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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

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Bryan Dugan, Bill McKissick and Chris Longmore have been serving St. Mary's County for 25 years



LOCAL 6

A Park Hall bar suffered serious damage after being struck by a car



COMMUNITY 10

Youth get a chance to learn about first responders



ENTERTAINMENT 31

Local woman entered in oyster cookoff

“THE SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS NOT WAVERED.”

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SCOTT SMITH ON ZERO TOLERANCE FOR DRUGS AND ALCOHOL IN SCHOOLS.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 10/17	Fri 10/18	Sat 10/19	Sun 10/20
63° 46°F	64° 45°F	66° 51°F	71° 59°F
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Showers
Mon 10/21	Tue 10/22	Wed 10/23	Thu 10/24
72° 65°F	72° 54°F	66° 51°F	69° 51°F
Showers	Showers	Sunny	Sunny

County Times

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Drug Prevention Top Issue for Schools

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Teaching public school students “when to say no, how to say no and why to say no” to drugs and alcohol is a top priority according to School Superintendent Scott Smith, speaking at a town hall meeting on the issue Tuesday night in Leonardtown.

“These are hard facts, these are facts I want to argue against,” Smith said at the James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center. “Our kids report that one in four have been offered, sold or provided an illicit drug in the schools they attend.”

He went on to say that one-third have tried marijuana and half have imbibed alcohol at some point; at least one third of students reported using alcohol as a routine.

“We need to be part of that conversation in our children’s lives,” Smith said.

Smith was quoting statistics from the 2016 Youth Risk Behavior Survey released last year by the state.

“The things our kids have to deal with are exponentially more dangerous than they were 10 years ago,” Smith said.

He expressed worry over 42 percent of students surveyed had used vaping products, which contain nicotine; vaping among high school students has increased 78 percent nationwide.

Smith said the number meant effectively half of students surveyed had tried such products.

Cpl. Angela Delozier, the school resource officer at Leonardtown High School assigned there by the sheriff’s office, said parents should take an increased in-



Joshua Wright, Leonardtown High School student, talks about ways to prevent fellow students from using drugs and alcohol at Tuesday night town hall.

terest in their children’s activities, particularly on the phone or social media.

“Be nosy,” Delozier said. “You pay for the phone, you pay for the service, you need to check up on your kids.”

“Check their rooms, check their phones.”

Delozier said that the new Tobacco 21 law made it illegal for anyone under 21 years old to purchase tobacco products, but the law did not make possession of those products, including vaping products, illegal.

That meant if she saw a young person with a vaping device there was little she could do.

“What right do I have to come up to that person and ask them about what kind of pen they have and what’s in their pen?” Delozier said.

“The law said they can be in possession.” Earlier in the town hall, Smith said the new law removed some provisions the school system used to curb smoking usage among students.

Still, the school system would continue to crack down on vaping in schools as well as marijuana use even though state law had decriminalized possession of marijuana under 10 grams.

Using THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the psychoactive substance in marijuana, in vaping cartridges was a rising problem, he said.

Marijuana could still get a student suspended.

“The school system has not wavered,” Smith said.

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Fall Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-5

Emergency Services Board Holds Off on Alternate Funding Recommendation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A proposed bill offered by one of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County would allow volunteer rescue companies to seek out alternate funding sources without a penalty by amending the local rescue tax law.

Under the current local law, such a company who gains revenue that is beyond their fire/rescue tax budgeted amount must be used to reduce the amount of tax that company receives in the next fiscal year.

The new proposal, from Commissioner John O'Connor, has sparked conversations in the rescue community that it could open the possibility for emergency medical services billing.

Residents calling for emergency services in St. Mary's are not billed for those services, currently.

Members of the county's Emergency Services Board debated the possibilities at their Oct. 9 meeting but said they needed more input from first responders before moving on the legislative proposal.

Steve Walker, county emergency services department director, said the debate represented a serious shift in thinking about medical services.

"What it equates to... it come down to medical billing," Walker said, adding that commissioners wanted to know if first responders supported alternate funding sources. "It's a bigger philosophical discussion about whether we're going to support billing for ambulance transport."

"What we are talking about is a fundamental sea change in the way in which EMS would do business in St. Mary's County," said Shawn Davidson, county rescue chief. "Bluntly, this is not a time for this board to have any kind of conversation about this because we have had zero conversation with the EMS leadership about this at all."

The members of the board declined to comment any further on the subject until they had polled first responders on the issue.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

MetCom Board Examines Debt Decoupling

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The board of directors of the Metropolitan Commission debated a piece of legislation that would separate the construction debt of the county's water and sewer provider from that of the county government for the purposes of how quickly the debt capacity of 2.15 percent of the county's assessable base is reached.

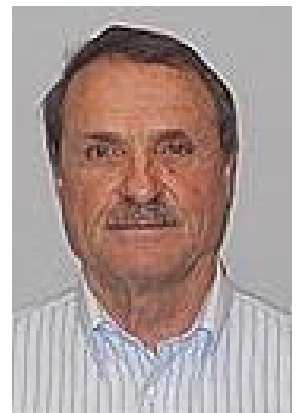
While there appears to be resistance in the state delegation of elected leaders to Annapolis in supporting the decoupling – the two debts were coupled due to legislation two years ago by then Sen. Steve Waugh – some MetCom officials believe it could protect that agency's interests.

"The decoupling helps us out tremendously," said George Erichsen, MetCom's Executive Director. "[Under the current structure for debt] there's no set aside for us."

Erichsen explained since the two debts are connected that if the county moves ahead with projects that meet the limit of the debt ca-



Keith Fairfax



Mike Thompson

capacity, there would be none left for MetCom to pursue borrowing for its capital construction projects.

The new legislation also proposes to move the cap from 2.15 percent to 5 percent of the county's assessable tax base.

The total capital improvement budget projected for fiscal 2019 to 2024 is \$35.7 million.

Keith Fairfax, MetCom board member, said county elected leaders had pressed for MetCom's support of the bill.

"Someone in the county would look upon us with favor by separating the debt," Fairfax said.

Erichsen advised caution in choosing

which portions of the bill to support when they drafted a letter to the St. Mary's County delegation.

"The delegation is extremely against going back to the 5 percent cap for the county," Erichsen said, reiterating that the decoupling would still benefit MetCom, which already had its own debt cap.

"It's going to protect us," Erichsen continued of decoupling. "Because we don't want all the debt used up."

Board member Mike Thompson concurred.

"We need some level of independence for the way we have to operate."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Slater, SMECO CEO, Announces Retirement

Transition to new leadership expected in March 2020

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) president and CEO Austin J. Slater, Jr., submitted his retirement letter to the Board of Directors at the monthly board meeting held Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

In his letter, Slater recounted his tenure as CEO for the past 17 years as rewarding. "I have proudly worked for our cooperative for more than 33 years," Slater said. "It is impossible for me to imagine my life without the time devoted, relationships made, and rewarding accomplishments I've experienced and shared with so many people here at SMECO and in the Southern Maryland community."

Scott White, Chairman of the SMECO Board of Directors, said, "Joe's leadership of the co-op has been transformational. His impact on SMECO, our employees, our members and the South-

ern Maryland community has been truly noteworthy. We completed the Southern Maryland Reliability Project, installed smart meters throughout our service area, built a new engineering and operations facility, and invested in technological upgrades that benefit all of SMECO's members. It takes great leadership skills to run an organization like SMECO, and Joe has displayed courage, vision, confidence, inspiration, and dedication in his role as CEO."

To allow time for the board to select a replacement and to ensure a smooth transition, Slater said that he would continue in his role as long as necessary, but that the process should be completed and a new CEO should be in place in about six months.

SMECO Press Release



SMECO CEO Joe Slater is retiring

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Car Slams into Park Hall Bar



The driver of the car that crashed into the Green Door bar in Park Hall was evacuated to a trauma center with incapacitating injuries.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Green Door bar in Park Hall was heavily damaged over the weekend after a motorist slammed into the establishment the night of Oct. 11, police reported.

When police and fire units responded to the establishment on Route 5, they found a four-door compact car half inside the building.

Police have identified the driver as David Paul Quintyne, 53, of Upper Marlboro; Cpl. Julie Yingling, spokesperson for the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office said the investigation into the crash is continuing and no charges have been filed.

Quintyne suffered incapacitating injuries, Yingling reported, and had to be evacuated via helicopter to a regional trauma center.

A patron at the bar was also hurt, Yingling reported, but only suffered minor injuries.

The initial investigation showed that for an unknown reason Quintyne's vehicle left the road while he was driving and hit the building, Yingling said.

Quintyne's car was a Hyundai Tucson, police said.

Yingling said a witness to the incident reported Quintyne's vehicle may have been operating at a high rate of speed.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's Pilot Has Fitful Takeoff at Chesapeake Ranch Estates Airfield



A plane abruptly crashed at Chesapeake Ranch Estates Airfield over the weekend.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

An airplane carrying its pilot and a young person engaged in an open house event at Chesapeake Ranch Estates Airport abruptly landed almost immediately after takeoff on Oct. 12, the airport manager reported.

Bernie Wunder told The County Times that he did not see the aircraft strike the ground — he was in his own aircraft at the time during the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program over the weekend.

"I was in my airplane and saw a cloud of dust," Wunder said.

While the exact cause of the mishap is not yet known, Wunder said the plane banked left and then right, with the tips of the wings striking the ground, before coming back to the taxiway and stopping.

There were no injuries to either the pilot or the 15-year-old male in the aircraft, Wunder said.

The pilot of the airplane was Paul Gambacorta, based at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport, said Wunder.

Gambacorta's aircraft was a home-assembled model that he had acquired from another owner, Wunder said, and was not built by a manufacturer.

Gambacorta's aircraft was FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) certified, said Wunder.

The FAA completed its on-site investigation and the plane remains at a Chesapeake Ranch Estates hangar, Wunder said.

"It puzzles us all really," he said regarding the cause of the crash.

The aircraft suffered significant damage.

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Motorists Reminded to Stay Alert for Deer Wildlife Activity Ramps up for Fall

Fall means cool weather and colorful foliage. It can also mean unpredictable wildlife. Deer mating season is right around the corner, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources urges motorists to stay alert for deer and other wildlife as these animals seek food supplies and mates before winter.

“Deer greatly increase their movements during the breeding season from mid-October through November as they search for mates,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. “Motorists should be especially cautious from dusk to dawn when deer are most active and likely to be encountered on the road.”

Motorists are reminded to:

- Be particularly attentive in the early morning and evening periods.
- Gradually brake to avoid hitting a deer; do not swerve as this may cause you to lose control of a vehicle.
- Slow down if a deer crosses the road ahead. Deer often travel in groups and others may be nearby.
- Stay alert and slow down in areas where deer crossing signs are posted. These indicate locations of frequent deer activity.



Photo by Penny Ingles

- Watch the shoulder. Be alert for deer standing along the shoulder as they may suddenly move into

the roadway. Slow down and sound your horn to scare them away.

Press Release from MD DNR

MetCom Reports Sewer Overflow



The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission is reporting a sanitary sewer overflow that occurred on October 11, 2019 at 16668 Point Lookout Road. The sanitary sewer leak occurred as a result of a tidal surge and flooding on St. George Island. The total volume of the overflow is estimated to be about 1500 gallons. The area affected by this overflow is the St. George Island Creek. Public contact of the affected portions of this area should be avoided for ten (10) days. For additional information, please contact the St. Mary's County Health Department at (301) 475-4321, or the Metropolitan Commission at 301-737-7400.



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9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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There will be veterans support organizations and a panel of experts on Veterans Affairs at the Fourth Annual Veterans Resource Day. A live question and answer forum will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by lunch and workshops.

