

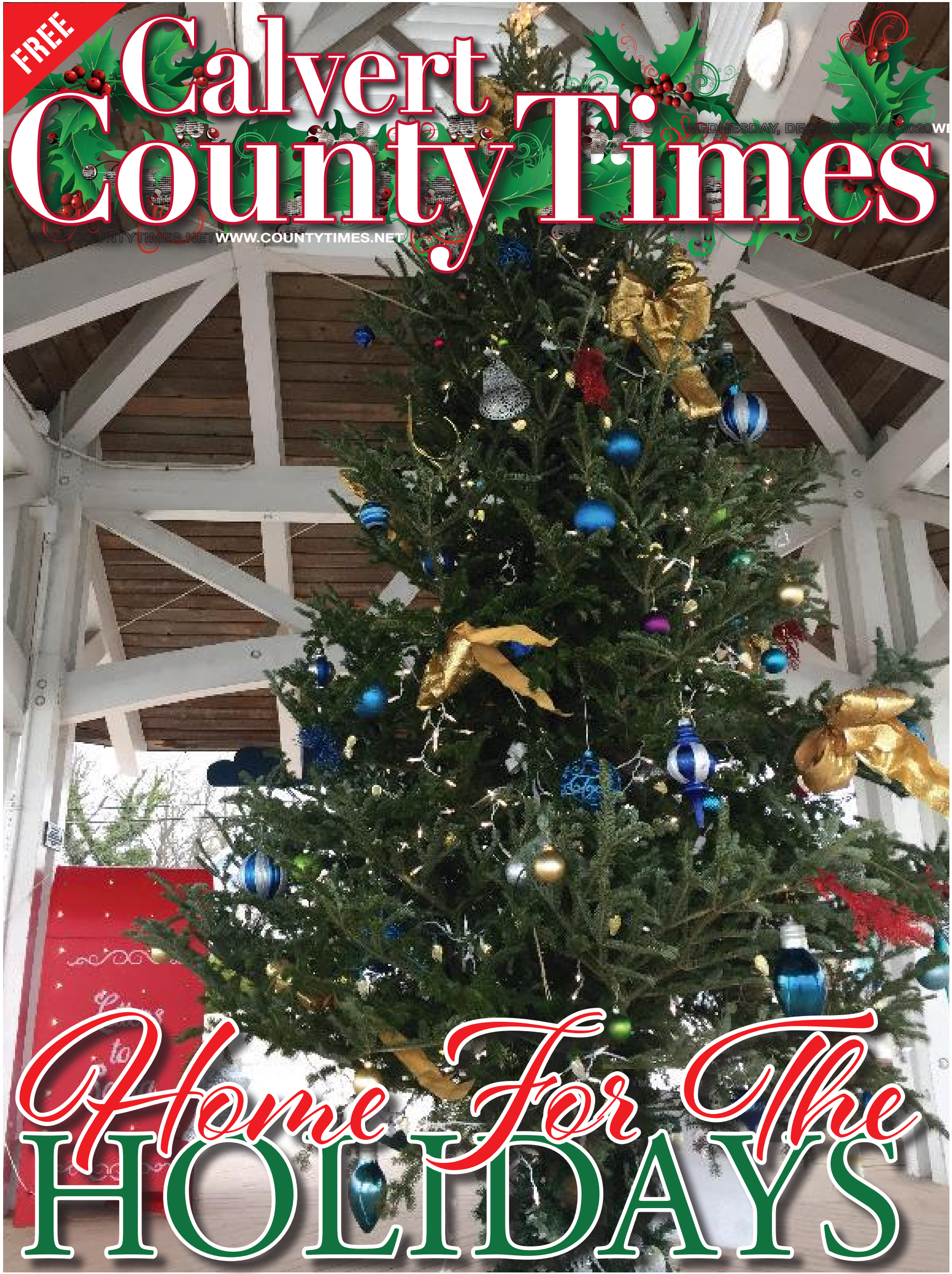
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Calvert County Times

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

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HOLIDAYS



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Finance Director Tim Hayden painted a rosy income tax picture



COMMUNITY 14

Calvert Cliffs employees make community donations.

“IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I SEE IN REALITY.”

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT BUDDY HANCE ON SURGE IN INCOME TAX REVENUE.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 12/24 60° 30°F Showers	Fri 12/25 35° 21°F Partly Cloudy	Sat 12/26 34° 26°F Sunny	Sun 12/27 44° 34°F Mostly Sunny
Mon 12/28 47° 33°F Showers	Tue 12/29 37° 26°F AM Rain/Snow	Wed 12/30 40° 27°F Partly Cloudy	Thu 12/31 43° 35°F Showers

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COVID-19

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Information provided by Calvert Health Department

Michael Moore Remembered

Was First Black County Commissioner

By Dick Myers
Editor

Calvert County's first African American county commissioner passed away last week. Michael Moore served from 1990 to 1994.

The Calvert County Branch of the NAACP said on Moore's passing, "Michael was a towering figure in Calvert County, not just because of his height, but for his continuous contributions to the community."

The NAACP noted, "He served on countless boards and organizations including Concerned Black Men of Calvert County, Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce, and the Calvert NAACP."

The county commissioners also took note of his passing. A release said, "On behalf of the entire Calvert County community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Commissioner Moore during this difficult time. He most recently served on the Calvert County Housing Task Force which is charged with addressing affordable housing for all."

Moore talked about the need for affordable housing in an interview with The County Times about the Calvert County Minority Business Alliance in conjunction with Small Business Appreciation Week in May of last year. Moore was a founder of the organization.

The story said that Moore was president of the board while commissioner. "I was always an advocate of economic development and housing in this county," he said, noting that lack of affordable housing for workers is an impediment for employers.

St. Leonard businessman Pat Buehler served with Moore on the commissioner board and shared the common small business bond.

"We worked together on a lot of projects," Buehler said, particularly on economic development. "It was a pro-business board."

"He was a great guy," Buehler shared.

Moore started a barbershop in 1978, one of the county's first minority businesses. He was on the second floor of a building that had freezers downstairs in the old "locker plant" and he would expand to selling seafood from those freezers. From there he purchased the building, turning it into a business condo. Later he would sell it for a gas station.

He continued his barber shop in another location, and expanded into a formal wear rental business, both of which he turned over to other operators.

Moore was born in Calvert County but raised in Baltimore and attended school there. He moved back to the county after starting the barbershop and deciding he needed to be closer to his business. He said, "My wife taught at Calvert. I have two lovely daughters, five grandchildren, and they all went to public school. We were very satisfied with the educational system here in Calvert."

What is now called the Minority Business Alliance was called the Minority League when it was founded in 1981, Moore said.

Regarding his interest in economic development, Moore noted that the county lost out in the 1990's with the influx of defense workers to St. Mary's County and the lack of office space to accommodate them. "You could build a business park, or a tech park and you can reduce some of the traffic on the highways because people will take a job working locally."

That 2019 The County Times story also featured interviews with then Minority Business Alliance President Bryant Parker and immediate past president Dawn Tucker.

Tucker, owner of Lord and Tucker Management Consultants, LLC, said she first met Moore when she was a teenager and attended a dance academy with Moore's daughters. She was impressed with him then and he became a mentor to her as she entered the business world.

"He was a father figure and a mentor," she said of Moore. She said he always

was a strong advocate for small business. "He always encouraged me."

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Sewell Funeral Home of Prince

Frederick. As of press deadline the obituary and funeral arrangements had not yet been released.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Michael Moore (l) in a May 2019 photo with then Minority Business Alliance President Bryant Parker and immediate past president Dawn Tucker.

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Income Tax Revenues Booming

Commissioners Skeptical It'll Continue

By Dick Myers
Editor

“Fiscal Year 2021 is off to a gang-buster start.” That was what Director of Finance and Budget Tim Hayden told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) about income tax revenue trends.

Hayden told the BOCC during a Dec. 15 budget planning session that the county ended the last fiscal year on June 30 with an unaudited surplus of \$10 million, due largely to higher-than-expected income tax receipts. And that trend is continuing this fiscal year, he said, leading him to predict a 7.5 percent increase in income tax proceeds, or \$7 million more than that budgeted last year.

But the commissioners were skeptical. “It goes against everything I see in reality,” said Commissioner President Buddy Hance about the economic impact of the pandemic. “At some point it is going to catch up to us.”

Commissioner Mike Hart wondered if the extra unemployment payments were factored into the income tax surge. But Hayden said those payments stopped in July, but the trends were still showing upward movement. Hart said the projections don't meet “the eye test.”

So, Hayden, who is normally the fiscal conservative trying to rein in the BOCC, had the tables turned on him as he was urged to temper his projections in the future. “Let's keep watching what happens,” he responded.

Hayden has prepared a preliminary FY '22 Budget with a two-percent increase, or \$6.2 million more available.

Hayden said a budget is being built that will not include:

- New positions
- New Initiatives
- Steps or cost of living increases.

The upcoming budget is the first in several years that won't be influenced by a funding formula with the Board of Education.

