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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

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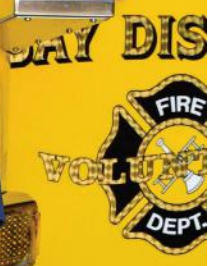
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County Times



Bay District: Tried & True

INSIDE

College Classrooms Close Over COVID-19

Commissioners Favor Higher Activity Fees

Gun Store Robbery Probed

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ON THE COVER 16

Bay District Volunteer Fire Department Chief Robert Warhenbock, right, and President Wayne Johnson lead one of the busiest fire companies in the county.



COMMUNITY 12

Leonardtwn hosted International Women's Day



SPORTS 24

St. Mary's College new cardio workout room

"ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF PEOPLE WHO WILL GET THIS WILL EXPERIENCE MILD COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS OR MODERATE FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS."

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER DR. MEENA BREWSTER ON COVID-19.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 3/12 58° 42°F 	Fri 3/13 60° 43°F 	Sat 3/14 57° 47°F 	Sun 3/15 62° 47°F
Mon 3/16 52° 45°F 	Tue 3/17 61° 50°F 	Wed 3/18 60° 51°F 	Thu 3/19 63° 51°F

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St. Mary's Avoids Coronavirus So Far



Stephen Walker, Emergency Management Director

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

County emergency management and health officials say there are no confirmed cases of the coronavirus, also known as COVID 19, in St. Mary's County, though they continue to monitor for a potential outbreak.

"Don't panic," said Emergency Services Director Stephen Walker. "Take your precautions; we're all going to get through this."

Walker, his emergency management manager Gerald Gardiner, and County Health Officer Meena Brewster reported to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County March 10 on how they were coordinating a response should COVID-19 be discovered here.

"There are no confirmed cases in St. Mary's County as I sit here," Gardiner told commissioners. "As we sit here things are changing tremendously."

Gardiner said the monitoring for coronavirus had to be con-

tinuous as new cases were being revealed.

Currently, six people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Maryland with 89 having been tested and returning a negative result.

Brewster said there were a limited number of test kits available to the state Department of Health to probe for the coronavirus and that requirements for individuals to be tested were "pretty stringent."

The state's labs are returning test results roughly every 24 hours, while private, third party labs are getting results within two to three days, Brewster said.

In the past week emergency management and health department staff have been meeting with other county government departments on how to respond to a potential outbreak including enhanced questioning during 911 calls to screen for potential virus exposure to first responders.

The county's Emergency Operations Center is also operating at an enhanced level and departments are formulating plans for continuity of operations should employees become infected.

Brewster said she was "very concerned" about the county's homeless population, which were often at greater risk of exposure; the local Department of Social Services was creating "prevention kits" to be provided to the homeless population.

Brewster said anyone over the age of 60, or who have chronic medical conditions should avoid large crowds, stock up on their medications to avoid problems with disrupted supply chains and avoid unnecessary travel.

Brewster said, despite rising fears about the coronavirus across the nation, residents should remain vigilant but not resort to panic.

"About 80 percent of people who will get this will experience mild cold-like flu symptoms or moderate flu-like symptoms," Brewster said.

The commissioners debated whether to follow the lead of the state and declare a local state of emergency, but that

motion failed on a 3-to-2 vote; such a declaration would be necessary for Brewster to have the authority to issue public health orders that could confine patients to isolation if they were found to have the coronavirus.

The commissioners did approve an additional \$40,000 in county funding to boost the health department's preparations for a COVID-19 response.

While officials are urging the public not to act precipitously because of the coronavirus, several events have already been cancelled locally to help prevent a potential spread.

The annual trip to Italy taken by many Chesapeake Public Charter School students has been postponed as virtually the entire county has been quarantined, while Historic St. Mary's City announced late Tuesday that the Maryland Day festivities planned for March 21 had also been cancelled.

Also a March 16 town hall meeting in Leonardtown sponsored by the county health department to discuss the recently released 2018 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data has also been postponed.

St. Mary's College President Tuajuanda Jordan has also suspended all college-supported out of state travel to jurisdictions that have declared a state of emergency related to coronavirus; also, all college-supported international travel has been suspended indefinitely.

The college continues to hold classes on campus, according to Jordan's missive.

The College of Southern Maryland announced Wednesday that it would be transitioning to on-line instruction effective March 16 at all of its campuses to help prevent the possible spread of coronavirus, though all campuses would remain open.

Likewise, St. Mary's College announced Wednesday that it would suspend classes for two weeks after the Spring Break holiday; students are expected to vacate the campus by Friday.

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Commissioners to Discuss 2A Sanctuary Movement

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County continue to receive letters from residents urging them to declare the county a Second Amendment sanctuary, joining five other Maryland counties in standing against what gun rights supporters claim are continued attempts by legislators to infringe on Constitutional rights to bear arms.

In response, the commissioners have set a discussion for their March 17 meeting on the consequences of adopting such a resolution, Commissioner Todd Morgan told The County Times.

"I am hoping we'll have all elected officials there that day," Morgan said, adding that both Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron and State's Attorney Richard Fritz had been asked to attend. "We've invited them both."

Cameron has already signaled his support for St. Mary's becoming a gun rights sanctuary as have Commissioners Eric Colvin and Morgan.

In February, John O'Connor suggested the commissioners proclaim the county as a sanctuary for gun rights, giving examples of legislative efforts in Annapolis to further restrict the sale of certain assault-style weapons and curtail the transfer of long guns between residents in private sales without the use of a licensed gun dealer as an intermediary.

The bill that would have banned many remaining assault style pistols – the legislature had already enacted one of the strictest assault weapons bans in the nation in 2013 – has since been withdrawn after being unfavorably reported out of committee in the Maryland General Assembly.

The Second Amendment sanctuary movement gained most of its strength this year in Virginia where a panoply of gun control measures in the Richmond legislature led to an outpouring of resistance from gun owners.

Virtually every county in Virginia passed some sort of resolution proclaiming it would resist further gun control measures.

On March 10 the Calvert Board of County Commissioners voted by 4-to-1 to approve a resolution to become a gun rights sanctuary county.

Calvert County is now the fifth county in Maryland to become a gun rights sanctuary; Alleghany, Cecil, Carroll and Harford counties have all passed resolutions as gun rights sanctuaries.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

O'Connor Says Won't Make Run For Sheriff

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Commissioner John O'Connor said this week that rumors of his seeking the Office of the Sheriff as his next political achievement have been greatly exaggerated.

O'Connor announced publicly March 10 at the commissioners meeting that won't seek the sheriff's office position in the next election.

"For some reason someone in an official capacity... has been putting words in my mouth about what I'm trying to do politically," O'Connor said Tuesday. "At no point, in juncture at my life at this time, do I plan on running for sheriff of St. Mary's County."

"It's just not in the books; it's not what I want to do."

O'Connor did not specify who had started speculation that he would seek one of the highest law enforcement jobs in the county but said he did want to deal with the stress of the job.

"There's just too much that goes with it," O'Connor said. "I have a great job up the road, the department's expanding, they're doing great, there's mobility."

For at least the past year rumors have been circulating throughout the county that O'Connor might seek the sheriff's office; he has been a vocal advocate for certain issues regarding the agency, including greater pay for deputies and corrections officers.

"So, if you here these things and it hasn't come out of my mouth, tell them to stick it," O'Connor said. "It just ain't true."

Incumbent Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron has held the position for the past 13 years and has said this term, which expires in 2022 would be his last. O'Connor's wife, Elizabeth O'Connor, is a deputy sheriff and currently works as the domestic violence coordinator with the agency.

She is also pursuing a lawsuit in federal court against the agency dating back to 2017, alleging she was improperly dismissed from the agency's K-9 unit as a handler and was the victim of sexual harassment.

Cameron has denied her allegations in filings with the U.S. District Court in Greenbelt.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Commissioner John O'Connor

St. Mary's College Suspends Classroom Instruction after Spring Break

Spring Break is the week of March 16 – 20, 2020. St. Mary's College is preparing to transition to online/remote instruction when classes resume after Spring Break. Face-to-face instruction in lectures, seminars, and other similar classroom settings will be suspended for two weeks beyond the conclusion of Spring Break. When preparing to leave for Spring Break, we ask students to take all essential belongings, medications, and course materials from your residence hall or work space.

Thus, students should plan to not return to campus but to continue their education through online/remote instruction from March 23 – April 3, 2020. Students who are approved to remain on campus during Spring Break must limit their travel to a 50-mile radius of the campus through April 3 (for athletic events, see guidelines below). Students, faculty, and staff who take part in a Spring Break event that concludes before the end of Spring Break may not return to campus at the conclusion of the activity. These individuals should go home or make arrangements to stay at an off-campus location through April 3, 2020.

All residential students are expected to vacate campus by 5:00 p.m. this Friday, March 13, 2020 and remain off campus until Saturday, April 4, at noon. Students requiring additional time to vacate campus or who wish to stay on campus during Spring Break, should request permission via this form. These special requests must be submitted no later than Friday, March 13, 2020, by 10:00 a.m.

Faculty and students will be using online/remote platforms for instruction, including but not limited to, the College's Blackboard Learning Management System and Go-to-Meeting. Students will receive specific assignments and directions for their coursework from faculty. Online/remote instruction will occur following the normal course schedule as defined by the course syllabus. Faculty who elect to use online/remote platforms other than Blackboard must provide access to their materials to the Provost's Office in advance.

Students having questions regarding accommodations or accessibility during this period should contact OAS at adasupport@smcm.edu.

Students and faculty who may have difficulty accessing online/remote materials from home or off-campus, should submit a ticket. If you have special technology needs such as computer or connectivity issues, contact E. Jenell Sargent, asst. VP of information technology and chief information officer at 240-895-4331, ejsargent@smcm.edu.

Release from St. Mary's College of Maryland

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Commissioners Favor Increased Park and Recreation Fees

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

County parks and recreation and budget officials got consensus from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week to move ahead with increasing fees for many of the programs and facilities the department runs.

But commissioners agreed that certain programs that involved disadvantaged or disabled participants, mostly young people, should not have a fee hike.

Arthur Shepherd, director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, said the county-owned Wicomico Shores Golf Course needed more revenue and was pursuing increases for seasonal passes.

Budget documents showed, for example, that a seven-day unlimited use pass for an individual would increase from \$1,350 to \$1,475.

All other seasonal passes would increase in price, documents showed, though daily, nine-hole rates would remain the same.

The cost to rent the banquet facilities there would increase from \$2,000 to \$2,500, budget documents showed.

The increases would apply to new member signing on in July – the next fiscal year, Shepherd said.

“We’re trying to get to that... equitable fee so that people don’t leave and remain,” Shepherd said.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said he had heard complaints from Breton Bay golf course about county fees giving Wicomico an unfair advantage.

“They say ‘We’re losing business and you’re subsidizing competition with tax dollars,’” Hewitt said, adding that county golf fees should perhaps be equal with private ones.

Shepherd said in speaking with management at Breton Bay, they had not brought the issue to him.

“We didn’t talk about our rates being subversive to them at all,” Shepherd said.

The issue of access to the county’s three waterfront parks, Myrtle Point, Snow Hill and Elms Beach, brought about calls from county leaders to further increase the difference between fees for county residents and out-of-county visitors.

The original budget documents showed the parks and recreations department wanted to increase per-vehicle, non-county residents from \$15 to \$20 and seasonal passes for all three parks from \$115 to \$135, but commissioners said the increases should be higher.

“We hear a lot about county residents not being able to get into our prime water parks,” said Commissioner Eric Colvin. “I’d like to see non-county fees increased more.”

In a later interview, Commissioner Todd Morgan said county residents were already paying for the public amenities like the water parks and without increased fees for non-county residents, the visitors were essentially being subsidized.

“They should not be treated the same,” Morgan said.

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Commissioners want to increase fees for non-county residents at water front park like Snow Hill in Mechanicsville

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Reward Offered For Gun Store Robbery Information

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help in identifying the suspects who committed an armed robbery the night of March 5 at Bob's Sunoco in Callaway, making off with multiple firearms.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has also offered a \$5,000 reward for actionable information in the case.

