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County's Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

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New year.
New Life

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“IT’S GOING TO COST US LIVES IN ST. MARY’S COUNTY. IT’S THAT SIMPLE.”

VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CHIEF SHAWN DAVIDSON ON STATE DELAYS IN MOVING INTO THE NEXT PHASE OF VACCINATIONS, DESPITE BEING READY LOCALLY.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 1/7	Fri 1/8	Sat 1/9	Sun 1/10
44° 29°F	38° 27°F	39° 25°F	40° 28°F
Mostly Sunny	Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Sunny
Mon 1/11	Tue 1/12	Wed 1/13	Thu 1/14
40° 32°F	43° 29°F	44° 29°F	44° 32°F
PM Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny

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COVID-19

	Positive Cases	Deaths
<i>As of January 6</i>		
St. Mary's	3,873	84

Information provided by St. Mary's Health Department

County Ready For Next Phase of COVID Vaccinations



Lauren Ervin, DNP, CNMI, a midwife with MedStar Medical Group Women's Health at Leonardtown gets a band aid after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

By the end of this week, St. Mary's County should be ready to move into the next, broader phase of vaccinations against COVID-19, said County Health Officer Dr. Meena Brewster but the state has yet to issue the authorization to allow it.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County came to a consensus that if the state would not move fast enough to allow counties to proceed with vaccinations, they would petition the state to allow for greater flexibility in doing so.

"We'd love to be able to move into phase 1B," Brewster told county commissioners at their Jan. 5 meeting in Leonardtown. "We'll be ready by the end of the week."

Brewster said that the health department has been aggressively vaccinating and quickly uses up the supply of vaccine as they get it; they are only notified of new vaccine shipments about two days before they are to receive them.

"It's a huge impact because at the local level there are a lot of mechanics that have to come together to launch the effort," Brewster said. "It's challenging to do that when you don't know how much vaccine you're going to get."

Gov. Larry Hogan praised St. Marys' along with Calvert counties this week for being among five counties that were distributing the vaccine the fastest in the state.

Hogan was critical though in his Jan. 5 press conference, though, of the pharmacy partnership of CVS and Walgreens for being slow in

getting the vaccine to staff and residents at nursing homes.

The two pharmacies are tasked with inoculations at not only nursing homes but at assisted living facilities and homes for the developmentally disabled and others in certain congregant living arrangements.

Brewster said vaccines have already been distributed at St. Mary's Nursing Center and Chesapeake Shores was scheduled to get their allotment Jan. 6.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home was waiting until Jan. 13 to get their inoculations.

Sharon Murphy, director at the veterans home, said Walgreens staff would come to the facility on the appointed day to administer the vaccine at an indoor clinic.

The vaccine efforts are continuing along with testing, Brewster said, in a time when health officials believe another virus surge is eminent.

"We appear to be heading into the post-holiday surge," she said, adding that the county's new case rate is more than 30 per 100,000 residents.

Shawn Davidson, Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Chief for St. Mary's County, was critical of the state for not allowing jurisdictions to proceed to the next phase if they were able.

"We're sitting on 2,500 doses of vaccine we're not allowed to give to people who want it," Davidson said.

Delaying vaccinations could be deadly, he said.

"It's going to cost us lives in St. Mary's County," Davidson said. "It's that simple."

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Dr. Crystal Marie Fleming, professor of sociology and Africana studies at SUNY Stony Brook. She is an author and expert on global racism and white supremacy.

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Couple Rail Against Health Department Methods



Nathaniel and Jessica Wickham on their podcast

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A Mechanicsville married couple with four children claim despite their willingness to quarantine for a month or longer until their family was clear of COVID-19, the St. Mary's County Health Department, in conjunction with the sheriff's office, used "scare tactics" against them to enforce their isolation at their home last month.

Nathaniel and Jessica Wickham took their story to the Internet via a podcast they produce on their Youtube channel detailing what they say were invasive questions asked of them by contact tracers working for the health department.

On their podcast, the Wickhams said they believed heavy-handed tactics were used against them - including being served quarantine orders late at night at their home by a deputy sheriff.

Four copies of those orders were issued to their four sons, they said, who range in age from six years to 10 months old.

This sudden and unexpected issuance of orders frightened them and their children, the Wickhams said, even though they had already agreed to stay quarantined for as long as a month, or longer, if need be.

The orders, the Wickhams said, did not list a date when they could be released from quarantine; Nathaniel Wickham, who is assistant pastor at Living Word Community Church in Mechanicsville, said the health department granted them leave from quarantine on Jan. 5.

This was after a call from the health department, Nathaniel said, in which they were simply asked how they were doing and if they had any symptoms, to which they said the symptoms had abated.

Despite their release, the family is still in shock as to their alleged treatment, Nathaniel said.

"They basically served us quarantine orders; they didn't like that we wouldn't answer some of their questions."

Nathaniel said he wouldn't give his wife's cell phone number to the contact tracer, nor would he divulge his place of employment.

He said they were told by the health department they were also being given quarantine orders because they would not isolate from their children, which the Wickham's said they could not do because of their young ages.

Nathaniel said when the deputy issued the papers to his family he was sick in bed with the virus; his wife and four children were at the door to receive them.

His wife and children had cold-like symptoms but were never tested, he said.

"This makes no sense," Nathaniel said. "We're still trying to figure this out."

Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron said he had long ago decided to volunteer his deputies to send out such orders instead of leaving that to health department workers.

"A police officer is readily identifiable," whereas a health department worker might not be, Cameron said.

Cameron said that not all people who go into quarantine, likely a majority of them, do not receive orders to do so.

Cameron was exposed to someone with COVID-19 last year and self-quarantined.

"I quarantined and I didn't receive an order," Cameron said.

He said he has received criticism that his deputies are enforcing orders some consider to be unconstitutional, but he disagreed.

"We serve them [quarantine orders], we don't enforce them," Cameron said, noting that a court would have to issue an arrest warrant for someone breaking quarantine orders.

"We haven't charged anybody, we haven't done that," Cameron said. "A court could issue a warrant but that hasn't happened."

Dr. Meena Brewster, county health officer, signed the quarantine orders herself.

She told The County Times that, without speaking directly to the Wickham's case, that the county health department does not issue quarantine orders as retaliation, rather they are the only way they can communicate with a person who may have come into contact with an infected person, if the person in close contact will not provide them with the information the department needs.

"When we can't speak directly to people... we move ahead with the quarantine orders," Brewster said. "We don't issue orders if they talk to us."

In their podcast, Nathaniel said he told contact tracers that they could speak to him in lieu of him giving them his wife's contact information.

Brewster said, in those kinds of circumstances, they could not inform a possible exposure subject through another party, even a family member, unless they were a minor.

"We cannot rely on someone speaking for another person, unless that person is a minor," Brewster said. "We have to follow confidentiality laws; we have to have some way of communicating with that person."

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Parents Welcome First Baby of New Year

Hospital Staff Feels Optimistic For The Future

Despite all that is happening in the world today, there are still moments of great joy to be savored and celebrated. Just ask Hannah and Tom Matthews proud parents of Eli Patrick Matthews, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital's first baby born during 2021.

Baby Eli entered the world at 1:44 a.m. weighing 7 pounds 5 ounces.

Although the parents joked they would have preferred a 2020 tax deduction, "It's exciting to have a New Year's birthday and we have a significantly cooler story to tell," Tom said.

Their story is one of happiness and hope after both parents had been diagnosed with COVID-19 about a month before Eli's arrival. Uncertain how they contracted the virus, only Hannah had symptoms, but there was understandably heightened concern for the 8-month pregnant, 28-year-old. Additionally, the couple wanted to ensure their 21-month-old son, Thomas Matthews III, did not get the virus.

"I felt pretty miserable for a few days," said Hannah. "We talked to the doctor about it and they told me to treat it like a cold, to take it easy, and not to panic. They wanted me to recuperate for the delivery."

Luckily, Hannah recovered by the time she went into active labor New Year's Eve, 10 days past her due date.

"Being in the hospital has been different," said Hannah. "We can't have family visit and we can't move around the hallways, but it has also been quieter—it has its pros and cons."

Delivering babies during a pandemic has not just been different for the parents, it has also been an adjustment for the nurses and medical staff of MedStar St. Mary's Hospitals' Women's Health & Family Birthing Center (WH&FBC).

"A pandemic is something that never entered my mind when I started nursing 28 years ago," said Kathleen Sullivan, MSN RN-C, who has worked in WH&FBC since 1992. "Ebola and H1N1 brought some changes to our jobs, but nothing like COVID has. In March, I was terrified; I went home worried I would somehow infect my family. As the months have passed, we remain vigilant, but the worry has lessened."

Not even a year into her career, Kristen Phetteplace, BSN, RN was faced with the challenges of delivering care to new mothers and families in a socially distant, COVID-19 world. But for Kristen,



Hannah and Tom Matthews of Mechanicsville hold Eli Patrick Matthews born Jan. 1, 2021, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. Eli was the first baby born at MedStar St. Mary's in 2021.

the experience has brought even greater reward.

"Before COVID, this was a time when our patients are surrounded by loved ones in the postpartum rooms, we would have grandparents and siblings waiting to get onto the unit, but that isn't the case with COVID," Kristen said. "I have felt so much joy knowing at times I may be that patient's only support system in the moment, and I am getting them through whatever they are facing at the moment."

For so many families, limited hospital visitation has been difficult, but the majority have been understanding and often appreciative of the extra safety precautions put in place.

"We know it's important to keep our moms and babies safe, however, a new baby is usually a very joyous celebration involving families and loved ones," Mary Sullivan, MS, BSN, RN, CEN, interim director of the WH&FBC. "Ironically, it has also been a silver lining because it gives time for the moms to relax and bond with their babies."

Just as the public has had to adjust to new requirements—wearing masks and social distancing—hospital staff have also had to adopt the same measures during their working hours to protect each other.

"Our unit functions as a team and we feel like our staff members are family. It's hard not to give a coworker a hug after a difficult day, or eat lunch as a group," said Kathleen. "It's also been hard not to get together with your coworkers to celebrate holidays, baby showers, and weddings."

"I certainly miss the ability to work without a mask," said Lau-

ren Ervin, DNP, CNMI, a midwife with MedStar Medical Group Women's Health at Leonardtown. "I have also missed how much easier it was to provide a relaxed and nurturing environment for the families we serve without COVID testing, PPE, and limited visitation. We have to work much harder to maintain a 'normal' birth space during these times."

"We strive to ensure our families are comfortable and feel supported," said Mary. "Our new beautiful renovated birthing suites were unveiled right as the pandemic was beginning to unfold and they have been a wonderful retreat for our new moms and dads."

"COVID has brought new fear into pregnancy and childbirth," said Lauren. "I hope that I have helped my patients feel more at ease during appointments, labor, and birth by providing calm, compassionate, and evidence-based care. I'm so lucky to work with so many wonderful nurses who share this goal."

The arrival of vaccinations has brought a new hope to front-line healthcare workers, including

those working in the WH&FBC.

"I have several high-risk family members, some that are in my household and COVID has changed all of our lives," said Kristen. "I am proud to say I got the vaccine and am helping protect not only my family, but also all of my patients."

"I am thrilled to be in the early waves of health care providers receiving this historic and important vaccine," said Lauren. "I see it as my contribution to public health and the greater good to do my part to stop the spread of COVID and to protect the vulnerable."

Families preparing to deliver in the new year should be expect all the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, but they can also be reassured that their experience can be still safe and filled with joy.

"At MedStar St. Mary's, we continue to provide the same high-quality care despite the pandemic," said Kathleen. "While we may be masked, there is still a welcoming smile underneath."

Press Release from MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

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Sewage Spill in River Closes Local Fishery

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A sewage overflow in St. George Creek has caused the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to close a portion of the fishery of the St. Mary's River, the agency announced Jan. 2 and it will not open until near the end of the month.

The emergency order prohibits the harvesting of oysters as well as other shellfish in the creek, a statement from MDE reads.

"MDE is coordinating with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Health to determine whether oysters were harvested from the area in recent days," the statement said. "An aquaculture operation reported that it was working to track down, for recall, 600 oysters sold in recent days.

"It was unknown whether any commercial harvesting occurred in the area in recent days, but regulations prohibit commercial harvesting on Wednesdays and on weekends."

The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission, the county's public water and sewer utility, reported the spill Jan. 1.

"The initial report stated that the overflow, which occurred on St. George Island near the Route 249 bridge after a

sewer main ruptured, was stopped at 6 p.m. Dec. 31," according to the statement. "It is not known when the overflow began, but the commission told MDE it believes, based on site conditions, that the overflow likely occurred for no more than three days."

MDE's preliminary investigation shows an overflow of three days would likely result in a discharge of between 4,000 and 6,750 gallons, according to the statement.

Consumption of bivalves and other shellfish which filter the water, can be extremely dangerous, MDE warned, if taken from polluted waters.

"Shellfish are filter feeders with the ability to filter water and get food from microscopic organisms in the water; if the waters are polluted, this filtering process can concentrate disease-causing organisms associated with raw sewage and other sources, such as animal waste," MDE stated. "Oysters and clams are often eaten raw or partially cooked and must come from waters that are not polluted."

The order against harvesting oysters or shellfish is to remain in effect until Jan. 21, MDE stated, but the order does not prohibit the harvesting of fish or crabs.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Hogan Issues Orders Against Vaccine Delays



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The distribution of vaccines against the COVID-19 virus is going well in some parts of the state but is slow in others, Gov. Larry Hogan said, and the federal contractors whose responsibility it is to administer doses to staff and residents at nursing homes - the CVS/Walgreens pharmacies partnership - has also been slow in administering vaccines as they should.

