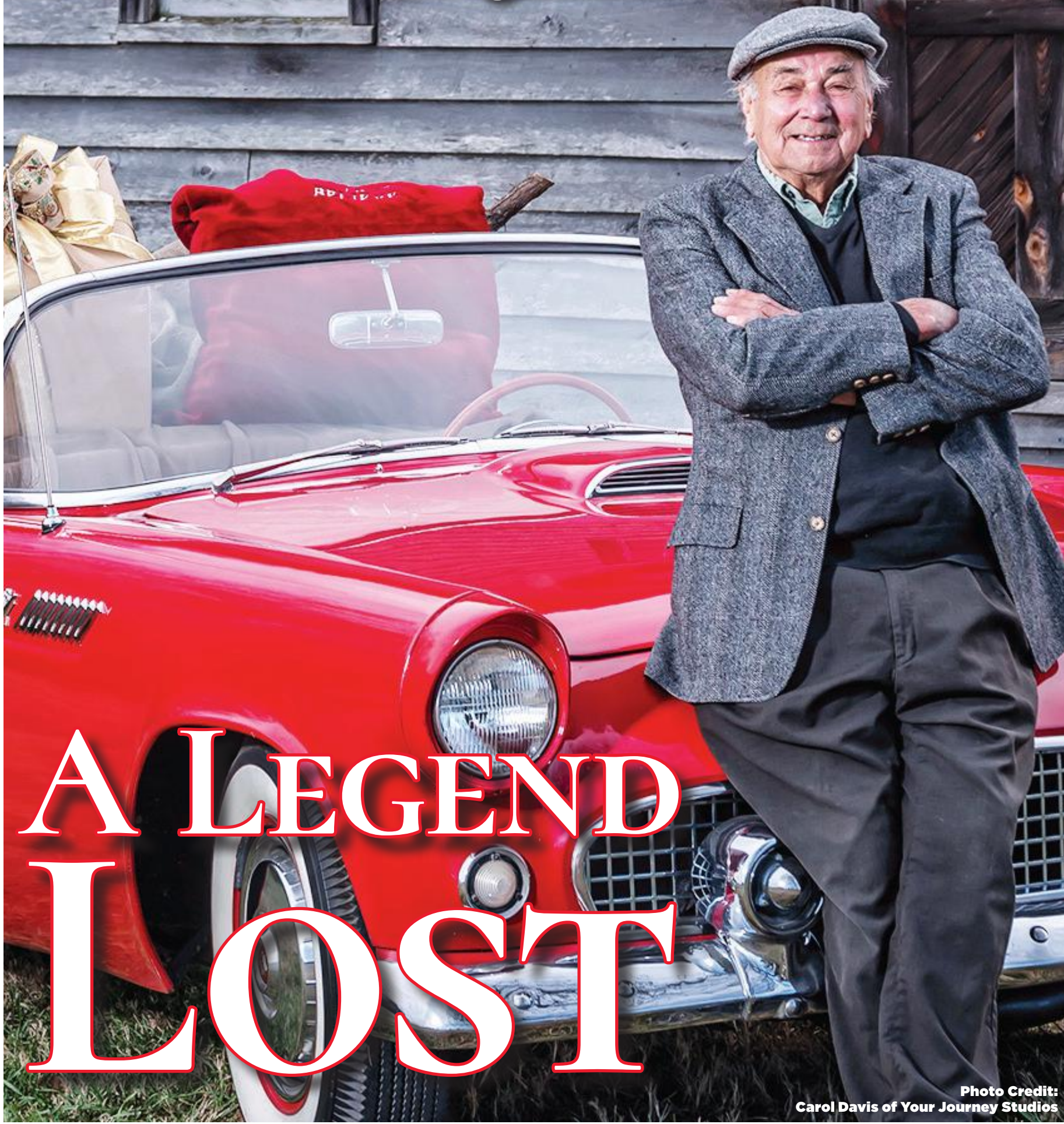


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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009



A LEGEND LOST

Photo Credit:
Carol Davis of Your Journey Studios

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Eddie Bailey, 84, passed away this week. Photo Courtesy of Carol Davis Your Journey Studios



LOCAL 8

Gov. Hogan calls up the Maryland Guard to assist in vaccine distribution



FEATURE 15

St. Mary's waits for its first vaccine shipments

“HE’S GOING TO BE DEEPLY MISSED, I CAN TELL YOU THAT; THERE WAS NOBODY QUITE LIKE HIM.”

7TH DISTRICT OPTIMIST CLUB PRESIDENT AL RALEY ON THE PASSING OF FOUNDING MEMBER EDDIE BAILEY

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 12/17 41° 30°F Partly Cloudy	Fri 12/18 43° 29°F Mostly Sunny	Sat 12/19 46° 34°F Mostly Cloudy	Sun 12/20 49° 34°F PM Showers
Mon 12/21 52° 38°F Partly Cloudy	Tue 12/22 53° 33°F Mostly Sunny	Wed 12/23 50° 38°F Mostly Sunny	Thu 12/24 55° 36°F PM Showers

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COVID-19

Positive Cases

Deaths

As of December 16

St. Mary's

3017

74

Information provided by St. Mary's Health Department

Ridge Business Owner Protests Shutdown Order

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Donnie Tennyson, owner of Ridge Hardware in Ridge, was ordered to close his business by the St. Mary's County Health Department Dec. 12 for allegedly risking contributing to the spread of COVID-19 through unsafe business practices.

Tennyson said the shutdown is a result of his constant contention with the health department over health regulations, which he claims he has followed since late August, and he is being unfairly targeted.

The health department claims that issues such as certain employees not wearing masks and a lack of signage at the store stating the masking requirements were some of the issues that led to the shutdown order.

Tennyson said he first ran afoul of the health department in late August, when he was first given an order to comply with their directives and, in doing so, was able to avoid a threatened shutdown during the summer.

Since then, Tennyson said, he has had signs up on his door that tell customers to, "Please be responsible adults while shopping with us," and "Face coverings required per Gov. Hogan and Dr. Brewster [county health officer.]"

Tennyson said he is not sure what has changed since August that led to his shutdown this past Saturday; but he believes his refusal to do what he has told without asking questions has been contributed to the situation.

"That's what they don't like; that I'm not bowing to their demands," Tennyson told The County Times.

He said he has provided handwashing stations for employees, hand sanitizer for customers, markings on the floor to reference social distancing and signage noting the requirements for wearing masks in his store since at least August per state health orders.

He also put a clear plastic barrier up in front of the one cashier's station in his store to separate customers from employees.

Tennyson said he believes that the two lines denoted on the plexiglass, one saying "Dr. Brewster wants you to stand here" and the other "Donnie would like you to stand here," where there is not a plastic barrier.

He said the other line leading to the

cashier's station, without the barrier, was necessary to give customers another place to queue and maintain social distancing.

Social distancing is difficult in his store, he said, as it has limited space.

Tennyson said he does not wear a mask due to a medical condition; two employees of his also do not wear masks for the same reason.

Under the state's health orders, Tennyson said, he is not allowed to press a customer for details or proof of a medical condition as a reason to not wear a mask if they so claim.

The health department states that they have received numerous complaints regarding Tennyson's business for months; Tennyson said he has never been told whence the complaints have come.

The health department told The County Times that more than half of the complaints were not anonymous and that Tennyson could view them, but the names of his accusers would be redacted.

"This is based on multiple complaint-driven inspections and failure to comply with state executive orders 2nd COVID-19 prevention measures," the health department statement reads. "The closure order follows an Order for Immediate Compliance that had been issued on December 1.

"Of note, we have received 17 community member complaints over the past five months about this facility, which upon inspection have been verified."

The health department said they could not provide information at this time about whether any COVID-19 infections have been traced to Tennyson's store; the health department's own website as of Dec. 16 noted that both Ridge and Scotland, areas his store serves, both had fewer than eight COVID-19 cases each.

The health department said Tennyson has taken action to comply but has then done away with the measures that would allow him to stay open.

"The complaints we have received and the subsequent inspections of this facility seem to indicate that the facility may take certain actions (such as mandatory signage about face coverings) to get into compliance then subse-



Donnie Tennyson

quently retracts those actions (such as removing the mandatory signage about face coverings)," the health department claims. "We have been clear with the facility that a medical reason for not wearing a face covering does not mean that the employee or customer can then put the health of others at risk."

Tennyson said he has never removed the signage regarding masking on his front door.

"That is a flat out lie," said Tennyson, who disputed the veracity of two inspection reports filed against him claiming signage had been removed.

Tennyson said one, dated Nov. 30, was false since health department personnel were not at his store that day.

The Dec. 1 report, where Tennyson said health department employees did arrive, falsely claimed he had removed the signage, he said

The health department explained that complaints had been received for both days with an inspection on Dec. 1 and that the other form had been dated incorrectly; it was later reissued with the correct date.

"Due to a clerical error, both the 11/30/20 and 12/1/20 dated inspections were included in the order for closure (rather than only the final, correctly dated version)," the health department stated. "The order is being amended and reissued with the correction."

An inspection report dated Dec. 4 showed Tennyson had posted signage at each entrance noting the requirement for face coverings.

The health department statement said employees without masks being in close proximity to customers was not acceptable.

The same applied to customers. "Having that employee without a mask or face shield, sitting at the checkout counter interacting with customers is not adequate for safety," the statement reads. "If a customer refuses to wear a face covering due to a medical reason, then the business could offer the customer another option, such as telephone order and curbside pickup, so as to avoid having that customer

come indoors and thereby endanger the safety of others in the facility.

"Of note, during our most recent inspection this past week it was the owner of the facility who chose not to wear a face covering while indoors in the facility."

Tennyson said his store does provide curbside pickup options and that customers often call ahead to use that service.

This is only the second closure the health department has ordered since the pandemic began; the vast majority of businesses have complied, according to the health department.

"Our focus as an agency has very much been on education, providing guidance and allowing businesses the benefit of time for corrective action," the statement reads.

To reopen, Tennyson must create a compliance plan and submit it to the health department for approval.

"Ultimately, there needs to be clear assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by facility operations," according to the statement.

Tennyson said he has submitted just such a plan for approval.

"Our goal is to be open [today] Thursday," Tennyson said.

News of the closure had reached local elected officials and Commissioner Mike Hewitt was disturbed by it.

He told Brewster in open session, sitting as the Board of Health, that many had expressed to him the health department had been too heavy handed in some of its enforcement actions.

"What's disconnecting for this commissioner is when you walk into Walmart or Target or Lowes and you see people wearing masks and people not wearing masks," Hewitt said later after Brewster's presentation. "You don't see the big box stores have the same trouble with the health department that you have with these small stores...sometimes it seems like it's a little harder on the small guys than it is the big guys."

"Let's hope that's just perception."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Residents protested the closure at the Health Department.

Flags Lowered in Honor of Former County Commissioner

This is to advise that Commissioner President Randy Guy has ordered the Maryland state flag and the St. Mary's County flag immediately lowered to half-staff. This action is in honor of former St. Mary's County Commissioner William Edward "Eddie" Bailey who died Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020. Mr. Bailey served as a Commissioner for two terms from 1986-1994.

The flags are to remain lowered until sunset the day of his interment on a date

to be determined.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County extend their deepest sympathies to the family of William Edward "Eddie" Bailey. "We are saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Bailey and recognize this deep loss to our community. Eddie Bailey was well known for his generous service to St. Mary's County, and this loss will be felt for a long time to come," said Commissioner President Randy Guy.

Eddie Bailey, Former County Commissioner, Entrepreneur Dies



Eddie Bailey with his wife Patsy

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Eddie Bailey, known affectionately as the Mayor of the 7th District, died Dec. 15. He was 84.

Bailey, who had lived in Bushwood his entire life, spent decades in the hospitality and restaurant business and had been the owner of the Olde Breton Inn in Breton Bay since 1986.

The event center outside Leonardtown is well known as a site where both political parties hold rallies and celebrations — Bailey was a life-long Democrat — as well as a place that served for many charitable functions as well.

The inn served as the site for former Del. John Wood's annual bull roast and has also hosted Gov. Larry Hogan and former Gov. Marvin Mandel.

Bailey served two terms as a county commissioner (1986-1994) and earned a reputation as a fixer of constituents' problems who seldom took much credit for his efforts.

