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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

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GREAT AGAIN

Troubled Life Touched Calvert

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CalvertHealth has released a new Community Health Needs Assessment.



LOCAL 8
The Bay gets another D-Minus



EDUCATION 17
Christine Wray is CSM's commencement speaker.

“IT’S NOT A QUESTION OF IF, BUT WHEN WE WILL BE HIT.”

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER AMY LAWSON ON CYBERSECURITY NEEDS.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 1/14	Fri 1/15	Sat 1/16	Sun 1/17
51° 34°F	51° 37°F	44° 30°F	42° 30°F
Partly Cloudy Mon 1/18	Partly Cloudy Tue 1/19	AM Showers Wed 1/20	Mostly Sunny Thu 1/21
43° 29°F	44° 31°F	44° 33°F	48° 34°F
Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

County Times
St. Mary's County • Calvert County

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COVID-19

As of January 5 Positive Cases | Deaths
Calvert 3578 | 36

Information provided by Calvert Health Department

Former Huntingtown Resident Killed in Capitol Siege

Babbitt had Faced Criminal Charges While in Calvert

By Dick Myers, Editor and Guy Leonard, Staff Writer

A former Huntingtown resident was the woman killed inside the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 during the siege by supporters of President Trump. She was identified by U.S. Capitol Police as Ashli Babbitt, 35, an Air Force veteran. Published reports said she lived in San Diego with her husband Aaron and before that had lived in Annapolis and Huntingtown.

Her husband told San Diego TV station KSWB that she was an ardent Trump supporter and had traveled to DC just for the rally. He said he was watching TV when his wife was shot. "She was voicing her opinion and she got killed for it," he said.

Published reports indicate a troubled past including problems in the Air Force that led to her demotion. While living here she was accused of stalking and committing violence against the former girlfriend of her boyfriend in 2016.

Calvert County District Court records show the complainant in the criminal and subsequent peace order cases, Celeste Norris, charged Babbitt, then with the married name McEntee, with using the white, mid-sized SUV she was driving to pursue and eventually ram Norris' vehicle three times while on Prince Frederick Boulevard.

Court records show that Ashli Babbitt, was already in a relationship with Aaron Babbitt, the man Norris had once been involved with.

Norris was a St. Mary's County resident in 2016 but has since moved to Calvert County.

Babbitt would later be divorced in 2019 from her then-husband Timothy

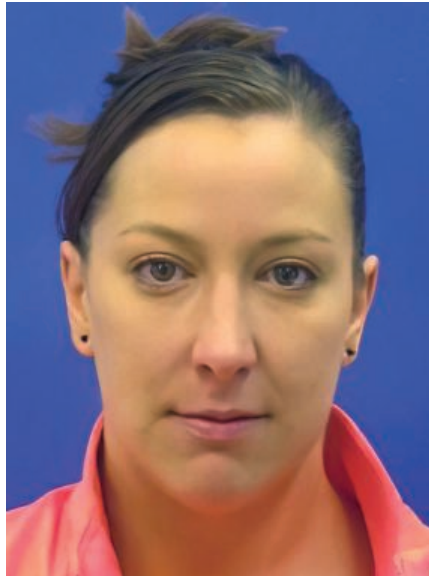


Photo from a MD Driver's License of Ashli (McEntee) Babbitt provided by the Calvert County Sheriff's Office.

McEntee and go on to marry Aaron Babbitt and move to San Diego, California.

The altercation in Prince Frederick occurred July 29 more than four years ago. Norris said in court documents that she was at the intersection of Costly Way and Prince Frederick Boulevard waiting to take a left-hand turn when she saw the white SUV pull into the plaza she was about to exit.

"She was waving erratically and beeping her horn and appeared to be very angry," Norris wrote in her affidavit.

Babbitt made a quick left turn, Norris said cutting off other drivers and swerving left and right in traffic, pursuing her at a high rate of speed.

Norris said she attempted to give Babbitt room to pass her by, but her alleged assailant did not, eventually

striking the rear of Norris' vehicle three times, the plaintiff claimed.

Norris pulled over to the side of the road to call 911, and she claimed Babbitt exited her vehicle as well after coming to a stop.

Norris claimed Babbitt threatened her verbally while Norris was still in her vehicle, waiting for police to arrive.

"I continued to let the 911 dispatcher know how erratic, loud and threatening McEntee (Babbitt) was being," Norris wrote. "I also let him know I was in [fear] of her as well, as she might attempt to harm me."

Babbitt would eventually be acquitted of criminal charges against her of reckless endangerment and property destruction but two petitions for peace orders filed against her by Norris would be granted.

Norris also sued Babbitt for damages in the incident in the amount of

\$74,500 in 2019 but that case was dismissed due to a lack of jurisdiction, court records show.

A statement from U.S. Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, who has since resigned, said, "As protesters were forcing their way toward the House Chamber where Members of Congress were sheltering in place, a sworn USCP employee discharged their service weapon, striking an adult female. Medical assistance was rendered immediately, and the female was transported to the hospital where she later succumbed to her injuries."

He said, "As per the USCP's policy, the USCP employee has been placed on administrative leave and their police powers have been suspended pending the outcome of a joint Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and USCP investigation."

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Delegate Recommended to Fill Senate Vacancy

Jackson Gets Nod to Replace Miller

By Dick Myers
Editor

Delegate Michael Jackson has been chosen by the Democratic Central Committees of Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties to replace Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, who resigned last month for health reasons.

Jackson's name has been submitted as a recommendation by the three counties to Gov. Larry Hogan, who will make the appointment.

The Calvert County Democratic Central Committee made the recommendation after a Jan. 9 public hearing at which the candidates and their supporters appeared virtually.

Charles and Prince George's held similar hearings on subsequent evenings. Jackson was the only candidate for consideration by those two county central committees. Senate District 27 includes parts of the three counties.

Jackson has been a delegate representing District 27B which includes a part of Calvert in addition to his home county of Prince George's. He is a former county sheriff and has been a delegate for six years. He said Miller encouraged him to run for delegate six years ago.

Jackson at the Calvert County hearing emphasized contacts with Calvert during his tenure and serving as vice chair of the Southern Maryland Delegation. He said he had in the packet submitted to the central committee a letter of support from the all-Republican Calvert County Board of County Commissioners.

Miller was unable to attend the virtual hearing, but long-time Calvert County Democratic activists Marie Duffield and Doris Spencer spoke on his behalf. "He is responsive to the politics here," Duffield said.

In response to a question, Jackson said the three most urgent issues for the district and Maryland are the economy coming out of the COVID crisis, the health care system and education.

The other candidates for the posi-



Delegate Michael Jackson.

tion before the Calvert committee were Mark Flemming, Darrell Roberts, Rafael Rubio, and Philip Stamper.

If the governor does appoint Jackson, that will create a vacancy for his delegate's seat. In a press release, the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee said, "When Delegate Jackson is officially appointed to the seat, we will conduct another hearing to fill the vacancy he will leave in District 27B in the House of Delegates. We will make a public notification when that process will occur."

The committee said, "We congratulate Delegate Jackson and thank him for his continued service to the citizens of Calvert County. We also wish to thank all of the candidates who interviewed and were considered for this appointment. We look forward to working with you all in the future."

Jackson would be succeeding a legend. Upon his resignation from the position a year ago for health reasons, Miller had been the country's longest serving state senate president and in all served 45 years in the body. He resigned last month.

Jackson said in his interview that he would concentrate on serving the residents of District 27 and the issues impacting them.

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Hogan Proposes \$1 Billion COVID Economic Stimulus

Will Seek Emergency Legislation

By Dick Myers
Editor

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan is proposing that the legislature when it convenes Wednesday pass an emergency \$1 billion COVID-19 economic stimulus.

Hogan, in a Jan. 11 press conference, said, "While Maryland's economy is coming back faster than many other states, America is going through one of the worst economic crises in our country's history."

He said his top legislative priority would be passage of what he calls "The Recovery for the Economy and the Livelihoods of Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families," or the Relief Act of 2021."

The \$1 billion package would include: "\$267 million in direct payments to Marylanders in need. Families who filed for the Earned Income Tax Credit will receive an additional \$750; individuals will receive \$450. This relief will go directly to more than 400,000 Marylanders in need, and no application of any kind is necessary."

\$180 million in targeted tax relief for Marylanders who have lost their jobs by repealing all state and local income taxes on unemployment benefits, allowing them to keep more money in their pockets."

\$300 million in immediate tax relief to help 55,000 Maryland restaurants and small businesses by allowing them to be able to keep up to \$12,000 of sales tax over the next four months, which will keep much-needed cash in the coffers of those small businesses, which enables them to keep their doors open and to keep more people on the payroll."

Hogan noted, "Last month, I issued an executive order, which immediately prevented sudden and substantial increases in unemployment taxes on small businesses. This new relief act legislation will codify that emergency tax relief for all of 2021, saving small businesses \$218 million."

He added the act "will also safeguard Maryland business owners against any tax increase triggered by the receipt of the state alone or grant funds, which will help small businesses keep an additional \$40 million in their bank accounts."

Hogan said the proposed \$1 billion relief package is in addition to \$700 million already targeted for COVID economic relief by the state and significant federal CARES Act monies.

The governor said he hoped the legislature will set an example and avoid the partisan haggles that have occurred in Washington. "Maryland has been set-



Governor Larry Hogan

ting an example for the nation of how respectful and effective government can work across the aisle together in order to find bi-partisan, common sense solutions. My hope is that the legislature will join in and quickly push for this much needed emergency stimulus and tax relief package."

Hogan said the source of funding for his proposal is:

"Much of it is coming from the bud-

get actions that we took earlier in the year at the Board of Public Works."

"Some of it is coming from our reserve fund, which is doing better than we anticipated because of our recovery doing better than we expected."