St. Mary's County Crime Solvers is also offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for legitimate leads on the case and the National Shooting Sports Foundation is matching the ATF's reward as well, the sheriff's office stated.

Lt. Doug Mills, a senior detective with the sheriff's office Criminal Investigation Division, declined to say how many guns were stolen from the store, nor the type of weapons.

Mills said there were two suspects involved in the armed robbery, with at least one of them being armed.

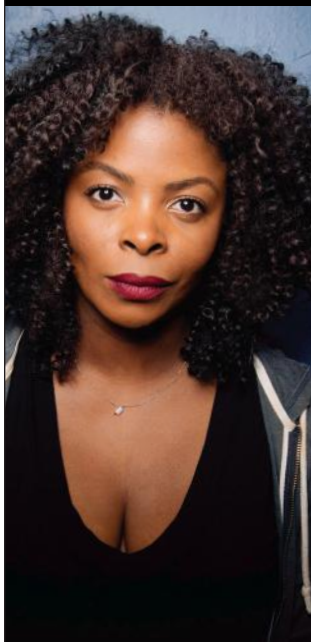
There is no description of the assailants, Mills told The County Times, since they covered their faces to conceal their identities.

The armed robbery occurred at about 8:04 or 8:05 p.m., last Thursday, Mills said.

"It took just minutes," Mills said. "It was not very long at all."

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Contact: Leo Hoffman, 301 274-4474, ext. 268

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Contact: Martin Kane, 301 274-4474, ext. 274

The Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc., is a nonprofit organization working in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties that provide services for eligible citizens that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty, promote upward mobility and enrich the quality of life. For information, visit www.smtccac.org.

St. Mary's County Library Strategic Plan Available Now

After just less than a year of exploration, market research and input from stakeholders, the public and staff, the St. Mary's County Library is excited to announce the completion of a 2020 – 2024 Strategic Plan. The strategic planning process was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through a Library Services and Technology Services (LSTA) grant. St. Mary's County Library surveyed our community to gain a more precise understanding of the community's needs, interests, and priorities. In addition to surveys, we interviewed many stakeholders to find out how the Library is currently serving the needs and what we can do to continue to improve.

New Mission and Vision statements will help guide the Library over the next five years.

Our Vision: We inform and inspire.

Our Mission: We connect people with ideas and information in a diverse community, valuing opportunity and education for all.

In executing this strategic plan, the St. Mary's County Library will continue to uphold our core values and guiding principles of education, service, community and integrity. The Library will especially focus on five areas:

Area of Focus: Organizational Health

Goal 1: Promote a positive working environment

Goal 2: Institutionalize the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)

Area of Focus: Service to the Community

Goal 1: Develop and maintain a dynamic and current collection

Goal 2: Enhance our programs and services

Area of Focus: Access

Goal 1: Improve access to collections, services, and programs

Goal 2: Renovate and/or repurpose existing spaces to meet changing needs

Area of Focus: Technology

Goal 1: Stay abreast of current and changing technologies to best serve the community

Goal 2: Provide access and training to address the digital divide

Area of Focus: Community Relations

Goal 1: Tell the Library's story

Goal 2: Cultivate advantageous partnerships

Goal 3: Proactively communicate with our community

"Our plan is the result of an inspiring process, from getting a grant through interviews with community leaders, surveying the public and our employees, and working through many drafts to tighten and focus our priorities," said Michael Blackwell, Library Director. "Thanks to all who contributed. Now the work begins of realizing our ambitions to excel, with this plan as our guide. St. Mary's County Library will deliver even more outstanding 21st Century service."

"The Strategic Plan serves as a framework for future plans and action steps to enhance services to the community, stay relevant to the changing culture and population diversity, and keep pace with technology." Said Jim Hanley, President of the St. Mary's County Library Board of Trustees. "Expanding the role of the library as a community center and education resource and partnering with county organizations with similar aims, we will continue to be central to the personal and professional ambitions and interests of our residents."

Beth Roth, Library Board Trustee, added "This Plan will provide direction and guidance for now and into the future. It is the product of much thought and collaborative effort."

The public is welcome to read the entire plan on the Library's website, <https://www.stmalib.org/about-us/strategic-plan/>.



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Electric Charging Stations Coming To Leonardtown

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) has partnered with the Town of Leonardtown to put charging stations for electric vehicles in several locations.

The first was approved by the town council at the March 9 meeting, to be installed on Park Avenue in the downtown area.

SMECO will install the charging station in the public parking lot on Park Avenue, with a second one planned for the public parking lot on Washington Street.

The first charging station will take up two parking spots in the lot, according to town documents.

There will be no cost to the town for having the charging stations; customers would pay for charging service using either an application on their phone or via a credit card.

Town Administrator Laschelle McKay said the town was keen to get the charging stations.

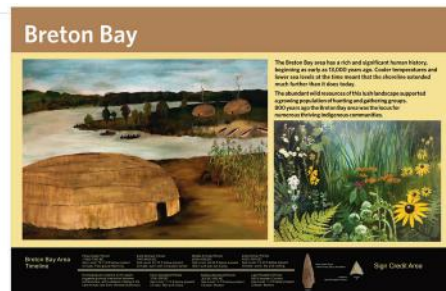
"We were interested and they [SMECO] reached out to us," McKay told The County Times. "More and more people are having electric cars; we wanted to off the option."

McKay said there are more charging stations planned for Leonardtown but on county owned property.

The county is still working on getting the easements for installing the stations, she said.

The sites planned include the county governmental center on Leonard Hall Drive, the sheriff's office, the Leonardtown College of Southern Maryland campus and the Board of Education located on Moakley Street.

In other news, local artist Susan Carney provided an update to the town council on a historical marker she had designed to memorialize the indigenous peoples of Breton Bay, who had lived here as many as 13,000 years ago.



Carney sign picture

Carney came forward with the idea back in October and the council approved her moving forward with finding funding for the idea.

Carney's design proposal presented to the council included two of her paintings and a timeline of the history of Breton Bay.

Carney said she would like to see the historical marker placed at Leonardtown Wharf with two other historical placards.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Sen. Bailey Announces Funding for District Projects

Senator Jack Bailey announced that he has secured additional State funding for projects in District 29 in the State Budget. A Supplemental Budget released by Governor Larry Hogan includes funding for two of Senator Bailey's priorities for this session. This Supplemental Budget includes \$200,000 for a study determining the possibility of establishing a new behavioral health crisis center in Southern Maryland. The Supplemental Budget also includes over \$460,000 in additional funding for Historic St. Mary's City, including funds to support their ongoing archeological work.



Senator Jack Bailey

This supplemental funding is in addition to \$200,000 that Senator Bailey secured in the State's Capital Budget for the Regional Agricultural Center that is being planned in St. Mary's County.

Following the release of the Governor's Supplemental Budget, Senator Bailey issued the following statement:

"I am happy to report that District 29 continues to have a successful session in Annapolis with the additional funding that has been provided in the Governor's Supplemental budget after my request.

Having access to a Behavioral Health Crisis Facility in Southern Maryland would be critical to saving lives in our community. I am extremely pleased to start this process, and I am extremely grateful to Governor Hogan for including this funding in the Budget for this year so that our history can be appreciated by future generations.

"I am committed to providing the resources that our many historic sites in District 29, including Historic St. Mary's City, need to be successful and continue to serve not only as important parts of our history, but also as great reasons for people to visit Calvert and St. Mary's Counties. I will work with colleagues in the General Assembly to ensure this money remains in the Budget.

"I also know that many people in Southern Maryland are concerned about the proposal to cut funding for the University of Maryland at Southern Maryland. Support for USMSM continues to be a high priority for our region. I am extremely optimistic that the full funding for USMSM will be included when the Senate takes up the Budget next week."

For more information please visit www.senatorbailey.com/the-bailey-daily

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT



Conrad Robinson

Child Abuse/Assault/Resist Arrest- On March 1, Dep. Wilson responded to the 21600 block of Liberty Street in Lexington Park, for the reported disturbance. Investigation determined during an argument, Conrad Olander Robinson, 37, of Lexington Park, threw a chair at the victims and pushed the victim causing the victim to fall. Robinson exited the residence while deputies were on scene, and fled on foot. Robinson was apprehended, however he actively resisted arrest and pulled away from officers taking him into custody. During the arrest, a body camera worn by a deputy on scene was broken. Once taken into custody, Robinson began yelling and cursing loudly, causing a disturbance in the neighborhood. Robinson was placed in a police cruiser at which time he kicked two deputies. Once secured

in the vehicle Robinson began kicking the passenger side window and door panel of the vehicle. Robinson was transported to the detention center and charged with four counts of Assault, Resist/Interfere with Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, Failure to Obey Lawful Order, Child Abuse, and Malicious Destruction of Property.

Theft- On March 1, Dep. Myers responded to the 44500 Clarks Mill Road in Hollywood, for the reported motor vehicle theft. Investigation determined Linda Marie Bond, 25, of Hollywood, took the victim's vehicle without permission. Bond was charged with Theft, Motor Vehicle-Unlawful Taking, and Unauthorized Removal of Motor Vehicle.



Linda Bond

Assault- On March 2 Cpl. Graves responded to the 30000 block of Market Drive in Charlotte Hall, for the reported assault. Investigation determined the victim entered the establishment to place an order. Andrew Todd Braun, 29, of Waldorf, proceeded to throw an item at the victim, which ultimately struck another patron. Braun then confronted the victim, and grabbed the victim by the arms, causing visible injury. Braun also yelled at the victim, and caused a disturbance in the establishment. Braun was arrested and charged with two counts of Assault 2nd Degree and Disorderly Conduct.



Andrew Braun

Philip H. Dorsey III
Attorney at Law

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41/50-Count
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Sea Best Cod
5.98 Ea.



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CSM to Move Classes Online to Help Limit Spread of Coronavirus

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) announces that it will transition to online instruction, effective Monday, March 16, as a preventative measure to help stop the spread of COVID-19. In addition, CSM faculty and staff have been briefed on the requirements for increased teleworking. CSM campuses will remain open.

"CSM leadership does not take this step lightly," shared CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy. "We recognize the impact that the spread of COVID-19 can have on our community and see this as a preventative, reasonable, and compassionate course of action, while not disrupting instructional continuity. Moving instruction into a virtual environment limits the opportunities for transmission of the virus, which in turn eases the pressure on local healthcare providers and reduces the impact at the individual level for those who may contract COVID-19."

In line with moving to virtual classrooms, CSM is also looking at issues surrounding conferences, ConEd courses, scheduled programs and activities (competitions and events scheduled for our campuses), as well as access to our fitness facilities. The college has also issued new travel guidance to faculty. The St. Charles Children's Learning Center located at CSM's La Plata Campus will stay open with normal operating hours.

Students and our communities are receiving specific information about this decision via email, CSM apps, social media and letters in the mail. Students are encouraged to contact their instructors if they have questions about online instructions.

The following guidelines apply immediately and until further notice:

All college-related international travel is prohibited.

All personal international travel is strongly discouraged.

All college-related domestic air travel must receive prior authorization by the appropriate college division head.

Employees are strongly urged to consider avoiding personal air travel or cruise line trips.



Anyone who returns or arrives to a CSM location from a location with a CDC level 3 travel warning for COVID-19, must notify the college at least 48 hours prior to your return/arrival to the college and self-isolate using guidance from your local Health Department. Most self-isolations will last 14 days.

"We all share the same goals in this response to the coronavirus — we want to stay prepared, cautious, and healthy," added Murphy. "CSM's faculty and staff have worked tirelessly in the last few weeks to prepare to take their students into virtual classrooms. From the second we etched out this possibility, their passion for their students was evident. I applaud their efforts and commitment to navigating an unprecedented situation so that our students can continue to learn while we all serve in the best interests of our community."

