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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2019

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Larry Owens of California poses with his quilt with (l to r) Gerry Lague, Peg Gowen and Sylvia Lague of Pax Sound of Freedom



LOCAL 6

A local partnership could form to reopen the Park Avenue Inn and Suites in Leonardtown by next year.



COMMUNITY 11

Residents celebrated Friday Night in the Park



PAX RIVER 20

F-35 team wins award

“THE HAND OF GOD WAS IN THAT.”

SOF MARKET OWNER GERRIE L'HEUREUX ON A BLAZE NEXT DOOR NOT HARMING HER BUILDING

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 7/4	Fri 7/5	Sat 7/6	Sun 7/7
88° 73° F	87° 73° F	90° 72° F	85° 68° F
Scattered Thunderstorms	Scattered Thunderstorms	Scattered Thunderstorms	Scattered Thunderstorms
Mon 7/8	Tue 7/9	Wed 7/10	Thu 7/11
82° 66° F	84° 67° F	88° 69° F	88° 71° F
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Old Leonardtown Building Destroyed in Fire

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Investigators with the Maryland State Fire Marshals Office are working to determine the exact cause of a fire that destroyed an old, vacant furniture store on Duke Street in Leonardtown Monday.

There were no sprinklers or fire suppression systems in the aging building to fight the blaze; responders from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, less than a block away, responded with several apparatus to extinguish the fire.

It took 37 firefighters 45 minutes to completely control the fire.

The fire was discovered in the rear of the building by a witness in a neighboring building, according to reports from fire marshals state.

Fire marshals estimate the building to be a complete loss; the structure at \$200,000 in value and \$15,000 in contents lost.

The vacant building housed Dooley's Furniture decades ago; there were no injuries despite the seriousness of the blaze.

Gerrie L'Heureux, owner and operator of the newly opened Shepherd's Old Field Market next door found out about the fire, so close to her business, while she was out at an appointment, she said.

Her building suffered no damage despite its proximity to the blaze, she said.

"The hand of God was in that," L'Heureux said. "There was no smoke damage to the side of my building, the paint didn't bubble."

"You can't imagine how relieved I was... we were blessed."

Aside from extinguishing the fire at the old commercial building, the Leonardtown volunteers also concentrated on dousing L'Heureux's building with water to protect it from the flames.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



The fire that destroyed a vacant commercial building in Leonardtown is still under investigation

St. Mary's College Facing Declining Enrollment

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A missive obtained by The County Times from St. Mary's College of Maryland to all staff employed there, states that the incoming class for this fall is smaller than first projected, which will necessitate even stricter budget constraints than the college leadership had initially planned.

The e-mail was sent in mid-June from Paul Pusecker, vice president of business operations at the college and its chief financial officer.

Pusecker's message states that the college's finance committee of the board of trustees had voted in April to recommend an operating budget based on 475 incoming students, both first-year and transfer students.

This number meant that the college would already have to trim its budget by \$970,000 in "permanent budget reductions" to meet their budget, the message said.

Since then the number of incoming students has been reduced to just 410, according to the e-mail.

This means the college will have to manage perhaps more than \$2 million in budget cuts.

"We will continue to attract student deposits over the summer, as we have for the past two years," Pusecker wrote in his missive. "Because there is still time, there is still hope but we must remain cautious."

He called budget reductions such as these "painful and heartbreaking." "The college simply cannot continue to rely each year on the chance availability of vacated positions, expiring contracts and possible year-end excess funds to support budget reduction actions," Pusecker continued.

An employee at the college, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there



have been no lay offs or pay cuts due to the projected enrollment shortfall but that the college is seeking other ways to meet its obligations.

"It's not something unique to our institutions," said the employee, noting that many students were taking greater advantage of broader access to free community college for their first two years.

"It's never good, but you've got to make changes," they said of the budget cuts.

The employee said several departments who were looking to fill teaching vacancies had cancelled their searches and travel budgets for college employees would also likely be cut.

The recent decline in projected enrollment only put into sharper focus the need

for a new strategic plan which administrators are now working for the college's future.

Among other issues this strategic plan would deal with the issue of competition with community colleges for student enrollment, the employee said.

David Hautanen, vice president for enrollment at the college, said they are still expecting 410 new arrivals this fall but believe the situation may improve by fall of 2020.

"We're confident with our [new curriculum] and our rebranding... we're seeing nothing but positive signs for next year," Hautanen said.

An increase in campus visits by prospective students was one indication of

hope, Hautanen said.

"Students who visit the campus are more interested," Hautanen said. "They're more likely to follow up on applying and enrolling."

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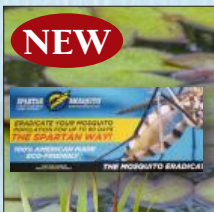


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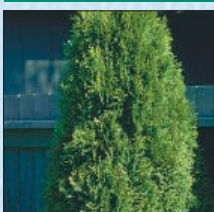


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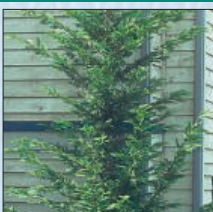
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Activists Selling Bricks to Fund Town Creek Pool Repairs



Cindy Cartwright and the leadership at Town Creek Pool are selling memorial bricks to raise funds to repair the 50 year old swimming spot.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Community advocates trying to raise money to repair and reopen the Town Creek Pool, which has been closed for the past two summers, are turning to selling memorial bricks to get the funds they need.

Cindy Cartwright, president of Town Creek Recreation Inc, the group under which the pool operates, told The County Times it is the latest effort to save the pool since the Commissioners of St. Mary's County refused to refund about \$50,000 in property taxes to the organization paid over the past several decades.

The Town Creek advocates petitioned the county earlier this year to refund the money since, as a non-profit group with a 501 c7 status they should not have been taxed so.

The county agreed to refund the organization for the years from 2014 up to the 2016; the county abated the group's tax liability for 2017.

Cartwright said that Town Creek Recreation Inc. received its non-profit status in 1974 but county tax records only went back to 1989; the group contends it had been erroneously taxed for all that time.

"We didn't know we weren't supposed to pay, and they didn't know we weren't

supposed to be taxed," Cartwright said. "They're no longer taxing us in the same way."

Of the \$50,000 the recreation group wanted, they got back about \$9,000, Cartwright said.

Repairs to the pool, which includes replacing the cracked pipes that circulate the water, come to an estimated cost of \$130,000.

In a letter to Carwright, County Attorney David Weiskopf said the Town Creek group could try to seek non-profit funding from the county commissioners.

"Each year the county commissioners allocate \$1 million to non-profit entities following a vigorous selection process," Weiskopf wrote. "Perhaps this process may be an appropriate avenue for you in the future."

Weiskopf's letter from May confirms that the non-profit had erroneously paid property taxes for 40 years.

Cartwright said she wished the county would pay what her group considers the fair refund amount.

"They really could have done more," Cartwright said. "But they did all they were obligated to do."

The website for purchasing a brick to fund the pool repair is www.bricksare-us.com/donorsite/towncreekpool.

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Leonardtwn Hotel Could Open Next Year

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For more than a year the Park Avenue Executive Inn and Suites in Leonardtown has stood vacant without any guests filling its rooms.

Mayor Dan Burris said the property's new owner, a local entrepreneur who has since moved to North Carolina and owns many properties around the county, is working to bring the hotel back into operation by next spring.

The owner of the hotel, Sean Earley, running it as Park Avenue Investments, LLC, plans to work with Cherry Cove LLC, a local management firm, to renovate and reopen the hotel in Leonardtown's town square, Burris said.

Earley purchased the hotel in May, according to state land records, for \$2.3 million.

Burris said the investors are working to improve the hotel with at least one new amenity.

"They're trying to find a restaurant to put there," Burris said. "They want to do that before they start renovations."

The hotel went into foreclosure last year and was purchased at courthouse auction by Dancing Avocado LLC which eventually sold to Park Avenue Investments, LLC.

Burris said Cherry Cove, which runs other hotel properties in the county, would be the managing partner of the Park Avenue property.

Laschelle McKay, town administrator, said an operating hotel was key to the town's economic development and growth goals.

"We feel it's key to economic development and are



Under new ownership the Executive Inn and Suites on Park Avenue could reopen by next year

very excited for it to get back up and running," McKay said.

The hotel was situated in the town square so that guests did not have to drive to get dinner or enjoy nightlife; they could simply walk, Burris said.

"We're looking forward to the new ownership," Burris told The County Times. "We've got 20 weddings a year in town (at the Leonardtown Wharf venue) and people are looking to fill that space."

Brian Norris, head of Cherry Cove, said no contract exists between his group and Park Avenue Investments but the two are coming to terms on how to move ahead.

"We are in discussions with them," Norris said. "We hope to move the project forward."

"We want to create a boutique hotel with significantly upgraded amenities."

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Burris Is New Mayor's Association President



Leonardtwn Mayor Dan Burris has been elected president of the Maryland Mayors Association.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Leonardtwn Mayor Dan Burris was recently elected as the president of the Maryland Mayor's Association, an arm of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and an advocacy body for key municipal issues around the state.

"It was formed to help MML in their initiatives," Burris said. "The best example is with the highway user revenues."

The mayors association along with MML have worked for the past 10 years to bring back funding in the state budget for highway user revenues, which municipalities have come to depend on to maintain local roads.

When Gov. Martin O'Malley was in office, he often raided highway user funds, which the state would collect and redistribute to the counties and the municipalities, and use it instead to balance deficits in the state's budget.

Many of the highway user accounts were drained to next to nothing but under Gov. Larry Hogan they have been almost completely refunded, Burris said.

"It's 95 percent of what it was 10 years ago," Burris said. "[Under O'Malley] we [Leonardtwn] went from \$95,000 to \$5,000."

Typically, mayor's association presidents spend three years on the organization's executive committee as a vice president before being elected into the

position.

However, Burris said, because of exigencies in membership he was moved into the position more quickly than normal, but still at the behest of the members of the organization.

There are 157 towns and cities in Maryland.

"I've only been on the committee for a year," Burris said. "I want to promote children knowing what's going on in government."

"That's my goal."

The mayor's association sponsors the annual "If I Were Mayor I Would..." essay contest each year in area schools where 4th graders talk about an issue in their town and how they would solve it.

Locally, Burris has attended activities at local schools where teachers in classrooms of 4th graders choose mock mayors and town councils to give them an idea of how local government works.

Burris said getting young people, including those in their teen years, more interested in government was critical to raising the next generation of civic minded residents.

"The mayor and council are often the first line of government," Burris said. "So it's important they know what we have to deal with."

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Jazz Festival Gets Two More Days

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For years a one-day affair at the St. Clements Island Museum at Colton's Point, the St. Mary's County Jazz and Seafood Festival will divide its time between its traditional spot and Leonardtown this year and start on Friday and end on Sunday, according to county tourism director Jason Aul.

The event starts in Leonardtown on July 12 and runs through July 14, with that Saturday being the day for the main festival at St. Clements.

That Sunday jazz-oriented festivities will continue in Leonardtown, Aul said.

"Visit St. Mary's has worked very closely with the people who put together the jazz festival and Leonardtown to do this," Aul told The County Times. "It's going to be a full weekend of jazz and other festivities."

