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Calvert County Times

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**Commissioners Call for
School Board Audit**

**Twin Beach Library
Gets More Funding**

**School Project
Budgets At Odds**

**FAIR DAYS
COMING TO CALVERT**



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“I’M NOT SCARED OF AN AUDIT.”

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT BUDDY HANCE



LOCAL 4
Twin Beach library gets more funding



LOCAL 5
Commissioners raise development rights price



ON THE COVER
Calvert prepares for the County Fair

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, SEP 21</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>FRI, SEP 22</p> <p>PM Showers Hi: 73° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>SAT, SEP 23</p> <p>Rain/Wind Hi: 68° Lo: 57°</p>	<p>SUN, SEP 24</p> <p>Showers Hi: 73° Lo: 59°</p>
<p>MON, SEP 25</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>TUE, SEP 26</p> <p>PM Showers Hi: 74° Lo: 60°</p>	<p>WED, SEP 27</p> <p>Showers Hi: 69° Lo: 58°</p>	<p>THU, SEP 28</p> <p>Showers Hi: 70° Lo: 57°</p>

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Commissioners Request Audit of School Board

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education has voted to ask the State Board of Education to order a "Performance Audit" of Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) with the cost to be shared equally by the commissioners and the school board. The BOCC will submit a scope of work to the state board in the hopes that the audit results will be available by February of next year so they can be used to develop the county's next fiscal year budget.

Originally the BOCC had proposed putting out its own request for proposals for a firm to do the audit. And the commissioners told the school board they would pay for the audit. But the change came after a recommendation from County Attorney John Norris which is apparently in line with procedures outlined in state code.

Norris gave the following background that led up to the BOCC's decision: "Concerns began to arise when the Maryland Department of Legislative Services reported on January 25, 2022: Our audit disclosed that CCPS' procurement policies were not sufficiently comprehensive and were not always consistently used when obtaining goods and services under intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreements. Furthermore, we found that certain components of the payments to bus contractors did not reflect actual costs or could not be supported.

"Our audit also disclosed that CCPS needs

to improve internal controls and accountability in certain areas, including payroll processing, information systems, and health care claims and fee processing. Finally, based on our current audit assessment of significance and risk to our audit objectives, our audit included a review to determine the status of eight of the 12 findings contained in our preceding audit report. CCPS satisfactorily addressed two of the eight prior findings we reviewed. The remaining six findings are repeated in this report."

Norris went on to say, "The BOCC has authority to order a performance audit of the practices of the Calvert County Board of Education (BOE). 'Performance audit' means an assessment of practices to determine whether the entity or program is operating economically and efficiently, and whether corrective actions are appropriate."

School board member Lisa Grenis moved in April to initiate a performance audit, but it was rejected by a 3-2 vote. Norris said, "A joint meeting was held at the request of the BOE on July 31, 2023, and the BOCC transmitted its proposed scope of work for such an audit on August 8, 2023, as requested by the BOE at the July meeting. The BOE has not yet agreed."

Norris went on to say, "Additional concerns have arisen regarding transparency and the procurement practices of the BOE. The Public Information Act Compliance Board found by decision dated September 6, 2023, that the BOE improperly denied

review of its budget request. Then, the article 'Some Maryland school expenses, big and small, remain a mystery' reported: 'In Calvert County, school district officials haven't been just buying school supplies, textbooks, and computers. They've been buying wristwatches, too. The district spent over \$25,000 at a locally owned jewelry store in Prince Frederick, in 2021.' Upon inquiry to the director that compiled this story published in The Daily Record on August 24, 2023, conveyed 'that \$25,000 expense at a jewelry store really stood out'."

At the request of The County Times, the school system's public information officer supplied the following response regarding the watches: "For the past several years, Calvert County Public Schools has presented watches to retirees upon their retirement to commemorate their dedicated service to the school district. The watches are Seiko watches and have the Calvert County Public Schools logo on them.

"For the Fiscal Year 21, CCPS purchased a total of 115 watches at a cost of \$206.10 each from a local business."

Commissioner Mark Cox said, "I just want to reiterate, it's not to point fingers, it's not to point wrongdoing. It's to bring experts in to identify how we can use money more efficiently." He noted that Grenis had observed that just to find savings of one percent would be significant.

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart said, "This is always the appearance of an

adversarial relationship," adding, "I have no adversarial bone in my body about any of this. I graduated from here. My daughter graduated from here. My son is in the school system. All I want, sincerely want from us, from the school system, from anything is to be the best we can be. That's really it."

Hart, however, in a subsequent meeting persistently berated the school system for proposing to delay a new HVAC system for Patuxent Elementary School to help pay for cost overruns in the new Northern Middle School project (see separate story).

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "You also have to take into consideration the Blueprint (the state's education reform program). The Blueprint has a very expensive number behind it. And if we can save costs to help with that and to help improve what we do for our children in the Calvert County school system, I'm all for it. All of us can improve. All of us can do better."

Commissioner Todd Ireland said, "These are taxpayer dollars that we approve annually for that budget. We need to be fiscally responsible, without a doubt. That's what we're here for."

And Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "At the last board of education meeting, there was discussion about us auditing ourselves, and I think we're going to do that. I'm not scared of an audit."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Dueling Projects: Northern Middle Expansion, Patuxent Elementary HVAC

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Budgets often have winners and losers. But a unique standoff between Patuxent Elementary School and Northern Middle School, on opposite sides of the county, surfaced during a work session at the Sept. 19 meeting of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)/

Capital Projects Analyst Veronica Atkinson set the stage for the argument: "(Under) the State of Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction requirements, a construction cost estimate was prepared as part of the Feasibility Study process for the Northern Middle School Project. The construction cost estimate will require project phasing, with the current Maryland Public School construction costs as well as future escalations; the projected total is \$65 million. This is approximately \$9.2 million higher than the combined state and county construction allocation for the project.

"In response to the Northern Middle School Feasibility Study cost estimate, the Calvert County Board of Education (BOE) has begun the process of evaluating targeted reductions and strategies to better align the project scope to the current budget. Additionally, BOE staff has identified a Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) systemic renovation project that can be

deferred, in order to allocate said project's county funds towards the Northern Middle School Replacement Project."

That identified project is the replacement of the Patuxent Elementary School HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system. The savings that would be applied would be more than \$1.2 million.

School system Director of Construction Shuchita Warner explained, "We worked with maintenance to really look at which projects we could potentially try to defer in order to try to allocate some funds towards Northern Middle. And we honestly, during the timeframe when we're asking for funding for the Northern Middle replacement, we have very small projects, uh, that are in the CIP. So that's one of the few that could be deferred. And based on the, um, equipment, uh, and the condition of the equipment, they felt that it could be one that could be deferred because of the type of equipment that it is."

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart would have none of it and he spent the next 45 minutes arguing against it and arguing with Warner, who continued to attempt to justify the cut.

Hart said a few years ago he walked through the school with staff because the AC wasn't working.

"I remember I didn't go to my own child's opening day of school because I had so many teachers upset and asked me to walk

through there. And it was very hot."

Warner said whatever wasn't working then was fixed. Hart retorted that it's an old base-board system that couldn't have been fixed.

Hart said the deferral would delay the project beyond the six-year capital plan, and with the project starting up again, that could take 10 years to solve a problem that needed to be fixed now.

Warner said, "We're also looking at a number of other avenues. I have recently had a person moved over into my department from facilities who comes from an energy management background. And we are looking right now at a number of other avenues to be able to look at HVAC replacements, not necessarily just through the CIP, but also by leveraging energy savings and going after rebates."

Warner said Northern Middle School was a higher priority than the Patuxent HVAC system. She added, "That is not to say that we are not planning on upkeeping our HVAC as much as possible. That is something that we always have to do for our students and staff."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "I can probably go back and pull the tape from the meeting where you came in and asked for this money to replace that HVAC system and you argued that it was old, could not be repaired any longer and had to be replaced. But yet here you are today telling us, we can repair it and it'll

last another six years. Well, I guess what comes to my mind is why didn't you do that two years ago when you were here begging for money to put in a whole new system?"

He asked if there was a plan in place to make the system adequate. She answered in the affirmative.

Hart said, "I don't know how that's fair and why this project now is more important than that when it was important back then."

Regarding the Northern M.S. planned project, Warner reported on enrollment and Project Scope:

- 2022/23 School Year Enrollment: 636 students
- 2023/24 Projected Enrollment: 669 students
- 2023/24 Enrollment (as of 8/31/2023): 687 students
- 7th Year Enrollment Projection (2030): 866 students
- Planned Replacement Building at 775 State Rated Capacity

Warner said her staff are going to review the project to see what savings could be found to close the remaining \$8 million deficit, including scaling down the scope.

Since the meeting was a work session, the BOCC made no decisions on the conflict between Patuxent E.S. and Northern M.S.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

It's Fair Time in Calvert County



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The 136th Calvert County Fair officially begins on Wednesday, Sept. 27, but a number of preliminary events are preludes to opening day.

On Sunday, Sept. 24, we'll find out who the queen and king will be to rule over the fair. The annual Miss Tranquility Pageant and Lord Calvert Contest will take place beginning at 2:30p.m. in the fair auditorium. It's a free event and everyone is invited and there will be refreshments.

Monday, Sept. 25 is Adult Entry Day (including baked goods) from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. And youth and 4-H have their registration in the Youth Building beginning also at 11 a.m. All must be registered by 7 p.m.

On Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 8:30- 9:30 a.m., baked goods from adults will also be accepted. Please include 3x5 recipe card. Judging begins at 10 a.m.

Then on Tuesday from noon to 8 p.m. poultry and livestock entries will be received. Pre-registration is required and no early livestock arrivals are permitted.

Wednesday, Sept. 27 is Feed the Needy Night. Entry is for a fee of \$1 or a 14 oz. or larger can of food. Wednesday night's schedule is as follows:

- 4 p.m. - Fair Officially Opens
- 5 p.m. - Carnival Opens (Sneak Preview Night)
- 6 p.m. - Official Opening Ceremonies
- 7 p.m. - Calvert County Idol (Pavilion)
- 9 p.m. - Exhibit Buildings Close
- 10 p.m. - Calvert County Fair and

Carnival Closes for the night
The fair started as a showcase of the county agricultural bounty and that still is its main reason for existence, but over time as the county changed new things have been added and the venue has changed and expanded.