CSM is working closely with local, state and federal authorities, and will share information as quickly as possible when and if these new operating conditions change. All updates will be posted on this page. For additional information about the status of COVID-19, Marylanders can call 2-1-1; text your zip code to 898-211 or TXT-211; or go line to 211md.org.

College of Southern Maryland Press Release



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SMECO Sponsors Southern Maryland Computer Bowl



Great Mills HS Coach Nora Blasko, Venzah Hamilton, Zoe Coughlan, Maya Lee, and Emme Staats

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) held the 31st annual Southern Maryland High School Computer Bowl on March 7 at North Point High School in Charles County.

The event helps students prepare for careers such as software development and cybersecurity. Computer skills are vital for students who plan to become proficient in technical and industrial fields. With information technology firmly embedded in daily life, electric utilities depend heavily on computerization to help keep the lights on for their customers.

This year's Computer Bowl featured approximately 70 young computer enthusiasts in a test of their coding skills and technical knowledge. Sponsors for the annual competition are SMECO, the College of Southern Maryland, Booz Allen Hamilton, and the public school systems of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

Nineteen teams from nine high schools in Southern Maryland faced the challenging literacy and programming tests in the Computer Bowl. In the first round of the competition, students took a written test of their knowledge of computer history, hardware, and software. In the second round, teams of three to four students created computer programs to solve specific problems, writing code in programming languages such as Java and Python.

An all-girl team from Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County won first place this year. Team members were Zoe Coughlan, Venzah Hamilton, Maya Lee, and Emme Staats, coached by Nora Blasko. Huntingtown High School won second place; Tom Currier coached Ethan Hilton, Quintin Hilton, Evan Fee, and Grayden Hays. North Point High School had a team take third place, with Melody Stahl coaching Ishaan Chada, Eric Fotang, Maxwell Stine, and Gabriel Alleyne. In fourth place was another Great Mills High team, made up of Holland Henderson-Boyer, Leanna Eldridge, Daniel McLawhorn, and Ryan Rex.

Winners received plaques and trophies, and SMECO awarded gift cards to the top four teams. The College of Southern Maryland also provided the first-place winners with performance awards.

Booz Allen Hamilton provided 11 judges for the Computer Bowl: Rachel Aaron, Alan Cooper, Janet Cooper, Carrie Dalton, Amber Dull, Shannon Katulich, Stephen Katulich, Laurie Lawrence, Cailean Parker, Doug Sanborn, and Jennifer Sanborn. Other judges were Tom Inscore and John Stine of Charles County Public Schools; Joe Burgin, Eugen Leontie, and Brian Warnecke of the College of Southern Maryland; and Steve Nixon of Small Satellite Alliance. Lora Bennett and John Stine with Charles County Public Schools developed the literacy and programming tests used in the competition.

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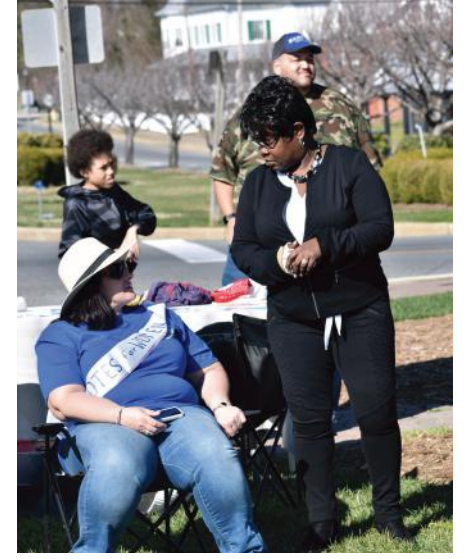


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History Making Women, Honored at International Women's Day in Leonardtown



Photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

First Friday Fun Launches March Activities

Love for our community (and all things green, in particular tasty beverages and colorful attire!) were definitely in the air on March 6th! A big “thank you” from Leonardtown Business Association to all who came out for opening receptions and workshops at the art studios, one-night only specials at the shops and restaurants, live entertainment, and other activities and events.

A few highlights were: The Port of Leonardtown hosted musicians Crosby Crofod & Miles Gannett, fabulous door prizes, and the much anticipated seasonal arrival of the “Jolly Green Sangria” (pictured here). Students from the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) Captstone program at Chopticon High School opened their new visual arts exhibit, running through March 31st, at the Leonardtown Arts Center. The Old Jail Museum, one of First Friday’s newest participants, provided over forty fascinating mini-tours and the SoMar Drummers and friends brought the beat back to Town Hall for an hour of world drumming. There is way too much to list here, just plan on joining us next time in Downtown and beyond!

Don’t forget to post your photos snapped at the newly updated spring “selfie bench” Downtown at the corner of Washington & Fenwick Streets, just add to your social media and tag with #loveltown!

Save the date for our next monthly event with the theme of “Hop & Shop First Friday” scheduled for April 3rd, 2020 from 5-8 PM, activities and details will be announced soon on the Leonardtown First Fridays Facebook page. The audience participation Drum Circle with the SoMar Drummers will also be continuing from 7-8 PM at the Town Hall.

A note of appreciation to the Town of Leonardtown, the Commissioners of Leonardtown, LBA business members, the SoMar Drummers, the First Friday volunteers, and Platinum Sponsors (The County Times, Leonardtown Chevy Buick GMC, Marrick Homes, Quality Built Homes, and Visit St. Mary’s) who all helped to make this yet another wonderful evening!

Submitted by the Leonardtown Business Association (LBA).



Photo credit – Port of Leonardtown Winery.

THERE ARE TWO TRUTHS IN LIFE:

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

2. Regardless of how different our backgrounds or differences might seem, the most difficult thing any of us will ever have to do is face death; either ours or someone we love.

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

Participate

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

Sponsor

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



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SAT – March 21st @ 8:30 am

(Farm Machinery, Tools, Furniture, Crafts, Lawn/Garden)

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St. Mary's College of Presents ESPN Analyst; Bestselling Author Jay Williams

The Office of the President presents ESPN analyst and bestselling author Jay Williams on March 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auerbach Auditorium of St. Mary's Hall on the St. Mary's College of Maryland campus. Part of the Presidential Lecture Series, the event is free of charge and open to the public but reservations are required at www.smcm.edu/jaywilliams.

Williams is considered one of the most prolific college basketball players in history. The #2 pick in the 2002 NBA Draft, he is now an analyst on "College GameDay" and a regular commentator on ESPN and ESPN2's weeknight studio coverage.

Following a motorcycle accident in 2003, Williams was forced to retire from basketball after just one season with the Chicago Bulls. Rather than letting the near-fatal accident destroy his future, Williams parlayed his experience on the court into a successful career in broadcasting and business. Drawing from his time in recovery and building his brand, Williams has established himself as a premier keynote motivational speaker for various executive business conferences and charitable organizations nationwide.

His best-selling memoir, "Life is Not an Accident: A Memoir of Reinvention" (Harper Collins, 2016), focuses on the life-altering depression and ultimate healing that Williams underwent in the aftermath of his accident. The 2018 documentary web-series, "Best Shot," follows Williams as he mentors high school basketball players from Newark's Central High School. Directed by Michael John Warren and executive produced by LeBron James, "Best Shot" is available on YouTube Red.

Williams joined at the start of the 2014-15 season as an analyst on ESPN's "College GameDay," the popular college basketball program that originates from the "Saturday Primetime" game-of-the-week telecasts. First joining ESPN in 2003, Williams became a full-time game and studio analyst in 2008. He was also an analyst for CBS College Sports Network in 2007, and a contributor to Fox Sports Radio in North Carolina.

Williams was drafted second by Chicago in the 2002 NBA Draft, just behind No. 1 pick Yao Ming, and started 54 of 75 games for the Bulls in the 2002-03 season. As a starter for three years at Duke, Williams won the Naismith College Player of the Year award, the John R. Wooden Award, and the Oscar Robertson Trophy. He averaged double figures as a freshman, which helped earn him the ACC Rookie of the Year award in 2000 and recognition as a first-team All-America player.

An accomplished entrepreneur and spokesperson, Williams is the CEO and national director of special events for Rising Stars Youth Foundation, using basketball as the vehicle to promote education and provide academic and financial assistance to students within the program.

He is a member of the NBA Retired Players Association, a voting member of the John Wooden Awards Committee and sits on the board of USA Basketball. Williams has also been a spokesperson for Athletic Advantage, a sports physical therapy and performance development center in Durham, North Carolina.

The first athlete at Duke University to earn a degree in just three years, Williams graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and business.



Sotterley to Host “Fly-In” Farmers Market at County Airport

America’s only “Fly-in” Farmer’s Market is back by popular demand at the St. Mary’s County Airport inside the Terminal Building. Treat yourself, or someone special to local farm produce on Saturday, March 21st from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be locally farmed oysters, breads, baked goods, honey, meats, eggs, pork as well as hard apple cider, Bourbon & Whiskeys and even dog treats!

This “Fly-in” Farmer’s Market is unique to St. Mary’s County and highlights the bond between our local agriculture & aquaculture community with the creative and knowledge-based economy supporting our aerospace industry. St. Mary’s is a beautiful rural area that hosts high technology workers for work at NAS Pax River. This market will feature a joint appearance the Captain Christopher Cox (NAS Pax River Commanding Officer) and St. Mary’s County Commissioner Todd Morgan, showing the strong bond between the local community and the Navy.

While this is a “Fly-in” farmers market because it is located the terminal building, most people simply drive or bike to the event. It’s conveniently located in the emerging Airport Innovation District at, 44200 Airport Rd, California, MD 20619.

Check out Historic Sotterley’s Facebook & Instagram Pages for updates and more details.

Historic Sotterley Plantation Press Release

SMECO Applies for Rate Reduction

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative’s (SMECO) Board of Directors has approved a decrease for the power supply rates that customer-members pay for their electric service. Upon Board approval, SMECO submitted a filing to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC), to reduce its base energy charges by more than 10 percent for residential customers. If the filing submitted on February 28, 2020, is approved by the PSC, the lower rates will go into effect with May 2020 bills.

Sonja M. Cox, SMECO president and CEO, explained, “Our residential base rate for May will be the lowest it has been in almost 15 years. Nearly all customer classes—commercial accounts, schools, government buildings, and churches—will have their energy rates reduced. Lower rates can make a huge impact, especially on facilities that use a lot of energy.”

The base rate for an average residential customer with 1,300 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of monthly usage will be \$10.40 less this summer than last summer. SMECO’s Standard Offer Service (SOS) rate is made up of the energy charge and the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). On SMECO’s monthly electric bills, lower power supply costs have been reflected in the PCA, which has been a credit for the last six months.

“When SMECO purchases energy at a lower cost on the wholesale market, those savings are passed on to our customer-members,” Cox said. “SMECO’s power portfolio includes electricity that is produced by multiple sources of energy, such as wind, solar, nuclear, and coal. About 60 percent of our energy comes from natural gas, and the lower prices that we’ve been seeing have a positive impact on customer rates.”

SMECO’s base residential energy charges for summer will decrease by 11 percent, from 6.98 cents per kWh to 6.21 cents per kWh. Summer energy charges appear on bills rendered May through September. Base residential winter energy charges will be reduced from 7.54 cents per kWh to 6.74 cents per kWh, a 10.6 percent reduction.

The PCA, which changes monthly, is a credit of 0.8937 cents per kWh for March. The combination of the base energy charge and the PCA credit effectively reduces the SOS rate from 7.54 cents per kWh to 6.6463 cents per kWh.

Garvey Senior Center to Relocate

Formal Ribbon Cutting Set for April 28

The current Garvey Senior Activity Center, located in the Leonardtown Governmental Center complex, will officially close its doors Friday, April 3, at 5 p.m. For two weeks, staff will be moving into the brand-new Garvey Senior Activity Center to prepare for its opening. The new Garvey Senior Activity Center, located at 23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD will reopen to the public Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 8 a.m.

The public is invited to join the Department of Aging & Human Services, and local and state dignitaries, including the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County and Yumi Hogan, First Lady of Maryland, for the official ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Tours of the new facility and special opening day activities are planned for the public to participate.

