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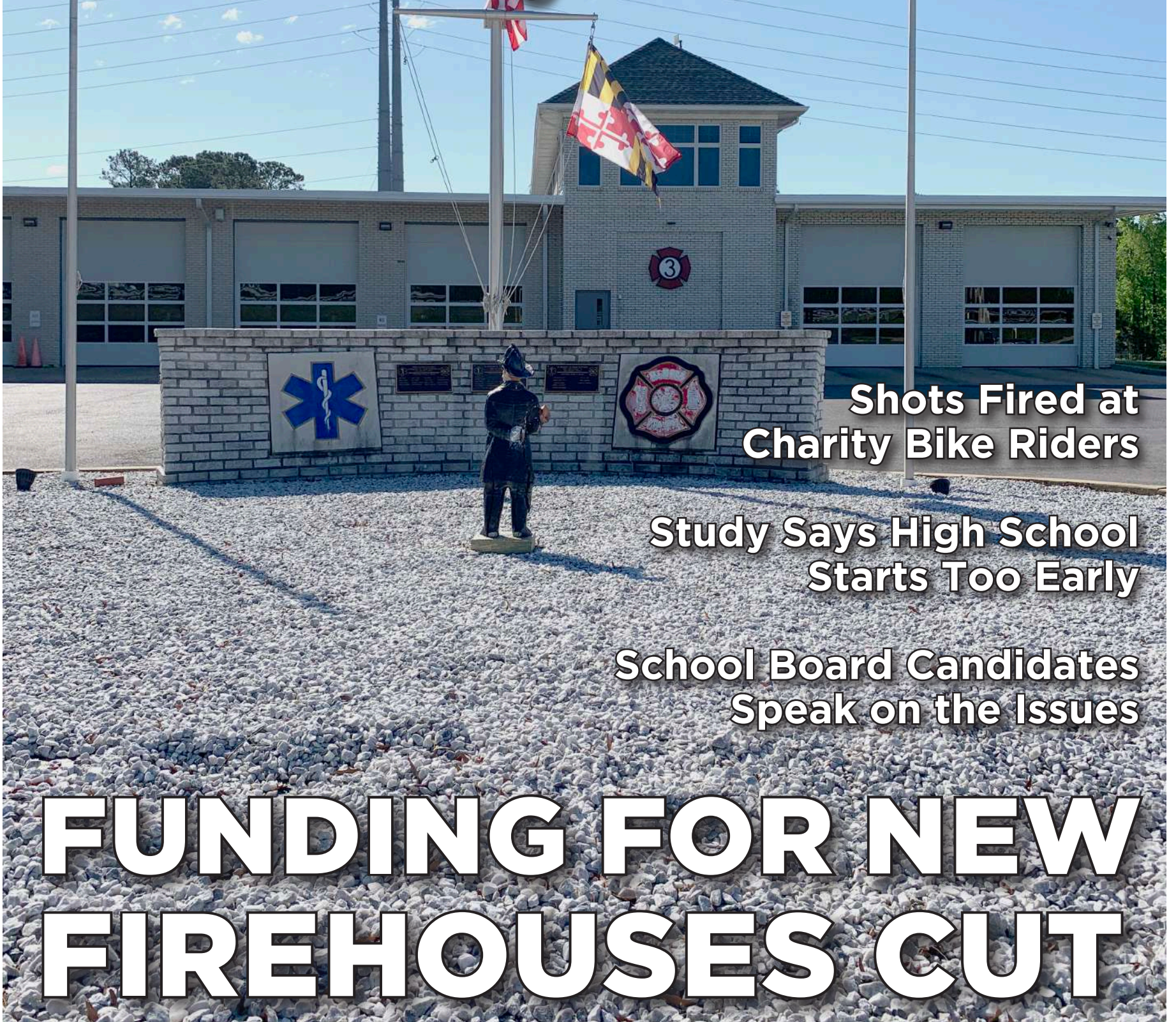
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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

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**Shots Fired at
Charity Bike Riders**

**Study Says High School
Starts Too Early**

**School Board Candidates
Speak on the Issues**

FUNDING FOR NEW FIREHOUSES CUT

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“IT PROBABLY SHOULD BE CONDEMNED.”

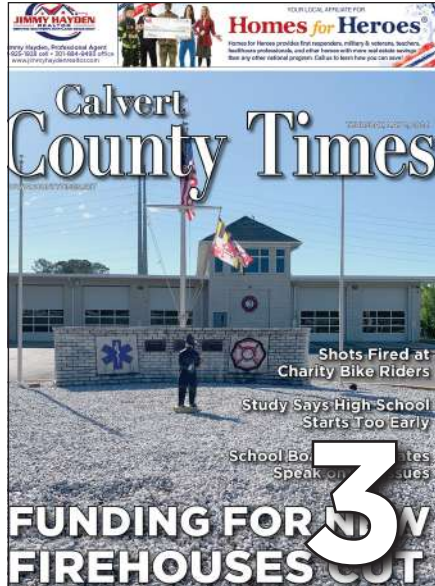
COMMISSIONER VP CATHERINE GRASSO ON THE CURRENT SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTERS.



LOCAL 4
School board continues to debate behavior



LOCAL 6
Study says high school starts too early



ON THE COVER 3
New fire houses delayed

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 2 Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 63°	FRI, MAY 3 Partly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 54°	SAT, MAY 4 Showers Hi: 66° Lo: 57°	SUN, MAY 5 Rain Hi: 70° Lo: 64°
MON, MAY 6 PM Showers Hi: 75° Lo: 62°	TUE, APR MAY 7 Showers Hi: 79° Lo: 65°	WED, MAY 8 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 68°	THU, MAY 9 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 83° Lo: 64°

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Solomons, St. Leonard Firehouses Delayed

Part of Major Capital Plan Two-Year Cuts

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With unprecedented budget challenges facing the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners for next fiscal year and perhaps beyond, the budget ax has fallen first on capital projects. At their April 29 meeting, County Administrator Mark Willis presented a recommended capital budget that is almost 50 percent smaller than what was in the staff recommended budget presented several months ago. Fiscal Year 2025 has a 47 percent cut and FY '26 has a 46 percent cut.

Most notable among the cuts is the removal of both a the new Solomons and St. Leonard firehouses until beyond the six-year capital improvement plan.

Other significant changes are:

- Education:
 - » Calvert Elementary School - Feasibility Study moved to FY '27
 - » Calvert High School - Athletic Field House moved out two years (FY27/FY29)
 - » Huntingtown High School - Tennis Courts Re-surfaced, moved to FY '27
 - » Patuxent High School - New Athletic Field House moved to FY '27
- Recreation Resources:
 - » Harriet E. Brown Community Center – moved out two years to FY '27



Solomons firehouse

- Public Safety:
 - » Sheriff's New Facility – placed in FY '29
 - » Public Safety Facility – moved out two years to FY '27

There was no mention of the two firehouses during the April 29 presentation, with most of the discussion centering on the sheriff's headquarters, which at a recent meeting was deemed inadequate at its current location, a more-than-100-year-old building.

Willis said on April 9, "the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to identify a new, long-term location for the Sheriff's Office, and incorporate plans for construction of a new facility for the Sheriff's Office into the current Capital Improvement Plan. In order to introduce the



St. Leonard firehouse

Sheriff's Office project into the six-year CIP, my office with finance and budget and other departments, closely worked together and undertook an exhausted examination of all projects within the CIP."

Willis added, "I will tell you that we looked out as far as 2040, because we had to know what was out there in the future to know what we could do with today. So, when we say exhaustive, it was exhaustive. So, we looked at that and we looked at the financial responsibilities that the commissioners had today."

In moving out a number of projects, the commissioners also will use bonding instead of paying cash for a significant number of projects.

The one project that has survived the cuts is the new Northern Middle School. Willis explained, "We're getting 65 percent grant funding from the state; it's kind of hard to pass up that funding."

Regarding the changes, Willis said, "We're pushing it. I want to make that clear. We're not saying that we're never going to do these projects. We're just pushing it out to be fiscally responsible as long as we need to operate as a fiscally responsible county,

which is what the goal is."

Commissioner Mike Hart said, "I think it's important to let everybody know why this is being done. So, if you're just not really understanding CIP or what have you, the budget problems that we're having are real. I've done a lot of these, and there's always going to be some people out here that go, they've got money. No, no, no, no, no. You cannot lose \$22 million. You can't be told about it in January. You can't have the largest unfunded mandate."

The delay of the sheriff's headquarters caused the most angst among the commissioners. Vice President Catherine Grasso said, "I agree with Commissioner Hart. The public needs to know that our budget situation is critical. I don't like seeing the Sheriff's Office moved to Fiscal Year '29. I'd like to have additional talks about that. I want to move it closer."

Willis said, "We can move those projects to suit the needs of the citizens, to suit the needs of the departments on behalf of the citizens. That's your call truly at any time."

Hart asked Willis, "If we had the money today, where's that building being built?"

Willis responded, "Well, if I had money today and that building was being built, it's still planned to go at where the, the Harriet Elizabeth Brown headquarters building is sitting for parks and rec."

Grasso said, "I know 25 to 26 is where we are going to get our bearings and have some breathing room and reevaluate. But I think that needs to be done. People need to know the sheriff's office is in bad situation. It probably should be condemned."

The commissioners still have the daunting task of reviewing the general fund budget prior to the May public hearing on the commissioner's recommended budget.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Grenis Rebuffed on Call for CHS Action Plan

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Board of Education member Lisa Grenis failed to gather any support at their April 25 meeting for a motion requiring School Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel to come up with a plan in two weeks to address the much-publicized problems at Calvert High School.

The failed motion directed Townsel “to develop a specific plan for addressing the violence, drugs, vaping, and safety concerns at Calvert High School, which were brought to our attention at the last meeting. He would then report his plan of action to the Board of Education at our next meeting.”

Townsel on the Monday before the April 25 meeting met with teachers and walked the halls at CHS and toured the bathrooms. Grenis said, “I appreciate that Dr. Townsel has met with the teachers. Meetings are nice, but I’m still for submitting a formal action plan for Calvert High School.”

Grenis insisted, “I think we need an action plan. What resources can you add? What additional personnel? I think we need a plan.”

Board member Dawn Balinski said, “My concern is that we’re singling out one school out of the 24 schools that we do have. And it is the superintendent’s responsibility to address all. And our job as board of ed, if he does not come up with plans that do not result in any success, then that is our job, in his evaluation, to reflect that.”

Board Vice President Inez Claggett said she had no problem requiring a plan but felt the two-week timetable was unrealistic. Instead, she suggested the plan be due at the board meeting in June, but Grenis refused to agree to a motion amendment.

Grenis said, “I don’t think we can put our students and staff in danger by waiting. I

think we need a plan of action, and we need it now.”

Grenis added, “I have a sense of urgency about this. I think that we need to do something before things get out of control. From the teachers I’ve talked to, I don’t think things are being exaggerated. They are begging for help. And even if it’s not a perfect plan, we need to do something and we need to do it now.”

Board President Antoine White said, “Actually, I’ve been talking to a lot of teachers and educators there also, and since April the second, I think they’ve had a couple of incidents. But since the sheriff’s department and the Community Mediation Center have been in the school, they have said that the climate has changed.”

He added, “So when people say that restorative practices or restorative justice doesn’t work, let me see your certification. How do you really know if it’s being done properly or anything else? But when I hear people saying a lot of these things, I’m there. I have the conversations. I know what’s going on. And a lot of times we have to hear from both sides. If you surround yourself with people who are like-minded, I’m not saying this is directed at you or anything, but if you surround yourself by people that think like you all the time, you’re going to get the same thing.”

White said, “I get conversations and emails from both sides of it, and I listen to all of it. I don’t make decisions out of emotion.”

White observed, “They just had their meeting on Monday, today’s Thursday. Give them an opportunity to put forth some energy and effort to come up with a plan to fix some of the problems, because everyone in that school, the parents, the educators, the principals, it’s going to take everybody to be a part of this. You can’t just have one side.

You have to have buy-in from everybody to do this.”

White noted, “If there’s a divide, that needs to be addressed. Maybe they need to have a circle. Maybe they need to sit down and talk. Because if the school is that divided, it’s affecting the kids. So, we have to get to the root of the problem. You have an administrator who’s been there for a year, and she’s doing the best that she can. We have to support her and give them an opportunity before we step in.”

During the public comment portion of the meeting, CHS teacher Erin Hammett debunked the notion that there is division on the school about the severity of the problem. She said, “Our last public comment was supported by 47 different teachers out of the 60 ones that were actually sent the survey. And of those, 30 attended the last meeting. Twenty came before, Dr. Townsel to meet before contracted hours in less than 24-hour’s notice.”

