

# Filmmakers need to raise money quickly for project

Everyone knows a dog is man's best friend, but why don't we afford the same sense of companionship to animals typically killed for food?

The question is somewhat bleak — but St. Mary's-based filmmakers are exploring the concept with humor in their short film "Two Friends," and they have less than a week to raise the money to fund it.

The duo, London native Rebecca Burnett and Taryn Brown, are asking for donations on their Kickstarter campaign to produce the vegan-themed story of compassion and camaraderie between a man and his mutt Buddy, who will be played by Leonardtown native Nicholas Wood.

The group must raise \$2,800 on its Kickstarter campaign, or it doesn't get a cent of the proceeds.

"As an animal lover I'm always looking for ways to raise awareness of animal cruelty to help eradicate it," Burnett wrote in an email. "It's become normal to treat dogs as best friends but other fellow sentient beings as nothing more than things."

"The piece focuses on how humans do or don't have empathy with animals," Brown, who owns Tarbro Arts, which is helping produce the film, said. Burnett is the writer, director and second half of the production team for the film.

"It's a comedy, it's heartfelt. We want to make people think about and feel compassion," Brown said. "It shows that there is a companionship and closeness that humans can have with their animals."

Brown said she became involved in the project after meeting Burnett through the Southern Maryland Independent Filmmakers production group. The pair produced the original piece "The Cable Guy," a short film that premiered at the Southern Maryland Film Festival last year.

For "Two Friends," "The goal is to submit it for the Southern Maryland Film Festival [and] the Vegan Film Fest in Ottawa," Brown said. "We're in the final push. ... We are fundraising and producing in real time."

Tarbro Arts and Burnett's production company Love Life, Live Vegan, have set weekly milestones for funding as they film, but still need to raise \$708 by July 10 to pay for the costs, which include payment for the Southern Maryland-based actors and crew, pre- and post-production, filming and distribution. The film is being shot in St. Mary's County.

Donors can choose different tiers with varying rewards for their assistance, or they can pledge less than \$15 for no reward at all. Pledging \$15 or more will earn a donor a personalized thank you on social media; \$25 will get a digital

## THIS 'N' THAT

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download of the film; \$50 or more and the donor's name is added to the credits as a filmmaking funder. Those who give \$75 will get all the aforementioned items, plus a hand-painted dedication rock, and those who give \$90 or more get exclusive behind-the-scenes footage, a plant-based cookbook compiled by the cast and crew and a 4-by-4-foot painting of Sir Squeaks a Lot, a dog toy featured in the film.

"In many ways, there have been positives because this place is very well connected," with a mix of local and transient residents because of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Brown said. "I just love that, it really is this epitome of what our county can be creatively, that we can come together, and that we're a grassroots effort."

"There isn't a huge film making scene in Southern Maryland, but there are very talented people here that local audiences should be proud of," Burnett wrote. "The Kickstarter is helping a local film project move off paper and onto the big screen, enabling local artists to use their skills and talent right here in their own backyard."

Those who wish to donate may do so before Wednesday, July 10, at <https://bit.ly/2IGsMC4>.

## DNR recruiting for AmeriCorps

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is now recruiting members for the Maryland Conservation Corps, an AmeriCorps program that engages young adults 17 to 25 in extensive conservation, environmental and natural resources management projects across the state. The department seeks to hire 35 full-time members who will work on seven teams for an 11-month period, beginning in late September.

MCC members in a typical season will conduct interpretive state park programming, help preserve historical heritage sites, improve park nature centers, maintain hundreds of miles of trails, plant thousands of trees, provide environmental education programming for students, restore wildlife habitat and more.

To be considered, interested individuals must submit an online application available at [http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/mcc\\_application.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/mcc_application.aspx). Placement will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Kids can take art classes at museum

Join art instructor Ellen Duke Wilson in exploring

fine arts at St. Clement's Island Museum Art Kids classes, where young artists can expand their understanding of art and history while learning to sketch, paint and sculpt.

Remaining classes in the series include "Express Yourself with Painting" on July 9 to 11; "Making a Statement in Sculpture" on July 23 to 25, and "Collage: Putting the Pieces Together" on Aug. 6 to 8. All classes are noon to 3 p.m.

At the end of each session, participants will create an individualized work of art. These classes are geared toward children ages 7 to 17. Preregistration is required, and the price is \$3 per child. All materials are provided, and participants are asked to bring a light snack.

For more information or to sign up a child, call Christina Barbour at 301-769-4723.

## Church to host Bible school

Join the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church's vacation Bible school to learn about ancient Athens, where the group will explore what life was like for the apostle Paul on his dangerous journey to share the truth. Create cool projects in the marketplace, laugh during Bible-times games, visit with Paul, and eat some interesting new food. The program runs from July 8 to 12 from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. The church is located at 27108 Mt. Zion Church Road in Mechanicsville. Preregister at [www.mtzionmech.org](http://www.mtzionmech.org) or sign up at the church. For more information, call 301-884-4132.

## Register now to be a 'pirate' at HSMC

Registration is now open for the Little Pirates program at Historic St. Mary's City. The program, designed for children ages 3 to 6, is offered in two sessions — July 17 or 18 — from 10 to 11 a.m. As a part of the morning, children will "become" a pirate, play games, go on a treasure hunt and storm Maryland Dove, a representation of a 17th-century tall ship.

Admission is \$10 per child (\$8 for members) with one accompanying adult free. The fee includes full-day admission to the museum.

Call 240-895-4990 or email [Info@HSMCdigsHistory.org](mailto:Info@HSMCdigsHistory.org).

## CHS Class of 1969 to hold reunion

The Chopticon High School Class of 1969 is planning its 50th class reunion for the fall of 2019. Members or teachers of this class can update contact information to receive announcements for the festivities by contacting Sarah Blackstone Richardson at 240-925-1119 or [TheMightySBR@msn.com](mailto:TheMightySBR@msn.com), or Norwood Graves 301-848-9525 or [Saramy1@verizon.net](mailto:Saramy1@verizon.net).

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## County commissioners agenda for Tuesday, July 9

**9 a.m.** Invocation and pledge, approval of consent agenda

**9:05 a.m.** Proclamations: Jeff McLane for years of service; Cougars Elite Cheerleading Squad; National Parks and Recreation Month; 29th anniversary of the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act

**9:10 a.m.** County attorney: Public hearing on proposed acquisition/disposition of real property in Colton's Point

**9:35 a.m.** Department of human resources: Commission for People with Disabilities Annual Awards

**9:50 a.m.** Department of Land Use and Growth Management: Comprehensive water and sewer plan amendment; Callaway commercial decision

**9:55 a.m.** County administrator

**11:30 a.m.** County commissioners

**6:30 p.m.** Public forum at Chesapeake Building