"A small portion of it to pay for unemployment is coming from the rainy-day fund. I think about \$100 million of the \$1 billion."

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Commissioners Approve Additional Hires

Includes 16 More Paid EMS Staff

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is moving ahead with beginning the hiring of 21 new staff not currently in this year's budget. The hiring process would begin this fiscal year although most of the hires probably wouldn't be on board until close to its end on July 1.

Included in the hires would be 16 additional paid Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel to augment volunteers in Prince Frederick and Dunkirk.

The new hires also include a cybersecurity manager and analyst for the Information Technology Department and a park manager and two park maintenance specialists to staff the new Ward Farm Park in Dunkirk due to open this fall.

The commissioners also agreed to make the part-time Public Information Officer in the Sheriff's Office a full-time position and move employees of Information Technology and Public Works from 35 hours a week to 40 hours.

Although Director of Finance and Budget Tim Hayden was unable to give a price tag for the impact this current fiscal year, the full year impact for next year would be more than \$3 million.

The final decision will have to wait until after a public hearing, which will take three weeks to schedule.

Hayden argued against the hires, noting that next year's proposed staff budget was balanced, and thus cuts would have to be made in order to find monies to pay for the new hires.

As for the cost impact during the current fiscal year, he said monies would be found by raising the estimated income tax revenue estimates, which have been coming in bigger than expected.

Commissioner Mike Hart was the sole dissent in the information technology hires, saying he wanted to see if the extra five hours a week in that department could cover the cybersecurity responsibility.

Chief Information Officer and Director Amy Lawson said there was a staffer in her department with cybersecurity experience, but that person had other duties.

Commissioner Tim Hutchins argued for the two positions, saying all one had to do was look at what happened with security breaches in Baltimore to see what might happen



Director of Public Safety Jacqueline Vaughan in Calvert.

"It's not a question of if but when we will be hit," Lawson said.

Director of Public Safety Jacqueline Vaughan said originally the intent was to request four paramedics and four Emergency Medical Technicians to staff a location in Prince Frederick that would supplement the first two companies with paid personnel, North Beach and Solomons.

Solomons has since supplemented that with an additional crew paid with CARES federal funding.

But Vaughn told the BOCC that Dunkirk had since insisted that they need a paid crew to ensure calls are answered. Vaughn said Dunkirk currently has CARES funding as well, but the eight additional paid personnel are needed when that funding expires.

Hart said he thought that would happen when they made the decision to begin the paid staff to supplement what had been an all-volunteer system up to then. "I hated that day," he said about the decision to begin the paid service.

Vaughn said the decline in volunteers made the move for more paid personnel inevitable.

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Hybrid Instruction Start Postponed Indefinitely

Given the rising local case numbers of COVID-19 and the expected post-holiday increases yet to come, Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) will postpone the planned start of hybrid instruction indefinitely. A new reopening date will be determined when local positivity rates have decreased and stabilized.

Superintendent Dr. Daniel D. Curry said, "At this time, we have chosen not to set a new target date for the restart of hybrid instruction. We will notify families at least two weeks ahead of a return date, so they can plan accordingly."

Therefore, instruction will remain all online until further notice. School buildings will be open, and teachers will be encouraged to continue to work from their classrooms if they choose. Internet cafés will remain open for those students who cannot access the internet from home, and bus service will be provided. After-school programs, conditioning, and athletic programs are canceled until



further notice.

Students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) who have been receiving in-person instruction, students in face-to-face programs at the Career and Technology Academy (CTA), and other small groups will be the first to return, but no date has been set.

The continuation of in-person tutoring and Saturday School programs at the secondary level will be determined by each school.

Press Release from CCPS

Awareness Events Scheduled on Human Trafficking

During the month of January, National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Calvert County Commission for Women and Unstoppable You Ministries are partnering with Calvert County Parks and Recreation, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, and the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office to host creative events to raise public awareness about human trafficking. Human trafficking exists in Maryland, even in Calvert County.

On multiple dates at outdoor locations the public will have an opportunity to learn more about both sexual and labor trafficking and available resources by participating in the Red Sand Project. Participants will pour red sand into sidewalk cracks to represent human trafficking victims who have fallen through the cracks of society. Your participation can help create an artistic expression and raise awareness.

The original Red Sand Project was founded by New York City artist Molly Gochman in 2014. Today according to the website, Red Sand Project actions have happened in all 50 states and in 70 countries, with more than one million participants.

The public can join this program live on Calvert Commission for Women's Facebook page or attend in person at one of the following times and places. The public will be encouraged to follow mask and social distancing guidelines.

January 16 – 9:30 a.m. at Hallowing Point Park, Prince Frederick

January 21 – 5:30 p.m. at the courthouse, Main Street, Prince Frederick

January 23 – 9:30 a.m. at Dunkirk District Park, Dunkirk

January 30 – 9:30 a.m. at Solomons Town Center Park, Solomons

For additional resources, call: National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888; Univ. of Maryland SAFE Center: 301-314-7233; after hours 442-235-0587; or Calvert County Sheriff's Office: 410-535-2800.

For information on Calvert Commission for Women, visit <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/672/Commission-for-Women>.

For information on Unstoppable You Ministries, visit <https://unstoppableyouministriesinc.org>

Press Release from Calvert County Commission for Women.

Two Life Sentences Imposed for Murder and Rape

David Harold Johnson was sentenced on Jan. 11 for his role in the rape and murder of Rose Marie Long, 71, of Prince Frederick. Judge Mark S. Chandler of the Circuit Court for Calvert County sentenced Johnson to life imprisonment for first-degree murder, life imprisonment for first-degree rape, and five years' imprisonment for the theft of Ms. Long's vehicle. The sentences were made to run consecutively to one another, meaning that Johnson, 49, likely will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Johnson was residing in Calvert County on Sunday, June 7, 2020, when he entered Long's home on Stafford Road in Prince Frederick. Once inside, he raped Long and strangled her to death using a cell phone charging cord. He then stole her vehicle and left the area.

Johnson was identified as the assailant using Ring doorbell video obtained from Long's home. A

lookout was broadcast. On June 9, 2020, a concerned citizen spotted Johnson driving Long's vehicle on Route 4 in the vicinity of Skinner's Turn Road. He called the police, and Johnson was arrested by Sheriff's Office deputies a short time later.

Johnson ultimately admitted his involvement to detectives from the Maryland State Police. Johnson was also identified as the perpetrator through DNA samples obtained from Long's body.

The case was prosecuted by Calvert County State's Attorney Robert H. Harvey, Jr. Harvey wishes to thank Cpl. Kyle Simms of the Maryland State Police and his investigative team for their thoroughness, attention to detail, and dedication to the pursuit of justice in this case.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney's Office.

County Announces MLK Holiday Operations

All St. Mary's County Government administrative offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 18, 2021, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Appointments for many departmental services will resume Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021.

The St. Andrews Landfill and six Convenience Centers will be open normal hours on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021. As a reminder, Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Landfill and Convenience Centers free of charge. Undecorated trees may be placed in the designated areas at these sites through Jan. 31, 2021. Last year, the County collected nearly two tons of Christmas trees mixed with the collected yard waste and ground into mulch. Just over 5,000 tons of mulch is available annually at the St. Andrews Landfill site and is provided to the citizens of St. Mary's County free of charge while supplies last.

All three St. Mary's County Library branches (Charlotte Hall,

Leonardtown and Lexington Park) will be closed on Jan. 18. Appointments to use the computers, copiers or fax machines will resume Tuesday, Jan. 19. Please visit www.stmalib.org for more information.

All Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler and Northern) remain closed due to COVID-19 precautions.

Home-Delivered Meals will be provided Tuesday, Jan. 19 due to the holiday.

The St. Mary's Transit System (STS) and ADA will operate on a normal schedule. However, the Statewide Special Transportation Assistance Program (SSTAP) will not operate on Jan. 18.

The St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and the Old Jail Museum will be open for visitors from noon to 4 p.m. Please visit our Facebook pages for information on COVID-19 guidelines and safety measures.



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2020 State of the Bay Score Down Slightly

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Report Released

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) assessment of the State of the Bay for 2020 remained at a D+, but declined by one point from 2018. While concerning, the decline is largely due to ineffective management of the Bay's striped bass population, as opposed to water quality concerns.

Of the 13 indicators CBF assesses, four showed declines. Despite several years of assaults to environmental protections and flagging political will, most water quality measures are showing improvements.

But much more needs to be done.

Efforts must be accelerated to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint goal of implementing practices by 2025 that will reduce pollution sufficiently to restore water quality in local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. While efforts to save the Bay have been underway for decades, the Blueprint established in 2010 lays out a path to success.

"There is new hope. President-elect Biden has long been a reliable partner in Bay restoration efforts, and we are optimistic that the new administration will take the protection of water quality and human health more seriously," said CBF President William C. Baker. "Pollution is not just a problem here in the Bay, it is a problem around the world. This is a historic opportunity to demonstrate to the world that by following the science, we can save a national treasure."

Established in 1998, CBF's State of the Bay Report is a comprehensive measure of the Bay's health. CBF scientists compile and examine the best available data and information for 13 indicators in three categories: pollution, habitat, and fisheries. CBF scientists assign each indicator an index score from 1-100. Taken together, these indicators offer an overall assessment of Bay health.

"The good news is that recent studies provide evidence of the Bay's increased resiliency. This resiliency is a direct result of the pollution reductions achieved to date. But the recovery is still fragile, and the system remains dangerously out of balance," said CBF's Director of Science and Agricultural Policy Beth McGee.

Of the water-quality indicators, nitrogen and phosphorus pollution improved. The level of dissolved oxygen in the water and water clarity, critical to aquatic life, improved as well. In fact, monitoring data indicated the 2020 dead zone, the area of oxygen-low water, was the second best in Maryland since the 1980s and among the best in Virginia. There was no change in the toxics score.



