

FREE

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

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Soaring to Eagle Scout

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COVER 16
Abigail McDanal is one of the first female Eagle Scouts in St. Mary's County



COMMUNITY 13
Youth honored at mass.



EDUCATION 19
St. Mary's College of Maryland hosts virtual graduation.

“THEY’RE NOT DOING THE WORK, THEY’RE BARELY LOGGING IN.”
DR. ALEX JAFFURS, ST. MARY’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON CERTAIN STUDENTS WHO ARE INCREASINGLY FAILING COURSE WORK IN VIRTUAL EDUCATION

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 5/13	Fri 5/14	Sat 5/15	Sun 5/16
67° 46°F	68° 48°F	68° 52°F	69° 54°F
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
Mon 5/17	Tue 5/18	Wed 5/19	Thu 5/20
70° 58°F	72° 58°F	74° 58°F	74° 58°F
PM Showers	Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

County Times
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COVID-19

	Positive Cases	Deaths
<i>As of May 12</i>		
St. Mary’s	7179	124
Information provided by St. Mary’s Health Department		

Teachers' Children Allowed In School Four Days a Week

Parents Push Back on Double Standard

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

While thousands of St. Mary's County Public School students attend class two days a week on an alternating schedule with the other half of their classmates due to COVID-19 restrictions, certain groups of students are getting in-person learning four days a week.

These include special needs students, those who are economically disadvantaged, those who are falling behind in their studies in general and children of teachers.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith confirmed this week to The County Times that teachers had been afforded the chance, under certain conditions, to bring their children to school for face-to-face learning.

While school system leaders have said the decision was made to help relieve some of the burden faced by teachers during the pandemic, some parents have complained that other students have been unfairly excluded from the offer.

The school system is currently dealing with vastly increased failing grades among many students who are already marginal performers due to



Parent Ryan Brock questions why teachers' children are allowed in school four days a week while students are not.

absence from the classroom.

According to Smith, the offer for teachers to bring their children back to school for nearly all of the week is not a forgone conclusion.

"If staff want to have their children back all four days and they don't fit into the category of special education, English Language Learners, homeless or failing core courses, they are allowed to reach out to the principal to coordinate this," Smith told The County Times. "The principal then reviews the request and de-

termines how to accommodate."

School Board Chair Karin Bailey said Smith had discussed this policy with board members but not for a vote of approval; she said the board's interpretation of the law meant that they did not have the authority to run the daily operations of the school system.

That responsibility fell to Smith and his cabinet of deputy superintendents who made the decision, Bailey said.

Since the pandemic started last March, the school system has operated largely under the control of Smith, with regular weekly updates given to the board, with virtually all major decisions left to him and his cabinet staff.

Bailey has two children in the public school system but both are on the alternating "A" and "B" day schedules.

At the April 28 school board meeting a parent went before the board to protest the policy.

Ryan Brock, who has twins in a local elementary school, said they had been attending schools in Hawaii last year, which he called poorly rated compared to schools on the mainland.

"We were excited to get to move back to Maryland and we envisioned their education would be enhanced by moving back," Brock said. "However, this excitement has turned to disappointment."

"On their off days, they are done with their work within an hour."

Brock said two days was insufficient to ensure their proper growth and education.

"I'd like to know why my children and my neighbors' children were not given the same invitation to return to school four days a week," Brock said. "This seems unfair to say the least."

Bailey told The County Times that schools are still operating under social distancing requirements; even though the CDC recently reduced the requirement from six feet to three in schools; six feet was still the rule in cafeterias.

Those social distancing rules were still in effect per Gov. Larry Hogan's executive order of more than a year ago, she said.

"It's not our executive orders, but the governor's," Bailey said. "We are constrained by the rules we have to operate by."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Third Quarter Grades Report a Tale of Extremes

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

As the St. Mary's County school system is looking for ways to boost the grades of students who suffered poor performance on virtual learning platforms during the pandemic, the latest data on the third marking period shows two kinds of news, both good and bad.

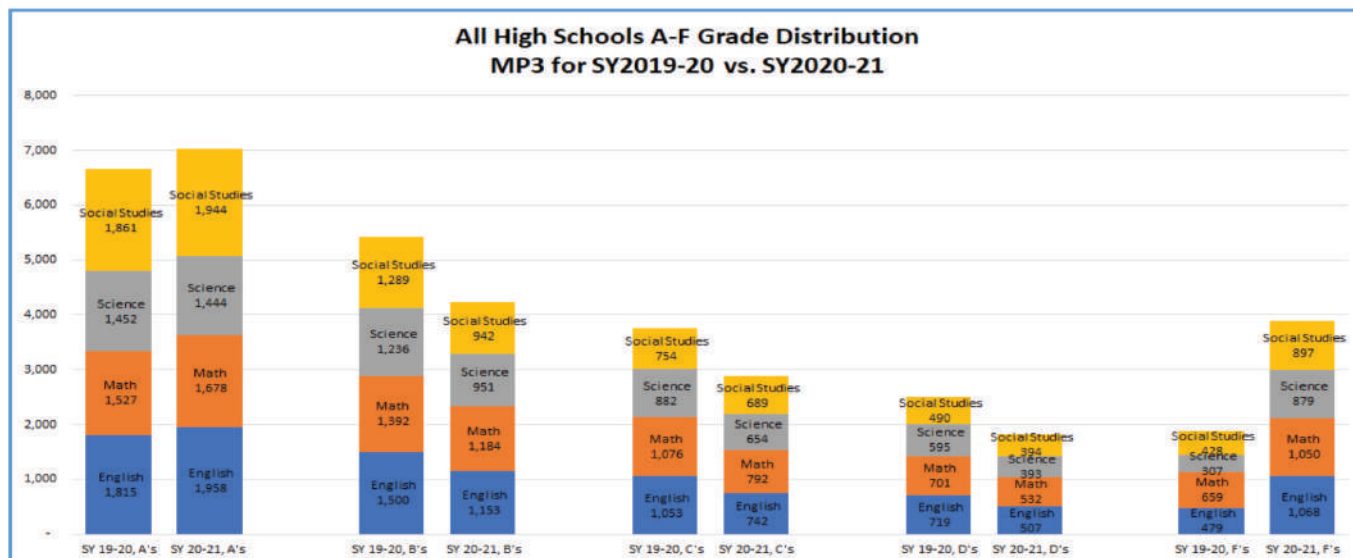
While students in high schools and middle schools carried more failing grades than ever before there was also a surge in "A" grades in the third quarter for the 2020-2021 over the prior year, the latest data presented to the St. Mary's County Board of Education shows.

Unfortunately, the middle grades of "B," "C," and "D" also declined sharply, the data shows.

Educators and school leaders have said that turning around failing grades earned in the third marking period is key to helping students avoid summer school and for seniors to stay on track for graduation.

Across the four corps competencies of social studies, science, math and English, high school students earned more "A" grades in all except science for the most recent third marking period over the same period last school year.

"Some of the kids are really flourishing," said Dr. Alex Jaffus, chief assessments and accountability officer for the school system. "But for the students who failed more, we see a compounding effect overtime."



Essentially the students who had been failing were failing more, and in large part because they were not even logging onto the virtual platform to participate.

"They're not doing the work, they're barely logging in," Jaffus said.

The number of failing grades had the sharpest increase over last year.

For example, the number of failing grades in social studies more than doubled for the period in question over last year; there were 428 failing such grades in high school last third marking period whereas this third marking period there were 897.

In science courses there were 879 failing

grades, the data showed, almost triple last year's number of 307.

Math failures tallied to 1,050 this third marking period, while high school students had just 659.

In English there were 1,068 failures as opposed to just 479 last year.

Middle schools saw the same trend for the third marking period with increased "A" grades with a sharp increase in failing marks, the only difference being that there was also an increase in "D" grades in almost all corps competencies.

There were also sharp declines in "B" and "C" grades across all corps classes for

middle schoolers, the data showed.

Jaffus saw hope in the policy of bringing back certain students – many of whom were economically disadvantaged, African American or with special needs – to in-person instruction four days a week.

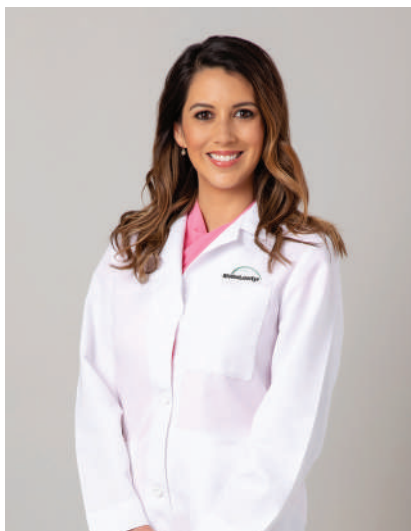
"The kids we're bringing back in are seeing success," Jaffus said. "We're seeing much more [positive] results than what we saw when they were solely in virtual."

"Our economically disadvantaged kids are the ones who aren't accessing; they're the ones we're losing."

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Commissioners Allocate Additional \$1.26 million in School Funding

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

At their May 11 budget work session, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County acquiesced – in part – to the frequently repeated plea from the county school system to give them more money to meet the negotiated contract agreement with their employees.

The commissioners also fully funded the request for contract bus drivers.

This year's budget request from the school system was \$116 million for the county's allocation but as of the Apr. 27 public hearing on the county's fiscal 2022 operating budget, the county was only approved \$112 million.

In the weeks leading up to the late April public hearing Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith, teachers and parents had beseeched the commissioners to fully fund the request with an additional \$3.7 million to fully fund the employee pay agreement but three out of five commissioners balked at Smith's rhetoric claiming that programs for students and teacher jobs could be cut if the remainder of the allocation was not approved.

Smith even said the system would consider shuttering a school to reduce overhead costs to make way for funding the agreement.

But Monday's extra allocation by the commissioners ameliorates the issue, even if only somewhat, with an addition of \$1.26 million.

This is enough to fund a one-percent cost of living increase for

school system employees, Smith reported to the St. Mary's County Board of Education May 12.

The commissioners' allocation of \$519,778 fully funds the request for pay for contract bus drivers, Smith told board members.

Contract bus drivers make up the bulk of transportation available to public school students.

The latest allocation reduces the difference between the requested schools budget and the county allocation from \$3.7 million to \$1.9 million.

This leaves the shortfall at \$779,997 in the school budget request after they found savings of \$1.2 million in health care costs, the superintendent's report stated.

"Health care is the huge story," Smith said. "Because it was the runaway escalating cost that was the greatest challenge.

"We were seeing exponential growth in health care costs."

The difference now, Smith said, was that school teachers pay 20 percent of their health care costs over the previous 15 percent.

Administrators in the school system pay 25 percent of their health care costs, Smith added.

"Our health care costs are only increasing by 1.1 percent," the superintendent reported.

The commissioners are scheduled to have a final budget work session May 18 with a vote on the finalized fiscal 2022 budget May 25.

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Big Dogs Shooting Suspect Arrested

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A Prince George's County man who allegedly shot a woman twice in the leg last week during an argument at a Mechanicsville bar has been arrested and charged with first-degree assault as well as several other charges related to the incident.

Dominic Marquay Lucas, 30, of District Heights remains incarcerated at the adult detention center in Leonardtown on a no-bond status, court records show.

An application for a statement of charges against Lucas, filed by a St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office detective, recounted a witness's statement that on May 7 a fight broke out at Big Dogs Paradise bar in Mechanicsville, causing the management to eject all of the customers from the establishment.

The altercation continued in the parking lot, the witness told police, and they say a woman arguing with a male in that location while the main altercation was still occurring; she soon turned to confront another male wearing a white t-shirt.

The second male retrieved what appeared to be a black handgun,



Dominic Lucas

the witness told police, and shot the woman in the leg.

The victim fell, according to the witness, and the suspect, later identified as Lucas, approached the

victim and allegedly fired one more round into her right leg.

Lucas fled in a white Ford Crown Victoria, the witness said, adding they believed the victim also left the establishment in the same vehicle.

Sheriff's deputies arrived at Big Dogs at about 1 a.m. that morning to reports of the shooting but found no victims; an hour later they were redirected to a Lexington Park address for the report of a shooting victim, Adwina Bowman.

A patrol deputy spotted the suspect's vehicle in the area of a gas station on Three Notch Road, court papers stated, and noticed the windshield had been shattered; the deputy detained Lucas and searched him, finding a Taurus 9mm handgun secreted on his left ankle.