His wife Patsy Bailey preceded him in death several years ago; she was his partner in life for nearly 60 years of marriage.

Where Eddie was widely regarded as the dreamer of the pair; Patsy provided the practical experience and hard work to help make his vision happen.

Bailey was, perhaps, best known for his love of St. Mary's County and his dedication to it.

Al Raley, president of the 7th District Optimist Club, of which Bailey was a founding member, said Bailey could always be found at community events, his catering and food trailer in tow.

The group has long operated to help support youth and youth activities in the community and Bailey made it a point to attend

every meeting.

"You didn't have to call to find out where he was," Raley said. "He was there."

His mobile catering business was ubiquitous in St. Mary's and he helped virtually every community event he could reach, Raley said.

"He helped out a lot of organizations, he's done a lot for the Optimist Club," Raley said. "He helped every church in the county, too."

"He's going to be deeply missed, I can tell you that; there was nobody quite like him."

Bailey was a natural host, said Raley.

"He loved people," said Raley. "He just wanted to talk to them all."

John Wood who served the county in politics at about the same time as Bailey, but in different seats, mourned the passing of his friend.

"We had a lot of good times together," Wood said. "It's a good man we lost; he was always there for the community."

Wood said Bailey lived to help and serve his community.

"It made no difference what it was, if Eddie could do it, he would," Wood said. "He was there for anybody and everybody."

"He was there for you and he did a good job of it."

His son, Bill Bailey, said he and the family had been inundated with support from the community upon learning of his father's death.

"We've just been overwhelmed with support from everybody," Bill Bailey said.

He said the family intended to continue running the Olde Breton Inn.

"We don't plan on changing anything," Bill Bailey said. "That's what he would want."

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Smith: No In-Person Instruction Until Next Year

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Despite calls from the community and even the top school system official in the state, local School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said this week that in-person instruction cannot begin until at least January.

The rising instances, and deaths, locally of COVID-19 cases dictated that any learning continue virtually, Smith told the county Board of Education at its Dec. 16 meeting.

The county's positivity rate had reached 13 percent as of the prior day, he said, and the case rate per 100,000 people has risen to 32; there were eight new deaths from COVID-19 of county residents last week alone.

"This is important data and its important that everyone understand it," Smith said. "There is community spread."

Though state officials, especially State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon, have argued that the spread of COVID-19 in schools is not significant and small groups of students should be returned to in-person instruction immediately, Smith argued there was still too much of a risk to students and teachers.

"The data continues to track in absolutely the wrong direction," Smith said.

Salmon made her comments earlier this month, showing concern for data that shows students across the state are lagging behind in achievement metrics due to a lack of in-person education; groups that have suffered from a chronic achievement gap before the pandemic are falling even farther behind, she has argued.

"We continue to emphasize that we must provide the opportunity for our students to return to school buildings in a safe environment with the appropriate health and safety protocols in place," said Salmon Dec. 8. "The lack of in-person instruction is starkly reinforcing the inequities embedded in our society, and continuing the perpetuation of achievement and learning gaps, leaving our most underserved children even more vulnerable."

But the state's own recovery plan shows that new case rates and positivity rates are far too high to allow for in-person instruction, Smith said.

"[They are] two-and-a-half-times the acceptable rate for in-person instruction," Smith said.

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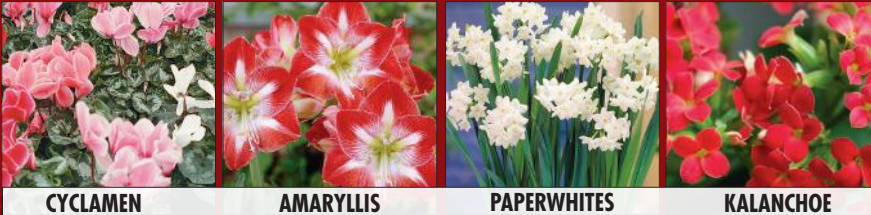
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County Allows Almost \$1 Million For Contract Emergency Medical Services

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County authorized \$906,000 this week to go to the Department of Emergency Services to continue paying for contract medics to support the county's rescue squads.

The funding is designed to keep their services from the beginning of the new year through next June.

For more than a month the county has hired paid medics to provide daytime crews at each one of the rescue squads as they all have had a dearth of volunteers during those hours.

This has long been a problem, volunteer rescue squads have said, but the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many of the volunteers who would normally have taken a daytime duty shift, many of them in older members, to stop running calls for fear of being exposed to the virus.

Commissioners said the supplemental funding would help provide time to formulate a plan for EMS billing, which would be undertaken by a third-party contractor to col-

lect reimbursements from insurance companies.

The county chose to take action on the new funding because the monies provided by the federal CARES Act, which had up to this point funded the paid medics, would be depleted by the end of the month.

The county has drafted a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on EMS billing, but the leadership of the seven rescue squads here have yet to agree to its provisions.

The draft MOU states the reimbursements from EMS billing could also be used to fund paid medic assistance.

Steve Walker, director of emergency services estimated that a yearly cost to maintain paid medic support could be an additional \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million.

"We're starting to get requests for additional time to be covered," Walker said, noting that rescue squad members are increasingly either getting COVID-19 or being exposed to it and are unable to run calls.

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Hogan Orders Forgiveness of Debt, Announces More COVID Assistance

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Larry Hogan authorized \$75 million in state-funded loans to small businesses throughout Maryland; at a Dec. 10 press conference in Annapolis he announced an executive order forgiving the entire amount of that debt.

He also announced an order that shielded businesses from any sudden hikes in their unemployment taxes, which were set to take place soon due to so many businesses having to lay off employees to avoid failure. "These loans will be converted into grants, which will not have to be paid back," Hogan said.

Hogan also announced the state would spend an additional \$25 million in low income housing tax credits to spur construction job growth and build an additional 2,000 units, as well as \$12 million from the state's rental housing works fund for building of that variety of dwelling units.

Hogan urged the counties to match the state's relief fund spending and to push any remaining CARES Act funding "out into the economy and into the hands of people who desperately need it... before it runs out."

The governor also ordered an additional \$94 million in health care spending targeted towards treatment of Marylanders with diabetes.

"More than one in three Marylanders has diabetes or predia-

betes," Hogan said. "It is also the No. 1 comorbidity for people who are getting seriously ill from COVID-19."

The state was also pushing out an additional \$10 million to support law enforcement, youth services and victims' services; some of this funding would go to personal protection equipment for court house staff and rapid testing kits for Maryland State Police, Hogan said.

COVID-19 metrics continue to worsen, Hogan said, with a positivity rate of 7.74 percent and a case of rate of 45.6 per 100,000 people.

There are 1,720 COVID-19 hospitalizations in Maryland, he said, with 416 people in intensive care beds.

Almost 90 percent of intensive care unit beds are occupied, Hogan said.

4,850 Marylanders have died from COVID-19.

"The worst days of the pandemic are still ahead of us," he said of the post-Thanksgiving Holiday surge.

Hogan chided elected officials in Congress for failing to come up with a deal to provide more economic assistance to businesses and families.

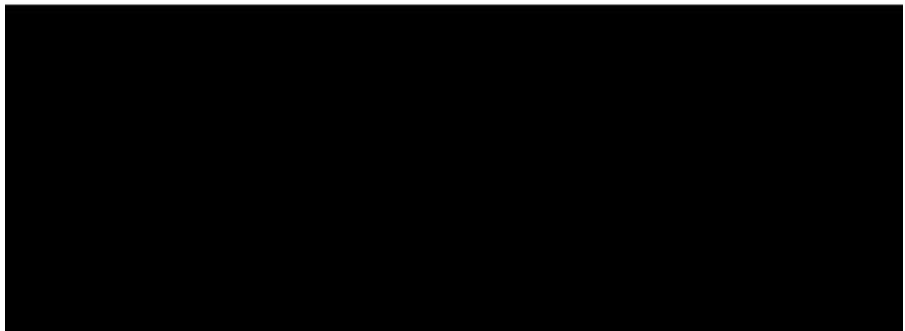
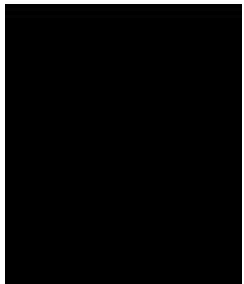
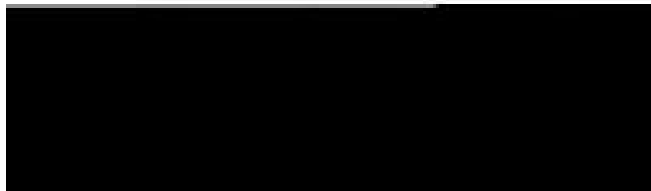
Even a provisional deal that only lasted a few months would be progress, said Hogan.

"We need something right now, like this week," Hogan told reporters at the Thursday press conference. "Something is better than nothing."

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Hogan Reactivates National Guard To Aid Vaccine Distribution

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Gov. Larry Hogan announced this week that he was reactivating the Maryland National Guard to aid in the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, provided by pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and Moderna, throughout the state.

Hogan said guard members would work in field teams to assist in logistical support roles to distribute the vaccine as well as help with mobile vaccination clinics and the response at long-term and nursing care facilities.

“Over the next week... every single hospital and every region of our state will begin to receive their first COVID-19 vaccines,” Hogan said Dec. 15 at a press conference in Annapolis.

It was at the press conference that he announced the order reactivating the Maryland Guard.

Hogan called the coming effort the “largest and most important vaccination campaign in the history of our state and the nation” and that the vaccines “offer us real hope we are approaching the final phase of this global pandemic.”

The mobile vaccination sites would be set up as more vaccines made their way into the state, Hogan said.

Hogan’s announcement comes as the state has experienced 42 straight days of more than 1,000 new cases of COVID-19 with more than 239,000 positive cases.

There are 1,799 Marylanders currently hospitalized with the virus, Hogan said.

“That’s the highest number so far,” the governor said.

There are 13 hospitals around the state that have reached more than 90 percent of their bed capacity from COVID-19, the governor said.

Because of the coming vaccine distribution, Hogan said, Maryland “has finally reached a turning



point.”

Dr. Jinlene Chan, assistant secretary of the Maryland Department of Health, called the vaccine distribution “a momentous time for all of us in the course of this pandemic.”

A senior nurse at the University of Maryland Medical Center, Shawn Hendricks, has already been vaccinated among others working there, Chan said.

“Initial shipments of this vaccine... have begun to arrive,” Chan said, noting vaccinations in Maryland have already begun.

Chan went on to say the vaccines will arrive in the next two weeks for every hospital in the state; nursing home vaccination will also begin within the next two weeks.

She expected a total allocation of 300,000 doses of the vaccines by the end of the month, though those numbers could change daily per the federal government.

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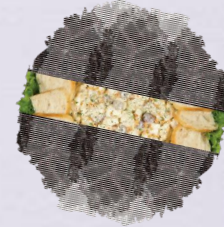
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County Government Announces Holiday Operations

All St. Mary's County Government administrative offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24 and 25 and again Friday, Jan. 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Appointments for many departmental services will resume the following Mondays.

Landfill and Convenience Centers
The St. Andrews Landfill and the six (6) Convenience Centers will be closed Friday, Dec. 25, 2020, and Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. The landfill will be open for regular operations Dec. 24 and Dec. 26.

The six convenience centers will be open for regular operations Dec. 24-Dec. 27.

The St. Andrews Landfill and the six Convenience Centers will be open for regular business hours before and after the New Year's Day Holiday, Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

As a reminder, Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Landfill and Convenience Centers free of charge. Undecorated trees may be placed in the designated areas at these sites beginning Dec. 26, 2020, and continuing through Jan. 31, 2021. Last year, the County collected nearly 2 tons of Christmas trees mixed with the collected

yard waste and ground into mulch. Just over 5 thousand tons of mulch is available annually at the St. Andrews Landfill site and is provided to the citizens of St. Mary's County free of charge while supplies last.

Transit
Dec. 24, 2020, St. Mary's Transit System (STS) will run a modified Saturday schedule, operating routes 6,7,11,12, &14. Service will end at 6 p.m. Regular ADA service will operate, SSTAP service will not operate. There will be no STS routes in operation Christmas Day. Regular STS Saturday service will resume Dec. 26. A complete schedule of regular STS services is available online.