Aul said the jazz festival was an initial test of Visit St. Mary's, the county's newly branded tourism directing agency, to enhance the county's attractiveness as a destination for more than just



a day trip.

"We're trying to increase our programming," Aul said. "We're trying to find more ways to attract and keep visitors here for overnight stays."

"It's all about the time and money they spend in the county."

According to Aul, the county's latest analysis of tourism dollars spent here shows that the average day trip visitor spends just \$80 in St. Mary's.

An overnight visitor spends an aver-

age of \$500, Aul said.

On the Friday the festival begins there will be live music on Leonardtown square and town restaurants will have specials and deals available for visitors, Aul said.

Leonardtown businesses will also host after-music parties.

The full concert will take place at the St. Clements Island Museum in Colton's Point on Saturday.

The following day Leonardtown res-

taurants will host jazz-themed brunches for those who have stayed overnight, Aul said.

The tourism director said Visit St. Mary's is working with the Leonardtown Rotary Club, the sponsors of the Oyster Festival during the fall, to enhance the programming there as well.

"We're looking for people to stay for those two days," Aul said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

CSM Trustees Approve Budget

In-County Tuition Up 2.7%

The College of Southern Maryland Board of Trustees at its June 20 meeting approved the college's Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) budget of \$66,256,202, which reflects a 0.7 percent decrease over FY 2019 and is based on projected tuition, and approved funding by the state and by Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's county boards of commissioners.

The college's FY20 budget includes funding for a one-time upgrade of its enterprise resource planning system (ERP) and the first phase of a three-year compensation equity adjustment resulting from a market comparison study to provide employees with a fair and equitable compensation system.

In approving the budget, the trustees set tuition with a 2.7 percent increase for Southern Maryland students, effective with the fall 2019 semester. Tuition for residents of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties will increase to \$131 per credit. The combined fee remains at 25 percent of tuition.

CSM's operating budget is supported by funding from the state, the three counties within Southern Maryland, and tuition and fees. Tuition and fees represent approximately 40 percent of the total budget, county appropriations at nearly 30 percent, and state funding at 27 percent with 3 percent from other sources. State funding is programmed at \$17.8 million, and the local three county support levels

total \$19.8 million. Tuition and fees from credit and continuing education enrollment are anticipated at \$26.4 million.

"We have been diligent in managing our budget and developing our revenue projections from a fiscally conservative basis that continues to support the high degree of success we expect for our students. This includes strategic position management to accurately reflect the positions serving our students in helping them to achieve their career goals while also addressing aging infrastructure needs in technology," said CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy.

Murphy noted that the budget provides vital support for campus facilities, computer labs, campus and cyber security, as well as productivity enhancements within the college's academic and administrative infrastructure.

Within the additional 5 percent in county funding of \$934,240 is included a one-time total allocation of \$812,700 by Charles and St. Mary's counties to support the ERP technology upgrade.

"Just as important is addressing fair and equitable compensation for the people who serve our students, and this budget begins a three-year phase-in to ensure we are taking care of our people," Murphy said. "It has been more than 10 years since the college has analyzed its regular benefitted positions, and the trustees and I believe strongly in aligning our com-

penensation package with our compensation philosophy. This budget reflects that desire—to be competitive within our industry, retain the high caliber of employees that our students need, and to properly support our employees."

In presenting the recommended budget to the trustees, CSM's Budget Director Judy Mills advised that the FY20 operating budget provides a half-step increase to the base pay of 10-month and 12-month faculty and a 1.5 percent market adjustment for staff. Additionally, the reclassification of regular benefitted staff positions will impact approximately 300 positions with salary adjustments. Mills noted that these adjustments will be phased in over three years.

Mills noted that for an in-county resident enrolled in 15 credit hours, the tuition increase is estimated at an approximate increase of \$52.50 per semester. Out-of-county and out-of-state tuitions also increased to \$229 per credit and \$294 per credit respectively.

CSM's tuition and fees may be paid over four months through CSM's Tuition Payment Plan. Since this is a deferred payment plan, there is no debt, no credit search and no interest. There is a non-refundable enrollment fee of \$50 per semester. For information on the payment plan, contact the Bursar's Office at paymentplan@csmd.edu or 301-934-7712. To enroll in the plan, visit <https://www.csmd.edu/costs-aid/credit-costs-aid/tuition-and-fees/Tuition-Payment-Plan/>.



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Various resources are available for students regarding financial aid, grants, loans, veterans benefits or student employment. For information on financial assistance and the types of aid available to attend college, please visit <http://www.csmd.edu/costs-aid/credit-costs-aid/scholarships-financial-aid/>.

Additionally, the college offers an online application that helps students to easily identify and apply for potential scholarships. The CSM Scholarship Finder is a quick, easy and free service that helps Southern Maryland students match their backgrounds and financial needs against more than 200 scholarships in a wide variety of academic programs. Every student must submit their FAFSA in order to apply for scholarships. To learn more, visit online at <http://www.csmd.edu/costs-aid/credit-costs-aid/scholarships-financial-aid/scholarships-scholarship-finder/>.

For information on scholarships and financial aid assistance at CSM, call 301-934-7531 or visit <https://www.csmd.edu/costs-aid/credit-costs-aid/scholarships-financial-aid/>.

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St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Crime Report

Motor Vehicle Accident and Arrest in Lexington Park

On June 30, 2019, at approximately 9:18 p.m. deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 22900 block of Town Creek Drive in Lexington Park, for the reported motor vehicle accident. Investigation determined a Ford truck being operated by **Zachary Allan Kiger, age 30** with



no fixed address, had been involved in a single vehicle accident, causing damage to property. A witness advised the operator exited the vehicle, made suicidal statements and indicated he was

in possession of a firearm. A perimeter was immediately established by officers on scene and nearby residents were contacted via "CodeRED" and advised of the situation. "CodeRED" is an emergency notification system that delivers a recorded message to affected areas.

Kiger was located in the area shortly after the incident and taken into custody. Located in Kiger's pocket was a CDS smoking device containing suspected cocaine residue. Kiger was also found to be under the influence of alcohol. Located in the bed of the truck Kiger was operating was a black powder revolver. Kiger was transported to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital for treatment and once released he was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with the following:

- CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana
- CDS: Possession-Paraphernalia
- Driving Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol
- Driving Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol Per Se
- Driving Vehicle While Impaired by Alcohol
- Failure to Return and Remain at Scene of an Accident Involving Property Damage
- Person Driving Motor Vehicle on

Highway or Public Property on Suspended License and Privilege.

Kiger is currently incarcerated at the detention center on a no bond status.

Wanted for Escape- Iyonna Kashae Baker

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of **Iyonna Kashae Baker, age 18** of Leonard-

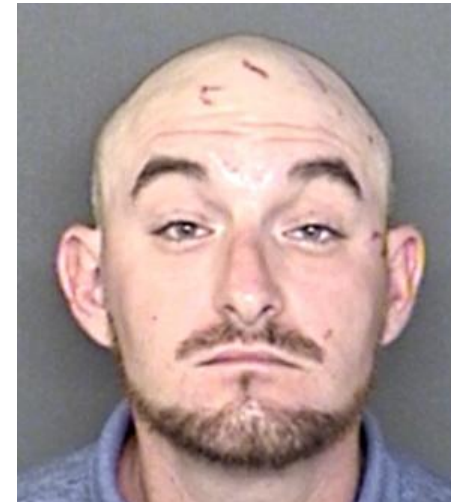


town. Baker was on pretrial release for the charge of robbery, and on March 9, 2019, she removed her GPS ankle monitor. Baker is 5'3" in height, and weighs 160 pounds; she has red hair and brown eyes. Baker is currently wanted for the charge of Escape Second Degree/Condition of Release. Baker also frequents the Washington, D.C. area.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Iyonna Kashae Baker is asked to contact Detective Trevor Teague at (301) 475-4200 extension *8128 or by email at Trevor.Teague@stmarysmd.com. Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at (301) 475-

3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

First-Degree Assault: On June 23, 2019, Deputy Dianne Hersh responded to the 37300 block of Asher Road in Mechanicsville for the report of an assault with a knife. The victim advised that there had been an argument all day with **Robert Allen Helmondollar Jr., 29** of



Mechanicsville. Helmondollar went to the kitchen, grabbed a knife and chased the victim in the apartment. Helmondollar also swung the knife at the victim near the neck but did not make contact. Helmondollar also attempted to burn the victim's bank cards using the stove. Helmondollar was arrested, transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with First-Degree Assault. Case # 36084-19

Legal Notice

IN THE MATTER OF JAMES L. GILLIAM, AN ALLEGED DISABLED PERSON

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO.: C-18-FM-17-000521

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

To all persons interested in the Petition For A Specific Transaction Without Appointment Of A Guardian of James L. Gilliam:

Notice is given that an Amended Petition For Specific Transaction Without Appointment Of Guardian has been filed in the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County to authorize Christyne Ivey, a/k/a Christyne Gilliam, to liquidate an annuity policy and CD which is solely owned by James L. Gilliam, a resident of Charlotte Hall Veterans' Home, Charlotte Hall, Maryland.

All persons having any objection to this Petition shall file a Response with the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County within thirty (30) days of this Notice being published. Failure to file a Response by that date may result in the granting of the relief being sought.

Debra J. Burch,
Clerk of Court for
St. Mary's County Maryland

June 27, 2019

Philip H. Dorsey III
Attorney at Law

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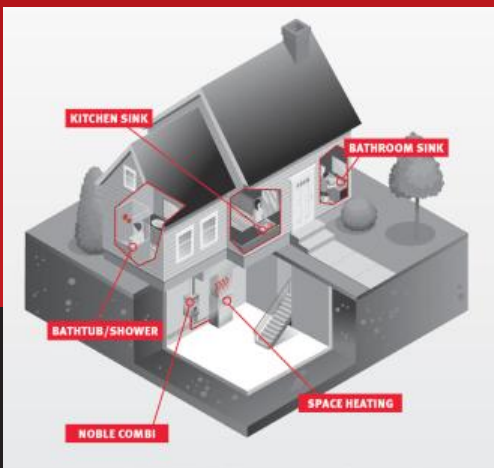
Friday Night in the Park



County residents enjoyed food, fellowship, games and cooling showers courtesy of local firefighters at the local NAACP's Friday Night in the Park event June 29. Photo by Ceandra Scott.

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Look Out for Southern Maryland Meats

New Signs, Labels Spotlight Member Farms

You might notice something new on your drive through Southern Maryland in the next few weeks – Southern Maryland Meats farm signs have arrived!

The Southern Maryland Meats (SMM), a marketing program of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, is ramping up promotional efforts to increase consumer recognition for the marketing program's branding logo and shining the spotlight

on the individual farm producers that participate in the SMM program.

Starting July 1, 2019, all 51 Southern Maryland Meats producers around the region, will receive a specially designed farm sign and adhesive labels for their meat products, all displaying the SMM logo and legend - "Southern Maryland Meats Proudly Produced Here." A first for the SMM program, the promotional sign was developed for high



visibility in-ground use at the entrance to farm driveways, and at farm stores/stands, vendor booths at farmers' markets and other sales venues. The sturdy double-sided metal signs with their bright yellow and red color scheme are bound to attract attention as they adorn the roadside of participating farms. Similarly, the corresponding Southern Maryland Meats label reinforces the branding identity on meat packages at point of sale with "Proud Producer & Member".

