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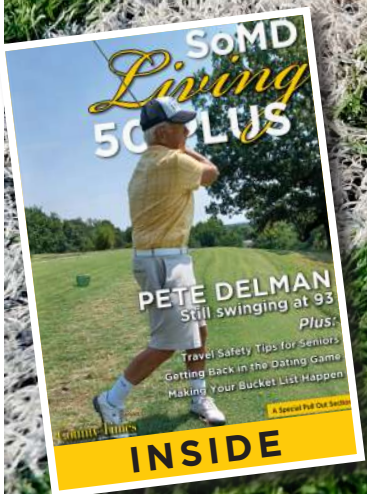
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Sheriff Warns of Youth Car Thefts

Delegate Recovering From Cancer Surgery

Lexington Park Shootings Under Investigation



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SHERIFF STEVE HALL



LOCAL 3
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LOCAL 9
Delegate recovering from cancer surgery



ON THE COVER
Football brawl riles local youth sports

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, AUG 24 AM Showers Hi: 78° Lo: 69°	FRI, AUG 25 Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 70°	SAT, AUG 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 67°	SUN, AUG 27 Partly Cloudy Hi: 80° Lo: 67°
MON, AUG 28 AM Showers Hi: 79° Lo: 69°	TUE, AUG 29 Scattered Storms Hi: 81° Lo: 66°	WED, AUG 30 Scattered Storms Hi: 80° Lo: 62°	THU, AUG 31 Mostly Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 61°



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Sheriff Warns of Rising Juvenile Car Crimes

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sheriff Steve Hall said last week that youth crime continues to pervade the county and the latest trend is car theft.

"If you're talking about serious crimes, not necessarily violent, the thing that we're most concerned about is what's going on with the juveniles and the theft of motor vehicles," Hall said to the county Police Accountability Board. "That increase is substantial and it is a real concern.

"Based on a lot of the information we have they're just taking them for joy rides."

The efforts made by juveniles to steal cars are "organized" and that they targeted specific types of vehicles.

"That just doesn't have very good outcomes," said Hall of the possible consequences of juveniles stealing and driving vehicles.

The sheriff said social media posts, particularly on Tik Tok, showed juveniles how to defeat car security systems; he said he believed that helped spread the car theft problem to St. Mary's.

"Our numbers are bad ... but in comparison with other jurisdictions we're doing OK," Hall said. "Thankfully nobody's been seriously injured as a result of that. ... [either] the victim of the motor vehicle theft or the person stealing the car."

His deputies, though, still have to contend with young people, particularly young males, with guns and the constant threat of violence.

Crimes involving guns, said Hall, continue to plague the community with a spike in July of 12 incidents, which was double the incidents from the same time last year.

Hall specified that a firearm does not need to be discharged, nor a person shot, for there to have been a violent, gun-related crime to have occurred.

Brandishing or threatening involving a firearm was enough to sustain a charge.

At the time of Hall's presentation, Aug. 17, there had been no gun related crimes in August, but on the following day sheriff's deputies would be investigating two separate shootings involving what are considered young victims — up to the age of 25 — in Lexington Park.

Hall said, then, that he was hopeful that



Sheriff Steve Hall

the gun violence would diminish locally.

"I think that there's going to be a trend that is going down," Hall said. "You're seeing that nationally and across the state."

Serious and violent crimes involving juveniles are another disturbing trend as the suspects continue to grow younger, Hall said.

"We have individuals as young as 12 that are involved in serious crime," Hall said. "A lot of the firearm-related incidents involve... people who are not even old enough to have a permit to drive a car in the State of Maryland.

"Or [they are] too young to know what life is all about and what it's going to take to be successful in it."

Charles Schilling, PAB member, said the sheriff's office might consider using bait cars as a tactic to catch vehicle thieves but Hall said that also carried with it entrapment issues and required a carefully considered deployment.

The sheriff's office was giving out steering wheel clubs as an anti-theft device, Hall said, and was engaged in a social media campaign to educate residents on the need to always lock their vehicles and remove valuables from them to discourage break-ins.

The cars stolen in St. Mary's tend to be kept here, Hall said, and their connection to use in other crimes was low.

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Friday, September 22, 2023 – 6 pm

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Saturday, September 23, 2023 – 6 pm

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For parking, shuttle, and other event details visit:

Visit LeonardtownMD.com/10thAnniversary



Football Brawl Brings Heavy Police Response to Lancaster Park

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A brawl between two youth football teams over the weekend while on the field brought a rapid police response to clear the fighting and continued to reverberate through the community for days afterward.

The brawl at Lancaster Park has already sparked changes in how the county's Department of Recreation and Parks will handle youth football games in the future.

Arthur Shepherd, director of parks and recreation, said the local team, the Pax River Raiders, stopped having practice on Monday and Tuesday following the Sunday brawl that occurred between members of their U14 team and players and spectators with the Peppermill Pirates team out of Hyattsville in Prince George's County.

Shepherd said that it appears attendees on the side of the Hyattsville team were the first ones to instigate the larger fight.

"We won't do scrimmages with organizations outside of SMYAC (Southern Maryland Youth Athletic Conference) because when you come to town you have nothing to lose," Shepherd told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County at their Aug. 22 meeting in Leonardtown. "There's no league coming in behind you with any discipline.

"It's an out of county league and that's who came over the fence; that's when it all began."

One eyewitness to the outbreak of violence, Brandon Young, who runs his own youth sports group locally, said that teams had been playing there at the park from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. without any problems.

The fight did not break out, Young said, until the game that came later in the day with the older players.

Initial reports stated that a Pax River player and a Peppermill player became involved in an altercation on the field and a parent from the Peppermill side then came and assaulted a local team member.

The larger altercation soon followed and a heavy police response ensued.

Sheriff's deputies and state police arrived on the scene and had to deploy copious amounts of OC spray to break up the fights and restore order.

"Due to the size of the crowd and con-



tinued fighting, assistance was requested from the Calvert and Charles county sheriff's offices," a statement from the sheriff's office said. "The situation was brought under control prior to their arrival, and they were canceled.

"Investigation continues into the incident for possible criminal charges against the involved parties."

As of press time there have been no arrests in the incident, according to the sheriff's office.

Shepherd told county commissioners that his department was exploring ways to prevent such incidents from occurring again, such as having games that involve older players take place much earlier in the day before large crowds have time to gather.

Audio recordings of county emergency radio traffic stated there were "several hundred people" involved in the fighting.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow spoke out against the violence that broke out over the weekend at Lancaster Park, one of the most

heavily used parks in the county.

"I was very shocked and very saddened by the events that took place this weekend at Lancaster Park," Ostrow said. "I was hit with an immense amount of phone calls, e-mails and people stopping me at the grocery store wanting to know what happened.

"We will be adapting how we handle these large events especially with the older kids," Ostrow said. "This was the action of a few parents and that really saddens me."

The parents who took to the field to fight acted "disrespectfully and shamefully," said Ostrow.

"This is not the community for that," Ostrow said of St. Mary's. "This threw a black eye to our youth sports."

Earlier in the meeting Commissioner Eric Colvin asked sheriff's office Capt. Shawn Moses — who was attending on another matter — if the sheriff's office needed additional resources to handle such situations. Moses said that the sheriff's office was examining ways to reallocate resources

to better deal with incidents like the one at Lancaster Park in the future.

"It's a difficult situation when you have parents who can't control themselves at a youth activity," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt.

Moses said the behavior of parents shaped that of their children.

"It's apples and trees," Moses said. "They mimic the behavior they see at home."

The Pax River Raiders organization issued a statement regarding the brawl.

"The Pax River Raiders sincerely apologize for the unfortunate incident that occurred [Aug. 20] during our Raider Day event, "Our diligent volunteers and staff exhibited exemplary professionalism throughout the ordeal, consistently focusing on de-escalation.

"We deeply regret any distress caused and are committed to preventing such incidents in the future."

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ACC: Police Detaining Subject Justified But Improvements Needed

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In August of 2022 the St. Mary's County Sheriffs' Office raided a residence in Great Mills in search of an armed robbery suspect and in doing so detained a member of the family in the suspect home for hours.

That family member, whose name has been redacted in a recent report by the St. Mary's County Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) — a part of the Police Accountability Board — filed a complaint that they were illegally detained during the investigation.

The ACC ruled that the detainment of the family member was justified but that the sheriff's office should look to improve its performance in such circumstances.

The search of the residence where the suspect was believed to reside took three hours, the report stated, and the person who filed the complaint was held away from other family members for almost the entire time, allegedly because he became agitated with law officers and began to shout abusive language at them.

At some point in the search the complainant's son suffered a panic attack and was taken to the hospital, the report stated, though the complainant was not immediately allowed to follow his son to the hospital.

The complainant alleged also that both

he and his wife soiled themselves because of the length of the detention; though police say there was no evidence that.

"There is obvious room for improvement... but [the complainant's] prolonged detention appears to fall within the wide latitude case law gives to law enforcement to maintain operational control while executing a search warrant and [the sheriff's office] appears to have satisfied its other obligations under state statute," the ACC's report stated.

The ACC found that the sheriff's office made reasonable accommodations for the complainant's comfort during his confinement, though "the extremely poor quality" of the in-car recording of the entirety of his confinement rendered "the audio unintelligible."

The complainant was calm and reasonable, though, during the initial stages of the incident, the report reads.

His behavior "suggests it may have been appropriate to reevaluate whether his continued detention was necessary," the ACC report commented. "According to his interview [the complainant] did not ask to be released from the back of the vehicle except to see his son and did not ask how long he would be kept in the vehicle."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

State Police Investigating Trooper Involved Shooting

Maryland State Police are investigating a trooper-involved shooting that occurred late Aug. 18 in St. Mary's County.

Shortly before 10:55 p.m. on Friday, two troopers from the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack responded to a home in the 44000 block of West Mervell Court in Hollywood, Maryland, for the report of a possible suicidal person. According to a preliminary investigation, the troopers — a four-year veteran of the Department and a recent graduate of the Maryland State Police Academy — approached the front door of the home, where they were met by Anthony Oliveras Jr., 22, of Hollywood, Maryland.

Investigators said Oliveras, who was armed with a knife, stepped outside of the residence and lunged toward one of the troopers, attempting to stab him. The knife pierced the trooper's uniform and ballistic vest.

Both troopers fired their agency issued firearms, striking Oliveras. The two troopers, along with another trooper from the Leonardtown Barrack and a deputy from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, the latter two whom arrived after the shooting, immediately rendered aid until emergency

medical service personnel arrived.

Oliveras was transported by ambulance by the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown before being flown by helicopter to MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. for treatment of his injuries.

Investigators from the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit and Criminal Enforcement Division Central South arrived on the scene to lead the investigation of the shooting. The State Police Internal Affairs Unit also responded and is conducting a concurrent investigation. Both troopers involved in the shooting have been placed on administrative leave, as is procedure.

Assistance was also provided by crime scene technicians from the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division. The St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office has also been contacted.

Maryland State Police are consulting with the Independent Investigations Division at the Office of the Attorney General's Office as this investigation continues. No charges have been filed at this time.

County Approves More Funding For Sports Complex Design



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County authorized spending \$275,000 this week to further the design of multi-field sports complex, which, along with the amenities to match it, would boost the local economy through enhanced sports attendance and participation.

The money will be used in partnership with the Maryland Stadium Authority and comes in two parts: \$150,000 from a state-authorized bond bill and \$125,000 from local tax payer funds, according to county planning documents.

The first phase of the project focused on an economic viability study while the second phase, which will be funded by this latest allocation, will focus on the design of the field complex.

This will include archaeological and environmental investigations of potential sites and potential costs of construction as

well, county planning documents show.

The idea of a sports complex first came before the commissioners in 2020, and the subsequent report to the Maryland Stadium Authority from Florida-based Crossroads Consulting, said the project could include multiple outdoor fields or an indoor field house for a diverse array of sporting activities.

County planning documents show they facility would focus on soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and football games.

That report showed that there was significant interest in the county for both indoor and outdoor amenities at such a complex but the county's plans show the intent to build a mostly outdoor facility.

The county's own planning schedule calls for the sports complex to be built at the St. Mary's Crossing property on county-owned land in California, which includes much of hotel and restaurant stock in the county.