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

Escapee Apprehended

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office has arrested **Jason Michael Weber, 38** of Mechanicsville. Weber was



wanted on a retake warrant for escape from the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown. Weber was temporarily released from custody for medical treatment at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown when he absconded on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.

Threats of Arson- On October 4, 2019, DFC. Ball responded to the 25000 block of Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown, for the report of threats. Investigation determined **Christopher Scott Lacey, age 34** of no fixed address,



made a verbal threat to burn the establishment down. Lacey was arrested and charged with Threats of Arson. CASE# 56920-19

Burglary- On September 30, 2019, Dep. Forinash responded to the 20100 block of Piney Point Road in Callaway, for the reported trespassing. Investigation determined **Quinton Marquis Remied, age 23** of no fixed address, broke



into the victim's shed and residence, and began destroying property. Remied was taken into custody, at which time he used his head to strike the victim. Remied was charged with Burglary Second and Third Degree, Assault Second Degree, and Malicious Destruction of Property. CASE# 56137-19

Trespassing- On September 28, 2019, Cpl. Pontorno observed **Irvin Joseph Branson, age 38** with no fixed address,



on private property in the 21600 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. Branson had previously been served a no trespass order for the property. Branson was issued a criminal citation for Trespass-Private Property and directed to leave the property. Branson left the property. Shortly thereafter, Branson was again observed on the property. Branson was arrested and charged with Trespass-Private Property. CASE# 55709-19

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First Responders Youth Initiative



Photos by Ceandra Scott

On Saturday, Oct. 12 more than 20 young people attended a First Responders Youth Initiative at the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad and Bay District Volunteer Fire Department in Lexington Park.

The event showed teenagers the multiple opportunities they have to serve the community from a first-responder perspective, with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad, the St. Mary's County Health Department, Maryland State Police, Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, the St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services, the St. Mary's County branch of the NAACP and the Elijah International Foundation presenting.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office demonstrated its K-9 Unit, drone operations and Emergency Services Team equipment.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Press Release

Sheriff's Office Press Release



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Leonardtwn Baptist Church Welcomes New Senior Pastor



Leonardtwn Baptist Church (LBC) has new leadership, as Jason Pamblanco became senior pastor/staff elder for the St. Mary's County congregation with approximately 300 members. Pamblanco was voted in as senior pastor following an overwhelmingly affirmative election by that membership in August. Though he officially began his tenure as senior pastor in mid-September, October 6 was the first day he led the congregation through the entire worship service.

"I'm thrilled to be here and looking forward to getting to know Southern Maryland and meeting people as we get involved in our new community," he said. Pamblanco moved to St. Mary's County from Florida with his wife, Christina, and

their son.

Pamblanco has more than 15 years of full-time pastoral experience, 13 as a Worship Pastor, and the last two as Executive Pastor of Worship and Teaching at Thomasville Road Baptist Church in Tallahassee, FL.

"I am passionate to proclaim the Word of God, and exalt the name of Jesus" he said. "Telling people the good news of Scripture is a tremendous privilege and joy."

The senior pastor position at LBC opened as former senior pastor for 11 years, Mark Dooley, took a new position with the Southern Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware. He remains a lay elder at the church.

Associate Pastor and staff elder, Allen Acker, took on the role of interim senior pas-

tor in January 2019 while the church formed a search committee, updated job descriptions and actively sought and interviewed candidates for the position.

"Having Mark and Allen, with their history and knowledge as mentors and sounding boards for me in this new role is a tremendous blessing," said Pamblanco. "I look forward to continuing to work with all of our elders, deacons, staff and lay leaders as I begin my ministry at LBC."

For more information about Jason Pamblanco or the services and ministries of Leonardtown Baptist Church, call 301-475-2131, or visit www.lbcmnd.org.

Press Release from Leonardtown Baptist Church

Go Fly a Kite for Cancer Cures



Dozens of families came out to the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds Oct. 12 to the Southern Maryland Kite Festival to raise money to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which helps fund research to fight blood cancer.



Pet OF THE WEEK

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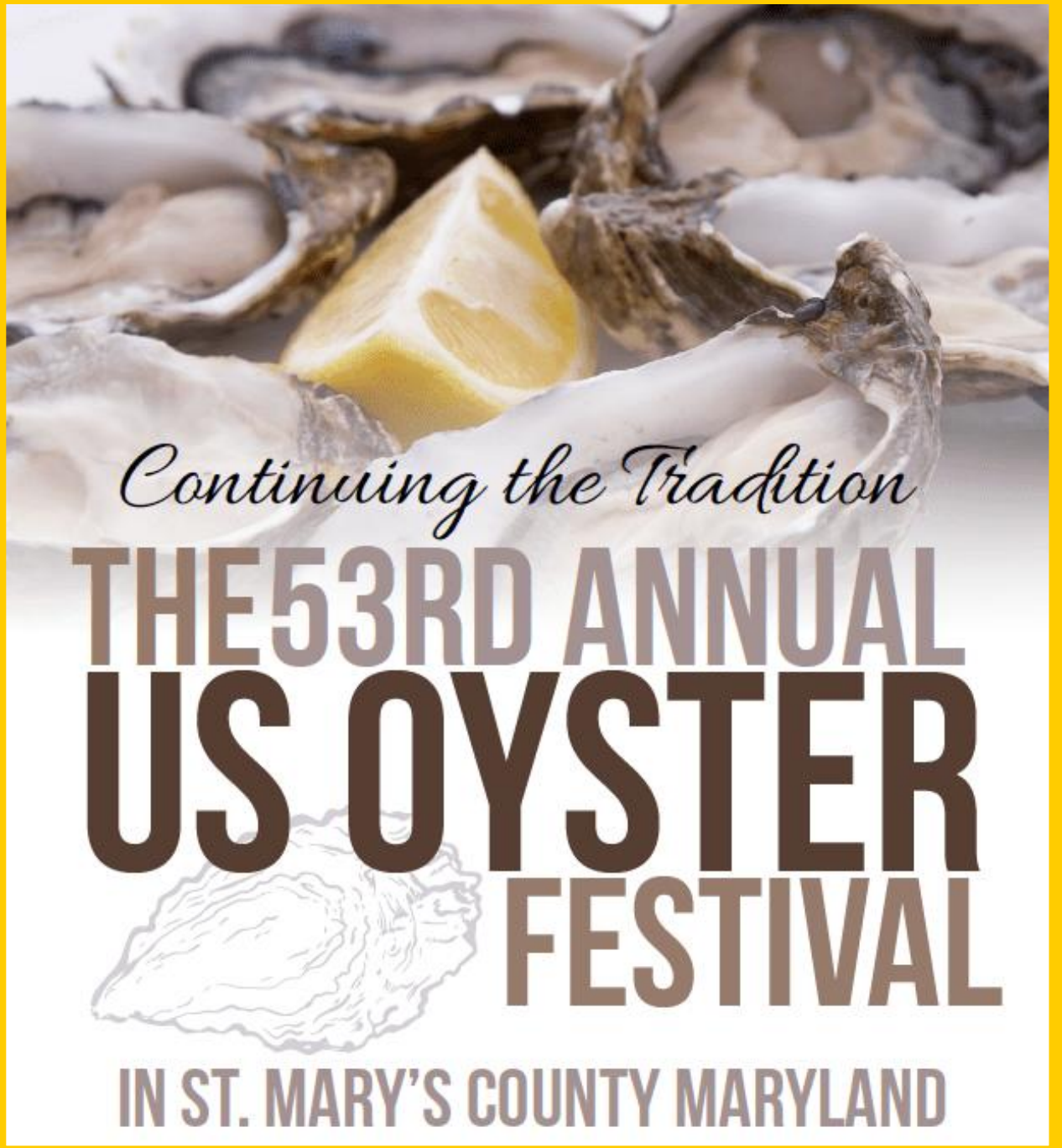
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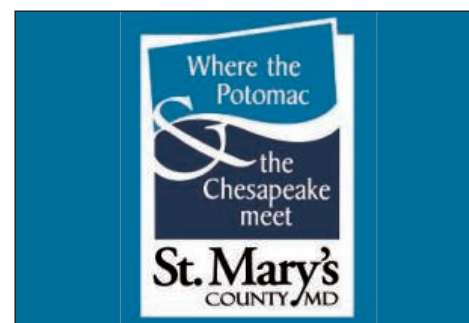
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Law Firm Finds Success In And Out of Court



Bill McKissick, Bryan Dugan and Chris Longmore are the senior partners at the county's largest law firm.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

After 25 years in business the law firm of Dugan, McKissick and Longmore have built a reputation of success in local and regional courts, dealing with all manner of civil litigation, property and zoning cases, contracts and occasionally criminal cases.

But the three partners, Bill McKissick, Bryan Dugan and Chris Longmore, gauge their success just as much by their work outside of the legal profession.

Their firm helps start up non-profit groups locally and in turn donates to them, they engage in pro bono [for the common good] legal work in the community and have aided in several task forces set up in concert with county government and business interests to tackle issues such as work force housing and land use in the county's vast rural areas.

All have chosen St. Mary's County as their home, though only one, Longmore, is a native.

His parents ran the former Ben Franklin craft store in Leonardtown.

"It was a good way to grow up," Longmore said. "I was a stock boy."

After high school at St. Mary's Ryken, college and law school he eventually worked in large law firms in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, California.

Despite his success in metropolitan areas, Longmore felt he should come home to be close to his family.

"I had family here," Longmore said. "That was a big pull for me."

"I met these guys and felt comfortable from day one."

McKissick, who came to St. Mary's from Baltimore City, worked in the local law offices of Kenny, Kaminetz and Lacer in 1987.

The first two would move on to become renowned judges; McKissick praised the practice as the place to learn for an aspiring attorney.

"They were the best lawyers to learn from," McKissick said, who added his college major in English pushed him to go to law school to learn a more marketable skill.

"I realized I loved working with the law," said McKissick, who founded the firm with Dugan in 1994.

"That was the best choice I ever made in my professional life," Dugan said.

Longmore would join just a few years later in 2000.

Dugan came to St. Mary's in 1971 with his family as his father worked for the Department of Defense.

They defied tradition by opening their headquarters in Lexington Park; Leonardtown was often the preferred starting point for lawyers due to its proximity to the district and circuit court houses.

"We came in at the perfect time," McKissick said. "We thought there would be more potential near Lexington Park with all the business development."

The area was set to explode commercially with the realignment of Naval Air Systems Command to Patuxent River Naval Air Station and land, especially on or near the waterfront would skyrocket in value.

Disputes between property owners would increase as well.

The firm would find a significant amount of its business in helping to settle those disputes as well as represent clients in zoning applications and cases before county government boards.

"We've got a lot of land disputes in St. Mary's County," Dugan said. "Sometimes the boundaries aren't as clear as they should be."

McKissick, who works mostly in transactional, or contract law, is seldom in court. Instead, he works with other attorneys to come to terms on contracts.

"If I'm in court something's gone wrong," McKissick said, who added St. Mary's was full of promise when he started his brand of legal work.

"There was a lot better opportunity here," McKissick said. "There weren't any other attorneys doing the transactional side of things."

McKissick has done his fair share of land use legal work.

"With all the development the land has gotten a lot more valuable," McKissick said. "Five extra feet of waterfront property can make the difference."

McKissick worked on a task force to establish transfer of development rights in St. Mary's County by which developers purchase the development rights of property owners in rural areas to allow that same developer to build in the county's more populace areas.

He has served on the county Chamber of Commerce as chairman of the board of directors.

McKissick said the work of that taskforce was done by many stakeholders in the community; Longmore participated in a similar task force to come up with recommendations to strengthen affordable, workforce housing stock here.