There will be no STS services Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

Libraries
The St. Mary's County Libraries will be closed Dec. 24-27, and will reopen Monday, Dec. 28. The Libraries will also be closed beginning at 5 p.m. Dec. 31, Jan. 1-2 and reopen Jan. 4, 2021.

For information on regular library operations and services, please visit <https://www.stmalib.org/>.

Senior Services
All St. Mary's County Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler and

Northern) remain closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Museums
St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and the Old Jail Museum will be closed on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2020, and Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2020. All three museums will be open from noon to 4 p.m. on New

Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, and New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

Please visit the St. Mary's County Government website at www.stmarysmd.com for further information.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government.



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Dec 25, 26, 27 Closed

Dec 28, 29, 30 9am-6pm

Dec 31 9am-1pm

Jan 1, 2, 3 Closed

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Wanted Individual- Douglas Bernard Mason Jr.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of Douglas Bernard Mason Jr., age 37 of Lexington Park. Mason is currently wanted for the charge of escape after violating the conditions of his pretrial release on the original charge of theft. Mason is a black male, 6'1" and weighs 200 pounds with brown eyes and black hair.



Douglas Mason

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Douglas Bernard Mason Jr., is asked to contact Detective Trevor Teague at (301) 475-4200 extension 78128 or by email at Trevor.Teague@stmarysmd.com. For immediate assistance contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at (301) 475-8008.

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at (301) 475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solv-

ers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

Motor Vehicle Theft- On November 29, 2020, Dep. Manns responded to the 39000 block of Daniel Drive in Mechanicsville, for the reported motor vehicle theft. On December 1, 2020, Cpl. Beishline observed the stolen vehicle in the 21600 block of Great Mills Road in Great Mills. Cpl. Beishline initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and the operator, **Ashley Nicole Barber**, age 32 of Mechanicsville, provided a false name, and fled in the vehicle. Barber got the vehicle stuck and then proceeded to flee on foot. Barber was pursued and was taken into custody. Barber was charged with Motor Vehicle Unlawful Taking, Theft, False Statement to Officer, Fraud: Avoid Prosecution, and Fail to Obey Lawful Order.



Ashley Barber

Burglary- On December 2, 2020, Dep. Haas responded to the 21800 block of Shangri La Drive in Lexington Park, for the reported burglary. Investigation determined **Antoine Keith Mackall**, age 26 of Lusby, forced entry into an unoccupied section of the building, and was located sleeping inside the building. Mackall was arrested and charged with Burglary 4th Degree.



Antoine Mackall

Drug Arrest- On December 2, 2020, members of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division executed a search warrant in the 21000 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. **Tyrone Antoine Gross**, age 33 of Lexington Park, was located at the residence in possession of suspected cocaine and Ecstasy. Gross was charged with two counts of CDS: Possession-NOT Marijuana by DFC. Beyer# 319.



Tyrone Gross

Editor's Note:
The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Commissioners of Leonardtown
22670 Washington Street
P.O. Box 1
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650
(301) 475-9791
RESOLUTION NO. 4-20

Notice is hereby given that, on December 14, 2020, following a public hearing, the Council of the Town of Leonardtown adopted Resolution No. 4-20 for the purpose of declaring a portion of certain real property owned by The Commissioners of Leonardtown, shown on Tax Map 133, Grid 11, as a portion of Parcel 360, with a Tax Identification Number of 03-015297, consisting of 970 square feet, more or less, located at Court House Drive, Leonardtown, Maryland, as surplus and no longer needed for any present or anticipated public purpose or use. Resolution No. 4-20 further authorizes the Mayor and the Town Administrator to proceed with negotiating the terms of the sale of the foregoing property to Van Wert, LLC in accordance with the authority set forth in Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't § 5-204(c) (3) and §§ 501(4) and 1201 of the Charter of the Town of Leonardtown; provided, however, that the ordinance approving such sale shall not be passed until at least 20 days have expired from the date of publication of this notice. The foregoing constitutes a fair summary of Resolution No. 4-20 as adopted by the Council on December 14, 2020.

Copies of Resolution No. 4-20 are available to the public upon request by contacting the Town at the telephone number above.

By Authority:
Laschelle McKay
Town Administrator

If you would like to place a LEGAL NOTICE contact

AlDaileyCountytimes@gmail.com

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Little Free Libraries Rolling Out

Sponsored by Southern Maryland Meats

Southern Maryland Meats (SMM), a program of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), is installing 'Little Free Libraries' throughout the Southern Maryland region of Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's.

Be on the lookout for the eye catching SMM red barns in your neighborhood! The miniature barn libraries are easy to spot with their standout red and white paintwork and Southern Maryland Meats logo prominently placed above the barn doors.

The libraries are designed to promote the Southern Maryland Meats program livestock producers in a fun and engaging way and encourage awareness of the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives. Each library will provide free reading materials for the community to borrow, including a copy of *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* who is most known for her inventions of groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe.

"The Friends of the Baden Library

is excited to put our Little Library to use," says Gwen Ashley who stewards the Baden Community Center library. "We are hopeful that it will serve our community for those who aren't able to access the public library because of time constraints. Being located near the Community Center, it will be a great place for "grab and go" reading material."

Little Free Library (LFL) is a worldwide non-profit organization that increases access to books through the creation of book-sharing boxes. These libraries are housed in parks, playgrounds, neighborhood common areas, on school grounds, at government buildings, at farmer's markets, and other regional public/private venues to boost community involvement with the intention of inspiring readers. To date, there are more than 90,000 libraries globally.

Southern Maryland Meats is continuing to search for groups or individuals to host libraries throughout the Southern Maryland. To apply to host a SMM Little Free Library, contact Rachel Norris (240)528-8850 ext. 306, or email: rnorris@smadc.com.

To see the current list of South-

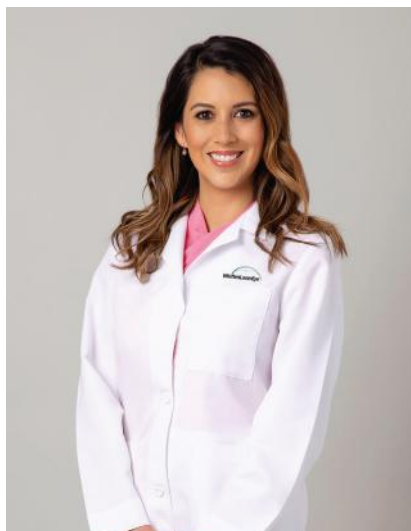
ern Maryland Meats libraries, visit <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/> and search "SMM" under the Li-

brary Name heading.

Press Release from SMADC



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Tri-County Council Staffer Earns Award

George Clark, Transportation Demand Management Specialist and NAS Patuxent River JLUS Project Manager for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) was given the Outstanding Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Professional Award by the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) Chesapeake Chapter.

"We're immensely proud of George and his accomplishments. George's work to promote effective transportation is vital to our region and we're thrilled to see his hard work and dedication be acknowledged," said John Hartline, Executive Director of TCCSMD.

The Outstanding TDM Professional Award, a part of the 2020 ACT Chesapeake Chapter Awards, is new this year. This award is presented to a TDM professional that best demonstrates a commitment to promoting and advancing commuter transportation options in their region. Mr. Clark works with Commuter Connections, Commuter Choice Maryland, and a plethora of regional organizations to help promote carpooling, vanpooling, telework, flexible work options, biking programs and or other TDM



George Clark

actions to employers and employees.

For more information about TCCSMD and the ACT Chesapeake Chapter, visit www.TCCSMD.org and www.ACTWeb.org.

Press Release from TCCSMD

NAS Patuxent River Announces 2020 Holiday Gate Hours

NAS Patuxent River will begin holiday gate hours starting close of business Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. Normal gate operations will resume Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

NAS Patuxent River:

Gate 1 – Pax River Gate 1 will remain open 24 hours. During the holiday period of Dec. 19 to Jan. 4, Gate 1 will have two inbound lanes open during weekdays. Commercial vehicle inspection services (CVIS) at Gate 1 will maintain normal operations through the holiday period. Gate 1 will resume normal operations Monday, Jan. 4.

Gate 2 – Pax River Gate 2 will be closed to vehicle traffic beginning close of business Friday, Dec. 18 to Jan. 3. Gate 2 will resume normal operations Monday, Jan. 4.

The Gate 2 Pass and ID Visitor Control Center will remain open 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays for normal business during this period, and closed on federal holidays.

Gate 3 – Pax River Gate 3 remains closed.

Webster Field:

Main Gate – Webster Field's Main



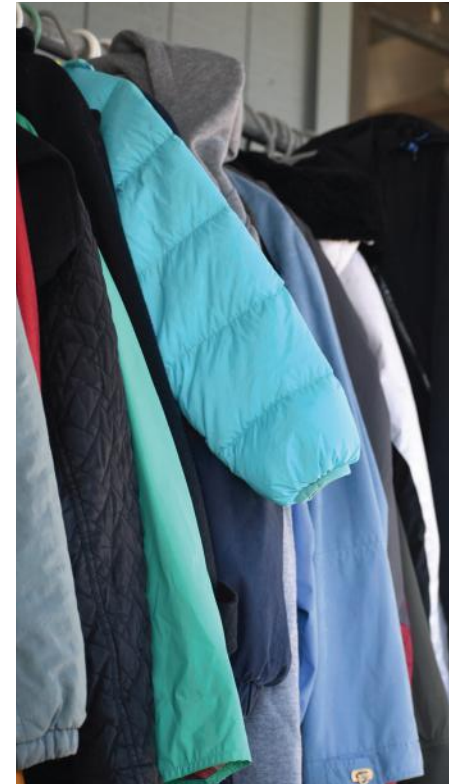
Gate will be open and manned as normal through the holiday period of Dec. 18 to Jan. 4.

Back Gate – Webster Field's Back will remain closed and will resume normal operations Jan. 4.

Navy Recreation Center Solomons:

NRC Solomons will remain open and manned as normal during the holiday period.

Coats at the Coffeehouse



Catherine Grube, Owner - St. Inie's Coffeehouse has a weekly coat collection & giveaway for anyone in need. Just walk up to her porch & take what you need.

New COVID Testing Site

All SMCHD Testing Sites Closed on 12-16-20

Beginning Tuesday, December 15, 2020 the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) will offer drive-thru COVID-19 testing at the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department located at 46900 S Shangri-La Drive in Lexington Park, Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. However, due to anticipated inclement weather, both SMCHD testing sites will be closed on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

SMCHD COVID-19 Testing:

- Locations, as of Tuesday, 12-15-20:
 - SMCHD Main Office, 21580 Peabody Street in Leonardtown
 - Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, 46900 S Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park (enter rear parking lot from FDR Boulevard - follow directional signs)
- Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (CLOSED Wednesday, 12-16-20 due to anticipated inclement weather)
- Drive-thru (walk up available for vehicles over 6'10" or residents on foot)
- Appointment-free
- No doctor's order needed
- Free of Charge (no out-of-pocket cost, co-payment, co-insurance, etc.)
- Bring health insurance information and identification, if possible –

uninsured community members are welcome

Regular testing hours are expected to resume on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at both locations. For more information on local COVID-19 testing, visit: www.smchd.org/covid-19-testing.

"In the usual St. Mary's County way, so many partners came together to make this testing site an option for our community," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "We especially want to thank St. Mary's County Government, Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office for their involvement in this process. Maintaining readily available testing access to our greater Lexington Park community is critically important to battling the spread of COVID-19."

"I want to thank the Health Department and staff for working so hard to provide services to our county. I also want to thank the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department for the use of this facility for COVID-19 testing. Together as a community, we are stronger and together we will get through this pandemic," said Commissioner President Randy Guy.

For local COVID-19 updates, data, and information, please visit the SMCHD website at www.smchd.org/coronavirus or call (301) 475-4330.

COVID-19 Vaccine Could Come to St. Mary's This Week

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Top health officials in St. Mary's County say the COVID-19 vaccine has yet to arrive but one of them, a top administrator at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, expected the vaccines to come within days.

"We are expecting the delivery of the vaccine this week," said Dr. Stephen Michaels, the chief operating officer and chief of medicine at the county's sole hospital. "We expect to get the vaccine on a regular basis."

Just how many doses of the vaccine the hospital will receive is unknown according to Michaels.