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County Government Operations for the Labor Day Holiday

All St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2023, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

The September 4 closure also includes:

- All three St. Mary's County Libraries (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park)
- All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler, and Northern), and there will be no home-delivered meals
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS)
- Department of Recreation & Parks programs and facilities
- The six Convenience Centers and the

St. Andrews Landfill

The following SMCG operations will be open on September 4:

- Great Mills Pool (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Wellness & Aquatics Center (6 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- The St. Clements Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the Old Jail Museum (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- The Wicomico Shores Golf Course (8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.)
- The Riverview Restaurant (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, please visit: stmaryscountymd.gov.

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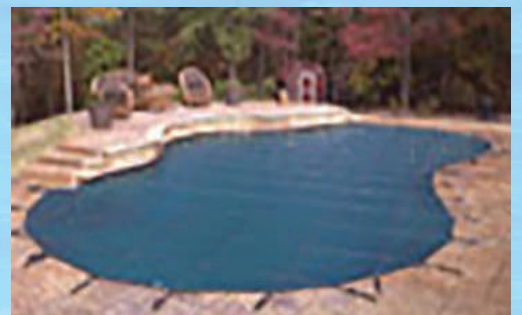


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Delegate Recovering From Cancer Surgery

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) said this week that he is recovering from surgery to treat a recently diagnosed case of thyroid cancer.

"A few weeks ago, I was diagnosed with a rare form — less than a thousand cases per year — of thyroid cancer," Morgan wrote in an e-mail blast to his constituents.

"This news shocked me as I am only 50 years old. I feel like I'm in great shape, have no family history of this type of cancer, and have zero symptoms."

The invasive nature of the surgery and the necessary recovery period have led him to cancel many appearances and political functions for the near future.

"I originally wanted to keep this a private matter, but unfortunately, the surgery was more intense and invasive than I initially expected."

"So, I will do something I've never done in my entire life. I will follow the doctor's orders and take a few weeks off. I am canceling all public appearances for the next few weeks."

This includes his annual fundraiser event at Bowles Farm that had been scheduled for Sept. 7.

Morgan offered those who had already purchased tickets to the event full refunds if they requested it, but hoped they would allow him to put that money towards a



Del. Matt Morgan

fundraiser at a later date — perhaps in December, he said in his statement.

Morgan said in his message that his doctors were confident that the surgery was successful in removing the cancer and that he will make a full recovery.

Morgan has served as delegate for the northern portion of St. Mary's County for the past 8 years and, up until recently, was the head of the county delegation in the Maryland General Assembly.

He replaced former Del. John F. Wood, a legendary businessman and leader in the community, who recently passed away.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Health Hub Now Offering Xylazine Drug Testing Strips

Due to a nationwide increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with a powerful non-opioid animal sedative, xylazine — a deadly combination commonly known as "Tranq" — the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is now offering testing strips to detect xylazine in illicit drugs.

Xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures place users at a higher risk of suffering a fatal drug intoxication. Because xylazine is not an opioid, naloxone (Narcan®) will not work to reverse its effects though it may help with fentanyl overdoses. People who inject drug mixtures containing xylazine also can develop severe wounds involving necrosis—the rotting of skin tissue—that may lead to amputation. Community members may obtain xylazine test strips at the St. Mary's County Health Hub through the Harm Reduction Program on a walk-in basis, free of charge.

SMCHD encourages those who are using illicit substances to seek professional help for their substance use. Help is available and individuals can be connected to local treatment options through the SMCHD website, calling 301-862-1680, or walking

in Monday - Friday during business hours at the St. Mary's County Health Hub. The Health Hub offers the Harm Reduction Program to help mitigate the harms associated with drug use — such as overdoses, wounds, and infections — and encourage people into treatment when they are ready for it. The HRP provides infectious disease testing, Narcan®, and ways to test drug paraphernalia (such as pill bottles and syringes) for presence of fentanyl or other substances like xylazine.

"Anyone struggling with addiction needs to know about the dangers of xylazine and how it is getting mixed into the drug supply," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "These new test strips for xylazine will help prevent fatalities. Our Health Hub team also provides many other resources to get people connected to effective treatment for their drug use and support them in recovery."

For further information about the SMCHD Harm Reduction Program, visit smchd.org/harmreduction.

To learn more about the St. Mary's County Health Hub, visit smchd.org/hub.

Regional Airport to Receive Funding for Improvements

Today, U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin and Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (all D-Md.) announced \$241,949 in federal funding to help the St. Mary's County/Captain Walter Francis Duke Regional Airport complete infrastructure improvements at the airport to meet operational needs and safety standards by extending its runway. Funding is provided through the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

"The St. Mary's County Regional Airport supports our local economy and helps ensure that people, goods, and a range of cargo get where they need to on time. That's why we fought for this investment to make sure it can continue to serve Southern Maryland's businesses, residents, and visitors safely and efficiently. We will keep working to secure the funding that helps our local airports remain an engine for economic opportunities so these communities can continue to thrive," said Senator Van Hollen.

"St. Mary's County Regional Airport is a critical part of Maryland's aviation infrastructure," said Senator Cardin. "This investment to extend the airport runway will support the airport's operational capacity and safety so that it can continue to play a vital economic role for Southern Maryland."

"I was proud to work with Senator Cardin

and Senator Van Hollen to secure this funding to ensure St. Mary's County/Captain Walter Francis Duke Regional Airport can operate as safely and efficiently as possible. Airports like this one are crucial to the surrounding community and to the many travelers and businesses who depend upon them. As House Majority Leader in the 117th Congress, I was proud to help Democrats enact the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which continues to provide vital funding for this project and thousands of others like it across the country. Now, I'm working with House Democrats and the Biden-Harris Administration to implement these policies and programs in every community in America as Chair of the Regional Leadership Council. Whether creating new jobs, rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, or lowering costs, we will continue investing in Maryland and Investing in America," said Congressman Hoyer.

AIP funds various types of airport infrastructure projects across the country, including repairs and upgrades to runways, taxiways, airport signage, lighting and markings — all while creating thousands of good-paying, local jobs. The members have consistently fought to provide funds for airports and terminal operators, including by helping to pass the fiscal year 2023 appropriations package, which included an estimated \$1.5 billion for AIP projects.

Healthy St. Mary's Partnership Announces Annual Meeting

The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) will host their Annual Meeting on September 28, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Center Hall at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland at 44219 Airport Rd, California, MD 20619.

All community members are invited to register and attend this free event. Participants will learn from subject matter experts and receive updates on health improvement efforts happening within St. Mary's County. For more information or to register, please visit: 2023-hsmp-annual-meeting.eventbrite.com.

The 2023 HSMP Annual Meeting will include learning sessions in the morning from distinguished speakers on various topics related to four priority health issues facing St. Mary's County:

- Behavioral Health (including mental health and substance use prevention and control)
- Chronic Disease

- Environmental Health
- Violence, Injury, and Trauma

The afternoon portion of the Annual Meeting this year will be utilized for an interactive group planning activity where participants will bring together ideas and expertise to develop action plans for specific community health needs.

"This year's annual meeting marks the 10 year anniversary of HSMP," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer and HSMP Co-Chair. "For those who want to get involved and do something meaningful to serve their community, this is a unique opportunity. Participants will also learn about the various health improvement initiatives HSMP has implemented in the past 10 years."

For more information on speakers, session topics, or the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership, please visit: healthystmarys.com/hsmpannual2023.

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Lexington Park Shootings Under Investigation

On August 18 at approximately 2:00am, deputies responded to a call for shots fired in the area of Patuxent Drive in Lexington Park.

Deputies arrived on scene and located a 17-year-old male inside a residence suffering from a gunshot wound to his upper body. The juvenile was transported by Medevac to an area trauma center in stable condition.

Deputies located two residences and a vehicle which had been struck by gunfire. Detectives and Crime Lab Personnel responded to the scene and collected multiple items of evidence.

Anyone with any information regarding the shooting is asked to contact Detective Warren Forinash at 301-475-4200 x8072 or by email at Warren.Forinash@Stmaryscountymd.gov.

That same day at approximately 10 p.m., deputies responded to the area of West

Westbury Boulevard in Lexington Park for the report of shots fired.

Deputies arrived on scene and located a residence and multiple vehicles struck by gunfire.

A short time later, an 18-year-old male arrived at the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad with a suspected graze wound from a gunshot. The individual was transported by Medevac to an area trauma center in stable condition.

Detectives and Crime Lab Personnel responded to the scene and collected multiple items of evidence.

Anyone with any information regarding the shooting is asked to contact Detective Andrew Burgess at 301-475-4200 x8041 or by email at Andrew.Burgess@Stmaryscountymd.gov.

Sheriff's Office Seeks Clues in Years Old Homicide

Three years ago, Antoine Jamal Bowman was murdered in Lexington Park. On August 22, 2020 at 12:23am, the Emergency Control Center received several 911 calls reporting shots fired, with one person shot, at an apartment parking lot in the 2100 block of Ronald Drive in Lexington Park.

Deputies located Bowman, 22, in a grassy area in the parking lot of the complex. He was unresponsive and suffering from a gunshot wound.

Deputies and EMS personnel attempted live-saving measures, but Bowman was pronounced dead at 12:48am. During a neighborhood canvas, numerous shell casings were located on the ground. Deputies continue to actively pursue all leads in this murder.

Bowman now rests at Charles Memorial Gardens in Leonardtown.

Got a Tip?

- Call or e-mail Detective Corporal Tyler Payne at (301) 475-4200 ext 8010 or Tyler.Payne@stmaryscountymd.gov.
- Message us anonymously: <https://www.cityprotect.com/forms/stmarysmd.com/anonymous>
- Call CrimeSolvers at 301-475-3333.
- Text CrimeSolvers at 274637 - enter Tip239

CrimeSolvers never asks you for your name. If your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Identity Needed for Theft Suspect

On Sunday, August 20, 2023, at approximately 3:52 PM, the subject pictured entered the Walgreens in Charlotte Hall with what appeared to be money in his hand. Once in the soap aisle, he removed the trash bag seen from his pocket and filled it with items from the shelves.

The suspect then walked out of the store, failing to pay for any of the items he removed from the shelves. He was last seen walking towards the Wendy's parking lot.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect and or this incident is asked to contact Deputy A. Tasciotti #398 at Alexander.Tasciotti@stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200 ext. 8151. Case #44624-23

You can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime Solvers at 274637.

Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case sensitive and must



be typed in the message block as shown.

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



NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

First Round of Attack Helicopters Arrive in the Czech Republic

Two AH-1Z Vipers arrived in the Czech Republic this week, marking the first in-country delivery as part of a partnership with the US Marine Corps H-1 Light/Attack Helicopter program office (PMA-276) and industry partner, Bell.

“Four years ago, we embarked on a journey with the Czech Republic Air Force to deliver the H-1 family of aircraft, including four AH-1Z and eight UH-1Y helicopters,” said Col. Vasilius Pappas, PMA-276 program manager. “Since then, we have worked together to award the required contracts, deliver the applicable logistics equipment, develop a training program and so much more, all in preparation for this delivery. This is a remarkable milestone.”

In 2019, the Czech Republic selected the H-1 to modernize the country’s armed forces and strengthen its homeland defense and the country is expected to be independently operating by late-2024.

A lot has transpired since the initial contract.

From a training perspective, an initial team of Czech aircrew and maintainers had the opportunity to complete the Marine



Light/Attack Helicopter Training Squadron (HMLAT) 303 training pipeline, graduating earlier this year. Beginning this fall, H-1 crews will train alongside representatives from Bell, and its supplier, Pinnacle Solutions, through a “train-the-trainer” model. Pilots, crew chiefs and maintainers will learn the additional skills required to operate and sustain its fleet of AH-1Z and UH-1Y helicopters, and train other members

of its force.

In addition, the country has a Flight Training Device (FTD) to support skills development, offering access to the controls and weapon systems for preparation purposes. The Czech Republic FTD broke ground in March 2023 and construction will finish in time to begin training this fall.

Now, with the aircraft in-country, the Czech Air Force can begin the acceptance

process and over the next 12 months, additional aircraft will arrive based on the production schedule.

The Czech Air Force squadron is expected to be independently operating in late-2024.