Hogan, at a Jan. 5 press conference in Annapolis, ordered the Maryland National Guard to send emergency units to health departments all across the state to help in distributing and administering the vaccine.

More than 270,000 doses have come from the federal government, Hogan said, and 98.7 percent of the vaccine has been distributed throughout Maryland in the first allotments; 35,200 doses have been distributed to health departments around the state.

Pharmacies in the distribution partnership have received 61,425 doses, Hogan said, but only 8,503 doses have been administered in nursing homes or just 13.8 percent.

Hogan said he had been in contact with corporate leadership of the pharmacy partnership in an attempt to hasten the vaccination schedule.

He called the talks "productive." "None of us are thrilled with the pace of the rollout," Hogan said. "But it is improving everyday."

Hogan said Calvert and St. Mary's counties were among five other jurisdictions which had already used more than 80 percent of their vac-

cine allotments and he praised them for their efforts.

In the initial phase of the vaccination plan, known as Phase 1A, hospitals were to inoculate their own frontline staff, health departments were to focus on vaccinating first responders and pharmacies were to see to staff and residents at nursing homes.

"Some of our hospitals are doing extremely well, while others are still getting ramped up," Hogan said. "Second doses have already begun at Maryland hospitals.

"We're doing everything we can to get more shots into more arms as safely and as quickly as we can."

Hogan also ordered that any vaccination reports must be recorded within 24 hours to prevent delays of inoculation progress; the state's health department also issued an order stating that any vaccine recipients must use at least 75 percent of it in inoculations or risk having their future allocations cut and the excess sent to other users.

"No doses should be sitting in freezers," Hogan said. "Either use the doses or they will be redirected to another provider."

Hogan called for calm from state residents, who were anxious to have their chance to get the vaccine.

Under the best conditions the state could expect to get 10,000 doses a day from the federal government, which meant 1.8 million doses by May, Hogan said.

That would be enough for just 30 percent of the population.

"This is going to be a long haul," said the governor.

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Commissioners Approve Restaurant Relief Fund II

For Food Service Establishments Impacted by COVID-19

The Commissioners approved round two of the St. Mary's County Restaurant Relief Fund during their meeting Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021. Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic hardship for many small businesses, St. Mary's County has activated the Restaurant Relief Fund for foodservice establishments during this time.

The second round of the grant program will have a maximum budget of \$470,000. The goal is to provide grants to support St. Mary's County restaurants (full service and carry out licenses), caterers, food trucks, and bars that serve food.

Grant funds may be used for:

- Working capital, such as rent, payroll and job training,
- Purchase of equipment and services to expand outdoor dining areas, such as tents, heaters, warmers, and carts,
- Infrastructure improvements, such as HVAC system upgrades,
- Technology to support carry-out and delivery,
- Purchase of PPE and disposable food containers or utensils, sanitation services, etc.

Restaurants will have access to grant funding of up to \$10,000 and must be in good standing with the State of Maryland, St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management, Office of the Treasurer, and the Health Department.

Eligible businesses can submit an online application starting at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at <https://www.yesstmarysm.com/rgrants/>

The deadline to apply is 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 22, 2021.

At the end of the two-week application period, the total grant funding of \$470,000 will be divided equally amongst the qualified and complete applications received, with individual awards not to exceed \$10,000.

Funding Examples:

- \$470,000 divided equally amongst 200 Qualified/Complete Applications
\$2,350 per business
- \$470,000 divided equally amongst 100 Qualified/Complete Applications
\$4,700 per business
- \$470,000 divided equally amongst 50 Qualified/Complete Applications
\$9,400 per business

Applicants are encouraged to visit the grant portal at any time before Jan. 8 for more information on required documents, applicant eligibility, and to create a user account prior to submission of the application.

If you have any questions, please contact Kellie Hinkle, Deputy Director at Kellie.Hinkle@StMarysMD.com or by calling 240-925-7178

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Commissioners to Host Public Forum January 12

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will host the first Public Forum of the New Year Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room inside the Chesapeake Building, at 41770 Baldrige Street, in Leonardtown.

Commissioner Public Forums provide residents an opportunity to speak directly to the Commissioners on topics of their choosing. Residents may offer appreciation, questions or suggestions in a mutually respectful format.

Due to social distancing guidelines, the Commissioners Meeting Room is not open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

In lieu of appearance, residents may call in to speak live during the forum or submit written comments through Jan. 7, 2021:

a. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1234 to speak live via telephone during the

public forum.

b. Email: csmc@stmarysmd.com.

c. Mail: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650.

d. Submit a three-minute video clip to publicmtgs@stmarysmd.com through Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, 5 p.m.

Those wishing to speak at the Forum will receive up to three minutes to address the Commissioners. Anyone wishing to provide more detailed comments can do so via email or regular mail.

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Public Forums are televised live on St. Mary's County Government TV 95 (SMCG TV 95) and streamed live on the St. Mary's County YouTube Channel. For those without access to cable television or the internet, a listen-only line is available by calling 301-579-7236; Access code: 963443.

Applications Now Being Accepted for the Redistricting Board

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County seek five interested applicants to serve on the 2020 Redistricting Board.

Pursuant to Chapter 26-2(A) of the St. Mary's County Code, following each decennial census of the United States, a Redistricting Board shall be appointed. A Redistricting Board shall be between Jan. 1 and March 1 in the year following each decennial census.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County shall each appoint one member to the Redistricting Board, which shall hold meetings, create a redistricting plan, hold public hearings on the plan, and submit the plan to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County by Dec. 31, 2021. The Redistricting Plan becomes law 60 days after it is submitted to the CSMC. The CSMC does not approve the plan.

The following criteria must be met:

- Each member must be a registered voter and a resident of SMC.
- A commissioner can appoint any resident and registered voter -- even if he/she resides outside of a Commissioner's own district.
- County and state employees or of-



officials are restricted from service on the Board.

Appointees will be expected to attend all meetings and public hearings of the 2021 Redistricting Board from February until November.

All citizens interested in volunteering their time should complete the application available on the County's website and attach resume' <https://www.stmarysmd.com/boards/>. Applications will be accepted until Jan. 21, 2021.

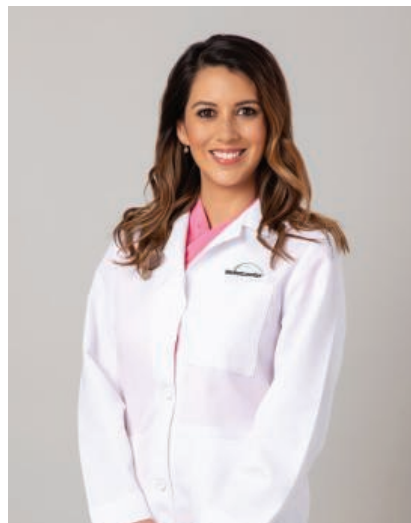
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2020 State of the Bay Score Down Slightly

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Report Released

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) assessment of the State of the Bay for 2020 remained at a D+, but declined by one point from 2018. While concerning, the decline is largely due to ineffective management of the Bay's striped bass population, as opposed to water quality concerns.

Of the 13 indicators CBF assesses, four showed declines. Despite several years of assaults to environmental protections and flagging political will, most water quality measures are showing improvements.

But much more needs to be done.

Efforts must be accelerated to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint goal of implementing practices by 2025 that will reduce pollution sufficiently to restore water quality in local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. While efforts to save the Bay have been underway for decades, the Blueprint established in 2010 lays out a path to success.

"There is new hope. President-elect Biden has long been a reliable partner in Bay restoration efforts, and we are optimistic that the new administration will take the protection of water quality and human health more seriously," said CBF President William C. Baker. "Pollution is not just a problem here in the Bay, it is a problem around the world. This is a historic opportunity to demonstrate to the world that by following the science, we can save a national treasure."

Established in 1998, CBF's State of the Bay Report is a comprehensive measure of the Bay's health. CBF scientists compile and examine the best available data and information for 13 indicators in three categories: pollution, habitat, and fisheries. CBF scientists assign each indicator an index score from 1–100. Taken together, these indicators offer an overall assessment of Bay health.

"The good news is that recent studies provide evidence of the Bay's increased resiliency. This resiliency is a direct result of the pollution reductions achieved to date. But the recovery is still fragile, and the system remains dangerously out of balance," said CBF's Director of Science and Agricultural Policy Beth McGee.

Of the water-quality indicators, nitrogen and phosphorus pollution improved. The level of dissolved oxygen in the water and water clarity, critical to aquatic life, improved as well. In fact, monitoring data indicated



the 2020 dead zone, the area of oxygen-low water, was the second best in Maryland since the 1980s and among the best in Virginia. There was no change in the toxics score.

Habitat scores are also critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Forests, wetlands, and underwater grasses provide food and shelter to wildlife, serve as natural filters that reduce pollution flowing into Bay waters, and help improve the wellbeing of communities by slowing flood waters, producing oxygen, and providing green spaces.

In the habitat category, the acreage of forested buffers declined slightly, while scores for resource lands and wetlands stayed the same. The score for underwater grasses declined as a result of increased rainfall. The damage from climate change will need to be addressed as part of a comprehensive solution to improving water quality.

The harvest of fish and shellfish support thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars each year in the Bay watershed. But overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss have reduced the productivity of many of the region's fish and shellfish populations.

In the fisheries category, scores for oysters and crabs improved, while shad and rockfish (striped bass) declined. The rockfish score declined by 17 points, the largest decline in any indicator in more than a decade.

"The situation is deeply concerning. Adult female striped bass, widely used to gauge the overall health of the population, have dropped by approximately 40 percent from 2013 to 2017," said CBF Senior Regional Ecosystem Scientist Chris Moore. "Efforts are underway to halt the decline. However, bold actions are needed now to ensure the recovery of this species and there are concerns that states might settle for a re-

duced population instead of taking strong management actions."

The Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint requires the Bay jurisdictions to develop plans to decrease pollution to local creeks, rivers, and the Bay. State and local governments have committed to put practices in place by 2025 to achieve specific, measurable reductions. All jurisdictions except for Pennsylvania and New York have plans in place to meet their goals. Pennsylvania's latest plan only achieves 73 percent of its nitrogen-reduction commitments and is underfunded by more than \$300 million annually, according to Pennsylvania's own review.

In Maryland, CBF's Vice President for Environmental Protection and Restoration Alison Prost said: "Two years ago, we called on Maryland leaders to deliver more protections for the state's forests and oysters.

"The General Assembly permanently protected the state's five large-scale oyster restoration sanctuaries. Lawmakers also put in place a consensus-based process to break up the logjam that has separated watermen and environmental advocates in the debate over how to create a long-term oyster fishery management plan to end the century-long decline of Maryland's oyster population.

"Even though state leaders have failed to increase forest protections, county leaders in Maryland took up the mantle on their own. In the past two years, Anne Arundel, Howard, and Frederick counties passed new laws to better preserve their existing forests. We're hoping this trend continues. Forests serve as carbon sinks capable of filtering air and water, while also reducing negative effects related to climate change.

"The state needs to take more effective measures to stem the decline in striped bass. While other states chose to close the striped bass fishery during key times

when the species is most threatened, Maryland took a piecemeal approach that we believe had limited effectiveness.

"Lastly, with only five years to go until the 2025 Bay cleanup deadline, we're urging Maryland leaders to ramp up investments in natural filters to help plant trees, expand wetlands, and add more green spaces and vegetation to our cities and towns. Adding natural filters will help the state reduce agriculture and stormwater pollution, which Maryland needs to do to reach its 2025 Blueprint pollution reduction goals. The new trees, meadows, shrubs and wetlands will also beautify the state and our communities."

Overall, CBF President William C. Baker said: "The Blueprint is facing significant challenges, as EPA has abdicated its responsibility to ensure that Pennsylvania meets its clean water commitments. The District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware have plans that, if fully implemented, would achieve the goal. Pennsylvania, and to a lesser extent New York, have fallen far short. As the watchdog for Bay restoration efforts, CBF and its partners have filed suit in federal court to ensure EPA holds Pennsylvania and New York accountable to do their fair share to reduce pollution.

"After decades of failed promises and missed goals, this year's State of the Bay shows that the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint is working. Unfortunately, the stagnating score shows that we are witnessing apathy take hold and political will wane. We can still save the Bay and deliver the promise of clean water to the next generation, but only if our elected officials redouble their clean water commitments and invest in finishing the job."

Press Release from CBF.

Land Trust Acquires Conservation Easement

Involves 127 Acres in Mechanicsville



Frank Allen, president PTLT inspecting a huge Sweet Gum on the property

Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) worked diligently throughout this pandemic year. And on December 28th PTLT acquired a new conservation easement on a 127-acre property in Mechanicsville owned by Jim and Brandi Moran. This easement was made possible by funds provided by the Rural Legacy Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which will co-hold the easement with PTLT.

“We are particularly grateful to Shawn Clotworthy of DNR who provided significant support in this acquisition as did Sue Veith and Donna Sasscer of St. Mary’s County government,” said PTLT president Frank Allen.

Besides Patuxent River shoreline and a creek bed,

the newly protected property has a potential champion sweet gum tree. It’s also notable for its wildflowers, including big leaf forget-me-nots, lady’s slippers, hearty yellow orchids, and Jack-in-the-pulpits.

“We are very excited to have the opportunity to conserve our property and restrict future unnecessary de-

velopment of an untouched piece of land,” Jim Moran said. “We have enjoyed so many features of this property, from hiking, bird watching, kayaking, fishing, and enjoying the abundance of wildlife. On a regular basis, we are able to enjoy watching bald eagles, ospreys, wild turkeys, deer, foxes, turtles, skates, geese, ducks, and the list goes on. This is a wonderful location for our family with two young boys to enjoy. We are so proud to know that that our kids and grandkids will enjoy this property untouched as it exists today.”