When questioned, Lucas said he

was not at Big Dogs that night but was driving from Prince George's County to see Bowman, his girlfriend, in Lexington Park; he denied being involved in the shooting.

Bowman told police she had become angry at the defendant when she saw him at Big Dogs flirting with another woman; her anger increased when the defendant alleg-

edly took her keys and would not return them.

She began smashing the defendant's windshield in retaliation, charging documents stated.

"The victim advised she was then shot but was unsure who shot her," the application for a statement of charges reads.

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Town Approves Sidewalk, Streets Ordinance



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Allowing tables and chairs on sidewalks in downtown Leonardtown has been a boon to businesses there as they have struggled to deal with in-door capacity restrictions due to COVID-19.

The addition of tables and chairs in front of restaurants and bars allowed for customers to patronize businesses where they normally would not have been able to due to the effects of the virus.

But some have complained that the seating additions have blocked streets and sidewalks for pedestrians, including the handicapped, and have even spilled over to obstruct other neighboring businesses.

This week the town council adopted a new ordinance, No. 206, at their May 10 meeting, which amends the zoning ordinance to state that no obstructions are allowed on sidewalks, streets, alleyways, roadways or private entrances except by the express approval of the town council.

The council also committed to reviewing draft guidelines for outdoor seating arrangements which would be up for adoption at a later council session.

Council member Mary Maday Slade said she was a main driver behind the ordinance, to begin to have a more uni-

form approach to the look of outdoor settings, which have taken several different shapes over the past year.

"If we're going to have outdoor seating, which I think we should have since it's been so good for the businesses, we should have some standards," she said.

There was a difference, Slade said, between a business owner who put out an awning to cover an outdoor seating arrangement and one that was covered with a "Wal Mart pup tent."

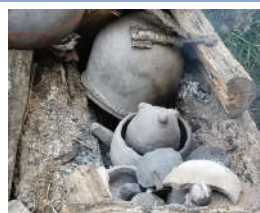
One resident said he was wary of the ordinance, because it might give the town too much authority but Council member Jay Mattingly, and Mayor Dan Burris, said the change in the rules would help rein in problems.

"I understand the frustration," Jay Mattingly said. "But I think it will help, knowing that the council will have a say with what we're going to allow."

Roger Mattingly, town resident and former town council member, said the council must look to clear obstructions from the sidewalk, especially for those who had the most difficulty using them.

"We need to keep sidewalks clear to be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant," Roger Mattingly said. "This is not a convenient place for handicapped people."

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www.visitstmarysmd.com/
events/2021-potomac-jazz-and-seafood-festival

Commissioners to Host Public Forum May 25

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will host a Public Forum Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's meeting room inside the Chesapeake Building, at 41770 Baldrige Street, in Leonardtown.

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

Meetings are accessible to the public as long as social distancing guidelines can be maintained and the Commissioners Meeting Room capacity limits do not exceed 33. Those in attendance must adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear a face covering except when speaking, consuming food/drink or have a disability. If social distancing guidelines or room capacity limits cannot be maintained, a portion or all of the meeting may be rescheduled.

In lieu of appearance, comments may be submitted via:

a. Email: csmc@stmarysmd.com.

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

c. Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1234 to speak via telephone during the public forum.

d. Submit a three-minute video clip to publicmtgs@stmarysmd.com through 5 p.m. Thursday, May 20, 2021.

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

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Public Forums are televised live on St. Mary's County Government TV 95 (SMCG TV 95) and streamed live on the St. Mary's County YouTube Channel.

For those without access to cable television or the internet, a listen-only line is available by calling 301-579-7236; Access code: 963443.

Gas Shortage Hits St. Mary's?



Fuel shortages caused by a cyberattack on a major pipeline supplying gasoline to the East Coast reverberated into St. Mary's County as well, causing gas stations, like the Burchmart on Sotterly Road, to run out of regular and mid-grade gasoline Wednesday.

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COVID Vaccine Now Available for Ages 12 & Older



Following authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use of Pfizer vaccine to include adolescents 12 through 15 years of age, the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is expanding eligibility for SMCHD vaccination clinics to include individuals ages 12 and older. Please note: the Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized for those under the age of 18, and parental consent is required.

"Protecting our young people with COVID-19 vaccine is key to helping our community recover from this pandemic, especially as we have recently seen some of our highest new case rates in the 0-19 age group," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Getting fully vaccinated means you are safer in doing activities you had paused because

of the pandemic, and can stay in school or sports when you might otherwise have had to quarantine."

To register for a vaccine appointment, visit the SMCHD website at www.smchd.org/covid-19-vaccine or call (301) 475-4330. New appointments are posted to the website weekly. Pre-registration is also available if clinic options for the week are filled and community members would like to be contacted when new appointments are available.

Community members are encouraged to review the allergy guidance and the FAQs for SMCHD COVID-19 vaccination prior to registering for an appointment.

For local COVID-19 updates, information, and data, please visit www.smchd.org/coronavirus or call the St. Mary's County Health Department at (301) 475-4330.

Pop-Up COVID Testing & Vaccine Event at Library

The Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 Testing Taskforce, in partnership with the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) and St. Mary's County Library will host a 2-day pop up COVID-19 testing and vaccine event on Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16, 2021 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at the Lexington Park Library, located at 21677 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Blvd in Lexington Park.

COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, while supplies last) will be available to all community members:

- Appointment-free
- No Doctor's order needed
- Free of charge (no out-of-pocket cost, co-payment, co-insurance, etc.)



• No insurance needed

More information on local COVID-19 testing is available at: www.smchd.org/covid-19-testing. For more information on SMCHD COVID-19 vaccination clinics, please visit www.smchd.org/covid-19-vaccine.

Emergency Broadband Benefits Available

St. Mary's County Government announces the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program. The temporary benefit will help to lower the cost of broadband service for eligible households during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit program provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households. The program also provides up to a \$100 per household discount toward a one-time purchase of a computer, laptop, or tablet if the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase through a participating broadband provider.

A household is eligible if one member of the home meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or the FCC's Lifeline program;
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price

school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income through job loss or furlough since Feb. 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

Emergency Broadband Benefit enrollment opens May 12, 2021.

For more information on the application process in St. Mary's County, go to the Atlantic Broadband website at <https://atlanticbb.com/ebb> or Comcast's Emergency Broadband Benefits Program page <https://tinyurl.com/33un85ta>. Eligible households can also enroll directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an online or mail-in application.

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Annual Youth Memorial Mass Scheduled

The annual outdoor St. Mary's May Mass to honor the deceased youth of the area will be celebrated at the St. Mary's Youth Memorial in Great Mills on Saturday morning, May 22. This yearly event dedicated to remembering the young people of the county who have passed too soon will commence with prayers of the Rosary at 9:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 100 with Holy Communion. Father Jerry, Pastor of Holy Face Catholic Church will be the celebrant.

This scenic memorial is unlike any in Southern Maryland. Dedicated in May, 1986 it is a quiet, hallowed place where families and friends of all faiths can come to grieve and recall the memories of young people whose lives were suddenly cut short. The memorial, with its "Lady of Lourdes" grotto surrounding a beautiful statue of a young Blessed Mary, continues to attract greater numbers of visitors who come to pay their respect to the more than 200 names of beloved children that are inscribed on the fourteen monuments installed on this 3/4-acre site.

The memorial was inspired by Eddie and Agnes Tippett as a tribute to their son Tom following his tragic loss at age 18 in 1984. The grotto was donated by the nuns at St Mary's Academy in Leonardtown where it stood for 82 years. The monuments and the grounds are maintained by volunteers, headed up by the Knights of Columbus Council 3849 at Holy Face Parish, Great Mills.

The site of the Memorial is located at



Lady of Lourdes grotto

20016 Point Lookout Rd., Great Mills, MD 20634 and can be found just south of the intersection of Great Mills Road and Point Lookout Road (Route 5). Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so its recommended visitors for this year's event plan to arrive early for the service on Saturday morning.

For additional information, or to add a name to the memorial or to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact Chairmen of the Board of Directors, Chuck Shilling at (301) 535 8339 or write to: St. Mary's Youth Memorial, P.O. Box 36, Piney Point, MD 20674.

Submitted by St. Mary's Youth Memorial.

Heikkimen Awarded Quilt of Valor



Ken Heikkimen, a 32-year Army veteran, was presented on May 8 with a Quilt of Valor at his home in St. Mary's City on his 88th birthday. Shown, (l to r) are: Disabled American Veterans representative Ray Nahrgang, PAX Sound of Freedom Group Leaders Jerry and Sylvia Lague, Heikkimen (seated), and Harry Metzler of DAV. For information on PAX Sound of Freedom call (941) 705-0094.

Museums Offer Free Admission to Military



Through the Blue Stars Museum Program, the museums and historic sites of the St. Mary's County Museum Division will offer free admission for actively serving members of the armed forces, as well as up to 5 family members, from Armed Forces Day (Saturday, May 15, 2021) until Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 6, 2021). Museums participating include St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum. Although the Old Jail Museum and Drayden African American Schoolhouse already offer free admission to all, guests are encouraged to visit these sites during this time. Please note that free admission does not apply to the water taxi at St. Clement's Island Museum, only regular museum admission.

Blue Star Museums collaborates with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families each summer. The program begins on Armed Forces Day in mid-May and ends on Labor Day. Typically, more than 2,000 museums across America participate in Blue Star Museums each summer.

The free admission program is avail-

able for those currently serving in the United States Military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as Active Duty and Reservists, National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a Geneva Conventions common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum. The military ID holder can be either an active duty service member or other dependent family member with the appropriate ID card. The active duty member does not have to be present for family members to use the program. Spouses of deployed military are eligible for Blue Star Museums with appropriate identification.

In addition, on Armed Forces Day 2021 only, the museums will extend this free admission offer to retired veteran military members (others in the party, including family, must pay regular admission). Note that retirees and veterans are only eligible for free admission on Armed Forces Day 2021 and not the entire summer - the Blue Star Museum program is only for active duty personnel.

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Identities Needed for Burglary Suspects



Burglary Suspects

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identities of the persons shown in a burglary investigation. On Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 6:56 pm, the suspects broke into a building and damaged a window at Maryland Rock on Abells Wharf Road in Leonardtown. The suspects fled in three different vehicles: a black pickup truck, a black passenger car and a third vehicle of unknown make or color.

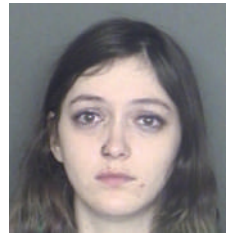
Anyone with information about the identities of the suspects or this incident is asked to call Deputy Casey Hill at 301-475-4200, ext. 78112 or email casey.hill@stmarysmc.com. Case # 23595-21

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.

Arrests Disorderly Conduct-

On May 1, 2021, Dep. Mattera responded to the 27700 block of Mechanicsville Road in Mechanicsville, for the reported motor vehicle collision. While Dep. Mettera was conducting the investigation, **Sadie Marie Newton**, age 23 of Hollywood, began to yell and cause a disturbance. Newton's actions caused Dep. Mettera to stop the investigation and divert

time and attention to Newton. Newton was advised to cease her actions, but continued to cause a disturbance. Newton was ultimately arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Fail to Obey a Reasonable and Lawful Order, and Obstructing and Hindering an Investigation.



Sadie Newton

Violation of Protective Order-

On April 30, 2021, Dep. Burgess responded to the reported disturbance in the 21900 block of Rosewood Terrace in Lexington Park. Investigation determined **Jonathon Jacob Resnick**, age 47 of Lexington Park, violated a court order by causing damage to the victim's property. Resnick was arrested and charged with Violate Protective Order.



Jonathon Resnick

Robbery-

On May 3, 2021, Dep. Gardiner responded to the 21600 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, for the reported burglary. Investigation determined **William Andrew Krell**, age 36 of Clements, removed the victim's wallet from her purse, as the victim exited her vehicle. Krell then fled on foot into a wooded area. Krell was observed by deputies exiting the wooded area and was arrested. Krell was charged with Robbery.



William Krell

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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Mechanicsville Student Among First Female Eagle Scouts in St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Abigail McDanal, 18, can remember both her older brothers joining the Boy Scouts when she was just 2 years old, but because she was a girl she could not participate in their activities, just observe.

She's a senior at Chopticon High School, but that didn't stop her from learning everything she could about the world of scouting until she was 14 years old, when she joined what is known as a venturing crew, which allowed both males and females into their ranks.