Michaels spoke with The County Times Dec. 15 to explain the hospital's role in distributing the vaccine; the focus will be internal, ensuring that the staff there at the highest risk of exposure to COVID-19 will be the first to be inoculated.

"That's everyone involved in direct patient care," Michaels said. "That's doctors, nurses, technicians, COVID-19 test administrators, environmental service workers and others."

Both the county health department and MedStar St. Mary's have the deep refrigeration units the vaccine requires, but, Michaels said, the hospital doesn't plan on storing it for any significant length of time.

"This vaccine is so fragile," said Michaels. "We have to have people ready to take it."

Critical care workers have already registered to take the inoculation, he said, and the hospital plans to distribute it to them as soon as the hospital receives it.

Michaels said many in the local medical community were convinced the vaccines, produced and tested at an unprecedented rapid pace, were both safe and effective; yet the hospital was proceeding



Medstar St. Mary's

cautiously.

Like other hospitals in Maryland, the first vaccine doses are scheduled for only a portion of the critical, front-line health workers

This is to ensure that the entire health care work force would not experience a strong reaction or side affects to the vaccine, which can include flu like symptoms and pain at the injection site.

Dr. Meena Brewster, the county's health officer, told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week that this was not the vaccine causing an infection of COVID-19, but the body's immune response increasing.

"We truly are being careful," said Michaels. "We're staggering ourselves, so we don't cripple our workforce."

There is no mandate for health care workers to take the vaccine.

"MedStar Health is not requiring associates to take the vaccine, but we are strongly encouraging it," Michaels said. "The science, although new, seems very sound."

Brewster, in speaking to the county commissioners this week, explained that the technology used to develop the vaccine could prove revolutionary in treating other diseases.

The vaccine uses a fat molecule, Brewster said, to act as a kind of "Trojan Horse" to introduce a messenger RNA (mRNA) to the body that "teaches" the body's cells to produce the virus' spike protein, which triggers the immune response.

"So, then that body learns how to recognize and eventually how to fight that special protein," Brewster said. "So when the real coronavirus is introduced to the body... the body already knows how to fight that protein and starts responding to the virus."

"We are viewing this as a medical breakthrough in technology; it has the potential to be some of the safest vaccines we have available."

The mRNA technology is used in both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the first two approved for usage in the United States, Brewster said.

Maryland is set to get just 150,000 doses of vaccine; about 40,000 from Pfizer and the remainder coming from Moderna.

The health department plans mass vaccinations of its own when it receives its own allotment of the vaccines, Brewster said this week, as will local pharmacies.

"Local pharmacies that are a part of the national pharmacy initiative will receive vaccine intended for the vaccination of staff and residents in our three long-term care facilities – Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Chesapeake Shores and St. Mary's Nursing Center," said Brewster. "[The health department] will receive vaccine intended for different target groups; the

initial supply will be intended for local health care personnel.

"Depending on the amount of vaccine received we may be able to open up access... to other high priority, high risk target groups."

The health department has identified four sites – Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, the county fairgrounds, Great Mills High School and Chopticon High School – for drive through mass vaccinations.

"We do not anticipate needing all to be operational at the same time," Brewster said.

These sites would be available on an as-needed event basis, she said, though daily vaccination sites would be open once vaccine was more broadly distributed to the general public.

But public distribution, Brewster told The County Times, would only happen once targeted groups had received the inoculation first and when supplies permitted.

The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for emergency usage by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but the Moderna vaccine has yet to receive emergency approval and is scheduled for a review today.

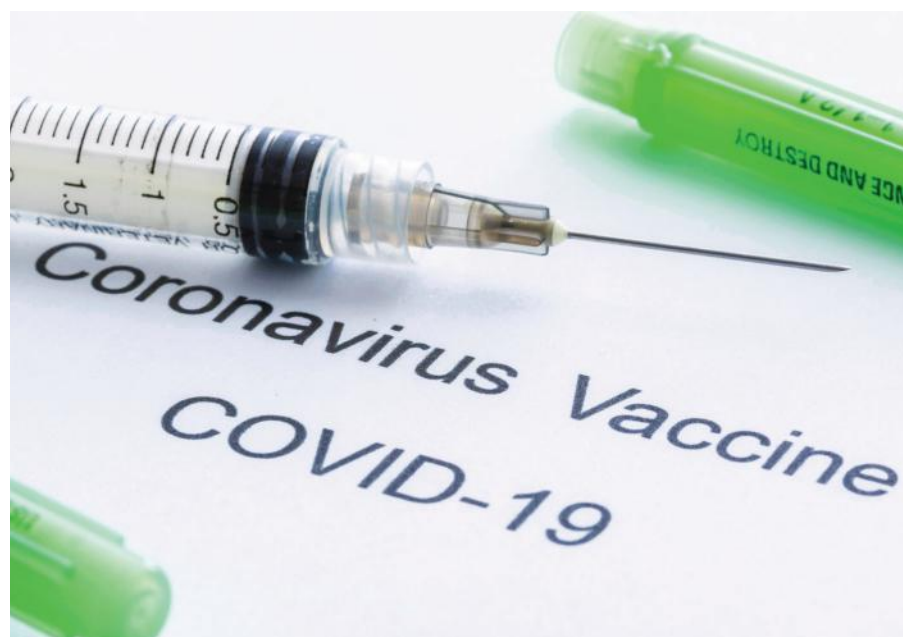
Both vaccines require two doses to be effective and must be taken either 21 days apart, in the case of the Pfizer inoculant, or 28 days apart for the Moderna version.

Both, she said, have shown high efficacy against the virus where there is symptomatic infection and severe infection.

There are more than 40 other vaccines undergoing trials around the world, Brewster said.

The health department has established a website for residents to get information updates on the COVID-19 vaccine.

guyleonard@countytimes.net





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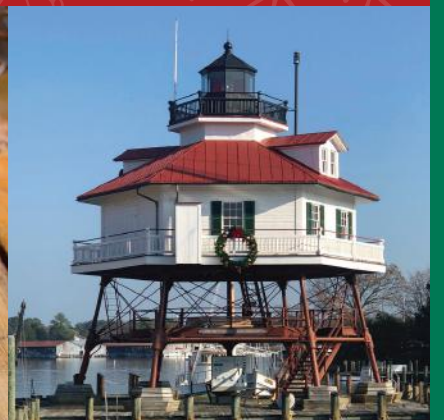
Wednesday-Friday 11am-6pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 12pm-4pm (Variable Dates)

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(Extended HOLIDAY Hours...see GOOGLE Maps weekly for updates)



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CSM Scholarship Honors Beloved Employee

To be for Students with Disabilities

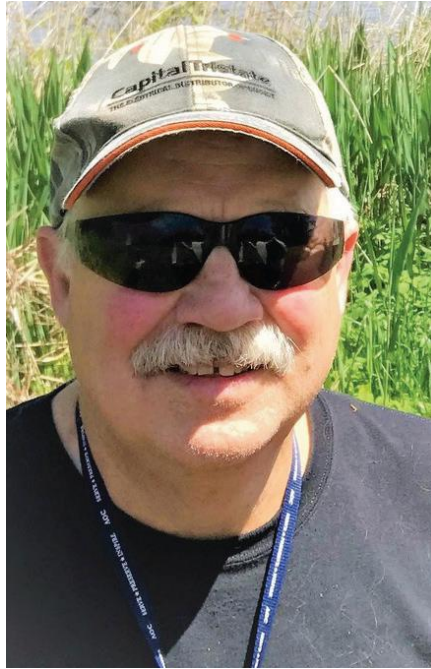
A memorial scholarship honoring beloved CSM employee Kevin Phillips has been established by his wife Regina Phillips to financially assist College of Southern Maryland (CSM) students with disabilities. Phillips was a Maintenance Mechanic at CSM at the time of his death, Aug. 10.

“Kevin worked hard to make sure that facilities at the college were maintained to ADA standards and he always provided unstinting encouragement to students with learning differences and/or disabilities,” said his wife Regina Phillips. “Kevin genuinely believed that there was every reason to believe that these students could succeed at CSM.”

Phillips went on to share Kevin had a special interest in the restoration of historic houses and buildings and through the years he developed a great deal of expertise and specialized skills to help restore properties to look as they did when they were first built.

“His time as a Boy Scout leader was an important part of his life and the positive impact that he left on many young people, as well as the other leaders, is immeasurable,” Phillips added. “He was kind, funny, and always willing to help anybody with anything. Kevin was the one you called when you needed something, always steady and dependable. He enjoyed a good joke and telling stories to make people laugh.”

“Kevin had only been with our Operation’s team for just under five years, but we all had come to know him for his kindness and humor when he responded to our calls for minor repairs, and for his involvement on our Bee Campus Committee,” said CSM President Dr. Mau-



The Kevin Sean Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide financial assistance for tuition, fees, books and other related supplies to CSM students with disabilities.

reen Murphy. “We all continue to feel his loss deeply.”

The Kevin Sean Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide financial assistance for tuition, fees, books and other related supplies to CSM students with disabilities. To be eligible for assistance, the student(s) must possess a high school diploma or its equivalent; possess and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA; and be receiving accommodations for a disability that is properly documented with Disability Support Services at CSM.

For more information on how to apply for this scholarship and others, please visit CSM’s scholarship finder at <https://bit.ly/3obsx5i>.

Press Release from CSM.

Are You Still Planning to Retire Early?

Have your retirement plans changed because of COVID-19? If so, you have plenty of company. Nearly 40 percent of those planning to retire say the pandemic has disrupted their intentions, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. You might have been thinking about retiring early – can you still do so?

Even without a crisis, it’s not a bad idea to review your important life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

Your retirement lifestyle –

Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you’re anticipating during your retirement years. If you think you’ll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there’s no “right” or “wrong” way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that different lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

Sources of retirement income –

Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you’ll have to assess all your sources: Social Security, any other pensions you might receive, and your investment portfolio, including your 401(k) and IRA. The amounts you receive from these sources will depend on a variety of factors.

For Social Security, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will “top out” when you reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you’ll need to establish

a withdrawal rate that’s appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking Social Security earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

Your feelings about work –

Your goals are not static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can be just as productive working at home, so, even when we’ve gotten past COVID-19, we might see a sizable shift in the geography of the workplace. In any case, if your feelings about work have changed in some way, leading you to think you could work longer than originally planned, you’d likely gain some financial advantages. You’d make more money, for starters, but you’d also keep building your 401(k) and IRA, and you could even possibly delay taking Social Security.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that’s right for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Face Coverings: Residents must wear masks or face coverings in indoor public areas and stores and on public transportation. It is required to wear masks or face coverings in outdoor public places where physical distancing is not possible.

Physical Distancing: Residents should continue practicing physical distancing of six feet or more outdoors and inside public places.

Visit [www.open.maryland.gov /back to business](http://www.open.maryland.gov/back-to-business) for more detailed information

Cross-College Transfer Allows Interim CSM VP

Comes from Montgomery College

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) announced that College-wide Dean of English and Reading at Montgomery College (MC) Dr. Rodney Redmond will serve as CSM's Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs effective January 2021. Redmond stepping into the interim vice president position at CSM marks a unique cross-college transfer between community colleges in Maryland and sets the stage for professional development opportunities that build leadership pipelines across the state's academic institutions.

"Dr. Redmond brings deep community college experience and a strong passion for our mission," said CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy. "He has served in a variety of academic capacities at Montgomery College: professor, department chair, associate dean, dean, acting vice-president and provost, and now college-wide dean. Additionally, Dr. Redmond has a keen interest in participatory governance and was involved in the design and implementation of the model currently used at Montgomery College.

Dr. DeRionne Pollard, president of Montgomery College, called Redmond an extraordinary leader at MC, who brings a powerful equity lens to pedagogy and process.

"I have no doubt that Dr. Redmond's experience will be an asset to CSM during this transition period," said Pollard. "Dr. Redmond works tirelessly to expand opportunity through higher education and I know he will bring that same energy to his interim role at CSM."

Redmond began his career in education more than 20 years ago. Initially, working in secondary education as a sophomore level English teacher, he later transitioned into a career in higher education. Within the higher education arena, he has worked as an adjunct professor, teaching English Composition and Developmental English, at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio before joining the English faculty at the Rockville campus of MC. During his tenure as an English faculty member at MC, he served in various roles including his work as a member of the Assessment Center Advisory Committee, the English Discipline Steering Committee, the English CLEP coordinator, the English Competency coordinator and chair of the department of English Composition, Literature and Professional Writing.

