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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020

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Mon 3/9 65° 50°F 	Tue 3/10 66° 50°F 	Wed 3/11 62° 46°F 	Thu 3/12 55° 43°F

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Navy Environmental Investigation Draws a Packed Crowd

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For decades the U.S. Navy has used a special foam to extinguish fires on Patuxent River NAS, known as aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).

These foams contain a substance called per- and polyfluoralkyl (PFAS) which the Navy says has been potentially released on 18 sites on base over the years; the Navy says that PFAS has become an "emerging public health concern."

The Navy is beginning an investigation into the possible release sites, particularly into PFAS levels in ground water.

A crowd of residents filled the main meeting room of the Lexington Park public library March 2, many demanding answers on how much PFAS has been introduced to the base environment and surrounding areas.

Some in the community have claimed that PFAS from naval activities has polluted nearby waterways, specifically St. Inigoes Creek.

The Webster Field Annex is located in St. Inigoes.

Patrick Gordon, public information officer for Pax River NAS, said the Navy is still unsure of all the affects PFAS could have, but said the testing done independently regarding St. Inigoes Creek could not be verified.

PFAS have also long been used in many consumer products such as cookware.

"While we appreciate concerns over PFAS, without knowing how and under what conditions this single sample tested at St. Inigoes was collected, it is impossible to comment on its veracity or accuracy," Gordon said in a statement before Tuesday night's meeting.

"What we're focusing on is the historic use of AFFF," Gordon told The County Times. "We're learning more about it [PFAS] every day."

At the meeting representatives of the Navy said that drinking water on base met all the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Also, between 2014 and 2017 all the drinking water systems on base were tested for PFAS and none of the compounds were detected in those tests, the Navy claimed.

The possible release sites for PFAS on base were determined by a preliminary study, the Navy stated, and full investigation of the sites will begin this spring.

One site on base aside from the 18 under consideration has been sampled for PFAS and it was detected in shallow groundwater, the Navy stated.



Residents came in large numbers seeking answers about possible contaminants on Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

The PFAS concentrations range from none to 1,100 parts per trillion, according to the Navy. According to the Navy Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), which is overseeing the investigation, PFAS have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. The EPA continues to study PFAS to determine if regulation is needed, according to NAVFAC.

Dave Steckler, a hydrogeologist and remedial project manager for Patuxent River NAS, said testing will also be conducted at the Webster Field Annex.

"We've identified one site there that might contain the compounds," Steckler said. "It should be tested in either late spring or early summer."

Bob Lewis, executive director for the St. Mary's River Watershed Association, said he and others who attended the meeting wanted more information.

"A lot of people were disappointed... it seems they had little information about drift [of PFAS] off the site," Lewis said. "This is a big issue for us, about how PFAS could be affecting the crabs, fish and oysters."

Lewis said, though, that he believed "one the whole the quality of seafood was not compromised."

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Commissioners Approve Deputy Salary Increases

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sheriff's office deputies got a major salary increase March 2 when the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved a new pay scale that put an extra \$3.4 million towards their compensation.

Catherine Pratson, director of the county's Human Resources section, told commissioners this amounted to an 18 percent pay raise for sworn law enforcement officers here.

In December Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron requested a salary scale increase for deputies to meet the pay parity compared with Charles County deputies and Maryland State Police.

The commissioners on a split vote initially denied the request but signaled they would take up the issue once again after seeing firmer fiscal 2021 budget projections.

At the time, commissioners who voted against it were criticized for not doing enough to retain deputies with better pay; in November commissioners approved an 11 percent pay increase for county correctional officers working at the detention center.

The March 2nd vote was a unanimous one for commissioners.

The commissioners also approved a request from the 7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad to take to the fiscal 2021 budget public hearing in April a rescue tax increase proposal.

The volunteers based in Avenue want an increase from .011 cents to .30 cents per \$100 of assessed value on properties, which is the maximum level allowed for the rescue tax increase.

The 7th District volunteers are the first rescue squad in the county to engage a paid contract crew to take over daytime service to the community.

The tax increase, squad leadership has said, would be used in part to pay for the daytime crew; volunteers who are available to answer calls during that time have been in short supply there.

"We're going to really have to consider, looking down the road establishing some pot of money for emergency services and professional services," said Commissioner Todd Morgan. "Like it or not, if the bill's going to come... we have to determine what that cost is going to be."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Hogan Urges Bay Restoration Funding

Writes to Top Republicans and Democrats

Governor Larry Hogan, chairman of the Chesapeake Executive Council, wrote to congressional leaders on Feb. 28 calling for a reversal of proposed cuts to federal funding for Chesapeake Bay restoration. Maryland is urging an increase in funding to \$90.5 million, while the Trump administration's proposed FY21 budget cuts funding for these programs by more than 90 percent, to \$7.3 million.

"Our administration has committed record investments in bay restoration—more than \$6 billion since I took office—but we are one state in a regional partnership that spans 64,000 square miles, and includes six other jurisdictions," writes Governor Hogan.

"The administration's proposed cut to the Chesapeake Bay Program is short-sighted and in stark contrast to the strong commitments the United States has made to the Chesapeake Bay."

Each of the last two years, Governor Hogan has led a successful bipartisan push to protect and increase federal funding for Chesapeake Bay restoration. In his FY21 budget, Governor Hogan fully funds Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, including record funding for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

"Maintaining strong federal support for the Chesapeake Bay Program, as well as the scientific and modeling framework that underpins the effort, is essential to enhancing, protecting and restoring the waterway's health and economic vitality of the region and nation," the governor writes. "Through this collaboration with our federal, state and local partners, we are now witnessing real results, including cleaner water, more vibrant communities and healthier lands."

The Chesapeake Executive Council consists of the governors of the six watershed states, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the administrator of the EPA.

Press Release from Office of Gov. Larry Hogan



Gov. Larry Hogan

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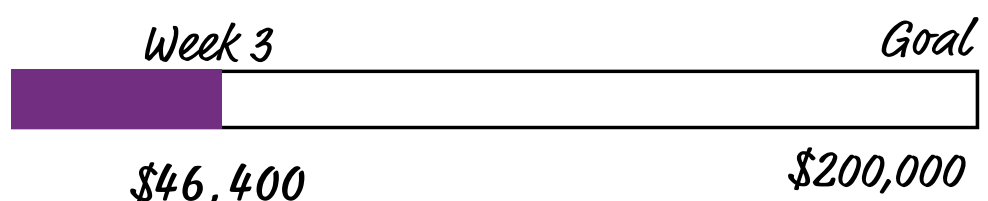
“Helping the Community One Person at a Time”

is the motto of The Mission, a 501c3 organization, founded in 2013 by two veteran U.S. Marines, and twin brothers Robert and Richard Myers. The Mission serves the homeless, working poor and those with mental health issues who cannot work.

The Mission has started a campaign to raise money for the down payment to purchase the building they have been located in for the past eight years. The landlord has given The Mission notice that they will not be renewing their lease, which ends in April, and has placed the property on the market.

A Christian outreach, The Mission is located on 21015 Great Mills Road (former location of the Midway Lounge Bar). The Mission is 100% funded with local private funds. Generous individuals, businesses, and a handful of churches make The Mission's 365 day-a-year outreach possible.

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Barricade Suspect Charged with Threats of Mass Violence

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Police were able to arrest a suspect peacefully who had barricaded himself inside a home off of Richey Road in Valley Lee last week, but not before the suspect had allegedly assaulted a woman with whom he had had a previous relationship.

Jamel Tiant Mitchell, 35, of Avenue also threatened to detonate explosive devices and fire on law enforcement officers who had responded to the scene on Pasture View Way Feb. 28 at about 9:45a.m.

When sheriff's deputies first arrived at the home of the victim, Ashley Rose Dean, she told them Mitchell, who had a protective order against him to stay away from Dean, had grabbed her wrists and her throat in an attempt to get her cell-phone from her, charging documents state.

Police said there were visible injuries to Dean's neck.

The couple had an intimate relationship, court papers stated, and have two children together.

Mitchell fled the home before police arrived but returned after police had left and started another disturbance, court papers stated, and barricaded himself in the home by the time police had returned.

While police were negotiating with him, Mitchell threatened to detonate multiple explosive devices, identified as grenades, charging documents stated, while still inside the residence "if we did not backup from the residence."

Mitchell also threatened to open fire on police, court papers stated, "if we did not stop calling him, he would come out and shoot the first 10 people he saw."

Those threats led to Mitchell being charged with making threats of arson and also threatening mass violence as well as second-degree assault and violation of a protective order.

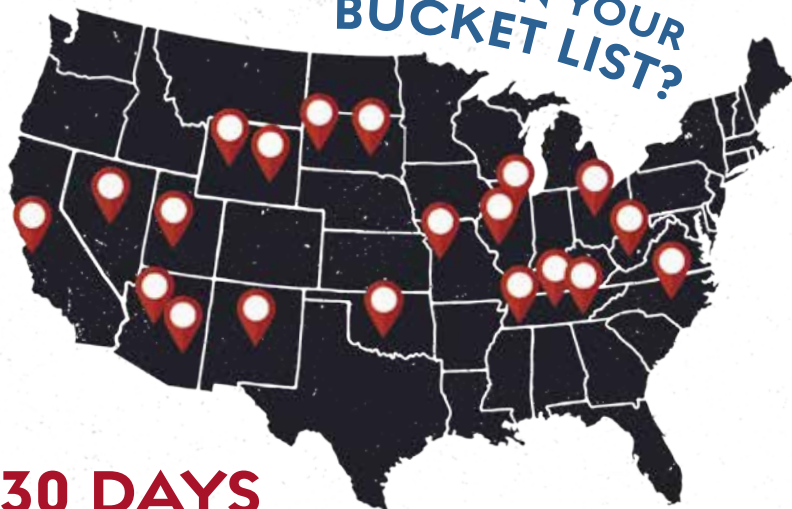
Mitchell remains incarcerated on a no-bond status at the county adult detention center.

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Jamel Mitchell

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Sheriff's Office Seeks Funding for North County COPS



COPS Unit members deal with all members of the community, including the homeless.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County gave their approval to a sheriff's office request to seek grant funding for four new sheriff's deputies' positions that would be assigned to community-oriented police (COPS) duties in the northern portion of St. Mary's County.

The funding, if the sheriff's office wins the grant, would come from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for \$500,000 allocated to the county over a three-year period.

A budget amendment would be required by the county each year of \$753,699 to make up the rest of the funding needed to hire, train, equip and pay the four new deputies, according to county government documents.