"I was a little scout buddy," Abigail told The County Times near the eve of her apex scouting achievement. "It's been a part of my life forever."

She continued to learn valuable skills and on Feb. 1, 2019, when the Boy Scouts opened their ranks to females after more than 100 years of excluding them, she joined and began her rapid journey to attaining the highest level in the organization, that of Eagle Scout.

Abigail is set to be awarded her Eagle May 15 at a Court of Honor at the Hollywood Church of the Nazarene on Sotterley Road.

She is one of just two county girls to attain this honor so far. Both her father and brothers are Eagle Scouts.

The other, Samantha Rutherford, was the first to earn the honor but she will be inducted as an Eagle Scout later this summer.

Only about six percent of scouts in the organization ever attain the rank of Eagle, which has a myriad of requirements, including earning 21 merit badges, completing a community service project and making a commitment to leadership and citizenship principles.

Tagging along with her older brothers gave her an appreciation for the scouting life and she wanted to be a full participant.

"I wanted to do it because my brothers were doing it," Abigail said. "Then I started realizing this is what I like to do."

"I like being outside."

When she first joined the scouts, she had an impressive amount of knowledge and skills but no recorded achievements to show for it that would lead to getting her Eagle Scout rank; she had to work quickly to make up the time.

"She couldn't earn anything towards Eagle prior to Feb. 1," her mother Christine said, noting the date the scouts were opened to females.

But Abigail had been working

summers at a camp for scouts in Goshen, Va. where she worked teaching the skills she had learned to boys.

"I already had a lot of the skills," said Abigail. "I also had to teach other people."

"I had to push myself [to make rank for Eagle.] Because I was in a venture crew, I was allowed to work there."

It would help set her up for success once she was on the path to Eagle.

One of her merit badges she chose to pursue was in a skill she was not particularly good in: swimming.

It was open to her because other options were closed off due to COVID-19, such as hiking, she said, and she chose the skill that would be most difficult for her.

"I'm not a natural swimmer," Abigail said. "It made me get bet-



From left, Christine McDanal, Smanatha, Abigail and Steve McDanal

ter and I'm more confident now."

Her father said her journey to Eagle was something of a meteoric one, whereas most scouts start at a very young age and take as many as five to six years of intermittent effort to earn Eagle Scout, Abigail, did in nearly half the time.

For example, to make First Class Scout – the rank to which a scout must aspire to begin attaining merit badges – typically takes a year.

"Abby made it in roughly three months," Steve McDanal said, noting she continued quickly to earn Eagle.

"It's very fast," he said of his daughter's track to achievement.

"She had the knowledge, the skills and the drive to get there."

"What Abby did in two years was what normally takes five or six years."

Starting from Feb. 1, 2019, Abby made all her requirements for Eagle by Feb. 3 of this year.

Scouts learn all manner of skills from camping, hiking and outdoor survival skills to learning to serve their communities in a wide variety of ways from cooking for their families to learning and teaching about environmental sciences.

Abigail's community service project was aiding the Church of the Nazarene by building an 8-foot-square deck to allow church members better access to a tractor

trailer bed that the church has repurposed for outdoor concerts and church services.

They have some flexibility in the merit badges they wish to pursue; while some are requirements there are more than 135 badges from which to choose.

Abigail's reason for wanting to pursue Eagle Scout is much the same mountain climbers pursue their passion, because the challenge is there.

"It's really cool to do," Abigail said of learning a bevy of useful skills. "A lot of people couldn't believe you could do it as fast as I did."

"I wanted to prove I could."
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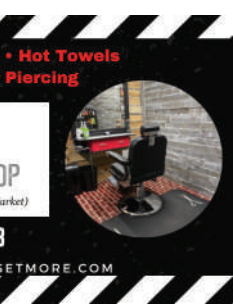
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Implant Retained Dentures are a Life-Altering Improvement Over Removeable Dentures

By: Jeff Tomcsik

If you are stuck in removeable dentures, a removeable prosthesis like a bridge, or if you've been in need of a replacement option for missing teeth, you need to pay attention to this game changer in the dental industry. Embarrassing moments with removable dentures are a thing of the past with implant retained dentures. In fact, a lot of concerns and issues are a thing of the past with this truly life-like alternative to removables.

Implants have come a long way over the past several years. They are predictable and successful when placed by highly trained and educated professionals. The implants themselves are placed into the jawbone, creating an anchor for the prosthesis (denture, bridge or single tooth replacement). This anchor integrates with the natural bone in the jaw making the connection as permanent as a real, healthy tooth's root.

Because the implant mimics a

natural root, it allows for functionality like a real tooth. In fact chewing function with an implant retained, permanent denture maintains about 80% of original function over the removable's functionality of about 20%. It also creates bone stability, which means the jawbone will not atrophy (loss of bone) over time as with a traditional prosthesis or lack of teeth all together. This will help you keep a more youthful and healthy appearance for the rest of your life.

The fixed option also allows you to care for and clean the prosthetic teeth while in the mouth like you would with your original teeth. No more removing your denture and soaking it or brushing it outside of the mouth. It will not fall out during active events or while you eat. In fact, it won't fall out ever! This creates peace of mind as it avoids embarrassing situations. Only you and your dental team will ever know your teeth are not your originals.

Implant retained dentures are also quite economical over the life of the denture as well. If you've been suffering with ongoing dental problems, finding yourself in the dental chair year after year getting fillings, root canals and crowns, just to lead to bridges and eventually dentures, you could spend tens of thousands of dollars over time.

While a full arch (upper and/or lower teeth) fixed denture isn't cheap up front, it solves most of your dental problems for the rest of your life. You will never have another cavity, root canal, or crown again. Your periodontal condition has the opportunity to hit the reset switch. Your life becomes yours to enjoy again rather than worrying about pain, discomfort, or embarrassment all of the time.

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Kolade Akinwande, and Dr. Todd Cooper, all three general dentists with extensive education and experience in placing and restoring implants.

With Tidewater Dental's team of Dental Professionals, you get the convenience of having all the professionals under one roof so that you can get your implants placed and final product fabricated without having to go to multiple offices to see multiple providers. Our doctors work collaboratively with each other to make sure you have a seamless experience with the most beautiful and functional result.

You can go up the road to the competition and pay \$5,000 to \$10,000 more for the same result, or you can come to the clear choice in implant retained dentures, Tidewater Dental. Contact any of our six locations to schedule a free consultation to see if you are a candidate for implant retained dentures.

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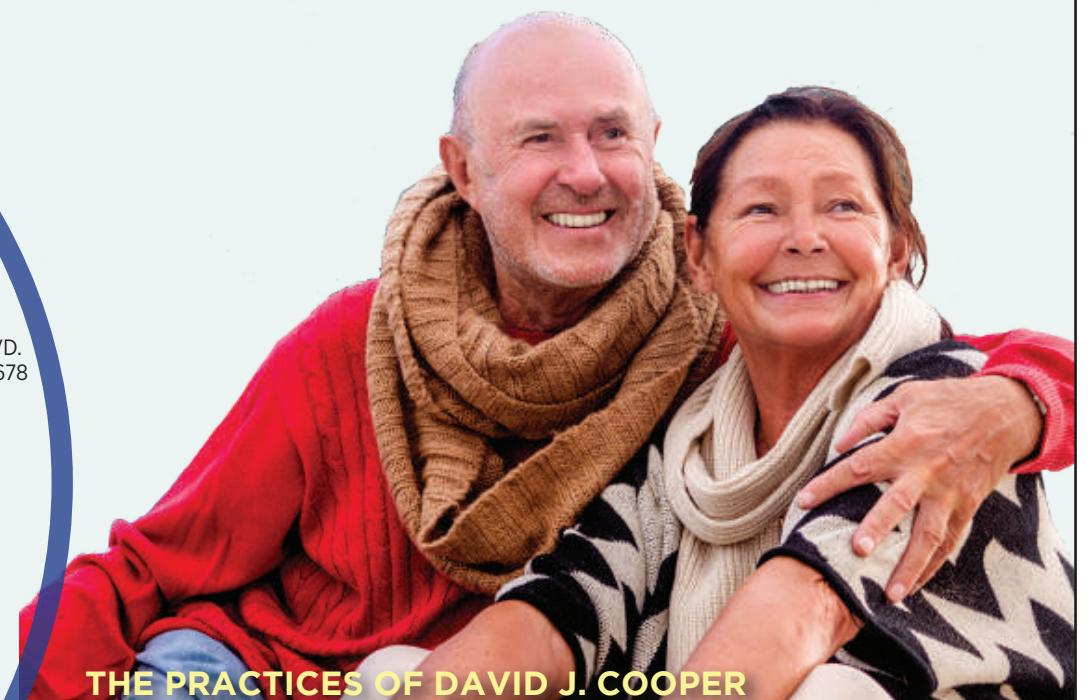
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College Holds Virtual Commencement

St. Mary's College of Maryland, the National Public Honors Colleges, graduated 346 students with Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts in Teaching degrees on Saturday, May 8, with a virtual Commencement ceremony. Simultaneously, three Grad Walks, at 9 a.m., 12 p.m. and 3 p.m., took place at the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium for the class of 2021 and participants of the class of 2020.

The commencement address—available for viewing on the College's 2021 Commencement webpage (timestamp 7:38 in the virtual ceremony)—was delivered virtually by Mayor of Baltimore and St. Mary's College alumnus Brandon M. Scott '06. Scott is the 52nd mayor of Baltimore, Maryland. He was unanimously elected president of the Baltimore City Council by his colleagues in May 2019. As Council President, Scott developed and released the first-ever City Council President legislative agenda, focused on building safer, stronger communities, cleaning up city government, investing in Baltimore's young people, and centering equity.

Previously, Scott served on the City Council representing Baltimore's 2nd District. He was first elected in 2011 at the age of 27 and is one of the youngest people ever elected to the Baltimore City Council. He was also awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

Scott addressed the graduating class: "Graduating from college—any college—is no small feat. But graduating from an institution with the rigor and prestige that St. Mary's has is an entirely different story. Many of you have overcome fateful obstacles to get to this day. But no matter the circumstance that you grew up in, that you went through, hardship you surmounted or adversity that tried to keep you from greatness, you prevailed. Today is possible because you remained steadfast and true, and you deserve a hand."

In addition to Brandon Scott, an honorary degree—Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa—was presented to Mervin Savoy during the 9 a.m. Grad



Valedictorian Danielle Szyzborski

Walk. Savoy is a member of the Piscataway people and former Tribal Chair of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe of Maryland. She has dedicated her life to lifting the dignity and spirit of the Piscataway, Maryland's first indigenous tribe. Savoy provided leadership for her tribe, conducting research, meeting with elected officials, developing educational programs, and combating negative stereotypes. After 20 years, the State of Maryland officially recognized the Piscataway Conoy Tribe along with the Piscataway Indian Nation, largely due to Savoy's unwavering commitment to her community and her state.

This year, Danielle Szyzborski (double major: art and English) earned the honor of serving as valedictorian. Originally from Lusby, Szyzborski began her career at St. Mary's College in the fall of 2017 and has earned Dean's List status since her first semester. In addition to her strong course work and creative

achievement, Szyzborski has created art lessons for children, and also served as a Writing and Speaking Center tu-

tor, a teaching assistant, a gallery attendant, and an editorial assistant for the College archives. Szyzborski intends to continue her education after graduation by pursuing a master's degree in speech pathology from SUNY Buffalo.

Szyzborski gave her valedictorian address via video, now posted on the Commencement webpage. Speaking of the virtual Commencement, Szyzborski said, "It's incredible that we can all be part of this no matter where we are." And addressing her fellow students, Szyzborski said, "You're the soul of today's St. Mary's community and tomorrow, I hope that the soul of St. Mary's will continue to be as alive as it is today."

At the conclusion of the virtual Commencement ceremony and each Grad Walk, President Tuajuanda C. Jordan charged the Class of 2021 with the following: "You have done well here at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where you have studied and learned in the finest liberal arts tradition. As you 'sail through this to that' in moving beyond the banks of this river into the world, my expectation is that you will take your passions, your skills, and the knowledge you have gained at this place to create a more just and humane society for all."

Press Release from SMCM.

