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See Page 2
For Details

**UPDATED SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION PLAN**

**COVE POINT TENNIS
COURTS APPROVED**

**ZONING CHANGES
PROPOSED**

Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

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TASTE
the
beaches

BEACHES FOOD FEST RETURNS

CALVERT CONTENTS

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“CHESAPEAKE BEACH IS THE PLACE TO BE THIS SATURDAY. IT PROMISES TO BE A FUN DAY FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.”
CHESAPEAKE BEACH MAYOR PAT MAHONEY



LOCAL 6
Cove Point Park may receive federal grants.



8
Taste the Beach comes back to Calvert count



COMMUNITY 9
BOCC appoints a Director of Technology

WEEKLY FORECAST Provided by www.accuweather.com

THU 9/15	80° /59° Mostly sunny	MON 9/19	87° /69° Humid; a stray p.m. t-storm
FRI 9/16	80° /60° Hazy sunshine	TUE 9/20	89° /69° thunderstorm; humid
SAT 9/17	81° /62° Sunny to partly cloudy	WED 9/21	88° /69° A couple of showers
SUN 9/18	87° /66° Times of clouds	THU 9/22	89° /70° A shower in the morning

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State's Highest Court Hears Comp Plan Case

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Sept. 12 hearing by Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals, on the suit challenging the Calvert County Commissioner's vote on the comprehensive plan was filled with legal jargon and case law citations. That can be expected when lawyers, such as C. Macy Nelson, legal counsel for four county citizens, and John Mattingly, Jr., an attorney for the county, address jurists at the pinnacle of their legal careers.

One of those legal terms bandied about during the 47-minute hearing in Annapolis was "ultra vires." It means acting or done beyond one's legal power or authority. At issue was whether the county commissioners had the power to enact the update of the county's comprehensive plan by a 3-2 vote in August of 2019 when one of the majority votes was by Kelly McConkey, who in an earlier 3-2 vote participated in an action that put two properties he owns in the Huntingtown Town Center. Maryland's second highest court last month affirmed a county ethics commission decision that the action was a conflict of interest.

The case law mentioned frequently was a Montgomery County case called Sugarloaf which ruled a conflict of interest was not cause to overturn a vote of a legislative body.

The county prevailed in the suit at both the circuit court and Maryland Court of Special Appeals levels. Nelson argued his clients had "taxpayer standing," and as such were entitled to a full hearing on the merits of the case before the circuit court. Nelson asserted that had not happened, but Mattingly disagreed.

Nelson argued, "My clients have taxpayer standing because they've made an adequate allegation of an ultra vires action. They're entitled to, in the words of the State Center opinion (another case), on a merits hearing on the question of the ultra vires act."

While the jurists appeared sympathetic to the argument on taxpayer standing, they were skeptical about whether the courts had the right to overturn the legislative vote of the county commissioners because of an ethics violation, based on the case law.

In the back and forth between Nelson and the judges, they appeared skeptical about whether he would prevail even if they remanded it back to circuit court for a merits hearing.

Judge Brynja Booth said, "So long as you are acting within the legal boundaries of your position, we

don't nullify councilmanic actions based on a conflict of interest."

"A conflict of interest does not constitute ultra vires action," she asserted.

Nelson responded, "You have the Sugarloaf opinion from 1990 and it says what your honor just said. And then since 2009, plus or minus, this court has been sort of articulating and refining and writing robust opinions about taxpayer standing."

The judge said that just gets you in court, it doesn't create a cause of action.

Nelson responded, "The taxpayer standing doctrine, it creates the cause of action. And it gets you into court for the merits hearing."

"Nobody's disputing that your foot is in the door, you're here," said Chief Judge Matthew Fader. "And nobody has alleged that you don't have taxpayer standing, but in order to prove an ultra vires act, doesn't the court undertake a very narrow review and simply determine whether the council was acting within its legal boundaries."

Mattingly argued for the county, "The courts may not invalidate legislation on the basis of a conflict of interest."

He added, "The true heart of this case is a constitutional question, that question being the separation of powers. The adoption of the comprehensive plan is a purely legislative action. There's been no dispute in this case, accordingly, the court's authority to void this legislation is very narrow. And this court has previously held that the courts may not invalidate legislation on the basis of a conflict of interest."

Mattingly asserted, "Invalidation (of a zoning decision) goes to the sausage, not how the sausage was made."

Even though the McConkey ethics violation was determined by a commissioner-appointed board, Mattingly distanced his clients from the ruling. He said, "The county is not a party to the ethics commission case against Commissioner McConkey. So, because it's different parties, any decision in that case has no conclusory effect on this case. The point being without so much as a finding of a conflict in this case, there's nothing to warrant overturning established precedent."

In rebuttal Nelson said, "My colleague (Mattingly) argues to the court, the vote can't be ultra vires. Well, I disagree. That vote was ultra vires. Everybody knew it."

The court has one year to make its ruling in the case.

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School Construction Plan Updated

Priorities Switched for Elementary Schools

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The newly released Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2024-29 includes a switch in priorities for two elementary schools.

A project for a new Calvert Elementary School and renovation of Calvert Country School has stepped ahead of a new Mt. Harmony Elementary School. The dual construction/renovation project for Calvert Elementary and Calvert Country School is slated for construction beginning in FY 2028 while a feasibility study for Mt. Harmony won't begin until FY 2029 with construction beyond the six-year CIP.

Director of School Construction Shuchita Warner told the Calvert County Board of Education at their Sept. 8 meeting that the new CIP would be posted online for public review and comment and then would be included on the consent agenda for approval in October.

Warner explained, "In terms of statewide facility assessment, Calvert Elementary actually has a higher FCI or Facility Condition Index than Mount Harmony."

Warner added, "By looking at Calvert Elementary as a replacement project, we have land that exists in between the Calvert Elementary building and Calvert Country. That is our property. We can utilize that, look at a feasibility to potentially replace the existing Calvert Elementary that gives us a number of options. We can look at Calvert Country School to potentially place those students in Calvert Elementary for swing space, to do a renovation for Calvert Country School. After those projects are done, the existing Calvert Elementary potentially could be looked at as an annex for the Brooks Administration Building."

Why not a new building for Calvert Country School? She said Calvert Country School is a 36,000-square-foot building being used for a very low enrolment. "It looks like the state would only support it if we were to do a new building about 10,000 square feet. All of those things would be fleshed out, of course, in a feasibility study."

Board member Dawn Balinski asked, "(If you) look at the capacity of both the schools that you're proposing for replacement and the adjacent (schools), I would've thought Mount Harmony Ele-



mentary would beat out Calvert Elementary?"

Warner responded, "From that perspective, that could be the case. However, the Facility Condition Index does not look at enrollment. It only looks at a building's condition. So, it's just the bricks and mortar."

The first project in the six-year CIP is still the replacement of Northern Middle School.

The plan does include for FY '24 and '25 monies from the state through the Healthy School Facility Fund. The three projects to be funded are:

- Mary Harrison Center Partial Re-Roofing – FY 2024
- Mary Harrison Center Auditorium HVAC – FY 2025
- Appeal Elementary Chilled Water Plant and select HVAC equipment – FY 2025

The plan also includes the following athletic projects:

- Patuxent High School Field House – FY 2025
- Huntingtown High School track resurfacing – FY 2025
- Calvert High School Field House renovations – FY 2027
- Design Services for Huntingtown High School Field House renovations – FY 2028

Warner explained that Calvert's state/local split for FY 2024 is 56 percent/44 percent. It breaks down as follows:

State participation (56 percent state/ 44 percent local Split) for following:

- Project construction cost (up to maximum allowance for Replacement/Renovation/Addition projects)
- Design costs (calculated at maximum 10 percent of construction budget)
- Eligible FFE (for Replacement, Renovation, and Addition Projects. Calculated at 5 percent of construction budget)

Local Participation:

- 44 percent minimum share of construction costs, design, FFE
- 100-percent share of project contingency

dickmyers@countytimes.net

State Blueprint Touts National Teacher Certification

County Assists Teachers Seeking It

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

In this particular case, NBC doesn't stand for the national television network. It stands for National Board Certification.

According to the NBC website: "Every student deserves to be taught by an accomplished teacher. National Board Certification was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. It's the highest certification a teacher may obtain in addition to being the most respected one."

Teachers achieving the certification is a key component of "The Blueprint for Maryland's Future," the state's education reform initiative.

According to the Maryland Board of Education, "The Blueprint law increases the salary by \$10,000 of National Board-certified educators who are actively teaching in Maryland public schools. In addition, National Board-certified teachers working in a low performing school will receive an additional \$7,000 annually."

The Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) Blueprint Coordinator Dr. Joe Sampson, III told the school board at their Sept. 8 meeting, "Currently we're working with HR (Human Resources) to help candidates through the document submission process and will provide NBC facilitators to assist staff through the national board process."

Sampson added, "Currently National Board-certified teachers have even volunteered to help in any way that candidates may need assistance. This is very exciting for our county and proof of the growth of National Board Certification, not only in the state of Maryland, but right here in Calvert County."

He said, "There are currently 13 teachers eligible for the salary increase for their national boards and close to 60 teachers who started their National Board Certification journey."

One of the current NBC teachers is the county's 2018 Teacher of the Year, Mt. Harmony Elementary School media specialist Melaney Sanchez. She called going after NBC in 2006, "a major commitment." She said, "This is not something that you sign up for a class and see how it goes. It's something where you completely commit."

She said her personal motivation



Calvert County 2018 Teacher of the Year, Mt. Harmony Elementary School media specialist Melaney Sanchez.

included liking challenge. But she added, "Having my students grow is non-negotiable; improving my skills is non-negotiable because every time I get it right in my classroom, something changes, and I have a new challenge." And then the salary incentive was a third reason.

She said when she first looked at it, she thought it shouldn't be a problem, she does it every day. Yet she failed in her first attempt and had to successfully retake it the next year. She has since been recertified after the ten-year anniversary (the requirement is now every five years).

"You have to chase after it. You have to make time for it. You have to give things up for it," she said is her advice to teachers considering it.

"I'm very thankful to know that at the state level, as well as at our local level, there are many things in place so that teachers can successfully complete this process," she exclaimed.

"Overall, I definitely would say it was intense...and rewarding."

Dr. Sampson said the state is working on data on the effectiveness of NBC, but in other states it has been impressive. In Mississippi, he said, "The data shows that students are 31 percent more likely to be proficient on the kindergarten readiness assessment if they have a teacher with NBC and third graders are 11 percent more likely to score proficient on the math assessment."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Two Zoning Text Changes Proposed

Would Allow for Businesses to Locate

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved forwarding to the planning commission zoning changes that will allow for businesses to locate in areas they are now not allowed. One allows for a crematorium at the existing Chesapeake Memorial Gardens on Broomes Island Road. The other allows for a cigar lounge to be added to the Lusby Town Center behind the post office.