The commissioners were told by the school system's Chief Financial Officer Edith Hutchins that the pandemic has caused some savings, such as substitute teachers and transportation that could be offset by higher transportation costs when schools reopen because of social distancing. The school system has also had to absorb half the costs of personal protective equipment, or more than \$200,000.

The biggest variable, Hutchins said, would be state funding next year. The school system has seen an enrollment decline of 750 students, but she noted that systems around the state are seeing the same thing. She said there was a legislative initiative to hold the systems harmless for those declines when computing state funding,

Hutchins said the system probably



Director of Finance and Budget Tim Hayden

could operate next year on the same amount of money they received this year with some tweaking, but she observed that the negotiated agreements with staff had a \$4 million price tag.

The budget schedule calls for the finalization of the Staff Recommended Budget by Feb. 9. A public hearing on that will be on March 23. The BOCC will create their own recommended budget by Apr. 16, and a public hearing on that will be on May 10; a budget will be finalized by June 1.

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Have a Very Merry Christmas.

Furniture Gallery
Of Prince Frederick

Public Facilities Capital Budget Reviewed

County Office Building, New Library Dominate

By Dick Myers
Editor

Two major projects dominate the Public Facilities portion of the Calvert County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the next fiscal year. Of the \$13.2 million in the plan for public facilities, almost \$6 million is earmarked for the new county administration building and \$4.3 million for the new Twin Beaches Library in North Beach.

The new office building that will replace the County Services Plaza has an overall price tag of \$35.7 million. Of that, almost \$12 million has been allocated in this year's CIP and the rest will be phased in over the next four fiscal years.

The total cost of the Twin Beaches Library is \$8.6 million, of which \$355,000 has already been allocated for planning. The project will be phased over the next two years.

Calvert Library Executive Director Carrie Wilson said design is just about complete. "We are very excited about that," she said. They are using value engineering to ensure the cost comes in under budget, she said.

Also, on the six-year CIP for the last year is planning for a new Fairview Library. Wilson said it has been long thought that library is in the wrong location.

The review of the public facilities continues the BOCC's look at each section of the CIP. Director of Finance and Budget Tim Hayden has suggested that an ax needs to be wielded at the budget. He says the overall six-year, \$363 million budget had added \$37 million since last year. He says the FY '22 budget is \$5.9 million more than an earlier agreed to threshold that holds capital funding flat from year to year to control debt.

The public facilities section also includes HVAC projects, which brought comments from the commissioners that the costs proposed were much cheaper than they had seen from the school board for their proposed HVAC projects.

The reviewed CIP also includes Calvert Marine Museum, which is proposing \$800,000 next fiscal year for improvements to Lore Oyster House and Drum Point Lighthouse's bulkhead.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Zoning Text Amendment Approved

Would Benefit One Property Owner

By Dick Myers
Editor

Although the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted an update of the county's comprehensive plan last August, now almost a year and a half later the zoning to implement that plan still has not been adopted. In fact, public meetings on the rewrite of the zoning ordinance have not yet begun. The county's website contains no mention of the zoning ordinance update process. They are apparently behind schedule because of the pandemic.

State law prohibits "spot zoning," individual property rezonings, unless a change in the character of the neighborhood or a mistake in the original zoning can be proven. However, the county is allowed to do "text amendments" to the zoning ordinance to change what is or isn't allowed in a particular zoning category. Even though those changes are broad in nature, they often are made at the request of an individual property owner so they can do something else on their property.

Since last August, the planning commis-

sion and county commissioners in tandem, though joint public hearings, have adopted several text amendments. One such change occurred at the joint Dec. 9 meeting. And even though it was a text amendment, it was requested by an individual property owner.

According to a memo issued in conjunction with the joint hearing, "The Department of Planning and Zoning has received an application requesting an amendment to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance to permit Group Homes and Assisted Living Facilities in the Employment Center District."

The Employment Center District is a very narrowly defined area in the north section of Prince Frederick. According to planning and zoning officials, the district is likely to be removed in the zoning ordinance update. So, even though it would not be a change specific just to a particular landowner, it does in fact impact very few.

The property owner in question was not identified at the joint public hearing. There was no public comment, and the text amendment was approved without comment.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Cable Service Plan Approved

Would 'Serve the Unserved'

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved the use of \$1.6 million of cable franchise fees to "Serve the Unserved." The monies will be used to fund "the final phase of Comcast cable service within 300 feet of the existing right-of-way," according to Deputy County Administrator Linda Vassallo.

The unanimous decision is a culmination of months of work, including negotiations with Comcast, and came after a Dec. 15 public hearing.

Cable franchise fee revenue has heretofore been put into the county's general fund. The decision dedicates that revenue this year to extend service to 20 unserved communities involving 328 homes. When the project began, there were 475 unserved homes, but grant monies have been used to cover the first phase.

The lost general fund revenue will be supplanted by increased income tax revenue, according to Vassallo.

All of the work will be completed by the end of next year, Vassallo said. The schedule would be: to be completed in the first quarter of 2021: Double Oak Road, E. Cheney Road, Mackall Road, Simmons Ridge Road, Solomons Island Road, 3875 Fish Hook Drive, Marsh Lane and 4149 Robinson Road; to be finished in the third quarter of 2021: 12060 Thelma's Lane, 2540 Chaneyville Road, Weems Road, Tobacco Ridge Road, St. Johns Chapel and W. Cheney Road; and to be finished in the fourth quarter of 2021: Williams Wharf, Blunts Cove, Ferry Landing, Marshall & Chminey Road, Laveille Road, Adelina Road, Potts Point Road and Barstow Road.

The cable franchise was recently amended to extend the standard, cost-free drop from 125 feet to



Deputy County Administrator Linda Vassallo

300 feet. Comcast requires a density of 15 homes per mile for service, the lowest density approved in Maryland.

What is unknown about the plan is the number of people who will agree to the hookup and the monthly cost to be incurred for service, although Comcast has some low-cost basic plans. One option would be for the county to subsidize it, although that decision has not been made.

The commissioners felt an urgency in rolling out service to the unserved because of the virtual learning that began in school earlier this year. Some families were unserved and had to resort to using hotspots at libraries or sending their children to internet cafes within the schools.

During the public hearing, Carrie Wilson, executive director of Calvert Library, expressed support for the plan.

Two other speakers via Zoom talked about the difficulty of getting service to their neighborhoods.

A consultant is investigating ways of extending mobile hot spots in the community.

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Dec. 9. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was held via ZOOM and live streamed from the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick

1) SPR-2018-286, Calvert Gateway, Lot 4, located at 10825 Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk on a 4.3 acre lot, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 15,890 square foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The submittal was accepted December 19, 2018. Agent: Bay Engineering

2) SPR-1381 11, Lusby Villas, located at 11770 Lusby Parkway, Lusby, on one parcel consisting of 26.23 acres, zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential District. The submittal proposes the construction of 276 multi-family apartment units along with an associated community center and outdoor pool area. The submittal was accepted August 26, 2020. Agent: R.A. Barrett & Associates

3) SPR-138123, Emmanuel Baptist Church Gymnasium, located at 3800 Old Town Road, Huntingtown, on one parcel consisting of 5.23 acres, zoned Huntingtown Town Center, Neighborhood District. The submittal proposes the demolition of two existing trailers to be replaced with the construction of a 12,000 square foot Gymnasium with associated site development requirements. The submittal was accepted September 23, 2020. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

4) SPR-2020-3 15, Dunkirk District Park-Tennis Courts/Parking Lot, located at 10750 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Dunkirk, on one parcel consisting of 81.42 acres, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. The submittal proposes additional amenities and parking to the existing public park. Scope of the project consists of three groups of tennis courts, parking lot and an ADA accessible restroom building in the back portion of the park. Also being

proposed is a new on-site septic system, connection to existing on-site water well and site electrical service for lighting the tennis courts and parking lot. The submittal was accepted October 28, 2020. Agent: WBCM

5) CSPR-138 130, Stoakley Pavilion, located at 125 Stoakley Road, Prince Frederick, on one parcel consisting of two acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, Entry District. The submittal proposed the demolition of the existing residence to be replaced with a 21,532 square foot, three-story medical office building with associated site development requirements. The submittal was accepted November 18, 2020. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates.

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

1) SD-2020-0053, Bowen's Pride, Lots 1-18, located on N. Solomons Island Road in Huntingtown, within the one mile buffer of Prince Frederick Town Center. 18 lots, on three parcels consisting of 40.48 acres. Zoned RCD/FFD, Tier III. As this project is in Tier III, a public hearing is required prior to preliminary approval. Submittal accepted April 29, 2020. Agent: Meridian Land Solutions, LLC (dba R.A. Barrett & Associates)

2) SD-138121, Rebecca's Field, Lots 1-14, located on Cox Road, in Huntingtown, within one mile buffer of Huntingtown Town Center. 14 lots, on one parcel, consisting of 51.058 acres. Zoned RCD, Tier III. As this project is in Tier III, a public hearing is required prior to preliminary approval. Submittal accepted August 26, 2020. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

3) SD-138129, Chapline Place, Lot 3RR & 3A, located on MD RT 4, Trasker's Boulevard and North Prince Frederick Boulevard in Prince Frederick. Located in the Prince Frederick Town Center - Entry District, 2.076 acres, resubdivision of commercial Lot 3R to create Lot 3RR and Lot 3A. Engineer: COA.