That \$753,699 is not included in the sheriff's office current budget.

Sgt. Shawn Moses, who commands the COPS Unit in Lexington Park, said just five officers are assigned to an area of three-square miles to make arrests.

But the deputies also reach out to the community and build relationships, Moses told county commissioners, to prevent crimes and help typically under-

served populations.

COPS Unit deputies frequently deal with the local homeless population in Lexington Park.

"What we want to do is try to replicate that success in North County," Moses said.

If such a program were put into place, Moses said, the deputies would be responsible for an area from Route 245 north all the way up to the border with Charles County in Charlotte Hall.

After three years, Commissioner John O'Connor said, the county would have to pay for the deputies that had been funded by the grant money or reapply for the grant.

O'Connor said residents in North County, with densely populated areas such as Golden Beach and Country Lakes in Mechanicsville, had long wanted more police presence for their neighborhoods.

"I've heard significantly from folks in the Golden Beach area 'Why don't we have the same level of policing... that's down in Lexington Park?'" O'Connor said. "I think it meets a need the community is asking for."

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Teachers, School Board Reach Compensation Agreement

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A new negotiated agreement between the school system and the Education Association of St. Mary's County (EASMC) brings pay increases to teachers for the next four years.

The two negotiating groups came to a tentative agreement on Feb. 20, according to a press release from the school system.

The agreement includes annual salary improvements for all of the employees represented by EASMC, both teachers and educational support staff.

For fiscal 2021, the upcoming fiscal year, a one percent salary scale increase would take effect followed by a 1.75 percent salary scale increase in fiscal 2022.

In both fiscal 2023 and fiscal 2024 a two percent scale increase would take effect under the current agreement.

The agreement also provides more pay for extra duties teachers and support staff take on as well, according to the release.

Teachers who take professional improvement courses would also be able to get enhanced reimbursements for their course tuition; this would include employees who are not yet teachers who are seeking their certification.

"This agreement continues to move us toward a competitive and fair pay scale for our teachers and support staff," said Schools Superintendent J. Scott Smith. "It also ensures benefits that meet our employees' needs and invests in their professional growth."

Liz Leskinen, EASMC's chief negotiator, said the agreement took the better part of a year to negotiate the agreement.



Superintendent
Scott Smith



Commissioner
Todd Morgan

She said educators hoped the state legislature would enact the funding plan for the Kirwan Commission, also known as the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

"We look forward to a day when the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will ensure enough resources, including highly qualified and motivated educators, for every student to have equal access to a great education."

The school board approved a \$232.6 million budget at their Feb. 26 meeting that calls for the county to pony up \$9.4 million more than the current budget, including \$2 million from the county's fund balance for technology upgrades. Of the total increase, more than \$5 million is set aside for employee salaries, including funding the new negotiated agreement.

Before making the decision, the school board did make \$2 million in cuts to the superintendent's proposed budget to make up for a \$2 million reduction in anticipated state revenue. Those cuts were made largely

to proposed new positions, although the school board did retain the proposed new safety assistants

Commissioner Todd Morgan said the county's ability to pay for the negotiated agreement would depend on finding the revenue for it.

"I'm going to ask for a fiscal note," Morgan said. "Because I'm seeing all these salary scale adjustments on top of a step increase each year.

"I don't know what all that means."

Editor Dick Myers contributed to this story.
guyleonard@countytimes.net

Academy Applications Being Accepted

St. Mary's County Public Schools will accept online applications for its four signature Academy Programs: The STEM Academy, The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, The Academy of Global and International Studies, and The Academy of Finance. Applications can be accessed online at www.smcps.org/academies and will open beginning Wednesday, March 4, 2020. The application window will close on Friday, April 17, 2020. Please note that no late applications will be accepted.

Additional information about the Academy Programs, to include course offerings, application criteria, and frequently asked questions, can be found at www.smcps.org/academies. For more information, contact the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at 301-475-5511, extension 32104.

People with Disabilities Accepting Nominations for Awards Program

The Commission on People with Disabilities is accepting nominations now through June 1, 2020, for the 12th Annual Awards Program.

The function of the awards program is to promote awareness of the outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations that improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in St. Mary's County.

Six awards are issued annually, in July, in celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Award categories are:

Volunteer: candidate should demonstrate exceptional efforts on behalf of the disabled community through volunteering time and energy.

Notable Employer: candidate should demonstrate exceptional effort in advancing employment and or volunteer opportunities to persons with disabilities.

Care Partner Award: candidate must be a direct care provider, either paid or volunteer who advocates for and empowers individuals with disabilities.

Innovative Program: candidate should exhibit innovative plan and its execution for inclusion of persons with disabilities in an area of community life.

Vicki Brown Award (2 awards): candidate must be a person with a disability that enjoys all aspects of life, is a role model and inspiration for others and participates in advancement of barrier free access for all.

Student Award: includes a person of any age enrolled as a student in any capacity.

Adult Award: includes a person 18 years old and over

Any person, business or organization within St. Mary's County is eligible and may be submitted by any party.

In the event no candidate is nominated, an award will not be issued. Winners of an award may be resubmitted in successive years consideration of an award. The awards will be presented in July 2020.

Applications: <https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/COPDawards%20brochure.pdf>

Respondents are invited to mail nominations to the Commission on People with Disabilities, c/o Jennifer Martinez, ADA Coordinator, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.stmarysmd.com/american disabilities/DisabilityAwardsProgram.asp>

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Sheriff, Captain and Deputies Respond to Burning Vehicle

Sheriff Tim Cameron, Capt. Steven Hall, Commander of the Special Operations Division, Sgt. Shawn Moses and Deputy Benjamin Luffey responded on Monday, March 2, 2020, to a vehicle on fire. The Ford Explorer was traveling northbound on Route 5 in Leonardtown when officers spotted the vehicle spitting out flames from the rear of the vehicle.



The driver pulled off of the highway at the entrance to Clark's Rest in Leonardtown, followed by St. Mary's County Sheriff's deputies. With assistance of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, the fire was quickly extinguished.

The driver was not injured.

Sheriff's Office Press Release

SHERIFF'S OFFICE BLOTTER

Assault/DWI- On February 22 Dep. Palmer responded to the 21600 block of Hancock Drive in Lexington Park, for the reported vehicle collision. Upon arrival Brandon Louis Thompson, age 34 of Great Mills, was observed fleeing the scene on foot. Thompson was detained and identified as the operator of the vehicle involved in the collision. While conducting the investigation Thompson grabbed the arm of a deputy on scene. Thompson was determined to be operating the vehicle under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance and arrested. Thompson was charged with Driving While so Impaired by Drugs Incapable of Driving Safely, Driving While Impaired by Controlled Dangerous Substance, and Assault 2nd Degree.



BRANDON THOMPSON

Malicious Destruction of Property- On February 23 Dep. Luffey responded to the 21300 block of Three Notch Road in Lexington Park, for the reported disturbance. Investigation determined Shailita Shorna Holt, age 23 of Lexington Park, destroyed numerous glass items belonging to the victim during and argument. Holt was arrested and charged with Malicious Destruction of Property.



SHALITA HOLT

Assault- On February 23 Dep. Haas responded to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, for the reported assault. Investigation determined Machiavelli Tyzhae Savoy, age 22 of Lexington Park, assaulted the victim by striking the victim several times during an argument. Savoy was charged with Assault 2nd Degree.



MACHIAVELLI SAVOY

False Statement/Assault- On February 24 Dep. Henry responded to the 20800 block of Langley Road in Lexington Park, for the reported assault. Erica Christine Drinks, age 48 of no fixed address, advised deputies she had been assaulted by the victim. Through the investigation it was determined Drinks had actually assaulted the victim by using her elbow to strike the victim on the arm. Drinks was arrested and charged with False Statement and Assault.



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Emerging Leaders Experience Mentorship, Diversity and Team Building

Leadership Southern Maryland's new Emerging Leaders Program (LEAP) Class of 2020 held its second of six program sessions on Feb. 21.

The day opened at Whitney, Bradley & Brown, Inc. in Lexington Park with a discussion on teams and team building with Captain Steven Hall LSM'18, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office. Mayor Mike Benton of North Beach in Calvert County followed with a motivating discussion on mentorship and how to choose a mentor. The day also included a book discussion with Amy Ford LSM'19, Lexington Park's branch manager for St. Mary's County Public Library.

This was followed by small group panel discussions with several St. Mary's County leaders, including Chris Kaslemis, director of St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, Rich Fleming LSM'11, president/CEO of St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce, Sheriff Tim Cameron of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, Captain Chris Cox, USN LSM'19, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, and Lori Werrell LSM'13, regional director of Population & Community Health at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

After lunch, the class members had a discussion on diversity, inclusion and unconscious bias with Mike Bellis LSM'19, executive director of United Way of Charles County, and Josh Bellis, talent & human resources consultant at HR Acuity. The final activity of the day was goal setting with Dottie Tackett, deputy director of Corporate Operations, Naval Surface Warfare Center in Indian Head.

At the conclusion of the program day, the class adjourned to Taphouse 1637 in California to meet Leadership Southern Maryland's current Executive Program Class of 2020 as well as board and council members.

Leadership Southern Maryland's Emerging Leaders Program (LEAP) provides educational programming opportunities to new or emerging leaders in our region. Through a series of six "experiences", young leaders will facilitate, foster, and refine their individual leadership understanding and abilities via structured course curriculum and a focus on self-discovery, teamwork, and networking. These sessions will conclude with a capstone project and graduation in June. Experts from across the region and state representing business, government, education, and the nonprofit community will serve as panelists and guest speakers.

Leadership Southern Maryland is a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service (EIN#26-2989381). Contributions are deductible as charitable contributions to the extent permitted by law.

For more information, please contact Denise Foster, Executive Director, Leadership Southern Maryland, 301-862-SOMD, via email denise@leadershipsomd.org or visit www.leadershipsomd.org.

Press Release from LSM.



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ESPN ANALYST & BESTSELLING AUTHOR

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MedStar St. Mary's Hospital welcomes Leap Day babies

For Peter and Melissa Donnelly of Hollywood, Maryland, Leap Day—that extra day that comes every four years—just became even more special. Their sixth child, Rhett, was born at 1:41 a.m. on Leap Day, Feb. 29, the first of three babies born at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital that day.

Melissa, who was past due with Rhett, said there were two days she was hoping the couple's youngest would not choose to be born on—his brother's birthday and Leap Day.

"I kept saying, 'You can't come on Leap Day, because I don't know how to handle that,'" she said.

