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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

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“HIS POLICIES AREN'T POPULAR DOWN HERE BECAUSE THEY DON'T WORK.”

DEL. MATT MORGAN ON GOV. WES MOORE'S PENDING VISIT.



LOCAL 9
GMHS fight riles parents



LOCAL 9
Last of the county's free computers to be given away Saturday



ON THE COVER
Gov. Wes Moore plans St. Mary's visit

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, DEC 7</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 50° Lo: 34°</p>	<p>FRI, DEC 8</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 39°</p>	<p>SAT, DEC 9</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 60° Lo: 49°</p>	<p>SUN, DEC 10</p> <p>Rain Hi: 66° Lo: 39°</p>
<p>MON, DEC 11</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 47° Lo: 31°</p>	<p>TUE, DEC 12</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 48° Lo: 33°</p>	<p>WED, DEC 13</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 51° Lo: 33°</p>	<p>THU, DEC 14</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 45° Lo: 30°</p>

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Leaders Want to Educate Governor on St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Gov. Wes Moore is scheduled to visit the Mother County Dec. 11, his second such visit since his inauguration and local leaders want to make the most of his coming here.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said Moore's time here next Monday will be limited, with conversations between the governor and the commissioners, a visit to the county health department as well as a stop at the Tobacco Barn Distillery in Mechanicsville.

"He's the governor and we definitely want him to see St. Mary's County," Colvin told The County Times. "We've had some discussions around his time with us."

Colvin said leaders here want to discuss the challenges that St. Mary's faces, especially with transportation issues.

"Mainly that's going to be the Solomons [Gov. Thomas Johnson] Bridge," Colvin said. "We've seen where there are more requests by his administration to make more cuts to the state's transportation projects."

"We're already underfunded."

Dr. Meena Brewster, the county's Chief Health Officer, was looking forward to the governor's visit.

"We are thrilled to welcome Governor Moore to St. Mary's County next Monday and look forward to his attendance at a private event showcasing our School-Based Health Centers," Brewster said. "This visit provides an invaluable opportunity to spotlight our achievements, share our vision for the future of the health department and public health in Maryland, and reinforce our dedication to advancing the well-being of our community."

"I look forward to engaging in a meaningful dialogue with the governor."

The GOP-majority county voted overwhelmingly against Moore, a Democrat,



Governor Moore greets a resident of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on a recent visit.

in his bid for governor and it remains far outside the circles of influence and power in Annapolis.

Still, Moore has pledged that his administration would "leave no Marylander behind" in its application of resources around the state.

One of the first actions Moore took as governor was to revoke the contract held by the long-time nursing and medical care provider at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for its substandard Medicare ratings and allegations of abuse and neglect against the patients residing there.

Moore's administration has brought on a new provider, South Carolina-based Pruitt Health, to begin the process of restoring proper care there.

Anthony Woods, state secretary of Veterans Affairs, has said progress there is slow and steady, but it will take years to bring the facility, which is home to more than 200 veterans, back to a top-tier

Medicare rating.

Moore attended Thanksgiving celebrations at the veterans home and helped serve dinner and visit with the residents.

Apparently, a visit to Patuxent River Naval Air Station, the county's main economic driver and one of the most important military installations in the nation, is not on the governor's itinerary, Colvin said.

The Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), which calls the base home, does approximately \$40 billion in defense acquisitions each year while other tenant commands and program offices research, develop, test and evaluate naval aviation technologies and aircraft before use in the fleet.

The navy's Test Pilot School is also based there.

"I would love to be able to do that [take Moore on the base]," Colvin said. "But I don't think he has the time."

"I'll consider this meeting successful if the

governor comes away with a better understanding of the importance of St. Mary's County and what it does for the state."

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) said the commissioners should use the opportunity to ask Moore about the increase in crime that is proving to be a growing problem.

"That's becoming a bigger problem, even for us in St. Mary's County," Morgan said. "And then there are budgeting concerns like education [the Blueprint for Education]"

"How are we going to pay for that?"

Morgan said there are any number of questions that commissioners could and should ask.

"They can also ask if the governor drove down in an electric vehicle," Morgan said.

Moore has set a stringent goal for the state to move to no more gas-powered cars being sold here in the next few years; St. Mary's will also soon be constrained to buy only electric powered school buses.

Morgan said that many of Moore's policies are unpopular, sometimes deeply so, in St. Mary's, which is politically deep red.

"There are a lot of questions they could ask him, but I'm sure they'll ask him for a wish list of projects," Morgan said. "They should ask him about being forced into some of the environmental requirements that aren't popular in this area or even sustainable right now."

Morgan said the commissioners should take the time to confront the governor on some of those unpopular policies.

"They have the chance to tell him exactly why he lost this county," Morgan said. "His policies aren't popular down here because they don't work."

"I don't think they'll take the time to do that but they should."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's College Alumni Gives Back with Largest Ever Donation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

R. Scott Raspa, an alumni of St. Mary's College of Maryland, said he wants to give back to the institution that has given him so much.

Having made his fortune in the high technology industry working for companies such as Oracle and IBM as a sales executive and creating software and hardware solutions for years, he and his husband have decided to gift the college \$4 million in their estate planning.

It's the largest such gift in the college's history.

The money is there, Raspa told The County Times, and is waiting for his passing to go to his alma mater.

He and his spouse, John M. Staples, designated a total of \$4 million between the endowment and the R. Scott Raspa and John M. Staples Scholarship Endowed Fund.

"It'll always be there for St. Mary's College," Raspa said, noting that the money had a special purpose.

When he went to the college decades ago he was specializing in mathematics and computer science on campus but quickly got opportunities to use his training in a practical setting at the Naval Air Test Center (NATC) at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

It was the 1980s, he said, he found himself working in the field of aviation technology. "I'm the product of experiential training," Raspa said, adding that he got college credit while working at NATC.

This led him to work at world-reaching, international companies that are still technology giants.

"It was a huge step for me working for me, working with the big boys at IBM," said Raspa.

His contribution to the college will help it continue its LEAD program, which aims to essentially replicate the type of experience Raspa had, a liberal arts education paired with practical, marketable experience to make them ready for the job market upon graduation.

The program is a signature piece of the reforms brought to the institution by Dr.

Tuajuanda Jordan, college president.

"We're trying to make that door open for everyone," Raspa said. "They'll be winners if they get that opportunity." Liberal arts colleges sometimes face the criticism of producing students who lack practical skills; Raspa disagrees, saying that technically skilled students often times are not as skilled in dealing with others or with coming up with creative ideas in business.

"Technical people without the liberal arts balancing things out are the ones who couldn't conceptualize or see the big picture," said Raspa of his business experiences.

The college's LEAD program aims to find that balance, Raspa said, which is why he supports it so strongly.

"I think it will help our college be the college of choice," he said.

In September 2020, Raspa began his term with the SMCM Foundation Board of Directors and currently serves as treasurer. He is also a member of the LEAD Campaign Steering Committee.

Raspa lives in Arlington, Virginia, but hails from St. Mary's County. He has



R. Scott Raspa

two alumni siblings, Joseph A. Raspa '84 (deceased) and Anthony E. Raspa '92. Both his mother, Myra S. Raspa who also received her degree from the College in 1986, and his father, Salvatore Raspa, EdDm who also served as the chair of the St. Mary's County Board of Education, are lifelong educators.

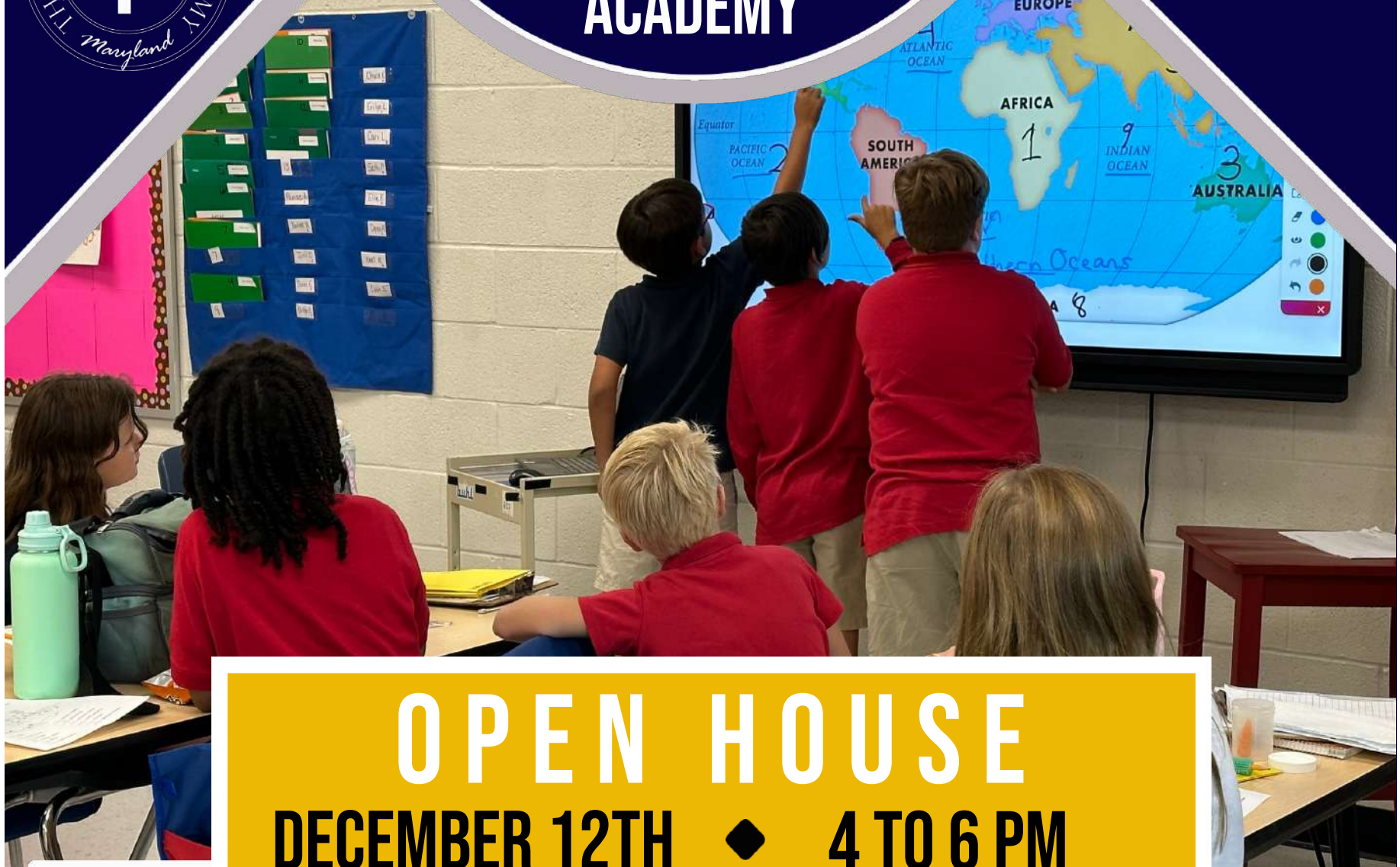
He is also a product of the St. Mary's Public School System.

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School Enrollment Down Slightly

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

More parents are homeschooling their children in St. Mary's County, school system staff reported to the county board of education last week and that means that the system will continue to see near stagnant funding from the state.

"For the last decade... we've had very consistent enrollment," said Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith at the Nov. 29 school board meeting. "Home instruction is up by about 400 students."

The projected 2024 enrollment in public schools is 16,698; this year's is 16,853.

In 2022 the school enrollment was 16,714; the 10-year high was in 2020 with 17,137 students.

"We have a really stable [student] population," Smith said. "Unfortunately, it doesn't lead to any kind of increase in funding."

The question of where students went due to declining enrollment was one Smith said

he was often asked.

"Well, they went home," Smith said. "Parents are making decisions to educate their children at home."

The school system was expected to get an increase in funding from the state by just 1.7 percent, Smith said, for next fiscal year.

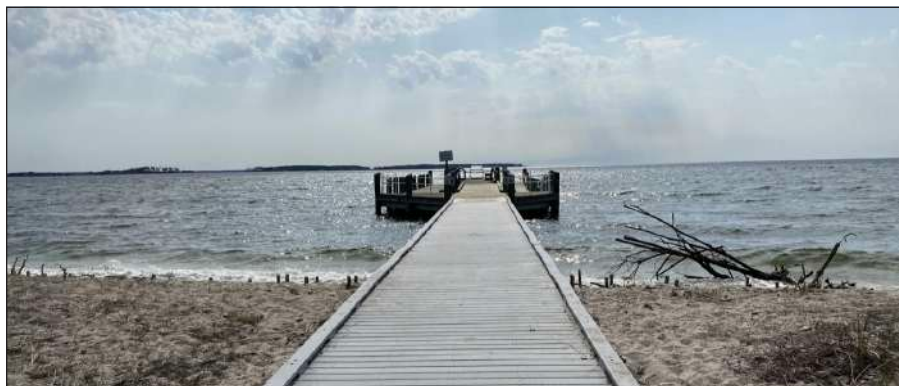
"I don't know about you but I look around the world around us and it seems like things are a little more than 1.7 percent more expensive than they were last year," Smith said.