The mission of the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust is to sustain the region’s biodiversity and water resources through a network of protected landscapes. PTLT recognizes that forest and farmland and the region’s unique historic and scenic character are vital to a healthy economy and citizens’ sense of well-being. PTLT acquires land and conservation easements by purchase or donation. It has conserved more than 5,700 acres of land in perpetuity. For more information, visit www.PTLT.org.

Press Release from PTLT.

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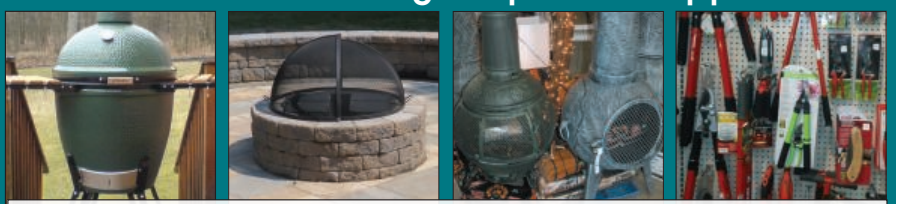


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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Fatal Collision in Park Hall Under Investigation

On January 1, 2021, at approximately 9:46 p.m. deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 18800 block of Point Lookout Road in the area of Marshfields Lane, in Park Hall, for the reported single vehicle collision. Deputies arrived on scene and located a vehicle off the roadway with the operator trapped in the vehicle and unconscious. The operator, later identified to be Kevin Darnell Dyson, age 53 of Park Hall, was extracted from the vehicle and pronounced deceased on scene. Members from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene and continued the investigation.

Preliminary investigation determined a 2002 Chevrolet Impala operated by Dyson, was travelling north-

bound on Point Lookout Road when the vehicle left the roadway and struck a guardrail. At this time speed, alcohol, and weather conditions appear to be contributing factors in the collision. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Corporal Sheena Tirpak at (301) 475-4200 extension 78051 or by email at Sheena.Tirpak@stmarysmd.com.

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at (301) 475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

Sheriff's Office Seeking Vandalism Suspect

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person operating a vehicle in a vandalism investigation. On Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021 at 4:30 pm, the suspect drove off the roadway in the 48500 block of Heritage Hill Lane in St. Inigoes and across the lawn between two homes to access the utility right of way and then back out again. Due to recent rains, significant damage was done to both lawns.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy Benjamin Raley at 301-475-4200, ext. 78076 or email benjamin.rale@stmarysmd.com. Case # 268-21



Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has been abandoned for more than 180 days on the property of: Steven E. Thompson 22339 Point Lookout Rd, Leonardtown, Maryland.

The vessel is described as: 1977 Continental, 20ft. 10in., White Fiberglass Motorboat. Hull ID: CTL21270M77FBR Vessel number: MD 3550 AC

Application for title will be made in accordance with Section 8-722 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article if this vessel is not claimed and removed from the above property within 30 days of this notice.

Assault Suspect Sought

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person shown in an assault investigation. On Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 at 9:30 pm, the driver of a gray Nissan assaulted a female in the parking lot of ABC Liquors in California. The suspect opened the victim's car door, struck her in the face several times and pulled the victim from the vehicle. The male passenger from the suspect's car grabbed the suspect and they fled in the gray Nissan.

The suspect is described as a black female, 5'2" tall, having a medium to light complexion, short reddish/maroon colored hair, wearing glasses and wearing a black North Face coat. The male is described as a black male, 5'7" tall, having a medium to light complexion and wearing a black North Face coat.



Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy Nicholas Hill at 301-475-4200, ext. 78078 or email nicholas.hill@stmarysmd.com. Case # 80796-20

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

Editor's Note:

The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.

Philip H. Dorsey III
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Public Works Department to Perform Construction

Mill Seat Road, to be Closed for Duration

Mill Seat Road, located in Mechanicsville, will close on or about Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, for the replacement of a drainage pipe. Construction work will take place just southwest of the Mill Seat Road/Tanyard Drive intersection in the Country Lakes neighborhood.

During the construction, through traffic will not be possible; residents may continue to access entrances. Drivers are

cautioned to look for changeable message signs and detour signs providing route navigation information around the closure. Crews will be working, and the roads will be closed for approximately two weeks, weather dependent.

Please contact the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works & Transportation with questions or for additional information at (301) 475-4200, ext. 3527.

Emergency Services Provides Supplies to Agencies During Pandemic

The St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services released data relating to personal protection equipment (PPE) distribution since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, the department has provided to local partner agencies:

- 3383 bottles of hand sanitizer 3,383
- 103,741 surgical masks
- 111,581 N95 masks
- 108,105 KN95 masks
- 1482 homemade face coverings (created by local volunteers)
- 37,221 gowns
- 10,109 shields
- 119 thermometers
- 941 containers of wipes
- 152,600 gloves

Emergency Services began providing protective supplies in early 2020 to first responders, county agencies, law enforcement offices, long term care facilities, den-

tist offices, and daycare providers.

Stephen Walker, Director of Emergency Services, said, "The pandemic has created an incredible need for PPE throughout the county. We hit the ground running in March and haven't slowed down in our efforts to provide supplies to those most in need. We have also built up a supply of additional supplies that will greatly assist us in riding out COVID-19 until the vaccinations begin to turn the tide and we return to normalcy."

"This is a snapshot of the hard work our county departments and agencies have done to serve and protect our county," said Commissioner President Randy Guy.

For more information on St. Mary's County Government COVID-19 response, please visit our COVID Operations webpage at <https://www.stmarysmd.com/covid-19/updates/>.

Museum to Host to Appraisers Fair



You may have an attic full of hidden treasures and not even know it! Visit with expert appraisers as they determine the value of your prized possessions at St. Clement's Island Museum at the annual Appraiser Fair on Saturday, January 23, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Appraiser's Fair provides an opportunity for the public to learn the value of their heirlooms and how to properly care for them. Appraisers will be available to offer oral appraisal to members of the public for the following categories: fine arts, coins, and currency. The fine arts category includes ceramics, pottery, glassware, artwork/paintings, music boxes and small furniture pieces. Items in this category are limited to two items per person at a fee of \$5 per item. Other category fees are \$5 each.

The public must make an appointment to see an appraiser by calling St. Clement's Island Museum at 301-769-2222 during museum hours. Only one appointment per person to see one Fine Arts appraiser will be allowed. Each appointment is 10 minutes long and is good for a maximum of 2 items.

Featured appraisers come from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines. The "fine arts" appraisers include Dorie Lear, a certified auction house appraiser; Henry Lane Hull, proprietor of Commonwealth Antiques and Appraisals; and Bill Curry, proprietor of Hammer's An-

tiques and Collectibles. William Parron, proprietor of the Bill Parron Coin Co, will be available to appraise coins and currency.

Appraisers will wear masks and the public is required to wear a mask and observe social distancing guidelines while at the event. Limited walk-ins (those without an appointment) will be permitted but must wait outside and will be called to fill any available openings.

The public is encouraged to only bring items that can be hand-carried. Items that do not fit this category will not be accepted for appraisal. Appraisals are not certified; however, one can make arrangements for a certified appraisal at a later date and time.

Those who are members of the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums will enjoy free tickets good for item appraisals (please indicate this when calling for appointment). Friends members enjoy these and many other benefits throughout the year and at museum events, so be sure to join the Friends now and support local historic preservation.

St. Clement's Island Museum is located at 38370 Point Breeze Road, Colton's Point, MD 20626. Call 301-769-2222 for details and hours of operation. During winter hours, the museum is open seven days a week, noon to 4 p.m.

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Straight Talk on Straight Teeth

BY: JEFF TOMCSIK

Orthodontic braces and clear aligners such as Invisalign® are not just for straightening teeth and making your smile look better. In fact, a highly trained and skilled dentist will use orthodontic treatment to improve the function of the teeth which will result in a healthier, longer-lasting smile. While good looking teeth are attractive, the purpose of your teeth is to chew food. When teeth are misaligned, they can slowly damage opposing teeth during the chewing process. When they are in proper alignment, teeth break down the food they are chewing without damaging each other.

To help illustrate the point, think of a well working pair of scissors. When in good alignment the two blades come together and meet at a very precise point that makes them excellent at cutting paper. On the other hand, imagine one of the scissor blades had a slight bend or a ding in the metal. This imperfection would surely affect the scissor's ability to cut as well as when it was in perfect alignment. If the one blade is bent away from the other, there will be a gap between the points of contact that cause the cutting action. The result would likely be a failure

to cut effectively or efficiently. If the bend in the one blade is toward the other, it would cause the blades to scrape each other, making cutting difficult. More importantly to note, the blades scraping each other slowly destroy the cutting surface of both blades.

These same principles can be applied to your teeth. In any area of the mouth where your opposing teeth do not meet when you perform a chewing motion (meaning there is a space between the top and opposing-bottom tooth in any area of your mouth when your jaw is closed), like the scissor in the first scenario, it is rendered ineffective in the chewing process. On the other hand, if there are any teeth that are colliding with their opposing teeth, they are likely causing trauma to each other and slowly wearing down the enamel surface and eventually the tooth structure. This will likely lead to greater risk of decay and eventually risk the tooth's overall vitality.

Many people who have ongoing problems with decay or pain despite their efforts to keep their teeth clean, might be suffering from malocclusion issues that are causing the ongoing dental problems. The good

news is that orthodontics may be a solution to these problems, and a straighter, more beautiful smile is a bonus to the treatment, not the reason for the treatment.

If you're like most adults, the thought of braces is unnerving. Years in metal brackets and sharp wires is no-one's idea of a good time. If these thoughts are keeping you away from approaching your dentist about a straighter, more beautiful, better functioning, healthier smile, consider a clear aligner option such as Invisalign®. Invisalign® is a clear, removeable retainer that may achieve the same results as traditional braces in less time.

The fact that aligners are removeable means you can take them out whenever you eat. This makes eating more comfortable and cleaner as you will not have to worry about food particles being stuck in your braces. They also allow you to easily clean your teeth, where braces with wires make flossing and thorough brushing more difficult. The material used by Invisalign® is by far superior to all other aligners on the market. Not only is it the most invisible, it is also the fastest working material, meaning you will reach your desired outcome in a fraction

of the time to other safe orthodontic options.

Finally, with Invisalign® technology, your dentist can take a scan of your mouth and show you virtually what your results will look like, from the improved esthetics of your smile profile to the benefits of improving any occlusion issues that may be causing damage to your teeth.

The next time you go to your dentist, ask them if they are Invisalign® certified. Ask them if they can provide a virtual, digital smile makeover with the use of an iTero® scanner so that you can see your likely outcome. Also ask them if you have any occlusion issues during chewing and if orthodontics is right for you.

One of the biggest barriers to getting orthodontic treatment dentists hear the most is that it costs too much. Before you allow money to get between you and a healthy, beautiful smile, think about the amount of money you spent on your last car. That car will likely not be in your life ten years from now. The cost of braces or Invisalign® is a fraction of the cost of that car, and the results will last you a lifetime!

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Webinar Series Addresses COVID-19 and Vaping

The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP), the St. Mary's County Health Department, and St. Mary's College of Maryland will jointly host a four-part webinar series "Global Crises: COVID-19 and Vaping – Learn How to Stop Both" during January and February 2021, covering the following topics:

- Friday, January 22, 2021 (4:30 - 5:30 p.m.): Biology of the Virus
- Friday, January 29, 2021 (4:30 - 5:30 p.m.): Recap of E-Cigarettes
- Friday, February 5, 2021 (4:30 - 5:30 p.m.): COVID-19 and E-Cigarettes
- Friday, February 12, 2021 (4:30 - 5:30 p.m.): Media Training

To register for the webinar series, please visit global-crisis-covid19-vaping.eventbrite.com

Featured in this webinar series will be Dr. Panagis Galitsatos, Direc-

tor of the Tobacco Treatment Clinic at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and assistant professor in the division of pulmonary and critical care at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is also the co-founder and co-director of Medicine for the Greater Good, and Co-Chair for the Health Equity Steering Committee for the Johns Hopkins Medical System. Guest speakers, Dr. Elliott King, Professor in the Department of Communications at Loyola University of Maryland, and Aliza Friedlander, a freelance writer and content creator, will also provide presentations for this webinar series.

These live sessions will be recorded and posted to the HSMP website following the event. For more information please contact stmaryspartnership@gmail.com.

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Health Assessment Shows Continuing COVID-19 Impacts

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The latest county-wide health assessment from the health department shows that COVID-19 had a negative impact on St. Mary's far beyond the infection and death statistics, Dr. Meena Brewster, the county's top doctor told The County Times.

Compiled every five years, the community health assessment takes a comprehensive look at a broad range of factors to gauge the overall fitness of the community, both physically and mentally, from chronic diseases and personal habits to interpersonal relationships and the amount of access to healthcare and exercise residents get, it allows for planning improvements in community health.

Included in the latest report are quotes and opinions on the status of community health by focus group members as well as "key informants" who are leaders or influencers in St. Mary's.

"We discovered that COVID-19 was very uppermost in everyone's mind," Brewster said. "There are other impacts of COVID-19 we need to be concerned about beyond the numbers."

The county has had more than 3,000 people test positive for the virus, according to health department figures, and 84 county residents have lost their lives with an additional 30 people dying from disease while in the county.

But behavioral health, or mental health, is one of the most concerning aspects of COVID-19, Brewster said the report showed.

Social distancing, isolation, fear and economic and financial hardship brought on by lockdowns of service industries such as bars and restaurants had a deleterious effect on the mental health of many here.