But with growing contractions on Feb. 28, the couple found themselves at MedStar St. Mary's around midnight with Rhett arriving shortly thereafter, at 21 inches long and weighing 8 lbs., 6 ounces. And although his brothers and sisters—ranging in age from 17 to 5—hadn't yet been in to see the newest member of the family Saturday afternoon, "I am sure they will be lots of help," said Melissa.

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital Press Release



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1 We are all unique – from the hopes and dreams in our hearts to the DNA in our precious blood.

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The Run & Fun Walk for Hospice wants you to know you don't have to face it alone. Hospice is a team of Drs, Nurses, Aides, Counselors, advocates who meet each patient & family where THEY are – without judgement or ability to pay. Reality is insurance doesn't cover the cost of care we provide to our patients and families in St. Mary's County. For the past 24 years our Team has worked tirelessly to raise money to help provide comfort and care to those facing a terminal illness - raising over \$850,000 for Hospice of St. Mary's. Our goal for our 25th year is to break the \$1 Million Milestone by raising \$150,00 to assist those in their ultimate time of need - and we're asking for your help!

2 Ways to Help:

Saturday, April 18th, 2020

Like us on FB and check out of website www.runforhospice.org

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Register to run or walk – its fun and all net proceeds allow us to care for those patients and families facing a terminal illness. See www.runforhospice.org

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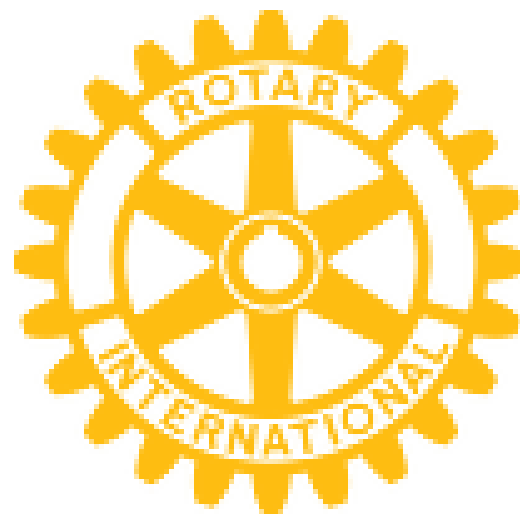
Individuals, families, companies get their names/logos on our t-shirts starting at \$500! For \$2,500 organizations receive 25 registrations! Check out all sponsor opportunities see www.runforhospice.org or call Katy Crowell 301-994-3075 or Jim Dicus 240-925-5423

Leonardtwn Rotary Club Accepting Grant Applications

The Leonardtown Rotary Club is happy to announce that it is opening its call for grant applications for 2020 from St. Mary's County non-profit programs and public services agencies. The deadline for this award period is Wednesday, 15th April 2020. Awards will be announced in May. A key element of "service above self" as practiced by the Leonardtown Rotary Club is providing grant funds to local agencies and programs that provide humanitarian services, with a focus on health, education and wellbeing, to the citizens of St. Mary's County. This is a competitive grant process and awards typically range between \$250 and \$500 depending on the need expressed in the application and funding availability.

To be eligible for the 2020 award, applications must be received on or before Wednesday, 15th April 2020. The application is available on the Leonardtown Rotary website, <http://leonardtwnrotary.org/grants/4589995284>, or by contacting, Joshua Shaffer, Community Service Director, via email at joshuashaffer1979@yahoo.com. Please include a copy of your IRS nonprofit designation form with your application.

Leonardtwn Rotary Club is a participating club in Rotary International. Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.



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

TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



Bluegrass Coming to American Legion Post 238



Celebrating the 15th year of the Bluegrass concerts at the American Legion Post 238 in Hughesville, MD, promoter Jay Armsworthy has brought another award winning group to Southern Maryland. "Sideline" Bluegrass band will be appearing on Sunday March 22. Partnering with the Sons of the American Legion, the Legion Post 238 is located on the corner of MD Rt. 381 & 231 in Hughesville, MD. Doors open at Noon and the show starts at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and children under 12 are admitted free with a paying adult.

Sideline is a six-piece powerhouse band whose style has set the pace in Bluegrass for over two decades. Founders Steve Dilling (banjo), Skip Cherryholmes (guitar) and Jason Moore (bass) can all claim their own historical significance to Bluegrass as members of highly awarded groups, multiple Grand Ole Opry appearances and years of national and international touring.

What started as a side project, an off-season fun experiment for these guys, soon moved them front and center and they became a full-time band of dream team players and singers, including their latest additions, Zack Arnold (mandolin), Jamie Harper (fiddle) and Jacob Greer (guitar). They began recording and in 2019, Sideline won the IBMA Song of the Year Award for their hit single, "Thunder Dan". Sideline has released 5 national projects and records for the highly awarded Mountain Home Music Company based near Asheville, NC.

Whether live or in the studio, the sextet will provide you with hard-hitting, neo-traditional covers of classic songs to new material, all by a band with a perfect sense of who they are and what they have to say. To listen to Sideline reminds the fan of why so many people fall in love with Bluegrass in the first place; pulse-pounding drive, songs sung from the heart, perfected timing and dynamics as well as a deep feeling of emotion. Combine all this with their on-stage energy and finesse as well as their powerful and affecting harmonies, and you have the feeling of the North Carolina Bluegrass sound.

This show starts at 2:00 pm and the doors open at Noon. There will be food and beverages available for a separate price. To order tickets in advance, send check or money order to Jay Armsworthy, P.O. Box 741, California, MD 20619. Tickets will be held at the door. Although not required, non-perishable food donations are accepted for the Helping Hands Food Pantry. For more information, go to www.americanlegionbluegrass.com or call 301-737-3004.

The next show in the series will be: April 5, 2020 ~ closing out the season with a fairly new group, Seth Mulder & Midnight Run.

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St. Mary's on Watch for Coronavirus

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The number of Maryland residents who are being tested for the novel coronavirus, known as COVID 19, has risen to 21, with 10 of those tested showing negative results.

But local health officials are continuing to watch for any cases of the virus, which has infected tens of thousands worldwide and resulted in several deaths here in the United States.

They are cautiously optimistic that St. Mary's will avoid an outbreak.

"We don't need to panic," said Steve Walker, director of the Department of Emergency Services after consulting with health specialists Feb. 28. "There's no need to walk around with face masks on all day."

Much of the preparation at the county government level, Walker told The County Times, is focusing on educating the public on the spread of coronavirus, its symptoms and how to avoid it and seek treatment if necessary.

Though, there has been talk among local officials about how county government would function if there were an outbreak, Walker said.

"Hopefully, we won't get there," Walker said, adding that the county government was considering making face masks available to people entering government buildings if they appeared to be ill.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, COVID 19 is part of a panoply of viruses which lead to a respiratory ailment.

But this virus, which often exhibits mild to moderate symptoms such as fever, cough, aches and trouble breathing, has the potential to become lethal.

Health officials have warned that only health workers or those exhibiting flu like symptoms should wear face masks, but county residents have already begun to quickly buy up stocks of them.

"Not only are we out of them, we can't even order new ones," a local pharmacy worker said last week of the run on facemasks.

Once facemasks at pharmacies ran out, buyers turned to hardware stores.

"We're out of most of them," said a sales associate at a Leonardtown hardware store. "They are backordered until April."

Rather than facemasks, said county health officer Dr. Meena Brewster, the U.S. Center for Disease Control advises using standard infection avoidance practices such as washing hands and avoiding the ill.

"Most often, spread of respiratory viruses from person-to-person happens among close contacts," said Brewster. "CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, such as avoiding people who are sick, avoiding touching your eyes or nose, washing your hands, and covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue."

"Facemasks should be used by people with symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, or sneezing, to help prevent the spread of the disease to others."

U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams, a Chopticon High School graduate, implored people to stop buying them.

"Seriously people- STOP BUYING MASKS!," Adams wrote in his Twitter account Feb. 29.

"They are NOT effective in preventing general public from catching #Coronavirus, but if healthcare providers can't get them to care for sick patients, it puts them and our communities at risk!"



Dr. Meena Brewster,
County Health Officer

these clinicians and medical facilities as questions or concerns arise."

Shawn Davidson, County Emergency Medical Services Chief, said as of March 4 coronavirus had yet to be detected in St. Mary's.

"We have not yet had any persons under investigation in St. Mary's County," Davidson said. "We've found no one with a suspicious set of symptoms in St. Mary's County."

Davidson said emergency medical service providers have been in constant contact with the health department and Med Star St. Mary's Hospital to ensure they have plans to deal with an infected person.

"We have specific plans on how we're going to bring these patients into the emergency room and keep everyone safe," Davidson said Wednesday. "Our EMS departments are well prepared."

"For the level of risk we are at right now, we have sufficient quantities of personal protection equipment to keep our responders safe."

Davidson said state health officials have been diligent about ensuring accurate information on COVID-19 is disseminated to the public and health workers alike.

"Maryland has been really good about getting information out to the folks," Davidson said.

If anyone knowingly comes into contact with a person who is infected with COVID-19, Davidson said, they should isolate themselves as much as possible to guard against further proliferation of the virus.

"Once you're exposed you can spread it," Davidson said. "And for the love of God, cover your cough."

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital officials said they were watchful for the novel coronavirus.

"If a patient comes to our hospital with suspected COVID-19 we would begin the screening process as outlined by the CDC," said Dr. Stephen Michaels, MD, Chief Operating and Chief Medical Officer of MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. "We would continue to follow the policies and procedures we have in place to protect our patients, our staff, and the community."

"As with any infectious disease—including illnesses that could be life-threatening such as the flu—the best protective measures include washing your hands, covering your mouth and nose when you

As time goes on and the virus spreads, Brewster said her department will partner with doctors here on testing and evaluating possible virus cases.

"[The health department] is working with the state health department to ensure local medical clinicians have updated screening and testing guidance," Brewster said. "We maintain 24/7 response capability to work with

sneeze, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, and staying home from work or school when you show signs of illness."

Navy officials on Patuxent River Naval Air Station were on the watch for the virus as well.

"At Pax River we are working with the Defense Health Agency and the U.S. Government lead agency for this response, the

Center for Disease Control," said base public information officer Patrick Gordon. "The safety of our service members, civilian employees, and the community is of the utmost concern."

"There are currently no confirmed cases of coronavirus at Pax River, but we are encouraging all DOD personnel to follow the guidance put out by the Office of Personnel and Readiness and the CDC."