"I look forward to serving as the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs at the College of Southern Maryland," said Redmond. "Maintaining continuity of service while the institution prepares for its next chief academic affairs officer is pivotal in these challenging times. I am happy to support that continuity.

"The partnership between the College of Southern Maryland and



Dr. Rodney Redmond

Montgomery College, making this leadership development opportunity possible, is a bold move and a first for both institutions," he continued. "The colleges' willingness to share human resources expands the leadership development pipeline in ways unimagined among community colleges in the state of Maryland. It also demonstrates the innovation and creativity of Dr. Maureen Murphy and Dr. DeRionne Pollard – both of whom are exceptional community college leaders."

Redmond will continue in the interim position while CSM conducts a national search for a new chief academic officer to replace Dr. Eileen Abel, who left CSM Nov. 30, 2020 to become executive director of the University System of Maryland Southern Maryland (USMSM).

Redmond has also served the MC as the representative to the local NAACP Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) program and chair of the board of directors for The Bernie Tetreault Scholarship Program. He is a member of the National Council of Black American Affairs, Community College Humanities Association, Rocky D's Angel Connection Advisory Board, a member of Phi Beta Sigma, Fraternity, Inc., and served as a panelist with the Maryland Arts and Humanities Commission. He earned his bachelor's in English Education from Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. After matriculation at Rust College, he received his master's from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. He completed his doctorate in Higher Education Administration, focusing on community college leadership, from Morgan State University in Baltimore.

Press Release from CSM.

Scholarship Helps CSM Students Pursuing Construction Careers

The family of Timothy Scott Moore has established a memorial scholarship in his name to provide financial support to students in the Construction Management Technology program at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM). Moore spent his entire career in the construction industry, specifically with Waldorf-based Beltway Paving, where he was a vital component of the company's operations.

The creation of the Timothy Scott Moore Construction Management Memorial Scholarship is his wife and children's way of honoring his legacy.

"By providing assistance to local College of Southern Maryland students, Tim will remain connected to the Southern Maryland community, where he worked and resided for decades," said his wife Lisa Moore. "This scholarship celebrates the union of his interests in education, construction and community involvement."

To be eligible for this scholarship, students must: Be a resident of Southern Maryland; possess a high school diploma or its equivalent;



and be enrolled in the Construction Management Technology program at CSM. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need.

For more information on how to apply for this scholarship and others, please visit <https://bit.ly/3obsx5i>.

Press Release from CSM.

St. Mary's College's Brian Ganz Launches Virtual PianoTalk Series

(St. Mary's City, Md.) Wednesday, December 16, 2020 - St. Mary's College of Maryland Musician in Residence Brian Ganz resumes his popular PianoTalk series, now in a virtual format. In his PianoTalks, Brian takes music-lovers behind the scenes with great works of music and then performs them. His discussions shed light on subtle aspects of musicianship and piano technique "between the lines" of great musical masterpieces, revealing the ingenuity of the composer and the artistry of the interpreter.

In PianoTalk No. 1, he discusses and performs Chopin's beloved Etude in E major, Op. 10, No. 3, explaining the technical challenge of "voicing," or bringing out melodic lines and subduing accompanying voices.

In PianoTalk No. 2 he begins a series of explorations of what he calls "Chopin's Creative Laboratory: Mining the Mazurkas for Experiments in Sound." He examines

and performs Mazurka in A-flat major, Op. 41, No. 3, which features an experiment in four-part harmony and a hauntingly incomplete final phrase.

Also, St. Mary's College Department of Music's PING Ensemble featuring students - Enrique A Mas Lebron, Michael Casey, Caroline Colina, Tibby Cosham, Thomas Dolan, Josh Dubois, Emma Huckabee, Ezra Huckabee, Jonathan Parsons, Rachel Steelman, Gretchen Young - perform a number of "Hamilton" highlights in a video produced and directed by Professor of Music Larry Vote.

According to Vote, "I think this video shows some of the best qualities of our students and the messages in the songs are quite timely given our current challenges and opportunities."

Both PianoTalks and the full "Hamilton" highlights videos can be found on the St. Mary's College Music department webpage.

Pet OF THE WEEK MEET OREO



How do you catch a unique bunny?
Unique up on it!

Hi, my name is Oreo. I'm a BEAUTIFUL, SWEET, PLAYFUL, YOUNG boy that enjoys hopping around the house. We bunnies are ADORABLE. We make PERFECT PETS because we're quiet, easy to clean up after, and have a relatively long lifespan — not to mention how CUTE and CUDDLY we are. I know I will steal your heart! Email the wonderful TCAS gang at animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE and PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

And remember, if there is room in the heart, there is room in the house.

To see more of my amazing friends also for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/tri-county-animal-shelter>

TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



Letters to the Editor Giving Thanks

To the Editor

On behalf of Church of the Ascension's Food Pantry, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to the numerous individuals and organizations who donated during the months of November and December. Whether you gave food donations (canned, dry goods or perishables) or financial contributions, you made a difference in the lives of many during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season. The families and individuals who were on the receiving end felt they were not forgotten — and they, and we, are so grateful for your care and support!

The following groups, organizations and families contributed to the celebratory symbol of bounty:

- The Simpson Family
- Pamela McIntyre
- Geoffrey Engle
- Patuxent Presbyterian Church
- Our Lady's Catholic Church
- Club Pilates and Row House (Gary and Kathy McKay)

- Lexington Park COPS Unit
- Rob and Toni Vargo
- Jobs Daughters
- Friends of Ava Ciabs
- Christ Church Chaptico
- VX-23 Junior Enlisted Mess, Patuxent River, MD
- The King's Christian Academy
- Ally Boothe (Boothe's Heating and Air)
- Laurny Ridley and Pre-Med Club at SMCM
- Rev. Lori Hays, Lexington Park United Methodist Church
- Cub Scout 561
- Boy Scout Troop 303
- Scout Troop 3013
- Pack 1203 and Troop 1203
- Jake Friess Eagle Scot Project, Troop 2819
- Girl Scout Service Unit. 10-13
- Thank you!
- The Rev'd Greg Syler, and the volunteer leaders of Ascension's Food Pantry*



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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Test Pilots Wow Park Hall Elementary School First Graders

By Paul Lagasse
U.S. Naval Test Pilot School Communication

It's not every day that elementary school students get a personalized guided tour of the cockpit of a jet fighter or get to peer inside the engine compartment of a helicopter, but that's what happened Nov. 18 when two test pilots from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) paid a virtual visit to Ms. Kylie Lowman's first grade class at Park Hall Elementary School, just south of NAS Patuxent River.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a live tour on base was not possible, so USNTPS commanding officer Lt. Col. Rory Feely and fixed-wing instructor Lt. Cmdr. Scott Elwell used Park Hall Elementary's online virtual classroom system to provide video tours of their "rides" — a UH-60L Black Hawk for Feely, and an F/A-18F Super Hornet for Elwell — and to answer their questions about what it's like to be a test pilot.

The pre-recorded video tours of the two aircraft, dubbed "This is My Ride," were produced by the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's Visual Information branch in collaboration with USNTPS staff. Park Hall Elementary's eagle mascot joined Feely and Elwell on their tours, suitably attired in a flying helmet and oxygen mask.

"Skipper Feely came up with the idea of using the school mascot in the videos," recalled William Geyer, an academic instructor at USNTPS who coordinated the virtual tours with the command's Educational Outreach Office. "I was able to get the Park Hall Eagle from Ms. Lowman, and that's when the fun really began."

The idea of putting a helmet on the eagle was Geyer's. "I thought it would be neat for the students to see their mascot in a helmet," he said. "The folks in the paraloft" — the room where pilots suit up prior to a flight — "loved the idea and found a helmet small enough to fit."

The NAWCAD camera crew worked with Geyer, Feely, and Elwell to record the videos over the course of a quiet morning on the school's flight line during a lull in flight operations. It proved to be a lot of fun for everyone involved.

"The challenge was making the videos interesting for a first grader so that they would stay engaged," Geyer said. "A lot of effort went into thinking of descriptions on how the aircraft fly that would be relatable to the students." Elwell, for example, explained the concept of lift by describing what happens to your arm when you extend it out the window of a moving car and tilt your hand up and down.

"We teach pilots from the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines," Feely explained in his video tour. "They come to school just like you, they get homework just like you, and then they get to go fly some really cool airplanes and helicopters."

After Ms. Lowman showed her students the four-minute videos, Feely

and Elwell took turns answering their questions live from Feely's office at USNTPS. Questions ranged from how various parts of the Black Hawk and Super Hornet worked, to how far the aircraft can fly, to whether pilots get dizzy flying upside down.

At the end of the tour, just before saying goodbye, Feely gave the students a homework assignment: to make a drawing of a helicopter or an airplane.

"The virtual tour with the Park Hall students was great," Feely said afterwards. "I really enjoyed the enthusiasm and curiosity that the students had. Kids bring so much energy to everything they do, and that makes it so much fun to talk with them."

Elwell agreed. "The students asked really good questions and picked up a lot from the videos," he said. "One student asked me if they could come visit in person someday and I said that though it's hard right now, it would be great to see them again."



The Park Hall Elementary Eagle helps Lt. Col. Rory Feely, USNTPS commander, explain how helicopters fly.

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

Videos from Aging & Human Services

The Department of Aging & Human Services is proud to announce our brand new Virtual Senior Activity Center and YouTube page! Go to <https://www.stmarysmd.com/aging/virtual-senior-center/> or www.youtube.com, keyword SMC Aging & Human Services, to see what we have for you! There are more videos coming soon!

Wanted: Senior Pen Pals

Would you like to be a correspondent friend to someone from a younger generation? Someone with whom to exchange cards and share personal experiences of historical moments (Where were you when President Kennedy was shot?) statistics (How much was a candy bar when you were ten years old?), maybe offer some pearls of wisdom you've picked up over the years. Would it be interesting to learn about perspectives of someone who is/was growing up in the digital age? Perhaps a younger person also has some information/advice that you can use! We are looking for people who would like to develop a relationship via mail with others from an era different than their own. You could be paired with a child, a teenager or an adult, but it is an opportunity to enjoy a new friendship in an old format. Contact Sheila.graziano@stmarysmd.com if you are interested in having a new pen pal. (We are preparing for up to 25 seniors to participate.)

Arthritis Foundation Exercise

Arthritis Foundation Exercise with Debbie Buckler is available virtually each Wednesday at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Debbie is excited to have you work out with her. Get ready to strengthen and loosen those muscles! If you're interested in participating, please email MarieNoelle.Lautieri@stmarysmd.com, and your email address will be added to the participant list. You will receive an email each Wednesday morning with instructions so you can join the class using your computer. Debbie is an enthusiastic instructor who you will love to exercise with.

Beginning Keyboard/Piano Lessons on ZOOM

Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, the author of the "How to Play Gospel" book series and an experienced vocalist, songwriter, recording artist, pianist and teacher will be offering his specialized begin-

ner classes to you in your own home via ZOOM. Pre-registration is required. You will need reliable internet, a smart phone or computer and a Zoom account (Help is available by e-mailing Shellie-address below). Classes will be held on Thursdays, Jan. 21- Feb. 25 (6 sessions) at 1 p.m. Cost of \$100 for all six sessions includes instruction and textbook. You will need to invest in an inexpensive keyboard. (\$50-100+ available at local stores and online) if you don't already have one. Direct payment can be made to Dr. Jefferson through Paypal or by check in advance. To Register for these lessons or for more information e-mail Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com. These will be group lessons and a minimum of 3-4 students will be required for these lessons to be held.

New Program Series Starting in January

Early in the new year the Loffler Senior Activity Center will be launching a new type of program that will be available to seniors whether they have computer access and skills or not. Independent Project Clubs (IPC) will consist of a monthly assignment, followed by a Reveal Day Curbside Event. Our first such program will be the Independent Project Sewing Club which will begin in January (project will be announced January 4). Members will work on it at leisure. On Reveal Day, members can drive up to the Loffler Senior Activity Center at staggered times, reveal their masterpieces, pose for a picture, which will be posted on the department Facebook page and receive the new assignment which will be due on the next scheduled Reveal Day Curbside Event. Besides sewing, other club ideas being considered are Bird-Lovers, Crafters, Puzzle and Garden. If you know you will want to participate in the Independent Project Sewing Club contact Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com. The first Reveal Day Curbside Event will be Wednesday, February 10.