PMA-276 manages the end-to-end procurement, development, support, fielding and disposal of the Marine Corps and international customers H-1 family of aircraft.

Senator Jack Bailey's 2nd Annual Bull Roast & Crawfish Boil

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Ranked among the Nation's Top Individual Producers based on 2022 home sales in the RealTrends "America's Best"

Local agent Jimmy Hayden was recently recognized in the 2023 "America's Best Real Estate Professionals" rankings by RealTrends + Tom Ferry. The prestigious survey is made up of five categories for participating agents and teams in the U.S. based on 2022 numbers. The five categories are: individual producers, Small teams (2-5 agents), Medium teams (6-10), Large teams (11-20) and Mega teams (21+). Each category has two subcategories – one for transaction sides and one for sales volume. Hayden placed 107th in the individual rankings for 41 transaction sides and had \$16,599,002 sales volume.

"It's an honor to be included in this list of hardworking and dedicated real estate professionals across the country," said Hayden, Agent with RE/MAX 100. "I'm more grateful than ever for each client who trusted me to help them buy or sell a home in Southern Maryland over this truly unforgettable year."

Last year as well as this year are proving to be another monumental year. In 2022, Hayden achieved the Platinum Club award with RE/MAX for the third consecutive year.

"We are incredibly proud of these RE/MAX agents for being recognized as the best" said Nick Bailey, RE/MAX, LLC President and CEO. "This honor is a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence and their dedication to providing exceptional service. It underscores our brand's ongoing position as the best option for productive professionals."

Ranking nearly 24,000 top producers, "America's Best Real Estate Professionals" is the industry's largest ranking of agents based on homes sold.

About RE/MAX 100:

RE/MAX 100 is a locally owned and operated full-service real estate brokerage located in Leonardtown, MD. Founded in 2018, the brokerage has 22 Realtors® and specializes in all types of real estate. RE/MAX 100 is a proud supporter of Childrens Miracle Network Hospital and Hayden is a proud supporter of Homes For Heroes and is located at 22845 Washington Street Leonardtown, MD 20650. To learn more, please visit www.ournexthouse.com. Each office independently owned and operated.



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Historic St. Mary's City to Host Indigenous Heritage Day



Join Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) for Indigenous Heritage Day from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. on Saturday, September 9, 2023. The annual event will be filled with ongoing demonstrations in the Woodland Indian Hamlet exhibit area of the outdoor museum. Indigenous Heritage Day will be a culturally enriching family event for all ages and a perfect way to spend a Saturday!

Not to be missed is the 1 p.m. performance by Mark Tayac and the Piscataway Nation Singers & Dancers. From Tayac Territory (Port Tobacco, MD), Mark Tayac travels with the Piscataway Nation Singers & Dancers presenting a colorful, educational, and entertaining pow wow-style event featuring American Indian Dance, Drum & Song that tells of American Indian history, culture, and traditions. Attendees are invited to participate and join hands in the American Indian Dance & Song session that's interactive for community members of all ages.

Also featured will be Drew Shuhtar-Rayvis and his program "Eight Coats, Seven Shirts, Fifteen Fathom Wampum: Early Colonial Settlement and the First Deeds." This program is meant for ages eight through adult. Drew Shuhtar-Rayvis will be at Historic St. Mary's City from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with demonstrations and discussions ongoing throughout the day. Talks given by Drew will include topics such as the interconnected relationships between the Dutch, Swedes, English, and Algonkian peoples in their respective regions/colonies;

the adaptation of Native American life to European settlement and trade goods, including the importance and use of wampum through this critical period along the Atlantic and mid-Atlantic regions (south western CT to MD); the magnitude of the earliest American culture clashes through customs of war, adoption, captivity, alliance, friendships and marriages between Natives, Europeans and Africans; the discrepancies in the concepts of land ownership and usage; and the overshadowed early colonial conflicts: the Peach War, Kieft's War, King Phillip's War and King William's War.

Indigenous Heritage Day will take place outdoors, rain or shine, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 9. All activities will take place at the Woodland Indian Hamlet exhibit on Historic St. Mary's City museum grounds.

Museum guests will also have the opportunity to learn the skills needed to make stone and bone tools, corn husk dolls, leather bags, hide tanning, pottery, food preparation, and wampum making will be demonstrated throughout the day.

Cost: \$10 adult; \$9 seniors; \$6 youth (6-18); and free for those 5 years and younger and museum members).

Admission includes access to special activities.

Admission will be available to purchase at The Shop at Farthing's Ordinary (47414 Old State House Road) or the HSMC Visitor Center (18751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary's City, Md 20686)

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Veterans Honored with Quilts of Valor



Shown above (left to right): William Young (Army & National Guard - 6 years), Fred Lathrop (Army - 20 years), Vicki Eichhorn (Air Force - 3 years), Leslie Eichhorn (Air Force - 20 years), David Whitaker (Air Force - 6 years), Paul Houchen (Army - 3 years), Stephen Bartolomeo (Army - 3 years), Alan Shick (Army - 8 years), and Steven Cryan (Navy - 20 years).

PAX Sound of Freedom had the pleasure of awarding 9 Quilts of Valor to local veterans, including one husband and wife team (Leslie & Vicki Eichhorn), at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park on August 19, 2023. PAX Sound of Freedom in Lexington Park is the local unit of Quilts of Valor that covers St. Mary's and Charles Counties.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a non-profit organization established and operated in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. To date the national organization has presented 354,712 quilts to active duty personnel and veterans. PAX Sound of Freedom has presented 83 quilts in 2023.

Registration Open for Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is pleased to announce the 27th Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament, to be held on Friday, October 13, 2023, at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course.

Proceeds from the event support the youth scholarship program providing children of St. Mary's County the opportunity to participate in summer camp, sports, and other programs throughout the year at a discounted rate. In its 26-year history, this event has generated over \$185,000.

The tournament registration fee is \$340 and includes greens/carts fee for 4 golfers, breakfast, lunch, drinks on the course, and door prize entry. The event includes a best ball format with opportunities to participate in various raffles, closest to the pin, longest

drive, and other contests. Join us for a day of fun to help give local youth a chance to experience recreation. Registration is available online at stmaryscountymd.gov/golftournament.

R&P is seeking additional community support from local businesses to supply door prize sponsorships, which can include but are not limited to, gift certificates, item donations, and more. In addition to supporting a good cause, event sponsorship is also a great way to promote your business and welcome new customers.

For additional information about the Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament, please contact Darrick Sesker at darrick.sesker@stmaryscountymd.com or by calling (301) 475-4200 ext. 1830.

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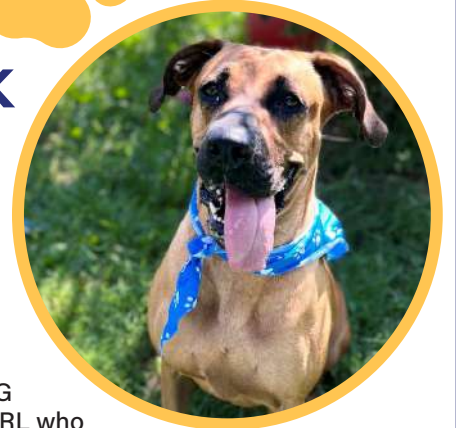
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Call 301-373-4791 to learn more about this exciting job opportunity.

Candidates must be drug free, have a clean criminal record and dependable transportation.

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A dog wags her tail with her heart!

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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>



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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe, or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-FM-23-000251

Thomas Snook
21685 Oakley Road
Avenue, MD 20609
Plaintiff

vs.

Nancy Lynn
25463 Maddox Road
Chaptico, MD 20621
Defendant

NOTICE – ALTERNATE SERVICE (Md. Rules 2-121, 2-122)

Thomas Snook, the above named plaintiff, has filed a complaint titled Complaint for Limited/Absolute Divorce and Other Relief in which he/she is asking the court to grant a Judgment of Limited/Absolute Divorce.

The Circuit Court for Saint Mary's County, Maryland may grant that relief unless Nancy Lynn, the above named defendant, can show reason why the court should not grant the relief. Nancy Lynn must file a response to the complaint on or before October 18, 2023.

If Nancy Lynn fails to respond within the time allowed, the court may enter a judgment by default or grant the relief sought, as long as a copy of this Notice is published in a newspaper in this county at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks on or before September 16, 2023.

After the time period in the judge's order has passed, you may ask the court for a default judgment or to move forward with your case.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of the Court, St. Mary's County

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to:

Any and all persons, known heirs, and unknown heirs, that have or claim to have any interest in property described as 22125 Pegg Road, Lexington Park, MD,

that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County require the purchase of 0.2827 acres (12,312 Sq Ft), more or less, of the above-referenced property, for the construction of F.D.R. Boulevard – Phase 3, from Chancellors Run Road (MD Rte. 237) to Pegg Road, also known as County Project Number HW1202. Copies of the current plans are available for review at the office of the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation. If you have an interest in this property and have not spoken with us yet, please contact us IMMEDIATELY at 301-475-4200 ext. 1700.

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

By: BUFFY GIDDENS
Deputy County Attorney



Philip H. Dorsey III
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93-Year-Old Golfer Often Shoots His Age

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Peter "Pete" Delman loves to play golf. Taking up the game while he was still in the U.S. Air Force back in 1975 while stationed in Hawaii, he did it so he and his friend at the time could challenge a pair of superior officers on the green.

After 30 years in the military — he retired in 1980 — he continued to play golf and moved to St. Mary's in 1987, making Wicomico Shores Golf Course his twice-weekly destination for a game.

At 93, Delman is part of what's known as a member of the "senior blitz" at the golf club — players 60 years old and up are eligible — and has a reputation as a great player.

"I've played every Tuesday and Thursday," Delman told The County Times. "We're doing it 52 weeks a year weather permitting."

He said senior citizens who are looking for something to do should consider golf as a way to stay fit and sharp.

"It's a mental and physical challenge," Delman said. "And it's the camaraderie, the people you're playing with."

Unremittingly positive, Delman said the game keeps him fit and active helping him to defy his age.

"It keeps your mind and body moving," Delman said. "And it truly is a way of staying in society, if you can think of it in those terms."

As a person gets older, sometimes their world "collapses," Delman said, with social connections growing fewer and fewer.

By playing golf, a senior can make new friends and keep those important social connections strong.

"To me that's the key to staying alive," Delman said. "If you want to be a vegetable, stay at home and watch the boob tube."

Delman is modest about his abilities on the golf course but after nearly 50 years of constant play and practice his skill is considerable.



"I hit the ball pretty good," Delman said. "I hit usually in the high 80s to very low 90s. I normally shoot my age."

Of course, with age comes some pains, but Delman takes all of those in stride.

"Sure, I've got some back problems and some macular degeneration in one eye," Delman said. "But, hey, don't let that bother you."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



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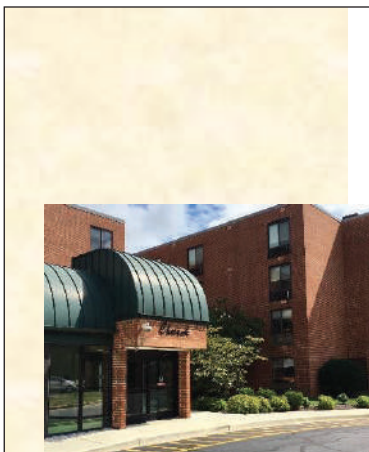
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Did you know?

A 2022 study led by researchers at the National Cancer Institute found that recreational pursuits that incorporate physical activity, including walking, swimming, and playing tennis, may lower older adults' risk of death from any cause. That includes cardiovascular disease and cancer, which the World Health Organization notes are two of the leading causes of death across the globe. Running, cycling, swimming, other aerobic exercise, racquet sports, golf, and walking for exercise encompassed the seven different exercise and recreational activities researchers examined as part of the study, which

utilized data from more than 272,000 adults between the ages of 59 and 82. The researchers found that achieving the recommended weekly amount of physical activity through any combination of these activities was associated with a 13 percent lower risk of death from any cause compared to people who did not participate in such activities. Though all activities were associated with lower risks of death, racquet sports seemingly provided the most bang for seniors' proverbial bucks, as those activities were associated with a 16 percent lower risk of death.