Pet OF THE WEEK



MEET MINA

I am old and grey,
my steps might be slower
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Hello, my name is Mina. I'm a WONDERFUL SENIOR searching for a LOVING HOME where I can rest myself on a rug by your feet or curl up in a dog bed in the warm sunshine. I'm a QUIET, DOCILE, 8 year old girl and I don't seem to mind other dogs. I really like getting attention and being petted. If you can be my BEST FRIEND on my journey through my golden years, then email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

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

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The expert assessment determined that Sheamus had displaced aggression that was territory-based and the result of general anxiety about his hectic environment. The breeder and the K9 Academy agree that he can be well-trained to curb his aggression, and be a stress-free pet and that a new home and new people, will also curb

the tendency.

We are looking for an appropriate, experienced dog owner who can provide a stable home life.

The breeder will offer lifetime support for Sheamus to his new owners. Contact Bruce Murch <https://puppies.covenantfarmva.com/>

The Show Must Go On

Live Theater Returns to Area

By Dick Myers
Editor

Live theater is returning to the area after more than a year relegated to a virtual life -- and the actors and actresses are ecstatic. The audience reaction completes the circle of their craft. The cast is largely from Calvert and St. Mary's counties.

It's called "Breaking Legs" and will be performed live by New Directions Community Theater on Friday and Saturday, June 4-5 and 11-12 at 7 p.m. and a Sunday, June 6 matinee at 2 p.m. Performances will be at Long Beach Community Center, 5845 Calvert Blvd., St. Leonard, MD 20685. For tickets, visit www.ndtheater.org. Cost for adults is \$15 and for students and seniors \$12. For more information: (443) 624-4484.

Director Rick Thompson said, "At the community center, we are configuring the stage area so we can open the windows and doors on either side for cross ventilation. In addition, the silent overhead fans will be running for even more ventilation. In a sense, we're turning the inside into outside. Of course, we will be social distancing (and taking temperatures) as well."

Written by Tom Dulack, it tells of Playwright Terence O'Keefe's new play. He wants the family of a former student to back it. But the "family" turns out to be minor Mafia godfathers who like the idea, provided they never have to read the play — which doesn't mean they won't want to make a few "minor" changes. The fact that the lusty, unmarried daughter of the house (his former student) is hotly pursuing the playwright only makes life more complicated. And Terry's play? It's about a murder.

Thompson, in his notes to the cast, explained, "Sometimes you find a good play purely by accident. Last year I was browsing through Second Look Books, a sorely missed used bookstore in Prince Frederick, when I noticed a hard cover play. I happen to collect those, and so I bought Breaking Legs, having never heard of it or the author, Tom Dulack.

"As I read this comic mixture of theater and the mob, I kept thinking, 'Where have you been all my life? This is hilarious!' Turned out it had run over a year Off Broadway with reviews like 'a silly symphony of laughs' and 'a crowd pleaser that is what comedies on Broadway used to be like?'"

New Directions had planned on staging the show last year and the cast had been selected when the pandemic hit.

They all agreed to do it this year. Thompson said, "We decided in the new year that we were going to plan on doing it live," although at the time that was questionable. "Then," he said, "all the vaccines came. and it loosened up. By April 17th, our full cast had been vaccinated." They've been rehearsing in Thompson's house, which has been un-



usual, he admits.

The cast is anxious. He said, "The audience is the last part of the show. You have the script; you have what the author did. You have the actors developing the characters, playing off each other. You have the lighting and the sound and all that, but the audience is the last part. And it's an important part because you can get reactions from the audience. And the interplay between the performers and the audience, that's the joy of live theater."

Performers in "Breaking Legs" are:

- Sid Curl (Lou Graziano) has been involved in some form of show business since high school. He has worked the east coast from Massachusetts to Virginia including an off-Broadway show at Circle in the Square in New York City. He has been associated with Twin Beach Players in North Beach for over 20 years.

- Monica Jones (Angie Graziano) is appearing in her second New Directions production, having played Jess in last season's A Night Between Heaven and Hell. Monica is a Calvert County EMT-Paramedic. She lives in Lusby.

- Justin McCright (Terence O'Keefe) has since 2010 been fortunate to per-

form in many shows, among them The Diary of Anne Frank, It's A Wonderful Life, 1776 and The Crucible for Port Tobacco Players; Barefoot in The Park, The Time Machine, and Certain Souls for Twin Beach Players; and In The Heat of the Night, and A Christmas Carol for Tantallon Community Players.

- William Righter (Tino De Felice) is proud to be making his New Direction Community Theatre debut in Breaking Legs. He has had plenty of theatre experience as a member of the Port Tobacco Players. Some of his acting credits include Avram in Fiddler on the Roof, Dr. C in A Christmas Carol in Washington, Cyrano in the WATCH Award-Winning production of Cyrano and Walter Hobbs in Elf: The Musical.

- Robert Sebo (Frankie Salvucci) has performed in numerous shows with the local theatre groups in Pennsylvania. Some of his past favorite performances include: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, 1776, Two by Two and West Side Story. Recently he was seen in the Twin Beach Players production of Barefoot in the Park (Telephone Man — Harry Pepper) and It's a Wonderful Life (Clarence).

- David Thomas (Mike Francisco) is

returning to the theatre after a five-year hiatus. His directorial credits include A Soldier's Play, Equus, A Hope in the Unseen, The Sunshine Boys, A Lesson Before Dying and A Raisin in the Sun (which earned the Ruby Griffith Award for Best Overall Production). The former artistic director for Hard Bargain Players, he has been a board member for the Port Tobacco Players and the Washington Area Community Theatre Honors (WATCH). He is a resident of Golden Beach.

Thompson is directing his third show for New Directions Community Theater, following Come Blow Your Horn and Plaza Suite. Elsewhere has staged The Man Who Came Dinner, A Thurban Carnival, God's Favorite, Gaslight Follies, The Odd Couple, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Front Page, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and Tribute.

He has acted with all four area theater groups, produced four shows and sound designed 46. Rick is a playwright as well, and his The Ghost Before Christmas will be produced this December by Twin Beach Players.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

A View From The BLEACHERS Boz



By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

I first met legends of print in the folded remnants of a newspaper. The pristine paper had been stuffed into a mailbox long before the light of day. Retrieval occurred shortly thereafter, still under the darkness of night. A long journey began, the details a mystery. Much content was discarded immediately, still more with hardly a glance. The trimmings didn't matter; the surviving part held all the allure.

The sports section.

I grew up in perhaps the last golden era of sports journalism. Every morning, hours before I greeted the day, my dad would grab The Washington Post from the paper box on his way to some unknown place for another long workday. I would scurry off to school and try to escape the ire of nuns who were determined to impart lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic (all with the believed threat of a hickory stick) on my meandering brain; each day was an endeavor to advance my flailing existence a little closer to something meaningful (still is). In the evenings, I'd cross paths with my dad and he would hand me that well-worn Post sports section to devour. It was, with all due respect, something like Bible study.

If you grew up with the internet, it is hard to describe the importance of the sports page. Before 24/7 instant access, updates on Cal Ripken Jr.'s batting average, the NFL's passing leaders and standings in the NHL's Patrick Division landed daily in your parents' mailbox and, by the grace of God, in your hands after dinner.

Statistics were merely the appetizer. The Post's columnists made the 25-cent cover price a steal. I grew up reading the hilarious wit of Tony Kornheiser and the brilliant, I-think-you-can-handle-the-truth critiques of Michael Wilbon. I even had the good fortune of reading the occasional column by Shirley Povich, simply one of the great sportswriters of all time.

There was another voice dutifully typing away and churning out content during this time – Mr. Thomas Boswell (formality earned). "Boz", as he became affectionately known, outlasted

them all at The Post, and is still at it – count me grateful. Admission: He was an acquired taste. Mr. Boswell's writing, frankly, was above my reading level for some time. But I kept at it (somewhere those nuns are smiling), and found a cherished voice.

Looking back, Kornheiser's prose delivered consistent humor and a reminder to not take this stuff – sports...or life - too seriously. Wilbon made me think and taught me the power of polite, but direct, honesty. Mr. Boswell's style is different. His writing is elegant. The craftsmanship is apparent and powerful. Reading Mr. Boswell is like taking a seat in a lecture hall to hear a wise sage speak – bring your notepad, a pen (and a backup) and prepare to absorb the facts, the feelings, the perspective.

October 30, 2019: After the Nationals recorded the final out in Game 7 to capture D.C.'s first World Series since 1924, I embraced my dad, the same guy who had handed me all those sports' pages, and did a massive group hug with my wife and kids. As I watched the celebration, I thought immediately of Mr. Boswell, a baseball lover who had toiled for decades with no team, covered a talented Nationals team for years that had seemingly caught the D.C. sports jinx...and now this happened. All of this. No writer deserved to cover a World Series champion more than Mr. Boswell.

May 7, 2021: I settled in to peruse The Post's sports page – the online version...just as effective as print, but minus the charm. Mr. Boswell's latest column immediately grabbed my eye. The title teased a reflection point in D.C. sports journalism – after 52 years at The Post, Mr. Boswell had decided to retire. In June, he'll push away from his keyboard to enjoy a new chapter in life.

The piece was brilliant of course, but my quiet reflection produced inescapable melancholy. Life is so...fluid. Change...is inevitable. We try to embrace it, but often just find a way to deal with it. Nothing lasts forever. But sometimes, if we're lucky, special things can last half a century.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

Tackle Box Fishing Report



Annie Grove leads THe Tackle Box big perch contest with this 13 incher from Chaptico Wharf.

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Rockfish are being caught daily in the Potomac and in the upper regions of the bay from Deale north to Baltimore. Catches of the trophy rockfish in the lower bay have been plunking along at a slower rate. The concentrations of big fish in the Potomac and upper bay seems to related to bigger concentrations of baitfish.

Trollers are using the big baits with 9 inch shads and stinger hooks.

Next Sunday the rockfish minimums fall to 19 inches in Maryland and 20 inches in the Potomac.

The cold front that barged in on Friday has put the fish migrations on hold. Big winds and 40 degree temperatures are not conducive to good fishing or crabbing.

Tide flows have been minimal, with very low water. These conditions are poor for all fishing.

There have been perch biting in the deeper waters in the rivers and bay.

Catfishing is excellent in the Potomac and Patuxent.

Crappie, bass, bluegill and pickerel are hitting lures and bait in the lakes and ponds.

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PATUXENT RIVER

NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Pax River Prepares for Hurricane Season With Annual Exercise

By Donna Cipolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

Naval installations in the National Capital Region are participating in the Navy's annual Hurricane Exercise/Citadel Gale 2021 (HURREX/CG) now through May 14, including Naval Support Activities Washington, South Potomac, and Bethesda; Naval Activity Annapolis; and Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season closed with a record-breaking 30 named storms and 12 land-falling storms in the continental United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Of the 30 storms produced, 13 became hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or greater), including six major hurricanes (top winds of 111 mph or greater.)

With this year's hurricane season fast approaching (June 1-Nov. 30), HURREX/CG, led by U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, Navy Installations Command, prepares the Navy to respond to adverse weather conditions in U.S. coastal regions and maintain the ability to deploy forces under the most severe conditions. It also tests the response times for accounting for Sailors,

Department of Navy civilians and families in affected regions via the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS).

"The purpose of the exercise is to prepare Navy staff and crews for the potential impacts of a storm on infrastructure and operations," explained Pat Paulsen, NAS Patuxent River's supervisory emergency management specialist. "This year's exercise involves a simulated storm system developing and intensifying to hurricane strength, threatening the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico."

Conducted over a two-week period, the first week simulates the storm system's evolution along the U.S. Atlantic coast which will drive Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness (TCCOR), simulated ship sorties, aircraft evacuation, disaster preparedness and response, and the ability to operate with mission essential personnel only. The second week shifts focus to procedures for recovery, including lifting evacuation orders, reopening installations, and conducting damage assessments.

All Navy commands throughout Naval District Washington, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, and Navy Region Southeast will participate. There will be no Navy ship move-



ments associated with HURREX/CG 2021; however, fleet units will execute muster procedures and shore-based heavy weather responses such as heavy-weather mooring of ships of every class and heavy-weather tie-downs of each aircraft type.

While HURREX/CG helps to determine if there are any areas where the region or the installation can improve their ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, it is encouraged that personnel take charge of their own preparation and planning.

"It's important that all personnel — Sailors and civilians — keep their personal information current in NFAAS," Paulsen noted. "It's an essential resource for tracing Navy personnel and family mem-

bers during crisis or natural disasters. Also, there are different resources available to our Navy families to help them be prepared in the event of a disaster, and we recommend they take the time to learn about them before an event occurs."