Zoning Planner Rachel O'Shea told the BOCC at their Sept. 13 meeting, "In the current zoning ordinance, cemeteries or memorial gardens are permitted within the Farm and Forest, Rural Community, Residential and Rural Commercial districts. It is conditionally permitted within Agricultural Preservation Districts and Historic Districts for the private use of the property owners only. Crematoriums are permitted within the I-1 district and conditional in the rural commercial district accessory to a funeral home. Funeral homes are only permitted

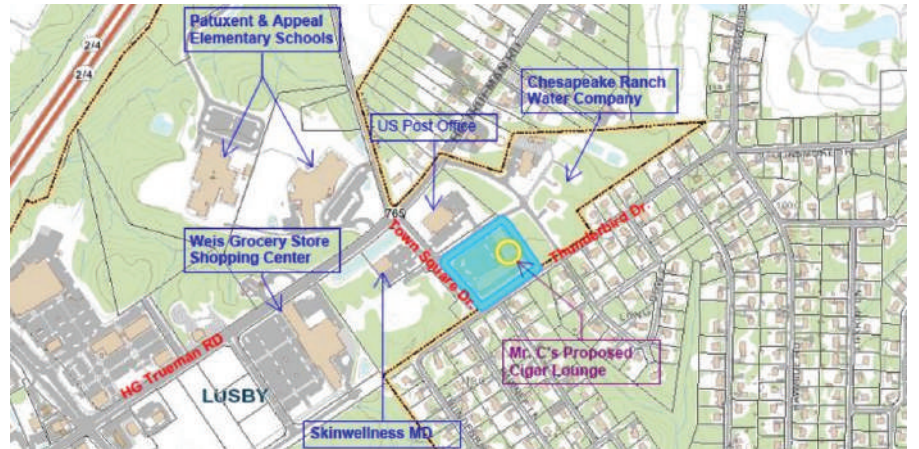
within the rural commercial district and various subareas within Town Center."

O'Shea added, "Prior to the zoning ordinance update in 2006, crematoriums and funeral homes were permitted by special exception approval only within what is now zoned as the Farm and Forest District (FFD, previously the Rural District). The applicant proposes to allow crematoriums and funeral homes be conditionally permitted within the FFD given they are accessory to an existing cemetery. Staff is recommending allowing crematoriums and funeral homes by special exception when accessory to existing public cemeteries or memorial gardens."

The business originally had approval for a crematorium before the rules were changed but did not proceed with those plans.

The BOCC went along with the staff recommendation.

Regarding the proposal for a cigar lounge by Lincoln Lawrence, which would be the first of its kind in the county, O'Shea said the request was for, "the use of a cigar lounge be added to the Lusby Town



Map of Lusby Town Center

Center Use Chart as a separate use and be permitted within the town center. The applicant states that within the town center and within proximity to the proposed location for his cigar lounge is a liquor store and a restaurant/bar. The applicant stated that the current ordinance does not lend to this type of business model that is growing throughout the Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) area and that this proposed change will allow for growth of these types of businesses within the Lusby area of Calvert County."

Commissioner President Buddy

Hance wondered why the request didn't include other town centers. O'Shea said each town center's zoning was unique and such lounges were allowed in some subdistricts in some town centers.

In approving forwarding the proposal to the planning commission, the commissioners asked that they look at adding it to other town centers.

During the public comment time on the agenda, serial public commenter Joseph Cormier questioned allowing a cigar lounge when smoking was being discouraged.

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Grant Eyes Tennis Court Replacement

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County is applying for allocated state grant monies to replace the tennis courts at Cove Point Park in Lusby. The grant monies will also be used for projects in Chesapeake Beach and North Beach.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal, “In the 2022 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly and the governor adopted a state budget that includes an allocation of \$1 million in grant funds to Calvert County for ‘shovel-ready’ park infrastructure projects managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).”

Commissioner President Buddy Hance noted the program was initiated by the late Senate President Mike Miller and carried out by his successor Sen. Michael Jackson.

Nazzal said they have prioritized funding of \$700,000 of the grant for “the replacement of the tennis courts at Cove Point Park.”

She added, “A funding allocation of \$150,000 has also been offered to the Town of North Beach and the Town of Chesapeake

Beach, totaling \$300,000.”

Nazzal said, “Eligible projects include those that are ready for construction and can be encumbered in FY 2023. Stipulations of these funds are similar to Program Open Space (POS) grants with the following additional restrictions: No amount of these funds shall be used for projects that are inaccessible to the general public, require memberships, exclude the public because of higher user fees, or which include office, residential, or elaborate lodging facilities.”

She noted at the Sept. 13 county commissioner meeting, “Funding has not been allocated for replacement of the Cove Point Park tennis courts, though it is detailed in the approved updated Cove Point Park master plan.”

Nazzal said, “(The) Town of Chesapeake Beach is requesting an allocation of \$150,000 to fund park projects within that municipality. These projects meet all the requirements and restrictions of the funding source. An application, funding authorization for municipality and letter of intent must be submitted to Maryland DNR in order to be eligible for the



funding.”

She said the projects for North Beach have not yet been received so an additional grant request will

be made when it is received.

The BOCC unanimously agreed to submit the grant request.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

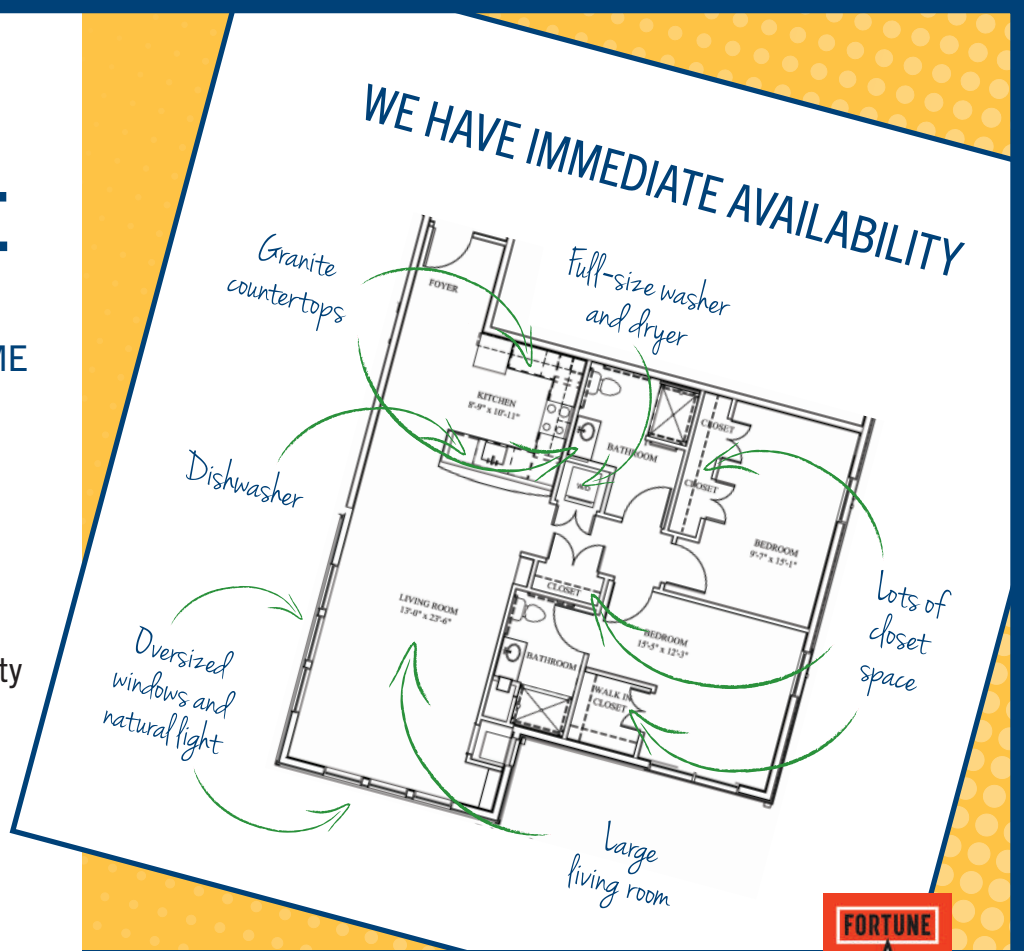
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CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Juvenile Pedestrian Struck by Vehicle in Prince Frederick

Members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau and Crash Reconstruction Team responded on Sept. 7 at approximately 4:27 p.m. to a motor vehicle collision involving a pedestrian in the area of Oakland Hall Road and Turnberry Way in Prince Frederick.

Upon arrival, units located a white Cadillac that had struck a juvenile pedestrian.

Preliminary investigation revealed, a 2009 Cadillac, operated by Shelly Hug, 39 of Prince Frederick, was making a left turn from Oakland Hall Road onto Turnberry Way. While turning, the driver struck a juvenile female.

The juvenile was initially transported to Capital Regional Medical Center for injuries received. After being stabilized, she was transferred to Children's Hospital where she remains in serious condition.

Hug, the driver of the Cadillac was not injured.

The cause of this collision remains under investigation.

Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or events leading up to the collision is asked to contact Sgt. Phelps at (410) 535-2800 or via e-mail: Thomas.Phelps@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press Release from CCSO

During the week of August 29, 2022 – September 4, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,512 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 22-49577

On August 29, 2022, Deputy Strong responded to the 600 block of Burr Oak Court in Prince Frederick for the report of maliciously damaged property. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) keyed the victim's vehicle in the overnight hours. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$800.

Property Destruction: 22-49907

On August 30, 2022, Deputy Tavares received report of a theft. The complainant advised his left rear truck tire was slashed while parked in the parking lot of the Giant Food store located at 11740 Rousby Hall Road in Lusby, following a road rage incident. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$300.

Damaged Property: 22-50960

On September 4, 2022, Deputy Shoemaker responded to the 1500 block of Lilac Road in St. Leonard, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised the driver's side rear window of her vehicle had been busted out sometime during the night. Nothing appears to have been moved or stolen. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$800.

Property Destruction: 22-50271

On September 1, 2022, M/DFC Flynt responded to the 6000 block of Gordon Drive in Sunderland, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between August 30 and September 1, an unknown suspect

(s) shot up the victim's vehicle with a BB gun. Several BBs were collected at the scene. The estimated value of the damaged property is unknown at this time.

Property Destruction: 22-50975

On September 4, 2022, Deputy Lee responded to the 3000 block of Ashwood Road in Dunkirk, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between 5 p.m. on Sept. 3 and 11 a.m. on Sept. 4, a shed and a stone retaining wall on the victim's property had been spray-painted with graffiti. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$50.

Theft: 22-49783

On August 30, 2022, DFC Burgraff responded to the 1000 block of Adobe Drive in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 11 p.m. on Aug. 26 and 7 a.m. on Aug. 27, prescription medication was stolen from a vehicle parked outside the residence. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$100.

Theft: 22-50130

On August 31, 2022, DFC Murphy received report of a theft that occurred in the 500 block of Carson Court in Lusby. The complainant advised sometime between Aug. 1 and Aug. 8, a refrigerator was stolen from the garage of the residence. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$1,200.

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

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TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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Town of Chesapeake Beach Public Notice

The Town requests proposals for Chesapeake Beach WRTP Clarifier, Mudwell, Clearwell, Covers Installation at the Chesapeake Beach Water Reclamation Treatment Plant. RFP information can be obtained on eMMA eMaryland Marketplace Advantage Project Source #BPM031523 or by contacting Holly Wahl at hwahl@chesapeakebeachmd.gov.

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Taste of the Beaches Returns After Two-Year Hiatus

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It was an idea that kept growing. In its third year in 2019, Chesapeake Beach's Taste of the Beaches appeared to be on a roll with a larger event and bigger crowds.