Information provided by Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.

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App Puts Emergency Preparedness at Your Fingertips

In recognition of National Preparedness Month in September, the Calvert County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, encourages residents to download and explore its mobile preparedness app, "Calvert Prepare." Formerly called "Prepare Me Calvert," the recently redesigned and upgraded app is an easy way for users to access information and resources in the event of an emergency.

"As we have seen recently, damage from natural or manmade disasters can be swift and severe," said Calvert County Director of Public Safety Jackie Vaughan. "Disasters don't wait; you must take proactive steps to be prepared. Every family, household and business should develop an emergency plan, build an emergency kit, and practice the plan to be better prepared when disaster strikes. Calvert Prepare puts plans, resources and information at the user's fingertips and will help us get information to residents faster."

The upgraded app includes several key features:

- Browse emergency plans and

checklists

- Connect to official Calvert County Government social media platforms
- Read recent news and press releases
- Receive instant push notifications and alerts
- View shelter locations and evacuation procedures
- Submit damage reports

Calvert Prepare is free and available for download for iOS and Android devices.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Be Aware and Prepare safety portal at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/BeAwarePrepare to learn about additional ways to prepare, connect and receive help during an emergency. Making preparations before an imminent threat can make communities more resilient.

Hazards common to Maryland include flooding, high wind, severe thunderstorms and winter storms.

To view more emergency planning tips and information visit www.ready.gov.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

Little Free Libraries Rolling Out

Sponsored by Southern Maryland Meats

Southern Maryland Meats (SMM), a program of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), is installing 'Little Free Libraries' throughout the Southern Maryland region of Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's.

Be on the lookout for the eye catching SMM red barns in your neighborhood! The miniature barn libraries are easy to spot with their standout red and white paintwork and Southern Maryland Meats logo prominently placed above the barn doors.

The libraries are designed to promote the Southern Maryland Meats program livestock producers in a fun and engaging way and encourage awareness of the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives. Each library will provide free reading materials for the community to borrow, including a copy of *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* who is most known for her inventions of groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe.

"The Friends of the Baden Library is excited to put our Little Library to use," says Gwen Ashley who stewards the Baden Community Center library. "We are hope-

ful that it will serve our community for those who aren't able to access the public library because of time constraints. Being located near the Community Center, it will be a great place for "grab and go" reading material."

Little Free Library (LFL) is a worldwide non-profit organization that increases access to books through the creation of book-sharing boxes. These libraries are housed in parks, playgrounds, neighborhood common areas, on school grounds, at government buildings, at farmer's markets, and other regional public/private venues to boost community involvement with the intention of inspiring readers. To date, there are more than 90,000 libraries globally.

Southern Maryland Meats is continuing to search for groups or individuals to host libraries throughout the Southern Maryland. To apply to host a SMM Little Free Library, contact Rachel Norris (240)528-8850 ext. 306, or email: rnorris@smadc.com.

To see the current list of Southern Maryland Meats libraries, visit <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/> and search "SMM" under the Library Name heading.

Press Release from SMADC

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Former Law Officer Pleads Guilty to Child Pornography Possession

Anthony Michael Mileo, age 54, of Huntingtown, Maryland, pleaded guilty today to the federal charge of possession of child pornography. At the time of his indictment in January 2020, Mileo was a Corporal with the Maryland National Capital Park Police Department and was a K9 handler.

The guilty plea was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert K. Hur; Special Agent in Charge John Eisert of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Baltimore; Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police; and Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey.

According to his plea agreement, on August 7, 2019, the Maryland State Police (MSP) Computer Crimes Unit received a referral from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) regarding the possession of child sexual abuse material. The cyber-tip indicated that video files documenting child sexual abuse were uploaded to a document storage application account. The document storage application provided the contents of the account to investigators. The content included over a dozen video files depicting child sexual abuse and provided the IP address associated with the transfer of videos depicting child sexual abuse to the account on July 1, 2019.

As detailed in the plea agreement, investigators learned that the e-mail address was associated with Mileo and the IP addresses were associated with an Internet Service Provider account located at Mileo's address in Calvert County, Maryland. On September 5, 2019, MSP obtained a search warrant for the contents of the e-mail account which revealed approximately 71 video files depicting child sexual abuse, including prepubescent minors and images depicting children in bondage being sexually abused. The video files included a series of known victims of child abuse identified through NCMEC. The e-mail account also contained non-contraband material, including employment information associated with Mileo.

On November 7, 2019, members of the MSP and HSI executed a search warrant at Mileo's residence and recovered three cellular telephones. Mileo admitted during the plea hearing today that the files he uploaded depicting the sexual abuse of children could be accessed from any device with an Internet connection, including the cellular telephones recovered by investigators. For example, Mileo uploaded the document storage application onto his personal iPhone, which allowed him to access the images of child sexual abuse he had previously uploaded to the application.

Mileo previously faced related charges in Calvert County, but those charges were dismissed in favor of federal prosecution.

Mileo and the government have agreed that, if the Court accepts the plea, Mileo will be sentenced to between 48 months and 78 months in federal prison. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis has scheduled sentencing for February 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc. For more information about Internet safety education, please visit www.justice.gov/psc and click on the "Resources" tab on the left of the page.

United States Attorney Robert K. Hur commended HSI Baltimore and the Maryland State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force for their work in the investigation and thanked the Office of the State's Attorney for Calvert County for its assistance. Mr. Hur thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy F. Hagan, who is prosecuting the federal case.

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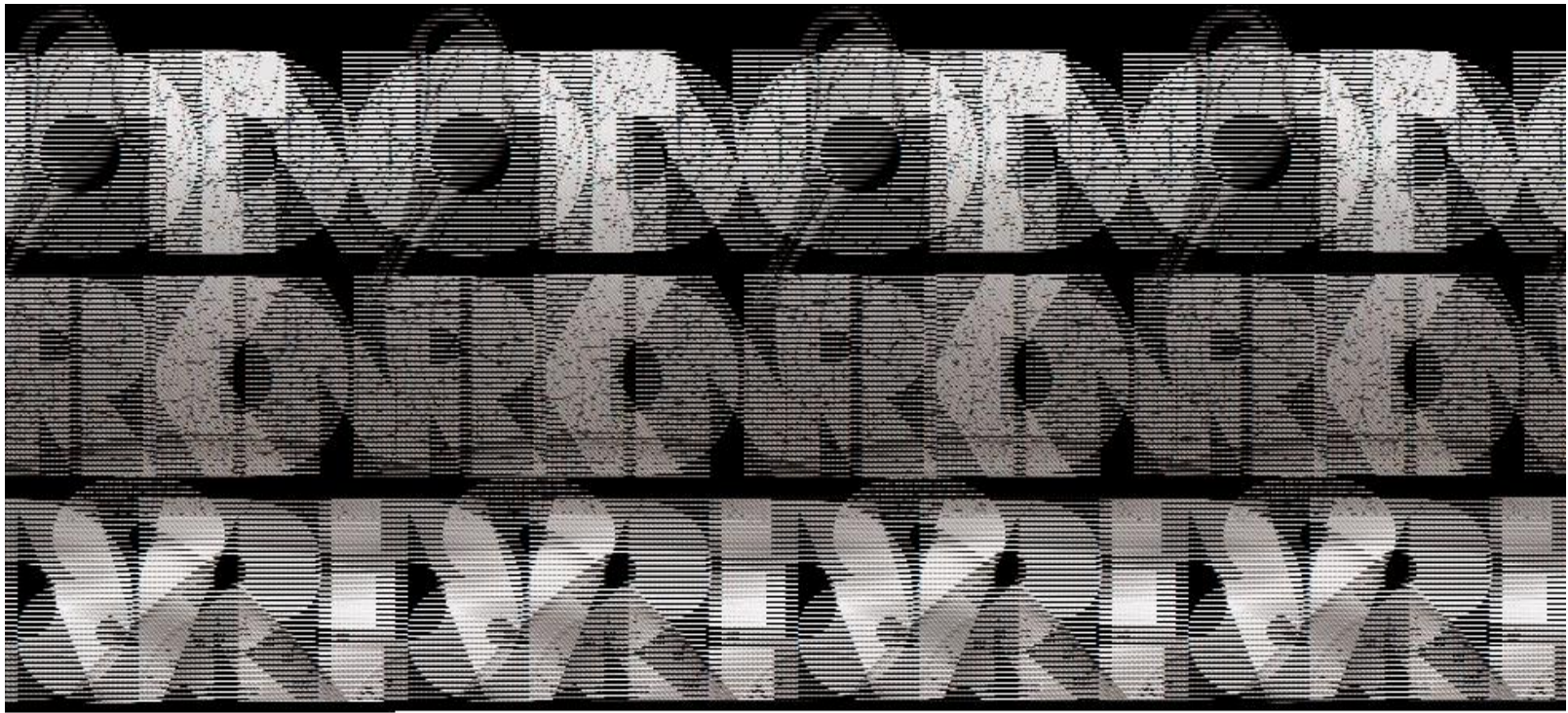
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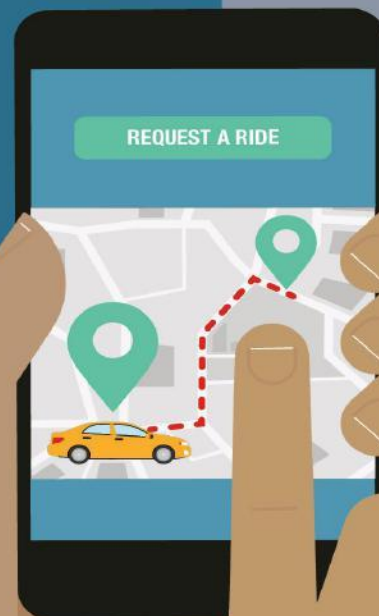
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United Way of Calvert County: They Help Others, Now They Need Help

