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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022

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LOOKING BACK 2021



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“OUR GOAL CONTINUES TO BE TO SUCCESSFULLY KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING FIVE DAYS PER WEEK THROUGH THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.”
SUPERINTENDENT DR. DANIEL CURRY

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 1/6	Fri 1/7	Sat 1/8	Sun 1/9
42° 29°F	34° 19°F	35° 26°F	52° 37°F
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Rain
Mon 1/10	Tue 1/11	Wed 1/12	Thu 1/13
40° 21°F	30° 24°F	41° 34°F	43° 36°F
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy




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Appeals Court Rules for County in Comprehensive Plan Case

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Maryland Court of Specials Appeals (COSA), the state's second highest court, has denied an appeal of a February 16, 2021, judge's decision in Calvert County Circuit Court upholding the county commissioners' August 2019 adoption of the comprehensive plan. Four county citizen plaintiffs had argued the plan adoption was illegal because Commissioner Kelly McConkey should have recused himself in the decision to put two properties he owns in an expanded Huntingtown Town Center in a preliminary 3-2 vote prior to the overall plan's adoption.

In a Dec. 27 written opinion heavily peppered with case law and legal jargon, the appeals court ruled, "Calvert County Code does not provide an express or implied right of action for a violation of its ethics ordinance, and even if it did, the proper remedy would not be invalidating the entire Plan."

Regarding McConkey's vote on including his properties in the Huntingtown Town Center, COSA ruled, "Appellants and appellee both agree that Commissioner McConkey's actions were purely legislative. Voiding the legislation because of concerns about a legislator's motivation is not a remedy available under these circumstances. Further, even if we could void a legislative act because of conflict-of-interest concerns, the provision that created the conflict would be severable from the other portions of the Plan."

But they also observed that a trial judge did not rule that there was a conflict and voided an Ethics Commission decision that there was one because of an alleged conflict of interest by the



Commissioner Kelly McConkey

commission's chairperson.

The Ethics Commission appealed that decision which is still pending before COSA.

The appeals court ruled that it did not have the authority to void a legislative act such as the adoption of the comprehensive plan by the county commissioners.

The appeals court, in its opinion, introduces people not familiar with legal jargon to the term "ultra vires."

The court wrote, "A court may invalidate local legislation if the local government in question did not comply with enabling legislation requirements or acted ultra vires."

It said, "An act is ultra vires when it is 'beyond the scope of power allowed or granted . . . by law,'" adding, "Appellants imply that Commissioner McConkey's participation in the Plan vote was ultra vires because of his alleged conflict of interest. We do not agree as we found nothing in Maryland case law that indicates an alleged conflict of interest (or the alleged appearance of such a conflict) is an ultra vires act."

The court noted, "Appellants

next ask this Court to find that there was a conflict. We do not have the authority to do so."

The court said there were remedies for ethical violations. It said, "We observe that the Ethics Ordinance is a legislative scheme that lays out the ethical boundaries for government officials and employee behavior. It allows the Ethics Commission to issue fines, cease and desist orders, and/or seek injunctive relief and it provides a mechanism for the public

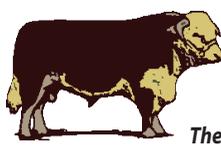
to file complaints to the Ethics Commission."

And even though, the court ruled, citizens don't have express authority to file suit over ethics violations, they do have remedies. The opinion said, "A resident of Calvert County could file an ethics complaint to have their concerns about a conflict of interest addressed. Citizens who would like to see Calvert County's government move in a different direction may run for office themselves or support a new candidate. They may lobby a future Board of County Commissioners to pass a new Plan to replace the one that appellants object to. We cannot create a remedy where there is none, particularly not when the law provides explicit statutory remedies to address concerns."

The plaintiffs who filed the suit against the county were Susan Dzurec, Phyllis Sherkus, Michael King, and Myra Gowans.

They could appeal the COSA decision to the Maryland Court of Appeals, the state's highest court.

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CalvertHealth Moves to Crisis Protocols

Response is to Surge in COVID-19 Cases



Due to a significant increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations, CalvertHealth is implemented crisis protocols beginning December 29. Since December 1, CalvertHealth has experienced a 567 percent increase in treating admitted COVID patients – from three patients in the beginning of December to 20 today. This rise in COVID patients in addition to the number of other patients coming to the Emergency Room and others requiring hospitalization combined with current staff shortages required CalvertHealth to move to crisis protocols for the safety of our workforce and our patients.

“We have enacted our emergency plan of action and shifted to crisis protocols after careful consideration,” stated President and CEO Dean Teague. During this time, CalvertHealth has delayed non-urgent surgeries, altered care deliver to extend staff into critical areas and expand its ICU capacity, limited visitors into the hospital and its practices, and worked with local and state officials to broaden COVID testing for the community. “We will continue to work with local government, state officials and others to strategize next steps,” Teague concluded.

CalvertHealth joins many other hospitals across the state also transitioning to contingency or crisis standards of care protocols. These protocols are used in times

of emergency when the demand for health care pushes the limit or exceeds the ability of the health system to provide it.

“Our healthcare workers are working as hard as they possibly can to care for each and every member of our community. We are committed to doing our part, now we need the community’s support and assistance” said Teague.

There are a number of ways the community can assist in the effort to avoid a surge in the hospital. These include: Use the hospital Emergency Room (ER) for TRUE emergencies; Call your doctor or urgent care for non-life threatening issues; Get vaccinated and boosted; Wear masks, social distance and wash hands frequently.

“We need to keep the ER available to those in our community requiring emergent care. Please do not come to the ER to be tested/treated for COVID unless you are experiencing trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; or the inability to wake or stay awake,” said Teague.

Any community members who have not yet received a vaccine or those eligible for a booster dose can schedule an appointment online: <https://www.calvert-countymd.gov/vaccine> or <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>

Press Release from CalvertHealth.

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Gadway Seeks First Elected Term

By Dick Myers
Editor

Even before Chris Gadway was appointed by Gov. Hogan to fill the vacancy on the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), he had decided he was going to run for the office in this June's primary. He officially filed his candidacy on June 28, the date Tim Hutchins' resignation for health reasons became official.

Now he is running as an incumbent, with six months experience under his belt. It's been a tumultuous six months in which Gadway hasn't shied away from controversy.

The Republican, in an interview last week, was reminded that some new public officials say the job wasn't what they expected. "It is more than I anticipated, but I'm not surprised, and I've been really enjoying it since day one."

He was asked if a lot of the work was mundane. He observed, "The staff does a lot of the work and presents it to us in a manner that simplifies it for our sake. In my typical week, I'll pick up my package on Friday afternoon and I'll spend probably anywhere between five and eight hours throughout the weekend going through the package and checking things to see, as much as we can, comments and replies and doing a little research on my own, coming up with questions relating to those presentations. So, although some of it is in the kind of automatic process category, I personally still take the time to read each presentation."

He said he takes the time, "So I can come in better informed and understand because to some degree, I obviously started mid-stream. I'm trying to learn like drinking through a fire hose."

As to an agenda if elected, he said, "The original reasons why I decided to run in 2019 are still valid. There's been a lot of things that have happened since 2019 in our world, in our county that have affected what I would like to see happen. I have learned that the school board is doing what they're doing and what's clear during the meetings that I have multiple questions for the school board, and I'm still puzzled why they don't remove the 10-person limit that they arbitrarily imposed coming back from COVID, which before they didn't have limits."

He added, "This week is a horrible week for everyone in Mary-



Commissioner Chris Gadway

land, as far as the amount of COVID case going up. But it looks like people are not as sick as they were a year and a half ago when they got it. But looking at some of the ways the health officers do what they do, and the way statistics are presented, those are all things that I've been pushing for in order to try and make it better on all fronts."

Gadway has thus been a frequent critic of the school board and Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky.

Gadway said of imposing additional restrictions on people, "Absolutely, it'd be a last resort. I am very much opposed to any mandates, whether it be mask mandates, vaccine mandates. I absolutely believe that everyone in our society deserves a right to live the way they want to live, without government overreach."

Regarding the school board, he said, "There's a lot of talk from parents that I'm hearing that they believe that the schools are not necessarily teaching C R T (Critical Race Theory) but implementing CRT. And that's pretty much the hot button topic that I believe is one of the reasons why the school board is limiting speakers to 10 people, because many times more than 10 people want to come in and address the school board about the CRT and the school board will not respond to them. I really believe that school board needs to set up an open and hon-

est dialogue, an open house forum like they did with the students a couple months ago, but only with parents, in order to allow the parents to ask strong, pointed questions and get answers, instead of just no reply from the board."

He believes there's been a groundswell of support for his positions.

As to whether it's a partisan response, he said, "I'm not going to say that it's partisan as Republican, Democrat or Independent. What I do want to say is that there are clear differences between conservative values toward education and liberal values toward education, and those are dramatic and significant in my opinion, and in the opinion of a lot of the parents that I hear from."

With budget considerations coming up, he said, "I'm really interested in trying to see in the school board budget where their line items are coming in, in reference to paying for the teachers and the staff first, then worrying about the special programs."

He said he will tell the school board, "You should pay your teachers first. And then the money

that's left over is what you should divide up amongst your special projects and things that you want to do to outside the necessities."

He insisted, "I've tried to make it abundantly clear that in no way shape or form are any of my votes to be taken as against spending the necessary funds in order to give the children of our county the good quality education that they need and deserve. And Calvert's always been in the past known for its great school system. And I am not in any way, shape or form trying to take away from it."

"All the budgets I've ever done have been line-item budgets. And when it comes down to it, you've got to figure out a way to make a balance. I know that our county employees are not on the same pay parity as they are in some other counties around us. I am very happy that we took action a couple months ago in order to give the county employees a couple of the back steps that have been missed for over a decade," he said.

His campaign Facebook page is Chris Gadway for Calvert, and his website is chrisgadway.us

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Schools Reopen Despite Covid Spike

Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Curry sent out the following message to parents last week. The schools didn't return Monday or Tuesday because of the snow, but the message remained clear nonetheless -- unlike neighboring counties, Calvert was returning to the classroom:

"As the holiday break comes to an end and we look forward to the new year ahead of us, we hope that everyone has had time to relax and rest with family and friends, and most of all, we hope that you and your families have remained healthy. As we celebrate the entrance of the new year, it is important to share that Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) will return to school as planned on Monday, January 3, 2022.

"While we recognize that COVID-19 positive cases are rising in Calvert County, the decision to open all schools was made after careful consideration and ongoing collaboration with the Calvert County Health Department (CCHD). Our goal continues to be to successfully keep schools open for in-person learning five days

per week through the end of the school year.

"CCPS will continue to implement the following mitigation measures to ensure the safety of our students and staff.:

"Masking continues to be required for all staff members and all students in all Calvert County Public School buildings.

"Ventilation: Calvert County continues to monitor ventilation standards, HVAC equipment and air scrubbers to ensure optimal performance.

"Distancing to the greatest extent possible Since we have returned fully, schools have provided distancing to the greatest extent possible. In the next 2-3 weeks, it will be important for school administrators and teachers to continue to be vigilant regarding distancing protocols.

"During the winter break, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised quarantine protocols that were subsequently adopted by the CCHD and CCPS. CCPS will continue to record positive cases in our schools and notify the community of posi-

tive cases. We ask that families evaluate and communicate illness with their child's school. Students and staff who are sick should remain at home, get a COVID test, and report the illness to the school nurse and/or their supervisor. Every positive COVID test will result in a 5-day quarantine period, and individuals must be symptom-free before returning to school or work. Those who must quarantine under the direction of the CCHD, or another agency will also do so for five days. There is no early test-out option, and those who must isolate, or quarantine must also mask in all settings for five days after the conclusion of that initial five-day period. Students and staff who are healthy and remain asymptomatic will be permitted to attend school provided they consistently and properly wear a face covering and remain symptom free.