During the training exercise, all precautions are being implemented to minimize the threat of COVID-19 to participating personnel, with their health and safety remaining the top priority throughout the exercise.

For detailed information on emergency preparedness by staying informed, making a plan, building a kit and more, visit www.ready.navy.mil or www.ready.gov. To register with NFAAS, go to <https://navyfamily.navy.mil>

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www.somd.com

Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



SEARCHING FOR SERENITY



I think I am ready for another Green Acres Nursery and Loveville Leather day off Parsons Mill Road in Loveville, especially with all the gas craziness going on this week, but on the other hand, I don't want to use up my gas. It looks like things should be better, maybe back to normal, where the gas issue is concerned, by the end of the week...I sure hope so, because I do like to wander around the county when I can. Some days, a Green Acres day to walk around the greenhouse or outside among the plants and herbs is all I need to feel centered again. And walking into Mr. Stauffer's Leather shop always makes me happy. I normally go in to buy Mindy her peanut butter bones and get this wonderful smelling canister of essential oils and waxes called BugPellant that helps keep the bees, flies, and wasps out of my workshop when I have the door open. I love looking at all the leather items he makes for the horses, even though I have never been on a horse myself. One day I will get over this fear.

And of course, no day on Parsons Mill Road is complete unless I head over to Dove Point Variety, right across from Loveville Leather's driveway. I love the smell of spices that hit you when you open the front door. And I am always completely in awe of all their baking supplies with every type of chocolate, cinnamon or lots of other chips, and fruit fillings by the tube. When I had my frame shop and gallery in Leonardtown, I used to buy all First Friday lunchmeats, goodies, and home-baked bread there. Their fabric and sewing center inside was a constant for me too for all sorts of framing projects.

About two weeks ago, when I made my Parsons Mill trek, I found this wonderful new steak rub at Dove Point Variety from the company who makes the sweet Hungarian style Paprika I use, and my mother used before me: Pride of SZEGED. I couldn't wait to use the steak rub and wow, was it

good. I have used it on steak and in pot roast since then. It's not too strong, it's "just right" as Goldilocks would say. Now, I need to go back and get the chicken and fish rubs too. Since I am half Hungarian, I wanted to check and see if Pride of Szeged spices are truly produced in Hungary and I found this on their site: "Impeccably cultivated in the southern Szeged region of Hungary, Pride of Szeged Hungarian Paprika is considered to be the best of the best due to its unmatched production traceability of regulated quality standards from seed to the final spice." I am extra happy now.

I haven't made my Woodburn Hill Road in Mechanicsville trek in quite a long time, so I may have to add that in to my one day serenity excursions soon. I love getting the fresh made cheeses at Clover Hill Dairy. Just taking a drive down the road with my windows open is wonderful. Normally, this week I would be going to Westham Produce Supply off Woodburn Hill Road to pick up a case of green strawberry baskets for the Strawberry Festival...maybe next year.

I so enjoy shopping local in the Mennonite, Amish, and all Southern Maryland community businesses. We all have to help each other with our support. I already try hard to be supportive of our Southern Maryland wineries...it's such a sacrifice I know.

I realize the gas issue might be a problem for a bit, but if you plan your trips accordingly, you can pack a lot of fun, and meet some wonderful hard-working neighbors in a short amount of time and distance. As for today, it's the convenience center/drug store loop, but I may just find something new and fun along the way to help my search for serenity. If not, some time out by the firepit will be perfect for some solitude and peace. Hope you fit a day in like this as well.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby
Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook

HELPING YOUR ELDERLY PARENTS

Contributing Writer:
Lynda J. Striegel

As painful as it is to think that your parents may one day be unable to drive, climb stairs, feed themselves or change their own clothes, the time to face these issues is right now when your parents are relatively healthy and, most importantly, able to understand what they are signing. You and your siblings need to have "the talk" with your parents while there is still time to protect them.

Clearly, "the talk" will extend far beyond the legal documents that your parents need to put into place. However, no matter what else you discuss, your parents need the protection that the following legal documents will give them:

1. Power of Attorney. This document gives power to a person each of your parents designates to make decisions for them if they are unable to do so. Your parents need to understand that they are NOT giving up their power to make decisions for themselves. All they are doing is appointing someone to make those decisions if and only if they cannot do so.

In most cases of married couples, the spouses appoint each other as the power of attorney and, if the other cannot serve, appoint a child or other loved one. Each one of your parents needs their own power of attorney.

The form of Power of Attorney that I prefer covers medical care, financial care and guardianship. On the medical side, keep in mind that the HIPPA law gives people privacy for their medical records, but has a flaw. If one of your parents were to have a stroke and be unable to verbally consent to the other obtaining his or her medical records, they could not get them. The only way to correct this is to give the power of attorney the right to get the medical records no matter what shape your parent is in.

Guardianship is also a critical point. You would think that your father or mother would have the right to sign the paperwork to institutionalize the other if they had to. They do not have that power. Either parent would have to go to court to be declared the guardian of the other before they could sign the paperwork. That court process takes time and costs legal fees. Instead, the power of attorney form should make it clear that the person appointed as power of attorney is also the guardian.

Some attorneys will use an Advance Directive and a separate Financial Power of Attorney. Same

result, more forms. No matter—the critical issue is whether your elderly parent has the capacity to sign the forms.

In order to sign a Power of Attorney, your parents must be able to understand what they are signing. If your elderly parent has dementia in its later stages and cannot understand what they are doing, they cannot sign legal documents, including the power of attorney. I can't tell you how many times I get calls from children of an elderly parent with dementia seeking a power of attorney to help their parent. Unfortunately, if the parent has dementia and cannot understand what they are signing, I cannot help them.

Everyone needs the protection that a Power of Attorney offers. Make sure your parents put that protection in place now when they can.

2. Will or Trust. Your parents need to obtain a Will or a Revocable Living Trust to ensure that their assets will be distributed to their loved ones the way they want it done. A Will is only applicable after the person dies. With a Will or without one, if the person dies with assets in their sole name, those assets must go through the probate process to get to loved ones. The revocable living trust avoids the probate process and works while you are still alive. It is especially effective if one of your parents is incapacitated. If that happens, the other parent ordinarily becomes the sole trustee of the family trust and uses the assets of the trust to take care of the incapacitated Trustee. If both your parents are incapacitated, they will have appointed a successor trustee under the family trust who can manage the assets in the trust on their behalf.

3. Living Will. Your parents should make their own end of life decisions, specifically whether they want life-saving procedures, in a Living Will. Forms for living wills are found in doctor's offices, at hospitals and online.

No matter how you approach these topics with your parents, they need to be discussed. Family harmony is the critical issue—don't let messes happen. Encourage your parents to take control and protect themselves and the family.

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

Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Paradise Point LLC
C/O Lucas I. Dansie Counsel for Plaintiff
406 5th Street NW, Lower Level Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 783-1597, lucas@dansielaw.com,

Case No. C18CV21000041

Plaintiff

v.

Norman G. Doyle, Sr.
20919 Willows Rd, Lexington Park MD 20653

and

Margaret Doyle
20919 Willows Rd, Lexington Park MD 20653

and

Wesbanco
Mark Semanie, Resident Agent
1525 Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716

and

Wesbanco
Joseph E. Burnett or M. John Miller, Trustees
1525 Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716

St. Mary's County, Maryland,

and

all unknown 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:

NO ADDRESS GREAT MILLS 20634-0000
Waterfront and also known as Account Number 08-097976,

Defendants.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

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

NO ADDRESS GREAT MILLS 20634-0000
Waterfront and also known as Account Number 08-097976,

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 7th day of April, 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 a 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 7th day of June, 2021 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Paradise Point LLC
C/O Lucas I. Dansie, Counsel for Plaintiff
406 5th Street NW, Lower Level, Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 783-1597, lucas@dansielaw.com,

Case No. C18CV21000041

Plaintiff

v.

The Estate of Robert N. Shaw
C/O Elizabeth Kowley
24014 Dudley Ct., Hollywood, MD 20636-3209 ,

and

The Estate of Elva S. Shaw
C/O Elizabeth Kowley
24014 Dudley Ct., Hollywood, MD 20636-3209

and

St. Mary's County, Maryland,

and

all unknown 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:

46064 Rolling Rd, Lexington Park, MD 20653
and also known as Account Number 08-042942,

Defendants.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

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

46064 Rolling Rd Lexington Park, MD 20653
also known as Account Number: 08-042942

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 7th day of April, 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 a 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 7th day of June, 2021 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 4:15 pm at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD to hear comments on Ordinance No.209, Leonardtown Comprehensive Plan- future growth area section revision.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 pm on May 17, 2021 to the Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Commission, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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**If you would like to place a
LEGAL NOTICE contact
AlDaileyCountytimes@gmail.com**

St. Mary's Community Calendar

To submit your event listing to go in our Community Calendar, please email timescalendar@countytimes.net with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

Thursday, May 13

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

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

Diabetes Prevention Program

The Diabetes Prevention Program helps participants establish and stick with positive lifestyle changes, such as healthy eating habits, physical activity and positive stress management, which can prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 diabetes. This free program includes 16 weekly sessions, followed by monthly sessions for ongoing support from a lifestyle coach. Register at www.smchd.org/dpp.

Friday, May 14

Beth Israel Synagogue Shabbat Services Online

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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

CSM Spring Graduation Virtual Commencement

Virtual; 1 p.m.

CSM's Spring Commencement virtual ceremony is being held on Facebook Live. More details to follow on the virtual ceremony and in-person activities. <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/2021/05/spring-commencement.html>

Saturday, May 15

CSM Dance Ensemble

Virtual

Rather than a final performance, the Spring 2021 CSM Dance Ensemble has been working on a project touching on the emotional impact the pandemic has had on artists. Director Stillwagon and students explore the journey dancers have been taking to adapt and continue moving forward in the video performance entitled "Our Way Back Home." The performance will be posted on CSM's YouTube Channel on May 15 for two weeks. Free. <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/2021/05/dance-ensemble.html>

CSM Jazz and Latin Ensemble

Virtual; 7:30 p.m.

CSM's Jazz Ensemble, "Solid

Brass," directed by Randall Runyon, is a community jazz band with membership consisting of CSM students, several military band veterans, and members of the community. They bring to us a concert entitled "Virtual Big Band Variety Show." The "Ritmo Caché" Latin Ensemble, directed by Dr. Phil Ravita, will feature several old familiar "chestnuts" of Latin American music in styles such as salsa, bolero, and Latin Pop. Free. <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/2021/05/jazz-latin-ensemble.html>

Food Truck Fair

Hughesville VFD; 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Food trucks present will be Nicoletti's Pizza, Deutsch-Mex, Smokers Delight BBQ, Kona Ice, Sweet Tooth Funnel Cakes, New Orleans by Myra. 50/50 raffle, winner does not need to be present to win.

Silent Auction

St. Andrews Church; noon - 3 p.m. Additional items for individual sale.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine Event

Lexington Park Library; noon - 4 p.m.

COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, while supplies last) will be available to all community members. Appointment-free, No Doctor's order needed, Free of charge (no out-of-pocket cost, co-payment, co-insurance, etc.), No insurance needed. More information on local COVID-19 testing is available at: www.smchd.org/covid-19-testing. For more information on SMCHD COVID-19 vaccination clinics, please visit www.smchd.org/covid-19-vaccine.

Community Shred and Medication Take Back Day

Department of Aging and Human Services; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Do you have paper documents with personal information that you'd like to purge? Or do you have unused, unwanted or expired medications in your cabinets? This is your chance to dispose of them safely at the Community Shred & Medication Take Back Day! This event will be held at the Department of Aging & Human Services, located at 41780 Baldrige St, Leonardtown, MD 20650. For more information, contact Community Programs & Outreach Manager Sarah Miller at sarah.miller@stmarysmd.com or 301-475-4200, ext. 1073. For information on safe disposal of medication and medical sharps such as needles, lancets and syringes, please visit: www.smchd.org/disposal.

Sunday, May 16

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine Event

Lexington Park Library; noon - 4 p.m.

COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, while supplies last) will be available to all community members. Appointment-free, No Doctor's order needed, Free of charge (no out-of-pocket cost, co-payment, co-insurance, etc.), No insurance needed. More information on local COVID-19 testing is available at: www.smchd.org/covid-19-testing. For more information on SMCHD COVID-19 vaccination clinics, please visit www.smchd.org/covid-19-vaccine.

Tuesday, May 18

Grief Support Group

Calvary Chapel; 7 p.m.