The virus is believed to have started in Wuhan, China in December and has since spread internationally; it is spread through person to person contact, according to the CDC, either by people who are standing about six feet apart or by droplets from coughing or sneezing.

The CDC also reports the virus may be able to spread via contact with surfaces that have been contaminated by the virus.

No vaccine currently exists for coronavirus, the CDC reports, and health professionals caution the public to avoid people who are sick, avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth and to stay home if they are sick.

They also encourage frequent washing and cleaning of hands and surfaces to help stop the infection from spreading.

They advise anyone who believes they have coronavirus, or are exhibiting similar symptoms, to contact a health care professional first and explain their symptoms as well as their recent contacts and travel history; the professional would then advise whether they needed to be tested for COVID 19.

There are more than 100 cases of coronavirus known in the United States and 10 people have died. So far, all in Washington state.

Coronavirus has spread to at least 15 states. Maryland's Department of Health has been approved by the CDC, to perform testing for COVID-19 which is expected to speed up testing wait times.

The CDC reports that between October of last year to the present that between 35 to 45 million people have been infected with influenza with 310,000 to 560,000 hospitalizations and between 18,000 to 46,000 deaths.



Dr. Stephen Michaels,
COO of MedStar St.
Mary's Hospital

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The Specialized and Proven Aircraft program office helps complete F-16A modification



The Specialized and Proven Aircraft program office (PMA-226) recently completed a modification on several U.S. Navy F-16A Fighting Falcon aircraft to increase readiness and service life.

The FalconUp modification improves F-16A readiness by extending their fatigue lives by over 500 hours and provides the configuration baseline to incorporate the funded Falcon Star program, which adds an additional 3750 hours to the service life of the aircraft.

“The FalconUp upgrade incorporates structural improvements that extend the service life of the aircraft from 3665 hours to 4250 hours,” said Capt. Ramiro Flores, PMA-226 program manager. “The program procured and installed proven structural modification kits on 10 U.S. Navy aircraft that enhanced and strengthened their internal structure.”

PMA-226 used a rapid acquisition approach, in this case a build-to-print strategy to minimize risk and eliminate the need for test plans, systems engineering plans and design reviews. Build-to-print is a process in which a manufacturer produces products, equipment, or components according to the customer’s exact specifications.

The program office leveraged existing designs that the U.S. Air Force and international partners have used to install the modification and have been including it in production of the F-16 for over two decades. The Navy competitively awarded the contract to ES3 Prime Logistics Group, Inc., which has previously manufactured the same components for the Air Force and PMA-226.

“Since the proven design has flown thousands of hours in this configuration, and it doesn’t require expansion of the current flight envelope, we were able to deliver this training capability to the warfighter much faster than a traditional program,” said Lt. Cmdr. Heather Bliss, PMA-226 adversary program team co-lead.

“The upgrade allows the Navy to provide mission ready adversary aircraft for Naval aviation advanced tactical and aerial combat training, extending the operational life of the F-16A through 2025,” said Boyd Forsythe, PMA-226 adversary program team lead.

PMA-226 is responsible for life cycle cradle to grave management of several legacy and out-of-inventory aircraft and engines, assigned by NAVAIR and contracted air services. Assigned platforms and services include: adversary aircraft (F-5, F-16); contracted aircraft services; U.S. Naval Test Pilot School / Naval Postgraduate School (T-38, H-72, X-26, U-6, NU-1B, O-2, OH-58C); and foreign military sales out-of-active Navy inventory aircraft (T-2, H-2, H-3, and A-4).

Graduation Rates Remain High

Many Credited for Successes

By Dick Myers
Editor



School Board Chair
Karin Bailey

St. Mary’s County Public Schools (SMCPS) are celebrating the continuing success in attaining high graduation rates. For the second year in a row and the third of the last five years the rate has been above 94 percent. There was a slight dip in the 2019 rate, from 94.51 percent to 94.33 percent.

Maryland’s graduation rate of 86.86 percent is one of the highest in the nation, and St. Mary’s rate is almost 7.5 points higher. And, St. Mary’s actually stands in the middle of the pack in Southern Maryland, with the Charles rate slightly higher and the Calvert rate slightly lower.

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said at the Feb. 26 school board meeting at which the new graduation rate was announced: “When I hear somebody say that only a third of our kids are college and career ready and whatever they report for dropouts, that may be true some places; that is not true in St. Mary’s County.”

The success rates are shared across the three high schools and in most demographic measures. Chopticon and Leonardtown had rates above 95 percent and Great Mills came in at 92.8 percent.

It is the economically disadvantaged students in the system that still have the highest dropout rates. Smith said, “One third of our children are living in poverty. One out of three of our children faces all the challenges. And that is our most persistent group to make an absolute consistent year-to-year growth. That’s a real chunk because there’s so many factors that lie outside of the school that impact progress through high school.”

The data was presented to the school board by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Maureen Montgomery and Dr. Alex Jaffurs with the Department of Assessment and Accountability.

Montgomery credited the SMCPS collection and use of data and the buy in from teachers and principals. She said, “If you come to school, we’re going to find a way (to graduation). We’re going to look at your data, we’re going to identify deficit standards. We’re going to figure out what you need, and we’re going to help you and support you to get across the line. If you’re not coming to school, we have a hard time helping you and being able to do something with that. So, emphasis is on family involvement.”

She credited the professional development aimed at dropout prevention and the teams at the high schools: “the counselors at the school, the teachers at the school, the leadership and the philosophy of our three high school principals. It permeates the schools and they are extremely data-driven, always child-centered and incredibly persistent. They don’t give up on children. They have a philosophy and a belief in children. It permeates their schools and then it yields the results that we get in St. Mary’s County.”

School Board Chair Karin Bailey credited Smith for the turnaround. She said, speaking as a parent, “The money didn’t necessarily always go to the classrooms and go to the students and in support of the students. It went to other specific places based on whatever was the trendy thing at the moment. And then once that turned, then you saw the improvement, not only in the overall graduation rate, but specifically with all the concentration and discussion on equity.”

School board member Mary Washington said everyone in the system can share the kudos. “It takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes a village to educate a child. Many people are responsible for these numbers and the success of our students: the administrative leaders, faculty and staff, parents and the family support, student mentors, volunteer community partners, our funding agents and the Board of Education and the superintendent,” Washington said, adding praise for the support staff as well.

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

Mary Edith (Boots) Brandes



Mary Edith (Boots) Brandes, 93, of California, MD passed away on February 26, 2020 at Taylor Farm Assisted Living Facility in Bushwood, MD. She was born on June 12, 1926 in Washington, DC to the late John Francis Hardie and the late Marian Frances (Lohr) Hardie.

She graduated from Washington & Lee High School in Arlington, VA in June 1944 and attended the College of William and Mary where she was a member of the Sigma Phi Beta sorority. On October 9, 1947 she married William Robert "Bob" Brandes of Teaneck, New

Jersey at the St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Arlington, VA. They never forgot to wish each other a Happy Anniversary on the 9th day of every month for the 61 years they enjoyed together before Bob's death in 2009.

Her career included jobs in the Trust Department of the National Savings & Loan Association in Washington, DC, the Chemical Bank in New York City, and the Department of the Navy Executive Office in Arlington, VA. Boots was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. When she wasn't caring for her family, she could always be found outside working in her or her neighbors' gardens or taking walks through her Wildewood neighborhood.

She is preceded in death by her sister Carolyn Bloszies and brother John (Jack) Hardie.

She is survived by her daughter Patricia Yochim (Tom) of California, MD, and her grandchildren Nicole Yochim of Ann Arbor, MI and Alyssa Yochim of Cincinnati, OH.

All services will be private.

John Edward Allgood, Jr.

It is with deep sadness that the family of John Edward Allgood, Jr. announce his passing on February 26,



2020. He passed peacefully at his home in Great Mills, MD. Barbara Gail Allgood, his wife of 45 years, preceded John in death.

John was born in Washington, DC on October 15, 1936 and was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. He graduated from Great Mills High School and attended St. Mary's College, prior to a long career with First National Bank of Southern Maryland.

He was the only son of John Edward Allgood Sr. and Mary Elsie Allgood and was the proud patriarch and devoted father of two daughters, Judith Ann Allgood of Great Mills, MD and Jaclyn Allgood Shaw of Boerne, TX. His legacy will carry on through his many grandchildren, Amber, Ashtin, Ava, Blake and Dylan, and great grandchildren Joslyn, Jolie, Jayden and Saylor.

John was a classic car collector, especially antique Cadillacs. He loved the Redskins and Orioles, also known for his many years coaching and playing softball in St. Mary's County. For those who knew him well he will be remembered for his kind and giving heart, sound voice of reason and for always being the most dedicated supporter of his entire family.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home with A Memorial Service at 11:00 AM in the Funeral Home Chapel with Deacon Joe Lloyd officiating the ceremony. Interment will be private.

Contributions can be made to St. Joseph's Catholic Church 29119 Point Lookout Road Morganza, MD 20660.

Wesley Earl Windsor

Wesley Earl Windsor, 55 of Mechanicsville, MD formerly of Clinton, MD passed away on February 24, 2020 at his residence. Born November 30, 1964 in Washington, DC. He was the son of the late Annamay Elizabeth Windsor and Walter Eugene Windsor.

Wesley is survived by his siblings: Robert Barton (Patti) Windsor of Manassas, VA, and Marie Elena (David) Woodburn of Leonardtown, MD, sister-in-law's, Kim Windsor of Woodbridge, VA and Sue Windsor of



Myrtle Beach, SC, 9 nieces and nephews and 8 great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brothers David Martin (Kim) Windsor and Douglas Eugene (Sue) Windsor. Wesley graduated from Surrattsville High School in 1982 he was a Self-Employed Painting Contractor. Wesley was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan, he enjoyed painting, hanging out with friends, fishing and snuggling with his cat Kung Pao.

Mary Frances Noone Latona



Mary Frances Noone Latona, 84, passed away peacefully with her daughter at her side, Sunday, February 16, 2020 at St. Mary's Nursing Center in Leonardtown Maryland.

She was born March 26, 1935 in Pittston, Pa., daughter of Patrick Noone (d. 1976 and Winnifred Walsh Noone (d. 1984) and sister of Gerald Noone (d. 1984) She married Salvatore Latona of Pittston, Pa on August 17, 1957. Salvatore passed away December 5, 2016. She is survived by three children, Joseph (b. 1959) Patrick (b. 1960) and Kathleen Latona Boyles (b. 1965) and 4 grandchildren, Megan Latona (b. 1987) Micheal Latona (b. 1988) Holden Boyles (b. 1991) and Henry Boyles (b. 1994).