Looking for Volunteer Discussion Leaders

If you are comfortable leading and conducting virtual meetings or classes using Zoom or similar platforms, I am looking for some volunteer leadership for discussion groups and classes such as Pain Management Support Group, Current Events, Craft Classes and other topics of interest. Please contact Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com to discuss serving the community in this fun and rewarding capacity.

St. Mary's 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.

Friday, December 18

Beth Israel Synagogue Shabbat Services Online

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Shabbat evening services are being held online due to COVID19. Beth Israel Synagogue will hold online services EVERY FRIDAY at 7 PM. Check our website [calendar \(bethisraelmd.weebly.com/calendar.html\)](http://calendar.bethisraelmd.weebly.com/calendar.html) for event details.

Saturday, December 19

Drive-Thru Food Drive

Gospel Tabernacle of Prayer Church; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Gospel Tabernacle of Prayer Church will be hosting a food drive, please contact 301-769-296 ext. 5.

Tuesday, December 22

Grief Support Group

Calvary Chapel; 7 p.m.

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. The support group meets weekly. You are welcome to begin attending at any point. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief. For more information call the church office and leave a message 301-645-0660 or email us at admin@ccsmd.com.

Wednesday, December 23

Wayback Wednesdays

We hope you're loving our weekly video series showing some of the stories that make St. Mary's County's history so unique and interesting. We thought this would be a fun way to bring our closed museums to you while we all keep our social distance. Join us every week for short videos featuring everything from the quirky to the fascinating - tune in! We have several episodes in the playlist! [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)

DAV Assistance Program

St. Mary's Square ReStore; 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Veterans - do you have a service-connected disability? Did you receive an injury while on active duty and are now filing for disability through the Veterans Administration (VA)? The Disabled American Veterans organization is here to assist you with those VA forms at no cost to you. These men and women (who are disabled veterans) are volunteers who ensure you are placing the proper information in the proper blocks and advise you on common mistakes that are made on these VA forms. Their spaces are toward the rear of the building on the left side. Stop by and see if we can be of assistance to you. No appointment necessary.

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

In Remembrance

Theresa Fanny Knight

Theresa Fanny Knight, 97, of Loveville, MD formerly from the Seventh District, passed away on December 12, 2020 at her home. She was born on February 4, 1923 in Hollywood, MD and was the loving daughter of the late Violet Lathroum and Leo Lathroum. Teresa was the loving wife of George Knight, whom she married on November 5, 1966 in Lanham, MD. Teresa is survived by 2 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and 5 great great grandchildren. Along with her siblings Mary Kelly of St. Clements Shores, and Jimmy Lathroum of Seventh Dist. She is preceded in death by her son Archie Higgs. Siblings Estelle Farrell, Agnes Dillcard, Margaret Quade, Helen Eckerd, Catherine Burke, Lillian Anderson, Beanie Lathroum, and Wallace Lathroum.

She was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident, and homemaker.

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

James "Bubby" F. Spalding



James "Bubby" F. Spalding, 86 of Leonardtown passed on December 10, 2020 at the Med Star Hospital in Leonardtown, MD.

James F. Spalding better known as "Bubby" was born December 24, 1933. He, his two brothers (Bernard Jr. & Eddie), and sister (Virginia) grew up with their parents (Bernard & Mildred) in Leonardtown, Maryland. He enjoyed childhood and teen years playing sports in school and spending time on the water, boating, swimming and crabbing.

In 1952, he graduated from Margaret Brent High School, joined the Army and served 3 years; 26 months of his service in Africa.

After the Army, he began his career as a technician, a Federal Government job at the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland. During his career, he was a member and served as President of the Southern Maryland Pioneers, a non-profit organization supporting children with

disabilities.

In October 1958, Bubby married Elizabeth Ann Cusic, better known as "Betty Ann." They lived in Leonardtown until 1964 when Bubby and his brother, Eddie, built a house in Compton, Maryland, the home where he and Betty Ann raised their three children, Bobby, Wanda, and Dale.

In 1991, Bubby retired from Lucent Telephone Company. He began a new chapter and his volunteer work nearly became a full-time job!

Being a volunteer was not new to Bubby as over the years, he supported Father Andrew White where his children attended school, assisting with sporting events, calling out bingo and building the annual "spook house." He belonged to the Little League Baseball Association and managed little league teams. He participated in Christmas in April and a long-time volunteer for the annual Leonardtown Carnival. A member of St. Francis Xavier Church maintenance committee; many years as a lector and singing in the choir. He supported the Church's annual Christmas Bizarre from planning for the event too making and cooking the stuffed hams!

Bubby had a passion for people and making every moment fun, the life of the party. He loves to sing and dance. Even in Africa, he brought joy, gathering fellow service members to sing and play music. His love for sports led to years of playing baseball, softball, and golf. His greatest moment in softball was in 1969 when he received the Budweiser Sportsmanship Award. Another significant moment in sports was when he played golf with Bob Hope at the local Breton Bay Golf Course.

In the 1970's Bubby was a member of the original Clements Cuties, a non-profit organization that raised money for families in need within the community. The Cuties, a group of men that would dress like women and play softball for charity. No surprise, Bubby went by the name of "Bubbles" and looked great in a dress and high heels!

Bubby, an excellent public speaker, served for years as the Master of Ceremonies for Softball Banquets, Birthdays, and Anniversaries. During special events, frequently called upon to say grace before the meal. He was always prepared with a well thought out written prayer that he carried in his suit pocket.

Bubby, a man of strong faith, best friend and love to Betty Ann, proud father of his three children and grandfather of five; Tyler, Bailey, Madelyn, Emma, and Carson. Yet a new chapter in his life as a resident of the Chesapeake Shores Nursing Center, he continued to spread love

and joy with his fellow residents and the Staff. Making sure his roommate got a haircut; visiting others, offering a mint or snack, or simply providing comfort with a soft pat on the hand or shoulder.

All Funeral Services will be private. Serving as Pallbearers: Robert Spalding, Dale Spalding, Bailey Spalding, Carson Spalding, Teeny Guy & Nick Nickerson

In lieu of flowers donations to the Leonardtown Rescue Squad or St. Francis Xavier Church, Compton, MD.

Ella Mae Kernozek



Ella Mae Kernozek, 86, of Lusby, MD, passed away on December 6, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. She was born on May 20, 1934 in Dentsville, MD, and was the daughter of the late Thornton and Frances Olive Bridgett of Charles County, MD. Ella Mae was the loving wife of William M. Kernozek whom she married on September 3, 2003. Ella Mae was preceded in death by her son Selby H. Pruitt and her brothers Lewis Norman Bridgett, Thornton Bridgett, Jr., "Doc", James Calvin Bridgett, Francis Edward Bridgett and her sister Virginia Corn. She is survived by her brother Joseph Lester Bridgett and children; William Pruitt, Debra Pruitt, Connie Putt, and Kelvin Pruitt along with 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

She was a lifelong resident of southern, MD and retired from the St. Mary's Public-School System.

Ella enjoyed playing the guitar, snare drums and mandolin as well as singing old country and bluegrass music at local nursing homes and other venues around Southern Maryland. She also loved cooking for holiday gatherings providing everyone with take home service to include candied sweet potatoes, stuffed ham,

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In Remembrance

crab cakes, and soft crab sandwiches. She was a loving and devoted mother and mother-in-law and will be dearly missed.

Rose Victoria (Clements) Just



Rose Victoria (Clements) Just, beloved mother of Philip Just (Kim), Jeanette Barkwell (Ricky), Joanne Skalby (Daniel) and grandmother to Jason Hall, James Skalby (Shannon), Dustin Carter (Shyan), and David Just, joined the angels in the Kingdom of Heaven on December 6, 2020.

We will remember Rose as someone who was warm, loving, independent, strong, spunky and lively. An adorable, diminutive woman, she embodied the definition of a kind heart.

She is loved and remembered by her co-workers and friends from many years working for Navy activities at Patuxent River, MD, Jamesway, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Mary's College, St. Mary's Nursing Home, and C&P Telephone Company. She was always quick to share her knowledge and offer a helping hand to her co-workers, who will remember her quick mind, wit, work ethic, and capabilities in any job she undertook.

Rose doted on her kids and her grandsons. She was also a devoted "dog mom".

An avid crafter and accomplished seamstress, Rose's family and friends were gifted with many cherished

hand-crafted Christmas ornaments, dolls, and baby blankets ("Grandma Blankie's"). What you may not know, is that she also made many children's Christmas and birthday wishes come true by creating countless hand-made Cabbage Patch babies and Pound Puppies, during that time in the 80's when it was virtually impossible to buy them in stores. This was before the internet and Etsy!

Rose also spent many years volunteering as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 221 in Avenue, MD, and many will remember her volunteering as Mrs. Claus at Christmastime.

Rose's sweet disposition and distinctive laugh would make anyone's day. She was always there for her family and friends. She was much loved.

We will miss you, rest in Paradise, Mom, Grandma, Rose, "Rosie".

Rose was born July 12, 1938 to Philip Oscar Clements and Victoria Elizabeth (Wathen) Clements. After her preschool years in Millersville, Maryland, Rose lived most of her life in the town she loved, Leonardtown, Maryland. She is predeceased by her brother Gerald Clements and sister Esther Conlon.

A Celebration of Life will be scheduled at a later time once safety allows our friends and loved ones to gather and celebrate this wonderful lady.

William Clarence Watts



William Clarence Watts, 92, from Breton Bay, in Leonardtown, died Saturday, December 05, 2020, at St. Mary's Hospital. Born July 29, 1928, on his Mother's birthday, in Andover, MA. He was the son of the late Merrill C. and Isabella Leuchars Watts. He was raised and attended school in Andover.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force immediately after graduating from Punchard High School in 1946. He went to basic training at SAACC in San Antonio, TX, then was trained in Boca Raton, FL, as a Radar Mechanic/Operator for Ground Controlled Approach Radar systems. He was stationed at Lajes AFB, in the Azores Islands, a mid-Atlantic refueling stop, during the Berlin Airlift. He was honorably discharged with the rank of S/Sgt in 1949. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal.

After discharge from the Air Force, he resumed school attending the Huntington School for Boys in Boston, MA. Afterwards he attended the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute in Washington, D.C. where he was active in sports and twice elected President of the Student Council. After graduation from CREI, he was employed as an electronic technician for four years at Bendix Radio, in Towson, MD. During his time with Bendix he assisted in the fabrication of the AN/WSC-5(V), the next generation of GCA radars for the U.S. Navy. He first came to St. Mary's County as part of the Bendix team that delivered the WSC-5 to Patuxent River for first article testing. During his three month visit he fell in love with the county and he met his future wife, Nancy Reid, a Calvert County resident, who was a nursing student at Union Memorial Hospital, in Baltimore, MD. On August 28, 1954, he married the love of his life, Nancy, in Solomons, MD. Shortly after he moved to St. Mary's County to participate in the second class of the Patuxent Plan, at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

In the Patuxent Plan, he earned a Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering (BSEE) degree at the University of Maryland, graduating in 1961. He continued his education and earned a Masters of Engineering Administration (MEA) degree from George Washington University in 1972, awarded in Constitution Hall. He worked as an electronic engineer at NESEA, St. Inigoes, as a Branch Head in the Radar Branch for eleven years. With development of the new communications methods, he transferred to the Satellite Communications Branch as a branch head for sixteen years. He was head of the team that sent the first official naval message over the LES-6 satellite in

September 1968, which inaugurated the U.S. Navy UHF satellite communication programs. He traveled to many ship and shore sites throughout the world in support of satellite communications and received many commendations for completing tasks ahead of schedule and below budget estimates. He retired from NESEA, July 29, 1983, at the age of 55 with thirty years of government service.

After leaving the government he was employed by Tracor in St. Mary's County. He worked as the Satellite Communication Department Director until 1990 when he retired. After Tracor he was employed by Advanced Communications Systems, Inc. of Fairfax, VA, as a systems analyst in their Crystal City office. He remained employed until September 30, 1996, when he and his wife both permanently retired on the same day.