And then the pandemic hit, and it was cancelled for the last two years; at the last-minute last year because of worsening health metrics.

Now it's back and the town and neighboring North Beach are looking forward to a bigger and better event and the return of the crowds to Kellam's Field on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Chesapeake Beach bills the Taste of the Beaches as "a festival-themed experience with local food, drinks, artists, vendors, and businesses celebrating the Twin Beaches. Entertainment offerings include the Big Money Band, a Kid's Zone, Environmental educational outreach, Health and Wellness resources, and a day full of fun."

The event was the brainchild of Councilman Larry Jaworski, who co-chairs the town's Economic Development Committee and also chairs the county's Economic Development Advisory Committee.

"It is a joint effort between the twin beaches," Jaworski said.

"Both towns are working on this, and the idea is to have an event that brings people in town and hopefully they come to town, and they go, wow, this is a really cool place. I want to come back."

As his town committee as the main sponsor, he said it's put on with the hope "for people to become more acquainted with our twin beach area and come back."

Jaworski said of this year, "It'll be pretty much the same other than the fact that we do have a pretty impressive turnout of participants, vendors and things. We've got, at last count, seven food vendors. We've got 17 community organizations, like the fire department's going to be there. A bunch of county offices will be there. Some of the town's committees will have tables there and other community organizations. Then there's about 15 art and boutique vendors there, and three wine and beer vendors and then a kids play area."

Mayor Pat Mahoney said, "Chesapeake Beach is the place to be this Saturday. It promises to be a fun day for the entire family."

Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA) is this year's selected nonprofit for the

Taste of the Beaches event. Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse has worked closely with the Town of Chesapeake Beach and the Town of North Beach through the Twin Beaches Opioid Abuse Awareness Coalition. The Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc (CAASA), is a grassroots coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to fighting alcohol and other drug abuse in Calvert County. In addition, CAASA is a non-profit corporation that raises funds to support this vital effort. Follow CAASA at @CAASAmD.

Jaworski said, "This year for the first time we've got a separate event going on of just publicizing primarily our local restaurants, but other business as well. We are asking those restaurants to offer specials in the week leading up to the actual Taste of Beaches event, again another enticement for people to come to town and visit our businesses."

Hoping for good weather, Jaworski said, "We want everybody to come on out and enjoy the twin beaches."

Absent that good weather the rain date is Sunday, Sept. 18, 1-5 p.m.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



2022 Taste the Beaches Vendors

Food

- Baked by the Bay
- Pinky's Eatery
- The Boozy Cake Lady
- Beachin Bay Bakery
- SoulFull Caterers
- Taste of the Tides
- Herbs and Spice

Wine & Beer

- Greenspring Brewing Company
- Whistle Stop Winery
- Gypsy Brewing Company

Community

- Bayside Baptist Church
- Calvert Council Knights of Columbus
- Calvert Family Advocates
- Kemper Life
- Chesapeake Beach Green Team
- Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society
- Walkability Committee
- Economic Development Committee
- Kellam's Field Revitalization Committee
- Town of Chesapeake Beach Coastal Resiliency Committee
- Living Adventures Travel Agency
- Maryland's Commitment to Veterans
- TESSA SCOOTER RENTALS
- Pivot Physical Therapy
- Twin Beach Opioid Awareness Committee
- Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
- Community Mediation Center of Calvert

Art

- Bungalow Gypsy
- Chesapeake Beach Candle Co.
- Chosen Moments
- Coull Wood Designs
- Count on the Chesapeake
- Crushed Glass Art
- Dead Rise Gear
- Earth's Natural Art and Jewelry
- Harrell's Attic
- Oscar and Olive Osprey: A Family Takes Flight
- Southern Charm Kreations LLC
- JoyFilled LLC
- Watercolors by Ann
- MoonStone Goddess Jewelry
- Be Adored Jewelry/Paparazzi
- Rev. Dr. Deb S., LLC
- Louise Gorday Books

Family Fun

- Little Tots Playground
- Fish Mobile

Entertainment

- Big Money Band
- Kenney Holmes
- Trilogy Twirl Club
- Beach Buccaneer Pom Squad

Stephen Pereira Appointed Director of Technology Services

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Pereira as the county government director of the Department of Technology Services.

Over his 21-year career, Pereira has overseen and implemented business technology change in the government and private sectors. In his previous role as deputy director for Technology Services, he was responsible for technology budgets and contracts, records management, and implementing new information technology policies, standards and training within Calvert County Government. Pereira has also served as the county's webmaster, managing the upkeep and improvement of six websites under the Communications & Media Relations Division of the County Administrator's Office.

Prior to joining Calvert County Government, Pereira worked in the private sector for 19 years, managing technology implementation, digital transformation, e-com-



Stephen Pereira

merce, digital marketing and business strategy.

"In his time with Calvert County Government, Stephen has routinely proven his technical and business expertise, professionalism and leadership qualities," said BOCC President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance. "We are confident that he will excel as Technology Services director



and we look forward to many more years of his service and leadership."

"Stephen has made valuable contributions that demonstrate his commitment to enhancing government operations and service to its citizens and employees," said County Administrator Mark Willis. "With his broad range of experience, strategic execution of continuous process improvements and constant drive to learn, he is well equipped to guide county government through the ever-changing information technology landscape."

Pereira holds a Master of Business Administration degree in technology management from National

ChengChi University in Taipei, Taiwan. He recently completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government executive program at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and is Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) certified.

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.



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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, September 15

Little Minnows

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

This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult, are invited to join us for story time and a craft you can do on-site or take home, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Squirrels!

Friday, September 16

Dee of St. Mary's Sunset Sail

Calvert Marine Museum, adults-only
6 – 8 p.m.

Join us on a 2-hour public sail on the historic vessel Dee of St. Mary's, and experience the Patuxent River aboard an iconic Chesapeake Bay Skipjack. Guests will have an opportunity to help raise and lower the sail. This Friday evening cruise is for adults-only, and you are welcome to BYOB. Capacity allows for 30 guests. If there is inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$45 per person. To register, visit: [Dee of St. Mary's Cruises | Calvert Marine Museum, MD - Official Website](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/238/Dee-of-St-Marys-Cruises)

Learn to Square Dance

Southern Maryland
Community Center,
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, 7 p.m.

Come join the Aqua Squares Square Dance Club for a Modern Western Square Dance. You don't need a partner, just your desire to have lots of fun. No experience necessary, all you need to know is how to walk. It is friendship set to music. Bring your friends, neighbors, date, parents, kids (over age 9). For more information call Mary at 301-863-8054 or Rita at 610-410-4798 or visit our web page at www.aquasquare-dancers.org

Saturday, September 17

Taste of the Beaches

Kellam's Field
Chesapeake Beach, 1-5 p.m.

Taste the Beaches is a festival-themed experience with local food, drinks, artists, vendors, and businesses celebrating the Twin Beaches. Entertainment offerings include the Big Money Band, a Kid's Zone, Environmental educational outreach, Health and Wellness resources, and a day full of fun!

Try out Town of Chesapeake Beach and Town of North Beach's local restaurant menu items, and taste local beer/wine, while enjoying live entertainment. Shop local vendors and artisans. This is a free event sponsored by the Town of Chesapeake Beach. No tickets are sold for food; vendors may charge patrons directly or offer tastings.

Dee of St. Mary's Public Sail

Calvert Marine Museum
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Join us on a 2-hour public sail aboard the historic vessel Dee of St. Mary's, and experience the Patuxent River aboard an iconic Chesapeake Bay Skipjack. Guests will have an opportunity to help raise and lower the sail. Capacity allows for 30 guests. If there is inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$35 for ages 13 and up; \$15 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 are not permitted. To register, visit: <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/238/Dee-of-St-Marys-Cruises>

Pirate Day

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ahoy Scallywags! Throw on your best pirate outfit and head to the museum for some jolly good fun. Make a pirate flag, build a toy pirate boat, get a pirate tattoo, and walk the plank! Sing pirate songs at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. Activities included with museum admission.

Sunday, September 18

Calvert County Historical Society Front Porch Summer Concert Series

On the lawn at Linden
70 Church Street
Prince Frederick, 7-8:30 p.m.
Last concert of the 2022 Summer

Concert Series, "Riverside South," a local bluegrass/country band favorite

Bring your lawn chairs and coolers. The concerts are free and open to the public. Snacks will be for sale. Overflow parking next door at Trinity United Methodist Church. Concert will be cancelled in case of rain. www.calverthistory.org

Sip & Save Beer-Tasting Event

American Chestnut Land Trust's
North Side Trailhead
676 Double Oak Road,
Prince Frederick, 1-5 p.m.

"Sip the Beer* ... Save the Land!" At ACLT's annual Sip & Save event, sip beer from local breweries and from around the Chesapeake Bay region while supporting ACLT's efforts to preserve the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds. Take home a souvenir glass! We'll have Gato Tacos food truck, live music from Some Assembly, yard games, door prizes and more! *Must be 21 or older to sample beer. More info & purchase tickets: bit.ly/ACLTSipSave22

Tuesday, September 20

NHS Annual College Fair

2950 Chaneyville Road,
Owings, 6-8 p.m.

Northern High School will be holding their annual College Fair on 9/20. Over 50 colleges will be in attendance. This is a free event for all Southern MD Junior and Senior High School Students. The first 200 students to attend will receive a free gift! Don't miss out on attending one of the only College Fairs being held in Southern Maryland this Fall.

Essential Native Trees and Shrubs

All Saints Parish Hall, Sunderland
10 am - 11 am

Please join the members of the Chesapeake Garden Club at their September meeting to welcome Maryland author

Tony Dove, a renowned Horticulturist with the Smithsonian Institution and an international consultant and lecturer on horticulture and Historic Garden preservation. Dove has an extensive career in the care and preservation of heirloom plants, trees, shrubs, etc. His book, *Essential Native Trees and Shrubs of the Eastern United States* will be available for sale and autographed too.

RSVP: 443-964-4252. For information on the Club visit: www.chesapeakegardenclub.org

Thursday, September 22

Little Minnows

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

This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult, are invited to join us for story time and a craft you can do on-site or take home, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Squirrels!