The 136th fair runs through Sunday, Oct. 2 and will feature a parade, bingo, 4-H shows and exhibits, livestock shows and sale, livestock auction, live music, youth day activities, carnival rides, tractor pull, corn hole tournament, children's contest, exhibits, fair food, and more.

Entertainment will be performing at various times throughout the day, including:

- Urias Daredevil, Aerial & Acrobatic Thrill Show
- Big Bee
- Chainsaw Carvings Joe Stebbing Jr.
- MD Agricultural Showcase Trailer
- Pure Play Everyday

Please be aware that vehicles will not be allowed to turn left off Rt. 231 into the fairgrounds during county fair hours. An alternate route would be to use Rt. 506 (Sixes Rd.) to Rt. 508 (Adelina Rd.) to Rt. 231, which would allow a right turn into the fairgrounds.

Once the fairground parking lots are full, satellite parking with a free shuttle bus service will be available at Hallowing Point Park. During rush hour traffic, they will not grant access to the lots on the fairgrounds for some time to ease the flow of traffic on Rt. 231.

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Twin Beaches Library Gets Extra State Funding



View of the Chesapeake Bay from the deck of the new Twin Beaches Library in North Beach

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert Library has received an additional state grant to help with the cost of completing the new Twin Beaches Library. Calvert Library, Executive Director Carrie Willson told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) during a Sept. 19 public hearing, "The Twin Beaches Library Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was first adopted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 for the Concept design. The cost of the project has gradually increased each year as the design was developed and finalized. The project was bid in March 2022; the lowest bid was \$10,299,000 and the FY 2022 CIP budget allowed for an additional \$364,400 in add-alternates bringing the total contract to \$10,663,400. The Calvert Library Foundation is conducting a campaign to raise additional funds to pay for finishing touches outside the scope of the project budget."

Willson explained, "The project has been awarded a total of \$4,800,000 in State Library Capital Grant funding over the period of FY 2020, FY 2022, and FY

2023. The most recent FY 2024 Grant of \$212,500 was increased by \$641,500 due to cost escalations projected by the State Department of Budget and Management. This brings the total grant funding for the project to \$5,654,000."

Only one speaker testified at the hearing. Joseph Cormier of Owings spoke in support of the budget amendment to add the state grant. "Funding our libraries is so important for our community. And the Twin Beaches is my home library and I've, received books, movies, video games, movies on the beach, workshops, so many wonderful things that our library system puts in."

Willson was asked if the state grant award would complete the necessary fundraising. She said, "Our goal is to raise about \$350,000 for this project, and we've raised about \$300,000. So that'll go to things like podcast and STEM equipment and things like that."

"We are hoping for a mid to late March-ish opening to the public and ribbon cutting," she said of the much-anticipated new library.

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Development Rights Purchase Price Increased

Aimed at Protecting Farmland

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has unanimously approved an increase from \$5,000 to \$5,500 for the 2024 purchase price for the PAR (Purchase and Retirement) Fund and the TDR (Transferable Development Rights) Reserve.

The TDRs can be purchased privately by developers from landowners to give the developer additional density, presumably in areas slated for development. The PAR program allows property to be removed from development entirely and still retain their rural character.

Planning and Zoning Rural Planner II Jennifer David gave an historical perspective of the programs to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their Sept. 19 meeting. She said, "The BOCC established the Purchase and Retirement (PAR) Fund in 1992 to 'purchase, retire and permanently remove Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) from the development rights market, thereby protecting additional farmland acres from development.' In 2021 the BOCC directed staff to establish a TDR bank pilot program now known as the 'TDR Reserve.' The TDR Reserve is a county-managed program that facilitates TDR sales between farmers and developers and acts as a revolving fund.

"In recent years PAR has been funded by

the combination of a small portion of the Maryland State agricultural transfer tax dedicated to agricultural preservation and contributions from the county's General Fund."

David explained, "In 2021 the BOCC approved a resolution also designating \$1.70 of each \$5 collected in recordation taxes to the Calvert County Agricultural Land Preservation Fund to directly support land preservation efforts by the county. At this time, the Land Preservation budget does not include these funds. A budget adjustment is currently being prepared by the Department of Finance & Budget for consideration by the BOCC to restore these funds. Until then the available PAR funding comes solely from the prior year's PAR balance. There is currently \$823,125 available for purchases to the TDR Reserve for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024."

The county's Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (APAB) recommended the increase in the purchase price to \$5,500 per TDR for the FY 2024 PAR cycle and the TDR Reserve. David said, "The APAB assessed TDR values when establishing their recommended price. There is a need to fairly compensate participants for the value of the land they have protected while also seeking to reach as many applicants as possible and utilize the available funding to its maximum potential."

When it came time to vote on increasing the purchase price, Commissioner President

Buddy Hance recused himself because he owns TDRs and Commissioners Mark Cox and Todd Ireland also did so because they said they had relatives who owned TDRs, although later both said there was no intent to sell them at this time.

The recusals left the board without a quorum, which led County Attorney John Norris to report, "So, as prescribed by the ethics ordinance, when a quorum of, or majority of the members of a public body all have a conflict of interest, it instructs them to disclose their conflict, which you've just done on camera and allows you then to proceed to vote."

Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook said, "I think we did really well last year," adding, "The price that we purchased was \$5,000 for the PAR program as well as the reserve. And the reserve's been working very well in the short time that it's been a program. We've been buying and selling through that program."

David said, "Last year we sold 196.5 TDRs for a total value of \$982,500. The prior year, I don't recall how many TDRs exactly, but we spent \$657,000."

The BOCC was told that in the recent two years everyone who wanted to be in either program could participate but in previous years there was a shortfall of money to cover everybody who wanted in.

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart said, "It is one of the best programs we've

got on the street. And I have had countless talks with budget and finance... about water and sewer and traffic and everything PAR addresses. It truly does. So, I hope that we can make this even more successful."

Cook said there were still approximately 4,000 TDRs available for sale.

Hance, who is a farmer, said, "Last year after this hearing, we had a public comment from an individual (who) didn't know what the TDR program was and why we were spending a million dollars. Commissioner Hart alluded to the fact that it's, even I can do the math, that in the long run county government is way ahead of the game to buy these TDRs and retire them. As far as county government costs, we save money. We don't really spend money. In the short term, you don't build sewage treatment facilities. You don't expand roads, schools. Add officers, schoolteachers. So, for every five TDRs, we eliminate a house. For every three or under, we eliminate apartments and townhouses. So, it's not a hard math figure. It's money well spent.

He added, "If you'll forgive me, when I drive by our county roads, I see land that's left open to feed all the people in this nation and around the world. That's what I see."

A window will be advertised soon for people to apply to be in this year's PAR and TDR Reserve programs.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of September 4 – September 10, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,611 calls for service throughout the community.

Burglary: 23-62916

On September 4, 2023, at 10:05 p.m., Deputy DeSantis responded to the 8100 block of Moffat Run in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a burglary in progress. Contact was made with the homeowner who advised an unknown suspect described as a white middle-aged male with blonde hair and facial hair wearing a red shirt, black shorts, and sandals was inside the victim's garage and fled between nearby townhomes as the victim entered. Nothing appears to have been stolen, moved, or destroyed.

Damaged Property: 23-63352

On September 6, 2023, DFC Contic responded to the 3800 block of Bedford Drive in North Beach, for the reported damaged property. The complainant advised a Penske van drove over a 2ft brick retaining wall outlining a flower bed causing damage to the victim's landscaping. The vehicle failed to stop and fled the scene. The estimated value of damaged property is \$200.00.

Robbery: 23-63937

On September 9, 2023, at approximately 2:37 a.m., deputies responded to the 7-Eleven convenient store located at 2849 W. Chesapeake Beach Road in Dunkirk, for the report of an armed robbery. Investigation revealed three suspects wearing dark clothes and ski masks entered the store to rob it. One of the suspects walked behind the counter wielding a handgun and forced an employee into a back room. A second suspect stole numerous cartons of cigarettes valued at \$3,600.00. The third suspect broke into the ATM and fled with a tray of US currency. While processing the crime scene, it was determined bleach was poured all over the floor of the business. All sus-

pects fled in a dark blue metallic BMW in an unknown direction. This case remains under investigation.

Theft: 23-64254

On September 10, 2023, Deputy Zinn received report of a motor vehicle theft. Investigation revealed the victim's vehicle, a black 2004 Lincoln 4S passenger car was stolen from the victim's driveway on Gregg Drive in Lusby sometime between 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 9 and 10:45 a.m. on Sept. 10. The victim advised his wallet containing approximately \$70 in cash, a \$50 iHop gift card, a Samsung phone and miscellaneous personal belongings were inside the vehicle. At the time of the theft, the vehicle was left unlocked, windows down and a key inside of the vehicle. The estimated value of the vehicle and its contents is approximately \$1,167.00.

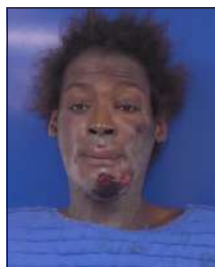
Theft: 23-64304

On September 10, 2023, Deputy Bowen responded to the AutoZone located at 2990 Plaza Drive in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed a suspect described as a white male with a goatee wearing a black shirt and a white hat stole a Duralast starter, a Duralast battery, and a battery install kit. The suspect fled the store and was observed getting into a burgundy Ford Explorer (a 2005 to 2009 model). The total value of stolen property is \$389.00.

Theft: 23-64141

On September 9, 2023, Deputy Daily responded to the 4400 block of Harvest Lane in Huntingtown, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 1:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect (s) stole the victim's rear Maryland registration plate while parked at the Prince Frederick Walmart located at 150 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick. The estimated value of stolen property is \$150.00.