By Dick Myers
Editor

"If I could sum it up in one word, I would say challenging." That's how United Way of Calvert County Executive Director Kelly Chambers describes 2020, a year that probably will join others in history for their infamy.

Chambers quickly adds, "I would also say that, while it's been challenging, I'm also really proud of the work that we do and the strength that we have to make difficult decisions in a time of crisis and I'm happy to be able to work with so many amazing people, because that's what it's all about is people. And it's about helping people improving lives, working with people, collaborating, and there was just so much collaboration happening this past year that it was amazing to see."

Chambers added, "I'm not surprised at that because that's what Calvert County is all about. And for as long as I've been doing this, it has not changed, unless it's gotten better. It's just really a pleasure to work with so many dedicated people, including my staff and the teachers and the heads of the nonprofits and the nonprofit community."

As to that word "challenging," Chambers said, "Everybody's rising to the challenge. It's endearing to just feel that love, even though we're all in difficult times."

United Way has always been there in tough times, the tragedies, the hurricanes and tornadoes and floods. The pandemic has underscored that need.

Chambers said a good example in 2020 was the work United Way has done with End Hunger in Calvert County in getting food to kids. She said, "Right from the start of the pandemic, all of our free-and-reduced lunches and breakfasts got put away when kids left. So, the big question was for us, how are we going to feed these kids? It took us a month or so to get a good system going. But I would also say it was very rewarding being able to get that done."

"It was a joy to see how many people wanted to help," she said. "You know, it sounds maybe trite to say that when the needs arise, people stand up, but it really is the case."

The year 2020 for nonprofits was the year of the lost fundraisers. Chambers said, "Nonprofits normally have several different income sources, and we are no different from that. We try to diversify our funding, in lots of different ways and especially are critical to the bottom line. Without them it creates a huge gap for many of our agencies. and us as well."

United Way of Calvert County had big plans to celebrate their 40th anniversary. The plans crumbled under the weight of COVID-19.

Most organizations tried to hold virtual fundraisers, but she said, "Virtual can only go so far. It can't be a replacement."



United Way of Calvert County Executive Director Kelly Chambers

The live events attracted people who not only understood they were for a good cause, but they also had a good time. "It's combining fun with giving back and that's a key to an event," she said.

Although it's not a fundraiser, the annual Day of Caring was held on a smaller scale this year in September to get people out to help the nonprofits.

United Way just concluded a two-hour virtual telethon that has been deemed a success. "We did have people answering phones and we did have talent that was done virtually. and we had agency testimonies. It was all focused around our 40th anniversary. We really so wanted to celebrate in some fashion that was safe for the community, as well as provide us with a fundraising mechanism to help the bottom line. And we raised \$46,000," she boasted, "which is huge for a first-time event."

She said it was a way "to show the county that we were still here, still in need, and our agencies are still in need."

But it's still not enough to make the agency whole so it can help the nonprofits that it supports.

United Way has several funding levels. They have identified three key needs in the community – education, health, and financial stability. They provide five-year grants to nonprofits who provide services in those areas. For health it's:

- Calvert County Health Department
 - Calvert Hospice
 - Care Net Pregnancy Center
 - Center for Children
- For education, the agencies are:
- Barstow Acres Children's Center
 - Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland
 - Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth

- Calvert County Public Schools
 - Community Mediation Center of Calvert County
 - East John Youth Center
 - Farming 4 Hunger
 - The Promise Resource Center
- For Financial Stability, the Impact Partners are:

- End Hunger in Calvert County
- Farming 4 Hunger
- Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living

Southern Maryland Community Network
In years past they have also funded "Basic Needs Grants to various agencies such as Red Cross and Project Echo but were unable to do so this year because of the drop in funding.

See the complete list elsewhere on this page of United Way's designated agencies and community partners. Persons who donate to United Way, for instance through a payroll deduction, can designate one of the community agencies as a recipient.

One such agency is the Humane Society of Calvert County. Treasurer Pat Beyer said her organization, like other nonprofits, has struggled without their normal fundraising activities and monies from United Way helps. They have in the past received monies directed to them through United Way.

Humane Society of Calvert County also is a member of Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), where federal employees make regular donations. This year the usual \$25,000 CFC donation has dropped by half, a big hit for a small organization like there's.

Their mission of saving animals in kill shelters was also curtailed for a time this spring and summer when municipal shelters were closed, Beyer said. That has improved since many have reopened. Humane Society is showing adoptable pers by appointment.

We could fill this entire issue with stories from those 33 agencies listed on this page. Study it. Surely you will find a cause near and dear to your heart. Each one of them is supported by United Way of Calvert County.

That telethon which ran last week is still open for donations through the end of the year. Just go to their website: United Way of Calvert County | (unitedwaycalvert.org) and click on either the Telethon or Donate buttons or you can text to 424144.

They also are a CFC member. Their number is 68134.

To help fill the funding gap created this year, the agency made the difficult decision to sell their headquarters building on Main Street in Prince Frederick and to relocate into smaller, more cost-effective quarters.

Chambers said, "In this difficult situation of the pandemic, our funds are low and we're trying to be safe and cut back. Obviously being in the office and the house is something that we don't have to have in order to do our work. And it would help us financially to have those funds, to be able to fulfill our obligation, to the grants that we support in the area of education, health, and financial stability. So, it just made sense to sell the house. We are still working full time. We are still doing everything that we have done."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



United Way of Calvert County Agencies and Community Partners

1. Barstow Acres Children's Center
2. Bay Community Support Services
3. Birthright of Prince Frederick
4. Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maryland
5. Calvert Animal Welfare League
6. Calvert Churches Community Food Pantry, Inc.
7. Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth
8. Calvert County Health Department
9. Calvert County Public Schools/ HIPPY Program
10. Calvert Family Advocates
11. Calvert Hospice
12. Calvert Meals on Wheels
13. Care Net Pregnancy Center of So Md
14. Catholic Charities of the Arch diocese of
15. Center for Children
16. Chesapeake Cares Food Pantry
17. Christmas in April
18. Community Mediation Center of Calvert
19. Community Ministry of Calvert County
20. East-John Youth Center, Inc.
21. End Hunger in Calvert County
22. Farming for
23. Friends of Calvert County Seniors
24. Humane Society of Calvert County
25. Loving Care Senior Services, Inc.
26. Patuxent Habitat for Humanity
27. Project Echo, Inc.
28. Promise Resource Center
29. Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living
30. Southern Maryland Community Network
31. Special Olympics Maryland
32. St. Anthony's Ladies of Charity – Providing food for the community
33. The Arc of Southern Maryland



Power Plant Employees Donate to Local Communities

The communities where Exelon Generation employees live and work will receive more than \$4.4 million to support critical needs, thanks to the nuclear power plant employees and the Exelon Foundation. The nuclear power plant employees pledged more than \$2.9 million to over 2,000 different charities in their surrounding communities this year. And for every dollar employees pledged, the Exelon Foundation donated 50 cents to their local United Way, bringing the total donation to more than \$4.4 million.

At Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Lusby MD, the employees pledged nearly **\$200,000 to 147** charities during this year's Employee Giving Campaign. Organizations supported include 8 different local United Way Organizations, the Wounded Warrior Project, local Fire and Rescue Services, local youth sports organizations, Red Cross and Humane societies just to name a few.

"Without community partners like Exelon, we wouldn't be able to make such a difference in our community. We are extremely thankful for their 40 years of continuous support," said Kelly Chambers, CEO of United Way of Calvert County. "It takes great partners to accomplish great things and we're fortunate to have such a partner in Exelon Generation. In

addition to sponsoring special events and having an amazing employee giving program, Exelon has been a leader in the community when it comes to volunteerism."