That group was also comprised of wide range of community stakeholders, they said.

McKissick said community engagement was key to finding solutions to local issues.

"We need more of that down here," McKissick said. "You need a broad range of people involved."

During his time in St. Mary's, Dugan has coached soccer and been president of a local elementary school's PTA; he currently serves on the Board of Governor's for the Maryland State Bar Association.

But now, much of his free time is taken up by working to raise funds for a cure for cystic fibrosis; his 4-year-old grandchild is stricken with the disease.

"It requires constant treatment," Dugan said.

One case Dugan recalls as one of the most important was representing a local client whose relative was killed in the 9/11 terror attacks on the Pentagon in 2001.

Congress passed legislation after the attacks that provided compensation for families of victims; Dugan presented the claim to the government.

"Our client was compensated," Dugan said. "To be able to help someone who's loved one died in the Pentagon... it was something I was proud to do."

Longmore, who is widely known in the community for his work before the county's planning commission and board of appeals, has also had his day in federal court.

Longmore was appointed to represent a client in a 4th Circuit Court of Appeals civil rights case on a pro bono basis.

The 4th Circuit is one step away from the Supreme Court; Longmore relished the challenge.

"I really enjoyed it," Longmore said.

All three of the partners at Dugan, McKissick and Longmore have been admitted to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

Longmore said his work also includes helping write up wills and estates, including people in hospice care.

People tend to avoid such business, not wanting to think about end of life decisions, but often relieve their anxiety once its finished.

"It's rewarding, when you see the relief on people's faces," Longmore said.

Dugan, McKissick and Longmore also employs five associate attorneys and 20 staff members.

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PREPARE YOUR DECK FOR WINTER

Homeowners often take steps to winterize the interior of their homes in the weeks before winter's arrival, but such efforts should extend to the outside of a home as well.

Decks make for great gathering places when the weather permits. Decks are where many people spend their free time and eat their meals come spring and summer, when the temperatures climb and the sun sets well into the evening. But as summer turns to fall, homeowners must take measures to protect their decks from potentially harsh winter weather.

- Inspect the deck for problems. Decks tend to be used more often in summer than any other time of year. That makes fall and early winter an ideal time to inspect for wear and tear and any additional issues that may have cropped up throughout the summer. Damaged boards and loose handrails should be fixed before winter arrives, especially for homeowners who plan to use their decks in winter. Fixing such issues in winter and even into spring may be difficult thanks to harsh conditions, so make good use of the relatively calm autumn weather to fix any issues on the deck.
- Clear the deck of potted plants. Even homeowners who intend to use their decks in winter should remove potted plants from the deck in the fall. The home improvement experts at

HGTV note that moisture can get trapped between deck boards and plastic, wood or ceramic containers in cold weather, and that can contribute to mildew, discoloration or decay.

- Store unnecessary furniture. Homeowners who like to sit on their decks in winter will no doubt want to leave some furniture out over the winter. But those with lots of furniture for entertaining guests can likely move the majority of that furniture into a garage or shed for the winter. HGTV notes that doing so will prevent the potential formation of blemishes on the deck that can result from inconsistent weathering.
- Remove snow, but do so carefully. Prolonged contact with snow and ice can damage a deck. As a result, homeowners should clear snow from their decks when accumulation is significant. HGTV recommends using a snow blower on the deck to avoid scarring. If a shovel must be used, push snow with the planks to reduce the risk of damaging the deck.

Homeowners who take steps to protect their decks throughout the winter months can ensure these popular areas are ready once entertaining season returns in the spring.



DID YOU KNOW?



One way to improve curb appeal and set a property apart from others is to add decorative effects to walkways, patios and driveways. Although many homeowners turn to materials such as pavers, flagstone or brick for these purposes, a versatile and often cost-effective idea is to rely on stamped concrete. Stamped concrete, often called textured or imprinted concrete, is textured,

patterned or embossed to mimic the look of other materials, notably brick, slate, flagstone, stone, tile, and wood. Stamped concrete can be used on patios, sidewalks, driveways, pool decks, and even interior flooring. The concrete is poured and then patterned using special tools. Installing stamped concrete is best left to concrete design specialists with extensive experience in this difficult craft.

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MAKE YOUR FRONT DOOR POP



Visitors' impressions of a home are often dictated by the home's entryway. Much as one may judge a book by its cover, the same can be said about the impression that a front door and entryway can create, regardless of how accurate that impression is.

Making certain changes to an entryway can go a long way toward improving curb appeal. Entryways also can set the scene for a home's interior. Whether one chooses to be classic or bold, modern or traditional, there are various ways to quickly transform a home's entryway.

- Bold front door color. Color can dramatically enhance an entryway. Painting an existing door or replacing it with a more vivid option can do the trick. The DIY Network says certain colors stand out as favorites. These include turquoise,

yellow, red, indigo, orange, and black. The door color should complement the other shades of the home, such as those on siding and trim.

- Custom walkway. Guide guests right to the front door with an attractive (and safe) walkway. Stamped concrete or decorative paver blocks may fit the bill. This walkway can extend to the street or to the driveway.
- Contain plants. Landscaping around the entryway should be neat and well-tended. Overgrown plants or shrubbery may give off an air of neglect. Container plants and carefully curated shrubs can create a neat and inviting aura.
- Highlight the address. Make sure the home can be found easily with bold and decorative house numbers. Consider two different address signs:

one illuminated and easily viewed from the curb, and another closer to the front door.

- Utilize high-end materials. The relatively small area of real estate by the front door enables homeowners to splurge on more opulent materials that can really add a feeling of luxury. These can include colorful tiles, ornate planters, decorative wooden doors, or elaborate knobs and lighting fixtures.
- Add architectural details. Find out which architectural elements will meld with the style of the home and then incorporate them. Moldings, columns, shutters, and trim are areas to consider.

The entryway to a home garners a lot of attention. Homeowners can enhance their spaces with entryways that really make a statement

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SMALL KITCHEN IMPROVEMENTS THAT MAXIMIZE FUNCTIONALITY

Many homeowners wish for expansive kitchens. Modernized kitchens that include sought after features and showcase the latest trends go a long way to improving the overall value of a home.

As desirable as such kitchens may be, some homes simply don't have enough space for a centerfold-worthy kitchen featuring an island, wine refrigerator and walk-in pantry. However, homeowners with small kitchens can still improve the form and function of their existing spaces.

- Reconfigure and revamp cabinetry. Homeowners whose kitchens are small often lament their lack of storage. Redesigning the layout of cabinets, and possibly adding some more cabinetry, may take care of certain storage issues. The experts at Merit Kitchens suggest utilizing corner space with LeMans units, lazy susans and other gadgets to make access to these areas easier. Going vertical with wall cabinets that extend to the ceiling also can

add more storage, as can roll-in work carts.

- Work with the walls. Small kitchens require clever usage of vertical space. Vertical storage units, hooks, shelving, and more can move items out of drawers and off of counters. Consider an under-the-cabinet toaster oven and microwave to create more counter space.
- Use scaled-down appliances. Shop with size in mind when looking at new appliances if you have a small kitchen. Compact versions won't take up as much space as larger alternatives. Homeowners should consider the ultimate function of the kitchen and then think about which appliances will serve them well. Homeowners with small kitchens may not need a large stand mixer or an oversized commercial stove.
- Add some glass. The DIY Network recommends incorporating glass to improve the perception of



space in small kitchens. Glass lets you see through the objects, thereby enhancing the feeling of spaciousness or what designers call "negative space." Glass also can be reflective, visually expanding the space.

- Embrace high-end materials. It costs less to renovate small spaces than bigger areas, so

homeowners may be able to afford high-end materials that really add personality to a kitchen. Flooring, counter materials and quality fixtures can really set small kitchens apart.

Small kitchens can be culinary havens with the right improvements to maximize the space.

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ADDING MORE EXTERIOR LIGHTS

Homeowners are increasingly realizing the benefits of improving the exteriors of their home, which can be just as valuable as improving the interior spaces. As individuals design picturesque garden beds and cultivate lavish lawns or revamp exteriors with architectural features, they probably want to spotlight these improvements. This is where exterior lighting can be put to great use.

Exterior illumination can cast a glow on various features, but there are many other reasons to increase lighting around the exterior of a home.

- Safety. Trips and falls can occur at night when trying to traverse walkways and landscapes in the dark, as it can be difficult to see rocks, stairs and uneven pavement. Outdoor lighting can illuminate pathways, entryways and other areas for safer access for homeowners and their guests.
- Extend outdoor entertaining. Ample lighting can increase the amount of time one can use outdoor spaces and make them the perfect gathering spot. As autumn arrives, days become shorter. However, patios, porches and more can get extended use with lighting.
- Safeguard security. A well-lit home may be less likely to be targeted by burglars than one swathed in darkness and shadows. Lights can remain on all evening or be motion-triggered. Setting lights on timers also ensures that the home is illuminated whether residents are home or not.



- Create drama. Landscape lighting designers can establish focal points around the landscape and highlight the best features of a property. Uplighting in trees, silhouetting techniques to showcase plants and spotlights to show off architectural features are all options for homeowners to consider.
- Add value. The experts at Parker Homescape, a landscape design service, say that exterior

lighting can add roughly 30 percent to the value of a home. They also indicate that 50 percent of all home buyers say that outdoor lighting is important when buying a home. If current residents are thinking about selling, now may be the time to invest in exterior lighting.

Improving a home's exterior may be as simple as adding more lighting to improve functionality and beauty.

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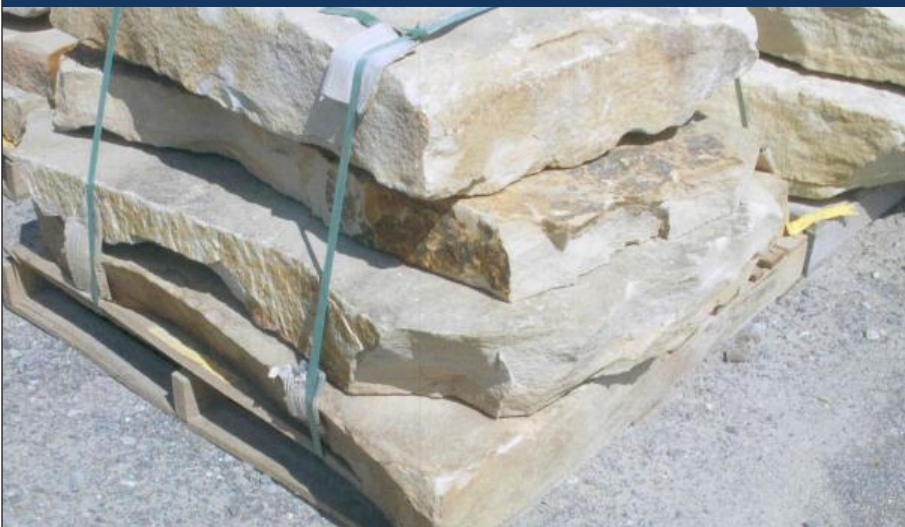
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WARMING UP NEXT TO YOUR FIRST FIRE THIS WINTER

A warm fire can make even the coldest winter day more enjoyable. Fireplaces may not get much use in spring or summer, but come late fall and throughout the winter, the fireplace can be a great place for families to gather.

Before fireplace season hits full swing, homeowners might want to brush up on a few fireplace facts so they can safely enjoy nights spent sitting by the crackling flames.