"We continue to impress on our school community that vaccinations are important. Get vaccinated and get boosted!

"Happy New Year!"



Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Curry



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Redistricting Committee Sets Meeting Schedule



The Calvert County Redistricting Committee has set its meeting schedule through early February, to consider the boundaries for Calvert County Commissioner Election Districts.

Meetings will be held in a hybrid format and are open to the public:

Friday, Jan. 7 at 3 p.m.

Calvert County Circuit Court-house, Second Floor, Commissioners Hearing Room
175 Main St., Prince Frederick

Friday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m.

Calvert County Circuit Court-house, Second Floor, Commissioners Hearing Room
175 Main St., Prince Frederick

Friday, Jan. 21 at 3 p.m.

Harriet E. Brown Community Center, room 113
901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick

Friday, Jan. 28 at 3 p.m.

Harriet E. Brown Community Center, room 113
901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick

Friday, Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. (tentative)

Harriet E. Brown Community Center, room 113
901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick

The public may attend either in person or virtually through Zoom. Participants may also dial in by phone (audio only). Meeting access information is available online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/3014/Redistricting-Committee.

[CalvertCountyMd.gov/3014/Redistricting-Committee](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/3014/Redistricting-Committee).

Meetings will be recorded and available to view on the Calvert County Government YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Dates, times and locations may be subject to change.

The Redistricting Committee held its first meeting Monday, Dec. 20, 2021, during which the committee determined the dates and format of its meetings.

The committee intends to come to a conclusive recommendation by the Jan. 28 meeting, but is planning for a tentative Feb. 4 meeting in case further discussion is needed.

Redistricting is the process of changing election district boundaries. The nine-member Redistricting Committee is formed following the decennial census and is charged with reviewing and recommending County Commissioner election districts and boundaries to account for population changes. For more information, visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/3014/Redistricting-Committee or contact the Redistricting Committee staff liaison, Special Projects Program Manager Ashley Staples-Reid at Ashley.Staples-Reid@calvertcountymd.gov or 410-532-1600, ext. 2201.

Press Release from Calvert County government.



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Section of Calvert Beach Road to Close for Construction

The Calvert County Department of Public Works will close a section of Calvert Beach Road in St. Leonard, beginning on or about Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, for construction improvements to the existing culvert at 1447 Calvert Beach Road.

Construction is expected to continue through March 1, 2022, weather permitting.

During construction, a section of Calvert Beach Road between Irving Court and Apple Way will be closed to traffic in both directions. Traffic will be directed to use Flag Harbor Boulevard and Long Beach Road during the closure. Signs will be in place to notify citizens of the closure and detours to safe alternate routes.

Motorists are advised to use caution in the area while construction



is underway.

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

Press Release from Calvert County government

Ag Commission Awarded USDA Grant

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is the recipient of a US Department of Agriculture Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant of \$599,703.32, to 'Build Resilience, Develop and Expand Direct Producer-to-Consumer Markets and Increase Access to Local Foods in Southern Maryland.'

According to the USDA press announcement released on November 23, 2021, the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) awarded \$37.5 million in funding to 88 projects to support direct producer-to-consumer marketing projects such as farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, roadside stands, and agritourism. SMADC is the only Maryland agriculture entity to be awarded FMPP project grant funds in this category.

SMADC's winning project, 'Building Resilience in Southern Maryland Producer to Consumer Initiatives,' expands the efficacy of SMADC's farmer/consumer resource and promotion programs and Maryland Market Money (MMM) Program, jointly administered in partnership with the Maryland Agriculture & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO). The project will focus on increasing consumer awareness for direct producer-to-consumer markets and access and availability of regionally produced agricultural products and providing technical assistance for

value-added food producers.

FMPP Grant funds will also enable the evaluation and expansion of the MMM food access program to socially disadvantaged, senior, and veteran consumers and producers, increase the efficiency and sustainability of the program deliverables through state-of-the-art technology for farmers markets in combination with a targeted ad campaign to connect federal nutrition benefits shoppers to direct to consumer outlets (farmers markets, farm stands, on-farm markets, and CSAs) that accept SNAP and FMNP.

"Our goal is to leverage SMADC programs with the dynamic outreach of MMM to increase farm and market revenues and promote and expand access to healthy local foods for consumers," commented Shelby Watson-Hampton, SMADC Director. "We are proud and excited to be the recipient of this significant grant award to continue to enhance SMADC's important work to insure a robust and resilient future for farms in Southern Maryland."

The FMPP awards/funding is made possible through grant programs administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) as part of the Local Agriculture Marketing Program (LAMP): the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Programs (FMLFP) and the Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP). To learn more about SMADC programs for farmers and consumers visit SMADC.com.

Press Release from SMADC.

County Earns National Parks and Recreation Accreditation

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation has joined the ranks of elite parks and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

"Achieving CAPRA accreditation is proof of Calvert County's commitment to provide world-class parks, facilities and programs to our residents," said Board of County Commissioners President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance. "This serves as validation that our Department of Parks & Recreation uses best practices in all operations and holds it accountable to meet the public's needs. Congratulations to Director Shannon Nazzal and the entire Parks & Recreation team, who worked hard for this outstanding achievement."

Calvert County is one of only five parks and recreation agencies in Maryland and 193 in the United States to hold CAPRA accreditation.

As part of the accreditation process, Calvert County Parks & Recreation demonstrated compliance with 154 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures.

Calvert County began the accreditation process in 2018. The process involves a formal application, self-assessments, a site visit that results in a written report and a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation. Once accredited, the agency must uphold the standards by submitting an annual report and is reviewed again in five years.



"The rigorous, three-year process took a tremendous effort from all Parks & Recreation staff members and this distinction marks them as the high-performing team I know them to be," said Parks & Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal. "It has strengthened our team, helped identify efficiencies and heightened areas of accountability, which translates into higher quality service to our community. Residents can be confident that they are receiving the quality of services that they deserve."

The CAPRA commission is comprised of representatives from NRPA, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Management Association, the Academy for Leisure Sciences, the Armed Forces Recreation Network and the Council of State Executive Directors. For more information about CAPRA accreditation, visit www.nrpa.org/CAPRA.

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation strives to enhance the health, economy and well-being of the Calvert County community through sustainable practices, leisure opportunities and environmental stewardship. For more information about Parks & Recreation facilities and programs, visit online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/ParksandRecreation.

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks and follow @CalvertCountyParksandRec on Instagram.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

Nominations Sought for Women of the World

The Calvert County Commission for Women calls for nominations for the 2022 Outstanding Achievement Awards by individuals or groups. Nominees should be a woman or girl who has made significant contributions to our community. Awards will be presented at the 19th Annual Women of the World (WOW) Celebration and Recognition event which will be held virtually on Saturday, March 12, 2022.

The four award categories are as follows:

- **Advocacy:** To honor a woman for outstanding leadership, courage, tenacity, and effectiveness to support policies and practices that improve the lives of Calvert County women or girls.
- **Business Leadership:** To honor a woman for leadership and effectively implementing business practices that improves the economic status of Calvert County women or girls.
- **Service:** To honor a woman whose service to community has improved the quality of life for Calvert County women

or girls.

- **Woman of Tomorrow:** To honor a girl or young woman (age 20 or younger) for effective leadership in the field of advocacy, business, or service to community. Note that the main criterion is impact on our community, not academics.

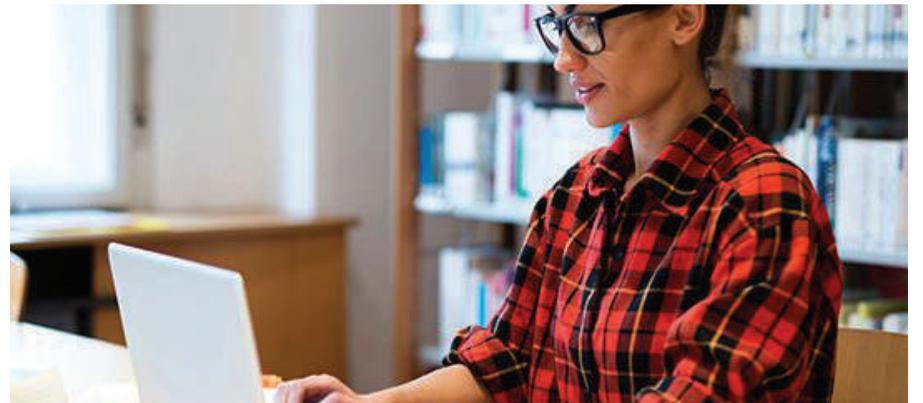
Deadline is January 1, 2022. Nomination forms and more information may be found online at: www.calvertwomen.org

Contact Calvert County Commission for Women: calvertwomen@gmail.com, Joan Winship, Chair; Tel: 202-494-2280

The Calvert County Commission for Women was established by the Calvert Board of County Commissioners by Resolution on June 22, 1976. The Commission is charged with improving opportunities for women and girls by: promoting women's education and employment; being a voice and advocate for women and girls; identifying and studying relevant issues; being a clearinghouse on issues; giving recognition to outstanding women and girls.

Press Release from CCCW.

Online Inspections and Permits Portal Initiated



Citizens and businesses can pay for, manage and print permits from the comfort of their own home or office through Calvert County's Encompass online portal.

Citizens can visit Encompass.CalvertCountyMd.gov to register for an account.

The online system allows for residential building, electrical, plumbing, gas and grading permits, along with utility permits, with more capabilities to be rolled out in the future.

Online credit card and eCheck payments are accepted through the portal. A convenience fee of 2.7% for credit card payments and \$2.25 for eCheck payments will be added to the permit transaction

total.

"The goal of this online portal is to make the inspections and permits process easier, quicker and more convenient for the citizens we serve," said Planning & Zoning Director Mary Beth Cook. "The user-friendly portal will help remove the burden of having to physically visit county offices."

For additional information, contact the Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning, Office of Inspections & Permits at 410-535-1600, ext. 2552, or by email at inspections.permits@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press Release from Calvert County government.



LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS
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CountyTimes

2021 Year in Review, Part 2: Delta,



Commissioner Kelly McConkey

By Dick Myers
Editor

The first half of 2021 was dominated by stories about the COVID-19 vaccines. But even though the county returned to some semblance of normalcy in the second half of 2021, as evidenced by the return of the county fair, the pandemic was still among us, with first the surge of the Delta variant and then the Omicron.

JULY

Our July 1 cover story was a tribute to the **five decades of public service** by Tim Hutchins, who resigned in June from the county commissioner board due to health reasons.

His public service began from the time he entered the U.S. Army in October of 1965 and included being a state trooper, Maryland delegate, and head of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, superintendent of the state police and state Homeland Security Director in addition to his two and a half years as county commissioner.

He was asked during a June 25 interview with The County Times which of those roles he was most proud of serving.

Without hesitation, Hutchins responded, "I was proud of being a soldier. That doesn't mean I'm not proud of being a trooper or being a legislator or county commissioner, or just a plain citizen trying to change a tire for somebody. But there's something about those that do our bidding for us in faraway places."