Townsel said he had things under control. “I have the opportunity this week to meet with all of the educators that came to our Board of Education meeting the last time we got together. I came with less than 24-hour notice, intentionally to see what I could see without any warning. I spent about two hours there.” Adding, “not only after meeting with the educators and talking with the team about coming together with the plan, everyone being on the same page, being visible, being vocal, being vigilant, communicating effectively with one another, and not turning a blind eye to anything happening in the school. And ultimately, at the end of that, I walked the halls specifically with an educator for probably, they can tell you, 30, 40 minutes.”

Townsel was expected to meet with a group of students at CHS this week. White said he would be there and Grenis asked to



Board of Education member Lisa Grenis

be invited.

When the vote came, only Grenis supported her motion. Board member Jana Post was not at the meeting.

Later, during public comment, the controversy continued. Tiffany Hance, parent, and teacher, said, “One of my students showed me the videos of the fights at Calvert High. I’ve talked to the teachers at Calvert High about the disrespect they receive on a daily basis. As much as I love teaching, I’d quit if I had to put up with that mess. Every day teachers go into this profession to teach, not to be cussed at and put themselves in danger, trying to break up fights. Ms. Claggett, you said we haven’t gotten to the root of the problem. Teachers can tell you the root of the problem is that the code of conduct is not being enforced and parents don’t parent anymore. There are little consequences for bad behavior and students have learned that they can do whatever they want.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Shots Fired at Cyclists on Charity Ride

Huntingtown Man Charged in Incident

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Bureau responded on April 27 at approximately 10:10 a.m. to the 4600 block of Hardesty Road in Huntingtown, for the reports of shots fired.

Preliminary investigation revealed, that two cyclists participating in the charity ‘End Hunger’ Bike Ride were riding their bicycles on Hardesty Road when a pickup truck travelling behind them engaged in ‘road rage.’ The driver of the pickup truck, identified as David Earl Bustin, 66 of Huntingtown, swerved around the victims in an attempt to run them off the road. The truck continued driving on Hardesty Road and pulled into a driveway where Bustin retrieved a shotgun and fired three shots toward the cyclists.

Contact was made with Bustin and he was placed into custody without further incident.

A residential search warrant was later executed where three spent shotgun shells and a Winchester Model 1300 shotgun were



David Bustin

recovered.

Bustin was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with two counts of First-Degree Assault and two counts of Reckless Endangerment.

Press Release from CCSO

North Beach Man Dies in Motorcycle Crash

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Bureau responded on April 29 at approximately 6:26 p.m. to the 3700 block of Chaneyville Road in Owings for the report of a motorcycle crash. Upon arrival, units discovered a motorcycle just off the roadway and the operator of the motorcycle was deceased. The Crash Reconstruction Team was notified and responded to the scene.

Preliminary investigation revealed a 2004 Harley Davidson was traveling north on Chaneyville Road. The operator of the motorcycle was identified as Richard Evan

Ganyon Jr., 52 of North Beach. The motorcycle left the roadway for unknown reasons and Ganyon lost control on the unpaved shoulder.

The investigation is ongoing. Deputy First Class Mike Lewis of the Crash Reconstruction Team is investigating the crash. Anyone with information is asked to contact DFC Lewis at 410-535-2800 or via email Mike.Lewis.Jr@calvertcountymd.gov. Please reference case 24-34379.

Press release from CCSO

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Study: High School Is Starting Too Early

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The 7:15 a.m. school start for high school students in Calvert County is way too early according to the Centers for Disease Control and backed up by a study conducted at Huntingtown High School.

Briella Dalzell, president of the Psychology Club at Huntingtown High School, told the school board on April 25 that the CDC recommends that high school should not start before 8:30 a.m. based on the sleep needs of children that age.

She said, "We have been working on a project addressing student sleep in relation to when high school starts for the past two years. This is a project that earned a Girl Scout Gold Award and something I've been inspired to do since middle school."

She said in middle school she wondered why she was so tired in her math class. "It was then that I went on to talking to my peers and learning about a kid that grew several inches during the summer.

"And I decided to look into that more. So last year we did a survey. We got 449 responses of our 1,358 Huntingtown High School student population. A third of our student body answered our survey. We asked them about their sleep quality and their sleep practices in relation to when high school starts at 7:15 a.m. These questions were based around what is called the circadian rhythm. Our bodies have an internal clock that tells us when to go to sleep and when



to wake up. This is done by the hormone melatonin. Melatonin for teenagers changes when it begins production and when it ends. Kids, as we know, wake up early. They go to bed early.

"Teenagers are not that way. Melatonin, the sleep hormone, begins production at around 10:45 p.m. and stops production at around 8 a.m., which is the end of first period."

Dalzell said, "Trying to have kids be in first period is similar to making a computer on battery power. Try and download a bazillion files. You're shoving a lot of information into a system that is supposed to be resting and charging. Adding this high school early

start time with teenager's biological clock, you're equaling a recipe for sleep deprivation, not getting enough sleep."

She noted, "This not getting enough sleep, which is eight to 10 hours recommended by the Center for Disease Control, impacts many things across the board. Let's start with academic performance. A study in Seattle showed a 4.5 percent increase in grades when high school started just an hour later. When that high school starts at 10 a.m., the Harvard and the University of Nebraska discovered a 12 percent grade increase. Starting high schools later to fit when teenagers are supposed to be awake,

increases their grades. There're also dangers associated with not getting the needed amount of rest. There's a driving danger."

She added, "There's also a mental health impact from sleep deprivation, increasing the risk of suicide. And then there's behavior danger."

Dalzell relayed, "We have several data points from the survey that show that, effects are happening locally; 85 percent of our respondents are not getting the necessary eight to 10 hours of sleep and 74 percent say they do not perform best when tired. A large majority say that they would like school to start later after 7:15 a.m. and more than half have admitted to falling asleep during the school day."

She said younger kids don't have the same problem so the starting times could be switched to accommodate bus schedules.

School board member Dawn Balinski noted some of the pitfalls of a later start time, "We have heard that there is a tremendous upheaval for daycare. And I just want to hear from our parents and those that are trying to juggle it. It's a condition that is in a lot of rural areas. We have very few daycares. We have a three-tier bus system because we, we can't afford more."

The school board members expressed enthusiasm for the study and urged the other high schools to do the same thing. They said they would seriously consider the starting time issue.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

VOTE

Jeanette

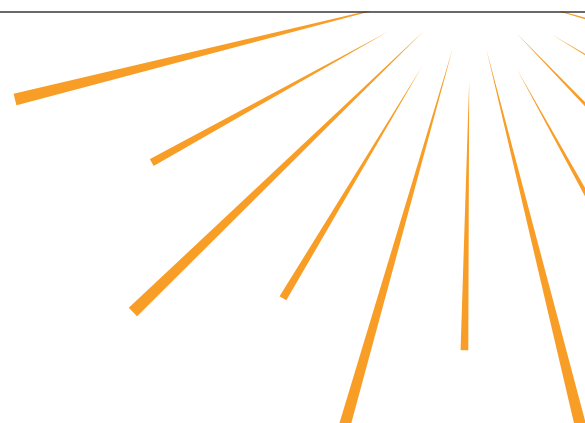
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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Sat, May 4

Calvert County Master Gardeners 22nd Annual Plant Sale

Community Resource Bldg.
30 Duke St., Prince Frederick
8 a.m. till 12 p.m.

Native plants & shrubs, vegetables and herbs

Solomons Maritime Festival

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. -4 p.m.

Celebrate Southern Maryland traditions at this FREE festival! Visitors of all ages are invited to join us for exciting activities including cooking demonstrations, traditional LIVE music, toy boat building, Quilts of Valor display, Chesapeake Bay Retriever demonstrations, antique boats and motors, plus 30-minute cruises on the *Wm. B. Tension!* Food vendors will be on-site. Admission to the festival and the museum is FREE!

Chromebook Giveaways

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

These Chromebooks have been provided by a grant from the Maryland State Department of Housing and Community Development. Please see the qualification requirements before making a pick-up appointment. We understand that demand may be higher than our supply of Chromebooks. If you don't receive a laptop at one of our events, we encourage you to check out our lending program. Customers can borrow a Wi-Fi-enabled Chromebook, a mobile hotspot or both for a normal borrowing period of 21 days with a library card. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
12-3 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, May 5

COSMIC Symphony's Concert

Patuxent High School
12485 Southern Connector Blvd, Lusby
3 p.m.

FREE CONCERT - NO TICKETS REQUIRED. Sounds of the Screen will feature International Vocalist Lisa Harmon and the music heard across your favorite films, including Star Wars, Pirates of the Caribbean, James Bond, Titanic, and more. COSMIC Symphony is pleased to present these concerts free of charge.

Sunday Afternoons with Poppie

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Make your Sunday afternoon memorable by coming to visit with our very own Pop Star "Poppie," our Virginia Opossum. You can join the Poppie paparazzi in the museum lobby with one of our educational interpreters, learn all kinds of fun possum facts, and visit our Museum Store for possum fan gear. Since the welfare of our animals is our primary concern, Poppie's ability to visit with her adoring public may occasionally be subject to change on short notice.

Mon, May 6

Book Discussion

Calvert Pines Senior Center
12:30-1:30 p.m.

Join us to discuss the charming yet nerve-wracking whodunnit, "The Maid" by Nita Prose. Find a copy in the library catalog. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, May 7

Tarot Study Group: Drop-In Program

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
6-7:30 p.m.

Come learn and practice tarot as a creative tool, for self-reflection, introspection, meditation, thoughtfulness, or as a fun hobby. Registration requested. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, May 8

Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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 Wednesday of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Resumes and Cover Letters

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor,

American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and cover letter writing help. Looking for a job, or a better job. -535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
3-4 p.m.

Facilitated by Charles Harrell and Dennis Poremski of the Alzheimer's Association. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

THE BASICS: School Readiness Series

Calvert Country School
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Stop by to learn ways to boost your child's early learning skills in routines you already do! Explore ideas and hands-on activities for morning routines, mealtimes, shopping, bath time, play, car rides and bedtime for children birth - age 3. Theme: Explore through movement and play. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Ongoing

Solomons Small Craft Gathering

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday-Sunday, May 3 - 5
All day

The Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG) Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association (TSCA), in association with the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM), invites you to join us for a weekend of messing about in small boats. All small craft are welcome, whether propelled by wind, paddle, oar, pedal, or motor. The gathering will be informal with no fees, signups (unless you choose to camp at the museum) or planned events. The event will coincide with CMM's Solomons Maritime Festival on Saturday, May 4.

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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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Candidates Speak on the Issues

Why are you running? Include qualifications.

Jeanette Flaim: My children graduated from CCPS. I am running to ensure Calvert's excellent schools, founded on good policies with support for teachers and students, continue well into the future. My 25 years' experience in finance, contracts, construction projects, and managing complex data for a large electrical union contractor, demonstrates that I have the skills to be an effective, productive board member.



Jeanette Flaim

Melissa Goshorn: I am a mother to three children in CCPS. I've been actively involved in advocating for change in our school system for the last several years starting with COVID re-opening, masks, behaviors and school safety, bus drivers, sexually explicit books, curriculum, and more. I understand COMAR Law and State Regulations, Policy, and Budget.



Melissa Goshorn



Kelly McConkey

Could the school board be doing more to combat the behavior issues that have been repeatedly presented to the board such as the concerns presented by the staff at Calvert High School? If so, please explain.

Flaim: Yes. State law prohibits zero tolerance discipline policies. CCPS policies and procedures, and a code of conduct dictate how behavioral issues are handled. I will hold the Superintendent accountable to implement these policies with fidelity. I support a MOU with Calvert Mediation Center to teach students how to resolve their conflicts without

acting out or disrupting classrooms.

Goshorn: Absolutely! Our school policy and code of conduct need to be enforced. School staff and bus drivers need support when enforcing school policy and the code of conduct. The enforcement of the policy and code of conduct need to be consistent district wide. If a child gets caught with drugs for the first time X happens, every time.

In light of the budget crisis, do you have any suggestions as to where cuts can be made?

Flaim: No, the Board went through the FY 25 budget extensively and I am confident we need the additional \$10 million requested from the BOCC to keep teachers, staff, and

programs that are necessary to maintain a top ranked school system.

Goshorn: It's hard to suggest where specific cuts should come from with such little transparency on where the money is going. If elected, I will require thorough analysis be completed in many areas to find cost improvements. For example, transportation, school programs, and staffing models. The last place to ever look at cuts is in school building staff.

If additional funding can be made available, where would you like it to be spent?