Habitat scores are also critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Forests, wetlands, and underwater grasses provide food and shelter to wildlife, serve as natural filters that reduce pollution flowing into Bay waters, and help improve the wellbeing of communities by slowing flood waters, producing oxygen, and providing green spaces.

In the habitat category, the acreage of forested buffers declined slightly, while scores for resource lands and wetlands stayed the same. The score for underwater grasses declined as a result of increased rainfall. The damage from climate change will need to be addressed as part of a comprehensive solution to improving water quality.

The harvest of fish and shellfish support thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars each year in the Bay watershed. But overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss have reduced the productivity of many of the region's fish and shellfish populations.

In the fisheries category, scores for oysters and crabs improved, while shad and rockfish (striped bass) declined. The rockfish score declined by 17 points, the largest decline in any indicator in more than a decade.

"The situation is deeply concerning. Adult female striped bass, widely used to gauge the overall health of the population, have dropped by approximately 40 percent from 2013 to 2017," said CBF Senior Regional Ecosystem Scientist Chris Moore. "Efforts are underway to halt the decline. However, bold actions are needed now to ensure the recovery of this species and there are concerns that states might settle for a reduced population instead of taking strong management actions."

The Chesapeake Bay Clean Water

Blueprint requires the Bay jurisdictions to develop plans to decrease pollution to local creeks, rivers, and the Bay. State and local governments have committed to put practices in place by 2025 to achieve specific, measurable reductions. All jurisdictions except for Pennsylvania and New York have plans in place to meet their goals. Pennsylvania's latest plan only achieves 73 percent of its nitrogen-reduction commitments and is underfunded by more than \$300 million annually, according to Pennsylvania's own review.

In Maryland, CBF's Vice President for Environmental Protection and Restoration Alison Prost said: "Two years ago, we called on Maryland leaders to deliver more protections for the state's forests and oysters.

"The General Assembly permanently protected the state's five large-scale oyster restoration sanctuaries. Lawmakers also put in place a consensus-based process to break up the logjam that has separated watermen and environmental advocates in the debate over how to create a long-term oyster fishery management plan to end the century-long decline of Maryland's oyster population.

"Even though state leaders have failed to increase forest protections, county leaders in Maryland took up the mantle on their own. In the past two years, Anne Arundel, Howard, and Frederick counties passed new laws to better preserve their existing forests. We're hoping this trend continues. Forests serve as carbon sinks capable of filtering air and water, while also reducing negative effects related to climate change.

"The state needs to take more effective measures to stem the decline in striped bass. While other states chose to close the striped bass fish-

ery during key times when the species is most threatened, Maryland took a piecemeal approach that we believe had limited effectiveness.

"Lastly, with only five years to go until the 2025 Bay cleanup deadline, we're urging Maryland leaders to ramp up investments in natural filters to help plant trees, expand wetlands, and add more green spaces and vegetation to our cities and towns. Adding natural filters will help the state reduce agriculture and stormwater pollution, which Maryland needs to do to reach its 2025 Blueprint pollution reduction goals. The new trees, meadows, shrubs and wetlands will also beautify the state and our communities."

Overall, CBF President William C. Baker said: "The Blueprint is facing significant challenges, as EPA has abdicated its responsibility to ensure that Pennsylvania meets its clean water commitments. The District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware have plans that, if fully implemented, would achieve the goal. Pennsylvania, and to a lesser extent New York, have fallen far short. As the watchdog for Bay restoration efforts, CBF and its partners have filed suit in federal court to ensure EPA holds Pennsylvania and New York accountable to do their fair share to reduce pollution.

"After decades of failed promises and missed goals, this year's State of the Bay shows that the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint is working. Unfortunately, the stagnating score shows that we are witnessing apathy take hold and political will wane. We can still save the Bay and deliver the promise of clean water to the next generation, but only if our elected officials redouble their clean water commitments and invest in finishing the job."

Press Release from CBF.

Farming Video Series Releases Forestry Edition



The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) announced the release of the 'Forestry' Edition of the 'Farms in Focus' video series on Southern Maryland's key agricultural sectors.

SMADC's latest video showcases the region's forestry industry of flourishing professionally and privately managed woodlands and network of locally owned and operated logging companies and sawmills that together contribute more than \$585 million towards the state and local economy and support upwards of 3,000 jobs. The combined efforts of these businesses produce well over 35 million board feet of lumber a year.

The video follows the journey of Southern Maryland grown timber from forest glade to finished product and particularly highlights the interdependent business and personal relationships that are vital to the success and overall sustainability of the region's forestry industry.

Interviews along the way with forest stewards, professional foresters and experienced loggers illustrate how careful forest management and judicious logging ensures that Southern Maryland's forests are continuously replenished and remain vibrant renewable resources that provide not only valuable wood products, but also a treasure chest of added environmental benefits including wildlife habitat, cleaner air and water, erosion and cli-

mate control, and thousands of acres for recreational enjoyment.

The forestry video is a wealth of information for landowners and farmers who are interested in establishing or developing woodland for timber, wildlife management, protecting natural areas or other goals. David Gailey, Regional Forester for Southern Maryland, explains how foresters of the Maryland Department of the Environment Forest Service can help to assess site and soils, recommend best management practices, and provide ongoing consultation for landowners to maximize the potential of their woodland.

The 'Forestry' video and seven more previously released editions can now be viewed on the 'Farms in Focus' page at SMADC.com. The video series covers all aspects of Southern Maryland's diverse agricultural profile with a focus on the farmers, producers, the goods and the services of the region's key agricultural industries. 'Farms in Focus' is produced by SMADC (a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland), and filmed by accomplished agriculture videographers Edwin Remsberg Studios. Visit SMADC.com for more farm resources and consumer guides.

The "Farms in Focus" video series is made possible by a grant awarded to SMADC through the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF).

Press Release from SMADC

Detectives Recover Stolen Boy Scout Trailers



Following the press release of the 'Stolen Boy Scout Trailers', Calvert County Sheriff's Office Detectives received numerous tips from the community which revealed the location of the first stolen trailer. The trailer was subsequently recovered on Dec. 23, 2020 and had been spray painted black.

Additional leads ultimately led to the recovery of the second trailer on Dec. 31. The second trailer was found covered in cardboard disguising the Boy Scouts of America in-

signia. Both trailers were recovered in St. Leonard.

At this time, it appears nothing is missing from the trailers other than the defacing of the trailer's exteriors.

Charges are pending in this case. The investigation is on-going.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to please contact Det. M. Mudd at (410) 535-1600 ext. 2469 or email Michael.mudd@calvertcountymd.gov.

Detectives Recover Stolen Firearms

Additional Items Located

Members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) with the assistance of the Special Operation Team (SOT) on Jan. 7 executed a search warrant in the 1400 block of Knight Ave. in the Cavalier Country neighborhood in Dunkirk.

This search warrant was an effort to recover stolen firearms from a theft case in June of 2020. Detectives identified the suspect and the location of the stolen property. The suspect was identified as Robert Karl Swanson III, 41 of Dunkirk.

Five reported stolen firearms were recovered in addition to numerous other stolen items belonging to the victim. Swanson faces charges to include Rogue and Vagabond in addition to Theft between \$1,500 and \$25,000.

In addition to the items recovered, several DeWalt battery operated power tools were located. Detectives are advising neighbors, if



you were a victim of a theft crime in Cavalier Country, please notify Det. W. Wells at wayne.wells@calvertcountymd.gov or (410) 535-2800 ext. 2595.

Press Release from CCSO.

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Community Health Needs

Cancer Tops List of Calvert Health Concerns

By Dick Myers
Editor

If you were playing a word association game, and someone cried out “health” everyone in the room would respond “Covid-19” or “pandemic.”

Yet every three years a Calvert County “Health Needs Assessment” is published that lists the community’s urgent health problems. The release of the most current assessment from CalvertHealth several months ago reminds us that while COVID-19 may be with us for a while, hopefully it is transitory, and some serious and persistent health issues that show up repeatedly on lists are still there and still need to be addressed.

“The survey gives us insight into the areas where we and our community partners need to focus our resources to make the most meaningful impact,” said Erin Farley, who manages community wellness at CalvertHealth.

The most recent Health Needs Assessment, using a synthesis of primary and secondary data, shows the following top health needs ranked from highest to lowest:

1. Cancer
2. Heart Disease & Stroke
3. Women’s Health
4. Mental Health & Mental Health Disorders
5. Exercise, Nutrition & Weight
6. Substance Abuse
7. Oral Health
8. Older Adults & Aging
9. Education
10. Transportation
11. Environment

The 49-page assessment, which is available on CalvertHealth’s website, observes for overall health issues what has also been documented for COVID-19: “Primary and secondary data revealed significant community health disparities based on race/ethnicity, with Black and Hispanic populations more negatively impacted than other groups in Calvert County.”

And there’s another disparity: “Furthermore, the data show that older adults face increased health issues, while populations in certain geographic areas experience higher socio-



economic need and potentially poorer health outcomes.”

The population of Calvert County skews older. And the racial makeup is “somewhat homogenous,” the assessment said, with 80.3 percent of the population identifying as White. The proportion of Black/African American community members is the second largest of all races in Calvert County at 12.8 percent and is the only other race that makes up more than 10 percent of the population.

CalvertHealth commissioned Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (HCI) to conduct its 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment.

According to the report, after virtual meetings and scoring exercises, “The CalvertHealth leadership team met on July 28, 2020 to review the ranking while considering the five criteria for prioritization. The following four health areas were identified as priorities to address:

1. Cancer
2. Heart Disease & Stroke
3. Mental Health & Mental Disorders
4. Exercise, Nutrition, & Weight (including Obesity)

Also, the report said, “Primary and secondary data sources brought to light warning indicators in Women’s Health. These indicators pointed to breast cancer rates being higher than both Maryland and the U.S. values, and cervical cancer rates were higher than the Maryland value. Primary data revealed women’s personal struggles with exercise and weight management. Therefore, in identifying Cancer and Exercise, Nutrition and Weight as pri-

ority areas, interventions and outreach will include considerations to address those women’s health issues.