Commissioners President Buddy Hance and Steve Weems attended the June 22 courthouse green event **honoring the late former Commissioner Michael Moore**. The Calvert Branch of the NAACP and Calvert Commissioners held the event to commemorate a memorial bench on the green that will honor Moore. The bench arrived damaged and had to be resent and did not arrive for the ceremony. Present at the event were also NAACP President Michael Kent, Delegate Rachel Jones, former commissioner Wilson Parran, and Moore's

family. Moore was the first elected black county commissioner.

The July 1 issue provided anticipation for the **return of 4th of July fireworks in Solomons**. The grassroots effort to bring back the display had been so successful at raising funds that several extras were to be added this year to make the event even more special, a senior member of the Solomons Business Association (SBA) said this week.

Bringing back the fireworks after they had been cancelled came about after a local business owner, Kyle Webber, started a grassroots campaign to raise the funds to go on with the show.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their June 27 meeting held two public hearings to reflect **budget revenue increases from federal funding**.

The first hearing reported an anticipated reimbursement of 75 percent of the cost to the county from damage due to Tropical Storm Isaias in August of 2020. The county has estimated the damage will be in excess of \$7 million.

After the second public hearing at also which no one spoke, the BOCC voted to increase the budget revenue by \$5,405,818.19, the amount the county has received from Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Our July 8 cover story had the headline: "**Calvert's Most Dangerous Intersections.**"

Information provided to The County Times from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) via Delta Plus, which is the central reporting program used for crash reporting by Law Enforcement Agencies in Maryland, shows that from 2019 until now, these are the five most dangerous intersections in the county:

- Southern Maryland Blvd (MD 4)/Chaneyville Rd – Total: 24 crashes
- Solomons Island Rd (MD 2/4)/Plum Point Rd – Total: 23 crashes
- Solomons Island Rd (MD 2/4)/

Broomes Island Rd – Total: 19 crashes

- Solomons Island Rd/Chesapeake Beach Rd (MD 2 @ MD 260) – Total: 17 crashes
- Southern Maryland Blvd (MD 4)/Town Center Blvd – Total: 16 crashes

The first identified **Delta variant** case of the COVID-19 virus in Maryland was identified in early July in neighboring St. Mary's County. "The Delta variant thus far appears to be highly transmissible and may be more likely to cause severe illness, including among unvaccinated youth. Elsewhere in the country and across the world, case rates and hospitalizations are increasing among unvaccinated populations and the Delta variant is predicted to become the dominant strain in the U.S," the St. Mary's County Health Department said in a press release.

Another form of virus hit the area. A nationwide **ransomware attack** that hit thousands of businesses and organizations claimed the Town of North Beach as one of its victims. But Mayor Mike Benton says the impact will be minimal because of computer conversions initiated two years ago when he took office.

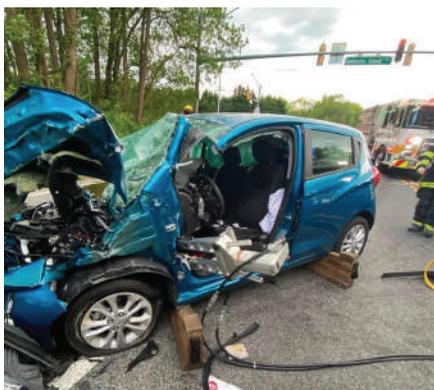
Seven candidates were vying to replace Hutchins, who resigned effective June 28. The candidates were:

- Mark Christian Cox, Sr. of Huntingtown
- Christopher J. Gadway of Huntingtown
- David Gatton of Port Republic
- Stephen A. Oberg of Huntingtown
- Steven K. Sisk of Huntingtown
- Dave Suhosky of Huntingtown
- Donna M. Zupancic of St. Leonard

The Chesapeake Beach Town Council in mid-July was working on proposed changes to the town zoning code for **short-term rentals**. The proposals, however, were not likely to mollify supporters of the rentals because they will



Moore dedication



Dangerous Roads in Calvert



Commissioner Chris Gadway



Omicron & Getting on with Life

only be allowed in commercial and maritime districts, and not in residential areas.

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan appointed **Chris Gadway** to succeed Hutchins as commissioner for the 2nd Commissioner District.

Gadway is a member of the Calvert County Republican Central Committee. That body unanimously recommended Gadway to the governor.

Gadway, 50, lives in Huntingtown with his wife Julie. "I'm originally from Oregon," he said. "I went into the Coast Guard. They brought me out to the DC area. And after I got out of the active duty, I ended up finding my way shortly thereafter to Calvert County."

The new commissioner is a businessman. He owns Property Management of Southern Maryland.

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) will be presenting a proposed fall **reopening plan** to the Maryland State Board of Education by the end of July. The school system's proposal so far is to not require masks or vaccinations for students and staff.

Controversy continued to swirl around the CCPS' **Anti-Racism Policy**. Some are associating the policy with the teaching of the controversial Critical Race Theory (CRT).

But before several people spoke on CRT at the school board's July 15 public forum, Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry asserted: "There is no such thing in Calvert County as a curriculum on Critical Race Theory."

Mariam Canning of Calvert Parents for Education said of CRT, "This is not only politically charged, but inextricably partisan."

She added, "We know you're not teaching the students CRT ideology, but you are using the ideology to transform classrooms into anti-racist environments often referred to as critical pedagogy. These ideas aren't new and progressive they're recycled bad ideas that have failed across time with vastly

different cultures."

Chesapeake Beach Town Council Vice President **Derek Favret** announced his intent to step down because his new federal job is located in Newport News, Va. and he and his family will be relocating there.

The announcement came at the end of the town council's July 15 meeting and caught his colleagues by surprise.

Our July 29 cover story focused on the "Growing Debate" about the future of the **Dunkirk Town Center**. There is only one residence there, yet town centers in Calvert County are supposed to be places that absorb growth so that the rest of the county can retain its rural character.

Dunkirk Town Center has absorbed the commercial growth for northern Calvert County. But the controversy persists around whether the Dunkirk Town Center should expand to include some multi-family housing. And questions persist about vacant storefronts. And the 600-pound gorilla in the room has always been the lack of central water and sewer.

Calvert County received more than **\$20 million in grants to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic**. The BOCC was given a status report at their July 27 meeting on how that money was used. The largest amount received, a little over \$8 million was in CARES Act funding for things like diverting personnel and services to other uses, to pay for public health and safety employees, to provide assistance to small businesses, to improve telework capabilities for public employees, for food programs, for personal protective equipment, economic support, housing support, public health support, unemployment benefits, facilitate distance learning, and assistance to the towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach.

The BOCC appointed two **new members to the county's ethics**

commission.

Sonya Butler was appointed to replace commission secretary Jennifer Mazur, who was formerly the commission chairperson. According to a document supplied by the BOCC, Mazur chose not to seek reappointment.

Alternate commission member Lisa Alscott has been appointed as a regular member to replace commission chairperson, Wayne Millette, who resigned.

Thomas McClaren has been appointed as an alternate to fill Alscott's position.

AUGUST

Impasse! That's the best way to characterize what happened last week between the BOCC and the school board)

The specific issue may be considered somewhat esoteric, but it could be emblematic of a growing community unrest about the school board. The BOCC says it's hearing it from parents and other community members.

What caused the standoff is a requirement of the legislation that created "The Blueprint for Maryland's Future," an outcome of what has been called the Kirwan Commission.

The school board put forward the name of the school system's Director of Resource Management Kevin Michael to fill the position due to "his educational experience and skill set, and I hope you will agree." Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry wrote.

The BOCC feels because they are the school system's funding authority (along with the state) they should be the one choosing the implementation coordinator and are putting forward the position of county administrator as the one to fill that role.

Calvert County schools will require all students, staff and visitors in every grade from pre-K to the 12th grade to **wear masks in school buildings** regardless of their vaccination status, the latest plan for the return to classes in the fall states.

The plan, released July 31, also



Gerald Donovan



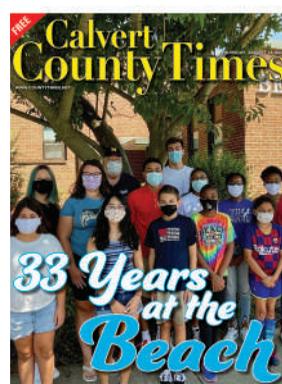
Dunkirk Town Center sign



Maryland Census logo



Dr. Laurence Polsky



...continued from pg. 11



College of Southern Maryland in Prince Frederick

stated that schools will return to full capacity and instructional programs.

Gerald Donovan, the owner of the iconic waterfront resort, The Rod n' Reel in Chesapeake Beach, who also once served as its mayor for nearly three decades, died July 31 at his home with his family. He was 72.

Calvert County saw a concerning jump in COVID cases this month. During the first week of July, 12 cases were diagnosed. During the 3rd week of the month, 34 cases were diagnosed. The case rate was 109/100,000 residents, which puts us in the High Transmission category as defined by the CDC.

It's called "Serving the Unserved," an ambitious plan to provide broadband service to everyone who wants it in Calvert County. But the joint project between the county and Comcast, the county's cable provider, has slowed.

Deputy County Administrator Linda Vassallo gave an update to the county commissioners at their Aug. 10 meeting. The update, which included a Power Point presentation, was essentially the same one made on Dec. 1 of 2020, indicating that not much has been accomplished in the intervening time.

Southern Maryland was the second fastest growing area of the state in the last decade, according to 2020 Census data released Aug. 12. At 9.6 percent, the three Southern Maryland counties were only outpaced by the Suburban Washington (Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's) Region's 11.2 percent. The state as a whole grew 7.06 percent, to 6,177,224.

But Calvert County's growth rate in the last decade was far behind Southern Maryland's other two counties. Calvert grew by 4.6 percent, compared to 13.7 percent in Charles and 8.2 percent in St. Mary's.

The population changes are as follows:

- Southern Maryland – 340,489 to 373,177.
- Calvert County – 88,737 to

92,783.

- Charles County – 146,551 to 166,517.
- St. Mary's County – 106,151 to 113,777.

On Aug. 19 we reported the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) announced it was postponing its transition to Phase 4: Normal Operations and will remain in Phase 3: Reduced Operations in response to the rising number of COVID-19 cases and increased positivity rates in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. This delayed shift in operations means faculty, staff and students will be required to wear masks indoors on all campuses at all times, effective immediately.

The decision by Superintendent Dr. Curry to require all students and staff to wear masks when school starts on Aug. 31 drew pro and con comments at the school board's Aug. 12 meeting.

Brendan Connell said, "I don't think we should blindly follow what other school districts have done or what the CDC recommends, as they're not educators."

But Rev. Matt Humm, an Episcopal priest at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and also a parent, said, "I'm here mostly as a parent, as much as somebody who believes, as a person of faith, I'm responsible for and to other people. So, masking as I understand it is not because I like wearing masks. I hate wearing them in fact, but I wear it to keep other people safe. That's part of my belief that I'm doing things to care for other people."

A suit has been filed in Calvert County Circuit Court challenging the Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) Anti-Racism Policy and its implementation of it.

The suit by seven Calvert residents, who are either parents or grandparents, says, "In recent months, it has become evident that the CCPS, Board, and Superintendent, through the creation of new policies, practices, and procedures, seeks to implement certain tenets of critical race theory and/or social justice reform into the CCPS curriculum."

The issue also was raised again at the public forum at the school

board's Aug. 12 meeting, where a representative of the Calvert County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) lent strong support to the policy, while a parent decried it.

A judge has reversed the decision of the Calvert County Ethics Commission that Commissioner Kelly McConkey had a clear conflict of interest by voting to place two pieces of property he owns into an expanded Huntingtown Town Center. That vote preceded the 3-2 vote that incorporated that decision into an updated county comprehensive plan.

