include presentation on mosaic quilting by one of our guild members. Meetings are the second Monday of every month and feature guest speakers, show and tells, and other fun activities. Pax River Quilters Guild is a non-profit organization devoted to philanthropic quilting projects and promoting the skill of quilting. New members of all skill levels are welcome. For questions, email: prqgsomd@gmail.com Website: paxriverquiltguild.com/

Thu, Apr 13

St. Mary's County Public Schools Virtual Job Fair

Online
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

If you attended our in-person teacher job fair on March 25, this fair is not for you. But, if you could not participate in that fair, please sign up for our virtual teacher job fair. Our students can't wait to meet you!

Use this link to make an appointment: cfplus.page.link/dgkv

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I run for distance. And for Hospice.

Legendary Ultra Runner Mike Wardian
World Marathon Challenge Champion
3X Run for Hospice participant



26th Run & Walk for Hospice

Saturday, April 15th, 2023 | Leonardtown, MD | Register/sponsor at runforhospice.org

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Colas
7. Single-celled animals
13. The rear car of a train
14. Endangered
16. It cools your home
17. Helper
19. "The First State"
20. More aged
22. Partner to cheese
23. Type of wrap
25. From a distance
26. Satisfies
28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
30. Cooking utensil
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
33. Able to perform
34. Big man on campus
36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
38. Porticos
40. Alban and Peter are two
41. Gets up
43. Humble request for help
44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
45. Unhappy
47. Hint or indication
48. A way to plead
51. Digits
53. Broadway actress Daisy
55. Jewish calendar month
56. Author Gore ___
58. Peacock network
59. White poplar
60. Promotional material
61. A period of calm
64. Take too much
65. Emit energy
67. Something you can take
69. Mended with yarn
70. Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

1. Calm down
2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
3. One who pretends
4. Hang glide
5. Distinctive practice
6. Mariner
7. Peaks
8. Queens ballplayer
9. Geological times
10. Twofold
11. Atomic #13
12. Tranquillizing
13. Metric weight unit
15. Indicates
18. Unwanted rodent
21. Partly cooked with hot water
24. One who can be recommended
26. Resembles a bag or pouch
27. Midway between south and southeast
30. Sets up for a photo
32. California white oak
35. More (Spanish)
37. After B
38. Decorated tea urn
39. Island
42. Car mechanics group
43. Wordplay joke
46. Cut a rug
47. Prickly plant
49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
50. European buzzard
52. Influential linguist
54. West African languages
55. Siskel's partner
57. Skinny
59. Oblong pulpit
62. Consumed
63. Small, mischievous sprite
66. Powerful lawyer
68. Indicates position

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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.

Fri, Apr 7

Annmarie After Hours

Annmarie Sculpture Garden
5-7 p.m.

Enjoy a special family-friendly opening in celebration of a new exhibit. Both galleries in the Arts Building will be open until 7:00pm, along with the sculpture garden and walking trails. Enjoy live music, tour the new exhibit, take a walk, and appreciate an evening of art and nature. You'll find a cash bar and food truck as well. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/kids; 2 & under free; members free. Reservations are not required, just come. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

Sat, Apr 8

Fossil Egg Hunt

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – noon

Participate in our annual fossil egg hunt! Look for eggs with real fossils inside, hidden around the museum. Participants will be given a container for egg collection and fossil identification guides; no baskets are needed (limit: 4 eggs per child)! A follow-up activity (ages 5+) allows you to "excavate" fossils from matrix. For ages 3 – 10. Programming is included with museum admission.

Easter Egg Hunt

King's Landing Park
3255 Kings Landing Rd, Huntingtown
1-3 p.m.

Free food, games, crafts, and fun! Bring your own basket for this fun-filled afternoon where you can hunt for Easter eggs, have your photo taken with the Easter bunny, and play games with your fellow egg

hunters. Sponsored by the Calvert County Democratic Women's Club.

Games include:
Sack Race 1:15-1:45
Egg Hunt 1:45-2:30
Egg Toss 2:30

For any questions, call 410-449-2225 or email ccdwc1@gmail.com. Visit our web site at calvertdemwomen.com

Sun, Apr 9

Easter Sunrise Service

Calvert Marine Museum,
at the lighthouse
6:30 a.m.

Join Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church for our annual Easter Sunrise Service and then stay around for food and an egg hunt.