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www.cedar-lane.org



Tips to Help Seniors Travel Safely

Travel was once a key component of the picture working professionals created of their ideal retirements. While the COVID-19 pandemic put many retirement travel plans on hold in recent years, jetting off to distant locales is once again on retirees' radars.

A 2022 survey from AARP found that individuals 50 and over were poised to not only get back on the road, but also spend significantly more money on travel. Prior to the pandemic, Americans 50 and over spent \$7,314 annually on travel, according to data from AARP. By spring 2022, individuals in that same age bracket indicated a readiness to spend \$8,369 on travel.

Eagerness to get back on the road, in the air or on the high seas could make it easy to overlook some principles of safe travel. However, such an oversight could lead to complications that could make it hard to enjoy time away from home. The following tips can reduce the likelihood that seniors encounter trouble while traveling.

- Determine if any health issues are affecting your desired destinations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a website devoted to travel vaccines ([cdc.gov/travel/page/travel-vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/page/travel-vaccines)), and that page can be an invaluable resource for individuals planning a vacation. What's more, the CDC even provides a specific list of destinations and the latest travel health notices for each of those nations. That list, accessible at

nations/list can help seniors determine if there are any health-related safety issues in countries they hope to visit.

- Speak to your physician. A pre-trip consultation with a physician can uncover any issues that might arise while you're away. Such issues may be easily managed for domestic travelers who are not planning to visit any espe-

cially remote locations, but they will not necessarily be as easily navigated when traveling overseas. Physicians can recommend certain vaccinations or measures to ensure your health while away. In addition, a pre-trip doctor visit is a great time to refill prescriptions that you will need while you're away.

- Take financial precautions as well. Of

course, not all travel-related concerns are medical. Finances also require some pre-trip attention. Inflation has caused a sharp spike in the price of various commodities since the start of 2022, so travelers should study up on the cost of food and attractions at their destination to ensure they have enough money to enjoy themselves. Baggage costs have risen significantly in recent years, so seniors traveling on a budget may want to pack less and do laundry while traveling in an effort to save money. In addition, the unpredictable nature of travel since the onset of the pandemic has underscored the utility of travel insurance. Seniors can look into travel insurance that could reimburse them in the case of delays or cancellations.

- Privately share your itinerary. Prior to departing, share your itinerary with friends and family. Avoid sharing the itinerary on social media platforms, which can make you a target for criminals at home and at your destination. The itinerary should include where you're staying, the dates you're visiting certain locations and the dates of activities you'll be engaging in on your trip.

Seniors rediscovering the joy of traveling can take various measures to make their trips more safe.

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8/30

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9/27

Speaking With Your Doctor—Understand how to communicate well with your health care provider, know your rights if a provider does not think your care will be covered, and identify billing errors.

10/25

Fall Open Enrollment—Know the changes you can make during Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, review your current coverage, how to make changes to your Medicare health and drug coverage.

11/29

How to Afford Prescription Drug Costs—Understand the Extra Help program and if you may be eligible, learn if your state has a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, using other strategies and programs to save on drug costs.

12/20

Medicare and Mental Health—Understand how Medicare covers outpatient mental health services, prescription drugs for mental health treatment, and inpatient mental health services.



St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services
Garvey Senior Activity Center
23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD

Signs It Could Be Time to Consider an Assisted Living Facility

Assisted living facilities provide a vital service to families across the globe. In fact, more than 800,000 people in the United States are currently living in assisted living facilities, according to a 2023 report from Zippia, an online recruitment service that gathers information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its own internal data.

The decision to move oneself or an aging relative into an assisted living facility is complicated. Though such facilities typically offer an excellent standard of care, it can still be bittersweet for an individual to leave his or her home. It also can be difficult to identify when is the best time to make such a transition. Though each individual case is unique, the following are some indicators that the time might be right to move oneself or an aging loved one into an assisted living facility.

- Emotional challenges: The National Council on Aging notes that certain emotional challenges may indicate the time is right for an individual to move into an assisted living facility. The NCOA encourages individuals making such a decision independent of others to ask themselves if they are experiencing feelings of loneliness or depression. Assisted living facilities can provide much-needed social interaction that seniors may not be getting

at home. If feelings of loneliness or depression are present, then the time might be right to make the move to an assisted living facility.

- Physical challenges: Many individuals move into assisted living facilities because the physical challenges of daily life have become too significant to handle alone. The NCOA notes that individuals who are feeling overwhelmed by tasks such as buying groceries, cooking and cleaning may benefit from moving into assisted living facilities that handle such tasks for them.
- Issues with hygiene: The presence of additional challenges related to hygiene also may suggest a move to an assisted living facility may be beneficial. Staff at assisted living facilities can help adults who are struggling to bathe, dress themselves or use a restroom on their own. Family members can look for signs that a loved one's personal hygiene has taken a turn for the worse. Issues with hygiene can be a byproduct of depression, and poor hygiene also can increase risk for infection and illness.
- Injuries: The NCOA notes that falls or near-falls are another potential sign that a person can benefit from moving to an assisted living facility. Falls



can hurt anyone, but they can be especially damaging to aging adults. For example, the National Institutes of Health report that falls may result in loss of independence, chronic pain and reduced quality of life. Assisted living facilities are often equipped with features to reduce risk of falls, such as grab bars in showers and bathrooms and even along corridor walls. In addition, assisted living facilities may be housed in single-story buildings or

equipped with elevators, which means residents won't be forced to navigate potentially dangerous staircases at any point during the day. Staff also can respond quickly if residents experience a fall, providing much-needed assistance that seniors living alone or with an aging spouse may not get at home.

Various signs may indicate that the time is right for individuals to move into an assisted living facility so they can more safely navigate daily life.



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 Charlotte Hall, MD

Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 (Last entry at 4 p.m.)

Phone: 301-475-4200, ext. 3101



Garvey Senior Activity Center

23630 Hayden Farm Lane
 Leonardtown, MD

Hours: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday,
 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Fridays

Phone: 301-475-4200, ext. 1080



Loffler Senior Activity Center

21905 Chancellors Run Road
 Great Mills, MD

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 (Last entry at 4 p.m.)

Phone: 301-475-4200, ext. 1658



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What Dating Looks Like Later in Life

People are living longer, a reality that can be traced to a number of factors, including advancements in medicine and greater dissemination of information regarding preventive health care. According to data from the United Nations Population Division, the average life expectancy in the United States is 81.65 for women and 76.61 for men. Canada has even higher life expectancies, at 84.74 for women and 81.15 for men.

As people live longer, some may outlive their significant others and ultimately find themselves once again interested in sharing experiences with a special someone. Seniors ready to re-enter the dating pool may find that things are quite different from what they experienced as naïve teenagers or young adults. Dating used to be about hanging out with friends and meeting people at shared events, such as school dances or work parties or even while enjoying a night out with friends. Nowadays, dating often begins in cyberspace. This can be confusing and anxiety-inducing for adults who didn't grow up with technology guiding their every move.

According to a report in The Atlantic, more than one-third of baby boomers are not currently married, and this generation has had higher rates of separation and divorce and lower rates of marriage than the generations that preceded them. Many boomers have years ahead of them to devote to new relationships. Here's what they may want to know before navigating twenty-first century dating waters.

- You're not in this alone. While online dating may be portrayed as a young person's game, plenty of older adults are now finding connections online. In fact, many different dating apps are geared toward the senior set, including SeniorMatch, eHarmony, Singles50, OKCupid, and Silver Singles, among others.
- You have more time for fun. As a senior, you may have more time to devote to recreation and leisure. This can be a great opportunity to get out and meet someone who shares your passions and interests.
- Online dating has its advantages. While online dating apps and websites may have certain things working against them, particularly if their algorithms for pairing people are not fine-tuned, they also can be helpful. Online dating can expand social circles beyond local neighborhoods or even states, provinces or countries. You're casting your net over a much larger body of water. Furthermore, dating app profiles typically spell out exactly what another person is seeking, which can save seniors from having to revisit awkward dating moments from years past.

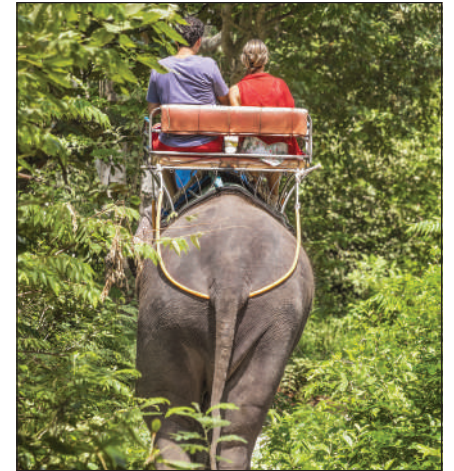
Seniors may have to navigate new waters in modern dating. But with a good mindset and a little persistence, it is possible for seniors to find a special someone in cyberspace.

How to Make Your Bucket List a Reality

The idiom "kick the bucket" is a euphemism for passing away that does not paint such a rosy picture if you consider its origins. However, the phrase "bucket list," though undeniably related to "kick the bucket," definitely sheds a brighter light on the topic of mortality.

A bucket list is a plan for living life to its fullest and prioritizing opportunities to engage in all sorts of activities. A bucket list can be made at any point in life and is not exclusive to individuals facing their own mortality. Here are some tips for putting bucket list plans into action.

- Stop and think about what you really want to experience in your lifetime. Leave factors like money or proximity out of it. No ideas are off-limits. This is your opportunity to brainstorm, and nothing is too crazy or silly.
- Write the bucket list in a comfortable or inspiring place, which may help ideas flow more freely. The place might be a cozy nook at a bookstore or a quiet spot on the beach.
- Choose things that are meaningful to you as well as ideas that are frivolous and fun. Make your list a mix of each, and don't take yourself too seriously.
- Divide the bucket list by time. Are there items you can check off in a particular season, such as skiing the Alps? If your bucket list involves moving to a bustling city, determine if you'd like to do that after your children have reached adulthood or if you want to



expose them to city life as youngsters. Categorizing the list by periods of your life can make it easier to prioritize certain activities over others.

- Determine if each bucket list activity will be a solitary or joint pursuit. Various activities are more enjoyable when shared with others, but some you might be more inclined to do alone.
- Set aside a budget for funding bucket list activities. Bucket lists may include some costly activities, so start saving now so money does not stand in your way. Open a savings account specifically for funding bucket list excursions and set up automatic deposits.

Bucket lists can encourage people to live life to the fullest and it's never too early to get started on a list of your own.

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- Community Options Waiver
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- Teen Court
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- Local Management Board
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MAP/Senior Information and Assistance

- Financial Assistance Programs
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- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
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- Maryland Access Point (MAP)



How may we help you?

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Schedule a Road Show Presentation to learn more about the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services! Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, to schedule a presentation or to sign up for delivery of the Department's bi-monthly newsletter, *New Beginning*.

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Can you build an estate plan like a house?

If you've ever been involved in building a house — or even if you've just heard about it — you know that there's a well-defined process to be followed. But here's something to think about: Some of the same steps connected to constructing a home are the same as those needed to build an estate plan.

What are those steps? Here are some to consider:

- *Get the right "builder."* Unless you're an experienced do-it-yourselfer, you'll probably have to hire someone to build a house for you. Of course, you'll make your wishes known about what you want your house to look like, but you'll be relying on the builder's expertise. And the same is true with estate planning — you'll want to share your goals and vision with a legal professional who's experienced in creating comprehensive estate plans.
- *Build a strong foundation.* "Every house needs a strong foundation" isn't just a metaphor — it's true for every house that's built. And when you create an estate plan, you also need a foundation that includes whatever basic elements are appropriate for your situation — a will, a living trust, power of attorney and so on.
- *Make the necessary additions.* Even if you're pleased with your new house, you may eventually decide to make some changes, such as adding on a new bedroom or bathroom. And the structure of your estate plan may need to undergo some modifications, too. For example, if you drew up a will two decades ago, but haven't looked at it since, it may be out of date — especially if you've experienced changes in your life, such as new children or a divorce and remarriage. That's why it's a good idea to review your estate plans at least every few years.
- *Protect your investment.* Of course, when you build a new house, you'll have to insure it properly. And while there's no actual "insurance policy" for an estate plan, you do have ways to protect it. For one thing, you need to make sure beneficiary designations on retirement plans, investment accounts, insurance policies and other assets are correct. These designations are powerful and can even supersede the instructions in your estate-planning documents. So, as mentioned, if you've had significant life changes involving your family, you need to ensure your beneficiary designations are updated if you want to protect how insurance proceeds, investments and other assets are distributed.
- *Watch for mistakes.* It's unfortunate, but mistakes do happen in home construction. Water stains can indicate that water is seeping through cracks in the foundation. Or cracks in retaining walls and garage floors could be a sign that the concrete structures were installed improperly. Estate plans can also contain errors or bad choices. Some are inadvertent, such as failing to put intended assets into a trust, but others are done with the best of intentions, such as naming adult children as joint owners of your assets. Even if your children are quite responsible, this move could give their creditors access to your money. If you want your children to be able to step in as needed, you could find other methods, such as giving them power of attorney.