The ruling by retired Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge C. Phillip Nichols, former chief judge for the county, was issued Aug. 17. He ruled that then Ethics Commission Chairperson Jennifer Mazur at an Oct. 14, 2020, virtual meeting at which the decision was made had "an apparent conflict of interest and was required to recuse herself..."

A report, promulgated by the Maryland State Police analyzing the number of times troopers from barracks around the state used force, showed that troopers serving at the Leonardtown and Prince Frederick barracks used force more than any other state police units for 2019 and 2020.

For the prior years of 2017 and 2018 both barracks were among the top three units reporting using force on suspects to affect an arrest, with the Northeast barrack holding the top ranking.

In 2019 Prince Frederick troopers used force on suspects 25 times.

By comparison, La Plata-based troopers used force just eight times in 2019.

The North Beach Town Council elected Lauren Kabler to the council to replace Gwen Schiada, who resigned. Kabler attended her first session after the election at the beginning of the Aug. 12 meeting.

SEPTEMBER

Our September 2 cover picture was of kids returning to five-day classes for the first time since the



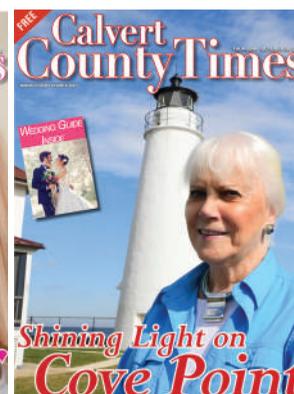
Superintendent Dr. Curry



Lauren Kabler



Fox Run Shopping center



pandemic hit.

The Calvert County Ethics Commission filed an appeal of the ruling by a judge that reversed their decision that Commissioner Kelly McConkey had a clear conflict of interest by voting to place two pieces of property he owns into an expanded Huntingtown Town Center.

The Chesapeake Beach Planning and Zoning Commission completed the arduous and time-consuming process of creating a **draft of the update of the town's Comprehensive Plan**. After a final edit by commission members at the conclusion of a three-and-a-half-hour Aug. 25 meeting, the clock will begin to tick for 60 days before a public hearing on the document.

"I think you have significantly reduced development intensity in a major way," said town Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Jakubiak during the meeting discussion.

The BOCC established a nine-member **Redistricting Committee** to draw the boundaries of the county's three election districts.

Redistricting committees are established every 10 years in reaction to the release of census data.

We remembered the **20th anniversary of 9/11** in our Sept. 11 issue.

The times were 8:46 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:37 a.m., and 10:03 a.m.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt described December 7, 1941, as "a date which will live in infamy," and for generations stories were passed down about where people were and what they were doing at the time the Japanese attacked the American fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

So also, will September 11, 2001, be remembered as a date that will live in infamy as four hijacked airliners, at the four above times, crashed into the World Trade Center twin towers, the Pentagon and into a field in Pennsylvania, short of its intended target, either the White House or the U.S. Capitol. It was an attack on America by the militant Islamist terrorist group al-Qaeda.

Construction began for **three**

pad sites at the Fox Run Shopping Center in Prince Frederick. According to a spokesperson for KLNb, the center's leasing agent, the buildings for Burger King and Popeyes will be delivered in October and the multi-tenant pad building will deliver spaces in November, with opening expected in the Spring of 2022.

"It's been a challenging few weeks of school," was the way Calvert County Board of Education Vice President Pamela Cousins described the **return to full in-person learning** after 18 months. The school system, like many others in the state and nation, has been plagued by a shortage of school bus drivers, and students and staff testing positive and those in contact with them having to be quarantined. And there is continuing controversy about the requirement of masking in school buildings and on buses.

The Board of Education, on a split vote, **refused to lift the limits** on public comment at their meetings. The motion at the Sept. 9 board meeting by member Pat Nutter to remove the restriction resulted in a 2-2 vote, causing the motion to fail. This was the first of repeated unsuccessful attempts by Nutter to change the policy.

The CCPS will be using the almost \$15 million in additional state school construction monies to advance funding for a **new Northern Middle School**. The monies are from the "Built to Learn" program authorized by the Maryland General Assembly.

Our Sept. 23 cover story told of a 4-H farm family and their involvement in the **Calvert County Fair**, a sneak preview of the return of the fair after a year's pandemic absence.

The first Calvert County fair was held in 1886 on the farm of Dr. Talbott in Smithville (now Dunkirk). It's been a tradition ever since. For the first time in anyone's memory, the fair was canceled last year due to the pandemic, but it's back on track this year for Sept. 29 to Oct. 3.

Windy Willow Farm in Sunderland is one of the county's farms that is preparing for the shows and

Carrie Jones, 17, will be entering three of them (goat, swine and cattle).

The Calvert County Planning Commission Sept. 15 unanimously approved a Conceptual Site Plan for the new 106,000-square-foot, \$37 million **County Administration Building** on Main Street in Prince Frederick.

The building will be 74 feet high, including 15 feet for a façade to cover mechanical equipment on the roof. It will have 325 parking spaces, slightly more than the code requires for the building's size. Some will be under the building.

The conceptual plan received several approvals from the Board of Appeals, including the addition of the fourth floor, at a recent hearing.

A **new citizen survey** conducted in conjunction with the update of the Dunkirk Town Center Master Plan seeks views on its future.

One question asks: "The Dunkirk Town Center is the 'gateway' to Calvert County. What is your vision for the Dunkirk Town Center in 10-20 years?"

The greatest number of respondents agreed on "a small-town atmosphere with quality shopping, services and restaurants."

The second most favored reply was "little to no change, stay the same," followed by "no traffic problems."

The Chesapeake Beach Town Council extended for an additional three months its **moratorium on major new developments in town**. The moratorium was due to expire on December 18 and is now extended to March 18.

Our Sept. 30 issue hailed: "It's Back: **The Calvert County Fair** is Up and Running."

The year 2021 would have been the 135th in the timeline that is the history of the Calvert County Fair if not for that major historical malfunction known as the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we'll have to gladly settle for a return of the fair this year pretty much as everyone remembers it, albeit a 134th one.

It's a labor of love for a group of volunteers known as The Cal-

...continued on pg. 14



Students returning to full in-person learning



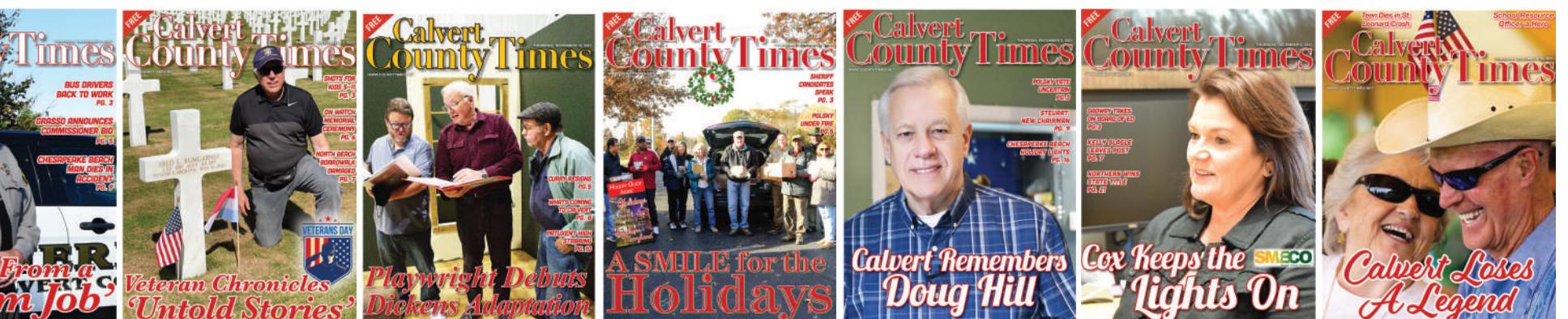
Calvert County Fair is back



Nothern Middle School logo



Plans for County administration building



...continued from pg. 13



Moderna booster shot



State redistricting plan



Pat Nutter



Assistant Superintendent Dr. Susan Johnson



Bus drivers protest for better pay

vert County Fair Board, Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c) (3) entity that was established in 1940 “for the purpose of providing agricultural education and promoting the local farming community.”

The fair’s first official event, the Miss Tranquility pageant and Lord Calvert contest to pick the queen and king to reign over the fair, was held Sunday, Sept. 26. Gabrielle Fox of Huntingtown High School was crowned Miss Tranquility and Koby Valentin of Calvert High School chosen as Lord Calvert.

Even though it hadn’t been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Health Officer Dr. Polsky has authorized administering a **Moderna booster shot in Calvert.**

Polsky made the announcement at a contentious Sept. 28 briefing to the BOCC during which he was repeatedly pressed on issues related to public confidence in vaccinations.

Polsky vigorously defended adding the Moderna booster in Calvert to the Pfizer booster which received FDA approval last week.

A commission tasked with coming up with a **state legislative redistricting plan** has issued a new draft which creates a new senatorial district for Calvert County.

The plan released last week by the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission, creates Senate District 31, which includes all of Calvert County and parts of southern Anne Arundel County. The new district would have 92,925 Calvert residents (the whole county) and 42,546 Anne Arundel residents.

Currently Calvert is split into two senate districts: 27 which also includes parts of Prince George’s County and is represented by Senator Michael Jackson, a Democrat; and 29, which also includes all of St. Mary’s and is represented by Senator Jack Bailey, a Republican.

For months the Calvert County Board of Education and Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) have been **bombarded with criticism.** At board meetings and in social media they were berated over issue such as Critical Race Theory (CRT), masking, limiting public comment, quarantining and school bus transportation. Often the tone was strident and sometimes personal.

At the board’s Sept. 23 meeting, the tide turned, and support surfaced from staff, parents and others.

Stacy Taman, president of the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff, said, “It has been painful to witness the treatment you have received at recent meetings. And I could not allow those

voices to be the only voices in the room.

“You have a strong community that supports you.”

The much-publicized school bus driver shortage isn’t the only shortage impacting Calvert County Public Schools as students returned to the classroom for full in-person learning. **There’s also a teacher and substitute teacher shortage.**

OCTOBER

The BOCC voted to begin the process of **reducing the density allowed in a part of Prince Frederick.** The area impacted is zoned New Town District and is largely comprised of land known as Armory Square, the former home of Calvert Middle School. The land was sold by the county to a development company.

The BOCC at their Sept. 28 meeting voted unanimously to begin that downzoning process again ahead of finalization of the e new Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan.

Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook said the process could take four to six months.

The BOCC endorsed a regional **“Complete Streets”** plan. The plan recommends 11 projects in Calvert and St. Mary’s counties.

According to Tamara Blake-Wallace, a transportation planner in the Department of Planning and Zoning, “Complete Streets is a term used to designate the need for a street to function not only as a transportation route for vehicles. Streets should serve as a vibrant mechanism to connect people to places while accommodating all individuals and modes.

Top priority in the plan is a more than \$1 million project for Tulagi Place in Lexington Park. The next three projects are in Calvert. They are:

- \$100,000 for Phase 2 of the Solomons Island sidewalk.
- \$300,000-\$400,000 for crosswalks on Patuxent Parkway.
- \$500,000 to \$1 million for a sidewalk along Appeal Lane in Lusby connecting the schools and the senior and community center.

The BOCC approved applying for a **state grant on behalf of End Hunger in Calvert County.** The \$550,000 grant, if approved, will be used towards completing End Hunger’s new \$7.3 million warehouse in Huntingtown. The project has been slowed because of the pandemic and construction supply chain problems.