"When you see the sign, you'll know that the featured farm is selling local, humanely raised, quality meat, and is a certified member of the Southern Maryland Meats program," said Craig Sewell, SMM Marketing and Livestock Manager. "We are intent on building a brand that identifies with the area's rich farming legacy and with the producers who are bringing top-quality regional meats to your table."

To coincide with the sign/label campaign SMM launched a new consumer resource, the Southern Maryland Meat and Seafood Guide that promotes the region's meat and seafood producers. To emphasize brand recognition in the marketplace, both the in-print and the online digital versions identify SMM farm listings with the SMM logo.

To find a Southern Maryland Meats farmer, farm, farm stand or farmers market, and other meat producer farms in the five county area, or to view the Southern Maryland Meat and Seafood Guide – visit www.SouthernMarylandMeats.com.

SMM signs, labels and the Southern Maryland Meat and Seafood guide are made possible in part by a Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Grant (RMPPIF) awarded to SMADC, a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland.

Press Release from SMADC

Pet OF THE WEEK

MEET BAILEY

July is the month of Independence and TCAS has many wonderful pets looking for their independence in a new loving home! This month we highlight the

MARYLAND 2000 PROMOTION. ALL ADOPTION FEES FOR CATS HAVE BEEN WAIVED THROUGH THE MONTH OF JULY!

Hi there, my name is Bailey. I'm just TOO CUTE, PURR-FECT and I'll want all your attention. I'm a LOVING, PLAYFUL young cat who adores people and just wants to be near you! Now is the time to take advantage of this amazing offer and BE MY MIRACLE! When you choose to adopt from TCAS you are literally saving a life.

PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And, remember, if there is room in the heart, there is room in the house.

Come meet me and the wonderful gang at Tri-County Animal Shelter (6707 Animal Shelter Road, Hughesville) or call [301-932-1713](tel:301-932-1713) for more information. To see more of my amazing friends available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD.



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St. Clement's Island Museum will be Closed

St. Clement's Island Museum will be Closed to the General Public July 13, 2019, Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival

Only Event Ticketholders Will be Admitted to Museum Grounds July 13, 2019

St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point, MD, will be closed to the general public Saturday, July 13, 2019, while the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival takes place.

The only individuals admitted on-site will be those with tickets to the festival. If available, the public may purchase tickets at the gate the day of the event for \$85 per person starting at 12 p.m. Tickets include event admission to enjoy the music throughout the day, access to St. Clement's Island Museum, and a free water taxi ride.

Pier access at the museum will also be restricted to the general public and accessible only to event attendees as it will be in use for boat rides during the festival.

For more information regarding the festival or to purchase advanced tickets (\$65 each), please visit www.PotomacJazzandSeafoodFestival.com.

SMADC Announces Two Rounds of Farmer Mini-Grants

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) is pleased to announce two new rounds of the Southern Maryland Farmer Mini-Grant program.

The first new Mini-Grant round will accept applications until August 31, 2019 with awards being made by mid-October. The second grant round is expected to open on November 1, 2019 and close December 31, 2019.

Since the inception of the program in 2017, the SMADC Board has approved funding for over \$84,000 in support of 58 projects representing diverse farming operations in all five Southern Maryland Counties.

Mini-Grant funds can be used for a variety of projects, that should be simple in scope, and ideally completed in a relatively short time frame. SMADC will award up to \$2,000 per applicant for qualified projects, with a one-to-one match by the farmer. If you're a current farmer with a great new idea to diversify your business, or a new and beginning farmer with a dynamic idea you'd like to get off the ground - apply for the next two rounds of the SMADC Farmer Mini-Grant!

Example projects include the purchase of foundation livestock or plant stock, marketing and promotional materials, equipment and infrastructure for value-added production, fencing, hoop house, and on-farm upgrades to enhance food safety. Administrative expenses and events are not eligible for program funding.

"We are delighted with the popularity of our mini-grant series and the very diverse and creative use of the funding," said Shelby Watson-Hampton, "Both small and large farm enterprises have benefited."

An example of a recent recipient of a previous mini



Loblolly Farm - seedling flats

grant round, Loblolly Farm in Charles County, was approved for funding to purchase fluorescent 'grow lights' for seedling establishment. Over 30 thousand robust plants were germinated to full transplant size without the use of a greenhouse. "These lights have had a terrific impact on our business," stated Benny Pino in the farm's grant report, "We look forward to

increasing our production in 2019."

For complete details of the SMADC Agricultural Farmer Mini-Grant Program, including criteria, guidelines, and the application form, visit 'Farmer Resources' to find the 'Farm Grants' page at www.SMADC.com.

Press Release from SMADC

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Quilts Say 'Thank You' to Those Who Served



Quilts of Valor honorees (left to right): Dana Berman, Bruce Hocker, Mark Lysaght, Peter Laporte, Larry Owens and Preston Welch.

By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

With the Fourth of July holiday upon us, it's fitting to note that several local military veterans who fought in World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Viet Nam War, in Grenada, during Operation Desert Storm, and in Iraq and Afghanistan were recently recognized with a beautiful handmade quilt provided by the dedicated volunteers with the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The foundation, a large national organization, began as a dream of its founder, Catherine Roberts in 2003, and has grown to more than 7,000 volunteers. Its popularity spread rapidly throughout the continental United States and abroad thanks mostly to word of mouth combined with the magic of the internet. It has gained great popularity as a visual "thank you" and means to honor the service of these great Americans who answered the call to duty to defend our country during its time of need.

Roberts, the mother of a young soldier ordered to Afghanistan, had a vivid dream of seeing a young man sadly sitting on his cot one night, hunched over in despair while dealing with demons that had circled around him. Suddenly, she saw him wrapped in a quilt and his entire disposition became "one of hope and wellbeing." To her, the quilt was the cause for this dramatic change. It provided comfort and warmth, protecting an individual both physically and mentally.

She realized that a quilt could be more than a piece of cloth. It had to be carefully hand sewn by volunteers who donated their time and materials. When finished, it had to be of a quality that reflects the love of the quil-

ters. It would not be an inexpensive charity quilt to be handed out like magazines or cigarettes, or candy. She felt these quilts would be special and should meet high standards of excellence as they would be looked upon as awards rather than gifts.

She called these special quilts "Quilts of Valor" or QOV and they would carry the message of "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor for serving our nation in combat."

The very first QOV was awarded to a young soldier who lost his leg fighting in Iraq in November 2003. He was being cared for at the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC at the time of the presentation.

The chaplain who was present at the ceremony immediately saw the real value of awarding quilts to the wounded as it also provided a message that someone cares. The chaplain's wife, a quilter herself, realized the comfort they provided and impressed upon her husband with the value these quilts add to the care for our returning heroes.

This QOV movement had its start in the . Roberts home in Seaford, Delaware and quickly gained interest across the country. One reason for its rapid popularity was due to its instant favor with the American public who remembered how poorly the returning veterans from the Korean Conflict known as the "Forgotten War" and those arriving home from Viet Nam, the "Unpopular War," were treated. Few, if any, of these heroes were thanked for their service.

Many combat veterans were even disrespected for their participation in this costly engagement that took nearly 50,000 American lives. They often met with criticism or were spat upon. There was little apprecia-

tion for their wounds, both physical and mental.

The quilt became a viable means for citizens to overcome the guilt that lingered long after the Viet Nam era ended. It was a perfect shot in the arm to cure the malaise and shame this long, unpopular war created and divided us as a Nation. It was definitely the "right thing to do at the right time."

The first batches of quilts were sent overseas to be placed on the stretchers of our men and women injured in Afghanistan and Iraq to keep them warm on their flights out of the war-torn battle zones. A small, but dedicated group of volunteers formed to assist Roberts with this undertaking.

The quilts took considerable time to make and prepare for shipment. And these extremely dedicated people had to use their own monies and material as there were no funds or donations to support these early efforts.

As this movement grew, it became an all-volunteer, non-profit organization in 2005 with a small staff to help Roberts with the growing requests for these awards.

Eventually, in 2006, after attending several quilt presentation ceremonies throughout the country, her original idea of awarding a quilt to just-returning injured veterans of wars came into question; the quilts were becoming revered awards with more folks seeking them for family and friends who had been touched by war. It was decided any American warrior could receive the coveted QOV.

Additionally, due to living in close proximity to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, Roberts became familiar with the Air Force's Mortuary Affairs Opera-

tions there. It's the one place on the East Coast where all remains of deceased military members are brought back to from overseas. The scenes of our military members removing flag draped coffins off large Air Force transport planes with a solemn ceremony are often shown on the evening news.

She talked with the commanders and civilian staff of this unit and learned they all worked as a team for years and agreed that from then on, all those individuals, military or civilian, working at this military mortuary would receive their own QOV. This policy continues to this day.

In the 16 years of its existence, the Quilts of Valor Foundation has awarded more than 220,000 quilts to our special men and women. A small arm of this organization was formed here in Southern Maryland four years ago by Peg Gowen. It too is an all-volunteer, non-profit group located in St. Mary's County. It is named the "Pax Sound of Freedom." Last year, they awarded 28 QOVs to veterans in the local area and at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

To help offset the costs of making these quilts, they hold a few fundraisers every year; you may have seen them at fairs and festivals. Not only are they in need of donations, they also are in desperate need of additional volunteers to help meet a goal of 32 quilts to be presented this year.

Two of their most active participants are Gerry and

Sylvia Lague, a retired Navy couple who moved to the area three years ago. Gerry is a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer. The two of them have been making QOVs for nine years and have awarded these beautiful symbols of a grateful nation to deserving veterans for the past eight years.

Recent Southern Maryland awardees of the Quilt of Valor are:

Warren Wince

Warren is a 99-year-old World War II veteran from Piney Point who came there from West Virginia in 1940 to work for the Navy to test torpedoes. He soon joined the Navy following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and served on active duty for six years. During the war he served on Navy supply ships in the Pacific. Once the war ended, he returned to Maryland and married a local girl and started a family. He spent many years employed by the Navy at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. In retirement he stays busy with the upkeep of his beautiful home and maintains his yard in perfect condition. He continues to be physically fit and he is known for his particularly sharp mind.

Alfred Iganemmo

Alfred is a 95-year-old World War II Navy veteran from Hollywood. He was born in Pennsylvania and was a member of a first-generation American family to enlist in the Navy in June 1941 at the age of 17. He later

met his wife at a USO show in Baltimore. He completed a 30-year Naval career as an Aviation Mechanic and a Chief Electrician. He served on many aircraft carriers including the USS Ranger and the USS Lexington. He is a "plank owner" for the "Lady Lex" having been assigned to the original commissioning crew. During his 30 years of service, he spent time in the Philippines, Korea, and Japan. He retired in 1960.

He moved to Maryland and was employed at the U.S. Naval Academy as an air conditioning specialist for 15 years. He moved his family to St. Mary's City where he and his wife built a house and raised three sons. Alfred enjoys salvaging and fixing old toys and just about anything needing repairs. He remains very agile and stays active. Like Warren Wince, he is a member of a dwindling group of veterans from "the war to end all wars." The Quilts of Valor Foundation is honored to award these two gentlemen with their quilts.

Dana Berman

Dana is a career Navy man, enlisted in 1988 and retired in 2010. He served as an Aviation Ordnance Chief. He served aboard many Naval Air Stations including NAS Point Mugu, CA, NAS Atlanta, Georgia, and NAS Washington, DC.