The Chimney Safety Institute of America advises homeowners with fireplaces to hire a CSIA-certified chimney sweep to clean their fireplaces. After a lengthy period of non-use, various issues could be affecting the chimney, many of which might not be noticeable to an untrained eye. Professional, certified chimney sweeps have extensive knowledge of fireplaces, making them valuable resources who can let homeowners know if any safety issues developed since fireplaces were last used. The National Protection Agency recommends that chimneys be swept at least once per year.

A full inspection of the chimney might be in order as well. Chimney service technicians will conduct thorough examinations of readily accessible portions of the chimney exterior and interior and accessible portions of the appliance and the



chimney connection. The CSIA recommends that homeowners who plan to use their chimneys as they have in the past request a Level 1 inspection, which will examine the soundness of the chimney structure and flue as well as the basic appliance installation and connections. Technicians also will verify if the chimney is free of obstruction and combustible deposits.

Homeowners also should inspect their chimney dampers before lighting their first fires of the season. Dampers should open and close smoothly. If not, a service technician can help fix or replace the damper.

Firewood is another thing homeowners must consider before lighting their first fires of the season. The CSIA says that well-seasoned firewood works best, noting that wood that is not well-seasoned will produce more smoke than heat. In addition, the home improvement resource This

Old House recommends using dense wood that's been split and stored in a high and dry place for at least six months. Oak is an example of dense wood that, when stored properly, can make for an enjoyable fireplace experience. Avoid softwoods like pine. Pine can produce a lot of creosote, which is a byproduct of wood combustion. Creosote is highly flammable, and as it builds up in a chimney, the risk for a chimney fire increases. Choosing the right wood, making sure it's well-seasoned and having a chimney professionally cleaned can reduce the risk of a creosote-related chimney fire. A Level 1 inspection should determine if there are potentially dangerous levels of creosote deposits in the chimney.

Before nestling up to a fireplace this winter, homeowners should consider a host of factors and safety measures to ensure their fireplaces are safe and ready for the season ahead.

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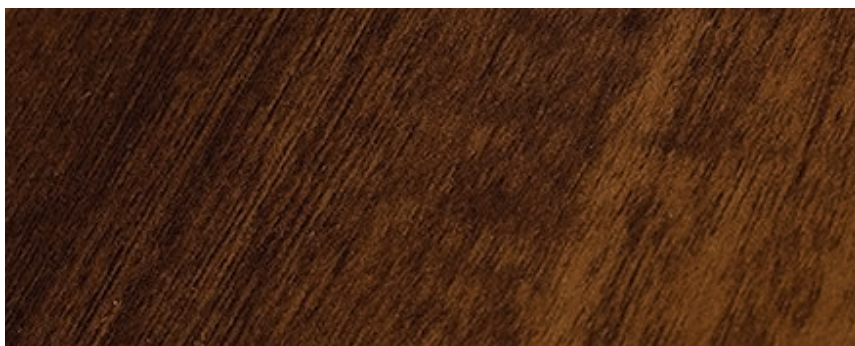
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PROTECT WOOD FLOORS FROM INCLEMENT WEATHER



Wood floors are a worthwhile investment that can improve the beauty and function of just about any room in a home. Even though wood floors are durable, and new protective treatments help seal out many of the things that may have damaged floors in the past, homeowners still need to prioritize protecting their hardwood floors.

Certain seasons of the year can be more harsh on wood floors than others. For example, seasons characterized by moisture and precipitation, particularly the early spring, winter and fall, can be hard on wood floors. The experts at ServiceMaster Clean say that cold, snowy days can damage wood floors, and Lumber Liquidators agrees that winter weather can be harsh on flooring.

Homeowners need not give up on hardwood if they live in an area that sees all four seasons. They just need to take a few steps to keep floors looking beautiful.

- Clean up the salt. Salt that keeps sidewalks and streets clear of snow and ice inadvertently gets tracked inside a home. Hard chunks of salt can scratch wood floors, and, if left to sit, that salt can eventually cause white marks and other stains. Routinely vacuuming and sweeping up salt is necessary to protect wood floors.
- Invest in shoe storage. Wet or snowy boots can create puddles around the house. Have a special mat or tray by the front door where wet shoes can be kept. A nice bench in the entryway makes it easy for residents and guests to remove

their shoes until it's time to go back outside.

- Use water-wicking mats. Homeowners will probably need a few extra mats around to tame errant drips and wipe shoes. Any entrance that might be used by people or pets should be protected. Try to avoid petroleum-based, rubber-backed mats, as they could discolor the wood floor.
- Control humidity indoors. Cold, dry air in a home can be problematic because the moisture in the wood can eventually evaporate into the air. The heat will suck that moisture from the flooring, causing it to shrink, creak and splinter and become more brittle. Think about investing in an in-line humidifier for the home's HVAC system that can keep a moderate amount of humidity in the home. Hardwood floorboards are installed to accommodate minor temperature and humidity fluctuations. This is typically a range of between 60 and 80 degrees F with a relative humidity range of 35 to 55 percent, advises ServiceMaster.
- Use the right cleaning products. Avoid excessive water to clean wood floors, and select soaps that are specially designed for wood flooring. Consult with the flooring manufacturer for a list of detergents that are safe to use.

With proper care, hardwood flooring can survive rain, snow and cold weather.

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Stay safe around power lines

As we slide into fall, many people are finishing projects around the house and yard in preparation for the coming winter months. It's important to stay safe and be aware of overhead power lines. Look up.

- Never climb power poles or trees near power lines.
- Keep equipment away from overhead lines when carrying ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning tools.
- If you are doing work close to power lines—such as trimming trees, working on your roof, or doing exterior renovations—keep yourself, your ladder and anything you are handling a safe distance from the power line.

Most neighborhoods have underground electric lines. Call **Miss Utility** at **811** before you dig.

- Contact SMECO to disconnect power if you are doing work that requires close contact with overhead lines attached to your home.

- Use a licensed electrician for all electrical work.
- Plant trees away from overhead and underground power lines.



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4 SIMPLE WAYS TO TRIM YOUR ENERGY BILL THIS WINTER

The cost of home ownership can be considerable. One of the expenses that hits first-time homeowners the hardest upon moving into their new homes is the monthly energy bill. While utility bills for apartment dwellers rarely break the bank, those bills grow considerably when men and women are suddenly lighting, heating and cooling an entire house.

Come winter, utility bills can be especially harsh on homeowners' budgets. But there are some simple ways to trim utility bills no matter how low the mercury dips in the coming months.

- Embrace technology. Technology can help homeowners control energy costs in various ways. A programmable thermostat allows men and women to determine when their homes' thermostats turn on so they are not paying to heat an empty home. In addition to programmable thermostats, homeowners can purchase real-time electricity monitors that allow them to track usage and monitor individual rooms and circuits so they can determine where in their homes, if anywhere, they are needlessly wasting energy. In lieu of a porch light you need to leave on all night, install motion-detecting lights so you aren't paying to light porches and walkways that are not being used.



- Inspect windows and doors. Windows and doors are often to blame when energy bills start to skyrocket. As homes age, cracks can develop around windows and doors, allowing precious and expensive heat to escape. Caulk around any windows that have cracks (you may feel a draft around such windows) and replace ineffective weatherstripping around doors, which is noticeable if light is visible around doors' edges.
- Cover the water heater. Water heaters can quickly lose heat, and that can contribute to higher heating bills as winter temperatures plunge. Water heater blankets are an inexpensive yet effective investment, as they can help water heaters retain heat longer, producing lower heating bills as a result.
- Lower the water heater temperature. Speaking of water heaters, changing their temperature

is another simple way to lower utility costs during the winter. According to Energy.gov, homeowners can save between \$12 and \$30 for each 10° F reduction in water heater temperature. Many manufacturers set water heaters at 140° F, but setting the heater to 120° F can lead to considerable cost savings without sacrificing comfort. An added and cost-effective benefit to lowering water heater temperature is that a lower temperature slows mineral buildup and corrosion in water heaters and pipes, reducing the likelihood of costly repairs while extending the life of the water heater.

Winter temperatures can be harsh on homeowners and their wallets. But there are many ways for homeowners to reduce their energy bills no matter how cold it may get this winter.



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GAME 3	FRI. • OCT. 25	NATIONALS v YANKEES/ASTROS	FOX	NATIONALS PARK
GAME 4	SAT. • OCT. 26	NATIONALS v YANKEES/ASTROS	FOX	NATIONALS PARK
GAME 5*	SUN. • OCT. 27	NATIONALS v YANKEES/ASTROS	FOX	NATIONALS PARK
GAME 6*	TUES. • OCT. 29	NATIONALS v YANKEES/ASTROS	FOX	NEW YORK/HOUSTON
GAME 7*	WED. • OCT. 30	NATIONALS v YANKEES/ASTROS	FOX	NEW YORK/HOUSTON

* IF NECESSARY



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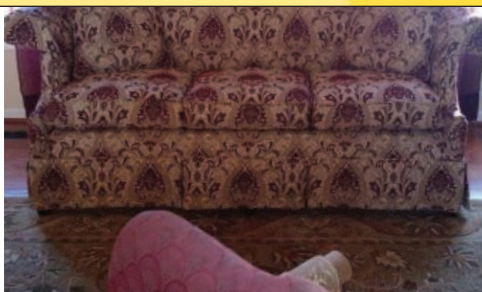
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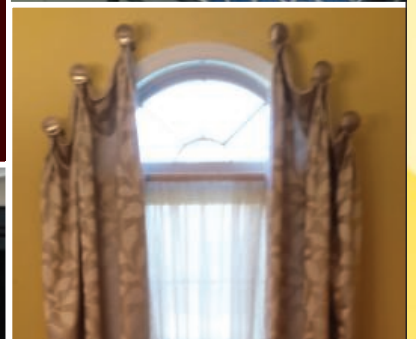
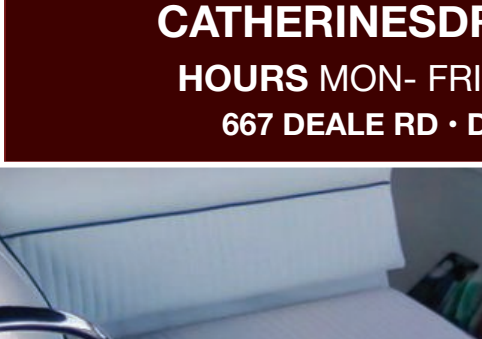
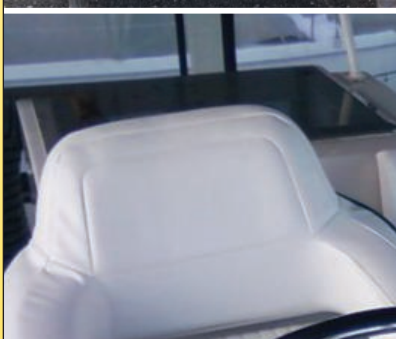
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A View From The BLEACHERS

A Letter to Younger Fans

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

If you were born after 1983 and before around 2000 and are an ardent supporter of Washington D.C.'s football team, you have my condolences. You grew up hearing of Super Bowl championships and sustained excellence, but, sadly, you have no conscious memory of it. You also were born into a fervent football atmosphere – a still passionate, win-drunk fan base in the afterglow of a glorious decade and confident that the next great era would arrive soon. That is the two-fold curse of your date of birth. I'm sorry. You were done wrong. But then again, what was the alternative? It's not your fault. Anyone would have been sucked in by the still-shiny Lombardi trophies and tractor beam of euphoria. When you were growing up, it was still cool to root for the 'Skins, wear the gear and attend games. You just happened to come of age in a bear market; the bull, the raging bull, would soon return.

But it hasn't and, the harsh reality is, it never will.