The unanimous approval came after an Oct. 5 public hearing at which no one spoke.

North Beach Councilwoman **Jane Hagen** passed away October 1. Her obituary from Rausch Funeral Home said Hagen passed away “peacefully in her sleep.” She was 80 years old.

Her passing was noted with sadness on the town website.

“We know that coming together, these three organizations, will make us stronger as a region and as a community,” Shelby Potts told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners at a recent meeting. Potts was referring to the new **United Way of Southern Maryland (UWSOMD)**, formed in a merger of the three former United Way organizations in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties. The new organization became official on Sept. 1.

Potts is a board member of the new organization and was on the board of the former United Way of Calvert County. She said, “This integration was a long, thought-out process and was sparked by the desire to streamline backroom operations, share success with programming in our communities and take advantage of the multi-faceted resources available in each one of our counties.”

Melvin G. “Mel” Brennan, III became the new organization’s chief executive officer on Oct.1. “We believe that we have found an excellent leader in Mel Brennan. He brings a breadth of training and experience to the United Way of Southern Maryland, as well as a passionate belief that, by working together, communities can improve the lives of those in need,” said Susie Fowler, UWSOMD president and former vice president of United Way of St. Mary’s County.

The Calvert County Health Department reported that since school opened there have been **198 students who have tested positive for COVID 19** and 12 staff members.

Those positive cases have led to 796 “exclusions,” which are described as quarantines “due to close contact.”

The two schools that have registered the greatest number of cases since school opening are right next to each other: Plum Point elementary and middle schools in Huntingtown. Since the start of school, the elementary school has had 138 exclusions and the middle school 131. The two schools represent a third of all exclusions.

As if the shortage of school bus drivers wasn’t enough of a problem for Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS), there’s now been a **driver strike**, alternately billed as a “sick out.”

On Oct. 11 and 12, prior to press deadline, almost two dozen drivers stayed away from their buses, causing massive problems for parents

and their children.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Curry reported Monday “Today, there were 22 busses that did not run and eight schools that were impacted by absent drivers.”

The appeal in the **suit against Calvert County** by four citizens seeking to overturn the county’s 2019 adoption of a revised comprehensive plan was heard Oct. 12 by the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, the state’s second highest court. In late December the court ruled in the county’s favor

Although the deadline for filing is months away (Tuesday, February 22, 2022), **some candidates have already filed** their intention to be on the June 28, 2022, primary election ballot.

One thing possibly holding back early filers is the ongoing redistricting process, which could determine which district a potential candidate lives in.

The state redistricting committee, for instance, has issued a proposed redistricting plan that creates a state senate district that includes all of Calvert and part of Anne Arundel. Under that plan, District 27 incumbent Senator Michael Jackson would be moved out of his current seat shared between Prince George’s and Calvert and into a new district in Prince George’s. Jackson recently told The County Times he did not believe that plan would prevail in the general assembly which has to pass it.

Meanwhile, Jackson has filed for re-election to the seat that formerly belonged to the late Senator Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, who was a long-time senate president. Jackson was appointed earlier this year. He had previously been a delegate.

Although he hadn’t formally filed, Prince Frederick attorney Jason Fowler announced his candidacy for Jackson’s seat in the Democratic primary. Fowler made his announcement at a launch party on Friday, Oct. 22 at Dream Weaver Café in Prince Frederick.

Although neither of the school incumbents has filed yet, two other candidates have for the non-partisan election: Tracy McGuire of Huntingtown and Jana Post of Sunderland.

More than 30 people spoke at a town hall meeting to solicit ideas for what state-mandated police reform will look like in Calvert County. The Oct. 12 meeting was held in person at the Harriett Elizabeth Brown Center and virtually via Zoom.

One town hall speaker said, “We need the police, but we also need accountability.”

Although there was some direct criticism of the police and non-critical support, the majority of the speakers walked the fine line

between supporting the police but recognizing there were some bad apples among their ranks, noting the several highly publicized incidents of white police officers killing black citizens.

The Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission has approved its final proposed draft maps.

The plan as presented on the commission website, if it holds up under legislative scrutiny, could alter Calvert County’s political landscape.

The final draft proposal creates a Senate District 31 that includes all of Calvert County and a substantial portion of southern Anne Arundel County, all the way up to Edgewater.

That final draft plan would remove both of the senators representing Calvert and create a senatorial district without an incumbent.

The proposal, however, did not survive that proposed at year’s end by the legislature’s redistricting advisory committee.

When representatives of the **Maryland Department of Transportation** (MDOT) had their annual meeting with the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Oct. 26, they heard what was undoubtedly the umpteenth pitch in support of a new Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge. The bridge is not included on the state’s six-year Consolidated Transportation Plan.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, “I just want to highlight the Thomas Johnson bridge. As you know, it’s our highest priority. There is a talk in Congress of infrastructure money that can move out to states. But what we need the state to do is prioritize the Thomas Johnson bridge because without it being a priority, it will never get federal funding. I don’t know, what’s currently on the federal state priority list, but we would greatly appreciate some movement to get that bridge prioritized so that we can get some federal funding.”

A change in the county’s Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan has been approved that paves the way for more **intensive development of a three-acre property on Route 231** west of Prince Frederick.

The property is located at 2470-2490 Hallowing Point Road and consists of three one-acre parcels, zoned Rural Commercial.

The proposal to change the water and sewer plan was the subject of a joint public hearing with the county commissioners and planning commission on Oct. 20.

NOVEMBER

Our November 4 cover story noted that **Calvert County Sheriff Mike Evans** was a state trooper in the county in the 80’s and 90’s. It

was what he always wanted to do.

He was 38 years old when tragedy hit. “I got an infection from a simple surgery,” he explained. “It caused me to retire from the state police. And I was in the prime of my life.”

It struck him hard. “You have no idea. I went through depression. It was incredible what I went through, so I can understand what a lot of people go through. What kept me together was a much stronger family, some good friends that kept working out. And I was fortunate because the way the law was written, although I couldn’t be a state trooper again, I could be a court security guy. And that’s what I did. Even though it was a deputy sheriff, it was called court security, and I was able to come back and do that job.”

The idea of running for sheriff came about when he attended his 20-year high school reunion and ran into an old classmate Vonzell Ward, who told him he was running against Bootsie Stinnett for sheriff. “And I said, ‘Vonzell, I love you like a brother, but if you could be sheriff, I can too.’ And when I saw what he did and what happened, that he was elected sheriff back in 1998, the thought process in my mind was, you know, maybe I can come back and do something more for this county.”

And he did run and won in 2002 and is now in his fifth term and eyeing retirement next year.

It took \$2.6 million, but **school bus drivers** for the bus contractors for Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) were back on the road Monday, Nov. 1 after striking the week before. The settlement announced late Friday involves the school system giving contractors monies for their divers to receive pay hikes ranging from \$5 to \$9 an hour depending on length of experience. It also guarantees drivers payment for eight hours for every school day.

School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry said the county commissioners had agreed to split the cost with the school board. Curry said he hoped much of their cost could be absorbed from transportation savings.

Calvert County Republican Central Committee Chairperson **Catherine Grasso** says she is running for the Third Commissioner District seat currently held by Kelly McConkey. The incumbent commissioner has not yet filed although political newcomer Evan Turzanski has.

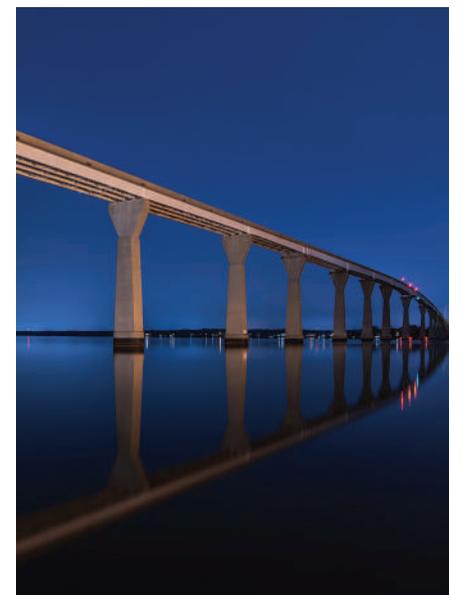
Grasso told The County Times on Nov. 2 that she intended to notify the central committee on Nov. 3 of her resignation as chair. She said she would not hold any leadership position during her campaign.



Citizens’ case against Calvert County over revised comprehensive plan was heard on Oct. 12



Michael Jackson filed for candidacy



MDOT and Calvert County’s Commissioners pitched new plans for the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge



Calvert County Republican Central Committee Chairperson Catherine Grasso



Parents of children 5-11 are encouraged by County Health Officer Dr. Polsky



Appointed Chesapeake Beach councilwoman Margaret Hartman



Meteorologist Doug Hill



Bernie Fowler and his wife Betty



Masks mandates in school

COVID-19 vaccination shots are beginning to make their way into the arms of **children aged 5-11** in Calvert County Public Schools, doctor's offices and drug stores. Health Officer Dr. Polsky is encouraging parents to buy in.

At a briefing to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Nov. 7, Polsky observed that the county's positivity rate had declined to around five percent, the threshold for community spread.

"Even with the reduction this previous week," he said, "we're still in the high transmission range"

Five Chesapeake Beach residents applied to **fill the vacancy on the town council**. The five have been certified as eligible by the town election board. They will be interviewed by the town council before the Nov. 18 council meeting.

The candidates are: Margaret Pauline Hartman, Kathleen Be-rault, Gregory Kernam, John Carey, and Richard A. Burch. Hartman was later appointed

The Town of North Beach has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for \$450,000 worth of **damages from the Nor'easter storm** that hit the area on Oct. 29.

The most significant damage was to the boardwalk north of 7th Street that runs in front of eight houses. The boardwalk railing was damaged and there was significant erosion under the boardwalk, although Mayor Mike Benton says he doesn't believe the 250 feet of boardwalk impacted will have to be replaced.

The public hearing by the Chesapeake Beach Planning and Zoning Commission on the **proposed town comprehensive plan update** featured a dozen speakers and much criticism of it by two of the town's largest businesses. Representatives of the Rod 'N Reel and Abner's Crab House chided the plan for its impacts on their businesses and their growth plans.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Jakubiak at the Nov. 9 public hearing said of the proposed plan, "It recommends zoning changes that would ultimately reduce the possibility of future housing to about 55 more dwelling units within the town."

Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Curry announced he is retiring** at the end of the school year next July 1. Curry made the announcement at the Nov. 11 school board meeting. He said he had informed the school board of his decision in September.

Curry said after 48 years in education, including 34 years as a superintendent, "It is time I try something else."

"You're looking at very **conservative police officers** up here," said Calvert County Republican Sheriff candidate Mike Wilson. "I think we all see them on the same page where we support the Constitution of United States."

Wilson was one of five candidates for the office attending a forum Nov. 18 at the American Legion Stallings Williams Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach. Although the general election is more than a year away and the primary is in late June, the forum drew a large crowd indicating early interest in the wide-open election with Sheriff Mike Evans not seeking reelection.

Four Republican candidates and the sole Democrat so far appeared. Republicans are Craig Kontra, Dave McDowell, Richard T. Cox, Jr. and Wilson. The Democrat is Vaughn "Jay" Johnson.

The BOCC issued a statement expressing **concerns about the performance of Health Officer Dr. Polsky**. And the community has rallied in support of Polsky, with more than 1,500 citizens signing a petition indicating that.

DECEMBER

Our contributing writer Dave Spigler remember popular mereologist **Doug Hill** who passed away in North Carolina. He formerly lived in Calvert.