Peter Laporte

Peter was a U.S. Air Force Captain assigned to F-111 fighter squadrons. He had tours of duty at Lowery AFB in Denver, Colorado, Kessler AFB, Mississippi, and Nellis AFB, Nevada. Peter moved to St. Mary's County from Portland, Oregon and currently serves as the Executive Director for the St. Mary's Historical Society.

Mark Lysaght

Mark is a 1985 graduate of the Naval Academy and received his Navy Wings of Gold as a Navy helicopter pilot. He served in Operation Desert Storm and was at the Pentagon when it was hit by the terrorists that took over the American Airlines passenger aircraft on 9/11. He served more than 20 years in the Navy before retiring here in Southern Maryland.

Larry Owens

Larry joined the U.S. Air Force in 1978 and stayed for 24 years, retiring in 2002. He spent considerable time assigned to the Pentagon and enjoyed a tour at Remi AFB in Puerto Rico. Upon retiring, he went to work for Gould Fiber Optics. He now is a resident of St. Mary's County.

Preston Welsh

Preston Welsh is a career United States Marine and spent 32 years defending our country in World War II and the Korean Conflict. In the latter days of WWII, he was stationed in the South Pacific building airfields in the Philippines as a bulldozer operator.

Bruce Hocker

Bruce is a former member of the U.S. Army and lives here in Southern Maryland.

As you see, these veterans come from all walks of life and many different backgrounds, yet the one thing they have in common is their patriotism and willingness to volunteer to sign up and support the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. Many gave some; some gave a lot. They all took the Oath to defend our country and they are outstanding models for all to emulate!

Thank you, sirs, for your great dedication and congratulations to each of you for receiving your award from the "Quilts of Valor Foundation" for your service! You make us proud!

For more information concerning the Quilts of Valor Foundation or learning how to become involved as a volunteer or a donor to this awesome nonprofit organization, contact Peg Gowen at peggowen@gmail.com or Sylvia and Gerry Lague at gerylague@aol.com.



A Quilt of Valor is awarded to 99-year-old Warren Wince.

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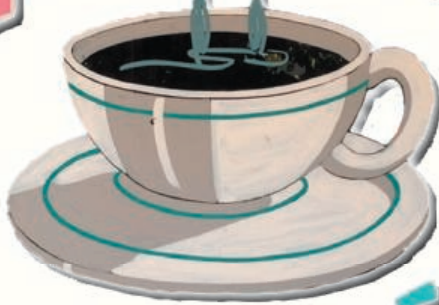


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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Auto-GCAS Team Integrates Life-Saving System on F-35, Wins Collier Trophy

The F-35 Joint Program Office Auto Ground Collision Avoidance System team received the 2018 Robert J. Collier Trophy, June 13, for its rapid design, integration and flight test of critical, lifesaving technology for the global F-35 fleet during a ceremony at the National Air and Space Museum.

Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System (Auto-GCAS) is a technology designed to save a pilot from crashing into the ground in the event of a sudden loss of consciousness or target fixation by activating and taking control from the pilot to return the plane to safe altitude.

Initial testing of the Auto-GCAS began in 2018 on the F-35A at Edwards Air Force Base, California. As Edward's F-35 Integrated Test Force (ITF) issued its technical report recommending the system for the A variant to the Joint Program Office, the F-35 Pax River ITF began flight tests on the B variant in early 2019, followed by the C variant.

"The Pax ITF test team is working hard to ensure the fleet is provided an Auto-GCAS system that runs silently in the background while never impeding the warfighter's maneuverability," said Lt. Cdr. William Bowen, F-35 test pilot at the Pax River ITF. "In addition to evaluating Auto-GCAS performance, one of our main goals is to ensure the operator has confidence in the system so as to keep it turned on. Thus far, we have not identified any nuisances with the system interface and are satisfied with its performance."

With the system's successful flight tests complete on the A and B variants, the fleet will receive Auto-GCAS starting later this year, seven years ahead of schedule.

"Keeping our service members flying and safe is a top priority," said Eric Buckenmeyer, Auto-GCAS team member at the Pax River ITF. "Getting it to the fleet early is beneficial in two parts. For one, it shows



F-35 test pilot Dan Levin, Pax River Integrated Test Force, flies an Auto Ground Collision Avoidance System (Auto-GCAS) test flight in an F-35C on a low level through West Virginia, June 17, 2019. Flying the low level helps.

how flexible the program is for getting what the fleet needs when they need/ask for it and two, it gets ground collision protection software to the fleet before any loss of life can occur."

Auto-GCAS is not a new concept as a similar system flies on the F-16 and F-22 and has already been credited with saving eight Air Force pilots. The F-35 Auto-GCAS software was developed around the concepts and design of the F-16 Auto-CGAS, Buckenmeyer explained.

"I think based on the number of saves already ob-

served on F-16 since their implementation of Auto-GCAS, getting it to the service members now increases the chances of stopping avoidable loss of life," Buckenmeyer said.

The Pax River ITF is on schedule to wrap up testing on the C variant in June.

The Auto-GCAS team comprises representatives from Lockheed-Martin, the U.S. Air Force, the F-35 Joint Program Office, NASA and the Defense Safety Oversight Council.

Sex Education in Libraries

To the Editor:

There's been a lot said about the drag queen educational program for kids as young as three years old presented at one of our libraries. One thing should be made clear, since libraries are primarily funded by the state they are a state agency not a county entity. Two of our County Commissioners addressed the drag queen issue yet our state representatives have been conspicuously silent.

I have always enjoyed our libraries and felt it was one place my tax dollar was being well spent and the employees always went above and beyond the call of duty. I felt confident our libraries provided a wholesome atmosphere where children could expand their knowledge in a safe environment. Then came Mr. Blackwell.

In May of 2017 it was reported that he initially boasted about the library sponsoring a display of banned books and a sex education program where parents were

forbidden from accompanying their kids but when the idea started to implode he rescheduled the event and then claimed his involvement was just renting space for which he had no choice.

It's that plan B he relied upon with his recent drag queen presentation and restated there is nothing he could have done to prohibit the event. I wonder how defenseless he would be if the NRA wanted to present a lesson to teenagers on how to purchase, conceal and properly use a hand gun or how about an IT class on how to hack private computers?

Can religious groups rent space in a library to spread their message or wouldn't that be allowed? For these topics I suspect Mr. Blackwell's open mindedness would be a lot less open.

With children's maturity level being far from uniform, parents are the best judge to determine when their kids are ready to expand their sexual knowledge and just how

much information should be presented at any given point in their development. One shoe does not fit all!

Saying attendance is optional may be true but it leaves open all kinds of loopholes for attendance without parents' knowledge and who and how was the authenticity of parental consent determined? Was an attempt made determine the accuracy of the comprehension by the audience? Were background checks done on the drag queens involved?

Mr. Blackwell's logic includes the drag queen event was, in part, a lesson in diversity. Using that logic, the school system should have a representative sample of drag queens in the classroom and they should be included at other public forums.

Choosing an alternative lifestyle is a matter of personal preference, but promoting it to kids is simply wrong. How many youngsters even know what a drag queen is and why should they, unless there is some hidden agenda?

Based on appearance, many children likely viewed them as clowns. Within the

liberal community any discussion about alternative lifestyles that involves ordinary words like natural and unnatural or normal and abnormal, even when used in proper context, are considered discriminatory. Are kids to believe that alternative lifestyles or dressing like a drag queen are normal?

Can a three-year-old comprehend sexuality? What positive outcome is expected to come from a lesson given by a drag queen on how to use make up? Judging by the public reaction many others share my concern.

Sex education in our libraries is misguided and of questionable motivation. Mr. Blackwell has done irreparable damage to the reputation of a once highly respected organization and I suspect he will continue to do so by promoting his agenda as long as he remains in charge.

Sincerely,
David A. Ryan
Hollywood, Maryland

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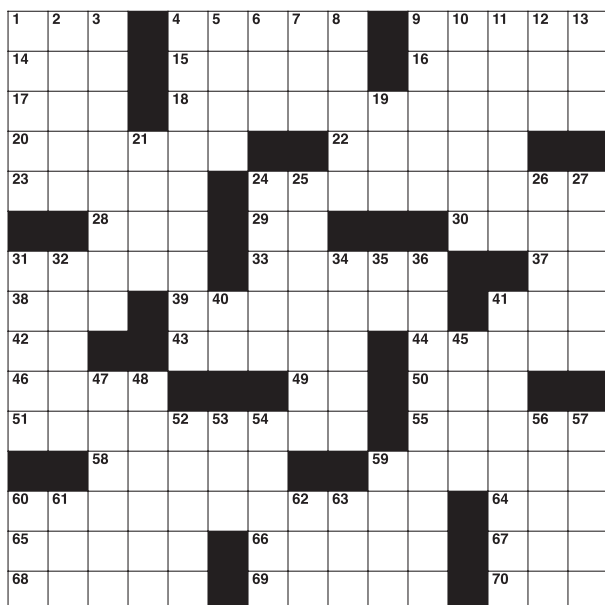
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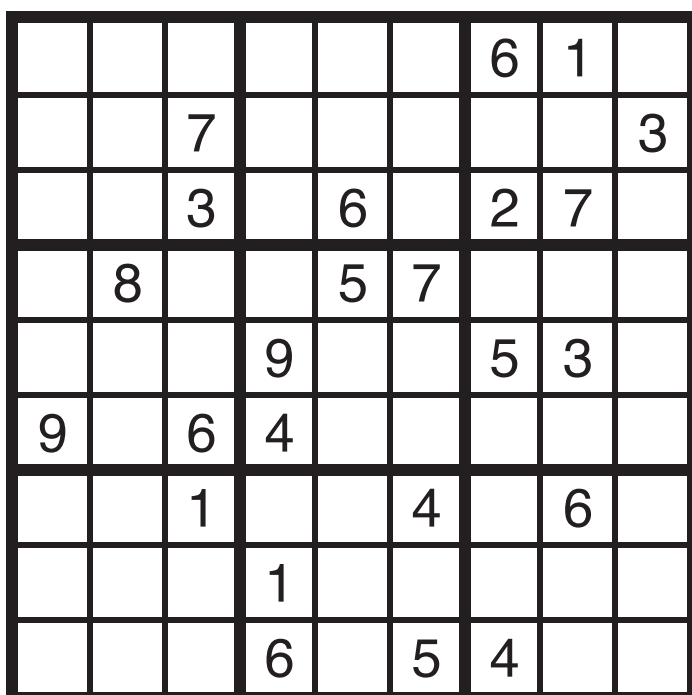
CLUES DOWN

1. Portuguese district
2. An assembly of witches
3. Having few teeth
4. The act of going across
5. Nepalese dynasty
6. "Bye Bye Birdie" actress
__-Margaret
7. What the princess found
beneath her mattress
8. Pennsylvania transit
organization
9. Winnie the Pooh creator
10. Riddle
11. Grads wear one
12. Body part
13. The top of a pot
19. A type of meal
21. Lake __, one of the
Great
24. Capital of Jordan
25. A type of logic
26. Khoikhoi peoples
27. A fixed time of prayer in
Christian liturgies
31. Arrives
32. Lemur
34. Small bodies of still
water
35. __ route
36. Breaks apart
40. A type of line
41. Caption that translates
45. Winged
47. Criticize severely
48. Leg bones
52. Monetary unit
53. 007's creator
54. Accumulate
56. Establish by law or with
authority
57. Breed of goat
59. Millisecond
60. Mock
61. Make older
62. Some don't want to be
given any
63. Wrath