Mary graduated from Pittston Hospital School of Nursing in 1957 and practiced as an RN at Pittston Hospital and Wesley Village Nursing Home. She earned a Bachelors degree in Social Work from St. Joseph's College. She loved being a nurse and taking care of patients.

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The true love of her life was her family, especially her son Joseph who has Down Syndrome. She dedicated her life to Joe, making sure he was happy, educated and fulfilled. He in turn loves his mother dearly. She and Sam enjoyed 59 years of marriage, traveling around the world and living in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Maryland, Joe with them every step in their journey. Sam absolutely adored her. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother and will be very sadly missed.

A celebration of her life with take place in Pittston, Pa in the spring of 2020.

David Marlow Atlas, Sr.



David Marlow Atlas, Sr., 73 of Port St. Lucie, FL (formerly of St. Mary's County) passed away on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital.

He was born on July 15, 1946 in New Castle, PA to the late Harry and Mary Jo Atlas. He spent his early childhood in Boonton, N.J. and then moved to Avenue, MD where he attended Riverspring Elementary School. In 1964 he graduated from Margaret Brent High School. He attended St. Mary's Junior College for two years. He was baptized Presbyterian, raised Methodist and later converted to Catholicism.

In 1966 he enlisted in the United States Navy as a Corpsman. He was assigned to the 1st Marine Division at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. After completing jungle warfare training in Panama he was sent to Vietnam with the Marines in Da Nang and Phu Bai. He was later assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. On June 1, 1969, he was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy in Virginia. He spent his career with State of Maryland at the Department of Health until his retirement as an Environmental Quality Manager. He moved with his wife to Port St. Lucie in 2005.

David enjoyed going on cruises with

his wife Justine, spending time with his family and playing golf. When his children were growing up he could be found coaching little league and basketball teams. He was an avid fan of the Washington Redskins, the LA Lakers, and NASCAR. He loved a good hot cup of black coffee. He had a witty sense of humor and liked to tell jokes.

He was a past member of the Knights of Columbus, the VFW, the American Legion, and a member of Alcoholics Anonymous for over 27 years.

He is survived by his wife, Justine Atlas of Port St. Lucie; his children: Dennis Atlas (Nikki) of Leonardtown, MD, Dana Atlas Jefferson of Lexington Park, MD, and Darrin Atlas (Andrea) of Leonardtown, MD, Liane Corron of Port St. Lucie, FL and Zeth Corron of Milford, NH; his daughter-in-law, Mary Atlas-Terry (Steve) of Millersville, MD; his grandchildren: Matthew and Dean Atlas, David and Drea Atlas, Raven and Caleb Jefferson and Morgan Terry; Jayden Corron and Arianna Corron; and Aamiyah Corron, Dominick Bennett and Londyn Corron; his former wife, Katherine Bell Atlas of Leonardtown, MD and many extended family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his son, David Marlow Atlas, Jr. and Brendon Corron, and his grandmother, Margaret Wenderholm.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

William (Billy) Beckert



William (Billy) Beckert, 57, passed away at his home on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Billy was the only child of Rudolf W. Beckert and Marjorie A. Beckert of California, Maryland. Billy spent his early years in Camp Springs, Maryland where his father was a masonry contractor. The family moved to their Patuxent River home in St. Mary's County where Billy attended Great Mills High School. After graduation, Billy initially worked as a commercial crabber and then went to work in underwater construction with his lifelong friend,

Terry Clarke, at Marine Technologies, Inc. For the last 15 years he was employed as an environmental supervisor at WACO, Inc. in Mechanicsville, Maryland. Billy enjoyed a lifelong relationship with the Patuxent River and Solomons Island. He enjoyed boating, crabbing and fishing with his many friends. He enjoyed target shooting and was an avid gun collector. Billy was probably most widely known as the colorful and upbeat personality that worked evenings and weekends in maintenance and security at the Tiki Bar. He was easy to spot with his mop of red hair, freckles and broad smile. Billy made friends easily and was especially known for his kindness and charity. He really was the guy who would give you the shirt off his back. Billy considered his friends his extended family and they considered him theirs. He will be missed by all of us.

A gathering of friends and family will meet on Thursday, March 5, 2020 for visitation from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a Funeral Service by Reverend Joe Orlando at 6:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Margaret Ann Buckler



Margaret Ann Buckler, 71, of Hollywood, MD passed away on February 25, 2020 at her home.

Born on September 15, 1948, in Leonardtown, MD, she was the daughter of the late James Elmer Bowles and the late Eleanor Elizabeth Wood Bowles.

Margaret married her first love, Jay B. Buckler, in 1966. Together they shared over 27 years of marriage. She was happily surprised to meet and marry Tim Kearney in 1992, and spend over 13 years with him until his passing in 2010.

Never one to rest, Margaret worked hard to support her family. She was employed as a store clerk at several Liquor stores for many years, and then as an office manager for Beltway Garage Doors and then Doors Plus.

She was a jack-of-all-trades and if she didn't know how to fix-it she would figure it out. Margaret wasn't always working outside her home; she was a wonderful homemaker. A loving mother and grandmother, she doted on her family. She was an excellent cook and baker. She would make you feel at home with a big meal, delicious dessert and motherly advice. Margaret loved being called Mom, Momma and MomMom. She pampered her grandchildren and never turned down the opportunity to spend time with them. She could be found in her garden, planting, weeding and admiring her flowers and plants.

After marrying Tim, Margaret found a love for the Patuxent River. They purchased a commercial crabbing boat, and founded T&M Seafood. They were out in the early morning hours with the crabs biting and the sun rising above the water. She found peace with the water lapping against the hull.

A mother, grandmother, friend and amazing woman has gone on to enjoy her heavenly home. Her family will miss her immensely. As you look into the eyes of her family, you will see the spirit of a strong woman who has passed on a legacy of kindness, courage and beauty. May you hold your family tight and know that Margaret would have encouraged you to be happy.

Margaret is survived by her children, Dale Lee Buckler (Bernadette) of Leonardtown, Melissa Lynn Quade (Tommy) of King George, VA, Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Buckler of Clements, Jay Joseph Buckler (Nicole) of Broadway, VA, and Bobbie Jo Gass (Travis) of Clements; 16 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Also surviving are her siblings, Nora Quesenberry of Prince Frederick, Patricia Wathen (Joe) of Leonardtown, Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Tabler (Les) of Garner, NC, and Tina Williams (Jimmy) of California, MD. She is preceded in death by her husbands, her parents and her brothers, Joseph Bowles and Charles "Steve" Bowles, and her son Richard "Ricky" Allen Buckler.

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

All arrangements have been made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

Oscar Bobby Horton

Oscar Bobby Horton, 82, of California, MD passed away peacefully in his sleep on February 22, 2020.

He was born December 16, 1937 in Roxboro, N.C. to the late Elijah G. Horton and Lorena O. Tingen.

On December 23, 1962, Oscar married the true love of his life, his be-

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In Remembrance



loved wife, Mary Ruth McCollum, at Yadkinville Baptist Church, North Carolina. Together they celebrated over 54 wonderful years of marriage until Mary Ruth's passing in 2017.

A true lifetime learner, Oscar attended Roxboro High School, and was a Life Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1961, a Masters of Science in Electrical Engineering with a major in Communications Engineering from George Washington University in 1972. He obtained numerous additional Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Program Management, Project Management, Contracts Management, Financial Management, and Acquisition Management program certificates from various academic and federal institutions.

Oscar had a long and distinguished career, with over 40 years in service to the Nation as a Government Civil Servant for the United States Navy, accumulating numerous civilian awards. One of the "Engineers of '61", Oscar began his career at the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Activity (NESEA), St. Inigoes, MD in 1961 and worked there until his retirement in 2001. He worked on several programs including the Integrated Undersea Surveillance System (IUSS), Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS), Aegis Combat System Ship Integration of the Radio Communication Systems (RCS) for the Ticonderoga Class (CG) Guided Missile Cruisers and Arleigh Burke Class (DDG) Guided Missile Destroyers. Additionally, he supported the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR), Naval Air Command (NAVAIR), Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), Naval Air Test Center (NATC), Naval Electronic Systems Test and Evaluation Facility (NESTEF), Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center (NC-COSC), among others.

Throughout his career as a Govern-

ment Civil Servant, and following his retirement, Oscar remained involved in countless Federal, State of Maryland, and local St. Mary's County initiatives. He has been an advocate and proponent for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE). He worked with his beloved wife Mary Ruth in support of several Federal, State, and local Office on Aging proposals and initiatives. He supported several Parks & Recreation initiatives and received a Governor's Citation from the State of Maryland in 1982 for his support of the State's Open Space Program.

Oscar enjoyed many hobbies throughout his life including woodworking, softball, golf, bowling, and tennis. He loved traveling with his wife. However, his greatest love was for his family and was widely regarded for being present for his children's and grandchildren's academic honors events and athletic events. All of his family and friends knew that if they had an event, he would be there, camera in hand. At every family meal, he would always close the blessing quietly with the simple phrase, in his quintessential North Carolina accent, "Thank God for Family".

Oscar Horton is survived by his children, Deborah Sneeuwjagt (Frederik) of Huntingtown, MD and Cynthia Ferguson of Rock Hill, SC; his grandchildren: Brooke Sneeuwjagt, Heather Sneeuwjagt, Erik Sneeuwjagt, Stephen Ferguson (Brittany), Bobbie Ann Atwood (Allen) and William Michael Ferguson; 6 great grandchildren; and extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

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

Paul David Ehret

Paul David Ehret, 57, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, with his family by his side.

Born on August 12, 1962, in Pennsylvania, he was the son of Francis J. Ehret and Jeanne McMurry Ehret, née Markle.

Paul married his lovely wife, Erin, on April 4, 2003, and they were married for over 16 wonderful years. Paul worked as an Electronic Engineer for over 32 years in the U.S. Navy, Department of Defense. He loved to work with electronics and shortwave radios. He enjoyed playing video games, especially strategy games. He loved watching birds, learned to identify them by their calls and colors, and created a sanctuary for them in the yard. He enjoyed photography, taking both portrait and nature photos. For a while he had a small

photography business with his good friend. He was always happy to share



his knowledge with people, helping them learn. Paul enjoyed cooking and creating dishes to serve to his family and friends. Paul was always focused on the things he could do and always a positive and loving presence.