Also come to the church at 9463 HG Trueman Road, Lusby at 10:30 a.m. for our Easter Festival Worship. Brunch and an egg hunt will follow. All are welcome!

Mon, Apr 10

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9:30 a.m.-4:15p.m.

VITA provides free federal and state tax preparation services for households whose total household income is \$60,000 or less. Tax services are provided by IRS-certified tax preparers. We will only be completing Federal and Maryland State tax returns (No DC or other state returns). 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
1-4 p.m.

Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Apr 11

Social Security: Medicare

Calvert Library (Zoom)
12-1 p.m. in Spanish
1-2 p.m. in English

Hosted by St. Mary's County Library. We invite you to th Presentation by Diana Varela, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration followed by Q&A. This event will not be recorded. If you'd like to use the wifi and library computer to participate in this Zoom event, please choose "in-person" registration. Call the library if the Prince Frederick location is not the most convenient for you., 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Veterans and Military Families Connect: Benefits Overview

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

If you've served on active duty in the United States uniformed services you could be eligible for VA benefits! Find out which benefits you may qualify for, and how to apply. Registration requested. Representatives from Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs will be presenting a benefits overview. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Apr 12

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 to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Resumes and Cover Letters.

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

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and cover letter writing help. Looking for a job, or a better job? Don't miss this free class. Registration closes the Monday before the event. AJC staff, Gayle Howe, will contact you with initial materials and explain the MWE registration process. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
3-4 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Charles Harrell and Dennis Poremski of the Alzheimer's Association, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of March 20 – March 26, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,991 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-20024

On March 22, 2023, Deputy Claggett responded to the 4800 block of Adelina Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of property destruction. The complainant's security camera recorded a tractor trailer with a sleeper cab and a 53ft long trailer attempt to make a U-turn in the victim's driveway and in turn backed into the fence. The estimated value of damaged property is \$600.00.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 23-20642

On March 24, 2023, M/DFC Aurich responded to the parking lot in the 600 block of Keith Lane in Owings, for the report of a motor vehicle theft. The complainant advised his 2003 blue Honda VTX motorcycle had been stolen. The estimated value of stolen property is \$6,000.00.

Theft: 23-19632

On March 20, 2023, Deputy Dawson responded to the 3600 block of Estelle Court in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised her white Apple AirPods were stolen from her belongings during lunch at Huntingtown High School. The estimated value of stolen property is \$250.00.

Theft: 23-20982

On March 25, 2023, Deputy Mister responded to the 2900 block of Londonderry

Lane in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a STIHL MS170 chainsaw and a can of gasoline were stolen from the victim's shed. The estimated value of stolen property is \$320.00.

ARRESTS



On March 20, 2023, Deputy DeSantis initiated a traffic stop on 27th Street in Chesapeake Beach, for a traffic violation. Upon making contact with the driver, **Kevin Jerome Holland**, 45 of Hyattsville, Holland initially provided a false name and refused to provide identifying information. Holland was wanted on multiple open warrants through the state of Maryland. Deputies asked Holland to exit the vehicle to which he refused. He continued to provide a false name and refused to comply with deputies' commands. Holland was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Resisting Arrest, Fraud-Per Identification Avoid Prosecution, and other traffic related offenses.

On March 22, 2023, Deputy Sylver responded to Dunn-Clean Laundry located at 66 Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of trespassing. The complainant advised, **Marvin Wayne Thomas**, 56 of Prince Frederick, had been previously trespassed from the establishment and shopping center. Citizens from



the laundry mat and O'Gannigans Irish Pub came outside to hear Thomas causing a disturbance. Thomas was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property and Disorderly Conduct.



On March 22, 2023, Deputy Claggett responded to Firehouse Subs located at 641 Solomons Island Road N unit 18 in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed an employee, **Lauren Nicole Washington-Paige**, 33 of Port Republic, had stolen money deposits on multiple occasions from December 2022 to March 2023. Washington-Paige admitted to the theft and was placed under arrest. She was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and was charged with Theft: \$1500 to Under \$2500 and Theft Scheme: \$1500 to Under \$25,000.

On March 26, 2023, DFC Anderson was on routine patrol and observed a white Corvette travelling at 92 mph in a 55-mph zone. Deputy Anderson attempted to conduct a traffic stop in the area of Solomons Island Road and Pardoe Road in Lusby.