Following these "construction" techniques can help you create an estate plan that can last a lifetime — and beyond.

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

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In Remembrance

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

Joe Connelly, 97



Joseph Frank Connelly (Joe) age 97 of Leonardtown, Maryland passed away peacefully on Monday, August 14, 2023 at St. Mary's Nursing Center in

Leonardtown, Maryland with his loving daughter by his side.

He was born May 2, 1926 to the late William Ford Connelly, Sr. and Della Reed Ching Abbott Connelly.

After getting out of school, he was employed by the Meadow Gold Ice Cream Company in Washington, D.C. where he drove a 8 ton General Motors refrigerated truck delivering ice cream to local distributors. He was then drafted into the Army on 16 August 1944.

He was a World War II Veteran who served in the United States Army from 1944-1946 as a Sergeant in Company A, 17th Armored Infantry Battalion, 12th Armored Division and the 537th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion where he received numerous decorations and citations such as Good Conduct Medal, European Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon, Army of Occupation Medal in Germany and MKM Rifle Combat Infantryman Badge.

He was a carpenter who built many family homes and businesses throughout St. Mary's County. He was an avid hunter. He always had a smile and a strong handshake for everyone. His words of wisdom will always be remembered and his life lessons will never be forgotten.

He was a past member of Leonardtown Lions Club and a current member of The American Legion, St. Mary's Post #54.

He is survived by his daughter Catherine Renee Connelly, his grandson Joseph Alexander Hall, Jr. and his great granddaughter Laci Renee Hall.

He is preceded in death by his wife Regina Lacey Connelly; his son Joseph Glenn Connelly; brothers William Ford

(Froggie) Connelly, James Francis (Brother) Connelly and George Washington Connelly; sisters Virginia Lee Yeatman, Emma Norris, Mamie Connelly, Gladys Wood, Betty Thompson and Jeannette Dakis as well as half-brother Jarvis Thomas Abbott and half-sisters Beatrice Abbott Landis and Adele Marie (Della) Abbott Feeney.

There will be a graveside funeral service for Mr. Connelly on Thursday, September 14th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Aloysius Catholic Cemetery in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Francis Watts, 93



Francis Wilton Watts, 93, of California, MD, departed this life on August 11, 2023 to be with his Savior, Jesus Christ. Born on May 10, 1930 in Great Mills, MD, he

was the son of the late Rose Ann (Evans) Watts and the late Richard J. Watts, Sr. Francis was the loving husband of the late Mary Margaret (Combs) Watts, "Bea", who preceded him in death. He is survived by his two sons, Joseph F. Watts (Dorothy) and Kenneth R. Watts (Cindy), his daughter-in-law, Mary Ellen Watts, his sister-in-law, Louise Combs, his nephews Charles Combs, Jr. and Willy Dean, his niece, Leilani Erdolino, Sunny Culp, Lilly Matheny, and Hellen Dean, his grandchild Jennifer Watts, and his great-grandchild Shane. In addition to his parents and wife, he was also preceded in death by his sons Dennis L. Watts, Joshua C. Watts, and David W. Watts, as well as his brother Richard J. Watts, Jr.

Francis graduated from Great Mills High School, after which he joined the newly formed United States Air Force, and after basic he was stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. After serving in the United States Air Force, he landed a job at Patuxent River Naval Air Station where he could continue his fixation of aircraft and retired in 1985. Francis held a private pilot license and spent many hours flying and maintaining his 1948 Ryan Navion. He was also a Maryland

Licensed Master Well Driller. Francis had a passion for the Bible and would never miss a chance to preach to whom would listen.

The family will receive friends on Monday, August 28, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in St. John's Catholic Church, Ridge, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 AM with Father Ryan Braam officiating. Interment will follow at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Ridge, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Lou Wedding, Willy Dean, Jimmy Tennyson, Shane Washington, Jimmy Greenwell, and Joey Watts.

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

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

Judy Wentz, 75



Judy Wentz of Leonardtown, MD went to be with her Lord and Savior at 6:41 PM, August 19, 2023, with family and friends at her side, following a five-year battle

with lung cancer.

Judy was born on Jan 30, 1948 in Lewistown, PA to Homer and Dorothy (Niman) May. who preceded her in death. In addition, to her sister, Sandra Wolfley of Lewistown, PA, preceded her in death in 2015, as well as her oldest son Ronald Wentz Jr. of Idaho, in 2016.

Judy is survived by her husband of 58 years, Ronald Wentz Sr. of Leonardtown, MD, her daughter Rhonda Wentz Bondurant and husband Stuart Bondurant of Washington State, her son Mark Wentz of Leonardtown, MD, and sister Janet Kephart and husband Henry Kephart, of Lewistown, PA.

Judy attended Lewistown Area High School (class of 1966). She and Ronald Sr. were married in 1964 at Calvary Bible Church in Lewistown, PA. She was a writer and homemaker most of her life and worked side jobs when needed, as she was the backbone of her family.

Judy had a book published in 2010 titled, "Life In The Laugh Lane: The Journey," which was full of humorous family anecdotes and happenings over the years. She was very active in her church such as, teaching Sunday School, and working in children's nursery care, as well as, church Communications Director and church kitchen manager. Judy also hosted neighborhood children's evangelical programs at her home. Her past civic work included volunteering with (MDA) Jerry's Kids.

Services will be held at Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church, 22646 Benswood Road, California, MD 20619 on Saturday, August 26, 2023, with viewing and visitation at 10:30 a.m., followed by the funeral service at 12:00 p.m., celebrated by Rev. Damon Young and then a reception at the

church afterwards. Interment will be private and held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be made in her name to the American Cancer Society, 655 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 59808 or go online to the American Cancer Society.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Bob Currie, 83



"Bob" Robert Stevens Currie peacefully passed away on August 13, 2023, near his home in Hollywood, MD. Born on July 24, 1940, to Ruth and Robert "Lang"

Currie in Redwood City, California, he attended Sequoia High School before pursuing higher education at Menlo College and UC Berkeley, where he earned a master's degree.

Bob was passionate about service and people. His work in the Peace Corps took him to the Philippines during the 1960s, where he served as both a volunteer and a staff member. He and his family relocated to Washington, DC, in the 1970s to work at the Peace Corps headquarters. There, he served in their Evaluation Unit and later became the Executive Director of ACTION. He also contributed his services to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Bob was a skilled builder, tinkerer, and creator of things from scratch. He had a fondness for working on cars and boats, even constructing a water-landing plane for fun. An ardent fisherman and boating enthusiast, Bob enjoyed sharing these activities with both loved ones and new acquaintances. He maintained a strong connection with his inner child and often encouraged the curiosity of children around him, motivating them to build, tinker, and create their own things.

Bob is survived by his wife, Betty Currie. Bob experienced many adventures throughout his life, and his time with Betty was one of his most cherished experiences. He is also survived by his children (from his first marriage with Caroline), Robert Currie and Mailea Tinsley, along with seven grandchildren and many other cherished loved ones.

Services to celebrate Bob's life will take place on Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am (EDT), followed by a service at 11:00 am (EDT) at Brinsfield Funeral Home, located at 22955 Hollywood Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650. For those unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed by Brinsfield Funeral Home, although potential connectivity issues may affect reception.

To honor Bob's memory, memorial donations are suggested to the following causes:

- National Peace Corps Association: <https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>



Marie Carol Jones

9/3/1949 - 8/26/2012

My dear sister, it's been 11 years since you left me, since you've been gone, it seems like time has stood still. I miss you every moment of every day.

*My Love Forever,
Your twin, Carolyn*



pages/home

- Historic Sotterley in Hollywood, MD: <https://sotterley.org/> (navigate to "support")
- ASPCA: <https://secure.aspc.org/donate/memorial> or a local animal shelter

Condolence cards can be sent to Betty Currie and the family at:

Betty Currie
24740 Marva Point Way
Hollywood, MD 20630-4844
Email: bnb@md.metrocast.net (please allow time for replies)

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Genevieve St. Clair, 95



Margaret Genevieve St. Clair, 95, of Avenue, Maryland joined "Joe," the love of her life on Friday, August 11, 2023, in heaven. Genevieve was the daughter of the late Ruth Margaret "Madge" (Woodall) Thompson and James Golden Thompson, Sr. She was a graduate of Margaret Brent High School and was a life-long member of Holy Angels Catholic Church. She married Joseph Elmer "Joe" St. Clair at Holy Angels Church on July 14, 1947, and they enjoyed almost 67 years together before his passing in 2014.

Genevieve was a member of the Holy Angels Sodality of Our Lady of Fatima, a 50-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 221, a member of the Margaret Brent High School Alumni Association, and member of the St. Mary's County Board of Education Retirees Association. She was a para-professional at Dynard and Bethune Elementary Schools for 25 years. She passed her love of learning on to her family and inspired many students over the years. Genevieve enjoyed singing with her sister Dot and they were known as the "Sunshine Girls." Her favorite song to sing was *You are My Sunshine*. She loved to read, especially to her grand and great grandchildren. Everyone in the family has a special pie, cookie, or dessert she would bake for them.

She is preceded in death by her siblings Thelma "Sissy" Morris, James Leroy "Roy" Thompson, Catherine Nelson, Joseph A. "Gussy" Thompson, Dorothy "Dot" Williams, and James Golden Thompson, Jr. She has one surviving brother Paul S. "Pauly" Thompson, Sr. (Dorothy Marie).

Genevieve has three children: Linda P. Cross, Joseph Anthony "Tony" St. Clair (Sherri) and Mary B. Cheseldine (Lenny). Grandchildren; Dee Pitman (Jim), Susannah Calladine (Stu), Jessica St. Clair, Kay Jahn (Jay), Cassie Polo (Mark), J.W. St. Clair, Robert Cheseldine (Katie), and Maryann Chewning (Christopher). Genevieve also has thirteen great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Friday, August 25, 2023, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, Maryland. Prayers will be said starting at 7:00 p.m. A mass of Christian

Burial will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Avenue, Maryland at 10:00 a.m. with Father Stephen Wyble and Father Kevin Field officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens. Serving as pallbearers will be Jessica St. Clair, Robert Cheseldine, Maryann Chewning, Jim Pitman, Jay Jahn, and Mark Polo. Honorary pallbearers are Andrew Brown and Samuel Brown.

Donations may be made to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 221, 23190 Kay's Way, Avenue Maryland 20609 in her name.

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

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

Ricky Pilkerton, 66



Richard Steven Pilkerton "Ricky" "Pop Pop" 66 of Hollywood, MD passed away peacefully on August 17, 2023 at his home surrounded by his family.

Born May 8, 1957 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of William Archie Pilkerton, Jr and Mary Phyllis Pilkerton (Johnson). He graduated from Chopticon High School and was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County.

On May 26, 1979 Ricky married his beloved wife, Deborah "Debbie" Elizabeth Beavan and over 44 years they built a wonderful family together. In addition to his wife, Ricky is survived by his two sons, Randy Steven Pilkerton (Amanda) and Kevin Michael Pilkerton (Jaelyn). His grandchildren, Rhett Stanton Pilkerton and Reese Marie Pilkerton were the light of his life and he loved being their Pop Pop. He is also survived by his siblings Catherine Denise Finch (Edward) and Dale Eugene Pilkerton.