Flaim: If the BOCC funded more than the \$10 million that was requested we should hire additional teachers and staff, increase

substitute teacher salaries, provide additional training, and ensure each student has a laptop.

Goshorn: We need to invest more in closing the achievement gap caused by COVID learning loss. We need an SRO dedicated to each school building. We need additional classroom staff to be able to better support student academic achievement and behaviors. It's also imperative to update outdated curriculum, ensure consistency across classrooms, and provide challenging opportunities for our highest achievers.

Editor's Note: The third candidate, Kelly McConkey, did not respond to the questionnaire.

Unaffiliated and Third-Party Voters Encouraged to Participate in Primary Election

The Calvert County Board of Elections reminds voters who are not affiliated to one of the two major political parties that their vote still plays a vital role in the upcoming primary election. While not able to vote in partisan contests, they are eligible to vote on candidates for the Board of Education's District 3 seat. This non-partisan contest is open to all registered voters countywide, regardless of affiliation or place of residence within the county.

Primary elections determine which candidates will appear on the ballot in the November

general election. Voter participation in the primary election ensures that the selected candidates more closely reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of the community.

The primary election will take place on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. Early voting will be held Thursday, May 2 through Thursday, May 9, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Registered voters may choose to vote by mail instead. To have a ballot mailed to you prior to election day, applications must be received (not just postmarked) by the Election Board by Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Requests for elec-

tronically delivered ballots must be submitted by Friday, May 10; requests for in-person pickup of ballots may be made by Tuesday, May 14.

For more information on voter registration, early voting locations, preliminary results from the State Board of Elections and other important details about the Maryland primary election, visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Vote. Citizens may also contact the Calvert County Election Board office at 410-535-2214 or elections@calvertcountymd.gov. The Election

Board office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 30 Duke St. in Prince Frederick, lower level. Stay up to date with Calvert County election information on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/CalvertElectionBoard.

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

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PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

IN COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTION LAWS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN CALVERT COUNTY ON:

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

AT THE RESPECTIVE POLLING PLACES IN THE PRECINCTS OF THE THREE DISTRICTS OF CALVERT COUNTY, VIZ:

DISTRICT 1

PRECINCT – 1 Solomons Rescue Squad, H.G. Trueman Road, Solomons 20688

PRECINCT – 2 Southern Community Center, Appeal Lane, Lusby 20657

PRECINCT – 3 St. Leonard Elementary School, St. Leonard Road, St. Leonard 20685

PRECINCT – 4 Mutual Elementary School, Ball Road, Port Republic 20676

PRECINCT – 5 Patuxent High School, Southern Connector Blvd., Lusby 20657

DISTRICT 2

PRECINCT – 1 St. Leonard Fire Dept., Calvert Beach Road, St. Leonard 20685

PRECINCT – 2 Calvert Fairgrounds, MD 231, Prince Frederick 20678

PRECINCT – 3 Huntingtown High School, MD 2-4, Huntingtown 20639

PRECINCT – 4 Calvert High School, Dares Beach Road (GPS), Prince Frederick 20678

PRECINCT – 5 Plum Point Elementary School, Plum Point Road, Huntingtown 20639

PRECINCT – 6 Calvert Pines Senior Center, W. Dares Beach Road, Pr. Frederick 20678

DISTRICT 3

PRECINCT – 1 North Beach Fire Dept., MD 261, North Beach 20714

PRECINCT – 2 Northeast Community Center, Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach 20732

PRECINCT – 3 Sunderland Elementary School, Clyde Jones Road, Sunderland 20689

PRECINCT – 4 Windy Hill Elementary School, Boyds Turn Road, Owings 20736

PRECINCT – 5 Mt. Harmony Elementary School, Mt. Harmony Road, Owings 20736

PRECINCT – 6 Northern High School, Chaneyville Road, Owings, 20736

PRECINCT – 7 Northern High School, Chaneyville Road, Owings, 20736

THE POLLS WILL OPEN AT 7 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8 P.M.

OR...VOTE EARLY!

Thursday, May 2 -Thursday, May 9, 2024
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There are three early voting sites in Calvert County:

Southern Community Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby 20657

Community Resources Building
30 Duke Street – Lower Level,
Prince Frederick 20678

Ward Farm Park Vote Center
(trailer in back parking lot)
10455 Ward Road, Dunkirk, 20754

Contact the Calvert County Board of Elections for additional information: 410-535-2214.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lions do it
- 5. In favor of
- 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity
- 14. Fertility god
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events
- 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father
- 32. Former Cowboys coach
- 33. City in Finland
- 38. Run batted in
- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin
- 45. In a harmful way
- 48. Form of weaving
- 49. City of Angels hoopster
- 50. Caucasian language
- 55. Syngman __, Korean president
- 56. Sun up in New York
- 57. Paddled
- 59. Fishes
- 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. A small island

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. College army
- 5. Favor over another
- 6. Called it a career
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman
- 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Benedictine monk
- 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 23. Family of regulator genes
- 24. Surrendering
- 25. Political action committee
- 26. S. American plant
- 27. Long-term memory
- 28. Bark
- 29. Breathes in
- 34. Take hold of
- 35. Everyone has one
- 36. Valentine's Day color
- 37. Drivers' licenses and passports
- 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force
- 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician
- 44. Sugary secretion of plants
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Shelter
- 47. Utilizes
- 48. Forest resident
- 51. Fashion accessory
- 52. A sharply directional antenna
- 53. __ Kristofferson, actor
- 54. A bad place to end up
- 58. MLBer Gordon

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APRIL 25 SOLUTIONS

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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, May 2

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

American Legion Post
21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301-481-6625 for more information.

Fri, May 3

ELKs Texas Holdem Tournament

St Mary's County Elks Lodge
45779 Fire Department Ln., California
7 p.m.

Buy-in: \$80.00. Starting Chips:20,000 chips. Blinds will increase every 20 minutes. Please enter through the side of the building. No late entries allowed. Sign up before 7pm.

For any question or additional details contact James Dean: 240-577-0828 or jdeanjunior@gmail.com

Sat, May 4

LPVRS Spring Craft & Vendor Fair

21685 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Get Ready for the 2024 Spring Craft & Vendor Fair! This cherished event is a hub for local artisans and small business owners to showcase their talents, offering you a unique opportunity to find the perfect Mother's Day gift, all while supporting the essential services of the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad.

May Day at Historic St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City
47414 Old State House Rd.,
St. Mary's City
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Celebrate the arrival of spring with us at Historic St. Mary's City! Play 17th-century games, enjoy hands-on nature activities, and explore the beautiful landscape. General Admission provides access to all indoor & outdoor exhibits. \$10/adult, \$9/senior, \$6/student, \$0/age 5 & under.

Info: 301-994-4370 or www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events/may-day/

Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House

Drayden African American Schoolhouse

18287 Cherryfield Rd., Drayden
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit one of the nation's best-preserved, one-room African American schoolhouses the first Saturday of each month from April to October and the weekend before Juneteenth and on Juneteenth. Check out the restored schoolhouse and learn about its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions and provide information.

The St. Mary's County Museum Division also offers special programs for school, bus and other tour groups who would like to visit the site. Visitors who would like to see the schoolhouse outside open house hours can contact the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum at 301-994-1471.

This is a FREE EVENT co-hosted by Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) and the St. Mary's County Museum Division.

INFO: www.facebook.com/events/688227946784214/688227980117544

Sun, May 5

East Coast Drifters Spring Open Car Show

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All years cars, trucks & motorcycles are welcome. Top 70 and several other awards. First 100 receive dash plaques. Pre-registration \$15 by April 22. \$20 at gate. Spectators \$5 (under 12 free) Registration cut-off Noon. For more info call: Chuck 301-751-5602 or Rich 240-538-4266 eastcoastdrifters.com (rain date May 19)

Ongoing

Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters

Wednesday, May 1 – Sunday, May 5

Show your support for our Fallen Firefighters by using red light bulbs in your outdoor & business lighting from 5/1/24 to 5/5/24

For more details follow the event on Facebook. fb.me/e/215NG1yb6

Huge Yard Sale

7th District VRS Auxiliary
21506 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
Saturday, May 4 – 8 am to 12 pm
Sunday, May 5 – 9 am to 1 pm
Monday, May 6 to Friday, May 10 – 9 am to 3 pm

Outside Space Rental - \$20.00
No large furniture accepted
Contact Trisha at 240-577-2036 for more information, donations or table rental.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Puzzlemania! Jigsaw Puzzle Competition and Swap

A jigsaw puzzle bonanza! Team puzzle competition for prizes as well as leisure puzzler activities including a puzzle swap event at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All puzzlers welcome! All teams will go head-to-head to see who can complete their copy of a 500 piece puzzle the fastest. Prizes awarded. Teams are made up of 2-3 people, ages 16+, and registration is required for the team event. Register today to reserve a spot for your team on www.stmalib.org! Only one team member should register for the team. Don't want the pressure of a timed puzzle? We've got something for you too! We'll

be having a puzzle swap, so bring any puzzles you're ready to part with and pick up a new one here. (Please make sure any puzzle you bring to swap has all the pieces.) We'll also have leisure jigsaw puzzles to put together and other puzzle games available. No registration is required for the puzzle swap or other puzzle activities, just drop in when you can.

Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Annual Book Sale

Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Annual Spring Book Sale at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds offers thousands of gently used books at amazing prices! Cash, check, credit cards accepted.

Friday, May 17, 12 – 8 p.m.: Members Only Day. Join online at www.stmalib.org

or at the door.

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 19, 12 – 4 p.m.

Chinese Culture Day

A celebration of Chinese culture presented by the National Chinese Honor Society students of Leonardtown High School at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, May 11 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. The National Chinese Honor Society students of Leonardtown High School will give a presentation about their recent trip to China, perform Chinese traditional dances, and do a mini Chinese calligraphy lesson. This program is meant for children ages 5-14 to enjoy with their families. Happy Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month!

Tea Cup Up-cycle: Kintsugi Pottery

Make your own piece of kintsugi pottery art from up-cycled tea cups at Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, May 14 from 2 – 4 p.m. Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with special lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise. For this program, there will be a brief presentation about the art of kintsugi, then participants will receive a broken tea cup that they can repair. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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In Remembrance

Patti Lachkovic



On April 27, 2024, Patricia Anne Lachkovic worked out terms with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Patti Anne was taken into the arms of our Lord in Heaven 4/27/24! Patti was brought into this world on the same day in 1962. Patricia was the gentle and kind wife of her husband John for 38 years. They were married at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Leonardtown Maryland, on, August 23, 1986. They were fortunate to have 3 sons, Jonathan (Jami), Matthew (Amelia), and Andrew Lachkovic, all of Lexington Park, Maryland, who remain to carry on their mother's gracious traditions of loyalty and love. Patti's daughter-in-law Jami was more than a daughter could ever be, providing love and care for her, especially in the last 2 weeks of Patti's life on earth. Patti has a legacy of 8 precious grandchildren: Brianna, Natalie, Emily, Isabella, Hayden, Mackenzie, James, and Sophia Grace. She also left behind a future daughter-in-law, Amelia. Patti Anne is survived by her loving brother Gary A. Quade (Jessi) of Lexington Park, Maryland. Her 3 brothers, Denny, Frank, and Vincent left this world before her. Patti's parents, who were waiting for her in Heaven, were Benjamine F. Quade and Elizabeth A. Quade of Great Mills, Maryland. Patti has many friends, relatives and a special Aunt Theresa Moran who especially comforted her in the final two weeks of her life. She was lovingly supported by the Hospice of St. Mary's, while in her son Jonathan's home.

Patti served as a Computer Scientist with the Patuxent River Naval Warfare Center for 35 years, where she received many awards and recognitions. She was talented and gifted in math and enjoyed working for the United States government. Patti retired to enjoy more time with her family, which she certainly did! Patti persevered through many sicknesses, surgeries, and trials to continue to be fully involved with her family. She especially enjoyed vacation weeks in Florida each year, even after needing 4 times a week dialysis treatment. Patti was a hospitality expert, hosting with her sons and husband many

Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, and birthday celebrations. Patti was a seamstress, great baker/cook, and was gifted with a great sense of direction. She was very loving and kind as well as being a loyal loving wife and mother.