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bridge building degree
4. Catches
9. A heavy type of music
14. Original "Twilight Zone"
host Serling
15. Rodent species
16. Finnish lake
17. Street (abbr.)
18. Home of the US Naval
Academy
20. It held a convention
once
22. Makes a loud, ringing
sound
23. Cave
24. Lessening of something
28. MJ's nickname " __
Jordan"
29. One's way of doing
things
30. Wings
31. Quotes as evidence for
33. Acts glumly
37. A man's title
38. It comes first
39. Edible mollusk
41. Resembles a pouch
42. He/she checks your
health
43. Nobel Prize-winning
biochemist
44. Stop momentarily
46. Formerly (archaic)
49. Commercial
50. White vestment worn by
clergy
51. Island people of the
Mediterranean
55. Prices
58. On a line at right angles
to a ship's length
59. Where boats are parked
60. One who values reason
64. It might be on your
driveway
65. Small Iranian village
66. Used to emphasize
67. Mathematical term
(abbr.)
68. Long necked birds
69. Eyeglasses
70. When you hope to get
there

LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 31



Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann
Contributing Writer



"New Career at GPS"

You know how you never know how you sound until you hear your voice on tape or video? While in Frankfort, Kentucky for our former Rector's retirement from the priesthood, I found out that our former Rector Jessee Neat and his wife Jenny (one of my best friends mind you) had named their car's GPS, Shelby. This came up at breakfast one morning when I mentioned that in his retirement years, Jessee would make a great professor with his white beard. He then said something about how I was like his GPS – always telling him what to do or giving directions (I will say, in my defense, he was usually calling when they were here and asking if I knew where something was). Now that he had named his GPS Shelby, he and Jenny could say, "Shut up Shelby" all the time. Everyone was laughing hysterically. Can you believe that? Sweet, gentle me being likened to a bossy, irritating GPS? As Jessee was walking away, I said in my best GPS voice, "Jessee walk 300 feet straight ahead, Jessee then walk 400 feet off a cliff." I know it doesn't sound like it, but we are a tight group and all love each other – I think.



I almost solved the problem of our former Rector hearing my actual voice the day of his retirement service by biting into one of my 200mg Benzonatate cough pills right before the service. I was just holding it between my teeth until I found the water bottle and didn't realize I bit down so hard. The cough pills are basically Novocain, so I had a numb tongue for quite a while. I think my husband enjoyed the silence.

And besides Father Neat apparently not liking my voice, he also only introduced my husband and the other Christ Church parishioner's husband at the morning service. Hmmpf! So, at refreshment hour, she and I went up to him, and I said, "Hello, I am chopped liver, and my friend said, Hi I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Lynne." His response was, "Would you like to be introduced later as Ms. or Mrs. Chopped Liver?" Hmmpf! Again! I get no respect!

It was a lovely retirement service with the Mayor of Frankfort, local officials, Bishops, other clergy, and a full church. Father Neat was given the key to the city for all his work for social justice in the local community. What a career he has had, making a transition from retiring as a Lt. Col in the army to Episcopal seminary to 20 years as an Episcopal priest. Quite a life of service, and he was well-deserved of all the accolades and praise.

Of course, we had to visit a few bourbon distilleries for our husbands, and a winery for Lynne and I. You're in Kentucky – it's a given. The winery was based on fruits, not grapes. We did purchase a few interesting wines, one of which is corn cob wine, and two others for their healthy aspects (naturally). They are pomegranate and rose petal. Rose petals are supposed to be great for arthritis, so I felt it was my duty to try a bottle or two and report on how I feel. I will let you know soon.

As you can imagine, driving around listening to GPS with my husband will not be fun after this trip. This could become a fad, everyone will name there GPS Shelby – at every stop light, I will be hearing, "Shut up Shelby". Everyone will love it – I will be the new voice at GPS!!! Oh no, never mind, too scary, but that's okay...I just named my GPS Jessee.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby
Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com
or find me on Facebook

St. Mary's College Welcomes Four New Board Trustees

St. Mary's College of Maryland welcomed four new trustees in June: Paula Collins, Judith M. Fillius '79, William E. Seale, and Ray Wernecke. All four will serve a six-year term of service on the College's Board of Trustees.

"We continue to encounter individuals who are committed to higher education excellence, in general, and to that which is uniquely St. Mary's College of Maryland in particular. I am honored that the newest cohort of trustees accepted our invitation to join the Board of Trustees. Their commitment to the tradition of liberal arts and sciences coupled with their areas of expertise and life experiences will serve our students and the College well for many years to come as we solidify our place as the National Public Honors College," said Tuajuanda C. Jordan, president of St. Mary's College.

"Each of our new trustees brings special talent and energy to the Board," said Arthur "Lex" Birney Jr., chairman, Board of Trustees. "We welcome each of them and are excited to work together to continue St. Mary's College's mission of providing an outstanding educational experience as the National Public Honors

College."

Collins is a retired government relations and business executive with nearly 40 years of experience in government relations, public policy, coalition building, and strategic communications. Most recently, Collins was vice president for Worldwide Government Relations at Texas Instruments where she provided strategic advice and counsel to TI's senior management and business unit executives on key issues and emerging policy trends in the United States, Europe and Asia with regard to international trade, immigration, education, workforce, tax, university research funding, cybersecurity, privacy, diversity and environmental issues. Prior to joining TI, Collins worked for American Express and held positions at the Business Roundtable, Eastman Kodak and the Fratelli Group, a strategic communications firm. She began her career as a legislative assistant on Capitol Hill.

Collins is a graduate of Yale University, where she majored in history, and attended the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School.

Fillius '79 is currently the department manager for Northrop Grumman (NG) Mission Systems where she is responsible for profit and loss for the annual operating plan and long-range strategic plans. She oversees offices with multiple programs in support of the Department of Defense. Prior, Fillius was responsible for the Air Operations Center Modernization program. She provided programmatic leadership and management of the contract valued at \$419M, established trusted relationships with Air Force program management team, restructured the internal management team, and streamlined internal program processes based on value stream analysis resulting in schedule and dollar savings. Fillius has also served as vice president of PRB Associates, which was acquired by Comptek PRB Associates. She was responsible for information systems, product support, human resources, training, facilities, security and database development. Fillius has 35 years of experience leading, managing, planning, testing and deploying system capabilities in response to Department of Defense customer requirements. Prior to entry into the defense industry, Fillius was employed by St. Mary's College of Maryland as an admissions counselor/public relations assistant.

Fillius holds a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's

College, majoring in social science, and a secondary education certificate.

Seale is a partner in the ProFunds Group, the parent of ProShare Advisors LLC and ProFund Advisors LLC. For over 10 years as chief investment officer, he developed the financial models and investment techniques that direct the investments of over 200 ProShares and ProFunds, managed the portfolio staff of 35, and oversaw the funds' trading. Seale is a professor emeritus of finance at The George Washington University where prior to the formation of ProFunds he was chairman of the department of finance and senior associate dean of the business school. His academic teaching areas included futures markets, derivative securities, and financial management. While at GWU he was actively engaged in a consulting and expert witness practice through his firm, Financial Markets Group Inc.

Seale received his PhD from the University of Kentucky. He is a longtime member of the Washington government and business community, having served a five-year term as a commissioner on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, worked as government relations vice president for a New York-located futures exchange, and as a senior legislative assistant to United States Senator Walter D. Huddleston. He is a former director of the St. Mary's College of Maryland's Foundation.

Wernecke is currently serving as a principal/director at Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. He has more than 30 years' experience in public and private sector senior leadership positions. Previously, Wernecke held various leadership positions in the U.S. Navy and his last assignment was as director of corporate operations for the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division.

Wernecke holds a bachelor's degree in education from Towson University and is pursuing an Executive Scholar Certificate from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. He is also a graduate of Leadership Maryland (2006), the NAVAIR Senior Executive Management Development Program, and the Federal Executive Institute. He is active in the community, serving as board director of Three Oaks Center for Homeless, The Patuxent Partnership, and past president of Leadership Southern Maryland.

Press Release from SMCM

Library 'Secret,' 'Tricks,' and 'Steps?'

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to statements made by Michael Blackwell in your June 27th article "Library Director Denies Reaching Out for Drag Queen Story Event."

"That's not happening here at St. Mary's County Libraries," Blackwell stated referring to the 2017 article originally attributed to a current, longtime librarian, and wants SOMD taxpaying public to believe the librarian's post consisted of mere "opinions and did not reflect the values of the system."

Blackwell also flat-out denied reaching out for the Drag Queen Event: "No one in the library system acted to bring Drag Queen Story Hour to St. Mary's. We did not reach out to those groups," he insisted.

Problem is, the assertions made in that 2017 article included "steps" the librarian revealed to have actually taken and "secret" "tricks" she had "done" to making "small, rural, conservative" libraries "more inclusive to the LGBTQIA+ community." Steps that would "eventually get Drag Queen Story Hour."

Some of these "secret tricks" & "steps" include: --"Invite LGBT Community partners: reach out to groups like your local PFLAG chapter. If your library has meeting space, let them know that they can hold meetings and host programs at your library." --"Creatively encourage inclusive collection development: request LGBT books, movies & music... because that will help you."

Since its 2017 publication, solid evidence exists these particular tricks not only have been implemented, but achieved:

--May 2017, one month before the 2017 article was published, the pro- LGBTQIA+ sex ed class for minors was met with resistance, cancelled by the library, re-scheduled and hosted by SMASH in one of the meeting rooms.

--Sept 2017, the "banned book" display for teens, that included sexually graphic, pro-LGBTQIA+ materials, drew the ire of many SOMD residents.

--June 2019: Drag Queen Story Hour. Both hosts (SMASH & PFLAG) are LGBT community Partners and used meeting space to protect it from getting cancelled upon meeting resistance.

Clearly, these "secret" "tricks" and "steps" were taken, but it was supposed to remain a secret. SOMD taxpayers were never supposed to know. No wonder her name was scrubbed from the article after it became public in June 2019.

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The County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to guyleonard@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

In Remembrance

Esther Sigler Greco



Esther Sigler Greco, 87, of Lexington Park, MD passed away on June 28, 2019 at Taylor Farms Assisted Living.

Born November 5, 1931 in Alabama, she was the daughter

of the late Roy Sigler and Katie Hodges Sigler.

Esther married the love of her life, Salvatore Victor "Sal" Greco on November 8, 1952 in DC. They spent 54 wonderful years together before his passing in September of 2007. In her younger years she enjoyed being a homemaker allowing her to raise her three children and later spending time with her five beautiful grandchildren whom she cherished. In her spare time she loved gardening, cooking, sewing and reading.

She is survived by her children, Deborah Greco, of California, MD, and Camille Colvin (Scott), of Leonardtown, MD; five grandchildren, Eric Colvin (Joanna), Brandon Colvin, Kelsey Colvin, Nicholas Colvin, and Carly Colvin;

and one great-grandson Sidney Colvin. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Robert Greco; three siblings, Katherine Smathers, Alene Sigler, and Betty Henry.