The health department has taken steps to get access to help for more people including a telehealth guide they can use to get counseling which they are distributing directly to the public, Brewster said.

"We're distributing that guide to homes because it's so important for people to know about," Brewster said. "And there are behavioral health screenings that people can take as many times as they want to assess their mental health day to day."

There are few places in St. Mary's



County available to help those suffering from a mental health crisis, Brewster said, so the health department is seeking extra resources, usually in the form of grants, to extend services. "We're aggressively pursuing that," she said. "That's a longer term project."

The object is to give other options to those in crisis other than seeking help at the county's only emergency room at MedStar St. Mary's, which is already overtaxed in dealing with mental health crisis cases.

"The stress has been tremendous, not only on regular people but on our health care workers and on our first responders," said Brewster.

The reading program designed for children of first responders, now extended to all children, was one way to try to bring "social connectivity in a time of difficulty being socially connected."

"That's one of the biggest consequences of COVID-19 beyond the numbers," Brewster said. In the report is data from 2017, well before the pandemic that showed mental health problems here vis a vis the hospital's emergency department was already worse than other Southern Maryland counties.

"The rate of emergency department visits related to mental health conditions (per 100,000) in St. Mary's County in 2017 was 6,173," the report stated. "This rate is higher than that of neighboring Calvert (2,999.1) and Charles (2,817.6) counties as well as

the state average (4,291.5)."

Many in the community were still concerned with an epidemic that has lost much of the attention it had just before the COVID-19 wave, the opioid crisis, the report showed.

This problem, and of drug and alcohol use in general among county residents, including youth, was still serious, Brewster said and was deeply connected to stress and declining mental health.

For 2020, preliminary data shows that St. Mary's has suffered almost 150 opioid overdoses known to law enforcement and at least 29 deaths, which puts it in range of fatality rates seen in the past several years.

"We haven't had a spike in deaths but we have seen a continuance of overdoses and deaths," Brewster said. "We also think there's been an increase in the use of alcohol."

The report was clear that drugs and the prevalence of alcohol could not easily be overstated.

"Focus group participants often described that substances are very visible in the county, noting the number of liquor stores available as well as finding syringes on the ground in the community," the report stated. "One focus group participant explained, 'depending on the area of St. Mary's County you're in, it's not uncommon to see someone wandering around high.'"

The trends in substance abuse could be found amongst adults and youth, the report stated.

"Among high school students surveyed as part of the YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) in 2018, 30 percent of students currently drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol, on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey) and 17.2 percent reported binge drinking on at least one day in the same period," the assessment stated.

Binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks for men or four or more drinks for women within a couple of hours.

"In St. Mary's County, 50.9 percent of adults have had at least one drink of alcohol and 13.4 percent engaged in binge-drinking in the past 30 days, which are slightly lower than the averages for Maryland," according to the assessment. "The rate for adult residents meeting the criteria to be considered a heavy (chronic) drinker - adult men having more than 14 drinks per week and adult women having more than seven drinks per week - is slightly higher than the average for the state."

Even for average adults, COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their health by diverting them, in some cases, from seeking even the most basic care.

"That has absolutely suffered under COVID-19," Brewster said. "It's also people just not accessing primary care, not wanting to be exposed just by sitting next to other people in a doctor's waiting room."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



ST. MARY'S COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Ex-Congressman Pens First Novel

By Dick Myers
Editor

Political junkies will instantly recognize the name David Bonior. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 26 years (January 3, 1977 to January 3, 2003).

Bonior was Democratic Whip in the House from 1991 to 2002, during which time Democrats were in both the majority (1991–1995) and minority (1995–2002), making him the third and second highest-ranking Democrat in the House, respectively.

During his time in Congress Bonior represented Michigan's 12th Congressional District, so he may not be familiar to local residents. Yet, since the early 1980's Bonior has maintained a home in Calvert County in the Port Republic community of Scientist's Cliffs in addition to one in DC.

While in Congress, he traveled a lot, including of course back to his home district, but even then, he did spend time on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. "I've been sort of down here in this community, now more permanently than when I was in the Congress," he told *The County Times*.

"I have my official residence still in the city. We have a little apartment for a night, but this is where we've been for the past year. And I'd say over the last 10 years, we've sort of split our time halfway," he explained.

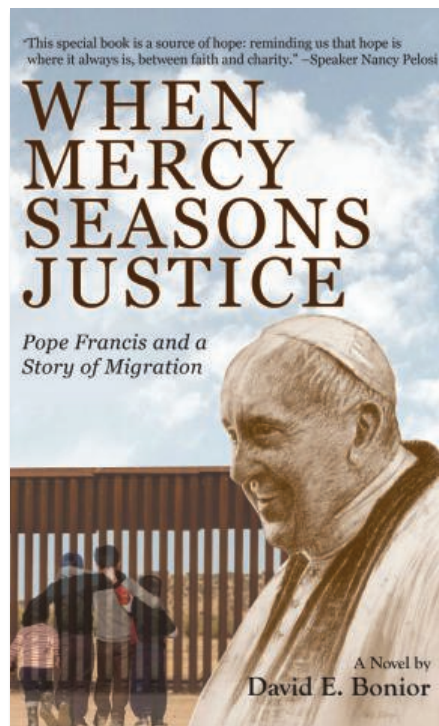
His DC apartment is in the shadow of Nationals Park (he's a big fan) near where he also now owns and operates with his son the *Agua 301* and *Zest* restaurants.

During redistricting after the 2000 census, Michigan lost one of its House seats, and Bonior's district was redrawn to place the Democrat in a more Republican area. So, Bonior did not run for reelection and instead launched an unsuccessful bid for Michigan governor, losing in a heavily-contested primary which included former-governor James Blanchard, and then-Michigan Attorney General and eventual nominee Jennifer Granholm.

According to his biography, "During his tenure in office, Bonior was the public face of Democratic opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and was known for his tenacity in opposing Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, against whom Bonior filed more than 75 ethics charges."

While in Congress he became an expert on immigration issues, traveling extensively in Central America. That passion continued after his retirement from Congress. He also has been deeply involved in reform issues of the Catholic Church, including more inclusion of women and reform in the wake of the sex-abuse scandals that rocked the church.

So, perhaps it was inevitable that, since he was an accomplished author (including his own biography. "Whip: Leading the Progressive Battle During the Rise of the Right") that he would write about those issues. What wasn't quite so obvious was that the book would be fiction, in the tradition of historical novels, but liber-



ally infused with a heavy dose of factual material.

The book is called, "When Mercy Seasons Justice," a quote from Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice."

The book's cover has a quote from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that says, "This special book is a source of hope: reminding us that hope is where it always is, between faith and charity." The book is dedicated to Pelosi and the late Congressman John Lewis.

Pope Francis is the book's central character, but two real life individuals with strong ties to Calvert County also play prominent roles in the book in both historically accurate and fictional situations.

The paperback book, published by City Point Press, was released Jan. 5 and is available on Amazon.com. It is described on their website as: "...a powerful story of redemption, resilience, and humanity, set against the backdrop of the modern-day refugee crisis and Catholic Church scandals."

The description goes on to say it "weaves together an inspiring story of two characters who dare to defy the status quo. The first is Pope Francis, the kind-hearted, unconventional leader who struggles to usher his church out of a crisis riddled with scandals. The second is Maria Elena, a Honduran mother desperate to save her four children from their terror-stricken community."

"As Maria and her children head north to seek asylum in McAllen, Texas, Francis grapples with unfaithful bishops and a male-dominated clergy, who rebel against the drastic changes the Church desperately needs. Just as Maria and her family must rely on the help of good Samaritans they meet along their journey—including an artistic gardener, two priests in the mold of Francis, and a New York Times reporter—Francis must seek the advice of his trusted aides, Father Soto and Sister Mary Vernard, to lead the Church through one of its biggest upheavals since the Reformation."

"Will Maria and her children survive their harrowing search for asylum? And, at this significant turning point in the history of the Church, will Pope Francis redefine his male-dominated papacy—and, ultimately, his legacy?"

"When Mercy Seasons Justice is a timely narrative of hope, faith, and redemption, that intertwines the struggle of two parallel souls trying, despite all odds, to search for virtue and compassion in a world seemingly full of corruption."

The book's first chapter is titled "Peter the Shepherd and Miguel the Artistic Gardener." Peter is Father Peter Daly, who was pastor of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Prince Frederick for 23 years. Miguel is a gardener from Mexico named Miguel Cabrera, who comes to Calvert County yearly on a temporary work visa and is employed by a local landscaper.

The book details the true story of a confrontation between Father Daly and the then Washington Archbishop Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, who lectures parish priests on the zero-tolerance policy for priests on sexual abuse but says bishops are not included because they cannot be responsible for everything that priests in their diocese do. Father Daly responded, "Our people understand sin. Everybody sins. What they don't understand is a cover-up. And the failure to protect children."

He said the confrontation was real. Later Pope Francis would expel McCarrick for his own sexual abuse charges.

Father Daly was a lawyer before becoming a priest and after his retirement as a parish priest, he did immigration legal work for Catholic Charities, but is now retired.

Father Daly got interested in immigration issues ministering to workers at the old Denton seafood processing plant on Broome's Island Road.

Father Daly said he is flattered to be in the book. Later on, in the novel, in a fictional account he becomes an adviser to Pope Francis on immigration issues.

"I think it is a pretty good book," Father Daly said after reading the manuscript.

Father Daly is an accomplished writer himself, having penned the novel "Strange Gods: A Novel About Faith, Murder, Sin and Redemption."

Bonior said of Father Daly's book, "It taught me a lot because I used a number of things out of his novel."

Cabrera became friends with Bonior, who said the gardener was denied a work visa one year under President Trump's immigration policy.

Bonior decided on a novel as a way of bringing the journey of Pope Francis toward reforms in the Church and the journey of Maria Elena Gonzalez and her children from oppression in Honduras to the United States.

He said he wanted to show the journey both of them were taking "and how difficult it was for both of them, but how their values were so very, very similar. So, I thought I could do that with fiction better. And the fiction is based on my experiences in Central America over 40 years.

I spent a lot of time down there working on a lot of things, visiting places in the country, talking to people who have been persecuted, getting to know some of the people who were in power down here."

The much-publicized abuses involving the separation of children from their families and the conditions they were being held in accelerated his desire to write about it. So, the family's journey to safety in the book is a composite of what he observed and learned over the years.

Bonior says he's a big fan of Pope Francis, but his reforms haven't gone far enough, and Father Daly agrees.

The former congressman said, "I think he's of a generation and a place where women are not valued to the point that I think they should be. And I think that's a huge problem for the church. And that's why I wrote it the way I did, although he has made some strides in elevating women in positions that do not relate to the Holy Orders and the sacrament of Holy Orders, which is being a priest or being a bishop."

In the book Pope Francis elevates several nuns to the College of Cardinals.

Bonior was asked if he feels Francis will get to the point he would like him to reach. He said, "No, I don't think he will. I think he's spoken to this recently and I think he, unfortunately won't, but you never know."

He added, "I created the dream chapter in book five, which was my favorite chapter to write." He said that chapter "created the plausible reasons for him doing what he did, but do I think you'll ever get there, I pray that he will, but I'm not quite sure that he will. He's done a lot of other wonderful things to reform the church and to create the image of values that are being embraced by a lot of people around the world. So, I'm a really big fan of his and admirer of him."

Is what Pope Francis has accomplished sustainable considering the controversy it has created. Bonior noted that the Pope has appointed 60 percent of the existing cardinals who will appoint the next Pope. He said, "Most of them are in the mold of what he wants to see as a shepherd, someone who was out in the field with people and not necessarily be behind a desk and an administrator."

He added, "How long that is sustainable? I don't know, but he's done his best to put the right people in the positions to make it sustainable for some time."

Bonior currently is involved with a youth program that helps young kids understand democracy and also is on the board of the National Catholic Reporter, an independent publication. Proceeds from the book sales will go to their Earth-Beat and Global Sisters Report.

Bonior is mulling over a possible second novel and has an idea floating around in his mind.

"It's better to write here," he said about his Calvert County home in Scientist's Cliffs overlooking the peace of the Chesapeake Bay. "I like writing out here because of the quiet."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Schools Ask for Emergency Contact Information

Each year we ask all families to update your contact information on the Emergency Information Form and complete the Federal Impact Aid Program Survey form. Due to COVID-19 concerns this school year, the St. Mary's County Public Schools System is combining both forms and asking families to submit their information online via a digital format.

SMCPS is encouraging all parents/guardians to please take the time to access and complete the combined form online, which can be located in the Home Access Center (HAC), where directions to access the online form can be found [HERE](#) for your convenience once logged in.

Regarding the Impact Aid Program Survey form, our families in the St. Mary's County Public School System are entitled to receive funds from the federal government for the operation of schools. The funding is based on an accurate count of students whose parents or guardians work on federal property. All of the information collected is strictly confidential and used only for the stated purpose. The Impact Aid grant ap-

plication provides information on the numbers and locations of federally-connected students attending our schools.

If you are unable to complete the online survey, you can contact your school to request a paper copy OR you can print the survey. We ask that printed survey forms be returned to your student's school as soon as possible.

SURVEY RETURN OPTIONS:

Complete/submit online using your Home Access Center (HAC) account following the instructions provided [HERE](#). A video with instructions is available [HERE](#).

Return a paper form to school via one of the following ways:

Fax (contact your school for their fax number or visit their website)

Mail (contact your school for their mailing address or visit their website)

E-mail (contact your school for their e-mail address)

If you have any questions about the combined form or the Impact Aid Program Survey process in general, please feel free to contact your student's school secretary.