ONGOING

Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum,
Wednesday through Friday
the month of Sept. 2 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays
2 p.m. and 3:10 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour cruise on the river aboard the Wm. B Tennison, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. If there is inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$7 for adults, and \$4 for children 5-12 years, and children under 5 ride for free when accompanied by a paying adult. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/237/Wm-B-Tennison-Cruises>

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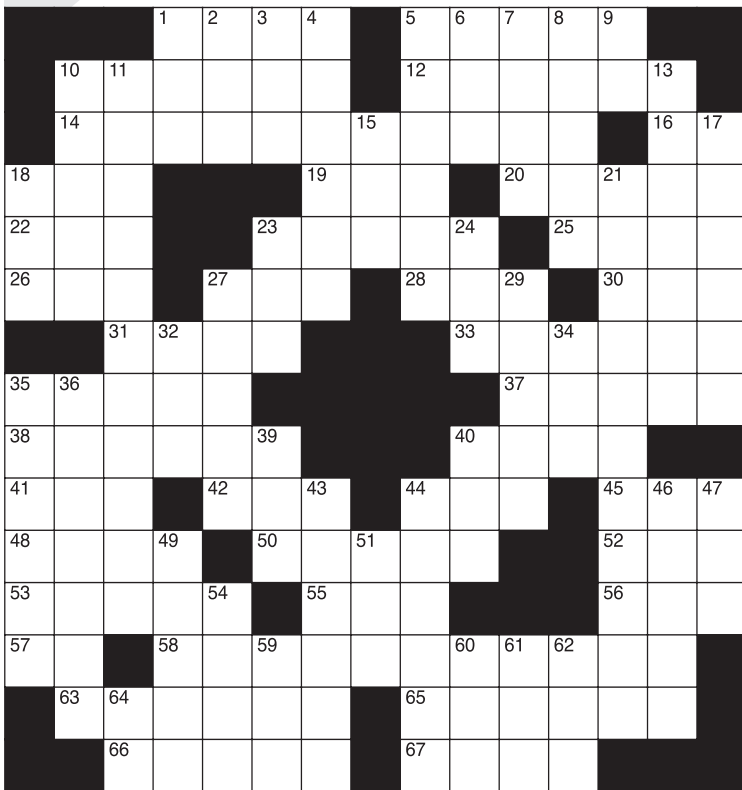
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

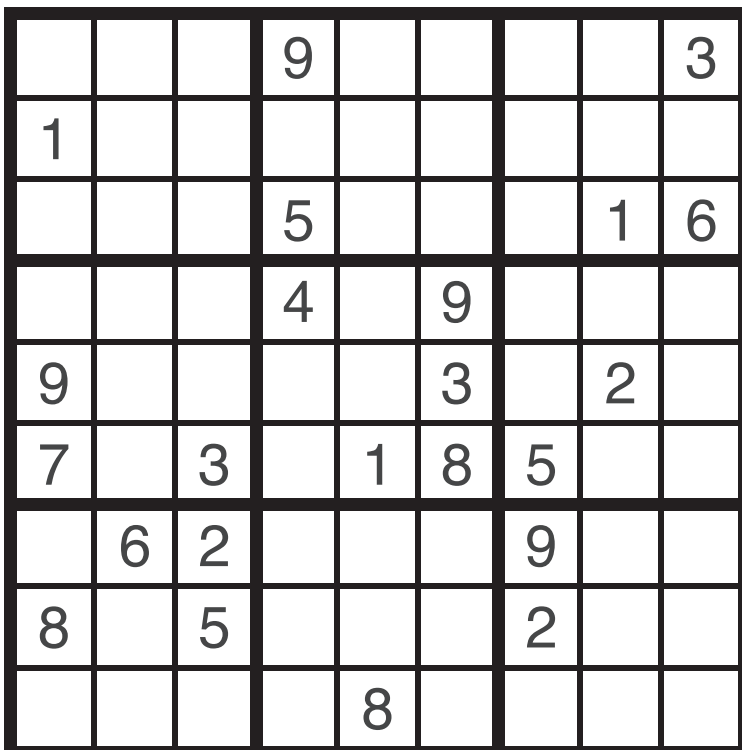
- 1. Crops sown in winter in India
- 5. Nursemaids in East Asia
- 10. Investigates
- 12. Treated like a child
- 14. About religious belief
- 16. Widely used exclamation
- 18. Car mechanics group
- 19. Not good
- 20. Indigenous people of Alberta
- 22. Everyone has one
- 23. Fencing sword
- 25. Soaks
- 26. The human foot
- 27. Of she
- 28. Erythrocyte (abbr.)
- 30. Soldiers
- 31. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 33. Playwright O'Neill
- 35. Stone parsley
- 37. Small stones
- 38. Gas descriptor
- 40. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 41. Jeans manufacturer
- 42. NHL great Bobby

- 44. Cool!
- 45. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 48. Winged
- 50. Partner to "oohed"
- 52. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 53. Coated
- 55. Furry household friend
- 56. Chinese principle underlying the universe
- 57. Prefix meaning "within"
- 58. Makes easier
- 63. Transferred property
- 65. Branched
- 66. Hillsides
- 67. Abba ___, Israeli diplomat

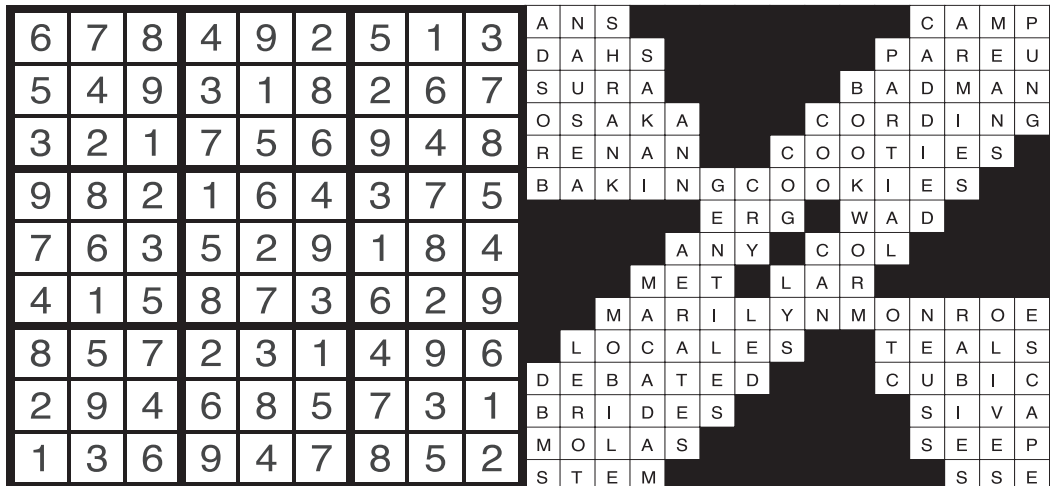
- 13. Intend
- 15. Talk excessively
- 17. Bronx cheers
- 18. Drain
- 21. Renews
- 23. Monetary unit in Asia
- 24. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 27. Carthaginian statesman
- 29. Aged
- 32. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
- 34. Firearm
- 35. Consolation
- 36. An island in the north Atlantic
- 39. Pitching statistic
- 40. Disconsolate
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Call it a career
- 46. Behave in a way that degrades someone
- 47. Health insurance
- 49. Recommend
- 51. Baltic peninsula
- 54. Father
- 59. After B
- 60. Bar bill
- 61. Doctors' group
- 62. 2,000 lbs.
- 64. Equal to one quintillion bytes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Eggs in a female fish
- 2. Military mailbox
- 3. Unit to compare power levels
- 4. Line on a map connecting similar points
- 5. One who accepts
- 6. Partner to cheese
- 7. Ancient Greek sophist
- 8. About hilus
- 9. Southeast
- 10. Where actors ply their trade
- 11. Beloved Philly sandwich



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay
General Manager Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net
Advertising Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net
 Tim Flaherty timflaherty@countytimes.net
Editor Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Staff Writer Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net
Graphic Designer/Layout Artist Jim Lucke jimlucke@countytimes.net
Contributing Writers Laura Joyce, Ron Guy, Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

The St. Mary's County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's County. The St. Mary's 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 St. Mary's County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the St. Mary's County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the St. Mary's County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The St. Mary's County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Friday Sept. 16, 2022

Plein Air Event
Leonardtown Wharf
Leonardtown
:30 PM - 7:30 PM.

This activity is free and open to plein air artists of all levels. Bring your easel and supplies and join us for a community paint along at the beautiful Leonardtown Wharf. Artists are welcome to bring a small table to display and sell their work. Space is limited, please register to attend at brandy.blackstone@leonardtownmd.gov.

NARFE-St. Mary's County, Chapter 969

Come Hear the Latest on Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Association representatives will address our NARFE members at the luncheon/meeting of the St. Mary's National Active & Retired Federal Employees. Reservations are required by Sept 15 and the cost is \$17.00; if you have not already confirmed reservations, please contact Joyce Gentillo 301 645-5006. There will also be a Cake Raffle during this meeting (so bring your donated deserts) to benefit Alz & Hospice. The Luncheon/Meeting begins at 11:30 am; is held at Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown; and the food is prepared by Bailey's Catering Service. Not a member? Contact Geneva for membership details 301-884-5112. Check out our website <http://www.narfe.net/site/chapter969/>

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Picnic

21370 Newtowne Neck Rd
Leonardtown
Mass at 11 am

Picnic from 12 pm to 3 pm

Burgers, hotdogs, sodas and water will be provided.

Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Back to School Breakfast

St. Michael's School
16560 Three Notch Road
Ridge

8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

All you can eat.

Sausage, bacon, eggs potatoes, fruit specialty pancakes, coffee and more.

Dine in and carry out

Adults \$10

Kids\$5
3 and under free
Family Package \$30

East Coast Drifters Fall Classic Car Show

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Road

Mechanicsville 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.

All years Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles are welcome.

Top 70 and several other awards. First 100 receive dash plaques.

Spectators \$5 (under 12 free)

Registration cut-off Noon.

For more info call: Chuck 301-751-5602 or Rich 240-538-4266 <https://eastcoastdrifters.com>

Drive-thru Fried Chicken Dinner

7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary

21530 Colton Point Road

11 a.m. until sold out.

Cost: \$18

Menu: ½ fried chicken, red potatoes, green beans, applesauce and a homemade dessert.

There will be a drawing for the winner of a 50/50 Raffle. Thanks for the support of our fundraisers.

Upcoming

October 1, 2022

Community Yard Sale

Longview Beach Clubhouse
8 am – 2pm

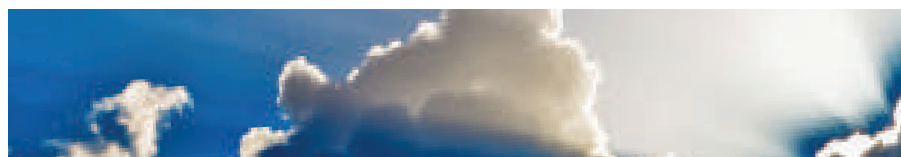
23141 Longview Blvd.

Bushwood

Cruisin' Southern Maryland 100 Mile Car Cruise & Show

All Vehicles invited, cruise through three Southern Maryland counties. Begins at 9:00 am at the Golden Beach Park & Ride (37750 Golden Beach Rd. Charlotte Hall, MD 20622, two blocks from Maryland Route 5) and arrival at the last stop is estimated to be 2:30 pm at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

Registration begins at 7:30 am. Maps and route info will be provided upon arrival. Optional Poker Run available for an additional \$10.00 per entry. Registration Fee is \$30.00 per Vehicle, which includes a free Cruisin' Southern Maryland Event T-Shirt for the first 150 vehicles. www.CruisinSOMD.com (Rain date Oct. 2 weather permitting)



Stuffed Ham. Underneath Bill's tough and strong exterior was the most sentimental heart of gold which will be missed the most by those who knew him.

The family will receive friends on Monday, September 19, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home. Prayers will be recited at 7:00pm. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, with Father Drew Royals officiating. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery Helen, MD.

Condolence may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A. Leonardtown, MD.

Benjamin Joseph Brown



Benjamin Joseph Brown, 38, of Avenue, MD passed away on September 2, 2022 at his ARC home in St. Leonard, Maryland.

