



Photo by Gary Smith

y for the Memorial  
poni Elementary

## path

suffered third-degree  
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nk," Price said in an  
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# Libraries want computer network

By KEVIN BUSHWELLER  
Independent Staff Writer

Take a step back in time to a simpler era. Imagine no computers. All data is sorted manually. Paper records fill file cabinets. Lines are longer, work is slower, and time — less efficient.

Those days are long gone for most businesses and government agencies. They have computers to file, sort, classify, identify, qualify and quantify.

But there remain those institutions, those anachronisms, like the Charles County Library system, which have not kept pace with technological advancements. Librarians at county libraries file, sort, classify, identify, qualify and quantify — manually.

"We have all these people in the backroom doing tedious tasks," said Kitty Hurrey, director of the tri-county library system. "It's the 17th century, practically."

A computer system would save

local librarians an enormous amount of time, Hurrey said. Registering a patron, which takes about 15 minutes, would be reduced to two minutes. Reserving a book, considered the most tedious, time-consuming task, would be reduced from 20 minutes to eight seconds. Checking in a book, a five- to 10-minute process, would take seconds.

"Knowing what's available makes it ever more excruciating," said Linda Gateau, community services liaison for the county libraries.

Hurrey wants to establish a centralized tri-county library information system. The network's computer would be located at the new Charlotte Hall library. Each county would pay for its own computer hardware.

The commissioners in St. Mary's and Calvert counties agreed to invest in a centralized automated system for Southern Maryland. St. Mary's and Calvert have already invested \$15,000 and \$21,000, respectively, for the sys-

tem. The Charles County Commissioners have not decided whether to fund the system.

The system will cost \$600,000 over a five-year period. If Charles County joined the tri-county network, it would pay about \$150,000.

The county, however, would not have to pay \$150,000 in one sum. Through a leasing agreement, the county could pay partial sums each year toward purchasing its portion of the system.

County Commissioner Murray Levy said the county government will "probably not" fund a library automation system this year.

"We all feel it's a good system and it's something they need," Levy said. "On the other hand, we have so many other financial requirements this year."

Levy said the commissioners are giving the libraries a "sizeable" funding increase for fiscal 1990. Plans are under way for a new library in Bryans Road which will cost \$900,000, and the commissioners are approving \$45,000

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Photo by Gary Smith

Evelyn Larsen, children's librarian at the P.D. Brown Library in Smallwood Village, searches through the card file of circulated books.

## Libraries

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for a new bookmobile, Levy said.

County Finance Director Richard Winkler said he will give the commissioners more information about the leasing opportunities today during a budget work session. They will then decide whether to fund the new system.

Hurrey said Charles County will be in a technological vacuum without a centralized computer system. The tedious, time-consuming tasks will remain, and the flow of books from Charles to libraries in the other counties will be extremely inefficient.

With a manual system, the Charles County libraries would have to shut down for at least two weeks to do an inventory, Hurrey

said. It took more than six months to do an inventory of the county libraries a few years ago, Hurrey said.

"Compared to the operation we have and the records we must keep ... why do they think the library should do it manually?"

asked Richard Treleven, assistant director of the Charles County libraries.

St. Mary's and Calvert will catch up technologically to most other Maryland counties, Hurrey said. They will be able to transfer books quickly with each other and throughout the state.

"There are all kinds of things we'll be able to do when we get this that we can't do now," Hurrey said.

## Calvert man in fair condition after stabbing near Benedict

By LEE STEPHENS  
Independent Staff Writer

After being repeatedly stabbed Sunday night, a Huntingtown man was listed in fair condition at Prince George's Hospital Center in Clinton. Police are looking for his attacker.

Joseph Michael Jones, 31, reportedly intervened in a domestic dispute between Zadia Dailey and her boyfriend while the three were at a home near Allen's Acres on Route 231 near Benedict

involved in an argument that became "so physical, Jones interceded on behalf and at the defense of Dailey," according to Detective James Petrik.

Using a knife, the boyfriend "stabbed (Jones) numerous times about the head, chest, stomach, arms and back," according to a police report. Jones was treated on the scene by members of the Benedict Volunteer Rescue Squad and Medic I, and was then flown to PGHC by a state police helicopter.

An arrest warrant for the boyfriend is on file. Police from Prince