

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

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Young Life Lost

Police Shooting Under Investigation

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COVER 15
A Leonardtown teen is dead after an alleged altercation with a Maryland State Trooper.



LOCAL 7
Commissioner election bill fails.



COMMUNITY 11
PAX Advisory Board to virtual meeting.

“THIS IS GOING TO HELP US DROP THE SURGE OF INFECTIONS WE’RE SEEING LOCALLY.”

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER MEENA BREWSTER ON 9,000 DONATED COVID-19 VACCINES FROM SAFEWAY PHARMACIES.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 4/15 68° 45°F AM Showers	Fri 4/16 62° 45°F Partly Cloudy	Sat 4/17 64° 50°F Mostly Cloudy	Sun 4/18 66° 49°F Mostly Cloud
Mon 4/19 68° 52°F Partly Cloudy	Tue 4/20 69° 52°F Partly Cloudy	Wed 4/21 68° 49°F Partly Cloudy	Thu 4/22 66° 47°F Mostly Sunny

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COVID-19

Positive Cases

Deaths

As of April 14

St. Mary's

6696

123

Information provided by St. Mary's Health Department

State Police: Leonardtown Teen Dead After Confronting State Trooper



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A state trooper shot dead a 16-year-old male April 13 after responding to a call in the 23000 block of Hollywood Road, reporting a suspect who appeared to be armed with a gun, Maryland State Police Superintendent Woodrow W. Jones III said the same day at a press conference at the Leonardtown Barrack.

The deceased has been identified as Peyton Ham, who lived in the neighborhood but confronted and was shot by the trooper, at the home of a family member.

Jones said the trooper is nearly a three-year veteran of the agency.

The shooting occurred at about 1:30p.m. in close proximity to the Leonardtown Barrack.

Jones said the investigation is ongoing but that the trooper arrived on the scene after two anonymous calls reporting “a guy who was acting suspicious who [may have had] a gun.”

The trooper confronted the suspect, later identified as Ham, who possessed what appeared to be a gun and a knife, Jones said.

A witness reported seeing the suspect in a “shooting stance” pointing the gun at the trooper, Jones said.

“The trooper fired at the male and wounded him,” Jones told reporters.

A second witness, Jones said, reported seeing Ham pull out a knife

after being shot and attempt to get back up.

“The trooper ordered him to drop the knife before he fired again,” Jones said.

The trooper called for law enforcement back up to tend to the suspect while waiting for emergency medical personnel to arrive, said Jones.

By the time Ham was transported to Med Star St. Mary’s Hospital, he was pronounced deceased, Jones said.

The gun Ham had was in fact an airsoft replica that closely resembled a real handgun, the state superintendent said, though the knife was found to be real.

The trooper was not injured and has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of a state police investigation into the events surrounding Ham’s death.

There are dual criminal and administrative inquiries, Jones said, and both are standard procedure when a trooper is involved in a shooting.

Jones said the shooting was a tragedy with many questions left to be answered.

“Any loss of life is a tragedy, this especially is a tragedy,” Jones said, noting the deceased’s family’s loss. “I can’t even comprehend how sad this has got to be.”

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Questions Raised Over Police Shooting of Leonardtown Teen



Peyton Ham

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sources close to the family of a 16-year-old Leonardtown male shot and killed in an alleged altercation with a Maryland State trooper are questioning why Peyton Ham was slain.

According to family sources speaking on condition of anonymity Ham was shot on family property where a relative of his lived and that he was engaged in target practice with his airsoft pistol near the home, which was a regular occurrence.

There were no other people near Ham as he was target shooting, the source said, and there was no crime being committed.

A search of on-line court records reveal that Ham had no record with police in St. Mary’s.

Ham normally engaged in target practice with the replica handgun in the rear of the property, but his target had been moved to the side of the house while a pool was being installed at the back of the property, the source said.

State police have said that the investigation into Ham’s death and the trooper’s actions that day is ongoing and that they are not sure how many rounds the officer discharged from his service weapon.

The family source said that Ham was shot as many as five times and that there were many other rounds fired which struck nearby buildings.

The source continued to say that Ham’s family was kept waiting in their car as they arrived on the property where their son had been shot, in the 23000 block of Hollywood Road, for about three hours without being told what had transpired.

They family was initially not allowed into MedStar St. Mary’s Hospital, the source claimed, after Ham was admit-

ted and pronounced dead.

A statement from the family said Ham was an honor student at Leonardtown High School and a member of the Global International Studies program.

“Peyton is an avid history enthusiast, studying many genres to include European history, ancient monarchies, World Wars 1 and 2 and the rise and fall of the former U.S.S.R.,” the statement reads. “Peyton could best be described as an ‘Alex P. Keaton’ type of personality, his love of conservative politics always taking center stage to his lively debates at the family dinner table.”

He also enjoyed cooking, baseball and was an enthusiastic member of his school’s mock trial team, the statement read.

He dreamed of attending college and getting a pre-law degree and eventually becoming either a delegate or senator to represent his state, according to the statement.

“Our family is absolutely heart broken and shattered over this sudden, unexpected loss of life of a talented young man, filled with promise,” the family stated.

Greg Shipley, spokesperson for Maryland State Police, said he could not comment on any of the claims made by the family source.

“That’s all part of the ongoing investigation,” Shipley said, adding that “it was much too early in the investigation” to comment on whether the trooper acted properly.

Shipley said he did not know whether the trooper, whose name has still not been released, used any de-escalation techniques when he engaged with Ham.

“They are trained in de-escalation techniques...based on the circumstances of the situation,” said Shipley

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County In New COVID-19 Surge

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county continues to battle a small surge in COVID-19 cases, but the county's health officer, Dr. Meena Brewster, said the number of new cases in residents over the age of 65 is remaining low.

More than 80 percent of that age group locally have already been vaccinated and about one-third of the entire county population has received at least one dose.

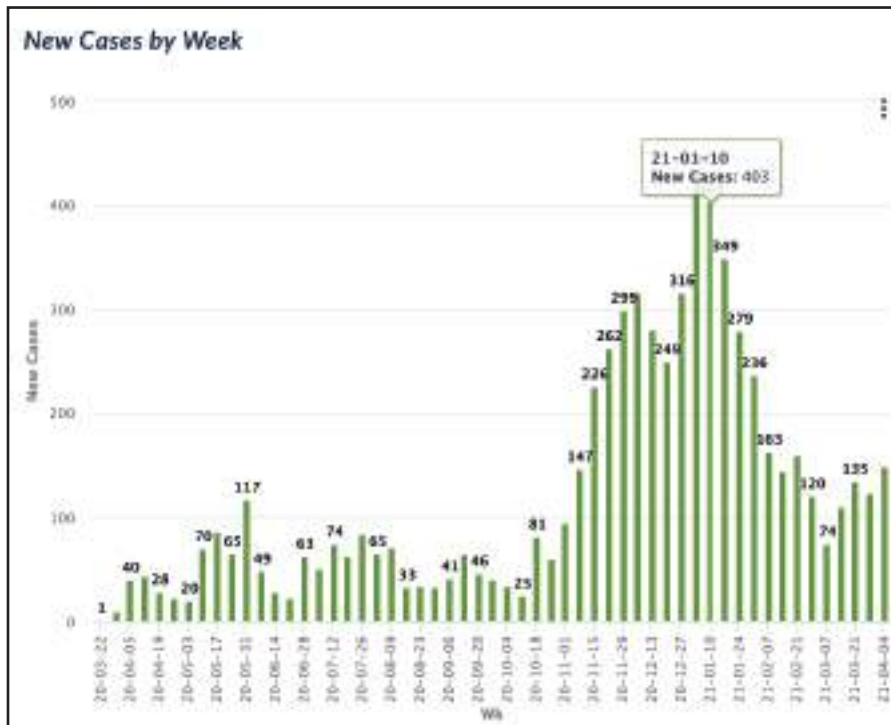
About 26,000 residents have received the full course of their vaccine.

She called this a good sign in the battle against the virus, especially since the county has hit a significant goal in vaccinating the public.

There has been a total of 6,651 cases of COVID-19 recorded in the county and the latest surge is being fueled more by cases among the younger population rather than senior citizens.

"Over the past handful of weeks, we have seen a trend upward in the new case rate as well as the new case numbers," Brewster told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County sitting as the Board of Health at their April 13 meeting.

The latest new case rate was 19 per



100,000, she said. "This is consistent with a new surge," said Brewster. "This may be fueled in part by variant viruses of concern."

One of the most common variants of the virus, known as the U.K. (United Kingdom) variant, has been

identified here in St. Mary's; these variants have proven to be more infectious than the initial version of COVID-19 and have proven to have more deleterious effects, particularly in younger residents, Brewster said.

There has been a total of 123 St.

Mary's County residents who have died from the virus, according to the latest health department figures.

Brewster also talked about the suspension of use of the relatively new, one-dosage Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Blood clots have occurred in a tiny minority of people who have received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration made their decision early Tuesday morning.

"As... millions of people get these vaccines they are closely monitored to see if there is cause to pause the rollout, whether or not there are any adverse effects," Brewster said. "There were six people out of 7 million who have received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine... developed a blood clotting issues."

The recipients were women aged 18 to their late 40s, Brewster said, and developed the problem within two weeks of being inoculated.

The natural occurrence rate for this kind of clotting problem is five per 1 million, Brewster said.

No such problems have been seen locally with either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

The forgotten tragedy on the Potomac...

BLACK DIAMOND DISASTER

April 24 and 25
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days; ceremony Sunday, 2 p.m.

Hosted by the St. Mary's County Museum Division and The Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piny Point Museums.

COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND

An American Civil War Event

On April 23, 1865, the Black Diamond was hit by a steamer near St. Clement's Island during the hunt for John Wilkes Booth. Learn more about this tragic event at a commemorative weekend and wreath-laying ceremony at St. Clement's Island Museum.

Weekend Happenings and Activities

Saturday and Sunday, April 24 & 25 - 10AM to 5PM

- Free water taxi rides to St. Clement's Island
- Free admission to the St. Clement's Island Museum

Sunday, April 25 at 2PM

- FREE Commemorative ceremony with remarks by the Naval Air Station Patuxent River Base Commander.

~ A reception follows the Ceremony at 3PM ~

Saturday; April 24 at 4PM

- FREE period-themed concert by the Federal City Brass Band
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For more info, visit the event listing at www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum or call 301-769-2222.

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Bill To Change Commissioner Voting Failed This Session



Delegate Brian Crosby

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A bill that would have changed the system of at-large voting for county commissioners in several counties, including Calvert and St. Mary's counties, did not make it out of the Health, Education and Environmental Affairs committee of the Senate and, therefore, did not make it to the floor of the legislature for a vote.

The bill's sponsor, Del. Brian Crosby (D-Dist. 29B) of St. Mary's County, told The County Times he had yet to determine whether he would reintroduce the bill in the next Maryland General Assembly.

If the bill had passed, it would have required incumbent county commissioners or candidates for office who are currently elected at large in counties around Maryland but reside in districts to only receive votes from that district.

In St. Mary's all five county commissioners represent one of four districts in which they reside but are elected by popular vote through all the county.

The commissioner president is elected at-large.

Crosby said he was disappointed that the bill did not make it to the floor of the legislature.

"The bottom line is the Senate President [Bill Ferguson] didn't want to move it," said Crosby. "He did not want a debate on the floor."

The bill enjoyed a rapid rise in the legislature, passing quickly through committees in the House of Delegates and getting a majority vote there before being trans-

ferred to the Senate.

There was no companion bill filed to HB 655 there.

Crosby criticized the decision to not allow a floor vote.

"To tell everyone, who signed up to testify, to write letters of support, that you don't want to make time for it, that's unacceptable," said Crosby. "We had the votes; in a democracy the majority does not get to silence the minority."

The bill proved controversial; Crosby and supporters of the bill argued that at-large voting systems had their roots in the Jim Crow area and were used to repress the votes of minorities, especially black voters.