During the two-week closure of the current Garvey Senior Activity Center, participants can visit one of the other locations: Loffler Senior Activity Center located at 21905 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills, MD or Northern Senior Activity Center located at 29655 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD.

For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050, visit www.stmarysm.com/aging, or find us on Facebook, keyword St. Mary’s County Department of Aging & Human Services.

Press Release from St. Mary’s County government.

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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.

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Bay District Volunteers Seldom Get a Break



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

After more than 75 years of providing protection to the Lexington Park and California areas and wherever else they are needed, the volunteers at the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department continue to see an increase in demand for their services, said its chief and president.

Split between two stations, one on Shangri-La Drive and the other on Fire Department Lane in California, the total call volume has risen above 2,000 for the past several years.

A significant number of their calls don't turn out to be real emergencies, said Wayne Johnson, presi-

dent of Bay District, but they are obligated to respond regardless.

"We get a lot of false alarms," Johnson said. "We ran calls to a church on Pegg Road last night (March 8) three times."

The majority of their calls aren't even for fire emergencies, Johnson and Chief Robert Wahrenbrock said.

"Overall 73 percent over our call volume is car accidents," Wahrenbrock said. "It's ridiculous.

"A lot of it has to do with the base traffic and people are just bad drivers."

The volunteers often find themselves being the victims of car wrecks, with motorists either not

slowing down and moving aside for them as they rush to emergency calls or simply driving around them and cutting them off.

In one incident last month, volunteers on a brand new, \$800,000 apparatus were answering a service call in Town Creek when they collided with a truck that was trying to pass them on the right-hand side of the road, Johnson said.

The new apparatus is still out of service, they said.

It's part of working in the county's most heavily populated and urbanized center.

"That's what it's like for us," Johnson said. "And we're running lights and sirens."





Wahrenbrock said the county's continued growth would only make it more difficult to answer calls.

"They're building more and more homes left and right," the chief said. "It's getting busier and busier and the traffic is just getting worse and worse."

But the Bay District station on Shangri-La Drive is among the best staffed and best equipped in the county, especially when it comes to training for firefighters; despite the difficulties in operating in Lexington Park they don't have as severe a need for volunteers as other companies.

Bay District is where the calls for action are. They have a fire tower and simulators that allow them to expose recruits and seasoned firefighters alike to all kinds of exercises designed to sharpen their skills.

"You take a class and you can

practice right out back," Wahrenbrock said of the training facilities, adding that firefighters come from all around the state and even outside the state to train at Station 3.

"We can show people all kinds of fire behavior right here," Johnson said.

All of the services the Bay District volunteers provide means that they have received a significantly high rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) of "2" which is among the highest in the state and the highest in the county.

One of its benefits is that commercial properties get insurance rate discounts.

The volunteers actively pursued this designation.

"There aren't many '2s' in the country and us being all volunteer, that's pretty incredible," Wahrenbrock said.



Bay District VFD President Wayne Johnson, left and Chief Robert Wahrenbrock

Getting the designation means the fire company had to submit to an analysis by the insurance service, the company president said.

"This is a major investigation," Johnson said. "It's really in depth."

Bay District, though often well-staffed, still needs citizens who are willing to volunteer, the demand being so great.

Bay District has live-in opportunities at their Station 3 to entice volunteers.

"It's a real fine line of providing service and having enough person-

nel," Wahrenbrock said. "It's a challenge to keep people; a lot of people came in and a lot of people leave."

One of the main issues is that military personnel who get orders to the base sign up for duty and then can almost just as quickly receive orders to move to another duty station.

Still, when they get the call, the volunteers nearly always respond within just a few minutes.

Johnson and Wahrenbrock said that in the past two years, with about 4,500 calls between the two stations, there were just 60 "scratches," or inability to get an apparatus out in five minutes or less.

Many times, they said, they can get an apparatus out just a few seconds after the five-minute mark.

"That's just a 2.7 percent scratch rate," Wahrenbrock said.

To bolster their ability to respond, the chief said, Bay District has an agreement with the fire service on Patuxent River Naval Air Station so that they aid in responses outside the base main gate.

The leadership also expects to be asked to run more calls for medical emergencies, in anticipation of greater demands, Wahrenbrock said.

If this occurs, he said it could nearly double the amount of calls they are responding to now.

The chief said the leadership at Bay District had budgeted to make the expansion of the services possible, but it would still be trying on the membership.

"We know it's coming," Wahrenbrock said.

"Every unit we have is set up for BLS (basis life support)," Johnson said.

When it comes to medical calls, dealing with opioid overdoses are a continual problem; volunteers have become well versed in applying Narcan, an anti-overdose drug, multiple times just to pull one patient out of an overdose.

The addiction to opioids knows no socioeconomic boundaries, they say, and addicts use the narcotics anywhere they can, from restaurants to libraries and even their vehicles while they are operating them.

"We've pulled the same people out of overdoses three or four times, sometimes," Wahrenbrock said. "We get people who drive up on our ramp who overdose."

When there is a new concoction of narcotics being sold on the streets, usually involving some mixture with fentanyl and another drug, the volunteers can tell.

"We'll run 10 calls in a day," Wahrenbrock said.

Many of the car wrecks to which they respond can be attributed to opioid overdoses, Johnson said.

"They'll wreck their cars, we've seen that numerous times," he said.

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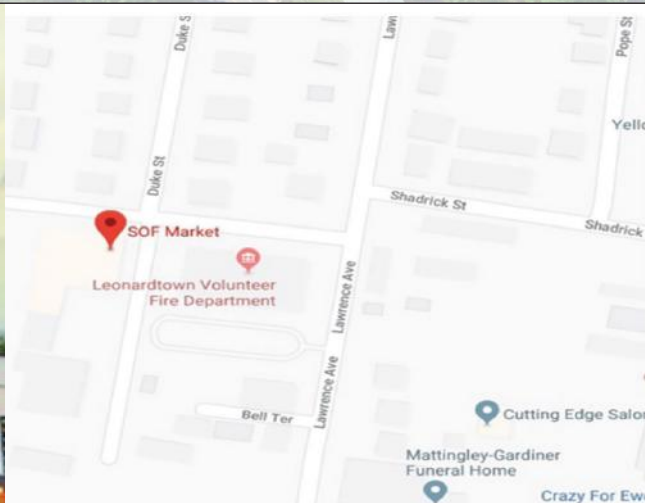
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In Remembrance

Charles Edward Greenwell, Sr



Charles Edward Greenwell, Sr. "Charlie", 82 of Hollywood, MD passed away on March 6, 2020 at his home. He was born on August 5, 1937 in Solomon's, MD and was the son of the late Emily Kate McGee Greenwell and Joseph Frederick Greenwell.

Charlie was the loving husband of Elizabeth M. Greenwell, whom he married on June 25, 1962 in California, MD. Charlie is survived by his children Robin Dalton of Hollywood, MD, Margaret Smith (Frank) of California, MD. Charles Edward Greenwell, Jr. (Tracey) of Huntingtown, MD, Glen Greenwell of Hollywood, MD, 6 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren 7 step-great-grandchildren. Along with his brother Clarence Greenwell of

Hollywood, MD. He was preceded in death by his sister Elizabeth Gray and brother Joseph Aloysius Greenwell and son in law Dale Dalton.

Charlie was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. He worked for C.A. Bean in Construction. Charlie was a Baltimore Orioles fan, he loved the outdoors, feeding the birds, planting and taking care of his flowers and yard, he enjoyed going to Burchmart every morning for his coffee and doughnut. Contributions can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's P.O. Box 260 Leonardtown, MD 20650.

James Franklin Brooks, Sr.

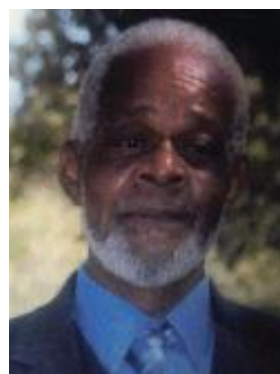


James Franklin Brooks, Sr. "Frankie", 74 of Leonardtown, MD passed away on March 3, 2020 in Hollywood, MD. He was born on July 19, 1945 in Leonardtown, MD, and he is the loving son of the late Mary Blanche Heard. Frankie is survived by his wife Cynthia Brooks, his children James Brooks, Jr. (Susan) of Lexington Park, MD, Victoria Lamb (David) of California, MD, and Caroline Brooks (Alan) of Lexington Park, MD, his grandchildren David Lamb, Jr. and Kaitlyn Lamb. Along with siblings Walter Brooks, Michael Brooks, Marvin Brooks, Mary (Patsy) Parker, Margaret Brooks, and Peggy Tippet. He is also survived by his brother in laws Willie Ridgell (Aggie), John Morrison (Beverly) and sister in law Frannie Evans (Bobby). He was preceded in death by his mother and father in law John and Ruth Ridgell, and his siblings David Brooks, Sr., Joseph Brooks, Richard Brooks, and Mary Helen Brooks.

Frankie was a very quiet hardworking man. He spent most of his time with his wife, Cynthia, whom he met in an elevator in 2001, they later married in 2011. He was a perfectionist and reliable bricklayer. Frankie enjoyed crabbing, fishing, and just staying home. He survived by his precious Yorkies; Tubby, Ruthie, and Little Girl. He had a special love for them. Frankie had three best friends that he cherished; James Abell, John Boy Chapman, and Johnny (Buck) Swales.

A very special heart felt thanks to not only his Doctor but his friend, Dr. Colleen Jude who has taken care of him since 2017, she has a special place in our hearts, always and forever.

Carroll Michael Milburn, Sr.



Carroll Michael Milburn, Sr. "Big Mike", 73 of Leonardtown, MD formerly from Valley Lee, MD passed away on March 2, 2020 in Leonardtown, MD. He was born on July 19, 1945 in Leonardtown, MD, and he was the loving son of the late Georgia Marie Barnes Milburn and John Raymond Milburn. Carroll is survived by his children Tanga Mills of California, MD, Angela Shade of Lexington Park, MD, Carroll Michael Milburn, Jr. of California, MD, Michelle Milburn of Lexington Park, MD, 10 grandchil-

dren, and 2 great grandchildren. Along with his siblings Joseph Milburn of California, MD, and Grace Cleckley of Brandywine, MD. He was preceded in death by his siblings John Milburn, Jr. and Janet Milburn.

Carroll was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduate of Great Mills High School Great Mills, MD. He laid asphalt for years with F & P Asphalt, and worked at Evans Seafood for many years.

Carroll loved the water.

Benjamin "Ben" Zacharias Benson



After battling cancer for more than a decade, Benjamin "Ben" Zacharias Benson, age 78, passed away peacefully while in hospice care at Georgia War Veteran's Home in Milledgeville, Georgia. He was born on February 22, 1942, in Pensacola, Florida, to Willie Isaac Benson and Hazel Turberville Benson. During childhood, he developed his love for gardening, fishing, hunting, cooking, family time and southern traditions. He loved to play the French horn, piano, and, most especially, the trumpet. After he graduated from Pensacola Technical High School in 1960, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy in August of the same year. On February 8, 1964, he married the love of his life, Rose Marie McWilliams, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, Maryland. He was a flight crew member on various types of aircraft, including patrol and cargo planes. Tours included stations all over the world, including missions in Vietnam for three years. The family moved to several duty stations on the East Coast and Hawaii over his twenty-year career, providing special memories of each location. Following his retirement from the Navy in 1980 at Patuxent River, Maryland, he worked as a civil servant. One of his favorite positions was quality assurance specialist for the Hubble Telescope project at Applied Physics Lab Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Maryland. He earned numerous awards for his exemplary service throughout his military and civil service careers. When he finally retired, Ben and his wife moved to Pennsylvania to be near his sister and her family. There, he achieved the



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FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR TWO GENERATIONS

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In Remembrance

level of 4th Degree in the Knights of Columbus. He returned to Pensacola to care for his mother in her later years, finally settling in Georgia, where most of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren reside.