CSM Extended Virtual Student Services Hours

Get ready for the spring semester with Extended Virtual Student Service Hours! Get your questions answered and problems resolved, by phone or online.

The following CSM student services and offices will be open virtually January 4-22, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday:

Admissions: 301-934-2251 or

askme@csmd.edu

Advising: 301-934-7574 or advisor@csmd.edu

Financial Assistance: 301-934-7531 or finaid@csmd.edu

Testing Centers: 301-934-7657 or testing_center@csmd.edu

Registrar's Office: 301-934-7588 or webreg@csmd.edu

Please note that these hours are only for phone/electronic services.



Free Grant Proposal Course Offered



Kerri Thompson Frank

The Nonprofit Institute at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) welcomes area nonprofit organizations to attend a free grant proposal writing seminar Jan. 14 to learn about the local, state and federal grant submission process. Participants will also learn how to determine their funding needs; search for grants; develop a grant schedule; write, review, submit and report on grants.

Keynote speaker will be Kerri Thompson Frank, CFRE, GPC, who is a 30-year resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland, and a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland. In 2013, she left teaching secondary English in St. Mary's County Public Schools to begin work as a grant development professional for a local nonprofit.

In response to an identified need,

she formed Leonardtown Grants, LLC, in January, 2017, to assist nonprofits of all sizes with their fundraising strategies and goals. A green company, Leonardtown Grants, LLC uses modern technology to embed remote teleworkers in nonprofit programs to promote the retention of institutional knowledge and maintain fundraising momentum.

Her small, mighty team averages \$10 million in grant dollars raised each year for an array of nationwide nonprofit activities including health, education, historic preservation, and scientific research.

The course will be offered Jan. 14, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Pre-registration is required to receive Zoom information.

Press Release from CSM.

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St. Mary's County • Calvert County

St. Mary's Students on CSM Dean's List

Abell	Olivia Wright	Oxana Schroeder	Chad Delahay	Taylor Bell	Brooke
Lauren Kirscht	Clements	Andrew Severson	Jarrett Dooley	Faith Bouch	Pappaconstantinou
Avenue	Dustin Anderson	Elaine Spidel	Antonio Fenwick	Lindsay Brackett	Maggie Pilkerton
Olivia Morgan	Lawrence Guy	Tarrah St.Mary	Michael Gardner	Nicholas Brady	Tessa Pilkerton
Madelynn Rollins	Brent Morgan	Devon Strunk	Aric Gebhardt	Rachel Brann	Nicholas Potter
Bushwood	Kelly Quade	Danielle Sullivan	Alexandra Gehers	Lucy Brown	Biscequia Powell
Rakiah Battle	Nicholas Schofield	Kaylee Swales	Soleil Glee	Caleb Buchanan	Bradlie Quick
Devanie Garnett	Justin Tiede	McKynzee Tippet	Bryan Gomez	Samuel Burcham	Benjamin Raley
Miah Marshall	Coltons Point	James Wilkinson	Alexis Hall-Miles	Caitlyn Burch	Taylor Rawlings
Garrett McDonald	Joseph Payne	Leonardtwn	Madison Harris	Jaclyn Burch	Jenna Reed
Garrett McDonald	Dameron	Ryan Ahern	Leondra Henderson	Kirby Burch	Emilie Rice
Tanya Shuk	William Kenney	Reagan Angle	Holly Hilton	Shanyn Burch	Lavendar Robishaw
California	Drayden	Aidan Ashby	Krista Holso	Samuel Chick	Haleigh Roussillon
Stephanie Allers	Pieter Enkema	Carson Bistline	Christina Howard	Sandra Cook	Cody Russell
Rachel Appleby	Chelsea Magyar	Lauren Black	Jackson Immel	Alayna Cox	Karly Sams
Pamela Athey	Great Mills	Samantha Boles	Jordon Keenan-Watford	Brandi Crumrine	Kayla Saunders
Jasmine Barnes	Cassie Aud	Ethan Carpenter	Margaret Knapp	Emily Cusic	Hannah Schmitt
Carly Barto	Claire Bacon	Brooke Charley	Cameron Lafferty	Chelsea Damalouji	Kyle Segreti
Ian Boyd	Freddie Brewington	Tyrus Council	Bradley Leydig	Keith Decker	Kayla Shellman
Ansleigh Bryer	Nathaniel Champion	Charli Jo Crescenze	Carrie Lockhart	Kayla Deese	Rebecca Shepard
Trent Carpenter	Hunter Devito	Jordan Dunn	Macy McCombs	Caleb Ferro	Jack Sien
Stephanie Dayton	Tamair Dickerson	Erin Ely	Joseph McGhee	Haley Frankel	Sarah Slack
Robert Deckelmann	Brianna Dyson	Kasarachi Ezeakolam	Olivia Mesmer	Rachael Fuese	Alexis Slater
Asha Gaines	Dilara Gibb	Christina Fowlkes	Rhey Mesowski	Amanda Gale	Allison Smith
Michelle Garner	Michael Hall	Yuko Garrett	Stacey Moore	Raianna Garner	Hailey Smith
Debra Gilroy	Angela Herath	Nicole Geiger	Hannah Mumbert	Devyn Gass	Angela Snell
Bonnie Giroux	Thomas Jamison	Erica Greenfield	Quinton Nasman	Mark Gifford	Amanda Stone
Gabrielle Gleissner	Rebecca Lott	Sarah Grumbine	Megan Peterson	Briley Gillingham	Tammy Sullivan
Karin Gray	Ashley Magpayo	Hannah Hanson	Elise Porter	Kalynn Gloriod	Summer Taylor
Satoko Griffith	Alexandra Myers	Bonnie Kelly	Kayla Pratt	Alexander	Kayla Thomas
Nicole	Braedon Myers	William Knezek	Erik Preston	Goldsborough	Mark Thompson
Hartmann-Harding	Niyah Norton	Alexander Landavazo	Angelo Quizon	Sean Goldsborough	Kelsey Tucker
Kerrie Hortch	Shirley Onyeukwu	Krystle Lange	Carter Ramey	Lindsey Gray	Makenzie
Matthew Jones	Joan Popoola	Leana Martin	Shyann Ringley	Stacey Green	Vandevander
Savannah Kerns	Richard Sisler	Virginia Matthias	Keith Rorie	Derek Hatton	Jessica Van Patten
Alexander Lafleur	Bernalyn Vaznaian	John McGuinness	Debra Rosenstadt	Levi Hauer	Madison Walter
Kalin Lee	Johnne Webster	Timothy Mendenhall	Colleen Runowich	Sydney Hauer	Melissa Weaver
Benjamin Maher	Hollywood	Shane Moran	Alison Russell	Amanda Johnson	Kaitlyn Willoughby
Cresta Meyer	Gillian Bacon	Austin Olszewski	Eoin Schneider	Cody Jordan	Brendan Wilson
Kayla Moore	Brittany Bender	Yadelsy Ortiz	Jill Shade	Alexis Kemp	McKenzie Wood
Alanis Moulrier	Johnnie Caldwell	Megan Owen	Melinda Stevens	Arabelle Kemp	William Wood
Santiago	Samuel Cassetta	Lauryn Paradis	Mikaila Sullivan	Joseph Kemp	Jessica Youmans
Dhyan Patel	Caitlyn Childers	Aina Regino	Sara Tawney	Elizabeth Kent	Park Hall
Katherine Rioux	Frederick Clarke	Gabriel Salm	Taylor Thomas	Wendi Kilroy	Honorine Badolo
Gabrielle Ventrone	Austin Cullen	Zachariah Schlaak	Clifford Toledo	Nalajze Lewis	Patuxent River
Connor Vickers	Matthew Dahlstrom	Justin Shaner	Kendra Turner	Taylor Lombre	Myla Davis
Gianna Winters	Garrett Davis	Aiden Smith	Jacob Waselewski	Madison Long	Melanie Deshields
Bethany Yeh	Kaydence Drys	Leah Sours	Lauron Wiersma	Megan Lowmiller	Joshua Moody
Callaway	Mattison Graves	Regan Walker	Nickolas Williams	Gillian Maguire	Brianah Willis
Timothy Bock	Morgan Guy	Cora White	Brandt Wootan	Erin Mahoney	Piney Point
Joanne Brooks	Jordan Higgs	Allison Willenborg	Amber Young	Kimberly Martinez	Morgan Adams
Darnell Darden	Derrick Hill	Kaitlin Zelonis	Jake Zahorchak	Monge	Michael Evans
Julie Mays	Nicholas Irons	Lexington Park	Lexington Park	Cheyenne Matthews	Saint Inigoes
Chaptico	Jenna Kline	Tyler Arends	Shawn Beall	Sidney Maynard	Dylan Bright
Frederick Miller	Elizabeth Leepa	Montserrat	Dani Krinsky	Sara McCullough	Mary Jenkins
Charlotte Hall	Jacob Mattingly	Barron-Leon	Loveville	Sydney McGurk	Augustine Rouland
Iyadunni Adegboye	Marketa Medley	Ashley Berry	Jacqueline Eaton	Sarah McKeel	Ashley Wathen
Gabrielle Coltrane	Allison Mersch	Hunter Blazer	Mechanicsville	Madalynn Miller	Isaac Zelinski
Nathan Daetwyler	Rebecca Morrison	Meghan Boren	Audrey Alvey	Krisann Mullican	Tall Timbers
Amy Dieffenderfer	Samuel Morris	Aspen Brunson	Noah Amos	Kellie Murphy	Matthew Bailey
Taylor Gascon	Kelcee Oliver	Roman Burk	Jessica Andes	Kyle Murphy	Kurt Perrygo
Jeremy Heilmeier	Lindsey Pitonyak	Kaleigh Butler	Danielle Barber	Rianna Neiser	Valley Lee
Elizabeth Hull	Brad Pleger	David Cannavo	Abrielle Barnett	Matthew Niemiec	Tessa Isgrigg
Kaylie Kinder	Abigail Reese	Kyhara Cervantes	McKayla Barrett	Mary Nimmermacher	
Tabitha Long	Grace Russell	Jose Contreras	Angelina Bean	Jennifer Oliver	
Sydney Messer	Lawrence Samrow	Cody Dean	Sara Beasley	Samantha Pallo	
Miranda Shipman	Shelby Schieferdecker	Taylor Dean	Jessica Bell	Patsy Pankhurst	
Christine Wang					

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has released its dean's list for the 2020 fall session. Students who have earned 12 or more credits at CSM are eligible to be considered for the dean's list. At the end of the fall, spring and summer sessions, full- and part-time students who have completed at least six credits during the semester and have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better will be included in the dean's list.

CSM Ranks Fourth Best Online Community College in Maryland for 2020

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) was named the fourth best online community college in Maryland based on affordability and convenience. The ranking comes from OnlineU and was based on 2020 program data including available degrees, tuition rates and programmatic accreditations, and profit statuses collected from accreditation agencies or from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

As a pioneer of distance learning, it was easy for CSM to continue its 20-year tradition of offering flexible online choices when the nation's public and private school systems, and colleges, were required to lift all classes to an entirely remote environment to help combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus in March 2020. In fact, CSM was a founding partner in the MarylandOnline (MOL) organization created in 1999 – which remains a consortium of Maryland's 16 community col-



leges, plus a few four-year institutions, dedicated to providing high quality online learning.

"[These] community colleges in the state of Maryland make it possible for their students to earn an associate degree or certificate entirely online," OnlineU posted when releasing the rankings. "Ten of the schools on this list have an-

nual tuitions under \$4,000, so attending these online community colleges is both affordable and convenient."

CSM's Online Choices

CSM's spring semester begins Jan. 19 and the public is invited to learn more about the college's many degree and certificate programs during a Jan. 12 info session. All of CSM's credit classes during the spring 2021 semester will be taught primarily in a virtual environment. There will be differences, however, in how CSM's various course offerings will be presented. The classes will be offered via Real-Time Technology, web-based or in a hybrid fashion.

Web-based courses take place completely in a virtual environment, with no set or required meeting days or times. CSM has offered these classes for years, but now they are listed with a location of "Virtual Campus." Each term has a start and end date, but these classes do not have regularly

scheduled dates and times for students to log in.

Real-Time Technology (RTT) courses take place in a virtual environment, with scheduled meeting days and times for live lectures and class activities. The campus location may be either a specific physical campus (La Plata, Leonardtown, Prince Frederick or Regional Hughesville) or the new "Virtual Campus."

Hybrid courses combine distance learning and in-person instruction. Some on-campus instruction or activity is mandatory for these courses, in order to meet requirements that can't be fulfilled remotely. Examples of the classes that may require on-campus instruction include courses for Emergency Medical Technicians or involving the trades and construction. Hybrid courses have physical campus locations for the on-campus component; have start and end dates; and have specific meeting days and times.

County Times 2021 Calendars Are Here!



Pick up a **free copy** @ Linda's Cafe in Lexington Park, Southern Maryland Paints, in Leonardtown or the County Times in Hollywood, today

Pet

OF THE WEEK

MEET SIMBA AND SONIC



A kitten is, in the animal world, what a rosebud is in the garden.
-Robert Sowthey

Hello everybody, we are Simba and Sonic, TWO BONDED BROTHERS that are only 9 MONTHS OLD. Bonded means we are the BEST OF FRIENDS, are always together and if we do get separated, we will call to each other. We enjoy a good game of laser and we LIKE DOGS AND OTHER CATS! We will be an AMAZING ADDITION to any family. Our TCAS pals feel that since we love each other so much, we must go to our new home together. Hurry and email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov if you are interested in adopting both of us! BE OUR MIRACLE and PLEASE CHOOSE US! 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 our amazing friends also available 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
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A View From The BLEACHERS



A Child's Mind

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

In late December 1972, a plane crash claimed the life of a baseball icon and legendary humanitarian. Just over 13 years later, a rising star's life tragically slipped away in a dorm room. Both died far too young, much too suddenly and with too many biography pages left forever blank.