The current system, Crosby argued was unfair and acted to dilute the voting power of communities with specific interests that had long been either ignored or not adequately addressed.

Those who opposed the bill, which included all members of the St. Mary's commissioner board, four out of five commissioners in Calvert, and several other commissioners on the Eastern Shore who would have been affected, said the bill would have unnecessarily divided counties like St. Mary's by forcing voters to select candidates who were beholden only to one district's interests.

By keeping the at-large system, they argued, county commissioners were made to consider the interests of the entire county, rather than the interests of one portion of it.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

ST. MARY'S COUNTY NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2021, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 2.3%, from \$12,836,332,294 to \$13,127,728,149.

2. If St. Mary's County maintains the current tax rate of \$.8478 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 2.3% resulting in \$2,470,454 of new real property tax revenues.

3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.829, the constant yield tax rate.

4. The County is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.8478 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 2.3% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$2,470,454 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 27, 2021 at the CSMC Meeting Room, Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions or wanting additional information regarding this hearing may call (301) 475-4200 extension *1203, refer to the Public Hearing Notice at www.stmarysm.com, and/or visit St. Mary's County Finance Office, Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Written comments may be submitted on or before May 4, 2021 to: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650, or to csmc@stmarysm.com.

County Proposes Renaming Road After Somerville

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville, Sr. the county's and the state's first black sheriff, passed away this month but local elected officials are considering steps to publicly memorialize his legacy of service and being loved by the community.

Commissioner John O'Connor, speaking at the April 13 Commissioners of St. Mary's County meeting, said residents were welcome to come forward and propose a county road to be renamed in Somerville's honor.

O'Connor proposed renaming FDR Boulevard, which is currently undergoing the slow, laborious process of being connected piece by piece, for the renaming.

"I do agree with some of the sentiments of the community," O'Connor said. "I'm hoping that what we can do is recognize his service and legacy in another form."

"This community loves its law enforcement."

O'Connor said FDR Boulevard epitomized things that are "not getting completed and taking forever."

"So hopefully we can give it a face lift with a new name."

Somerville was a lieutenant in



the sheriff's office in 1977 when he was appointed by then Gov. Marvin Mandel to serve out the term of then Sheriff George Sanger, who died in office.

He then ran for the office and handily won the local election to serve another four years.

Throughout the county, Somerville, the patriarch of a large, extended family in St. Mary's, was known as a gentleman and well-liked by almost everyone who knew him. After serving as sheriff he went on to work as a bailiff in the St. Marys' County Circuit Court.

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Public, Private Effort Bringing 9,000 Vaccines to St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A special vaccine clinic for St. Mary's County public school students over the age of 16 will take place starting Apr. 16 and running through the weekend, County Health Officer Dr. Meena Brewster announced Monday in a joint press conference with Del. Brian Crosby and School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith.

Smith said there are thousands of students in the public schools who are above the age of 16.

"Every one of them will be able to get a vaccine in a compressed time frame," Smith said. "With this partnership, over 3,500 St. Mary's County Public School high school students will be able to be vaccinated. This moves us ever closer to getting back to normal - something our students desperately need."

Brewster said by the middle of next week a portion of those vaccines will be made available to students enrolled at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

The special clinic will take place at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment in Hollywood.

Crosby explained that the vaccines were part of a public-private partnership with Safeway grocery stores to donate the doses to St. Mary's County.

"These 9,000 vaccines will save St. Mary's County lives," Crosby said.

COVID-19 cases have been increasing in St. Mary's in recent weeks; the increased supply from the donated vaccines was welcome.

"This is going to help us drop the surge of infections we're seeing locally," Brewster said.

Starting Apr. 21, the vaccines will be offered to St. Mary's College of Maryland students but also to non-public school appointments.

Students in public and private schools who want a vaccine must first have an appointment and parental consent.

Appointments for a donated vaccine dosage are also required for a simultaneous vaccine clinic to be held at Great Mills High School Apr. 17 and 18; this clinic is open for anyone 18-years-old and above.

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NAS PAX Holds Virtual Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

Command Seeks Questions from Public Regarding Pax River's PFAS Site Inspection



Residents and other interested parties in the vicinity of NAS Patuxent River and Webster Outlying Field are invited to attend a virtual Restoration Advisory Board meeting for an update on the Navy's Site Inspection of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) April 28, 2021 from 6-7 p.m. on Microsoft Teams. The Navy has developed a protective policy to assess certain PFAS on and in the vicinity of installations which have known or potential releases of these compounds into the environment; these are compounds frequently found in fire-fighting foam (aqueous film forming foam (AFFF)) and various industrial and consumer products.

The meeting format will include a brief on the Site Inspection results and a question and answer session with representatives from the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Maryland Department of Environment. The Navy is seeking questions from the public about PFAS and the Pax River and Webster Field Site Inspec-

tions prior to the meeting via email at pax_rab@navy.mil. Emailed questions will be accepted until Friday, April 16, and meeting participants will also have the opportunity to submit questions via Microsoft Teams during the meeting.

The public can join the live virtual meeting by clicking the hyperlink Microsoft Teams: Virtual RAB Meeting-PFAS Update or copy and pasting the following url into their browser: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NWZjM-TBmOGQtNmQwNC00NzEzLWJmNmItYmMwZDc1Mjc2OGZk%40thre%20ad.v2/0?context=%7b%22tid%22%3a%2237247798-f42c-42fd-8a37-d49c7128d36b%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22a2dea0c3-d10a-4c4f-93cd-980183f9d581%22%2c%22isBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a.

For additional information regarding the meeting, including the Site Inspecting brief, visit the public web site at <https://go.usa.gov/xnBga> and www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/pages/pfc-pfas.aspx

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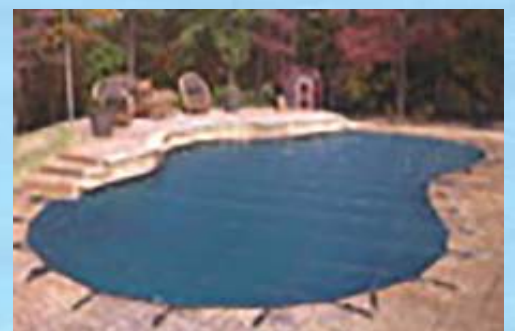


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Police Reform Wins, Divides Delegation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Maryland, the first state to enact a law enforcement officer's bill of rights (LEOBOR), has now abolished it as part of a package of police reforms hailed by some as a necessary step to curb police use of force and acts of brutality and decried by others as tying the hands of law enforcement and putting them at greater risk of injury on the job by hesitating to act in situations that require split-second decisions.

Those who supported the repeal of LEOBOR argued that the bill gave police more rights than the average citizen, especially when it came to being investigated in the use of force; those against repeal said LEOBOR protected the rights of police officers against overly aggressive investigation into their actions that could violate their due process rights.

Supporters of the new legislation say that though LEOBOR is no more, a different system has been put in its place that is more fair and independent.

Del. Brian Crosby (D-Dist. 29B) voted for the bill that eliminated LEOBOR, HB 670, but voted against the bill in the Senate that restricted such things as "no knock" warrants and did not allow police officers disciplinary records to be expunged, even if investigations against them found no wrongdoing.

"I voted two-thirds with the governor," Crosby said. "If there's an unsubstantiated claim an officer should not have to live with that on their record."

The newly passed package of laws, which was initially vetoed by Gov. Larry Hogan but suffered an override by the legislature, has many more stipulations to it.

It has new limits on when police can use force against the public, allows civilians to be involved in the disciplinary process of police officers and mandates an independent state commission to review and investigate fatalities caused by police.

Locally, this means the creation of new civilian police accountability boards in each county, according to the package, which will review accusations of wrongdoing against police.

Police chiefs and sheriffs will still issue punishments but will have to do so according to a new matrix for varying violations.

Officers can appeal these decisions to a trial board comprised of a citizen, a police officer and an active or retired judge.

"This is a process, an unbiased process," Crosby said of the new

mandates, noting not all agencies around the state operated as ethically as others. "Not every place has a Sheriff [Tim] Cameron."

Despite Crosby's votes against SB 178, the bill passed and became law as part of the veto override.

All police killings will be investigated by a newly-formed unit in the Maryland Attorney General's office but local state's attorney's offices will have the decision on clearing officers or charging them criminally.

The new law also calls for police disciplinary records to be open to public scrutiny, something never before allowed.

But now, even complaints that were found to be unsubstantiated against an officer, can be made public.

Records on active investigations can still be withheld and certain details redacted such as witness identities and personal details.

The original legislation did away with the practice of so-called "no knock" warrants but in the amended package such warrant services are permitted as long as they are approved by a judge, police supervisor and state's attorney and supported by evidence that less intrusive methods would not be effective.

The new law also restricts when a no-knock warrant can be served, which is between the hours of 8am and 7pm except in what the law calls "exigent circumstances."

Such "no-knock warrants" could only be allowed by a judge if it can be adequately shown that the items to be seized could be destroyed or hidden without that special authority or if the life and safety of the executing officers would be jeopardized if they announced themselves and their intentions.

Crosby said he believed "no-knock" warrants could be a legitimate tool for law enforcement.

The package prohibits police from receiving certain surplus military equipment for use in their enforcement actions, such as grenade launchers and firearms silencers.

Part of the legislative package requires that officers undergo mental health screenings every two years as well as continued physical agility tests to maintain fitness for duty; the use of marijuana prior to employment as a police officer is now no longer a disqualifying factor for certification.

The certification of an officer can be revoked or suspended if they have been found to violate the new, more stringent guidelines for policing, including the use of



force, which must show that the force used was proportional and necessary to accomplish a legitimate task.

Officers who have used force improperly would be filed in a statewide database maintained by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron, who broadly opposed much of what has been called police reform, said his agency and the county would have to start preparing to meet the mandates of the new law before it took effect in July of 2022.

"These are all unfunded mandates," Cameron said of the requirements of the package, specifically the civilian discipline boards charged with dealing with allegations of police misconduct.

He also believed such boards would have the opposite effect on police discipline than was intended.

"I think it's going to be more difficult to discipline or terminate an officer because civilian oversight panels are notoriously more lenient than police boards," Cameron said. "But we have to start working towards this now."

LEOBOR was a "tried and tested" method of disciplining officers, he said, and had never been an impediment to chiding or terminating an officer who violated regulations.

Cameron also took issue with the mandate that force only be used by officers if it was "necessary and proportionate," a requirement he said flew in the face of the Supreme Court's ruling which required the use of force to meet a standard that was "reasonable" under the circumstances.

The new requirement was vague, Cameron said, and did not take into account the reality of violent encounters police could face.

"This system is not better, it's different," Cameron said. "I don't see this as reform at all."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Votes For:

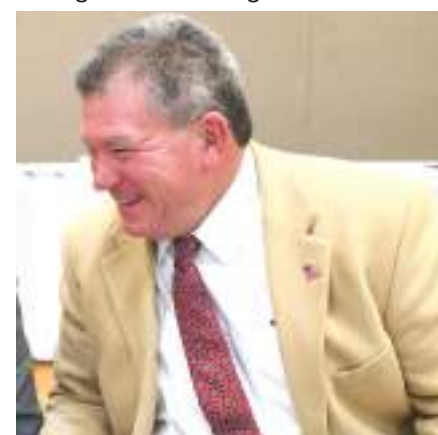


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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Leonardtwn Man Arrested for Sex Offense

In March of 2021, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office initiated an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse involving a minor that occurred in the late 1990s. The suspect was identified as **Allen Briscoe Weiland**, age 59 of Leonardtown. During the course of the investigation evidence was obtained supporting the allegations.



Allen Briscoe Weiland

The investigation was presented to the Grand Jury for St. Mary's County and an indictment issued for Weiland's arrest. On April 9, 2021, Weiland was arrested and charged with the following:

- Sex Offense Second Degree (two counts)
- Sex Offense Third Degree (two counts)

Anyone with information regarding Allen Weiland, or this case is asked to contact Detective Trevor Teague at (301) 475-4200 extension 78128 or by email at Trevor.Teague@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.