Throughout Ben's life, he continued to love gardening, and he planted trees, flowers and vegetables wherever he lived. He shared his knowledge of hunting and fishing with his children and grandchildren, teaching each one how to bait a hook and fish with cane poles. He loved music and playing cards, especially "pitch".

Along with his parents, Ben Benson is preceded in death by his two sisters, Hazel Kathleen Benson (FL) and Elizabeth Caledonia "Cal" Benson Cowell (Sheffield, PA) as well Cal's husband, Maj. Crispin J. Cowell, USMC. Along with his wife, he is survived by his children: Ann Marie Benson Ameye (Michael Richard Ameye, Woodstock, GA), William "Bill" Patrick Benson (Armida Dano, Revere, MA), David Austin Benson (Cartersville, GA) and Marian Rose Benson Wright (Acworth, GA); seven grandchildren: Samantha Shelby Benson (VA) & Andrew Christopher Benson (VA), Jackson George Ameye (GA) & Sarah Ann Ameye Mazzarella (Joshua Vincent Mazzarella, GA), and Caitlyn Rose Wright (GA), Zachary Aaron Wright (GA) & Dominic Duncan Wright (GA); two great-grandchildren: Grason Thomas Mazzarella (GA) and James Michael Ameye (GA), and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family of Ben Benson welcome relatives and friends for visitation on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at 10AM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, Maryland, followed by a memorial service at 11AM. Internment will immediately follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Flowers are accepted or memorial contributions may be made to the Knights of Columbus Council #9458, 110 N. Jefferson St. NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061.



Ann Schnebly Hoover

Ann Schnebly Hoover, 85, of Tall Timbers, MD, passed away on March 5, 2020, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on June 24, 1934, in Hagerstown, MD, to the late Frederick

Fockler and Catharine Schnebly.

On June 11, 1955, Ann married the love of her life Terrence David "Terry" Hoover in York, PA, where they both grew up. Together they celebrated over 64 wonderful years of marriage, most of which was spent in the Boston area where she and Terry raised their four children. She was a graduate of Northeastern University, where she earned a BA in Anthropology. Soon after, she had successful careers in technology and social work. She and Terry retired to Tall Timbers Maryland in 1999.

Ann was a talented cook and an avid reader. She was a Master Gardener and a member of the Garden Club at St. Mary's County. She helped rescue Springer Spaniels; she was a member of the Red Hat Society, a volunteer at the Piney Point Lighthouse, and was a skilled knitter. She traveled the world visiting her children and grandchildren in Asia, Europe and Africa. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

In addition to her beloved husband, she is also survived by her children T. David Hoover, Jr. (Marion) of Ridgeway, CO, John F. Hoover (Kathyrine) of Fairfax, VA, Andrew Allen Hoover (Kay) of Eugene, OR and Elizabeth Ann Hoover of Tall Timbers, MD; her sisters, Jane Messersmith (Craig) and Fran Zaniello (Tom) of Washington, DC, and her grandchildren: Terrence Hoover, Patrick Hoover, Calder Hoover, Adrienne Hoover, Mariam Hoover and Kareena Hoover.

All services will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, PA

David Nicholas Vukmer



David Nicholas Vukmer, 58, of Georgetown, South Carolina (formerly of Leonardtown, MD) passed away on Saturday, February 29, 2020 after a tragic car accident.

He was born on May 23, 1961 in Meadville, PA to Nick Vukmer and Judith Cole Vukmer of Leonardtown, MD.

Dave is a 1979 graduate of Great Mills High School and a 1985 graduate of Salisbury University. He was employed as a videographer for his entire

career, which began at WBOC in Salisbury, then he was employed by the U.S. Senate and then at NBC Universal from 1997 to 2016. He also ran his own production company, MozAir Productions.

Dave was a passionate musician and played the bass guitar his entire life. He was in numerous bands over the years but the most impactful was the Shatners, performing in the Baltimore area in the mid-90s. Dave was also an avid largemouth bass fisherman and fished competitively throughout the early 2000s. Dave's son, Nick, has fond memories from his youth of being on the water and fishing with his dad.

In addition to his parents, Dave is also survived by his son, Nicholas Sydney Vukmer of Columbia, SC; his siblings, Joanna Schwab (Bill) of Leonardtown, MD, Barry Vukmer (Denise) of Leonardtown, MD; his nieces and nephews: Erica Morris of California, MD, Michael Norris (Devin) of Richmond, VA, John Norris (Hayley) of Warsaw, VA, Billy Norris of Leonardtown, MD, and Jacqueline Benefield (Cale) of Centerville, OH; his great nieces and nephews: Christopher Norris, Emmie Norris, Gage Norris, Santanah Norris, and Eleanor Benefield; and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his niece, Emily Morris.

Interment will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Francis Eugene "Gene" Abell

Francis Eugene "Gene" Abell, 76, of California, MD suddenly returned to his heavenly home on March 4, 2020.

Gene was born on May 7, 1943 to Harry Benedict Abell, Sr. and Mary Catherine Guy Abell. He lived his entire life on his family's farm, close to his parents, sister, and brothers.

Genewasa U.S. Army Veteran, serving as a Helicopter Mechanic (Crew Chief) in Landstuhl Germany from 1964 to



1966. He began his civil service career in 1968, supporting the Data Acquisition Branch and then the Airborne Instrumentation Calibration (AIC) Lab of the Technical Support Division, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD. He spent many years as an Electrical Engineering Technician supporting Naval Electrical Power Systems as both a civil servant and most recently as a contractor for Eagle Systems, Inc. Gene was a jack-of-all-trades and had a few other jobs in his lifetime with memories he enjoyed sharing... Sears, Wal-Mart's Electronics Department, Boeing's F-18 program, Southern Maryland Greenhouses, and his own lawn mower repair service.

Gene volunteered his time with Vacations for Vets, Mission of Mercy, and helping his wife, Denita, and Dr. Martin Barley with the Smith Island Dental Clinic and Guatemalan mission efforts.

Gene was truly a one of a kind, a force of kindness, and a good happy grump wrapped into the most genius and generous soul. He enjoyed spending time with his family. To Gene, there were no strangers, only friends he had not yet met. He was a mentor, teacher, father-figure, brother, and dear friend to many. He was wise about many things and always willing to give a hand - always teaching and sharing his wealth of "how-to" tips. He was an avid storyteller with both words and pictures.

Gene enjoyed going to concerts, helping others, and throwing darts with his family and friends with the Tri-County Darts Association (TRICODA).



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In Remembrance

Gene is survived by his wife Denita, who he married on June 12, 1998, son Michael Abell of Riverview, Florida; daughters: Wendi Cunningham of California, MD, Sarah Wiegand (JR Lang) and Theresa (Teri) McCampbell (Sean) of Great Mills, MD; grandchildren: David Kimball Jr. and Brooklyn of Great Mills, MD, Tyler and Noah Marks of California, MD, and Destiny and Kevin McCampbell of Great Mills, MD; siblings Cathy Bos (Dick), Harry (Rita) Abell, Wayne (Rita) Abell, and Bill (Melva) Abell of California, MD, and Les Abell of Orlando, FL; many nieces, nephews, and good friends. Gene was preceded in death by his parents and sons Joey and Chris Abell.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lexington Park Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 339, Lexington Park, MD 20653, Vacation for Vets, 22673 Pops Way, California, MD 20619, and the American Heart Association, 4217 Park Place Court, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Yvonne Palmans Coykendall



Yvonne Palmans Coykendall, 98, of California, MD passed away on March 4, 2020 at Discovery Commons at Wildevood in California, MD.

She was born on June 23, 1921 in Antwerp, Belgium to the late Jacques Marie Louise Palmans and Josephine Eugene Potier.

Yvonne was married to the love of her life, Lt. Colonel Frederick Walter Coykendall Sr., on May 1, 1947 for 45 years until his passing in 1992. She was a devoted wife and mother. Fluent in a number of languages, she adapted readily to frequent changes of duty station from Turkey to Germany and eventually the U.S. Her ability to resolutely handle whatever hardships came her way was always one of her most distinguishing traits.

In the 1960's Yvonne and her husband moved to Hollywood and enjoyed many years of activities and friendships in St. Mary's County. She is survived by her children: Frederick Walter Coykendall, Jr. and Caroline Patricia D'Aguiar, and her grandchildren Benjamin Thatcher and Diane Thatcher Kidder.

Interment will be at a later date at Ar-

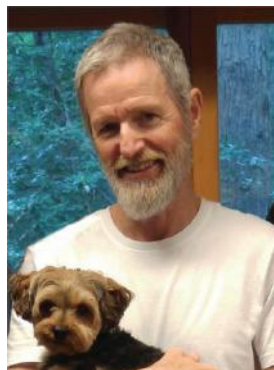
lington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Charles "Charlie" Edward Evans



Charles "Charlie" Edward Evans, 66, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away at his home on March 2, 2020 with his family at his side.

Born in Leonardtown, MD on July 5, 1953, he was the son of the late Robert A. Evans and Agnes C. Russell Evans.

Charlie is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, being born and raised on St. George's Island. On October 9, 1992, he married his beloved wife, Pamela in Leonardtown, MD. Together they celebrated over 27 wonderful years of marriage. He spent many years working for the family business, Evans Seafood-The Crab House. He was employed by DynCorp International for over 25 years of dedicated service and workmanship as an Aircraft Mechanic. He was a highly skilled mechanic and enjoyed working on, and piloting, his own aircraft, his "Piper Warrior 2". He also enjoyed taking vacations to the National Parks, particularly Southern Utah. He loved the red rocks and slot canyons. He was a family man and loved spending time with them, especially his new born grandson and pet Yorkie, Poo Bear.

Charlie is survived by his loving wife, Pamela, and children: Zachary Evans of Leonardtown, MD, Allison Benitez (Miguel) of Waldorf, MD, and Jacob Evans of Leonardtown, MD; his siblings: Jerry Evans of Clyde, NC, Mike Evans of St. George's Island, MD, Joe Evans of Solomons, MD, Tony Evans of Mechanicsville, MD, Fran Sola of Florida, Vicky Seigel of St. Mary's City, MD and Anita Evans of St. George's Island; as well as his grandson Logan Benitez. He was looking forward to the birth of his second grandson in April.

In addition to his parents, Charlie is preceded in death by his brothers, Ronnie Evans and Dennis Evans.

All services will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Charlotte (Hayden) Frankel



Charlotte (Hayden) Frankel was born to eternal life on March 5, 2020. She was guided to Our Lord at home with love by her daughter, Jennifer, and caregiver, Louisa, whom she fondly referred to as LuLu Bear.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Jennifer, who devoted her life to caring for her mother at home, and sons Richard, William, and daughter Lisa, her grandchildren, Alyssa (Love Bug), Richard (Little Big Man) and Alayna (Cupcake), and her three siblings, Sister Marilyn, Owens, and Sharon. She was preceded in death by her parents Elbert Ignatius Hayden and Ruth Virginia Hayden, her son Philip, and her siblings, Ruth, Wayne, Paul, Tom, Gary, and Spencer.

Charlotte was raised in a family of 10 children. In her younger years, Charlotte had a cleaning business and took great pride in her ability to meticulously clean her clients' homes. She also worked as a Unit Secretary at Southern Maryland Hospital and was often complimented on her beautiful penmanship. Occasionally, she would partake in an evening of BINGO with her sister, Sharon, and friends at the ADF BINGO hall. She had a deep love for animals of all kinds-the pandas at The National Zoo, deer that would graze in her yard, and hundreds of hummingbirds she fed every spring through fall. However, one particular unconditional love was that for her kitty, Baby, who will be eternally laid to rest with her.

In her final days, she spoke of Heaven and crossing the Rainbow Bridge with Baby where she would be reunited with all of her friends and loved ones who have gone before her.