ARRESTS



George Thomas Leonard

On September 5, 2023, Deputy Gadwill responded to a residence on Mulberry Lane in Huntingtown, for the report of an active burglary in progress. Deputies arrived on scene and observed a male suspect bleeding from his forearms and hands. Investigation revealed the homeowner observed **George Thomas Leonard, II**, 36 of no fixed address, trespassing on the victim's private property. Leonard was discovered aggressively banging on the front door. Leonard opened the door and attempted to enter the home. Leonard broke the double-pane glass of the front door with his fist. Leonard was transported to CalvertHealth and treated for his injuries. After receiving medical treatment, Leonard was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with 3rd Degree Burglary, 4th Degree Burglary, Malicious Destruction of Property Valued \$1,000+ and Trespassing: Private Property.



Justin Michael Ford

On September 8, 2023, DFC Kwitowski responded to Anglers Seafood Bar and Grill located at 275 Lore Road in Solomons, for the report of a fight in progress. Deputies arrived on scene and observed **Justin Michael Ford**, 33 of Lusby, exclaiming multiple profanities at a loud volume of speech. Deputies attempted to calm Ford down, who continuously shouted profanities and racial slurs. Ford was advised

numerous times to remain calm and not to disrupt the peace but failed to comply as he was challenging citizens to fights. Ford was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Disorderly Conduct and Intoxicated Public Disturbance.



Elizabeth Marie Ireton

On September 8, 2023, DFC Lewis responded to Baia Coastal Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar located at 8323 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of indecent exposure. The complainant advised a white female wearing a black shirt was observed urinating on the rocks in the parking lot of the establishment in view of several patrols dining in the outside area of the restaurant. Deputies located the female identified as **Elizabeth Marie Ireton**, 41 of no fixed address. Ireton began to yell profanities and make inappropriate hand gestures towards the deputies on scene. Due to Ireton screaming profanities, several citizens in the area stopped to observe her actions. Ireton was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged Indecent Exposure and Disorderly Contact.

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

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (410) 535-2800 and reference the case number provided. Citizens may remain anonymous thru the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov

Detectives Seeking Identity of Theft Suspects



The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating a theft that occurred Sept. 5, 2023 at approximately 6:30 p.m. at the Giant grocery store located at 10790 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk.

Video surveillance shows the two subjects pictured exit the store without paying for three packages of Pampers brand diapers.



They were seen leaving the area on foot.

Anyone with information pertaining to this incident or these suspects is asked to contact DFC Mohler at Andrew.Mohler@calvertcountymd.gov. Please refer to case number 23-63126.

Press Release from CCSO.

Identity Needed for T-Mobile Theft Suspect

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating a theft that occurred on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at the T-Mobile store located at 10119 Ward Road in Dunkirk, MD.

The complainant advised the male pictured below entered the business and began making product inquiries, asking about in-stock product not on display. The suspect is believed to have produced a unique "key" to unlock four iPhones on display. He then cut the attached cords, removing the phones from the display before fleeing.

The suspect is described as a younger black male, 25-35 years of age, approximately 5 feet 7 inches and 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 170lbs.

Anyone with the identity of this suspect is asked to contact Detective Gough at Ryan.Gough@calvertcountymd.gov. Please refer to case number 23-64051.



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In Remembrance

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to aldailey@countytimes.net by noon on Tuesdays for publication on Thursdays. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

Paul Eagan, 89



Paul Joseph Eagan, 89, of Huntingtown passed away September 16, 2023. He was born April 22, 1934 in Washington, DC to Stanley Joseph and Lillian Camila (Bacigalupi) Eagan.

Paul was raised in Hyattsville and graduated from Northwestern High School where he met his wife, Mary Ellen DeJarnette. He joined the United States Marine Corps on August 28, 1953 and was honorably discharged on August 27, 1957 after serving in the Korean War in the 3rd Marine Division stationed in Okinawa. Paul married Mary Ellen on April 16, 1960 and they lived in New Carrollton before moving to

Huntingtown in 1994. Paul worked as a distributor for Hostess and Little Debbie and was awarded distributor of the year in 2004. He retired in 2005. Paul loved spending time with his family. He also enjoyed arts and crafts, painting, working in the yard, collecting trains, exercising, and watching old Westerns.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Ellen Eagan in 2020. He is survived by his children Laurie Peters and her husband Michael of Mt. Airy and Kevin Eagan and his wife Doreen of Huntingtown, grandchildren Ashley Peters, Daniel Peters, and Joshua Eagan and his wife Ariel, great-grandchildren Tatyana, Imriel, Ashira, and Eliora, and Joshua's mother Gina.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, September 24 from 1:00-1:30 PM at Rausch Funeral Home, P.A., Owings, where a service will follow at 1:30 PM. Interment will be private in MD Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham.

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Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.

For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125 for assistance.

REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times
St. Mary's County - Calvert County



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.

Thu, Sept 21

Teen Advisory Council of Students

Calvert Library (DISCORD)
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books and information. Join us on the third Thursday! You can receive 1 Service Learning hour for each meeting attended. Register for the invite to our Discord server. DISCORD <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Social Security: Disability Benefits

Calvert Library (Zoom)
5:30-6:30 p.m. en Español
6:30-7:30 p.m. in English

Programs provide monthly income to seniors, workers with a disability, children with disabilities, and families in which a spouse or parent has died. We invite you to this virtual presentation to learn more about disability benefits, eligibility requirements, and the application process. Presentation by Diana Varela, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration followed by Q&A. This event will not be recorded. If you'd like to use the wifi and library computer to participate in this Zoom event, please choose "in-person" registration. Call the library if the Prince Frederick location is not the most convenient for you. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Teachers' Night at the Museum

Calvert Marine Museum
5 – 7 p.m.

Join the energetic and creative Education Team at the Calvert Marine Museum for a fun evening, where you will learn about our exciting and free educational programs for your students. Relax with your colleagues in a happy hour atmosphere and explore the museum's extensive collections in Maritime History, Estuarine Biology, and Paleontology. Brainstorm ideas about how

we can better serve you and your students. Take home useful classroom and curriculum building resources. A sunset cruise will be offered to the first 20 arrivals. Enjoy free food and drinks as well as prizes! FREE; no registration required.

Sat, Sept 23

Garden Smarter: Local Garden Tour.

Calvert Community Resource Bldg
30 Duke Street, Prince Frederick
10-11 a.m.

Tour the gardens at the Calvert Resource Building, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum & Butterfly Alley. Calvert Library 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Walk to End Alzheimer's Southern Maryland

Asbury Solomons
11100 Asbury Cir., Solomons
8:30 a.m.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. We're fighting for a different future. For families facing the disease today. For more time. For treatments. We're closer than ever to stopping Alzheimer's. But to get there, we need you. Register today at www.alz.org/ncawalks. Questions? Contact Brittney Stern at 703.766.9035 or bhstern@alz.org.

Mental Health Walk

Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail
6 p.m.

The BecomeOne Project presents The 2nd Annual One More Light Suicide and Mental Health Awareness Walk. An evening of remembering and honoring those we've lost, an awareness of resources as well as connecting with one another. Registration at 6 p.m. Starts at 6:30 p.m. To learn more or to pre-register please visit bit.ly/becomeoneproject

Sun, Sept 24

Bark-B-Q & Meow Mixer

Calvert Animal Welfare League
1040 Prince Frederick Blvd
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Food and Attractions, Vendors, Smokin Fatties BBQ Food Truck, Luckydog Ice, Ask the Trainer, Bake Sale, Thrift Shop, DJ music, Raffle Baskets and More!

Mon Sept 25

Teen Reading Buddies

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

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating.

Teens, please register for the event. Reading Buddies is a space for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Sept 27

Homeschool Day: Food for Thought

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Annemarie Garden
Noon - 3 p.m.

The Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) is partnering with Annmarie Sculpture Garden (AMG) and Arts Center for this event. Are you curious why animals eat different food than you? Have you ever wondered how animals find food? Or even why different animals eat different foods? These questions and many others will be explored as you participate in hands-on activities and discover the unique environments and collections of CMM and AMG finding food for thought!

Pick up an interactive Homeschool BINGO card at the CMM welcome table, complete the tasks at both sites to earn BINGO, and turn it in at AMG for the chance to win a prize! Each site can stand alone and will provide a great experience. Ideal for grades K-5, but all ages can discover something new. Regular admission applies for both locations. Pre-registration is not required. Visit www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or www.annmariegardens.org for more information.

Skillbuilders - Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
9:00am-3:00pm.

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment, and Job Service representatives will be in person to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Grooving and Moving

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
10-10:30 a.m.

Fans of Storytime will enjoy dancing, singing, and playing as they learn about music. For ages birth-5. Registration is requested 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Sept 28

Little Minnows: Rockin' Reptiles

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

For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, accompanied by an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

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The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

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



County Times

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57										58				
59						60					61			

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of cat
- 6. Weaponry
- 10. Western Christian Church service
- 14. Significant eruption of pustules
- 15. Baltic nation
- 17. Start of American holiday season
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Maintains possession of
- 21. Metrical foot of one long and three short syllables
- 22. Mountain pass
- 23. Vestments
- 24. Type of dish
- 26. Escaped quickly
- 29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 31. Wings
- 32. Political action committee
- 34. Touches lightly
- 35. Stood back from
- 37. Philippine Island
- 38. Popular winter activity
- 39. Type of amine
- 40. Small freshwater duck
- 41. Filled with love
- 43. Without (French)
- 45. Vetch
- 46. Swiss river
- 47. Describes a sound
- 49. Sign language
- 50. Hair product
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Quality of being imaginary
- 58. Far-right German party
- 59. Drove
- 60. Former French coin of low value
- 61. Hard, durable timbers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body art
- 2. Middle East military title
- 3. Actor Pitt
- 4. Container
- 5. Speak incessantly
- 6. Relating to algae
- 7. Jacob ___, journalist
- 8. Rock TV channel
- 9. Boat's cargo
- 10. Most wise
- 11. Within
- 12. Chinese industrial city
- 13. Scotland's longest river
- 16. Not capable
- 18. Footwear
- 22. Savings account
- 23. Capable
- 24. Vaccine developer
- 25. Tax collector
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Native religion in China
- 29. Promotional materials
- 30. A shot in a film production
- 31. Afflict in mind or body
- 33. A passage with access only at one end
- 35. Breathing devices
- 36. Employ for wages
- 37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
- 39. Popular Boston song
- 42. Made amends
- 43. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 44. Atomic #18
- 46. With fireplace residue
- 47. Unleavened cornbread
- 48. Draw out
- 49. Southwestern Alaska island
- 50. Where the Pyramids are
- 51. People of Nigeria
- 52. Smaller quantity
- 53. Destroy the inside of
- 54. City
- 55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
- 56. No (Scottish)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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7	6	5	4	8	1	2	3	9
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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.