"This has been a challenging year for many, and our nuclear power plant employees answered the call for help, giving to charities and causes that mean the most to them," said Bryan Hanson, Exelon chief generation officer. "Our people have strong bonds with the communities that surround our nuclear plants. Their generosity will bring resources to organizations that need them, along with hope and relief for the people who rely on them."

Exelon Generation employees have a long-standing tradition of supporting their communities, not just with their dollars, but also with their time. While the coronavirus pandemic limited several in-person opportunities, many nuclear power plant employees participated in virtual events. Through Nov. 30, 2020, employees had volunteered more than 24,000 hours with charitable organizations in their communities. That's equal to more than two-and-a-half years' time. Projects included virtual walks, virtual food drives, and creating cards for kids in the hospital, among many others. Calvert Cliffs employees volunteered over



Tom Haaf, vice president Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant presents the United Way of Calvert with a check for \$10,000 during the United Way's 40th Anniversary Telethon.

3,670 hours so far this year with local organizations.

Calvert Cliffs is located on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County and is Maryland's only nuclear energy facility. The station is home to two pressurized water reactors capable of generating

more than 1,800 megawatts combined, providing approximately 80 percent of Maryland's clean energy and powering more than 30 percent of all homes and businesses in the state.

Press Release from Exelon Generation

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Twin Beach Players Presents

Christmas Plays Via Streaming

Every year Twin Beach Players presents a Christmas production, and this year is no exception — just in a different way.

Three holiday one-act plays — “Santa’s Workshop’s Got Talent,” by Lavinia Roberts; and “To: Mrs. Claus” and “When Santa Lost His Ho, Ho, Ho,” both by Alexi Alfieri — are being shown as one production, directed by Sid Curl, via streaming on-demand via Showtix through January 1, allowing you to easily fit this into your holiday plans. For tickets, visit www.twinbeachplayers.org, or go to www.showtix4u.com and search for Twin Beach Players. Tickets are priced at \$20 per family.

Does Santa’s Workshop have talent? It’s time to find out when it’s just days before Christmas at Santa’s Workshop and a big blizzard has snowed everybody in! But there’s still work to be done — like getting the elves and reindeer in the proper holiday spirit with song, dance, and laughs — so elf hosts Holly Daze and Mistletoe Merryman decide the North Pole’s annual talent show must go on... line! Mrs. Claus, the pun-loving Ruby the Red-Lipped Reindeer, and Old St. Nick himself join the hosts online to help judge. Bitterly cold Jack Frost and Snow Queen hack their way into the contest, but even they can’t take the warmth and good spirit out of this friendly competition!

In “To: Mrs. Claus,” we learn that when online searches don’t work, what do children do if they have serious questions about the Big Man himself? Why, email Mrs. Claus, of course! With a very long, pre-Christmas spreadsheet nearly completed, Mrs. C is in for a surprise when her Personal Elf Assistant Buddy informs her via video chat that there’s still much more to do: the North Pole email inbox is flooded with inquiries about everything from Santa’s health to how reindeers fly! Mrs. Claus resolves to reply to all the curious children’s messages, but quickly finds that she needs expert elfin advice to guide her best



responses.

Can Santa lose his holiday spirit? That’s exactly what has happened the day before Christmas. Specifically, he can’t muster a single jolly “ho, ho, ho!” Mrs. Claus is understandably worried and becomes intent on bringing back Santa’s holiday cheer for the sake of Christmas everywhere. She calls in elves and reindeer in an attempt to help Santa out of his funk. Zippo and Zappo tell some jokes; chefs from the North Pole kitchen try to cheer Santa up with sweet treats; the quiet reindeer try to get a giggle out of the Big Guy with some silly silent routines... but nothing works! Even the modern entertainment stylings of the Twinkletoe Troupe Dancers or a kazoo medley by the Merry Mistletoe Players fail to get a response from despondent old St. Nick! By the time prankster elves Frankie and Freddie arrive on the scene, Mrs. Claus has begun to lose hope. Will this be a “Ho, Ho, Ho”-less Christmas?

Make plans to see this Christmas production!

Press Release from Twin Beach Players.

Library Trustee Board Announces Vacancies

Calvert Library announces two pending vacancies 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 29, 2020.

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. Meetings are currently being held virtually on Zoom but are normally held at one of the four library locations. In addition to regular meetings, there is an annual meeting of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association Corporation 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 public office with a normal appointment term of five years. The open terms are partial terms which begin in January 2021. One ends December 2021 and the other ends December 2022. Individuals who serve a partial term are eligible for appointment to two additional full terms. As provided for in State law, each term is separate and requires application, nomination by the Board and appointment by the Board of County Commissioners. Appointment to a term does not create an entitlement to serve more than one term. All eligible County citizens 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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Brightest Beacon 2020 Awards



Most Festive Boat: "Hers" at Marina West slip B62.

Christmas in Solomons



Brightest Beacon 1st Place: "A Van Ert Filled Old Fashioned Christmas" at 7007 Silver Charm Lane. Receiving 747 votes.



Brightest Beacon on the Bay: "The Christmas House" at 6918 Donau Ct. Receiving 1,146 votes.



Community Spirit: Home is where the Hart is on Hart Lane. Receiving 322 votes.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Alex Trebek Christmas Tribute



Furniture Gallery of Prince Frederick pays tribute to the beloved Jeopardy Host Alex Trebek in their Annual Christmas window display. Christmas Jeopardy is hosted by Santa Claus and contestants vying for cash include Rudolph, Olaf, and the Grinch. Each year, the display depicts a different theme from Reindeer Flight School to Elf Cookie Baking and attracts many people from young to old.

Keep your family safe this holiday season

SMECO wants you to have a safe and happy time throughout the holiday season. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, please keep safety in mind. Here are a few simple tips to remember.

- For a live tree, make sure it always has an adequate amount of water, and keep it away from any source of heat.
- For an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.
- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
- In homes with small children and pets, take care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations.
- Don't use frayed or damaged electric cords, and never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Avoid using candles, they are a primary cause of house fires during the holidays.

SMECO cares about your safety.

Use care with your decorations this season and have a safe and fun-filled holiday.





Letters to the Editor

“Anti-Racism” Policy in CCPS

Calvert County Public Schools have recently voted to implement a bolder version of their “anti-racism” policy. It’s important to note that the core tenants of “anti-racism” are rooted in Critical Race Theory (CRT), which can only thrive once oppressed and oppressor groups have been clearly identified. These policies deprive Blacks of high standards, subject whites to shame and self-depreciation, while simultaneously undermining values that have made America the beacon of freedom for the world.

CRT asserts that America is inherently racist at the core and can only be corrected by the entire dismantling of said racist system. The African-American Museum page on whites recently removed a controversial chart outlining supposed “white culture.” It appears that American culture has been redefined as “white culture” which consists of individualism, hard work as key to success, nuclear family, Judeo/Christian norm, future planning, timeliness, cause and effect, and lastly objective, rational linear thinking. Jonathan Chait from NY Magazine put it this way “hard work, rational thought, and careful planning are *virtues*. White racists traditionally project the opposite of these traits onto Black people and present them as immutable flaws.” To imply that Blacks or other cultures do not possess these virtues is profoundly insulting, and untrue. Presumably, the goal was to tie these descriptors to “whiteness,, which is irreparably racist, and therefore must

be systemically eradicated. Naturally the next question should be, what is to replace this complimentary list of attributes? If one is “bad” then its antithesis must be “goodm,” right? Given that list, it’s a hard sell. Should we replace the nuclear family with the government, linear thinking with abstracts, Judeo/Christian norms with secularism, or possibly hard work with lazy?

Moving on, CRT uses our tax dollars to create a racial hierarchy where people can and will be judged by their group identity, and not as an individual. Innocuous sounding words such as “inclusion, diversity, and equity” are often wrapped up into anything espousing CRT. Equity is frequently used in the school setting and often confused with “equality”...equity is not equality. Equity as it relates to special needs or interventions based on that need is one thing, equity based on identity politics is something radically different. Equity as it ties into CRT says by merely being non-white you are entitled to increased benefits and possibly an alternative grading scale under the umbrella of cultural competency. Meaning, in some cases the standards would be lowered to give the false appearance of equal outcomes. How does this *actually* help minority people groups? When an employer sees that an applicant has graduated from high school they are assuming the basic criteria of that diploma have been successfully achieved. This sliding scale based on skin color only

creates the false reality that each of these students are meeting set standards, but that may be inaccurate. If we truly want to address the education gaps between people groups then let us initiate policy to bring people up to the same standard because anything less is merely performative, degrading both the individual and culture as a whole. It’s also important to note that whites are outperformed by several migrant groups which would be considered People of Color. According to Statista, in 2019 median incomes for Asian Americans were \$98,174 while those who identify as Caucasian were only \$76, 057 annually, and therefore significantly lower by comparison. In addition, a 2018 CNN article reported that 72 percent of Indian Americans have a bachelor’s degree and a median household income of \$100,000, pushing that specific group even higher than the Asian average. Equity attempts to justify government mandated racism as the only way to achieve equal outcomes, despite data proving whites are not the highest achieving group. CRT claims America is systemically racist in favor of whites, yet other cultures migrate here and do better in our own supposedly biased system.