Patti was educated at St. Mary's College of Maryland and graduated in 1983 with a bachelor's of science degree in computer science and mathematics. Patti was a lifelong county resident. She was skilled at gardening, fishing, (her father was a waterman at one time) and enjoyed dinner theaters, and she loved to shop with her granddaughters. Patti enjoyed serving others, sewing, gardening, crafting, and cooking and baking for many church functions. One enjoyable story Patti liked to share was when she went fishing on one of her birthdays, after her husband tried to discourage her because the waves were too high, and the wind was too strong. She tried anyway, and the Lord blessed her with two fish on one line! One of her favorite "happy places" was sitting at the table for two overlooking the water at Captain Pat's Seafood restaurant. After a lifetime of challenges and trials, Patti Anne's heart remained true and loving until her last breath, as she passed while hugging a nephew goodbye.

For anyone wishing to give a donation in honor of Patti and her family please consider two charities she was passionate about, the CARENET Pregnancy Care Center of Lexington Park, Maryland, or the First District Aide Society, of Ridge, Maryland. One of Patti's parting words to her husband, besides "don't cry, you're being a wimp," was to always "help others".

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 11:00 AM in St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, St. Inigo, MD, with Father John Patrick Tindana officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Brian Quade, Alan Quade, Josh Quade, Mike Guy, Gary Quade, and Mike Abell.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

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*Thank you Lord for
 Doug Delahay Woodburn
 5/12/2000 - 8/3/2019
 "love you pumpkin"*



*Words cannot say
 We miss you everyday
 Through the month of May
 We remember your Birthday*

A View From The BLEACHERS



MAGICIANS AND SPORTS

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Life is an interesting scroll. As a child, you observe people around you adulting to a phenomenal level. How food appears on the table, clothes get washed and garbage doesn't pile up so high as to create some disgusting ecosystem of micro-organisms and hatching insects is beyond your comprehension. Then you have the really exciting things like mortgages, insurance and taxes; such things are just words in a child's world, annoyances for another day, if the obvious mood drain they cause your parents is any guide.

Quick story: a dear friend of mine was fielding complaints from his daughters about being out of a critical snack. He reminded them of the grocery list on the refrigerator. All they had to do was write down what they wanted and it would appear – bought, transported and stocked – days later. It is like magic, he asserted.

Magic. Say it with me, kids: Adults are magicians! Goodness knows I had many such magicians during my childhood. I hope you can count a few from yours as well.

As time and years and decades have flown by, I evolved from clueless child into an independent human, a parent and then, a rather adept magician myself, if you don't mind me saying. One day you're barely capable of making lunch and the next you're running a household and facilitating the life of other humans. What once seemed impossible becomes routine tasking for some older, wiser version of you, one apparently adorned with a bottomless magic hat.

Parenthood...how to even describe it? The hardest and greatest thing ever. A source of worry and incomprehensible joy to equal extremes. The greatest purpose a person may ever have. The answer to "what's this life on earth all about?" Something that taps in to the depth of unconditional human love like nothing else. And it comes with a life-long membership to the parental fraternity.

A little about that fraternity. I've seen it over the years. Leaned on it. Contributed to it, I hope. Sometimes words are spoken, sometimes it's just two sets of tired eyes meeting in a grocery store – when you see a fellow fraternity brother or sister, you just know. The fraternity is a source of strength, of answers to hard questions, of comfort with parental imperfections and inevitable mistakes, and, perhaps most importantly, inspiration. The fraternity can be seen at band concerts, scouting events, birthday parties, after school pick-up lines – parents sacrificing sleep, forgoing their own interests and supporting their kids. And then there's youth sports...

Precisely when the life of sports families changed is unknown. Best I can tell, purely from my own experience, it was sometime between the early 1990s and 2010s. Youth sports used to be about a couple practices a week at a local park or school and games played less than an hour from home. Now? Daily practices, long trips, some consuming weekends, and travel teams. It is...a lot, even for magicians.

After the Washington Commanders selected Jayden Daniels second overall in last week's NFL draft, he thanked his parents for their 23 years of devotion (i.e. his entire life) in getting him to this dream-come-true moment. It was a familiar refrain from other draftees, either in words or video clips from living rooms across the country – lots of tears, lots of mom and dad hugs. A common quip to extraordinary moments is "I can't imagine." Most parents won't support their kids into college sports, much less the pros, but we can actually imagine the commitment of Daniels's parents. We can picture the tough games, the bumps and bruises, the long drives, the daily practices, equipment all over the house, and dirty jerseys in the laundry room. They did it for the same reason we all do: simply because their kid wanted to play.

As I type this, I'm on hour six at a track meet far from home, which, judging from the crowd, makes me exactly like a couple hundred other "fraternity" members. Now, scale this to a state and nation and for all spring sports. You get the point. Magicians are at work on a grand scale.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report



Mike Bedwell and his 22 pound catfish caught at Fishing Point in the mouth of the Patuxent.



Joe Conant and his 17 pound catfish also from Fishing Point.

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Plenty of Catfish are being caught in the Patuxent and Potomac. The fish are hungry and love to eat cut bait like alewife and mud shad. They are not picky and will respond to blood worms, night crawlers, shrimp, razor clam, squid, and most anything edible.

White perch are now in the creeks and rivers.

A 35-pound red drum showed up in a pound net in Cornfield

Harbor (mouth of the Potomac) on Saturday, along with a decent sized speckled trout.

Some spot are now in the area and puppy drum should arrive soon.

Crabs will invade the creeks on this warm spell.

We patiently await the opening of rock-fish season, May 16.

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Archery.....	Sept. 28
Badminton.....	Sept. 7
Basketball 3-on-3.....	Aug. 10-11
Basketball Skills.....	Aug. 10-11
Billiards.....	Oct. 5-6
Bocce.....	Sept. 12 & Oct. 4
Bowling.....	Aug. 19-20
Cornhole.....	Oct. 13
Cycling 10k Time Trials.....	May 1
Cycling 5k Time Trials.....	June 5
Disc Golf.....	July 20
Diving.....	Sept. 29
Golf.....	Sept. 30
Horseshoes.....	Sept. 7
Pickleball.....	May 16-19
Powerlifting.....	July 14
Racquetball.....	Sept. 4-5
Road Race 5k.....	Aug. 31
Road Race 10k.....	Sept. 22
Shuffleboard.....	Sept. 28
Softball.....	Sept. 7
Soccer 8v8.....	Aug. 17-18
Swimming.....	Sept. 7
Table Tennis.....	July 27
Tennis.....	Sept. 27-29
Track & Field.....	Aug. 3-4
Trap Shooting.....	June 29
Triathlon.....	June 2
Volleyball.....	Aug. 24-25
Walking Events.....	Aug. 3-4
Wii Bowling.....	Sept. 16

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Dates subject to change



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Plan Ahead, Prepare Early: Hurricane Season Begins June 1



St. Mary's County Government's Department of Emergency Services (DES) urges community members to be prepared for the next Atlantic hurricane season, which starts on June 1, 2024, and goes through November 30, 2024. While severe weather can happen outside of this timeframe, it is the most active for hurricane and tropical storm activity.

In effort to support community preparedness, the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will provide self-service sandbag pickup for residents on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the St. Andrews Landfill located at 44837 St. Andrews Church Road.

Residents are encouraged to stock up on sandbags now so that they are prepared before a storm strikes our area. Sandbags are not pre-filled and are limited to 10-25 bags per person, while supplies last. Community partners and DES will also be onsite distributing free hurricane preparedness supplies and information.

"We all know that storm systems can move and change rapidly," said Commissioner President James R. Guy. "Distributing sandbags in advance is the best way to ensure our residents have what they need should a storm system threaten our area."

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist:

- Make emergency kits: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/kit
- Home Kit: include a flashlight, batteries, blankets, spare clothing, a battery-operated radio, hygiene supplies, medication, a first aid kit, food that is easy to open and prepare, and clean drinking water.
- Be sure to consider the needs of your family, including infants and children, the elderly, those with functional

needs, and pets.

- Have a plan: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/plan
- Know Your Zone and plan your evacuation route ahead of time. Identify a safe place to go, and a way to get there, if an evacuation is ordered by local officials. Keep your gas tank full in case you need to evacuate quickly.
- Discuss with loved ones how you will communicate before, during, and after a potential emergency or severe weather event.
- Sign up for local emergency notifications at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/CodeRed

Hurricane preparedness basics:

- Secure or bring indoors all outdoor toys, furniture, and items that could be moved by heavy winds; de-clutter drains and gutters; and consider hurricane shutters.
- Check on your neighbors, friends, and family members, especially if they are elderly and/or have functional needs.
- Bring your pets indoors during severe weather.
- Know where the main valves and switches are for gas, water, and electricity – and ensure someone you trust can operate them in case you need to shut them off.
- Follow the instructions of local emergency management officials.

Knowing what to do before, during, and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference, when seconds count.

Learn more about and prepare for potential emergencies at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/em.



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May 3rd - 5th



Saturday, May 4th

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Zumba Fitness Around Town at Port of Leonardtown Park www.facebook.com/zumbafitnessaroundtown

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Spring Craft & Vendor Event hosted by the Auxiliary of Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department www.facebook.com/lvfd1auxiliary

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit the Old Jail & Museum and Leonardtown Visitor Center www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Southern Maryland Spring Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds sponsored by Holy Face Church www.southernmdspringfestival.org

3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Work in Progress and Farm.Fork.Soul food truck on site www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtowntrolley

8 p.m. Live music at The Rex Theatre "May the Force Be Emo" featuring Hit or Miss www.facebook.com/TheRexTheatre

Sunday, May 5th

8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Rise and Shine Yoga at the Leonardtown hosted by Evolve Yoga www.loveiseevolve.com

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Cinco De Mayo event at SPICE Studio www.somdspice.com

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Southern Maryland Spring Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds sponsored by Holy Face Church www.southernmdspringfestival.org

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Billy Breslin and Gato Taco's food truck on site www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

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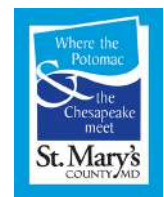
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Friday, May 3rd

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Visit the Old Jail & Museum and Leonardtown Visitor Center. They are offering Free tours and extended hours for First Friday www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtowntrolley

5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Audience Participation Drum Circle with SoMar Drummers on the St. Mary's County Arts Council Lawn www.smcart.org

5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Drumline presented by SoMar Drummers on the St. Mary's Arts Council lawn www.smcart.org

5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Open studio night at Elsewise Art www.facebook.com/ElsewiseArt3

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. "From Funk to Junk" opening reception at the St. Mary's County Arts Council www.smcart.org

5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Southern Maryland Spring Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds sponsored by Holy Face Church www.southernmdspringfestival.org

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Joe Parsons and Grizzly Mountain Grill food truck on site www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Parents Night Out at MADE by you www.facebook.com/MADEbyyoustudio

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Live music in Leonardtown Square featuring Justin Allen www.visitleonardtownmd.com/firstfridays

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. FREE mini pot painting & gardening kids' activity with Adrianna Reloba in Leonardtown Alley www.visitleonardtownmd.com/firstfridays

6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. First Friday Printmaking Party at The Yellow Line Studio www.theyellowline.co

8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Live music at The Rex Theatre featuring Copper Pennies www.facebook.com/therextheatre



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Maryland's Striped Bass Emergency Closure Continues into May

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that Maryland's striped bass fishing closure began on April 1 and runs until May 15, 2024 in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Emergency regulations, enacted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and approved by Maryland General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review, were put in place to try to better protect large migratory striped bass after several years of below average spawning success.

The regulations effectively close Maryland's "trophy" season during which striped bass longer than 35 inches have been harvested in Chesapeake Bay waters.

As in past years, targeting striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries has been prohibited throughout April. Catch and release is prohibited and anyone who accidentally catches a striped bass must release it into the water immediately. Emergency regulations have extended the closure – which prohibits all targeting – an additional two weeks, to May 15. This violation is punishable by fines up to \$1,000 for the first offense, and up to one year in jail and/or a \$2,000 maximum fine for second offenses.

Given the changes, Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) encourages the public to familiarize themselves with the new regulations. NRP plans on regular



Maryland Department of Natural Resources biologists survey and tag striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay as part of the annual survey of the population. Maryland DNR photo.

enforcement patrols to identify striped bass targeting and out-of-season takes.

"Our conservation laws are put in place to protect the natural resources that Maryland is fortunate to have," said NRP Acting Deputy Superintendent/Lt. Col. Brian Rathgeb. "The sustainability of our state's striped bass population is in jeopardy. It's reliant on the compliance of law-abiding anglers of the Chesapeake and it's imperative that NRP enforcement aligns with the guidance of state legislators and department scientists."

Similar to the annual striped bass closure

in the last two weeks of July, where temperatures are at their peak in Maryland, these two weeks in May are closed for the benefit of the species. There is always some degree of fish mortality associated with catch and release fishing, and mortality increases with higher temperatures in the air and water.