"The consumer price index (CPI) is going up by 3.5 percent," said Tammy McCourt, deputy superintendent for finance.

Smith said the state is pushing hundreds of millions of dollars into school systems as part of its Blue Print for Education program to boost student performance but only to certain cadres of students — those who are economically disadvantaged or requiring special educational needs, for example.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Piney Point Improvement Funds Approved



Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Pier

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The state's Board of Public Works recently approved a \$1.9 million grant to stop shoreline erosion in Piney Point, Commissioner Mike Hewitt announced this week, a long-standing, major complaint of residents there, he said.

Many residents there believe, Hewitt said, that the continual erosion of the beach near the county-owned lighthouse museum is because of another public works project there installed about a decade ago.

"This has been a contentious issue down there," Hewitt said. "A hardening of the point... putting in all the rock down there, that is caused the erosion process."

The county has spent about \$30,000 in the past 10 years fixing the problem, Hewitt said, with some "marginal" success.

"This is a good grant," Hewitt said of the state money coming down to provide a more permanent solution to the problem.

"I believe it will be a benefit to that area."

He said the county would continue to monitor the situation at the revetment to be built there for at least three years, if not longer, to ensure the erosion was being curtailed.

"We're hopeful it will actually return the beach to where it was," Hewitt said.

The commissioners also approved an attempt to get a much smaller amount of money from the state to make further repairs to the pier at the museum.

Arthur Shepherd, director of the Departments of Recreation and Parks, said a portion of the pier had been ripped up by storm winds and that staff had found funds that would pay for it without any cost to the county.

The price tag is \$10,000; the damage occurred during foul weather Oct. 29, according to county planning documents, effecting a 10-foot-by-12-foot section of pier that collapsed.

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Charter School Applications Open



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The application process for parents to get a spot for their children at the county's only charter school — Chesapeake Charter School — is now open.

The charter school offers a unique learning curriculum that differs from more traditional public schools but still remains a part of the county school system under the governance of a parent organization, but still answerable to the St. Mary's County Board of Education.

Much of the learning at the school has a strong focus on the arts, creativity and environmental stewardship programs along with traditional academic subjects including mathematics, science and language arts.

The school system is advising all interested families that they must fill out applications online at cpcapplication.com during the open enrollment period. This includes all siblings who were waitlisted in the 2023/2024 school year. For the 2024-2025 school year, the online application link closes at midnight on December 31.

The school is holding an informational

session for parents Dec. 12 at their location on Great Mills Road.

Parents will also be able to view this information session on the website <https://schools.smcps.org/cpcs/charter-school/admissions>.

All applications must be completed online, according to the school system. The order in which the application is submitted does not impact the selection process, however.

It does not matter whether a family submits an application on the first day or the last day since the lottery is a random, computer-based drawing. The application is available in multiple languages, the school system reported.

The official lottery will be conducted at the end of January next year.

Kindergarten families will be notified by email upon completing the lottery of their acceptance or waitlist status. All other families of students in grades 1-8 will receive an email about their waitlist status and will be offered seats as they become open through the summer months.

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Fight Brings Police Response to Great Mills High School

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Several fights that broke out near the end of the instructional day at Great Mills High School brought a halt to normal school operations there Nov. 30 as school and law enforcement officials tried to bring it under control.

School officials said no students were seriously injured but parents were angered by another large-scale fight breaking out at the school.

In September of last year, a similar brawl broke out that brought a massive police response to break up the melee.

Initial reports stated that as many as 20 to 30 students were involved in several melees throughout the school in this week's incident.

"After lunch, several altercations happened in different areas of the building and due to the locations, this spread staffing very thin, making it difficult to know who all were involved," wrote BeeJay Dothard, principal at Great Mills, in a letter to parents. "Unfortunately, these altercations caused a major disruption to the school resulting in students being unable to reach their [seventh] period class.



"In order to ensure the safety of all students, we made the decision to request additional police assistance. This was done to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone."

Dothard said in his letter that students had to be held in their seventh period class for a brief time before being released to continue on with their day.

"We are continuing to investigate this situation to understand the cause to work to prevent situations like this in the future,"

Dothard continued. "This type of behavior not only affects those involved, but all of those who witness it too, and will not be tolerated.

"We will use the SMCPS Student Code of Conduct to issue severe consequences."

One parent who kept her two children out of class the following day said she did so because she was not confident that school authorities were able to move fast enough to find and suspend all of those who were involved in the fighting.

"I was afraid to send them," said Nicole Bryan, who said she heard early reports that a gun or knife had been involved in the brawl and that someone might have even been stabbed. "This is not something we should take lightly."

Leading up to the Thursday brawl, Bryan said she had been watching anonymously posted video recordings of fights breaking out at the high school for the past two weeks.

She said the feeling of impending violence and fear at the school was pervasive. "You're coming out of the classroom and then, 'boom,' you're running for your life," she said.

She said she and other parents were "in a frenzy" trying to find out what was going on at the school and whether they should come and get their children.

"I just had to pause and pray," Bryan said. "I do that every day."

She said the problem also stems from parents of students and the students themselves who are involved in the fighting who won't take accountability.

"No one wants to talk," she said. "So, we never get anywhere."

"This has to stop."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Distributing Free Computers This Weekend

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County government is encouraging residents who are eligible to come to the Potomac Building in Leonardtown Dec. 9 to collect a free Chromebook laptop computer for free while supplies last.

The distribution event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Households which participate in certain government assistance programs such as:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, Medicaid, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit, Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools or received a federal Pell Grant in the current award year

Those seeking a free computer must show proof of Maryland residency.

The program for delivering free laptops to qualified residents began earlier this year when the county was able to get state-level grant funding to purchase the computers.

The Office of Statewide Broadband notified the county that their request for 4,500 devices had been granted with a value of \$894,375.00 along with \$27,000



to support the device distribution to eligible households.

Of the 4,500 devices that were available, 4,281 have already been given out.

The county engaged in the program believing that the successful expansions of network infrastructure would be greatly enhanced by providing computer equipment to households with limited financial resources; the county has spent millions of dollars in the past several years to expand internet infrastructure — such as underground cable — in the so called "middle mile" and "last mile" programs.

These programs are designed to extend

internet service to residents who live in remote sections of the county, typically with unusually driveways, without such infrastructure that is too expensive for them to pay for on their own.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought into sharp focus the need for families to be connected to the internet as students retreated to their homes for virtual learning; those that were economically disadvantaged sometimes found themselves without the ability to connect to on-line learning.

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Firearms and Drug Cache Seized in Lexington Park

Through a joint investigation conducted by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement Unit, a search and seizure warrant was executed Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at an apartment in the 46000 block of Hilton Drive, Lexington Park, MD; the resident of the apartment was previously identified as 21-year-old Adam Joseph Holland.

During the search, detectives found a loaded privately made AR-15 pistol and a loaded Glock 29 semi-automatic handgun with obliterated serial numbers. Additionally, a large quantity of cannabis and US currency, and multiple items indicative of drug distribution, were found.

Just before the execution of the residential search warrant by detectives, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, who previously obtained a search and seizure warrant for Mr. Holland's person and vehicle, initiated a traffic stop on Holland in Calvert County. During the search of Mr. Holland and his vehicle, additional suspected cannabis was found. Holland was then released to the custody of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Holland, who is prohibited from possessing regulated firearms due to a previous disqualifying conviction, was transported



Adam Joseph Holland

to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, where he was charged with the following:

- CDS - Possession of Firearm
- Regulated Firearm Illegal Possession
- Illegal Possession of Ammunition
- Knowingly Alter Firearm ID Number
- CDS Possession Intent to Distribute Cannabis
- CDS Possession Cannabis over Civil Use

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office extends appreciation to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office for its collaborative work on this case.

Deputies Respond to Burglary in Progress, Arrest Juveniles

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to the 36000 block of Woodbush Drive in Chaptico for the report of a burglary in progress at an unoccupied residence.

As units responded to the scene, Deputies located three juvenile suspects in a pickup truck. One of the juveniles was found to be carrying a fully loaded 30-round Polymer80

9mm handgun. The juvenile was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged as an adult for various gun violations and Burglary in the fourth degree.

The other two juveniles were charged through non-custodial apprehension for burglary in the fourth degree and released into the custody of a guardian.

Fifteen of 16 Businesses Pass Alcohol Compliance Checks

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Alcohol Enforcement Unit recently conducted a series of alcohol compliance checks at 16 St. Mary's County businesses. Fifteen of the establishments were found to follow Maryland State laws regarding age verification for a person attempting to purchase alcohol; one business failed to ask an underage person for identification.

The compliance checks were conducted on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Alcohol Enforcement Unit. They involved using a Sheriff's Office confidential informant, 18 years old, wearing jeans and an athletic sweatshirt. The underage individual was informed to enter the business and request to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

Overall, 16 businesses were visited, and 15 were found to comply with Maryland law and asked for the required identification from the underage person. One business failed to ask for identification, and the underage individual was able to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

The following businesses asked for identification from the underage individual:

- Beacon Liquors in Callaway
- California Wine & Spirits in California
- Canopy Liquors in Lexington Park
- Centre Liquors in Leonardtown
- Corner Liquors in Lexington Park
- County Liquors in Lexington Park
- International Beverages in Lexington Park
- Jughead Liquor Wine Beer in California
- Leonardtown Wine & Spirits in Leonardtown
- Merchants Lane Fine Wine & Spirits in Leonardtown
- Ridge Market in Ridge
- Ridgell's Bay Mart in Ridge
- Rod'N Reel in Lexington Park
- St Mary's Fine Wine and Spirits in Great Mills
- Stop'N Shop in Lexington Park

The following business failed to ask for identification from the underage individual:

- Third Base Store in Leonardtown

The alcohol violation report was forwarded to the St. Mary's County Alcohol Beverage Board for review.

Health Department Early Closure on December 8

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) will be closed on Friday, December 8, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for employee activities. This includes the main office in Leonardtown and all satellite offices. Normal operations will resume on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Visit smchd.org for more information on SMCHD locations and services.

Chesapeake Window Cleaning Co.

Inside and outside, by hand. Residential specialists serving the local area full-time for 30 years. Locally owned and operated. Working owners assures quality.

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Ask about our low-pressure, no damage soft washing service, to remove deeply embedded dirt. For concrete, stone, brick and siding.

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Our Most Exciting Auction of the Year!

Farm & Country Christmas Auction

100's of Locally-Made, Live Evergreen Wreaths & Centerpieces ♦ Locally-Grown Poinsettias ♦ Handcrafted Quilts ♦ Furniture & Crafts ♦ Tools ♦ Toys & Other Items ♦ Framed Prints ♦ Signs ♦ More

SATURDAY – DEC 9, 2023 – 9 am
Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn
26689 Laurel Grove Rd. – Mechanicsville, MD

Live, Evergreen Wreaths & Centerpieces; Poinsettias; Quilts; Furniture & Crafts (Custom-Made St. Mary's and Maryland Benches, "Live-Edge" Amish-Made Tables, Hall Trees, Poly Glider Rockers/Rocking Chairs; Rocking Horses); **New Tools/Items** (Pressure Washer, Outdoor Fire Pits, Coleman Coolers, Lanterns/Lights, Air Hoses, Knife Sets, Heaters, Air Compressor, Power Outlets, Hand Warmers, Jump Cables, Snow Shovels, Luggage Sets, Safes, Heaters, "E" Bikes, Metal Décor Signs, Lifetime Youth Picnic Tables, Camping Tables, Vacuum Sealers & Bags, Grills, Door Mats, Fishing Poles, Totes, Iron Silhouettes & Wheels, Work & Muck Boots, Wind Chimes, Pop Up Tents, Milwaukee & DeWalt Tools from J&S Tools, More); **Concrete Items; New Toys & Games** (Corn Hole Boards, Scooters & Trikes, Board Games, Building Block Games, Ride On Toys incl. JD Combine, Pedal Car, Snow Sleds/Tubes, Toy Sets, More); **New Tack** (Buckets, Lead Ropes, Horse/Pony Blankets, Grooming Items); **Gun Safe (25 Gun); Wagons and Tri-Cycles w/Cart (Amish-Made); Custom Painted Signs by Donnie Poe; Framed Prints by M. L. Troutman & others; More.**

Auction Preview Friday from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Terms: Cash, Good Checks Accepted. Credit Cards Accepted (w/ 3.5% fee). 10% buyer's premium, MD Sales Tax. If you are unable to attend the auction, stop by Friday evening to preview items and leave absentee bids. Many new items this year. Additional parking areas available.

www.FarrellAuctionService.com

301.904.3402



Letters to the Editor

A solution for road safety

In November, 38 people died in Maryland as a result of motor vehicle crashes. In our State there have been 554 fatalities including 135 pedestrians and 15 bicyclists. This is a 7.6% increase compared to the same time in 2022. Our State is projected to record more than 600 motor vehicle crash fatalities this year.