Thu, Sept 21

Lecture—Bits in Pieces: Uncovering Colonial Horse Culture

HSMC Visitor Center Auditorium
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Speaker: Sara Rivers Cofield, Curator of Federal Collections, Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory

Fragmentary metal artifacts related to 17th- and 18th-century horses can be difficult to recognize, but making the effort to do so reveals the significant role of horses the colonial Chesapeake. Drawing from collections at Historic St. Mary's City, the Md. Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, and the Va. Department of Historic Resources, this presentation will connect fragmentary metal artifacts to the saddles and bridles they represent, illustrating an important part of social interaction in the colonial Chesapeake.

The lecture is free and open to the public
HSMC Visitor Center Auditorium, 18751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary's City, Md

Info: 301.994.4370 or email info@hsmcdigshistory.org

Sat, Sept 23

Walk to End Alzheimer's Southern Maryland

Asbury Solomons
11100 Asbury Cir., Solomons
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Join the fight to #ENDALZ on Sep. 23 at the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® in Solomons!

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. We're fighting for a different future. For families facing the disease today. For more time. For treatments. We're closer than ever to stopping Alzheimer's. But to get there, we need you. Register today at www.alz.org/ncawalks. Contact Brittney Stern at 703.766.9035 or bhstern@alz.org.

Sun, Sept 24

Family and Friends Day Celebration

First Missionary Baptist Church
46370 Pegg Ln., Lexington Park
10 a.m. to 1p.m.

Let's Celebrate! First Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Roderick W. McClanahan, invite you to our Family and Friends Celebration on Sunday during our 10:00am Divine Worship Service. The guest preacher for the occasion will be Elder Shaun Pressley, Minister of Music, St. Stephen Baptist Church, Temple Hills, MD

The Celebration will be In-House and Virtually. The virtual phone number is 617-691-8533 or virtual meeting ID: join.freeconferencecall.com/fmbc0. Masks are optional, temperatures will be taken upon entry, and hand sanitizer will be available.

For additional information please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388.

sale table items will be available for sale. Tickets for a money raffle \$500 1st prize and 2nd prize 250.00 will be sold for \$5 per ticket and tickets for an Apple Harvest Raffle Basket and Wine Lover's Raffle Basket are 6 for \$5 and \$1 each. For more information contact Brenda Russell at 301-247-1871 or rsbrsll@aol.com.

Divorce Care Support Group

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
22375 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park
Beginning Thursday, September 28
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Divorce is one of the most painful experiences you can face. You don't have to go through it alone. DivorceCare offers support, answers and practical tools to help you manage the many stresses of separation and divorce and find healing. DivorceCare is a 13-week support group that helps heal the pain of separation and divorce. We meet in small groups and respect your privacy.

Advance registration is required for planning purposes. Please send an email to atthewell@ihmrc.org

Upcoming

Apple Festival Drive-thru Dinner

Our Lady of the Wayside
Sunday, October 8
12 p.m. until sold out

Menu includes fried chicken, crab cake, shrimp macaroni salad, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce and dinner roll. Price is \$30. A variety of apples, apple pies and bake



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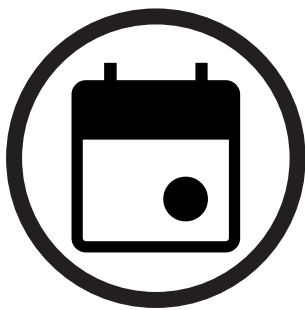


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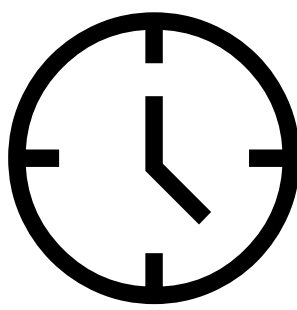
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To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to aldailey@countytimes.net by noon on Tuesdays for publication on Thursdays. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

In Remembrance

Thomas Watts, 76



Thomas Bowman Watts of Lexington Park, Maryland passed away on September 8, 2023 at Medstar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Maryland. He was born on August 5, 1947 in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania to Donald Albert Watts and Gladys Elizabeth (Bowman) Watts. He spent his pivotal young years in Pennsylvania, spending much of his time in the Bloomsburg area where his mother was from. It was there as a young boy that he honed his knowledge of business by visiting his uncle's businesses along Main Street. One owned a dry goods store, another owned a butcher shop, another owned a bakery, and yet another owned apartment buildings which he and his wife rented out. He had other uncles too who owned their own business but not on Main Street. Tom loved popping into their shops where he was always given tasks to do and where he gleaned the knowledge that he would use in later life to run his own businesses.

As a young teenager, his parents moved the family to Johnstown, PA where his father had a job as a teacher and then became the Superintendent of Schools. Later his father was offered a Superintendent job in Libertyville, Illinois (near Chicago) so they moved again, and Tom lived there until his senior year in high school when the family moved once again. This time they settled in Harrington Park, NJ where his father took his last and largest Superintendent job for Bergen County.

Upon graduating from high school, he and a good friend began A&B Painters and hired themselves out to paint homes in the neighboring towns, but shortly after he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served two years and was trained as a combat medic. These were the years of the Viet Nam War,

but Tom got stationed in Europe - first at a hospital in Bremerhaven, Germany and later to hospital in Mons, Belgium. He was honorably discharged in 1968. Shortly after being discharged, he enrolled in college at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky (oldest college west of the Allegheny Mountains). He graduated in 1973 with a B.A. Degree in Economics. During his time in Lexington, he met Katie Daugherty who was also attending Transylvania. In 1974, they moved to Maryland and were married on July 20, 1974 at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Lexington Park. Immediately afterwards he and his good college friend, Lee Davis, took over Capt. Tom's Oar House and Hood's Trailer Park in Park Hall, Maryland. That was Tom's launching pad into the business world. From there he expanded into selling insurance for J. Frank Raley and later bought the business which became Raley Watts Insurance. During this period, he was also buying property and building houses. That expanded into building commercial buildings. After selling the insurance business, he took over as CEO of Maryland Bank and Trust until it merged with Old Line Bank in 2011. Since then, he managed Willows Run, the business park on Willows Road in Lexington Park as well as continuing to build commercial buildings. No doubt his uncles, aunts and parents are very proud of their Tommy's success.

Tom is survived by his wife, Katherine Browning (Daugherty) Watts; his brother Donald Albert Watts, Jr. (Kathy) of Oakton, VA; his nephew Robert Eric Watts (Jasmine) and their boys Weston and Remington of Ontario, Canada; his nephew Bryan Watts of Fairfax, VA; his niece Suzanne Marie Watts of Reston, VA; his brother-in-law G. Thomas Daugherty (Helen) of Lexington Park; niece Amy Tepel (Boko) of Morrison, CO; and his recent life partner Bree Whitlock and her daughter Delanie. Rest in peace, Tom. We all love you.

Donations to Tom's memory may be made to any of the following:

- **Chesapeake Public Charter School**
20945 Great Mills Road
Lexington Park, MD 20653
- **Three Oaks Center**
46905 Lei Drive
Lexington Park, MD 20653
threeoakscenter.org
- **American Cancer Society**
donate.cancer.org
- **Hospice of St. Mary's**
medstarhealth.org

Doris Jones, 81



Mrs. Doris Jones, age 81, passed away on Sunday, September 17, 2023 at Marshall Manor Nursing Home.

Funeral services will be held Friday, September 22, 2023 at 2:00 pm in the chapel of Adams Brown Service Funeral Home. Prior to service a visitation will be held at 1:00 pm. Mrs. Jones will be laid to rest in Guntersville City Cemetery. Assisting Mrs. Jones to her final resting place will include her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Doris was born in LaPlata, Maryland. She grew up on a farm working in the tobacco fields. She later met the love of her

life, Joseph P. Jones, Jr. They were married on September 3, 1960 in Charles County, Maryland. Doris became the first Chief Clerk of the Maryland District Court in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Once she retired she began selling real estate in St. Mary's County. Doris relocated to Alabama where she continued selling real estate. She spent several years in Jacksonville, Florida but later returned to Alabama.

Mrs. Jones was born on June 15, 1942 to the late George Henry Murphy and Cora Madeline Murphy.

She is survived by her husband Joseph P. Jones, Jr. "Skip"; daughter Dedie Jones Campbell (Bill); son Joseph P. Jones, III "Joe" (Debbie); 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren; sisters Shirley Hill, Betty Baden (Franklin), Regina Guy, Marie Croft, and Donna Hewitt (Freddie); brother George Henry Murphy Jr.; sister-in-law Agnes Jones; and brothers-in-law Alfred Jones, Sherman Jones (Eileen), and Harry Jones (Barbara).

In addition to her parents she is preceded in death by her brother Dickie Murphy; sister-in-law Mary Ann Hayes; and brother-in-law George Jones (Shirley) and her husbands parents Joseph P. and Hortence Jones.

In lieu of flowers the family has request donations to be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Union Grove #1 Missionary Baptist Church of Albertville.