After a 0-5 start, head coach Jay Gruden was fired last week. This would normally mark a franchise reflection point, a chance to chart a new course and build a brighter future. For Washington, it doesn't matter – not in the least. Gruden is just the latest name added to the Norv Turner, Terry Robiske, Marty Schottenheimer, Steve Spurrier, Joe Gibbs, Jim Zorn and Mike Shanahan scroll of 1999-present unsuccessful Washington head coaches.

Say "1999" and I immediately think of Prince's classic song. I know, I'm showing my age, but check out this opening verse:

"I was dreaming when I wrote this, forgive me if it goes astray; But when I woke up this morning, could've sworn it was judgement day; The sky was all purple, there were people running everywhere; Trying to run from the destruction, you know I didn't even care."

Change "purple" to "burgundy" and Prince could have easily been issuing a warning to Washington football fans of dark times at the millennium's close. And as you know, 1999 was the year Dan Snyder became majority owner. Coin-

idence? Maybe...but consider this: Prince released "1999" in 1982, the year of the franchise's first Super Bowl victory. Creepy, eh?

Dan Snyder. He had me fooled. You? I was happy when he acquired the team. After years of ownership uncertainty, including the failed Howard Milstein bid, the team ended up in the hands of a young, aggressive, long-time fan of the team. What could be better?

Literally anything.

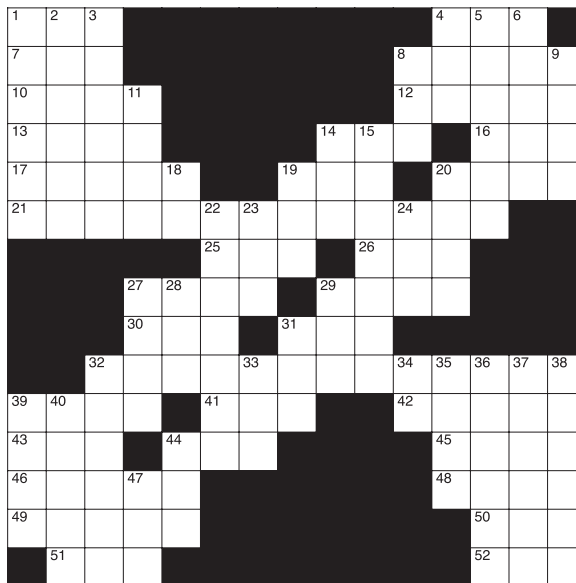
I'll spare you the painful details of Snyder's 20-year reign of terror. You lived it too. It's the macro-level concern that matters now. This team, the one you came to love based on its reputation and the promise of future Super Bowls to call your own, is fatally flawed. Snyder will never field a consistent winner. Never. Executives, coaches and players have changed. He is the constant. He is the culprit. And he, as the 54-year-old owner, isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

Snyder's profound incompetence has transcended sports; the 'Skins have become a case study in organizational rot – the one-time hottest ticket in town is now peddled online to opposing teams' fans. The primary causal factor of Snyder's failure is his astounding lack of self-awareness. He neither knows what it takes to win in the NFL nor does he recognize his franchise's fundamental flaws. His utter delusion is a cautionary tale on the misleading power of arrogance and an insular world where "yes-men" are promoted and dissenters are dismissed. Hmm...that sounds familiar.

Wilhelm Stekel and Elie Wiesel identified the opposite of love, not as hate, but as indifference. Love and hate are emotional responses; indifference is a numbed apathy. I now watch what I once loved with indifference. Part of me is ashamed to admit that; another part of me is happy to have transcended Snyder's carnival. But I wonder about you. I have gotten to this point despite having lived the good old days - experiences you don't have. So do you still love them? Do you still care? If so, you have both my respect and deepest sympathies.

Send comments to
RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

Fun & GAMES



CLUES ACROSS

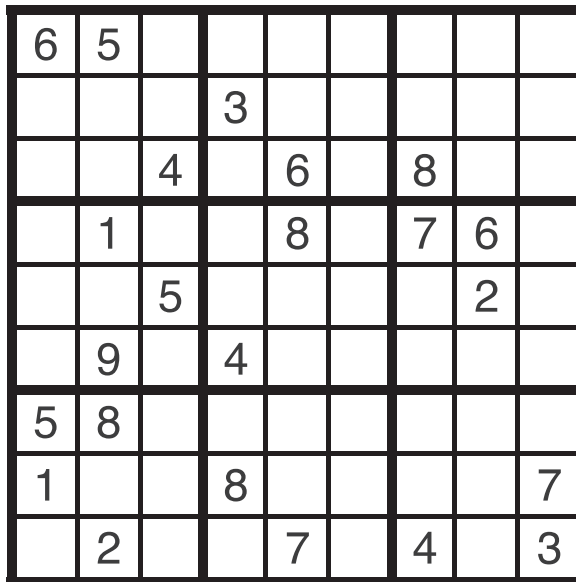
- 1. Computer key
- 4. Periodical (abbr.)
- 7. Hot beverage
- 8. Capital of Ghana
- 10. Shrek is one
- 12. Behemoth
- 13. Good friend
- 14. Form of "to be"
- 16. Where travelers rest
- 17. European country
- 19. Everyone has one
- 20. Pop

- 21. Feelings of anxiety
- 25. Small amount
- 26. Moved quickly
- 27. Common name for a type of frog
- 29. Free from psychological disorder
- 30. 8th month (abbr.)
- 31. Basics
- 32. Transcending national boundaries
- 39. Natives of Kashmir
- 41. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

- 42. Cigar wrapper
- 43. Brew
- 44. Popular video game series
- 45. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 46. Jewelled headdress
- 48. French cleric
- 49. Bizarre
- 50. Unit of measurement
- 51. Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear
- 52. "Partridge Family" actress

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of bomb
- 2. Smooth
- 3. Clothing pattern
- 4. Defunct phone company
- 5. Something to take
- 6. Type of piano
- 8. Consumed
- 9. "Pitch Perfect" actress Kendrick
- 11. Ray-finned fish
- 14. Heat storage stove
- 15. Shrink back
- 18. Yukon Territory
- 19. Connects words
- 20. Sound unit
- 22. Furniture with open shelves
- 23. Cool!
- 24. 007's creator
- 27. Source of the Nile River
- 28. Not safe, but ...
- 29. Helps little firms
- 31. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 32. Conceptualize
- 33. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 34. Integrated circuit
- 35. Evergreen trees and shrubs genus
- 36. Apprehended
- 37. Suitable for growing crops
- 38. Isolated
- 39. Footwear company
- 40. Electronic intelligence gathering
- 44. Political action committee
- 47. Free of



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

G	D	E		P	A	L	L	S		M	U	S	S	Y			
H	A	N		A	B	A	C	K		A	N	U	R	A			
E	F	T		L	E	O	D	I	C	A	P	R	I	O			
E	L	I	C	I	T					M	O	R	A	E			
S	A	R	O	S		O	P	P	O	S	I	T	E	S			
				E	R	A		S	H				D	Y	N	E	
S	O	L	E	D		C	O	L	E	T				A	D		
P	A	Y			E	M	A	N	A	T	E			U	T	E	
I	T			S	I	R	E	S			R	A	P	E	R		
C	E	E	S					M	E		S	A	C	O	D	E	
A	N	N	O	T	A	T	E	S			E	R	R	O	D	E	
				G	U	I	L	E	S		A	N	E	M	I	A	
C	H	A	R	L	I	E	R	O	S	E				I	R	S	
R	A	G	E	E				M	A	N	A	S			N	A	E
U	S	E	R	S				S	T	E	P	S			G	C	D

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

Tibetan Buddhist Monks to Construct Sand Painting To Perform Special Ceremonies at St. Mary's College

Tibetan Buddhist monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery will construct a Mandala Sand Painting from Monday, Oct. 21, through Thursday, Oct. 24, in Daugherty-Palmer Commons on the St. Mary's College of Maryland campus.

From all the artistic traditions of Tantric Buddhism, that of painting with colored sand ranks as one of the most exquisite. Millions of grains of sand are painstakingly laid into place on a flat platform over a period of days or weeks to form the image of a mandala. To date, the monks have created mandala sand paintings in more than 100 museums, art centers, and colleges and universities in the United States and Europe.

Mandala is a Sanskrit word meaning sacred cosmogram. These cosmograms can be created in various media, such as watercolor on canvas, wood carvings, and so forth. However, the most spectacular and enduringly popular are those made from colored sand.

In general, all mandalas have outer, inner, and secret meanings. On the outer level they represent the world in its divine form; on the inner level they represent a map by which the ordinary human mind is transformed into enlightened mind; and on the secret level they depict the primordial perfect balance of the subtle energies of the body and the clear light dimension of the mind. The creation of a sand painting is said to effect purification and healing on these three levels.

The mandala sand painting begins with an opening ceremony, during which the lamas consecrate the site and call forth the forces of goodness. This is done by means of chanting, music and mantra recitation, and will be held on Monday, Oct. 21 from 12 – 1 p.m. in Daugherty-Palmer Commons. The lamas begin the exhibit by drawing an outline of the mandala on the wooden platform.

On the following days they lay the colored sands. Each monk holds a traditional metal funnel called a chakpur while running a metal rod on its grated surface. The vibration causes the sands to flow like liquid onto the platform. This takes place on Monday, Oct. 21, from 1 – 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 22, from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., in Daugherty-Palmer Commons. Also, the Tibetan Buddhist monks will give a public lecture, "Tibetan Buddhist Views of Death and Dying," on Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 4:30 – 6 p.m., in Daugherty-Palmer Commons.

Traditionally most sand mandalas are destroyed shortly after their completion. This is done as a metaphor for the impermanence of life. The sands are swept up and placed in an urn; to fulfill the function of healing, half is distributed to the audience at the closing ceremony, while the remainder is carried to a nearby

body of water, where it is deposited. The waters then carry the healing blessing to the ocean, and from there it spreads throughout the world for planetary healing. The closing ceremony will be held on Thursday, Oct. 24 from 5 – 6 p.m. in Daugherty-Palmer Commons.

This is the second time Tibetan Buddhist monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery have constructed a Mandala Sand Painting on the St. Mary's College campus. This year's visit is hosted by the College's Asian

Studies Department, with support from the Lecture and Fine Arts Committee, Student Government Association, Arts Alliance, and the departments of English, philosophy, international languages and cultures, sociology, art and art history, and music.

For more information, contact John Schroeder at 240-895-2159 or jwschroeder@smcm.edu.

Press Release from SMCM

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Oyster Cook-Off Coming This Saturday



Elyne Bryce Davis of Leonardtown is a finalist in National Oyster Cookoff held at the fairgrounds in Leonardtown on Saturday, October 19. Cooking is at 11 a.m., with tasting around noon and awards around 2-3 p.m. her dish, Maryland oysters and Turkish-style red lentil soup will be available for sampling.

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PRE-NUPS

What are pre-nups? These are pre-nuptial agreements entered into by prospective husbands and wives that set forth how the couple wants to manage their assets in the event one of them dies or there is a divorce. Some people consider pre-nups to be anti-romantic. However, others recognize that these days, when so many people get divorced or whose spouses have died and then get remarried, pre-nups play an important role in taking care of children from a prior marriage and protecting the assets of those who have been previously divorced.

Not long ago, we were approached to create a pre-nup for a wonderful couple in their mid-80's. The couple met in an assisted living facility, fell in love and decided to get married. Both of them had been married and had adult children and grandchildren from their prior marriages. Rather than create controversy in the family about inheritances, the couple decided to make it clear in their pre-nup that each of their children and grandchildren from prior marriages would continue to receive the inheritances they were expecting from their parent or grandparent after marriage. With the pre-nup signed, the children and grandchildren of the couple were able to celebrate the new marriage with no concerns about what would happen when their mother/grandmother or father/grandfather died. In this case, both parties had assets to protect for their children and, by creating the pre-nup, both parties helped create family harmony with their new extended family members.