The report says the findings will be used “to identify, develop, and target CalvertHealth’s initiatives to provide and connect patients with resources to improve health challenges in their communities.”

The following is a summary of what CalvertHealth did in the preceding three years to address the major health needs:

Cancer:

To improve early detection of cancer and help reduce the prevalence of cancer in the community, an emphasis was placed on enhancing community education and screenings for skin, breast, lung, and oral cancers. In collaboration with community partners and with the mobile health unit, several events were held in various locations throughout the community. More than 700 community members participated in services offered. For one participant of a CalvertHealth skin cancer screening event, an abnormality was detected, which resulted in a follow-up with a dermatologist who determined it was a melanoma.

Heart Disease & Stroke:

CalvertHealth focused on educating the community in understanding what contributes to heart disease and stroke. In collaboration with local senior centers, an Ask the Expert program was implemented, bringing weekly health education services. Additionally, the Senior Life Center was started in three senior centers, focusing on chronic disease management and healthy lifestyle changes.

Mental Health & Mental Disorders:

Understanding the close connection between mental health and substance abuse, the Opioid Stewardship Committee at CalvertHealth was formed in 2015 using a multidisciplinary approach to decrease opioid utilization in the Emergency Department. In 2019, the committee expanded to include the Calvert County Sheriff’s Office, peer recovery specialists and the Mobile Health Unit Crisis Team. There

is close collaboration with Calvert County Health Department to assist patients once they are discharged from the hospital with needed resources to address their opioid addiction. The Mobile Health Unit assisted with education and outreach in the community.

Primary data used in the assessment consisted of key informant interviews and an English-language, online community survey.

Key informants included:

Calvert County Health Department (Medically underserved populations for clinical services and Calvert County residents for other services including infectious disease surveillance).

Calvert County Government (Calvert County residents:

Calvert County Department of Social Services (Public assistance customers, vulnerable children and adults, foster care children, high-risk families)

Calvert County Public Schools (Children and young adults (pre-K-12th grade & career and college-ready high school graduates)

CalvertHealth (Southern Maryland/Calvert County residents).

Calvert County Office on Aging (Adults age 50+ and disabled adults age 18+, the majority of whom are medically underserved and have low to moderate income).

Community Faith-Based Representative (All of Southern Maryland).

Calvert County Sheriff’s Department (Calvert County residents)

Calvert Community Dental (low-income, medically underserved populations).

The data shows “many cancer indicators that raise concern for Calvert County.” For instance, the county has a higher rate of Breast Cancer deaths, Prostate Cancer deaths, Melanoma incidence, Cervical Cancer incidence, Breast Cancer incidence, Oral Cavity and Pharynx Cancer incidence, Cancer in the Medicare Population, and Colorectal Cancer incidence than both the overall state of Maryland and the U.S.”

The report says, “Calvert County is failing to meet the Healthy People



Assessment Released

FIGURE 8. PERSONAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

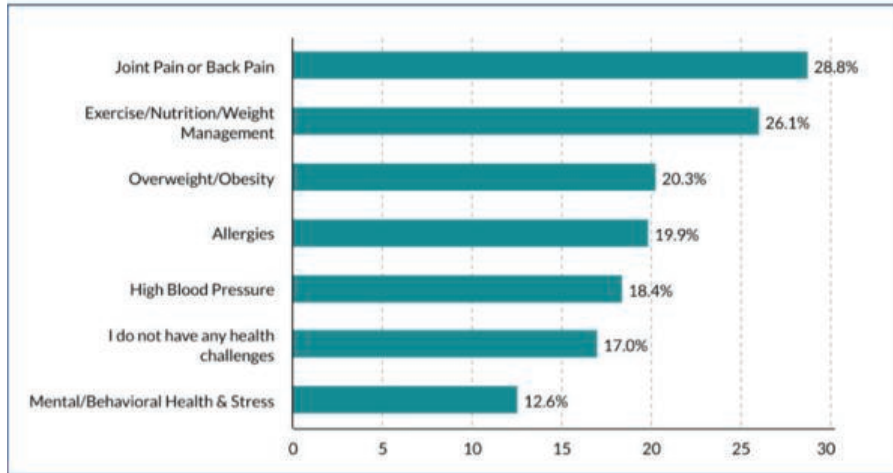
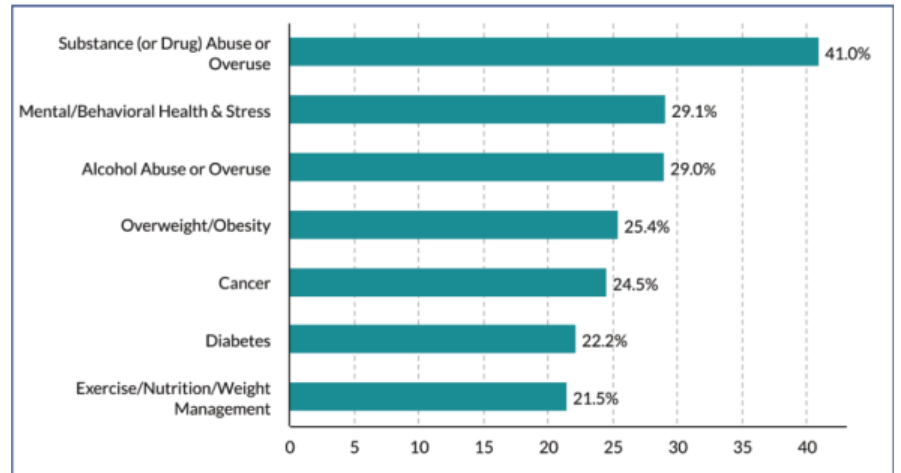


FIGURE 10. RESOURCES NEEDED IN CALVERT COUNTY



2020 targets for Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Breast Cancer, Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Prostate Cancer, and Cervical Cancer Incidence Rate.”

Approximately 25 percent of survey respondents selected Cancer as a prevalent issue in the community, while 3 percent of respondents selected Cancer as a personal health issue.

Key informant interviews noted “a lack of knowledge about available screenings in the community, which they believed is contributing to the higher cancer incidence and rates reported in the secondary data.

“Lack of health insurance coverage for preventative screenings, such as mammography for women younger than 40, was noted as a barrier to catching breast cancer at an earlier stage. Additionally, key informants mentioned historically high levels of tobacco use in the county, especially with older community members, which could contribute to the higher cancer rates.”

A key informant said about cancer: “Lack of education and the fact that cancer is scary are barriers to screening.”

From the secondary data scoring results, heart disease and stroke was identified to be a top health need in Calvert County. The Medicare population is disproportionately affected by heart disease & stroke in Calvert County. “ischemic heart disease, atrial fibrillation, hyperlipidemia, and stroke are all indicators of concern for the Medicare population.”

The county has higher percentages for all of these indicators than both the state of Maryland and the entire U.S., except for stroke, which has a slightly lower percentage than the state of Maryland, but higher than the U.S.”

Strategies for the aging population will be integrated into those for Heart Disease and Stroke prevention.

The data reveal that “mental health and mental disorders affect children and adolescents in Calvert County.

The rates of hospitalizations due to adolescent suicide and intentional self-inflicted injury as well as Pediatric Mental Health are more than double the overall Maryland state values. Furthermore, the death rate due to suicide in Calvert County is not only higher than both Maryland and the U.S., but also has 16.5 deaths per 100,000 population, which is higher than the CDC Healthy People 2020 target of 10.2 deaths per 100,000 population.”

Mental health, including behavioral health and stress, was selected by 29.12 percent of survey respondents as a health issue in the community. The report said, “All key informants spoke of mental health issues in the community, the need for more services including inpatient and outpatient programs, and specifically expressed concern for school-aged children. Key informants stated that fear and anxiety among children and their parents was high when schools were closed due to the stay-at-home orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Services for adolescents, including smoking and vaping education/cessation, healthy lifestyle, and mental health support, was chosen by 39.55 percent of survey respondents as services the community could benefit

from.

“More mental health and behavioral health services” was noted as the most needed resource for the community (as selected by 44.66 percent of survey respondents). Additionally, the need for “Emotional Wellness and Stress Reduction Services” was selected by 28.97 percent of survey respondents.

Key informants expressed concern about the long waits to access mental health services.

“Mental health is the number one driver in so many issues in the community,” a key informant said.

“Overweight and obesity are areas of overwhelming concern for Calvert County,” the report concludes, “as the percent of adults who are obese is trending upward. The percent is higher in Calvert County (37.2 percent) than in both Maryland as a whole (31.5 percent) and the nation overall (30.9 percent). Calvert County fails to meet the Healthy People 2020 Target value (30.5 percent) in regard to adults either overweight or obese.

Access to exercise opportunities in Calvert trail behind both Maryland and nation.

The survey results show exercise, nutrition and weight as the second top health challenge survey respondents

personally experience. When broken down by gender, 29.41 percent of women selected it as the top personal health issue.

The report says, “Key informants noted lack of healthy lifestyle opportunities as contributors to the higher obesity rates in their community. They emphasized the need for more spaces to exercise in the community and specifically requested more sidewalks for people to walk safely. Concern was noted about adolescents’ high level of ‘screen time’ versus time spent on healthier lifestyle choices like exercising.”

“Kids spend a lot of time on their screens, eating junk food and not getting enough sleep” a key informant noted.

The Community Health Needs Assessment is always a work in progress, considering how the previous goals went and work on achieving progress on the current identified needs.