"To all who knew him or may have worked with him, Doug Hill was considered the ultimate friend and team leader during his more than 33 years presenting the weather on local Washington television and radio. More than a meteorologist, he became a personality that came into your home each day with a refreshing outlook and would win you over with his gentlemanly charm and pleasing, warm style," Spigler wrote

The BOCC at their Nov. 30 meeting was given an update on the **latest non-tidal stream monitoring** in the county. The data was compiled by researchers Dr. Lora Harris and Dr. Jeremy Tesla from Chesapeake Biological Lab (CBL) under a grant set to run out.

Dr. Harris reported improvements to south county creeks but still some issues in north and central county streams.

The sampling at 26 sites measured phosphorus, nitrogen, suspended solids and stream discharge.

Fishing Creek in Chesapeake Beach had high levels of pollutants in all four measured categories, Dr. Harris reported. Also with high levels were Helen Creek and several streams in the Hall Creek watershed.

The woman who started the Change.org petition drive in sup-

port of Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky reported that **the county commissioners have backed off on their attempts to get him fired**. Lucinda Keller, a Huntingtown dentist, posted on Dec. 1: "Thank you so much for signing and sharing this petition! The Commissioners decided to withdraw their request for Dr. Polsky to resign. It's all of us individually who made this happen by letting them know of their misguided idea to replace the health department leadership at this critical time. Thank you also to those who directly sent messages to the Commissioners and the Maryland state health secretary! When we work together, we make good things happen. That is the power of individual constituents in a democracy!"

He was proud of being a World War II veteran, having served in the Navy and awarded the Asiatic-Pacific, American Theatre, and Victory medals.

He came home to Calvert County and became a businessman.

Soon he entered a long career as a public servant.

His list of volunteer activities would go on for pages.

He was a deeply religious man.

He was a family man, completely devoted to his wife of 69 years.

Bernie Fowler, a Calvert County legend who died Dec. 12 at the age of 97 at his home at Asbury-Solomons, will probably have his lasting legacy firmly embodied in his love of the Patuxent River.

Should **Calvert County's three commissioner districts** remain the same for the next 10 years. That's the prime decision for the county's redistricting committee as they begin meeting to come up with a recommendation to give to the county commissioners. According to committee chairman Wilson Parran, who also was on the past two committees, 10 years ago they recommended a change and the then commissioners decided to keep them as is.

Parran says that with the 10 percent guideline for population disparity between districts, they could remain the same this time as well.

The southern county Commissioner District 1 has the lowest population based on the newest census data. That district has 28,617 residents, compared to District 2 with 32,444 and District 3 with 31,709.

At the commission's first meeting on Dec. 13, Election Director Gail Hatfield presented a proposed change which would take a portion of St. Leonard along Planter's Wharf Road and move that from the 2nd District to the 1st District. That would shift 1,350 residents, and with that one move, Hatfield said, bringing the county into balance.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Local Fossils Retell Prehistoric Shark Bite

Story of Extinct Shark Scavenging

Locally found fossils tell an incredible story of interaction between a prehistoric shark and whale. In a recently published paper in the French paleontological journal, *Carnets de Geologie*, Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) paleontologists describe a 12-15 million-year-old Miocene baleen whale radius (one of the flipper bones) that was bitten repeatedly by a prehistoric shark.

The shark bites and head-thrashings were so forceful that both the upper and lower teeth in the jaws of the shark cut multiple gouges into the whale bone. At least three successive bite-shake traces, made by multiple teeth, mark both the upper and lower sides of the whale radius. These bite-shake traces consist of shallow, thin arching gouges that likely indicate scavenging rather than active predation. The most likely way the three sets of shark bite-shake traces would have been made were by repeated biting as the shark re-positioned the whale flipper in its mouth to remove flesh.

“This bone is very unusual because it preserves so much evi-

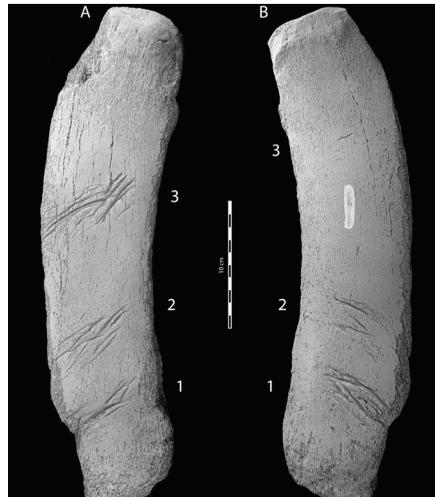


Figure 1: A Miocene baleen whale radius (flipper bone) preserving arching gouge marks on both its upper and lower surfaces. A. Dorsal (external) view. B. Ventral (internal) view. Numbers 1-3 mark the locations where the shark teeth raked the surface of the radius. Numbers 1-1, 2-2, 3-3 correspond to bite traces made at the same time on the radius by teeth in opposing jaws.

dence of head-thrashing behavior of an extinct shark feeding on an extinct whale” said CMM Curator of Paleontology, Dr. Stephen Godfrey.

The well-preserved bone was found along Calvert Cliffs, one of the most fossiliferous regions on the east coast of the continen-



Figure 2: One possible view of the origin of the bitten Miocene whale radius. The whale could also have been bloated and floating belly up at the time the shark bite traces were made. Furthermore, the bones at the end of the flipper may already have been missing and/or eaten when the shark clenched down on the whale’s radius. Original artwork by Tim Scheirer and Clarence (Shoe) Shumaker. © Calvert Marine Museum.

tal United States, by local fossil hound Duggie Douglass. In addition to the innumerable body fossils, the Calvert Cliffs preserve trace fossils, which reveal evidence of animal behavior, including burrows made by invertebrates, coprolites (fossilized

poop), and fossilized bones with shark bite traces.

Visitors are invited to view this and other fossils in CMM’s Mezzanine Gallery exhibit, *Sharks! Sink Your Teeth In!* on display through December 2022.

Press Release from CMM.

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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 6

Sea Squirts

Calvert Marine Museum
10:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

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 take away craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Lighthouses.

Transfer Thursdays

College of Southern Maryland
1 a.m., Zoom.

CSM hosts transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. – 1 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. [https://www.csmd.edu/student-](https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html)

[services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html](https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html)

Sunday, January 9

Bluegrass Comeback to Southern Maryland Concert Series-2022

Calvert Elks #2620,
1015 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, 2-5 p.m.

To start off the Bluegrass Comeback series, will be the Larry Stephenson Band. Always a favorite to Southern Maryland Bluegrass fans. Larry is from King George, VA, but makes his home in Nashville, TN. He will kick off his 2022 touring schedule by joining us at the Calvert Elks.

The remainder of the series will be on Sunday February 20, 2022, with Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass and Sunday March 13, 2022, with Sideline Bluegrass band. Troy Jones will continue to be our sound engineer for the event. Opening each show will be show host, Jay Armsworthy, along with a different special guest for

each show. For more information about the shows or tickets, call 301-737-3004 or go to bluegrass-comeback.webador.com/

Thursday, January 13

Sea Squirts

Calvert Marine Museum
10:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

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 take away craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Lighthouses.

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College of Southern Maryland
1 a.m., Zoom.

CSM hosts transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. – 1 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. <https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html>

Upcoming

Maritime Performance Series with

DIANE DALY

Calvert Marine Museum,
Friday, Jan. 28, 7p.m.

Diane Daly is a vocalist of moody contrasts and evocative depth. Certainly, one who cannot be pigeonholed into one particular style. Diane has spent her career exploring a world of music from the strictest classical solos to avant-garde cabaret. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts, and \$25 at the door, unless otherwise noted.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



PARKING LOT

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

This column's title suggests that a perch high in actual or figurative bleachers offers a broader perspective on sports - and life. The wider vantage point sacrifices intricate details, but it reveals a bigger picture and the interaction of forces in simultaneous motion that allows for more predictable and better understood outcomes.

The theory is sound, and it has largely served this column well (I hope) for its nearly 13 years of existence. But now? In this asynchronous, asymmetric and often unrecognizable world?

If any sense is to be made of our confusing recent history, it is fair to question whether a bleacher-view would be any more advantageous than any other seat in the world's metaphorical stadium. A ticket to the cheap seats, where the acquisition of wisdom once awaited, may now only offer a nosebleed, an oxygen-starved brain and burning quads from the steep, vertical hike.

But here goes something for 2022 - from the bleachers, the mezzanine, field level seats or the parking lot. Yes, the parking lot... that's it. The total opposite of the bleachers and a place where tailgating friends share drinks, deep thoughts and outrageous nonsense while seated on coolers and fold-out chairs encircling a portable grill/heat source. With that fresh perspective, just this once, a few thoughts on these most confounding times...

Short of cryonics actually working or the development of some other sophisticated, multi-century life-extending technology, 2022 is the numerical year with the most "2's" any of us will see. And given the world's bizarre stretch leading into this new calendar year, the answer to the Rolling Stones' question in their song "Tumbling Dice" - "Don't you know the deuce is still wild?" - is an emphatic yes.

Every day the sports scroll identifies new players being added to COVID-related "health and safety" protocols. Unproven and inexperienced players are called up from practice squads or developmental leagues. Rusty veterans are signed off their couches. Rosters are in complete flux from game to game. I don't know how Vegas is setting betting lines, but with no clue as to

when or if games will be played, or who will actually participate, the smart money stays in your pocket.

This is the COVID sports world, two years into pandemic madness.

To express surprise over these disruptions would be naïve and a bit played out. Such things are simply reality now. How teams are actually coping with the chaos is intriguing. The guess is "as good as they can," which is likely synonymous with "not very well." For players, considering the effort required to prepare minds and bodies for games and a long season, being parked on the sidelines due to a positive COVID test must create intense frustration. It is almost certainly worse for coaches, a profession dominated by micro-managing control freaks who sweat every detail and attempt to choreograph every imaginable scenario. Now many don't know who their quarterback or point guard will be day to day. The competitive balance is decided as much by a virus as it is between the lines.

The real world has its own equivalent of that "health and safety" protocol scroll. Family gatherings, band concerts, youth sporting events, birthday parties, professional meetings and vacations all hang in the balance - all are susceptible to alteration or cancellation with the arrival of an ill-timed sore throat and positive test. What to do? Accept this reality - that deuces are wild in 2022 - and adapt to the fluidity of...everything. Develop contingencies. Be more spontaneous. Cherish anything that executes as planned. Such is life with an ever-present, evolving pathogen that seems destined to linger.

Society will grow from this and emerge with an altered perspective on sports, work and living life. Our adaptation is well underway, economically and socially. Through this process, and on the other side of it, are better bosses and employees, teachers and students, coaches and players - in short, this great disruption is building a society of greater strength, resilience, patience and compassion. Admittedly, that is hard to see right now with the omicron raging, but it is there.

The parking lot: where audacious dreams and optimism thrive.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

FOUR WAYS TO RESPOND TO MARKET TURMOIL

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

Stock markets in the U.S. and worldwide have been volatile lately—large swings in short periods of time. China's market has lost a lot of its value. Other emerging markets are crashing and burning: however, the U.S. economy seems to be doing well. No one knows if the Federal Reserve is or is not going to raise interest rates. With all of this turmoil, it is no wonder many ordinary investors are concerned. There are four things you can do to give yourself peace of mind:

1. Turn Off the Financial News.

I personally enjoy listening to all the financial pundits talk about why markets move; however, keep in mind that the television news cycles are 24 hours a day and every news program needs "talking heads" to fill up their programming. And, the more the "talking heads" can create a controversial story with their comments, the better. When the markets are as volatile as they are today, your best bet is to withdraw from the talk and turn off the financial news.