A friend of mine – John for this story – is a diehard Pittsburgh sports fan. He sent me a note last week that December 31, 2020 marked the 48th anniversary of Roberto Clemente's death. In response, I offered that Clemente is one of my favorite athletes of all time, and while I'm generally loathe to wear the colors of any team not my own, I do intend one day to procure and proudly wear a Pittsburgh Pirates jersey adorned with Clemente's number 21.

Clemente was killed just two weeks after my birth; I know him only through stories, readings, video clips and statistics. John, 13 years my elder (and he looks even older, says I; not so, says he), has vivid memories of Clemente and his tragic death. In late 1972, Clemente must have been a deity of sorts – the Pirates were just one year removed from a World Series victory over the Orioles, Clemente had collected his 3000th hit on the last day of the 1972 season and the now famous Steelers of Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris, Mean Joe Greene and Jack Lambert had yet to win their first Super Bowl. True to that image, John shared that he refused to believe Clemente had died for days. He was convinced that at any moment someone would find him floating in the water or safely on an obscure piece of land.

As we know now, his boyhood hopes were dashed. I pondered that story, trying to merely imagine how it felt. But then I remembered June 19, 1986...I knew exactly how it felt.

I was nearly the same age on that June day as John was when Clemente died. "That day" was when Maryland basketball star Len Bias, the biggest of sports giants in my adolescent mind, died of cocaine intoxication in a university dorm room. I remember being unable to process the news or

accept that this young, powerful, invincible athlete – my hero – was dead. I was in a daze and nursing a broken heart, much like another boy in Pittsburgh was after Clemente's death 13 years earlier.

The tragedies enhanced a deep emotion connection created as only the impressionable, trusting mind of a child can. I am sure Clemente is still John's favorite Pirate of all time. Love me some Juan Dixon, but Bias is my favorite Terrapin. My other local favorites? All are of similar vintage. For the Caps – Mike Gartner. The Washington Football Team – Art Monk. Even with the Nats in town, my favorite local baseball player is Cal Ripken Jr. None of this will ever change.

Why not Max Scherzer? Or the blatantly obvious, Alex Ovechkin? Timing. Love them, but they were too late. When each arrived, the world had long encroached on my childhood innocence, leaving me incapable of blissfully converting an elite athlete into a comic book superhero. Had Bias arrived in my forties, he certainly would not hold the same mystique. Ditto for Gartner, Monk and Ripken. There just comes a time in life where you see imperfections in greatness, when the business of sports muddies the pure competition or simply when consistently validated cynicism won't allow for an unconditional connection.

Age introduces the same "thing" – be it progression, regression or just evolution - to perspectives on politicians, entertainers, actors, clergy and community leaders. It might even impact new personal relationships. How to explain the "thing"? What is "it"? Maturity? Wisdom – about the world and human nature? Scar tissue from life-lessons? A realization that agendas exist...everywhere? Whatever the ingredients, it transitions the gleeful ignorance of black spots on every sun to the inescapable awareness of the world's complexities, blemishes and failures. In other words, it robs a kid from Pittsburgh, or another from Southern Maryland, of the uncorrupted child's mind that could once manufacture irreproachable giants from mere mortals.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 71658

Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 71050

Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 73101

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

Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County: James R. Guy, President; Michael L. Hewitt; 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!

First Project for Independent Sewing Club Announced

Do you like to sew? Do you want to make a project once a month and bring it by the Loffler Senior Activity Center to show staff at our monthly Curbside Reveal Event? For the month of January, make an APRON in any design or pattern you desire. Then show it to us on Wednesday, February 10. Reservation required. We will take a picture of you and your project to post on our Facebook Page, plus slip the next assignment in your car for you to work on until Wednesday, March 10 when we have our next Curbside Reveal Event. To participate and make a reservation to show your project or for more information, e-mail Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com or leave a voice mail message at 301-475-4200, ext. 1655.

Chair Assisted Yoga via Zoom

Boost your immunity, strengthen your bones, reduce stress, and increase your flexibility. These are just some of the scientifically proven benefits of yoga. Join Karen Weaver on Tuesdays and Gail Wathen on Fridays through Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. for a gentle chair assisted class to help you in your pursuit of better health. Classes will consist of seated postures that focus on opening the joints, standing postures to increase strength and flexibility, and a relaxation/meditation that will help to reduce stress. Sign up for one or both days. Attendees must have an active email address, high speed internet and a computer or tablet enabled with a webcam and microphone. Space is limited; St. Mary's County

residents will be given priority. To register, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080.

Geri-Fit® via Zoom

We are excited to announce a new fitness opportunity! With financial support from the Maryland Department of Aging Senior Center Operating Funds Grant, this new strength building class will be offered FREE of charge! Classes will be held via Zoom, Mondays and Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – March 31, 2:30-3:15 p.m. Geri-Fit is a 45-minute strength building, evidence-based class that helps increase muscular strength and improve balance and coordination. Participants should be able to walk freely with or without the use of a cane or walker. Those in a wheelchair may participate but will need to modify and substitute some of the exercise. Commitment to the entire 12-week session is highly suggested. Space is limited; St. Mary's County residents will be given priority. To learn more about technology requirements and needed supplies, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080.

Senior Matters: Series II

Do something for yourself for the New Year and for your self-care. This is a unique opportunity to talk through what's on your mind (and in your heart) and hear from others in a small group setting over the course of 6 weeks each Thursday, January 14-February 18, from 12:30-2 p.m. It will start with an introduction week where you can provide direct input on your concerns, challenges or perspective. Each subsequent meeting will focus on relevant issues and can include COVID-related concerns and matters in the areas of: Mental Health, Physical Wellness, Social Wellness, Chronic Illness/Management, and Expression/Creativity. Registration in advance is required, by contacting MarieNoelle Lautieri at MarieNoelle.Lautieri@stmarysmd.com or 301-475-4200, ext. 3102. An internet/data connection is also required as the group uses Zoom to meet.

*Journaling and/or drawing supplies will be provided compli-

mentary upon series-completion*

Art Classes via Zoom!

The Garvey Senior Activity Center is excited to announce upcoming art workshops taught by instructors at the College of Southern Maryland. Classes will be held remotely via Zoom. Funding for this series is supplemented by the Garvey Senior Activity Center Council, Inc. and the St. Mary's County Arts Council. The first class, Introduction to Drawing: Put Pencil to Paper, is Thursday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$5 and includes instruction via Zoom and supplies. Curbside supply pick-up is Jan. 19 at the Garvey Senior Activity Center. Pre-register by calling the Garvey Senior Activity Center at 301-475-4200, ext. 1080. Payment and supply pickup instructions will be given during preregistration. Ask for information about future art classes!

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 at 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.

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.)

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 beginner 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.

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.

Thursday, January 7

CSM Cloud Computing Information Session

Virtual; 6 p.m.

High school students and their parents are invited to learn about the unique opportunity to dual enroll in a class that may lead to an industry certification for an entry-level position for cloud computing. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/student-life/Cloud-Computing-Info-Session>

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

CSM hosts Transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. [csmd.edu/transferthursdays](https://www.csmd.edu/transferthursdays)

Friday, January 8

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.

Tuesday, January 12

Enrollment Information Session

Virtual; 6 p.m.

Future students with an interest in attending CSM are invited ask your important questions about our flexible learning classrooms, our curriculum, and how we can help you achieve your educational and career goals. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/admissions/2021-01-12_infosession

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, January

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 in-

teresting. 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.

Thursday, January 14

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

CSM hosts Transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from

two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. [csmd.edu/transferthursdays](https://www.csmd.edu/transferthursdays)

Ongoing

COVID-19 Appointment-Free Testing

Lexington Park Office:

Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

46035 Signature Lane, Lexington Park (co-located with U-Haul Moving & Storage)

For assistance or accommodations, call ahead to (301) 862-1680

Leonardtwn Office:

Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

21580 Peabody Street, Leonardtown

For assistance or accommodations, call ahead to (301) 475-4330
SMCHD COVID-19 Testing:

Walk up for testing, parking is available

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.

Southern Maryland

Online

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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Navy Unmanned Tester Nationally Recognized

Devontae Mitchell, a flight test engineer with Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (UX) 24, "Ghost Wolves," was selected as a 2021 Modern-Day Technology Leader by the Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA).

"Mr. Mitchell's numerous achievements in technology stood out among the group," wrote Tyrone D. Taborn, CEO and Publisher of *US Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine, in his letter announcing Mitchell's award.

As the Integrated Communications Systems Flight Test Engineer for the Navy and Marine Corps Small Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (STUAS) program (PMA-263), Mitchell manages a diverse portfolio of projects including testing of a laser designator, two separate communica-

tions relay payloads, and multiple SIGINT payloads employed on two separate unmanned systems in support of PMA-263 and United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) requirements.

Nathan Fielder, Branch Head for Communications Systems and Networks Test and Evaluation in Naval Air Systems Command's Integrated Mission and Avionics Division, said that although Mitchell has been with UX-24 for just two years, "he has repeatedly demonstrated an innate ability to take a project and execute every aspect of it like a seasoned veteran."

"In his short career at Naval Test Wing Atlantic, Mr. Mitchell has left his positive impact in the test planning, test execution, resource allocation/coordination, and test reporting for projects in electro-optical/infrared, com-

munications, datalinks, radar, and unmanned air vehicle performance fields," Fielder wrote in his nomination letter for Mitchell's award. "In this year alone Devontae has generated one test plan for multiple SIGINT relay payloads, led the execution of ten Category A test flights totaling 60 flight hours, and generated seven technical reports documenting test results. Equally impressive and influential, he consistently maintains a positive and motivated attitude even faced with challenges."

The news came on the heels of the announcement that Mitchell was also named the squadron's "Ghost Engineer of the Quarter" for the fourth quarter of 2020.

"Devontae is setting the standard for flight test engineers (FTEs) at UX-24," his squadron citation reads. "Devontae's dedi-

cation, initiative, and willingness to help others makes him a model for other FTEs to learn from. Despite being a two-year engineer, Devontae has established himself as a leader and *the* go-to flight test engineer at UX-24."

Mitchell will be recognized along with other recipients of the Modern-Day Technology Leader and Science Spectrum Trailblazer awards at the BEYA STEM Virtual Conference Feb. 11-13.

The Black Engineer of the Year Awards are administered by *US Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine, the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, host Lockheed Martin Corporation, and sponsor Aerotek.

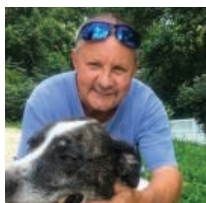


Devontae Mitchell, left, a flight test engineer with Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (UX) 24, receives the squadron's Ghost Engineer of the Quarter award for the fourth quarter of 2020 from UX-24 commanding officer Cmdr. Daniel Martin. Mitchell has been selected as a 2021 Modern-Day Technology Leader by the Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) Selection Committee.

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

Kenneth Lorne Elliott



Kenneth Lorne Elliott, March 4, 1969- December 24, 2020

He was born and raised in Broome's Island, MD. He loved

all those he grew up with there. He loved to be with his friends. He was predeceased by his mother Norma Elliott and his father Frederick Elliott Jr. He is survived by his sister Tamara Powalisz (Ron), brother Frederick Elliott III, nieces Elizabeth Powalisz, Victoria Powalisz, Arabella Dunn and nephew Austin Davis. There will be a gathering of family and friends in the spring when allowed.

Joseph Stillwell



It is with deep sorrow we announce Joseph (Joey) Allen Stillwell, loving fiancé and father of four children, passed on Saturday, December

26th, 2020.

Joey was born on December 30,

1976 in Washington DC, to Eddie and Patsy Stillwell.

Joey had a passion for his family, the Washington Redskins, cooking, being the scrabble king and talking to people. He was known for his infectious smile, great sense of humor and crazy laugh.

Joey was preceded in death by his daughter Kelsie Lynn, grandparents Jim & Dolly Latham and Sam & Hilda Stillwell. He is survived by his fiancée Jessica Vermillion, their four children, Kylie, Kaylie, Khloie and Joey; his parents Eddie and Patsy Stillwell, brother Rick and wife, Michelle Stillwell, sister, Sherri Stillwell and fiancé Wes Thompson, nephews, Ricky and Ryan Stillwell, Blake Ferrell and niece Summerly Thompson, uncles Jimmy Latham, Larry Latham & wife Debbie Latham and several cousins.

Funeral services are private.

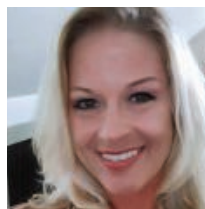
In lieu of flowers, donations for the children, may be sent using the following link.

<https://gofund.me/e9dedded>

Melissa Anne Ridgell

Melissa "Missy" Anne Ridgell, 41, of Leonardtown, MD passed away in California, MD on December 26, 2020. Missy was born on November

5, 1979 in Leonardtown, MD and was the daughter to Brenda Langley and the late Michael Meads, Sr.



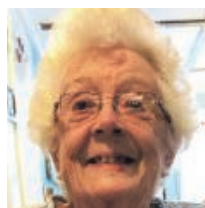
Missy is survived by her children;

Nathan Ridgell of Leonardtown, MD, Kamryn Ridgell of Leonardtown, MD, and Kaylah Ridgell of Mechanicsville, MD, step-sister; Nicole DeCarlo Schwarga of Chesapeake Beach, MD, and step-brother Giovanni "John" DeCarlo of Ama, LA. She is preceded in death by her brother, Michael Allan Meads, II.