He was born on November 12, 1983 in Prince George's County, MD to Samuel Brown and the late

Vicki Lynn (Brogan) Brown.

Benjamin, a special needs person since birth, loved listening to country music. He enjoyed going to church with his ARC family. His favorite things included going to the movies, swimming, and going outside to swing and watch the birds. Going out to eat with family and friends made his day extra special. Benjamin loved his family very much and he was the one who gave the best hugs. He will be missed by many.

He is survived by his father, Samuel and his siblings, Matthew Brown of California, MD and Missy Brown of Woodbury, Tennessee; his nephews Gavin Brown and Connor Brown. He is preceded in death by his mother, Vicki Brown.

Family will receive friends Monday, September 12, 2022 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 with a Funeral Service 11:00 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Josh Darrow. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Serving as pallbearers will be Will Gillingwater, Andy Brown, Randy Brogan, George Brown, Mark Henderson Jr. and Jeff Kulik.

Memorial contributions may be made to The ARC of Southern Maryland, online at arcsomd.org, or mail to 355 West Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

SELECTING THE BEST INVESTMENT VEHICLES FOR YOUR RETIREMENT

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

We've discussed the importance of asset allocation to your success as an investor. Harry Markowitz won a Nobel prize for inventing modern portfolio theory in 1954 based on the concept that if you allocate your assets across a broad enough spectrum of equity, fixed-income and other types of investments, and one of your investments declines in value, the others are likely to take up the slack and keep your investment returns on an even keel.

Pundits refer to asset allocation as the "Rule of 92" meaning 92% of your success as an investor is directly attributable to whether you allocate your assets or not.

Ok, now we know that allocation is the way to go. But, one big problem with asset allocation is, how does an ordinary investor select the proper allocation of stocks versus bonds? The big mutual fund companies like T. Rowe Price, Vanguard, BlackRock and others think they have it all figured out. They do the allocation for you.

TARGET DATE FUNDS:

Target date funds contain a mixture of stocks, bonds and cash. They have a future date in the title you can select to correspond to your retirement date. As you get older, the asset allocation within the fund changes and gets more conservative over time. The fund manager will put fewer assets into stocks which are inherently risky as you get closer to retirement. You do not have to take any action. The fund manager does that for you. You simply pick the date when you think you will retire. For example, suppose you will turn sixty-five in 2020. You pick the 2020 Retirement Fund. You can buy the fund at any age and with a minimum investment, but the target date is what matters.

The big boost for target date funds came in 2006 when pension laws changed so that employers could choose investments for employees who had not designated investments for their 401(k) plans. Target date mutual funds became the most popular investments for employers to offer and to use as a default if employees failed to designate anything else. Fidelity launched its target date funds in 1996; Vanguard in 2003 and T. Rowe Price in 2002—together, those three fund companies control about 75% of the market. Fees for the allocation are included the cost of the funds themselves.

LIFECYCLE MUTUAL FUNDS
Lifecycle funds include cash, stock

and bonds and may include both U.S. and foreign securities. The percentage of funds in each asset class is determined by the fund manager who attempts to earn the highest return possible by switching portfolio weightings in each type of asset class by market conditions. Lifecycle funds generally include three or four "portfolios" with varying percentages of funds in each asset class. The portfolios are designed by fit investors of various ages or risk tolerance levels. For example, Vanguard has a LifeStrategy fund with four asset choices: income (lowest percentage of stock in the portfolio), conservative growth, moderate growth and growth (highest percent of stock in the portfolio). As with target date funds, fees for allocation are included in the cost of the funds.

ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

Active management involves the use of a portfolio manager who works directly with you on your investments. This clearly is the most custom tailored to your wishes. Your portfolio may include everything from securities to real estate. The manager in this case reviews all of your assets and your personal goals with you and selects those types of investments that will give you the most return for a risk that meets your expectations. The upside of professional management is that your strategy is tailored for you. No one except the portfolio manager is going to ask about the strategy you have to exit your small business, for example. That question, along with many others, should be asked by the portfolio manager in order to provide the best retirement approach for you. The fees involved will be a percentage of the assets and, as your assets grow, the fees will grow. This means at the very least that the portfolio manager has a vested interest in seeing your portfolios grow.

Whether you choose target date, lifecycle or active management, the principal is the same. Your success as an investor and an investor preparing for retirement will be directly attributable to whether you allocate your assets or not. As usual, I advise you to investigate before you invest. Take a look at all of the options available to you first, then decide. No one will protect you like yourself.

You are invited to attend a free seminar on estate planning—third Wednesday of every month at 11am at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach, MD 20714. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot. See you there.

In Memory of
Mary Catherine Kane
Sept. 18, 1924 - Nov. 22, 2019

The 18th would have been your birthday. We remember you on this special day as well as everyday. Our hearts still hurt because you are not here with us. Mama your love for us was so precious. So we want to say that we love you and miss you so much.
Happy Birthday
Ellen & Larry

REMEMBRANCES
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The 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 guyleonard@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

In Remembrance

Wellman Lewis "Buddy" Clark, Jr.



Wellman Lewis "Buddy" Clark, Jr., 77, of Great Mills, MD passed away peacefully at his home on September 2, 2022 with his loving family at his side.

He was born on September 29, 1944 in West Lafayette, IN to the late Wellman Lewis Clark, Sr. and Margaret Reynolds.

Buddy is a 1962 graduate of Northwood High School in Silver Spring, MD. He also graduated from Salem County Vocation-

al Technical School in Carneys Point, NJ with a degree in glass blowing. He began his career in glass blowing with the Naval Research Lab in Washington D.C. On June 28, 1969 he married his beloved wife, Camilla Louise "Candy" (nee: Pownell) Clark in Warren, OH. Together they celebrated over 53 wonderful years of marriage. He went on to own and operate Taylor Rental Company for over 18 successful years before his retirement. He was a member of the President's League during his tenure with Taylor Rental's. He also worked during tax season with Jackson Hewitt assisting people with their income taxes.

He was a devoted member of the Hollywood and Leonardtown Church of the Nazarene. He volunteered with many missions and as a summer camp counselor for over 20 years at Summit Lake. He enjoyed many sports and bowled on Esperanza Men's Bowling League with his son, Josh. He was an avid fan of the Washington Redskins and Washington Nationals. He was an umpire for Southern Maryland softball leagues and the church leagues. He also played and coached soccer. He and his

wife enjoyed travelling, especially to Hawaii, Peru, Bermuda and Alaska. Every year they went to Florida to visit his sister and other family. He loved spending time with his family, who were his greatest pride and joy.

In addition to his beloved wife, Candy, Buddy is also survived by his son, Joshua Adam Clark (MaryAnn) of Leonardtown, MD, his sister, Sharon Ingleton (Bill) of Florida; his grandchildren, Miranda Thompson (Russ Dean) of Avenue, MD and Shelby Lynn Thompson of Leonardtown, MD; his great grandson, Trevor Michael Piaquadio of Leonardtown, MD; his nieces, Stacey R. Waters Chayka (Bobby) of Leonardtown, MD and Camilla Helmbrecht of Mechanicsville, VA; his nephew, Scott Ingleton of WV; his great nephews: Hudson, Archer, and Lincoln Chayka, all of Leonardtown, MD; and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Family will receive friends for Buddy's Life Celebration on Friday, September 16, 2022 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., with a Funeral Service celebrated at 11:00 a.m. by Reverend Eric Folk, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions maybe made to the Leonardtown Nazarene Church, P.O. Box 1110, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

You can watch the live stream at Buddys Livestream.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.



William Dixon "Billy", and his granddaughter, Lauren Dixon, all of Helen, Maryland.

Bill proudly served as a Lead Shop Mechanic in the PEPCO General Shops on Bennings Road, retiring after 37 years of service in 2002. During his career, he especially enjoyed his assignments at the Chalk Point and Morgantown plants where he made many lifelong friendships and fit in some extra fishing time nearby after work.

During retirement, you would most often find Bill spending time outdoors, usually on his tractor or on his porch swing with an ice cold "beverage" in hand watching the deer or wild turkeys make their way through the backyard. Watching the beauty of the hardwood trees surrounding him brought him peace and he spent countless hours admiring them. He looked forward to the site of a neatly stacked and split wood pile just before the cool weather arrived. He loved classic cars and was proud of his die cast car collection depicting models from the 1930s through 1960s. His most favorite model was a 1956 Chevrolet, similar to the one he drove as a young teen. This paired well with his love of Rockabilly music, which he could be caught blasting in his garage on any given day.

Bill taught his family the value in working hard in life so that you appreciate things much more. He was the fixer of all things and automatically there to take care of anything for family and friends without hesitation. He looked forward to kicking off the Christmas holidays with his annual tradition of cooking both an Olde Ham and

William Floyd Dixon, "Bill"

William Floyd Dixon, "Bill", of Helen, Maryland passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his his loving family on September 12, 2022. Born on January 4, 1947, he was the son of the late William "Johnny" and Marie (Ronayne) Dixon. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Donna (Gallerizzo) Dixon, children Cynthia Dixon "Cindy" and



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Reserve space for the obituary by 3 p.m. each Tuesday. Submit the obituary by 10 a.m. on Wednesday to aldailey@countytimes.net. Include photo and text. The Obituary publishes on Thursday. Direct questions to aldailey@countytimes.net.

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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Hyder Awarded 2021 Grampaw Pettibone Individual Award



Lt. Samuel T. Hyder, Safety Officer with Scientific Development Squadron (VXS) 1, was recently presented with the 2021 Grampaw Pettibone Individual Award. Hyder was presented the award in the hangar at VXS-1 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Maryland.

The Grampaw Pettibone Individual Award is presented by the Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN) and recognizes individuals and organizations that contribute the most toward aviation safety through publications and media resources.

Hyder was nominated for the award for publishing an article, "The Aircraft is Un-Landable," in Approach Magazine Vol. 63, No. 4. The magazine is published by NAVSAFECEN and highlights aviation safety protocols and mishaps and associated lessons learned.

Hyder's article detailed an incident where he was the aircraft commander on a routine P-3C Orion training flight out of NAS Whidbey Island, Washington. During the flight, Hyder and his crew felt an abnormal vibration

during touch-and-go maneuvers, presenting them with the possibility of unsafe landing gear. Immediately assessing their options, Hyder decided to continue the takeoff and requested a visual check of the landing gear to be performed by the tower and runway duty officer. The tower reported "both nose tires were gone, the nose landing looks bent and the aircraft looks un-landable."

The flight crew discussed their options, developed a plan and informed the remaining crew of the situation. Using time critical operational risk management, the crew implemented several prudent measures to mitigate the possibility of a nose strut collapse and executed a safe landing on what turned out to be two blown nose-wheel tires.

The nomination letter, submitted by I.J. Lilyquist, then-Commanding Officer of VXS-1, said, "the thought-provoking and well-written article stands out from others I have read in its simply written reflections on the thoughts that go through an aviator's head when the unexpected happens. Lt. Hyder's article bril-

liantly captures the nearly instantaneous decisions that pilots often need to make and sometimes fear ... articles like this promote an environment where candid safety discussions are the norm, helping to mitigate the risk we take with us every time we step on the flight line."

Hyder is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He enrolled in the Navy ROTC program in 2011 at the University of Notre Dame. After receiving a commission in 2015, he then proceeded to NAS Pensacola, Florida, for initial flight training.