He is survived by his lovely wife, Erin, his father, Francis J. Ehret, his sister, Karen McMurry, his nephew, Brian Perez and wife, Joni, his aunt, Ruth Ehret, and cousin, John Justin Ehret, as well as many friends who loved him.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Richard Joseph "Rich" Meidenbauer

Richard Joseph "Rich" Meidenbauer, 79, of California, MD and formerly of Wayne, NJ, passed away on March 1, 2020 at Solomons Nursing Center.

Born November 24, 1940 in Brooklyn, NY he was the son of the late Conrad J. Meidenbauer and Caroline (Traumer) Meidenbauer. Rich graduated from Richmond Hill High School in Queens, NY in 1958 and received a Bachelors Degree from Rutgers University in Newark, NJ in 1975. He served in the U.S. Air Force from October 26, 1962 until July 7, 1966, receiving the National Defense Service Medal. Rich was a Marketing and Trade Show Manager for Toshiba America & JVC for twenty years, retiring in 2006. He moved to St. Mary's County from Wayne, NJ in 2009. Rich married his wife Phyllis Meidenbauer on May 20, 1967 in Irvington, NJ. He was a New York Giants fan and an avid New York Yankees fan all of his life. He enjoyed gardening, traveling, and spending time with his grandchildren. Rich was a

member of the Knights of Columbus.

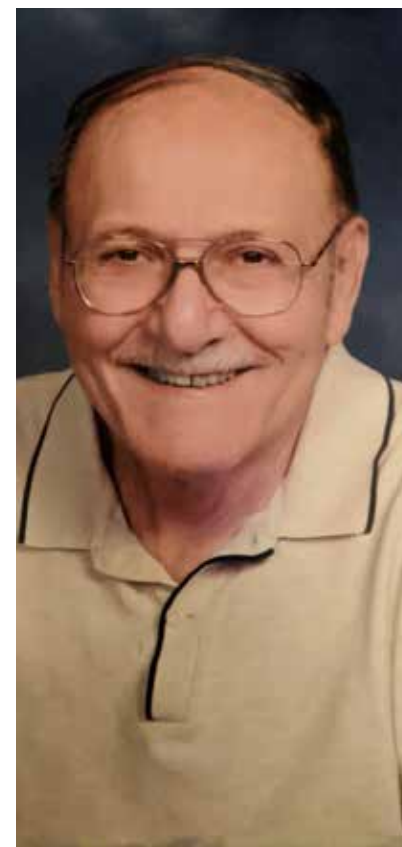
Rich was always close to his family and friends. He treasured his time with them all, especially his loving wife of fifty three years, Phyllis. He had a large extended family who knew him as a gentle soul and he was always there for them.

Rich is survived by his wife, Phyllis Meidenbauer; his children, Laura (Pete) McDevitt of Lexington Park, MD, Donna (Wayde) Barnhart of Easton, MD and Diane Daly of California, MD; grandchildren, Colin, Caroline, Todd, Sarah, Thomas, Jakob, Emily and Zachary; and his sister, Evelyn Stack of Levittown, NY. He was preceded in death by his mother, father, and his step-mother, Florence Meidenbauer.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Rausch Funeral Home, 20 American Lane, Lusby, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Father Ken Gill on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Solomons, MD. Interment will follow in Queen of Peace Cemetery, Helen, MD.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Alzheimer's Association Team Purple Pancakes <http://act.alz.org/goto/teampurplepancakes>.

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



Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT FOR ST MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Paradise Point, LLC Plaintiff. V. Paul Hood Jr., et al. Defendants.
Case No. C -18-CV-19-000101

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, cold by the Collector of taxes for Carroll County to the Plaintiff:

Account Number: 01-025848, Three Notch Rd, Lot 11 Block A, Section 1 Park Pines assessed to Hood Paul D Jr.

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have been paid. It is therefore on this 4th day of February, 2020, by the Circuit Court for St Mary's County.

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having a general circulation in St Mary's County once a week for 3 consecutive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 4th of April, 2020 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or therefore a Final Judgement will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting title in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances

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

IN THE CIRCUIT FOR ST MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Paradise Point, LLC Plaintiff. V. Lynne Conway, et al. Defendants.
Case No. C -18-CV-19-000098

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, cold by the Collector of taxes for Carroll County to the Plaintiff:

Account Number: 01-005073, "Unassigned, Lot 6, Section 1 Block A, Bean's Landing

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have been paid. It is therefore on this 4th day of February, 2020, by the Circuit Court for St Mary's County.

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having a general circulation in St Mary's County once a week for 3 consecutive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 4th of April, 2020 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or therefore a Final Judgement will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting title in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

IN THE CIRCUIT FOR ST MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Paradise Point, LLC Plaintiff. V. Paul Hood Jr., et al. Defendants.
Case No. C -18-CV-19-000100

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, cold by the Collector of taxes for Carroll County to the Plaintiff:

Account Number: 01-025635, Matthews Dr. lot 9 Block B, Section 1, Park Pines asessed to Hood Paul D Jr.

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have been paid. It is therefore on this 4th day of February, 2020, by the Circuit Court for St Mary's County.

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having a general circulation in St Mary's County once a week for 3 consecutive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 4th of April, 2020 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or therefore a Final Judgement will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting title in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

IN THE MATTER OF JAMES PATRICK SULLIVAN
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO JAMES PATRICK HARRIS

In the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland

Case No.: C-18-FM-20-132
Notice (Adult) (DOM REL 61)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which he/she seeks to change his/her name from James Patrick Sullivan to James Patrick Harris. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: I've always been known by the name of James Patrick Harris

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 3/28/2020. The objection must be supported by an affidavit and served upon the Petitioner in accordance with Maryland Rule 1-321. Failure to file an objection or affidavit within the time allowed may result in a judgment by default or the granting of the relief sought.

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

IN THE MATTER OF DE'ANGELO ACTAVIUS COOK
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ANGEL ACTAVIUS GABRIEL BOLDEN

In the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland

Case No.: C-18-FM-20-133
Notice (Adult) (DOM REL 61)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which he/she seeks to change his/her name from De'Angelo Actavius Cook to Angel Actavius Gabriel Bolden. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: I want to be the same name as my family

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 3/30/2020. The objection must be supported by an affidavit and served upon the Petitioner in accordance with Maryland Rule 1-321. Failure to file an objection or affidavit within the time allowed may result in a judgment by default or the granting of the relief sought.

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

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”

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The Old Jail Museum Open for March Leonardtown First Friday

Volunteers are also sought to staff expanded hours at Leonardtown landmark

The Old Jail Museum, a popular landmark in the heart of Leonardtown, will be open during Leonardtown First Fridays, beginning Friday, March 6, 2020, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to come and take a tour of this unique historic site while enjoying all the Leonardtown First Friday festivities that evening. Staff will be on-hand to showcase the Old Jail and its interesting story.

A special exhibit regarding Benjamin Hance, a young African American man who was held at the Old Jail in 1887 and later killed by a local mob, will be on display during this opening. Hance is the only documented lynching victim recorded in St. Mary's County.

The Old Jail Museum is also looking for volunteers who would like to spend some time staffing and giving tours at the Old Jail for the upcoming year. The historic site will be expanding operating hours to better accommodate visitors, so new volunteers are needed in staffing the location. Training will be provided.

The Old Jail Museum is located at 41625 Court House Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650, right on the grounds of the Courthouse in downtown Leonardtown, a short walk from the Square.

For more information about volunteering at the Old Jail, please contact Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division, at 301-769-3235 or karen.stone@stmarysmd.com.



Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT FOR ST MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CLAUDEEN L. SEAL

37404 Heath Court
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
Plaintiff

vs.

JESSE L. MCNEAL, JR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF WAYLOND HARMON
5104 Linwood drive
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

and

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown, MD 20650

SERVE: DAVID A. WEISKOPF, ESQ.
COUNTY ATTORNEY
Same as address above

and

All Persons That Have or Claim to Have any Interest in Property in the Seventh Election
District Tax Account# 07-030223,

Lot 24, Block 54, Plat1/91 Longview Beach
Case No.: C18CV20-000044

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of taxes for St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland to the Plaintiff in these proceedings:

Lot 24, Block 54, of Longview Beach Club, according to plat thereof recorded among the Land Records of St. Mary's County, Maryland in Plat Book CBG 1, Folio 91.

The said property is assessed to Jesse L. McNeal, Jr., Personal Representative of the Estate of Waylond Harmon. The amount necessary for redemption of the property is \$301.14, together with interest thereon at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum from the date of payment to the date of redemption and the reimbursement of Plaintiff's costs

The Complaint Foreclose Right of Redemption states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid, although more than six (6) months from the date of sale has transpired.

IT IS THEREFORE, this 7th day of February, 2020, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland,

ORDERED, that notice is to be given by the POSTING on the subject property in accordance with Maryland Rule 14-503; and it is further,

ORDERED, that a response must be filed by the 7th day of April, 2020; and it is further,

ORDERED, that failure to file a response within the time allowed may result in a judgement foreclosing the right of redemption of the subject property

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



03/07/2020

Patuxent MD

MECHANICSVILLE FIREHOUSE
SOCIAL HALL
MECHANICSVILLE, MD

For more information call
Billy Price at (301) 994-0187

Weather is intensifying. The grid is overloaded.
Cyber-attacks are happening.

Your power is at risk.

**ARE YOU
PREPARED?**



POWER
YOU CONTROL

AUTOMATIC STANDBY GENERATORS

Maintain Power and Peace of Mind

With unpredictable power outages affecting homeowners more frequently than ever, Generac's best-selling home standby generators are designed to protect you and your family from extended power failures. Generac manufactures customizable, automatic standby power systems to ensure you never lose power again. With special financing and affordable monthly payments available, you're one free in-home assessment away from identifying the right generator for your backup power and financial needs. Don't wait for the next outage to leave your home powerless.

Call today for a FREE in-home assessment.

GENERAC[®]

Powertech Electric, Inc.

Sales 240-298-5985
Service 240-298-5985
Website www.powertechelec.com

24720 Old Three Notch Rd, Hollywood, MD 20636

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.

Thursday, March 5

Queen of Hearts LVRSA Fundraiser

Action Lounge and Billiards

25470 Point Lookout Road
Leonardtown
4p.m. to 7p.m.

Please join us to take a chance to pick a card and find the Queen of Hearts to win the jackpot. Each Thursday there will be a chance to win until she's found, with the jackpot growing each week she stays hidden. Thank you for your support to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary.

Wing Night

VFW Post 2632
Three Notch Road
California
5p.m. to 8p.m.

Queen of Hearts, 50/50 and Money Tree tickets will be sold from 5 to 7. Karaoke from 7 to 11.