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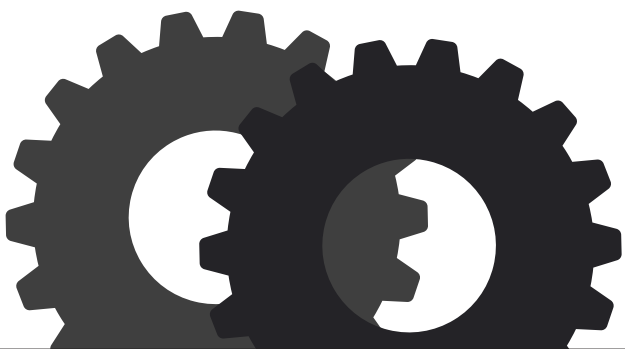
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Saturday, September 23

PARADE DAY

- 8:00 AM Open Class livestock show (SR)
9:00 AM Exhibit buildings open
9:00 AM Fair Parade Registration begins (Tech Center)
10:00 AM Carnival opens
10:00 AM "The Star Spangled Banner" by Leonardtown High School: Potomac Voices — Kyle Teston, Director (Education Bldg)
10:30 AM Fair Parade
11:00 AM Amateur Class Jousting Tournament (GS)
12:30 PM Leonardtown High School Orchestra — John Oplinger, Director (PAV)
12:30 PM David Dent Stuffed HAM Demonstration
1:00 PM Grand Jousting Parade and Professional Class Jousting Tournament
1:00 PM 4-H Visual Presentation Contest (4-H)
1:00 PM Reggie Rice's Fool of Illusions (Tolerance Hall)
2:00 PM Southern Maryland Concert Band (PAV)
3:00 PM Reggie Rice's Fool of Illusions (Tolerance Hall)
4:00 PM WMDM live remote broadcast
5:00 PM Reggie Rice's Fool of Illusions (Tolerance Hall)
6:00 PM 4-H Livestock Auction (SR)
6:00 PM Bicycle Drawing (OF)
6:30 PM Suttler Post Clydesdales Demonstration (GS)
7:00 PM Heavy Weight Horse Pull (GS)]
9:00 PM Exhibit buildings close
10:00 PM Carnival closes
Pig Races: 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM (times may vary)
Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt (FM): 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM
Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing)(11:00 AM- 7:00 PM)
Southern Maryland Decorative Painters (Arts & Crafts Bldg)10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display
Glass Blowing Demonstrations
Blacksmithing Demonstrations (FM)
Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)
Don't miss the Butterfly Safari
Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display

Sunday, September 24

FAMILY DAY

- 8:30 AM Open Class Horse Show starts (GS)
9:00 AM Exhibit buildings open
9:00 AM 4-H Dairy Goat Fitting & Showing, and 4-H Breeding Goat Show
10:00 AM Baby Show starts (FSA)
10:00 AM Antique Tractor Pull starts (Tractor Track)
11:00 AM Carnival opens (ride all day wristband \$30 avail.)
12:00 PM Meet and Greet the Queen and her Court
1:00 PM Chesapeake Country Cruzers (PAV)
1:00 PM Chopticon High School Peace Pipers — Pateley Bongiorno-Cook, Director (outside Tolerance Hall)
1:15 PM Faith Bible Church (TENT)
2:30 PM Mystic Caravan Dance (PAV)
2:00 PM St. Peter Claver Gospel; (TENT)
2:00 PM 4-H Rabbit Showmanship Contest
3:15 PM Gospel Angels (TENT)
4:00 PM Gospel Music(TENT)
4:30 PM Glass Blower Art Auction
4:45 PM Brisco Brothers (TENT)
5:00 PM 4-H Contest Results announced (SR)
6:00 PM Bicycle Drawing (OF)
6:00 PM Exhibit buildings close
6:00 PM Carnival ticket sales stop
7:00 PM Carnival closes
Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt & Family 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 2:30 PM
Pig Races 11:30, 12:45, 2:45
Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing) (11am - 5pm)
Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display
Glass Blowing Demonstrations
Blacksmithing Demonstrations Jamie Abell (FM)
Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)
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Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 21

OPENING DAY

- 3:00 PM Gates open to public
- 4:00 PM Exhibit Buildings open to public
- 4:00 PM 4-H Photo Challenge begins
- 4:30 PM 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (SR)
- 5:00 PM Carnival opens (ride all evening wristband for \$30.)
- 5:30 PM 4-H Horse Drill Team Performances (GS)
- 6:00 PM 4-H Market Goat Fitting & Showing, & Market Goat Show (SR)
- 6:00 PM Pig Races
- 7:00 PM Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt and Family
- 7:00 PM Official Opening (Tolerance Hall)
 - Color Guard by Cub Scout Pack 1203
 - "The Star Spangled Banner" by Esperanza Middle School Chorus – Angela Garcia-Clark, Director
 - Introduction of the Queen of Tolerance Court
 - Welcome from John Richards, President, St. Mary's County Fair Association
 - Crowning of the Queen of Tolerance
- 7:00 PM Miniature Horse Pull (GS)
- 7:30 PM Pig Races
- 9:00 PM Exhibit buildings close
- 10:00 PM Carnival closes
- Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing)(4:00pm - 7:00pm)
- Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display
- Glass Blowing Demonstrations
- Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)
- Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display
- Visit the County Government exhibits in the Commercial 2 Building

Friday, September 22

SCHOOL DAY

- 8:00 AM 4-H Livestock Show starts (SR)
- 8:00 AM 4-H Horse and Pony Show starts (GS)
- 9:00 AM Exhibit Buildings open to public
- 10:00 AM Horticulture ID Contest (4-H)
- 10:00 AM Carnival opens
- 11:00 AM Decorated Wagon Contest (ARTS)
- 1:00 PM Esperanza Middle School Band, Director (PAV)
- 1:00 PM Reggie Rice's Magic of Laughter (Tent)
- 2:00 PM Speech Contest — Joie Samuelson, Chairperson (Tolerance Hall)
 - "The Star Spangled Banner" by Great Mills High School — Sara Nelson, Director
- 3:00 PM Registration for Kiddy Tractor Pull (PAV)
- 3:00 PM Reggie Rice's Magic of Laughter (Tent)
- 4:00 PM Kiddy Tractor Pull (PAV) 7th District Optimists
- 4:00 PM St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department K-9 Demonstration (GS)
- 5:00 PM School Day Activities End, normal entry & regular carnival ticket prices resume
- 6:00 PM Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales Demonstration (GS)
- 6:00 PM 4-H Cake Auction (GS)
- 6:00 PM Bicycle Drawing (OF)
- 6:00 PM Gracie's Guys and Gals (FSA)
- 7:00 PM Light Weight Horse Pull (GS)
- 7:30 PM Boot Scooters (PAV)
- 9:00 PM Exhibit buildings close
- 10:00 PM Carnival closes
- Pig Races: 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30P M 5:00PM (times may vary)
- Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt (FM): 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM, 6:00 PM
- Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing)(11:00 - 7:00)
- 6:00 - 8:00PM WMDM live remote broadcast
- Glass Blowing Studio Demonstrations
- Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display
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ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAIR

SCHEDULE

This Year's County Fair Brings Back Old Favorites

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Fair's longtime board chair John Richards says this year's event will be much like so many others that have come before it, with livestock displays, 4-H projects and rides and games at the carnival section.

But this year some favorites are making their return to a central county attraction that has been around for nearly 80 years.

Richards said Kountry K-9 will be there to please crowds with trained dogs who can perform all kinds of fun tricks.

"It's been very popular but we haven't had it for a few years," Richards said.

There are new rides at the carnival portion of the fair this year, too.

New rides for visitors young and old and in between include "The Sizzler" and "The Tempest," said Richards.

Other rides include the "Kiddie Scrambler."

"I might get on that," Richards, 82, said.

The Butterfly Safari will also be making a return, where visitors can enter a special tent and be given a stick covered in a sugar substance.

"The butterflies will land on them and feed," Richards said.

Master gardeners will also be on hand to show visitors how they can grow vegetables and other plants in limited amounts of soil and space — a container garden.

Pam Howe, a Compton resident, has been attending the fair since she moved to the

county from Bethesda in 1968.

She's spent much of that time volunteering at the fair working in the paging booth, broadcasting messages over the speaker system to the crowds.

With the advent of cell phones, that service isn't needed as much, she said.

"I'll still be there this year, mostly answering questions and letting people know where to go," Howe said.

"I like all of it," she said of why she returns to the fair year after year. "Mostly I like buildings that house the reason for the fair, the animals, the things they grow, the 4-H kids and the things they make all year."

Richards has been heading up the fair board since 1984, he said, but he is always quick to say that the small army of volunteers who spend their free time preparing the fair grounds for the big show, and plenty of other events, year-round are the ones responsible for the continued success of their efforts.

Their work, and the people who constantly tell him that they can't wait for the fair to come around again each September, keep him enthused for the work ahead.

"There are people who are stepping up and doing a lot more," Richards said. "They'll be continuing the tradition."

Richards said he'll keep volunteering well into the future.

"I've gotten so much support it energizes me," he said. "I won't be moving to Florida yet, I love St. Mary's County too much."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Letters to the Editor

Gratitude to our community

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who showed compassion, concern and love for Eddie and me after the loss of our beloved son, Edward. Thank you for your words of encouragement, gifts, food, cards and most importantly prayers. The outpouring of support was humbling. I wish I could thank all of you individually. Now, we must walk through the grieving process day by day with the help of the unfailing All Mighty God. God bless you and your families.

Mary and Eddie Washington
Lexington Park

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Just Wondering

I wonder about things all the time. I ask questions of anybody and everybody. I look up movie stars, rock stars, and character actors of old TV series, and I religiously watch Jeopardy. My mind holds vast amounts of trivial knowledge that I can never seem to remember or remember accurately when I need it. Names of people or bands are starting to slip away on me; sometimes it worries me, but I know I am getting older too... though not that old yet I hope.

Curiosity and asking questions are something I have been fortunate to have and cursed with at times, like finding the hiding place for the Christmas presents which was devastating. I just kept wondering why my mother was bringing in lots of bags that she thought I didn't see and had to check it out.

There are always questions that cannot be answered or problems that cannot be fixed. Why do people fight? Why do kids get sick when they haven't had a chance to live. Or why don't pets live as long as we do? Questions, questions. Sometimes they can keep me up at night, especially when I ask myself why I didn't take certain paths in my younger years, but then there are the thousands of trivial questions that can keep my mind racing for days.