The closure in April and May is meant to encourage a healthy spawn as large striped bass make their way from the Atlantic Ocean and up the Chesapeake Bay to spawn in the same Maryland tributaries where they were spawned.

The closure is extended through May 31 in the Susquehanna Flats, Lower Susquehanna River, and North East River. This area is an important striped bass nursery in the upper Bay that in recent years has remained closed to targeting later than the rest of the Bay.

Violation of this closure is punishable by fines up to \$1,000 for the first offense, and up to one year in jail and/or a \$2,000 maximum fine for second offenses.

Anglers are encouraged to target other fish during this emergency closure. Blue catfish and snakeheads are invasive species that have a sportfishing following and harvesting them contributes to a healthier ecosystem in the Bay. Both fish are appetizing table fare – and as an invasive species – have no bag limits or size limits in the state of Maryland. Tips and methods for fishing blue catfish can be found on the DNR website.

In the Chesapeake Bay, early summer regulations return on May 16 for certain areas, and June 1 for the entirety of the Bay and its tributaries.

More information on Maryland's state fish can be found on DNR's striped bass webpage. The department also shares guidance on responsible catch and release, as well as an advisory forecast for fishing striped bass in the summer.

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Lorenzini, Armitage Vie for Circuit Court Judge Spot

Would you recuse yourself if an attorney or defendant who contributed to your political campaign came before you in either a civil or criminal case? Why?

Armitage: Yes. It is a well-known rule that a judge should recuse himself/herself when a judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned. In an instance when a criminal defense attorney makes a \$5000 political contribution to a sitting judge, there is clearly a "reasonable question" as to the lack of impartiality.

Lorenzini: I will continue to strictly adhere to the rules of ethics. If a case comes before me where there is a potential ethical conflict, I will examine the record, facts, and law and decide whether a reasonable person knowing and understanding the relevant facts would recuse themselves. This is always determined on a case-by-case basis and, if is appropriate, I will recuse myself.

What programs would you support to divert certain defendants from jail for first-time offenses?

Armitage: I would like to implement a Veteran's Recovery Court and a Juvenile Recovery Court. Both diversion programs will emphasize treatment options for mental health, drug and alcohol addiction, monitored intensively by a judge instead of incarceration. We have the highest percentage of veterans per capita in St. Mary's County, over any other county in the state. It is right to give back to the men and women who risked their lives for us.



Sue Ann Armitage

Lorenzini: Judges and judicial candidates are prohibited from making any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome of any matter that may come before the court. It is important to understand that as a Circuit Court Judge, most cases I see are major crimes / felony criminal matters and most would not qualify for diversion programs.

Under what circumstances would you apply the maximum allowable sentence in a criminal case?

Armitage: Judges are given guidance in regard to sentencing. There are also reasons they can consider deviating upward from the guidelines. Those reasons include excessive level of harm and/or the vicious or heinous



Judge Amy Lorenzini

nature of conduct. I would consider all of these factors and weigh them accordingly. My guiding principle would be to protect the community from repeat violent offenders.

Lorenzini: I am ethically prohibited from directly responding to this question as Judges and judicial candidates are prohibited from making any commitment, pledge, or promise that is inconsistent with impartiality. While there have been cases where I have sentenced individuals to the maximum allowable sentence, every case must be evaluated on its own merits to determine the appropriate sentencing.

Would you punish parents of truant school students if they were brought before your court? Please elaborate.

Armitage: The decision to charge the parent of a truant student is made by the State's Attorney's Office. If such cases were brought before me, I would follow the law and weigh the factors of each individual case.

Lorenzini: While I am ethically prohibited from directly responding to this question for the same reasons as stated in response to questions 2 and 3, I can say that Maryland does have a statute that addresses student attendance and that I would apply the law to the facts of each case on a case-by-case basis.

What is the most important job of a Circuit Court judge? Please explain.

Armitage: The most important job of a Circuit Court Judge is to make decisions for our community with integrity, fairness and impartiality. Being a judge requires a strong work ethic, strong moral compass and the ability to make decisions that protect the public. Over my past 33-year career, I believe I have demonstrated these characteristics and can serve our community well as the next Circuit Court judge.

Lorenzini: To be fair and impartial. To ensure this, a judge needs to (1) work hard and come to the bench prepared; (2) afford all parties due process and procedural fairness; (3) treat all who appear before them with dignity and respect; (4) maintain an open mind; and (5) have no personal agenda and apply the law to the facts fairly and firmly.

Early Voting Begins Today

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

From May 2 through May 9 registered voters in St. Mary's can cast their ballots for office seekers before the official Primary Election Day of May 14 at three locations.

They are the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department in Hollywood, the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department on Shangri-La Drive in Lexington Park and the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department on Hills Club Road in Mechanicsville.

The three locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for those seven days, said Wendy Adkins, director of the St. Mary's County Board of Elections.

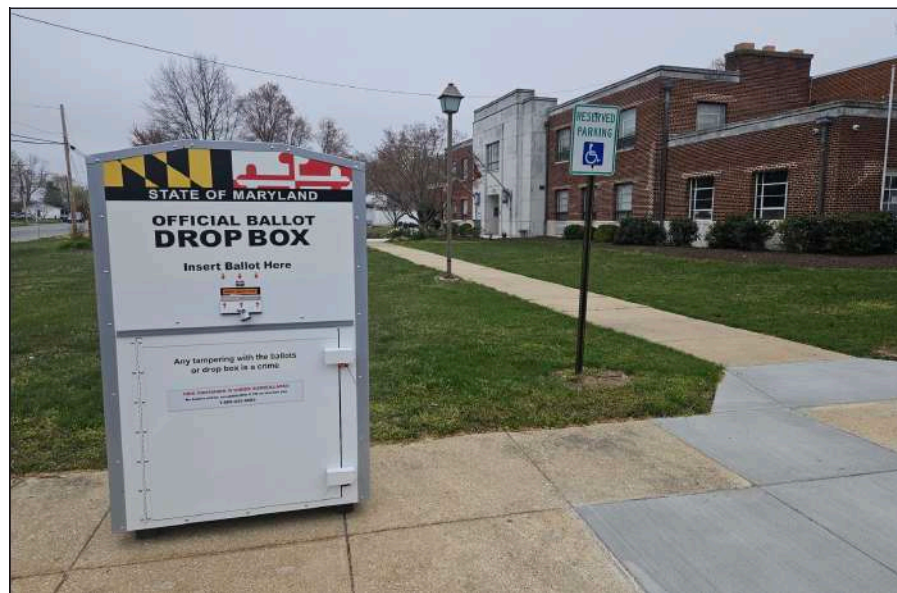
Local races include three seats on the county board of education and one Circuit Court Judge's seat.

Voters who are registered as either Republicans or Democrats will also be able to cast ballots for the U.S. Senate race as Maryland is a closed primary state.

"Anyone who is not a Republican or Democrat can only vote in school board races," Adkins said,

School board races are non-partisan.

Mail-in ballots have already come back to the board's office, she said.



"We have 8,700 mail-in ballots that have been sent out and 2,700 ballots have been returned so far," Adkins said. "I expect that number to increase once early voting starts."

Of the 2,700 mail-in ballots returned, 2,400 have already been canvassed and recorded, Adkins said, as of April 22.

Those results will be kept confidential until election night at 8 p.m., Adkins said,

when polls close.

There are 76,343 registered voters in St. Mary's, according to the latest board of election figures, divided between 24,899 Democrats, 32,098 Republicans and 17,983 unaffiliated voters.

There are 501 Libertarians, 16 listed with the No Labels Maryland Party, and 846 listed as others.

April 23 was the last day to register to vote, but same day registration to vote on election day is available to residents who are pre-verified with matching addresses through the Motor Vehicle Administration.

Those who register on the same day as the election but cannot provide verification of their local address may still vote, Adkins said, but only using a provisional ballot that will be verified later.

"For the primary election, it's been slow," Adkins said of voter activity leading up to election day. "But I think the general election (which is presidential) will be very busy."

Voters can still place their ballots in drop boxes positioned around the county in seven locations.

They are at the Board of Elections office in Leonardtown, the Hollywood firehouse, Great Mill High School, the Bay District firehouse, the 2nd District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in Valley Lee, the Mechanicsville firehouse and Spring Ridge Middle School.

Ballot boxes will be locked to prevent any further dropping off of ballots at 8 p.m. on election night, Adkins said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

appropriate behavior at school. Teachers need to stand outside their classroom doors during class changes, which will allow extra sets of eyes and ears. Administrators need to be accessible and ever-present, daily, throughout our schools. Violent acts and disturbances must be consistently met with consequences.

Allen: We have invested significant resources to improve safety in our schools. Security vestibules are in place at every school, security personnel are in every building, and we recently voted to begin updating security cameras with improved software and hardware. Parents have a huge role to play in setting the expectation for appropriate behavior. I continue to work through the Maryland Association of Boards of Education to advocate for more options to address this issue appropriately.

Washington: It takes a multi-pronged effort. Schools are a microcosm of the larger society and those issues come into the schools. We need to continue education; awareness; parent/student/ community support; community partners; timely communications, social/emotional/mental resources; surveillance; safety/security officers/school resource officers, Adopt a School Program; social workers, psychologists/guidance counselors; and efforts where students feel connected and safe.

Wathen: It may simply be a question of stricter enforcement by the administration of existing policies and regulations regarding misconduct. If inadequate, then the policies and regulations must be made more stringent. There must be an equal focus on both the physical security of the schools, and the personal safety of employees and students.

Brewer: School discipline is the personal responsibility of every student in SMCPS and students should be held accountable for their actions on school property. Parents and/or guardians should be involved and held accountable for the student's behavior during the disciplinary process. Discipline in school is a family matter and parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for their child's behavior in school.

What policies would you enact to help boost student achievement?

Carrington: That again begins with helping parents be involved in providing academic support to their children. Some parents do this through pure academic support and others do it through discipline. Ensuring their kids do their homework.

The school system needs to be strict in supporting parents' abilities to be involved and teach discipline to their children.

Guy: We need to help our students that are struggling to learn. I support having more well-trained paraeducators in our classrooms to help our students who need one on one learning time. We need to focus on supporting students early in their education, so they have the tools necessary to succeed in later years.

Drys: I would look at bring back the STEM academy in elementary school and ensure it doesn't go away in the middle schools. I would also better promote the Tech center and work to build a better partnership with community employers to build a pipeline of schools to needed careers.

Rathbone: Immediately implement RSDT to secure the schools from drugs and related violence which will attract good teachers many of whom currently may be reluctant to serve in a school system with high levels of violence against innocent students and teachers as frequently are reported in the news media.

Edelen: Boosting student achievement doesn't have to cost a thing. Parents and teachers must consistently communicate with one another. When they regularly communicate, it sends a message to the student that their parents and teachers care. It's also imperative to remove distractions in classrooms in order to boost achievement. Reducing distractions creates more focused, higher-achieving students.

Allen: Policies will not boost student achievement. What is needed are programs and people. Maintaining the Freshman Academies at all our high schools is imperative. Smaller class sizes and the staff to work with students are a key factor in boosting achievement. Lastly, I believe the state must decide on an appropriate testing model and stick with it. Students are learning but as the state tests keep changing every few years and the tests are adaptive, meaning no two students take the same test, it is difficult to truly monitor the progress our students make as a whole. Test results come in well after tests have been taken meaning addressing gaps is almost meaningless.

Washington: Students need to feel safe, secure, and connected to their school environment. Students must attend school. Chronic absenteeism is a major issue across America. We provide food, school supplies, clothing, and stability for children. Homeless students remain in the same school where they are connected to have a sense of normalcy. Freshmen Academies are for students needing extra support.

Wathen: Students' academic achievement is critically related to grade-level proficiency in reading and writing (literacy) at the completion of the 3rd Grade. I will support whatever is necessary to achieve that goal.

Brewer: The critical factor in academic achievement is for students to be grade-level proficient in reading and writing upon completion of the 3rd grade. Otherwise, their learning ability is impaired. I would support whatever is required to achieve this goal of literacy.

How would you reach out to parents and get them more involved in schools?

Carrington: I would best offer the means to assist parents in assisting their kids in those areas where they need help primarily in math. That means meeting parents where

they are. Very few people have parents that can do geometry with their child. But the natural limit of mathematics in public school is trigonometry. And that's just three classes. Algebra, Geometry and math. For reading programs we ought to sponsor it

Guy: Parental involvement is crucial for our schools' success. I would have regular meetings with our Parent-Teacher Associations to gain information on what issues are concerning them. I strongly believe in providing quicker response times to parental concerns when they are brought to the board's attention.