Charlotte has been described by her friends as "the most fun friend EVER." She was a loving mother. She loved life, laughter and a good joke. She was an angel on earth and leaves behind so many who loved her dearly. Above all things in life, Charlotte cherished time with her Baby Bear, Jennifer.

May memories of her in the happiest of times comfort all in the loss of her physical being.

Alvin Leopold "Big Mac" McLean



Alvin Leopold "Big Mac" McLean, 90, of Lexington Park, MD and formerly of Jamaica and England, passed away on February 26, 2020 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

Born October 21, 1929 in Sunbury Clarendon, Jamaica, he was the son of the late Joseph Fuller and Norissa McLean.

Alvin graduated from Smithville High School in 1945. He married Daisy Theresa Blearie in St. Andrew, Jamaica on December 24, 1957. He was an Auto Technician for Chrysler Passport of Alexandria for thirty one years, retiring in 2003. Alvin moved to St. Mary's County from Alexandria, VA in 2007. He enjoyed Domino's, watching wrestling and the Washington Redskins.

Alvin is survived by his former spouse Daisy T. Blearie of England; his children, Lincoln McLean of Kent, England, Lolita Robinson (Tyrone) of Lexington Park, MD, Lenox McLean (Veslyn) of Barking, England, Carol Morris (Albert) of London, England, Lancelot McLean of London, England, Paul McLean (Zelijka) of Kent, England, Zacky Forbes (Lourian) of Lexington Park, MD, and Bonny Christie; sixteen grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and siblings, Stitson, Lollis, and Pearl. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Sam and William.

Family will receive friends on Friday, March 13, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. with a Funeral Service conducted by Pastor James L. Bell following at 11:00 a.m. in the Rausch Funeral Home, 20 American Lane, Lusby, MD. Interment will follow in Holy Face Catholic Cemetery, Great Mills, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be Paul McLean, Lancelot McLean, Tyrone Robinson and Justin Harrell.

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

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COUNTY ATTORNY
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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, cold 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 redempton 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

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 MATTER OF MEGAN KATHRYN SHELTON
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO MEGAN KATHRYN O'CONNELL

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

Case No.: C-18-FM-20-167
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 Megan Kathryn Shelton to Megan Kathryn O'Connell. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: My Husband has died and I would like to return to my maiden name.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 4/18/2020. The objection must be supported by an affidavit and served upon the Petitioner in accordance with Maryland Rule 1-321. If no timely objection is filed, the court may issue a default judgment or grant the name change.

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

IN THE MATTER OF JANICE M. HAFF
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO JANICE MARIE NOWLAN

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

Case No.: C-18-FM-20-160
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 Janice M. Haff to Janice Marie Nowlan. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: I want to return to my maiden name.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 4/18/2020. The objection must be supported by an affidavit and served upon the Petitioner in accordance with Maryland Rule 1-321. If no timely objection is filed, the court may issue a default judgment or grant the name change.

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

**If you woud like to place a
LEGAL NOTICE contact**

AlDailey@Countytimes.net

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF LEONARDTOWN ELECTION AND DEADLINE FOR FILING

Election of one (1) Mayor and two (2) Council Members for the Town of Leonardtown will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Notice is hereby given that an election of one (1) Mayor and two (2) Council Members for the Town of Leonardtown shall be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, and that the polls shall be open at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, Maryland, between the hours of 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm, on said date, for voting.

The deadline for candidate filing is Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:30 pm. Candidates may file at the Town Office, 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, Maryland.

In order to hold elective or appointive office as Mayor/Council Member, one must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the Town for at least one year, and at least twenty-one (21) years of age. Property ownership alone does not qualify for election or appointment as a Mayor/Council Member.

VOTING QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify to vote in a Town Election one must be registered. To register, one must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen (18) years of age, and have resided in the Town for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the election.

VOTING REGISTRATION

Deadline for registration to vote is Friday, April 17, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Registration shall be at the St. Mary's County Board of Election Monday through Friday, between the normal business hours of 8:00 am through 5:00 pm, located at 41650 Tudor Hall Road, Leonardtown, MD.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT: TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 AT THE TOWN OFFICE BY 4:30 PM.

DEADLINE FOR OBTAINING EMERGENCY BALLOT: TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020 AT THE TOWN OFFICE BY 7:00 pm.

Emergency ballots are for any voter who, becomes unable to go personally to the polls because of illness or infirmity or condition of employment that occurred after the deadline for submittal of application for Absentee Ballot, (April 28, 2020).

To obtain forms or for any questions, please call 301-475-9791 or email leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov.

Seahawk Baseball Blows Past Bronx Community College

The St. Mary's College of Maryland baseball team (5-3) hosted the Bronx Community College Broncos (0-5) on Sunday (Mar. 8) afternoon at the Hawk's Nest. The Seahawks blew past the Broncos by a final score of 14-2 in seven innings, due the junior college run rule.

St. Mary's College - 14, Bronx CC - 2

How It Happened

The Seahawks jumped on the Broncos early, pushing five runs across home plate to take a 5-0 lead. Jay Hammett started the scoring frenzy with a RBI double to center field. Next, Dillon Waters put the ball in play and plated Joey Bryner off a sacrifice fly. Bowen Plagge extended the Seahawk lead to 3-0 when he roped a single to left field. Andy Collins recorded a RBI to give the Seahawks a 4-0 lead and moments later, Plagge stole home to cap off the first inning.

In the top of the second inning, the Broncos answered by scoring two runs, trimming the Seahawk lead to 5-2. However, the Seahawks responded with two runs of their own to capture a five run lead once again. Wood stole home for the Seahawks' sixth run and Hammett grounded out for the seventh score.

St. Mary's College kept the pressure on in the third inning by tallying four more runs. Hammett continued his hot streak at the plate with a RBI double. Moments later, D. Waters blasted a three-run home run to left field for a comfortable 11-2 advantage.

Both squads held each other scoreless until the seventh inning when D. Waters crushed his second home run of the game to conclude the contest.

Inside the Box Score

D. Waters led the Seahawks from the plate with three hits and seven RBI. Hammett followed with two hits and three RBI, respectively. St. Mary's College showed their speed on the base paths this afternoon stealing nine bases. Wood led the Seahawks with a total of four stolen bases.

Kelli Jenkins started the game for the Seahawks on the mound and threw one scoreless inning, striking one batter out. The Seahawks continued to change pitchers each inning. In all, the pitching staff allowed zero earned runs. Noah Meyers, Jonathan Everidge, Bryan Brooks, and Will Spanoghe notched one strikeout each.



Dillon Waters '20 | Photo Credit: Bill Wood

Press Release from SMCM.

Athletic Center Cardio Room Renovations Completed

St. Mary's College's Michael P. O'Brien Athletics & Recreation Center (MPOBARC) cardio room received updates over the winter break and the renovations are now completed. The facility floor was replaced with new rubberized flooring. The cardio room also added four new treadmills, three ellipticals, one ARC Trainer, one Power Mill and two recumbent bikes.

"The Athletics & Recreation Department appreciates the investment made by the College that will directly benefit the health and wellness of our students, faculty, staff and community members that patronize the Michael P. O'Brien Athletic & Recreation Center," said MPOBARC Director Tom Fisher. "The new equipment will certainly be in high demand as the students return for the Spring semester."

For more information on the MPOBARC and to purchase a membership, visit <https://smcmathletics.com/arcinfo/index>

Press Release from SMCM.



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Striped Bass Conservation Regs Set for Spring

Maryland Trophy Season Begins May 1

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced new striped bass conservation measures for the Spring 2020 fishing season to meet a coast-wide conservation target.

The 2018 benchmark stock assessment for striped bass indicated declines, so the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has determined that conservation measures are needed for the 2020 fishing season. ASMFC is a management entity comprising 15 member states on the East Coast, including Maryland.

The conservation goal set by ASMFC is to reduce the total number of striped bass that are killed by fishing activities. This means reducing the number of fish that are harvested and the number of fish that die after being caught and returned to the water, known as dead discards.

Maryland's management changes follow numerous meetings and discussions with stakeholders and a month-long public comment period, and were developed using the best available science and decades of experience. Measures for spring are designed to protect large migratory spawning fish as they enter the bay. The implementation plan was reviewed and approved by ASMFC's Striped Bass Technical Committee and the ASMFC Board on Feb. 4.

In addition to a cut in the commercial quota, targeting of striped bass by the recreational sector will be prohibited starting April 1 — including a prohibition of trolling — and the spring trophy season will be delayed until May 1. Limits are one fish per person at a 35-inch minimum. These rules will be in effect until May 16. The full regulations can be viewed on DNR's website.

The department will also move forward with conservation options for the summer and fall seasons in the 2020 Implementation Plan. Measures in the summer and fall are designed to reduce mortality caused by high temperatures and low oxygen in the water. The department will announce a public comment schedule for those regulations in the coming weeks.

In 2018, the department raised concerns about the problem of discard mortality with ASMFC. This resulted in Maryland being authorized to adopt a decreased minimum size from 20 to 19 inches. In addition, Maryland took unilateral action to require the use of circle hooks when chumming and live lining. Circle hooks are an effective conservation measure because they significantly reduce "gut hooking" that leads to discard mortality. ASMFC has now asked all other states to follow Maryland's lead and enact this policy.

DNR also launched and is continuing to expand a statewide educational outreach program to assure compliance with these regulations. The department also instituted a system of advisories for anglers on hot days where both water and air temperatures could increase the likelihood of stress on striped bass.

Press Release from MD DNR



Civil War Trails Blazes New Path for History Travel

Civil War Trails, Inc. has teamed up with the St. Mary's County Museum Division, Visit St. Mary's MD, Historic Sotterley and the Maryland Department of Conservation and Recreation and to revamp all six Civil War Trails sites in St. Mary's County.

Earlier this month, the first of six new signs was installed at Historic Sotterley, officially launching the effort which is scheduled to be completed before the fall travel season. Sotterley's new Civil War Trails sign tells a "fuller story," which now includes information about the former enslaved men who served with distinction in the United States Colored Troops. Together, the group will thoroughly research the five remaining sites in the county and produce new signs for each. In addition, the team will shift sign locations to improve accessibility and wayfinding.

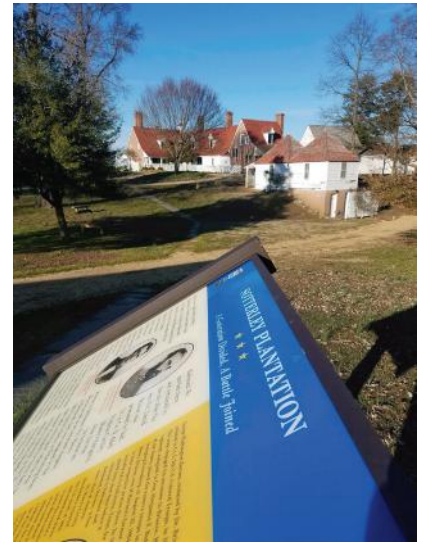
The Civil War Trails program connects visitors to more than 1,200 sites across six states. The program's signature signs bring the modern landscape to life as visitors stand in the footsteps of soldiers, citizens and those fighting for their freedom. Each Civil War Trails site is marketed internationally by state tourism offices, destination marketing organizations and municipal partners. "Every day, we deliver economic development by the carload," said Drew Gruber, Executive Director of Civil War Trails. "Places off the beaten path, personal stories, experiences and unique amenities are exactly what our visitors are after - and St. Mary's County delivers in every category."

The Civil War Trails program continues to experience record visitation each year, providing a strong return on investment and revenue for local jurisdictions. "The best way to learn about the Civil War is by traveling Maryland's five Civil War Trails," says Tom Riford, Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce Division of Marketing, Tourism, Film and the Arts. "Maryland's trails have inspired travelers from around the world to leave the interstates and take the state's scenic and historic routes to battlefields and beyond to places such as Sotterley Plantation. These travelers then visit our cities and towns where they shop, dine and spend the night thereby creating some of the economic impact which helps to save each Maryland household more than \$1,140 per year."