“We’re already working on our implementation strategy to address the priorities identified. The plan will include clear goals that can be monitored, reported on and revised over the next three-year period,” Farley said.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

During the week of December 28, 2020 – January 3, 2021, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1107 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 2020-66028

On December 28, 2020, Deputy Callison responded to Turner Rd, Lusby, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised at around 2:30 a.m., an occupant in the home texted them saying they saw an unknown subject(s) drive off in a dark colored SUV. The complainant advised later that morning they noticed a hole in the rear window of their vehicle. The estimated damage to the vehicle is \$500.

Theft: 2020-66033

On December 28, 2020, Deputy Flynt responded to Sheridan Point Road, Prince Frederick, MD for a reported theft. Upon arrival, the complainant advised sometime between Dec. 24 – Dec. 28, unknown subject(s) stole 7 lawn mower batteries and 3 car batteries from the property. The complainant also advised a trailer had been broken into and damaged, as well as the outside storage compartments. The estimated damage to all stolen and damaged property is \$1,520.

Theft: 2020-66348

On December 30, 2020, Deputy Wilder responded to Papa John's in Solomon's, MD for the report of a theft that happened on the evening of December 29. The complainant advised they had picked up their order and left their wallet at the restaurant. At some point between the evening of Dec. 29 and Dec. 30, unknown subject(s) took

money from the wallet. The establishment notified the owner they located the wallet. The complainant advised \$320 was missing from inside the wallet.

Theft: 2020-66392

On December 30, 2020, Deputy O'Donnell responded to Boyd's Turn Rd, Owings, MD for a theft report. Upon arrival, the complainant advised sometime between 12:24 p.m. and 3:25 p.m., an unknown subject(s) drove through the yard striking the mailbox and then stole the mailbox and a trash can. The estimated stolen property is \$95.

Theft: 2020-66487

On December 31, 2020, Deputy Crum responded to 24th St, Chesapeake Beach, MD for a theft report. The complainant advised they ordered a phone and had it shipped to their address. When the complainant went to retrieve the package, the package was open and missing the phone. The cost of stolen property is \$1,099.

Theft: 2020-66538

On December 31, 2020, Deputy Holt responded to Bedford Dr., North Beach, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between Dec. 24 – Dec. 31, an unknown subject(s) stole a black backpack containing camping and other survival items from the complainant's vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$300.

Arrests:

On December 28, 2020, Cpl. Curtin conducted a traffic stop in the area of Solomon's Island Rd and Cox Rd, Huntingtown, MD. The driver was identified as **Jose Morales (20)**.

While making contact with the driver, Cpl. Curtin detected a strong odor of Marijuana emitting from the vehicle as well as noticed several flakes of brown and green vegetable matter on the center console. During a search of Mr. Morales, a black plastic bag containing marijuana and a multi-color cigar wrapper containing marijuana was located. A search of the vehicle yielded two bunches of marijuana, an open alcohol can and two bags containing large amounts of marijuana. Morales was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: POSS MARIJUANA 10 GM+.

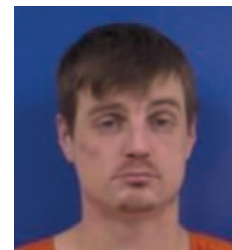
On December 30, 2020, Deputy Savick responded to Mary Ann Dr., Owings, MD. Upon his arrival, he made contact with the complainant who stated they were woken up by a loud "bang" and saw the suspect identified as **Shawn Patrick McMurdy (30)** leaving the property in a vehicle. During the investigation a cinder block and piece of siding were located as well as a hole in the side of the home. Through further investigation, Deputy Savick made contact with McMurdy who had concrete dust and freshly

dried blood on his hand. McMurdy was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with TRESPASS: PRIVATE PROPERTY and MAL DESTR PROP VALUE \$1,000+.

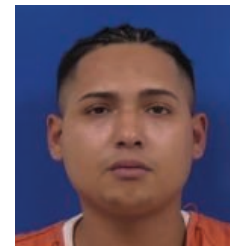
On January 1, 2021, Cpl. Jacobs conducted a traffic stop in the area of N. Solomon's Island Rd. and Hospital Rd, Prince Frederick, MD. As Cpl. Jacobs approached the vehicle, a strong odor of marijuana was emitting from the vehicle. The suspect was identified as **Fredy Edgardo Escobar Perez (23)**.

During a search of the vehicle, a loaded revolver was located. A search of Escobar-Perez's person was conducted. Marijuana and two pills of acetaminophen and oxycodone were found. Deputy Durnbaugh placed Escobar-Perez under arrest and transported him the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with DANGEROUS WEAPON- CONCEAL, CDS: POSSESS-NOT MARIJUANA AND LOADED HANDGUN IN THE VEHICLE.

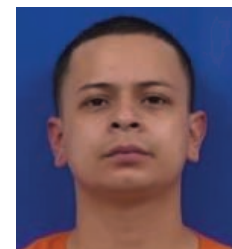
Editor's Note: The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.



Shawn Patrick McMurdy



Jose Morales



Fredy Edgardo Escobar Perez

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MARYLAND STATE POLICE REPORT

January 7, 2021

The below incidents, investigations, and arrests are, in part, demonstrative of the Prince Frederick Barrack's effort to ensure that Calvert County is a safe place to live, work, and visit.

Assault / Reckless Endangerment – On December 30, 2020, TFC Bauer was dispatched to 215 Helena Drive, Prince Frederick, MD, for the report of a domestic dispute involving a firearm. An investigation revealed that an argument between

boyfriend and girlfriend had escalated from a verbal disagreement into a threat involving a rifle, later discovered to be a BB gun. The suspect pointed the BB gun at the head of the victim. Charges of 2nd Degree Assault and Reckless Endangerment have been obtained and will be served on the suspect.

All persons charged with a crime are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Press Release from MSP Prince Frederick Barrack

Grab 'N Go Meal Distribution Changes

Calvert County Public Schools Grab 'n Go meal distribution times will change as of January 15. The new pick-up time will be from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. at all five current locations. Upcoming distribution dates are Fridays Jan. 15, 22 and 29 and Feb. 5.

Kits continue to be available free of charge; however, parents/guardians wishing to pick up meals without their children being present must pre-register. Families may register by calling the Child Nutrition Office at 443.550.8680 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Any parent/guardian who is unsure if their child is already registered for the program, may contact the Child Nutrition Office. Once registered, parents/guardians may pick up meals without their children being present.

GRAB 'N GO MEAL LOCATIONS
 Windy Hill Middle School (bus drop-off area)
 9560 Boyds Turn Rd. Owings, MD 20736

Calvert High School (side parking lot):
 520 Fox Run Blvd. Prince Frederick, MD 20678
 GPS Address:600 Dares Beach Rd. Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Southern Middle School (bus drop-off area):
 9615 H.G. Trueman Rd. Lusby, MD 20657

Patuxent High School (bus drop-off area):
 12485 Southern Connector Blvd. Lusby, MD 20657

Huntingtown High School (student parking lot, right side of building):
 4125 N. Solomons Island Rd. Huntingtown, MD 20639

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Press Release from CCPS.



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Calvert Students on CSM Fall Dean's List

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Broomes Island

Drue Bowman
Kevin Broadwater
Cody Cochran
Jacqueline Grenier

Chesapeake Beach

Shannon Albright
Lavina Battle
Aliya Brooks
Andrew Brower
Ethan Dabbs
Caroline Danielson
Logan Davis
Morgan Donaldson
Amanda Foredyce
Cooper Girard
Stephen Hartman
Kayla Hatfield
Emma Hillyer
Zachary Hoffman
Jacob Hunting
Matthew Jarman
Samuel Jenkins
Nicole Johnson
Grace Malba
Rebecca Ortenzo
Jordan Osterloh
Marjorie Plaudis
Courtney Romba
Matthew Roseto
Deanna Runyon
Melissa Sieck
Keira Strickland
Janae Sullivan
Lindsey Thompson
Elizabeth Tolomei
Asenath Weaver
Jayla Wilson

Dowell

Jordan Mortensen

Dunkirk

Sarah Ashe
Jessica Atkisson
Kailey Catucci
Josiah Cochran
Melissa Donnelly
Ashley Gallo
Katie Garrett
Brooke Heiston
Kylie Hillen
Alexander Howard
Julie Howard
Hunter Huxoll
John Paul Lavallee
Jason Remington
Cole Smith
James Stack
Caitlyn Tolomei
Tatyana White

Huntingtown

Casey Becraft
Margaret Boley
Casper Bradbury
Jake Camilletti
Emma Christensen
James Coffren II
Devon Dorsey
Alexander Droneberger
Melanie Ford
Margaret Fowler
Dale Gilbert
Acacia Gosnell
Stephanie Gray
Emily Hall
Brienna Harkness
Zachary Harkness
Samuel Hill
Destiny Johnson
Jayla Jones
Carl Kilmer
Bailey King
Ben Knight
Sarah Lewis
Davin Loc
Colby MacKall
Stephanie MacLean
Justin Miller
Lyndsay Neill
Noah Newsome
Harley Noel
Josephine Orie
Shawn Park
Angela Patterson
Katherine Pawulak
Frida Perez
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Emily Spicknall
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Joseph Martin
Michelle Metcalfe
MacKenzie Moore
MacKenzi Moran
Marissa Moseley
Brenna Murray
Raleigh Padgett
Kayla Pauley
Kathleen Pinkowski
Robert Price
Christianna Rengert
Michaela Richardson
Tracy Rine
Emma Ritch
Patricia Schleeter
Abigail Scrivener
Lily Severson
Patrick Shauver
Kimberly Shifflett
Ashley Shrawder
Mykyle Shymansky
Danielle Sikorski
Vincent Szybnorski
Alivia Torney
Stacey Warner
Ada Weems
Amari Weems
Jenna Wilder
Ciara Willett
Christian Withers
Ayanna Wood
Catherine Yearick
Jeda Yurko