2. Allocate Your Assets.

Understand that as an ordinary investor, you have absolutely no control over any of the events that are rattling world markets. Leading hedge funds are taking huge losses on market turmoil. If the managers of those funds don't know how to predict the market, what chance does the ordinary investor have? All you can do is what I hope you have been doing. If you have allocated your investments across a broad enough spectrum, the downturns will be much less difficult. The concept is "asset allocation" and you can learn more about this online at almost any financial services website. At younger ages, your investment horizon is a long one, many years. Older investors have a shorter horizon. The concept is to acquire "target date" investment funds. These are mutual funds that address the date you want to retire using asset allocation. No matter how long your investment horizon is, by allocating your assets, you guarantee that no matter what happens in the markets, your investments are likely to provide a much more predictable rate of return.

3. Get a Cash Cushion.

Give yourself true peace of mind by saving one year's worth of income in a "cash cushion." This is your own personal safety net. Make saving your cash cushion your number one priority. That means some self-discipline. Instead of going on that vacation, buying toys for the grandchildren, getting that new car, put your money aside in a savings account or money market mutual fund. Once you have set aside one year's worth of income in a money market mutual fund that you can easily access and that is not likely to decrease in value, you will be able to breathe a sigh of relief and lessen the fear that market turmoil creates. With a cash cushion, any really difficult event like losing a job has far less impact. You know, because of your cash cushion, if you lose your job you can still make the rent or mortgage payments. You can rely on your cushion to keep you going at the same lifestyle for a year. That should give you plenty of time to find another job or create your own through setting up a small business.

4. Get some professional help.

Many investors seek professional help to manage their investments. These days, some online money managers provide you with robotic investment services. Certainly those services may be less expensive. However, no robot can discuss family matters or your money concerns with you. When seeking professional advice, shop around. Make sure the advisor treats you with dignity and responds to your questions. In the event you find an advisor who is condescending to you or promises you a specific rate of return on your investments, turn around and leave. Once you have placed your investments into the hands of a trusted professional, you should be able to rely on that professional to watch out for you and your money. Let the advisors worry about the market turmoil instead of you.

Join me on the third Wednesday of each month for a no charge seminar to discuss this and other topics. We will meet at 11am at 8906 Bay Avenue in North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

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.

Kathryn Matthews Harrington



Kathryn Matthews Harrington, 68, of North Beach passed away December 31, 2021 at home surrounded by family. She was born November 6, 1953 in Washington, DC to William Baker III and Antoinette (Keller) Matthews. Kathryn grew up in Prince George's County and graduated from Northwestern High School in 1971. She married Jeremiah Harrington on April 5, 1975 and they lived in Silver Spring before settling in Prince Frederick in 1977. They moved to North Beach in 2005. Kathryn was primarily a homemaker and also worked as a secretary for the DEA and taught physical education at St. Mary's School, Bryantown. She later worked as a secretary, substitute teacher, and aide for Calvert County Public Schools. Kathryn was a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church and in her spare time she enjoyed being on the water, fishing, crabbing, genealogy, knitting, and reading. Most of all she loved being with her family. She was the #1 fan of her children and grandchildren sports teams.

Kathryn is survived by her loving husband Jeremiah F. Harrington, Jr. of North Beach, children Jeremiah "Jerry" Harrington and his wife Sarah of Owings and Kathryn "Katie" Stum and her husband Brent of North Beach, grandchildren Jeremiah and Mia Harrington and Mary Kathryn, John, Luke, and Anna Stum,

sisters Pamela O'Connell of Washington, DC, Elizabeth "Betsy" Thomas of Avon, NC, and Mary Matthews of Richmond, VA, and brother James "Bo" Matthews of Elkridge. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother William Baker Matthews IV.

Visitation will be Saturday, January 15, 2022, 12 Noon – 1 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 8816 Chesapeake Avenue, North Beach, MD 20714. A Memorial Mass will follow at 1 p.m. at the church.

Interment will be private at Jesus the Good Shepherd Cemetery, 1601 W Mt Harmony Road, Owings, MD 20736/

A reception will follow in Padua Hall from 2-4 p.m.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

John Wayne Langlotz



John Wayne Langlotz, 76, of Owings passed away December 29, 2021. He was born September 1, 1945 in Washington, D.C. to Ronald Aaron Sr. and Joan (Peterson) Langlotz. John was raised in Montgomery County and graduated from Montgomery Blair High School. He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1965. John married Pearl Wedding in 1967 and they lived in Silver Spring and Bladensburg before moving to Owings where they have lived for the last 46 years. John worked as an apartment manager before going to work for LA Mag-

num Construction, where he worked on various projects in The White House and the residential homes of President Gerald Ford and President Lyndon B. Johnson. John later went to work for the Federal Government as a facility manager at the D.C. Department of Corrections, retiring after 27 years of service. John loved doo-wop music and became very good friends with The Clovers, who he met while working as a bouncer at the Starlite. John remained best friends with them for many years and shared lots of great memories. In his spare time, John enjoyed skiing, golfing, riding motorcycles, and antique cars, especially his 1924 Ford C Cab that he fully restored himself.

John is survived by his wife Pearl Langlotz of Owings, children Karen Varney and her husband Stephen of Owings and Lisa Bricker of Baltimore, grandchildren Jim Bricker and Dakota and Kylie Varney, sister Cheryl Patterson of Germantown and nephew Ronald Langlotz.

In lieu of flowers, donations in John's name may be made to North Beach Volunteer Fire Department 8536 Bayside Road

Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

Link: <https://northbeachfire.com/> or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

Link: <https://www.stjude.org/>

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home-Owings.

Richard Howard Kisner



Richard Howard Kisner, 81, of Swansboro, NC and formerly of Clinton, MD passed away December 26, 2021. He was born July 20, 1940 in Sayre, PA to Howard and Mary (Nesbit) Kisner. Richard was raised in Montoursville, PA. He enlisted in the United States Army on December 30, 1958 and was stationed in Germany before being honorably discharged on March 1, 1962. Following his discharge from the Army, Richard went to work for the Metropolitan Police Department on August 17, 1964 where he went on to have a very successful 20-year career. He was assigned to the Special Operations Division and was later assigned to the traffic division as a motorman and served under five U.S. Presidents; President Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan, as part of their escort

teams. Richard married Mary, the love of his life, on June 19, 1974 and they lived in Suitland and Temple Hills, before settling in Clinton. After Richard's retirement they moved to Swansboro, NC in 1992. He became involved with the Western Carteret Fire & EMS Department as a member of the board, where he desired to see a better, professional, department. After the changeover to the Western Carteret Inter-Local Cooperation Agency in 2008, he continued to serve in a different capacity, not as part of that governing board, but still very much a part of the department. He would continue as a member of the unaffiliated non-profit association, giving moral support to the fire and EMS first responders. He will always be remembered for his great stories of DC and the SOD as well as his sound and sometimes funny advise. He was a great father, a fantastic friend and he will be truly missed by all.

Richard was preceded in death by his wife Mary Kisner in 2004 and sister Kathleen Kisner. He is survived by his step son Robert Hale of Gaithersburg, daughter-in-law Tracy Roderick and her husband Brett of Chesapeake Beach, and brother-in-law Ritchie Morris and his wife Bonnie of Olean, NY.

A service with military honors will be held at MD Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham at a later date. Memorial contributions in Richard's name may be made to the West Carteret Volunteer Fire Department, 140 Sherwood Avenue, Cedar Point, NC 28584.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Mary Margaret Collins



Mary Margaret Collins, 49, of Lusby, MD, passed away on December 25, 2021. She was born on September 20, 1972 in Silver Spring, MD, to Ann and Pat Collins.

A lifelong resident of Southern Maryland, Mary attended Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Solomons, and graduated from Saint Mary's Ryken High School ('90) in Leonardtown. On June 14, 2010, Mary married the love of her life, Billy Dunn, in one of their favorite places, Key West. Mary was a prominent local businesswoman and was devoted to many charities, including the ARC of Southern

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Maryland.

Mary enjoyed spending time with her family, boating on the Patuxent River, and vacationing in Florida. Her smile and laughter would fill a room, and her personality was larger than life. She will be remembered for her vibrant enthusiasm and unwavering dedication to her family.

Mary is survived by her husband Billy Dunn; daughters Megan and Kara; stepsons Drew and Kyle; mother Ann Collins; brothers Danny and John (Sondra) Collins; beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephew, and many friends. She was preceded in death by her father Pat Collins, sister Laurie Collins, and brother Joseph Collins.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mary's name to the Laurie Collins Scholarship Fund at Saint Mary's Ryken High School: 22600 Camp Calvert Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home—Lusby.

Virginia Shank DeBolt



Virginia Shank DeBolt, 95, died peacefully December 31, 2021, in Solomons, Maryland. A native of Connellsville, Pennsylvania, second child of Frieda Rottler Shank and Herbert C. Shank, she was born on August 14, 1926, and graduated from Connellsville High School in 1944. In 1952, she married Francis Milton DeBolt (deceased) of South Connellsville, and began a 32-year life as a military wife and mother, until Francis passed away in March of 1986.

Prior to moving to Solomons, Virginia lived in Charlotte Hall, Maryland, and was a parishioner at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Newport, Maryland.

Virginia is survived by her children: Deborah DeBolt of Henderson, Nevada; Claudia DeBolt Williams (Bill) of Bella Vista, Arkansas; Daniel DeBolt (Mary) of Laurel, Maryland; Douglas DeBolt (Kathy) of Lusby, Maryland; Andrea DeBolt Larussi (Paul) of Hutto, Texas; and Christopher DeBolt (Joyce) of St. Augustine, Florida; nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Virginia was a pioneer in women's jazz bands and radio broadcasting in her 20s and 30s. She was a horseman, sharpshooter and champion tennis player. Later in life, she was a reporter and pho-

tographer for Shippensburg, Pennsylvania's News Chronicle, and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania's Public Opinion newspapers. After moving to Charlotte Hall, she became a professional artist, and wrote children's stories.

Of all her accomplishments, Virginia's finest, she said, was raising six accomplished children.

She will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with her husband. Arrangements are pending.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Leslie Vaughn Bird



Leslie Vaughn Bird, 92 of Solomons, MD passed away on December 22, 2021. He was born on August 29, 1929 in Medina, New York to Horace Clark Bird and Aurelia Vaughn Bird. He graduated in 1946 from Medina High School where he was active in many clubs and played cornet/trumpet in band, orchestra and dance band. He attended Cornell University, receiving a bachelor's in Electrical Engineering in 1951. He then joined the Air Force and became an F84 jet fighter pilot. It was during his time as a Lieutenant and stationed in Bangor Maine that he met his future wife, Joan McMorran, of St. Stephen, New Brunswick. He left the Air Force in 1954, was married in June of that year and settled in Fairfield, Connecticut where he worked at General Electric as an Advanced Manufacturing Engineer. In 1959 he took a faculty position in the Electrical Engineering Department at the University of Bridgeport where he taught for 23 years full time and 12 years as an adjunct professor. He obtained his Master's of Science of Electrical Engineering (MSEE) at Columbia University in 1960. In 1982, he left the University to form his own company, LVB Associates, and worked on inventions such as leak detectors for furnaces and the automated warning sound that goes "bee-bong" when the train or subway doors open. He was a registered Professional Engineer in Connecticut and was active as an officer in local and state sections for the National Society of Professional Engineers. In 1995, he retired and he and Joan moved to Hickory, North Carolina. He was active in Kiwanis and volunteered at the Catawba Science Center, using his engi-

neering expertise to create new interactive exhibits. He was also an active member of Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ in Conover, N.C. He was an accomplished bridge player, and took up the trumpet again to play in the New Horizons Band in Hickory for several years. In 2019 he moved to Solomons, Maryland and he continued to play bridge and work on family genealogy. He passed away peacefully on December 22, 2021.