Pre-nups are commonly used to protect children from a prior marriage. What does a pre-nup involve? Primarily, each party exchanges financial information with the other. One of the primary assets a person has is their retirement account. When a person marries, their new spouse has a legal claim on the retirement account of the other spouse. Particularly in cases of a second marriage where children are involved, most parties want to preserve their retirement accounts for their children. The pre-nup makes that clear—each party agrees they will not claim against the retirement account of the other in the event of death or divorce.

Similarly, if one party owns a house, upon marriage the other may assert a legal claim to ownership of one-half of the house. Under the pre-nup, each party clearly states that when they marry they will not assert any claim to the house the other owns.

What about other assets each party might own individually? The pre-

nup addresses those as well. For example, suppose one party has a valuable stamp collection that they have promised to a grandchild. The pre-nup will make it clear that the stamp collection is the sole property of one party and will not be distributed or divided up on the death of that party.

The pre-nup addresses property owned by each party individually prior to their marriage. But, what about property the soon to be married couple acquire after marriage? This too is addressed in the pre-nup. Ordinarily, the couple decides that they will split any assets they acquire after marriage, fifty-fifty. So, if they buy a house together as joint tenants with right of survivorship, and one of them dies, the other takes complete ownership of the house. In the event of a divorce, the other has a claim for 50% of the value of the house. Of course, there are lots of other factors that are involved, but you get the picture.

In a pre-nup, each party exchanges personal financial statements with the other. These financial statements must be complete and detailed so that one party can never accuse the other of hiding any assets.

A pre-nup is a contract between the parties. As such, it is enforceable in a court of law. Some people think that their Will or a Trust has decided who owns what assets after death, but whatever you have decided in those documents is not enforceable because the surviving spouse can execute a new Will or Trust after the death of the other spouse that completely changes the distribution of the property. People that use pre-nups are concerned about this. Even if your potential spouse has an excellent relationship with your children from a prior marriage, when you die, how can you be assured those children will be protected? Not with a Will or a Trust—only through a pre-nup.

To those who claim the pre-nup is anti-romantic because it addresses what happens on divorce or death, think again. Divorce may not be inevitable but death is. If you want to truly protect your children the second time around and preserve family harmony, both parties should welcome the opportunity to do so in a pre-nup.

Join me for a discussion of this and other matters on the third Wednesday of every month at 11 am at our offices at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach, MD 20714. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your seat. See you there.

By Lyn Striegel

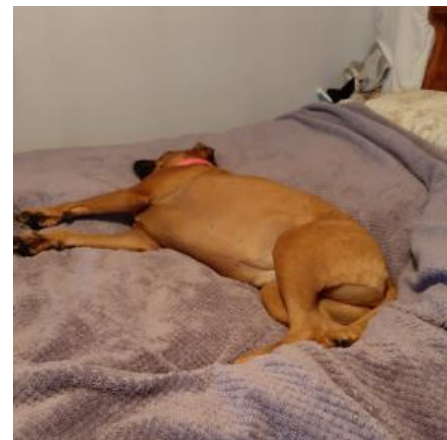
Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann
Contributing Writer



“Where is my space??”

Like many people, I don't sleep well. You all know that. Everything has to be perfectly in sync in order for me to get more than four hours sleep. It must be dark, quiet, cool, and uninterrupted. Easy right? About a year and a half maybe two years ago, after my husband got tired of the aggravation of Mindy whimpering and pawing to get my attention so I would get up and let her outside so she could chase cats several times in the middle of the night, he



finally decided to just let her up in bed with us so we could all sleep. Of course, Mindy was maybe 40 pounds then and we could easily slide her dead weight anywhere we wanted to on the bed. Now, at a husky 55+ pounds, she is unmovable. If you try to slide her over you get an exasperated sigh in response. I am always reminding her that she is not the alpha dog here. I have to make sure I beat her to the bedroom at night so I can get more than two inches of space on the right side of our king-sized bed. If not, I am pinned at the edge with a constant fear of falling off the edge. I have to have my own blanket because between my husband pulling more blanket & sheet to his side each time he makes one of his alligator death-roll-like tossing and turnings and Mindy lying like a rock on her section I am left with nothing. Thank goodness for my cocoon blanket.

The other night about 2 a.m. I found myself losing even my own blanket to Mindy, and plus there was a full moon lighting up the bedroom like it was noon. So, I got up, yanked my pillow off the bed, did my own sigh in frustration, and found a spare cocoon blanket to take to the couch. I was just starting to get in a nice comfy, drowsy place all wrapped up in my cocoon when I heard THUMP and four paws hitting the floor in the bedroom. Then it was just a matter of seconds before Mindy found me with her wet, cold nose, and another second before she leapt up on top of my dozing form. Suddenly, my left arm was pinned under Mindy towards the back of the couch and my right arm was pinned between my side and the couch. Her bony elbow was poking into my hip painfully which I knew was going to leave a bruise. Her long, gangly, HEAVY, hound dog form had me pinned down for good. Mindy's little heart was beating fast, since she knew this was forbidden by the real Alpha Big Dog in the house.

I tried hard to get my right arm and hand out from under me so I could grab her somehow and get her back down to the floor, but she only flattened herself more. We both also knew that if Alpha Big Dog got up and realized Mindy was on the couch, well technically she was on me, that Mindy and I would both be out all night chasing cats around the yard.

Oh well. I tried to doze again, and I think I did for a little while, until I heard the inevitable THUMP as two big feet hit the floor. Uh Oh from me. Ruh Roh from Mindy. I mentally willed Mindy to be quiet as my husband's form came into view in the dark of the hallway. I really didn't think I had any air to speak, but I managed to get out, “Hey Honey?”. He asked if I was okay like he usually does if I am on the couch, and I said I was fine it was just too bright in there because of the moon. He stood in the dark for another minute, and I could really feel Mindy's heart racing now, even though I think she, and I, had stopped breathing, until he finally turned and headed back to the bedroom. Both Mindy and I heaved a sigh of relief, and I resigned myself to sleeping under a dog blanket for the rest of the night, thinking well at least we weren't outside chasing cats. As of today, I am still waiting for all the feeling to return to my arms.

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

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

Elizabeth Gwendolyn Munroe

Elizabeth Gwendolyn Munroe, "Sister Liz or Gwen", 58, of Lexington Park, MD passed away on October 13, 2019 in Leonardtown, MD. Born on September 25, 1961 in Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies. Gwen was the loving daughter of the late Virginia Lake Munroe and Ethan Munroe. Gwen is survived by her daughter Kerry Ann Espinoza-Mohamid of Washington, DC, 1 grandchild and 2 great grandchildren. Siblings Lucian Joe Munroe, Antoinette Mohamid, Gaston Munroe, Gavin Munroe, John Munroe all of Trinidad & Tobago West Indies.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM in the Living Hope First United Pentecostal Church in Great Mills, MD where a Funeral Service will follow at 2:00 PM with Pastor Jerry Staten officiating. Interment will be private.

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

Donald Patrick Buckler



Donald Patrick Buckler "Cowboy", 70, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on October 11, 2019 in Leonardtown, MD. He was born on May 16, 1949 in Leonardtown, MD and was the loving son of the late Isabelle Buckler and Lawrence Buckler. Cowboy is survived by his siblings Margie Guy of Mechanicsville, MD, and Wayne Buckler (Julie) of Mechanicsville, MD. He was preceded in death by his siblings Patricia Gardiner, Larry Buckler, Robert Buckler, and Dale Buckler. In his younger years he joined Job Corp. Cowboy worked for Copsey's Plumbing. As well as J. Frank Abell, taking care of the coin operating machines from 1996 to 2007.

He enjoyed shuffleboard, darts, playing cards, especially pitch with family, and playing softball for Pennies Bar. The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD, where a Funeral Service will be held in the Funeral Home Chapel at 10:00 AM with Father John Ball officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial

Gardens Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Harold Buckler, Kevin Abell, David Farrell, Wayne Johnson, Danny Burch, and Gary Cox.

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

Charles Henry Farrell



Charles Henry Farrell, 89, of Avenue, Maryland passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown on October 10, 2019. Born on November 15, 1930 in Compton, Maryland he was the son to the late Noble Leonard Farrell and Mary Lillian Graves Farrell. Charles ("Charlie") married Agnes Lorraine Hall, his "Doll" as he affectionately called her, on July 1, 1950 in Holy Angels Catholic Church in Avenue. They enjoyed 61 years of marriage until Lorraine's death in 2011. He was the loving father to four children; Rose Ann Friess (Henry) of Bushwood, Charles William "Buck" Farrell, Lois Marie Guy of Avenue, and Leonard Edward Farrell (Terree) of Waldorf. He had one grandchild, Melissa Lynn Friess-Bailey (T Bailey III) of Avenue. He made his home in Avenue where he lived for 69 years. Charlie is preceded in death by his wife Agnes Lorraine, his son, Charles William, his siblings; May Morgan (Dory, deceased), Harry Edward Farrell (Alice), Aloysius Benjamin Farrell (Alberta, deceased), Francis Sylvester Farrell (Mary, deceased), Richard Theodore Farrell (Hilda, deceased), and John William Farrell (Virginia, deceased).

Charlie lived his life simply; always putting his Faith and Family first. He loved spending time with his sweetheart, hosting Sunday family dinners, and ensuring everyone's birthday was celebrated. He loved telling stories about the "good ole days", making people laugh, or playing a game of Pitch. Charlie loved listening to music and dancing with his bride every opportunity he had.

As a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, he enjoyed its nature and beauty. Charlie loved being outdoors, tending his garden, going fishing, or just boating on the Chesapeake Bay. He was a stranger to no one and always had a smile for everyone he met. Charlie

leaves behind a legacy of compassion, faith, courage, wisdom, and some of the greatest demonstrations of love that a family could ask for.

He retired after 30 years of service with the State of Maryland Highway Administration.

Contributions may be made to the Holy Angels Catholic Church, 21340 Colton's Point Road, Avenue, Maryland 20609 or Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad P.O. Box 7 Avenue, Maryland 20609

Robert Michael Brewer



Robert Michael Brewer, 70, of Hughesville, MD, passed away unexpectedly on October 10, 2019 at Medstar Washington Hospital Center.

Born on August 27, 1949, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Darwin E. Brewer, Sr. and Theophane Miller Brewer of Lanham, MD.

Robert was blessed to have met the love of his life, Sandra Brewer and married her in November, 1990. Together they were the epitome of love. They celebrated almost twenty-nine years of wedded bliss with being each other's greatest fan and biggest cheerleader.

Robert graduated from Duval High School in Lanham, MD in 1967. Robert proudly enlisted in the United States Navy in July, 1968 and served his country honorably. Robert was a wonderful provider and patriarch for his family. He worked as an Elevator Mechanic after his honorable discharge from the Navy. He made many life-long friendships at his job and he will be missed.

Although pride in his work was important to him, Robert's greatest accomplishments are in the faces of his family. He enjoyed spending holidays, vacations and even just a relaxing day at home surrounded by his children and grandchildren. Robert could often be



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301-472-4400

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found in nature hunting or dropping a line and fishing. He also enjoyed shooting pool and eating Southern Maryland hard crabs.

Robert is survived by his wife, Sandra Ann Brewer of Hughesville; daughters, Carrie Shokraei of Fairfax, VA, Shannon M. Miles of Gambrills, MD, son, Robert Michael John Brewer II, of Beltsville, MD, 7 grandchildren and his mother, Theophane Miller Brewer of Lanham, MD. He is also survived by siblings, Cheryl Brewer of Lanham, MD, Timothy Brewer (Patty) of Dunkirk, MD, Greg Brewer (Sandra), and Mark Brewer (Lynn) of Junior, WV. He is preceded in death by his father, Darwin E. Brewer; son, Lawrence M. Miles; and brother Darwin Brewer.