North Beach

Meghan Arthur
Jackson Chewning
Gabrielle Fleming
Taylor Heiston
Alyssa Mallonee
Sydney Nauman
Grace Raby
Bea Tagle

Juan Tagle
Renee West

Owings

Maura Baker
Madison Bishop
Christopher Brandts
Saige Duby
Joseph Elbrecht
Yinghui Gao
Danielle Henwood
Jake Hurley
Tiffany Jamison
Jalen Jones
Jason McNult
Sarah Miller
Alexandra Monaghan
Madison Mooney
Olivia Mordecai
Mary Organista
Brandon Phelps
Michael Salvagni
Sarah Smith
Jessica Terrill
Ana Teselle
Katana Tolentino
Nicholas Wood

Port Republic

Symphony Avery
Jared Baranowski
Lauren Britt
Mason Britt
Darren Johns
Cheyenne Johnson
Jetta Murphy
Dina Ponce-Reyes
Lindsey Roush
Justin Schutt
Michaila Shahan
Levi Shaw
Ashley Smith
Tori Thrasher
Jennifer Tjia
Renata Welborn
Michael Woollen

Prince Frederick

Olivia Allie
Darian Anderson
Aislynn Barnes
Crystal Bradford
Bailey Brittain
Rachel Carson
Skylar Clark
Madeline Conner
Christopher Cox
Amberdawn Daggendorf
Breanna Economes
Matthew Fruin
Natasha Gompers
Madden Hosman
Aryan Kakadia
Madyson Kelsey
Jameela Khan
Sandra Kleist
Alexis Livingston

Morgan Maldonado
Nathan Maldonado-Munoz
Andrew Mason
Katelynn Maten
Lauren McCammon
Branden Milam
Andrew Miller
Tram Nguyen
Rebecca Parran
Christina Schnoor
Madison Scrivener
Rodnet Sewell
Sagar Shrestha
Vanessa Surat
Cyntaya Tapper
Reagan Van Rees
Haley Withers
Anela Yusuf

Saint Leonard

Danielle Askew
Evaleigh Cooley
Parker Donnelly
Haylee Dowling
Kristina Dube
Lauren Faucette
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Rena Harger
Caleb Jenkins
Claire Jenkins
Thomas Lyon
Nicholas Martin
Brittany Messina
Emily Mutchler
Haley Mutchler
Kayleh Settie
Kimberly Sullivan
Justin Turner
Allison Vassallo
Tanisha Whittington
Sarah Wiltrout

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Caitlin Griggs
Savannah Townsend
Ryleigh Wilson

St. Leonard

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Kaylee Curran
David Fortney
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Aaron Guethlein
Ariel Kilbourne
Chandler Maldonado
Allison Mitchell
Kelly Windsor

Sunderland

Grantley Bourne
Sierra Elliott
Audrey Flanagan
Branden Latvala
MacKenzie Thorne
Leonardo Tompkins

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has released its dean's list for the 2020 fall session. Students who have earned 12 or more credits at CSM are eligible to be considered for the dean's list. At the end of the fall, spring and summer sessions, full- and part-time students who have completed at least six credits during the semester and have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better will be included in the dean's list.

CSM Announces Wray as Keynote Speaker

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) will recognize 754 candidates for 403 degrees and 500 certificates during its 22nd Winter Commencement Jan. 15 to be held virtually during a Facebook Live event. The graduates range in age from 18 to 64 with 41 percent from Charles County, 30 percent from St. Mary's County, 22 percent from Calvert County and the remainder from out of the area. Of the associate's degree candidates, 20 percent will graduate with honors.

The keynote address will be delivered by Christine Wray, FACHE, who is president of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. She also serves as a senior vice president for MedStar Health.

Throughout her 40-year career, Wray has held a variety of leadership positions in hospital operations and developed an expertise in healthcare planning. As president of MedStar St. Mary's Hospital since 1992, she demonstrates a deep commitment to quality and safety as reflected in the hospital's five consecutive "A" grades in The Leapfrog Group's biannual Hospital Safety Grade (through Fall 2020). Ranked first in Maryland for quality-based reimbursement for 2020, MedStar St. Mary's recently joined the MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute. The hospital received the 2014 platinum level Maryland Performance Excellence Award, based upon the rigorous standards of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program. Truven Health Analytics also recognized MedStar St. Mary's as one of the Top 100 Hospitals in the nation in 2013.

In 2014, Wray also became president of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. Under her leadership, the hospital has joined the MedStar Heart & Vascular Institute – Cleveland Clinic Alliance and MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute; earned accreditation from the College of American Pathologists; and been named an American College of Radiology Breast Imaging Center of Excellence. In 2014, the hospital was also named a top per-



Christine R. Wray, FACHE, president of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital – will deliver the keynote speech at CSM's 2021 virtual Winter Commencement.

former in six key quality measures by The Joint Commission. MedStar Southern Maryland achieved U.S. News and World Report National Ranking for neurology and neurosurgery in 2016.

With a strong devotion to health care and the community, Wray is active in civic affairs, serving on the boards of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance, Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, and the Chesapeake-Potomac Home Health Agency. She is a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow and has previously served on the governor-appointed Maryland Health Quality & Cost Council. She completed Leadership Maryland in 1998.

Wray holds a Bachelor of Arts in public health from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and a Master of Health Science in health planning and administration from The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE).

Named Business Person of the Year by the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce in 2000, Wray also received College of Southern Maryland's Leading Edge CEO of the Year Award in 2009.

Press Release from CSM.

Math Professor Receives National Award

St. Mary's College of Maryland Professor of Mathematics David Kung is a 2021 recipient of the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards from the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). The Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards honor college or university professors who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions.

According to MAA, Kung is recognized for outstanding teaching and mentorship, as well as his leadership in making mathematics more inclusive at St. Mary's College. His passion for teaching mathematics is contagious, inspiring everyone he interacts with.

"I am incredibly honored to receive the Haimo Award," said Kung. "I appreciate the work done by the committee to diversify the list of recipients. I dedicate this to the many faculty—especially those of color—whose work has gone unacknowledged over many decades. We must do better, myself included."

Additional recipients along with Kung, include, David Austin from Grand Valley State University, and Elaine Kasimatis from Califor-



St. Mary's College of Maryland Professor of Mathematics David Kung

nia State University, Sacramento. "Building effective practice for teaching & learning is a core value of the MAA," said Michael Pearson, executive director of MAA. "These individuals demonstrate that our work with students can also contribute to our vision of a society that values the power and beauty of mathematics and fully realizes its potential to promote human flourishing."

The Mathematical Association of America is the world's largest community of mathematicians, students, and enthusiasts.

Press Release from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

SMECO Seeks Nominees for Outstanding Teacher Awards

Deadline for nominations is January 29

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) and the school systems of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties are accepting nominations for the 2021 Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards for educators who exemplify excellence in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Winning teachers will receive cash awards of \$500 for their personal use.

Each year, the Cooperative and the local school systems recognize classroom teachers who excel in the STEM fields of study, which are vital to the electric cooperative industry. Outstanding teachers inspire students and enable them to become the next generation of innovators: employees who are essential to the continued success of tech-driven businesses because they bring valuable mathematics, science, and technology skills to the workplace.

Parents, students, community members, and colleagues of teachers are in-



vited to submit nominations for these awards; teachers may also nominate themselves. Mathematics, science, and STEM nominees must teach at a school served by SMECO. Nominees must have a current standard Maryland teaching certificate and tenure within their county. Award winners from the last five years are not eligible.

Interested teachers, or those interested in nominating a teacher, must complete the application packet and submit it electronically to the mathematics or science curriculum supervisor in the appropriate county. Application packets must be submitted by Friday, January 29, 2021. Learn more about the submission criteria, download an application, and find details for submitting materials at smeco.coop/teachers.

Press Release from SMECO.

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College Publications Director Wins Writing Award

Lee Capristo, director of publications in St. Mary's College of Maryland's Institutional Advancement/Integrated Marketing office, recently won an Award of Excellence in the 32nd Annual APEX Awards for Publication Excellence Competition. The award recognized the writing of the editor's note column in the Mulberry Tree magazine over three issues published during 2019-2020.

The APEX awards program recognizes excellence in publishing by professional communicators. The annual competition is open to communicators in corporate, nonprofit and independent settings. The 2020 competition had nearly 1,200 entries and 476 awards of excellence. The APEX award is Capristo's 14th in her career with St. Mary's College of Maryland.

The award-winning editor's notes can be found in the following Mulberry Tree magazines:

Winter 2019: https://issuu.com/smcpublishments/docs/mulberry_tree_winter_2019/4

Spring 2019: https://issuu.com/smcpublishments/docs/mulberrytree_spr19web/4

Winter 2020: https://issuu.com/smcpublishments/docs/mulberry_tree_win20web/4

This award follows a number of national awards for the members of the Institutional Advancement team. Most recently, the team won Gold in the 2020 Circle of Excellence Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for the BeCounted on Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign. That same Giving



Lee Capristo

Tuesday campaign won a Bronze Award in the Annual Educational Advertising Awards, along with a Silver Award for the special event Hawktoberfest.

The Institutional Advancement/Integrated Marketing office also won a Silver Award for the College's total recruitment package, and a Bronze Award for its fall 2019 open house integrated marketing campaign in the Annual Educational Advertising Awards. In the 2019 Collegiate Advertising Awards, the office won the Gold Award for the "apply now" postcard series and a Silver Award for the folder within the Admitted Seahawks Packet. All of the pieces were created and designed in-house by SMCM alumna Keely Houk '17.

Press Release from SMCM.