Like, why is it if you are hard boiling a few eggs for egg salad, the shells slide off perfectly...but if you are boiling those same eggs for deviled eggs the shells come off like a shattered piece of glass.

Why is it that the minute you doze off on the couch, that is when your husband will decide that is exactly when he is craving chips, Tostitos, cookies or anything that comes in a loud crinkly plastic bag?

And there is the age old question of why you didn't notice the bird poop on your windshield when you first got in your car? It comes down to if you are a risk taker and willing to chance using the windshield wipers and fluid or not: Will you get a smeary disgusting mess or get lucky and be bird poop free?

The other windshield question is why is it after you have your windshield replaced or fixed from a rock that's been kicked up by a truck that Murphy's Law demands that within a week another rock will hit your windshield?

Or as soon as you wash the windows of your house inside and out, that is the time your husband decides it's time to power wash the outside of the house. You can see a theme of married couple issues here I bet.

Why is it when you have leftovers in the fridge neither person ends up eating them because they want to leave them for the other person, which means the leftovers end up going bad.

I asked my husband if he wanted to contribute any thing(s) he wondered about. He said, "Yeah, why do you ask questions, but not listen to what I tell you and why do you ask me questions that you know you aren't going to like the answers I give you and why do you ask so many questions..." Well, readers I think I've run out of space for this week's column.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook



FINANCIAL FOCUS

Help protect the finances of a loved one with Alzheimer's

If you have a loved one showing signs of Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, you'll obviously experience some strong emotions — and you'll likely ask yourself this question: What can I do to help? While there are certainly many ways you could provide assistance over time, there's one area that might require your immediate attention: finances.

Alzheimer's patients often exhibit a range of money-related problems. Here are some of the most common ones, according to the National Institute on Aging:

- Trouble counting change or paying for a purchase
- Difficulty in balancing a checkbook
- Confusion over bank statements
- Not paying — or even opening — bills
- Making strange and unnecessary purchases with a credit card

Of course, your awareness of these problems depends, to a great extent, on just how familiar you are with the daily life of your loved one with Alzheimer's or similar dementia. But if you have noticed these issues, it may be time for you to act before things get worse — and they can get worse, because scam artists constantly target the elderly by making false promises, soliciting personal data, asking for money and even requesting changes in estate-planning documents.

So, what steps can you take? You'll need to clearly communicate your concerns to your afflicted loved one, and you'll have to get their consent for the actions you wish to take on their behalf. This may not be easy, but it's certainly worth the effort.

Here are a few moves to consider:

- *Set up auto-pay.* If your loved one has still been paying bills manually, now may be a good time to set up auto-pay for utilities, loans and other bills.
- *Open a joint checking account.* By opening a joint checking account with your loved one, or perhaps adding your name to an existing account, you can help ensure all payments are accurate and appropriate.
- *Freeze credit reports.* By freezing your loved one's credit reports at the credit reporting bureaus — Equifax, TransUnion and Experian — you can prevent bogus credit lines from being opened in their name.
- *Create a durable power of attorney.* In the early stages of Alzheimer's or dementia, your loved one could create a durable power of attorney and name you, or another close family member, as the "agent" — which means you'd be empowered to make financial and other decisions when your loved one is no longer capable of doing so. (A durable power of attorney could also be created in cases of advanced Alzheimer's, but it can be somewhat more challenging.)
- *Help establish a living trust.* In addition to a durable power of attorney, a living trust can be valuable for families of Alzheimer's patients. A living trust can hold a person's financial assets and other property while the trustee manages the money and makes investment and spending decisions. A living trust can be complex, so before establishing one, you'll need to consult with your legal and tax professionals.

When you're dealing with the financial issues associated with your loved one's Alzheimer's or dementia, it can feel like you're on a long road. But diligently seeking out the appropriate financial moves can help make the journey less stressful — for everyone involved.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

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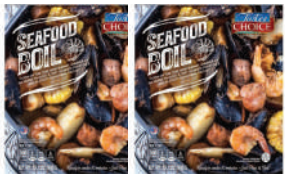
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SUNDAY 8 am to 7 pm

Militia Muster at Historic St. Mary's City



Experience the sights, smells, and sounds of a 17th-century militia encampment at Historic St. Mary's City's annual Grand Militia Muster on Saturday, September 23, 2023. The St. Maries City Militia will host 17th-century re-enactors from throughout the mid-Atlantic region for a day of drills and socializing. The public is invited to mingle with militia families at their encampment in the Town Center exhibit area between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Guests are invited to watch artillery and musketry demonstrations as well as a mock battle. Inspect the goods offered "17th-century" sutlers or see what's cooking on an open hearth. Expect color and pageantry when the militia comes to town!

St. Maries City Militia members are volunteers who research and re-enact the lives and times of the citizen-soldiers who took up arms to defend the colony before there was a hired armed force. In the 1600s, Lord Baltimore instructed male colonists to arm themselves with a musket and a slow match, 10 pounds of powder, 40 pounds of lead, a

sword, and a bandoleer. Those in the militia would periodically travel from their homes to practice soldiers' skills together. Their families, looking for an opportunity to visit or trade, might accompany them to these gatherings. The Historic St. Mary's Militia Muster event is meant to give visitors a sense of what those gatherings may have been like.

The Militia Muster event will take place from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and is free admission. Schedule for the day includes:

- 10:30 a.m. Musket, Pike and Cannon Drill (caution: this will be loud)
- 11:30 a.m. Children's drill (near the encampment)
- 1:00 p.m. The Trial of John Salter. A dramatization of court cases from the 1600s.
- 2:30 p.m. Children's drill (near the encampment)

For more information about the event please contact (301) 994-4371, (301) 994-4372, or hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov. www.HSMCdigsHistory.org.

Mechanicsville Woman Celebrates 100 Years



The family of Dorothy E. Fenwick threw her the party of her life at The Immaculate Conception Church Hall in Mechanicsville, of which she is a life-long member. At her 100th birthday celebration, her family asked her what her secret to a long life was: she answered that it was eating right and staying away from processed foods. "She's the matriarch of her family and she leads by example," said Dominique Carter, her granddaughter.

Pet OF THE WEEK



MEET BLITZ

I will love you, Meow and forever!

Hi, my name is Blitz. I'm a DASHING GINGER KITTEN on a mission to find my FOREVER HOME! I'm just 4 MONTH OLD RASCAL who is already a CHARMER. I've got more charisma than a movie star and I can't resist a good game of kitty soccer. I really ADORE PEOPLE and I'm a PURRFECT PLAYMATE for other feline pals. Think of me as your PERSONAL FELINE ENTERTAINER, complete with my elegant ginger coat. If you're ready for a daily dose of LAUGHTER and kitten ANTICS, then I'm your guy. Make me the headliner of your heart! Please come meet me during adoption hours Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! REMEMBER TO ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!!

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



Support The Wild Things 4-H Club



The Wild Things 4-H Club is located in St. Mary's County and is focused on livestock and horse projects. We have been actively working on achieving the goals we set for ourselves with our projects.



Raising livestock through our 4-H projects is aimed at teaching us life skills. These skills include leadership, teamwork, empathy, problem solving, record keeping, budgeting, financial management, and communication skills just to name a few.

Our projects would not be possible without the support of the community, particularly the local businesses and citizens who purchase our projects at the 4-H Livestock Auction held at the St. Mary's County Fair. This year's auction will be held on September 23rd at 6:00pm. We encourage you to

attend the fair and stop by the livestock barns and talk to us about our projects and animals we have available.

We are often asked why should I purchase a market animal from the auction. For many of our 4-H members this is their first experience operating in the business world---selling a product for a profit. Many members reinvest their funds and purchase new projects. Many



members also invest their money in savings accounts and other financial accounts to go toward college tuition. For you, it means you are getting high quality, locally raised meat. Our animals are raised with sustainable animal husbandry practices.

Buying a market animal from the St. Mary's County 4-H Livestock Auction is your opportunity to not only buy local but to invest in the future of me and my fellow club members. The dedication we have given to raising our life stock demonstrates we are responsible young people. We have been in daily contact with our animals, feeding, grooming, training, etc. We are proud of the work we have done and the animals we have raised.



Hope to see you at the auction on September 23rd at 6:00pm.

Brooke Buckler
Mackenzie Barker
Tyler Adams
Dolly-mae Anderson
Marilyn Anderson
Jacob Buckler
Lagana Raley
Morgan Raley
Gunnar Benson
Sydney Wise
Nathan Raley
Phoebe-Fate Anderson

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Identity Needed for Persons of Interest in Assault

On Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at approximately 12:30 AM, the subjects pictured were involved in an assault at the Super Eight Motel in California.

Following the interaction, the subjects left in a black sedan, possibly a Hyundai Elantra, with unknown registration.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspects and or this incident is asked to contact Dep. D. Hersh #343 at Dianne.Hersh@stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200 ext. 8155. Case #50611-23

You can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime Solvers at 274637.

Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown.

With Crime Solvers you never have to give your name. If your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.



Slow Down St. Mary's

Week three of "Slow Down St. Mary's", a joint initiative between the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, and the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office, continues.

Listed below are the reasons for the stops for week No. 3 as well as the grand totals so far since "Slow Down St. Mary's" began.

Week 3

- Speeding: 312
- Cell phone use: 26
- Running red light or stop sign: 17
- Unsafe lane change: 4
- Move over law: 6
- Other: 77
- School bus: 0

- Total traffic stops: 442
- Repair orders issued: 23
- Warnings issued: 65
- Tickets issued: 541

Total for all weeks:

- Speeding: 1,018
- Cell phone use: 83
- Running red light or stop sign: 77
- Unsafe lane change: 12
- Move over law: 18
- School bus: 1
- Other: 197
- Total traffic stops: 1,406
- Repair orders issued: 72
- Warnings issued: 271
- Tickets issued: 1,709

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has been abandoned for 180 days on the property of Corinthian Yacht Club, 48555 Bean Rd, Ridge, MD, 20680, 301-872-5187. The vessel is described as:

Boat Registration Number MD 7725 N
 Hull Identification Number F2317167
 Vessel Name: Boy Toy
 Builder: Thunderbird
 Length: 23'
 Color: Light Blue

Application for title will be made in accordance with Sections 8-722 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article if this vessel is not claimed and removed from the above property within 30 days of this notice.