The vehicle was observed to accelerate at an extremely high rate of speed in an attempt to elude the deputy. The driver continued at a high rate and negligent manner with no regard for any other driver on the road. The Corvette was no longer in the DFC Anderson's sight. Deputy Hendrickson was in the area of HG Trueman Road (with none of his emergency equipment activated) and observed the vehicle attempt to make a left-hand turn. The driver failed to reduce his speed and crashed into innocent citizens traveling north on Solomons Island Road. The driver of the Corvette, **Cristian Joel Rodriguez**, 21 of Upper Marlboro, and a female passenger were detained without incident. Rodriguez was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Fleeing and Eluding 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

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

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County to Renew State 'Sustainable Community' Designation

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County government is working on renewing its Maryland Sustainable Community designation. Renewal is required every five years and Calvert's expires on Aug. 21.

Danielle Russell, grants management program specialist with the Office of the County Administrator, explained to the county commissioners at their April 4 meeting, "The designation provides benefits from the state, including 'the opportunity to access an interagency revitalization toolbox of financing programs and tax incentives.'

"A range of benefits includes grants, tax credits and loans from several Maryland state departments, including the Departments of Environment, Housing and Community Development, and Transportation. The designation allows local governments, businesses, and homeowners to access several of the state's grants, loans, and tax credits."

Each county's designation is approved by the Governor's Smart Growth Coordinating Committee. Commissioner Catherine Grasso asked County Administrator Mark Willis to define smart growth.

Willis said, "It's a sustainable growth. So, from a planner's perspective, it's are you going to create a density that then couldn't allow for roads? Are you going to create roads that don't allow for lighting? Are you going to incorporate bike paths? Are you going to incorporate kind of that sustainable community for your particular area?"

"So smart growth is very broad, but it's making sure that you take a comprehensive look at your entire growth perspective," including "comprehensive plans,



County Administrator Mark Willis

the town center master plans, and you're looking at your water and sewer plan. You're looking at your parks and recreation plan. You're looking at all of that so that you do it comprehensively and you don't bring in density that then you don't have parks for or that you don't have water and sewer for, or that you don't have places to go visit."

The county first received the Maryland Sustainable Community designation in 2013, and it has been renewed once.

Staff will continue to work on the 2023 renewable and will return to the commissioners with additional information as it's gathered.

Russell, who is a new employee in the county administrator's office, has taken over the program's coordination from Long-Range Planner Jenny Plummer-Welker.

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School Board Asked to Fund NJROTC Trips

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Several students and parents made a pitch to the Calvert County Board of Education on March 23 for financial help so Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets can attend meets and other events. They say they are having trouble raising funds on their own for transportation.

A fourth-year Calvert High School NJROTC cadet who identified himself as Edgar said he was speaking for students in the program in all four of the county's high schools. He said, "Last year we had a really successful run. We went to nationals in all three of the competitions, in Alabama, California, and in Pensacola, Florida. I personally won two of them. I found them fun, but that's beside the point. These trips, they make lifelong memories and friends."

He said due to the unsuccessful fundraising efforts they have had to rely on parents and staff to drive them.

He said the trips "really help expand the mind of other cadets and show them what they have, what the future holds for them."

He said he himself is getting a full-ride Navy scholarship to UMBC because of the program.

"These trips, they mean a lot to not just me, not just our unit, but to all the cadets that get the opportunity to go on them. There's

just a lot of great things and benefits that can come from them."

Calvert NJROTC cadet Kyle Cortez said, "I started out my ninth-grade year very introverted, and I didn't really step out of my comfort zone. When I joined NJROTC, I was placed in an environment where everything was student led. It was welcoming and there were a lot of opportunities for us. We had the opportunity to take care of all the paperwork, to giving out the uniforms to each of the cadets, to even being team commanders and leading platoons and the entire unit."

He added, "With all the teams we have, they are very unique. We have academics, athletics, drill orienteering, and air rifle. All of them are different because they're not just physically demanding, but mentally demanding and require a lot of self-discipline and their characteristics would carry on for the rest of my life."

Corte said the benefits don't just accrue for someone who wants to go on to a military career. "It will benefit you in the long run in any leadership position."