Letters to the Editor

One of Darkest Days

To the Editor:

Yesterday, January 6, 2021, may be remembered in our history as one of the darkest days of our country in recent times and perhaps since the beginning of the Civil War with respect to contesting our form of government. The assault on our nation's capital was a clear criminal act of sedition and those who were associated with these overt felonious actions should be hunted down, charged and tried under our criminal justice system.

If you have information or recognize any one committing those acts please call a law enforcement agency and give them the information. The FBI is accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting and violence in the U.S. Capitol Building and surrounding area in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021.

If you have witnessed unlawful violent actions, the FBI urges you to submit any information, photos, or videos that could be relevant at [fbi.gov/USCapitol](https://www.fbi.gov/USCapitol).

You may also call

We as a law abiding people, regardless of any political affiliation, should condemn this assault on our Republic.

I commend Vice President Pence for his leadership, his personal actions and comments as he reconvened the Senate, and the leadership and members of the Congress as a body, as they demonstrated clearly that it will not be deterred from its Constitutional duties; by so doing

they took the first steps in steering a corrective course for our nation.

Likewise, I commend Governor Hogan and other surrounding jurisdictions who sent help yesterday to this terrible situation. Governor Hogan, the Troopers of the Maryland State Police and personnel from the Maryland National Guard responded – to defend our country. I would have never before imagined having to use that term, but such was the situation yesterday in our nation's capital.

Over this last year, at the beginning of each session of the Board of County Commissioners, I have often been called upon to give the invocation. Each time I have included a call to all citizens of our county to close ranks, join together as one people in confronting the tough issues that often divide people, be it by political party, race, country of origin, or economic situation. We need to do that now more than ever.

In closing I implore you individually and collectively to do whatever you can to make our government better and to once again, both figuratively and literally, be the shining light on the hill. Together we can turn adversity into opportunity to improve our county, our country and all its peoples.

May God bless you and the United States of America.

*Calvert County Commissioner Tim Hutchins
District 2*

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thursday, January 14

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

CSM hosts Transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. csmd.edu/transferthursdays

Sea Squirts

Calvert Marine Museum; various times

This program invites children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a carryout craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 15-20 minutes. Capacity is limited to 12

people per session. This month's theme is Wacky Weather. This program is now offered at various times throughout the day, to accommodate guests during all sessions. For specific times, please visit calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Thursday, January 21

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

CSM hosts Transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. csmd.edu/transferthursdays

Little Minnow

Calvert Marine Museum; various times

For preschoolers ages 3 - 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and a carryout craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 15-20 minutes. Capacity is limited to 12 people per session. This month's theme is Wacky Weather. This program is now offered at various times throughout the day, to accommodate guests during all sessions. For specific times, please visit calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Ongoing

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Calvert County residents can take their live Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland to county convenience centers for recycling at no charge beginning through Jan. 31, 2021. After Jan. 31, residents looking to recycle their trees must take them

directly to the Appeal Landfill and standard yard waste fees will apply. This program does not apply to businesses. Businesses must bring holiday greenery to the Appeal Landfill where standard yard fees will apply. All decorations, including support frames, lights, and metal stands, must be removed from trees, wreaths, and garlands. Trees and wreaths may not be in plastic bags or cut up. All materials will be taken to the Appeal Landfill to be mulched and made available to county residents at no charge. Wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, holiday cards, and other paper are accepted at the convenience centers for recycling at no cost any time of the year. Cardboard boxes should be flattened and all packing materials, ribbons, and Styrofoam must be removed for disposal. Residents are required to wear face masks and practice safe social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

County Times 2021 Calendars Are Here!

Stop by the County Times today to pick up your free 2021 Calendar



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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.

Dorothy Ann Delaney Vasta



With much sadness I announce the unexpected passing of my loving wife, Dorothy Ann Delaney Vasta on Sunday, January 3, 2021. Born on August 22, 1934, she grew up in Silver Spring, MD attending Holy Names Academy and University of Maryland. We were married in 1956 and have spent the last 64 years together. She was a devoted mother to her four children - Karen Flood (Paul), Vicki Healy (Tom), Charlotte Duchesne (Bill) and Rob Vasta (Laura) and a cherished grandmother of eleven grandchildren - Kevin Healy, Carlee Duchesne, Claire Healy, Nicko Duchesne, Lauren Flood, Brenna Healy, Rob Vasta, Amanda Flood, Rachel Vasta, Daniel Flood, and Bridget Vasta.

She worked first as a teacher and then later at the National Wildlife Federation for 15 years. The last 30 years, we've been living our dream down on the Chesapeake Bay.

She was known to many as "Dotty Vee", known proudly to her family as "Gigi". She loved her gardens, books, singing with the Patuxent Pearls and enjoying nature right out her back door at Vasta View.

In lieu of flowers, a charitable contribution can be made in her honor to Bestfriends.org or the charity of your choice.

We will have a celebration of her life in the spring when her gardens are in bloom.

To leave the family a condolence please visit www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.

Charles Roy "Chuck" Hall



Charles Roy "Chuck" Hall, 85, a 44-year resident of Owings passed away January 9, 2021 at his home surrounded by family. He was born March 20, 1935 in Newkirk, OK to Leo and Martha Hall and was raised in Fresno, CA. After graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1952, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served in Alaska, Japan, and Korea before coming to Andrews Air Force Base. Chuck met and married Janet Brunner in Washington, DC on February 7, 1959. Chuck was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1963 and later went to work as a clerk for Western Union on Capitol Hill until his retirement in 1997.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Janet Arlene Hall, children Jill Elizabeth Sharp and husband Joe of West River and Jan Michelle Hall of Washington, DC, granddaughter Aubrey Elizabeth Sharp, sister Ann Randall-Pino of Fresno, CA and brother David Lee Hall of Clovis, CA.

A Life Celebration Visitation will

be held Thursday, January 14, 2021, 4-6 p/m/ at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736.

Burial will be at MD Veterans Cemetery-Cheltenham, 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623.

William Thomas Ricketts, Sr.



William Thomas Ricketts, Sr., 91, of Lothian passed away January 5, 2021 at his residence. He was born April 25, 1929 at home in Barnesville, MD to James Walter Sr. and Hattie (Case) Ricketts. William was raised on the family farm in Barnesville and moved to Washington, DC in 1947 to live with his sister and try to find work. He met Margaret Pumphrey while in DC and they were married on June 11, 1949 at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Forestville. William learned the construction trade and eventually started his own business, W.T. Ricketts General Contracting, building over 60 homes during his 40-year career in Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Calvert County, as well as DC and Alexandria, VA. He built a stellar reputation as a talented, honest, hardworking man. William retired in 1989 and became a full-time cattle farmer. He was a member of Epiphany Episcopal Church and in his spare time he enjoyed vegetable gardening, working, and rebuilding

tractors. He also enjoyed many daily visitors seeking advice. He was gifted with speaking the truth and had a quick-witted sense of humor.

William was preceded in death by his wife Margaret Louise Ricketts and daughter Margaret Rose Mencer. He is survived by his children Joan Ricketts Locke of Warrenton, VA, Terry Ricketts Redell and husband Louie of King George, VA, Billy Ricketts of Florida, and Buddy Ricketts and wife Liz of Lothian, 9 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Stephen Thomas "Steve" Phillips



Stephen Thomas "Steve" Phillips, 76, of Owings passed away January 2, 2021. He was born April 4, 1944 in Washington DC to Clinton Woodward and Ethel Catherine (Lynch) Phillips. Steve was raised in DC and graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School. He later attended William and Mary University where he played the clarinet and graduated with Bachelor's degree in sociology. Steve married Ann Rechsteiner in 1976 and they lived in Fairfax Village before building their home in Owings in 1980. He was employed as a computer programmer with the Census Bureau for many years, retiring in December of 2003. He was

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a member and primarily the pitcher on the Census Bureau softball team. Steve was a very handy person and enjoyed fixing things. He also enjoyed reading and being a part of "The Book Club", watching TV, especially old movies, cooking, car magazines, and motorcycles.

Steve is survived by his loving wife of 44 years Ann Rechsteiner Phillips of Owings and brother James Woodward Phillips and his wife Constance of Champaign, IL, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A private graveside service will be held at Southern Memorial Gardens in Dunkirk.

Memorial contributions may be made to a Charity of One's Choice.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Dorothy Carolynn Augustin



Dorothy Carolynn Augustin, 89, a long-time resident of North Beach, MD, passed away on Saturday, January 2, 2021 at Calvert County Nursing Center in Prince Frederick, MD. Dorothy was born April 24, 1931 in East Chicago, IN to William Andre Kish and Frances Stella (Dembowski) Kish. In Dorothy's younger years, she lived in Morocco, IN. She was a cheerleader in high school. After high school she worked in E. Chicago as a secretary for the General American Transportation Corporation. She also worked in Crown Point, IN for an accountant as a secretary. Dorothy was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She loved being a homemaker, enjoyed cooking, sewing, reading, drawing, gardening, playing bridge, bowling, writing and playing and teaching the piano. She enjoyed nature and animals, especially her beloved cats and dogs she had through the years. She enjoyed volunteering at nursing homes by singing and playing the piano for the residents. She enjoyed reading and teaching the

bible. Dorothy is survived by ex-husband Arthur A. Augustin, the father of her children, and by her son, Richard A. Augustin and his wife Annette of Lawrence, KS, and her daughter Karen J. Augustin of Annapolis, MD and 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son Leslie A. Augustin of Glenn Dale, MD, and daughter, Carol Jane Augustin of Chesapeake Beach, MD.

The family will hold a visitation gathering on Thursday, January 28, 2021 from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a memorial service to start at 11 a.m. Due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be a limit of 25 people in the visitation room. The services will be live streamed on the Rausch Funeral Home Facebook page starting at 11:00 AM for those who are unable to attend.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 (download form on cancer.org), or to donate by phone call 1-800-227-2345.