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Wisconsin Man Sentenced for Felony Sex Offense of a Child

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Justin Tyler Dunbar, 34, of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, was sentenced to 20 years in the Division of Corrections, with ten years of active incarceration to serve in prison. Mr. Dunbar was convicted of three counts of felony sexual offense on the same child, with each act occurring on October 17, 2022.

A St. Mary's County jury convicted Mr. Dunbar following a three-day jury trial in May 2023. Mr. Dunbar was sentenced as follows:

- Sex Offense Third Degree – sentenced to the maximum penalty of ten years in prison.
- Sex Offense Third Degree – sentenced to ten years, suspended, to run consecutive; and
- Sex Offense Third Degree – sentenced to ten years, suspended, to run consecutive.

Mr. Dunbar must register as a sex offender for life and will be subject to lifetime sexual offender supervision.

The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines called for a sentence between a range of three months and four years. At sentencing, the State requested Mr. Dunbar to 30 years of active incarceration in prison, all to run consecutively, which is the maximum



Justin Tyler Dunbar

penalty by law.

Detective James Bare of the Criminal Investigation Division of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Proctor, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

The Honorable Joseph M. Staloni presided over the case.

Commissioners to Hold Public Meeting with Legislative Delegation

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will host a joint public meeting with the St. Mary's County Legislative Delegation on October 3, 2023, at 6 p.m., in the CSMC meeting room, located in the Chesapeake Building at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, MD.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider requests by the CSMC and proposals by organizations and members of the public for enactment of legislation during the 2024 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

This year the following legislative proposals were submitted to the CSMC for consideration:

- Requiring state-owned nursing homes to report certain deficiencies to local governing bodies.
- Creating a new class of beer and wine license for nonprofit theatres.
- Creating a new class of permits for beer, wine, and liquor tasting.
- Requesting funding for Southern Maryland animal agriculture and livestock farmers transitioning to plant-based agriculture.

- Requesting funding for a program to better preserve local produce for long-term storage.
- Reporting to the General Assembly on which public highways the Commissioners consider appropriate for the operation of golf carts.

A copy of the legislative proposals will be available in the County Attorney's Office and online at: stmaryscountymd.gov/docs/LegislativeProposals2024.pdf. Meeting information and related documents can be viewed online at: stmaryscountymd.gov/publichearings.

Citizens are encouraged to attend and participate in the public meeting. Those wishing to address the Commissioners and members of the St. Mary's County Legislative Delegation may participate in-person or provide their feedback via:

Email to: csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov
Mail to: P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650

CSMC Public Meetings are televised live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 and available on the SMCG YouTube Channel.

Leonardtwn Claims Another Honor

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Gov. Wes Moore has proclaimed Leonardtown as a new Main Street Maryland community, adding to the town's already prestigious position as the county's only Arts and Entertainment District.

Both designations are designed to boost the town's economic development potential.

Laschelle McKay, town administrator, said the town applied for the designation in April but had been working towards being able to support the program for several years now.

The main street designation puts Leonardtown in the same group as other such communities in Maryland and around the country, providing opportunities to share lessons learned and best practices on how to best achieve better economic prosperity, McKay said

But just as importantly, the designation makes grant money available for businesses in the town and the town government as well to fulfill its mission of continued economic revitalization, said McKay.

Earlier this year the town revealed its plans to increase business recruitment, particularly the town's central square.

Part of that was hiring a new employee — a main street manager, Emily Stagner — to make the town eligible for the main street designation.

"This [designation] dovetails perfectly with our plans for retail recruitment," McKay said.

As the state coordinating program of the National Main Street Center, Main Street Maryland is part of a national network of state programs across the country and is authorized to bestow official, nationally recognized Main Street designations for communities in Maryland, according to a statement from the governor's office. To date, neighborhood revitalization and redevelopment activities in designated Main Street Maryland communities have supported approximately 3,800 new and expanding businesses; created more than 14,000 jobs; leveraged nearly \$490 million in private investment for more than 5,600 projects, as well as \$477 million in public investment for 1,750 projects; and leveraged almost 900,000 hours of volunteer work with a wage value of almost \$27.5 million.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Conversations Planned to Bring Services and Citizens Together

The Community Mediation Center, in partnership with local organizations, has planned "Community Conversations," a series of monthly community dialogs where people of all kinds from throughout St. Mary's County can discuss topics of interest and concern in a safe, encouraging and conducive space.

In St. Mary's County, the Community Mediation Center wants to bring people together. This series will further the Center's responsibility to create a space for systemic change, according to Mia Bowers, the center's Executive Director, in keeping with a hallmark of community mediation. The Center's outreach efforts have formed partnerships with a broad array of agencies, including many that are concerned the message of what they have to offer isn't being heard.

"There's a big disconnect," Bowers said. But in addition to sharing their information, the agencies also want to hear from the peo-

ple they hope to serve. "They can learn from the community," she said. "You get to learn from them, and, in turn, they get to learn from you."

The conversations that Bowers mentioned are geared toward creating new and lasting connections, through that open and honest exchange of information. These conversations began in August 2023 at a gathering with the St. Mary's Chapter of the NAACP. Next up will be a conversation hosted by the St. Mary's County Museum Division at the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Interpretive Center at the Lexington Manor Passive Park on September 24, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. where the community is welcome to attend free and engage in the discourse.

For more information on the "Community Conversations" series and the Mediation Center, including its many services related to conflict resolution, please call 301-475-9118 or visit CommunityMediationSMC.org.

Tri County Livestock Auction
1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM
Located Off MD Rt. 6 West – Charlotte Hall, MD

Grocery Auction – Mother Catherine Academy
Thursday, October 12, 2023 – 6 pm
38833 Chaptico Road – Mechanicsville, MD

So. MD Fall Harvest Auction
Saturday, October 14, 2023 - 4 pm
Mums; Pumpkins & Fall Produce; Quilts; Locally-Raised, USDA Inspected Meats; Locally-Crafted Furniture; More
Westfield Farm Arena – 26689 Laurel Grove Rd. Mech., MD
We purchase hogs, beef, and lamb from Charles County and St. Mary's County 4H Livestock Auctions and have them processed at the Sudlersville Meat Locker (USDA facility). Packages will be vacuum-sealed and frozen. **Offering a variety of meat packages including steaks, roasts, hamburger, pork chops, ham steaks, sausage, bacon scrapple, and lamb.**
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Saturday, December 9, 2023 – 9 am
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Inmate Death Under Investigation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) of the county sheriff's office are investigating the death of an inmate housed at the adult detention center in Leonardtown.

John Sherman Greenwell, 44, was pronounced dead after being taken to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital on Sept. 15 while suffering a medical emergency.

According to a statement from the sheriff's office, Greenwell had suffered a previous medical emergency on Sept. 11 and had been admitted for treatment; but he had been released and returned to the detention center.

He had a second medical emergency the same day he was released from the hospital and returned to incarceration.

CID is working to find the cause of death, the sheriff's office said, while OPR's investigation is focusing on finding whether all policies and procedures were followed regarding Greenwell's care while in custody.

Greenwell had been incarcerated at the adult detention center for almost three years after he had been arrested for allegedly assaulting two deputies in Lexington Park.

In that incident, two deputies had responded to the Big Lots store in Millison Plaza on Great Mills Road for a trespassing complaint.

Greenwell had been given a notice not to



John Sherman Greenwell

trespass before but this time, on Dec. 29 2020, he allegedly drew a knife on the two deputies who confronted him and assaulted them.

One deputy was wounded in the hand upon Greenwell's initial rapid attack, police reports stated, while the other deputy engaged the suspect and began to grapple with him.

The wounded deputy drew his service weapon and shot Greenwell, wounding him in the right arm.

Greenwell was charged with attempted murder and first-degree assault stemming from the incident and was to finally face trial this December.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Fatal Firework Was Illegal

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The firework mortar used by a Piney Point man Sept. 16 that resulted in his death was illegal under state law, The County Times has learned.

According to a list of prohibited fireworks types distributed by the Office of the Fire Marshal "only gold-labeled sparklers, novelty items [such as] party poppers, snap pops, snakes and ground based sparkler devices are permitted for use in the State of Maryland."

William Michael McFann, 26, was pronounced deceased on the scene when emergency medical service personnel arrived in the 19900 block of Poplar Hill Creek Lane in Leonardtown, early that Saturday morning.

Investigators later concluded that McFann had placed a fireworks mortar tube on his upper chest and attempted to ignite it. The

firework then exploded, killing him.

McFann's is the second death this year in Maryland from a fireworks explosion and in almost the exact manner.

On July 5, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Charles County Sheriff's Office were called to Bannister Circle in Waldorf after a caller reported that a man had been injured while setting off fireworks. Damon Hammond, 20, died after a mortar he was holding exploded, causing serious chest and hand injuries that claimed his life.

"A family's life has been changed forever, and this is a tragic reminder that fireworks should be left to the professionals," said Fire Marshal Brian Geraci. "I've said it before, and I will say it again: the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend one of the many public fireworks displays throughout the state."

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County Joins National Law Suit Against Insulin Producers

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

County leaders chose to join a multi-district lawsuit this week against insulin manufacturers and pharmaceutical benefit managers for monetary damages due to artificially high prices.

"The crux of this claim is that for the last two decades these entities have acted in a non-competitive and unlawful manner to artificially increase the price of insulin," said Deputy County Attorney John Houser at the Sept. 19 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "That artificially increased price of insulin has been absorbed by the county in the form of payouts to health benefit plans."

The county commissioners agreed to sign a retainer agreement with the law firm of Baron and Budd, PC and the Poole Law Group to represent the county.

The Poole Law Group is currently representing the county in its class action lawsuit against opioid manufacturers.

The agreement states that attorney's fees and expenses would be capped at 35 percent of whatever award would be given to the plaintiffs, Houser said.