Upon completion of indoctrination in Pensacola, Hyder proceeded to Corpus Christi, Texas, to complete primary and advanced multi-engine flight training, earning his Naval Aviator wings of gold in 2017. After

initial P-3 Pilot training in Jacksonville, Florida, he proceeded to his initial operating assignment at Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 1 in Whidbey Island.

During his time at VQ-1, Hyder conducted electronic warfare missions out of Japan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Cuba. He served in

various positions such as Assistant Operations Officer, 100 Division Officer, Readiness Officer and Wardroom Treasurer (Bull). He was designated an Instructor Pilot and received the squadron nomination for the 2020 Order of the Daedalians Award.

Hyder has been at VXS-1 since November 2020. Since then, he has been the Safety Officer, Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Officer, Training Officer and Senior Watch Officer. He has been instrumental in the coordination and execution of multiple projects, including NEXUS and IMPACT II.

Hyder has logged over 1,400 pilot hours in his career. His awards include the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, in addition to various other unit and campaign awards.

Hyder lives with his wife Riley and three sons—David, Calvin and Julius—in Patuxent River, Maryland.

Police Investigating Single Vehicle Collision in Mechanicsville



Photos courtesy of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department.

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, at approximately 10:30 a.m., police, fire and rescue personnel responded to the area of Golden Beach and Road All Faith Church Road in Mechanicsville, for the motor vehicle accident with a reported vehicle into the pond and the operator slumped over the wheel.

Units arrived and confirmed a single vehicle accident, partially in the pond and into a tree. Quick assessment of the vehicle found no one in it.

Rescue Squad 2 personnel donned wet suits and entered the water to check the pond and area around the vehicle.

Law enforcement personnel advised they had received information the operator had been picked up from the scene by another vehicle and was reportedly travelling to a local hospital.

Police are investigating the collision. All fire and rescue personnel returned to service after approximately 40 minutes.

ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Violate Protective Order

On August 31, 2022, Dep. Lawrence contacted the victim who advised **Christopher Shannon Bridgett**, age 24 of Mechanicsville, had violated a protective order by sending the victim a message from the detention center. Dep. Lawrence responded to the to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, and charged Bridgett with Violate Protective Order.

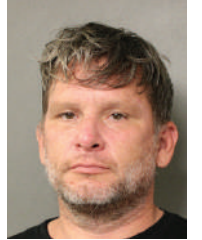


Christopher Shannon Bridgett

and Trespass: Private Property.

Assault

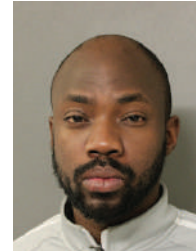
On September 1, 2022, Dep. Deinert responded to the 21600 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Denis Migdael Florian Giron**, age 29 of Lexington Park, assaulted the victim by punching the victim in the face, cutting the victim's face with a knife, and strangling the victim. Florian Giron was arrested and charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree.



Jason Edward Midkiff

Theft

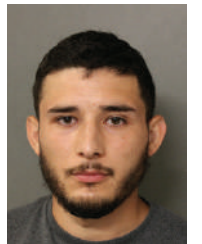
On August 31, 2022, Dep. Wimberly responded to the a theft in progress at the California Walmart. While responding to the call, Dep. Wimberly observed the suspect vehicle and initiated a traffic stop in the 22000 block of Chancellor's Run Road in California. Located in the vehicle was **Richard Alvin Nolan III**, age 34 of Lusby, as well as the stolen property from the business. Investigation determined Nolan was previously issued a notice not to trespass at the business and the vehicle he was utilizing had been previously reported stolen. Nolan was arrested and charged with Theft, Vehicle Fail to Return,



Richard Alvin Nolan III

Drug Arrest

On September 4, 2022, Dep. Jerew responded to the 21600 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, for the reported unconscious individual. Dep. Jerew was able to wake the individual, identified as **Jason Edward Midkiff**, age 38 of Great Mills. Midkiff had two outstanding warrants for his arrest and he was taken into custody. Located in Midkiff's backpack were two glass vials containing suspected cocaine. Midkiff was served the outstanding warrants and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana.



Denis Migdael Florian Giron

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Editor's Note

The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



HOPEFUL REBOOT

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Captain's log star date July 2021. My wife and I had planned a vacation to a location with smaller latitudes, palm trees and, as much of a lock as the sun's morning rise, plenty of adult beverages. In the weeks leading up to the trip, spiking airfare costs and the surging Delta variant of our ever-mutating, but ever-present nemesis COVID caused us to postpone "Plan A" to another day, another economic situation and another less sinister phase of our COVID dance.

The question then was, if not a tropical paradise, where would this adventure lead? While I prefer to characterize my wife and I as open-minded and flexible, indecisive is completely fair too. A coin flip is sometimes (or usually) how we choose a dinner location. As our scheduled departure date neared, the pressure was detectable. Several destinations were discussed with neither of us selling or buying any candidate. The waffling mercifully ended when my wife, while staring at a Google map on her computer screen, ended an awkward pause in our conversation with an unexpected question.

"Do you want to go to Buffalo?" The suggestion was bizarre enough to be intriguing. It was an order off the menu; a play call draw up in the dirt, not off any rehearsed script. Buffalo bound we were. Two days after heading north, I was standing in front of Buffalo's City Hall when a 30-year-old sports memory came rushing back: this was where Buffalo Bills fans gathered after a difficult Super Bowl XXV loss to the New York Giants to welcome their Bills home and comfort kicker Scott Norwood, who, after missing a game-winning 42-yard field goal on the game's last play, would have been a scorned goat in any other NFL locale.

About a year later, Labor Day weekend 2022 to be exact, Norwood and the Bills' moment at City Hall was on my television screen. A late-night channel surf discovered a documentary on the early-1990s Bills – teams that appeared in, and lost, four straight Super Bowls. In the season after that heart-breaking loss to the Giants, Washington defeated Buffalo in a much more definitive way in Super

Bowl XXVI. Long-time Bill Steve Tasker, a 13-year NFL veteran who played in Super Bowls against Bill Parcells's Giants and Jimmy Johnson's Cowboys, called that 1991-92 Washington team his Bills lost to in Super Bowl XXVI the best he faced in his career.

I rewatched Tasker's statement several times (sometimes technology is great). Washington's football franchise used to be the very best; confirming artifacts – Sports Illustrated magazines, pennants, t-shirts and Wheaties boxes – have consumed a closet in my house. But after three decades of mostly misery on the field and embarrassment off of it, the joy of that far-off time has dulled. The sea of burgundy and gold that used to dominate at home games is now counterbalanced by the opposition's colors and empty seats. It is a perfect – and sad and undeniable - metaphor for a franchise torn down to its foundation.

That I stumbled on this Bills documentary and Tasker's homage to Washington's 1991 championship crew just days before the 2022 team's first game as the re-branded Washington Commanders, felt like something more than just coincidence. It was a reminder of what once was, how far the organization has fallen and what this reboot might make possible again. Of course, the promised culture changes and actual name and branding changes lacked what Washington needed most – a new owner; but last Sunday's Commanders' debut, a win no less, did feel like something more than just the start of a new season. Maybe the last few disgraceful years – the latent and awkward burial of the R-word, the disgraceful treatment of women in the organization, the league and Congressional inquiries – will provide the scorched football landscape that Washington needed for a meaningful rejuvenation. Difficult periods in life - divorce, unemployment, personal loss, etc. – sometimes work that way. The good news for the Commanders: the bar is incredibly low. Most fans, this one included, would settle for a competitive team, an ethically and morally grounded organization, and not a single peep from ownership.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

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- Charles County Fair 4H Livestock Auction**
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022 @ 6:30 pm
- Charles Co. Fair Wood Carving & Glass Blowing Auction**
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022 @ 4 pm
- St. Mary's County Fair 4H Clubs Cake Auction**
Friday, Sept. 23rd, 6:30 (Prior to Lightweight Horsepull)
- St. Mary's County Fair 4H Livestock Auction**
Saturday, Sept. 24th, 6 pm – Main Livestock Showing
- Online Auction for the Estate of Jimmy Banagan**
"Coming Soon" (September/early October).
- Mechanicsville Rescue Squad Aux. Auction**
FRI, OCT 14th @ 6 PM - Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
- Fall Harvest Auction**
(Mums, Pumpkins, Fall Produce, Locally-Raised, USDA Meats – Quilts – Crafts – More)
SAT. OCT. 8TH @ 4 PM - Westfield Farm – Mechanicsville, MD
- Grocery Auction:** Hughesville VFD – SAT, OCT 22nd @ 5 PM
- Grocery Auction:** Mother Catherine Acad. THURS NOV 17th, 6 pm
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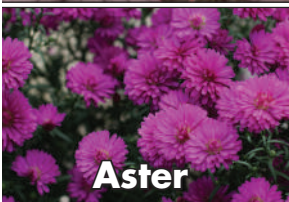
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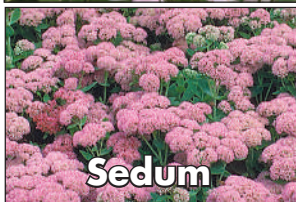
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New Ambulance Stationed at Veterans Home



The Commissioners showcased the new ambulance permanently stationed at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and recognized funding support from Maryland Senator Jack Bailey and Secretary George Owings III of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commissioners approved the purchase of the ambulance with county funds and an allocation of \$200,000 from the Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in February.

The full-service ambulance is stationed at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. It is staffed daily with Emergency Medical Technicians with the primary duty to serve the veterans and secondarily any emergency requests that may arise in the Charlotte Hall area. Since Aug. 8, 2022, the ambulance has responded to 48 calls,

including 12 for the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

"St. Mary's County always takes care of our own, and taking care of our Veterans is especially important. Adding a permanent ambulance at the Veterans Home exemplifies our commitment to the men and women who have served our community and our country. We are thankful for Senator Bailey and Secretary Owings recognizing the critical need for this service and providing funding," said Commissioner President Randy Guy.

Pictures of the ambulance, crew, and dignitaries may be viewed on the St. Mary's County Government Flickr page by clicking here <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqJA76xb>.

For more information on St. Mary's County Government Emergency Services, please visit <https://www.stmarysm.com/es/emergencyservices/>.

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Oakville Community Perseverance Honored

50 Year Anniversary Celebrated



Residents of King and Kennedy Estates in Oakville celebrated 50 years of building an affordable-living community this week and received a proclamation from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County honoring their achievement. —Guy Leonard photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

Jocelyn Pettit and Ellen Gira, with Richard Osban on Guitar

In Concert - Friday, September 23rd 7:30 PM

Christ Church Parish Hall, Chaptico
Enjoy a musical evening, featuring high-energy tunes and songs, with nuanced fiddle-cello interplay, richly interwoven vocal harmonies, lively stepdancing and French Canadian foot percussion.

From Canada and the US, Jocelyn Pettit & Ellen Gira are a dynamic fiddle & cello duo. First meeting in Scotland in 2018, they joined their musical forces, and have since been gracing stages and captivating audiences in both North America and the UK. Fusing together traditional and contemporary influences, Jocelyn & Ellen create powerfully uplifting and soulful music. Their instruments weave a rhythmically driving and textured sound, with nuanced fiddle-cello interplay through delicate and fortissimo arrangements. They bring life and fire into their original melodies, and high-energy tunes from Scotland, Ireland, North America, and Scandinavia -complemented by richly interwoven vocal harmonies, and lively Canadian stepdancing.