Thomas James Long



Thomas James Long, 77, a resident of Benedict MD, passed away on December 31, 2020 unexpectedly at his home. Tom was born on July 20, 1943 to the late Albert H. Long and Mary (Rynone) Long in Geneva NY, where he was raised and lived until his move to Maryland in 1996. In his early years he was employed as a mechanic with Fratto Brothers Construction and the City of Geneva, New York.

After his move to Maryland he met Marsha, his wife of 20 years. Like Tom, Marsha shared his love of flying. They enjoyed flying to their vacation destinations, fly-in breakfasts, and day trips in the Delmarva area.

Tom's love of flying began at an early age. He built model airplanes and always wanted to be a pilot. He worked his way through flight school at a local airport in Geneva NY and soloed in a Taylorcraft BC-12D in 1963. In his early 20s he crop dusted for a while and then flew for United Airlines which was not suited for him. He went to work

for a corporation that leased planes and pilots and it was at that time he became certified in many different aircraft, flying to destinations all over the world and accumulated over 20,000 hours in a multitude of aircrafts, including the Beech 18, DC-3, DC-4, B-727, Citation, King Air, Gulfstream and Falcon. Tom was also a licensed flight instructor and certified aircraft mechanic.

During his 35 year career in aviation, he was employed as Chief Pilot by UFCW Local 1 in Utica NY and then transferred to the UFCW headquarters in Washington DC where he retired after 20 years with the organization. After his retirement he continued to restore airplanes and fly his own planes.

Tom owned and restored many planes during his lifetime but his 1942 BT-13 World War II trainer, a two-seat bomber trainer, that he restored and housed on his property in Benedict was his proudest restoration.

Tom's giving and loving soul, and the jokester he was will be greatly missed by his family, and those who knew and loved him.

Tom is survived by his wife, Marsha Long; brother Albert William (Bevan) of Geneva NY and sister Nellene Reed. He is also survived

by nephews Danny Long (Kelly) and Bill Long (Nancy) of Geneva NY. He is survived by in-laws Skip Dixon (Bert); Olivia Deyette (Mark); Sharon Rooney; Lisa Denton and Linda Salazar (David) of Maryland. He is also survived by many great nieces and nephews in New York and Maryland.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions a celebration of Tom's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the AOPA Foundation in Tom's memory. Please make the checks payable to "AOPA Foundation" and write "Scholarship Fund" with the individuals name on the memo line, and then mail it to: AOPA Foundation

Attention: Carli Stone
421 Aviation Way
Frederick, MD 21701

If you prefer to contribute online, you can use this webpage: www.aopa.org/donation/oneclickmemorial Enter the individuals name in the "Dedicate this donation in memory of" field and the code R2114GY-CFSS in the "Keycode" field (this will ensure the donation is directed to our scholarship program).

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

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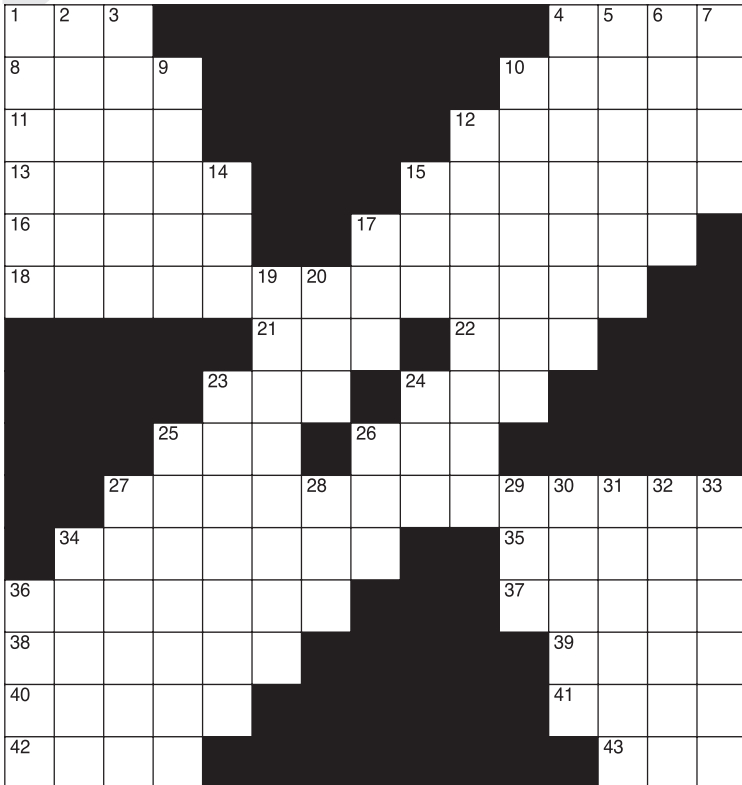
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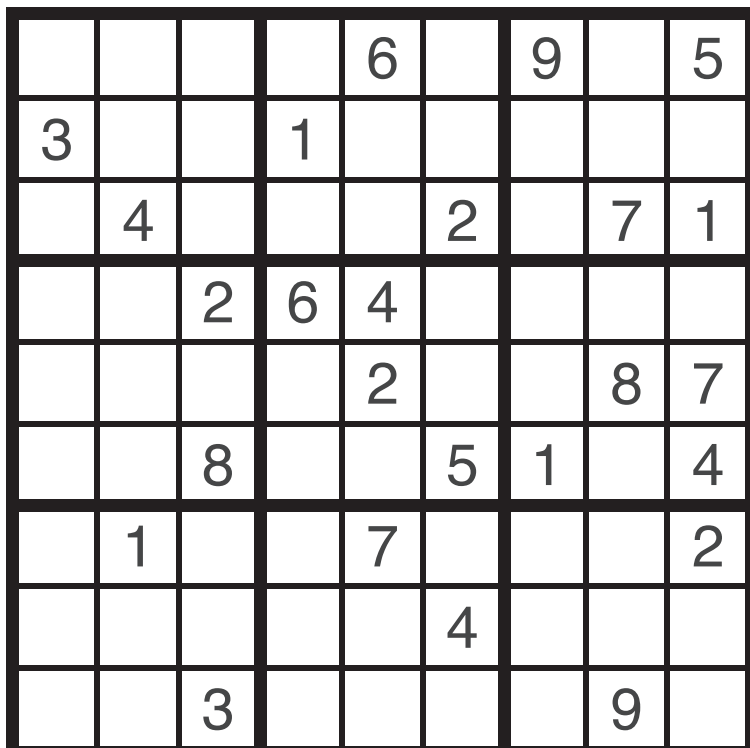
- 1. Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)
- 4. Silicon Valley's specialty
- 8. Gather a harvest
- 10. Famed mathematician
- 11. No (slang)
- 12. Students use one
- 13. Type of molecule
- 15. Play make-believe
- 16. Large barrel-like containers
- 17. Touching
- 18. Treats allergies
- 21. Calendar month
- 22. Single
- 23. Cease to live
- 24. Brew
- 25. What ghosts say
- 26. Geological time
- 27. Focus
- 34. Discomfort
- 35. A citizen of Iran
- 36. Trip

- 37. Imitate
- 38. Makes happy
- 39. Double-reed instrument
- 40. Body parts
- 41. Transgressions
- 42. One-time emperor of Russia
- 43. Time zone

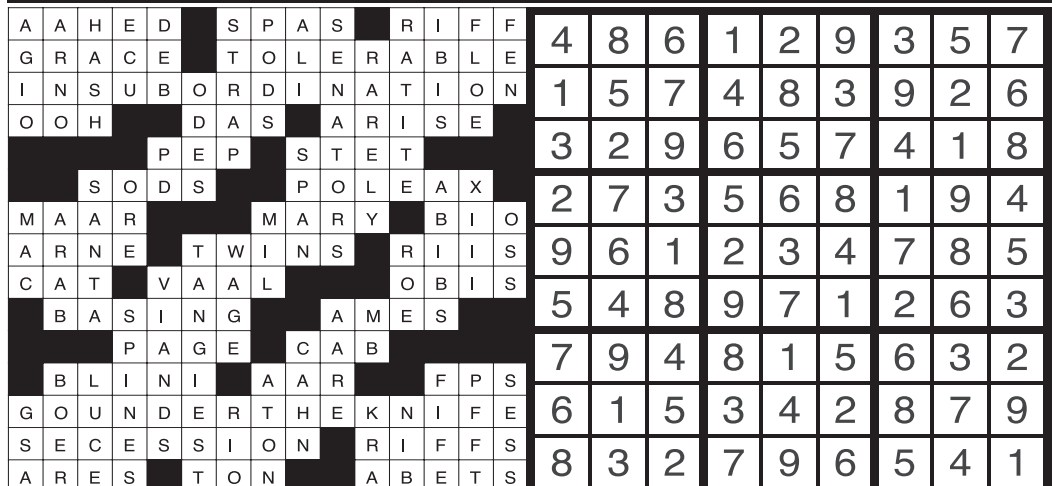
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used in treating bruises
- 2. One who cultivates a small estate
- 3. One who supports the Pope
- 4. Annuity
- 5. Geological period
- 6. Grab onto tightly
- 7. Kept
- 9. Chinese city
- 10. The most direct route
- 12. Type of tooth
- 14. ___ kosh, near Lake Winnebago

- 15. Popular veggie
- 17. Supervises interstate commerce
- 19. Foolish behaviors
- 20. Witness
- 23. Gives
- 24. Expression of creative skill
- 25. A way to prop up
- 26. Midway between northeast and east
- 27. Winter melon
- 28. Supernatural power
- 29. Target
- 30. Threes
- 31. A type of poetic verse
- 32. They make some people cry
- 33. Kindest
- 34. Forman and Ventimiglia are two
- 36. A way to liquefy



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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