All services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or the Alzheimer's Association of Maryland, 10665 Stanhaven Place, Suite 205D, White Plains, MD 20695.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Dorothy Louise Brown



Dorothy Louise Brown, 80, of Hollywood, MD passed away on June 24, 2019 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital with her husband Lenville Brown by her side.

Dorothy was born on August 5, 1938 in Knoxville,

Tennessee to the late Fredrick and Virginia Maynard.

Dorothy married the love of her life, Lenville Brown on November 14, 1958 in Tennessee. They spent over 60 wonderful years together before she passed. She loved being a military wife and making friends wherever they were stationed. When they moved to Maryland she enjoyed volunteering especially at Leonardtown Elementary School. She loved playing with their pet cats. Dorothy enjoyed doing things with her friends but most of all she enjoyed her time with her husband.

Dorothy is survived by her husband Lenville "Bill" Brown and many friends. She is preceded in death by her parents Fredrick and Virginia Maynard.

Funeral arrangements are by Brinsfield Funeral Home, Leonardtown. Family will receive friends on Friday, July 5, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Graveside Service will follow at 12:00 p.m., at Charles Memorial Gardens 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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Donald J. Sheehan Sr.



Donald J. Sheehan Sr., of Bayport, NY died on June 21. He worked for Grumman Aerospace Corporation for 40 years, many of which were spent conducting Flight

Test and Evaluation at Naval Air Test Center Patuxent River. After retiring from Grumman, he taught at Stony Brook University on Long Island for 16 years. Mr. Sheehan earned his Master's Degree from Stony Brook University and attended the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He enjoyed fishing, gardening and traveling, and was an avid reader. An active member of the community, Mr. Sheehan taught fishing to Girl Scouts, was a Boy Scout leader, Parish Council Chairman at Our Lady of the Snow R.C. Church, Little League manager, member of the Suffolk County Red Cross Board of Directors, United Way executive for Grumman, founder of INTERFACE in the Town of Brookhaven and was a member of the Bayport Fire Department. He also served his country as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps. He is survived by his wife, Iva; his five children, CAPT Donald Jr. (USN Ret.) and spouse, Kathy; Timothy and spouse, Lisa; James and spouse,

Heidi; Robert and spouse, Erika; and Allison De Sieno and spouse, Dominic; and his 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A Funeral Mass was held at Our Lady of the Snow R.C. Church in Blue Point, NY followed by interment in the Blue Point Cemetery with full Military Honors. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Bayport-Blue Point Foundation or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Erma Elizabeth Joy Thompson



Erma Elizabeth Joy Thompson, 90, of Hollywood, MD passed away on June 13, 2019 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, MD with her family by her side.

Erma Elizabeth Joy Thompson was born on July 11th, 1928 in Baltimore, Maryland to the late Chester Joy and Virginia Denton Joy. She lived on Edmondson Avenue with her parents and her younger brother Marvin.

In 1942, when Erma was 14 years old, her family moved to Hollywood, Maryland.

Her first job was a clerk at Preston In-sley's store in Hollywood. Later on she worked on the Naval Base as a payroll clerk. She left the job on the base in 1962 to become a stay at home wife and mother. She babysat in the 1970's.

Erma played the piano beautifully and was self-taught. She had a lovely alto voice.

She took care of her father until the day he died of Parkinson's disease. She also took care of her mother until her father's death at which time her mother went to live with her brother Marvin in North Carolina. She took care of her son David and her husband John B. for long as she was able to.

Erma married John Briscoe Thompson on March 28th, 1948 which happened to be Easter Sunday that year. She had no greater joy than her family and her home. She loved to take care of her home and have a large garden and can food for the winter. She even enjoyed washing dishes at the kitchen sink where she could look out of the window over the beautiful rolling hills. She loved working outside cutting grass, working the garden and assisting John B. with his many projects. Erma had so many friends. To know Erma was to love Erma.

Erma is survived by her daughters Brenda Thompson Bond of Towson, MD and Virginia Lacey of Avenue, MD and her brother Marvin Chester Joy of Raleigh, N.C. She has two grandchildren Brody Bond (Lisa) and Vicki Cantrell

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(Doug) and six great-grandchildren: Casey and Gillian Bacon, and Beckett, Thatcher, Jane and Francie Joy Bond. She was preceded in death by her parents Chester H. Joy and Virginia D. Joy, her son John David Thompson and her husband John Briscoe Thompson.

Donations can be made to Hollywood United Methodist Church, 24422 Mervell Dean Road, Hollywood, MD 20636 or the Hollywood Rescue Squad, 23469 Rescue Ln., Hollywood, MD 20636

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Robert Michael Mattingly



Robert Michael Mattingly, "Bob", 69, of California, MD formerly from Leonardtown, MD passed away on June 26, 2019 at his home. Bob was born on July 12, 1949 and was the son of Margaret Irene Dixon of Leonardtown, MD and the late Joseph Harry Mattingly. And sisters Lois Tennyson of Bushwood, MD and Mary Douglas of Leonardtown, MD. Bob was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from Chopticon High School in 1967.

Bob served in the United States Navy for 5 years, from January 19, 1971 to August 4, 1976. While serving in the United States Navy he attended Boot Camp in Great Lakes, IL. Hospital Corps School in San Diego, CA, Operating Technician Class C School in Portsmouth, VA. He served on the USS. Saratoga (CV-60). Bob earned the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Bob was a Nuclear Medicine Technologist at Calvert Memorial Hospital until his illness would not allow him to work in 2016, he was employed for 18 years. He played the guitar beautifully (self-taught), and loved golf.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. Leonardtown, MD.

Fr. Robert Schindler

Father Robert Schindler passed away on June 22, 2019 at his residence. He was born on October 17, 1929 in Hollywood, Maryland. He was the son of Jacob C. Schindler and Eve Mae Goodwin. His parents have predeceased him, likewise his two brothers, William C. and Edward W. and



his two sisters, Dorothy Virginia and Ethel Marie Hewitt of Tampa.

He is survived by two sisters, Sister Carrie Schindler, who is a mission helper of the Sacred Heart and resides in Towson, Maryland, and Mary O. Mandzak of Washington, D.C.

Father was ordained as a Trappist Priest on May 8, 1954 in Louisville, Kentucky. He helped found the New Trappist Monastery at Vina, California in 1955. In 1957, he joined the Monterey-Fresno Diocese in California and was stationed in Fresno, Porterville, and Monterey. In 1967, Father followed the invitation of Pope John XXIII and volunteered to go to Mexico where he served in the Diocese of Campeche until 1993. He was Pastor of Lerma and then Hopelchen. In 1993, he came to Florida because of health reasons and worked as a Chaplain at the Veterans Hospital until July 1, 2002. He also helped out at St. Paul's in Tampa, St. Clement's in Plant City and St. Lawrence in Tampa. Upon retirement from the V.A. Hospital, he did Chaplain's work at the Orient and Faulkenberg County Jails. He also served at John Knox Village and the University Village Nursing Home. He also was Chaplain to the 4th degree of the Knights of Columbus Assemblies: First at the Father William Tyrrell and then the St. Michael Archangel. He had resided at John Knox Village since 1994.

Contributions may be made to the Mission Helpers of The Sacred Heart 1001 West Joppa Road Towson, MD 21204.

Richard Michael Delaney Sr.



Richard Michael Delaney Sr, 78, of Hollywood, MD received his angel wings & halo on June 18, 2019. The epitome of the most easy going and kicked back person you would

have ever known was born on October 12, 1940 to Rose & Ralph Delaney Sr in Woodbury, NJ. "Big Rich" (aka "GPa" in family texting circles) grew up in Williamstown, NJ. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1958 and served this beautiful country for 22 years, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer in 1980 and having logged over 5000 hours of flight time. He was proud to boast that his only time served onboard a Navy ship was as a guest on a dependents cruise.

Big Rich married his loving wife Joan 55 years ago, and they had a son, Rich Jr. Together they traveled the world in

typical Navy fashion, before settling in St Mary's County, MD, God's country.

GPa had three grandsons, Shaun, Alex, and Jack, that he absolutely loved and adored. He spent countless hours attending hundreds of soccer matches & ice hockey games, and tournaments, cheering on his boys. As an avid sports fan, he loved his Packers and NASCAR. As a professional, he loved the Military and anything that could fly. As a person, he loved his family and his many, many friends.

Rich is survived by his wife Joan, son Rich Jr & wife Lori, grandsons Shaun, Alex, and Jack (all from Hollywood, MD), and his brother Ralph Jr (Williamstown, NJ).

AMHC Delaney's interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be announced. A celebration of life in his honor will be on August 10, 2019 at Summerseat Farm in Mechanicsville, MD. <http://summerseat.org/> In lieu of flowers, please consider sponsoring/donating/volunteering to the Wreaths Across America Organization- <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Pete Emmanuel Katsouros



Pete Emmanuel Katsouros, 48, formerly of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on Wednesday, June 26th, 2019, at his home in Indian Head, Maryland.

He was born on February 1, 1971 in Washington, D.C. to the late Emmanuel Katsouros and Anna Tsakopiakos.

Pete married his best friend, Tracey Katsouros in April 27, 2014. They spent many years as a blended family and he will be missed.

Pete was a family man who always thought of those he loved. His joy and laughter could make a tough day better and sad one tolerable. Pete loved to spend

time at the beach, listening to music and relaxing. He was an avid sports fan of all Washington, D.C. teams and only his local teams. Pete had an artist eye. He loved to make and appreciate art, music and adored black cats. He worked as an electrician before he was forced to retire in 2017 on medical disability.

To know Pete, meant you knew how true friendship felt and love endured. Pete lived his life to bring happiness and fun to those he loved. He was a great man, father, son, brother and friend who will be missed.

Pete is survived by his wife, Tracey (Smallwood) Katsouros of Waldorf, MD; daughter, Maggie Mae Smallwood; step-mother, Patricia Katsouros of Mechanicsville, MD; brothers, Timothy Katsouros of LaPlata, MD, Michael Katsouros of Mechanicsville, MD and five sisters, Sophia Psillos of Charleston, SC, Katerina Katsouros, of Waldorf, MD, Elizabeth McElvain of Dubai, Pauline Thompson of Schenectady, NY and Amalia Katsouros of Mechanicsville, MD. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. Pete was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends for a Memorial Celebration on Friday, July 5, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with Remembrances being heard at 7:00 p.m. at the Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. The interment will be on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery, 3320 Saint Peters Drive, Waldorf, MD 20601.

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

Arrangements are being made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A.

Ida Elizabeth Vallandingham

Ida "Betty" Elizabeth Vallandingham, 88 of Ridge, MD, formerly of Waldorf, MD passed away on June 24,



Law Office of

Lynda J. Striegel

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2019 with her family by her side. She was the daughter of the late William Michael Stone and Mary Catherine Cullison.

Born December 21, 1930 and delivered in a

house at Cedar Point, Maryland by Dr. Philip J. Bean. Betty attended Little Flower School until she and her twin sister Ronnie were sent to the Sisters of Charity, St. Mary's Home for Girls in Baltimore where they lived until the age of 16. After leaving the orphanage, Betty went to live with relatives until marrying JC Vallandingham in May of 1954. She lived in Ridge Maryland until they moved to Waldorf in 1960 when JC opened his own business. They lived on Owens Drive for 17 1/2 years until in 1977 they returned to Ridge Maryland where they bought JC & Betty's Grocery. She worked there for the next 3 years until the business was sold and moved back to their home in Waldorf. Betty then took on the job of managing a small food carryout for a few years before taking on the job of Grandma.