Maryland in the Age of Sail: Watery Highways

Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Road,
Solomons
7p.m. to 8p.m.

Join Mark Wilkins, Curator of Maritime History at the Calvert Marine Museum, as he explores "Maryland in the Age of Sail".

Before railroads—and even after—the water was the easiest and most cost-effective way to transport goods and travelers. The Chesapeake Bay facilitated trade and enabled people to get from one place to another on various types of watercraft. The Bay connected towns such as Richmond, Alexandria, D.C., Baltimore, Annapolis and Norfolk as well as countless smaller towns. This talk will discuss the evolution of these 'watery highways' on the Bay.

Lectures are free and open to the public.

Friday, March 6

Designer Bag Bingo

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
43256 Rescue Ln
Hollywood
5:30p.m. to 9:30p.m.

Join us for Designer Bag Bingo, hosted by Patuxent Football Academy's 2002 Boys Soccer Team! This event will help get our boys to Dallas Texas for the Dallas Cup Tournament in April.

We will have 50/50 Raffle, Door Prizes, Special Games, Food and Drinks for purchase during the event! Cash only event.

Limited Tickets Available. \$30/ticket in advance, \$35/ticket at the door—12 games PLUS 3 bonus games PLUS a door prize ticket!

Seafood Dinner

American Legion Post 238
6265 Brandywine Rd
Hughesville
5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.

Seafood Dinner—Featuring Soft Crabs, Oysters, Steamed/Fried Shrimp, Fish Filet, Hush

Price—\$7 -\$20

For more info call 301-274-3522 or check us out on the Web www.al-post238.org or Facebook

Saturday, March 7

Rummage Sale

Church of the Ascension

21641 Great Mills Road
Lexington Park
8a.m. to Noon

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southern Maryland

Free Tax Preparation and E-Filing

Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad Station 39
21685 FDR Boulevard
Lexington Park
9a.m. to Noon

St. Mary's County AARP/IRS certified Tax-Aide Counselors will provide free tax preparation and electronic filing for low-to moderate-income taxpayers of any age in St Mary's County. Taxpayers do not need to be a member of AARP. Walk-in services are available for those arriving from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesdays, and from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Each taxpayer must bring a copy of their 2018 prior year tax returns, social security card, and a picture ID. A detailed list of tax forms to bring is available at <http://smctaxaide.org>.

Prefer an appointment? Call 240-466-1740 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Annual Spring Dinner

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
Hollywood
1p.m. to 5p.m.

Menu will consist of Stuffed Ham, Fried Oysters, Chicken Salad, Parsley Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Beets, rolls, cof-

fee and tea. Price is \$26.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children ages 4-12 and children 3 and under are free. Served buffet style. Carryouts are \$26.00 each. Bake table and 50/50 raffle. Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

301-373-2695 for more info.

Mother Catherine Academy Bingo

Mother Catherine Academy
38833 Chaptico Road
Mechanicsville
6:30p.m. to 10:30p.m.

Doors open 4:30 Early Birds start 6:30 Regular Games start at 7:00

38833 Chaptico Road Mechanicsville Md. 20659 301-884-3165

Sunday, March 8

Breakfast—All-You-Can-Eat 2nd Dist VFD&RS

2nd Dist. VFD&RS
45245 Drayden Rd.
Valley Lee
8a.m. to 11p.m.

Cost: Adults \$10:00; Children 6—12 \$5.00; & Children 5 & under are free

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Home Fried Potatoes, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage Links, Ham, Bacon, Creamed Chipped Beef, Sausage Gravy, Hot Biscuits, Spiced Apple-sauce, & Grits

Drink: Assorted Juices, Milk, & Coffee

Funds from this event go to the Volunteer Fire Dept, & Rescue Squad to keep community safe.

More Info Call: 301-994-9999

Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
43256 Rescue Lane
Hollywood
11a.m. to 5p.m.

4 pieces of Fried Chicken with parsley potatoes, green beans, roll and cookies
\$12.00

Come out and support the Hollywood Rescue Squad.

Monday, March 9

Pax River Quilters Guild

Good Samaritan Church
20850 Langley Road
Lexington Park
6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.

This month's meeting features member demonstrations of thread painting, quilting techniques, Circle cutting, zippered bags, and dimensional patterns for applique. Something for everyone. Bring your Block of the Month Blocks, food pantry donation food assignment, and your Show and Tell items. New members and guests welcome. Pax River Quilters Guild is a 501(c)(3) organization and is open to the public. Visit our website

www.paxriverquiltguild.com or our Facebook Group Page Pax River Quilters Guild for more info

Tuesday, March 10

Taco Tuesday

VFW Post 2632
Three Notch Road
California
5p.m. to 7p.m.
Tostada with Refried Beans 2.00

Soft or Hard Shell Tacos
Ground Beef, Shredded Chicken or Black Beans

1 For 2.00 Dollars
3 For 5.00 Dollars
5 For 8.00 Dollars

Nachos with Cheese 3.00 Dollars
Add Meat 1.00 Dollar
Taco Salad 5.00 Dollars
Walking Taco chicken or beef 2.00 dollars

Thursday, March 12

Spring Play—Missionary of OZ

Southern Maryland Christian Academy
9805 Faith Baptist Church Rd.
White Plains
4:30p.m. to 6p.m.

March 13, 2020 at 6:30 PM
March 14, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Prices: Presale: \$5 student/ \$7 Adult & At the door: \$7 Student/ \$9 Adult

Come out and support SMCA Drama Club as they present Missionary of OZ. A play about Troubled missionaries in the Land of Oz who discover their true mission in life.

For more information email can-dacecrawford@smcaemail.com

Cheesesteaks

VFW Post 2632
Three Notch Road
California
5p.m. to 8p.m.

Queen of Hearts, 50/50 and Money Tree tickets will be sold from 5 to 7.

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

Living Well with Chronic Conditions

Could you benefit from more control and confidence in the management of your chronic health condition? Living Well with Chronic Conditions is an evidence-based program developed by Stanford University to support those dealing chronic health issues. The small group promotes introspection, sharing and action by addressing topics (pain, frustration, sleeping, talking with practitioners, etc.) and learning and practicing coping techniques (brainstorming, problem solving, action plans and more). This series is being held at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Wednesdays, March 11-April 15 from 1-3:30 p.m. The workshop is free. A commitment to attend all six sessions is needed for good results. Call us to sign-up: 301-475-4200, ext. 73102.

Health Watch: Wise Up on Meds

Nearly half of the U.S. population takes at least one prescription drug, while more than one-third of adults 45 or older are on three or more prescriptions. AARP has developed a "program in a box" designed to help you effectively manage prescriptions, reduce complications and achieve maximal health benefits. Volunteer Health Watch Coordinator Mary Tennyson will offer this presentation at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on March 11 at 10 a.m. To sign up call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658, or stop by the reception desk.

Lunchtime Theater with Drama Speaks

The Reader's Theater will entertain us

with a production of Reunion Round-Up, an original script by Debs Szymkowiak, at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, March 11 at 12 p.m. In the performance, classmates gather for a 50th high school reunion held at the dude ranch. From horse to hi-jacks, the reunion is filled with surprises and a few memories for the friends and classmates. Lunch is served during the performance. The menu is cranberry juice, BBQ chicken, baked beans, dilled carrots w/snow peas, WW dinner roll and fruited Jell-O. Lunch is \$6 for those ages 50- 59 and by donation for those ages 60 and above. To make reservations, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

Video at the Loffler Senior Activity Center

The National Geographic special Wolves: A Legend Returns to Yellowstone will be shown at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on March 11 at 10 a.m. This amazing film was four years in the making and invites you to run with the pack for a wolf's-eye-view. Witness the unfolding saga of hardships and affection, losses and triumphs, and the controversy surrounding the decision to reintroduce wolves back into the heart of the West. To sign up call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658, or stop by the reception desk. 55 minutes. Free. Seating is limited.

Enhancing Evening Relaxation & Sleep Workshop

World Sleep Day is March 13, so what better way to end our Week of Wellness than with a relaxation workshop? The Northern Senior Activity

Center will have a relaxation workshop on Friday, Mar. 13 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. designed to increase relaxation and improve the quality of sleep. Go beyond the typical insomnia advice and learn about other options that enhance relaxation and sleep. Dive deeper into choices that calm and still the mind, relax the body and soul, and support a better night's sleep. This workshop informs about alternative sleep therapies that are drug-free like breathing techniques, reflexology points, stress-relieving stretches and Eden Energy Medicine. The cost is \$8 and is due at sign up. Space is limited. To sign up and pay in advance, please visit the front desk. For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 73103.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Level 2 Classes

If you have learned the Core Movements of Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention (TCA&FP I) and would like to continue learning the next set of movements, Level II classes will begin on Monday, March 16, at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Classes will be on Mondays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. through April 13. Pre-registration is not required, though you must have attended the Level I classes that included Commencement through Waving Hands in The Clouds to the Left. If you have questions, call Shellie at 301-475-4200, ext. 71655.

Nutrition Talk

Donna Taggart, licensed dietician, will offer the presentation What About Sugar? on

Monday, March 16 at 10 a.m. at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. This will be a good opportunity to get some questions answered about sugar and the different forms of it. Additionally, Donna will offer private nutrition counseling at no cost on the same date. To sign up for the presentation, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658 or stop by the reception desk at Loffler. To make an appointment for nutrition counseling, text or call Donna at 240-538-6539.

Annual Wearin' of the Green Bash at O'Garvey

For the luck of the Irish, join us at our Annual St. Patrick's Day bash at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, March 17 at 12 p.m.! Enjoy a traditional meal of corned beef, cabbage, boiled new potatoes, and fruited lime Jello. Irish tunes to be performed by John Pomerville, singer of traditional Irish pub tunes. Cost for lunch is by donation for those ages 60 and above and \$6 for those under the age of 60. To make reservations, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050. Remember to wear your lucky green!

Ceramics with Marti

If you enjoy painting and creating personalized gifts or decorations for the home this is the class for you! Marti Cotterell will be teaching the class and offering instruction on painting techniques. This class will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. The cost of the class is \$10 for each item painted and includes the firing of the item. For more information please call, 301-475-4200, ext.71050.



Cinderella Society

Lexington Park Library will hold Cinderella Society on Saturday, March 21 from 1 – 3 p.m. Find your unique look! Stop by our formal wear give away event to get ready for prom. Dresses in all styles and sizes, on site alterations, hair & nail tips, accessories, men's wear. No registration. Donations will be accepted from March 16 through March 20 at the Lexington Park Library.