Civil War Trails is part of the extensive menu that the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, the St. Mary's County Museum Division and Visit St. Mary's MD, the county's destination marketing organization, offers to visitors. "Learning about Civil War history is one of the many experiences our visitors can have in St. Mary's County. With a vast history, amazing waterfront, unique festivals and boundless opportunity, we invite everyone to experience St. Mary's County for themselves," said Jason Aul, Executive Director of Visit St. Mary's MD.

To compliment the work being done throughout St. Mary's County, the Maryland Office of Tourism is reprinting its popular Civil War Trails map-guides. In addition, Civil War Trails, Inc. has launched a GPS-enabled page on their website to aid travelers. For more information, please contact Civil War Trails, Inc. at 757-378-5462. Connect with us on social media @civilwartrails #openairmuseum.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government.



Taste of Solomons Coming

Restaurants Offer Fine Food, Beverages

New tastes abound in the historic Solomons Town Center as restaurants showcase selected food and beverages during the one-day food festival, The Taste of Solomons 2020 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 21.

The event is one of the yearly signature events designed and sponsored by the Solomons Business Association, with proceeds to benefit association's annual July 4th fireworks display.

The Taste of Solomons (TOS) provides the community a way to sample and enjoy a waterfront town during the Spring season, according to Taste of Solomons Co Chair Charles Chappell.

Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased

at any of the participating businesses. Each ticket can be exchanged for a sample of selected food or beverages.

Participating businesses: Ruddy Duck Brewery & Grill, Boomerangs Original Ribs, Island Sushi & Grill, Capt. Smith's Seafood, Angler's Seafood Bar & Grill, Calvert Marine Museum, Dry Dock Restaurant, CD Café, Kingfisher's Seafood House, Bugeye Grill, Island Hideaway, Solomons Island Winery, The Pier, Lotus Kitchen/Kim's Key Lime Pies, No Thyme to Cook, Lighthouse Restaurant & Dock Bar, and Charles Street Brasserie.

Tickets will also be available at the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices McNelis

Group Properties office starting Wednesday, March 18 and during the event on March 21.

An updated TOS participating businesses menu flyer will be released to the community this week.

For more information on the Taste of Solomons, call 410.610.6603 or 240.577.1002. For a map of participating restaurants and their offerings, or for information on activities, shopping, dining, and lodging in Solomons, visit www.solomonsmaryland.com.

Press Release from Solomons Business Association.



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 12

Queen of Hearts Fundraiser

Action Lounge and Billards; 4 p.m. - 7 p.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.

Spring Play - Missionary of Oz

Southern Maryland Christian Academy; 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Come out and support the SMCA Drama Club as they present Missionary of Oz, a play about troubled missionaries in the land of Oz as they discover their true mission in life. Presale prices are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults, tickets at the door are \$7 for students and \$9 for adults. For more information please contact candacecrawford@sm-caemail.com.

Cheesesteaks

VFW Post 2632; 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The VFW will be hosting a cheesesteak dinner and will also have Queen of Hearts, 50/50, and Money Tree tickets that will be sold from five to seven.

Friday, March 13

Park Place Toastmasters

Church of Ascension; noon - 1 p.m.

Come visit us to find out how we can help you develop your speaking, listening, and leadership skills in a non-threatening environment!

IHM Lenten Seafood Dinner

Immaculate Heart of Mary; 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Join us for a seafood dinner featuring fried rockfish or baked haddock for \$12, steamed or fried shrimp for \$14, or fried oysters for \$15. There will be a choice of green beans, french fries, stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, or cornbread. Home-baked desserts will be available for purchase to support the IHM St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Kids meals are PB&J, fish sticks, or grilled cheese sandwich.

St. George Catholic Church Lenten Fish Dinner

St. George Catholic Church; 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The menu for this dinner will feature fresh-caught catfish, pansit, french fries, vegetable fritter, homemade macaroni and cheese, and soup. Iced tea or lemonade will also be available.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad; 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

LPVRS Associates will be hosting a fundraiser dinner that will feature spa-

ghetti with marinara sauce, meatballs, salad, and bread. The cost for children will be \$4 and the cost for adults will be \$8.

Spring Play - Missionary of Oz

Southern Maryland Christian Academy; 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Come out and support the SMCA Drama Club as they present Missionary of Oz, a play about troubled missionaries in the land of Oz as they discover their true mission in life. Presale prices are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults, tickets at the door are \$7 for students and \$9 for adults. For more information please contact candacecrawford@sm-caemail.com.

Elks Texas Holdem Tournament

St. Mary's County Elks Lodge; 7 p.m. - midnight

A \$60 buy-in will give you 7,000 chips with an optional \$5 add-on and receive 1,000 chips. If you are signed up by 6:50, receive an extra 500 chips. Total Starting Stack could be 8500 chips. Each player can re-enter one time before the end of the first break for \$60 (7,000 chips). This is not a late entry event you must be signed in before the start of the tournament. Top ten places paid. Burger and fries for \$10 with all the fixings and your choice of American, Provolone or Pepper Jack Cheese. Cash games will start as soon as there are enough players that are interested. Holdem: \$1- \$2 no limit, Omaha Hi/Lo: \$.50—\$1 no limit (starts at 4pm). Any questions may be directed towards James Dean at 240-577-0828 or jdeanjunior@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 14

Indoor Flea Market

St. Mary's Bryantown Church Hall; 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Come to the flea market, which will be held rain or shine, to find all sorts of interesting items.

Crafter and Vendor Show

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Handmade items include jewellery, scarves, candles, knit items, accessories, baked goods, and various artwork, with various vendors for your shopping needs. Stuffed ham sandwiches, pulled pork, chili, and other great food will be available along with vendor food trucks. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds from this fundraiser & other fundraisers are to benefit the Valley Lee 2nd District Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad to continue to keep our community safe.

Young Life Soaring Higher Auction

Patuxent River Naval Air Museum; 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Please join us for Young Life St. Mary's soaring higher auction. Paddle plus 1 food ticket \$15 with additional

food tickets for \$5. Donations excepted through Jennifer Fenwick at fenwick_jennifer@yahoo.com. Hope to see you there.

Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner

St. Johns School; 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

\$13 per meal includes four pieces (breast, thigh, leg and wing) of fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and roll. Dinners must be purchased in advance at www.sjshollywood.org. Pick up at St. John's (enter through ball field entrance and volunteers will guide you through pick-up process). If you have questions, please contact Cindy Pollock at pollockc@sishollywood.org.

Purse and Bag Bingo

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department; 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. with bingo starting at 6 p.m., admission will be \$30 per person for a book of regular games. Extra books will be \$5 along with specials and early birds at \$1. Over \$10,000 in Purses and Bags to be won! For reservations contact Sherry at 240-249-5808. All proceeds benefit the Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Dept.

Spring Play - Missionary of Oz

Southern Maryland Christian Academy; 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Come out and support the SMCA Drama Club as they present Missionary of Oz, a play about troubled missionaries in the land of Oz as they discover their true mission in life. Presale prices are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults, tickets at the door are \$7 for students and \$9 for adults. For more information please contact candacecrawford@sm-caemail.com.

Mother Catherine Academy Bingo

Mother Catherine Academy; 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Join us for bingo this evening. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and early-bird starts at 6:30 p.m. with regular games starting at 7.

Karaoke

VFW Post 2632; 7 p.m. - midnight
SoNiK Steve will be joining us for karaoke and dancing! We hope to see you there.

Texas Holdem Poker Tourney

Indian Head Moose Lodge; 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

No Limit Deep Stack Hold'Em Tournament open to public. Registration from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. with cards in the air at 7. \$80 buy-in (\$70 prize + 10 charity) - starting stack \$15K, \$10 add-on to get \$5K additional (\$5 prize + 5 charity). Rebuys available until the 1st break at 8:30. Late players accepted through first 3 rounds. 30-minute blinds for the first 3 levels then 20-minute blinds. Break after every 3 rounds. For more information, please call John at 240-286-5260. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Contra Dance

Christ Church Parish Hall; 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Come out to swing, promenade, and do-si-do to lively jigs, reels and waltzes at the SMTMD contra dance. The Southern MD Open Band will be playing live acoustic string music and our caller will teach and call the dances. The beginner's dance workshop (no partner required) starts at 7:00 pm, and the dance begins at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$10 for non-SMTMD members; \$6 for SMTMD members (band members and children under 17 are free). There will be an ice cream social during the intermission. Please bring a water bottle. Go to www.smtmd.org for directions and more information. Watch the website for weather-related cancellation notices.

Sunday, March 15

RVRS Quarter Auction

Knights of Columbus Hall; noon

Quarters In! Paddles Up! Come join us to support the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad Association. Doors open at noon and the auction starts at 1. Paddles are \$3 each (or 2 for \$5 / 3 for \$7). For info or reservations, please call 240-416-4224.

Texas Holdem Poker Tourney

Indian Head Moose Lodge; 1 p.m.

No Limit Deep Stack Hold'Em Tournament open to the public. Registration from noon to 1. \$60 buy-in (\$50 prize + 10 charity). Rebuys available until the 1st break (2:30 p.m.). For more information, please call John at 240-286-5260.

Monday, March 16

Elks Holdem Bounty Tournament

St. Mary's Elks Lodge; 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

A \$25 buy-in will give you 6,000 chips, \$5 add-on will give you 1,500 more chips and a raffle drawing. Earn a bounty chip worth \$5 dollars for every person that you bust out of the tournament. This tournament is part of our leaderboard challenge. Earn 1 point for every person knocked out before you. Food and beverage are available for purchase. Cash games will start as soon as there are enough players that are interested. Omaha Hi/Lo: \$.50—\$1 no limit (starts at 4 p.m.). Any questions may be directed towards James Dean at 240-577-0828 or jdeanjunior@yahoo.com.

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

St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services Cancels RSVP Banquet

Based on information from the Centers for Disease Control, older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions should avoid large crowds as much as possible to reduce people's risk of being exposed to COVID-19. For these reasons, the 2020 St. Mary's County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Volunteer Recognition Banquet, scheduled for March 18, 2020, has been canceled.

The Department of Aging & Human Services appreciates the service our RSVP volunteers provide to the community. For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

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. 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.

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.

Maryland Day Basket Raffle

Celebrate your love of all things Maryland by winning a bountiful Maryland Day Basket. It includes Maryland state designed flags, hats, scarves, polo shirt, magnets, cutting board, mousepad, gloves, tie, shoelaces, lanyards, coloring book and more... valuing over \$188! It's on display now, in a harvest bushel basket with MD state postcards embellishments. These are great gifts to keep and show off your Maryland spirit, or divide up and share with others. The cost is \$1 for one chance or \$5 for 8 tickets; tickets are purchased at the Northern Senior Activity Center's front desk. The winner will be pulled on Maryland Day, Wednesday, March 25 at noon. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 73101.

Buffet at Kevin's Corner Café

The Garvey Senior Activity Center Council, Inc., will be hosting a fundraiser to support programs and activities at the Garvey Senior Activity Center at Kevin's Corner Café on Wednesday, March 25, from 3-9 p.m.! The buffet menu will consist of fried fish, fried and steamed shrimp, top round, fried chicken, macaroni & cheese, parsley potatoes, corn and green beans. The cost of the buffet is \$30 per person. Call 301-997-1260 to make reservations.

Escape Rooms Southern Maryland

Are you ready for some Fundraising FUN? Escape Rooms Southern Maryland at 22715 Washington St. #204, Leonardtown, MD, will be hosting a fundraiser on Friday, March 27, with proceeds being donated to the Garvey Senior Activity Center Council, Inc. The cost is \$27 per person or \$150 per private room. What is an escape room? An escape room is a fun, safe, hour long adventure game in which players solve a mystery to escape a themed room. The rooms provide hands on opportunities to crack codes, discover clues, and solve puzzles – all in 60 minutes or less!

How to register:

- 1) Go to www.escaperoomsmd.com
- 2) Book to play any room on Friday, March 27, and a portion of booking proceeds will go to the Garvey Senior Activity Center Council, Inc.

ter Council, Inc.