White privilege as defined by dictionary.com is “*the unearned, mostly unacknowledged social advantage white people have over other racial groups simply because they are white.*” The idea of white privilege hyper focuses on race while completely ignoring any other aspect of privilege one may or may not have earned. For example, there’s a privilege in being the majority within a society, there’s privilege being born in a first world country, obviously there are

substantive benefits associated with good health, a two-parent household, wealth, intelligence, ambition, beauty...and the list goes on. The term white privilege has been weaponized to diminish the voice of people who identify as white. It’s imperative to see past the gaslighting attempts, as this has nothing to do with equality and everything to do with a transfer of wealth and power.

The plight of African-Americans has been incredibly difficult and wrought with prejudices and deliberate hurdles. You cannot have real conversations about racism in this country without acknowledging slavery and the ripple effects of Jim Crow laws. Freedom and equality wasn’t a proclamation or a war, it’s been a process. Our constitutional republic is far superior to other social and economic systems in that it allows for significant upward mobility within a single generation, in addition to freedoms only capitalism provides. The problem with the constitution was only our inability to apply it equally to all people, never the document itself. I caution those who wish to push these theories because inevitably “ideas have consequences” and the consequences of ushering policy rooted in CRT have been well documented in history. CRT is divisive by nature, as there is an innate prerequisite to pit one group against another either by race or class. I am calling on parents, faculty, honest media, and leaders on all sides of the aisle, and of all races, to recognize the end game of these policies and stand up against the racism and exploitation occurring in our public school system.

Mariam Canning
Huntingtown, MD

Thanks to Library Staff

To the Editor:

The Calvert Library Board of Trustees has asked that we share this letter they sent to staff:

The Board of Library Trustees unanimously sends you this note of thanks and our hopes that you will have a Holiday Season rich with blessings.

“We are filled with awe and appreciation for all you’ve done for the people of our County. Despite great challenges, you’ve proved – if there was ever any doubt – that, in Calvert County, librarians are essential ‘first responders.’

Physical safety is critical, but perhaps even more so is a sense that the important aspects of life remain in place and solid. Because of you, thousands of children, parents and individuals have known that a key part of their lives, the Library, has been there for them. And not just available but wonderfully enhanced due to your creativity and dedication.

“As we celebrate in our different ways this Season, we will include in our thoughts a celebration of you as well.”

The Trustees of Calvert Library

NHS ...Title IX Update

To the Editor:

The State of Maryland Board of Education denied the appeal regarding NHS not being in compliance with Title IX

due to lack of standing since my daughter graduated, even though this occurred while my daughter was enrolled and a senior and Captain of the

Tennis Team at NHS. Just because my daughter does not have standing, does not mean that other female athletes and coaches do not.

Clearly there is a disparity between the girl’s and boys’ sports facilities at NHS.

Beth M. Bubser
Dunkirk, MD



From our family to yours,
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Thank you for shopping with us!



A View From The BLEACHERS



BLIND DATE

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

My cousin, a dashing younger chap, is, like me, a sports junkie rooted in the 1980s and 1990s. As NBA fans – a bug easily caught growing up in the Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan and Dream Team era – we absorbed and regularly recount artifacts of that golden age. One personality that is permanently filed in our RAM for quick and frequent access is Marv Albert, a great voice of that period.

If upon hearing that name, spectacular toupees and sexual deviancy come to mind, I understand. But this reference has nothing to do with bad hair or moral failings. No, this is about Marv's late-game catch phrase. If Magic's Lakers or Jordan's Bulls were in a tight affair late in the fourth quarter, Marv would often introduce the decisive possession with a haunting, "And it comes down...TO THIS." The pacing and pause before the emphatic, "TO THIS," were classic. It is part of late twentieth century NBA basketball's soundtrack and signaled that an epic ending to a battle among titans had arrived.

You are likely reading this just before New Year's. As for the final days of 2020, Marv's dramatic phrase is in my ear - and I am so thankful. I don't care if Bird hits a buzzer beater, prompting a Marv "YES!", or if Jordan delivers a Marv "FACIAL" dunk, two more of Albert's classics, in 2021 – figuratively speaking, of course. I just want this year to end...like no other year in my life. Be gone 2020. Don't bother saying goodbye. Pack your things and go. Normally I am a faithful recycler, but everyone has my blessing to burn their 2020 calendars. To my optometrist, I don't even want 20/20 vision again. Ever. I'll deal with a little blur in my life.

Of course, a descending ball, an expired year and a new calendar can't cleanse all troubles. Problems aren't just magically wished away (see the White House's national COVID "plan"). Only real, concrete solutions will provide deliverance. Fine. But don't spoil my punch with all that responsible nonsense, okay? I'm going on pure hope,

here – a new year, big changes. Period. Don't debate me. Don't fog the message with the reality. I am pouring a drink. Then another. Maybe...probably...even more. The 2020 bird in the hand keeps pecking me in the face; I will gladly gamble on the contents of the bush. So give me 2021 - a blind date with a year I've never met.

I can't continue to be desensitized to 3,000 Americans dying every day. Enough of the floods, fires and violent tropical weather. Maybe we can get over the disturbing national compulsion to find or manufacture destructive discord, to take the bait of intentional political divisiveness and use it as faux fuel to hate, fear and threaten our bedrock – a common humanity and American cause. We deserve better than a deranged president, his stream of Twitter madness and his abandonment of job responsibilities for preposterous self-interests. And I'm tired of anxiously viewing Doppler radar as another deluge of rain bears down on Southern Maryland.

Here's what I'll be wishing for when 2021 champagne showers rain. I want full sports seasons, no COVID-ravaged rosters and a football team with a name...or at least a new owner. Death to bubble cities. I am dreaming of packed stadiums and authentic crowd noise, not the fake stuff, pumped through television speakers. Live marching bands should be ripping through fight songs and cheerleaders should be tossed in the air after big plays. Most of all, I want youth sports back. The experiences lost at the rec league, high school and college levels – impactful, precious, brief and irreplaceable moments for athletes and families – is painful for this middle-aged sportswriter to ponder.

Sports, of course, is small by comparison to gentler weather, stable leadership and public health, but if our stadiums, fields and courts return to normal, it is a good indication that the more significant aspects of life are in a better place too.

Ah yes, 2020, it indeed does come down to this. I bid you adieu with a relieved smile and a hearty good riddance.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Saturday, December 26

Chesapeake Oysters

Calvert Marine Museum; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Winter is peak harvesting season for *Crassostrea virginica*, the Eastern oyster. Programming will showcase "Rock E. Feller," the museum's giant oyster model, and an oyster-themed carryout craft. Activities appropriate for ages 5-10. Program included with museum admission.

Monday, December 28

Hibernation

Calvert Marine Museum; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

While winter air temperatures throughout the Chesapeake region are relatively mild, the water temperatures are downright icy! Discover how different species cope with the arrival of winter at the museum. Don't forget to pick up your hibernation-themed carryout craft. Activities appropriate for ages 5-10. Program included with museum admission.

Tuesday, December 29

Chesapeake Lore

Calvert Marine Museum; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

From reports of "Chessie" and other unusual animals of the bay to a rich history of storytelling – the Chesapeake region has its own unique lore, legends, and superstitions. Discover some of the tales of Southern Maryland during your museum visit. Activities appropriate for ages 5-10. Program included with museum admission.

Wednesday, December 30

Winter Birds of the Chesapeake

Calvert Marine Museum; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Chesapeake Bay becomes home to many waterfowl during the winter months. Check out a bird watching kit to use along the museum's marsh walk and play a round or two of the bird migration game. A waterfowl-themed carryout craft is also available. Activities appropriate for ages 5-10. Program included with museum admission.

Thursday, December 31

New Years Eve

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In Remembrance

The Calvert County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to dickmyers@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

Kathryne Martin "Kathy" Wolfe



Kathryne Martin "Kathy" Wolfe, 89 of Lusby, MD formerly of Hyattsville, MD passed away peacefully at her residence on December 16, 2020. She

was born on September 25, 1931 in Duluth, MN to the late Emily Strenkens and Chad Walter Martin. She married William Seymour Wolfe, Sr. on January 6, 1950 in Solomons, MD and he preceded her in death on July 15, 2015.

Kathy moved to Calvert County at the young age of 8 from Duluth, MN and graduated from Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School, Solomons, MD in 1947. She went on to attend Mount St. Clair College in Iowa and graduated in 1949. Kathy was a Waring Representative and retired in 1985 after 13 years of employment. She was an artist, a

member of the OLSS Alumni Players and SMILE.