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

Wednesday, May 19

Wayback Wednesdays

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

DAV Assistance Program

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

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

of assistance to you. No appointment necessary.

Food Pantry

Noon- 6 p.m.

St. Matthew's Pentecostal Church, 23755 Hollywood Road Leonardtown, MD 20650. 301-475-2910

Ledo's Pizza Fundraiser

Leonardtown Ledo's Pizza; 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Benefit fundraiser for 7th District VFD Auxiliary. Please mention the Auxiliary's fundraiser when paying the bill. Thank you for your support.

Thursday, May 20

CSM Transfer Thursday

Virtual; 11 a.m.

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

Diabetes Prevention Program

The Diabetes Prevention Program helps participants establish and stick with positive lifestyle changes, such as healthy eating habits, physical activity and positive stress management, which can prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 diabetes. This free program includes 16 weekly sessions, followed by monthly sessions for ongoing support from a lifestyle coach. Register at www.smchd.org/dpp.

Ongoing

Scratch-Off Fundraiser Raffle

PRIZE; \$250 Scratch-Offs & \$100 Cash; \$5.00 Per Ticket - (MUST BE 18 TO BUY RAFFLE TICKETS); Purchase in Person: *At SDVFD & RS, Valley Lee - Wednesday (630pm - 830pm); *At Dyson's Lumber, Great Mills - Saturdays (8am-2pm); or *At WEIS, Callaway - Sundays (9am-1pm); For more information contact: Robin Dove (240)577-0270, Drawing: Tuesday, May 18, 2021@ SDVFDRS Auxiliary Meeting; Winner need not be present to win!

Blackstone Grill Raffle

To benefit 7 th District VFD Auxiliary Range Top Combo with Griddle, Two-Burner Stovetop & Fryer A basket full of Cooking Essentials included. Tickets: \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00 Raffle: July 2, 2021 Contact: Barbara Sue at 301-769-2654

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

Emory Osten Kelley



Emory Osten Kelley, 89, of Clements, MD died on May 7, 2021 at his home. Born June 17, 1931 in Deerfield, VA, he was the son of the late Sylvester S. Kelley and Edith Griffin.

He was the husband of Rita Kelley (Boswell) whom he married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bowie, MD on August 30, 1952.

He is preceded in death by his siblings Junie Kelley, Leonard Kelley, Marion Holt, Stuard Kelley, Helen, Lee and Robert Kelley as well as his granddaughter Brandi Kelley.

He is survived by his wife Rita

Kelley (Boswell), his children; Linda (Ken) Shock, Mark (Sue) Kelley. His grandchildren; Michele (Darin) Hobbs, Anne (Danny) Cornell and Justin Kelley.

His great-grandchildren Logan, Grace, Meli, Caden and Kennedy.

Emory served in the US Army as a Sergeant from 1952-1954 in the Korean War and received the Purple Heart for combat injuries. He worked for the Department of Agricultural at the Plant Introduction Station until he retired and then moved to St. Mary's County in 1987.

He was an avid farmer and enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling and spending time with his family and friends. Emory enjoyed tinkering with and restoring old tractors. He was known as a jokester and was always planning out ways to tease those he loved. He enjoyed sharing family stories and always had a wonderful laugh.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 21, 2021 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD; where a Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 AM in the Funeral Home Chapel Leonardtown, MD with Bishop William McClean officiating. Interment will follow in Maryland Veterans Cemetery Cheltenham, MD.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory Leonardtown, MD

Agnes "Mildred" Vallandingham



Agnes "Mildred" Vallandingham (Lacey), 94, of Leonardtown, previously of Helen, MD passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at St. Mary's Nursing Center in Leonardtown, MD. Mildred was born on July 2, 1926 in Maddox, MD, to the late William Dudley and Mary Elsie (Knott) Lacey. She married Robert Luke Ferguson of Hollywood, MD on January 19, 1948. Together, they had two children, Robert Luke Ferguson Jr. (deceased) and Barbara Claire Nelson. He preceded her in death on November 28, 1963. She then married Clarence Aloysius Vallandingham of Helen, MD on November 29, 1974. He preceded her in death on October 12, 2004.

Mildred is survived by her daughter, Barbara Claire Nelson of Clements, sister, Elizabeth "Betty Jean" Cusic of Mechanicsville, grandchildren, Theresa Bailey (Craig) of Colton's Point, Michelle Hunt (Jeffery) of Ravenel, SC, Parran Nelson (Sandy) of Mechanicsville, Nicholas Nelson (Phyllis) of Mechanicsville, great grandchildren Ryan Palmer (Julie), Cassie Nelson, Morgan Nelson, Hunter Hunt and great-great-grandchild Avery Palmer. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son-in-law Terry Lee Nelson, siblings, James "Danky" Lacey, Lucille Magill, Gladys Johnson, Francis Lacey, Margaret Ann Lacey, Theresa Marie Lacey, Paul "Sonny" Lacey, Aloysius Lacey, Joseph Lacey, and Grace Smythers.

Mildred was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. She worked at the A&P Grocery store and Rosenberg's store and Hall's Shoes and Clothing in Hollywood. She worked at Hall's for 36 years before retiring in 2004. Mildred enjoyed several hobbies including selling Avon and playing pitch

with family and friends. Her greatest passion though was her family.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 14, 2021 from 9:00-10:00 at the Mattingly Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 10:30 AM in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow in the St. John's Catholic Church Cemetery. Serving as Pallbearers will be Dallas Hill, Mike Vallandingham, Frankie Vallandingham, Dennis Spalding, John Hall, and Kenny Wood. Honorary Pallbearers will be Bernard Magill and JC Vallandingham.

Memorial contributions in memory of Mildred may be made to the St. Mary's Nursing Center Foundation, Leonardtown, MD and/or St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory Leonardtown, MD

Philip "Phil" Henry Hurry, Sr.



Philip "Phil" Henry Hurry, Sr., 92, of Clements, MD passed away on May 2, 2021 at his home. He was born on May 27, 1928 in Clements, MD and was the son of the late Agnes Mae Raley Hurry and Jon Donelin Hurry. Phil was the loving husband of Georgia Ellen Oliver Hurry, whom he married on August 8, 2017 in the Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, MD. Phil is survived by his children, Philip Henry Hurry of Miami, FL, Melanie Genevieve Guy of Mechanicsville, MD, JoAnne Louise Alu of Dunkirk, MD, John Bernard Hurry of Clements, MD, Joseph David Hurry of Clements, MD, Lorretta Lynn Fields of Clements, MD, 23 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife Katherine Leila Radford and his children, James Michael Hurry, Katherine Claire Radford, and his siblings John William Hurry, Joseph Donald (Scoogie) Hurry, Agnes Hurry Healey, Richard Johnson Hurry, James Raley Hurry, George Love (Scottie) Hurry, Betty Hurry Russell, Lucy



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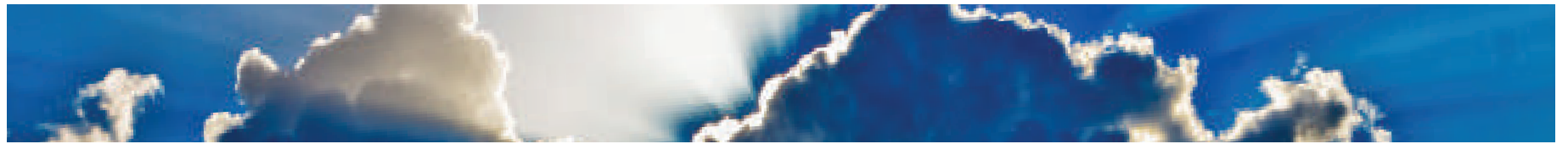
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Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-5588



BRINSFIELD FUNERAL HOME, P.A.
30195 Three Notch Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-472-4400

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR TWO GENERATIONS

www.brinsfieldfuneral.com



Hurry Anderson, and Mary Virginia Hurry Sapp.

Phil graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1945. In 1950, Phil opened the Shell Service Station in Clements, MD. In 1954, he obtained a dealership to sell Ford tractors. In 1963, Phil opened the Black Steere Bar and Restaurant. He sold it in the 1970's and went to work for Churchill Distributors selling whiskey until his retirement. He tried entering County Politics running for County Sheriff, House of Delegates, and County Treasurer in the 1960's and early 1970's. Civic minded, he joined the 7th District Optimist and served 1 year as president. Owner of the Clements ballfield, he could be seen on his front porch watching the evening games. He was the original driver for the Clements Cuties, driving them to their fundraising games in his RV. He also drove some of the teams to Ocean City for tournaments. Having his pilot license, he would sometimes fly team members to or from Ocean City for other commitments.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting memorial contributions to go to Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory Leonardtown, MD

Donna Juanita "Donna J" Shaffer



Donna Juanita "Donna J" Shaffer, 63, of Leonardtown, MD formerly of Hollywood, MD passed away on May 2, 2021 in Leonardtown, MD. She was born on May 21, 1957 in Leonardtown, MD and was the daughter of Elsie Juanita Newton Wallace and Charles Grant Wallace, Sr. Donna J was the loving wife of Charles William Shaffer III whom she married in her parent's front yard in Hollywood, MD. Donna J is survived by her daughter Lesli Craver, 2 grandchildren, and her siblings Charles Grant Wallace, Jr. (Fay) of Hollywood, MD and Clifford Martin Wallace (Denise) of Leonard-

town, MD. She was preceded in death by Elmira Elizabeth Davis Wallace, Charles Clifford Wallace, Sunny Wallace, Elsie Marie Hill Newton, and Martin Woodley Newton.

Donna J was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, she graduated from Great Mills High School in 1975. She was a Paint Store Manager for Sherwin Williams from 1985 to 2001, then she was the manager for Southern MD Paint from 2002-2015. Donna J retired in 2019 after being employed for 35 plus years.

Donna J enjoyed being with animals, in particular her dogs and cats. She enjoyed breeding and raising Pomeranians and Himalayan cats. Donna J liked to draw, paint, and color. She enjoyed adult coloring books – she had a very large collection of books, figurines, and antiques.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. & Crematory Leonardtown, MD

William Russell "Russ" Cullins, Jr.



On May 5, 2021 William Russell "Russ" Cullins, Jr., 91, of Clements, MD passed away peacefully at his home with his loving family at his side.

He was born on March 30, 1930 in Dynard, MD to the late William Russell Cullins, Sr. and Margaret Hayden Cullins. Russ was raised on Mount Chance Farm in Clements MD learning the craft of farming from his forefathers and developing a special love for the land. He was a graduate of St. Mary's Academy in Leonardtown.

On October 24, 1953 he married his beloved wife, Arlene Candela Cullins. Together they celebrated over 60 wonderful years of marriage before her passing in January 2014. He and Arlene built their home on Mt. Chance Farm where they raised their family of 8 children. After the passing of his father in 1962, Russ assumed responsibility for Mt. Chance and he was extremely proud of its designation as a

Maryland Century Farm. He was also the owner & operator of Russ Cullins Lime Service for many years where he made connections and friendships with the farming community across Southern Maryland.

Russ was deeply committed to the community and he was a lifetime member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. A longtime member of Southern Maryland Farm Bureau, and Charter Member and Past President of the Seventh District Optimist Club. He served for many years as a Judge of the Orphans Court for St. Mary's County.

Russ was well known throughout St. Mary's County and had a deep love for the people, the culture, and the traditions of Southern Maryland. He enjoyed being with people and attending events and gatherings where he shared a laugh and a story. He will be fondly remembered for many things but most importantly his love and admiration for his family and farm.

Russ is survived by his children: Catherine Zuza (Jack) of Pittsburgh, PA, William "Bill" Cullins (Sharon) of Clements, MD, David Cullins (Anne Mary) of Clements, MD, Margaret "Betsey" Roy of Bar Mills, ME, Janet "Maureen" LaMoria (Jerry) of Portland, ME, John "Tim" Cullins of Clements, MD, Anne Davis (Wayne) of Leonardtown, MD, Christopher Cullins (Lynn) of Mechanicsville, MD; 22 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren; and many extended family and friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, Russ is also preceded in death by his sisters: Elizabeth "Betty" Cullins, Louise Russell, and Dorothy "Dot" Cheseldine; and his grandson, Patrick Zuza.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sacred Heart Church Guardian Challenge, 23080 Maddox Road, Bushwood, MD 20618.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Ronald "Ronnie" Edward Hall

Ronald "Ronnie" Edward Hall, 63 of Leonardtown, MD passed away on May 5, 2021 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD.