He is pre-deceased by his older brother, Robert Bird, younger sister, Emily Horner, and his wife of 53 years, Joan Bird. He is survived by a brother, Horace Bird, sister, Helen Rhoad, daughters, Deborah Weber and Arlene Guest, son, Christopher Bird, Donald McMorran, and four grandchildren, Theresa Bird, Matthew Weber, Leslie Weber, and Brian Guest.

The family will have a celebration of his life at a later date when he is buried in Medina, NY. Condolences to the family may be made at www.rauschfuneralhomes.com. Donations in his memory can be made to the Nature Conservancy <https://www.nature.org>.

Paul "Rex" Miller



Paul "Rex" Miller, 93, of Solomons, MD, sailed into the Port of Heaven on December 23, 2021.

Rex is survived by his wife and first mate, Donna, of 42 years, sons Paul Rex Miller, Jr. (Sue) CA, Eric Miller (Teri) MD, daughter Kristen Lauver (Tom Devlin) MD, sister Louise Woods, MD, and 5 grandchildren.

Rex was born in Baltimore, MD in 1928 and graduated from the Baltimore MD Polytechnic Institute in 1946. He enlisted in the Navy in 1946 and served in the Navy and the Navy Reserves. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University School of Engineering with a ME Degree, received a Masters Degree from the University of MD and attended the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology in Oak Ridge TN.

Rex began his career in 1951 as an academic instructor and flight test planner at the Navy's Test Pilot School at the Patuxent River Naval Air Base in Lexington Park MD, where he taught and flew with NASA Astronauts, John Glenn and Scott Carpenter. The test pilots inspired him to get his private pilot's license and he

flew with the FAA Flying Club for many years.

Subsequent employment was with the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington DC where he supported the Nuclear Ship Savannah Project. Following employment was with Martin Company and NASA. After retirement from NASA, he was employed by Schafer Associates in Arlington VA as a Program Advisor to an element of the Pentagon's Strategic Defense Initiative Organization.

After retirement in 1997, Rex and Donna moved to Solomons MD, where his beloved Chesapeake Bay was close by. Rex was a member of the Solomons Island Yacht Club. As a boy his father took him on adventures on the Chesapeake Bay on the Baltimore Ferry, where he sketched the steamboats, airplanes and the water and sky. With adventure in his blood, he learned to sail and sailed the Chesapeake Bay over 60 years, with his most rewarding adventure being when he Captained his Tartan 37 sailboat to Bermuda, with the most exuberant feeling of returning to homeport via his beloved Chesapeake Bay.

Rex's other passion was sketching and painting. After moving to Solomons he enrolled in the Advanced Oil Painting Class at the Calvert County Office on Aging, where he assisted in forming the Color and Light Society. He was a founding member of the CalVART Gallery in Prince Frederick, MD, a member of the North End Gallery in Leonardtown, MD and the Calvert Artists Guild. One of his most rewarding venues was being juried to exhibit his art at Ann Marie Garden Artsfests.

Rex was honored to be a Southern Maryland artist exhibiting his works of water, boats, sky and clouds, and his interpretation of the beauty of the barns and nature landmarks of Southern Maryland.

Rex said that "When someone bought one of my paintings I felt I had communicated with another person in this universe in a very special way and that is the most satisfying accomplishment an artist can achieve."

Rex was a member of the former Solomons United Methodist Church congregation.

Family will receive friends on Monday, January 10, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. with a Funeral Service following at 1:00 p.m. at Rausch Funeral Home, 20 American Lane, Lusby, MD. Interment will be on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. in the Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Crownsville, MD.

Memorial donations can be made to the Solomons Rescue Squad. Condolences to the family may be made at www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.

Support the Arts of Southern Maryland: CalVART Gallery, the North End Gallery, Annmarie Garden, and the Color and Light Society.



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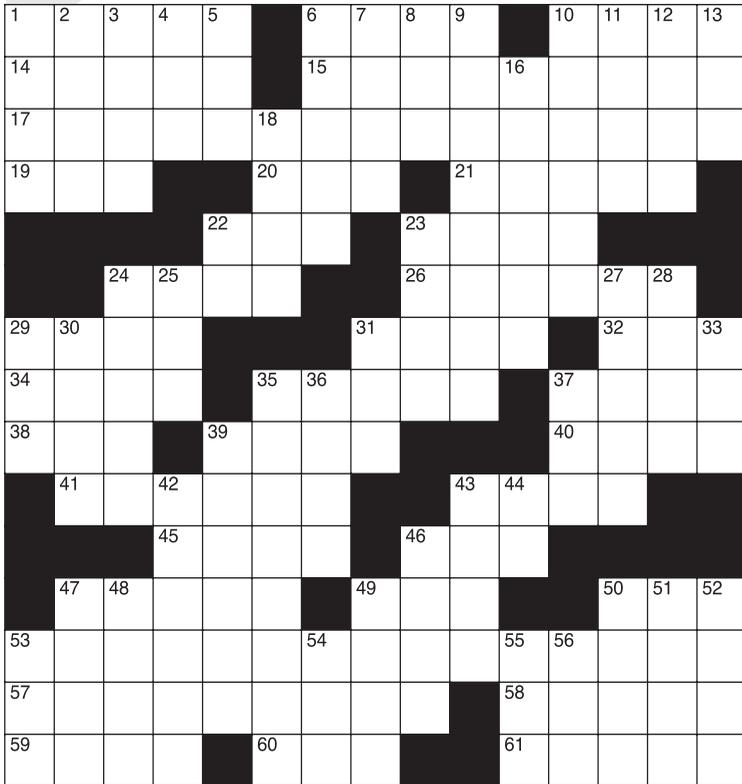
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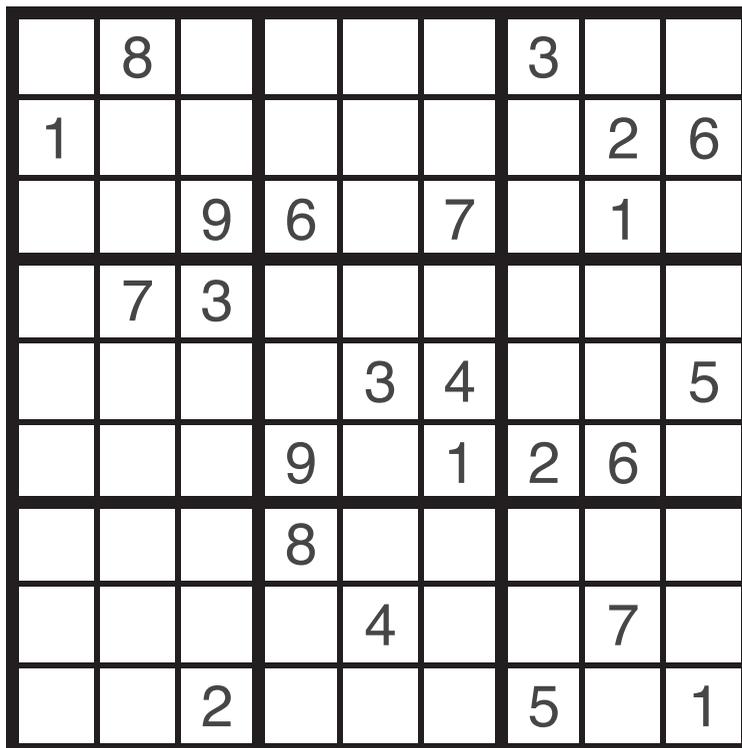
- 1. Partner to "oohed"
- 6. Relaxing places
- 10. Humorous monologue
- 14. Simple elegance
- 15. Bearable
- 17. Disobedience
- 19. Express delight
- 20. Gov't attorneys
- 21. Wake up
- 22. A type of band
- 23. Remain as is
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Battle-ax
- 29. Volcanic crater
- 31. The mother of Jesus
- 32. One's life history
- 34. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 35. Doubles
- 37. Jacob ___, American journalist
- 38. House pet
- 39. S. African river
- 40. Broad sashes
- 41. Establish as a foundation
- 43. KGB double agent Aldrich ___
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Train group (abbr.)

- 50. Frames per second
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal from a federation
- 58. Guitarist sounds
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Helps escape

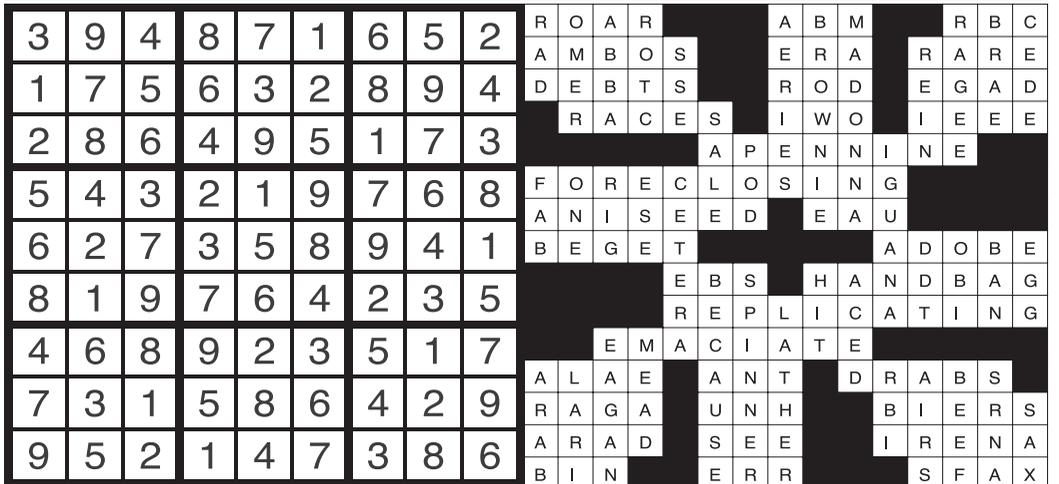
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Currency exchange charge
- 2. River in Tuscany
- 3. Breakfast dish
- 4. Defunct European currency
- 5. Upper class young woman
- 6. Part of a purse
- 7. Self-contained units
- 8. Boxing's GOAT
- 9. Legislators
- 10. Flightless birds
- 11. U. of Miami's mascot is one
- 12. Floating ice
- 13. Low, marshy land
- 16. Seldom
- 18. Lyric poems
- 22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- 23. Full extent of something
- 24. ___ Claus

- 25. Naturally occurring solid material
- 27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
- 28. Thirteen
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Member of a Semitic people
- 31. One thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA
- 35. Most lemony
- 36. Engage in
- 37. Small Eurasian deer
- 39. Provisions
- 42. All humans have them
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Storage term (abbr.)
- 46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Egyptian sun god
- 50. Flute
- 51. Flew off!
- 52. Scottish tax
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Populous Brazilian city
- 55. Malaysian Isthmus
- 56. Pointed end of a pen



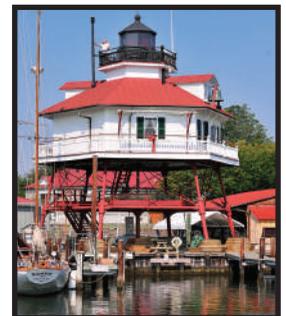
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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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.

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