In his younger days, the he and his family were active in St. Mary's County. They took in several social services foster children to live with them in their home. He was a member of the original Bell Motor Company slow pitch softball team, the first county slow pitch champions and also played ball for Budweiser. He was an umpire for both baseball and softball for a period of time. He was a cub master for Pack 420 and Troop Committeeman for Troop 420, BSA. He coached the St. Clement's Shore Little League baseball team. He was one of the seven original members of the Breton Bay Country Club, having joined in establishing the club in 1966, with the construction of a pool and tennis courts and later in 1970 the construction of the golf course and the Breton Bay Golf and Country Club. He became an avid golfer in his later years spending many weekends on the course with dear friends and one of the oldest members.

In addition to his wife of 66 wonderful years, he is survived by his children: William Merrill (Addie) Watts of Leonardtown; Martha Dawn Watts of San Rafael, CA; Paul Reid (Marie) Watts of Leonardtown; Priscilla Lynn (Mike) Labanowski of Mechanicsville; eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren and a sister Merrilyn Watts. He was preceded in death by his son, David Clarence Watts and his sister, Ethel Emrick of Dixon, CA.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad or the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department.

All Funeral Services will be held at a late date.

Gerald "Gerry" Blount Wannan

Gerald "Gerry" Blount Wannan, 88, of Leonardtown, MD formerly from



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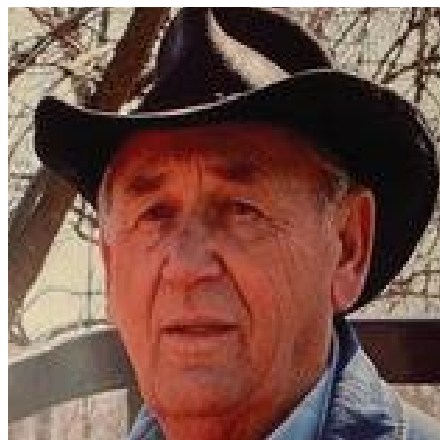
Washington, DC passed away on November 26, 2020 in Charlotte Hall, MD. He was born on January 12, 1932 in Washington, DC. Gerry was the loving son of the late Eunice Preston Wannan Russell and George Wannan. He was preceded in death by his brother Donald T. Wannan of Leonardtown, MD.

Gerry moved from Iran to St. Mary's County, MD in 1979. He was a Master A/C Mechanic for Pan American/Iran Air, retiring in 1979 after 14 years.

Gerry served in the USCG for 4 years retiring in 1953, USAF for 10 years retiring in 1965, USN Reserves for 10 years retiring in 1990. Gerry served from 1949 to 1990 and was a member of the Mid-Eastern Parachute Association.

A Graveside Service will be held in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Robert "Bob" Lee Powell



Robert "Bob" Lee Powell passed away on December 8th, 2020 at the Bon Secours St Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia at the age of 81.

He was born on June 22nd, 1939 in Accokeek, Maryland to the late Robert and Eva (Richardson) Powell.

As a young man, Bob met the love of his life, Patricia Marie Balderson and it didn't take long before he knew that she was the one. They married on July 28, 1962 and spent 58 years in marital bliss. Bob was drafted in the United States Army in December, 1962. He served his country and family proud and was honorably

discharged in November, 1968. He returned home, began working and supported his family as a plumber. Bob was a hardworking man with a heart of gold and will be remembered by his three (3) beautiful daughters, Tracy, Angela, and Sherry.

Bob enjoyed the great outdoors and could be found hunting, practicing archery, spending time with the family and riding his tractor. Family was everything to Bob. He was extremely proud of all of his grandchildren and took great pleasure in his great grandchildren. Bob's legacy will be of hard work, kindness and laughter. His memory will remain in the hearts of his loved ones.

Bob is survived by his wife, Patricia Marie Powell of Dunnsville, VA; his children, Tracy Rohan of Prince Frederick, MD, Angela Stirling (Jim) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Sherry Linder (Patrick) of Prince Frederick, MD. He is also survived by four (4) grandchildren, Shanna Digges, Taylor Wyne, Jayson Powell, and Brooke Stirling; and two (2) great-grandchildren Nathan Digges and Ezra Powell and his best buddy Bailey. Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Eva and his brother Jackie Powell.

The family will receive friends for Bob's Life Celebration on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 24, 2020 and officiated by Drew Stirling at Brinsfield Funeral Home, Charlotte Hall for Bob's immediate family. Interment will be held at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD on December 24, 2020.

In lieu of flowers, you can make a donation to the American Heart Association or The National Kidney Foundation.

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

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

James Steven "Jimmy" Downs, Sr.

James Steven "Jimmy" Downs, Sr., 73 of Avenue, MD passed away on December 10, 2020 at Charles Regional Medical Center, La Plata, MD with his family at his side.

Jimmy was born on February 26, 1947 in Washington, D.C. to Catherine Louise (Mattingly) Downs Binger of LaPlata, MD and the late George Thomas Downs.

Jimmy was a hardworking man all of his years, was involved in several organizations and enjoyed various



hobbies. He graduated from Suitland High School in 1966. On May 20, 1972, he married Patricia Ann Reed in Oxon Hill, MD. Together they celebrated over 48 wonderful years of marriage. Just after high school he was employed as a mechanic for Coleman Cadillac in Bethesda, MD followed by Capital Cadillac until 1979. He then relocated to St. Mary's County, where he was the owner and operator of Avenue General Store from 1979 to 1989. During his time at "the store", he formed countless relationships with customers and vendors, many of which grew into meaningful, long-lasting friendships. He could be found working there 7 days a week behind the counter. In 1989 he resumed his career as an auto mechanic until he retired in 2013 from St. Mary's County Government Department of Transportation.

Jimmy enjoyed visiting his maternal grandmother's Civil War era farm in Oldtown, Maryland and spending time at his father's farm in Avenue where he helped grow and cut tobacco. His talents included being a self-taught, skilled woodworker who built beautiful quilt racks, wall décor, and a detailed replica of the Hayden House where he previously lived in Abell, Maryland. He had a love and appreciation for animals, including feeding the squirrels and birds. His interests included learning about coins and being a member of the St. Mary's Coin Club with his daughter Stacey, and being a history buff with an expertise in the Civil War.

In addition to his mother and beloved wife, Jimmy is survived by his children, Stacey Lee Suite (Joseph) of Clements, MD and James Steven Downs, Jr. of Avenue, MD; his granddaughter, Kimberly Elizabeth Orofino (Philip) of Lyndhurst, NJ; his stepfather Jim Binger; his sisters Mary Ann Jordan of California, MD and Karen Sanders (Bobby) of Forestville, MD; his lifelong friend John Ours; and extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his father, George Thomas Downs, maternal grandparents James Clyde Mattingly and Grace Mattingly Scott, step maternal grandfather Harold Scott, and paternal grandpar-

ents Stephen Downs and Mary Agnes Hall Downs.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, December 17, 2020 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., with a Funeral Service celebrated by Reverend Joe Orlando at 1:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road. The Funeral Service will be live-streamed from the Brinsfield website. Interment is private.

Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to the St. Mary's County Special Olympics, P.O. Box 921, Hollywood, MD 20636, the Bay Community Support Services, 25410 Rosedale Manor Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636, or the Helpful Hooves Equine Therapy, 38520 Ah Ha Lane, Avenue, MD 20609.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Jinny Lynne Brooks



Jinny Lynne Brooks, 68, of Tracy's Landing, MD passed away peacefully on December 7, 2020 at home in Tracy's Landing, MD.

Born on June 17, 1952, in Bluefield, WV she was the daughter of the late Garland Wiley Shupe and Betty Jane Shupe.

Jinny married her forever love, Richard Dale Brooks on October 22, 1970. Together they shared over 41 years of marriage before his passing on November 30, 2011. Their love was an inspiration to their son, and they are now reunited for eternity.

Jinny was a wonderful homemaker. A loving mother and grandmother, who doted on her family. She was an excellent cook and baker. She would make you feel at home with a big meal, delicious dessert and motherly advice. She pampered her grandchildren and never turned down the opportunity to spend time with them.

A mother, grandmother, friend and amazing woman has gone on to enjoy her golden palace. Her family will miss her immensely. As memories fill your mind and tears grace your cheek, remember her spirit and the legacy of kindness, courage and

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

In Remembrance

beauty she has left behind. May you hold your family tight and know that Jinny would encourage you to be happy.

Jinny is survived by her son, Daniel Greyson Brooks (Jennifer) of Hollywood, MD; three (3) grandchildren Garland Brooks, Gannon Brooks and Greyslyn Brooks and siblings, John Gary Shupe, Mason Clarke Shupe, Karen Leigh Shupe and Jason Grey Shupe. She is preceded in death by her husband, Richard Dale Brooks; her parents; grandson, Gabriel Brooks and siblings, Dwight David Shupe, Aaron Karl Shupe and Florence Kathleen Church.

At this time all services will be private.

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

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

Laura Jene Morgan

Laura Jene Morgan 60, of Lexington Park, MD passed away on December 10, 2020 at her home.

She was born on July 7, 1960 in Leonardtown, MD to the late John Webster Keenan, Sr. and Mary Helen Morgan Keenan.

Jene is a 1978 graduate of Chop-ticon High School. She was previously employed as a Delivery Driver for David's Florist, and a cashier at Burchmart and the Early Bird. She



enjoyed playing the slot machines at the Rod n Reel, a good card game of PITCH, dances at the American Legion, and taking long drives. She had three cats, Do-Dos, Sephus and Mittens, whom she referred to as her therapy cats. Her family was her greatest love, especially her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Jennifer Carroll (Troy) of Mechanicsville, MD and Jesse Jarvis Morgan of Lexington Park, MD, her stepchildren, John Morgan (Wendy) of Centerville, MD and Wendy Alls of California, MD; her siblings, John Webster Keenan, Jr. (Roberta) of Stafford, VA and Nonnie Burroughs (Mark) of Mechanicsville, MD; and seven grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her sister, Robin Lynette Morgan and granddaughter, Tiffany

Lee Carroll.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

MMI Kenneth Evan Atkins, USN



MMI Kenneth Evan Atkins, USN (Ret.), 79, of California, MD passed away on December 7, 2020 at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall, MD.

He was born on January 12, 1941 in Warren, PA to the late Norman and Leola Ritch Atkins.

In 1958, Ken enlisted in the U.S. Navy and proudly served his country for over 21 dedicated years of service until his retirement on June 15, 1979 as a Machinists Mate First Class. During his service he travelled extensively and earned many citations and medals. After retiring from the US Navy he worked at DynCorp as a government contractor for many years supporting the Navy.

On December 30, 1974, he married his loving wife, Vivian "Celie" Atkins in Leonardtown, MD. Together they celebrated over 45 wonderful years of marriage. During this time he also owned and operated two tractor trailers, hauling goods across the country; something he truly loved. He was reliable, patriotic, and had a strong work ethic. His hobbies included fishing, hunting and camping in their RV along the East Coast with the "Blue Crab Fun Bunch." He was handy and although he would rig things in an unconventional way, they always worked. He loved to grill everything, but steaks were his specialty. Other hobbies included listening to the scanner to stay on top of local current events, listening to old country music, talking on his CB radio, and enjoying some of his favorite TV shows including, Smokey and the Bandit, Westerns, Clint Eastwood movies, and the Dukes of Hazard. Celie was his greatest love and he also enjoyed spending time with all of his family.

In addition to his beloved wife, he is also survived by his children: Ken-

neth Scott Atkins (Cindy) of Warren, PA, Richard L. Atkins of Jamestown, NY, Debbie Synder (Tony) of Tallahassee, FL, Dale Landau (Debbie) of Mechanicsville, MD, Guy Landau (Terri) of Albertsville, AL, Lisa Frederick (Steve) of California, MD, and Laura Carroll of Catonsville, MD; his sister, Darla Thurberg; 12 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren; and extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his sister, Sharon (Sherrie) Sparling.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Association, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Harry W. Graves



Harry W. Graves passed away at the age of 77. He was born on February 7, 1943 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Samuel Graves and Ruth Graves Wright.

Harry worked for Charles County Roads for 20+ years before retiring. Harry enjoyed fishing, tinkering with anything broken, woodworking. He enjoyed listening to and watching Elvis. Harry has supported and donated to many charities, his favorite being the ASPCA.

The viewing will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 from 5-8 p.m. with prayers at 7 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment is private.