Drys: Better communication about issues the BoE is charged with; budget, policy and Superintendent supervision. While ribbon cutting and drama events are very important parents should know exactly what the board is going for the job there are elected to do.

Rathbone: As in my answer to Q 3., a school's reputation for a peaceful drug-free productive education will attract parents interested in becoming involved in a safe and welcoming environment in schools secured by RSDT.

Edelen: I found that, as a teacher, simply emailing home was not enough. I made it a practice to call my student's parents, and not only with concerns, but with praise too. I don't believe that parents truly don't want to be involved. The key to more involvement lies with educators initiating and fostering open lines of communication with parents.

Allen: I'm open to all ideas for getting parents more involved in schools. Schools offer evening activities like the Academic Challenge Night held recently at Leonardtown Elementary and there was a great turnout, a creative winning idea!

Washington: Schools reach out to parents through a variety of means. Newsletters are sent out on a recurring basis. The Superintendent/ Board sends out press releases about town hall meetings. Schools offer science fairs, entrepreneurial fairs, Conscious Discipline, theatrical/musical productions, workshops, math challenges, sporting events, and many other activities. Our schools are extremely busy places. I have noticed excellent parental involvement.

Wathen: The participation of parents in the education of their children must be a right rather than a privilege. The concept that "Educators Know Best" is condescending. I am in favor of adopting a policy that specifies the rights of parents, including appeals to an independent Ombudsman to arbitrate disputes, when necessary.

Brewer: Parents need to feel welcomed in the schools. Events that are focused on individual classrooms featuring parents (K-5); classroom events that celebrate the children's milestones and academic achievements are initial recommendations. I will support the adoption of a policy that specifies the participatory rights of parents in the education of their children. Parental involvement is a right not a privilege.

Should there be term limits for school board members?

Carrington: Yes. But we need to use common sense in that implementation. There should certainly be a consecutive term limit. We need fresh ideas and perspectives, and we need our seasoned public servants to contribute effectively to society in other ways, particularly by developing and mentoring the next generations of community leaders and advocates. But, an excellent and effective public servant obviously should not be precluded from nonconsecutive stints in office.

Guy: It would be wise to have term limits. I support letting the voters decide the issue through a ballot referendum.

Drys: Yes.

Rathbone: No. Long-term institutional knowledge can be quite valuable to younger board members in considering approval of difficult or controversial policies. And the current elective system seems to be adequate to create enough turnover in board members to keep the group fresh and relevant.

Edelen: I firmly believe in term limits. Limiting terms allow for new and fresh perspectives; perspectives that reflect the changing needs. New members can provide expertise and knowledge in areas as a result of their education, training, and overall life experiences. This can prove to be invaluable.

Allen: It takes some time to learn the role of the Board and even longer to learn to be an effective Board member. I believe that the voters should decide rather than an arbitrary term limit. Studies have shown that the best predictor of a high achieving school system is the continuity of its Board.

Washington: I trust the judgement of the citizens of St. Mary's County to decide how long a Board of Education member should stay in office. Term limits are determined at the polls. For me, as a twenty-seven-year Board of Education member, I have always been a full-time BOE member. This is my calling, purpose, and passion in life. I am committed.

Wathen: Yes.

Brewer: Yes, school board's members should be limited to three consecutive terms, the same as the county commissioners. The longer a person is in public office with access to public funds, the easier it is for that person to become comfortable spending other people's money. Also, parents and grandparents of current SMCPS students should serve on the school board and live under the consequences of their policies.

Editor's Note: Anthony Lotierzo did not respond to the questionnaire.

Candidates Face Off in Board of Education Election



Charles Carrington



Josh Guy



David Drys



DeForest Rathbone



Brandie Edelen



Cathy Allen



Mary Washington



Angela Wathen



Elena Brewer



Anthony Lotierzo

What would you do to find budget savings in the school's budget to help provide tax relief?

Charles Carrington: I would do what I could to support tax relief with external budget savings. I would not look at the schools' budget as a place to find tax relief. In preparation of the SMCPS budget, leanness and efficiency would be the aim to ensure that maximum value per dollar is received on behalf of instructing and nurturing our students.

Josh Guy: The budget has grown 32% between 2018-2024. I would look at reducing textbook expenditures, which currently stand at about \$3.8 million in this year's budget. As more and more students have access to school issued laptops and other devices, I can foresee saving money there. I would also look at reducing high utilities and maintenance costs during the holiday seasons.

David Drys: I would take a hard look at the BoE funding category (\$210k), Mid-Level Admin (\$21M total and specifically \$605k in Other Charges) and the \$2.7M in Other Instructional Costs as a start.

DeForest Rathbone: Ridding schools of drugs and violence by health screening all kids for drug use will allow reductions in security costs. For instance, see your 4/18

SMC Times article disclosing the \$500,000 expense for security cameras and control systems which might not be needed if drug-related misbehavior is reduced to former safe levels.

Brandie Edelen: As an Educator, I understand the importance for teachers and students to have all the tools, resources, and support needed to succeed and thrive. I have asked Superintendent Smith hard questions regarding where money is allocated and what programs and positions are effectively working. The key to finding the savings needed for the budget lies in Central Office cuts/reductions.

Cathy Allen: The Board has been in close communication with the County Commissioners over the last five years especially to ensure they were aware of the funding requirements of the Blueprint legislation. While any tax increase is never welcome, the Superintendent has provided specific budget information to the Board in public session and to the Commissioners as well. We will make the necessary cuts once the county provides final numbers.

Mary Washington: The budget is a process that never ends. It has been scrubbed many times looking for areas of inefficiencies, redundancies, and areas of savings. We strive to be effective and efficient with our financial, human, and capital resources. We

have a responsibility to meet the needs of students and ensuring that we recruit, retain, and train a professional workforce.

Angela Wathen: Budget "savings" are a question of reduced spending. This requires adetermination by the school administration of what is essential/"need tohave" versus non-essential/"nice to have." As a member of the board, it is not my individual responsibility to make that determination but rather to provide guidance at the beginning of the budget process. For example, an informed estimate of what additional revenue can be expected from the state and the county without the need of tax increases.

Elena Brewer: The board should provide the school administration with budgetary guidance at the beginning of the process. For example, directing a proposed budget based on no additional funds (maintenance of effort) from either the state or the county; or a budget predicated on how much the county could increase it's funding without the need of raising taxes. It is the duty of the administration, not the board, to find reductions in spending.

What must be done to make schools safer and violence free?

Carrington: It starts at home. We must support parents' ability to pour into and be involved with their children. We need to

ensure kids are exposed and supported in the arts, sports, and education to keep them busy but also teach them wisdom.

With outside threats the only way to address outside threats is a well trained and armed security element.

Guy: The majority of our suspensions/expulsions for 2022-2023 were due to violent fights. St. Mary's County should look at providing an alternative school program for students who repeatedly put other students, and our teachers, at risk for injuries. It's vitally important to make sure our teachers can teach and students can learn in a safe environment.

Drys: Better training for our teachers on conflict resolution, additional trained and qualified resource offices and data analyzation on the current issue to try to determine the root cause.

Rathbone: Supt. Dr. Scott Smith must first become convinced of the well-documented successful utilization of Random Student Drug Testing (RSDT) as a legal and proven-effective tool to reduce the dangerous prevalence of drugs and drug-related violence in schools. And then he may want to appoint a temporary committee to consider its possible use in SMC schools.

Edelen: Making schools safer requires a collaborative effort. Parents need to reinforce

A Special Pull Out Section

YOUR VOTE



YOUR VOICE

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

VOTER'S GUIDE

2024

Pet of the Week

MEET OLLIE



Wake up.
Hug dog.
Enjoy life!

Batter up! Hi, my name is Ollie. I'm a ONE-YEAR-OLD Lab mix, who is ready to hit a HOME RUN straight into YOUR HEART! With enough energy to rival the World Series and a sweet tooth that could rival a seventh inning stretch, I'm the MVP OF FUN and treats! If you're looking for a FURRY TEAMMATE to join YOUR FAMILY lineup, then swing for the fences, hit one out of the park and ADOPT ME TODAY! I'm anxiously waiting for YOU to come meet ME during adoption hours Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. I promise you will always remember when we first met! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! 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>



Event Planned for Families of Pre-K Children

Pre-Kindergarten students, families, and local private providers are invited to attend an upcoming parent and family engagement evening event. This event will be held Monday, May 6, 2024, at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The session's focus will be on the Transition to Kindergarten. Registered providers may receive Core of Knowledge training credit from MSDE for participation in this workshop.

Participants will select from various engaging learning stations strategically designed for Pre-Kindergarten students to prepare them with skills to succeed in Kindergarten. Sessions will provide developmentally appropriate activities to promote independence, follow multi-step directions, practice motor development, and foster academic skills. Face painting will be available, and all participants will have an opportunity for door prize drawings. Icy treats and goodie bags will be provided for all students and private providers who register.



Please register here to attend. You may contact Ms. Lynn Trehern, Early Childhood Instructional Resource Teacher/Coach, at pltrehern@smcps.org if you have any questions.

DNR: Handling Fawns is Dangerous and Illegal



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources cautions anyone who encounters a fawn to avoid disturbing it and resist the urge to feed or handle it. Removing deer from the wild and keeping them in captivity is against the law in Maryland to protect animal welfare and ensure public safety.

Deer are born with specialized adaptations, which have helped their species survive for ages. Born in spring, fawns instinctively lie motionless when approached by potential predators, relying on their adaptations to help them hide. Their virtual lack of odor, natural camouflage (spots), and freezing behavior help them avoid danger. These adaptations serve them well, as evidenced by the abundance of deer across Maryland's varied landscapes.

Despite this effective strategy, inquisitive fawns will sometimes explore new surroundings and may appear to be lost or orphaned. There is usually no need for

human intervention since in most cases, the doe is nearby foraging and will return to nurse the fawn when it is safe.

"Captivity can lead to malnutrition, injury, and stress for wildlife. Deer in particular do not handle the stress of human interaction and can die in the process of being helped by well-meaning citizens," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Karina Stonesifer said. "Wildlife may pose human health risks and become dangerous as they mature. Help us keep Maryland's wildlife wild and safe."

More information on fawns and how to handle an encounter with them can be found on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service website.

Anyone with questions about fawns, or other young wild animals, is encouraged to call the state's wildlife hotline at 877-463-6497.

FOLK LIFE 2024

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Join us to celebrate the 4th annual Folklife Summer Workshops! Support community-based living and the cultural traditions of Southern Maryland.



May 4

Beatrix Potter Watercolor Workshop

Life of a Waterman

May 18

Making Stuffed Ham (2 day workshop)

Gelli Printmaking Workshop

Environmental Youth Workshop

Workshops will be held at St. Mary's College of Maryland and other locations in Southern Maryland.

Funding is provided by the Maryland State Arts Council



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FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION go to www.somdfolklife.org, or scan the QR Code



NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Marine's New CH-53K Transports F-35 Between Test Sites in Maryland, New Jersey

U.S. Marines flying a CH-53K King Stallion heavy-lift helicopter transported an F-35C Lightning II airframe from the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Patuxent River (Pax ITF) to a Navy unit located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, April 24.

A Marine aircrew from Marine Test and Evaluation Squadron 1 (VMX-1) flew the most powerful helicopter in the Department of Defense that carried the inoperable airframe, which was without mission and propulsion systems, outer wings, or additional equipment, to the Prototype, Manufacturing and Test (PMT) Department of the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Lakehurst for use in future emergency recovery systems testing.

NAWCAD Lakehurst provides unique, full-service, test expertise, from test planning, setup, and configuration to test execution and data analysis for all varieties of Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE).

"I just think this is a great opportunity for the Marine Corps, the joint force, and the world to see that the Marine Corps has a capability that no other force in the world has, in this case CH-53K," said Marine Lt. Col. Adam Horne, lead pilot and officer in charge of the CH-53 Detachment, VMX-1, at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina.

VMX-1, headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, is the Marine Corps' Operational Test & Evaluation squadron called upon to create and refine tactics, techniques and procedures for the service's aviation platforms and systems.

Minutes after 11 a.m., the almost 100-foot-long helicopter lifted the approximately 22,000-pound airframe from the airfield here, briefly headed west, and then turned southeast and headed out over the Chesapeake to begin the 305 nautical mile transport. The CH-53K is currently cleared to conduct lifts up to 36,000 lbs.

During the transport, the CH-53K aerial refueled with a KC-130T Hercules multi-mission medium-lift tactical tanker/transport aircraft.

"Air-to-air refueling is critical to the Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO) concept and proving this capability on the CH-53K King Stallion significantly increases the combat potential for the U.S. Marine Corps' newest workhorse in its stable," said Horne.