It is important to note that distracted driving and a law that allows bicyclists to use the road is a deadly combination. For some reason, when a sidewalk is present bicyclists are not required to use it. Therefore, they take their chances with distracted drivers. As distracted driving increases unabated, so will fatalities of bicyclists, pedestrians and operators of other vehicles and the distracted driver.

The State Regional Highway Safety Committee, now based outside of St. Mary's County has done little to nothing to properly address this problem. This is totally unacceptable. This results in more injuries and loss of life. Someone has to step up to the plate and do something about it. Time is not on our side before the next injury or death occurs. Distracted driving, mainly caused by Cell phone use is out of control. Our County should form a County Highway Safety Board to address the injuries and fatalities on our roads. There is a solution. But, first you have to address the problem in order to come up with the solution.

Roy Fedders
Dameron, MD

Legal Notices

TOWN OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE TO INVESTORS—REQUEST FOR INTEREST FOOD HALL “THE ICEHOUSE” AT THE WHARF

The Town of Leonardtown is pleased to announce a unique opportunity for interested developers to submit letters of interest for the development of a food hall on a prime waterfront parcel in Leonardtown, Maryland, referred to as The IceHouse at the Wharf. We are seeking visionary developers who can transform this location into a vibrant culinary destination that will enhance the community's quality of life and evolve Leonardtown's Wharf District with visitor amenities that would include authentic dining options, craft beverages, gathering spots, and family-friendly amenities. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Town Hall at 22670 Washington Street PO Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 to pick up a packet, or visit www.Leonardtown.somd.com to download a packet. All Statement of Interest forms must be returned to Town Hall or emailed to Laschelle.McKay@leonardtownmd.gov by January 8th, 2024. A hybrid virtual/in-person information briefing will be hosted on a date to be determined.

The Commissioners of Leonardtown reserve the right to reject any and all proposals, and to accept any proposal deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Rezoning Request 22675 Cedar Lane Court, Leonardtown, MD 20650

The Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 4:10 p.m. at the Town Office, 22670 Washington Street, regarding Tax Map 040, Parcel 017. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and receive public comment regarding the request to rezone the parcel located at 22675 Cedar Lane Court from Residential Single Family (RSF) to Commercial Business (C-B). Copies of the documents are available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office. The public is invited to attend and/or send written comments to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 to be received no later than December 15, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

Lexington Park Active Adult Community

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1 & 2 bedroom
apartments**

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Pursue your hobby, indulge in free entertainment, seek self-improvement. Feel the joy of discovery.

Visit your public library to reconnect.

Calvert LIBRARY **cepl CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** **ST. MARY'S COUNTY library**

Books ■ Music ■ Movies ■ Events for All Ages ■ Computers
Free Wi-Fi ■ Meeting Space ■ DIY & Hobby Resources

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73% Lean, Family Pack
Fresh Ground Beef
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The Gift of Home Cookin'



Jumbo Pack
**Boneless Skinless
Chicken Breasts**
1.98Lb.

Certified Angus Beef
**Boneless Beef
London Broil**
5.98Lb.



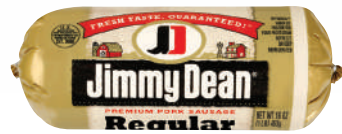
Frozen Or Previously
Frozen
**Baby Back
Pork Ribs**
2.98Lb.



2.48Lb. USDA Inspected, Bone-In
**Pork Steaks Or
Country Style Ribs**



1.48Lb. USDA Inspected, Fresh
**Boston Butt
Pork Roast**



3.98 16-Oz., Selected
**Jimmy Dean
Pork Sausage**



2.98 15-Oz., Selected
**Ball Park
Meat Franks**



FARM to TABLE

Mellow Sweet
Honeydew Or
Cantaloupes
2/\$6

3-Lb. Bag, Sweet Seedless
**California
Navel Oranges**
3.98

Farm Fresh
**Crisp Green
Cabbage**
.68Lb.

5-Lb., All Purpose
**Creamy
White Potatoes**
2/\$6

All Purpose
**Jumbo Yellow
Onions**
.78Lb.



18.2 To 18.3-Oz., Selected
**Duncan Hines
Brownie Mix**
1.48



24-Oz., Selected
**Ragu Pasta
Sauce**
1.78



14.5 To 16 Oz., Selected
**Chef Boyardee
Pasta**
4/\$5



17 To 19.1-Oz., Selected
**Oreo
Cookies**
2/\$8



22.6 To 25.9-Oz., Selected
**Folgers
Ground Coffee**
8.98



WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

PRICES GOOD FROM
December 6 THRU December 12, 2023



STORE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday 7am to 8 pm
Sunday 8 am to 7 pm

Chill Deals



16-Oz., Quarters
Imperial Spread

1.28



5 To 8-Oz., Selected
Sargento Shredded Cheese

2/\$5



16-Oz., Selected
Land O'Lakes Butter

5.48



10.75 To 12.7-Oz.,
Selected
Eggo Waffles

2/\$5



20-Oz., Selected
Simply Potatoes Or Hash Browns

2/\$5



Hot & Delicious
Rotisserie Chicken

6.98

Original Or Honey
Kretschmar Virginia Smoked Ham

5.98lb.

Bakery & Deli Fresh



Deli Fresh
Kretschmar Yellow or White American Cheese

5.98lb.



19.5 Oz., Dutch Apron
Pumpkin, Red Velvet Or Carrot Cake Rolls

6.58



52-Oz.
Double Layer Red Velvet Cake

11.98



16-Oz. Variety \$6.98 Or Plain
New York Cheesecake

5.98

Liquor and Beer



10-Oz. Cans
24-Pack Bud Light

19.89



12-Oz. Cans
30-Pack Miller Lite

24.99



12-Oz. Cans
18-Pack Coors Light

15.99



12-Oz. Cans, Select Variety
12-Pack Twisted Tea

15.99



1.75L
Crown Royal

42.99



1.75L
Bacardi Gold Rum

21.99



1.75L
Jim Beam

28.99



1.75L
Tito's Vodka

30.49



750-ML
Ecco Domani Pino Grigio

11.98



750 ML
K Cellars Chardonnay

7.98

Wines of the Month

750 ML
Mark West Pinot Noir

8.99

750ML
Mark West Black

11.99

3 Pack
La Marca Prosecco

14.99

750 ML
La Marca Prosecco or Rose

13.99



NAVAL AIR STATION
PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Santa Claus to Visit SoMD Courtesy of the U.S. Navy



Good boys and girls of all ages across Southern Maryland should look to the skies as Adm. Santa Claus conducts pre-deployment mission planning over Southern Maryland on Friday, Dec. 15, between 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Saint Nicholas—also known by call sign “Claus”—will fly with elves and other holiday helpers from Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (HX) 21 aboard an MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter. During the flight, Claus will spread holiday cheer while conducting reconnaissance and last-minute list-checking for upcoming operations on Christmas Eve. Children are advised to be on their best behavior.

While exact flight plans are classified, Claus and the HX-21 crew will fly over local sites and neighborhoods, including Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Chesapeake Ranch Estate, Solomons Island, Town Creek, Esperanza Farms, St. Mary's County Airport, Leonardtown,

Wildewood, Chancellor's Run, Lexington Park, Cedar Cove and more.

As Rudolph will not be part of the reconnaissance flight, inclement weather could impact flight operations. If inclement weather is expected for Dec. 15, Adm. Claus may reschedule the flight for Thursday, Dec. 14, at the same time. Stay up-to-date on Santa Over Southern Maryland on the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's Facebook page.

HX-21 is a component of Naval Test Wing Atlantic, the test wing for Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division. Nicknamed the “Blackjacks,” the squadron provides developmental flight test and evaluation for all U.S. Navy and Marine Corps rotary-wing and tilt-rotor aircraft. The Blackjacks are personal favorites of Claus, who tries to visit his HX-21 friends every year. Naval Air Station Patuxent River has been home to HX-21 since 1949.

Noise Advisory: NAS Pax River Conducting Nighttime Flights through January 31

Communities surrounding the naval air station are advised that noise-generating nighttime testing events are scheduled to take place December 04, 2023 through January 31, 2024 from 5 p.m. through 10 p.m. nightly. Pilots at NAS Pax River will be conducting night departures and landings, essential training for the precision and safety of our pilots and the success of their

mission. Residents may notice increased noise levels due to these operations.

As with all operations, NAS Patuxent River takes precautions to lessen the impact of testing activities on the community. For more information, call 1-866-819-9028. To view all current NAS PAX noise advisories please click the following link: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/PaxRiverNoise>.

Judge Amy Lorenzini Honored with Leader in the Law Award

St. Mary's County Judge Amy Lorenzini was named as one of the 2023 Leaders in the Law by the Maryland Daily Record. The prestigious award is bestowed upon less than 40 legal professionals in the State of Maryland each year.

“This year's Leaders in Law winners are incredible leaders who devote their time and talents to the legal profession and to the communities in which they live and work. The honorees work in a variety of roles in the legal profession, from ADR to support staff, law firm innovators, justice champions and more,” Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, managing director of The Daily Record/BridgeTower Media. “We at The Daily Record and our event partner, the Maryland State Bar Association, congratulate this year's honorees for all they have accomplished.”

Judge Amy Lorenzini was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan to the St. Mary's County Circuit Court bench in May of 2022. Before she was appointed as a judge, she worked for 20 years as an attorney in Southern Maryland. During that time, she was a law clerk to the Honorable Marvin Kaminetz, a criminal prosecutor in the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office, and a general practice litigator in the areas of civil and criminal litigation. She was regularly appointed by the courts throughout Maryland to represent individuals in guardianship matters, adoption, and custody cases.

Judge Lorenzini has a long-standing commitment to both the legal and local community. She served as chairperson of the Local Pro Bono Committee for over 10 years, screening pro bono cases and plac-



ing clients with volunteer attorneys and has served on the State Pro Bono Committee for the past 2 years. She initiated and ran a pro bono clinic for family law litigants for over 10 years and has recently initiated a guardianship clinic in St. Mary's County.

Lorenzini has been a “bar leader” throughout her career as a lawyer, wrote Laurence Cumberland. Judge Lorenzini has been a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors with the Maryland State Bar Association and has been the president of the local bar association on two occasions. In her role as president of the bar association, Judge Lorenzini organized the bar's involvement with Christmas in April for ten years and coordinated ten different housing projects between the bar and the Christmas in April organization.

Judge Lorenzini resides in St. Mary's County with her husband and two children.

New Year's Eve Event Debuts at Piney Point

St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division is excited to present “Kids Countdown to Noon at Piney Point: A New Year's Eve Family Event” on Sunday, December 31, 2023, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park.

Bring your kids to Piney Point on December 31 so they can enjoy a New Year's Eve party just for them with a special countdown to noon! This family-friendly event provides New Year's Eve fun for children, without having to stay up until midnight. Participating kids will enjoy themed crafts and activities, a “sock skate,” snacks, beverages, and much more – including a colorful ice “ball drop” at noon. Tickets also include full admission to the museum, lighthouse, and historic park.

Tickets are \$12 per child, ages 2 to 12. Tickets are required and can be purchased online at CountdownToNoon.eventbrite.com. Up to two adults/guardians (18 and older) may accompany their child but must register for a free ticket via the Eventbrite link above. No walk-ins will be accepted

due to limited space. Please note: this event is appropriate for ages 2 to 12; children 13-17 are not permitted.

Though much of this event will take place indoors, guests should come prepared for the weather and the outdoor ball drop. The Maritime Building can get a little chilly, so sweaters are recommended. Socks are a must for the “sock skate” and will be available for purchase if needed. Children cannot be left unattended and must always be supervised by a parent or guardian.

“We are excited to offer this opportunity for kids to enjoy New Year's Eve while learning a little bit at the museum and having lots of fun,” said Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. “And they don't even need to stay up until midnight to do it – just noon!”

The main museum building will be open for restroom use and gift shop purchases.

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

County Seeks 2023 Sustainability Award Nominations

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Commission on the Environment (CoE) are pleased to announce the opening of the 2023 St Mary's County Sustainability Awards nomination window. The goal of the program is to recognize outstanding St Mary's County students, restaurants, businesses, non-profits and farms for their environmental stewardship, resource conservation, innovative best practices and pollution prevention.

Over the past five years, the CoE has been pleased with what County residents and organizations are doing in local environmental conservation. The 2022 winners of the Sustainability Award went to Southern Maryland Sierra Club and the Environmental Division, Department of Public Works, Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS Pax River).