Identity Needed for Theft Suspect

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person shown in a theft investigation. On Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 5:05 pm, the suspect used the self-checkout register at the California Walmart and did not scan all the items that she put into plastic bags. The suspect then headed out of the store and passed all points of sale when she was stopped by loss prevention staff. The suspect fled the store and left the area in an older model blue SUV.




Theft Suspect

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy Michael Walker at 301-475-4200, ext. 78092 or email michael.walker@stmarysmd.com. Case # 19530-21

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.

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

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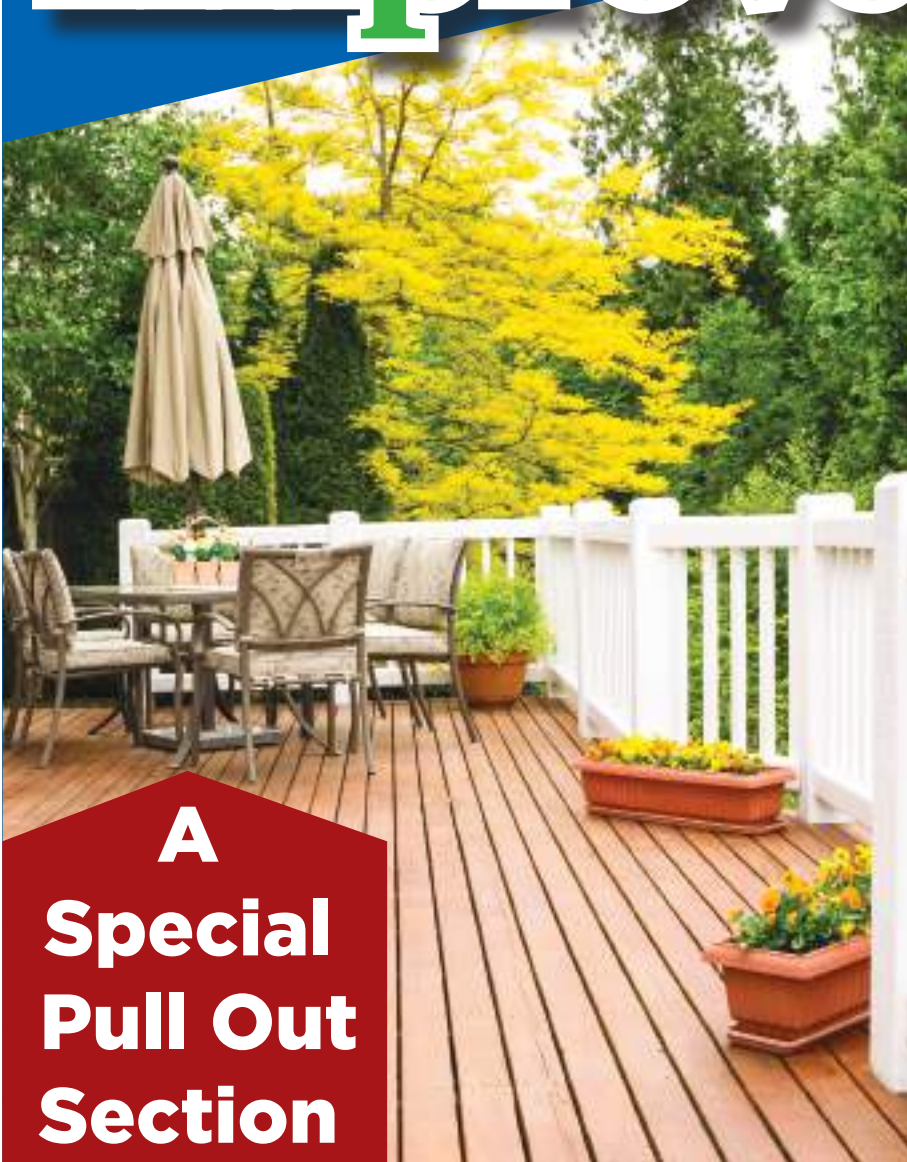
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Home Improvements In A Weekend

Home improvement projects ramp up when the weather warms up, as homeowners channel the rejuvenating feelings of spring and tackle their home to-do lists. Large-scale renovations can greatly affect a home, but smaller projects can yield impressive results and be completed over the course of a single weekend. If time is of the essence, these weekend or one-day projects may satisfy homeowners' desires to fix up their homes.

- **Create an accent wall.**

Painting a focal wall in a home can create a serious impact. The bonus is it will not take as long or require as many materials as painting an entire room. Accent walls frequently feature a bold color, so decide on placement and tackle this project in less than a day.

- **Install stair runners.**

Dress up hardwood stairs with decorative carpet runners. Runners come in elongated pieces of carpeting or individual pieces that can be placed on each step. If carpeting doesn't fit with the home's design, painting individual stair treads also can create visual

appeal.

- **Dress up the entryway.**

An entryway is a guest's first impression of a home. Many entryways can use a minor overhaul, both inside and outside. Paint the front door a different color so it pops from the curb. Install a new mailbox or decorative house numbers. A new welcome mat can change the look as well. Inside, consider laying a new floor. Resilient vinyl tiles come in many different patterns and can mimic the look of wood, travertine or marble. Installing a floor can take a day or two.

- **Install a new faucet.**

Instantly improve a kitchen or a bathroom with new fixtures. New faucets can provide aesthetic appeal and low-flow faucets can help conserve water.

- **Create a gallery on the staircase.**

Gather and arrange framed photos, artwork or wall accents so that they ascend the wall of a staircase. This creates a designer touch and can dress up an often barren area of wall space.

- **Install a fresh light fixture.**

Improve drab spaces with a little illumination. Better Homes & Gardens suggests replacing an existing fixture with something new and vibrant. If hanging a new fixture is not within one's skill set, free-standing table or floor lamps also can cast a new glow on a space.

- **Add molding.**

Molding can add instant aesthetic appeal to a room. Molding is appropriate near the floor, at the top of walls where they meet the ceiling, or even mid-wall as a chair rail. Some homeowners like to create framed molding on walls in formal living spaces.

- **Update kitchen or bathroom hardware.**

Replacing hardware is a fast and easy project, but one that can have immediate impact. Swap out tired or outdated hardware for newer brushed metals and more impactful shapes and designs. Home renovations do not need to take weeks or months. Many projects can be completed over the course of a weekend.



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Variables to Consider When Choosing a Media Room



The term “home theater” once made homeowners who love movies and sports dream of the day when they could dedicate a large area in their home to watching the big game or their favorite films. Such rooms are now widely referred to as “media rooms.” Though the terminology may have changed, media rooms are not all that different from home theaters. Before choosing an area of their home as their designated media room, homeowners must consider a host of variables to ensure they get as much out of the room as possible.

• Location and shape:

Of course the location of the room is of the utmost importance. Media rooms tend to be more social settings than traditional home theaters, which were often designed to be isolated from the rest of the home so noise and natural light did not adversely affect the film-watching experience. Homeowners may not want their media rooms to be in high traffic areas of their homes, but they needn't be completely secluded, either. The renovation experts at the DIY Network note that the shape of a room should be considered before designating it as the media room. In general, square rooms are not ideal, as such rooms can produce harmonic distortions. A rectangular room likely won't produce such distortions, especially when homeowners place their screens and primary speakers on short walls. It's important that homeowners do not downplay the importance of sound, as media rooms, unlike traditional home theaters, may be used for listening to music just as much as they are for watching films or sports. View-

ers may not recognize distortions when watching something, but homeowners may notice these abnormalities when listening to music.

• Windows:

Media rooms are multi-purpose rooms, so homeowners don't need to remove rooms with windows from consideration. But the experts at the DIY Network note that windows are hard surfaces that can reflect sound and distort audio, and the light that gets in through windows can produce reflections on the viewing surface. Each of those factors can adversely affect your listening and viewing experience. A room with windows can still make for a good media room, but you may want to invest in some blackout curtains to mitigate some of the disadvantages of having windows in the room.

• Wall colors:

The colors of the walls in the room is another variable homeowners will have to consider. Homeowners won't want to host guests for the big game in rooms with darkened walls, as that can create a dreary atmosphere and potentially make people tired. But especially bright colors will reflect light and adversely affect the viewing experience. Neutral colors should not affect the colors on the screen, making them the ideal color choice for media room walls. Media rooms are high on many homeowners' renovation lists. Considering a host of variables prior to designating an area for a media room can ensure the finished product is as enjoyable as possible.

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Items to Improve Outdoor Living Spaces

The popularity of outdoor living spaces has been growing for years. A 2014 study from the home remodeling and design platform Houzz found that 56 percent of homeowners were making updates to improve their yards for entertaining. Similarly, nearly 60 percent of architectural practices surveyed by the American Institute of Architects in 2016 said outdoor living spaces were popular features in the homes they built. Outdoor living spaces may also be sound investments for homeowners looking to improve the resale value of their properties. According to Remodeling magazine's 2017 "Cost vs. Value" report, outdoor living spaces returned between 55 and 71 percent of homeowners' initial investments at resale.

When planning an outdoor living space, homeowners with ample backyards have much to work with. However, to make the most of the space while simultaneously hoping to get as strong a return on their investments as possible, homeowners should look to create spaces that offer broad appeal and are not too personalized. The following are some popular outdoor living space features homeowners may want to consider.

Outdoor kitchens

Outdoor kitchens allow homeowners to prepare more than just traditional backyard barbecue fare. A standalone charcoal grill in the backyard might get the job done, but a built-in gas grill complete with burners and surrounding granite countertop makes for a more functional outdoor



entertaining space.

Bars

Indoor entertaining areas often include bars, so it makes sense that homeowners want to include a place to prepare and serve beverages to their guests. Homeowners with room in their budgets may want to install wet bars where they can rinse mixers, glasses and other items needed to prepare drinks for their guests.

Warming features

Features that can keep homeowners and their guests warm after the sun sets include outdoor fireplaces and firepits. A 2016 survey conducted by the American Society of Landscape Architects found that fireplaces and firepits were the most popular outdoor design element in 2016. Such features can provide a focal point in the backyard while also extending the outdoor living season into autumn and even early winter.

Porch space

Outdoor living spaces are often found in

the backyard, but homeowners with bigger front yards than backyards may want to expand or open their porch spaces to create more space outside. Porch swings and rocking chairs provide a great place to relax, and porch spaces are covered, meaning homeowners can continue to enjoy time outside even when it begins to rain. Outdoor living spaces are growing in popularity. Homeowners who want to capitalize on this trend can do so in various ways.

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Add Value to Your Home with These Renovations

Homeowners choose renovation projects for a variety of reasons. Although many improvements are made to increase functionality and comfort of a home, several others are seen as worthwhile investments. These investments can add up to a higher resale value when the time comes to sell a home.

Certain projects have a history of providing a greater return on homeowners' investments than others. The following renovation tips can add beauty to your home and generate great returns when you put the home up for sale.

- **Invest in your kitchen.**

Kitchen remodels are a safe bet when it comes to putting money into improving a home. Residents tend to spend a great deal of time in the kitchen, but a dated, poorly functioning kitchen can detract from the value of a home, even if the rest of the home is in good shape. It's possible to recoup between 60 and 120 percent of your kitchen remodel investment, especially if the kitchen matches up well with the rest of your home. Homeowners should know that a deluxe renovation may not be necessary, as relatively moderate improvements can create a whole new look for a kitchen.

- **Look to paint.**

One of the least expensive improvement materials, but one that has a significant

impact, is paint. Neutral, modern colors can easily liven up any space. If you paint with low-VOC paint, you also can advertise an eco-friendly home, which is very desirable these days.

- **Put in another bathroom.**

Multiple bathrooms are an attractive selling point, particularly in older homes that may not have been equipped with more than one bathroom. Finding extra space for a bathroom can be tricky, but consider closets, areas under stairs or even taking some space away from another room. Popular home-improvement television channel HGTV advises that half-bathrooms require at least 18 square feet of space, while full baths need 30 to 35 square feet for a stand-up shower or bathtub.