She was a member of the Waldorf Homemakers for many years and volunteered as a pink lady at the hospital in La Plata.

She is survived by her son James (Jimmy) Claude Vallandingham, Jr. and his wife Adeline (Addie) Regina Vallandingham, Brenda Sue Salvas, daughter and her husband Frank King Salvas, Sr., Mary Virginia (Ginger) Barnes, daughter, Terry Lynn Budaj, daughter and her husband Richard Budaj, and 11 grandchildren, Catherine Nicole (Niki) Barnes, Michael Aaron Barnes, Christopher Allen Barnes, Elizabeth Joy Barnes, Matthew James Salvas, David Gerald Salvas, Amber Lynn Bowling, Ryan Anthony Bowling, Misty Dolene

Jones, Maria Ann Taylor, and John Ludwig Jones, 13 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; brother John Linus Stone (Nancy); and sister-in-law Peggy Vallandingham.

She is preceded in death by her husband James Claude Vallandingham Sr., Brother Michael Stone, Sister Mary Veronica (Ronnie) Burch, Sister Ada Lou Birch, Brother Joseph Stone, and Son-in-law Timothy James Barnes.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department P.O. Box 520, Ridge, MD 20680 and Holy Cross Homecare and Hospice 10720 Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20901.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Harvey Leon Fulgham, Sr.



Harvey Leon Fulgham, Sr., 78 of Charlotte Hall, MD passed away on July 7, 2018 at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall, MD. Harvey was the son of the late

Fenton Fulgham and Edna Vinson. Leon was born in Baltimore, MD on August 29, 1939. He joined the U.S. Army at an early age and later worked for the Department of Defense as a Maintenance Tech. He was an inspiration to all that knew him, very hard working, never met a stranger and a Godly man.

Leon was predeceased by his son, Donnell Fulgham. He is survived by his sons, Harvey L. Fulgham, Jr., Fenton Fulgham, II, Quintin Fulgham, Sr., and Vance Fulgham. Grandchildren, Natasha Fulgham, Danielle Fulgham, Monique Robertson, Shamarl King, Roxanne Desouza, Maurice Fulgham,

Vanee Henderson, Quintin Fulgham, Jr., Sarah Fulgham, Neikeya Thomas, Leon Fulgham, Mia Fulgham, Aria Fulgham, Vance Fulgham, Jr., Jaden Fulgham, Jaren Fulgham and Jonathan Fulgham.

The family will be having a Memorial Service for Leon at a later date when he is inurned at Arlington National Cemetery on July 8, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Harvey's name to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Adele Carmela Vasapolli



Adele Carmela Vasapolli, 86, of Lexington Park, Maryland passed away peacefully on June 23, 2019, with her daughter Lori by her side where she left us to be

with her dear husband Joe in heaven. She was born on September 18, 1932 in Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of the late Eugenio Macchia and Mattia Tanzola. On January 14, 1951, at Saint Finbar's Church in Brooklyn she married the love of her life, Joseph Vasapolli, Jr. where they went on to enjoy 62 years of marriage and raised two sons and a daughter.

A native New Yorker who never lost her accent lived many years in Maywood and Downey, California and for the last seven years she made her home in Lexington Park, Maryland where she enjoyed many wonderful hours playing Yahtzee, watching soaps and listening to country music with her daugh-

ter Lori. She also belonged to a ladies Bunco group that she enjoyed playing monthly.

She is survived by her son Joe and his wife GG, her son Gene and his wife Margie, and her daughter Lori and her husband Larry. She is also survived by her grandchildren Karrie, Joey, and Kelli and her great-grandson Addison.

Donations in her memory can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 and to the Hospice of St. Mary's P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

A funeral service will be held in Downey, California at Our Lady of Perpetual Help with burial in Riverside National Cemetery at a date to be announced.

Michael Sean Jordon



Michael Sean Jordon passed away on May 8, 2019 in San Jose California at the age of 54. He was the son of Alma Thompson Jordon of Valley Lee and Robert Nathaniel Jordon (deceased). He was the grandson of the late Leroy and Catherine Thompson.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at

Bethesda United Methodist Church. Visitation will be 10-11 a.m. Service will be at 11 a.m.

Internment will be private.



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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 71658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 71050
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 73101

Visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging for the most up-to date information

Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County: James R. Guy, President; Michael L. Hewitt; Tom Jarboe; Todd B. Morgan; John E. O'Connor; and the Department of Aging & Human Services

Walk Maryland

Wednesday, Oct. 2 has been declared by Governor Larry Hogan as Walk Maryland Day! In preparation for the 5K Walk that the Department of Aging & Human Services has planned that day, start tracking your time spent walking. You'll have an opportunity to win a great prize, raffled off monthly. Pick up a log sheet at any of the County's senior activity centers, keep track of your time walking, and turn in your log by the 5th of the following month to be entered into the monthly drawing. Raffle prizes will be drawn for those who participate in July, Aug., & Sept. Then, join us on the Three Notch Trail starting at Baggett Park in Laurel Grove for the finale, the 5K Walk, on Oct. 2. For more information, contact Alice at 301-475-4200, ext. 71063. Log sheets are also available on the Department of Aging & Human Services website - www.stmarysmd.com/aging.

ClearCaptions Presentation: New Phone and iPhone App

There will be a presentation on the new, free Ensemble ClearCaptions phone by Rupali Dewan Tetrick, Title IV Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Specialist at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, July 10, from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. She will also be covering if you qualify and sharing the newest app for iPhone. To sign up for this free presentation, please visit the signup table or call 301-475-4200, 73103.

Luncheon with Tommy Alvey & Friends

Join us as Tommy Alvey & Friends performs for the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Thursday, July 11, at 12 p.m. They will be playing a selection of bluegrass and old time country music. Cost for lunch is by donation for those ages 60 and above and \$6 for those under the age of 60. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050, to learn more or to make reservations.

Skin Cancer Screening

Appointments are available for a free skin cancer screening at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Thursday, July 11. The free screenings will be offered until 1 p.m. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658.

Hurricane Shelly Fresh Floral Arrangement

This is the only hurricane you will want this season! Celebrate the summer spirit by making a fresh floral arrangement on top of a hurricane vase filled with seashells at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Thursday, July 11, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. It's stylish and beachy vibe will be the highlight of any summer shindig. The vase stands at 6.5" tall is 2.75" across. Floral foam is used at the top of the arrangement to allow for foliage to drape down the sides. Please note that this arrangement may be top heavy. It is advised that participant bring a tall container for transport. The cost is \$20

and is due at sign up. Space is limited. To sign up and pay in advance, please visit the front desk. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 73103.

Style 101

Do you often wonder how to put together those clothes in your closet? When you go shopping do you have a hard time selecting colors or styles? Or maybe you are trying to minimize your clothing selection? If any of these sound like you join us for a fun morning at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, July 17, at 10 a.m. Kathy Creswell, Program Specialist, will demonstrate different styles and have suggestions on ways to save money on your clothing budget. There will be tasty treats and hot coffee! Call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050, to learn more or to make reservations

Midsummer Celebration-Bring the Grandkids

The Midsummer Celebration will be held at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, July 17, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. This party is for you and your grandchildren to celebrate together. It features a sundae bar from Sweet Frog, Karaoke by Scarlet Plus Entertainment, as well as opportunities to be creative. Cost is \$5 for adults and free for children age 12 and under (Maximum 5 free children tickets per paying adult). This party is limited to 100 people and tickets are required for every attendee. Stop by the Loffler Center to get your tickets before they are all gone. For more information

call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658.

50's Sock Hop

Flash back with us to the 1950s for a Sock Hop party at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Friday, July 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Jive with DJ Mean Gene in your favorite saddle shoes, poodle skirt, and leather jacket. Ticket will include a lunch of cheeseburger on a bun with lettuce, onions, and tomato, baked beans, coleslaw, watermelon, and a chocolate cake dessert. There will also be a soda shop counter with ice cream sodas and Shirley Temples along with door prizes, money raffles, and more. Purchase your ticket before noon on Wednesday, July 17, at the Northern Senior Activity Center front desk while supplies last. For ticket availability, call 301-475-4200, ext. 73101.

Luau Tickets Now Available

The Loffler Luau, one of our most memorable summer traditions, is coming up on July 25. Tickets are available now for \$10. Dance to the music of favorite DJ Mean Gene; enjoy a feast fit for a tropical island party and wear your favorite tropical garb (we'll supply the lei). Most important of all- bring your best party mood! A limited number of tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis. Stop by the reception desk during regular hours to get your ticket. Questions? Call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658.



Library Closed for Independence Day

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. All locations will be open regular business hours on Friday, July 5.

Hip-Hop Cello Summer Performance

The St. Mary's County Library will host Hip-Hop Cello with Chrystylez and Wytold on Friday, July 19 for two performances as part of the Summer Professional Performance series. Hip Hop Cello will perform from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Margaret Brent Middle School, and then Lexington Park Library from 2 - 3 p.m. Hip-Hop Cello with Chrystylez & Wytold. This incredible, original show combines beat-boxing, hip-hop, and classical music with friendship and poetry. All ages welcome; especially recommended for music lovers age 5 and up. No registration.

Namaste and Play

Leonardtown Library will hold Namaste and Play on Monday, July 15 from 9:30 - 10 a.m. The first step of taking care of your baby is taking care of yourself. Join us for a special baby storytime where the basics of mindfulness will be demonstrated to the babies as well as the grown-ups. Fun toys and calming activities will be provided as well. It's never too early to start modeling mindfulness to your young one. Designed for ages 0-2 and their caregivers. Registration required. This is a Choose Civility: Southern Maryland event.

Visit Outer Space in VR and Watch NASA's 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11's Historic Moon Landing

Lexington Park Library will hold two sessions of Virtual Reality Space walks with the Oculus Rift S on Monday, July 15 from 3 - 4 p.m. and 5 - 6 p.m. Go on a spacewalk, explore the International Space Station, or take a guided journey through the TRAPPIST-1 star system. From 4 - 5 p.m. watch the Live Webcast Event to Celebrate NASA's 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11's Historic Moon Landing.

2020 Census Information Session

Lexington Park Library will hold a 2020 Census Information Session on Wednesday, July 17 from 1 - 4:30 p.m. A representative from the U.S. Census bureau will explain what the Census is and the basics of applying for a Census job.

First Time Home Buyers Seminar

Leonardtown Library will hold a First Time Home Buyers Seminar on Saturday, July 20 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Are you tired of renting? Come join Samara Dinnius, with The Benya Group at Keller Williams, and Trey Reed, with MVB Mortgage, as they discuss everything you need to ask yourself before looking for your dream home. They will be explaining the multiple programs and grants available for first time Maryland home buyers and the steps necessary to get your credit ready for the process.

Paws to Read

Leonardtown Library will hold Paws to Read on Saturday, July 20 from 2 - 4 p.m. For beginning readers, or any student who needs a confidence boost. Join "Pets on Wheels" to practice reading out loud to a therapy dog for 15 minute sessions. Registration opens 2 weeks before each program. Readers should bring a book, or arrive at least 20 minutes early for help to choose a book.