Ricky was employed by PEPCO/NRG/GENON for 40 years, starting as a Fuel and Ash Technician in March 1976 and worked his way up to Fuel and Ash Supervisor in November 1984. Upon retirement in July 2016, Ricky combined his love for work with his love for big machines while driving for Sloan Materials making deliveries in his favorite silver dump truck, Truck #18.

While Ricky was known for his hard work ethic, he was also known to play hard. He was a die-hard Baltimore Ravens and Orioles fan and could be heard 'cheering' on his teams throughout most of Hollywood. Ricky also loved the outdoors and could often be found cutting his grass, touring on his Harley, and boating the waters of the Chesapeake with Debbie as one of the 'Three Amigos'. He was the life of any party and could make any and everyone join his silly antics.

Ricky joined the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department in January 1974 and began his lifelong dedication to the volunteer fire service where he served as Lieutenant, Assistant Engineer and 22 years as Chief Engineer, his proudest accomplishment. During his service, he was awarded several awards to include Firefighter of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Top Responder,

Top Driver, Life Saving Award, and a Unit Citation. He chaired and held positions on multiple committees to include several new apparatus planning committees. He became a Lifetime Member in 1999 and was inducted into the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SMVFA) Hall of Fame in 2021. He was also well known for his role leading the set up and operations of the Ferris Wheel at the annual Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Carnival every summer since 1978.

Family will receive friends on Monday, August 28, 2023 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., with Fireman's prayers recited at 7:00 p.m., at Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, 24801 Three Notch Road, Hollywood, MD 20636. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Parish, 43927 St. Johns Road, Hollywood, MD 20636. Interment will follow at Our Lady's Catholic Church, 41410 Medley's Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be his nephews. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Hollywood, MD 20636, the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad, 43256 Rescue Lane, P.O. Box 79, Hollywood, MD 20636 and Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Joe Venango, 85

Joseph Charles Venango, 85, of Scotland, MD, passed away on August 7, 2023. He was predeceased by his parents Theodore and Margaret (nee Altomari) Venango, his sisters Edith (Frank) Troppello and Eleanor Venango. Also his grandson Dennis Gilbert.

He leaves behind his wife Catherine Venango. Their Children: Sharon Venango, Linda (Brady) Brandt, Joseph Venango, John (Stacie) Guenther, Doug (Julia) Guenther, and Bernadette (Michael) Clark. 12 Grandchildren and several great grandchildren. His brothers Theodore Venango and Robert (Fran) Venango. Also many loving Nieces and Nephews and extended Family.

Joe grew up in Philadelphia, PA where he was known for his ability to repair transmissions and any automotive problem. Joe was an avid boater and a member of the DRYL for many years. He retired to Maryland in 1994. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He loved being on or near the water. Joe never stopped

working on cars or boats. He always found a project to work on, even if he was just giving instructions.

A memorial service will be held on August 30, 2023 at Knights of Columbus.

16566 Three Notch Rd, Ridge, MD. Times are 11-2.

Please text (301) 904-3831 if you plan to attend as we are serving food.



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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.

Hippy 60's Chair Dancing

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Thursday, August 31, 2 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Hippy 60's Chair Dance combines timeless upbeat music with gentle, rhythmic movements to revitalize and lift your spirit while enhancing blood flow and mind-body coordination. Engaging movement sequences strengthen, tone, and stretch the body while being supported by a chair in seated and standing positions. This fun community connection begins with a warm-up, rejuvenates your mind, body, and spirit, and concludes with a centering cool down. CAUTION: This chair dance session activates JOY! Advance registration and payment are required.

Loffler Book Club - "A Gentleman in Moscow"

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Friday, September 01, 2 p.m.

In September, discuss "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles

Becca Newton leads a friendly discussion on the first Friday of every month—everyone's thoughts are appreciated. The Lexington Park Branch Library has been very helpful by holding several copies of the books for us. Contact Sheila.Graziano@stmaryscountymd.gov to learn more about

joining this casual group.

Art with Jamie

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Tuesdays, September 5 – 19, 10 a.m.
Cost: \$25 per session

In September we will be painting oil and acrylic on canvas. Theme – "Bob Ross Waterfalls". Join us for this colorful paint class where we will explore Bob Ross techniques as we paint one of his signature waterfalls. All materials included. Advanced registration and payment required.

All materials included. Advance registration and payment required.

"The Waterman's Widow"

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Wednesday, September 06, 2:30 p.m.
Cost: Free

Journalist Carol Booker will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Center to present her newest book, "The Waterman's Widow". Carol Booker is a Georgetown law grad and environmental and international broadcasting entities. She has savored the shores of Cove Point for the past 40 years, absorbing the wonders of the Chesapeake in all its glory.

Who killed Captain Littleton Condiff? The wife who slept by his side? A robber seeking a small fortune under his mattress?

Is a son desperate to escape the drudgery of his father's life as an oysterman? His apparently harmless mother-in-law? Perhaps a conspiracy of his wife, her mother, and their son? Into this tale of murder at the turn of the 20th century is woven the tale of the imprisonment and trial of Littleton's wife, Bessie; the history of his Chesapeake Bay fishing village, Solomons Island; the harsh life of a waterman; and the texture of daily life in turn-of-the-century Maryland. Advanced registration is required.

Art Pottery: Herb Bowl

Northern Senior Activity Center
Fridays, September 8 & 22, 10 a.m.
Cost: \$10

Pottery craftswoman, Pam King, will instruct how to craft a hand-built herb bowl! This is an absolute must in the kitchen if you often cook with herbs. The bowl will feature three different-sized holes to pull herbs through. This quickly strips leaves, making them ready to chop or toss in your favorite recipe.

Aromatherapy Workshops with Glori

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, September 12, 4 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Join Licensed Mental Health Therapist and Certified Professional Aromatherapy

Practitioner, Glori VanBrunt for some creative holistic fun! Advanced registration is required.

Learn how Aromatherapy can significantly reduce Stress and Anxiety by calming and relaxing the mind and body so you can get back to focusing on what's important in your day!

In this 60–90-minute workshop you will:

- Learn about the art and science of aromatherapy,
- The benefits of using aromatherapy for managing stress and anxiety,
- Sample several stress-busting essential oils,
- Choose your favorite oils based on your specific stress type and create a custom Stress Busting Aromatherapy blend to take home as an extra tool to help Lower stress and anxiety on the go!

Watercolor with T.L. Ford

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, September 12, 1:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25

Would you like to learn how to paint with watercolor on a smaller scale? Come join T.L. Ford of Cattail.Nu, LLC, as she teaches you the basics of watercolor painting in a relaxing, informal setting. In September the project will be a beach scene. No experience or drawing skills are necessary and everything you need is provided!

Advanced registration is required.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



St. Mary's County Library Closed for Labor Day

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day. All locations will be open regular business hours on Tuesday, September 5.

Your Library: eBooks and Online Resources

Interested in trying your libraries digital resources but don't know where to start? This class will show how to download eBooks, start accounts with Hoopla/Libby, and show our online resources at Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, September 5 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Introduction to Google Workspace

New to Google? Or would like to use Google for more than just searching? Then this is the class for you! Join us at Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, September 6 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Google features much more than just a search engine. Google Workspace includes Gmail, Google Drive, Google Calendar, and more! Learn how to use them to fully benefit from your Google account. Please bring your Gmail address, password, and cell phone. This class does not result in certification. Computer Skills needed for this class: Internet searching. Register on www.stmalib.org to reserve your spot and receive a reminder email. Walk-ins welcome as space allows.

When Dinosaurs Attack...: Preparedness Planning for the Unexpected

Did you know that September is both National Preparedness Month AND Velociraptor Awareness Month? Do you know how to be prepared for a velociraptor (or any other dinosaur) attack? Come & find out at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, September 9 from 2 - 4 p.m. While this program does have a fun twist to it, the skills you will learn are very real and geared towards Adults. You will leave with a good sense of how to get started on your own preparedness plans and resources to guide you in your journey to disaster-readiness. We will discuss things like escape plans, disaster kits and go-bags, first aid, and much more to

help you, whether you're preparing for a triceratops stampede or a tornado. 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 at Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, September 12 from 5:30 - 7 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 Maker-space. Register on www.stmalib.org.

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Sat, Aug 26

First Missionary Baptist Church 2023 Women's Conference

First Missionary Baptist Church
46370 Pegg Lane, Lexington Park
8 a.m. to Noon

You are cordially invited to join us!

First Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Roderick W. McClanahan, will host its 2023 Women's Conference on August 26, 2023, 8:00am – 12noon. Our Guest Facilitator will be Pastor Cynthia Thompson, To Tell the Truth Ministries, Great Mills, MD and the Guest Speaker is Rev. Gloria Savoy, Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Welcome, MD.

The conference will be held both In-House and Virtually. The virtual phone number is 617-691-8533 or virtual meeting ID: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/fmbc0>. On site registration, cost \$25.00. Masks are optional, temperatures will be

taken upon entry, and hand sanitizer will be available.

For additional information please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388, and we are located at 46370 Pegg Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

Calvert County Jousting Tournament

Christ Church
3100 Broomes Island Rd, Port Republic
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Historic Christ Church in Port Republic hosts the 156th Calvert County Jousting Tournament and Bazaar. In one day, in one location, travel back in time to the family friendly simple pleasures of yesteryear. In the morning, enjoy the delights of the church bazaar (including a children's corner), savor a hot dog, fresh lemonade, and a snow cone, and take home homemade baked goods and preserves. At noon jousting begins as riders attempt to spear rings as little as 1/4" from a running horse. In the afternoon, cool

off in the historic Christ Church for soothing organ recitals. Top off your day with a traditional church supper, or take it boxed and ready to go, featuring homemade fare of deviled crab, fried chicken, ham (choice of two) potato salad, apple sauce, and more. Bazaar is 10am—2pm, organ recitals 1pm-4pm, country supper 2pm-6pm, boxed suppers 12pm-6pm, and historic One Room Schoolhouse open 10am-2pm. Admission free except supper. For further information: email info@christchurchcalvert.org or 410-586-0565. www.christchurchcalvert.org

Sun, Aug 27

Songs of the Road: "A Song of Blessing and Serving"

Patuxent Presbyterian Church,
23421 Kingston Creek Rd, California
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

This summer, we're exploring the Psalms

during the "Songs for the Road" sermon series. We would love for you to join us for 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship!

In your daily personal Scripture reading habits, check out this 60-Day Bible Reading Plan: www.paxpres.com/60dayspsalms.

To learn more about our church, please visit: www.paxpres.com.

Designer Purse Bingo

Mechanicsville VFD
28165 Hills Club Rd, Mechanicsville
12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Come join us for an afternoon of bingo fun filled with chances to win designer purses, raffles, door prizes and more!

Benefit to raise money for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Hosted by the Southern Maryland Boot Scooters.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase

Tickets \$40 and must be purchased in advance.



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2nd Annual Sidewalk Art Contest

3 PM - 7:30 PM
On the Water's Edge Concert
featuring Phillip Michael Parsons

8 PM - 8:30 PM
Fireworks Spectacular

Visit LeonardtowntoMD.com/10thAnniversary

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Russian painter
6. Very fast jet
9. Phillipine municipality
13. Intestinal
14. Small freshwater fish
15. Algerian coastal city
16. Vomit
17. Famed astronomer
18. Ghanaian currency
19. Improved the condition of
21. Int'l association of interpreters
22. Infections
23. Dish made with lentils
24. Thou
25. Former CIA
28. Unit used to compare power levels
29. Members of Pueblo people
31. Myanmar monetary units
33. Polished
36. Signed a contract
38. Nothing
39. Once-ubiquitous department store
41. Neural structures
44. Thick piece of something
45. Slang for trucks with trailers
46. Longing
48. Senior officer
49. Levels of frequency
51. Bird's beak
52. Move rapidly downwards
54. Koran chapters
56. Stretches out
60. Top of the human body
61. A Chinese temple and Indian town are two
62. Fertility god
63. Sea eagle
64. Dry
65. Zodiac sign
66. "Horizon Call of the Mountain" character
67. Have the ability to
68. Take somewhere

CLUES DOWN

1. "Iron Man" actress Leslie
2. Wings
3. Adjust the spacing
4. They're usually locked
5. Atomic #43
6. Wise individuals
7. Horse mackerel
8. Pearl Jam's debut album
9. Confines
10. Colorless crystalline compound
11. Unsatisfactorily
12. Plant of the parsley family
14. Determines time
17. Causes the birth of
20. Small ornament on a watch chain
21. Richly decorated cloth tapestry
23. Vito Corleone was one
25. Igbo musical instrument
26. Put in harmony
27. Japanese alcoholic drinks
29. Tinseltown
30. Closes tightly
32. Songs sung to one's lover
34. One thousandth of an inch
35. Small drink of whiskey
37. Political divisions in ancient Greece
40. Helps little firms
42. Baby's eating accessory
43. Very long periods of time
47. Small block of wood
49. Town in Surrey, England
50. Enquiry
52. Murdered
53. Bura-__: Chadic language
55. Crater on Mars
56. Mammal genus
57. Sock
58. Make
59. Stony waste matter
61. Partner to cheese
65. Pound

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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6	8	7	3	5	2	4	1	9
1	4	3	9	8	7	5	2	6
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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, Aug 25

Bad Art Night

Annemarie Sculpture Garden
5-8 p.m.