Southern Maryland Sierra Club continued supporting their 1000 Trees initiative that began in 2018. However, in 2022 alone, Club volunteers planted 162 native trees in parks and sports complexes to rebuild the native tree canopy. Additionally, they planted 27 shrubs at Lexington Park Manor in a 7500 square foot Native Exhibition Garden which showcases information on native plants and alternatives to invasive species. Southern Maryland Sierra Club also demonstrated a commitment to sustainable and healthy foods by completing buildout of 36 gardens at eight locations. The pollinator-friendly gardens provide vegetables to local food pantries and provide opportunities to teach the benefits of sustainable, local gardening.

The Environmental Division of NAS Patuxent River's Public Works Department completed a shoreline restoration project along their Fishing Point shoreline. This project stabilized 960 linear feet of shoreline from further erosion. As opposed to merely restoring the shoreline, the Environmental Division worked to create a living shoreline



that would protect the edge of the shoreline and provide habitat for several aquatic organisms through the use of structural materials (rip rap, cobbles, etc.) and vegetative materials (grasses, shrubs, and wetland plugs). Low marsh plantings of *Spartina alterniflora* were planted at a high density to accelerate the establishment of the marsh vegeta-

tion. High marsh and coastal species were planted for further sediment stabilization, and to encourage establishment and future resilience of shoreline habitat.

Living shorelines have several benefits to aquatic organisms, including the Diamondback Terrapin, which have a large presence at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. Living shorelines allow aquatic organisms to adapt to rising sea levels resulting from climate change and shift their habitats inland as sea levels rise. Living shorelines help limit erosion, provide habitat for native species, purify water, buffer floods, store carbon, protect community infrastructure, and they perform better in major storms when compared to hardened shorelines, as they can adapt to changing water levels and intense storms.

Congratulations to the 2022 St Mary's County Sustainability Award winners!

The Commission on the Environment wants YOU to be a 2023 winner! Know of a worthy organization or do you belong to a group that pursues environmental stewardship, resource conservation, innovative best practices, and pollution prevention efforts? Nominate someone else or nominate your organization. All nominees for the 2023 calendar year should demonstrate an impressive commitment to improving local environmental impacts.

For more information on the Commission on the Environment, please visit Commission on the Environment | Information - St. Mary's County, MD ([stmaryscountymd.gov](https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov)) or check out their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GreenInStMarys/>

Pet OF THE WEEK MEET SCAMPI



Coming home to find a little soul waiting for you is PRICELESS!

Hello there, potential NEW FRIEND, my name is Scampi. I'm a 4-MONTH-OLD MALE kitten on the lookout for a WARM and LOVING HOME. Sure, I may be a bit shy at first, but once you get to know me, you'll see that I'm a SWEET BOY who just wants to make my people HAPPY. I've got this PLAYFUL side too - you'll often find me chasing after furry mice and launching daring attacks on my favorite toy balls. Give me a chance, and I promise to bring a BUNDLE OF JOY and ADORABLE ANTICS into your life! I'm ANXIOUSLY waiting to meet YOU during adoption hours, Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm.

BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!!

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



younglife

St. Mary's

GAME ON

SCAVENGER HUNT



Looking for some extra holiday cash? Well, come participate in Young Life St. Mary's Fundraising Scavenger Hunt. You could win \$250, \$500, or even \$1,000!!! Your mission is simple: TO FIND SECRET LOCATIONS THOUGHOUT SOUTHERN MARYLAND BY FOLLOWING CRYPTIC CLUES.

The scavenger hunt will be on Saturday, December 9 and will cover the southern Maryland area. For complete details and instructions, just scan the QR code or visit Young Life St. Mary's on Facebook.

Here's your first clue: MOST of the secret sites are local businesses who support our community. (Hey, show them some love by noting their locations and shopping or dining there later).

Money raised will be used to support Young Life's ministry to St. Mary's County youth. Young Life is a world-class Christian non-profit organization. It focuses on connecting with adolescents making sure they feel seen, heard, and cared for.



LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS
SERVING ST. MARY'S COUNTY

County Times
St. Mary's County - Calvert County

ON NEWSSTANDS EVERY
THURSDAY & ONLINE AT
COUNTYTIMES.NET

Health Hub to Host Drive-Thru Community Baby Shower

The St. Mary's County Health Department invites expecting and new parents who live in St. Mary's County to a Drive-Thru Community Baby Shower on Monday, December 11, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the St. Mary's County Health Hub located at 21625

Great Mills Road Lexington Park, MD 20653. Cars should enter the Health Hub at the entrance off of Great Mills Rd closest to the Sheriff's Office. Please remain in your vehicle; walk-ups will also be allowed.

This FREE event will offer giveaway items to attendees, including diapers, baby wipes, pacifiers, bottles, and more while supplies last. Special raffle items include car seats and pack 'n-plays.

"Promoting parent and infant health is vital to our community's overall wellness. Our health department team is proud to provide services that improve access to prenatal care, support education on infant care and parenting, and advance parent and child health through home-based services and nurse case management," said Dr. Meena



Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Expecting a baby or being a new parent is a reason to celebrate; this baby shower celebrates our growing St. Mary's families by offering support, resources, and valuable education."

Pre-registration is required - click here to register. If you have any difficulty registering, please call 301-475-4330 or email smchd.healthdept@maryland.gov for assistance. Individuals must live in St. Mary's County and be either pregnant/expecting or raising a new baby (less than one year old).

To learn more about programs and services at SMCHD for infants, children, and families, please visit smchd.org/infants-and-children.

St. Mary's Woman Uses 'Coffee Run' to Win \$108,910

She is seventh progressive jackpot winner on FAST PLAY Home Run Riches game

A thirsty St. Mary's County woman went into a store for a cup of coffee and left with a \$108,910 progressive jackpot prize won on a FAST PLAY Home Run Riches ticket bought Nov. 28.

The big winner was following her daily ritual of buying a cup of coffee on her way to work when Lottery luck arrived on the scene. She looked over at the Lottery kiosk and remembered hearing about an October FAST PLAY winner from St. Mary's County. She has followed the Home Run Riches game and decided to play since the jackpot was over \$100,000. The game's progressive jackpot starts at \$40,000 and increases with the sale of each ticket until a progressive jackpot-winning ticket is purchased.

"It was all because of a coffee run," she said with a smile.

One of the home plate winning numbers in the game was 24. The government worker saw one of her baseballs also had a 24, with the words "Progressive Jackpot" listed beneath instead of a prize amount.

"I didn't know how much I won, but I

knew I won something," she said and then she scanned her ticket.

The Southern Maryland resident is undecided on how she is going to spend the money, but said she likes to travel.

Wawa #595 located at 701 Annapolis Road in Gambrills sold her the winning ticket. The Anne Arundel County store will receive a \$1,000 bonus from the Lottery for selling a progressive jackpot-winning FAST PLAY ticket.

This win was the fourth and final progressive jackpot win on the Home Run Riches game, which closed to wrap up another great season. Also a wrap was the Home Run Riches Contestant of the Game second-chance promotion where players could enter the \$5 FAST PLAY Home Run Riches tickets into My Lottery Rewards for a chance to win prizes of \$500 and up.

This year's promotion also featured two \$50,000 giveaways in celebration of the Maryland Lottery's 50th anniversary. Barbara Phelps Anderson of Shady Side was awarded the prize when the Orioles hit their 50th home run of the season on May 16. Karl Petro of Westminster was selected as a winner at the conclusion of the second-chance promotion in August.

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FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS

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HSMC Names Dan Kerns New Foundation Board Member

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) welcomes Dan Kerns to its Foundation, the fundraising arm of the museum. Mr. Kerns has an impressive background, having served as President of the Father McKenna Center, a day shelter for homeless men in Washington D.C. He has also served as Head of School at Georgetown Visitation and has been a long-time volunteer at the McKenna Center.

Before his work at the McKenna Center, Mr. Kerns was the Academic Dean and Assistant Head of School at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School and later became its Head of School. This was a historic moment for Georgetown Visitation, as Mr. Kerns became the first man to lead the oldest Catholic girls' school in the 13 original states, founded in 1799. As Head of School, Mr. Kerns was instrumental in leading the efforts to build Visitation's Fisher Athletic Center and its Nolan Performing Arts Center.

"When doing the due diligence for Mr. Kerns, it became obvious that he was an extraordinarily talented leader. " wrote Father William George, Chair of the HSMC Foundation, in an email. He continued, "His reputation among major professionals in the Washington D.C. business community is impeccable. He has dedicated his professional career to helping others and



will be a tremendous addition."

Pete Carroccio, Chief Operating Officer of HSMCC, stated; "I have known Dan Kerns for over 30 years, and can say without equivocation that Dan is a person of the highest integrity, and he has vigorously given back to the less fortunate of the DC Community with his time and talent. Dan is the consummate Man for Others, and he brings his numerous skills and fundraising abilities to our Foundation."

Historic St. Mary's City is excited to have Mr. Kerns on board and looks forward to the valuable contributions he will make as a member of the HSMC Foundation.

SMADC Seeks Farmer Voting Member Representatives

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is seeking interested individuals to fill voting member positions.

Currently, the SMADC Commission includes one farmer voting representative from each of the Southern Maryland counties; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's. Following a review of SMADC's Commission Protocols in July 2023, Commission members approved adding a second farmer voting member (with representation across agriculture sectors) for a total of 2 representatives for each Southern Maryland county. The following farmer voting positions are to be filled:

- 1 Anne Arundel County Farmer – 4-year term
- 1 Calvert County Farmer – 4-year term
- 1 Charles County Farmer – 4-year term
- 1 Prince George's County Farmer – 4-year term
- 1 St. Mary's County Farmer – 4-year term

SMADC's purpose is to support farms, farmers, and the future of agriculture. Commission members represent a broad spectrum of the regional community, including, farmers, agribusiness, county

government, economic development, land planning and growth management, chamber of commerce, tourism, the College of Southern Maryland, University of Maryland Extension and the state departments of Agriculture, Business and Economic Development, and elected state and local officials. The Commission typically meets on the first Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., virtually or by conference call (Microsoft Teams), with optional in-person attendance offered quarterly.

To be considered, interested individuals are invited to apply through the online application form (to include background and relationship to the agricultural community). A letter of recommendation from one of the following is required: current SMADC Commission member, University of Maryland Extension or Soil Conservation District representative, or county Agriculture Marketing Professional.

Applications are due by January 31, 2024. New farmer representatives will be announced in February and welcomed at the March 2024 meeting. For more information on SMADC programs and current Commission members, visit the About SMADC page at www.SMADC.com.

GRAND OPENING SALE

Free Coffee
& Donuts!

L&K Poly Lawn Furniture

10340 Somerville Place | Mechanicsville, MD

*Standard Adirondack Chairs | High Adirondack Chairs
Folding Adirondack Chairs | Single & Double Gliders
Swivel Gliders | Side Tables | Picnic Tables*

**New Poly Lawn Furniture Shop opening it's doors
December 16 at Leon Hostetler's. Single gliders, double gliders, and side tables in stock — more items available for order. 13 poly colors to choose from!**

**8% OFF ALL IN STOCK ITEMS
6% OFF ALL OTHER ORDERS
December 16 only. Purchases must be paid in full same day.**

A View From The BLEACHERS



VEGETABLE STANDS AND FROZEN PIZZA

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

A modified bookshelf sits prominently in an inviting living room that is otherwise decorated with memorabilia spanning 40 years of D.C. sports history. On the shelves are hundreds of vinyl records; some are new but most are old, several even older than their present owner. Conditions vary from pristine (great survivors of an untold provenance) to the “well played”, the latter population delivering that warm, snap-crackle-pop through the speakers as they spin across a needle delicately navigating ancient surface grooves.

I have trouble explaining my affinity for these records. And as a writer, my struggle for words is bothersome. On the surface, it makes no sense. I could compile all of these albums in no time – click here, click there and boom... they are on my phone, tablet or computer in digital form. Access would be easy and from anywhere. The sound would be crisp and clean. The total acquisition cost would likely be less. Storage - simple.

So why would I choose to attend countless records shows, hunt down record stores in every town I visit and sift through stack after stack of dusty vinyl just to assemble this swelling mass of music artifacts?

I don't know. But I can hypothesize. And Sports Illustrated (SI), the once great must-read magazine for sports fans, provided a fantastic data point for my contemplation.

Life moves fast, so in case you missed it (I did), SI recently faced heat for getting caught using content generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI). The content not only did not disclose it was computer generated, it was attributed to a human author – a person who does not exist in carbon form. When sleuths confronted SI, it did what many exposed people and entities do now: deny, divert and embrace victimhood. SI's official response was it used a third party for content and was duped themselves. Ah, so SI wasn't being disingenuous, it was incompetent. That makes things so much better.