Ronnie was born on July 21, 1957 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Charles Henry Hall and Mary Ann (Lawrence) Hall.

Ronnie worked for Hall's Construction as a Carpenter. He was a jack of all trades he could do anything; from building houses, fixing cars and boats if it was broke he could fix it. He loved his garden. He Planted a Huge one every year and shared with many people in the community when he lived in the 7 district and he did the same when he moved to Leonardtown in 2010. Josephine Scully was nice enough to allow him to plant another Huge one on her property. Daddy was a giver. People used to tease us growing up saying we should have a sign in the front yard saying "Ronnie's Helping Hands" he was loyal and very hardworking. He was always up for a challenge. He was the true definition of Love. Family and friends

*Thank you Lord for
Doug Delahay Woodburn
5/12/2000 - 8/3/2019
"love you pumpkin"*



*Words cannot say
We miss you everyday
Through the month of May
We remember your Birthday*

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In Remembrance

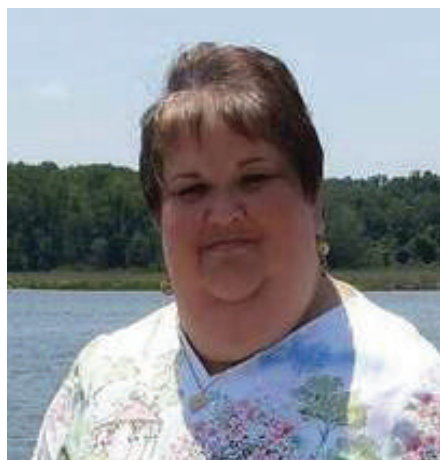
were most important to him and he enjoyed spending time with them whenever he could. He loved the outdoors especially hunting season with his buddies. He enjoyed fishing and being on the river, he would take us crabbing during the summer time. He also enjoyed tinkering with different things. When he was not working, he enjoyed spoiling and playing outdoors with his grandchildren and his great-grandchild "Butter Bean".

Ronnie is survived by his daughters, Lisa Diane Ryce (Timmy) of Leonardtown, MD; Kerri Hall (Alex Gough) of Great Mills, MD; and his son Christopher Johnson of Jacksonville, FL; his siblings, Linda Hall of Bryantown, Donald L. Hall (Christine) of Burnsville, NC; Susan "Carol" Barnes (Michael) of California, MD; and Francis "Teenieboy" Hall of Ridge, MD: his grandchildren Jacob Johnson, Cheyenne Corbett, Heaven Ryce, Abigael Ryce, Eliza Ryce, Piper Ryce, Jayden Gough, Bryan Gough, Bryson Gough and Jayson Gough and his great-grandson Michael Knott Jr. "Butterbean". He was preceded in death by his parents and Deborah "Debbie" Jean Hall whom he never stopped loving.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Micherle Lynne Wallace



Micherle Lynne Wallace was born at Columbia Hospital for Women in Washington D.C. on June 30, 1967 to the late Burl and Shirley Taylor. She grew up in Forestville, MD, graduating from Forestville High School. Micherle passed away May 4, 2021 in Marysville, PA at the age of 53.

Micherle was preceded in death by both of her parents. She is survived by her husband of 26 years, James Michael (Mike) Wallace, whom she married on November, 12, 1994; one brother, Michael Taylor of Clinton, MD, and one sister Marcia Taylor (Dave) of Marysville, PA; her five daughters: Ciera Taylor (Tiffany) of Marysville PA, Michaela Wallace (Larry) of Leonardtown, MD, Am-

ber Pineda (Matt) of La Plata, MD, Stephanie Reese (Wesley) of Lowell, IN and Rachel Wallace (John) of Conway, AR; four grandchildren: Cameron, Jackson, Kenley, and Alison, as well as one soon to be born; one nephew, John Dakota; four great nieces and nephews: Justice, Jocelyn, Dominic, and John Dakota, Jr; one uncle, Dale Simmons; and extended family and friends.

Micherle studied Psychology at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, MA. Her interest in this field led to a passion of supporting families however she could, many times going above and beyond what was expected. She was employed at the Lexington Park Family Support Center where she supported and advocated for families of younger children. Then, later with the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health, she was a Family Support Partner, assisting families who had children with mental health challenges. Helping families brought Micherle joy.

Micherle was very resilient, overcoming many life challenges and multiple physical challenges. Her love for her Lord was evident in all she did. She was observant of those in need and would offer to pray with them, even if she didn't know them.

Micherle's primary love was her family. As a wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, or aunt, she was a model of faith and the rock of her family.

Micherle lived with her family in Lexington Park, MD up until the last few years when they moved to Marysville, PA. She was a member of Lexington Park Baptist Church for many years and then joined Leonardtown Church of the Nazarene. Micherle had a heart that drew others to her. She will be missed by her many friends and family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lupus Foundation of America, 2121 K Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington D.C., 20037 or www.lupus.org.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Hilda Steiner

Hilda Steiner, 93, of Lexington Park, MD, passed away May 3, 2021 at her home with her family at her side.

She was born on January 11, 1928, in New York City, NY to the late Frank Polzer and Mary Kedl Polzer.

On July 13, 1947 Hilda married her beloved husband, Herman in New York City. Together they celebrated over 49 wonderful years of marriage before his passing in April 1997. She was employed as a dedicated and thorough bookkeeper at the Univer-



sity of Maryland until her retirement. As the matriarch of the family, she was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, and a faithful Catholic. She enjoyed traveling; some of her favorite travels included trips to Alaska, Australia and New Zealand. Together, she and her husband enjoyed dancing and socializing. They also loved road trips, especially in their RV and were known as the "Roadrunners." Playing the slots at the casinos was a favorite pastime. Lady luck followed her, as she always came home with more than she started. She was a long-time member of the Red Hat Society and was awarded her Purple Hat on her 90th birthday. She was an avid card player. She also enjoyed games like Yahtzee and Racko, and putting together jigsaw puzzles as a family. Fondue and game night was a special activity she always looked forward to. She had a terrific sense of humor, and enjoyed the shows by the Port Tobacco Players and the Newtowne Players.

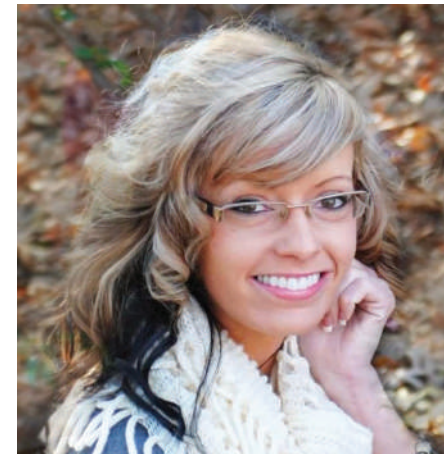
Hilda is survived by her children: Raymond Steiner (Ann) of Upper Marlboro, MD, Edward "Ed" Steiner (Anne) of Callaway, MD; Steven Steiner (Kellie) of Eugene, OR and Thomas Steiner of Houston, TX; her grandchildren: Marjorie Collins, Jennifer Meisinger, Joseph Steiner, Nathaniel Steiner, Victoria Steiner, Andrea Steiner, Michael Steiner, Colin Marsh, Shane Steiner, and Samantha Steiner; her great-grandchildren: Jacob, Fiona, Lila, Maia, and Fen; and extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her husband, Herman Joseph Steiner.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 22375 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653 and Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Courtney Dawn "Coco" Woodward



Courtney Dawn "Coco" Woodward, 31 of Lusby, MD passed away suddenly on May 5, 2021. She was born on October 23, 1989 in Birmingham, AL to Joy Meade and the late William Woodward.

Coco moved to Calvert County in 2003 and went on to graduate from Patuxent High School in 2007. She was a server at the Outback Steakhouse in California, MD where she made many friends. She also previously worked as a vet tech at Prince Frederick Animal Hospital, customer service agent at Sneade's Ace Hardware, and as an office assistant for Calvert County Fire and EMS.

Coco is survived by her mother, Joy Meade ("mamma"); sisters, Heather Woodward (twinny, "Nug") and Ashley Woodward (big sis); brothers, Matthew Woodward and Jeremy Woodward; nephews, Grayson Woodward, Turk, and Sunny; honorary nephew, Dawson Hall; nieces, Cheyann Woodward, Marley, and Hope; furbabies Harbor and Rex, and all of her amazing friends. She was preceded in death by her nephew, Pierson Woodward.

Coco, "we know you're shining down on us from heaven like so many friends we've lost along the way and we know eventually we'll be together, one sweet day".

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 11:00 am at the Drum Point Clubhouse, 465 Overlook Drive, Lusby, MD 20657. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to be made in Coco's memory to the Tri County Animal Shelter, 6707 Animal Shelter Rd, Hughesville, MD 20637. To leave the family a condolence please visit www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.

We love you always and forever baby girl!!

Percy Leonard "Pat" Fulcher



Percy Leonard "Pat" Fulcher, 75, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away at Bridgepoint Hospital-Capital Hill on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. He was born on June 5, 1945 to the late Percy Edward Fulcher and Dorothy Norris Fulcher.

After high school, Pat enlisted in the United States Air Force. He would go on to serve his country and family proud. On leave after his heroic time in Vietnam, Pat would meet his future wife, Janet. After twenty years of dedicated service, he would retire honorably.

Pat was a kind and compassionate man, who loved his wife, beyond all measure. Their love was true and they've spent over fifty-one years being the constant and best part of each other. Although they never had any children, Pat loved his nieces and nephews like his own.

He was a farrier by trade and animal friend by choice. Pat loved every day he got to spend in the fields or barn shoeing horses. Being a farrier is an art that takes years of practice and skill that Pat possessed. After many years, Pat began to work on his blacksmithing skills and his talents knew no bounds. His passion for his art was infectious and he would go on to mentor many young people.

Pat is survived by his loving wife, Janet D. Fulcher of Mechanicsville, MD; and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, David Fulcher and Nathan Fulcher.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 27108 Mt. Zion Church Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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

James Roscoe Curtis Jr.

James Roscoe Curtis Jr., affectionately known as "Jamie" was born on February 20, 1951 to Mary and the late James Curtis Sr.

On May 2, 2021, James unexpectedly departed this life. James was born in Chaptico, Maryland and edu-



cated in the St. Mary's County Public School system. He then later served in the United States Army and Vietnam War.

Together with his late wife Hilda Mae (Barnes), they raised five children together (3) sons, John Barnes, James Barnes and Francis Curtis, and (2) daughters, Anita Knighten and Rosett Curtis.

He was a very hard worker and held several positions of employment throughout his life. He held positions at Calvert Cliffs, Johnson and Johnson and various maintenance.

Maintenance positions. His last place of employment was at Longview Beach where he was a Ground Maintenance worker.

James was a very kind hearted and loving person. He would help anyone in need. In his spare time, he loved fishing and working cars. He was a jack-of-all-trades and always willing to lend a helping hand. He loved his grandchildren and was a family man. Family gatherings was a great time with him. He would have everyone laughing at his stories and bad jokes.

James is preceded in death by his late wife Hilda Mae, his father James Curtis, his son James Curtis III, his grandparents and Goddaughter Alice Baruwa.

He leaves to cherish his memories. His mother Mary Curtis (3) sons, John Barnes (Cindy), James Barnes and Francis Curtis (Stephanie), (2) daughters, Anita Knighten (Calvin) and Rosett Curtis, 22 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren, (3) brothers, James Talbert, Francis Curtis (Vickie) and Joseph Curtis, (2) sisters, Mary Canada and Sherry Curtis (Mark). A special friend Missy Holt, Godson Elton Ashford and a host of relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Jessie Wise Daugherty

Born on August 15th, 1923, to Louis Herbert Wise and Mary Turner Sasser Wise ("Mary Mom") and raised in Mechanicsville, Maryland, Jessie Turner was the youngest of the three Wise children. She loved her brother Herbert (Herb) and sister Maria (Ria)



dearly and all three remained close their entire lives. Related by blood to the Wises, Turners, Sascers, Medleys, Ables, Gibbons, Waters, and so on, Jessie was cousin to just about anyone with deep roots in St. Mary's County. She loved her sense of belonging and pointed with pride to all the landmarks that spoke of her family's place in the county's history. The "Jessie Wise Daugherty Collection" at the Maryland State Archives contains a number of land-records and other documents dating from 1666-1867 that she donated to the state.