3) Show up at your designated time and be prepared to have fun. It's that easy!

R&B Line Dancing

R&B Line Dancing will be offered at the Northern Senior Activity Center starting on Friday, March 27, from 1-2 p.m. Learn step-by-step some of today's trendiest line dances; including dances such as the Git Up Dance, Cupid Shuffle and the Wobble. Payment of \$12 for 6 classes/\$2 per class is made directly to instructors the day of class. To sign up for this 6-session class in advance, please visit the signup table or call 301-475-4200, ext. 73103.

Spring Party in April

The second annual Spring-Diggity party will take place at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Thursday, April 23. This party will celebrate the joys of Spring! DJ Mean Gene will provide the music and dancing. The menu will feature: Cranberry Juice, BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Dilled Carrots w/ Snow Peas, Whole Wheat Dinner Rolls, Fruited Jello and Lemon Meringue Pie. Ticket sales will be limited to 100, and the suggested donation is \$8 per person. Tickets will only be sold at Loffler. For questions call 301-475-4200, ext. 71658.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



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.

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.

3D Pen Easter Eggs

Leonardtown Library will hold 3D Pen Easter Eggs on Tuesday, March 24 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Create Easter egg decorations for Spring. Learn how to draw 3D ornaments using library pens. All materials are included. Registration required on www.stmalib.org. Ages 18 and up.

Bouquet of Birthday Cards

Leonardtown Library will hold A Bouquet of Birthday Cards on Thursday, March 26 from 1 – 3 p.m. Use a variety of techniques including rubber stamping, coloring, and paper punching to create a unique collection of birthday cards. Registration required on www.stmalib.org.

Time to Complete Your Census Form!

Lexington Park Library will hold Time to Complete Your Census Form! On Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Partners from Delta Sigma Theta will talk with you about the importance of filling out your Census form and help you fill it out online at the Library.

Introduction to 3D Printing and Design

Lexington Park Library will hold Introduction to 3D Printing and Design on Saturday, March 28 from 12:30 – 3 p.m. Curious about the world of 3D printing? Join us for an introduction where you will learn about the 3D printer and what it can be used for, how to submit a design for printing at the Library, and how to design an object using Tinkercad. For adults 18+. Registration required on www.stmalib.org. It is recommended participants create a Tinkercad.com account before the class. If you have a laptop, please bring it to the session. We will have a limited number of laptops available.



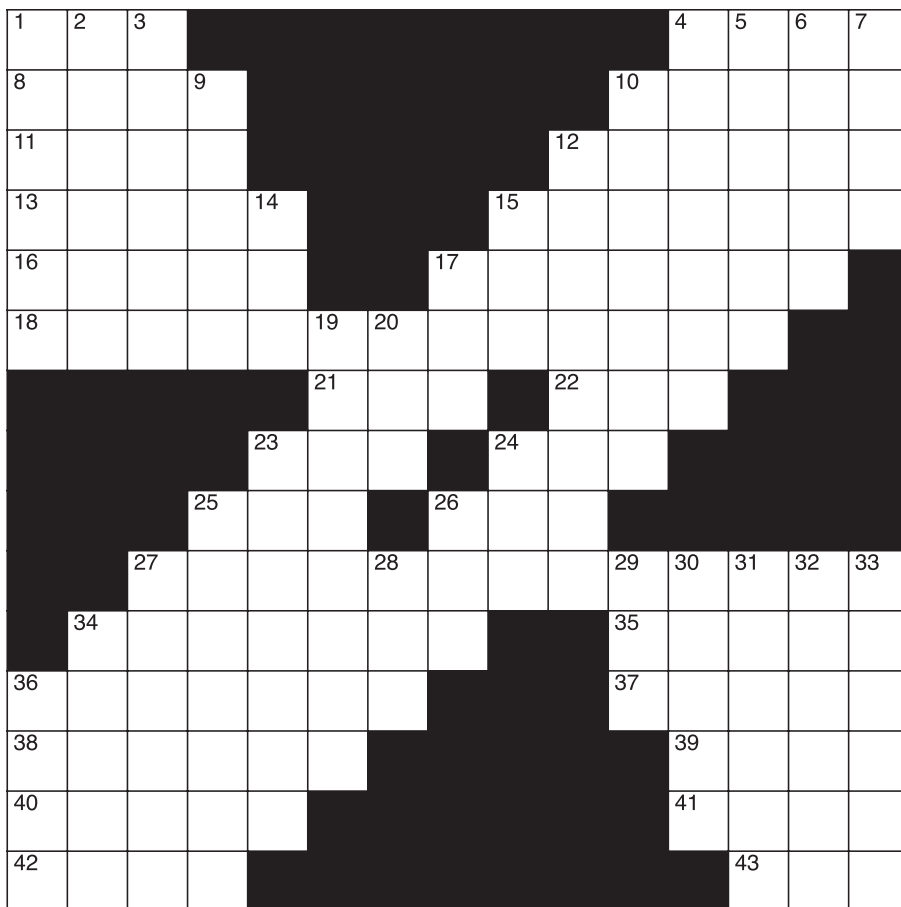
GAMES & PUZZLES

CLUES ACROSS

1. A team's best pitcher
4. Designer Jacobs
8. Hip joint
10. A dialect of English
11. Portrays
12. Panic
13. The head of a team
15. High priest
16. League of Legends locale
17. Protective folds
18. Treats allergies
21. Voodoo spirits
22. Single unit
23. Unit of measurement
24. Brew
25. Burundian franc
26. Self
27. Bengals great
34. Making letters overlap
35. Piece of pizza
36. Illegal drug
37. Card game
38. The highest point in the development
39. Oh, God!
40. Wives (law)
41. Monetary unit of Samoa
42. Supplements with difficulty
43. Valentine's Day color

CLUES DOWN

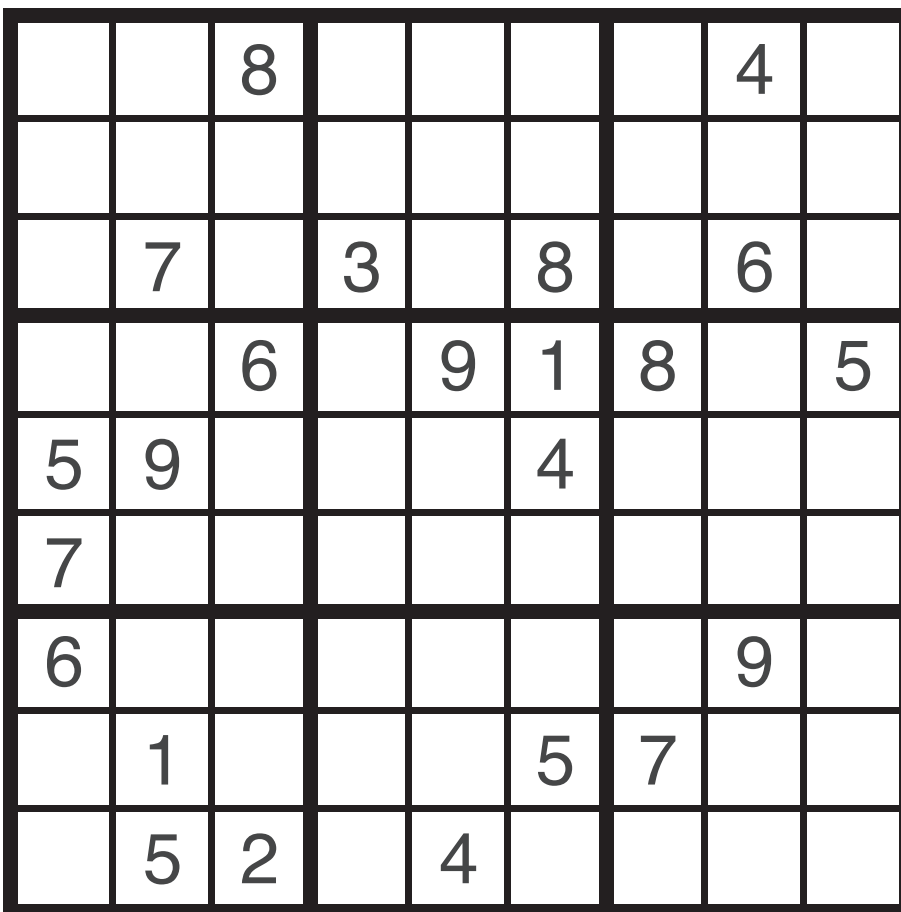
1. Warm climate tree or shrub
2. Silky case spun by larvae
3. Still in existence
4. Light, two-stranded rope
5. Wear away
6. Beginnings
7. Essence
9. American Standard Code for Information Interchange
10. Path
12. Repeated tones
14. Expresses surprise
15. Monetary unit of Burma
17. When you hope to get there
19. Brighten
20. Fifth note of a major scale
23. Dark brown timbers of tropical trees
24. We all do it
25. Scrounges
26. Unit of energy
27. Begin to be
28. Midway between northeast and east
29. Distinctive practice
30. Succulent plants
31. Performer
32. Gas station term
33. Required
34. Soviet monetary unit
36. Eating house



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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



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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*



“Wasn’t there something else I had to do?”



I am trying to decide if this is a window-washing day or a “let’s get anything else done but that” day. If we are done with the woodstove for the year, then I think I should probably go ahead and start washing them. Or, is it nice to see a softly focused view through all the windows? There are some pros to this way of thinking, namely that it is always a happy, rosy scene outside, and I don’t see any flaws in the yard, like spots where grass won’t grow or weedy areas. All the buds forming on the trees and the Pussy willow are beautiful, hazy auras of pink and white...Okay, back to reality, the windows are yucky, and no amount of wishing will make them anything else but that. I am glad we opted for those fold-in windows when we replaced them all a few year’s back. Guess I better get the vinegar out. I saw on Facebook where someone mixed Dawn dish soap and vinegar and had good results – might try that this time.

For the last month I have been on another one of my spring purges. A purging expert was on GMA, and she stated that you should try and live with only 31 pieces of clothing for 30 days. A few days ago, I ruthlessly purged my clothes closet again and got down to maybe 70 pieces (just hanging pieces) which I felt was close enough and took all the clothes and other items to Hooks and Hangars in Charlotte Hall. The problem for me is trying to just unload there and not walk in and find bargain clothes and fairy garden items on the way out. I think there could be a few of us that have the same problem. I keep thinking as long as I only come home with 3% of all that I have dropped off then all is good. And as long as I stick to my husband’s mantra (for me) that if “something comes in the house then something has to go out” then everything is fine. Well, that is what I do right?

This purging is never-ending it seems. I find places that I have stored clothes in my old sizes that I don’t even remember. Our laundry room door is always propped open, so I completely forgot that one year I had an idea to hang summer shirts on the back on one of those racks. Unfortunately, I don’t remember what year that was, so now I have to go through those too. I also remembered the vacuum sealed bag of jeans that have been stored under the guest room bed for who knows how many years. Jeans that I will never fit into again but can’t bear getting rid of. How ruthless am I supposed to be again and did that purging expert mean just 31 items total or 31 of each type of clothing, like 31 long sleeved shirts, 31 t-shirts, 31 dress shirts....I can’t remember because there is too much clutter in my brain as well.

Well, it looks like I have piddled away the time that I could have been washing windows effectively by writing my column, getting up to get morning snacks, refreshing my coffee, checking my phone, and Facebook – all important stuff. Now, I am left with just enough time to get a shower and get to a 2 hour workshop that the Northern Senior Center is offering. I am sure I will be tired after that, so maybe it’s best if I start the windows tomorrow morning. It is always better to start projects like that early in the morning. But, didn’t I have something planned tomorrow? I better check on that because I am pretty sure I had a bunch of other things to do other than wash windows on my list. Maybe I can find some more hidden stockpiles of clothes and head to Hooks and Hangars. That was it! I knew I had something planned. I think Friday morning will be a great time to start washing these windows, but didn’t I have something else....

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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