Spineless SI aside, AI content isn't coming, it's here and is poised to spread. Disclosure of its use, at least by professional journalistic forums (there's no hope for social media), is critical. From there, consumers will decide its fate and proliferation. As a sports writer, is it threatening? Somewhat. It is difficult to comprehend how pernicious it could be. But human writers should gladly accept the challenge. I believe sports fans will always want content – good content, not lazy, slap-it-together generic poo - generated by a fellow human. It ensures accuracy and source-authenticity; and, if a piece is well-written, I refuse to believe that a machine can adequately capture and convey the intricacies of and human emotions generated by a sporting event. For example, if you're telling me a machine can properly communicate the passions of degenerates at Philadelphia Eagles games, I ain't buying it.

Gut instinct (something AI doesn't have): at the end of the day, most people will tolerate some AI for basic information, but will continue looking to other humans for deeper meaning and more thought-provoking stories. I think – hope – the same will apply to other artforms. AI-generated movie scripts and scores, faux lip-synched “live” concerts, hologram shows (ABBA, KISS) and macro, AI-generated pop songs have their place, I suppose (being kind). But brass tacks: how much ultra-processing can the soul stand?

Which of course circles back to those vinyl records. Why the allure? They represent the music's original intended form. Led Zeppelin's “IV”, Rolling Stones' “Exile on Mainstreet”, Stevie Wonder's “Innervisions” weren't meant for a digital format. An MP3 of Aretha Franklin's “Respect” piped into your brain via ear buds will never be an adequate substitute for holding an original album in your hands while the record spins and you work up a sweat dancing in your living room. Records are music's version of the local vegetable stand and farm-to-table food. It's as good as it gets. Digital music files are like facsimile autographs and frozen pizza.

And much like frozen pizza has its place (especially at 2am), AI will no doubt become a regular source for sports information. Let's just hope it's never more than niche. Everything in moderation, eh?

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Stripers are in the bay and rivers for trollers and jiggers

A big speckled trout surprised angler Ryan Galligan off Cove Point who was catching rockfish by spotting bait schools on his depthfinder and following birds. The seven pound speck joined a couple of hefty rockfish in the ice box. There were plenty of catch and release fish too.

The reports are mixed overall.

Skilled trollers are getting plenty in the bay by chasing birds and scouting up bait and fish on the sonar. Most everyone can get their limit in the bay and rivers in the same manor. Some days you have to work, other days the fish are everywhere feeding ; you just have to put a lure in the water.

The season ends the 10th in Maryland waters.

The Potomac ends Dec.31. Two per day 20 to 31 inches.

Tempus Fugit

Rotary Club Hosts Football Greats

By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

It felt like old times at the Rex Theatre in downtown Leonardtown on Sunday December 3rd. The 50 members of the local branch of Rotary International threw an old-fashioned football party complete with a well-known rock and roll band “One Trick Pony” and special guests Washington Redskins greats running back Larry Brown and defensive cornerback Mike Bass. And to round out the invitation list, two of the famous Redskins “Hogette” cheerleaders, “Spiggy” and “Hog Ed” appeared to add a little color and hilarity to this afternoon of fun and entertainment for the many diehard fans in attendance.

The big feature planned for this party, in addition to the appearance of the Redskins heroes Brown and Bass, was the game between the Washington Commanders and Miami Dolphins, being televised on the large Rex movie screen. And, as all the fans in attendance soon realized, showing our home team play on the big screen did not seem as much a thrill once the game started. The Commanders were flat once more and provided little for the crowd to cheer about all day. It has been a tough year. Even with the Hogettes leading the crowd in singing “Hail To The Redskins” did little to improve the team's play or fortune...

But, on a positive note, the great football guests were very approachable and friendly. Mike Bass attended with his wife and posed for photographs and provided autographs to the fans young and old all afternoon. Mike was an All Star at the University of Michigan and played in the Rose Bowl game in 1965 and the College All Star game in 1967. He gained great respect for his defensive play with the Redskins, playing in 104 consecutive games while intercepting 30 passes during his NFL career. He is best remembered for his pickup of Miami's placekicker Garo Yepremian's botched pass and returning it 49 yards to score the Redskins only points in Super Bowl VII. Mike was named one of the 70 Greatest Redskins of All Time. He was inducted into the Washington Ring of Fame in 2002.

Larry Brown came with his daughters

and was a crowd favorite. He was drafted by the Redskins in 1969 and played until 1976. He ran the ball 1530 times and gained 5875 yards. He rushed for 100 yards or more 21 times. In October 1972 he ran for 190 yards against the New York Giants and in December 1973 he rushed for 4 touchdowns against the Philadelphia Eagles. Unfortunately, his career was cut short due to numerous injuries and his jersey number 43, although not officially retired by the Redskins, has never been assigned to any other member of the team. Larry is also in the Ring of Fame and is being greatly considered for selection to the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton. He is a fan favorite of the Redskin Nation and has many well wishers in his quest for selection.

The local Rotary Club is a well-respected organization of friends, neighbors and leaders who volunteer their skills and resources to resolve issues and address community needs. They do a remarkable job in raising needed funds to sustain their many projects. Over their 25-year history they have given more than \$598,000 to local programs. Additionally, these members gave give \$20,000 to support the International Polio Plus Program to eradicate polio. Other international projects they have engaged include refurbishing computers, establishing a digital library in India and completing a project to provide safe drinking water in Honduras. Local efforts include their association with St Mary's College Annual Governor's Cup Yacht Race, the Fire/Rescue Appreciation Day, the Farm Life Festival, and highway clean-up. They have gained a reputation for marketing the very best seafood chowder at the Annual Oyster Festival. Finally, this group furnishes \$1000 a year scholarship to 4 deserving high school graduates as well as providing two \$1500 grants for continuing education for two teachers. These folks have a great desire to assist County students; it is a cornerstone of their annual support.

The football party was greatly enjoyed by all. The music was super, the food and drink hit the spot and the special guests were terrific. Now if the Commanders could learn to play defense and score a few touchdowns it would have been a perfect afternoon!

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.

In Remembrance

Roy Dooley, 92



Roy Burks Dooley, 92, of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully on November 24, 2023, at Taylor Farms Assisted Living in Bushwood, MD.

He was born on August 20, 1931 in Goode, Virginia to the late William Hilton Dooley and Anne Odell Robertson Dooley.

Roy grew up in the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains farm country surrounding the Roanoke/Montvale area where he and his 13 siblings worked the family farm. Roy served active duty in the Army between 1948-1949, as a Longshoreman-Rifle Marksman at Fort Lawton in Washington State. He received an honorable discharge, due to being a minor eagerly enlisting early, he was flown back to the East Coast. Roy with his late brother William began work as Linemen for The Cofer Company, running electric lines between La Plata and Leonardtown. It is in Leonardtown where Roy met his beloved wife, Roberta "Bertie" & they were married in October 1952. Roy continued working as a contracted lineman at Patuxent River Naval Air Station and eventually he and Bertie

opened & ran their own family business, Dooleys Furniture and Upholstery on Duke Street in Leonardtown. They raised their 6 children and ran their retail business for over 40 years, celebrating 57 years of marriage before Bertie's passing in 2009. After her passing, Roy continued his daily routine until his dementia diagnosis in 2020. He then resided at Taylor Farms Assisted Living in Bushwood, Maryland for three years. During visits he would insist on car rides, reminiscing of his past, and driving around to look at his former home and place of business in Leonardtown to see all the changes. One thing that never changed with Roy was his love for sweets, especially ice cream.

Roy is survived by his children Mary Ann Jarczynski (Jim) Myrtle Beach, SC, Bonnie Lynn Zimmerer (Steve) York, PA, Michael Alan Dooley, Jessup, MD, Jennifer Gale Hudson (Matt) Kissimmee, FL, and Stacey Lee Dawson (Doug) Ocean Isle Beach, NC; his eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; his brothers Russell Dooley, Bill Dooley, Hilton Dooley and Bobby (AKA Brother) Dooley and extended friends and family. He is preceded in death by his loving wife Roberta Ann Miedzinski Dooley, his parents, his two sisters, seven brothers and his son Stephen Roy Dooley.

The family will have a Graveside service on December 9, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at

Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Taylor Farms Assisted Living Bushwood, MD or Hospice of Southern Maryland.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

William Rogers, 84



William Rogers, USN (Ret), 84, passed away November 22, 2023, in his home, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born November 17, 1939 in Fall River, Massachusetts to the late William Rogers and Elise Mae Hindle. While his sister Joan Slater preceded him in death, his brother Steve Rogers and his wife Rita still reside in Massachusetts. Will is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 58 years, Ila, his three children Becky Edwards (Spouse Michael), William Rogers, and Linda Werner (Spouse Randy). He is also a grandfather of Tyler, Ashley,

Lauren, and Kyle as well as a great grandfather to Delilah and Jameson.

His hobbies included fishing, woodworking, restoring cars and was an avid chess player. Will retired after 24 years of active duty as a member of the United States Navy. He was a lifelong member of the Disabled American Veterans Unit 26, as well as a lifelong member of the NRA and Sanners Lake Sportsmans Club. One of his proudest achievements was being able to be part of the Flyer replica for the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, NC. He was a very generous and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and will be terribly missed by all who knew him.

Family will receive friends on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 with a service of remembrance led by the Disabled American Veterans starting at 4:30pm followed by Navy military honors.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans Unit 26. www.davch26stmarysmd.com

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

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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.

Christmas Movie Series

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Thursdays at 10 a.m.
Cost: Free

Is it the holiday season without Christmas movies? How about making a morning of it by grabbing a friend and heading down to the Senior Lounge at Loffler to enjoy a proven Christmas Classic! Bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverage if you wish.

- December 7- A Wonderful Life (2 hours, 5 min.)
- December 14- Miracle on 34th Street (1994 version; 113 min.)
- December 21- The Santa Clause (1 hour, 35 min.)

Register for any of these movies by going to www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/

Reiki & Reflexology with Sarah Strain

Garvey Senior Activity Center
December 7, 12, & 14
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cost: \$45 for 45 minutes

The Garvey Senior Activity Center is excited to welcome back Sarah Strain, ARCB Board Certified. Cancellations will be accepted with 24-hour notice.

Reflexology: Reflexology is designed to bring the body into balance through gen-

tle pressure applied to the feet, hands, and ears. Each pressure point is directly related to specific organs of the body. Stimulating these areas will help release tension in that specific area of the body.

Reiki (Ray-Key): Using light or no touch, the hands of the practitioner capture and deliver the universal life energy to the client. Combined with crystals, Reiki can help to clear the mind and shift one into a state of clarity. Reiki assists in returning the body, mind & spirit to a state of wellness.

Advance registration and payment are required. Cancellations must be made at least 24 hours in advance to be considered for a refund.

Nutrition Presentation by Donna Taggart

Loffler Senior Activity Center
Monday, December 11
10 a.m.
Cost: Free

In December, find out why smoothies have become a sensation by sampling a nutritious holiday treat that features pomegranate.

Donna presents nutrition topics at the Loffler Senior Activity Center usually on the second Monday of each month at 10 a.m. Register for this talk by going to www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/ or leave a mes-

sage on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. ADDITIONALLY- Donna offers free personal nutritional education at 11 a.m. on the day she is here if you make an appointment with her by text message or calling 240-538-6539.

Holiday Luncheon with Folk Salad

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, December 12
Doors Open: 11:30 a.m.
Lunch Served: 12 p.m.
Performance: 12:30 p.m.

Folk Salad is an eclectic, acoustic band performing folk, light rock, oldies & originals! They have performed all over St. Mary's County including places like Port of Leonardtown Winery, Lotus Kitchen & the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Come and enjoy a delicious lunch and a great performance with Folk Salad. The cost for lunch is by donation for those ages 60 and above and \$6 for those under the age of 60.

Advance registration required.

Chair Dance Connection: Jingle Bell Rock

Northern Senior Activity Center
Tuesday, December 12
2-3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Happy holidays! Join Judi Lyons & Paty Massón for a fun afternoon of dancing to your favorite holiday hits. Engaging movement sequences that are full of life and passion will revitalize and lift your spirit while enhancing blood flow and mind-body coordination. All movements are supported by a chair in seated and standing positions. Chair Dance begins with a warm-up, follows with several exciting selections to spice up your mind, body, and spirit, then concludes with a centering cool down. Judi Lyons/Mindful Motions Md. is YACEP®, E-RYT® 200, EMYoga® Certified, RYT® 500 Therapeutic. Paty Massón is certified in RYT® 500, CBT, and Qigong.

Wood Christmas Tray with Sophie

Garvey Senior Activity Center
Thursday, December 14
1:30 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Join us to make a fun wooden tray to decorate for Christmas. You will be able to choose between a "Merry Christmas" design or a fun tray to leave out for Santa on Christmas Eve. We will be stenciling and painting so make sure you wear clothes you aren't afraid to get paint on. Advance registration required.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Gently used books and other materials, great for gift giving! Join the Friends at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Members Only from 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Open to the Public: 12 noon - 3 p.m. Memberships available at the door or join online on www.stmalib.org in advance.