A Life Celebration for Robert will be held on October 18, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 with a Memorial Service at 7:00 p.m. Interment will private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Robert's name may be made to: Maryland SPCA, Development Office, 3300 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21211, or by calling, 410-235-8826, ext. 136 or online at: https://secure.mdspca.org/site/Donation2;jsessionid=00000000.app30040b?1400.donation=form1&df_id=1400&mfc_pref=T&NONCE_TOKEN=DDEB09C5CDC5CDC78F7661D67DE9302

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD

Bernard "Bernie" Clyde Raley, Sr.



Bernard "Bernie" Clyde Raley, Sr. of Mechanicsville, Maryland passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Saturday, October 12, 2019 after a battle with cancer that he fought ever so quietly and with great courage. Born August 3, 1955, he was the son of the late John Barker (Jack) Raley and Mary Bernadine Raley. He is survived by his children, Bernard Clyde Raley, Jr. and Jaime Lennox Baer and two grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters Cindy Pilkerton and Debby Greenwell (Larry), his brother John B. Raley, Jr. (Cathy) and many nieces and nephews. Bernie was a lifelong resident of St.

Mary's County and graduated from Chopticon High School. He worked in automotive parts most of his adult life and knew just about everything when it came to truck parts. He was known as the man with the answer and worked as the parts manager for Tommy's Truck Parts and Supply for 28 years, where many of his customers became lifetime friends. Bernie lived life simply, loved telling stories of the "good ole "days, and was a stranger to no one. He enjoyed listening to music and watching car racing. At an early age, he and his neighborhood buddies were always tinkering with an old blue Ford Econoline van they affectionately called the "Little Blue Hen". Always trying to make it "race" worthy, they would often be seen racing it up and down the fields at Green Manor Farm. Bernie was a gentle soul, had a kind and generous heart, and was always giving to others. He was a dedicated and tireless member of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department serving as Vice President for many years. He was often seen in the department's social hall in the wee hours of the morning cleaning and buffing the floors, getting the room ready for the next event, or cleaning and polishing every truck after a fire call, taking great pride in his work. The family will receive friends at a memorial service at the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, Maryland on Thursday, October 17, 2019, from 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650, or the Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 15, Mechanicsville, Maryland, 20659.

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

Arrangements have been made at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

AZC Michael David Slaughter, USN (Ret.)



AZC Michael David Slaughter, USN (Ret.), 50, of Dameron, MD, passed away unexpectedly on October 3, 2019 at his residence.

Born on May 30, 1969, in St. Louis, Missouri, he was the son of the late David F. Slaughter and Nancy Jean Slaughter.

Mike proudly joined the United States Navy in June, 1990 and served his country honorably. Mike was a proud American and spent his life devoted to protecting his country. During his enlistment, he received several awards and commendations. Mike continued to support the United States Navy (USN), as a civilian working as a Naval Fleet Server Array Lead. He was highly respected by all in his profession.

Although pride in his work was important to him, Mike became a fundamentally changed man when he became a father sixteen years ago to his beautiful and intelligent daughter, Ashley. She was the reason he smiled every day and his greatest accomplishment in life. The times Mike spent with Ashley were his best moments.

Mike enjoyed fishing in the early spring days and summer evenings, and on a crisp autumn morning he felt the call of the wild and could be found out in the early hours hunting. He spent many days reading or watching documentaries about history. Mike was a history buff and an amateur explorer. He also enjoyed gardening and growing his own vegetables. He was greatly loved and will be missed by many family and friends.

Mike is survived by his daughter,

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Ashley LeeAnn Slaughter of Freeport, Maine; one brother, Richard W. Slaughter (Sandra) of North Port, Florida. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Mike's family will receive friends on Friday, October 18, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. A prayer service will be heard at 11:30 a.m. officiated by Pastor Dave Huffman at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory. The inurnment with full military honors will be held immediately after the Prayer Service at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD

Bill Fisher



Bill Fisher, 67, of Colton's point, MD passed away on October 9, 2019 at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., after a short but heroic battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving wife and brother and sister.

He was born in New Brunswick, N.J. on April 4, 1952 to the late John and Helen Fisher.

He graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, N.J. and went on to attend Slippery Rock University where

he graduated with a B.S. in Education. He was a member of the Slippery Rock Marching Band for all 4 years, culminating in being selected as one of the two Drum Majors for his senior year. Slippery Rock is where he also met his future wife and best friend Sheila and discovered his lifelong passion for teaching and advocating for educational issues for all students and educators.

Bill was an elementary school teacher for Charles County Public Schools, MD for 43 years. He taught both 4th and 5th grade over the span of his teaching career and taught at J.C. Parks, Bryons Road, MD, William B. Wade, Waldorf, MD, Eva Turner, Waldorf, MD and Dr. Higdon, Newburg, MD. During his tenure in Charles County Public Schools he was an active member of both the local education association (EACC) and the state education association (MSEA). He was elected Vice-President of EACC in 1999-2002 and President in 2003-2009. At the state level he served on the Executive Board of MSEA from 2007-2009 and was elected their state Treasurer in 2011-2017. He was extremely proud to be a public school teacher and worked diligently to address both student and teacher issues.

In 1995 Bill and Sheila moved to Colton's Point, MD in St. Mary's County and began their long awaited adventure of living on the water on beautiful St. Patrick's Creek. Between the beauty of the wildlife, the calmness of the water view and the friendliness of all who lived in the 7th District, Bill and Sheila had found their dream home which they named Teachers Rest.

Bill and Sheila retired from teaching in 2017 and enjoyed traveling to visit family and friends out of state, attending Baltimore Orioles games, gardening, fishing, crabbing, meeting up with fellow retirees for dinner, and hanging out with the nicest and most incredible circle of friends.

Bill is survived by his wife of 44 years, Sheila, brother John Fisher (wife Pat), sister Ilona Gundersen, brothers-in-law Chuck O'Brien, Michael O'Brien (wife Ellen), sister-in-law Pat Gereg (husband

Les), 15 nieces and nephews, 18 great nieces and nephews and 3 great-great nieces and nephews.

Friends, family members, former students, and marching band alumni will remember Bill as a devoted husband, loving brother, uncle, godfather, dedicated teacher and mentor, grill master, bartender extraordinaire, devoted Redskins, Baltimore Orioles, and Slippery Rock Football fan, and all around good guy. His wife Sheila will always remember him as a devoted husband, best friend, a man who could make her laugh at the drop of a hat and the love of her life.

Family will receive friends on Sunday, October 20, 2019 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 4:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Angels Catholic Church, 21340 Coltons Point Road, Avenue, MD 20609. Interment is private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Slippery Rock Marching Band, c/o Slippery Rock University, 1 Morrow Way, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Alice Louise Daras

Alice Louise (Murphy) Daras, 61, of Scotland, Md., died on Oct. 6, 2019, at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Born May 14, 1958, she was the daughter of the late Evelyn and Martin Murphy.

A graduate of Crossland High School in Camp Springs, Md., Alice was a 2011 alumna of Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences. She obtained her master's from North Carolina State University in 2014. After spending time as an imaging technician at Sibley Memorial Hospital and Southern Maryland Hospital Center, she began work at St.



Mary's Hospital in 1998. She continued there as a radiology tech and lead in the angiogram program until a debilitating accident in 2014. Alice was very proud of her healthcare career, serving as a mentor, teacher, and friend to many in the angio department. She enjoyed assisting patients through complicated procedures and hearing their individual stories.

Alice loved spending time with her family, going out on the Chesapeake and enjoying the beach, sharing good food and celebrating life's milestones. She will be remembered by many for her generosity, warmth, and outgoing nature, and missed deeply.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Michael Daras; her son, Eric Long, and daughter-in-law, Katie Long; her granddaughter, Autumn Long; her stepson, John Daras; beloved friends, Roseanne Newell and Rose Harper; and many others whose lives she touched. She was "Mama Alice" to Holli Locklear, Sylvia Daras and Marlayna Daras, as well as their children. Alice was predeceased by her brother, Michael, and her parents.

Arrangement details will follow.

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

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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.

Upcoming

Fall Craft Fair

Hughesville Baptist Church
8505 Old Leonardtown Road
Hughesville

Oct. 26. Come check the latest Christmas creations from the talented ladies of the church. Home made treats will be available. For more information call 301-274-3672 or 240-254-2765

Sandwich Sale

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton's Point Road
Avenue

Oct. 26 and Oct. 27. Pork and roast beef. The event will be from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and sandwiches will cost \$7.00 each. Check <http://alpost221.webs.com/apps/calendar/> for other Post events. Call (301) 884-4071 for further information.

Holiday Designer Purse Bingo to Benefit Stephen's Fund

The Charlotte Hall Rotary Club will host their 20th Annual Holiday Designer Purse Bingo to benefit Stephen's Fund on Sunday, November 3rd at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall. Proceeds will benefit special needs children and their families. Doors open at 11:30... early birds at 1:00...regular games at 1:30. Pull tabs, King Tut, 50/50, food, door prizes and more. \$30 for 20 Regular games (\$25 for prepaid admission)...\$5 for Extra Game Packet...\$5 for Early Birds (5) and Specials \$1 each (5). Table reservations for prepaid ticket holders only. You can pay by PayPal Shirley. mattingly@verizon.net (\$25) & choose Friends & Family...please do not pick "for goods and services". Checks can also be mailed for prepaid tickets but must be received in office by November 1st. Please mail to:

The Charlotte Hall Rotary Foundation
c/o Mattingly Insurance
28290 Three Notch Rd
Mechanicsville MD 20659

Fall Bake Sale and Craft Fair

Hughesville Baptist Church
Saturday, October 26th
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

All proceeds go to the Growing for God campaign

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019

Healthwatch presents: Eye Health-Complications and Care

Loffler Senior Activity Center
21905 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills

10a.m to 11:30 a.m.

Linda Weintraub, volunteer Healthwatch Instructor, will discuss maintaining the health of your eyes. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658, or stop by the reception desk to sign up.

Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser

Fitzies Marina Restaurant and Pub
Joe Hazel Road
Leonardtown
4p.m. to 7p.m.

Ticket sales start at 4pm, last sale at 6:45pm, drawing at 7pm
Dates: Every Thursday until the Queen of Hearts is chosen by the winner.

Herrman's Remarkable Map of the 17th-Century Chesapeake

Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Lane
St. Mary's City
7p.m. to 8p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center Auditorium. This talk by Christian Koot, Ph.D. uncovers the story of this map by tracing its Atlantic journey and explaining what it reveals about colonial Maryland. This lecture is free and open to the public.

Widow/Widower Group

23076 Three Notch Road
Suite 304
California
6p.m. to 8p.m.

No matter how long since your loss—20 days or 20 years—women and men are welcome to attend to gain support and practical advice to help in dealing with the unique grief brought on by the loss of a spouse.

Friday, Oct. 18, 2019

Scott Verbie Golf Tournament

Wicomico Shores Golf Course
35794 Aviation Yacht Club Rd
Mechanicsville
8a.m. to 3p.m.

All proceeds will benefit the Recreation & Parks Scholarship Fund that provides recreational opportunities to youth in St. Mary's County.

2019 Community Health & Wellness Fair

Southern Maryland Higher Education Center
44219 Airport Road
California
9a.m. to 3p.m.