Missy graduated from Leonardtown High School in 1997. She was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. Missy loved spending time with her children and family. She loved being at the beach, working out, and doing hair in her free time.

The family will receive friends on January 7, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. Due to Covid-19 the Funeral Service and Interment will be private. Serving as pallbearers will be Phil Langley, Cole Langley, Andy Trossbach, Clint Lumpkins, Brian Erdolino, and Jayson Bowles.

Anna Lois Yates



Anna Lois Yates, 83, of Colton's Point, MD passed away on December 25, 2020 in Callaway, MD. She was born on March

22, 1937 in Washington, DC and was the loving daughter of the late Ernest Smith Hodges and Eleanor S. Pogue. Anna was the loving wife of the late Robert Edward Yates whom she married on February 11, 1956 in Arlington, VA and who preceded her in death.

Anna is survived by her children Lois Kathleen Yates of Clements, MD, Carol Lee (Gerald) Brandt of Arlington, VA, Barbara Ellen (Michael) Click of Callaway, MD; brother, Frank H. Hodges of Bushwood, MD, and 7 grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her siblings Richard G. Hodges and Ernestine H. Wormwood.

Anna graduated from Margaret Brent in 1953. During her career as a secretary she worked for the FBI, Navy Mutual Aid, and the International Monetary Fund from which she retired in 1990. While working for the IMF, Anna traveled many times to the Middle East. After residing in the Arlington, Virginia area for 34 years she happily enjoyed the last 30 years of retirement living in Colton's Point, Maryland.

Anna was a member of the American Legion in Avenue, Maryland. Anna loved to attend Washington Capitals games, watching the Blue Crabs play baseball, traveling with Bob, and going to bluegrass music concerts around the Southern Maryland area. Anna had an avid love for reading, jigsaw puzzles, and crossword puzzles.

Anna adored spending time with her seven grandchildren: Anna Steenburn, Thomas Yates, Charles Brooks, Taylor Brandt, John Brandt, Danielle Brooks, and Victoria Brooks

The Funeral Service and Interment will be private. Serving as pallbearers will be Charles Brooks, John Brandt, Mark Steenburn, Michael Click, Gerald Brandt, and Jeff Quade.

Contributions can be made to American Legion 221 21690 Colton Point Road, Avenue, MD 20609 and 7th District Rescue Squad, PO Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609.

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

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

Patricia Ann Quinn



Patricia Ann Quinn, 89, of Lexington Park, MD, passed away on December 25, 2020 in LaPlata, MD. Born January 13, 1931 in Pittsburgh, PA,

she was the daughter of the late Marianna & Harry Toney. Patricia was the loving wife of the late Robert Paul Quinn, Sr., whom preceded her in death on November 15, 2004.

Patricia was survived by her children, Robert (Renea) Quinn of Gambrills, MD, Steven Quinn of Frederick, MD, Mary Eckloff of California, MD, Thomas (Gina) Quinn of Lexington Park, MD, and Christopher (Jennifer) Quinn of Dumfries, VA, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, along with many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Kathleen Quinn.

Pallbearers will be Robert Quinn, Jr., Steven Quinn, Thomas Quinn, Christopher Quinn, Joseph Eckloff, & Nicholas Quinn.

The family will receive friends on, January 5, 2021 from 9:00am to 10:00AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD; Funeral Service and Interment will be private.

Contributions can be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105.

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Catherine "Kitty" Victoria Huntington



Catherine "Kitty" Victoria Huntington, 76 of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on December 24, 2020 at her residence, surrounded by her family.

She was born March 6, 1944 in Leonardtown, MD, and was the daughter of the late Mary Marguerite Quade Pilkerton and Harry V. Pilkerton.

Kitty is survived by her husband, Harry B. Huntington whom she married on June 18, 1960 in Sacred Heart Church, Bushwood, MD.

She is also survived by her daughter's, Debbie (Jerry) Guy of Mechanicsville, MD and Cathy (Billy) Wood of Mechanicsville, MD, siblings: Mary Agnes Graves of Clements, MD, Phyllis Gray of Hollywood, MD and June Dalrymple of Port Republic, MD, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents Kitty was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters: Daryl Pilkerton, Vivian Pilkerton, Rachel Quade and Harry Pilkerton.

Kitty was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, MD, she worked in the Public-School system in Food Services and for Minitex Corporation as a Calibrator.

Kitty enjoyed sewing, cooking, crafting, playing cards, butterflies, bird watching, and spending time with family and friends.

Due to Covid 19 all services will be private.

Pallbearers will be: Jerry Guy, Billy Wood, Jimmy Guy, Bryan Guy, Corey Wood and Jack Guy.

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

Contributions may be made to Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 15, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

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

William C. Moody



William C. Moody, aka: Bill, aka: Flutter One, aka: The Bottom Feeder passed away on January 3, 2021.

He leaves MFO (Carol Moody),

FOJTE (Christopher Moody and his wife, Lea Wilke in St. Louis, MO), and FOJTY (Ian Moody and his wife, Tara in Kansas City, KS) and grandson, Tyler Moody.

Bill was born October 25, 1941 in Lansing, Michigan to Morris and

Genevieve Moody. He attended K-12 schools in East Lansing, Michigan and walked across the street to Michigan State University for his undergraduate and master's degrees in civil engineering, specializing in structural dynamics. That specialty led to a position at McDonnell Aircraft in St. Louis in 1965. He was lucky enough to be assigned to the space program and worked on the docking system for the Gemini spacecraft. After that, it was airplanes: the F-4 UK, the F-15, which meant a stint at Edwards Air Force Base in California, the AV8-B, which brought him to Pax River in the middle 1970s, the F-18AB, and the Spanish F-18. For that aircraft, he was able to spend nearly four months in Spain, which was a highlight of his life. In the early 1990s, Bill worked on the company's candidate for the Joint Strike Fighter, and then moved on to the Navy's F-18 for the rest of his career. He came to Pax River to stay in 1996 on the F-18EF, leading the flutter testing on the aircraft—hence, Flutter One. During this period, Bill wrote a daily status report for the aircraft and took to commenting on local dining and culture at the bottom of the report, hence, The Bottom Feeder. This became very popular; literally hundreds of people subscribed to the status report to read the Bottom Feeder. Bill retired from Pax in 2009.

Outside of work, in St. Louis, Bill was an ice hockey coach for Peeeweess up to high school for about 20 years. He was in the first class of coaches trained by USA Hockey in Colorado Springs. At Pax River, he eventually became the Boeing Community Relations representative, which led to service on the board of the United Way of Patuxent River. He served on the Historic St. Mary's City Foundation Board for several years and enjoyed his time as a docent at the restored Brick Chapel there. He was a member of Lexington Park Rotary from 2001 until his death, serving as president of the club in 2010-2011, and as King Oyster after that. He especially enjoyed the role of King Oyster—everyone wanted their picture taken with the king in his magnificent robes. Eventually, he managed the Oyster Cook-off during the Club's Oyster Festival every October. He served as a board member of the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation and came to be the person who picked the wines for the MedStar St. Mary's Hospital Gala.

After retirement, Bill continued and expanded his interests. He continued to publish the Bottom Feeder as a blog: www.billsbottomfeeder.blogspot.com. He got serious about photography so he could include pictures in the blog. Sunrise on the Patuxent was a popular theme. He also enjoyed the bird life of our area.

He helped with the Chronicles, St. Mary's County Historical Society's publication, as part of the editorial team. He and Carol traveled to France several times, enjoying memorable Michelin star meals, and joined Henry Miller and the Historic St. Mary's City travelers to see relevant sites in the UK and Ireland. He patronized and encouraged any independent dining establishment in the area and enjoyed knowing the people who labored in that field. He learned a lot from gracious people such as Michael and Lisa Kelley, Loic Jaffres, and Rob Plant.

To the end of his life, Bill enjoyed knowing people and sharing life experiences with them. Many will remember him for his wry sense of humor.

Bill is very proud of his sons, who have been supportive during his illness. The elder is a high school math teacher, former hockey player, and a golf coach. The younger is a police officer, currently working for the University of Kansas Medical Center, also a former hockey player, and a dog trainer for wire-haired pointing griffons. His daughters-in-law have helped enormously, one as a social worker and one as a nurse practitioner. Grandson Tyler, other family members, countless friends, co-workers, neighbors, and the wonderful folks at Georgetown Medical Center and Johns Hopkins have provided help and support as well. There are many good people in the world!

Memorial gifts may be directed to Historic St. Mary's City Foundation, Box 39, St. Mary's City, MD, www.hsmcdigshistory.org, Historic Sotterley 44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD, 20636, www.Sotterley.org, or St. Mary's County Historical Society, Box 212, Leonardtown, MD, 20650, www.stmaryshistory.org.

Now, even though he will not be here to remind you: DFD!

All Services are private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Karen Smith Fennell



Karen Smith Fennell, 73, departed this life peacefully on Saturday, December 26, 2020, at Chesapeake Shores Nursing Facility

in Lexington Park, MD. She was born on April 2, 1947 in Pittsburgh, PA to the late, George William Smith and Marian Arlene Cupples Smith.

A highly educated woman with extensive knowledge in healthcare, Karen went to Shadyside Hospital and graduated with a Nursing degree,

then went to Mount Saint Mary's where she received a Bachelor of Science and years later a Master's of Science in Labor from the University of District of Columbia. Karen worked for SEIU, American Collage of Nurse Midwives and as a Lobbyist at the Federal and State levels. Karen was also a member of the United Woman's Democratic Club. She knew she made a difference in the lives of others and worked selflessly to make the world a better place.

Karen was a wonderful Mother and Grandmother. Her greatest joy was found in time spent with her son, daughter in law and granddaughters. Karen loved visiting her home town of Pittsburgh, PA., to visit family and to visit any beach on vacation. Her son remembers her as a kind and driven Mother who taught him to care deeply for others.

Karen is survived by her son, Robert Henry Fennell, IV, (Cecelia Fennell) of White Plains, MD; two Granddaughters, Lilly and Elizabeth; and siblings, Marilyn Half (Chuck Half) of Davidson, NC and Dennis Smith (Robin Smith) of Hendersonville, NC. and many Nieces, Nephews and Great Nieces and Nephew. She is preceded in death by her parents, George and Marian Smith.

At this time all services are being held at a later date.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com

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

Kathleen Easter-Knott



Kathleen Easter-Knott, 58, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully on Monday, December 28, 2020 at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center.

Kathleen has resided in Mechanicsville for the past seventeen (17) years.

She was the owner of Its-A-Celebration as an event planner. Kathy was previously employed by NAV-FAC where she was the fleet manager for transportation at the Navy Yard for many years. Kathy enjoyed spending time with family and friends, going to the barn with her daughter, she truly enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her children; Colleen Williams of Hughesville, MD, Kristen Lucas of Mechanicsville, MD, Michael Schwartz of Waldorf, MD, Alan Schwartz of Waldorf, MD and Laura Knott of Mechanicsville, MD; and ten (10) grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Brian Easter, Barbara Brewer, Grace McGilton, Roy Easter and Berti-Jo

Leymeister.

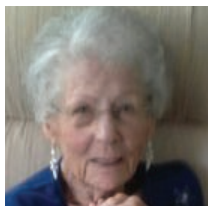
The family will welcome friends for Kathleen's Life Celebration on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. with interment following immediately after the service.

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

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

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

Mary Jane Colton



Mary Jane Colton, 98, of Silver Spring, MD (formerly of Avenue, MD) passed away December 25, 2020, at the Casey House in Rockville, MD

with her loving family at her side.

Mary Jane was an amazing woman. She was the most wonderful mother, wife, sister and friend that anyone could have asked for. Anyone who met her knew they had a friend for life. Now she is at peace with her Lord and Savior. She was born on August 16, 1922 in Washington D.C. to the late Henry Decatur Reed and Mildred Elizabeth McCauley Reed. On April 2, 1942 she married her beloved husband Richard Etter Green of Johnstown, PA. Together they had two children and enjoyed life in Silver Spring, MD. She worked as an Executive Secretary at Perpetual Savings and Loan Association. She was a member of Christ Congregational Church. She enjoyed square dancing, loved cats (especially her Muffin), loved doing things for other people, and was very loving and generous to her family. From 1963 until his death in 1968 she spent her time caring for her husband, who had a severe case of MS. They celebrated 25 years of marriage.

On September 15, 1972, Mary Jane married her second husband, Thomas Hodges Colton, Sr. in Silver Spring, MD. Together they celebrated over 45 wonderful years of marriage before his passing in February 2018. In their time together, the Colton's enjoyed time in both Avenue, MD and Naples, FL where they developed many friendships with people from all over the U.S. and Canada. They had wonderful experiences in their Air-stream camper and later in their home in Crystal Lake. They loved watching tennis together (especially Roger) and she was known as the Hallmark Lady, sending cards to everyone she knew right up to the last days of her life. The Coltons attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

She is survived by her children: Richard Michael Green (Marjory

Ann) of Olney, MD and Priscilla Diane Strahan (William Theodore II) of Olney, MD; five grandchildren: Mark Douglas Green (Rebecca), Jeffrey Peyton Green (Megan), Justin Timothy Green (Suzanne), Melissa Ann Quinn (Patrick) and Jason Michael Strahan (Stephanie); and 12 Great Grandchildren. Also included in her family are step-children Jeanine Peele of Fort Mill, SC, Thomas Colton of Centerville, MD, Kenneth Colton of Front Royal, VA, and John Colton (Karen) of Avenue, MD. In addition to her parents and late husbands, she is also preceded in death by her brothers, Richard Reed and James Reed.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riderwood Benevolent Care Fund, 3140 Gracefield Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Margaret Theresa Tippett



Margaret Theresa Tippett, (Nee Jarboe) 92, of Leonardtown, MD, left this earth on November 10, 2020. Born on April 11, 1928 in Leon-

ardtown, MD, she was the beloved daughter of Ignatius Jackson and Mary Catherine (Connelly) Jarboe. A lifelong resident of Leonardtown, she attended The Old Leonardtown Elementary School (where the rescue squad is now), and Margaret Brent High School. She was the wife of the late Elmer Francis Tippett of Medley's Neck, who died in 1964. As members of the Catholic Faith, they were married at The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 1948. Mrs. Tippett was employed as an operator for C and P Telephone Company and later worked the presses at The North End Print Shop in Leonardtown, MD for J. Frank Guy and became his companion for over 25 years before he died in 1981.