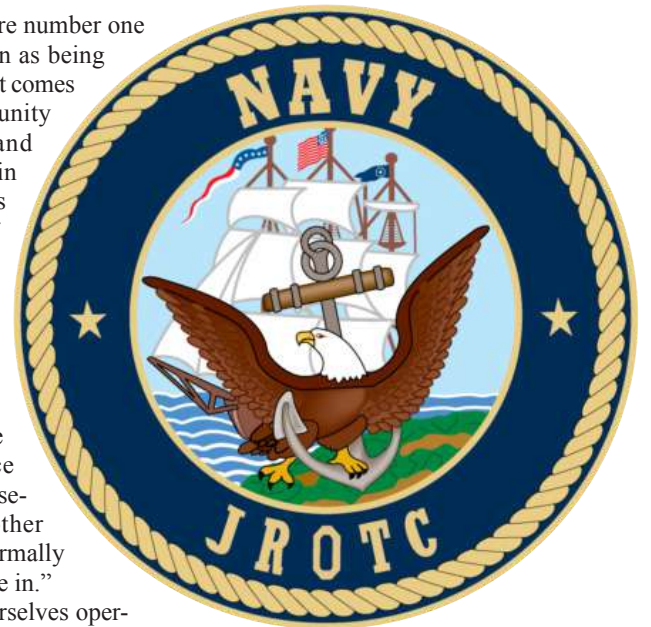
Cadet Corbin Bradner said, "We pride ourselves as a program that tries to build up individual students or cadets, as we call them, to be respectable members of the community. This can be seen in accomplishments such as a unit placing in the top ten in the nation. We were never really told

what position, but we were number one in the mid-Atlantic region as being one of the top units when it comes to things such as community service participation and awards that we've taken in events where our cadets outperformed those of our peers within other high schools."

He said, "The opportunity of the field trips, which is one of our major appeals to the unit, are what allows us to move our cadets to experience different things, go to museums or interact with other high schools that they normally wouldn't get to participate in."

He added, "We find ourselves operating with a limited budget that we have to budget ourselves in order to try and achieve expensive field trips that allow our students to experience and become better leaders and better people within the community."

Adult Josh Johnson, speaking on behalf of Calvert County Concerned Parents, said, "I would like to ask for the parents, the cadets, the staff, the military to amend the \$860,000 'Playbook' to give \$100,000 to the ROTC program for the four programs here in Calvert County."



"These are Calvert values. I couldn't be prouder. The three young cadets that were here today, they said it in their own words. It's inspiring to me to see they're trying to achieve what their talents are. It's really what we should all be about, finding unique talents that we all have," he added.

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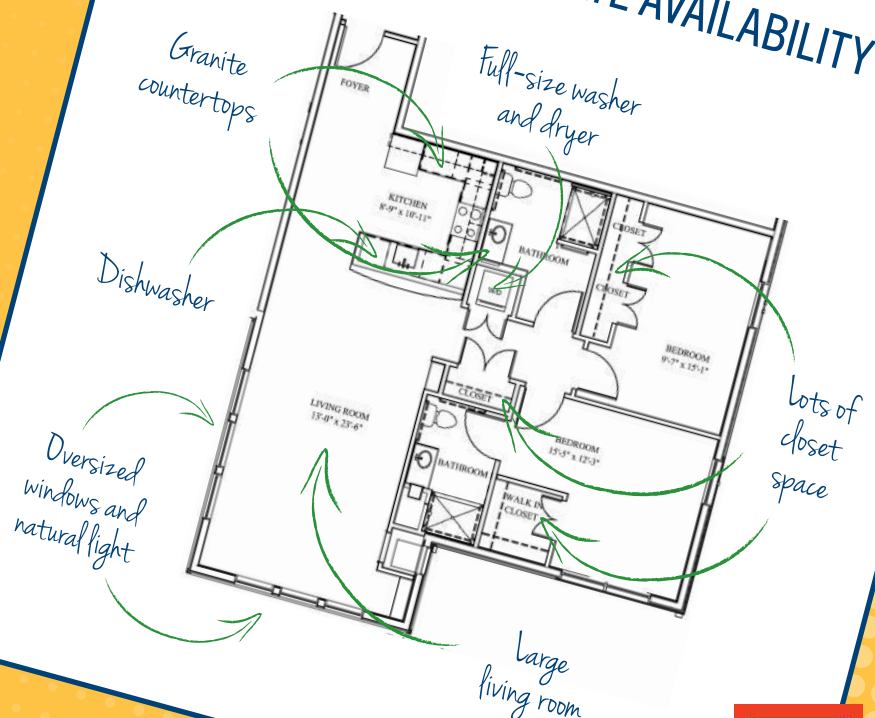
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Budget Escalates for Breezy Point Shoreline Project

Premium Pay Proposed for K-9 Handlers

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As with many construction projects in recent months, the shoreline erosion project at Breezy Point Park has experienced cost overruns. Originally budgeted at \$3.9 million, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on April 4 held a public hearing to add \$1.1 million to it, bringing the total cost to \$5 million.