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.

ONGOING

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas"

Three Notch Theatre, 21744 South Coral Drive, Lexington Park, MD 2063

8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 3:30 p.m. Sundays

A happy-go-lucky view of small-town vice and state-wide political side-stepping. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors, students, and military. All tickets can be purchased online at www.newtowneplayers.org or call 301-737-5447.

Carnival

24801 Three Notch Rd, Hollywood, MD 20636

Friday-Sunday, July 5-7, and again July 11-15

7:00 p.m.

The Hollywood Fire Department's annual carnival will be open for food, rides, and games! Unlimited rides \$10 a night or purchased separately. Free nightly prizes but must be present to win. The carnival is owned and operated by HVFD. There will be a ATM on site. www.hwfd7.com

UPCOMING

VFW 2632 Hold'em is Cancelled

VFW Post 2632, 23282 Three Notch Rd., Rt. 235

7:00 p.m.

This weeks tournament has been cancelled. Our next tournament will be on July 19th.

Taco Tuesday

VFW Post 2632, California

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

2nd and 4th of every month. Nachos with cheese are \$3 and add more beef for \$1. Beef, Buffalo chicken, or Black bean hard or soft. 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, and 5 for \$8. Taco salad is \$5. With all the trimmings. Tostado with refined beans.

Texas Road House Breakfast

Texas Road House will be having an all you can eat home made style breakfast! It will be on July 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Adults cost \$10, children 6-12 are \$5, and children 5 and under are free. The menu will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, etc. For more information, call 301-994-9999

Thursday, July 4



Fireworks

Solomons, 9:15 PM

Celebrate Independence Day with a view of fireworks over the Patuxent River.

Friday, July 5

Red, White, and Blue Fun

Leonardtown Square and Leonardtown Shopping Centers

Leonardtown, MD 20650

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The first Friday of every month, historic Leonardtown's art galleries, restaurants, cafes, gift shops, antique shops, bookstores, etc. open their doors to showcase local artists or serve specials at their establishments. Come to a fun evening of live entertainment, demos, receptions, hands-on activities, and seasonal promotions.

Bob Schaller & Friends at First Friday

22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Order a picnic from a participating restaurant in town, bring a blanket or a chair, and enjoy this FREE family-friendly concert. Parents can also drop their children off to be entertained with kid-friendly art projects while they enjoy a date night at the concert in Leonardtown Square. For more information, visit www.leonardtownmusicfest.com/.

Seafood Dinner American Legion Post 238

6265 Brandywine Rd Hughesville, MD 20637

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$7-\$18. The menu will include Flounder Filet, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Shrimp & Hush Puppies, etc. For more information call 301-274-3522

Elks Texas Hold'em Tournament

St. Mary's Elks Lodge, 45779 Fire Department Lane, Lexington Park

7:00 p.m.

\$60 Buy in will equal 7,000 chips. Food and Beverages will be available for purchase. For any questions, contact James Dean at 240-577-0828 or by email at jdeanjunior@yahoo.com.

CSM Closed for Holiday

College of Southern Maryland

All campuses will be closed for the Independence Day holiday.

Saturday, July 6

Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House

Drayden African American Schoolhouse

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The public is now able to access this significant historic site on the first Saturday of each month and during periodic special event weekends. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions or to provide information. Co-hosted by UCAC and the St. Mary's County Museum Division. Visitors who would like to see the schoolhouse outside of open hours can contact Piney Point to arrange a visit.

"Adults Only" at the Plantation

Historic St. Mary's City, Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation, 47621 Old Cove Road, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Adultery, drunkenness, and thievery are a few topics dramatized on this interactive, after hours tour. Ages

18 and up. \$20 per person (\$15 friends members). Payment in full is required at the time of registration. For more information, contact 240-895-4990 or info@HSMCdigshistory.org.

Latrice Carr at Leonardtown Square

22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Leonardtown Summer Music Festival Presents Latrice Carr. Order a picnic from a participating restaurant in town, bring a blanket or a chair, and enjoy this FREE family-friendly concert. Parents can also drop their children off to be entertained with kid-friendly art projects while they enjoy a date night at the concert in Leonardtown Square. For more information, visit www.leonardtownmusicfest.com/.

Monday, July 8

Summer Circus School (Kid's Camp)

20865 Callaway Village Way #2, Callaway, MD 20620

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Our Summer Circus School is for kids' ages 6-14, held every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from July 1st to August 1st. Attendees will receive quality training on apparatuses (fabrics and lyra), along with dance. This will be a full body workout so please pack a refillable water bottle and a good healthy snack! 1,5, and 15-day passes are available so there is something for every schedule! Go to www.verticaldancemd.com/classes/ to select dates and packages. For more information, visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/2198477700463894.

Toastmasters Meeting Talk of the Town

21677 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Blvd, Lexington Park, MD 20653

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

We meet at the Lexington Park Public Library in Lexington Park on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. If you want to improve your communication and leadership skills, give us a visit and bring a friend! www.toastmasters.org

Red Cross Blood Drive

45245 Drayden Rd., Valley Lee, MD 20692

1:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the 2nd District Firehouse.

Vacation Bible School

First Missionary Baptist Church, 46370 Pegg Ln, Lexington Park, MD 20653

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This year's theme is On a Safari. Classes will be held on July 8th through July 12th and is open to ages 4 to adult. For more information call the First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388

Pax River Quilters Guild Meeting

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, 20850 Langley Road, Lexington Park Maryland

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

This month's meeting features our Holiday Party held over from last December because of the bad weather we had at that time. New members and guests are welcome. There will be a gift exchange, value of \$15, gift wrapped sewing or quilting related. www.paxriverquiltguild.com

Elks Hold'em Bounty Tournament

St. Mary's Elks Lodge, 45779 Fire Department Lane, Lexington Park

7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

\$25 Buy in will equal 6,000 chips. An additional \$5 will equal 1,500 chips and a raffle drawing. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. For any questions, contact James Dean at 240-577-0828 or by email at jdeanjunior@yahoo.com.

Hughesville Vacation Bible School

8505 Old Leonardtown Road, Hughesville, MD

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hughesville Baptist Church will be holding their annual Vacation Bible School on July 8th through July 12th. Ages of 4 years to 6th graders are welcome to attend. For more information, call 301-274-3672

Tuesday, July 9

Antidote Southern Maryland

Charles County Department of Social Services, 200 Kent Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Antidote Southern Maryland is a two-day conference sponsored by Charles County Department of Social Services. In partnership with the Charles County Chapter of the NAACP, The Family Recovery Court, and Board of Child Care to inform, educate, and equip residents to counter human trafficking. For more information regarding Antidote Southern Maryland or registration, visit www.charlescountydss.com/antidotesmd.

CSM Chautauqua Series: Matthew Henson

College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Campus, Fine Arts Building, Brad and Linda Gottfried Theater, 8730 Mitchell Road, La Plata.

6:45 p.m.

CSM hosts this year's first presentation in a three evening series of the Maryland Humanities Chautauqua. This year's theme "Making Waves" focuses on how water has shaped history by highlighting three historical adventures. The first presentation brings Maryland native Matthew Henson to life. Chautauqua is presented by Maryland Humanities in partnership with CSM with support from Old Line Bank. <http://www.csmd.edu/community/the-arts/special-events/chautauqua/>

Wednesday, July 10

Colonial Kids Summer Camp

Historic St. Mary's City, 18751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Colonial Kids is a half-day camp designed for the first-time camper who is looking for summer fun. Participants will enjoy a variety of activities such as colonial games, storytelling, and age appropriate hands-on activities. Designed for rising kindergarteners through second graders. Camps take place in rain or shine. \$70 per child (\$60 friends members). Payment is required in full at the time of registration. For more information, contact 240-895-4990 or info@HSMCdighistory.org.

CSM Chautauqua Series: Jacques Cousteau

College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Campus, Fine Arts Building, Brad and Linda Gottfried Theater, 8730 Mitchell Road, La Plata.

6:45 p.m.

CSM hosts the second presentation in a three-evening series of the Maryland Humanities Chautauqua. This presentation brings to life Jacques Cousteau, an oceanographer, filmmaker and scientist known for his deep-sea explorations. Chautauqua is presented by Maryland Humanities in partnership with CSM with support from Old Line Bank. <http://www.csmd.edu/community/the-arts/special-events/chautauqua/>

Thursday, July 11

Bible Study

Chancellor's Run Regional Park Loffler Room, 21905 Chancellors Run Rd, Great Mills MD 20634

7:30 p.m.

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. www.vcmismc.org.

CSM Chautauqua Series: Grace O'Malley

College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Campus, Fine Arts Building, Brad and Linda Gottfried Theater, 8730 Mitchell Road, La Plata.

6:45 p.m.

CSM hosts this year's three-evening series of the Maryland Humanities Chautauqua. This final presentation in the series brings to life Grace O'Malley, a 16th century Irish pirate queen, who commanded ships, men and the respect of Queen Elizabeth I. Chautauqua is presented by Maryland Humanities in partnership with CSM with support from Old Line Bank. <https://www.csmd.edu/community/the-arts/special-events/chautauqua/>

CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

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47950 Mattapaney Rd, PO Box 429

St. Mary's City, MD 20686 301-862-4600

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Weekday (M-F): 7:30 am
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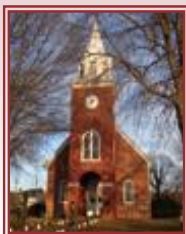
Christ Episcopal Church

King & Queen Parish founded 1692
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SERVICE TIMES
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 Sunday 8:45AM & 10:45AM
 Wednesday Bible Study 7PM
 Youth Group Thursday 6PM

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301-373-2500

Katie Paul, Pastor

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8	9	2	4	6	1	3	7	5
3	7	1	5	2	8	4	9	6
1	6	3	9	8	2	7	5	4
2	8	7	3	5	4	1	6	9
9	5	4	6	1	7	8	2	3
6	1	8	2	3	5	9	4	7
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7	3	9	8	4	6	5	1	2

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The Official Kickoff Party for the 25th Annual Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Weekend

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This special event, the Official Kickoff Party for the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Weekend Celebration, is a FREE, jazz era concert/party in historic Leonardtown with the Chesapeake Swingband performing from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Leonardtown Square on Friday, July 12, 2019. The evening will be a celebration of jazz throughout the 20's (jazz age), the 30's-40s (swing era), and the 50's (modern and Latin jazz). There will be a special Roaring 20's dance performance from Ballet Caliente during the evening and a classic antique car show featuring classic cars from the 20's - the 50's courtesy of St. Mary's Rod & Classic Car Club.

Attendees are encouraged to come dressed in attire from their favorite era from the 20's, 30's, 40's or 50's. There will be raffles and prizes awarded for best costumes. Order a picnic bag from a participating restaurant. There will be limited tables and chairs provided. Attendees may wish to bring portable tables and lawn chairs to enjoy the show. Enjoy a kid-free evening with Drop N' Dine where children will be entertained with kid-friendly art activities at participating businesses (by reservation only).

The Maryland State Arts Council will be filming during the event for inclusion in an Arts & Entertainment film to be screened on Maryland Arts Day. Be sure to come in costume and be there early!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.LEONARDTOWNMUSICFEST.COM

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