- **Renovate the HVAC system.**

Aesthetic improvements aren't the only ones that add value to a home. Many home buyers are eager to purchase a home that has a new heating and cooling system, as buyers understand that furnaces and air conditioning units are substantial investments that can last for years. Other improvements, such as adding attic insulation or replacing older windows and doors with more energy efficient options, also are smart bets.



- **Add illumination to rooms.**

A dark home is a dreary home. Adding light can mean including more overhead and accent lighting. Under-cabinet task lighting is a nice touch. Inclusion of skylights and sun tubes can bring natural light into rooms that may not have south- or west-facing windows.

- **Put a deck addition outdoors.**

Outdoor living spaces have become more desirable, especially as the "staycation" has grown in popularity. Decks and patios can make backyards more appealing. The scope of your investment will depend on the size of the deck and design. Doing the work yourself can cut the cost of decks in half, but only if you have the specific tools

or experience to tackle such a project.

- **Improve curb appeal.**

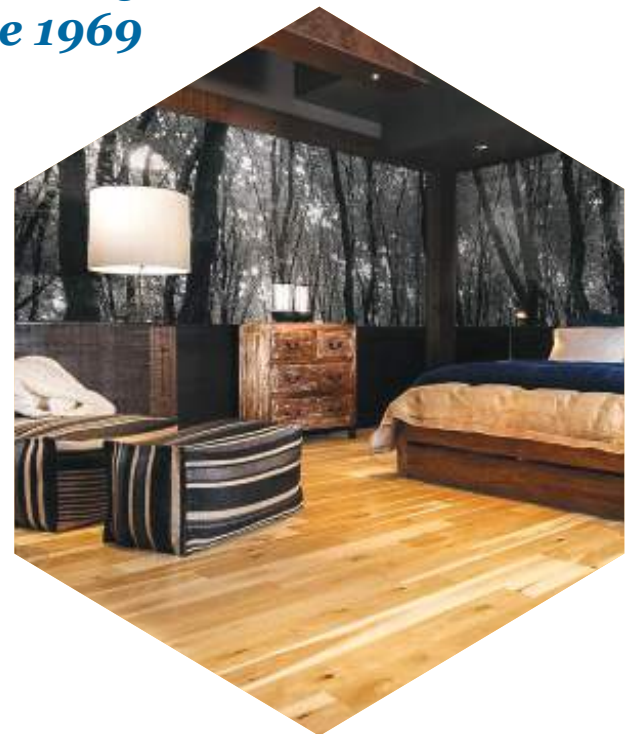
Adding attractive landscaping and freshening up the entryway to a home can add considerable value to your home, as buyers judge homes by their exteriors. Completely renovated interiors may never be seen if buyers pass up your home because of a less attractive exterior. Classy, subtle changes, like well-placed shrubbery and a green lawn, can work wonders. An inviting front door and well-lit entryway also add curb appeal to a home. Before making improvements, homeowners should determine if a given project will provide a solid return on their investment.

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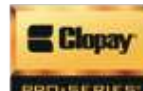
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example, aerating soil helps to improve water flow to plants' roots and reduces water runoff, helping to ensure that plants get all of the water they need while reducing the likelihood that homeowners will have to use excessive amounts of water to keep plants healthy. In addition, using low-water-using types of grass can help homeowners who live in areas prone to drought conserve water while still maintaining lush, green lawns.



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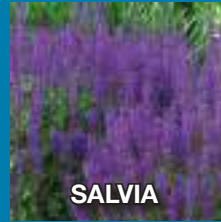


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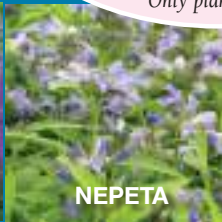


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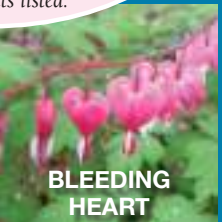
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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Change of Command at VX 1

By Lt. Brad Nelson
VX-1 Pioneers Public Affairs Officer

Capt. William Selk relieved Capt. Hugh Winkel as Commander, Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1 during an airborne change of command ceremony held at NAS Patuxent River March 18. The ceremony took place with a limited number of guests in attendance to ensure COVID-19 mitigation precautions, but the entire squadron as well as family and friends were able to watch a recording of the ceremony on social media.

Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force, Rear Adm. Stephen Tedford, addressed participants, guests and those watching virtually at the change

of command ceremony and expressed his gratitude for Winkel's accomplishments.

Winkel led a team of more than 450 officers, Sailors, civilians and contractors during his tour at VX-1 from August 2019 to March 2021. During his time as Skipper of VX-1, the squadron achieved many milestones in the Operational Test and Development of numerous manned and unmanned fixed and rotary wing aircraft. After attending foreign language school, Winkel will be heading to Thailand to serve as a naval attaché.

"Given all the adversity this past year, it would be understandable to accept a lower standard, but you did not do that; VX-1 was

more mission oriented and efficient than compared to one year ago, stronger," remarked Winkel, in reference to the challenges of running VX-1 safely during the COVID-19 outbreak. "Pioneers, you made us stronger."

Selk, taking over for Winkel, previously served at VX-1 as the Chief Operational Test Director. He will be replaced by Capt. Geoff McAlwee.

"Skipper Winkel, I take over the squadron today well prepared because of your leadership and trust. The Command climate and culture are the best they have ever been and I am honored to follow in your footsteps" said Selk during his remarks. "I'd also like to welcome our new Chief Operational Test

Director back to Pax River. We're excited to have you join the Pioneer family and I look forward to working with you again."

The principal mission of VX-1 is to test and evaluate airborne anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and maritime anti-surface warfare (SUW) weapon systems, airborne strategic weapon systems, as well as support systems, equipment and materials in an operational environment. The squadron also develops, reviews, and disseminates new ASW-SUW tactics and procedures for fleet use, serving as the model manager for all such tactical publications.



Incoming Commander, Naval Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1, Capt. William Selk, addresses those in attendance and those watching via social media during a VX-1 change of command ceremony held at NAS Patuxent River March 18.

A View From The BLEACHERS



Answers and Questions

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Former “Tonight Show” host Jay Leno used to do a segment called “Jaywalking” where he would stroll the streets and quiz folks on topics such as history, geography and politics. It was hilarious and alarming for the same reason – the unsuspecting souls would often struggle to answer basic questions such as “Who was the first president?”, “What countries border the United States?” or “How many stars are on the American flag?”

Instead of lobbing softballs for seemingly easy trivia homeruns, Leno came off like a ruthless high school calculus teacher humored and horrified by a new crop of bemused students. “Jaywalking” came to mind many times in the wake of the 2016 presidential election and subsequent swell of anti-immigrant vitriol. The suggestion is that if passing a basic civics test was required before Americans could qualify to criticize immigrants or the nation’s increasing diversity, much of the xenophobia would have been silenced before it started.

Ah, but that is another piece for another time. For the here and now, two NFL quarterbacks, David Epstein and jacks of many trades brought Leno to mind. The writer goes first, of course.

Epstein opened his 2019 book “Range” by contrasting Tiger Woods and Roger Federer. The former was trained, from the moment he could hold a club, to be what he ultimately became - an elite golfer. Conversely, the latter, despite growing up in a tennis household, played many sports and wasn’t encouraged to play tennis specifically. Federer did, though, and it turned out okay: his 20 Grand Slam singles championships are tied with Rafael Nadal for the most in the history of men’s tennis.

Epstein’s book discusses our fascination with specificity, questions to what extent exclusive training works (diminishing returns) and postulates that it isn’t specialists, but those with range - broad acumen across numerous skillsets - who will excel in a fluid world of accelerating technological advances and expanding job descriptions.

I think Epstein’s theory - that jacks-of-many will be better positioned than masters-of-one - is right for most professions, but I question

if his suggestion - to try different things, challenge your comfort zone, develop an array of skills... expand your range - will gain believers. Specialists, superheroes in their narrow realm, catch the eye. The most attractive, the fastest, the smoothest, the most intelligent, the strongest or the most technically proficient - the exceptional - often garner admiration, regardless of the specialist’s lack of depth or glaring weaknesses.

The All-Pro, Super Bowl winning quarterbacks are up. The earlier reference was to Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. It’s probably unfair to bring Brady to this stage, but Rodgers started it, so here it goes. Rodgers, a complex dude with a serious interest in trivia (and, by definition, a broad interest in all things), is in the midst of a temporary gig hosting “Jeopardy!” He might even have designs on filling Alex Trebek’s giant shoes permanently. Brady, meanwhile, seems all about football and intends to play - to the chagrin of his opponents - forever. If both went “Jaywalking,” Rodgers would ace the quiz; Brady would too if the topics were narrowed to the NFL defensive schemes and how to maintain physical health and pliability into your forties.

That’s the unfair part. There’s undoubtedly more depth to Brady than football. Well, maybe. Point is that Rodgers’s curiosity and range makes Epstein’s point - an appreciation of generalists is too often overlooked in the valuation of personal and professional skills; however, Brady’s success is proof that singular focus is a means to generational, if narrow and exceedingly rare, achievement. Rodgers is similar to Federer; Brady reminds of Woods. The world needs both kinds - a warm thought for those with an identified specialty and others who nimbly and adeptly adapt to life’s curves.

To tie all of this together, I hope the “Jeopardy!” folks at some point have Rodgers read the answer, “This quarterback has won the most Super Bowls in NFL history.” The contestants, if they possess adequate trivia range, will answer, “Who is Tom Brady?” To which, the witty Rodgers would no doubt quip, “Correct...but let’s see Mr. Football host this show.”

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann

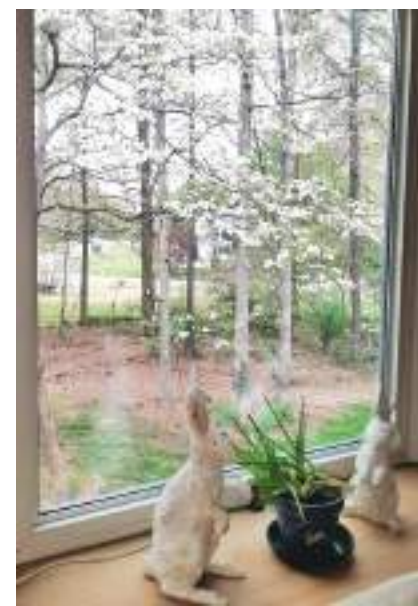


RAINY DAYS ARE FOR...

I hope everyone has been enjoying the mild spring weather. Rain is expected this afternoon that will make all the new grass happy that my husband has planted. A few of you may remember that he tries to grow grass every year in a large area near our front door but hasn’t had much success over the years. We used to think it didn’t grow because we had two huge old oaks on either end of the house that kept out all sunlight. Both trees were taken down in the last few years, though it hasn’t seemed to help his poor grass. He babies the grass with water, fertilizer, everything. I know my husband has bought every type of grass seed on the market from shade and hard to grow area types. Sometimes the grass will stay until about Halloween, and then suddenly turn bare in that area again. But my husband keeps trying.

I am anxious to get outside today so I can plant petunias in my planter on the front porch railing and scatter them in containers around the yard. Rain may delay these plans for another day. The stop sign at our corner needs some petunias at the base since the daffodils are about done. An old blue and white enamel pail I found will look beautiful with the pink flowers. Hopefully, the daylilies surrounding three sides of the stop sign won’t crowd out the pretty pink petunias. Lilies of the valley are starting to pop up too; I can’t wait to smell their sweet fragrance while I am out in my workshop. They do tend to take over gardens, even spilling into the pebbled driveway. My heavy blue latex gloves will be on, so as not to get any dirt in cuts - I learned my lesson really well about bacterial infections.