During this year's Community Health & Wellness Fair, screenings will include body composition, glucose, skin cancer, hearing, vision, and blood pressure. Licensed Massage Therapist Gwynne Hill with California Total Body Massage will be on site from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. offering free mini-massages. The Pharmacy at PJ Bean will be supplying flu shots. Bring your insurance card to get your flu shot; all insurance agencies are accepted.

Elks Texas Holdem Tournament

St Mary's County Elks Lodge
45779 Fire Dept Lane
California
7p.m. to midnight

\$60 Buy in = 7000 chips. Optional \$5 add-on and receive 1,000 chips. Sign up by 6:50 and receive an extra 500 chips.

Total Starting Stack could be 8500 chips. Each player can re-enter one time before the end of the first break for \$60 (8000 chips). This is not a late entry event you must be signed in before the start of the tournament.

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019

Lions Annual Scholarship Yard Sale

Quality Transfer and Storage
22390 Three Notch Rd
Lexington Park
7a.m. to noon

Proceeds fund scholarships for graduating Great Mills High School seniors and support our local community outreach. Mega sale; lots to choose from. For more information call Lion Bob Hayward, 301-904-4710.

Intro to Aerial Yoga

root SUP & Fitness
22725 Duke St Leonardtown
9:30a.m. to 10:30a.m.

Learn the benefits of the hammocks and feel the difference in traditional yoga poses & how they transfer to the fabric. For more information and/or to sign up. please visit our website rootsupfitness.com

Lost City

Historic St. Mary's City
47414 Old State House Road
St. Mary's City
5p.m. to 8p.m.

Join us for a trick-or-treating event that will have you weaving through the "lost city" of St. Mary's, and stepping on board the haunted ship (a.k.a. Maryland Dove). (240) 895-4990, info@HSMCdighistory.org

1st Annual Halloween Family Dance and Costume Contest

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
Rescue Lane
Hollywood
6p.m. to 10p.m.

\$5 per person entry fee, includes 2 pieces of pizza and soft drinks/juice
Children prizes for the most creative, scariest and cutest costumes. Come out to the Hollywood Rescue Squad and have some family fun

Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019

Fall Tea with My Doll & Me

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
28165 Hills Club Road
Mechanicsville
1p.m. to 4p.m.

There will be tea sandwiches and desserts along with iced tea, hot tea, lemonade and water. This is a pre-registered event and space is limited. Tickets are \$25 per person. Please go to www.mvfd.com/teaparty to purchase tickets and register.

Public Sail on the Dee of St. Mary's

Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Road
Solomons
2:30 p.m. to 4:30p.m.

The Dee of St. Mary's is a sailing skipjack used in the museum's Chesapeake Bay Field Lab programs. All sails depart from the CMM dock, weather permitting. \$25 for ages 13 and up \$15 for children 5-12. No children under 5 permitted on sails.

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019

Nutrition Counseling & Presentation with Donna Taggart

Garvey Senior Activity Center
41780 Baldrige Street
Leonardtown
8:30a.m. to 11:30a.m.

Call Ms. Taggart directly to make your appointment: 240-528-6539. She has openings at 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. for counseling. In October her presentation will be on "How to Eat to Trim Belly Fat". There is no cost to attend; however, advance sign up is required. Register for presentations by calling 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019

Taco Tuesday

VFW Post 2632, California
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019

Spooktacular Lunchtime Theater

Garvey Senior Activity Center
41780 Baldrige Street
Leonardtown
Noon to 1:30p.m.

Will it be a comedy of creepy characters or a haunting tale of terror? Don't miss out on this Halloween event. You may laugh so much your hair will stand on end! The menu for the day will be BBQ chicken, oven roasted red potatoes & onions, roasted carrots, WW dinner roll, baked apples & low sodium V8 juice. For those under 60 the cost of your meal is \$6. To make reservations call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019

Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser

Fitzies Marina Restaurant and Pub
Joe Hazel Road
Leonardtown
4p.m. to 7p.m.

Ticket Sales Start at 4pm, last sale at 6:45pm, drawing at 7pm
Every Thursday until the Queen of Hearts is chosen by the winner.

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; Eric Colvin; Todd B. Morgan; John E. O'Connor; and the Department of Aging & Human Services

Community Health & Wellness Fair - Event to be held Friday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

It's that time of year again! The 2019 Health Fair, sponsored by the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., in the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, located at 44219 Airport Road in California, MD.

During this year's Community Health & Wellness Fair, screenings will include body composition, glucose, skin cancer, hearing, vision, and blood pressure.

Licensed Massage Therapist Gwynne Hill with California Total Body Massage will be on site from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. offering free mini-massages. The Pharmacy at PJ Bean will be supplying flu shot. Bring your insurance card to get your flu shot, all insurance agencies are accepted. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and St. Mary's County Health Department will be on-site to collect expired or unwanted medications, including diabetic supplies such as needles and lancets.

Do you want to skip the registration line? Attendees can register online at: www.stmarysmd.com/aging/healthfair.asp. Online registrants will be eligible for a special prize! Online registration closes at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17.

The Department thanks our many sponsors for this event, including ClearCaptions, the Center for Vein Restoration, and St. Mary's County Nursing and Rehabili-

tation Center!

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Community Programs & Outreach Manager Sarah Miller at 301-475-4200, ext. 71073, email sarah.miller@stmarysmd.com, visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging/healthfair.asp, or find us on Facebook, keyword St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services.

Volunteer Instructor Opportunities at Loffler

Are you a retired nurse or teacher looking for an opportunity to help the 50+ community through health education? At the Loffler Senior Activity Center, we are looking for someone to offer a health presentation once a month on topics pertinent to mature adults. Other desired volunteer instructors include crafts and sewing. If you would like to share your knowledge or talents, please call Shellie at 301-475-4200, ext. 71655, or e-mail Sheila.Grazia-no@stmarysmd.com

Luncheon with Bruce Thomas

Guest vocalist Bruce Thomas will be here at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 12 p.m. Bruce is a diverse performer who can effortlessly move through the musical categories of inspirational, swing, jazz, pop, and R&B. Please join us for his energetic and interactive performance while dining. The menu for lunch will be lasagna, tossed salad w/dressing, WW dinner roll,

spinach, canned plums and orange juice. A donation toward the cost of your meal is appreciated if you are 60 years of age or older. For those under 60 the cost of your meal will be \$6. To make reservations call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

Spooktacular Lunchtime Theater

Save the date for our next Spooktacular Lunchtime Theatre Wednesday, Oct. 23, at 12 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center. Will it be a comedy of creepy characters or a haunting tale of terror? Don't miss out on this Halloween event. You may laugh so much your hair will stand on end! The menu for the day will BBQ chicken, oven roasted red potatoes & onions, roasted carrots, WW dinner roll, baked apples & low sodium V8 juice. A donation toward the cost of your meal is appreciated if you are 60 years of age or older. For those under 60 the cost of your meal will be \$6. To make reservations call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

AARP Smart Driving Course

The Northern Senior Activity Center will host the AARP Smart Driving Course on Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This course includes proven safety strategies that older drivers can use to compensate for changes as they age and allow them to drive more safely and confidently for as long as possible. The fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members with cash or check made payable to AARP. Payment is required to sign up for the class. Class is 4 hours with

a break for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is a donation from seniors 60 and older; \$6 for others made the day of the class. To sign up and pay for this class in advance and to sign up for lunch, please visit the front desk. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 73101.

Halloween Party at Loffler

Kick off the holiday season at the Loffler Senior Activity Center by celebrating Halloween! The party starts on Thursday, Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. with music, dancing, occasional spurts of impromptu entertainment (bring your good nature- there will be a few tricks and they may be on you!) along with a scary lunch: Spicy Spider Cider, Coffin-Wrapped Monster with Sour Yellow Sauce, Dirt-Dabbled Orange Earth Apples, Green Leaves with Severed (Mandarin) Sections, Honeyed Toadstool, and for dessert: Smothered Burial Mounds. (If you are too squeamish for this repast, you can be served the following instead- Bratwurst & Roll with mustard, Seasoned Oven Fried Sweet Potato, Mandarin Orange & Spinach Salad, Honey Baked Apple, and a Cupcake). If you want to ramp up the fun, wear a costume- there will be prizes in several categories! This is a ticketed event (\$6 suggested donation) with a limited number of tickets available. Stop by Loffler to get your tickets while they are still available. Call 301-475-4200, ext.71658, if you have any questions.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

Paws to Read

Leonardtown Library will hold Paws to Read on Saturday, October 26 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. Registration will open on October 12

Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Fall Booksale

Leonardtown Library will host the Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Fall Booksale on Sunday, October 27 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Come to the Leonardtown Library to find amazing deals on excellent books! Support the Friends of the St. Mary's County Library! This is a rain or shine event. Credit cards, cash and checks accepted.

Spooktacular and Trick-or-treating

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be holding a fun Halloween activity! Charlotte Hall Library will hold a Spooktacular on Saturday, October 26 from 10:30 – 11:30. Lexington Park Library will hold a Spooktacular on Tuesday, October 29 from 6 – 7 p.m. Come enjoy trick-or-treating in the library and play some carnival games, all while dressed in your own costume. It's some not-so-spooky fun for the whole family! No registration required. Leonardtown Library will hold Trick-or-Treat in the Library on Thursday, October 31 from 6 – 7 p.m. Enjoy trick-or-treating in the library and participate in a costume parade to show off your awesome Halloween costume. It's some not-so-spooky fun for the whole family! No registration required.

Book Bites

St. Mary's County Library will hold Book Bites at Taphouse 1637 on Monday, October 28 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Grab a bite and gab about books! Join us at Taphouse 1637 in California for a discussion of this year's One Maryland One Book selection, What the Eyes Don't See, as well as a relaxed conversation about other books you've been reading. Visit taphouse1637.com for directions and to see menu options available for purchase. Adults only. No registration.

Lights and Shadows

Leonardtown Library will hold Lights and Shadows for ages 4 – 8 on Friday, November 1 from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Shadows are so mysterious! Join us to learn all about how shadows work, why different things have different shadows, and take home a cool outline of your own shadow. Registration will open on October 18.

NaNoWriMo Kickoff Party

Lexington Park Library will hold a NaNoWriMo Kickoff Party on Saturday, November 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is recommended. November is National Novel Writers' Month, otherwise known as NaNoWriMo, a nationwide challenge for writers to write 50,000 words in the month of November. That's 1,667 words per day, so let's get started! Kick off National Novel Writing Month with us and get that book that's inside you on the page. Bring your laptop, notebook or flash drive. Light refreshments provided. Local Author Angela Harris will be presenting "It's in the Bag." This interactive and entertaining workshop will help fellow writers learn how to overcome writers' block. Learn a method called "throwing up on the page," construct a group poem using this method, and then participate in a round table event. Attendees are asked to bring one short selection (3 minutes or less) that will be shared with the group during the round table session for positive feedback.

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ST. MARY'S County Times

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MASTER GARDENER (MG) COORDINATOR (position #123404)

50% half-time (20 hrs/wk) faculty position, renewable annually. University of Maryland Extension – St. Mary’s County in Leonardtown office. Coordinator performs a variety of duties to support educational activities related to gardening and horticulture for the St. Mary’s Master Gardener Program. Coordinate volunteers, maintain member enrollment files, arrange for training programs, assist MGs in producing newsletters and outreach materials, provide some marketing and public relations support to UME office, present information in public meetings and keep up with current research and information on gardening. Position requires standard office skills – computer, Internet, email, etc.

Qualifications: Bachelor’s Degree, M.S. Degree preferred. Experience working with volunteers. Must be able to pass a criminal background check. Valid MD driver’s license and personal car for work. Must apply at: <https://ejobs.umd.edu>

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