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 Lexington Park Library on Sunday, December 10 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. and

Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, December 12 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. This introductory course will cover the basics of how a 3D printer works and how to use PrusaSlicer software. Learn how to find ready-to-print files online and submit them to the Library for printing. No prior experience is needed. This is an in-person class held in the Computer Lab Makerspace. Register for either session on www.stmalib.org.

Pet Portrait Painting Workshop

Have a furry, feathery, or scaly friend you absolutely cannot look at enough? Come spend time with fellow painters and learn how to bring a photograph to life on canvas! Leonardtown Library on

Friday, December 15 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., register on www.stmalib.org. No materials or skill are required, but participants should bring a picture of a pet or animal to paint. Staff will go over how to use scaling and measuring to recreate the photograph on the canvas and will go over examples of different styles that can be used depending on the participants skill level and personal tastes. Paint, canvas, and brushes will be provided.

A Look At Yesterday

Using one of our newspaper archives, we take a look and read through a newspaper from back in the day and look at how things have changed. Charlotte Hall Library on Friday, December 15 from 2 - 3 p.m. No registration.

Loteria (Bingo) for Everyone!: Bilingual Bingo

It's a family event! All ages can have fun learning Spanish while playing Loteria, a fun Bingo game. Fun prizes for the winners! Join us at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, December 16 from 10 - 11 a.m. for a morning of Loteria (Mexican Bingo) for all ages! The bingo boards have colorful pictures with Spanish words labeling the picture. Pictures will be called in Spanish and translated to English, giving you an opportunity to learn new Spanish or English words! 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.

Thu, Dec 7

Christmas Ornament & Cookie Exchange

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ladies, you're invited to join us in the Patuxent Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Bring a new, wrapped Christmas ornament to exchange! We will play games and later you will end up with a different ornament for your tree at home! For the cookie swap, bring 2-3 dozen of your favorite cookies! (Optional—don't feel you have to bake if that's not your thing, but please DO bring an ornament!) Mission Outreach: Please bring socks, mittens, scarves, or hats that will be distributed to WARM guests and the Three Oaks Shelter. RSVP by Wednesday, November 30th by signing up in the Narthex or calling the church office at: 301-863-2033.

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the

first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301*481*6625 for more information. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

Sat, Dec 9

So. Md. Farm & Country Christmas Auction

Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn
26689 Laurel Grove Rd., Mechanicsville
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Southern Maryland Farm & Country Christmas Auction. Showcasing and offering a variety of locally made and produced items and more. This auction consists of handcrafted, live evergreen wreaths, centerpieces and other items; locally grown Poinsettias; Handcrafted Quilts; Furniture & Crafts; locally made Maryland and St. Mary's County Themed items including benches, signs (some by local sign painter Donnie Poe) and more; Framed Prints by local artist Mary Lou Troutman; New Tools, New Toys, other new items and much, much more. A community auction event that showcases and supports our local growers, producers and craftsmen. Auction Preview will be on Friday, December 8, 2023, from approximately 3 pm to 7 pm. Check out the Poinsettia Tree comprised of almost

80 Poinsettias! farrellauctionservice.com/index.html

5th Annual Holiday Open House

Suttler Post Farm
38750 Chaptico Rd., Mechanicsville
11a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come enjoy food trucks and more than 30 vendors of wine and beer, crafts, holiday wreaths, home décor, woodcraft, local meats and more.

Pony rides, face painting sand art, and kids' tractor pull each day at 3 p.m. Santa and the Grinch will be there, too.

Bring a pack of socks to get raffle ticket for Fill The Box Sock Drive to benefit veterans.

Admission is \$10 per person; 6-years-old and under free.

All proceeds benefit Hospice of St. Mary's.

Sun, Dec 10

Breakfast With Santa

Mt. Zion UMC
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd.,
Mechanicsville
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Photos with Santa for a fee, fun crafts for

the kids and fellowship.

Breakfast is a Free Will Offering. Sponsored by Mt. Zion UMC Young Adults Group.

Ongoing

The Newtowne Players Present Steel Magnolias

Three Notch Theatre
21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
December 1-17
Thursdays-Saturdays 8 p.m.,
Sundays 3 p.m.

Steel Magnolias is a heartfelt and humorous play set in a small Louisiana town. It revolves around a group of strong-willed women who gather regularly at a local beauty salon, sharing laughter, tears, and unwavering support. Through witty dialogue and poignant moments, the play explores themes of friendship, love, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Content Advisory: This show contains content around loss of a child to illness, gunfire sound effects, and a handgun.

Adults \$20; Special Discount Groups \$17; Children 6-11 \$15; Under 5 free (not recommended for young children); NTP Members \$16




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<p>Publisher Thomas McKay Associate Publisher Eric McKay General Manager Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net Advertising Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net Staff Writers Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net Contributing Writers Ron Guy, Ken Lamb, Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler</p>	<p>The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.</p> <p>To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.</p>	 <p>County Times P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636</p>
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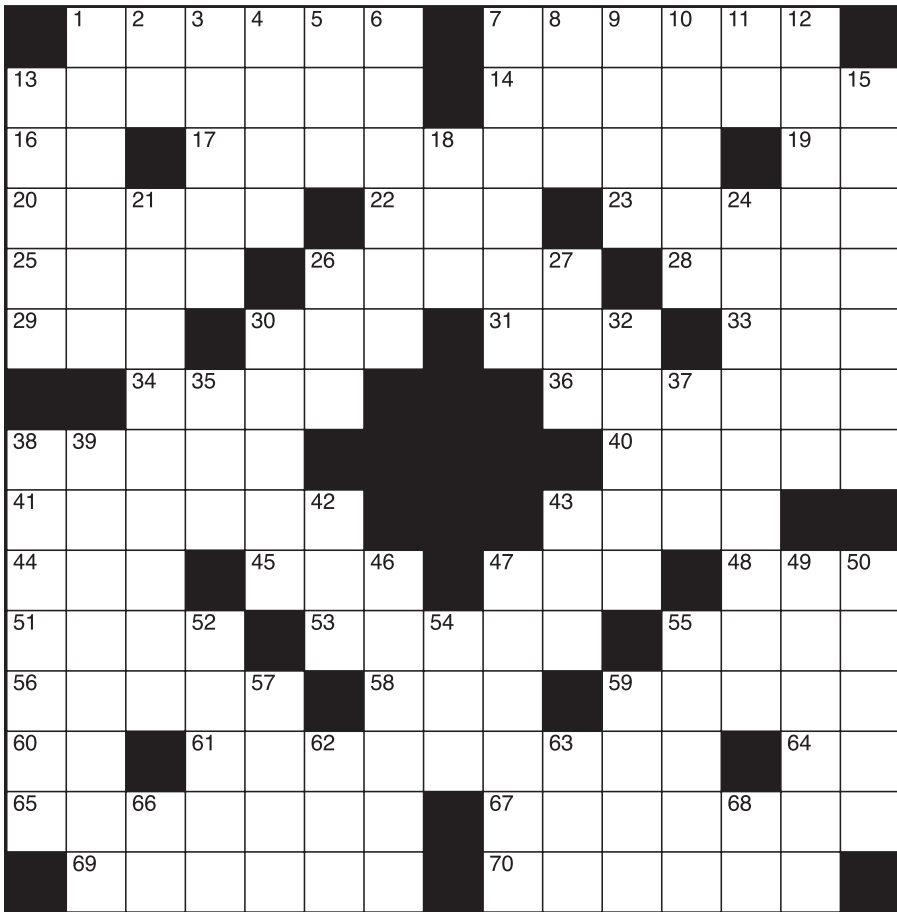
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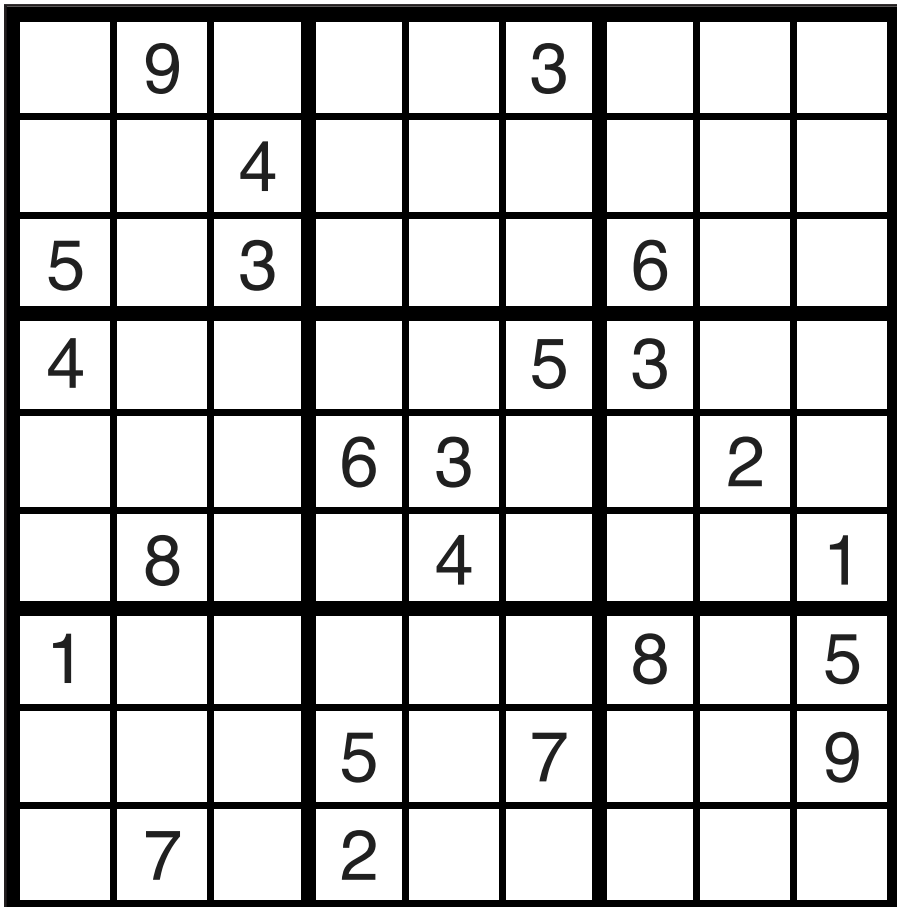


CLUES ACROSS

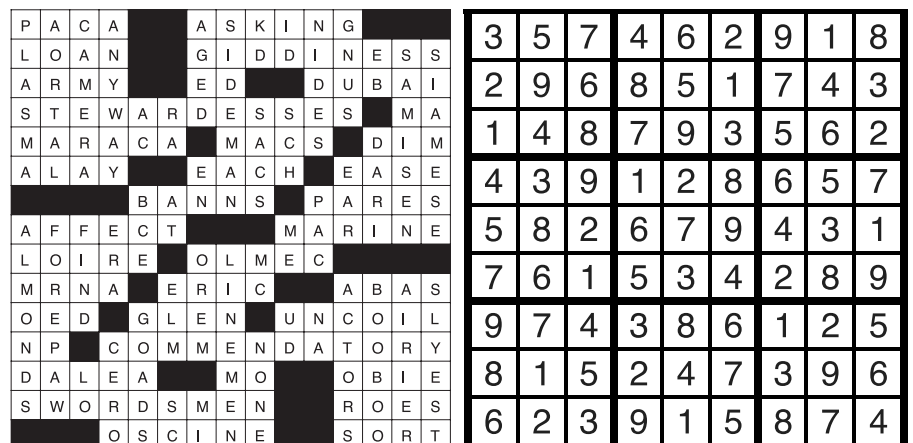
- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Government lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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, Dec 8

On Pins & Needles

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

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

Patuxent Voices Holiday Concert

All Saints Episcopal Church
100 Lower Marlboro Rd, Sunderland
7 p.m.

Come hear the beautiful harmonies of this women's a cappella group singing favorites of the holiday season. All ages. Free.

Sat, Dec 9

Solomons Christmas Walk

Solomons

Sponsored by Solomons Business Association. Lighted Boat Parade starts at 6 p.m., weather permitting, coordinated by Solomons Island Yacht Club, Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron, Solomons Yachting Center, Sail Solomons and Southern Maryland Sailing Association.

Home for the Holidays

Prince Frederick
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to announce the following activities:

- **Christmas Parade:** The parade starts at 10:30 a.m., moving through the Prince Frederick Shopping Center and along Church Street, ending at Main Street.
- **Festive Family Fun:** From 10 to 4 p.m., Linden House (70 Church St.) will be bustling with vendors, festive food trucks and merry activities. From noon to 4 p.m., enjoy fun activities and photos with Santa at King Memorial Park (65 Church St.). Calvert County Parks & Recreation will have an ice-less skating rink at the Calvert County Sheriff's Office parking lot, as well as arts and crafts, cookie decorating, games, inflatable slide, live music and a baton twirling performance.
- **Tree Lighting Ceremony:** In front of the courthouse from 4-5 p.m.