Next on the list is spraying insecticidal soap on my red maple trees which developed lots of white dots on the leaves last year and on my fast growing 60 foot line of daylilies curving around the copse of trees in the middle of the front yard. The line has filled in nicely over the years. All the daylilies were transplanted from around the backside of our pool, and never seem to diminish there. I never had trouble with creatures eating the daylily flowers until a couple years ago when it seemed as soon as the flowers would bloom something would come along in the



night and eat them up, leaving just the stems, so it was suggested that I try the Insecticidal soap spray. My husband said it might be rabbits eating the flowers, well it must be an entire warren full of rabbits to eat that many flowers. The next morning, I would expect to see the bunnies rolling around on the grass with fat bellies if that were the case. Maybe I need to get a trail cam and find out who the culprits are. Two years ago, I bought a case of Irish Spring soap, cut each bar up in small pieces to lay amidst the plants. That did seem to help, and it made the outside smell very... clean, I guess. I will probably get more of that too. Who knows, I may see a ton of belly-up bunnies blowing bubbles. Any other tips would be appreciated.

Today will probably be the best day for planting also because tomorrow (Thursday) we get our first vaccination shots at the Hollywood Fire House. The way my luck goes my arm could swell up and be immobile for a few days. I’m glad we are finally able to get the first shot done and keep moving forward. Well, I think it’s time for a cup of tea and to look lovingly on our beautiful white dogwoods out of the bay window. Yes, I missed my window of opportunity for planting the petunias, I hear the rain softly hitting the ground outside the office window. Darn, guess I timed that exactly right.

To each new day’s adventure, Shelby

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



Letters to the Editor

Where Were the Commissioners?

The following letter was sent to the St. Mary's County Commissioners and as a Letter to the Editor:

Dear Commissioners,

As a native of the county, retired educator, past president of the NAACP and the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) and a community volunteer serving on boards and commissions, I know this county - from its history to its current circumstances. And Commissioner representation at local events, funerals, anniversaries etc. are very important to many citizens and helps provide accountability to people in the district they represent in St. Mary's County.

I know that you value "local courtesy" and want to be respected. Sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville, the first African American deputy hired by the Sheriff's department, first elected Sheriff of the county, and 6th in the country passed away on April 1st, and a memorial service was held on April 10th. For that ceremony, Governor Hogan sent a representative with a resolution, Congressman Steny Hoyer attended, and so did Sheriff Tim Cameron, whose department was outstanding with their presentations and many tributes to Sheriff Somerville. Other county leaders, such as Judge Karen Abrams, were also present to honor Sheriff Somerville's life and legacy, but not our county commissioners. A resolution was sent and read by the service's mistress of ceremonies - and NOT ONE commissioner attended to pay his respects or to represent the Board. (Although, to his credit, Commissioner Todd Morgan, and perhaps others, attended the Friday night open viewing - and Sheriff Somerville did not live in Morgan's assigned district.)

Sheriff Somerville made local, state, and national history, and

deserved public, in person representation by all of our county commissioners to show fair representation for all. Perhaps there was a breakdown in communication or coordination. But courtesy and respect would have meant concerted effort to ensure that one commissioner represent the Board of County Commissioners for such a prominent citizen who was African American.

It was very disheartening for me personally, and for many others in the African American community and others present, that there was not a single commissioner there. Sheriff Somerville's family, the citizens of the commissioner district where he lived, and our county's citizens expected no less than "local courtesy" from our county leaders in showing respect for St. Mary's County's first and only "African American" elected sheriff - a community supporter who loved and served St. Mary's County.

As a member of the 1978 Historic Committee to Elect Joseph Lee Somerville Sheriff and a caring and concerned life-long citizen of this county, I was very disheartened at the absence of county commissioners or their official representative at his memorial service, funeral service or burial.

I am hopeful that someone is planning to personally contact Mrs. Delores Somerville, his wife of 59 years, to bring some comfort to her as she mourns the loss of her husband, a St. Mary's County treasure and historic figure who deserves a place of prominence in our county seat.

It's never too late to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janice T. Walthour

*Voter Registration Chairperson
for the 1978 Historic Committee
to Elect Joseph Lee Somerville*

Sheriff

Lexington Park, Maryland

Thanks to Everyone



To the Editor:

My two boys are home safe. I can't thank everyone enough for coming along side my family in our time of need. I say everyone because that was my perspective. I have never been involved in an event where so many people and agencies came together in such a short time to accomplish a common good.

As much as I would like to thank everyone by name that isn't even possible because of the magnitude of the event and number of people involved. From all the prayers of individuals some I know, most I don't, thank you. God's Word says, "the prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective."

Thanks to our neighbors and friends and volunteer search teams who walked the shorelines, the woods, the parks and the roads. Thanks to those who prepared and brought us and the volunteers food, water, ice, alcohol wipes and other supplies donated from Ridge Dollar General, Panera Bread, Papa Johns, Boomerangs, Mission BBQ, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Ridge VFD Auxiliary. Thanks to those who took their own commercial boats, personal boats, kayaks, and vehicles out to search for our boys.

Thank you to the drone teams and the K-9 teams for their efforts, and the news agencies on social media who got the word out so quickly.

Thank you to our church family who ministered to us continually throughout. This community and beyond came to our aid. Assets from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Ridge

Fire Department as well as other St. Mary's Second District and Seventh District Fire Departments, Naval District Washington Fire Department (St. Inigoes), St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, Calvert County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue, Charles County Dive Rescue, Smith's Point Rescue and the Virginia Marine Police, the Northumberland and Westmoreland County Sheriff's Department in Virginia, US Navy SAR team, US Coast Guard, US Navy Test Pilot School, Southern Maryland Paddlers kayak club and the Civil Air Patrol. All working together to find our boys. All the while both of them were completely unaware of what they had put into motion, but are now recognizing the gravity of the situation.

But, if all we take away from this is that we spent a lot of money, effort, and time on the shenanigans of two mischievous kids, we are missing the bigger picture. Our nation is becoming a divided nation, a nation of hatred, a nation getting further and further away from God, and it is filtering down to even our community. For at least two days last week in this very little part of our world the actions of two boys brought this community together in unity and love. This is only my perspective, but this I know, my two sons are back, and my faith in God has been strengthened through your actions.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.

*Stephen Clark
Ridge, MD*

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Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Closed

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County will hold a Public Hearing on **April 27, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, Maryland, 20650 and can be viewed at <http://www.stmarysmd.com/publichearings.asp> to consider adoption of:

#1 Constant Yield Tax Rate ("Real Property Tax Increase")

#2 St. Mary's County Fees & Charges

- a) Aging & Human Services – Northern & Garvey Senior Center Activity -Fees/Room Rental.
- b.) Emergency Services Billing – Transport & Medicare Transport Fees.
- c) Recreation & Parks Activity Fund Fees.

#3 FY2022 Recommended Budget

Public meetings are now open to the public as long as social distancing guidelines can be maintained and the Commissioners' Meeting Room capacity limits do not exceed 32 people. Everyone in attendance must adhere to the social distancing guidelines and wear a mask at all times unless they have a disability or if they are speaking or consuming food/drink. If social distancing guidelines or occupancy room capacity limits cannot be followed, the hearing may be rescheduled. The public is strongly encouraged to view the hearing remotely on SMCG Channel 95 and YouTube or listen to the Public Hearing by calling 301-579-7236; Access code: 963443#.

In lieu of appearance, comments may be submitted via:

- a) Phone: 301-475-4200 Ext 1234 to speak via telephone during the public hearing
- b) Email: csmc@stmarysmd.com
- c) US Mail: P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650
- d) Submit a 3-minute video clip to publicmtgs@stmarysmd.com no later than 5pm on May 4, 2021.

All submissions will be considered by the Commissioners at the Public Hearing and/or the seven (7) days following the Public Hearing. Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with special needs will be provided upon request. In order to meet these requirements, we respectfully ask for one week's prior notice. Please contact the County Commissioners Office at 301-475-4200, Ext. 1340. Proceedings are televised live and/or recorded for later broadcast on television. All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the Commissioners' meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image.

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

By: L. Jeannett Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C18CV21-000090

Alan Wetter

Plaintiff

vs.

The Estate Of Annie L. Moss
7511 Mandan Rd
Apt 112
Greenbelt, Md 20770

and

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

and

all known owners of the property described below, their heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right title and interest and any and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the property described as:

Wilson Dr.
0-0000

and also known as Account Number 07-021135

Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of taxes for St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff:

Wilson Dr.
0-0000

also known as Account Number 07-021135

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 19 day of March 2021, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland:

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having general circulation in St. Mary's county once a week for 3 successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 19th day of May, 2021 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgement will be entered foreclosing all right of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

IN THE MATTER OF TANAY JENELLE ROBINSON
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO TANAY JENELLE KARGBO

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

Case No.: C-18-FM-21-198
Notice (Adult)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which he/she seeks to change his/her name from TANAY JENELLE ROBINSON to TANAY JENELLE KARGBO. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: I have been married to my spouse for 15 yrs and would like to change my last name.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 05/13/2021. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served on the petitioner (Maryland Rule 1-321). If no timely objection is filed, the court may issue a default judgement or grant the name change.

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

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 207

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 207 – Sale of Surplus Real Property and Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose. A fair summary of the ordinance will follow:

Ordinance No. 207 - An ordinance for the purpose of: 1) approving the conveyance of certain property owned by the Commissioners of Leonardtown in the aggregate of 39.1000 acres of land, more or less, to Tudor Hall Funding, LLC and 2) approving the acquisition of certain real property consisting in the aggregate of 39.100 acres of land, more or less, from Tudor Hall Funding, LLC and Parcel K – Tudor Hall Farm, LLC for the public purpose and use of outdoor public recreation area and open space, and 3) authorizing the Mayor and the Town Administrator to execute all documents and take any and all action necessary and incidental to effectuate the foregoing conveyance and acquisition.

Ordinance No. 207 - will become effective May 3, 2021. Full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or on-line on the Town's website at www.Leonardtown.somd.com

By Authority:
Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator

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

AlDaileyCountytimes@gmail.com

Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C18CV21-000045

Alan Wetter and Keith Schmidt,
c/o Lucas I. Dansie, Esq.
406 5th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Plaintiff

vs.

Lee Hazel
3319 Truelove St., Sanford NC 27330

and

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

and

all known owners of the property described below, their heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right title and interest and any and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the property described as:

Lot 14, Block 57 of Longview Beach Club, according to a plat thereof recorded in Plat Book C.B.G. No. 2 at Folio 24 among the Land Records of St. Mary's County Maryland.

and also known as Account Number 07-018029

Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of taxes for St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff:

Lot 14, Block 57 of Longview Beach Club, according to a plat thereof recorded in Plat Book C.B.G. No. 2 at Folio 24 among the Land Records of St. Mary's County Maryland.

and also known as Account Number 07-018029

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 30th day of March 2021, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland:

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having general circulation in St. Mary's county once a week for 3 successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 30th day of May, 2021 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgement will be entered foreclosing all right of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

PAYING OFF CREDIT CARD DEBT

*Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel*

According to a survey by CreditCards.com, 13% of Americans say they'll never pay off their loans and another 8% say they won't pay off what they owe until they're at least 71 years old. You don't have to be one of these people. If you are stuck in debt, take action to help yourself. Credit card debt is the enemy of financial security. Here are 5 tips to help you pay off those high interest credit card balances:

1. STOP Paying Only the Minimum on Your Credit Card Debt.

The minimum payment on credit card debt is 2% of the balance. Suppose you have a balance of \$5,000 on your credit card with a 15% interest rate. If you pay the minimum, it will take you more than 27 years to pay off the balance. It gets worse. Your total payments will amount to \$12,518 or about 2.5 times your original \$5,000 balance. Paying the minimum is keeping you in servitude to the bank or credit card company. What can you do? By boosting your payment to 3% of the balance you can pay off the credit card balance in about half the time. Boost the payment to 5% of the balance and you can pay it all off in about 8 years. If you do not have the cash flow to make one larger credit card payment every month, try making two minimum payments every month.