He added that VMX-1; Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Two One (HX-21), the rotary-wing and tilt rotor aircraft test squadron; Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1), and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 (HMH-461) are expanding the capabilities



of the King Stallion every day.

"The CH-53K provides capability not seen anywhere else across the Marine Corps, but also for the joint force and any potential foreign military sales (FMS) customers," said Horne. "The CH-53K is not only able to lift more and for longer distances, but it can communicate across a large spectrum and will feed information from the battlespace back to the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) commander. Its increased maintenance efficiencies will allow it to be more available and operate longer with less logistical support."

Marine Corps Aviation teams coordinated and planned extensively with the F-35 Pax ITF team to execute the evolution safely and successfully, and both teams worked with the Pax River Cargo Lab, whose gear the Marine helicopter support team (HST) used to sling the airframe.

In short, teamwork was the hallmark of the mission.

Key to success was "all the prior coordination and the goodwill of each team," Horne said. He identified the NAWCAD Cargo Lab at Pax River; Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Two One (HX-21), the rotary-wing and tilt rotor aircraft test squadron, who hosted VMX-1; Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Two Three (VX-23), the fixed-wing tactical aircraft test squadron; Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Two Zero (VX-20), the naval force aircraft test squadron, who they tanked with on the way up; the New Jersey State Police, and the NAWCAD Lakehurst team.

Additionally, he said the work of Marines on the helicopter support team "was a big help," ensuring "everything went smoothly for the 53K."

The HST, which was comprised of landing support specialists, or "Red Patchers," from the Combat Logistics Battalion 26 (CLB-26), traveled from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

think the best part was being able to accomplish our team's dreams," he said. "They came out here, and they did phenomenally."

The route included over-water and over-land portions. While flying over the Garden State, the New Jersey State Police Aviation Bureau provided crucial aerial support, as troopers from the Field Operations Section were on the ground orchestrating traffic slowdowns with precision. This synchronized effort ensures an additional layer of safety, seamlessly complementing each other to fulfill the mission.

The CH-53K is the U.S. Marine Corps' heavy lift replacement for the CH-53E Super Stallion. The most powerful helicopter in the Department of Defense, the CH-53K is a new-build helicopter that will expand the fleet's ability to move more material faster throughout the area of responsibility using proven and mature technologies. The helicopter provides advanced technology and unmatched heavy lift capabilities and can lift nearly three-times more than its predecessor, the CH-53E.

"The real juice, meat and potatoes that we came here for ... was this lift," said Marine Sgt. Joe Padilla, who had a safety role during the connection. Other Marines had roles of grounding the helicopter, the 'static,' and connecting the cargo, the 'hook.'

"Our team has been looking for something challenging, something big for us ... and I

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2024

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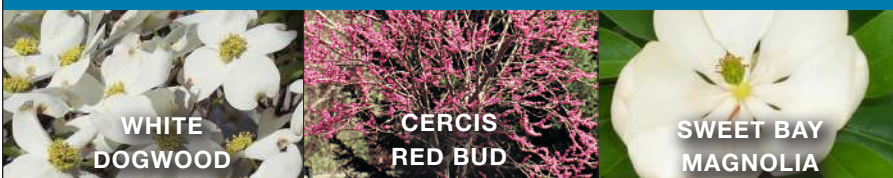


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Letters to the Editor

'Good Ol' Boy system' has no place in elections

As many voters are aware, there's a contested judicial election taking place here in our county and it seems, that in a desperate move, one candidate is opting to focus on support from the Good ol' Boy system, rather than running on her experience and qualifications.

Judicial positions are critically important to the safety of our county. Using the "Good ol' Boy" system to push a candidate, without the appropriate experience or track record, into a judicial position, will result in mistrials and overturned decisions which will have a devastating impact upon the efficiency of our judicial system and the safety of our county.

To date, a County Commissioner and former sheriff are blindly supporting an unqualified judicial candidate based solely upon their friendship. This un-based support sounds like the definition of cronyism.

Commissioner Alderson has never taken the time to visit Judge Lorenzini's courtroom over the past two years to observe how she performs on the bench. Rather than investing a few hours to learn the facts, they are blindly offering support to their "friend" Sue Ann who has ZERO criminal trial experience, and marginal if ANY jury trial experience even in civil matters, in her thirty-three years of practicing family law. Personally, it makes me question the decision-making ability of our current County Commissioner if he is not willing to take the time to responsibly evaluate both candidates' experience and abilities before offering his support. How then does this Commissioner make other decisions that impact our county? Does he award contracts based upon his friendships without researching and reviewing competitive bids. It's quite alarming to think those we have chosen to represent us are hanging onto the good ol' boy system of governance.

Ms. Armitage may possess the "qualities needed to be our next circuit court judge" as Mr. Alderson states, but does she have

the qualifications, experience and knowledge? Being a friend, a nice person or a hard worker is NOT enough to make an effective judge. Having a broad base of legal expertise, jury trial experience, knowledge of rules of evidence, knowledge of (and differences between) criminal and civil procedure are characteristics vital to the success and effectiveness of a Circuit Court Judge. Who you know, where you played softball and for how many generations your family lived in our county are not judicial qualifications or assets.

Equally concerning is the opinion of former Sheriff Tim Cameron who has not lived in St. Mary's County (or even Maryland) for over two years and has never observed Judge Lorenzini on the bench. Like Alderson, Mr. Cameron is relying on his friendship and the opinion of his wife Angie Cameron (an apparent "bestie" of Sue Ann Armitage), to determine the best candidate to serve as a judge to keep our county safe. A good judge likely has the qualities to also be a good friend---but clearly not every good friend can be a good Circuit Court Judge. Let's keep the boundary clear.

Since the good ol' boys don't seem interested in making responsible and informed decisions, I urge you to do your research. Go to Judge Lorenzini's courtroom and observe a case (yes, your courthouse is open to the public and anyone can sit in on a case) or talk to anyone who has been on a jury for a trial that Judge Lorenzini handled. I guarantee they will have positive comments about Judge Lorenzini and will confirm how Judge Lorenzini handles her courtroom and our constitution. Unfortunately, you can't do the same with Ms. Armitage, but you can ask any legal professionals in our county which candidate has the right experience and the judicial temperament to best serve our county.

*Angela Bowling
Concerned St. Mary's County Resident*

An endorsement across lines

We do not belong to the same political party. We come from opposite ends of the political spectrum. We are writing this letter together to express our strong support for Sue Ann Armitage's candidacy for Circuit Court Judge. Sue Ann has over 33 years of courtroom experience. She has run a business here in St. Mary's County. She has been active in this community for decades. As her campaign has progressed, Sue Ann has drawn support from leaders in both the Republican and Democratic parties.

Sue Ann has plans to implement programs for our veterans and for non-violent juvenile offenders. St. Mary's County has a higher percentage of veterans in its population than any other county in Maryland. And

we all can agree that helping young people stay on track is an important goal. Sue Ann also intends to focus on protecting the community from repeat violent offenders.

For all of these reasons, we hope you will join us in voting for Sue Ann Armitage as our next Circuit Court Judge.

Early voting runs from May 2, 2024, through May 9, 2024. Election Day is May 14, 2024.

*Dr. Kathleen O'Brien
CEO Walden Wise*

*David Willenborg
Lifelong resident of St. Mary's County*

Deputy Arrested for Assault Second-Degree

Following a criminal investigation, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) Deputy Donald Anthony Shubrooks, Badge #389, aged 29, was arrested Saturday, April 27, 2024, on charges of Assault Second-Degree.

At approximately 3:39 p.m., Saturday, Shubrooks contacted the SMCSO non-emergency line and advised a dispatcher he had been involved in a domestic dispute with his girlfriend at his residence.

Following the call, patrol deputies responded to Shubrooks' residence in Lexington Park. Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division also responded to the scene and immediately initiated an investigation.

It was determined that Shubrooks and the victim had an argument, which escalated into a physical altercation, ending with the victim leaving the residence but returning after deputies arrived. The victim sustained minor injuries but did not require medical attention.

Sheriff Steve Hall advised that in accordance with SMCSO policy, the Office of Professional Responsibilities has initiated a separate administrative investigation to identify violations of agency policies or pro-



Donald Anthony Shubrooks

cedures. Shubrooks, assigned to the Patrol Division since August 2020, has been placed on emergency suspension with pay pending the outcome of both investigations.

Shubrooks was arrested and transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center, awaiting a bond hearing.

Sheriff's Office Investigating Fatal Collision

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, at approximately 5:06 p.m., Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) responded to a reported two-car collision at the intersection of Budds Creek Road and Mechanicsville Road in Mechanicsville, MD.

The preliminary investigation revealed a 2021 Honda Accord, operated by Autumn Leighanne Compton, 19, of Cobb Island, attempted to make a left-hand turn from Mechanicsville Road onto southbound Budds Creek Road. Compton failed to yield the right of way to a 2000 Chevrolet truck operated by Zachary Joseph Wilburn, age 24, of North Beach, MD, traveling north-

bound on Budds Creek Road.

Compton was pronounced deceased on the scene. A passenger of the pick-up truck was transported to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital by ambulance for minor injuries.

At this time, speed does not appear to be a factor in the accident.

Due to the nature of the crash, the SMCSO Reconstruction Unit has assumed the investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or any events leading up to it and has not already provided a statement is asked to contact Corporal Rachael Roszell at 301-475-4200 ext. 8108 or by email at Rachael.Roszell@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF DISINTERMENT AND REINTERMENT

Authorization has been requested from the State's Attorney's Office for St. Mary's County, Maryland to disinter the remains of John Matthew Ennis from Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. He will be re-interred with his Parents, John Matthew Ennis and Lori Mullins, parents, at Arlington National Cemetery, 1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, VA 22211. This request is being made by John Matthew Ennis and Lori Mullins Ennis his parents.

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20 steerable lift axle Cumming IX 565 with Allison automatic transmissions. Two have steel bodies and one has aluminum

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Commissioners to Host Public Forum on May 7

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will host a Public Forum on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the CSMC meeting room in the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldridge Street in Leonardtown.

Public Forums allow residents to speak directly to the Commissioners on topics of their choosing. Residents may offer appreciation, questions, or suggestions in a mutually respectful format. Those wishing to speak at the forum will receive up to three minutes to address the Commissioners. In lieu of in-person attendance, residents may also provide their feedback to the CSMC via:

- Email to: csmc@stmarysmd.com
- Mail to: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, PO Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are committed to ensuring equal access and participation for all residents in public forums. Arrangements to accommodate individuals with disabilities, special needs, or those requiring language support services can be made upon request. If you need accommodation to participate in a CSMC Public Forum, please contact the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200 ext.1340 at least 3 days in advance of the scheduled forum to arrange. CSMC Public Forums are televised live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 and streamed live online at: [YouTube.com/@StMarysCoGov](https://www.youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov).

St. Mary's County Animal Shelter Reopens to the Public



The St. Mary's County Animal Adoption & Resource Center will reopen its doors to the public tomorrow, Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at noon and resume normal operations, after announcing a temporary pause to adoptions and non-emergency animal intakes earlier this month due to a respiratory outbreak in the shelter.

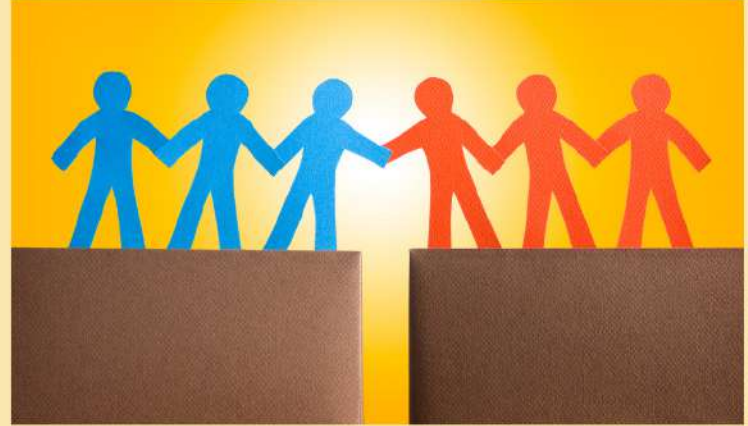
"We are deeply grateful for the compassion and assistance we have received from the community and from our organizational partners," said Jennifer Utz, Director of the Department of Emergency Services. "Your support has been instrumental in helping us navigate this difficult situation and we are especially thankful to all those who stepped up to foster animals in need while we managed this outbreak."

For hours of operation or additional information on the Animal Adoption &

Resource Center, please visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/AnimalShelter or follow them on social media at: [Facebook.com/smcanimalservices](https://www.facebook.com/smcanimalservices).