It's an outrageous night of BAD ART MAKING at Annmarie Garden. Adults-only are invited to be inspired by the works in our galleries, then undertake some unconventional and unorthodox art-making. We'll have all the supplies you'll need to have at it. Finished artwork will be displayed for all and then cast your vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes will be awarded! It's a great night to let loose, get "creative", and have some fun!

Cash bar, bad snacks and lively music will add to the fun. Grab a friend, come with a group, or just come alone and meet new people and join the fun. \$7/person, members free. Must be 21. Reservations not required, just come. Details here: www.annmarie-garden.org

Sat, Aug 26

156th Annual Calvert County Jousting Tournament

Christ Church
3100 Broomes Island Rd, Port Republic
10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

In one day, in one location, travel back in time to the family friendly simple pleasures of yesteryear. In the morning, enjoy the delights of the church bazaar. Browse the attic treasures, peruse gentle-used books, visit the children's corner for face painting, savor a hot dog, fresh lemonade, and a snow cone, and take home homemade baked goods and preserves. At noon head to the jousting field to cheer on Sir Knight and Fair Lady as they spear rings as small as 1/4" on running horses. In the afternoon, cool off in the historic Christ Church for soothing organ recitals. Top off your day with a traditional church supper in our air-conditioned parish hall, or take it boxed and ready to go, featuring homemade fare of deviled crab, fried chicken, ham (choice of two), potato salad, apple sauce, and more.

Admission free except supper. Adults \$28 (includes crab), Children (without crab) ages

6-12 \$12, Children 5 and under no charge.
<https://www.christchurchcalvert.org/156th-jousting-tournament-and-bazaar/>

Mon, Aug 28

Money Matters: Skill Builders - Technology Workshop

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-12 p.m. & 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Learn about internet tools to help you budget and manage your finances and how you can save money on prescriptions, entertainment, and more! This course is much more than budgeting! By the end of this course, you will also know how to shop online to find the best deals, search for flights and hotels on the internet, access movies and music, and earn extra income. Laptops will be provided for those who register online before the event, but cannot be guaranteed for those who decide to drop in. Please call the library at 410-535-0291 or email James at james.angle@calvertlibrary.info for any questions. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

Ongoing

Clear the Shelter

Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter
5055 Hallowing Point Rd, Prince Frederick
Month of August

The shelter will waive adoption fees for adoptable animals during this campaign, made possible through a collaborative effort between Friends of the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and the Board of County Commissioners. Regular adoption procedures still apply during the event.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter is an open admission animal shelter managed by the Animal Shelter Division of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety. Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an intake appointment, call 410-535-7387. Animals of all ages are available for adoption, including dogs, cats, rabbits, roosters, pigs and more. For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter visit www.CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.com.

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of August 7– August 13, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,593 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-55846

On August 7, 2023, DFC Sturdivant responded to the 1700 block of Holland Cliffs Road in Huntingtown, for the report of a burglary that had already occurred. The complainant advised sometime between Aug. 2 and Aug. 7, an unknown suspect(s) pried the victim's front door open and damaged the door frame. Nothing appears to have been missing and no other damage was found. The estimated value of damaged property is \$300.00.

Damaged Property: 23-55753

On August 7, 2023, responded to the area of Parran Road and Bond Street in St. Leonard, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised sometime between Aug. 4 and Aug. 7, an unknown suspect(s) broke out the rear window of the victim's vehicle and deflated all four tires. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,000.00.

Damaged Property: 23-55868

On August 7, 2023, M/DFC Aurich responded to the Harris Teeter located at 10125 Ward Road in Dunkirk, for the reported theft from auto. The complainant advised sometime between 7:17 p.m. and 8:43 p.m., unknown suspects smashed out the passenger side window, broke the steering column, and removed the ignition switch on the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of damaged/stolen property is unknown at this time.

Damaged Property: 23-56186

On August 9, 2023, DFC Newton responded to the 9600 block of Courtland Drive in Dunkirk, for the reported theft from a vehicle. The complainant reported an unknown suspect broke into the victim's vehicle and ripped out the plastic underneath the dash. Investigation revealed the ignition had been "ripped" out in an attempt to start and steal the vehicle. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,000.00.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 23-55750

On August 8, 2023, DFC McCourt responded to the 1600 block of Parran Road in St. Leonard, for the reported motor vehicle theft.

Contact was made with the complainant who advised his Ford F-150 had been stolen from outside the victim's residence. A search of the area was conducted, and DFC Anderson located the stolen vehicle in the back corner of a field hidden in the wood line. Investigation revealed the victim's wallet, \$400 in cash, and multiple credit cards were also stolen. The investigation is ongoing.

Theft: 23-56795

On August 11, 2023, Dep. Bowen responded to the 2000 block of Timberneck Drive in Owings, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised approximately \$1,500 worth of tools were stolen from the back of the victim's work truck (battery drill, impact set, band saw, stand up light, hammer drill vacuum, work lamp, 6 pack charger, and battery vacuum cleaner). The victim also stated \$300 in personal tools were stolen from his driveway (battery drill, ratchet set, battery grinder, grease gun, air compressor, etc.) The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,800.00.

Theft: 23-56718

On August 11, 2023, Deputy Dawson responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his son's black and red Nintendo Switch was stolen from the Chesapeake Beach community Center located at 4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., during summer camp. The estimated value of stolen property is \$300.00.

Theft: 23-56666

On August 11, 2023, Deputy Smith responded to the 7-Eleven located at 685 Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a tall black male entered the store, went behind the counter, and grabbed multiple VUSE Alto products and ran out of the store without paying for the merchandise. The suspect fled on foot in an unknown direction. The estimated value of stolen property is \$590.76.

ARRESTS

On August 7, 2023, DFC Kwitowski responded to the 11500 block of HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for report of a hit and run automobile accident with injury. The complainant advised a silver sedan collided with the victim's vehicle causing



Xavier James Holloway

heavy front-end damage then left the area. Moments later, the driver of the suspect vehicle, **Xavier James Holloway**, 19 of Lusby, arrived at the accident scene and advised he was driving the silver Nissan that struck the victim's vehicle. Holloway advised he initially left the area because he did not want to pay for the victim's vehicle to be towed. Holloway was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Failure to Remain at the Scene of an Accident Involving Attended Vehicle Damage and Failure to Immediately Return and Remain at Scene of an Accident Involving Bodily Injury.



Rochelle Shanekia Dowansingh

female was observed placing items into her bags. Contact was made with **Rochelle Shanekia Dowansingh**, 35 of Queens, NY, as she exited the store. Dowansingh was asked to produce a receipt for her items. Dowansingh showed Dep. Aley a receipt for 2 bottles of hair products and advised she did not steal anything from the store. After reviewing store surveillance, Dowansingh was observed placing two Tree Hut products (Colada and pineapple foaming gel wash) in her white bag under her backpack. Dowansingh then admitted to stealing the products. Dowansingh was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Theft: Less than \$100 and trespassed indefinitely from the store.

On August 8, 2023, Deputy Daily responded to the Calvert County Detention Center located at 325 Stafford Rd. in Barstow, for the report of an inmate having contraband. Investigation revealed **Gino**



Gino Jacquesz Williams

Jacquesz Williams, 22 of Washington D.C., grabbed a broom, broke the handle in half and utilized the sharp end of the broom as a weapon. Williams began swinging the weapon around yelling for deputies to come get him. The Emergency Response Team made entry into William's cell block took Williams into custody. A search of William's person revealed a plastic bag containing 2 grams of suspected marijuana. Williams was charged with Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement and Possession of a Weapon While Confined/ Detained.



Robert Allen Rice

On August 10, 2023, DFC Crum responded to Joann Fabrics & Crafts located at 521 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for a reported indecent exposure. The complainant advised a white male was sitting on a bench outside the store with his privates out as people were passing by in their vehicles. The male was also observed urinating as he was sitting down. Contact was made with **Robert Allen Rice**, 57 of no fixed address. Rice had been previously been trespassed indefinitely from that location. Rice was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property and Indecent Exposure.

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

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



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Huntingtown Man Sentenced for Dog Fighting

Edward Stanley Williams, 54, of Huntingtown, was sentenced on Aug. 17 to four years of active imprisonment for his role in a dogfighting operation.

Williams was also ordered to pay \$26,693 in restitution to the Calvert County Government. The sentence was imposed by Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee.

In May, Williams entered a guilty plea to four counts of felony dogfighting and 1 count of unlawful possession of a firearm. A joint investigation conducted by the Calvert County Animal Control and Calvert County Sheriff's Office revealed that Williams maintained twelve American Pitbull Terrier type dogs at a property in Huntingtown. Several of the dogs had injuries and scarring consistent with having been used in a dogfight. Numerous implements of dogfighting were also located at the property including weighted collars, breeding stands, break sticks, and assorted medications.

Investigators also recovered photographs, videotapes, and documents memorializing recent and past dogfighting activities.



Edward Stanley Williams, 54, of Huntingtown

Following his release, Williams will be placed on a five-year term of probation at which time he is prohibited from possessing, residing with, or owning any dogs. A violation of that probation could result in the imposition of an additional 13 years of incarceration.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney.

One Dead, One Injured in Bay Boat Collision

Mishap Occurred Off Breezy Point

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A collision between two boats late the evening of Aug. 19 has left one person dead and another injured. The collision occurred in the Chesapeake Bay about two-and-a-half miles off Breezy Point.

The North Beach Volunteer Fire Department (NBVD) reports, "At 2140 hours (9:40 p.m.) on Saturday, August 19, 2023, Calvert County Emergency Operations Center alerted the North Beach VFD, St. Leonard VFD, Anne Arundel FD, Huntingtown VFD, Calvert County EMS, Maryland DNR, and Calvert County Sheriff for a boat collision with injuries approximately 2.25 miles off Breezy Point.

"NBVD Boat 1 arrived to find two boats that had collided. Two people were injured, with one of the injured in cardiac arrest.

"The crew from Boat 1, assisted by occupants of the other boats, transferred the injured to Boat 1, where CPR was continued.

"Boat 1 transported both patients to Boat

1's slip where care was transferred to Calvert County EMS, NBVD, and HVFD providers.

"One of the patients was transported to Capitol Regional Hospital by HVFD Ambulance 69 with potentially life-threatening injuries. Unfortunately, the patient in cardiac arrest succumbed to injuries."

The investigation was handed over to Maryland Natural Resources Police which has so far provided no additional information, other than the injured person was transported to CalvertHealth Medical Center and is not in critical condition.

A spokesperson for MD DNR Police said the name of the deceased is not being released at the request of the family, an unusual decision since such information is normally made available to the public by police agencies in the interest of full public disclosure. They also were unable to supply the deceased person's place of residence or sex.

Spokesperson Gregg Bortz said the investigation into the accident is ongoing.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Sheriff's Office Says 'Heads Up' for Buses



Here's a safety reminder for sharing the roads with buses:

When a school bus prepares to stop for children, it will alert drivers via flashing yellow lights. Drivers should use extreme caution, slowing with the bus and preparing to stop, as children may enter the roadway unexpectedly. Once the bus is stopped, it will extend a stop signal, or stop-arm, and the flashing lights will change to red — requiring all drivers to stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus. During this period, children will be getting on or off the bus. Drivers must come to a complete stop if any of the following are true:

A driver is traveling the same direction as the school bus. This is true whether the road has one lane, multiple lanes, or a cen-

tral turning lane.