A Night in Ireland

Charlotte Hall Library will hold A Night in Ireland on Tuesday, March 17 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Join St. Mary's County librarian, Claire, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with an evening of Irish culture. Bring the whole family for an evening celebration of all things Ireland. Claire, who was born and raised in Ireland, will share examples of Irish dancing (video), speaking the Celtic language. We will be making crafts such as a St. Brigid's Cross for kids, Celtic cross knot coloring pages for adults and children, and researching your Irish family crest when you bring your Irish surname with you. Claire will also be teaching some simple Irish/Gaelic phrases.

It's a Hardback Life

St. Mary's County Library will host a book discussion group 'It's a Hardback Life' at St. Inie's Coffee on Saturday, March 21 from 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Explore topics spanning the nonfiction section! This month, meet at St. Inie's Coffee in Lexington Park to discuss books about science. Choose your own book or read one of our suggested titles. See some suggested reads at stmalib.org/events/book-discussions.

Bingo for Kids

Charlotte Hall Library will hold two sessions of 'Bingo for Kids' on Saturday, March 21. The first session is for toddlers and preschool age children from 2 – 2:30 p.m., and the second session is for elementary aged children from 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. Registration is required for both sessions and opens on March 7.

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

The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library are happy to announce the HUGE Spring Booksale will be held on Friday, March 27 (Friends Members Only), Saturday, March 28 and Sunday March 29 at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. Over 100,000 books in excellent condition for amazing prices. Books are sorted into Fiction, Non Fiction, Children's, Young Adult, and Rare and Unusual. Cash, checks, and major credit cards will be accepted all three days. Friday, March 27 is open to Friends Members Only. You can join in advance on www.stmalib.org/about-us/friends-of-the-st-marys-county-library/ or join at the door on Friday. Saturday and Sunday are open to the public. Sunday will feature half-price books. If you are interested in volunteering, please email stmaps@stmalib.org. No smoking on the Fairgrounds property. Only designated service animals are allowed.



GAMES & PUZZLES

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Yields Manila hemp
- 6. A type of gin
- 10. Japanese ankle sock
- 14. Swiss city
- 15. Applied to
- 17. Achievements
- 19. Japanese title
- 20. Possesses
- 21. Belgian city
- 22. Child
- 23. Great delight
- 24. Petty quarrel
- 26. Gathered
- 29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 31. Path
- 32. Legendary hoops coach Riley
- 34. A citizen of Denmark
- 35. Flat
- 37. Upper-class young women
- 38. Payment (abbr.)
- 39. Distort
- 40. Affirmative! (slang)
- 41. One who has a child
- 43. Without
- 45. Workplace safety agency
- 46. Political action committee
- 47. Period of plant and animal life
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 53. State of being kept secret
- 57. Hobbies
- 58. One-time Korean ruler
- 59. Sudden attack
- 60. Born of
- 61. Assists

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ancient Greek sophist
- 2. Famed composer
- 3. Spore-bearing fungi cells
- 4. Chief executive officer
- 5. Defunct Syrian political party
- 6. Thin wood

- 7. Polynesian garlands
- 8. Fluid replacement (abbr.)
- 9. Flammable hydrocarbon gas
- 10. Multi-leveled
- 11. Influential diarist
- 12. Gambles
- 13. Many subconsciousnesses
- 16. Current unit
- 18. Illumination unit
- 22. Tantalum
- 23. Steps leading down to a river
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Before
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Mountain range in China
- 29. Payroll company
- 30. A way to pack together
- 31. Business designation
- 33. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)
- 35. Forage fish
- 36. Greek temple pillars
- 37. Internet mgmt. company
- 39. Rouse oneself
- 42. In a way, covered
- 43. Elaborate silk garment
- 44. Cooling unit
- 46. Riley and O'Brien are two
- 47. ___ fide: genuine
- 48. Ancient Incan sun god
- 49. Poker stake
- 50. Trigonometric function
- 51. Interesting tidbit
- 52. Adieu
- 53. U.S. Treasury position
- 54. Midway between east and southeast
- 55. Doctors' group
- 56. Women's ___ movement

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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57											58				
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				8		6		3
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		6		3			2	1
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7				5		3		

Level: Intermediate

LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

	I	M	B	R	U	E			A	R	M					
	M	O	D	E	R	A	T	O		S	B	I	C			
	A	V	E	R	A	G	E	S		O	K	A	P	I		
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T	O	R							M	E	D	E				
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R	E	B	S						A	R	R	A	N	G	E	S
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9	8	6	1	4	3	7	5	2
7	4	2	6	8	5	3	9	1
6	5	3	4	2	1	9	7	8
8	7	4	9	3	6	2	1	5
1	2	9	5	7	8	4	6	3
3	9	7	8	1	2	5	4	6
2	6	8	7	5	4	1	3	9
4	1	5	3	6	9	8	2	7

100% LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS
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THE SECURE ACT AND 5 CHANGES IN THE NEW RETIREMENT LAW

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

The SECURE Act, the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act” was passed into law effective January 1, 2020. This new retirement law has five significant changes, as follows:

1. The new law increases the age for Required Minimum Distribution (the “RMD”) from 70 ½ to 72. The RMD is the amount you are required to withdraw from your retirement account. Anyone turning 70 ½ in 2020 is not required to take RMD. If you have been taking RMDs prior to 2020, you will need to continue taking them. Starting in 2020, you are required to withdraw retirement funds at age 72 (as opposed to 70 ½ prior to 2020). Those born on or before June 30, 1949 must take RMDs at age 70 ½. Those born in July through December 1949 take RMDs in 2021; those born in 1950 take RMDs in 2022 and those born in 1951 take RMDs in 2023.

2. The new law eliminates the IRA “stretch” option. This is potentially the most significant law change. When you withdraw money from a traditional IRA in RMDs, you must pay income tax on the money. Inherited IRAs with death dates prior to 2020 were able to “stretch” the RMDs over the beneficiary’s lifetime. For younger beneficiaries, this meant the amounts of RMD could be much smaller and therefore result in a smaller income tax. Beginning in 2020, the new law requires, for non-spouse beneficiaries, that an inherited IRA has to be distributed over 10 years after the individual’s death. The new provisions make it clear that IRAs must be liquidated, and income taxes paid, over a ten year period, potentially resulting in income tax on much larger amounts required to be withdrawn. For deaths in 2020 and later, all IRAs must be distributed in full by the tenth calendar year following death.

3. The new law repeals the maximum age for traditional IRA contributions. Prior to 2020, no one over age 70 ½ was permitted to make IRA contributions. The new law allows anyone over 70 ½ who has U.S. earned income to make contributions to a traditional IRA. With our population aging, this is a good benefit for saving.

4. The new law expands Section 529 plans. Parents can now use their 529 accounts to cover costs associated with registered apprenticeships and for up to \$10,000 of qualified student loan repayments. This should be a help to those paying student loans.

5. The new law increases the maximum credit for startup business retirement plans from \$500 to \$5,000. A new tax credit of \$500 is also available for some smaller employers who set up automatic enrollment in their plans.

Everyone with a traditional IRA or similar retirement plan should consult their financial advisors or accountants about how to cope with the changes in the new law.

Join me on the third Wednesday of every month to discuss this and other topics at 11am, 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

We support PROJECT ECHO, the homeless shelter in Calvert County and urge you to do the same. Donate to Project Echo by leaving paper products and other items at our office or through a cash contribution to www.projectecho.com. Your support is appreciated.

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann
Contributing Writer



“The Necessary and the Good”

Last Sunday after church, we were in one of those moods where we just didn’t feel like going back to the house. It was a beautiful day, maybe a bit brisk and windy though. So, naturally, we thought how about wineries (remember, I have to build my wine tolerance up slowly), and maybe a little trip to Brandywine, where the slogan on the shirts from Robin Hill Winery is,



“We put the “wine” in Brandywine”. I, of course have both the short and long sleeve versions of this shirt. Also, I wanted to ride around the beautiful backroads of Brandywine and Croom, and my husband happily felt the same way.

I thought, well, we can ride around a while then go listen to music at 2 p.m. at Janemark Winery. Sounded like a great plan for a Sunday afternoon, wine, music, and a food truck. But, like usual, I must not have really paid attention to what I was reading, and we found when we arrived at Janemark, that the music and food truck had been there on Saturday. So, for a time, it was just us and a delicious wine tasting. But hey, there was wine, and we had our cellphones for Motown and 70s music. What more is needed? We passed an enjoyable hour or so on their comfy couch looking out on to the vineyard.

But, naturally, with wine comes the time to take the quick potty break. Soon, Janemark Winery will have a full kitchen and indoor bathrooms in their barn, but at present they have porta potties right outside the back door. That’s fine with me. On one of my little breaks (well, the doctor just added a diuretic to my med list to help keep the BP down) I noticed a round sticker inside the porta potty which said, “Every day portable restrooms save 125 million gallons of fresh water.” Wow, I had no idea. Okay, I feel so guilty now. Since then, every time I flush the toilet at home these words are stuck in my head. Should we switch to a porta potty?

This is good news for our old 1736 church which still has what is called “the necessary” out in a corner of the cemetery. When it is really cold though, you have to weigh how necessary it is for you to walk out across the churchyard to get there. Or you can leave church for a few minutes and run up to the parish hall.

I Googled the Satellite industries website found on a sticker of the Janemark porta potty to see how they had come to this figure and found a note at the bottom of a long informative article* *125 million gallons saved calculation: In countries with indoor plumbing, an average of 1.8 gallons of clean water is used to flush a toilet and around the world there are 2.2 million portable restrooms that average between twenty and thirty uses per day. Multiplied, that equates to 125 million gallons.* I swear, you can find valuable, interesting information anywhere at any time. I also was unaware that the porta potty industry has it’s own National recognition day on August 15th. Also, from their website: *August 15th is the first World Portable Sanitation Day (WPSD). It is a day to recognize the importance of the portable sanitation industry. This industry and those who work in it allow us to live in safety, with better health and greater prosperity than those who live without it. It is also a day to gather our resources as an industry and use them to teach and assist those suffering from poor sanitary conditions around the world.*

So now, I am actually going to look for all the porta potties around us and try to use those first. No, actually I will probably not seek them out, but I will use them when given a choice and feel like I have done the world some good, one small, frequent potty break at a time.

To each new day’s adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook

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Throughout 2019 the County Times will feature stories of St. Mary's County "Hometown Heroes."

To shine a spotlight on your hero email their name & contact info to aldailey@countytimes.net



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