Shelters nationwide are experiencing increased animal infection rates. Many shelter dogs come in as strays with preexisting illnesses, malnourishment, cruelty experiences, or other maladies, which make them more susceptible to severe illness. This, in addition to the overall rise overall in the number of animal intakes (strays, surrenders, etc.) increases the risk of transmission and outbreak. While shelter overcrowding has become the norm nationwide, this can be changed with help from the community. St. Mary's County Animal Services encourages pet owners to spay/neuter their animals, be responsible pet owners, and consider fostering an animal in need.

Information & Resources for Older Adults



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- Housing Resources
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Health Dept: Virtually All Street Drugs Contain Fentanyl

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The synthetic opioid fentanyl is responsible for the most opioid overdose related deaths in Maryland, the latest state-provided data shows and local health department harm reduction specialists say the powerful narcotic has infiltrated nearly every illicitly available drug that can be found on the street.

"Fentanyl has been found in 90 percent of all illicit and street pharmaceuticals said Zuriel Savoy, a registered peer supervisor with the St. Mary's County Health Department speaking to the local branch of the NAACP last week in Lexington Park. "So, if it hasn't come from a physician or a pharmacy, 90 percent — to include marijuana — has included fentanyl."

Health department staff said there was a nearly 18 percent increase in opioid related deaths involving cocaine abuse statewide.

"The people here doing crack and cocaine do not realize that there is a pretty high chance that there is fentanyl mixed with it," said Nicole Barrows, a recovery specialist who closely tracks all non-fatal overdoses in the county or involving county residents wherever they may be.

The current year's numbers would not be available until sometime in the fall, she told the meeting attendees, but she expected the local numbers to "skyrocket" by that time.

Barrows also said fentanyl has been found in vape cartridges.

"Not the ones you can get from dispensaries," Barrows said. "But the ones your peers are getting from smoke shops."

Barrows referenced specifically substances designated as Delta 8, Delta 9 and Delta 10 THC (tetrahydrocannabinol).

"They are legal to sell in our state," Barrows said of the cannabis products. "And the kids are getting their hands on it."

"So a lot of these kids are ending up in the ER [emergency room]; we've had 10 in the past month."

Savoy reiterated that cannabis products that come from a dispensary, whose products are federally regulated, should be free from fentanyl contamination.

"Smoke shops are not," Savoy said.

"So we don't know where they're [smoke shops] getting the stuff or where it's coming from but it's showing up," said Barrows. "Smoke shops are the biggest culprit but every time they try to do controlled buys with minors... it all of a sudden goes away, they don't have it."

Young people who go into smoke shops are also being told by those in charge there, Barrows said, that they will not sell to them unless they pay with cash, which cannot be traced as to who the buyer was.

The warning regarding fentanyl contamination of vaping cartridges did not extend to

those containing nicotine commonly found at convenience stores, Barrows said, as they were also federally regulated.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opiate many times more powerful than heroin or other opioids and used to treat extreme pain in patients and is usually strictly controlled.

But in recent years illicitly manufactured fentanyl has made its way to the streets and is being combined with many other, more commonly known street narcotics.

Barrows said that statewide only about 0.1 percent of all drug paraphernalia tested shows any trace of heroin; five years ago, heroin was much more common on the streets but has been virtually supplanted by the more powerful opioids.

She said if the situation were reversed and heroin were more common, there might be fewer fatal overdoses.

"People are flabbergasted," Barrows said when she talks to those who use illicit drugs or those who try to help them quit their addictions. "So that number is going to get smaller and the fentanyl and cocaine numbers are probably going to go dramatically higher."

Savoy said drug users who believe they are buying heroin are mistaken, buying fentanyl instead and getting a much stronger "high" but sometimes at a lethal cost.

There were 35 fatal overdoses in St. Mary's County in 2021, Savoy said; accord-

ing to the latest data from the Maryland Department of Health, that number dropped to 27 the following year.

Savoy said the reduction could be attributed to the wide distribution and use of Narcan, a medication that can counteract an opioid overdose.

The local health department continues to engage the community in distributing Narcan to everyday residents and train them in its use as a part of the strategy of fighting the opioid epidemic.

"That is why we do what we do," Savoy said. "Every life is worth saving."

"Most of the fatal overdoses that occurred because the users did not know fentanyl was mixed with what they were using."

With fentanyl, a dosage the size of three grains of table salt could be fatal, Savoy said.

Carfentanyl, an opioid that is 10,000 times more powerful than fentanyl, is used to put down large animals such as rhinoceros and horses, said Barrows.

This drug, too, has been found in St. Mary's and has led to K-9 officers and their animals nationwide to hold off on certain vehicle searches because too many of them — officers and dogs — were being injured just by physically touching the substance.

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By Authority of Friends of Brandie Edelen, Luis Mejia Treasurer

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Medical Center Delay Concerns Commissioners



Commissioner Mike Alderson



Commissioner Mike Hewitt

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Last week the county's planning commission voted to delay their decision on the concept site plan proposing to expand the MedStar Shah Philip J. Bean Medical Center in Hollywood and local leaders are worried the project could be endangered for it.

Planning commission members expressed concerns over the amount of traffic the new outpatient clinic, which would more than double the size of the current facility's footprint by adding a roughly 54,000-square foot building on Route 235.

Commission members also showed consternation that engineers who promulgated the traffic study for the project were not on hand to discuss their findings, nor were there any members of the State Highway Administration (SHA) to speak to traffic conditions there.

The planning commission will take up the public hearing May 6.

"MedStar could take this project across the bridge to Calvert [County] who desperately wants it," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt at the April 30 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Hewitt said one planning commissioner commented that the county should consider shutting down all projects until SHA is more responsive to St. Mary's.

That disturbed him, Hewitt said. "SHA doesn't have to respond," Hewitt

said. "They tell you what the data is. "If you don't like the data, you have to get your own."

The intersection at the current medical center is on southbound Route 235; for motorists leaving the center who want to take northbound lanes they must first cross the southbound lanes and queue in a median intersection.

Commission members protested that the state considered the intersection would remain at a level of service "C" even with the new facility and not be at a worse level.

"It's very touchy to tell the public you want to shutdown a project, until you hear from SHA," Hewitt continued. "We didn't put people on that planning commission to shut down projects."

Commissioner Mike Alderson joined Hewitt in his concerns.

"The biggest gripe that we get as being part of the government is the complete lack of efficiency that we have in many departments," Alderson said. "All of our agencies, state and county, should look back at their practices so they can make it more efficient."

"The thought of holding up a major expansion project like the Bean building is something I couldn't even fathom; why would you consider doing something like that?"

Such delays, Alderson said, increased costs for developers, and then to consumers.

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For more information, contact Sarah Miller

Phone: 301-475-4200, ext. 1073 - Email: sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov

Town Mayoral Candidates Square Off

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Leonardtown Mayor Dan Burris and his opponent in the upcoming town election, Ken Held, both seem to share much the same vision for the future of the town when it comes to staying the course on revitalization of the town, though they differed on a few points on how that might be achieved.

The forum at The Rex Theater the evening of Apr. 30 drew about 50 people to hear both candidates.

Burris, who is a lifelong Leonardtown resident, has been mayor for the last 11 years, while Held has been in town for seven years and started out as the general manager of the Leonardtown Ford automobile dealership before opening his popular Slice House restaurant.

"It's a fine place to live, work and play," Burris said of Leonardtown. "And we want to keep it that way."

Burris touted his administration's work to improve the wharf property and open access to the waterfront while supervising the revitalization of the town by working with businesses to fill vacant buildings and remake alleyways and outdoor spaces to make them more pedestrian friendly.

Burris also said his administration's work to enact outdoor seating for restaurants and bars during COVID-19 aided the town's businesses during dire times.



Ken Held

"Without outdoor seating, they probably would not have survived COVID," Burris said.

Held praised Burris's leadership but seemed to downplay the role town government played in achieving the success.

"We've seen so much change in Leonardtown in the last seven years," Held said. "Every vacant building on the square is filled or being renovated."

"It's the entrepreneurs who've made this happen."

Held told attendees that his priorities if elected mayor include making the wharf property look better and take up beautifica-



Mayor Dan Burris

tion projects in town such as painting trash cans.

If the parking lot at the wharf could not be paved, Held said, it should be covered with some other material such as sea shells to improve its aesthetics.

"I don't think the wharf looks great," Held said.

Later during the forum Held said his goal for Leonardtown was "to make it look like Mayberry."

Burris said he wanted to maintain the quality of life in town, which included keeping taxes low, and protect town businesses and bring in new ones while still controlling

development.

Burris said the Tudor Hall community should be ready for development in the next five years, which will also include a commercial aspect in its mixed-use proposal.

The project would be built in conjunction with the town's waterfront property.

Both men were concerned about speeding through the town square, though Held said he approved of more speed traps and fines for motorists violating the speed limit.

Burris said the suggestion of speed bumps had been proffered but the town fire department had rejected the idea as an impediment to their apparatus.

Both men were asked if there should be greater police presence on the town square at night.

"There's always a sheriff's deputy or state police officer in town all the time, it's not just the town deputy," said Burris of both agencies having headquarters in town.

Held was supportive of more police presence in town and even considered the question of whether the wharf property should be closed from dusk until dawn.

Held also said closing the town square to traffic and making it open only to pedestrians was appropriate.

"I think it's a great idea," Held said. "It would be absolutely beautiful if it was pedestrian only."

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By Authority, Julia Guy, Treasurer

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Citizens Concerned Over Animal Control Ordinance



Maria Hoover speaks out against changes to the county's animal control ordinance.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A newly revised animal control ordinance raises fines and fees on certain pet owners, particularly those keeping dogs, and many residents this week spoke out against its possible adoption by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Some of the more significant changes to the current ordinance include fines up to \$1,000 for not taking adequate care of domestic animals or if a dog is found to be stray.

The new ordinance defines stray as a dog found to be at-large three times or more; an animal control officer who finds any animal that poses a direct threat to the public can pursue and trap the animal.

A potentially dangerous dog — one that has bitten a person, killed or inflicted injury on a domestic animal, for example — must be submitted to enhanced enclosures and microchipping as well as other requirements.

Owners of such dogs must also carry \$50,000 in public liability insurance to cover their canine, according to the new ordinance.

Also, dog licenses would now come with a fee set by commissioners and dogs without a license cost their owners \$250 in fines.

Maria Hoover, a member of a local animal rescue group, said the new ordinance's requirements for licensing of commercial

animal establishments could hurt efforts by foster homes to take in dogs.

The new ordinance states that any establishment with five or more dogs must have a license and faces up to \$1,000 in fines without one as well as a bi-annual inspection.

Feeding cats in county owned parks would also be prohibited under the new ordinance.

"I'm very concerned at some of these fees I'm seeing," Hoover told county commissioners. "We face overwhelmed shelters, rescues cannot keep up.

"People are giving up their animals because they can't afford to feed them, they can't afford the veterinary care."

She said the real solution to animal overpopulation was either a free or low-cost county spay and neuter program to reduce the number of animals born.

Animal control officials said many of the new regulations were geared towards rabies vaccination compliance and helping reunite lost pets with their owners as well as ensure public safety.

But Commissioner Mike Hewitt voiced concern over the high fees in the new proposed rules.

"That just seems onerous," he said of the \$50,000 insurance requirement. "It seems like a lot."

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“THAT JUST SEEMS ONEROUS. IT SEEMS LIKE A LOT.”

COMMISSIONER MIKE HEWITT ON HEAVY FINES AND FEES IN THE NEW ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE.



LOCAL 4
Residents worried over animal control ordinance



CENTER PULLOUT
School board, judge candidates talk on the issues



ON THE COVER
Early voting runs from May 2 through May 9

WEEKLY FORECAST

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MON, MAY 6 PM Showers Hi: 77° Lo: 62°	TUE, APR MAY 7 Showers Hi: 80° Lo: 65°	WED, MAY 8 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 69°	THU, MAY 9 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 83° Lo: 64°



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– FORMER DEL. JOHN BOHANAN

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**– RANDY GUY,
PRESIDENT OF THE ST. MARY'S
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Stay tuned for more details about **Sue Ann's Campaign Finale**, featuring St. Mary's own Robbie Boothe! Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Stoney's Clarke's Landing in Hollywood

By Authority of Friends of Sue Ann Armitage, Eric Sweeney, Treasurer

Sue Ann
ARMITAGE  *for* **JUDGE**

By Authority of Friends of Sue Ann Armitage, Eric Sweeney, Treasurer

St. Mary's
County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

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