Director of Parks and Recreation Shannon Nazzal explained during the public hearing to increase the budget for the project, “Over the last five years, the BOCC, Department of Parks & Recreation, Calvert Soil Conservation, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) have partnered to develop a project to protect the severely eroding shoreline on the south end of Breezy Point Beach and Campground. This project will mitigate the damage caused by environmental conditions and flooding identified in the Calvert County Flood Mitigation Plan. Shoreline erosion is a natural process that occurs when water erodes away the shoreline over time.

“Erosion can cause significant damage to coastal communities, including loss of property, damage to infrastructure, and harm to wildlife and marine ecosystems. In addition to the physical damage, erosion can also impact local economies by reducing the appeal of tourist destinations and decreasing property values. There are a variety of techniques used to manage erosion, including beach nourishment, seawalls, and other forms of coastal engineering. It is becoming increasingly important to develop sustainable and effective strategies to protect vulnerable coastlines.”

Commissioner Mike Hart opined, “There’s never a good time but erosion is serious.”

Nazzal said all of the bids for the project came way in over budget necessitating the additional funding. She said the extra monies would come from “allocating \$350,000 from Breezy Point Fund Balance account... and \$750,000 from Chesapeake Hills Golf



Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal

Course project account.”

Nazzal said the monies from the golf course are for budgeted items no longer deemed feasible and from savings in other areas. She said the change would not negatively impact the golf course operation.

The commissioners kept the record open for 10 days before ratifying the budget adjustment.

At the same meeting the BOCC also held a public hearing on a budget adjustment to provide for premium pay for sheriff’s office K-9 handlers.

According to Human Resources Director Melanie Woodson, “K-9 handlers should be compensated for the care and maintenance of their dog. This includes bathing, brushing, exercising, feeding, grooming, cleaning of the dog’s kennel or transport vehicle, administering medicine for illness, transporting the dog to and from an animal hospital or veterinarian, and training.”

Sheriff Ricky Cox said other police agencies typically provide such premium pay for K-9 handlers.

The annual cost for the pay premium for the 11 handlers in the agency would be \$70,928.

The record will also be kept open for 10 days before the BOCC makes their decision.

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Superintendent Under Fire for Library Book Decision

Townsel Insists it's Not a Ban

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Several speakers at a recent school board meeting criticized School Superintendent Dr. Andrae Townsel for restricting access to the graphic novel "Blankets." While Townsel insists his decision is not a ban, one of those speakers, Claire Hill, called it "a form of soft censorship" and promised an appeal of the decision.

"Blankets" by Craig Thompson is described by amazon.com as "the story of a young man coming of age and finding the confidence to express his creative voice. Craig Thompson's poignant graphic memoir plays out against the backdrop of a Midwestern winterscape: finely hewn line-work draws together a portrait of small-town life, a rigorously fundamentalist Christian childhood, and a lonely, emotionally mixed-up adolescence."

The book has won two Eisner and three Harvey Awards.

Dr. Townsel provided the following statement to The County Times about his decision:

"In determining the appropriateness of the novel 'Blankets' for students, I am of the opinion that parental guidance is warranted and should be respected by the school system. If a student's parent or guardian expresses a willingness for the student to read Blankets, it will be available for check out. Of course, students over the age of eighteen are adults and are free to check out the book on their own if they so choose."

According to school system spokesperson Rene Daniels, the book is in circulation only at the Patuxent High School library and is available under the guidelines outlined in Dr. Townsel's statement.

At the March 23 school board meeting, Carlos Childs, Southern Maryland Regional Community Organizer for American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maryland, said the superintendent's decision went against the rulings of the school system's library book committee, which voted twice to allow it.