Among her hobbies, Margaret enjoyed playing the organ and watching local baseball teams involving the Old Washington Senators, then the Baltimore Orioles, and later the Washington Nationals.

She enjoyed cooking and like many countians could do stuffed ham, crab cakes, and soft crab sandwiches. She loved Christmas and celebrated each year the best she could. Her roots in the county go back to the 1600s.

Besides her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by siblings, Ann E. Kurz, Virginia H., John L., James A., and Joseph D. Jarboe. Also, grandson, Charles F. Tippett, stepdaughters, Dorothy Griffin and June Tippett, and half-brother, Elmer A. Jarboe. She is survived by Rose Marie Stublarec (Raymond) of Benedict, MD, Francis Neale "Frankie" Tippett of Leonard-

town, MD, and Lisa P. Johnson of Olney, MD. There are 5 grandchildren, Melanie Hooper (Gary) of Benedict, MD, Amanda Moritz (Keith) of Leonardtown, MD, Amber Collins (Jason) of Mechanicsville, MD, Aimee Tippet of Flint, MI, and Mark Townsend of Olney, MD. There are also 11 great-grandchildren. Margaret has 1 surviving sister, Mary L. "Peggy" Stone of Waldorf, MD and many nieces and nephews.

Serving as pallbearers were John L. Jarboe, Jr., Jason Collins, Gary Hooper, Zachary Hooper, David Simmons, and Bobby Kerig.

Contributions may be made to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or any other charity of your choice.

Joseph Edward "Joe" Farrell



Joseph Edward "Joe" Farrell, 76, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on Friday, January 1, 2021 at his residence. Born on October 30, 1944 in Leon-

ardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Joseph Bernard and Mary Agnes Harden Farrell. He was the loving husband of the late Wanda Gayle Farrell, whom he married on May 1, 1976 in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD. He is survived by his siblings; Stephen Baxter Farrell (Amy) of Compton, MD, Patricia Ann Anderson (Brent) of California, MD, sisters-in-law; Carolyn Guy Farrell of Avenue, MD, Dana Marie Russell (Willie) of Clements, MD, Mary Lisa Estevez (Steve) of Leonardtown, MD, brothers-in-law; Joseph Wilbur Vallandingham, Jr. (Tere), William Earl Vallandingham both of Clements, MD, Mark Allshouse (Janie) of Loveville, MD, mother-in-law; Mary Mooneyen Graves Vallandingham, aunts; Mary Helen Farrell, Louise Payne, uncle: Arthur Farrell, as well as 5 nieces, 8 nephews, 9 great nieces, and 9 great nephews. In addition to his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his brother, James Bernard Farrell.

Joe graduated from Leonardtown High School in 1964. He was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. He served in the U.S. National Guard. He was employed over the years by Leonardtown Dairy, Clark's Feed & Grain, Farrell Trucking, Napa Auto Parts, Vallandingham Farms, and was self-employed as J. Farrell Trucking. In his later years, he enjoyed friends and family visiting, riding along in the tractor trailer with his nephew, Bobby Vallandingham, eating at Abell's Diner, and spending time with his great nephews and niece; Trent, Delia, Levi, & Colby Vallandingham. He also enjoyed taking the occasional spin to sight see through Mechanicsville, Loveville, Clements, Compton,

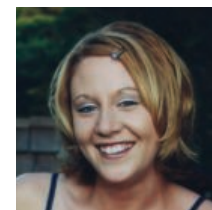
and Leonardtown. Joe had the kindest and most gentle heart. He would do anything for anybody. He was such a sweet man and always willing to help!

The Family will receive friends on Friday January 8, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. Due to Covid-19 all Funeral Services and Interment will be private. Serving as pallbearers will be Patrick Russell, Chris Russell, John Stephen Russell, Jay Farrell, Ronnie Farrell, and Bailey Johnson.

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

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

Leighann Burroughs-Tuemler



Leighann Burroughs-Tuemler, 37, of Bryans Road, formerly of Hollywood, passed away at her residence on December 28th.

She was born on March 18, 1983 to Jimbo and Debbie Burroughs.

Leighann grew up in St. Clement Shores with her two sisters, cousins, and many friends. After graduating from Leonardtown High School in 2001, she worked various jobs before following her true passion and becoming a licensed cosmetologist. She loved doing hair and makeup, making people feel their best. She had an eye for style & beauty and had truly found her calling.

Leighann had two daughters, who she loved whole heartedly and were her world. She loved watching them grow up and was so proud of all their accomplishments.

In addition to her parents, Leighann is survived by her daughters, Karleigh Rae Tuemler and Victoria Rose Tuemler, sisters, Kim Sterbenz (Ken) and Stephanie Souders (Nick), nephews, Matthew Sterbenz, Patrick Souders, and Keegan Sterbenz, nieces, Savannah Souders and Kenley Sterbenz and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who loved her very much.

Family will receive friends for Leighann's Life Celebration on Friday, January 8, 2021 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., with prayers recited at 6:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment is private.

In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 230 East Ohio Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60611, www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org, in memory of her father, James (Jimbo) Burroughs.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



CLEAN UP AND REFRESH



I hope everyone brought the New Year in nicely. We watched some of the Dick Clark New Year's Eve show with Ryan Seacrest, but it felt so odd. Even the performers seemed like they weren't as into it; it must be hard without the energy of the audience to spark you up. We normally have our Asti for the stroke of midnight, but My barmaster extraordinaire husband was making me Kentucky Mules with which to bring in the New Year. Whatever works to start the New Year off better. I kept hoping for a restart for last year, but that never happened, so let's start this year off right. I am going to start on my annual January decluttering and refresh as much as I can about our house.

Remember how excited I was about covering the Christmas tree in tinsel? I wanted that retro, good old days, comfort feeling. The carefree days of a child in the 60s with a truly sparkling tree. What was I thinking? I will be finding tinsel on my clothes for years. Every time I walk by the tree, the static electricity draws out the tinsel stands like spider legs, no, more like cobwebs. I am the fly caught in a shiny, silver web. When I go to the store, I wonder why people are staring at my clothes, they must think I wear ugly Christmas sweaters every day.

Mindy walks around with tinsel on her ears and across her snout because she loves to lay with her head just at the edge of the tree. It doesn't seem to bother her, but then she also loves the red and green fabric Christmas collar my brother and sister in law sent her. All I have to do is pick it up and Mindy comes running over to put her head through it. I think she likes the miniature bells sewn on it as well.

A few times I have watched Mindy starring at the Christmas tree as if she is in a trance. I started to wonder if the TV lights bouncing off the tinsel were hypnotizing her. That

was when I should have been saying, "Mindy, you will bring me my slippers" when I typed slippers just now, it came out shooters, yeah, that will work too. Sometimes autocorrect brings out your subconscious thoughts. It seems like our other dog, Tidbit, also would sit mesmerized by the tree for long periods of time. My friend Jenny's cats always curl up right under her Christmas tree as soon as it is put up. It must be a comforting place for animals.

I think I am doing things backward, each time I get up from this chair I walk by the tree and take ornaments off, the better thing to do would be to start with taking the tinsel off first instead of having to untangle the tinsel from the ornaments. I'm not known for doing things in the proper order, so I will just bumble along in my own way. It will all get done one way or the other. One thing I do wish I had remembered to do was to buy one of those upright tree covers that are out now. The last time I bought a tree bag it said it would take an 8 foot tree – it barely covered 4 feet, and we have a wide tree. I suppose I could still order the upright cover even after it is put in the shed. Then I could put some nice cedar planks inside with the tree so it will smell nice for next year and not like the cat wee smell like this year.

As soon as I finish writing this column, I am going into the fray. It may take two hours, but I am going to carefully take every bough edge cluster of that precious and pretty tinsel, and lovingly save it for next... what! Heck with that, I am going to throw it carefully and lovingly in the recycle box. Happy Epiphany (yes I had my epiphany, no more tinsel) everyone!

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

TIPS TO AVOID PROBATE

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

When you die, if you are holding property in your sole name, the only way that property can get to your loved ones is through the probate process. The only way to avoid probate is to create a Revocable Living Trust. By placing your assets into the name of your trust, when you die you will not have assets held in sole name and therefore, no probate.

Many people want to avoid putting their beneficiaries through the probate process. They don't like the fact that the filings in probate are publicly available or that it takes 8-12 months to close a probate. Or, that legal fees in a probate proceeding can be expensive. Additionally, they don't want their loved ones to have to sort through their assets in order to make the probate filings. They seek to make it simple. But, they don't want to spend the money to create a Revocable Living Trust.

What can be done? It is possible to minimize the number of assets that have to go through the probate process.

Since probate applies only to property held in your sole name when you die, you can transfer title of the property to someone else during your lifetime. Or, if you want to continue to maintain some control your property, you can transfer title to yourself and someone else. If you re-title the asset with someone else so that each of you are holding the asset jointly with "right of survivorship", then when one of you dies, the other will inherit ownership of all the asset and there will be no probate.

Keep in mind that if your property is the subject of a mortgage, the mortgage company may restrict your rights to transfer your ownership.

Most commonly, a husband and wife will hold an asset like their primary residence in joint name with right of survivorship (also termed "tenants by the entirety"). This means that when one spouse dies, the other takes ownership of the entire property and there is no probate of the asset since it was held in joint name. Of course, when the survivor dies, there is probate of the asset.

Suppose you own a house and your spouse is deceased, meaning you own 100% of the property in your sole name. You have one child and want to add that child to your title to the property. Can you add another person, like a child, to your title to the property? Yes, that can be done with a deed. But, there are consequences you must think about

before you re-title any property.

The first issue is a tax issue. When you buy a house, your cost is your tax "basis" in the house. Suppose you buy a house with your husband forty years ago for a price of \$20,000 and the house is paid off. Today that house is worth \$200,000. If your husband is deceased and you own the house and add a child to your title, that child receives the property at your tax basis or \$20,000. When you die, if the child wants to sell the property, the child is going to have to pay capital gains tax on \$180,000, being the difference between your tax basis of \$20,000 and the market value of the property, \$200,000.

That tax can be avoided by passing the property to your child through your Will or Trust. A Will or Trust provides a "step up" in basis so the child or beneficiary takes the property at the market value. If the child then decides to sell the property, there is no tax since the child inherits the property at a value of \$200,000 and sells it for the same amount.

The other issue to be faced with putting a child on your title is whether the child has or will have creditors. Once you place property in the name of the child, their creditors become your creditors.

Another option to avoid probate is to use what is called "payable on death" forms at your bank. Every bank will have a "payable on death" form you can fill out indicating who will take the money in your accounts when you die. By filling out this form and designating a beneficiary to take your accounts, the accounts are not held in sole name and there is no probate on those accounts when you die. For investment accounts, you can designate beneficiaries to take the accounts when you die and avoid probate. These forms are called the "Transfer on Death" forms.

The best approach to probate is to focus on organizing your assets now so that your loved ones will not have to search through years of paperwork to try to find out what you own, where your accounts are, what insurance policies you have, etc. Believe me, your loved ones will love you even more if you leave them with very little to do in a probate proceeding.

Join me for a free seminar on the third Wednesday of each month at 11am at 8906 Bay Avenue in North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.



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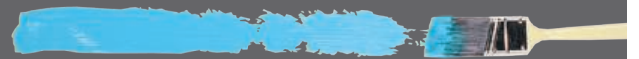
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GAMES & PUZZLES

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CLUES ACROSS

- Partner to "ooed"
- Relaxing places
- Humorous monologue
- Simple elegance
- Bearable
- Disobedience
- Express delight
- Gov't attorneys
- Wake up
- A type of band
- Remain as is
- Turfs
- Battle-ax
- Volcanic crater
- The mother of Jesus
- One's life history
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Doubles
- Jacob ___, American journalist
- House pet
- S. African river
- Broad sashes
- Establish as a foundation
- KGB double agent Aldrich __
- Part of a book
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Train group (abbr.)

- Frames per second
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal from a federation
- Guitarist sounds
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.
- Helps escape

CLUES DOWN

- Currency exchange charge
- River in Tuscany
- Breakfast dish
- Defunct European currency
- Upper class young woman
- Part of a purse
- Self-contained units
- Boxing's GOAT
- Legislators
- Flightless birds
- U. of Miami's mascot is one
- Floating ice
- Low, marshy land
- Seldom
- Lyric poems
- Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- Full extent of something
- ___ Claus
- Naturally occurring solid material

- Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
- Thirteen
- Partner to cheese
- Member of a Semitic people
- One thousandth of an inch
- Former CIA
- Most lemony
- Engage in
- Small Eurasian deer
- Provisions
- All humans have them
- Swiss river
- Storage term (abbr.)
- Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
- Dutch colonist
- Full-grown pike fish
- Egyptian sun god
- Flute
- Flew off!
- Scottish tax
- Young women's association
- Populous Brazilian city
- Malaysian Isthmus
- Pointed end of a pen

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LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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