Harry is predeceased by his parents Samuel and Ruth, brothers Norwood and Hue, and sister June. Harry is survived by his loving wife Nina Graves of 47 years. Harry is lovingly remembered by his children William and Sean, daughter-in-law Erin, great granddaughter Gwendolyn and his sisters Evelyn and Ruth Ann.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



WHAT A CHRISTMESS

We finally got the Christmas tree out of the big shed during that stretch of amazing days we had last week, which are now, unfortunately just a wistful memory. Our shed is rather musty, it seems to soak up every bit of moisture in the walls and roof. Sometimes in the summer, it is hard to even go in there. Unfortunately, that is where the tree and all the outdoor decorations are stored, except of course for Halloween decorations which have an entire shed to themselves.

When we take out the tree, it has to sit outside for a while to air out the musties. And when we bring it inside it still gets a good spraying of Febreze and Lysol...also in case there are any hitchhikers lurking. So, my husband took the tree out for its airing. The next afternoon with the help of our big 15 year old Grandson Logan they wrestled the tree up the steps into the living room. I was working on other things while they were doing that. Later that day I started smelling a really strong smell every time I walked in the living room. I started smelling the trash can in the kitchen, the refrigerator, Mindy's paws, my shirt, bottoms of shoes, inside the Christmas boxes, and generally going nuts trying to find the source of the smell. It didn't take me too long to narrow it down to the Christmas tree, and then it narrowed further to a few specific areas on the tree. Apparently one or more of the many feral cats that live all around our homes had decided they did not like this new tree that was sitting beside the shed and decided to spray their anger on it.

Now, the stinking tree was in our house. Out came the Lysol first, my precious can of Lysol, which I sprayed and sprayed all over the tree. I thought that would take care of it, nope. An hour later I sprayed it again. Same thing, no difference. Then it was time for the Febreze. My husband and I both took turns through that night and the next day spraying it every time we walked by. I found my Odoban spray and added that to the mix. The last thing was a small jar of pine essential oil that I had bought for those nightlight warmers. I took the top off and shook it all over the tree from trunk to edge of the boughs. What was I thinking? For the next few hours, my eyes watered, and I coughed incessantly. And then the smell was all over my hands – even dish soap and Comet didn't get rid of it.

Finally, by last night, it seemed that either the smell had neutralized, or I had completely burned out the lining



of my nose. The lights strings could now go on. Ha, only one light string could go on. I bought 2 sets of the expensive warm white crystallized C6 LED lights last year, but did both reels work? No, of course not. My husband fooled with that second reel for a half hour and they wouldn't light. We went on the hunt for two days trying to find the same exact bulbs and ended up getting the same style bulbs but in cool white. I told my husband I don't care let's just get them on. It looked a little funny at first, but its fine.

Also, last night I started wondering...was it best to do garland first or ornaments first? It confused me enough that I asked that question on Facebook. I have always done garland first, but I received answers for both choices. This morning we put everything on the tree, and I mixed things up, by stopping in the middle and adding my beaded garland, and then finishing the rest of the ornaments. It was nice to put the ornaments up together, both reminiscing about where they came from or from whom. This year with all that is going on I have noticed so many people going all out to decorate or to bring those old Christmas traditions back. So, this morning, after much debate in my mind, I decided to go old school and fling tinsel all over the tree. I will hate myself when it comes time to clean up, but for now the brightly tinsel, smelling slightly better, Christmas tree is bringing back the wonder, expectation, and excitement from all those years ago. I wish the same for you.

To each new Christmas adventure, Shelby

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

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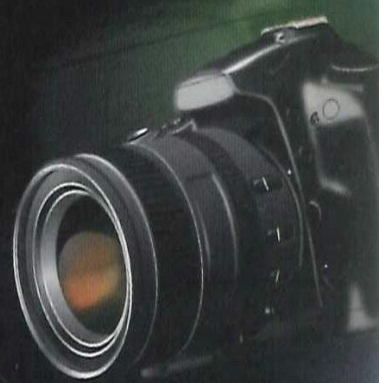
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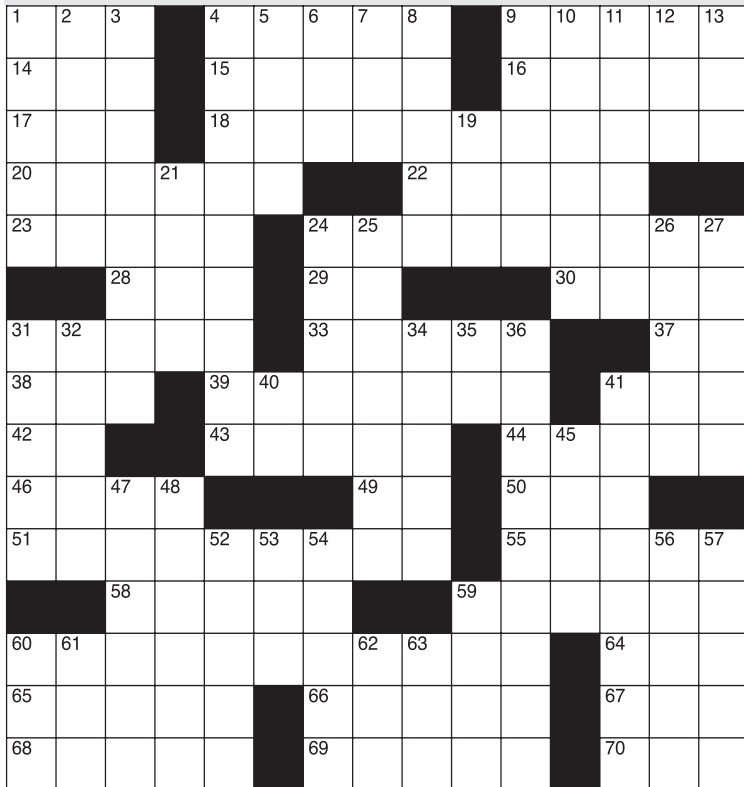
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular pickup truck
- 4. Profoundly wise men
- 9. Camera company
- 14. Folk singer DiFranco
- 15. Passerine birds
- 16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- 17. Popular kids channel
- 18. Dodgers' skipper
- 20. Removes
- 22. The Atlantic is one
- 23. Badgerlike mammal
- 24. Foulness
- 28. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A type of gin
- 31. Temptress
- 33. Shuts in an enclosed space
- 37. Milligram
- 38. Actress Adams
- 39. Strive to equal or match
- 41. Health insurance
- 42. A detective's source
- 43. Small American rails
- 44. Alfred ___, Brit. poet
- 46. Crest of a hill
- 49. Atomic #52
- 50. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 51. Breaks apart

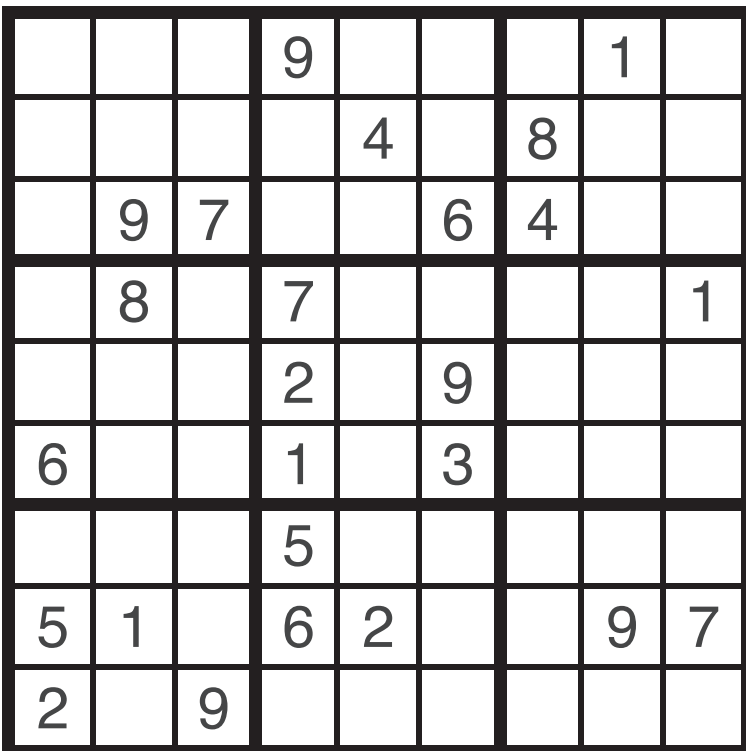
- 55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)

- 58. Worker
- 59. Chemical compound
- 60. Disgraced newsman
- 64. Born of
- 65. Chemical substance
- 66. Supernatural powers
- 67. Clothes
- 68. Indy footballers
- 69. Moves forward
- 70. Midway between south and southeast

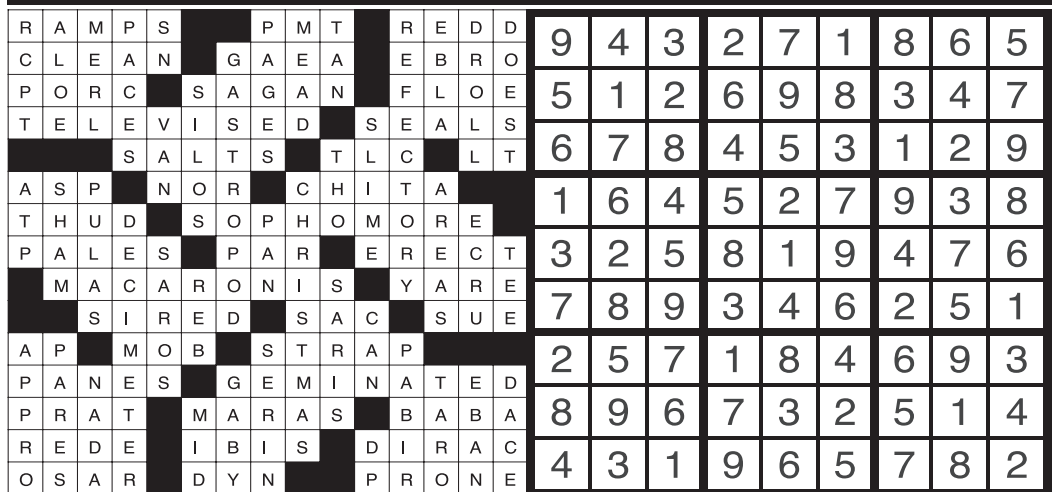
- 11. Eurasian ryegrass
- 12. Perform on stage
- 13. Greek island
- 19. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- 21. One point east of southeast
- 24. Belgian city
- 25. Praise excessively
- 26. River in France
- 27. Edible lily bulbs
- 31. Quarterbacks take them
- 32. Organic compound
- 34. Tears down (Brit.)
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Unconscious
- 40. Missouri
- 41. Firemen use them
- 45. Pig noise
- 47. Greatly dismay
- 48. Imitator
- 52. Moves by turning over
- 53. Boxing's GOAT
- 54. Swarms with
- 56. Margarine
- 57. Feudal superior
- 59. As fast as can be done
- 60. Reciprocal of a sine
- 61. Chinese city
- 62. Tell on
- 63. United

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Driver
- 2. Bone cavities
- 3. Menacing
- 4. Where coaches patrol
- 5. Greek mythological figure
- 6. War-based board game
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. 18-year period in astronomy
- 9. Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
- 10. Large bodies of water



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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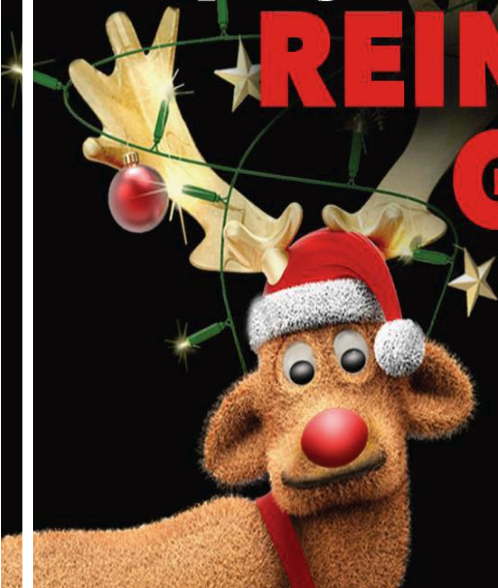
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