Kathy is survived by her children, JoAnne and Louis Green of Chesapeake Beach, MD, Victoria and Tom Rawlings of Pasadena, MD, Sally and Joe Hamilton of Lusby, MD, William and Bonnie Wolfe of Surfside Beach, SC, Steve and Wendy Wolfe of Surfside Beach, SC, Terese and Jim McQueen of Lusby, MD, Marcia and Jim Moore of Glen Burnie, MD, Tony and Cindy Wolfe of Solomons, MD, Ted and Brenda Wolfe of Huntingtown, MD and Mike and Diane Wolfe of Baltimore, MD; sister, Mary Ellen Schmidt of Lusby, MD; 30 Grandchildren, 52 Great Grandchildren and 13 Great-Great Grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and siblings, Bill Martin, Betty Martin Lankford, Irene Martin Lankford, and Dorothy Martin Womaski.

A private family Mass of Christian Burial will be offered with interment following in the church cemetery. The family request contributions to be made to either Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, P.O. Box 560, Solomons, MD 20688 or Calvert Hospice, www.calverthospice.org, P.O. Box

838, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. Arrangements provided by Rausch Funeral Home, P.A., Lusby, MD. To leave the family a condolence please visit www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.

Darlene June "Dar" Parrish



Darlene June "Dar" Parrish, 75 of Lusby, MD formerly of Middletown, MD passed away in Prince Frederick, MD on December 18, 2020. She

was born on June 30, 1945 in Carthage, IL to the late Erma and Richard Wachtendorf. She was the loving wife to George Parrish whom she married in Chicago, IL in March, 1970.

Dar was a Tax Preparation Expert with H&R Block and retired in 1994 after 20+ years of employment. She moved to Calvert County in 1995.

Dar is survived by her husband of 50 years, George Parrish of Lusby, MD; children, Andrew Coffman of Wolfsville, MD, Christy Rudy of Shenandoah Junction, WV, and Buck Parrish of Owings, MD; siblings, Darrell Wachtendorf of Carthage, IL, Roger Wachtendorf of Carthage, IL and Janice Smith of Bowen, IL; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in the summer.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Joan Alice Mero



Joan Alice Mero, passed from this world at her home in Dunkirk, Maryland on December 14th and is living eternally with her Lord in Heaven.

She passed away peacefully, comfortably, and surrounded by her family.

Joan was born in Plattsburgh, New York, the daughter of Wilbur A. and Helen C. (Farnsworth) Goodroe. She graduated from Westport Central School in 1964 and attended Plattsburgh State College in NY.

She graduated from college in 1968 and went on to pursue her Masters in Education.

Joan became an elementary school teacher in New York and continued educating young minds in Maryland starting in 1972. Her love for children made this a natural career choice which brought her much joy.

Joan married the love of her life, Thomas N. Mero, on June 5, 1971. The happiest moments of her life were the birth of two children, Travis in 1973 and Carrie in 1977. She was such an amazing woman, wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and teacher. Tom considers himself lucky to have been able to spend over 50 years in love.

Joan is survived by her husband; her son Travis and his wife Sacha Mero, and daughter Carrie and her husband Shaun Kennedy; three siblings, Sharon Merrill, Shirley (Earl) Brant, and John (Sandy) Goodroe; five grandchildren, Maleena, Larissa, and Bodhi Mero, and Teagan and Jameson Kennedy; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She fought her battle with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) for 43 years. Joan survived years longer than expected, and despite her struggles she never complained and always had a beautiful smile. She was an inspiration to many, especially her grandchildren.

Memorial Contributions may be made to National Multiple Sclerosis Society; Link:

https://secure.nationalmssociety.org/site/Donation2?df_id=55995&55995.donation=form1

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Gail Lee Austin, "Gma"



Gail Lee Austin, "Gma" 71, of Benedict, MD passed away December 12, 2020 at the home of her daughter in Aquasco, MD. She was born July 15, 1949

in Prince Frederick to Betty Ruth (Stallings) and Andrew Lawrence Grierson. She was raised in Chesapeake Beach and North Beach, and graduated from Calvert High School. She was employed for many years until her retirement as clerk with the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff in Upper Marl-

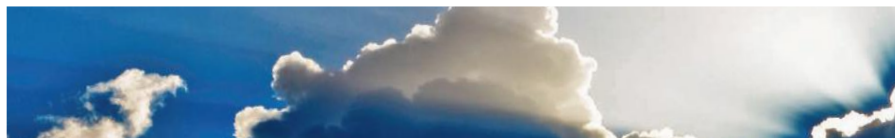


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boro. She was married to William Harry Austin and they resided in Stevensville, MD and Punta Gorda, FL. Mr. Austin passed away in 2009. Gail was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 206 in Chesapeake Beach, and enjoyed bingo, gambling, eating crabs with a cold beer, and spending time with family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Gail was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Harry, her brother Larry Grierson and a sister Thelma Kramer. She is survived by three daughters, Angela M. Poole and her partner Mike of Aquasco, Melissa D. Aspinall and husband Dwayne of Prince Frederick, and Christie A. Snyder and husband Robert of Forest City, NC. She is also survived by grandchildren Kasi and husband Zach, Justin, Shelbi and her partner Ian, Cody, Tara, Jared, Forest, Shannon, Joseph, Christopher, and Mackenzie, great-grandchildren Declan, Hope, Summer, Jax, and Harper, and a great-granddaughter due in March, and sisters Sharon Sweeney of Upper Marlboro and April Anderson of Huntingtown.

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Michael R. Dunham

Michael R. Dunham of Lewes, Delaware, and formerly of North Beach, Maryland, passed away on December 13, 2020 due to the Covid Virus-pneumonia. At the time of his death, Michael was employed at Sea Colony in Bethany Beach, DE where he worked in security for a period of 17 years.

Michael was born in Washington, DC on October 23, 1952 and



was raised in the Brookland section of Northeast. He attended St. Anthony's Grade School and participated in sports at the Turkey Thicket field like many family members before

him.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Warren and Theresa Dunham and his brother Louis Burns. He is survived by his son, Joseph (Joey) Dunham; brother, Warren; and sister, Kathleen Smith (Austin), niece, Kimberly Durkin (Pat) and nephew, Brendan Smith, and his grandchildren, Darrin and McKenna.

Michael's parents were good athletes while growing up in Turkey Thicket. His dad was a running back with the Grady Boys semi-pro football team and his mom was a top-flight bowler who competed on the television show Beat the Pro. Michael enjoyed listening to his dad's sports stories and reviewing pictures and data on the Grady Boys; Irish War Veterans; Car Credit; Southwest Merchants; and the Shamrock Football teams. He also had an appreciation for the baseball and softball teams at all levels.

Michael will certainly be missed by his family, friends, co-workers and the many individuals he saw on a regular basis.

Due to the Covid-19, a celebration of life will be scheduled at a future date.

Services provided by Melson's Funeral Services Delaware.

FIVE TIPS ON HOW NOT TO GET SUED IN BUSINESS

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

First, the title of this article is a misnomer. Everyone can get sued. Anyone can sue you. The issue is not whether someone can sue you, it's whether you will prevail because the procedures you have put into place protect you. Common sense is your best guide to not getting sued. This article will focus on FIVE tips to protect yourself against the most problematic areas business owners face.

Tip #1: If Its A Business And Not A Hobby, Treat It Like One

Stay away from being a sole proprietorship if you are thinking about creating a business. A sole proprietorship is fine if you have a hobby. A business structure like a limited liability company or a corporation is relatively easy to create and, once in place, that structure will protect your personal assets from a business lawsuit. What does that mean? If someone wants to sue your business, that person can only reach the assets of the business, not your personal assets. To protect yourself and your family, make sure you have correctly created the business structure. This requires, by the way, that you use a professional to help you set up your business.

Business structures are not one size fits all. If you have a spouse or a partner you want to work with as a business owner, your basic corporate documents must address what happens if one of you dies or is disabled. The basic corporate LegalZoom documents will not help you. Go to a professional for the creation of the business and get it done the right way.

Does just creating the correct business structure protect you from suit? No. Especially not if you have not followed customary business procedures. The way for an adversary to get to your personal assets is to prove that you have not run the business like a business. This is called "piercing the corporate veil". Basically, if you have all your business financial statements on the backs of envelopes, your contracts are oral, your "business" bank account is actually your personal bank account, and you do not refer to your formal business name when conducting business, there is a good chance in a lawsuit you would not be able to protect yourself against piercing.

Tip #2: Don't Even Think About Using Oral Contracts

Contracts, agreements, financial transactions must all be written and made easy to understand. The major problem all small service businesses face is not using a written contract with standard terms and conditions that relate to your business. It takes a professional to help you figure out what your standard contract should address. For example, if you are a wedding planner and your customer cancels the wedding, who pays you if your services have already been rendered. Unless you have a contract that is very specific about what happens if the wedding is cancelled, you are likely to be on your way to litigation. How easy it is to protect yourself with a visit to an attorney to create a contract for your business. The basic saying is don't be "penny wise and pound foolish." Pay money up front to get your business and contracts organized.