2. FOCUS ON PAYING OFF ONE CARD FIRST.

If you have multiple credit cards and want to show progress, pick the one with the lowest balance and pay that one off as soon as you can. Then, tackle the next in line. In any event, your credit score will decline based on whether you have used more than 20% of your available credit. Paying down your credit cards to show loans of less than 20% of the available balance on the card will immediately boost your credit score. So, even if you cannot pay off the entire card, paying down the balance will give you progress and a better credit score.

3. SPEAK UP.

If you have a good credit score (usually 730 and above) and are current in making your pay-

ments, call the credit card company and ask them to lower your rate. Most companies will accommodate their long-term customers who pay on time. If you have been offered a lower rate by a competitor, tell the bank. Most likely they will meet that lower rate to avoid losing you as a customer. Remember, you are valuable to the banks.

4. TAKE ACTION, BUT BE CAREFUL.

Transferring your credit card balance to another card with a 0% introductory interest rate is a good idea IF you can pay off the entire credit card during the time the introductory interest rate is 0%. Most of the cards will give you up to 18 months of 0% interest before the card reverts to the 15-25% interest rate category. If you can't pay the card balance off in 18 months, you may wind up paying more in interest on the balance than you had with your first card. Check the interest rates on the cards. If you find a card with an interest rate after 18 months of 0% that is significantly lower than your current rate, even if you cannot pay off all of the debt in 18 months, you will be better off. Try your online resources for education. Nextadvisor.com is helpful. Enter the balance you want to transfer, the amount you want to spend each month and the website will give you a list of credit cards that may help you. There are plenty of other online resources for you to choose from.

5. NEVER BORROW FROM YOUR HOME OR YOUR 401(K) TO PAY OFF CREDIT CARD DEBT.

Your home and your retirement funds are critical to your financial well-being. Why jeopardize either of them by borrowing against them?

No matter how you tackle the problem of credit card debt, the important point is to take action to pay down that debt. Get a plan and stick to it.

A reminder: Join me for a free estate planning seminar on the third Wednesday of every month at 11 am at our office at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.



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

Lt. Col. Carl H. Dubac, USMC Retired



Lt. Col. Carl H. Dubac, USMC Retired, of Compton, MD passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 10, 2021, at the age of 88.

Carl was a United States Marine Corps aviator and served with great honor and distinction for over 20 years. He was a Vietnam War Veteran where he flew A-4E and A-6A Intruder aircraft in combat. He flew 274 combat missions (222 in the A-6A) during the Vietnam War. Carl's combat awards include the Air Medal with 2 stars plus numeral 18, and the Navy Commendation Medal with "V".

During his first tours, he flew F-1E/AF-1E Fury and F-8D Crusader fighter aircraft. In 1961, he entered Navy Test Pilot School, and after completion, conducted flight tests on Navy and Marine Corps operational/developmental aircraft for three years. He concluded his military career as a Test and Evaluation Engineer and Program

Manager of Navy and Marine Corps aircraft systems and weapons requirements, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1976.

In 1977 Carl co-founded DCS Corporation, <http://www.dcsinc.com>, an employee-owned private company, which offers advanced technology and management solutions to government agencies in the national security sector. Beginning with five employees, the company has grown to about 1,800 employees at many different locations across the country. Carl was in a management role until 2010 and remained involved until his retirement in 2018.

Carl's Professional and Honorary affiliations include: Sigma Xi, IEEE, Intruder Association, Tailhook Association, Society of Experimental Test Pilots (Associate Fellow), and The Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association (Golden Eagles).

Carl will be cremated and his ashes interred at Arlington National Cemetery next to his first wife and the mother of his children, Janet (Kinney) Dubac.

Surviving are his wife, Franziska Dubac of Compton, MD; his four children: Karen Hause of Sun City Center, FL, Carl M. Dubac of Compton, MD, Kathryn Helbringer of Compton, MD,

Curt Dubac of Catlett, VA; grandchildren: Michael Helbringer, Kyle Dubac, Matthew Hause, Jennifer (Hause) Motenko, Carl C. Dubac, Kevin Dubac, Jesse Dubac; seven great-grandchildren; his sister Betty Bradley in Vassar, MI; and so many nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Preceding him in death are his granddaughter, Kelli (Dubac) Robertson.

Funeral services with full military honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be announced.

Memorials may be made in Carl's name to St. Mary's County Historical Society, 41680 Tudor Place, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Hospice of St. Mary's, PO Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

All arrangements have been made at Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Rose Marie Bean



Rose Marie Bean, 80, of Callaway, Md., passed away on April 7, 2021 after a short, albeit courageous battle with cancer.

Rose was born on November 12, 1940 to Mary Ruth Woodburn (deceased) and Kenneth

Aloysius Woodburn (deceased) in Pearson, Md. and graduated from St. Michael's High School with her sister, Brenda L. Nash (deceased) in 1959.

Shortly after graduating high school, Rose married Edward A. "Ned" Bean at Holy Face Church on April 22, 1961. This union was blessed with 3 children; Robert L. Bean Sr. (wife Susan E.Bean) of Callaway; Susan E. Hall (Ernest F. Hall, deceased) of Lusby; and Deborah L. Bean of Great Mills. Ned preceded her in death on February 18, 1992.

Rose was a beloved member of the Great Mills Trading Post family, where she greeted customers for over 30 years as their "Office Manager". If you stop by Trading Post today, chances are she'll be remembered as much more than that title.

With a strong devotion to God and an active member of the St. George Catholic Church, Rose was known to many as a friend, mother and grandmother.

With 7 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, she would argue that "grandmother" was the title that suited her best. If you weren't part of Rose's family, after a 30 second conversation with her; chances are you were now part of her family.

Her outgoing personality was contagious, and her smile provided enough light to see anyone through the darkest of times.

A lifelong fan of Elvis Presley with his rendition of How Great Thou Art, these words couldn't

have come at a better time for Rose: When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

Superheroes need rest too, and up there in Heaven, the Good Lord accepted Rose back home for her to rest peacefully with her parents, sister, husband and Elvis.

Through the memories she made and the people she positively impacted in the southern Maryland community, Rose will live on for generations through the stories that are told of her compassion, kindness and pure soul.

In Lieu of flowers, the family asks to please send donations to St. Mary's Hospice House or St. George Catholic Church.

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

All arrangements have been made at Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Agnes Marie Wathen



Agnes Marie Wathen, 92, of Leonardtown, MD formerly from Bushwood, MD passed away on April 6, 2021 in Leonardtown, MD. She was

the daughter of the late Ethel Marie Ridgell Hammett and Ignatius Abell Hammett. Agnes was the loving wife of the late John Hayden Wathen whom she married on December 26, 1946 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church Bushwood, MD and who preceded her in death on July 1, 1997. Agnes is survived by her children Marie Urbanski (Mark) of Great Mills, MD, Mary Norris (Allan) of Clements, MD, Elizabeth "Liz" Wathen of Morganza, MD (Daughter in law), 7 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren. Along with her siblings Evelyn Wathen of Bushwood, MD, Jerome Hammett of Compton, MD, Carney Hammett (Barbara) of Charlotte Hall, MD, Cecilia Atkins of California, MD, John Hammett (Kitty) of Avenue, MD, Lou Guy of Avenue, MD and David (Patty) Hammett of TN, along with her many nieces, nephews and friends she met through living at Cedar Lane Apartments in Leonardtown, MD.

She was preceded in death by her children: John Francis Wathen and Clara "Anne" Wathen, siblings: Daniel "Dan" Hammett and Doris Norris, sister in laws Joyce Hammett, and Gertrude Hammett; brother in laws Woodrow Wathen, Ken Atkins, Joe Matts Guy and Robert "Bob" Norris.

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

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It was a joy for Agnes to spend time with family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In her early years, she enjoyed baking for her family and making her delicious apple dumpings. Agnes made many afghans for her family members, dish cloths and scarfs. She loved playing bingo on her tablet, doing word search, watching her favorite soap opera (DOOL), news networks and frequently would watch movies on the Hallmark channel.

The family will receive friends on Friday, April 16, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM in Sacred Heart Catholic Church Bushood, MD with Father Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Pallbearers will be Jeff Wathen, Mark Urbanski, J.T. Mister, Tammy Zabko, Joanne Douglas and Wayne Guy. Honorary pallbearers will be her granddaughters, Kristie Guy, Nikki Wesmer and Megan Hall.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650 and/ or Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650, Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad P.O. Box 7 Avenue, MD 20609.

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

All arrangements have been made at Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Elmer C. Brown, Jr.



Elmer C. Brown, Jr., "Buster", 75 of Hollywood, MD formerly from Clinton, MD passed away on April 5, 2021 at his home. He was born on November 13,

1945 in Washington, DC and was the loving son of the late Mary Evelyn McLeran Brown and Elmer C. Brown, Sr. Elmer was the loving husband of Barbara J. Brown, whom he married in Maui, HI on November 24, 2004.

Elmer is survived by his children Eric Brown (Diane) of Cary, NC, Bryan Brown (Emily) of Riverview, FL, David Brown (Amy) of Pasadena, MD, Stepson William Sulima (Cristina) of Bowie, MD, Mark Trohanowsky (Kristal) of Pasadena, MD, 6 grandchildren and 2 step grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by four nieces and three nephews. Along with his siblings Gail Scott of California, MD, Diane Lehman of California, MD, and Robert Brown (Nina) of Hollywood, MD. He was preceded in death by his sister Kathy Maruaso and two nephews.

He graduated from Surrattsville

High School. Elmer served in the United States Army for 2 years from 1967 to 1969. He was a computer technician for the State of Maryland and AT & T, for 46 years; retiring in 2015.

Elmer loved his dogs, Nattie and Sadie.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a late date.

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

All arrangements have been made at Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Bernard Sylvester Morgan



Bernard Sylvester Morgan (76), nickname "Trigger", departed this life Friday, April 2, 2021.

Son of William Henry Morgan and Pearl Louise Hayden Morgan, he leaves behind his wife of 55 years and the

"Love of his life", Krystyna (Christine) Szlendak Morgan.

Bernie (Trigger) loved playing the bass guitar with local bands at numerous Tri-County venues, including Moose Lodge, K of C Hall, Carricos, and most often, Pennies Bar & Restaurant. He was an avid collector of Antiques and Classic automobiles which he thoroughly enjoyed buying and selling. His favorite car was a 1953 Chevy Bel Air 2 dr. hardtop that his wife, Christine, gifted him.

Bernie was also an entrepreneur whose businesses included County Cleaners and Laundry, Navy Exchange Laundry and Bernie's Pawn Shop. Bernie retired after a long career at St. Mary's College of Maryland and St. Mary's County Sheriff's Detention Center.

As Bernie would always say: "God didn't wind up my clock".

Services will be private, and the family requests contributions in lieu of flowers, etc. be donated to: Patuxent Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 687, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

All arrangements have been made at Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Ida Ann Demarr Beach

Ida Ann Demarr Beach, 76, of Bushwood, MD formerly of Charles County, MD and Tazewell, VA passed away on April 1, 2021 in Washington, DC. She was born on November 1, 1944 in Aquasco, MD and was the daughter of the late Annie E. Green Demarr and Bernard L. Demarr, Sr. Ida was the loving wife of the late Charles Clayton Beach, Sr. whom she married on Janu-

ary 3, 1987 in White Plains, MD and who preceded her in death on August 18, 2014.

Ida is survived by her children Diane Farrell of Bushwood, MD, James L. Gray, Jr. of Bluefield, WV, Kenneth W. Gray, Sr. of Tazewell, VA, and stepson Charles C. Beach, Jr., 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Siblings; Robert Benson Demarr of Waldorf, MD, and Mary Ellen Tolbert of Hollywood, MD. She was preceded in death by her daughters, Jessica Wilkinson and Catherine Gray, her siblings, Bernard L. Demarr, Jr., Norma H. Demarr, Fredrick Demarr, and Elsie Dye.

Ida attended school in Hughesville, MD and was a homemaker.

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

All arrangements have been made at Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Richard H. Boone, Jr.



Richard H. Boone, Jr. went home to the Lord on April 8, 2021 at the age of 56.