Poetry Share

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join fellow poets and poetry-lovers to share poetry in a casual open mic-type setting. If you'd like to stay, to workshop your poetry afterwards, you are welcome. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Dec 10

COSMIC Symphony presents: Winter Daydreams

Patuxent High School
12485 Southern Connector Blvd, Lusby
3 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of whimsical selections including Waldteufel's The Skater's Waltz, Debussy's Rêverie, and Tchaikovsky's Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy. We are pleased to present this concert entirely FREE of charge and tickets are not required.

Patuxent Voices Holiday Concert

Christ Church Calvert
3100 Broomes Island Rd, Port Republic
3 p.m.

Come hear the beautiful harmonies of this women's a cappella group singing favorites of the holiday season. All ages. Free.

Mon, Dec 11

JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

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

Book Discussion

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

Join us this month to discuss "The Maid" by Nita Prose. Discussion starts at 6:30pm. Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Dec 12

Social Security: Medicare

Zoom
1-2 p.m.

The Social Security Administration provides protection for workers and their families. Programs provide monthly income to seniors, workers with a disability, children with disabilities, and families in which a spouse or parent has died. We invite you to this virtual presentation to learn about Medicare eligibility requirements, enrollment periods, the application process, and resources. Presentation by Diana Varela, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Dec 13

Job Seeker Resources – Skill Builders

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

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

Resumes and Cover Letters

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

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and cover letter writing help. Looking for a new job or career? Don't miss this free class. Registration recommended by the Monday before event. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

Stop by to visit the JobSource Mobile Career Center for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

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

Facilitated by Charles Harrell and Dennis Poremski of the Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's Association caregiver support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to develop a support system, and exchange practical information on caregiving challenges. 410-

326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Ongoing

Annmarie Garden in Lights

Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, Solomons
Through January 1, 2024
5-9 p.m. nightly; closed some evenings

Annmarie Garden in Lights will transport you and your family to an enchanted world full of glowing "light sculptures" and wondrous light installations. Discover magical creatures, wintery wonderlands, musical holiday scenes, deep sea treasures, shimmering trees, and so much more! Check out the full schedule of special nights, including the Holiday Train Display, Santa Sundays, Local Heroes Nights, Special Needs Night, Golf Cart Tours, and more! Advance timed-entry tickets required; \$15/person (\$17 at the gate, if not sold out).

Reduced cost tickets for SNAP card holders available. Rain or shine event, no pets, no smoking. Details: www.annmariegarden.org.

Art in the Stacks – Solomons

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
Month of December

Greg Johannesen is a local artist residing in Calvert County. He describes himself as a Plein Air Expressive Realist, immersing himself into painting outside of a studio setting. Greg's medium of choice is pastels. Visit the Southern Branch to see Greg Johannesen's artwork! 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Art in the Stacks – Prince Frederick

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
Month of December

The current show focuses on images seen under the microscope such as brain neurons, bone cells and mitochondria. Morrison works in a printmaking medium called linocut. Pat Morrison was born in Washington DC and currently lives in Chesapeake Beach. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Art in the Stacks – Twin Beaches

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
Month of December

Ilsa Ferro is a retired Department of Defense senior executive, with over 20 years of experience leading federal publishing, graphics and multimedia organizations. Outside of her career, her first passion was music. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Large Gym at Northeast Community Center Closed Temporarily

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation (CCPR) advises citizens that the large gym at Northeast Community Center will temporarily close for floor replacement starting on Dec. 4, 2023. This improvement project will enhance the community center with new wood flooring suited for various activities including volleyball, indoor pickleball and basketball. The building will remain open and operating during construction.

The gym is expected to reopen for regular use by Saturday, Jan. 6, 2023; this date is subject to change depending on the project's completion. Northeast Community Center is located at 4075 Gordon Stinnett Avenue in Chesapeake Beach.

CCPR is committed to meeting the evolving needs of the community and providing top-notch facilities for recreational activities. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to make improvements for the benefit of all who use our community center.



For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks and follow [@CalvertCountyParksandRec](https://www.instagram.com/CalvertCountyParksandRec) on Instagram. Learn more about the department online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/parksandrec.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Calvert Library Board Applications Being Accepted

Calvert Library announces a pending vacancy on the Calvert Board of Library Trustees (BOLT). All qualified applicants are welcome and all candidates will be assessed using the same criteria. Applications are accepted through December 19, 2023.

The responsibilities of the Board of Library Trustees are established by State Code. The Board is responsible for governance and fiscal oversight; approving library policies and budget and overseeing the work of the Executive Director. The Board is comprised of 7 community members who volunteer their time and support to the library. Officers include President, Vice President and Secretary. Responsibilities include monthly meetings; the board currently meets at 4:00pm on third Tuesdays. Once a quarter, meetings are held in person at one of the four library locations and the remainder of the meetings are held virtually on Zoom. In addition to regular meetings, there is an annual meeting of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association that Board members are invited to attend and an annual Citizens for Maryland Libraries meeting generally held on a Saturday in October.

Service on the BOLT is a volunteer pub-

lic office with a normal appointment term of five years. The open terms begin in January 2024 and lasts through December of 2025. While State law provides that individuals may serve more than one term (but not more than two full terms in succession), each term is separate and requires application, nomination by the Board and appointment by the Board of County Commissioners. Appointment to one term does not create an entitlement to serve more than one term. The Board appreciates that experience on the Board is a significant factor to be considered, but recognizes that other factors may also be significant including, but not limited to: the quality of past performance; current Board composition; specific current needs of the Board; and, the comparative qualifications of all applicants. Additionally, since Board membership is a privilege, all eligible County citizen should have equal access to consideration for this privilege.

Details and a link to the online application can be found at <https://calvertlibrary.info/about-us/board-of-trustees/meet-the-board/>.

For more information, call Robyn Truslow at 410-535-0291.



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Planning & Zoning Invites Feedback

*Public Comment Period Open
December 8 Through December 29*

The Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning invites county residents to participate in the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance update process. Citizens are invited to participate through public comment, a public forum and observing work sessions and meetings, to have a voice in shaping local development and land use policies and actively contribute to the well-being and future of the community.

The next phase of events will receive and consider feedback and recommendations from residents on the following article:

Article 25 – Site Development and Design Standards (view draft Article 25): This article emphasizes safe pathways through site circulation standards for both residential and non-residential development. Regulations in this article focus on standards for residential development including single-family dwellings to multi-family and mixed residential development. This article also covers standards and design criteria for non-residential developments, requirements for age-restricted housing, manufactured home communities and historic significance.

The public comment period will be open Friday, Dec. 8, through Friday, Dec. 29. Comments may be submitted by email to ZOupdate@calvertcountymd.gov or by mail to Attn: ZO Update, 205 Main St., Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

A public forum will be held Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center located at 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick. Doors open

at 6 p.m. During the forum with zoning staff, members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions. The public may attend in-person or virtually through Zoom by calling 888-475-4499, enter meeting ID 870 4870 1285 and passcode “#.”

Joint Work Session, Jan. 17: A joint work session with the Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center located at 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

The schedule for each phase and draft articles can be viewed online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/ZoningOrdinanceUpdate. These dates may be subject to change.

The Calvert County Zoning Ordinance regulates land usage, public facilities and overall county development as part of the effort to promote health, safety and welfare of Calvert County residents, as mandated in the Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2019 and amended in 2022). For questions or further information, contact Rachel O’Shea at 410-535-1600, ext. 2339, or by email at rachel.oshea@calvertcountymd.gov, or Will Hager at 410-535-1600, ext. 8553, or by email at will.hager@calvertcountymd.gov.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Administrative Charging Committee Accepting Applications

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) announces the Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) is now accepting applications for new members. The committee reviews findings of law enforcement investigations to determine if it is appropriate to administratively charge a police officer who is the subject of the investigation.

The ACC is comprised of five members, including the Police Accountability Board (PAB) chairperson, two citizens appointed by the BOCC and two citizens appointed by the PAB. A four-member citizen review committee, comprised of one representative each from the Calvert County Fraternal Order of Police, Calvert County NAACP, Calvert County Republican Central Committee and Calvert County Democratic Central Committee, will offer recommendations regarding the applicants to the BOCC. The BOCC will use these recom-

mendations to appoint a citizen to the ACC for a three-year term.

All ACC members are required to complete a free, five-day training program on police procedures provided by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission in Sykesville, Maryland. The ACC convenes at least monthly on the second Wednesday of each month from 3-4:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in applying to be a member of the ACC may complete an online application at www.CalvertPAB.com. For further information contact Liz Drew at 410-535-1600, ext. 2695, or by email at Elizabeth.Drew@CalvertCountymd.gov.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Sheriff’s Office Hosts Annual Shop with a Cop

On Saturday, Dec. 2, Calvert County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) Deputies, along with Troopers from the Maryland State Police (MSP), Prince George’s County Police Department (PGPD), Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Natural Resources Police (DNR), and Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal participated in the 17th Annual Calvert Shop with a Cop event.

The Shop with a Cop program sponsored by the Calvert Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 109, and the Optimist Club of Calvert, joins underprivileged children with local police officers to purchase gifts for themselves and family members leading up to Christmas.

Saturday’s events began with the children being chauffeured from their homes in patrol vehicles to Prince Frederick where they were treated to a delicious breakfast provided by Outback Steakhouse. Santa Claus made a special appearance spreading Christmas cheer. After their bellies were full, the children were escorted with lights and sirens to Walmart for a shopping spree to purchase gifts.

A huge thank you to the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the officers, children, and volunteers at the firehouse to wrap their gifts.



A sincere thank you to Outback Steakhouse for providing breakfast AND lunch, Optimist Club of Calvert County, Calvert FOP, Walmart, Pros Fore Clothes Foundation, Children’s Aid, Inc., CCSO civilian staff, and numerous other community partners who helped make this day magical for everyone.

Press Release from CCSO

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Solomons Celebrates 42nd Annual Christmas Walk on December 9th

Solomons Business Association will celebrate its 42nd year of Christmas Walk with the fabulous Lighted Boat Parade on Saturday, December 9th.

The SBA will celebrate its 42nd Christmas Walk with a new look. We will launch our Christmas celebrations with a fabulous Solomons Vendor Village in several locations in Solomons. We hope to grow the Vendor Village every year onwards until we become famous as The Solomons Vendor Christmas Village.

Saturday, December 9th at 6 p.m., weather permitting, we have the Lighted Boat Parade, coordinated by Solomons Island Yacht Club, Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron, Solomons Yachting Center, Sail Solomons and Southern Maryland Sailing Association, will begin at dusk and end along the Riverwalk at approximately 7:15 p.m. A captain's meeting covering the route, safety issues and rules for judging will begin at 5:15 p.m. at the Solomons Yachting Center.

The lights on the Christmas tree, the gazebo and on the riverwalk will be installed and lit by The NAS Pax River Navy Chiefs. Look for Santa's mailbox for letters to Santa,

at the Gazebo, these letters will be collected and published on our SBA Facebook pages (please indicate on your letter if you do not want it published).

A beautiful Christmas tree arrived Thursday, November 30th. The public are welcome to contribute decorations at any time.

Our house and business decorating theme this year will be Island/Nautical. Photography will commence 12/2 until 12/12 and added to SBA Facebook page. Decorated houses and businesses in Solomons/Dowell will be scored and voted on by the public on our Facebook page. Final tally is Saturday December 16th at which time winners will be announced. Starting December 3rd, we will be watching as the decorations go up and adding them to our SBA Facebook page. Extra points will be garnered if elements of our theme 'Island/Nautical' is included.

For further information, visit solomonsmaryland.com or contact Vandy Young at 240-577-1617 or vandyyoung@gmail.com. For vendor information and sign up forms send to Donna House at eventsmanager@nothymetocook.com



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Calvert History on Display at State House Part of Annual Christmas Decorations



The Chesapeake Garden Club committee who worked on the star wreath: Judy and Richard MacWilliams, Terri Devine, and Kay Parris. Not present: Sharon Sherbert and Jackie Smith.

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Visitors this holiday season to the State House in Annapolis will see among the decorations a piece of Calvert County history and culture.

According to the Office of Gov. Wes Moore, "Every year during the holidays, Maryland's Federated Garden Clubs and the National Capital Area Garden Clubs decorate trees and wreaths representing all 23 of Maryland's counties and Baltimore City."

The Chesapeake Garden Club provided Calvert's contribution on Nov. 28 – the Star Tobacco Wreath, made of tobacco sticks from the county's tobacco barns, many of which are now sitting idle with the demise of the area's historic tobacco industry.

Information supplied by the garden club for the exhibit said, "The tobacco industry in Calvert County was very strong and a source of income for many farmers until the cash buyout (a program for farmers to transition from tobacco to other agricultural products). Hundreds of Calvert farms used to cultivate tobacco; today, only one family farm remains growing tobacco in Calvert.