Performance highlights include Celtic Connections (Scotland), Niel Gow Festival (Scotland), Edinburgh Castle (Scotland), Northwest Folklife Festival (USA), and Folk Alliance International (USA). They have also performed for HRH Prince Charles, and been featured in live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3. Their debut album, "All It Brings", will be released in Summer 2022.

Advance sales through TicketLeap - cash or check at the door. Go to SMTMD.org for more information. Tickets: \$15 SMTMD members; \$20 Non-members.





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Thank you for your generosity in supporting seniors in our community.

Ribbon-Cutting Launches St. Mary's County Health Hub

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, September 8, 2022, to celebrate the official launch of the St. Mary's County Health Hub.

In 2021, the St. Mary's County Equity Task Force, in partnership with the Housing Authority of St. Mary's County (HASMC) announced plans for the St. Mary's County Health Hub.

The 6,200 square-foot facility, located at 21625 Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, was donated by PNC Bank to HASMC to be used by the health department for COVID-19 pandemic response, behavioral health crisis stabilization services, and other programs to promote wellness. SMCHD and a variety of community partners will roll these services out over the next several months.

Currently, the Health Hub offers a broad range of scientifically proven interventions through the SMCHD Harm Reduction Program to promote safety, infection prevention, and recovery for community members with a substance use disorder. COVID-19 testing and vaccine appointments have also been available at the Health Hub location.

Future Hub services planned

for launch over the next several months include:

- Behavioral health crisis stabilization services
- Jail diversion programs that emphasize mental health and substance use treatment
- Primary care health services (e.g., routine preventative care, immunizations, health screenings, diagnosis/treatment, etc.)
- Coaching, workshops, and other trainings to support violence prevention, conflict resolution, housing stability, employment and financial well-being, literacy and academic tutoring, and youth mentoring

"The health department team is grateful for our partnership with PNC Bank, the Sheriff's Office, Public Schools, and Housing Authority in establishing this facility and for the support of our state and local elected officials in getting it ready. Many community partners are coming together to turn the vision for this Health Hub into a reality," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "This facility and the private-public partnership supporting its use will greatly benefit our community members and their families. We're excited to get it going!"



Special thanks to the Hub Alliance Partners, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission, and to our local health care providers, first responders, and behavioral health support organizations.

Hub Alliance Partners:

- Community Mediation Center of St. Mary's County
- Greater Baden Medical Services
- Housing Authority of St. Mary's County
- JobSource
- Literacy Council of St. Mary's County
- MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

- Minority Outreach Coalition
- NAACP Branch #7025
- PALM Public Consultants
- PNC Bank
- Stella's Girls, Inc.
- St. Mary's County Department of Social Services
- St. Mary's County Health Department
- St. Mary's County Library
- St. Mary's County Public Schools
- St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office
- Three Oaks Shelter
- WellCheck
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- Jelani Cobb, award-winning writer, author and thoughtful voice in progressive politics;
- Mara Liasson, a national political correspondent for NPR and frequent Fox News Channel contributor;
- Bill Kristol, a dyed-in-the-wool conservative and founder of influential publications such as "The Weekly Standard" and "The Bulwark."

The panel is funded by the College's Andrew J. Goodpaster Endowed Leadership and Honor Lecture Series.



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Kovalcik Helps People Connect With God, Nature

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Nestled away on Breton Bay in Leonardtown since 1937, Camp Maria has provided a place for groups of all kinds to hold retreats to heal from trauma, focus on building and strengthening relationships or getting closer to God in a simple, serene and natural environment.

Ann Kovalcik, its director for the past 12 years, is responsible for ensuring that those seeking time to relax, enjoy and connect can do so with as few problems as possible.

But the person who has to ensure everyone else's enjoyment, often does not experience much of it themselves.

Kept busy by constantly overseeing the housing, food service, maintenance and programs offered at Camp Maria, Kovalcik still finds ways to enjoy the serenity of the place when she can.

To Kovalcik, Camp Maria is more than a place to simply relax.

"For me and this place... we needed to be doing more ministry work," Kovalcik told The County Times. "It's not just a conference center

"I wanted to give people the experience of connecting in God's nature; connecting is the beginning of healing."

Working with the camp's board of directors, operations staff and a supportive community willing to donate to keep the place open, Kovalcik said it almost all came to a screeching halt during the pandemic.

"Covid-19 hit Camp Maria really hard," Kovalcik said. "I didn't think we'd be able to do it financially."

But get through the pandemic they did, and now retreat groups are once again reserving time to come to stay in one of Camp Maria's cottages.

In the summer time, the camp can take up to 120 visitors, in the winter it's 51, Kovalcik said.

All of the financial problems Kovalcik and the Camp Maria family had to deal with paled in comparison to her own struggles; her son died last year after a long struggle with opioid addiction.

Through that sad and traumatic journey, she said she learned how important it was to "be present with someone, not try to fix them, just be with them."

Kovalcik called 2021 the "worst year of her life" but she said through it all she remembered how important it was to be gentle with everyone around her, because you never really knew what people were dealing with.



It brought new focus to her life-long mission of helping people — she's a trained social worker who spent years as a county employee helping to stem the tide of substance abuse in the 1980 before taking a job as a guidance counselor at St. Mary's Ryken High School in 1992.

"I loved St. Mary's Ryken," she said, noting that she thought she would probably never leave working there.

But the job at Camp Maria called and she took it in 2010.

Providing a place of gentle reflection and a place where people can connect is a mission she still pursues at the age of 62.

She has been married to her husband Mark for 40 years and has a daughter, Maura.

She graduated from St. Mary's Academy — one half of what now makes up St. Marys' Ryken High School — in 1978 and learned from the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth who ran the school.

"They had an incredible impact

on me," Kovalcik said of the sisterhood. "They helped me to consider large views of life."

Always at the center of their teachings, she said, was a Christ-focused mission of helping others.

That mission carried over to Camp Maria.

Right now, Kovalcik is focused on finding ways to bring new programs to the retreat center, modernizing it but still keeping its sense of constant tranquil and unspoiled isolation.

Groups renting retreat space there are the ones who have brought their own programs for decades, Kovalcik said, but she and the board of directors are working to change that.

Christ-centered yoga is one program they have brought on board and are working to bring on arts-based programs for campers, too, Kovalcik said.

One program Camp Maria has hosted is called Camp Creation, which is for campers aged 7 to 14, designed to connect them to God

through appreciation of nature.

"It's to get them outside, playing together and to become more aware of their environment," Kovalcik said, adding that Camp Maria must continue to be self-sustaining.

Her vision is to see it grow into an ecumenical, eco-friendly retreat center where visitors can find ways to connect with God, the environment and each other.

"That's where I need to put my focus," Kovalcik said, who was recently honored with the William Donald Schaefer award by Comptroller Peter Franchot for helping others. "To keep Camp Maria self-sustaining so it will continue when I leave."

While she plans to move on from Camp Maria eventually, Kovalcik said she relishes working there.

"My connection is my faith and my connector is God," Kovalcik said. "It's [being at Camp Maria] a gift to me.

"God sent me here."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Lexington Park Royal Farms Appeals Dropped

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The construction of a new Royal Farms convenience store and gas station on the corner of Tulagi Place in Lexington Park seems imminent now that appeals to the stop the project moving forward have been dropped.

Michele Rosenfeld, attorney for appellants Julia King and James Carr and intervenors Linda Palchinsky and the Unified Committee for African American Contributions (UCAC), told the county Board of Appeals Sept. 8 that her clients were dropping their appeals after they had come to an agreement with Royal Farms for some form of compensation.

At an appeals board meeting Aug. 25, when the deal was first proffered by Chris Longmore, attorney for Royal Farms, said his client agreed to fund an in-depth historical documentation to include oral histories of Tulagi Place, provide relocation assistance for Linda's Café, owned by Palchinsky, make improvements to the Elmer Brown Freedom Park to mitigate traffic impacts and also help fund a community garden there.



The buildings on Tulagi Place, owned by the Whitlow family based in Virginia, would be demolished in favor of the new Royal Farms construction project.

Nathaniel Lawrence, president of UCAC, said he could not comment on the finalized terms of the agreement between the appellants and Royal Farms as they were held in confidence.

"They are acceptable," Lawrence told The County Times of the newly minted agreement.

Another person with knowledge of the deal, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the terms were "better than nothing."

The appellants had petitioned the Board of Appeals for a hearing to forestall the project, arguing that the county Planning Commission had erred in its decision of Apr. 25 to approve the project's concept site plan because it did not take into account the historical nature of the buildings to be demolished nor the impacts to

traffic that such a project would have on Great Mills Road and Route 235 intersection which sits immediately across from Gate 2 of NAS Patuxent River.

Royal Farms argued that the appellants did not have legal standing to pursue their appeal against the project; the appeals would be dismissed if the board ruled that the appellants had no standing.

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Alt Resigns From Leonardtown Council



Heather Earhart



Tyler Alt

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Leonardtown Mayor Dan Burris announced this week that town council member Tyler Alt had resigned his position with the town effective Sept. 9 in an apparent move to take advantage of a new job offer in Florida.

Burris made the announcement at the council's Sept. 12 business meeting.

Alt recently won re-election to the town council in May.

"He wasn't ready to step down as a council member but the new job offer wasn't something he could pass up," Burris told the council.

Alt was not in attendance at the meeting.

According to a town ordinance, the council was responsible for voting to name a successor for Alt's empty seat; they chose Heather Earhart to fill out the remainder of Alt's term, which is set to end in 2026.

Burris recommended Earhart as the nominee as she had the next highest number of votes compared to Alt's in the recent election.

"We should listen to the residents that voted," Burris said. "We'd be listening to the people

of the town."

Earhart has served on the town's planning and zoning commission since 2008.

Earhart lives in the Academy Hills community and is a program manager for a government contractor.

"She has a good history with the town," Burris said.

Council member Mary Maday Slade said she felt confident in researching Earhart's background that the council would get a strong new member.

"She passed with flying colors on my end," Slade said.

Earhart, who was in attendance at the Monday meeting, received unanimous acclamation from the four remaining council members.

She is to be sworn into her new office at the next town council meeting, Burris said, which is scheduled for October.

During her spring campaign for office, Earhart said she wanted to help implement the downtown and waterfront strategic plans as well as find ways to aid small businesses and persuade property owners to reduce leasing prices to bring new businesses to fill vacant storefronts.

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Veterans Home, Base Security Facing Staffing Shortages

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is operating far below its capacity, said County Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy this week, because of a critical shortage in staff needed to properly run the care facility.

Guy said he learned of the problem after attending a veterans affairs committee meeting as part of the larger Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland recently.

"It was pretty enlightening about some of the problems we were having in our medical community and the [Department of Veterans Affairs]" Guy said during the Sept. 13 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "The veterans home here in Charlotte Hall is only 63 percent occupied.

"They have closed it down — almost — because they can't get help."

The shortages include registered nurses, maintenance and food preparation staff, Guy said.

"They can't get the people to apply for the jobs," he continued. "Almost an entire wing is closed down because of that

"People are standing in line waiting to get in there but they don't have the care available."