Richard was born to Richard Boone, Sr. and the late Theresa

Helene Boone on October 20, 1964 in La Plata, Maryland. Richard graduated from Thomas Stone High School in 1982. He was married to Theresa Mary Boone on August 22, 2009.

In addition to his mother, Richard was preceded in death by his brother, William Patrick Boone, his grandparents, James and Mary Jameson, and William and Rebecca Boone, as well as his Aunt and Uncle, Patricia and Aubrey Jameson.

Richard is survived by his wife, Theresa M. Boone, his children, Jamie Elizabeth Hogston (Kevin) and William Christopher Boone, his grandson, Gavin Alexander Hogston, his step-children, Sarah Christina Clark (Cory) and Kyle Meredith Arneson, as well as his sister, Bonnie Johnston (Bruce).

Richard spent his career working for Pepco as an underground cable splicer. He was very passionate about the work he did. Richard liked to spend his free time hunting and fishing, traveling with his wife and children, and reading fantasy novels. Richard had also begun writing his own fantasy tale.

The family will receive friends for Richard's Life Celebration on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Brinsfield Funeral Home, 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. A memorial service will be held at 7:00 p.m. and officiated by Rev. Joe Orlando. Interment will be held privately.

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

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

James Walter Wheeler



James Walter Wheeler, 61 of Lexington Park, MD surrounded by his loving family went to be with his heavenly Father on April 11, 2021.

Walter was born on February 2, 1960 in Leonardtown, MD to Martha Elaine (Wood) and Bernard Wheeler of Callaway, MD.

Walter married Kathy Trossbach Wheeler on October 25, 1986 in Ridge, MD. He and Kathy were blessed with four children. Walter was a Boat Rigger for Cedar Cove Marina until he became disabled from a broken neck on December 19, 1991. Even after 8 neck surgeries, he was an amazing father and grandfather who cherished his time as a stay at home dad. Walter's family was everything to him. He was known as "Poppy" by his grandchildren whom he would do anything for just to make them smile. He enjoyed being outdoors, fishing, traveling, (it didn't matter where) and cheering on his favorite NASCAR racer #18 Kyle Bush. Walter loved the Lord and was a member of Patuxent Baptist Church, where he got saved, and baptized in January of 2017. Walter was one of the most loving, unselfish men you would ever meet and he will be deeply missed by everyone that knew him.

In addition to his mother he is survived by his cherished family, his wife, Kathy; his children, Jami Lachkovic (Jonathan) of Lexington Park, MD, James Wheeler II "Jay" (Staci), of Lexington Park, MD, Christopher Wheeler (Nicole) of California, MD, Jessica Wheeler (Jordan) of Lexington Park, MD.

His siblings, Joe Wheeler (Jan) of St. Inigoes, MD, Robert Wheeler (Marion) of Indian Head, and Patty Thomas (Larry) of Lexington Park, MD.

His grandchildren, whom he cherished, Brianna, Natalie, Emily, Isabella, Brandie, Tamyra, Jaylen, Mackenzie, James III, Hayden, Charlie, Anthony, Zion, Jordan Jr., and Rylee.

Along with 17 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father and his brother, Mike Wheeler and his nephew Charlie Wheeler.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 15, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a Funeral Service celebrated by Pastor Rick Conner at 12:00 p.m., at Patuxent Baptist Church, 22614 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills, MD 20634. Interment will follow at Evergreen Memo-

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

rial Gardens, 22020 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills.

Pallbearers will be Tim Tullos, Matthew Green, Randy Steenrod, Tom Jackson, Mike Kalinowski and Rich Young.

Memorial contributions may be made to Patuxent Baptist Church, P.O. Box 687, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Dondi Duff Callaway



Dondi Duff Callaway, 53, of Callaway, MD passed away on April 11, 2021 at Hospice House of Charles County with her loving family at her side.

She was born in Kinston, NC on February 07, 1968 to Stanley Rayburn Duff of Pink Hill, NC and Linda "Murphy" Howard of Mt. Olive, NC.

Dondi grew up in North Carolina and graduated in 1986 from South Lenoir High School in Deep Run, NC. She later attended college at East Carolina University graduating class of 2003 with her Bachelor's Degree in Business Education Information Technology (BSBE). In 2009, she moved to St. Mary's County and on February 13, 2010 married the love of her life, Greg Callaway, at Sunset Beach, NC. Together they celebrated over 11 wonderful years of marriage. Dondi worked hard and was dedicated to the success of Callaway Rentals, Inc. She loved spending time in Myrtle Beach visiting her family and friends, and taking walks along the beaches with her dog, Brody. She was adventurous and her outgoing spirit personality was infectious to all who met her. She never met a stranger. She loved riding her motorcycle joining her husband and friends for many fun adventures. She was strong by nature and was a breast cancer survivor. Family was always her priority and she loved spending her time with all of them.

In addition to her parents and beloved husband, Dondi is also survived by her children: Austin Ty Adams of Kinston, NC, James Brady Byrd of Faison, NC, Matthew Shawn Callaway of Callaway, MD, Lauren Leigh Callaway of Solomons, MD, Katlyn Callaway of Baltimore, MD and Jillian Callaway of Spring Hill, FL; her sister, Kristi Duff (Andres) of Mt. Olive, N.C.; and many extended family and friends. She is preceded in death by her sister, Jami Lynn Tyndall, her grandparents, Vance and Muriel Murphy, Grover and Dessie Duff, her in-laws, Lorraine and William Callaway; and her emotional support dog, Brody.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., with a prayer service held at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

On Friday, April 16, 2021, a Funeral Service will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. with visitation following at Howard & Carter Funeral Home, 1608 West Vernon Avenue, Kinston, NC 28504. A Graveside Service will be held Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Duff Family Cemetery, Pink Hill, NC 28572. There will be a repass after the interment, located at Austin Ty Adams residence, 563 Central Avenue, Kinston, NC 28504.

Serving as pallbearers will be Timmy Murphy, Richie Heath, Chad Conway, Cliff Miller, Lee Tyndall and Israel Andres.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Down Syndrome Network of Onslow and Carteret Counties, P.O. Box 1264, Jacksonville, NC, 28541-1264.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Brenda Louise Tucker



Brenda Louise Tucker, 68, of Mechanicsville, Maryland passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, April 8, 2021, surrounded by her

family. She was born on April 7, 1953 to the late William Jennings Buckler and late Eleanor (Pilkerton) Buckler Wood.

She married her one true love, Douglas Tucker, on August 9, 1980. Together they have celebrated almost 41 years of blissful marriage. Their love continued to expand with each new addition to the family, their five (5) children whom they loved and raised to be strong, kind adults.

A hard-working woman, Brenda was a hair stylist and entrepreneur. She and Douglas owned and operated Southern Maryland Beauty Supplies. Brenda still continued to do hair from the salon she had at her own home for many years. Brenda loved working with her clients and making a bad day great with a new "do" and good conversation. She was part counselor and magician all while you sat in her chair.

She loved spending time with her family and her children were her greatest gifts. She could be the life of the party or the shoulder you needed to lean on. Her smile was bright and laughter infectious, her very presence lit up the world around it.

Brenda was dearly loved by everyone but she loved no one more than

her family. Whether you knew her as Brenda, Mom, sister, grandma or great-grandma you knew she loved you deeply. Brenda has left her pain behind and has entered her golden palace with grace and health. When you hear the whisper of the wind or the sunshine upon your skin, know it's Brenda brushing away your sadness and fear and replacing it with love and happiness.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Douglas Tucker of Mechanicsville, MD; children, Billy Tucker (Laurie) of King George, VA, Tanya Schools (Robert) of Newland, NC, Crystal Heier (Jr) of Hollywood, MD, Shelley Holder (Brandon) of Lexington Park, MD; grandchildren, Jesse Schools of Newland, NC, Joshua Schools of Newland, NC, Hannah Storey of Butler, TN, Dawson Schools of Newland, NC, Emily Heier of Hollywood, MD, Peyton Heier of Hollywood, MD, Joe Schools of Newland, NC, Nelie Schools of Newland, NC, Brystal Schools of Newland, NC; and five (5) great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Loretta Alvey, Ronald Buckler, Laffayette Buckler, David Buckler, Minor Buckler, Wayne Buckler, Glenn Buckler, Mark Buckler, Myron Buckler, Shelia Buckler all of Mechanicsville, MD, Kevin Buckler of Bushwood, MD.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Debbie Noble Johnson

Debbie Noble Johnson of Mechanicsville, MD. Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, William and Eleanor Buckler, daughter, Kim Tucker and siblings, Sonny Buckler and Joseph Buckler.

Pallbearer's will be, Jr Heier, Brandon Holder, Jesse Schools, Joshua Schools, Dawson Schools and Randy Noble.

The family of Brenda will receive friends for her Life Celebration on Friday, April 16, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a Funeral Service being held at 11:00 a.m. and officiated by Rev. Matthew Tate (from Hollywood Methodist Church) at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Interment will take place immediately following the service at Joy Chapel Cemetery, Joy Chapel Road, Hollywood, MD 20636.

Family requests in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Hollywood Rescue Squad.

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

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

William Edward "Eddie"

Burch



William Edward "Eddie" Burch, 44 of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on April 6, 2021 at Hospice House of St. Mary's.

Eddie was born on March 21, 1977 in La Plata, MD to William Bernard "Bernie" Burch of Waverly, TN and Linda Sue (Keyser) Burch of Mechanicsville, MD.

Eddie graduated from Chopticon High School in 1996. He worked as a Plumber for several companies over his career, most recently he was employed at Thompson's Plumbing and Broadcreek Kitchens. Family and friends were most important to him and he enjoyed spending time with them whenever he could. Growing up, he and his buddies Matt Bishop, Jeff Burch, Richy Richardson and Bobby Gatton were inseparable. He loved the outdoors, watching sports, and playing video games (especially the old Nintendo classic). He enjoyed fishing on the river and aboard charter boats, hunting (especially deer hunting with his brother), and playing pool and darts with his friends. He also enjoyed watching NASCAR racing (especially Dale Earnhart, Jr.), the Washington Redskins and the Washington Capitals. When he wasn't watching sports, he loved to watch old games shows and westerns such as Gunsmoke, Bonanza, and The Rifleman.

In addition to his parents, Eddie is survived by his daughter, Sierra Burch of Mechanicsville, MD; his siblings, Jason Burch (Michelle) of Waverly, TN, and Becky Kelley (Josh) of Leonardtown, MD; his aunts, Brenda Coombs (Ernest) of Loveville, MD; Rita Lynch (Mike) of Zanoni, MO; Cathy Addison of Mechanicsville, MD; Debbie Piepoli (Joe) of Helen, MD; his uncles, Billy Keyser of Loveville, MD; Keith Brown (Vicky) of Brandywine, MD; Randy Phillips (Mary) of Marbury, MD, and Aloysius "Joe" Burch (Denise) of Delaware as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Hubert and Geraldine Addison of Loveville, MD and Regina and Joe Phillips of Marbury, MD; aunt, Vicky Brown and his uncles, Joey Phillips, Hubert Addison, and Ernest Coombs

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service celebrated by Reverend Joe Orlando at 11:00 a.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Private interment will follow at Charles Memo-

rial Gardens.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

D'Shaun Charles McDade Jr



D'Shaun Charles McDade Jr. (DJ), infant son of Cassandra Renee Furey and Charles D'Shaun McDade Sr. of Lexington Park, MD passed away

Friday, April 2, 2021 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD.

In addition to his parents, he is also survived by his grandparents: Agnes Ford of Baltimore, MD; Darlene and Mark Kimmey of California, MD; his half-sisters Khloe, Kammy and Kairi McDade of Carlisle, PA; his aunts and uncles: Melinda McTiernan (Ben) of Pensacola, FL; Jasmin Ford of Lexington Park, MD and Terrell McDade of Great Mills, MD.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Steven Roderick O'Neil



Steven Roderick O'Neil, 57 of Lexington Park, MD passed away on April 5, 2021 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

Steven was born on November 7, 1963

in Patuxent River, MD to Roderick Burnham O'Neil and Beverly Belle Brannock O'Neil.