A driver is traveling in the opposite direction and the road does NOT have a dirt, grass, or barrier median. In other words, if there is no physical median, you must stop even if the bus is on the other side of the road. (Note: In some states, you must stop for school buses even on a divided highway.)

Remember, drivers must stop at least 20 feet from the bus, regardless of which direction they're approaching. They must not attempt to pass by the bus until the stop signal and flashing lights are off and the bus is in motion once again. Violation of these laws incurs a \$250 fine if caught on camera, and up to \$570 and a three-point penalty on a driver's license if stopped by a police officer

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Tradition Lives on at 156th Jousting Tournament

Port Republic Church Hosts Historic Event

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Jousting, Maryland's State Sport, is all about tradition. So, it's only fitting that one of jousting's premier venues is at historic Christ Church in Port Republic, which itself recently celebrated its 350th anniversary. Their 156th annual jousting tournament is Saturday, Aug. 26.

In ring jousting, riders compete as novices, amateurs, semi-pros, or professionals. The object is to "spear" – from horseback – three rings hung from three successive arches 30 yards apart, including a 20-yard approach to the first arch. Every rider (except in the novice class), must travel the course in nine seconds or less. Each rider makes three charges, seeking a perfect score of nine rings taken. Rings vary in diameter from 1-3/4 inch to 1/4 inch, with successively smaller sizes used to settle ties.

According to the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association, "Jousting is the oldest equestrian sport in the world. During the Middle Ages it was a form of waging war, but with the invention of gunpowder, the art of jousting a man bodily from his horse, became outmoded as a battle strategy. The tournament field became a place of 'sport,' and the knights turned their lances to the more sophisticated, skillful task of spearing small metal rings. Jousting became a civilized game of keen horsemanship, skill and sportsmanship with the development of The Ring Tournaments."

The association reports, "When the second Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert, founded the original colony of Maryland on the shores of St. Mary's County in 1634, jousting had been performed for many years and jousting tournaments soon became a favorite pastime of the early settlers. This sport has survived wars and flourished in times of peace and tranquility in the state."

The sport has evolved over the last 100 years from private contests of skill, to affairs organized to raise funds for Civil War monuments and to public competitions aiding civic and church organizations.

Paralleling the change, the tournament association says, "has been a growth in popularity of a sport once participated in only by the 'landed gentry' to one now enjoyed by suburbanites, city dwellers and rural landowners alike."

"Jousting is a unique sport," the association says. "It combines a heritage of medieval costuming, traditions and pageantry with a modern, skillful technique that is challenging and adaptable to the interests of modern youth. It is a family sport in which all members, young and old, male or female can par-



ticipate. The same set of rules prevail for all. There is no commercialism involved, no pari-mutual betting, no scholarships offered, professional advertising nor gimmicks."

During the 1962 session of the Maryland General Assembly, The Honorable Henry J. Fowler, member of The Maryland House of Delegates from St. Mary's County, introduced a bill to establish Jousting as the Official State Sport of Maryland. This bill passed both houses by an overwhelming vote and on June 1, 1962 Governor J. Millard Tawes signed it into law. Thus Maryland became the only state with an officially recognized State Sport."

The 156th Annual Calvert County Jousting Tournament is at Christ Church, 3100 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic. The event runs from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. with the jousting beginning at noon following opening pageantry.

Richard Dodd is handling publicity this year for the church, taking over from longtime publicity chairman Peter Cochran.

Dodd said, "It's of course very much a family event. It appeals to a wide range, but families in particular. I think it's a type of event that we're starting to see less and less of now in society. It's just a good old-fashioned gathering, good times and just a family fun type of event."

And it all takes place in one day at one location. According to Dodd, "In the morning, enjoy the delights of the church bazaar. Browse the attic treasures, peruse gentle-used books, visit the children's corner for face painting, savor a hot dog, fresh lemonade, and a snow cone, and take home homemade, baked goods and preserves."

The jousting tournament starts at noon. Dodd said, "In the afternoon, cool off in the historic Christ Church for soothing organ recitals. Top off your day with a traditional church supper in our air-conditioned parish hall, or take it boxed and ready to go, fea-

turing homemade fare of deviled crab, fried chicken, ham (choice of two), potato salad, apple sauce, and more."

The historic Port Republic One Room School on the church grounds will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dodd said, "It's sort of an open house. The public is invited to come into the school. Normally it's not open to the public except for special events."

Of the day, Dodd said, "It is a big tradition with the church. It is the largest event we have where we open up to the people far and wide. It used to be traditionally a homecoming tournament, that is people would come back from college or from

moving away, and they'd come back to the tournament, an opportunity to meet friends, to meet people you hadn't seen for a long time. So, it's a great activity for us. We have tons of people pulling together, active members of the church and church friends to put this together. And, it is course, a fundraising event for the church, because all the proceeds go towards the church and its activities."

Parking is available off Broomes Island Road near the church and the jousting field. Dodd said, "We have dedicated handicapped parking in the front of the church immediately when you come down Broomes Island Road. And then, in the fields south of there, there's the general parking of people and because of the distances involved, whether you are handicapped or not, we do have golf carts available, and they'll be running during the daytime, picking people up, dropping people off."

The annual event is 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission free except the supper which is adults \$28 (includes crab), children (without crab) ages 6-12, \$12. Children 5 and under, no charge.

For more information go to <https://www.christchurchcalvert.org/156th-jousting-tournament-and-bazaar/>

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Preparations Underway for First Day of School

Calvert Schools Commence on August 28

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines. Contract school buses and their drivers all over Calvert County will be set to roll to their designated routes early Monday morning, Aug. 28. And parents will have studied bus schedules and prepared to send students to their appointed bus stops at their appointed times. Students old enough to drive are anticipating gathering again with their friends. And parents who will be transporting their children to school will be prepared for a long queue once again in front of school to get to that elusive entrance.

New teachers will have had their orientation and staff will have had their pre-school meetings.

The 2023-2024 school year, like baseball opening day, will be once again in the first inning of a 180-day season.

The County Times posed some questions to Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) Chief Academic Officer Dr. Susan Johnson the week before school opening:

County Times: What should parents know about opening day and what advice would you give them.

Dr. Johnson: Opening Day for students should be an exciting day for families and our students. Parents should be assured that our staff will take good care of their children. Our school system has been working all summer to ensure that we are prepared to receive our students. District office employees prepare facilities, technology, curriculum, and staffing, and school administrators prepare schedules, classes, and support staff in understanding their new students. While we are prepared, we ask parents to be patient. Sometimes a new staff member may not know and understand certain ideas, a driver may miss a stop, and in some cases, we may be using substitute staff until all positions are filled. Parents should cherish the first day! If students will be riding the bus, have them ride on day one. This helps students establish their daily routine. For our high school drivers, we recommend that they plan to arrive to school early to avoid potential traffic delays. Remember, CCPS will take care of our students. They will be

picked up by our friendly bus drivers, welcomed at the school, and delivered safely home. Our staff is looking forward to meeting our students and learning more about them so that each student becomes a full member of the school community and valued for their uniqueness.

County Times: Any new academic programs this year or changes in curriculum?

Dr. Johnson: Yes, we are excited about a new opportunity for our high school seniors. CCPS and the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) have partnered to launch a tuition-free early start to higher education by offering Early College for rising high school seniors. We have 17 high school seniors in this pilot program for the 2023-24 academic year. Accepted students are enrolled in both CSM and their high school during their senior year and will attend class in person at the Prince Frederick Campus. The Early College opportunity allows students to work toward a 25-credit General Studies certification program to complete transferable college credits and their high school diploma requirements at the same time. Classes will be offered in 15-week sessions.

Calvert County will continue to focus on the Maryland College and Career Standards. Our supervisors, specialists, and teacher representatives review curriculum resources throughout the summer to ensure there is alignment to those standards. Teachers use our curriculum to engage students in authentic learning, allow for student discourse, and require students to write about their thinking. Calvert County uses the Science of Reading to deliver reading instruction for our students. We are seeing tremendous gains in our students' skills. Information regarding curriculum can be found online at: Instruction - Calvert County Public School District (calvertnet.k12.md.us) and Educational Planning Guides - Calvert County Public School District (calvertnet.k12.md.us).

County Times: What is the testing regimen this year?

Dr. Johnson: Our assessment process is similar this year as last year. In elementary schools, parents will hear about iReady assessments. These assessments replace the NWEA MAP assessment at

the elementary level. A full complement of system assessments can be found online at: CCPS Bridge to Excellence Assessment Information (finalsite.net). Teachers will continue to deliver classroom, local, state, and national assessments. Second and seventh graders will take the CogAT as one measure to assess eligibility for Gifted and Talented Education. This year, Calvert County will not pay for the SAT School Day test. We will continue to provide the PSAT. High School students will register for AP courses this fall, and thanks to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Calvert County will be picking up the cost for those assessments.

County Times: Is the school system continuing its efforts to help students who fell behind during the pandemic?

Dr. Johnson: Absolutely. Each year, our teachers use classroom and local assessments to determine what students know and what gaps may exist. Teachers use acceleration strategies such as building background knowledge, previewing, scaffolding, and differentiated instruction to help fill those gaps in learning, so that students can access the grade-level standards. Tutoring and Saturday School options will be available at the schools. Parents should contact the school principals to find out more information. CCPS offered summer school for all levels last summer and summer school will be provided again next summer as well.

County Times: Do you encourage parental volunteerism and how can that be manifested?

Dr. Johnson: Yes, parents are critical to student and school success. I encourage parents to contact their school Parent Teacher Organization to find out more about volunteer opportunities. You can apply to be a volunteer by going to the Calvert County Public Schools Website to complete the application process and access training information online at: Become a Volunteer - Calvert County Public School District (calvertnet.k12.md.us). I also encourage all parents to stay involved, use Home Access Center (HAC), attend school conferences, and reach out to teachers regularly. Parent/school connections are critically important to overall student success.

County Times: Do you still get excited



Dr. Susan Johnson

about school opening day?

Dr. Johnson: Oh my goodness, yes! When our staff arrived this past Monday, you could feel the excitement at our opening meetings. I am excited for our kids and for our staff. I enjoy being in the schools to see the kids learning and to have conversations with staff about their work. Education is unique in that we can start anew every August. The work that schools do is incredibly important to our communities.

County Times: Anything else you want to add?

Dr. Johnson: To help reduce anxiety for students and provide time for families to meet with their child's teacher, our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will have a staggered start this school year. This means that during August 29th and 30th, individual families will conference with the teacher. Families will be asked to sign up for a time slot. Parents/guardians will receive an email from their child's teacher. About half of the class will attend school on Thursday, August 31st and the other half will attend on Friday, September 1st. Teachers will share the assigned day at the conference. All Kindergarteners and Pre-Kindergartners will attend school on Tuesday, September 5th.

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“IT’S OF COURSE VERY MUCH A FAMILY EVENT.”

RICHARD DODD, PUBLICITY CHAIR OF THE 156TH CALVERT COUNTY JOUSTING TOURNAMENT AT CHRIST CHURCH, PORT REPUBLIC



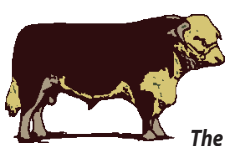
LOCAL 6
Port Republic to host annual jousting tournament



LOCAL 7
Man sentenced for dogfighting



ON THE COVER
Students head back to the classroom



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MON, AUG 28 AM Showers Hi: 79° Lo: 69°	TUE, AUG 29 Scattered Storms Hi: 80° Lo: 67°	WED, AUG 30 Scattered Storms Hi: 79° Lo: 63°	THU, AUG 31 Mostly Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 61°

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Saturday, September 16, 2023
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Proceeds from Reelin' for a Cause will support the advancement of cancer care at CalvertHealth, including the development of a robotic surgery program and our continued affiliation with Duke Health. Duke Health is a national leader in cancer care that will open doors to clinical trials and research for local patients close to home.

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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023

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