Tip #3: If You Can't Understand It, Your Customer Can't Either

This relates to the prior point about written contracts. Once you do obtain a standard contract, make sure it is written in standard language. If you cannot understand the language, neither can your

customer and misunderstanding the terms of your service is a clear path to litigation. This is true about more than just contracts. Be very clear with your customers about expectations. What are you saying you will do in terms of tasks. To what extent will your performance of your services depend on what the client does? What if the client doesn't do what they say they will? You can and should address these issues in your written contracts, but just in oral conversation, you need to make clear what you expect out of the relationship and the customer needs to know the ground rules of the engagement.

By the way, do not vary from your standard terms unless you specifically put that in writing. If your standard contract calls for a payment of a certain percentage of the bill upon certain events and you want to do something different with a customer, make sure you write it down and both of you sign it.

Tip #4: Employees Or Independent Contractors?

One of the major issues to be determined by the new business owner is whether your employees are full-time employees who work only for you or whether they are independent contractors who also work for others. The Internal Revenue Service is focused on this issue because so many business owners have mistakenly classified their employees as independent contractors that catching and punishing employers for this is easy. This subject, alone, deserves an article. However, to summarize, if someone works for you full-time at your direction, they are employees and you must withhold taxes from their paychecks and pay over the taxes to the government. If they do not work for you full-time and collect salaries from other employers and meet other criteria, they can be classified as independent contractors. In that case, when you pay them, you do not withhold taxes. They are responsible for paying their own taxes. The IRS loves to challenge the classification of employees as independent contractors since most business owners do not back up their classifications with evidence and the IRS can easily re-classify employees, requiring the employer to pay back taxes on amounts not withheld that should have been, along with penalties and interest.

To protect yourself and your business, any employer who deals with independent contractors must have an independent contractor agreement signed by the contractor and employer that recites all the IRS guidelines and represents that the contractor and employer are following such guidelines.

Tip #5: Payment For Services

You are in business to make money. Not focusing on your form of invoices or requests for payment almost invites disputes with customers. How will you be paid for your services? What if the customer is not satisfied with your services and refuses to pay you. What will you do? You need to focus on a policy to use under all circumstances. Imagine all of the "horribles" that could occur with your customers and address how you will handle those up front directly to the customer. The rule to follow is no surprises for your customers or for you.

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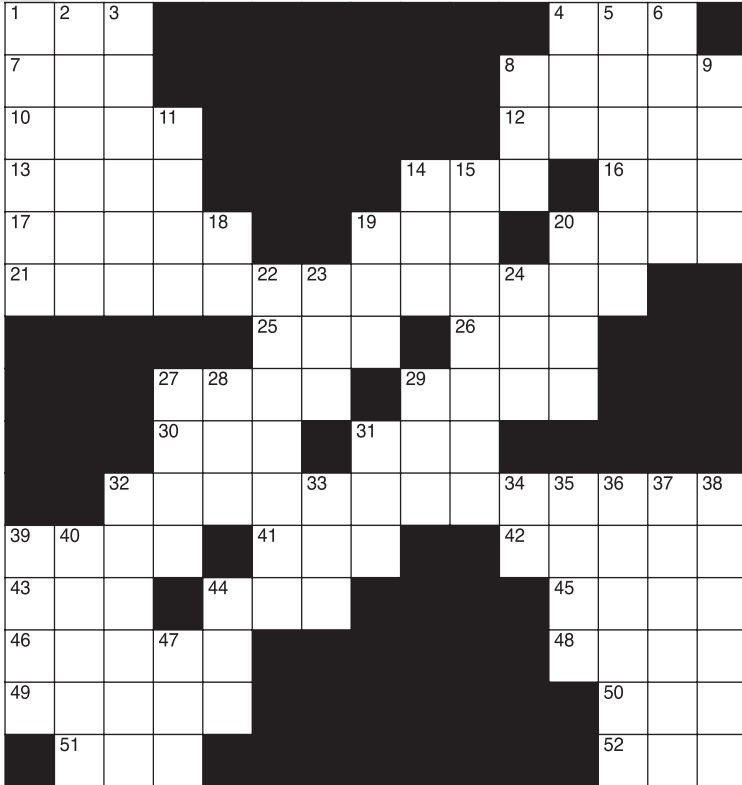
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GAMES & PUZZLES



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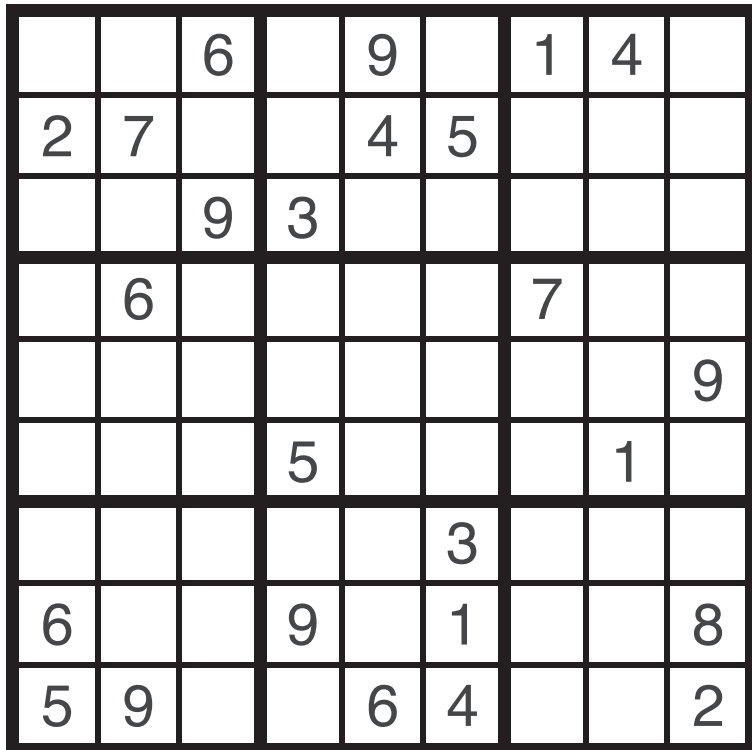
- 1. Crow species
- 4. Partner to flow
- 7. Male offspring
- 8. Sedate
- 10. Orange beverage
- 12. Pair of small hand drums
- 13. 12th month of Jewish civil year
- 14. Former Pirates star Jason
- 16. Computer company
- 17. Made angry
- 19. Beverage container
- 20. Charlize Theron film “__ Flux”
- 21. Localities
- 25. Consume
- 26. Don't know when yet
- 27. Bed style
- 29. Make a low, continuous sound
- 30. Wrath
- 31. Pollinates flowers
- 32. Association
- 39. Prejudice
- 41. Unhealthy

- 42. Hasidic religious leader
- 43. Distinctive philosophy
- 44. Short-term memory
- 45. In a good way
- 46. Emperors of Ethiopia
- 48. Imaginary line
- 49. Of barium
- 50. One's sense of self-esteem
- 51. Man who behaves dishonorably
- 52. Monetary unit

- phrase “__ Humbug”
- 15. One more
- 18. A ballplayer who only hits
- 19. Once vital TV part
- 20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year
- 22. Advantage
- 23. Type of tree
- 24. Luke's mentor __-Wan
- 27. Life stories
- 28. Vase
- 29. Tiny
- 31. Package (abbr.)
- 32. A photog's tool
- 33. Wood
- 34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- 35. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 36. Wild goats
- 37. A way to comply
- 38. Horatio __, British admiral
- 39. Actress Leslie
- 40. Sir __ Newton
- 44. Pouch
- 47. Have already done

CLUES DOWN

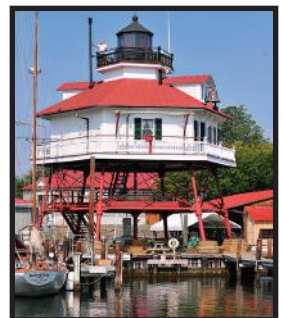
- 1. Rear of (nautical)
- 2. He minds the net
- 3. Ring-shaped objects
- 4. When you hope to get there
- 5. Young children
- 6. Beloved hobbit
- 8. Pigpen
- 9. Wish harm upon
- 11. Quick-eyed (Scottish)
- 14. Scrooge's



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

R	A	M	S	A	G	E	S	K	O	D	A	K	8	4	5	9	7	2	6	1	3	
A	N	I	I	R	E	N	A	I	C	A	C	O	1	2	6	3	4	5	8	7	9	
C	T	N	D	A	V	E	R	O	B	E	R	T	S	3	9	7	8	1	6	4	5	2
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C	O	L	T	S	S	T	E	P	S	S	S	E										

Publisher	Thomas McKay	<p>The Calvert County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of Calvert County. The Calvert 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 Calvert 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 Calvert 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 Calvert County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The Calvert County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.</p>
Associate Publisher	Eric McKay	
General Manager	Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net	
Advertising	Jen Stotler Tim Flaherty jen@countytimes.net timflaherty@countytimes.net	
Editor	Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net	
Staff Writer	Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net	
Graphic Designer/Layout Artist	Jim Lucke jimlucke@countytimes.net	
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Calvert County Times



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