Steven was in the Navy Reserve as part of the Seabees and he was part of the color guard team. When he wasn't doing reserve work he worked as an Electrician for O'Neil Construction. He enjoyed going on the Green Door canoe trips yearly. He was part of Parish Hall, he participated in Christmas in April of St. Mary's County and he ran with the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad for many years. He loved doing anything outdoors, camping, fishing, crabbing and playing softball for the American Legion. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Steven is survived by his children Ryan Justin O'Neil of Hollywood, MD, and Sara Joy O'Neil of Lexington Park, MD; and his brother Edward W. O'Neil of Ridge, MD and nieces Annie Bassford, Ruby Bassford, Tiffany Williams and Nichelle Lucky. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sisters Pam O'Neil and Brenda

Bassford.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Helen Joan Davis



On April 5, Helen Joan Davis, of Annapolis Maryland, passed away peacefully with her loving granddaughter by her side. She was 80

years young.

She was preceded in death by her older brother Walt Gomulinski, mother Mary Gomulinski and father, Walter Gomulinski.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Wendy Davis of the United Arab Emirates, son, Michael of Austin Texas, ex-husband James Davis, of Leonardtown, Maryland and Granddaughter Jasmine Shami of Fairfax, Virginia, brother Dennis Gomulinski, sister-in-law Nancy Gomulinski and niece Ruth Gomulinski, nephews Mark and Curt Gomulinski

Born on August 6, 1940 in Detroit Michigan, Helen attended vocational high school for secretaries before moving to upstate New York after marriage.

From the years 1966-1985 Helen resided in Corning, New York, Palos Verdes California, Potomac, Maryland, Englewood, Colorado, before settling down in Annapolis, Maryland in 1985.

Helen worked for the Maryland Department of Natural resources for 17 years as a legal secretary before retiring in 2015. She loved the nature of her work and especially enjoyed research and supporting her wonderful bosses and colleagues.

In her spare time, Helen enjoyed baking, watching wildlife, doting on her loving cats, reading inspirational literature and watching true crime documentaries.

Helen had a keen sense of humor and wit. She was an excellent listener and advisor to all her friends and family.

Helen's family will receive friends for her Life Celebration Visitation on Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD. Funeral Service initiated by Reverend David Beaubien at 2:30 p.m.

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

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

Debora "Debbie" Thorne

Debora "Debbie" Thorne, 58, of Solomons, MD and formerly of Capital Heights, MD, passed away on April



5, 2021.

Born April 27, 1962 in Clinton, MD, she was the daughter of Francis Edward White and Joy Elaine (Kroll) White.

Debbie graduated from Surrattsville High School in 1980. She was employed by Prince George's County Public Schools and retired after thirty years. Debbie worked for the Center for Life Enrichment in Hollywood, MD from 2014 until the present. She was a fan of Bon Jovi and enjoyed camping, crafting and going to the beach.

Debbie is survived by her mother, Joy Elaine White; her father, Francis Edward White; her stepmother, Patricia White; her children, Kimberly Thorne, Brandy Blackburn, Matthew Pennington and Rebecca Pulliam; her grandchildren, Richard E. Blackburn, Brooke Blackburn and Mila Kazman; and her sisters, Diane Cook and Jacqueline White. She was preceded in death by her son, Gene Thorne, her brother, Jamie White and her partner, Stephen Pennington.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403 or the Center for Life Enrichment, P.O. Box 610, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

Mary Sylvia Aus



Mary Sylvia Aus passed away on January 25th, 2021 in Leonardtown. She was born on New Year's Eve, December 31st, 1923 in Little Falls, Minnesota,

to August and Veronica (Lesinski) Ginter, the second youngest of five siblings.

Mary grew up in a small town life in Little Falls, the hometown of Charles Lindbergh, right next to the headwaters of the Mississippi River. She helped her family with their gardens and produce selling. She was a receptionist at the Pine Edge Inn, and was gifted their secret Orange Dinner Roll recipe, which they served to local acclaim for decades, and is still enjoyed by her entire family. During WWII she worked at a German POW camp at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, and then attended college classes at UCLA. She was always looking for the next adventure.

Then, and most important of all, she met Charley Aus and several of his

Sailor friends at a dance in Minneapolis. Even though he was "the short one", they married on 11 September 1950 and spent an amazing 66 years together with pride and joy in their beautiful family. Throughout their life they danced, laughed, cried and prayed together. She was a proud and active Navy Wife with Charley, a veteran of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War, retiring on July 31st, 1967, to Whidbey Island, Washington. She supported him through several businesses and community endeavors, and they raised their large family together in "God's Country". All her life she was an avid gardener and outdoorsperson, and was an active volunteer at organizations such as the Altar Society, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, the schools of her children and grandchildren, and various Catholic church parishes where they were stationed. After Charley's death in 2016 she joined her daughter's family in Maryland, where she loved watching the wildlife and flowers changing through the seasons, and practiced appreciative living, looking for the beauty in everything, thanking everyone for each day, and looking forward to the next.

Mary was first and foremost a mother and wife. Her family came before all, and she was always interested in the goings on, new arrivals and accomplishments of the clan. She marveled at the new activities and work they became involved in, and always encouraged them all to try new things and give it their best effort.

Mary is survived by her daughters Theresa Transue and Catherine (Matt) Scassero, her son Charles Aubrey (Julie) Aus; grandchildren Jonathan (Ashley Cox) Transue, Matthew Transue, Marcus (Erin) Transue, Stephanie (Marvin) Pamintuan, Veronica (Justin Thelan) Transue, Steven (Tonya) Aus, Phillip Scassero, and Meghan Scassero; great-granddaughters Mia Transue, Delilah Aus, and Isabelle Transue; and many friends and acquaintances of all generations who will miss her dearly. She was preceded in death by her husband Charley; her parents; her siblings Chester, Bronislaus, Louise, and Felix; son-in-law Lee Transue; and her son, Charles Arthur Aus II.

As was always her way, Mary wanted to be useful to the very end. In that vein, she donated her body to medical science and research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. With appreciation, donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. She will be memorialized when Charley is interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



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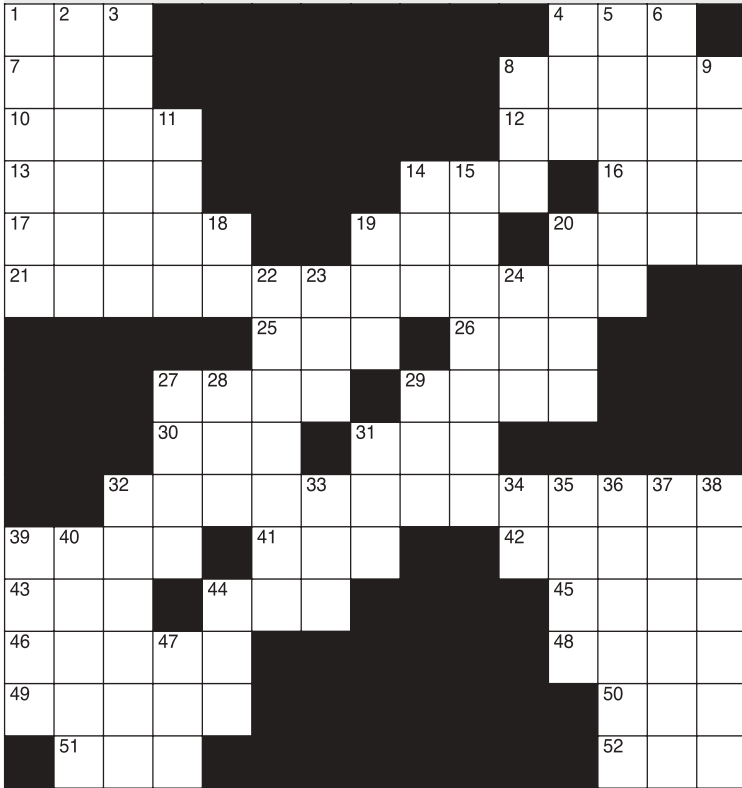
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

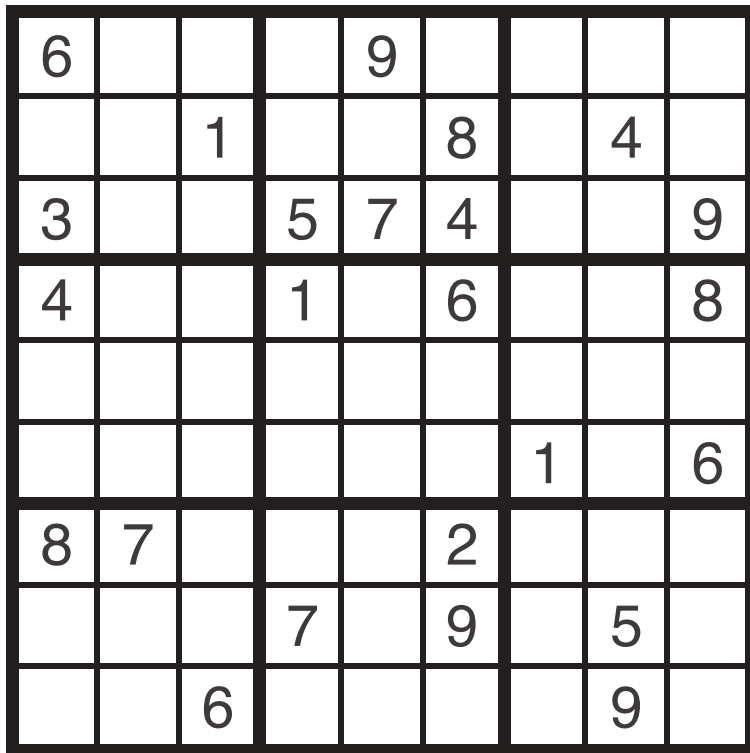
- 1. Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
- 4. American time
- 7. Satisfaction
- 8. Diving duck
- 10. Very small amount
- 12. Metrical units
- 13. An ignorant or foolish person
- 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 16. It may sting you
- 17. Turn outward
- 19. Perform on stage
- 20. "CSI" actor George
- 21. Localities
- 25. Make a choice
- 26. Indicates position
- 27. One of Thor's names
- 29. Indian musical rhythmic pattern
- 30. "The Raven" author
- 31. Take in solid food
- 32. Legendary QB
- 39. Sorrels
- 41. Organization of

- nations
- 42. Texas pharmaceutical company
- 43. Mathematical term
- 44. Expression of disappointment
- 45. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 46. Hide away
- 48. Salad restaurant
- 49. Daughters of Boreas (mythology)
- 50. Men's fashion accessory
- 51. Political action committee
- 52. Unhappy

- director Peter
- 14. Boat type (abbr.)
- 15. Apertures (biology)
- 18. Suffix
- 19. Creative endeavor
- 20. Icelandic poem
- 22. Spanish dances
- 23. Town in Central Italy
- 24. Cars need it
- 27. Mimics
- 28. Rocky peak
- 29. Cigarette (slang)
- 31. One point south of due east
- 32. Soap actress Braun
- 33. Large domesticated wild ox
- 34. Island nation
- 35. Appear
- 36. Addictive practices
- 37. Loss of control of one's body
- 38. Type of poster
- 39. Greek mountain
- 40. Funny person
- 44. One and only
- 47. Pouch

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make unhappy
- 2. Heard the confession of
- 3. Capital of Taiwan
- 4. Fiddler crab
- 5. Brazilian dances
- 6. Fit with device to assist breathing
- 8. Brother or sister
- 9. Pastries
- 11. "Lone Survivor"



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay
General Manager Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net
Advertising Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net
 Tim Flaherty timflaherty@countytimes.net
Editor Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Staff Writer Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net
Graphic Designer/Layout Artist Jim Lucke jimlucke@countytimes.net
Contributing Writers Laura Joyce, Ron Guy, Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

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