He added, "His (Townsel's) decision also goes against the mission statement of CCPSs, which states intellectual freedom is every learner's right. To this end, all students will participate in a student-centered inquiry-based school library curriculum. And on top of all this, to make matters worse, restricting access to Blankets also goes against students' First Amendment rights."

Childs said Blankets "talks about religious identity, family and social dynamics, signs of potential sexual abuse. And more students can use this book to identify possible sexual abuses that they may be going through, bullying and other issues in their life, so that they can actually start the process to seeking help, knowing what trauma looks like, to be able to say, I identify with that and I need to seek help because I'm showing the same signs that this person is."

Childs said ACLU called on Townsel to reverse the decision and put a student on the library book reconsideration committee. He said, "Students should have a say in what books they want to have in their public-school libraries, what they want to read in their public-school libraries, and what's even just available to them without having a parent have to sign off."

Lucinda Keller said, "I read a lot as a child and I confess, I read some books as a teenager that some parents probably do not want their kids to read, Henry Miller, D.H. Lawrence, the risqué stuff and, you know, lots of graphic novels. I turned out okay and quite boring actually, but I think a decent human being."

"What I know that the reading of books that are maybe outside of one's environment or comfort zone or strange or have different people or circumstances does not make you weird, deviant, bad or mentally ill even. Rather, it does expand your understanding of others and helps develop a sense of humanity and empathy for those that are not like you, which I think we're sorely in need of these days."

She said, "I disagree with restricting access to books like Blankets just because some parents are uncomfortable with it. It is censorship."

She added, "I'm not advocating that you not parent your child or that children be allowed to read anything, but it seems to me that CCPS already has a good system in place to offer age-appropriate reading materials."

She likened the decision to censoring such classics as "Great Gatsby," "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "Lord of the Flies," "Of Mice and Men" "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Animal Farm" and "Slaughterhouse Five."

"All of these are all masterpieces of literature," she said and shouldn't be censored "just because someone was uncomfortable with something in them."

Josh Johnson with Calvert County Concerned Parents supported the superintendent's decision. He said, "I would like



Southern Maryland Regional Community Organizer for American Civil Liberties Union Carlos Childs

to thank the superintendent for finding some common ground lately. There is a lot of points of contention in what you're doing. It is nice to be able to have the parents make decisions too. So, I appreciate the hard dialogue that you've been through."

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Commissioners Take First Crack at Budget

Cuts Include Part of Employee Step Increases

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Commissioner President Buddy Hance warned his colleagues, "This budget is just going to be fluid until June 1st." That would be the absolute final date for the commissioners to make their budget decision based on their current schedule.

The late decision date, based on past experience, is due to so many variables in this year's budget, not the least of which is how much Calvert is getting from the state to fund the cost of implementing the Blueprint education reform and how much revenue the county will be getting from the LNG plant.

The commissioners began dissecting the budget at an April 4 work session and are expected to finalize their tentative budget by next week so the May 16 public hearing can be advertised.

The commissioners began the work session with a \$43.8 million deficit in the Staff Recommended Budget which recently went to a public hearing. And that doesn't even include the \$22.4 million more requested by the school board. The Staff Recommended Budget included flat funding for schools.

Hance noted during the work session that an additional meeting is scheduled with School Superintendent Dr. Andrae Townsel to go over the education budget.

At the work session the commissioners were presented with several options to reduce the deficit. The one tentative decision they made was to reduce the proposed employee Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) from the seven percent in the Staff Recommended Budget to three percent, saving \$2 million.

Other savings suggested by Director of Finance and Budget Sharon Strand, which are likely to be incorporated in the budget that will go to public hearing in May, were across the board operating reductions, adding anticipated health insurance savings, adding anticipated revenue income increases, cutting road paving by \$3 million, and elimination of the step increase for county employees. When all the trimming was completed, the Staff Recommended Budget deficit had evaporated. But that still leaves the school board budget.

The only place the fund balance was used was to put \$12 million into paying cash for capital projects. The commissioners appear reluctant to use fund balance for recurring

costs in the general fund budget.

During the discussion, Commissioner Catherine Grasso wanted to know if all county employees receive a step increase if it's given.

Strand said, "If their prior evaluation was satisfactory, they get a step and if they're out of probation from their initial probation."