"Many barns no longer hang tobacco but are filled with these sticks of old. The Chesapeake Garden Club is helping to preserve these centuries-old handmade sticks. Walking sticks, stars, stables, birdhouses, and other creative items are made from these sticks."

The garden club provided some background history: "Early settlers to Calvert found the Piscataway Indians growing crops, among them a plant called tobacco.

The colonists began harvesting this for their own livelihood. For over 350 years, growing tobacco was the main cash crop.

"There are many steps in growing and harvesting tobacco, but one main tool was a simple wooden stick from oak, pine, and poplar trees made and used by the farmers.

"A tobacco plant can grow to 4 to 5 feet tall with a firm stalk. Designed to hold the strong tobacco plant, a tobacco stick was cut to a point on one end and cut flat on the other. A metal cone is placed over the pointed end that enables the farmer to 'spear' the green tobacco plant, so it hangs on the stick. When the stick is full, it is hung from the rafters in a barn for several months until all the leaves turn brown. Tobacco leaves are 'stripped' off and cured over the winter months."

The tobacco sticks were provided to the garden club by the S. L. Brady Farm of Owings and the David and Susan Cox Family of Spider Hall Farm, Prince Frederick.

The Tobacco Star Wreath Committee is Terri Devine, Judy MacWilliams, Kay Parris, Sharon Sherbert, and Jackie Smith. The craftsman was Richard MacWilliams.

Maryland's State House is open to visitors daily from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Visitors will need to show a valid ID to enter. Parking is available at several locations in Annapolis.

This year the trees and wreaths will be on display at the Maryland State House through January 1, 2024, in the rotunda.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Sunderland Man Sentenced for Sex Abuse of a Minor

Nam Hong Nguyen, 40, of Sunderland, was sentenced on Nov. 27 in Calvert County Circuit Court to 45 years in prison, with 15 years of active time, for attempted rape and sex abuse of a minor child. The sentence was imposed by Judge Mark S. Chandlee.

In November of last year, Nguyen entered the bedroom of a family member, armed with a handgun. He took off his clothing and began touching the victim's legs. The victim awoke and Nguyen crouched down beside the bed. The victim was able to send text messages to her mother, who came to the bedroom and began knocking on the door. At that point, Nguyen took the gun and fled the house. He stated he was going to kill himself. The police arrived and took Nguyen into custody without further incident. The gun was recovered.

Nguyen will be required to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life and will be on 5 years supervised probation upon release.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney.



Nam Hong Nguyen

Sentence Imposed for Reckless Endangerment

Christopher Thomas Chaillet, 36, of Nanjemoy, pled guilty on Nov. 27 in Calvert County Circuit Court to reckless endangerment and permitting a child to have access to a firearm. The evidence showed that Chaillet, who possessed a valid Maryland handgun permit, knowingly left a loaded handgun in his truck while his two-year old son was sitting, unsupervised, in the passenger seat. The child gained access to the gun and shot himself in the arm.

Judge Mark S. Chandlee required Mr. Chaillet to serve one year of home confinement followed by three years of probation. Chaillet was required to forfeit the weapon and he will be prohibited from owning or possessing firearms in the future.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney April N. Brown.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney



Christopher Thomas Chaillet

Lusby Woman Killed in Lothian Accident

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A Lusby woman was killed on Dec. 5 in an accident on Route 4 at the Calvert-Anne Arundel County line. The deceased was identified as Shaela Rene McCray, 23. According to the Anne Arundel County Police Department, McCray was the driver of a car that left the road and struck a tree.

The police report, "On December 5, 2023, at approximately 2:10 p.m., offi-

cers responded to southbound Route 4 near Lower Pindell Road in Lothian for a single-vehicle crash. The investigation revealed a 2018 Toyota Yaris was traveling southbound on Route 4 when, for unknown reasons, the vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. The driver was pronounced deceased at the scene by Calvert County Fire officials. This crash is under investigation by the Traffic Safety Section.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Detectives Investigating Boy's Shooting

Deputies from the Calvert County Patrol Bureau responded on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7:05 a.m. to a report of a shooting on Sark Court in Prince Frederick. Deputies arrived on scene and located a juvenile male suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper body. The victim was flown to an area trauma center in stable condition. Witnesses on the scene advised a masked male suspect was seen leaving the area in a black SUV.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Bureau responded to the scene and have assumed the investigation. This does not appear to be a random act.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Det. J. Buck at Joshua.Buck@calvertcountymd.gov or (410) 535-2800 ext. 2765. Please reference case #23-85460. Citizens may remain anonymous through the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov.

The investigation is ongoing.

Press Release from CCSO.

Jersey Mike's Fire Under Investigation

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A sprinkler system at the Jersey Mike's sub shop in Dunkirk limited the damage from a fire there on Nov. 30.


According to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's office, "9-1-1 was alerted to an Automatic Fire Alarm at the location. The business was closed at the time of the fire. Fire Department units forced entry and found smoke within the structure. The sprinkler system contained the fire to just a small area behind the prep station." Damage was estimated at \$5,000.

The business is located at 10107 Ward Road. The alarm sounded at 4:16 a.m. 4:16 a.m. Nie firefighters from the Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department responded but the fire had been extinguished upon their arrival and all they found was smoke.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

dickmyers@countytimes.net





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COVID Positive Tests at a Ten-Week High

At-Home Testing, Self-Isolation May Skew Data

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

In recent weeks, The County Times has received numerous reports of Calvert County residents contracting Covid. Is this anecdotal information an indication of a resurgence of Covid? The County Times asked the Calvert County Health Department for a response and the following was received on Dec. 7:

“Calvert County case counts increased slightly during the most recent reporting period, November 23–29. Positives are unique cases for the respective time period. At home tests, or presumption of positivity isn’t included in these counts.

“Overall testing volume decreased. The resulting percent positivity is the highest overall in 10 weeks. The 75 and over age group had the highest positivity during this reporting period, at 30 percent.

“Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends the 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax, to protect against serious illness from COVID-19. Also, for everyone six months and older, there’s still time to get a seasonal flu vaccine to protect against influenza this season.

“In addition to COVID-19 and the seasonal flu, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) is also active in our community. RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes cold-like symptoms. Most people will recover in a week or two, but serious symptoms can develop. Infants and older adults are more likely to develop severe RSV than otherwise healthy adults, and hospitalization may be necessary in some cases.

“For those 60 or older, a vaccine is available to protect against severe RSV. If a woman is pregnant, she can get an RSV vaccine between 32–36 weeks of pregnancy to protect their infant after birth, or a preventative antibody can be given to the baby after birth. People should discuss the benefits and risks with their healthcare provider in order to make an informed choice.”

In his most recent posting on the health department’s website, Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky warned of an upswing in cases as the cold weather and flu season arrived. He said, “Covid is not wreaking as much havoc as we saw two to three years ago, but as new variants appear, we continue to see waves of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths across our county and across the U.S. It is likely that we will see increases in covid, influenza, and RSV in late fall and into the winter. All three of these infections are mostly preventable with vaccination.

“Regardless of your risk of severe illness, there are two reasons to consider staying up to date with the new covid vaccines that have been recommended by infectious disease physicians across America.

“1) It is clear that children and adults are at risk of long covid, even if their initial illness is mild. Long covid includes persisting (months or years) symptoms such as severe fatigue and clouded thinking, and increased



risks of new onset diabetes and other serious disease processes. Numerous scientific studies have shown that staying current on vaccination decreases the risk of both infection and long covid.

“2) The more people in our community who are vaccinated, the lower the rates of community transmission. In turn, those most at risk of hospitalization and death are less likely to be exposed to and contract covid. We all understand what a burden it is on our local emergency room and hospital when waves of infections hit Calvert. None of us wants to see general hospital wards and the intensive care unit closed to new admissions because of preventable illnesses. We’re all a car crash or infected appendix away from a hospital admission. Regardless of our individual health status, it is in everyone’s interest to have local hospital resources available when we need them.

“The current covid vaccine is not a booster. Like annual flu vaccines, this is a new formulation to best match the covid strains currently circulating. We don’t refer to each fall’s flu shot as a ‘booster’. The current vaccine is based on the XBB.1.5 variant which is markedly different in terms of what our immune systems recognize than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. The immunity people have generated from previous vaccines and/or previous infections provide some degree of protection, but the current transmission rates and increasing hospitalizations provide evidence that this is not sufficient to keep many people healthy.

“During clinical testing, the newly formulated covid vaccines produced antibody levels 5-6 times higher against the currently circulating viruses than the previous bivalent vaccines. The CDC projects that if vaccines are offered to everyone and not just seniors, 100,000 additional hospitalizations will be prevented this coming fall and winter across the U.S.

“Over the last 2 months, covid hospitalizations having been gradually rising, as can be seen in the graph below. We have seen

an increase in covid-related hospitalizations for Calvert residents (4-5 people per week) since Labor Day. If trends hold, there will be further increases in serious covid illnesses as we head into late fall and winter.

“Per the experts at the CDC and Infectious Disease Society of America (the national organization of infectious disease physicians), if someone received a bivalent vaccine over the summer or had a recent covid infection, they should wait 3-4 months before getting the updated vaccine. If your personal healthcare provider recommends something different, there may be good reasons for this based on your specific medical condition.

“An important note for parents, over 100,000 adolescents received covid vaccines during this past year. None of them developed myocarditis. This condition, which is an inflammation of the heart muscle, was seen in adolescent males with the original two-dose series vaccinations. The national experts think the lack of myocarditis over this past year is because only a single dose was needed for last year’s booster. The current vaccine also only requires one dose for everyone age 5 and older. For children under age 5, if they were previously vaccinated, they also only need one dose this year. Children under five who have never received a covid vaccine are still recommended to get an initial series (2 doses of Moderna vaccine or three doses of Pfizer vaccine), but myocarditis has never been identified in this younger age group.

“For those who would like to have some covid tests available at home, you can now order up to 4 test kits through the federal government website- <https://www.covid.gov/tests>. There is no charge for the test kits.

“Finally, covid vaccines are no longer ‘free,’ however, everyone with health insurance can be vaccinated without any out-of-pocket cost. Pharmacies are receiving doses of the new formulations of vaccine. It will likely take longer for doctors’ offices to receive shipments. The Calvert

Health Department recommends that all of our residents sign up for a covid vaccine and a flu vaccine over the next month. You will keep yourself healthier, and just as importantly, you will keep medically high-risk family members, neighbors, classmates, and coworkers safer. As Americans, we have a moral obligation to protect others who are vulnerable. Please make the effort to get your new covid and flu vaccines and keep Calvert a healthier and safer community for all.

Polsky also recently gave an update on the Omicron variant. He wrote: “The Calvert Health Department is aware of an email circulating that gives a false impression of current covid infections. This post will not rehash the incorrect information in the email. Instead, we will provide the facts of what is currently happening with covid infections. Details will be provided to back up the information below. For those who prefer not to read a long post, the take homes are:

“All covid infections this summer have been caused by various members of the Omicron variant. These include XBB variants and the newest strain, EG.5.

“There has been a gradual, but persistent increase in cases over the summer. This increase is due to a combination of increased social interactions compared to the worst days of covid and a decrease in circulating antibody levels of people who were vaccinated last fall and those who were infected last fall and winter. As circulating antibodies decrease, people of all ages are more susceptible to reinfection, but their immune systems usually will kick in to combat the virus before severe illness occurs.

“Although we continue to see severe consequences from covid, illnesses resulting in hospitalization or death are occurring at substantially lower rates with the currently circulating Omicron variants compared to Delta and earlier variants. This is due to both: 1) new mutations in the Omicron strains, and 2) residual immune protection from previous infections (good protection) and vaccinations (better protection).

“Medical studies consistently show that vaccinations result in stronger and longer lasting immune protection than protection following natural infection.

“Even though severe acute illness is much less likely that during early periods of covid, people who get ill from covid are more likely to have prolonged courses and are at risk of long covid.

“Long covid can result in a constellation of health problems, including chronic fatigue and lung, heart, and kidney damage. People with covid are also twice as likely to develop diabetes in the year after infection than those who were not infected. Long covid can affect everyone from children through seniors.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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CHESAPEAKE GARDEN CLUB’S REUSE OF TOBACCO STICKS.



LOCAL 3
COVID resurgent in Calvert



6 ON THE COVER
Solomons Christmas Walk coming this weekend



LOCAL 5
State House hosts Calvert history display

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, DEC 7	FRI, DEC 8	SAT, DEC 9	SUN, DEC 10
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 49° Lo: 35°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 39°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 48°	 Rain Hi: 65° Lo: 40°
MON, DEC 11	TUE, DEC 12	WED, DEC 13	THU, DEC 14
 AM Showers Hi: 46° Lo: 32°	 Sunny Hi: 48° Lo: 33°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 51° Lo: 33°	 Sunny Hi: 44° Lo: 29°

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