According to social media posts from the veterans home their staffing needs also run to drivers, nursing assistants, activities assistants, laundry aides, grounds keepers and housekeeping.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is the only state-run facility to house veterans in Maryland.

Recent traffic backups at the three operational entrance gates to Patuxent River Naval Air Station have also become a problem.

"There was a little jam up this morning at the gate," said Commissioner Todd Morgan. "The skipper [Capt. Derrick Kingsley] and I have been on the phone since bright and early this morning and we had this discussion last week.

"The bottom line is that there are staffing and manning issues on the base; they're going through a security drill right now that requires them to be in different places at different times."

Morgan posted a message from Kingsley on his social media account.

"I regret to inform the team that I can no longer support the extra lanes during morning rush at Gates 1 and 2," Kingsley wrote. "Additionally, I have temporarily ordered modifications to Gate 3; open only



Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

during morning rush 0600-0900 vice 0530-1800.

"We are working with our region commander on manning shortages and will do everything to provide relief at the gates as soon as we can.

"We appreciate everyone's patience as we work [through] this. Safety and security of the base and our workforce remain our number one priority."

Morgan, who works for a defense contractor and spends a significant

amount of time on base, said he had not witnessed any recent traffic jams during afternoon hours when employees were leaving the base.

"For some reason," Morgan said, Kingsley cut down the number of access lanes leading into the base on the morning of Sept. 13.

Morgan said the morning traffic was still not as bad as it could be.

"It's nothing like what it was pre-COVID 19," Morgan said.

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Cornfield Harbor Bridge To Be Replaced

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A small bridge connecting a rural community to Route 5 in Scotland is getting funding from the federal government through the state to get replaced after years of use.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved an agreement with the Maryland Department of Transportation this week at their Sept. 13 meeting that will fund the project to replace the Cornfield Harbor Bridge.

According to county government documents the bridge was identified in 2018 as needing replacement.

"The structure was built in 1970 and rehabilitated in 2008 with the replacement of the timber deck," county records show. "The project is within tidal wetland limits and requires coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers."

The bridge replacement is estimated to cost \$2.06 million, of which the county will pay \$453,200, county documents show.

Designing the new bridge is set for this fiscal year, with construction scheduled to begin in fiscal 2025.

St. Mary's County currently has 14

bridges in the Federal Bridge Replacement Program, to which the supplemental agreement pertains. The federal bridge program includes inspections, design, program management and construction funding for repair or replacement of bridges in the program.

The commissioners voted 4 to 0 to approve the supplemental agreement to use the federal funding.

Jim Gotsch, director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, said the current plan would likely replace the bridge at "it's current level," which is roughly the same as the roadway upon which it is built of the same name.

Gotsch said, however, in response to a question from Commissioner Mike Hewitt, that his team could inquire during the design phase of the state if they could raise the height of the bridge to accommodate boats to the harbor.

Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy commented that the area there under the bridge was mostly marshland and was not readily navigable.

The bridge crosses over Pt. Lookout Creek and All Pond.

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Ham Autopsy Raises Questions On Teen's Killing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A copy of the autopsy of Peyton Ham, the 16-year-old shot and killed by a Maryland State Trooper last year in Leonardtown, shows that several of the shots fired at him were fired at a downward trajectory.

This seems to match statements made by several witnesses to the incident who said the trooper fired on Ham when the decedent was still on his knees and not when the teen was alleged to have risen to his feet with a knife to move towards the officer as earlier reported.

Tpr. Joseph Azzari, the law officer who shot Ham, is currently being sued by the teen's family in federal district court; they are seeking damages for what they allege was their son's wrongful killing.

An investigation of Azzari and his actions on Apr. 13, 2021 by both the Maryland State Police and State's Attorney Richard Fritz found no wrongdoing on his part and did not pursue any criminal charges.

Ham's family disputes those findings in their lawsuit against Azzari and in prior statements regarding the investigation into the death of their son.

In their lawsuit, Ham's family have said their multiple requests for a complete autopsy report of their son have been denied, Maryland Public Information Act requests to the Medical Examiner's Office by The County Times were also denied.

Their e-mail to The County Times from the Medical Examiner's Office stated Fritz had not yet authorized the report to be released.

The first four gunshots listed in the autopsy appear to be the last ones fired—seven shots out of 15 fired that day struck Ham.

Prior reports showed that Ham died after being struck by the second salvo of rounds fired from Azzari's duty weapon.

The first three shots to hit Ham were peripheral wounds and occurred at the outset of the engagement.

One gunshot to hit Ham listed in the autopsy report entered his left neck and



Peyton Ham

penetrated into the chest wall on Ham's right side.

The next shot listed in the report was also to Ham's left neck that was recovered on the right-side chest wall, but did not enter the actual chest cavity.

Both of these shots traveled "from the decedent's front to back, left to right and downward," the report stated.

Ham was 6-foot tall, the autopsy reported and weighed 233 pounds.

The next shot the report listed to Ham's body was to the lateral left chest, with no vital structures damaged; it's path was from front to back, left to right and slightly downward.

The fourth shot listed entered at the posterior left shoulder and hit Ham's lung while coming to rest in his back; this shot was also listed as being on a downward trajectory.

Three other shots that hit Ham which appear to be the first rounds actually fired, were one to the posterior upper arm, posterior left arm and posterior right forearm all had an upward trajectory, the report stated.

Ham was killed when Azzari, responding to a 911 call to Ham's address just yards from the Leonardtown barracks, fired on him after Ham pointed what appeared to be a handgun at the trooper.

That 911 call was later found to have

been made by Ham.

The gun was later found to be a replica that shot BB-style projectiles.

After opening fire on Ham with about 10 shots from his duty weapon, Ham eventually went to the ground, on his knees, dropping the replica pistol.

Ham was wounded and bleeding profusely but was said to have produced a knife and brandished it, according to the official report.

When Ham would not comply with the trooper's order to drop the knife he opened fire, striking Ham in the chest, killing him, official reports stated.

According to the official report one eye witness said Ham was standing, holding the knife, while Azzari said he fired when Ham was attempting to get back up.

In the official report's account, Azzari said Ham was on his feet with the knife when he fired again.

"Trooper Azzari, reported that [Ham] then said he wanted to die and stood up and approached Trooper Azari with his knife still in his hand," the report stated. "The Trooper Azzari was once more in fear of his life and discharged his weapon again."

Three women who witnessed the shooting and spoke to The County Times in November of 2021 say Azzari's dispute the official account; one of them was Ham's grandmother, Victoria Boyle.

All three eye witnesses who spoke to The County Times say the official account is false.

"He didn't move, he was almost like a statue," Boyle said of her grandson as he was on his knees. "I saw the knife in his left hand; I never saw him raise his hands or raise the knife."

"He moved his [left] hand but only from his wrist down."

Boyle said she watched her grandson get hit with the final rounds from Azzari's weapon.

"I wanted him to drop the knife," Boyle said of Ham immediately before he was shot. "He didn't drop it but he didn't do anything with it either."

"When I saw him, he was on his knees

and he stayed there; he didn't hardly move at all."

Both Michelle Mills and Allison Mills, who were working from home at the time, were alerted by the multiple shots Azzari fired in their backyard.

They went to a window in their home, which was next door to Ham's residence, and saw Azzari approach Ham before the second volley of shots.

"He kept saying 'Show me the knife,'" Michelle said of Azzari's initial orders to Ham after he was on his knees. "I'm absolutely sure that's what he said to Peyton."

Eventually, a short video picture Michelle took of the incident shows that Azzari did order Peyton to drop the knife before shooting him.

Michelle Mills said she never saw Ham approach the trooper.

"Peyton never moved from that spot," Michelle Mills said. "He [Ham] made the slightest move with his left foot and then the police officer shot him."

"He [Ham] didn't lunge at him."

Michelle Mills told The County Times that when she saw Azzari shoot Ham, the trooper was at least 10 feet away.

She said she came forward with the same testimony she gave in front of the Grand Jury "only because the grand jury found that they weren't going to hold anyone accountable for anything."

Allison Mills' testimony closely mirrored that of her mother; she said she saw Ham move his right foot up to the point where his toes were pressing against the ground before Azzari fired.

"He wasn't picking his entire leg off the ground," Allison Mills said in a phone interview.

She said in the aftermath of the shooting, which took place on their property, she could see no blood trails indicating that Ham had moved from the spot where he had initially been shot.

"His blood was puddling in one area," Allison said. "I don't think he moved from that spot ever before I saw it."

All three women said they saw the bullets strike Ham.

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SWAT Detains Suspect in Business Park Shooting

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county sheriff's office tactical team was called out to a situation in the Abberly Crest community just off Willows Road to apprehend a suspect for an alleged shooting at a nearby business complex in Lexington Park on Wednesday.

The shooting, according to sheriff's officials, occurred in the area of 46600 Expedition Drive on the north-bound lanes of Three Notch Road shortly before 11a.m. Sept. 14.

The suspect has been detained, sheriff's officials said, their name will be released once they are formally charged.

Tenants inside the building, which houses multiple defense industry contractors, reported hearing gunshots and called for police; no one was injured according to police officials and only the building was struck by the gunfire multiple times.

"This does not appear to be gang-related," said Jason Babcock, spokesperson for the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Babcock said later the alleged shooting did not appear to be a random act of violence.

Lexington Park has been rocked by recent gun violence that has been mostly gang-related.

About two hours after the shooting occurred, the sheriff's office issued an alert for the Orchid Bloom Way section of Abberly Crest to be warned of police activity and to stay inside or avoid the area if possible.

A mobile command post and armored police vehicle used by the tactical team arrived shortly thereafter.

Police actively worked to evacuate the apartment building in Abberly Crest where the suspect was located.

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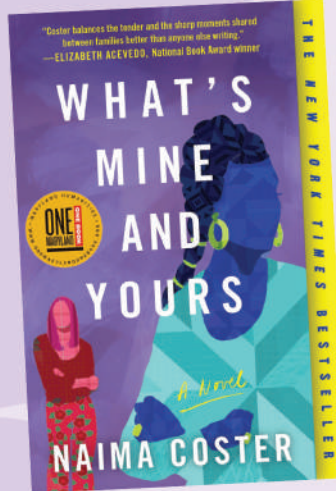
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“PEOPLE ARE STANDING IN LINE WAITING TO GET IN THERE BUT THEY DON’T HAVE THE CARE AVAILABLE.”
 COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT RANDY GUY ON STAFFING SHORTAGES AT CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME



LOCAL 6
 Staffing shortages hobble Charlotte Hall Veterans Home



9
 Kovcik helps people make connections at Camp Maria.



COMMUNITY 11
 King and Kennedy Estates honored for their 50 years as a self-built community

WEEKLY FORECAST

Provided by www.accuweather.com

THU 9/15		80° /59°	Mostly sunny	MON 9/19		87° /69°	Humid; a stray p.m. t-storm
FRI 9/16		80° /60°	Hazy sunshine	TUE 9/20		89° /69°	thunderstorm; humid
SAT 9/17		81° /62°	Sunny to partly cloudy	WED 9/21		88° /69°	A couple of showers
SUN 9/18		87° /66°	Times of clouds and sun	THU 9/22		89° /70°	A shower in the morning





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