According to county documents regarding the suit: "Insulin prices have skyrocketed over the past 20 years, despite the drug being over 100 years old, decreased manufacturing costs and minimal innovations regarding the drug since its initial formulation. Since 2003 the list price of certain insulins has increased by more than 1,000%, outpacing the inflation rate for consumer goods and services."

If the county loses its bid in litigation, the agreement states, it pays nothing to plaintiff's counsel.

"It just seems so limited in scope," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt of the lawsuit. "This is going to benefit county employees? It's not the general citizens in St. Mary's County."

Hewitt said he wanted to see the county reimbursed for being overcharged for insulin but wished for some way to help everyday citizens who must take insulin to stave off the effects of diabetes.

Houser said that the agreement commis-

sioners had before them authorized the lawyers to pursue injunctions against any future price fixing schemes by insulin manufacturers as well as monetary damages to be returned to the county.

"That is all going to be happening in a case parallel to this litigation," Houser said, noting there were three U.S. Senate investigations into this issue as well as other law suits seeking damages for "society writ large" and to stop the practice.

"That's the key, the stop to this practice," said Commissioner Eric Colvin. "With opioids... people got addicted to it and there was a certain amount of counseling that could be provided and people could theoretically be able to get past that. People who need insulin are going to be using it for the rest of their lives."

Commissioner Scott Ostrow said that while the lawsuit the county was joining would directly benefit the county government only, a legal victory would still serve the purpose of forcing the manufacturing companies to stop their overpricing practices.

"That is one of the goals of this litigation and the broader discussion I was alluding to," Houser said in agreement. "I'd be hard pressed to imagine a settlement that doesn't include a stop to the behavior."

The commissioners voted unanimously to join the class action lawsuit.

A report issued by the U.S. Senate's Finance Committee in recent years shows there are several factors that influence the rising costs of insulin, but the report points out one in particular.

"First and foremost, pharmaceutical manufacturers have complete control over setting the list price (the Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC)) for their products," the reports states. "This investigation found that manufacturers aggressively raised the WAC of their insulin products absent significant advances in the efficacy of the drugs."

"These price increases appear to have been driven, in part, by tactics PBMs (Pharmacy Benefit Managers) employed in the early 2010s."

The report went on to explain: "At that time, PBMs began to more aggressively pit manufacturers against each other by implementing formulary exclusions in the insulin

therapeutic class, which effectively stopped manufacturers from reaching large blocks of patients."

The report expounded on ways the companies worked to increase their prices.

"The Finance Committee found that drug manufacturers increased insulins' WAC in part to give them room to offer larger rebates to PBMs and health insurers, all in the hopes that their product would receive preferred formulary placement," the report continued. "This pricing strategy translated into higher sales volumes and revenue for manufacturers."

"In some cases, manufacturers appear to have been concerned that decreasing WAC prices would be viewed negatively by PBMs, since PBMs capture a portion of rebate revenue and are also paid administrative fees based on a percentage of WAC."

The report found that Medicare spending on insulin has increased by billions of dollars over the past decade; from 2010 to 2018 Medicare Part D spent \$78.4 billion on insulin in various forms.

The report estimated that 7.4 million Americans use insulin to treat either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes and escalating costs means those patients often cannot afford enough medication to effectively treat their conditions and incur more health problems as a result.

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Hosted by:
St. Mary's County
Department of Aging & Human Services

at the
University of Maryland - Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Rd, California, MD
Friday, October 13, 2023
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Free Community Event

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Scams, Fraud, & Identity Protection
9:30 a.m.
All About Advance Health Care Directives
11 a.m.
Service Animal Etiquette
12:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sarah Miller
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Phone: 301-475-4200, ext. 1073
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Questions Abound for United Bridge Partners

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A small group of Calvert County residents had a bevy of questions for the representatives of United Bridge Partners (UBP), the construction and operation group that wants to build a toll bridge to replace the aging span connecting with neighboring St. Mary's.

And while many on social media and in other forums have flatly rejected the idea of a toll bridge, those gathered in Prince Frederick at the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center the evening of Sept. 19 were very curious about what UBP had to offer.

UBP President and CEO Doug Witt told those gathered that his consortium could build a new bridge in about three year's time; if they could start by mid-2024 residents could have a new span by 2027.

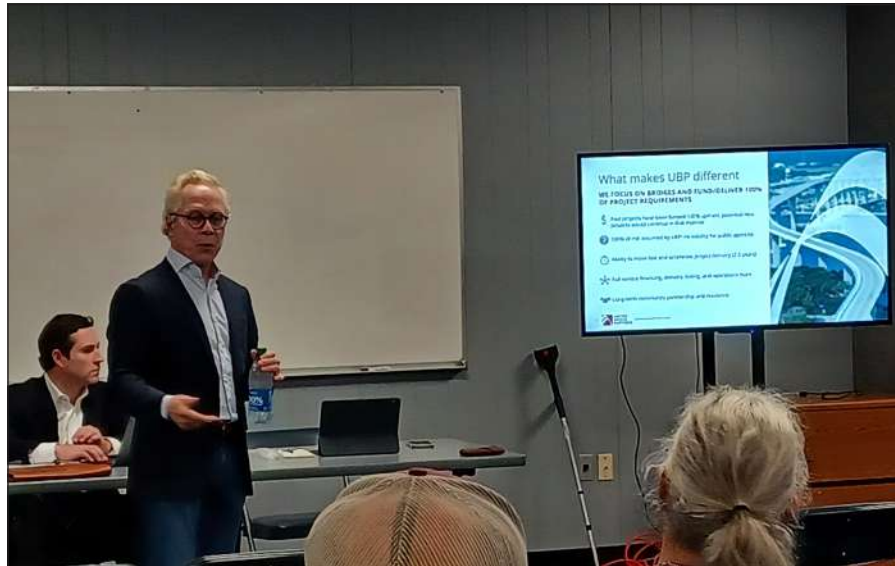
"We're not going to do anything you don't want to do," Witt told those gathered, noting that community buy in was key to their efforts.

Witt has said before in speaking with elected leaders that the toll aspect of a new bridge is the single biggest obstacle for nearly every community.

But, Witt said, of the 14 bridges of similar size as the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge that have opened since 2020, four of them have been built by UBP.

"We don't build it and move on," Witt said. "We're imbedded in the community."

Witt said a four-lane bridge would cost about \$300 million and UBP would con-



Doug Witt, United Bridge Partners CEO, talks to Calvert residents about building a toll bridge in place of the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge.

tinue to operate it and collect the tolls in perpetuity.

James Marcum, a local realtor, said that a toll of \$9 per trip — a figure widely circulated on social media leading up to the forum — would recoup the cost of the bridge for UBP in about three years.

That, plus a profit margin to satisfy investors' stakes in the venture taken for a few years after, might allow UBP to terminate the tolls.

"That's a lot easier to swallow than 40 years of tolls," Marcum said to Witt.

But Witt said that plan would not work.

"We wouldn't be able to support that for a lot of reasons," Witt said, noting that for other bridges they have built and operated they have offered commuter rate plans, plans for residents' rates and monthly passes.

Tolls would be contractually based, Witt said, with a schedule for increases based on either the consumer price index or the local cost of living.

"There would be a schedule to increase tolls," Witt said. "We want to keep tolls as low as possible."

That meant starting at \$4 per trip each way, Witt said, but the goal was to go lower

than that; on one bridge they operated the toll was \$2.75 each way.

"We've done it in places that didn't have tolling," Witt said. "People weren't happy about it. This is a difficult problem, it just is."

Witt said any new bridge would be built to last 75 to 100 years.

David Ballot, who lives in Calvert but uses the bridge to get to work in St. Mary's, wanted to know who funded UBP's work.

"I don't want to see any foreign capital yanked out from under you... by people who don't have our interests."

Ballot mentioned People's Republic of China money in particular as undesirable.

"We have a group of investors who back what we do," Witt said.

He added that the type of money Ballot was concerned with was not an issue.

Witt said his group had two more forums in Calvert before moving on to gauge community support in St. Mary's.

For a bridge project to take hold here, he said, both communities would have to support it enough for the state to hand over ownership of the current span to the two counties.

Once that happened, Witt said, new construction became a more firm possibility.

But time was of the essence.

"Doing nothing is expensive right now," Witt said. "Costs continue to go up."

"There is no easy answer."

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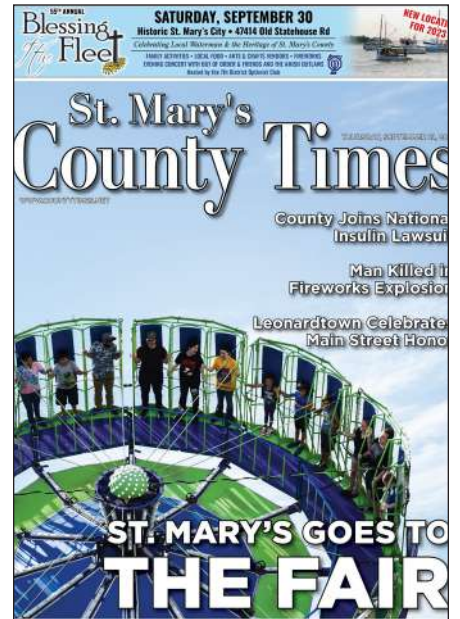
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“WE WANT TO KEEP TOLLS AS LOW AS POSSIBLE.”

UNITED BRIDGE PARTNERS CEO DOUG WITT ON TOLLS IF THEY BUILT A NEW SOLOMONS ISLAND BRIDGE



LOCAL 5
County joins insulin price lawsuit



6 ON THE COVER
The St. Mary's County Fair runs through Sunday



LOCAL 6
Inmate death under investigation

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, SEP 21 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 60°	FRI, SEP 22 PM Showers Hi: 73° Lo: 61°	SAT, SEP 23 Rain Hi: 68° Lo: 57°	SUN, SEP 24 Showers Hi: 73° Lo: 58°
MON, SEP 25 Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 59°	TUE, SEP 26 Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 59°	WED, SEP 27 Showers Hi: 70° Lo: 57°	THU, SEP 28 Showers Hi: 71° Lo: 56°



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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

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