Jessie's command of the English language was testimony to the excellent education she received at the two-room schoolhouse in Mechanicsville, Margaret Brent High School, and Strayer Business College in Baltimore. She was often asked to edit her children's school papers, at every level, to include her daughter's doctoral dissertation! She loved words, especially their origins. Armed with that knowledge, her skill playing Scrabble was legendary. With the help of three 7-letter words, she won a game just 3 weeks before she died. In addition to Scrabble, Jessie loved crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles and card games—particularly the game of Bridge.

After her years at Strayer Business College, Jessie held several jobs in Baltimore. She loved reminiscing about the years she spent teaching ballroom dancing at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio—especially the time she danced with Arthur Murray himself. She taught the "Arthur Murray Method" and used to say, "You have to teach something fourteen times to make it stick."

In 1955, Jessie met the Reverend Charles "Chuck" Daugherty at a New Year's Eve party in St. Mary's County. She was his "blind date." Her grandmother approved of the fact that he was Episcopalian but was appalled to discover that he was also "a Yankee." They were married at All Faith Episcopal Church in Mechanicsville in 1957 and lived happily together for the next 55 years. They raised three children—Mike, Anne, and Ray (Charles Raymond Cotton Daugherty III). Chuck died on All Souls' Day, November 2nd, 2012.

A devoted wife, Jessie quietly supported Chuck as he ministered to the many needs of the hundreds of parishioners associated with the various churches he led. She was literally "the wind beneath his wings." She

embraced her role, welcoming new people with open-arms and participating enthusiastically in Church activities—especially the Church fundraisers, potluck suppers, and "fun nights." Very social, Jessie never met a stranger. Jessie shared Chuck's passion for travel. They both loved England—and spent two separate years there (1962 and 1972) with all three children. The family took annual month-long vacations throughout the United States. Chuck also arranged tours and acted as tour guide for groups of parishioners and friends. Jessie went on several of these trips, including Hawaii, England, and the Holy Land. They passed along their love of travel—and their appreciation for other cultures—to their children.

A devoted mother, Jessie made home a safe, loving, and fun place to be. She was an enthusiastic supporter of any activity her children chose to pursue. No one cheered more loudly or encouraged more actively than she did. Her children were her pride and joy. She worked as a school secretary to ensure the best teachers and classes for her kids. After Ray, the youngest, was out of High School, she spent many years as a dental receptionist. She was an equally devoted grandmother and great-grandmother.

Jessie passed away on the 25th of April of natural causes, at home, surrounded by family. She was 97 years young. She is remembered fondly for many things—her love of people, a good story, music from the 40's, a glass of Sherry and/or Chardonnay, "Russell Stover Pectin" (only) Jelly Beans, cheese, crabs, oysters, stuffed ham, and the color blue. She is also remembered for her endless curiosity and the way she loved looking things up. In her prime, no one was more practical, organized, or efficient. She was good at just about anything she attempted—computers being a notable exception. All of this, plus her ready smile, easy laugh, warm embrace, and desire for a chatty conversation will be greatly missed by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and scores of others whose lives she touched in her long, loving, wonderful life.

A funeral service will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 3:00 pm—all welcome. The service will be immediately followed by interment in the churchyard. In lieu of flowers, the family request you give a donation to your local Hospice. Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com

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



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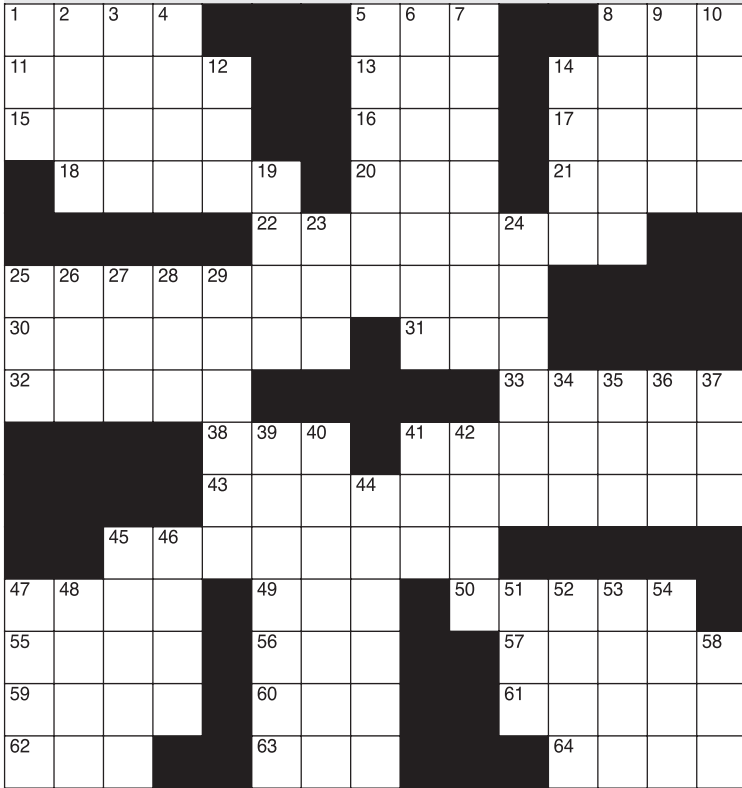
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Prevents harm to young
- 5. "Losing My Religion" rockers
- 8. Partner to pan
- 11. Cavalry unit
- 13. Peyton's little brother
- 14. Mexican dish
- 15. Disseminates info to the public
- 16. Set an animal on
- 17. Canadian flyers
- 18. Elongated mouths of anthropods
- 20. I (German)
- 21. Opposite of west
- 22. Glows
- 25. Measures how quickly a car moves
- 30. One who has gained wealth
- 31. Patti Hearst's captors
- 32. Extensive landed property
- 33. Male aristocrat
- 38. For each
- 41. More fidgety
- 43. Very happy
- 45. A place to store info
- 47. Helps to heal
- 49. 12th month

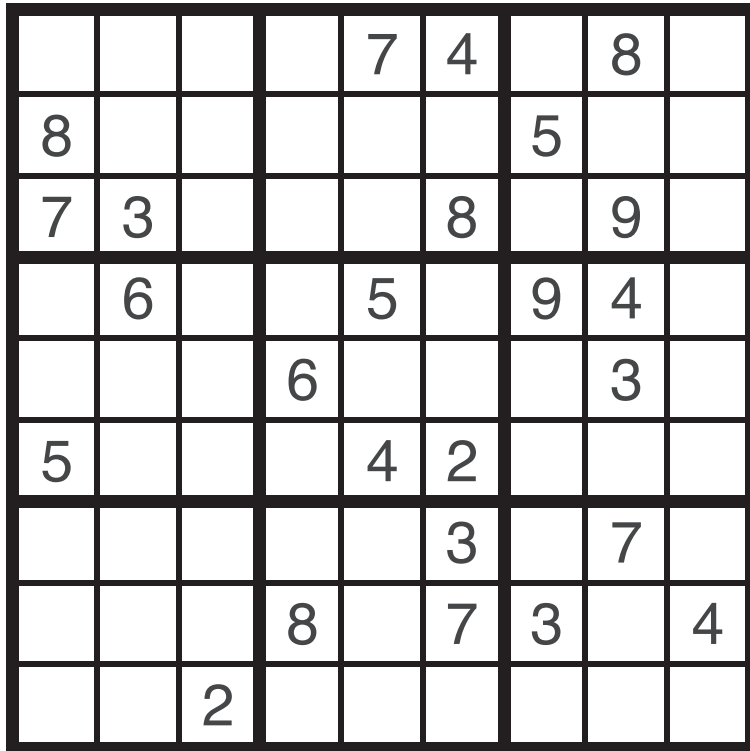
(abbr.)

- 50. Broad, shallow craters
- 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 56. Frost
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Curved shapes
- 60. Company that rings receipts
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Sheep native to Sweden
- 63. Cars need it
- 64. Partner to relaxation

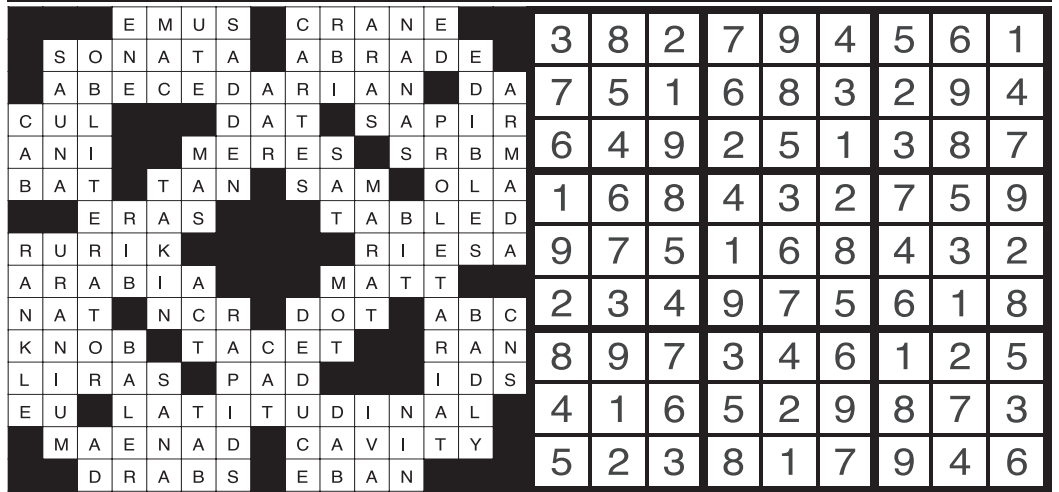
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Scientist's high-resolution tool (abbr.)
- 2. Type of school
- 3. Formal close (music)
- 4. Transmits high voltage
- 5. A way to occupy a certain area
- 6. Draws out
- 7. His Airness
- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. South American plants
- 10. Homestead
- 12. Bland or semiliquid food
- 14. Forest resident

- 19. The body needs it
- 23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)
- 24. Spell
- 25. Relaxing place
- 26. Political fundraising tool
- 27. Make a mistake
- 28. Partner to Adam
- 29. Tyrant
- 34. Unit of electrical resistance
- 35. A history of one's life
- 36. Actor DiCaprio
- 37. Sea eagle
- 39. Avoiding being caught
- 40. ___ de Mornay, actress
- 41. Belonging to a thing
- 42. Not us
- 44. Motorcars
- 45. Capital of Bangladesh
- 46. Ancient Greek sophist
- 47. Practice boxing
- 48. ___ Grant, actor
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. S. Sudan river
- 53. A bumpkin
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the St. Mary's County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the St. Mary's County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The St. Mary's County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

WISDOM

Hello Southern Maryland! You know if there is anything that we should be praying for it should be wisdom. It seems that there are more traps and deceptions than ever before. How can we discern what is truth and what is false? I would say, don't be fooled, the Lord told us in his Word, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom 12v2).

I'll tell you a story. I remember when I was a little boy and my mom told me that I should never play with fire. So, of course, one morning I got out of bed early and went into the kitchen. I have no idea what I was thinking, but I thought a good idea was putting a paper plate on an electric stove to see if it would catch fire. I would not define myself as a fire bug but more of a curious cat at the time. Yes, of course, the plate caught fire, and I rushed and put it in the trash. Within a few minutes, the whole trash can was ablaze. The only thing I was thinking at the time was, boy, am I going to get in trouble if I don't get this outside. So I picked up the can and put it outside. When I came back in, thinking I did this quietly, who was there at the back door staring at me? MOM!

At that very moment, I could only think of one scripture, "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly!" (Prov 13v24).

Friends, we need to take our time and remember that it's vital that we seek wisdom from the Lord. We need not be in such a rush but should discern and pray about what is being told us. If we are ever going to be pleasing to the Lord, we will have to put all our faith in Him, that He would lead us. It reminds me of a poem I wrote years back, which says the following:

“Wisdom”

As the willow tree is blown in the wind and storms, the leaves will scatter, know that God has a purpose for all things. So blow with the wind and be steadfast. For in time the storm and tree will cease to be, but the seeds that are left will sprout, and they shall be called WISDOM.

- Robert Myers

If you want to know what happened with my mom, I survived. I hated getting my hair cut, and my mom knew this, so my punishment for almost burning down the kitchen was going to the barber. Totally uncool, my punishment lasted for months.

Until next time, blessing to you all
Robert Myers
Pastor, The Mission



THE MISSION

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