Is there ever an unsatisfactory evaluation, Grasso wanted to know. Human Resources Director Melanie Woodson said, "So, a very small percentage of our employees get an unsatisfactory performance evaluation," adding, "It happens. But it is very few and far between. And the way that our performance evaluation system works is that you would have to be underperforming, extremely underperforming in order to get an unsatisfactory performance evaluation."

County Administrator Mark Willis was asked if county employees were caught up on steps that they had previously been denied. He said, "They were three behind after some earlier catch up, but within about six months you gave them their final three steps."

During the discussion, Hance did ask Strand how much money would be generated with a property tax increase, although he insisted that was not on the table.



Director of Finance and Budget Sharon Strand

Strand said, "Right now, based on the assessments that we have in place, if you raised it by a penny, it would be \$1.2 million."

She added, "if we were to increase the real estate tax rate by three cents, on a \$500,000 assessment, it'd be about \$13 a month increase."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023
Doors Open at 7:30 p.m. Show Starts at 8 p.m.
 Huntingtown High School Auditorium, 4125 Solomons Island Road, Huntingtown
 For more information, contact the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse at 410-535-3733.





CHRIS FRANJOLA is a writer and comedian who can currently be heard hosting his highly successful podcast, "Cover To Cover With Chris Franjola." He's a frequent contributor on Heather McDonald's wildly successful podcast, "Juicy Scoop." Chris was a regular panel guest on "Lights Out with David Spade" on Comedy Central and on Fox's gameshow "Punchline." Chris was also a writer and a regular performer on E!'s hit show "Chelsea Lately" for eight years. Together with the talented writing staff, Chris wrote more than 1,500 episodes while performing on the show. Before "Chelsea Lately," Chris wrote for other shows, including "Family Guy," the MTV Video Music Awards and the original "Chelsea Handler Show." He also starred on the critically acclaimed scripted comedy series "After Lately," which aired for three seasons on E!. He was the host of the "Sons of Anarchy" aftershow "Anarchy Afterword," airing live on FX.

MATT BERGMAN has been honing his comedy craft since he was in college pursuing a degree in criminal justice. After graduating, he realized he was afraid of criminals and decided stand-up comedy was the way to go. Bergman is easily relatable and versatile, a skillset that has opened the door to tv appearances on Gotham Comedy Live, Comedy Central Live and a Dry Bar Comedy Special. His recent album "Approbation Constante" was called "really tough to purchase" by his mother who still doesn't quite understand iTunes.

TIM D. MILLER is a master at engaging audiences and crafting a stand-up set that is a guaranteed good time for all. Tim's material is based on his life experience from Waco to the Army to the White House, trying to raise a daughter and his unique ability to find the funny in everyday life. Tim has appeared on TRU TV and in 2019 he performed at Comedy Central's Clusterfest. He is the producer and host of "Read the Room," a crowd work showcase.

TICKETS

\$35 in advance
 \$45 at the door
 (cash and check only)
 \$25 for CAASA members
 and students 13-18

Available for purchase at:
 (cash and check only)
 CAASA Office
 Prince Frederick
 Floral Expressions
 Owings

Tickets may also be purchased online at:
 CAASAcomeyinvasion
 2023.eventbrite.com






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Saturday, April 15 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Calvert County Fairgrounds, Prince Frederick

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“IT IS CENSORSHIP.”
LUCINDA KELLER ON DR. TOWNSEL'S RESTRICTING ACCESS TO A GRAPHIC NOVEL



LOCAL 4
Protests over library book restrictions



LOCAL 7
Commissioners mull county budget



ON THE COVER
Calvert prepares to celebrate Easter

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, APR 6</p> <p>PM Thunderstorms Hi: 83° Lo: 50°</p>	<p>FRI, APR 7</p> <p>Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 45°</p>	<p>SAT, APR 8</p> <p>Cloudy Hi: 50° Lo: 39°</p>	<p>SUN, APR 9</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 59° Lo: 41°</p>
<p>MON, APR 10</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 45°</p>	<p>TUE, APR 11</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 66° Lo: 49°</p>	<p>WED, APR 12</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 72° Lo: 53°</p>	<p>THU, APR 13</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 56°</p>



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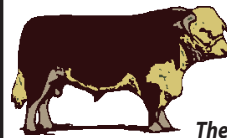
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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET

**Controversy Over Library
Book Restrictions**

**Commissioners Debate
County Budget**

**NJROTC Seeks
Funding for Trips**

Happy Easter!